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House Speaker Attacks Gaming Industry

'Don't Penalize Gaming Houses with Taxes'

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



▶ Speaker of the House of Assembly Halson Moultrie

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 penalty tax.

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



▶ Former Minister of Tourism Obie Wilchcombe

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■ See page 4...

FNM Fires Back at Davis' ShotSpotter Criticisms



▶ Opposition Leader Philip Davis

BY LEAH COOPER
 Journal Staff Writer

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 ShotSpotters did nothing

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CAKE CUTTING FOR INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATION AT GOV'T HOUSE STATE RECEPTION



▶ Celebrating the 46th 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)

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 the same.

"We know home owners and industry professionals were looking for guidelines on implementing the new amendments,

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Gov't: 'No Extra Funding Request for Water Polo Team'

BY DEANDRE WILLIAMSON
 Journal Staff Writer

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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ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED TO READ IN THE MORNING

P.M.H. Welcomes Independence Babies

BY LEAH COOPER
Journal Staff Writer

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 Sharon 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 those 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 pampers, cloth-



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

ing, blankets, a waterproof bib, a fork and spoon, and a brand new car seat.

First time mother Symphany Charlton said, "This is really a surprise. This is a nice gesture. I never knew

that the hospital did something like this."

Thirty-seven-year-old Shonell Hepburn, beaming from ear to ear, said, "This is a privilege and a blessing. I didn't expect it. 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.

Mrs. Johnson, who's also a mother and grandmother, said one day she hopes to offer more donations on a larger scale.

Independence Day Stabbing

Police are investigating a stabbing incident that occurred on July 10, which left a man dead and another man detained in hospital.

According to police, shortly after 9 p.m., two men were in the parking lot of a business establishment on East Street South and Cox Way, when they got into an altercation, which escalated, resulting in the men stabbing each other about the body.

Both men were transported to hospital, where one was later pronounced dead. The second man is detained in serious, but stable condition.

Investigations are ongoing.

The Bahama Journal

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ROAD TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT

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The Public Sitting of the Road Traffic Authority Board Will be held at Thomas A Robinson National Stadium, Off University Drive, Western Grandstand Room on the 16th July 2019 at 10 am.

The Board will be considering applications for the grant of Self Drive Cars/Scooters, Private Schedule Omnibus Franchises and Variations in accordance with the Road Traffic Act, Chapter 220.

Further, in accordance with the provisions of Road Traffic Act Chapter 220, any person is entitled to object to the grant of any franchise, however a person who would wish to be heard as an objector should within fourteen (14) days of the date of this publication lodge in writing, two (2) copies of his/her objection, setting out therein, all the grounds of his/her objection(s).

The under-mentioned persons or their representatives are required to attend:

SELF DRIVE CARS		
	NAME/ADDRESS	AMOUNT REQUESTING
1.	Jamaal Wilson Kemp Road Nassau Bahamas	6 Self Drive Cars
2	Avery Rolle Garden Hills Nassau Bahamas	3 Self Drive Cars
3.	Ludell Wright Winton Meadows Nassau Bahamas	15 Self Drive Cars
4.	Kristen Darville & Dennis Turnquest St. Andrews Drive Nassau Bahamas	13 Self Drive Cars
5	Vaughn Evans East Park Estate Nassau Bahamas	10 Self Drive Cars
6	Patricia Deveaux Gladstone Road Nassau Bahamas	5 Self Drive Cars
7	Anqelia Murphy Sir. Lynden Pindling Est. Nassau Bahamas	10 Self Drive Cars
8	Lakeisha Colebrooke East Park Nassau Bahamas	10 Self Drive Cars
9	Sandra Walkes Golden Palm Estate Nassau Bahamas	2 Self Drive Cars
10	Edgar Laing South Beach Nassau Bahamas	6 Self Drive Cars
11	Jamaal Ferguson Davis Street Nassau Bahamas	15 Self Drive Cars

12	Enrico Bain Pinewood Gardens Nassau Bahamas	5 Self Drive Cars
13	Shekera Gibson Pinewood Gardens Nassau Bahamas	10 Self Drive Cars
14	Tanisha Major Fox Hill Nassau Bahamas	3 Self Drive Cars
15	Shenique Hanna Bernard Road Nassau Bahamas	2 Self Drive Cars
16	Krishna Campbell Taylor Street Nassau Bahamas	10 Self Drive Cars
17	Nixon Orelhomme Garden Hills Nassau Bahamas	10 Self Drive Cars
18	Terevis Rolle/Ventoi Bethune Fox Hill Nassau Bahamas	6 Self Drive Cars
19	Anthony Ingraham Blue Hill Road Nassau Bahamas	15 Self Drive Cars
20	Desmond Cooper Yamacraw Beach Nassau, Bahamas	5 Self Drive Cars
21	Hubert Fowler Bernard Road Nassau Bahamas	50 Self Drive Cars
22	Jennifer Huyler Delaporte Nassau Bahamas	10 Self Drive Cars
23	Sean Fawkes Mason Edition Nassau Bahamas	10 Self Drive Cars
24	Alvin Brown Sr. Golden Gates # 2 Nassau Bahamas	5 Self Drive Cars
25	Evanette Ferguson Colony Village Nassau Bahamas	6 Self Drive Cars
26	Carolyn Strachan Strachan Road Nassau Bahamas	2 Self Drive Cars
27	Rasheed Campbell Jubilee Gardens Nassau Bahamas	2 Self Drive Cars
28	Gregory Minnis Sr. West Bay Street Nassau Bahamas	4 Self Drive Cars
29	Etienne Taylor Hibiscus Way Nassau Bahamas	2 Self Drive Cars
30	Kieshen Walkes Dignity Gardens Nassau Bahamas	2 Self Drive Cars
31	Kyran Robinson Blue Hill Road Nassau Bahamas	6 Self Drive Cars

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FNM Fires Back at Davis'

Continued from / PAGE 1...

to prevent those 14 individuals from being shot in Montel Heights earlier this month.

The FNM, in a statement dated July 9, added that "his unprecedented campaign to attack any and all signs of progress in the

country are staggering, only rivaled by his continuing nonsensical litany of lies, falsehoods, and mis-truths, and most of all, hypocrisy."

The statement also said, "Davis - who was a key leader in the previous government when the murder rate hit historic annual

highs, year after year - has now re-made himself into the PLP's safety patrol, claiming he knows best on crime-fighting measures even though he failed to introduce or implement them when he held power.

"Crime Expert' Brave would have us believe the implementation of the

ShotSpotter program is a wasted investment."

According to the FNM, data and facts prove Mr. Davis wrong.

"It's stunning how silent the woeful PLP has been on the issue of crime, given the Minnis administration's progress in reducing crime over the last two

years. Yet, when they do chime in - like the old and tired Brave Davis did recently - it's usually a broken-record type attack short on solutions, data, and policy, but high on heated and empty rhetoric," the statement read.

The Minnis administration said it understands

more work remains in the effort to reduce crime, however, Mr. Davis should know that "simply talking at the problem and making false claims for political expediency does nothing to add to the serious efforts taking place to make the country's neighbourhoods and communities safer."

Gov't: 'No Extra Funding

Continued from / PAGE 1...

responded to the issue after reports circulated on social media that the water polo team was unable to compete for a gold medal because there

was insufficient money to cover an extra night at a hotel.

According to a statement, the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture regrets that the Bahamas Water Polo team was unable to par-

ticipate for the full competition in order to compete for the gold.

"The ministry however, wishes to inform the general public that it is not aware of any request for additional funding from the Bahamas

Aquatics Federation under which the Bahamas Water Polo team operates," the statement read.

"We do emphasize however, the ministry's endeavors to provide balanced support for all reg-

istered and compliant federations, and remains committed to providing technical support and/or financial subsidies when justified, warranted and within our financial constraints."

Also following circu-

lated reports, Bahamas Water Polo President Chris Iling said the information concerning the water polo team's withdrawal from a tournament because of a lack of funding was misconstrued.

DIR Now Responsible

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so we are happy to announce the streamlined process and that information is now available online," Acting Controller of Inland Revenue

Gaynell Rolle said.

"Long term, we are committed to delivering a simple and convenient process for online applications and online payment, so we are asking for patience as we transition."

The Public Treasury formerly handled some stamp tax matters. However, all tax matters concerning realty transactions now fall under the remit of DIR.

The new rules, which

took effect on July 1, 2019, impact all mortgages and conveyances undertaken by homeowners and other institutions.

"This is just the beginning because our ultimate goal is to have the entire

process automated and delivered online. In fact, the transition is already underway as we have developers working on the digital system. We plan to run a pilot test later this year, but even-

tually, we will have a fully automated, easy to use online system for realty transactions similar to the portals we now have for business licence and VAT filings," Ms. Rolle said.



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House Speaker Attacks Gaming Industry

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now that just passing a law doesn't change the mindset of a criminal because if you regularize or legalize a criminal, that criminal is of the same mindset," Moultrie said.

"That is why even though the Parliament pass laws about taxation on that industry, that

mindset causes those same individuals to refuse to pay taxes and to take the government of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas to court."

Moultrie added that the government ought to take the position that if anyone has an issue with any taxation, then they must still pay the taxes until the matter is resolved in court.

The government, he further asserted, should also take the stance that anyone refusing to pay their taxes should result in their license being suspended or revoked.

"If you want to take the matter to the courts, pay until the courts make the determination. If the courts make a determination in your favor, then you would be credited

with the taxation that you paid," Moultrie said.

"However, you do not challenge the government and refuse to pay taxes. What if every other citizen took that position and refuse to pay for their driver's license and refuse to pay their Real Property Tax and flood the courts with claims?"

The house speaker's

candid comments came in the presence of nearly 40 social science teachers visiting the House of Assembly.

His comments also came after Attorney General Carl Bethel, while in the Senate, lobbied that gaming operators pay their taxes even though the matter is still before the court.

Last month, Minister

of Tourism Dionisio D'Aguiar told reporters that 71 percent of gaming operators were compliant with the new tax regime.

During the last meeting of the House of Assembly, the amendment to the Gaming Act was laid with a new tax scale, which is expected to be debated and passed soon.

'Don't Penalize Gaming Houses with Taxes'

Continued from / PAGE 1...

a decrease.

"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. Wilchcombe told The Bahama 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. Wilchcombe 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 edu-

cation, 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.

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36	Damian Brown Danottage Estates Nassau Bahamas	20 Self Drive Cars
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41	Thaddeus Culmer Garden Hills Nassau Bahamas	20 Self Drive Cars
42	Tomico Horton Big Pond Water Street Nassau Bahamas	3 Self Drive Cars
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50	Kimberlena Saunders-Amahad Hamster Road Nassau Bahamas	5 Self Drive Cars
51	Sandia Paul Big Pond Nassau Bahamas	6 Self Drive Cars

52	Samantha Rolle Abundant Life Road Nassau Bahamas	3 Self Drive Cars
53	Bernard Winder East Street North Nassau Bahamas	10 Self Drive Cars
54	Brenda - Lee & Re-Naldo Russell St. Andrew Beach Estates Nassau Bahamas	5 Self Drive Cars
55	Lashan Gray Venice Bay Nassau Bahamas	5 Self Drive Cars
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57	Neltoya Rolle Walnut Street Nassau Bahamas	2 Self Drive Cars
58	Euthea Brown Danottage Estate Nassau Bahamas	20 Self Drive Cars
59	Charan Rahming Kenstngton Garden Nassau Bahamas	20 Self Drive Cars
60	Jerome Johnson Minnie Street Nassau Bahamas	5 Self Drive Cars
61	Tamiko Adderley Matthews Street Nassau Bahamas	5 Self Drive Cars
62	Rasjard McIntosh Fox Hill Nassau Bahamas	10 Self Drive Cars
63	Dexter Frazier Chippingham Drive Nassau Bahamas	10 Self Drive Cars
64	Francina Brice Winton Estate Nassau Bahamas	2 Self Drive Cars
65	Diana Taylor Fire Trail Road Nassau Bahamas	6 Self Drive Cars
66	Marcel Dolce Bernard Road Nassau Bahamas	10 Self Drive Cars
67	Leano Rahming Boyd Road Nassau Bahamas	4 Self Drive Cars
68	Geraldine Lewis Blair Estates Nassau Bahamas	2 Self Drive Cars
69	Winton Duncombe Southern Heights Nassau Bahamas	10 Self Drive Cars
70	Marvin Cartwright Johnson Road Nassau Bahamas	10 Self Drive Cars
71	Adrian Miller Hampden Road Nassau, Bahamas	30 Self Drive Cars

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