**House Speaker Attacks Gaming Industry**

**BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT Journal Staff Writer**

Speaker of the House of Assembly Halson Moultrie criticized the gaming industry, as he believes the industry is a major impediment to national development and produced a mindset of success without process.

In the House of Assembly on Thursday, he explained that legalizing the Criminal Act in 2014 doesn’t change the mindset of criminals.

“We are discovering...”

See page 4...

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**Cake Cutting for Independence Celebration at Gov’t House State Reception**

Celebrating the 45th Anniversary of Bahamas Independence around an elaborate cake at the Government House State Reception on July 10, 2019 -- from left: Independence Committee Chairman Mark Humes; Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance the Hon. Peter Turnquest; Mrs. Minnis and Prime Minister, the Most Hon. Dr. Hubert Minnis; Governor General His Excellency the Most Hon. Cornelius A. Smith and Mrs. Smith; and the Hon. Mr. Justice Brian Moree, Chief Justice of The Bahamas, and Mrs. Moree.

(BIS Photos/Derek Smith)

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**Don’t Penalize Gaming Houses with Taxes**

**BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT Journal Staff Writer**

Former Minister of Tourism Obie Wilchcombe said the tax regime that is set to be imposed on the gaming industry is a penny tax.

“The government’s reasoning behind taxing this industry was to help create revenue for the country. So that, Mr. Wilchcombe questioned why not increase taxation for casino operators whose taxes, he said, now...”

See page 4...

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**DIR Now Responsible for Realty Tax Matters**

The Ministry of Finance announced on Wednesday that the Department of Inland Revenue (DIR) has full responsibility for all tax matters governing realty transactions, now that amendments to the Stamp Act and Value Added Tax Act have taken effect.

Last month, the government announced that realty transactions would no longer attract stamp tax. Instead, they attract VAT. The changes are primarily administrative as the rates are same.

“We know home owners...”

See page 3...

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**Gov’t: ‘No Extra Funding Request for Water Polo Team’**

The Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture made it clear yesterday that the Bahamas Aquatics Federation (BAF), which represents the Bahamas Water Polo Team, didn’t request additional funding from the government to extend travel expenses while the team competed at the CCCAN Championships in Barbados.

The ministry

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**FNM Fires Back at Davis’ ShotSpotter Criticisms**

The Free National Movement (FNM) called Opposition Leader Philip Davis a ‘hypocrite’ following his comments, made last week, on the ShotSpotter Technology.

Mr. Davis also labelled the technology as a bad investment by the government.

He added that ShotSpotter did nothing...
Two babies get to share their birthday with the nation as the Princess Margaret Hospital yesterday awarded the first boy and girl born on Independence Day.

The babies were welcomed by the Cookie Collection, a non-profit organization founded by the hospital’s board of directors’ member Sharron Johnson.

Mrs. Johnson said she’s been doing this for about eight years.

“I’ve seen many mothers come through the hospital with a desperate need for supplies. So, I decided to give back because I know what it is to be a mother and I want to see these babies get the best of whatever I can afford for them,” she said.

“Seeing the smile on their face gives me a good feeling.”

Baby boy Ja’niy Darling who weighs seven pounds, and baby girl Sanae Hepburn, who weighs six pounds and four ounces, went home yesterday with two boxes of pamper, cloth,ing, blankets, a water-proof bib, a fork and spoon, and a brand new car seat.

First time mother Symphony Charlton said, “This is really a surprise. This is a nice gesture. We were pulling for her [Sanae Hepburn] to come on the 9th, which is her father’s birthday, but she came on the 10th.”

“She is also our rainbow baby. She is the first after three miscarriages,” Mrs. Hepburn added.

The other mothers on the ward received smaller packages as a token of appreciation.

Sherrin Hepburn (left) and Symphony Charlton (right) both delivered babies on Independence Day at the Princess Margaret Hospital. (Photo/Leah Cooper)

BY LEAH COOPER
Journal Staff Writer

GOVERNMENT NOTICES
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
HEAD OFFICE DEPARTMENT
P.O. BOX N 1
THOMAS A. ROBINSON NATIONAL STADIUM
NASSAU, N. BAHAMAS

The Public Service of the Island is hereby advised that a formal request for a Memorandum of Agreement will be made to the Government for the renewal of MoA agreements on the basis of a triennial renewal.

Purpose: To continue the provision of public transport services.

Period: Initial term for up to a period of 3 years.

The under-notified persons or their representatives are required to attend.

SELF DRIVE CARS

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<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>ADDRESS</th>
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<td>1.</td>
<td>Anthea White</td>
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<td>Kristian Davila &amp; Donna Turner</td>
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Gov’t: ‘No Extra Funding Needed’

In a statement read on Friday, July 12, the Ministry of Finance and the Public Treasury confirmed that no extra funding is needed.

The statement read: “The Ministry of Finance and the Public Treasury, on being asked if a request has been made for additional funding, confirmed that no request has been made. The Ministry has not received any request for additional funding, and there is no plan to make such a request.”

The statement went on to say that the Ministry is committed to providing technical support and financial subsidies when justified, warranted and within our financial constraints.

It also stated that the ministry’s financial subsidies are provided based on the needs of the country and the public, and that all tax matters are currently handled by the Bahrain Revenue and Customs Authority.

The statement ended by saying that the Ministry is committed to providing technical support and financial subsidies when justified, warranted and within our financial constraints.

DIR Now Responsible

In a statement released on Friday, July 12, the DIR said that it is assuming responsibility for the water polo team’s withdrawal from the tournament.

The statement read: “The DIR is taking full responsibility for the team’s withdrawal from the tournament. The team was unable to compete for a gold medal because there was insufficient funding to cover an extra night at a hotel.”

The statement went on to say that the team was unable to compete for a gold medal because there was insufficient funding to cover an extra night at a hotel.

The statement also said that the team was unable to compete for a gold medal because the government did not provide the necessary funding.

The statement ended by saying that the team was unable to compete for a gold medal because the government did not provide the necessary funding.
House Speaker Attacks Gaming Industry

There was a time when casino operators were at 18 percent. Now, they are below 10 percent. Why don’t you put that up?” Mr. Wilmotthe told The Bahamas Journal. If you want to think, then why don’t you say, “We want to bring you up to the level of the gaming houses.” And why would that not be a good argument? It would be a great argument because you say tourism is doing very good, so your numbers are up. So wouldn’t this be the right time to do it? So why penalize them? That’s a penalty because they were opposed to it.” Mr. Wilmotthe added that he thinks there is a lack of communication between the government and gaming operators and the government doesn’t understand how that industry can be helpful to the economy. “They have been duly responsible during the time when we were there. The faux pas was caused last year by the government,” he said. “What they ought to be doing is sitting with the gaming houses and talking about how they can help in building the economy. Make them a part of what you are trying to do. ‘If you need more revenue, then figure out how can we do that?’ Do we work with you or do we allow you as a group to create the lottery? The lottery has a particular distinction because it will allow you then to sell lottery tickets to the 5 million tourists so your numbers can go up and our earnings can go up and the government can set aside funding for education, for national security and for things that are necessary, that you’re not getting new revenue from because let’s ask ourselves where’s the new revenue coming from right now?” The former tourism minister is advising the government to work with gaming operators and not penalize them.