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# The Bahama Journal

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# Mixed Views on No Confidence Motion

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT  
 Journal Staff Writer

Some Bahamians want the opposition to move forward with its motion of no confidence in Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis, but others dismissed the effort calling it a waste of time and an abuse of process.

Bahamians expressed their mixed views over the matter yesterday as callers on Love 97's radio talk show Issues of the

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## Bahamian Divers Replace Foreign Fishermen



Min. Michael Pintard

BY LICEC BASTIAN  
 Journal Staff Writer

Minister of Agriculture and Marine Resources Minister Michael Pintard expressed, just before the start of the 2019 crawfish season, that the more than 40 persons enrolled in the Department of Marine Resources first ever diver training program will be employed on commercial fishing vessels, particularly during this lucrative

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## 95% of Tourism's Young Employees Resign

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT  
 Journal Staff Writer

Tourism officials are left to figure out why 95 percent of their staff under the age of 30 resigns.

An audit into the Ministry of Tourism revealed as much and Minister of Tourism Dionisio D'Aguiar said the ministry is working to figure out why and how to keep those persons employed at the ministry.

He added that the ministry hired 12 new employees under 30, after

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Min. Dionisio D'Aguiar

## Seven Receive Queen's Honours

Seven Bahamians were recognized for their dedication and commitment to national service during the 2019 Queen's New Year Honours Investiture at Government House on Thursday.

"Service to one's coun-

try is among the highest attributes of a committed and engaged citizen," Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis said during his remarks.

The outstanding citi-

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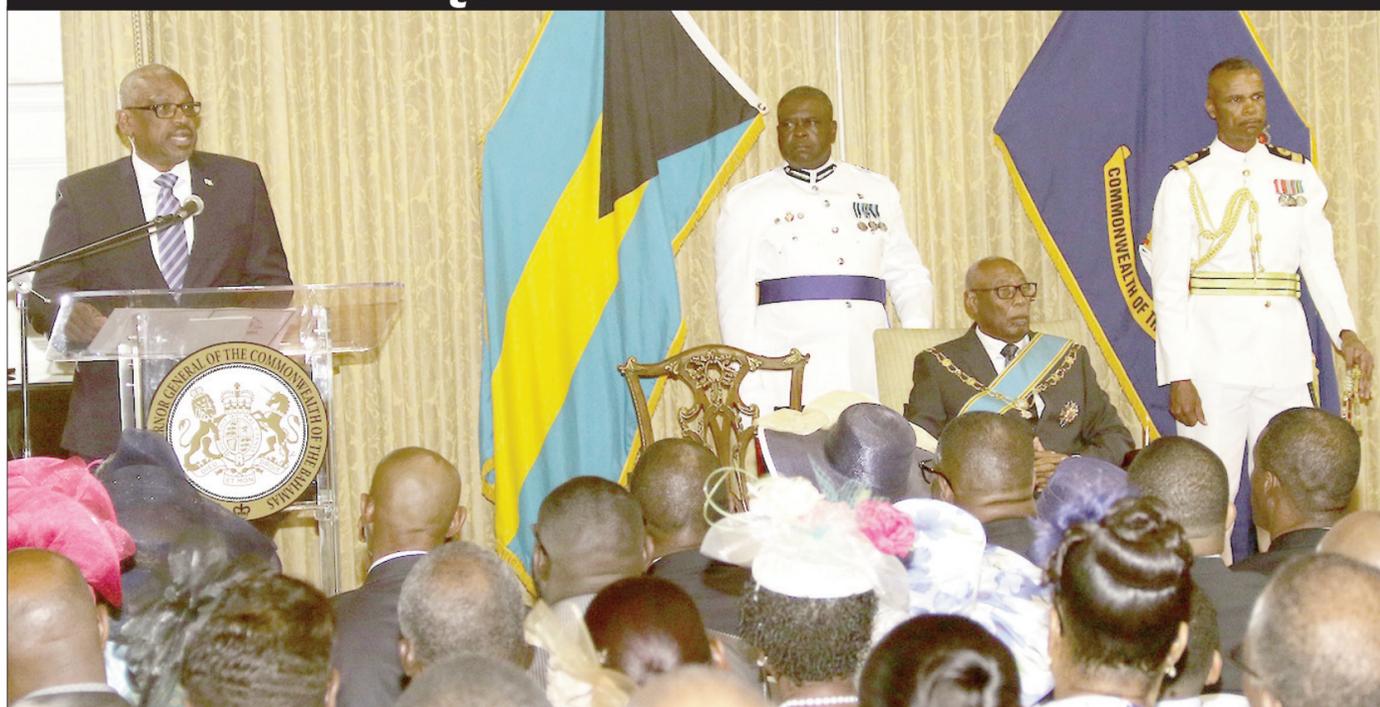


Apostle Leon Wallace



Reginald Ferguson, QPM

## PRIME MINISTER RECOGNIZES WORK OF QUEEN'S HONOUREES



Prime Minister Minnis, left, congratulates 2019 Queen's New Year Honourees at an Investiture ceremony at Government House, August 1, 2019. Seated is the Governor General, His Excellency the Most Hon. Cornelius A. Smith, and standing, centre, Commissioner of Police Anthony Ferguson, and at right, Commander of the Royal Bahamas Defence Force Commodore Tellis Bethel. (BIS Photo/Patrick Hanna)



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ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED TO READ IN THE MORNING

# Gambling Addiction Causes More Concern

BY EARYEL BOWLEG  
Journal Staff Writer

As gambling regulations are in talks, the issue of gambling addiction is silent, according to mental health professionals.

Earlier this year, Minister of Health Dr. Duane Sands said gambling has become a significant public health issue in the Bahamas and announced that the government is working to combat the gaming

addiction.

Psychiatrist Dr. Kirkland Christie believes the stigma and shame that comes along with addiction, are preventing people from seeking help and the root of the issue isn't revealed until further testing for treating other mental disorders.

Dr. Christie said usually gambling disorders are associated with alcohol use disorder.

"They're more apt to

say alcohol problem," Dr. Christie said, adding that upon further interview, the patient is then told that he or she has a gambling disorder.

A potential obstacle for people to seek help is the expense for private addiction specialists, which is needed for treatment. This leaves the option to seek treatment at Sandilands Rehabilitation Center.

However, Consultant Psychiatrist Dr. John

Dillet believes it is still possible to receive adequate help for a gambling addiction.

"I do think there are a number of good people that work in those institutions that do have the training and experience," Dr. Dillet said.

"I do think mental health resources are overwhelmed and under-resourced and that would go for all major disciplines including gambling."



► Min. Dr. Duane Sands

# Gov't Plans for Conch Preservation

BY LICEC BASTIAN  
Journal Staff Writer

Despite researchers concluding that the Queen Conch could soon become non-existent – within the next 10 years – the Department of Marine Resources said there is nothing on the table to implement a conch season.

However, Minister of Agriculture and Marine Resources Michael Pintard outlined steps that the ministry is taking to preserve the Queen Conch, adding that a survey is being conducted nationally to get the views of stakeholders.

"We are aware that there is a petition circulating by members of civil society and conch season has been one of the options raised by persons who are concerned about the conch stock, but we have been very clear in the ministry in terms of the measures that we were pushing and I can outline those. But I should also say that a survey is being conducted nationally to get the views of all stakeholders," Mr. Pintard said.

"We will make decisions at the end of having canvassed all stakeholders, but the principle positions we've been pushing is one, we want fishers to give serious consideration to the possibility that we will ask them to land conch in the shell, since lip thickness is the best way of determining the maturity of the conch.

"So, we hear a lot about persons having small

conchs and the assumption is for every small conch you see, somebody is engaged in something illegal when there are some species of conch that are fully matured, but maybe somewhat small.

"And so, landing in the shell does have certainly some logistical issues that we are seeking to work through but it is one of the things we are pushing.

"The second thing is we are reducing the quota of exports and the goal is to eliminate the export of conch from our standpoint unless someone has the science to dissuade the government from that position."

Conchervation, a national campaign was launched by Bahamas National Trust (BNT) in 2016 and is aimed at protecting the Queen Conch in The Bahamas through research, citizen science and policy change. The purpose was also to engage fishermen and Bahamians in the conversation about changing current legislation in an effort to present documentation to the Department of Marine Resources.

Petitions continue to circulate regarding the same.

The minister said many believe that marine officials are not moving fast enough, but he told reporters recently, that the government does not want to make decisions without giving stakeholders ample time and warning

"There are some, on one hand, who feel we are not moving fast enough,

that we should do it suddenly and what we have been saying to them [is] that for all of the businesses that they are in they would not tolerate or they would be concerned if the government makes a summary decision without giving them an opportunity one, to dispose of the stock that they already have, [and] commitments

already made, without any warning or any preparation," Mr. Pintard said.

"So, we needed to one, say it as we did to the commercial vessels about divers, we need to say it to those persons that you could expect, come next season, that there will be a substantial reduction in the quota that every company is assigned in The

Bahamas.

"So, they now need to begin to pivot to look at other species or to look at the local market where the bulk of conch is already sold. It's only one fifth that's exported."

Among other measures taken by the Department of Marine Resources, the minister added that it is the belief that conch

should not be harvested by visitors and "measures will be taken to reduce the amount in pounds that they will be allowed to capture on sports vessels and pleasure crafts".

Since the launch of BNT's Conchervation Campaign, 7,374 persons have signed the online petition that has since closed.



## 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/](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.

The Bahama Journal

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# One Step Closer to Gov't Bonds Electronic Trading

*Investment opportunities to expand as financial market infrastructure strengthens*

The Ministry of Finance announced yesterday that Bahamas Government Registered Stocks (BGRS) have been approved for listing on the Bahamas International Securities Exchange (BISX or the Exchange).

This major step forward paves the way for Bahamians to be able to buy and sell government bonds on the local securities exchange and track the value of their investments using the online marketplace.

"We are getting ready to list over 200 government bonds, which (at the time of press) represents the entire portfolio of outstanding securities going back to 1999. This will stimulate the entire Bahamian capital market, improve our financial market infrastructure and increase accessibility to government-backed investments for all Bahamians," Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Peter Turnquest said.

"This is another area

where the government is making good on its promise to modernize and keep pace with the digital transformation happening globally and introduce more efficiency to the government's borrowing. Centralized market trading of government bonds is an important component for the growth of the entire Bahamian capital market. It's been a longtime in the making and I am proud that this government's leadership has helped to finally bring

this project to fruition," Minister Turnquest said.

The transfer of the secondary market to the Exchange is a major objective of the Financial Markets Modernization Project, a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Finance, the Central Bank of The Bahamas and BISX.

The project seeks to create a centralized marketplace for all Bahamians dollar securities.

Several changes are being implemented,

including the creation of the centralized marketplace for all Bahamas government debt dollar securities.

The project's phases include: 1) Listing BGRS on BISX, 2) Launching a Bahamas Government Stock Depository (BGSD), which will facilitate competitive bidding and other industry-specific market improvements; 3) Transition to a paperless registry, which involves the introduction of digital certificates for govern-

ment bonds; and, 4) Electronic trading.

"With this modernization of the country's financial market infrastructure, Bahamians will now have easy access to investment information and market activity on all government bonds and there will be transparency around the pricing of government securities. Lastly, Bahamians will be able to see and have an opportunity to trade outstanding securities on an open market," Minister Turnquest said.

# No Confidence Motion

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Day.

"In my view, the PLP is grasping at straws with this, with this vote of no confidence in the prime minister," one caller said.

Another caller said, "The leader of the opposition is seeking to legitimize himself in terms of seeking to have a position, but he's lacking."

"It's a waste of time for the Opposition to be putting their strength into that because nothing will happen. It's just a waste of time. It's just air," another caller added.

However, there were those who argued otherwise and charged that it is not about how the numbers stack up at the end of the vote, but what the record will reflect.

"I think what the opposition is trying to say is that the country has no confidence in this government, in particular Dr. Minnis as prime minister for many reasons," a male caller noted.

A female caller also asserted, "I think there is a basis for it and I think what has happened looking from the beginning, I think the beginning was Oban.

"To have a prime minister, a person who the country has confidence in, who leads this country, to be able to observe something like that in itself is a travesty."

"It is very unlikely that the vote of no confidence will pass, but I think that Mr. Davis and his team having the confidence to go ahead with it is good and not only that, be able to swim

against the tide," another caller said.

Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis has already indicated that he is not backing down from the vote.

Deputy Prime Minister Peter Turnquest meantime, has brushed it off as a "fool's errand".

While the numbers undoubtedly lean more in the government's favor, all eyes will be on

Free National Movement Members of Parliament Vaughn Miller, Reece Chipman and Frederick McAlpine, who have spoken out against the government on more than one occasion.

The opposition intends to move the vote of no confidence when the House of Assembly resumes on October 2.

# Bahamian Divers Replace Foreign

Continued from / PAGE 1...

season, which began yesterday.

According to the minister, 44 persons were trained in a joint program with the department and the National Training Agency by Royal Bahamas Defence Force master dive

instructors.

"On completion, students will be given a one month internship on commercial vessels as facilitated by the Bahamas Commercial Fishing Boat Owners group. We are grateful for their participation. This would no doubt in the long run will assist

them with ensuring that they have a Bahamian crew," Mr. Pintard said.

"We expect some of these divers will be put on these vessels.

"More Bahamians trained as professional divers mean more availability of divers, lessening the need for foreign workers to carry out

these tasks."

As yesterday marked the official start of the crawfish season, Mr. Pintard also noted that non-Bahamians will not receive compressor permits to fish as he said this arena is reserved for Bahamians only.

"Only Bahamian owned fishing vessels

are allowed in this sector," Mr. Pintard explained.

"The government is taking a policy decision to go back to the practice of protecting this sector for Bahamians. This is not a new position.

"It is a position that successive governments

had taken and for a variety of reasons had deviated from that position. It is not a sudden decision. Twelve months ago, this was indicated to all commercial vessel owners that this would be the position that we would take."

The crawfish season ends March 31, 2020.

**FORM B**  
**Notice of Intended Marriage**  
**(Section 7(3))**

The persons named and described hereunder have given notice to me of their intended marriage, namely --

**Bruce Howard Harmon, Widowed,**  
of 410 Caymus St., Kennedale TX 76060, United States of America

and

**Renee Lynn Martin, Divorced,**  
of 410 Caymus St., Kennedale TX 76060, United States of America

Any person knowing any just cause or impediment why this marriage should not be allowed should enter caveat forthwith in the office of the Registrar of Marriages.

Dated this 22nd day of July, 2019.

*Sally Platt*  
Registrar of Marriages

**FORM B**  
**Notice of Intended Marriage**  
**(Section 7(3))**

The persons named and described hereunder have given notice to me of their intended marriage, namely --

**Brandon Gilbert Bayna, Single,**  
of 8207 Confluence Pt., Colorado Springs CO 80951, United States of America

and

**Nicole Westwood Jacques, Single,**  
of 8207 Confluence Pt., Colorado Springs CO 80951, United States of America

Any person knowing any just cause or impediment why this marriage should not be allowed should enter caveat forthwith in the office of the Registrar of Marriages.

Dated this 22nd day of July, 2019.

*Sally Platt*  
Registrar of Marriages

# Penn, Pratt Centres to Establish Own Beekeeping Apiaries

Officials at the Ministry of Social Services and Urban Development have teamed up with Bahamas Ambassador to CARICOM, His Excellency Reuben Rahming to establish beekeeping programmes at both the Simpson Penn Centre for Boys and Williamae Pratt Centre for Girls.

Honey Bees will be used to facilitate the beekeeping programme. The expected outcomes of the programme, which will be facilitated through the Department of Rehabilitative Welfare Services, are two-fold: first to provide residents of both schools with their own, regular supply of honey, and secondly, to provide residents with opportunities to engage in industry and entrepreneurship.

Minister of Social Services and Urban Development, the Hon. Frankie A. Campbell, made the announcement during a recent tour of both facilities. He said the collaboration is expected to pay "great dividends" on both fronts.



► Minister of Social Services and Urban Development, the Hon. Frankie A. Campbell (centre) touring facilities at the Simpson Penn Centre for Boys during a recent visit. Officials visited a number of locations on the grounds that would be prime to establish the beekeeping programme. Also pictured (at left) is Bahamas Ambassador to CARICOM, His Excellency, Reuben Rahming and (at right) Mrs. Lillian Quant-Forbes, Director, Department of Social Services. (BIS Photo/Matt Maura)

"More and more persons are moving away from using sugar as their sweetener of choice to using honey which has resulted in increased demand for, and an increase in the value of, honey globally," Minister

Campbell said.

"Ambassador Rahming has expertise in this area and has agreed to partner with us to share that expertise with the residents in addition to providing them with instruction in the best interna-

tionally accepted standards with regards to the safe and best ways to establish and operate beekeeping apiaries.

"Additional instruction will be provided with regards to the safe extraction of the honey in order

for the residents to be able to feed themselves in the first instance, and to also help them turn the skills they would have developed under his tutelage into entrepreneurial opportunities once they leave the centres, if that is

their desire.

"He has also indicated that he will provide egg-laying chickens so that the residents will have a constant supply of eggs to supplement egg supplies," Minister Campbell added.

Officials say honey bees are mostly very docile in nature and use stinging as a last resort since once they sting, they die. The bees are also said to be great pollinators, responsible for the successful seeding of 90 per cent of all flowering plants and 30 per cent of fruit trees.

Ambassador Rahming categorized beekeeping as a "low impact, very aggressively and expanding" industry. He said one of the key objectives of the programme is to develop those residents interested into becoming professional apiarists. "The plan is to not only assist with establishing the beekeeping programme, but at the end of the day, enabling the residents to become professional apiarists if they so desire," Ambassador Rahming said.

# 95% of Tourism's Young

Continued from / PAGE 1...

the audit also revealed only 9 percent of the ministry's staff was under 30-years-old.

"We had to evaluate why we were not attracting young people and if so, why were they leaving," D'Aguilar said.

"We have done and in depth analysis of everyone in the ministry. What functions they are performing? Where do we have gaps? Where are we over staffed and trying to

move people into the areas where we are short staffed, if they have the necessary skills?

"We have undertaken a recruitment exercise to recruit people who have the disciplines that we don't have and that we need."

During the audit, each tourism employee was interviewed and the results evaluated.

It led to some person's contracts not being renewed.

"I think there were a

number of contracts that were mutually agreed not to be renewed," D'Aguilar said.

"Some were we decided not to renew, but there were equally as many contracts where we went out and hired new people."

Despite this, D'Aguilar expects to bring on an additional 10 to 15 people specifically in areas like communication and social media as the audit revealed the ministry was deficient in those areas.

# Seven Receive Queen's Honours

Continued from / PAGE 1...

zens received awards from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, which were presented by Governor General Cornelius A. Smith.

The prime minister acknowledged the governor general's words spoken during his swearing-in ceremony when he pledged "to renew bedrock values such as altruism, empathy and generosity of spirit."

The prime minister said, "I note that today's honourees exemplify this spirit of service, altruism, empathy and generosity of spirit. They exemplify the best of the human and the Bahamian spirit."

Secretary to the Cabinet Camille Johnson received the Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and Saint George (CMG).

"Because of her serv-

ice, professionalism and expertise it was my privilege to recommend her appointment as secretary to Cabinet," the Prime Minister explained.

Receiving The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) honour are those who rendered contributions to public service outside the civil service. They are:

Reverend Monsignor Alfred Culmer  
Chief Apostle Leon Wallace

Mr. Reginald Ferguson, QPM

Those receiving the British Empire Medal (BEM) this year:

Mr. Alfred Kenneth Russell

Ms. Nicole Martin

Mr. Jason Hanna

The Honourable Janet Bostwick received her appointment as Dame Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire at an

Investiture at Buckingham Palace, London, on March 28, 2019.

The prime minister said, "As I have noted on a previous occasion, a nation's wealth cannot be solely measured in terms of economics and natural resources. A nation's wealth and well-being must equally be measured by the quality of service and generosity of its people in the promotion of the common good."

He continued, "In honouring those who served with distinction, we offer current and future generations fine examples of national and community service."

"To those so honoured, I am sure that your families, friends and colleagues are quite proud of you. In honouring you, we are also acknowledging their contributions to your life journey."



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