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VOL. 31 - NO. 119

MONDAY - JULY 29TH, 2019

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Fake News – PM Asked to Apologize

PLP's 54th National General Convention
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BY DEANDRE WILLIAMSON
 Journal Staff Writer

Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis should fact-check himself first before advising the media about fake news, Progressive Liberal Party Leader Philip Davis said as he believes the prime minister owes the country an apology for making fake news and fake deals.

"The prime minister should be very familiar with fake news. He ran a campaign of fake news to get elected to office. His party said Baha Mar was not a real deal but it was," Davis said yesterday.

"They accused the PLP of stealing the VAT money when he knew it was right there."

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▶ Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis was the keynote speaker at the launch of the second phase of BCB's HD TV platform at the Northern Service. (BIS PHOTOS/LISA DAVIS)

SkyBahamas CEO Calls for Aviation Reform

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
 Journal Staff Writer

Skybahamas CEO Randy Butler renewed his call for reform in the aviation industry.

According to Butler, in 1992 the Ingraham

administration called for Bahamians to get involved in the aviation industry to service domestic routes while Bahamasair serviced international destina-

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Bahamasair's Domestic Routes Raise Concerns

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
 Journal Staff Writer

Minister of Tourism and Aviation Dionisio D'Aguiar said it's up to Bahamians to decide if they want Bahamasair to continue servicing domestic routes or to focus more on international clients.



▶ Min. Dionisio D'Aguiar

■ See page 6...

PM Wants Credit Union Growth in Family Islands

BY DEANDRE WILLIAMSON
 Journal Staff Writer

Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis encouraged credit unions to expand and increase their services in Family Island communi-

ties where banking facilities are lacking.

Dr. Minnis made this encouraging plea yesterday during the World Council of Credit Unions and Caribbean Confederation of Credit

Unions Conference at the Atlantis Ballroom.

He explained that the cooperative credit union sector in The Bahamas has enormous potential and room for growth, although the far flung

island chain poses enormous challenges to national development.

"This includes having to replicate on many islands and settlements

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PLP LEADERS CELEBRATE 54TH NATIONAL GENERAL CONVENTION



▶ Progressive Liberal Party Leader Philip Davis and Deputy Leader Chester Cooper, along with their spouses, enjoyed the excitement at the PLP's 54th National General Convention at the Melia Nassau Beach Resort. The convention was held July 25 - 27. (Photo/Progressive Liberal Party)

Banks Urged to Collect on Delinquent Accounts

BY LICEC BASTIAN
 Journal Staff Writer

The financial sector, particularly the banking industry, is being urged by the Central Bank of The Bahamas to take more aggressive steps to reduce the delinquency rate.

Central Bank Governor John Rolle

explained in the bank's latest quarterly report, that commercial banks must make its balance sheets stronger and faster before another recession happens.

"The constrained lending environment is a continued reflection of the high rates of credit delin-

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ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED TO READ IN THE MORNING

Central Bank Reveals Economic Growth to Continue

BY LICEC BASTIAN
Journal Staff Writer

The tourism sector continues to drive the Bahamian economy, as seen in the Central Bank's quarterly report that indicated a strengthening in the economy since 2018.

In its latest quarterly economic and financial report, the Central Bank revealed that the growth is largely attributed to the tourism sector, reflected in growth in stopover visitors.

Central Bank Governor John Rolle said the vacation rental market is a strong factor in that growth, with improvement in the hotel segment, one of the most dominant factors because of the increase in hotel rooms and successful selling of those rooms.

"In particular, the industry absorbed the room capacity boost from Baha Mar, both increas-

ing the average room occupancy rates and securing higher average daily room rates," Mr. Rolle said.

The governor also revealed a steady modest flow of foreign investments provided economic stimulus, particularly through construction, with much of it occurring in the tourism sector, in resort and residential facilities and in cruise-line attractions.

"The foreign exchange sector activities have had positive impact on financial sector indicators and the strength of The Bahamas' external reserves," Mr. Rolle said.

"Seasonal growth in the reserves in the first half of 2019 was at double the pace of gains recorded in the first half of 2018.

"At the end of June, the external reserve were just above \$1.5 billion, very close to the same level as

in 2018. Driving this performance, there was a more than doubling in the net amount of net foreign exchange purchased by commercial banks from the private sector that were subsequently sold to the Central Bank.

"A part of this though, was also that the private sector's spending on imports appeared to be reduced in comparison to 2018."

The bank's governor also indicated that there will be continued growth for the tourism sector in 2020, but at a slower pace as hotel room inventories will not increase by the same degree as last year, adding that growth needed for the industry is growth focused on getting visitors to come to the country to spend more money while here to get more gains from tourism.

"Ultimately over the longer term, you're going to expect some of your

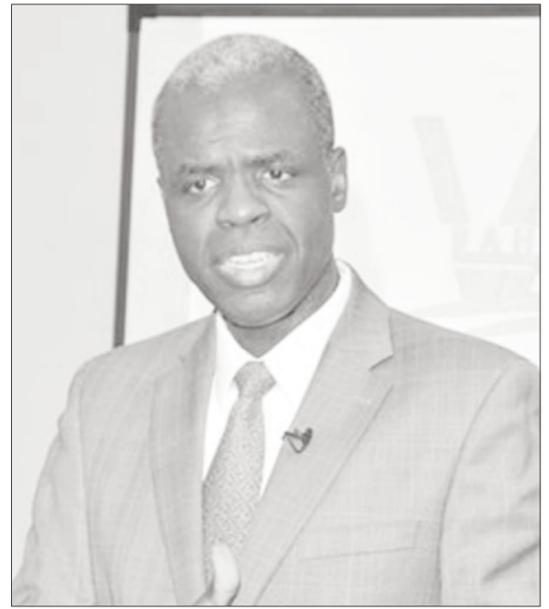
growth to be tied to some continuous growth in capacity, but manageable growth in capacity," he said.

"You have to deliver the product up to certain quality standard, so you have to make sure that you have the people to train and deliver the service up to competitive standards.

"If you try to place growth in rooms too fast ahead of how you prepare your people to deliver the services, it won't work in terms of being sustainable.

"So, The Bahamas has to manage that, but at the same time recognize that there is a lot of scope to increase the returns from tourism."

As for an overall view of The Bahamas' financial growth, beyond present risks of hurricanes, uncertainties from ongoing international trade disputes and what's on the



► Central Bank Governor John Rolle

horizon for Europe as they face the Brexit challenge, Mr. Rolle said The Bahamas is expected to continue to grow over the next few years.

"Our domestic banking sector will continue to

experience high levels of liquidity and the foreign reserves of the Central Bank are expected to continue to experience year on year growth, but at a mild pace," Mr. Rolle said.

Opposition Wants No Confidence Motion Against PM

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
Journal Staff Writer

At the next sitting of the House of Assembly Opposition Leader Phillip Davis intends to move a

Symonette was not at Cabinet during the discussion, neither was he consulted before the decision was already made.

However, on a ZNS talk show Mr. Symonette

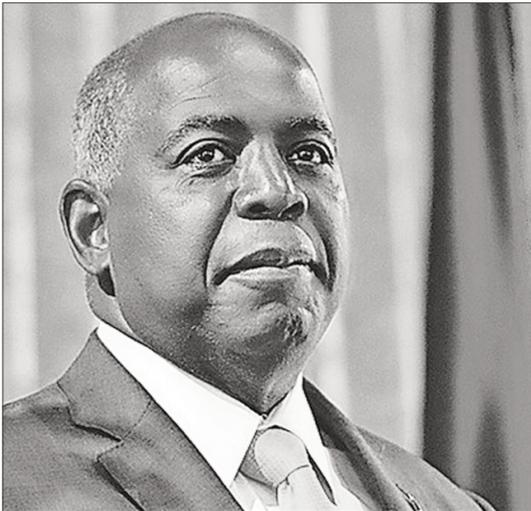
issues better than whomever is across the negotiating table. You need someone who knows how to fight for our coun-

try. "You need someone who isn't going to get swung by the Obans and the Symonettes of this

world. You need someone who is strong enough to check for Bahamians."

Democratic National Alliance Leader Arinthia

Komolafe called for the motion and said Mr. Davis should not let the numbers stop him from moving the motion.



► Opposition Leader Phillip Davis

vote of no confidence in Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis.

His comments came on day two of the Progressive Liberal Party's convention at the Melia Nassau Beach Resort on Friday.

"A prime minister with a conscience would resign. A prime minister who cared about trust and good governance would resign. A man of honour would resign," Mr. Davis said.

"None of us holding our breath, are we?"

This motion came as more information unfolded surrounding the agreement to rent the Town Centre Mall from then sitting Cabinet Minister Brent Symonette to house the General Post Office which presented a conflict of interest.

A resolution into the matter was presented in the House of Assembly which noted the Mr.

said the prime minister called him while he was out of the country.

It was because of this that Mr. Davis made the appeal.

"So tonight, I want to announce that I will be working with our parliamentary group on a no-confidence motion that we intend to introduce in the House of Assembly at the earliest opportunity," Mr. Davis said.

What we are going to do is require members of the FNM to go on the record and vote. They are going to be forced to demonstrate whether they are on the side of the lies or on the side of the Bahamian people.

"You know, Hubert Minnis has given us a master class in the dangers of elevating someone who's not ready for high office.

"You need someone in there who understands the



Request for Proposals (RFP) for services to conduct surveys of the Pay TV and Radio Broadcasting markets in The Bahamas.

The Utilities Regulation and Competition Authority (URCA) is the independent regulator for the electronic communications sector (ECS) in The Bahamas, comprising fixed and mobile telecommunications services, spectrum, numbering and broadcasting (which includes radio broadcasting and pay television).

One of the main policy objectives of the Communications Act 2009, requires URCA to further the interest of persons in The Bahamas by promoting availability of a wide range of content services which are of high quality. The pay television and radio broadcasting markets in The Bahamas have undergone certain structural and technological changes since September 2009, which give consumers access to a greater variety of media and communications products and services available to consumers on multiple platforms.

To ensure the continued promotion of the availability of a wide range of high quality content services, URCA seeks to measure consumer listening and watching habits and their opinions on the quality of available services and programming provided over pay tv and radio.

It is URCA's objective to obtain empirical data that can provide representative parameters on the listening and watching habits of consumers and their opinions on the quality of available services and programming provided to consumers over pay-tv and radio in The Bahamas.

URCA therefore invites interested entities to submit proposals for services to conduct surveys of the pay tv and radio broadcasting markets in The Bahamas.

A copy of the RFP and TOR may be downloaded here, https://www.urbahamas.bs/rfp_tor-broadcast-market-survey/ or collected from URCA's offices Frederick House, Frederick Street, Nassau, The Bahamas.

The deadline for submission of proposals is no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday 2 August 2019.

Skybahamas to Resume Flights

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
Journal Staff Writer

Skybahamas will be operational again this week, according to CEO Randy Butler.

The airline is expected to resume flights after it was temporarily grounded by the Bahamas Civil Aviation Authority for several deficiencies.

Minister of Tourism and Aviation Dionisio D'Aguilar advised Butler to meet with BCA to get the situation resolved.

"As the minister continues to say to meet with the BCA, I met with the BCA the next day the

incident happened and we had answered all of their questions," Mr. Butler said.

"It seemed like they weren't communicating either. However, we're back and have been working through the BCA and there seems to be a level of cooperation now."

Last week, Mr. Butler called for the minister to intervene regarding claims of victimization.

Minister D'Aguilar denied that this is happening under any portfolio of his and added that it's not his place as minister to intervene with the

affairs of the BCA and Mr. Butler agreed.

"The minister feels like he should not be getting involved in the technical issues, but the minister should be showing and demonstrating the political will to make sure that the airline stays safe and he's also responsible for the promotion of aviation in The Bahamas," Mr. Butler said.

The Skybahamas CEO is advising that the BCA ensures capable persons are employed.

"On the other side, Civil Aviation needs to make sure that they have

competent qualified people that are working there, that are not having any kind of conflicts or corruption when they are involved in other things," Mr. Butler said.

"They need to make sure of that so that any decisions that are made on the lower level that the director or the minister may not be aware of that is happening out there are properly made."

Mr. Butler maintained that despite all was uncovered, Skybahamas will remain a corporate citizen and hopes to be the top domestic airline in the country.



► Skybahamas CEO, Randy Butler

PM Asked to Apologize

Continued from / PAGE 1...

On Friday, during the launch of the second phase of the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas' Hi Definition Television platform at its Northern Service in Grand Bahama, Dr.

Minnis in his address told journalists that Bahamian journalism should maintain the best practices of the profession and fulfill its indispensable function in a democratic society.

"These days, the Bahamian people, like others around the world, are being assaulted and

misled by fake news disseminated in lightning speed on social media. They are also misled by some who have no journalistic training and who are quite often ill-informed," Dr. Minnis said, adding that the responsibility of the broadcasters and others

in the profession is to bring balance.

However, Davis insisted that Dr. Minnis should take a look at himself before offering such gratuitous advice to the Fourth Estate.

Davis pointed out that when the prime minister came to office "he signed

a fake deal with a phoney signature called Oban".

"The prime minister has no right to lecture anyone on the subject of fake news. He and his party are the authors of so much fake news," Davis said.

"We recall also the untruths and misrepresentations in the Town Centre Mall lease. It was a shameless exercise in self-dealing where finding the truth has been hidden from the public by official misrepresentations.

"Mr. Minnis owes the country an apology."

CHINESE AGRICULTURE RESEARCHERS PAY COURTESY CALL ON BAIC CHAIRMAN AND EXECUTIVE TEAM



The Vice President of Hunan Academy of Agricultural Sciences of the Peoples Republic of China Tong Xiongcai paid a courtesy call on the Chairman of the Bahamas Agricultural and Industrial Corporation Bishop Gregory Collie and Executive management at BAIC headquarters on Friday. The team of experts in research on Tea, Vegetables and Hybrid Rice, discussed and explored opportunities for future cooperation

in agriculture. Bishop Collie informed the group of BAIC's mandate to create, expand and promote domestic investment through small and medium sized businesses and invited the Chinese experts to explore the possibilities of offering financial and technical assistance to Bahamians to develop projects in farming, fishing and handicraft. Mr. Tong said the experts will report their findings in the Bahamas to the

Government of China for further action. The Chinese agriculture experts were given a tour of the Soldier Road Industrial Park by BAIC's Chairman Bishop Collie. Three teams of experts from China are in the Bahamas calling on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources, with visits to BAMSI and ZNS to discuss and explore opportunities for future cooperation.



Bahamas Fully Represented at The Largest Aviation Event in the World

The aviation team of the Bahamas Ministry of Tourism and Aviation (MOTA) was out in full force at the 2019 Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) AirVenture Oshkosh Show, taking place July 21-28, 2019 in Wisconsin. The team led by Captain Greg Rolle, Senior Director, Sports and Vertical Markets, MOTA and Frederick Donathan, Aviation Consultant, MOTA is comprised of representatives from MOTA, Royal Bahamas Police Force (aviation arm) and Bahamas Customs Department.

Now in its 50th year, the EAA AirVenture Show is the largest general aviation show in the world, and each year attracts in excess of 500,000 pilots, aviation enthusiasts and media and industry professionals from around the world, as well as over 10,000 airplanes ranging from home-builts to war birds.

"The Bahamas receives an injection of a substantial amount of dollars into its economy from general aviation business derived from this show, which is especially beneficial for our Family Islands, said Captain Rolle. "Just two

days into this year's show, and we have already registered some 300 private pilots who attended our seminars and are interested in flying to The Bahamas. We have also received an unprecedented number of enquiries and expressions of interest from visitors and other private pilots visiting our booth," he added.

In 2018, The Bahamas reached a historic milestone in general aviation, and welcomed more than 122,000 private pilots to its islands, up from the previous year's performance of 92,000 private pilots, and generated in excess of \$387 million dollars into its economy. The Bahamas is also the number one ranked destination in the Caribbean and Eastern Seaboard for general aviators, #bahamasflying, #bahamasflyaway, #osh19.

The Bahamas is one of three nations, including the United States of America and Canada that are members of the International Federal Partnership (IFP), consisting of federal government agencies committed to education, improvement and protection in aviation.



► Bahamas Ministry of Tourism and Aviation chiefs attend special anniversary reception hosted by AOPA. From left to right are: Leonard Stuart, District Manager, MOTA, Captain Greg Rolle, Sr. Director of Sports & Vertical Markets, MOTA, Mark Baker, President, AOPA and Frederick Donathan, Aviation Consultant, MOTA.



► Pictured are staff members of the Bahamas Ministry of Tourism and Aviation standing ready at its booth to answer aviators' questions, prior to EAA AirVenture Oshkosh gate opening. From left to right are Leonard Stuart, Ahmad Williams and Aram Bethell.

Mitchell's Landslide Victory

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
Journal Staff Writer

Progressive Liberal Party Senator Fred Mitchell emerged victorious and held on to the party's chairman position following the highly anticipated election against former Minister of Tourism Obie Wilchcombe.

After some last minute campaigning, hours of voting and counting during the PLP's National General Convention on Friday, Mitchell beat Wilchcombe - his only contender - by a landslide of nearly 500 votes.

Mitchell received 802 votes while Wilchcombe received 338 votes.

This allowed the PLP to enter its final night of convention with its full leadership team intact.

Nearing the end of the tallying, Senator Mitchell spoke to The Bahama Journal about his victory.

"It's an election and there are highs and lows. I'm just pleased that the delegates saw the value of the work and its supported and I'm pleased that the

team that I am a part of headed by Philip Brave Davis is returned in full so that we can continue the work that we're doing," he said.

"Many of the delegates have come and spoken to me about the way the campaign was conducted and they were pleased that I didn't respond to anything that was said about me in a personal sense and that's something that I believe fully. I refused to say anything.

"I think that's how it ought to be because you're trying to run a political party and a political party has to encompass everybody regardless of what they're particular positions are within the party."

Senator Mitchell told reporters of the value of this convention and that he's enthusiastic about completing the work already started moving forward.

"One of the things that an internal opposition does is that it helps you to define who you are because you withstand

some pretty withering criticisms and you have to understand pretty firmly what you are and what the organization is," he said.

"So it's been a healthy thing. I mean we would have rather not spend this money, and it's been quite a financial expense for the leader of the party because it's his responsibility to find the funding for something like this, but the benefit is that the party itself gets to redefine itself and then also it gets an opportunity to sing from the same hymn sheet and that's the value of it.

"So we go away to our respective homes renewed and we all know what we all think about one another from across the country and so I look forward to continuing to work with everybody."

This was a clear enough sign that delegates are pleased with the 'Ride the Wave with Brave' team of PLP Leader Philip Davis, Deputy Leader Chester Cooper and Chairman Fred Mitchell.



► Progressive Liberal Party Senator Fred Mitchell at the PLP 54th National General Convention

PM Wants Credit Union Growth

Continued from / PAGE 1...

the same essential and other services such as schools, ports, airports, hospitals, roads, security, and electricity," Dr. Minnis said.

"Within this context,

credit unions can play an essential role, especially in the many under-banked communities we have in the Family Islands.

"We encourage the sector to find additional ways to grow and to expand their

services across the archipelago, especially in those islands where the commercial banks, have exited the domestic financial services market.

"I applaud the sector for already offering services on

quite a number of islands."

Local credit unions have impacted the lives of Bahamians in meaningful ways including home ownership, higher education, small business devel-

opment and favorable investment opportunities by offering competitive interest rates on savings in the country.

"I am told that the Teachers & Salaried Workers Co-operative

Credit Union, the largest such entity in the country started with less than \$100 dollars. Today, this union has more than 17,000 members with over \$214 million in assets," the prime minister said.

The Golden Jubilee Review

It's not an everyday occurrence to discover an individual who has pulled himself up by his bootstraps to achieve phenomenal success with a business that's still breaking barriers, still achieving firsts, and still innovating fifty years later. What does it take? How did he achieve it all? And how can we achieve similar successes?

That's what we'll explore in this tri-weekly series. We'll break down fashion mogul Peter Nygard's achievements and look at how his accomplishments can serve as practical applications to others in business and life.

NYGARD HAS A 'PRINCIPLE OF CARE'

The world of today is unrecognizable. So much has changed over the centuries. While we may have advanced technologically and medically, what have we lost in our quests?

Values have shifted to such an extent that the mores of old have gotten lost in the quest for success and power. In today's world, where cold-heartedness abounds, you'd be hard pressed to find the generosity of spirit as the norm it once was.

This core spiritual principle appears to no longer be our standard: "If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? (1 John 3:17 New International Version)"

That's why we are grateful to and for the Peter Nygards of the world. This fashion mogul has not turned his back on those in need on his rise to the top. He has what University of California Berkeley's Greater Good Science Center calls a "principle of care".

In their 2018 research on the "Science of Generosity", they explain this concept and its role in generosity:

"Research suggests that another determinant of helping behavior is the internalized moral value termed the "principle of care," a belief that one should help someone in need (Ottoni Wilhelm & Bekkers, 2010) [152]

"A study of people in the United States and the Netherlands found that people who showed a strong moral principle of care also gave more money to charities that help people in need."

The study suggests that some researchers also make a connection between the principle of caring and empathy as it explains:

"... people who empathize with someone in need are more likely to actually help that person because they are also more likely to have internalized the moral principle of care (Page 34 "The Science of Generosity" 2018)."

Nygard's generosity over these years should be an example to many with the means to also adopt the principle of care and be generous. Once again, generosity is not required, but it is such a service to one's country. Think about the inspiration it gives and the lives it impacts.

And, as a Harvard Business Review article explains, inspiration is important.

"In a culture obsessed with measuring talent and ability, we often overlook the important role of inspiration. Inspiration awakens us to new possibilities by allowing us to transcend our ordinary experiences and limitations. Inspiration propels a person from apathy to possibility, and transforms the way we perceive our own capabilities.

"Inspiration may sometimes be overlooked because of its elusive nature. Its history of being treated as supernatural or divine hasn't helped the situation. But as recent research shows, inspiration can be activated, captured, and manipulated, and it has a major effect on important life outcomes. ("Why Inspiration Matters" Scott Barry Kaufman)"

We can see this in action in the words of the Bahamian youth who was inspired from his visit to Nygard Cay when he said, "I really, really like it. Mr Nygard said that we can have a place like this if we want to work and dream so I am going to get one like this one day, too."

It appears that this youth didn't believe this was possible before being inspired by Peter Nygard.

Generosity doesn't just provide the physical means. It helps provide the motivation, the believability and the will power to succeed, which are all important for any significant achievements in life.

Nygard's giving doesn't just have physical consequences as Bahamian boxing sensation Tureano Johnson shows in what he said to Nygard about his sponsorship: "I thank you for encouraging me. You have not just uplifted my boxing ability but also my spirit."

The generosity of even one person can have a major domino effect. An inspired nation of youth has the potential to lift a country to great heights.

It therefore behooves every citizen of means to generously give; as 1 John 3:17 states, "If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?"

The Bahama Journal Is An Independent Newspaper - Published Week Days
By The Communicators & Associates In Affiliation With Jones Communications Ltd.

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E D I T O R I A L

ANOTHER TRUMP ATTACK

Veronica Stracqualursi of CNN writes, "President Donald Trump attacked another prominent African American lawmaker on Saturday, tweeting that his Baltimore district is a "disgusting, rat and rodent infested mess."

Trump's morning tirade against Democratic Rep. Elijah Cummings, chairman of the House Oversight Committee, is the latest verbal assault against a minority member of Congress who is a frequent critic of the President. Two weekends ago, Trump -- in racist language that was later condemned by a House resolution -- told four progressive Democratic congresswomen of color to "go back and help fix the totally broken and crime infested places from which they came." Three of the four were born in the US, and the fourth is a naturalized US citizen.

Trump attacked Cummings, 68, who is originally from Baltimore and represents Maryland's 7th Congressional District, for erupting at acting Homeland Security Secretary Kevin McAleenan over border conditions during a congressional hearing on July 18. Cummings' committee has also launched a number of investigations into the Trump administration related to Trump's finances and White House practices, including security clearances and Hatch Act violations.

The President's attacks, which went on to mention the Oversight investigation and another Democrat-represented district, continued into Sunday.

The President on Saturday suggested that conditions in Cummings' district, which is majority black and includes parts of Baltimore, are "FAR WORSE and more dangerous" than those at the US-Mexico border.

"If he spent more time in Baltimore, maybe he could help clean up this very dangerous & filthy place," Trump wrote, arguing that Cummings' "district is considered the Worst in the USA" and "no human being would want to live there."

In Cummings' district, about 52% of the population is black, while nearly 36% is white, according to US census estimates. The President gave no indication of the basis of the claim but the tweets followed a segment that aired an hour earlier on Fox News, in which a Republican strategist said conditions in Cummings' district were worse than those at the southern border.

"Mr. President, I go home to my district daily," Cummings wrote on Twitter Saturday in response. "Each morning, I wake up, and I go and fight for my neighbors. It is my constitutional duty to conduct oversight of the Executive Branch. But, it is my moral duty to fight for my constituents."

Cummings told ABC News recently that Trump's "go back" remarks aimed at the four congresswomen brought back memories of the racism he faced as a boy growing up in Baltimore in the 1960s, echoing the same "very painful" racist insults he had heard during childhood.

Trump has used similar language before to criticize Democratic Rep. John Lewis, a civil rights icon, and the Georgia district Lewis represents, which includes most of Atlanta.

Reaction to Trump's tirade was swift with Baltimore Mayor Bernard C. Jack Young tweeting that it was "completely unacceptable for the political leader of our country to denigrate a vibrant American City like Baltimore, and to viciously attack U.S. Representative Elijah Cummings a patriot and a hero."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi -- whose father represented the city in Congress, and, along with her brother, served as its mayor -- echoed those sentiments, condemning Trump's tweets as racist.

"Rep Cummings is a champion in the Congress and the country for civil rights and economic justice, a beloved leader in Baltimore, and deeply valued colleague. We all reject racist attacks against him and support his steadfast leadership. Elijah Cummings Is A Patriot," Pelosi, who was born in Baltimore, tweeted.

Reps. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Rashida Tlaib, two of the four Democratic congresswomen who Trump previously attacked and members of the House Oversight Committee, defended Cummings.

"Yo Trump, Hands off our chair man Rep

Cummings who is centered in American values that you will never understand. He is a fighter for the people & a leader you will never be," Tlaib of Michigan said. "While you go on vacations & tweet, Rep Cummings held a hearing on high costs of medicine just yesterday."

Ocasio-Cortez, a New York Democrat, tweeted of Cummings: "He makes the country better. You want to be on his team."

Other Democrats came to Baltimore's defense on Saturday, including California Sen. Kamala Harris, whose national 2020 campaign headquarters is located there.

"Baltimore has become home to my team and it's disgraceful the president has chosen to start his morning disparaging this great American city," Harris wrote on Twitter.

Fellow 2020 candidate Sen. Cory Booker of New Jersey tweeted in part that "this is a moral, defining moment in America," adding, "Silence is toxic complicity."

Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren told CNN that Trump sending the tweets is "beyond insulting, it is disgusting."

The Maryland chapter of the NAACP dubbed Trump's tweets racist and called for launching impeachment proceedings into the President.

"These latest tweets reaffirm the NAACP Maryland State Conference's position echoing the call of the National NAACP that this president must be impeached," NAACP MSC President Gerald Stansbury said in a statement. "A nation is judged by how it treats its most vulnerable citizens, and we are ashamed of his rhetoric. America deserves a president who lifts our cities up, not one who heaps trash talk on them."

The NAACP's delegates voted unanimously at the group's annual convention in Detroit on Tuesday to call on the House to begin impeachment proceedings against Trump, saying in a statement, "This President has led one of the most racist and xenophobic administrations since the Jim Crow era." The move placed the nation's oldest civil rights group alongside more than 100 congressional lawmakers in calling on the House to take the first step in a lengthy impeachment process.

Last week, 95 members of the House voted to keep alive Texas Democratic Rep. Al Green's effort to impeach the President, though it was ultimately killed by the chamber.

Trump attacked Cummings on Twitter again Saturday afternoon, saying the congressman, "spends all of his time trying to hurt innocent people through 'Oversight.'"

"He does NOTHING for his very poor, very dangerous and very badly run district!" he wrote, concluding the tweet with the hashtag #BlacksForTrump2020 and retweeted a video purported to be of West Baltimore.

The President expanded his criticism later Saturday and into Sunday, retweeting Fox News segments on former special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential election and probes into the President, an edited video of Democratic leadership and additional videos that Twitter users claimed to be of Baltimore.

Taking aim at Pelosi on Sunday, Trump asked that someone explain to the House speaker "that there is nothing wrong with bringing out the very obvious fact that Congressman Elijah Cummings has done a very poor job for his district and the City of Baltimore." He continued, saying that "Democrats always play the Race Card" and declaring: "Elijah Cummings has failed badly!"

The President, in the string of Sunday morning tweets, also said Pelosi's San Francisco district "is not even recognizable (sic) lately." Trump did not provide any evidence of the claim.

"Something must be done before it is too late," he wrote. "The Dems should stop wasting time on the Witch Hunt Hoax and start focusing on our Country!"

On "Fox News Sunday," acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney defended Trump's attacks on Cummings' district.

Mulvaney said the President was going after Cummings over the Democrat's statements about the situation at the southern border. "It has absolutely zero to do with race," he said.

THE BAHAMAS
Sun, Sand, Sea and the
The Bahama Journal
NO BETTER READING

Ballots Support Davis' Choice for PLP Chairman

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
Journal Staff Writer

During the second night of the Progressive Liberal Party's National Convention, PLP Leader Philip Davis stressed that the PLP is a party with democratic values and the results of the chairman election show that delegates supported his choice for Senator Fred Mitchell to become chairman.

"In this party, if you got

something to say, you say it. You want to run, you run. That doesn't mean a leader can't have an opinion," Mr. Davis said.

"PLPs, with your ballots, you showed you agreed with me on the best path forward, and I'm grateful. We had our vote, and we're moving on now because we have big things to do together!"

His comments came after he asserted that he did not want anyone to

contest his leadership team at this year's convention.

Despite his request, former Cabinet Minister Obie Wilchcombe contested the chairmanship position against Mitchell but was unsuccessful.

Last week, Mr. Davis also expressed his doubts about Wilchcombe's chances of winning the chairman position, but he did not stop him from running against Mitchell,

who won by a landslide victory.

In his address to party supporters, Mr. Davis also noted that following the PLP's defeat in the 2017 general election, the leadership team listened to the cries of the Bahamian people and made some much needed adjustments to the party.

"You said our party needed to be reinvigorated and so we have been reaching out, bringing in

new voices, new energy and new ideas," Mr. Davis said.

"After wide consultation and with the work of Raynard Rigby and his constitutional committee, at this convention, we've adopted new reforms to our constitution, making it more modern and strengthening the role that women and young people will play in the party.

"We've opened up who gets to vote and we've

changed how we recruit, choose and support candidates, so that our party is more inclusive, more democratic, and more effective."

Night two of the convention again saw a packed ballroom at the Melia Nassau Beach Resort with supporters spilling out into the foyer.

The party's convention wrapped up with a prayer breakfast Saturday morning at the Melia.

SkyBahamas CEO Calls

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tions.

He noted that this has not happened, as it seems Bahamasair is putting smaller airlines out of business.

"We see government take a Bahamasair that has a purpose of bringing international passengers, but spend \$120 million of the tax payers' money to go and buy new airplanes to go and compete against

the local carrier with the intent, that I say and these are my words, to put them out of business," Mr. Butler said.

"If you get in a situation where you are going to put this airline or airplanes on a route where other domestic airlines are going and in some cases you drop the fees and do things that we cannot afford because the industry can't afford it because Bahamasair don't have to

worry because it's not a business, it's a charity organization that needs to be babysat, fed and burped."

Mr. Butler first made the claims back in November 2018 following the unfortunate plane crash of pilot Byron Ferguson in waters off Nirvana Beach.

At that time, he called for a review of the entire aviation system and the implementation of new

strategies.

Shadow Aviation Minister Glenys Hanna-Martin said when private airlines began to receive licenses it opened a new model for the industry and added that maybe then, the need for Bahamasair should have been changed.

"The role of Bahamasair had evolved at that point, in that the aviation agency had licensed other carriers to

service national routes," she said.

"So at that point, perhaps there should have been a reconceptualization of the role of Bahamasair.

"Whether it should have been more designed to develop our tourism product with international routes, it had to be resorted because the landscape shifted. It was no longer what it was originally conceived as.

Whether that has happened effectively has to be questioned."

Former Minister of Tourism Obie Wilchcombe, a few weeks ago, shared similar sentiments noting that the government should look for a partnership for Bahamasair and use it as the airline to bring tourists to Grand Bahama and allow smaller airlines to service the Family Islands.

Bahamasair's Domestic

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He noted that the government picks up all the losses of the airline and noted that it's no secret that the airline receives a subsidy in excess of \$20 million from the government, but has long been in the red.

"The question is, how-

ever, do the Bahamian people want Bahamasair to exit the domestic market or do they want the government to keep picking up the tab to subsidize operations to domestic destinations?" D'Aguilar asked during an interview with The Bahama Journal yesterday.

"The political directorates decollate between the significant losses that Bahamasair incurs. On the one hand, it helps to get foreign visitors and get Bahamians citizens to the Family of Islands, but at the same time its costing \$20 million to do so."

This, he added, has been an age old question

faced by successive governments.

When asked if this administration intends to address the matter, Mr. D'Aguilar said, "I guess the political directorate has to gage what the Bahamian people want."

"Do they want Bahamasair to continue to perform its function at

great expense or do they want Bahamasair to exit this market and allow private airline companies to do it?" he asked.

"We all agree that even if the private airlines companies do it, there would probably have to be some subsidy involved to the private airline companies in order to allow them to go to destinations that are not highly trafficked."

The government he said is exploring the possibility of putting a hub in Exuma but that's not been decided.

The decision to stop Bahamasair's domestic routes, he said, is a tough decision to make.

Banks Urged to Collect

Continued from / PAGE 1...

quencies from which commercial banks are recovering," Mr. Rolle said.

"The Central Bank is prompting these institutions to take more aggres-

sive steps to reduce the delinquency rate, making their balance sheets stronger, much faster, before another recession happens."

He added that this would include approaches that would recognize

higher losses on loans that are in default and a look at the value of foreclosed mortgaged properties and take more persistent efforts in selling off repossessed properties.

"The Bahamian economy is expected to continue

to grow over the next few years. The domestic banking sector will continue to experience high levels of liquidity and the foreign reserves of the Central Bank are expected to continue to increase at a mild pace," Mr. Rolle said.

"When the medium-term credit delinquency rates are taken into account, the banking sector is only expected to begin to recover its total lending to the private sector at a gradual pace."

Mr. Rolle said with this, the Central Bank has made a decision to maintain its posture for private sector credit growth.

"Our posture, however, continues to assume sustainable outcomes in how large public and private sector financing operations are executed," Mr. Rolle said.

"For large scale transactions, either involving debt or equity operations, a prudent inclusion of foreign currency flows would be essential so as not to divert Bahamian credit from households and the smaller commer-

cial borrowers."

According to Mr. Rolle, some focus was placed on sustainability and Central Bank's latest survey conducted with the private sector and local private businesses, which revealed varied feedback on how the economy performed in recent months.

"Most surveyed businesses noted higher cost in their operations, but stated that overall conditions for their operation were stable to improved in general," he said.

"The outlook held by most firms was for stable to further improved operating conditions over the remainder of 2019, with lowered inflation expectations and healthier employment outcomes than in the first half of 2019."

A HERO'S WELCOME FOR TUREANO JOHNSON



► The Bahamas has another World Boxing Champion in Tureano Johnson. With a hero's welcome home after winning the North American Boxing Federation middleweight title, Johnson's professional record has improved to 21-2-1 ranking him in the top 10 of world boxing bodies; WBA, WBC, WBO and IBF putting him in line for a world title shot. Apostle Phalmon Ferguson and his congregation at UNFI celebrated Johnson's win and hope for unified boxing glory.

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