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Stiffer Fishing Penalties

BY LICEC BASTIAN
 Journal Staff Writer

Stiffer penalties for those found breaking the fisheries law and according to Minister of Agriculture and Marine Resources Michael Pintard, that may come as soon as the end of the year.

Mr. Pintard, during the declaration of the opening of the crawfish season, said that the plan is to bring a proposed schedule of penalties to the House



▶ While announcing the opening of the crawfish season, Minister of Agriculture and Marine Resources Michael Pintard warned, during a press conference yesterday, that the government plans to introduce stiffer fishing penalties. (Journal Photo)

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Grand Cay Firings 'False'

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
 Journal Staff Writer

Reports that nearly 40 Grand Cay residents were at risk of losing their jobs are false, according to Acting Labour Director John Pinder.

He added that a team from the Department of Labour in Abaco went to Grand Cay to investigate the matter.



▶ Acting Labour Director John Pinder

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'PM Waffled in WSC Director's Case'

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
 Journal Staff Writer

Progressive Liberal Party Leader Philip Davis said Prime Minister Dr. Hubert "waffled, deflected and buckled" in the situation involving Water and Sewerage Corporation (WSC) Board Director Bennet



▶ WSC Board Director Bennet Minnis

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28 Haitians Arrested During Operation 'Rising Sun'

Twenty-eight Haitian nationals were apprehended on Wednesday by the Department of Immigration during Operation 'Rising Sun'.

The joint operation commenced at 4 a.m. in the southwestern district

of New Providence which led to the arrest of 21 males and seven females, who were subsequently transported to the Carmichael Road Detention Center for fur-

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\$3 Million Contract for 'Dune Road'

A \$3 million contract was signed between the Government of The Bahamas and Bahamas Marine Construction Co. Ltd. for the shoreline stabilization of 'Dune Road' at Elbow Cay, Abaco, to provide safer passage for

residents traversing the area.

Yesterday, Prime Minister the Most Hon. Dr. Hubert Minnis led a delegation from New Providence for the

■ See page 4...

GOV'T AND BAHAMAS MARINE SIGN \$3 MILLION CONTRACT



▶ Construction contract signed on Wednesday to stabilize Elbow Cay coastal 'Dune Road' at an anticipated cost of \$3 million, which would take approximately 30 weeks to complete. Signing are Bahamian government officials and Bahamas Marine Construction Co. Ltd. officials. (BIS Photos/Yontalay Bowe) (BIS Photos/Yontalay Bowe)



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Gov't to Sink Poaching Vessels

BY LICEC BASTIAN
Journal Staff Writer

Almost a year after several poaching vessels were seized because of illegal fishing in Bahamian waters, Minister of Agriculture and Marine Resources Michael Pintard said yesterday that those vessels will be destroyed.

"The vessels will be sunk an announcement will be made shortly on the date. The media will have an opportunity as well as other stakeholders to witness it," Mr. Pintard said.

"We will sink those vessels. The dinghies from those vessels will be distributed to a number of fishing communities for use by fishers to continue their work."

In December 2018 alone, during several joint efforts by the U.S. Coast Guard Operations Turks and Caicos (OPBAT) and

the Royal Bahamas Defence Force, 18 Dominican poachers and their vessels were apprehended.

Too, in December, seven Dominicans, who were apprehended a month prior were all charged before the courts with various fishing violations and fined a total of \$413,000.

Prior to this incident, a total of 172 Dominican poachers and four Dominican fishing vessels with over 100,000 pounds of fisheries products were apprehended during June, July and October.

The poachers, in this case, were all charged and found guilty by the courts and sentenced to time ranging from six to 18 months at the Bahamas Department of Correctional Services and fined a total of approximately \$7 million.

Investigation Unit to Assist in Gaming Houses Crackdown

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
Journal Staff Writer

Amendments to the Gaming Act are only a week old, but Minister of Tourism Dionisio D'Aguilar insisted the government will begin enforcing the law as soon as the proper infrastructure is in place and that includes an investigation unit.

"The law was just passed. I'm sure in the bill it says the Gaming Board would have to develop an enforcement unit and once that has been developed we should proceed with haste to enforce the gaming laws and to ensure that persons who are operating

without a license are shut down," D'Aguilar said.

"We have just passed it. Let us digest it, get the infrastructure in place and then I'm sure we'll move in due course."

The government and gaming operators have agreed to taxing operators with net taxable revenue under \$24 million at a rate of 15 percent and anything above a rate of 17.5 percent.

An additional five percent tax has been imposed on winnings up to \$1,000 and 7.5 percent on winnings over that figure.

The minister of tourism accepted that the initial sliding scale tax was ambitious.



► Minister of Tourism Dionisio D'Aguilar

Power Outages Affect Small Catering Businesses

BY EARYEL BOWLEG
Journal Staff Writer

Consistent unexpected power outages are beginning to affect the food industry during the hot summer months and for Cacique Catering CEO Chef Hesley Rolle, it's forcing him to make food preparations ahead of time.

Without power, raw meats are at risk for food contamination and can be a health hazard, according to Chef Rolle.

"It kinda makes you very on edge the night before your event," he explained.

"A lot of things have to be prepared in advanced like meats, like chicken, fish, and other meat items needs to be seasoned and stored ahead of time, a day before.

"There is a high risk or high chance that those food items can be become contaminated because they have not been stored in the right temperature to

keep them good until you are ready to cook them."

If not, food contamination and electrical kitchen appliances that stop working can slow down the food preparation.

That's the dilemma another at-home catering company faces.

"I have to bake Johnny Cake for my business, but my baker is electric. So, when current go off and I have the Johnny Cake in the baker at that time, according to how long it takes for it to come on, literally have to throw it away," the owner of Carey's Soupe and Soup Kitchen said.

"Sometimes I go by my daughter, who live in Cable Beach and I will do all my cooking and baking out there."

On Wednesday, Bahamas Power and Light issued a potential list of areas in New Providence that could be affected by load shedding in a three-hour rotation.



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.



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BSGC Donates 10,000 Backpacks

BY EARYEL BOWLEG
Journal Staff Writer

The Bahamas Striping Group of Companies (BSGC) has partnered with Rotary Bahamas to donate 10,000 backpacks, notebooks and other school supplies for students throughout the Bahamas.

In a press conference on Wednesday, BSGC President Atario Mitchell explained that the donation is all in an effort to help parents struggling to prepare for back to school.

“One of the reasons why we always seek to do school supplies because we understand the challenge that most parents face during this back to school time,” Mr. Mitchell said.

“The main reason is we as a group of companies like to be a good corporate citizen and one of the best ways to do it is through giving back and we decide every year to help parents within the communities by providing them with



► BSGC President Atario Mitchell

school supplies – books, pencil, along with the bags.”

For past three years, the company has donated back to school supplies. Employees at BSGC source vendors and examine the price and the qual-

ity of the sample before ordering the items.

The bags will be distributed with help of the Rotary Club. Assistant Governor of Rotary Bahamas Diane De Cardena is excited to be onboard to support educa-

tion in the country.

“Youth and literacy are one of the main focuses of Rotary. So whenever we get to partner with other groups within our country, it just enables us to further our reach into the schools and promote the education

and literacy which is so important,” De Cardena said.

“Rotary has been in the Bahamas for over 50 years, but we can only be as effective as we are when we work with other groups”

School supplies can be picked up at the club’s various locations and at BSGC partner companies in the Family Islands. They are expected to be ready on August 12.



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Fishing Penalties

Continued from / PAGE 1...

of Assembly when it resumes in October.

"In October, we are going to lay on the table of the House [of Assembly], the proposed schedule of penalties and I say proposed only because other than the Fisheries Advisories Group, which has done a great deal of consultation, other than them, there are other Bahamians who have a number of what penalties should be and what the new Fisheries Act should look like," Mr. Pintard said.

"So we want to give the public an opportunity to review it. But that will be laid on the table of the House in October and it will be passed by the end of this coming year."

Crawfish season opens today and ends March 31, 2020.

According to the Department of Marine Resources statistics, last season saw a lucrative period for local fisherman as numbers showed that 4.3 million pounds of the popular shellfish were caught pulling in \$67.9 million.

As usual, the minister with responsibility said that there are certain things to keep in mind during the harvesting period.

"The Department [of Fisheries] admonishes all concerned to recall that the legal size limit for harvested crawfish is, crawfish tails - 5 1/2 inches, whole crawfish (carapace) 3 1/4 inches," Mr. Pintard said.

"All commercial fishing vessels 20 feet and larger are required to be licensed for commercial fishing purposes by the Department of Marine Resources. It is an offence for any vessel being 20 feet or larger, commercial or recreational to possess 250 pounds or more of marine resources without first being licensed."

Further, he advised that if there is a need to use a dive compressor, a permit is also required and the device can only be used in depths of 30 feet to 60 feet.

Mr. Pintard further advised that occupants of foreign-owned vessels with license for sports-fishing purposes must also adhere to stipulations on bag limits, this he said is inclusive of what relates

to spiny lobster and the Queen Conch and this is specified in their permits.

Mr. Pintard also admonished that the laws with regard to fisheries will be enforced.

"Law enforcement has to be vigilant. We will have additional officers available as well as we will educate all other law enforcement agencies those that certainly can be deputized as fisheries officers all of them would be made aware of the regulations," Mr. Pintard said.

"We have a very good working relationship with U.S. authorities and they are prepared to educate their citizens with respect to the measures that we are going to be taking.

"As we indicated to

commercial vessel owners one year ago, we had this discussion and it is very important to remind the public that 12 months later, we did not intend to issue compressor permits to persons from other countries who seek to dive associated with commercial fishing vessels.

"Only Bahamian-owned fishing vessels are allowed in the sector. Under no circumstances would compressor permits be issued to persons who are on work permits."

The minister sought to clarify how permits will be issued and to whom.

"To date, we have not issued any compressor permits to persons who are on spousal permits either. The government is taking a policy decision to go back to the practice of

protecting this sector for Bahamians," Mr. Pintard said.

"And while this minister is awaiting a written Cabinet conclusion with respect to it, we have no intentions from this ministry's standpoint to issue any compressor permit to non-Bahamians unless otherwise directed by the Cabinet of The Bahamas.

"In the case of spousal permits, we have not issued compressor permits but this does not prevent those persons from working in any sector of our economy that is not in law, reserved for Bahamians."

Mr. Pintard said this was not a new position, but a position that successive governments have taken and for varied reasons deviated.

Grand Cay Firings 'False'

Continued from / PAGE 1...

"Nobody's job is in jeopardy. The guy by the name of Mr. Rob Hogan is the subcontractor and he said while everything is in probate, they were still able to get sufficient funds to keep everyone employed and get some material to finish whatever project they are work-

ing on," Mr. Pinder said.

"So the project they are working on, they are continuing that project and he says nobody's job is in jeopardy at this time."

Opposition Leader Philip Davis, in a statement on Monday, said that nearly 40 people will be jobless in the wake of Chris Cline's untimely

death last month.

Cline, the U.S. coal billionaire, was one of seven people killed in a helicopter crash on July 4. He was the owner of a private resort on Grand Cay, off north Abaco.

According to Mr. Davis, Mr. Cline's employees were to be furloughed until further notice and his estate set-

tled.

Mr. Davis added that he found it surprising that Minister of Labour Dion Foulkes didn't make the country aware of it in the Senate on Monday. He further questioned if he could confirm that his ministry will intervene to protect the rights of the workers including proper sever-

ance pay and any social assistance.

When questioned on the issue, Minister Foulkes told The Bahama Journal nothing was communicated to him.

Minister of Tourism Dionsio D'Aguilar also said he had no information on the issue.

North Abaco Member of Parliament Darren

Henfield said yesterday that he was still trying to find out what happened.

Sixty-year-old Cline, his daughter Kameron and five others were on their way to Fort Lauderdale, Florida when his helicopter crashed in 16 feet of water soon after takeoff from Big Grand Cay. All onboard died.

'PM Waffled in WSC

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Minnis, who made racial and homophobic slurs about members of the PLP.

Yesterday, Davis criticized the prime minister for his response to whether Mr. Minnis had resigned after making such slurs about him and Senator Fred Mitchell in a viral voice note.

On Monday, the prime minister told reporters he thinks the matter was dealt with by many members of his party, adding that he doesn't think he needed to say anything else about the matter.

However, Mr. Davis contended that instead of dismissing Mr. Minnis, the prime minister condoned the comments by refusing to condemn his cousin and campaign general.

"We are saying to the prime minister, act today and dismiss Bennet Minnis or actions will be taken by the PLP to ensure his removal from office," Mr. Davis said.

Englerston Member of Parliament Glenys Hanna-Martin agreed, charging that the debate surrounding the issue should have never taken place as Mr. Minnis should have resigned without being asked or demanded to, a sentiment Mr. Mitchell echoed.

"Before making this comment, I had written the minister of works this morning to confirm because I wanted clarification as to what the prime minister's remarks meant," he said.

"They seemed so flakey and wobbly, I need to know what he meant by handled and the only thing

we needed to know is that is Mr. Minnis still a member of the board?"

"The minister confirmed that he is still a member of the board, so as far as we're concerned, nothing has been handled. It is the same as it was when the racist remarks were first made."

Mr. Mitchell said the opposition will not give up in this regard.

"You can think of all the range of options that are available to a party to legitimately protest an event," Mr. Mitchell said.

"This is a question of morality and ethics and we think The Bahamian public stands with us and if this government continues to adopt as they have this behavior, then it says something about them and I think they have to move on the subject."

\$3 Million Contract for 'Dune Road'

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Contract Signing Ceremony -- Shoreline Stabilization of Dune Road.

The prime minister was accompanied by Minister of Works Desmond Bannister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Member of Parliament for North Abaco Darren Henfield, Chief Operating Officer, Prime Minister's Delivery Unit Viana Gardiner and other officials.

In 1999, Hurricane Floyd caused severe damage to the edge of Queen's Highway and nearby sand dune, resulting in loss of beach sand in front of the dune. And over time, the dune was severely damaged by Hurricane Irene in 2011 and other tropical weather systems.

"Immediate action is required to keep the road in a safe condition and to stabilize the shoreline to mitigate shoreline erosion," the prime minister said.

The Ministry of Public Works conducted the site investigations and prepared a scope of works,

which include site clearance and removal of common earth materials, rehabilitation of 790 feet long road surface, construction of 850 linear feet of retaining wall to stabilize edge of road, planting of dune vegetation, among other safety measures.

According to the prime minister, based on the ministry's recommendation, the government approved that a contract be issued to Bahamas Marine Construction Co. Ltd in the amount of \$3.2 million.

Approval was also granted for a contingency sum due to the nature of the work where there is a high risk of unforeseen subsurface construction conditions, that may potentially lead to an increase in the amount of both filter and armor stones required, he said.

The anticipated length of the contract work is 30 weeks.

Hope Town and Elbow Cay possess a rich history, which the residents of the area have preserved with great dedication and care, the prime minister observed in his remarks.

"You are known throughout The Bahamas for the preservation of your cultural heritage, your civic involvement and your robust involvement in matters of local government," he said.

"I am happy to be here today to acknowledge these community attributes and to offer you some good news for which you have been waiting for some time."

Provisions under the contract aim to bring relief and to ensure the safety of the residents of, and visitors to, the historic environs of Elbow Cay.

"You would be pleased to know that the Ministry of Public Works is also conducting roadway at Green Turtle Cay and is about to commence retaining wall construction and installation of road markings," the prime minister said.

Additionally, the ministry has purchased a road-marking machine, which will be sent to Abaco, the training for which will be provided by the ministry's staff, he added.

Haitians Arrested During Operation

Continued from / PAGE 1...

ther processing.

The Enforcement and K-9 Units along with officers of The Royal Bahamas Police Force Southwestern Division, led by Chief Superintendent Bruce Arnett conducted the

operation.

This operation covered areas inclusive of Flamingo Close, Jubilee Gardens, Venice Bay, Area 51 Haitian Village, Carmichael Road, Sir Milo Butler Highway, McKinney Drive and Bedrock Haitian Village, off Bacardi Road.

According to the Department of Immigration, upon further processing, 16 persons were transported to the Carmichael Road Detention Center for various immigration offences including illegal landing and overstaying.

Letter to the Editor

Political Deception

The FNM came into high office in May, 2017 based on Christie fatigue and the myriad of fools' dreams and promises which it sold to the expectant electorate. The slogan: 'It's the people's time' resonated with most Bahamians. The PLP's: 'We believe in Bahamians' had come to resemble a four lettered cuss word. The PLP and it's erstwhile leader, Christie, had to go one way or the other. What did we get it's stead?

In medical fields, Dr. Hubert A. Minnis (FNM-Killarney), is highly regarded having assisted in the actual delivery of 5,500 infants. By extension, he should have been obliged to visually come into contact with that number of female genitals. What a sight! As a politician, however, he has demonstrated, big time, that 99.5% of the electoral promises made have yet to be kept or delivered on. I suggest that Bahamians were politically deceived.

No, I am not suggesting anything of a criminal nature. I do suggest, however, that when those promises were made that it must have been in the back of their collective minds that 'the big flam' was about to be foisted on the nation. As a trained criminal defense lawyer, I am disappointed that this regime has yet to address the salient question of capital punishment. All of you remember Dr. Minnis, in opposition, lashing the PLP because of crime and it's failure to implement capital punishment. Minnis, a/k/a 'Dr. No' . He declared that once he was Prime Minister that murderers would face the full brunt of the law. Promise made but promise not keep.

Minnis, a colossal political 'failure' also promised that they would bring 'rationality' to Bahamas Power & Light. He and his juvenile team suggested mismanagement and possible corruption at BPL. There was a big burst up between certain then Board members and the 'worst' Minister of Works in the history of ministerial governance. None other than the PM

himself appointed a committee to investigate. That committee has yet to report.

Minnis, in opposition, touted 'accountability' and 'fiscal responsibility'. They, too, in my view, were bogus promises. Minnis and a huge delegation went on a juncket a year or so ago and he promised to reveal the costs for the same. To this very day, we have heard nothing further. He promised to get to the bottom of OBAN but nothing yet. Is that project now 'dead' in the water? Minnis said that he would make affordable building lots available and liberalize Crown Land issues. Apart from projects left in place by the PLP and Brother Christie, politically lousy as he was, Minnis and them people have yet to come up with the delivery on these promises.

Unemployment is beyond comprehension. Crime and the fear of crime remain unabated and climbing. Fox Hill Correctional Center appears to now have more leakage than ever before. After wasting big bucks to conduct an external 'search' for a Commissioner of Correctional Services (we don't know what was expended and/or who conducted the same) they proceeded to appoint a relic of the institution, with all due respect.

The FNM and the PM came to office by politically deceiving the unwashed masses of Bahamians. They are now acting and playing smug and have evolved into highly arrogant political midgets. They have lost 99.5% of the trust and good will which you all reposed in them in 2019. They will pay a heavy price come 2022, God willing. God will hear, as He always do, the cries of the Bahamian people. To God then, in all things, even political deception, be the glory.

Ortland H. Bodie, Jr.

Business Consultant & Talk Show Host

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E D I T O R I A L

400TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SLAVE TRADE

This is the "Year of Return" for all Africans in the diaspora, as Ghana is commemorating 400 years since the first slaves left Ghana to the Americas. Recently the Ghanaian President Nana Addo visited Caribbean countries including Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Jamaica and St. Vincent and the Grenadines extending a welcome to all Africans in the diaspora, including descendants of enslaved people who were forcibly transported to the Americas.

He said "right from the day when Ghana got her freedom and independence from Britain's colonial rule on the 6th March 1957...we've always seen ourselves as owing a special responsibility to Africans in the diaspora. The President spoke during a special sitting of Parliament. He said the African Union recognizes Africans in the diaspora which includes the Caribbean as the sixth region in the African Union.

"We want to use this year of return as a bridge to build stronger ties between Ghana, those of us on the continent and the African Diaspora, Africa is your home and Ghana will be happy to serve as a bridge between the Diaspora and the African continent.

The Bahamas was not included in the schedule of the Ghanaian leader, but it is very important that the Caribbean and Africa work together to forge ahead in international issues that relate to our development, food, nutrition and security because as part of that diaspora, it is important that all leaders in the region and persons who are descendants from Africa always feel a connection to the motherland.

The President's visit reminds us that people in the Caribbean can work with our African brothers and sisters to ensure that we may maintain a balanced, free world and that the colonization and exploitation that took place in the Caribbean and Africa must now change to a partnership with mutual respect and understanding in our effort to develop our country and our region.

In our country, it is extremely important that Bahamians are educated on their African heritage. It is clear that the treatment of many of the immigrants in our midst of African heritage is borne out of ignorance. In addition, our government should encourage official diplomatic relations with all of the major countries of Africa.

As important as the anniversary of the Slave Trade is, very few Bahamians are paying any attention to it because our government through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has not promoted it. This is regrettable.

U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is in Ghana with a U.S. congressional delegation for high-level talks and a commemoration of the 400-year-old slave trade from Africa to the New World.

The visitors were to be received Monday evening by Ghanaian President in Accra. They include the House Majority Whip James Clyburn, Congressional Black Caucus chairwoman Karen Bass and House representatives Barbara Lee and John Lewis, the Associated Press reported.

The delegation — welcomed Sunday afternoon in Accra by U.S. Ambassador to Ghana Stephanie S. Sullivan and by Pelosi's counterpart, parliamentary speaker Aaron Mike Oquaye — is expected to discuss "regional security,

sustainable and inclusive development and the challenges of tomorrow, including the climate crisis."

Pelosi was scheduled to address Ghana's lawmakers on yesterday. Ghana's foreign minister, Ayorkor S. Botchway, told reporters that Pelosi would "make an important address in the Senate, which will boost Ghana-U.S. relations."

As part of the 400th anniversary commemoration of the first enslaved Africans landing in America, Pelosi will visit Cape Coast and Elmina Castle, and the Door of No Return, the gateway from which enslaved Africans were shipped across the sea.

Before the trip, Bass issued a statement noting, "400 years ago this year, our ancestors were first brought to (the future United States) in chains. On this delegation, 12 members of the Congressional Black Caucus will return to the African continent as members of the United States Congress. We have come so far, but we still have so far to go."

Ghana expects tens of thousands of people with ties to Africa to mark the "Year of Return."

In 1619, a ship arrived in an English settlement in what is now the US state of Virginia, carrying some 20 captured Africans.

It's the first documented arrival of enslaved Africans in an area that would go on to become part of the United States.

They had been seized by English pirates off the coast of Mexico, from a Portuguese slave ship.

The Portuguese vessel had been carrying about 350 Africans, taken from what is now Angola.

Many had died during the voyage because of the terrible conditions they endured.

The English pirates went on to sell the Africans they had seized to colonists in Virginia.

Last survivor of US slave ships discovered Should black Americans get slavery reparations?

It's a matter of historical debate what exactly happened to them once they were sold.

But formal systems of slavery and racial separation did become established in later years as the number of Africans brought over to America grew.

Some experts say the significance of 1619 should not be over-emphasized because, by then, Africans were already being used on tobacco plantations in the English-run colony of Bermuda.

It's also believed there were Africans on expeditions to both North and South America by English and Spanish maritime adventurers in the 16th Century.

And Portuguese traders had been taking slaves to its colonies since the 15th Century.

President Donald Trump, meanwhile, was in Jamestown, Virginia, this week to mark another anniversary - 400 years since the birth of representative democracy in the western hemisphere.

However, he did note in a speech that it was also 400 years since the first enslaved Africans arrived in Virginia.

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THE BAHAMAS
Sun, Sand, Sea ... and the
The Bahama Journal

NO BETTER READING

MOYSC Youth Division Hosts Apprentice Camp Trade Show 2019



► Scores of Bahamian youth showcased the skills they learned from talented instructors, as the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture Youth Division held its Apprentice Camp Trade Show 2019, in the Ministry's Head Office Foyer, on July 30, 2019. The youth apprenticed in areas such as cooking, barbering, carpentry, agriculture, candle-making, upholstery, and cosmetology. Programme Co-ordinator Keilli Brathwaite brought opening remarks, and Acting Permanent Secretary Rhoda Jackson was the main speaker, encouraging the young people to utilize what they learned for their betterment. Ms. Jackson also thanked the facilitators and staff members who were instrumental in the students' receiving their training. Staff members of her Ministry and the Ministry of Education joined the public in purchasing goods from the campers, and giving them encouraging words. (BIS Photos / Eric Rose)

BAHAMAS DEVELOPMENT BANK INTRODUCES THE WARREN LOGAN ROLLE APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

Warren Logan Rolle has the proud distinction of being the first Managing Director of The Bahamas Development Bank, a position he held for ten years, 1978 to 1988. Mr. Rolle entered the Bank with an extensive amount of experience and professional skills.

Mr. Rolle was born on the 13th of August 1940, in the settlement of George Town, Exuma. From an early age, he had

a keen understanding on the importance of education and began to pursue his dream to become an Accountant. In 1968, Mr. Rolle received a Government bonded scholarship to pursue his studies in Yorkshire, England, where he became a member of the distinguished Association of Certified Accountants.

Mr. Rolle has served as Financial Secretary for the Bahamas Government

from 1990 to 1993 and subsequently took on the position of Chief Executive Officer of the Hotel Corporation of The Bahamas, a position he held from 1993 to 1996. Prior to his appointment with the Bank, Mr. Rolle was the Secretary and Chief Accountant for the Bahamas Monetary Authority, currently the Central Bank of the Bahamas. Mr. Rolle has served as the Finance

Officer at the Ministry of Health, as well as the President of Rainbow Cleaners and W. L. Rolle & Associates- Financial Consultants. Mr. Rolle is the past Director and Alternate Governor of the Caribbean Development Bank, Alternate Governor of the Inter-American Development Bank and Alternate Governor of the World Bank.

The Bahamas Development Bank

("BDB") in concluding its 40th Anniversary celebrations established "The Warren Logan Rolle Apprenticeship Program". The Bank will offer a scholarship to a Bahamian student to pursue a Bachelor's Degree at the University of the Bahamas ("UB") under the program. The apprentice must be a twelfth grade graduate with a High School Diploma, with a minimum high

school GPA of 3.00 and obtained acceptance to the University of The Bahamas. The apprentice must select a business related major such as, Accounting, Finance, Business Administration or Economics as their field of study at UB. The Program is set to commence August, 2019. Interested persons should obtain an application by emailing wlr.apprenticeship@bdb.gov.bs.

18 ENTREPRENEURS FROM OVER-THE-HILL PROGRAM GIVEN \$45,000 IN GRANTS

The Access Accelerator, Small Business Development Center (SBDC) held its first graduation for the program's Over-The-Hill component. At the ceremony, 18 graduates received certificates of completion and grant cheques for investment into their businesses totalling \$45,000.

Jeff Andrews, Chairman of the SBDC, highlighted the progress of the SBDC and the Over-The-Hill program.

"The Access Accelerator will turn one in September, and already 18 clients have received a total of 1.2 million dollars in grants and equity investments," said Andrews. "As a result of this, we think that these clients will have an economic impact of over 2.4 million dollars. There is currently another million dollars in the pipeline for nine more Access Accelerator champion businesses. We expect those to be realized by the end of September."

Andrews continued, "Today we are distributing \$45,000 directly into the Over-The-Hill communities. The \$45,000 is only the beginning thanks to the very generous donation from Mark Holowesko. We are committed to ensuring that even more residents of

Over-The-Hill benefit. Registration for our second cohort has already begun."

The Most Honourable Prime Minister, Dr Hubert Minnis gave the keynote address to the first graduating class of the SBDC's over-the-hill initiative.

Dr Minnis said, "Over the years, free people of colour from areas like Bain and Grants Town created an impressive network of enterprises and businesses as they overcame centuries of discrimination. As I have said, talent is equally distributed in a society, but opportunity is not.

"Once afforded opportunity and access to things like capital, mentoring, and training individuals with ideas and talents who are determined to work hard can soar to new heights and a better future. I know this is true, and I speak from personal experience. Just like the graduates, I was able to realize my dreams because others believed in me and gave me a chance, just like you have been given a chance."

Taking the time to highlight the graduates' spirit of togetherness and passion, Dr Minnis celebrated Ranessa Dean. Dean typed business plans for her classmates that didn't have access to



▶ Jeff Andrews, SBDC Chairman

computers. Thanking her for her generosity, he said, "you are a wonderful and outstanding person and a model for other Bahamians. You have demonstrated team ship, and we need more of that in our society."

Elkym Bowe, who took the principles taught in classes and put them into action, sold out of products before the course ended. Prime Minister Minnis said, "this is the kind of hard-working and dynamic

attitude that we should celebrate. He is an example of what can be done to take advantage of the redevelopment and expansion of the port of Nassau and Nassau Harbour."

Dr. Minnis continued, "Small businesses with relevant products and services should take advantage of the redevelopment of; Downtown Nassau, Prince George Wharf, Western Esplanade, Arawak Cay and Junkanoo Beach."

The Prime Minister also reminded students that the real hard work begins now.

"Dear graduates, thank you for your hard work and endurance. You will have good and difficult days but keep striving and do not give up. The truly hard work is just beginning. You will need to work tirelessly to sustain your businesses and to provide quality services and products," said Dr Minnis.

The SBDC is the

product of a tripartite arrangement between the Government, through the Ministry of Finance, University of The Bahamas (UB) and the Bahamas Chamber of Commerce and Employer's Confederation (BCCEC). The Centre will work to guide the development, funding, growth, and evolution of Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises ("MSMEs") in The Bahamas.

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CRFM AND CDEMA SIGN AGREEMENT FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND RESILIENCE

The Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) recently signed a memorandum of understanding with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) to enhance comprehensive disaster management and climate change resilience in the fisheries and aquaculture sector within the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

CRFM Executive Director, Milton Haughton, signed the MOU for CRFM while the Executive Director of CDEMA, Ronald Jackson, signed on behalf of CDEMA. The signing took place during the Tenth General Meeting of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the United Nations (UN) System, on Wednesday, 24 July 2019, in Georgetown, Guyana.

The CRFM Executive Director said: "This MOU was prepared to facilitate enhanced cooperation between the CRFM and CDEMA, recognizing the need for effective and progressive responses to the urgent and growing threats of climate change and associated hazards, as well as the vulnerability of our fisherfolk and fishing communities which constitute a very important part of our food production system."

Immediate attention will be given to cooperation for sustained support



► CRFM Executive Director, Milton Haughton (right), joins Ronald Jackson, CDEMA Executive Director, in inking a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen cooperation in disaster management and resilience.

for the Fisheries Early Warning and Emergency Response (FEWER) ICT Solution that had been spearheaded by the CRFM during 2017-18 in the course of the Regional Track of the Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience (PPCR), supported by the Inter-American Development Bank and The Mona Office of Research and Innovation (MORI) at the University of the West Indies (UWI), Jamaica.

Other areas of cooperation include joint project initiatives, training, capacity building and awareness activities, data and information collection and dissemination, and a support mechanism to help CARI-

COM countries and fishing communities prepare for and manage the threats and risks arising from manmade and natural hazards, including storms and hurricanes. The agreement also addresses post-disaster rehabilitation and recovery support for the restoration of services, infrastructure and livelihoods, as well as the restoration of the physical and ecological integrity of the affected coastal ecosystems.

In commenting on the signing, the Executive Director of CDEMA indicated that, "This represents CDEMA's commitment to partnerships with other regional Institutions in an effort to advance resilience." He expressed

enthusiasm that CDEMA would be able to support the hosting infrastructure for the FEWER ICT Solution. Mr. Jackson furthermore pointed out this was in keeping with CDEMA's role in advancing a comprehensive programme for Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems, as well as serving as a regional hub for warning infrastructure.

FEWER reduces fishers' vulnerability to the impacts of climate change but also allows them to share local ecological knowledge to inform climate-smart fisheries planning and management, decision-making, as well as risk management in the fisheries sector. During 2017-18, the CRFM, IDB

and UWI ICT experts worked with government authorities and fishers in Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to pilot the development of the FEWER. The CRFM-CDEMA partnership is an essential step towards sustainably rolling out FEWER to other countries.

The CRFM's Ministerial Council had signaled its support at its 13th Regular Meeting held this June 2019 in Saint Kitts and Nevis, for the CRFM's partnership with CDEMA, which had been developing as both CARICOM inter-governmental agencies mobilized to support to Member States in the wake of Hurricanes

Irma and Maria in September 2017.

In October 2018, the Council approved a protocol on climate change and disaster risk management under the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy, for which the CRFM has the implementation lead.

The CRFM has also been working with the CCRIF and World Bank to introduce risk insurance to protect the fisheries sector against disasters. The Caribbean Oceans and Aquaculture Sustainability Facility (COAST) Parametric insurance policy for the fisheries sector was launched at the beginning of July 2018. The policy was developed by CCRIF and the World Bank with support from the Government of the USA.

The 17 Member States of the CRFM are also members of CDEMA. They are Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Commonwealth of the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Republic of Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname, Republic of Trinidad & Tobago, Turks & Caicos Islands. The Virgin Islands is the only CDEMA member that is not a member of the CRFM.

DANIELLE LEE PRESENTS

CLASS

ACT 2

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