

**STANDARD SERVICES SUPPLIES LTD.**  
 Shirley & Church Street  
 Phone: 322-4635



Shop at STANDARD SERVICES where you can get **20% OFF** Houseware, linen, lamps and draperies. and much, much more

# The Bahama Journal

Quo Vadis, Bahamas?

**DEAN & ASSOCIATES PROFESSIONAL INSURANCE AGENTS & BROKERS**  
 "Meeting Your Needs Efficiently and Professionally"



BUILDINGS (COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL)  
 LIFE - GROUP - MEDICAL - ANNUITIES - LIABILITY - MARINE - HOMEOWNERS - AUTO

Tel: (242)-356-0986 Fax: (242)-356-0987  
 Deal's Plaza, Mackey Street  
 P.O. Box CB-13952 Nassau, Bahamas  
 8:30am - 4:30pm

VOL. 31 - NO. 130

THURSDAY - AUGUST 15TH, 2019

75 CENTS

# PM Calls BPL Service 'UNACCEPTABLE'

BY DEANDRE WILLIAMSON  
 Journal Staff Writer

Admitting that he is "deeply unhappy" that Bahamians are suffering from the vexing load shedding issue, Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis called Bahamas Power and Light's (BPL) service "unacceptable," but assured that the company is currently carrying out a



▶ Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis

■ See page 4...

## PLP Wants BPL Board Fired

BY DEANDRE WILLIAMSON  
 Journal Staff Writer

Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) Chairman Fred Mitchell renewed the party's call for the dismissal of the entire board at Bahamas Power and Light (BPL).

"They are colossal failures. If they do not go, then the minister and ulti-



▶ PLP Chairman Fred Mitchell

■ See page 4...

## BPL Presents Load Shedding Resolution

BY EARYEL BOWLEG  
 Journal Staff Writer

Deputy Prime Minister Peter Turnquest said Bahamas Power and Light officials met with the government on Tuesday and gave a presentation of

their short-term plan to resolve the agonizing load shedding issue that is plaguing New Providence.

Turnquest revealed this information yesterday and

■ See page 4...

## Dominican Charged for Human Trafficking

BY LICEC BASTIAN  
 Journal Staff Writer

A 37-year-old Dominican woman was charged in Magistrate's Court yesterday, with three counts of trafficking.

Sobeyda Garcia Reyes, also known as Sobeyda

Scrivens, whose address was listed as West Bay Street, faced one count each of conspiracy to engage in trafficking and trafficking in persons, all alleged to have happened between December 1,

■ See page 4...

## Torchbearers Convention Begins Tonight

BY LICEC BASTIAN  
 Journal Staff Writer

A Future Secured #Accesgranted, the theme for the Free National Movement's (FNM) Torchbearers Youth Association's (TYA) Convention, which begins

tonight at Melia. TYA President Carlyle Bethel during a press conference yesterday, said the two-day, two-night convention will focus on entrepreneurship, education and employment,

■ See page 2...

# Customs Fraud Fighting Initiative Launched

BY EARYEL BOWLEG  
 Journal Staff Writer

The Bahamas Customs Department and Deputy Prime Minister Peter Turnquest introduced the new online portal Click2Clear, which is designed to protect against customs

fraud. During a press conference on Wednesday at the Ministry of Finance, they laid out the government's public education campaign to unveil this latest initiative.

In addition to protecting against fraud, the por-

tal will provide faster customs clearance, automatic email confirmation and online payments.

Turnquest believes the portal is a way to ensure a more effective system.

"Once Click2Clear is fully implemented, all importers will be operat-

ing by the same rules and regulations. This is possible because most processes will be digitized and automated. That means they won't vary from one customs officer to the next or one port of entry to the

■ See page 4...



▶ Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Peter Turnquest (centre) held a press conference, Wednesday, August 14, at his office to launch the Bahamas Customs and Excise Department's public education campaign for the Customs Modernization Initiative, and the User Registration Drive for Click2Clear. Also pictured are Tamico Brice, Project Manager and Superintendent Tyrone Sands, Bahamas Customs Department. (BIS Photos/Derek Smith)



**Don't sweat it.  
Stay cool.**

ACDelco air conditioning parts along with routine maintenance can help you keep your cool. Stop In! We stock a complete line of quality ACDelco air conditioning parts for most GM model cars and trucks.






NMC PARTS DEPARTMENT • Shirley Street • 302-0130 partsorder@nassaumotor.com • www.acdelcobahamas.com

ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED TO READ IN THE MORNING

# Torchbearers Convention Begins Tonight

Continued from / PAGE 1...

particularly for the youth of the country.

"We will speak more in detail towards [the three E's]. When we travel around the country to Abaco, Grand Bahama, Eleuthera, you name it, there are three things that we find young people are focused and interested on [are] entrepreneurship, education and employment. Those three E's," Bethel said.

"[This] is really the focus of the convention and we will really push that message and show exactly what the government is doing. No fluff talk, just facts."

This is the second convention the association has had in the past two years and its president said the convention nights will be enlightening and engaging.

Bethel said the purpose and goal of the convention is to give young persons a platform to express open-



► Free National Movement's Torchbearers Youth Association (TYA) President Carlyle Bethel (Journal)

ly and freely how they feel the government is doing as well as for the party to speak to facts of what the government is doing specifically for the youth of the country.

"Specifically in entrepreneurship, education

and employment, we find that young people care about those three E's in regards to the development of their future and so we hope to put out the facts for the Bahamian public to see what the government is doing for

them," Bethel said.

According to Bethel, the day sessions will focus on political training and education on party history, and party structure.

"How the party work with the community, how

the party stays in touch with the community [and] running and organizing a campaign," Bethel said.

"So, it's almost like a two-day training session on politics, giving a good scope on politics, because we have delegates from

all Family Islands, from all constituencies, who are coming out and we want to give them access to knowledge in regards to party structure and history, how the party works, what's the difference between the party and the government and how those two work together or separate.

"So it should be a very informative day sessions."

Youth speakers will include Bain and Grants Member of Parliament Travis Robinson, Minister of Youth Lanisha Rolle and FNM National Vice Chairman Lincoln Deal.

Other speakers will include the party's chairman Carl Culmer, Pinewood MP Reuben Rahming and Minister of Tourism Dionisio D'Aguilar, with keynote speakers Minister of Education Jeffery Lloyd tonight and Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis at Friday night's convention.

## TYA President Confident in Gov't Job Training Approach

BY LICEC BASTIAN  
Journal Staff Writer

With youth unemployment still relatively high, the Free National Movement's Torchbearers Youth Association (TYA) President Carlyle Bethel believes it's now time to approach the problem in a different way, which he said the Minnis administration is doing.

"The youth unemployment numbers have historically been high and it's been a challenge for successive governments," Bethel said.

"I think what the government is doing is they're approaching it from a different angle this time and that is not just trying to provide short term jobs [in] the 52 week programme, but they are trying to build skills among young people so that even if they happen to

not be able to find a job they can still get a job and complete a job and complete a task and do it well and have a long term sustainable form of income.

"And, so I think that those signs and those things will pay off in the long run and I think that's very encouraging for us."

When asked about the overall decrease in unemployment figures, the TYA president credited the government with doing much to diversify not just employment for young people, but building young entrepreneurs.

"When we look at the labour numbers, we would have seen that the recent numbers would have shown that unemployment is at its lowest in 10 years. With that being said, the government is doing a lot to diversify not just employment for young people,

but to build entrepreneurs throughout the country," Bethel said.

"We see the implementation of programmes like the Small Business Development Center, the Be Your Own Boss Scholarship, at BTVI, which helps those students who graduate BTVI with trades to then start their own business in their particular trade.

"So, all these things combined together are what I believe is contributing to the decrease in the unemployment numbers to its lowest in 10 years.

"That's very encouraging for us. I think it's very encouraging for the country and I think it shows exactly the good that the government is doing."

The TYA president said these are signs that will pay off in the long run as more and more people are

focused and interested in entrepreneurship, educa-

tion and employment.

The TYA heads into a

two-day youth convention today and Friday.

## Gov't Discusses Potential Minimum Wage Increase

Minister of Labour Dion Foulkes told reporters earlier this week that discussions are taking place concerning a raise in minimum wage.

This followed countless complaints of the high cost of living in The Bahamas, considering the 60 percent increase in value added tax from 7.5 per cent to 12 percent.

He said, "There is a discussion at the tripartite council level. However, there hasn't been any definitive recommendation at this point."

In 2015, the government of The Bahamas raised minimum wage from \$150 per week to \$210 per week to offset



► Minister of Labour Dion Foulkes

the implementation of value added tax at 7.5 percent.

Last year, ahead of the VAT increase, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Peter

Turnquest told reporters that an increase in wages will be an extra expense on businesses that will potentially lead to an increase in products and services.

## Legal Notice

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** to the public that **Zeneta Archer-Deveaux**, the heiress-at-law of the estate of the late Pearl Tucker, who died on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of September, 1980, is the legal fee simple owner of the property described herein. Any person or persons claiming any right, benefit or interest in the same, must present his or her claim, in writing, along with the appropriate documentation, to the aforementioned Zeneta Archer-Deveaux, within twenty-one (21) days of the publication of this notice at the expiration of which time, no further claim will be entertained.

The plot referred to comprise six thousand six hundred and eight (6,608.00) square feet on the southern side of Laird Street two hundred and sixty seven feet east of Blue Hill road in the southern district of New Providence **bounded on the north** by Laird Street and running thereon fifty two and thirty three (52.33) hundredths feet **on the south** by property of various owners and running thereon fifty-eight and sixty nine hundredths (58.69) feet, **on the east** by property of Sadie Curtis and running thereon one hundred and eighteen and twenty seven hundredths (118.27) feet, and **on the west** by property of one Dorsette and running thereon one hundred and twenty and forty four (120.44) hundredths feet.

*Zeneta Archer-Deveaux*

ZENETA ARCHER-DEVEAUX

Phone No. 242-818-7911

# Beekeeper's Warning to Prevent Bee Attack

BY LEAH COOPER  
Journal Staff Writer

A local beekeeper yesterday advised residents in the capital to take proper care of the boxing on their homes, as it will prevent bees from forming hives.

Barry Forbes said, "If you have at least one eighth on an inch open in your boxing that leaves room for them to scout and to get there."

In the wake of last week's bee attack, which left an 82-year-old man dead in Grand Bahama, Mr. Forbes said he has suspected that bees in the country are Africanized, considering their aggressive behavior.

He said, "When I look at that situation in Freeport, they were agitated. I mean any bee can pretty much kill you, but the amount of bees that killed that man leads me

to believe that they are definitely African Killer Bees."

Bahamas National Trust (BNT) Executive Director Eric Carey told The Bahama Journal that while aggressive behavior in bees is rare in the capital, he suggests contacting the Department of Agriculture if someone encounters a swarm.

He said, "The bees in Grand Bahama are displaying a type of behavior that is very aggres-

sive, which is usually not seen in the European traditional honey bee."

Mr. Carey said BNT has been in touch with the Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources, the Grand Bahama Port Authority and the Ministry of Environmental Health on the matter.

He added, "There is some speculation that there may be some form of hybridized Africanized bee."

He also said BNT recommended that the government try and get some definitive analysis of the species involved in the attack because this is not the first occurrence on that island.

In fact, last month BNT issued a warning following an attack on a few of its team members conducting bird surveys in East Grand Bahama.

Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that

the number of deaths from hornet, wasp and bee stings have hit their highest totals since 2005.

The CDC reported that there were a total of 1,109 deaths from a hornet, wasp, or bee sting.

The totals amount to an average of 62 deaths each year.

However, in 2017, which was the latest year with data, there were 89 deaths and approximately 80 percent of deaths were among males.

## FLORIDA'S HOT 105 RADIO LIVE BROADCAST FROM FREEPORT HIGHLIGHTED JUNKANOO SUMMER FEST



▶ The Hot 105 team took a moment from the Live Remote Broadcasting from Freeport, Grand Bahama to capture this group shot.

The Islands Of The Bahamas recently partnered with the Wiggins Agency in South Florida to host a live remote broadcast from Freeport, Grand Bahama with S Florida's Hot 105 FM'S on air personality, James T. Also partnering in the promotion was Bahamasair, the national flag carrier of The Bahamas, who recently increased its air loads to Grand Bahama including jet service from Fort Lauderdale and Miami.

The remote promoted summertime fun in Freeport including the Annual Bahamas Junkanoo Summer Festival.

The broadcast back to S. Florida radio listeners, took place Saturday from the Pavilion of Freeport's Grand Lucayan Resort Lighthouse Point. The lineup of on-air guests included a cross section of Grand Bahama Island tourism stakeholders who shared with listeners in Florida about all of the excitement and adventure a visit to Grand Bahama offers.

The promotion included a Come-Along component and weeks before the event, South Florida listeners to the James T show were invited to call in for a chance to win a trip as well as to get information to travel along with the team to Grand Bahama to enjoy the Island and the special cultural event - Bahamas Junkanoo Summer Festival.

Two lucky winners and their guest traveled to Freeport with the live

remote team. The winners' prize was inclusive of round-trip air for two, hotel accommodations (with meal plan), VIP ground transfers and a Dolphin Encounter.

"When Don Wiggins, a long-time friend of The Bahamas, approached us with the opportunity to partner on this exciting promotion, we immediately recognized the value of the exposure that the participating radio station, Hot 105 would bring to a destination like Freeport, Grand Bahama," said Betty Bethel, Director of Sales, Bahamas Tourist Office (BTO) Florida.

"We knew that it would allow us to showcase the beauty and summertime excitement of Freeport, Grand Bahama to the huge South Florida radio listening audience and social media followers. It would also provide an opportunity for Floridians to experience the Annual Bahamas Junkanoo Summer Festival, which is an unforgettable, one-of-a-kind, cultural explosion, that is taking place on the island - this year for three weeks only - the last JSF event takes place August 17th - so there is still an opportunity to travel to Freeport via air or sea for the final summer rush," Bethel said.

Known as one of the top on-air personalities in the U.S., James T, has a longstanding relationship with The Bahamas having formerly managed concert and night club promotions on the Island. During the live remote the

radio personality shared about some of his Bahamas experiences as he interviewed guests and invited Floridians to take advantage of the close proximity of The Island and the ease of getting there by air, fast ferry or cruise.

Guests on the broadcast included the on-Island host of the event, The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism Grand Bahama, represented by Sanique

Experiences and Ms. Erika Gates of Grand Bahama Island Nature Tours.

The live broadcast to South Florida between 10 am and 2 pm on Saturday, was also streamed live across the U.S. and promoted via the social media channels of Hot 105 Radio and the Wiggins Agency whose team included a cadre of social media and digital specialists.

ence the Annual Bahamas Junkanoo Summer Festival, Freeport, on Saturday evening to enjoy the performances of some six competing groups. The team also sampled Bahamian eats including conch salad, conch fritters, a Bahamian signature meal of peas n rice, macaroni and cheese, plantain, potato salad, fish, shrimp or cracked conch. Local Bahamian drink's available at the

that travelled from Florida included James T, his engineer, Steven Grey and Hot 105's digital and social media executive, Antoine Edwards. Along with Don Wiggins of The Wiggins Advertising and Marketing Agency were, social media and digital specialists, Frederick Custard, Tiffany Manning and Sheila Haywood.

The group were accompanied to Grand Bahama by Adrian Kemp



▶ Sanique Culmer, GB Bahamas Tourist Office and Carmel Churchill of G B Tourism Board chatting with Hot 105's James T. Looking on at right, Don Wiggins of the Wiggins Agency

Culmer. Also extending greetings and a warm welcome was Carmel Churchill, of the Grand Bahama Island Tourism Board. Woodrow Wilson and Debbie Butterfield represented Bahamasair.

Other on-air guests for the remote included Keith Cooper, West End Ecology Tours (Stingray Experiences); Linda Osborne, General Manager, Underwater Explorers Society (UNEXSO), Dolphin

To ensure that the group was immediately immersed in the flavor of the island, the team arrived on Grand Bahama a day before the event and was immediately whisked to Sands Brewery to learn about its products, followed by a Bahamian lunch at Pier One Restaurant at the Freeport Harbour and then a tour of UNEXSO's Dolphin Sanctuary.

The group were given the opportunity to experi-

Festival included beers and other products from Sands Brewery Freeport, Kalik beers, and rum from John Watlings Brewery, Nassau, Bahamas.

The Bahamas Junkanoo Summer Festival ended with the rich and soulful stylings of the Royal Bahamas Police Force Pop Band followed by top Bahamian Global entertainment artist, D-Mac.

The broadcast team

and Jeannie Gibson of The Bahamas Tourist Office, Florida, sales and communications departments respectively. On Island in Grand Bahama, the group were hosted by The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism's Anya Hanna, Wendell Saunders and Sanique Culmer.

For more information on The Bahamas including Freeport, Grand Bahama and its festivals visit [www.bahamas.com](http://www.bahamas.com).

# PM Calls BPL Service 'UNACCEPTABLE'

Continued from / PAGE 1...

temporary plan to mitigate its shortfall in generation.

"It is expected to provide relief to residents as soon as possible," Dr. Minnis said yesterday. "In support, an additional nine megawatts of power from Aggreko units are expected to be returned to service."

He added that a six-

man team of specialists from Philadelphia Gear is in New Providence assisting with the matter.

"The team has started working with the intention of returning an additional 20 megawatts of power to service at the Baillou Hill Power Plant," Dr. Minnis said.

Philadelphia Gear designs and manufactures power transmission equip-

ment and gears.

BPL's peak demand is 250 megawatts and is currently experiencing a 40 megawatt shortfall.

The prime minister noted that on Tuesday Cabinet ministers met with BPL executives and board members to discuss the unacceptable state of power generation in New Providence.

"Over the last several

months, BPL has had to engage in prolonged periods of load shedding, due to a decaying generation fleet that has presented challenges to power generation in New Providence for decades," he explained.

"I am deeply unhappy that our families are suffering. I fully understand that Bahamians and residents want clear and

immediate action.

"I want to assure you that the government is committed to doing whatever is necessary to alleviate this problem, including further additional measures.

"The frustration and inconvenience experienced by Bahamians and residents, in homes and in businesses throughout New Providence is simply

unacceptable.

"We are doing all we can to fix this problem long-term, and to ensure that Bahamians and residents receive the consistent power supply that they deserve."

As part of the long-term solution, work has already begun on a 132-megawatt power plant in New Providence.

# PLP Wants BPL Board Fired

Continued from / PAGE 1...

mately the prime minister must share the shame and the blame for their failures," Mitchell said yesterday.

He pointed out that PLP Leader Philip Davis delivered the same message to Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis on Monday.

"People are so fed up with this government and the lights going off, that they are being pushed to the brink of social disorder and massive civic

protests. The PLP will support these lawful protests if there is no action taken to solve this crisis," Mitchell said.

"We warn the FNM that this time their clever PR tricks won't work. Try as they may, this story has nothing to do with the PLP. This is about those who have the superintendence of BPL today: the FNM.

"Had they followed the plans left in place by the PLP we would not be experiencing these challenges. You don't have to

take our word for it as this assertion is buttressed by the statement from the Chamber of Commerce today.

"Beyond that, if the FNM government had even followed the plan of the Osbourne led BPL board, the problems now being experienced may not now be as excruciating."

He said, instead, the Free National Movement continues to blame the PLP and try to spin clever stories about who is at fault in this matter.

"This is not about Leslie Miller or Philip Brave Davis. This is about the abject failures of the Donavan Moxey led board, the poor service by Whitney Heastie, and the hopeless, hapless political leadership of Desmond Bannister and Hubert Minnis," Mitchell said.

"The Bahamian people see the stewardship of BPL by that FNM crew as an utter failure. They came to office promising to save The Bahamas, but cannot keep the lights on. We are 50 miles away

from the richest, most powerful nation in the world and we cannot keep the lights on for 400,000 people. It is a shame and disgrace.

"No matter how the FNM, their surrogates and media friends try to excuse the FNM on the abject failure and mismanagement of BPL by using the worn out and tired line that it's the PLP's fault, the BPL crisis is not about the PLP or Leslie Miller, but about the prime minister who messed up badly and BPL

is near collapse, creating the current crisis."

According to the PLP chairman, the current Minnis administration's contrived plan is to blame for this current energy crisis and the prime minister and his government must be held accountable for his poor decisions.

"Deflections and political bluster will not absolve the FNM of culpability, responsibility and accountability for this latest fabricated and redundant energy crisis," Mitchell said.

# BPL Presents Load Shedding Resolution

Continued from / PAGE 1...

added that the government is working diligently on the matter.

"We anticipate, based upon the information that was given to us, that we will have a relatively short resolution to the matter barring any other significant events and so hopefully this saga, if we can call it that, can end," Mr. Turnquest assured.

When asked if the BPL load shedding is a national crisis, Turnquest said he

wouldn't put a label on it.

"We know that this is a very significant inconvenience for citizens and residence and the inconvenience they have to endure during this period," he said.

When questioned about BPL being privatized, the deputy prime minister said there were no discussions on the matter, but he would defer to the minister of works and BPL.

As for the government allegedly allocating funds for maintenance repairs,

but were used for new engines at Clifton Pier, Turnquest said he is not aware if that is what the funds were used for, but admits he is not in charge of those funds. He deferred again to BPL on the matter.

Load shedding continues throughout New Providence and on Sunday during a press conference, BPL CEO Whitney Heastie was unable to guarantee whether load shedding would stop.

# Dominican Charged

Continued from / PAGE 1...

2018 and January 31, 2019.

Reyes is alleged to have exploited a woman during the time frame in question.

It is further alleged that between December 16, 2018 and January 31, 2019, she unlawfully withheld the identification

papers of her victim.

She pleaded not guilty to all three charges and was denied bail and opted to have her trial heard in the Magistrate's Court.

She was subsequently remanded to the Bahamas Department of Corrections until August 21 at which time she will have a status hearing.

According to court

papers, 11 witnesses appear on the docket – the majority of them police officers.

The U.S. Department of State's 2019 trafficking in persons report found that The Bahamas maintains its tier one ranking. This, considering it continues to demonstrate "serious and sustained" efforts to combat trafficking.

# Customs Fraud Fighting Initiative Launched

Continued from / PAGE 1...

next," Turnquest said.

"We will have tighter controls and risk management to reduce the opportunities of corruption and fraud, including the ability to transition to a cashless environment.

"The benefits of this transformation are numerous, as the government will have accurate statistical information for more effective policy

making and real time information to assist with better budget planning."

Superintendent Tyrone Sands made it clear that anyone who needs to register, whether a resident or not, must register online.

Persons who should register include individuals who shop online, send or receive documents internationally or use a broker or freight

forwarder to import goods.

"Once your name appears on a manifest, your name must be in the system for those works to be cleared. This is why it is imperative that you register," Superintendent Sands warned.

"We just want to stress the importance of being proactive. Register now. This is August. Thanksgiving will soon be here. Christmas will

soon be here. You'll be ordering gifts and presents online. Do not wait until you place that order. The goods are at a customs port and then you find you did not register and your name is not in the system."

Registration can be done online at [www.click2clear.gov.bs](http://www.click2clear.gov.bs).

A hotline is also available for persons in need of assistance. Residents will need a National

Insurance Board Smart Card to register.

Other features of Click2Clear include the business trade portal and the pleasure vessel clearance portal, which is an online module for pleasure vessels to clear customs and apply for mandatory cruising and fishing permits.

Another feature to look out for next year is a mobile app.

The Bahamas

Customs Department is currently collaborating with a local software developer to launch the mobile app, Exempt App, for customs declarations at baggage claim to be paperless.

The system will be in place September 1 and everyone must register online by September 30.

So far, 5,000 persons mainly from the Family Islands have already registered.