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# Minnis - Ex-PMs Divisive

BY DEANDRE WILLIAMSON  
 Journal Staff Writer

Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis was surprised and disappointed after hearing what he called the "misleading remarks" made by former Prime Ministers Perry Christie and Hubert Ingraham.

In his response yesterday, Dr. Minnis said the country doesn't "have time for divisiveness, par-



▶ Ex-PM Hubert Ingraham



▶ Ex-PM Perry Christie

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## BFDA in Dispute over Dead Dorian Victims

BY LEAH COOPER  
 Journal Staff Writer

The Bahamas Funeral Directors Association (BFDA) yesterday expressed concerns sur-

rounding the handling of dead bodies in Abaco and Grand Bahama following Hurricane Dorian.

According to BFDA President Kirsh Ferguson, the association has not

been given an official role in the recovery of the dead.

"As the official representative, of the funeral

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## Tropical Storm Threatens Bahamas

BY LEAH COOPER  
 Journal Staff Writer

The Department of Meteorology yesterday indicated that it is continuing to monitor a system set to affect parts of The Bahamas in the next few

days.

Chief Meteorological Officer Arnold King told reporters at the National Emergency Management Agency press conference that there is an area of concern over the central and southeast Bahamas

that is gradually becoming more organized.

"Conditions are becoming favorable for a tropical depression or a tropical storm to form within the next day or

■ See page 3...

## Missing Persons Registry Drops to 1,300

BY LEAH COOPER  
 Journal Staff Writer

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) Spokesperson Carl Smith yesterday announced that the miss-

ing persons registry is decreasing quickly.

"After beginning the process of cross referencing the different databases and we would have heard from the Bahamas Red Cross, the registered per-

sons who have evacuated the islands are now at 1,300," Mr. Smith said.

This figure is down from the 2,500 missing persons reported on

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## 'Gov't Learns Lesson from Dorian'

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT  
 Journal Staff Writer

Former Prime Ministers Perry Christie and Hubert Ingraham said the passage of Hurricane Dorian has taught the government a lesson.

The lesson they said is

the question of shelter and what buildings are appropriate for shelters.

Mr. Ingraham noted that the Church of God in Cooper's Town is a building capable of holding persons in times of natural disasters, but buildings like that aren't throughout

the island.

"They have a church that's called the Church of God. It's a humongous church and it's very big. If you look at it, you would say, 'When do they expect to ever full this church?'"

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### PRIME MINISTER MINNIS VISITS NORTH ABACO AND CAYS



▶ Prime Minister Dr. Minnis traveled to North Abaco, including a number of the Abaco cays, on Wednesday as part of his assessment of relief and recovery efforts. (BIS Photo)



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ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED TO READ IN THE MORNING

# Registration of 10,000 Displaced Students Begins

BY EARYEL BOWLEG  
Journal Staff Writer

Approximately 10,000 students displaced by Hurricane Dorian are expected to register at the Thomas A Robinson Stadium to be reassigned to schools in New

Providence.

The registration process began on Thursday and includes assistance from the Ministries of Social Services, Youth Sports and Culture and the Royal Bahamas Police Force.

Minister of Education

Jeffrey Lloyd said in a press release that “no child in The Bahamas should be at risk of dropping out of school because of Dorian”.

“As a nation, we will not let this happen. Our paramount concern is to make sure all students are

back to school as soon as possible. After the devastating impact left by Hurricane Dorian, education is our best investment and a cornerstone of the whole reconstruction process. Dorian may have put us on our knees, but education will bring us

back on our feet,” Lloyd added.

Senior Nursing Officer and School Health Coordinator Sherry Armbrister discussed the procedure for those children who have lost their immunization records.

“The ones who do not

have their cards, we’re doing what we call catch up immunization. So each child will get immunization based on their age level,” she said.

“We have different stations set up for our screening immunization. So our process is moving very



► Cooper's Town Primary School destroyed by Hurricane Dorian. (Photo/BIS)

smoothly.”

At the stadium, Cooper's Town resident Rosemary Russell came to register her two grandchildren.

“They’re asking like for documents, but we don’t have that and no communication on the island in Abaco. You can’t call the schools because some of the schools are damaged,” Russell

expressed.

“So that is going to be a hold up for them entering school. I don’t think they should look at it like that. You know, try put the children in school and if they can get their cards from the other school, maybe later down in the months or whatever weeks.

“But I don’t think they should keep the children out of school because you

don’t have your documents. I came with clothes on my back. I still don’t have no clothes. My clothes still in Abaco and I’m in Nassau.”

UNICEF will assist the government with providing education for displaced students.

UNICEF Regional Chief of Communication in Latin America and the Caribbean Laurent

Duvillier said families have lost so much and the last thing they want is for them to lose education for their children.

“UNICEF is supporting in different ways. Data management systems will also help in terms of expertise and we’re also providing training today for teachers and school counselors in how to provide psycho-social support

for those children,” Duvillier said.

“It’s not so easy to know how to handle those kids because we are talking about children who’ve went through very traumatic experiences. Some of them don’t want to talk about that.

“They need to overcome their difficulties so today we are starting training with trainers with the

Ministry of Education to make sure that the teachers and the school counselors across the country will have the right systems to respond to the need of those displaced children.”

Registration continues until October 2.

After Hurricane Dorian, 5,500 people evacuated Abaco and Grand Bahama, based on NEMA’s count.

# AIBT Told Bahamas is Still Open for Business

Despite the recent passing and devastation of two major islands by Hurricane Dorian two weeks ago, the country’s Minister of Financial Services, Trade & Industry and Immigration, the Hon. Elsworth Johnson, told industry leaders that the country is still ‘open for business.’

Mr. Johnson made the statement while addressing the Association of International Bank & Trust (AIBT) Companies, September 11, 2019 at Baha Mar Convention Centre. The theme for this year’s Nassau conference is “Evolution: Substance, Transparency & Opportunity.”

“Like the recent hurricane, the Bahamas Financial Services industry has weathered many storms, but we will stand. Today is no different. We are, indeed, going through an evolution, not only for

the financial services industry but also for the country’s economic future. One that gives us the opportunity to chart our own course and shape our own future. Thus, your theme is most appropriate.”

The Minister said that for continual sustainability, his Ministry is embarking on developing several initiatives with the AIBT and the Bahamas Financial Services Board (BFSB).

As it relates to the country’s ‘Ease of Doing Business’ index, the Minister said that steady progress is being made but the process takes time. “Things are improving in technology and there are government-wide initiatives across all departments to streamline processes, increase efficiency and alleviate red tape.”

With reference to the

Central Bank, he said the amendments have been made to legislation concerning the process of ‘Know Your Customer,’ Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing.

Immigration matters are also being addressed. The Ministry of Financial Services, recognizing the importance of a modern, progressive immigration framework for the growth of the financial services sector, has developed a new tax residency program.

“It is anticipated that this program will serve as a gateway to more permanent residence options for high net worth individuals and investors,” he said.

He also said that the government would continue to seek new business for the country via promotional tours and conferences, which have been scheduled through to the end of the year.



► Minister Elsworth Johnson speaking at the Association of International Banks and Trusts on Sept 11, 2019. (Photo Derek W Smith)

# National Prayer Service to Honour Hurricane Victims

Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis announced plans for a National Prayer Service to honour the lives lost to Hurricane Dorian.

The government has invited the Bahamas Christian Council to plan the National Prayer Service, which will take place on September 18 at Bahamas Faith Ministries International, Carmichael Road, starting at 7 p.m. The prayer service will mark the culmination of a National Day of Prayer and Fasting.

Flags are also to be

flown at half-mast on all public buildings to mourn the dead. The date of a National Day of Mourning will be announced at an appropriate time.

"We are a nation in mourning," Prime Minister Minnis said on Wednesday, in a national update on Hurricane Dorian.

"The grief is unbearable following the devastating impact of Hurricane Dorian, which has left behind death, destruction and despair on Grand Bahama and Abaco, our

second and third most populous islands."

The prime minister acknowledged that there are many deaths and many still missing. The number of deaths is expected to significantly increase.

"Many are grieving the loss of loved ones. Many are in despair, wondering if their loved ones are still alive," said Prime Minister Minnis.

"To those who have lost loved ones, I know there is absolutely nothing we can say that will lessen your pain and your

loss. Our sympathies go out to the families of each person who died. Let us pray for them during this time of grief."

The prime minister assured that accurate and timely information will be provided on the loss of life as it is available.

"We will first and foremost put the priority on notifying families and giving them the help they need to grieve," said Prime Minister Minnis.

Efforts are ramping up to collect those who died in the storm with the help of international aid agen-

cies.

"We are being transparent and responsible in this process," said the prime minister.

The government is also providing counseling to those who need someone to help them go through this difficult process.

"Hurricane Dorian is an historic tragedy," said Prime Minister Minnis, noting a report by the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) that described the storm as "the strongest Atlantic hurricane documented to

directly impact a land mass since records began, tying it with the Great Florida Labor Day Hurricane of 1935."

The report also noted that Hurricane Dorian "affected the north-western Bahama islands for an approximate total of 68 hours, with the southern eye-wall planted over Grand Bahama, for about 30 hours."

"We will need as many spiritual resources as we will need physical resources, to rebuild lives and to recover," said the prime minister.

# Hurricane Victims Receive Counseling

BY LEAH COOPER  
Journal Staff Writer

Counseling sessions have begun for those impacted by Hurricane Dorian, according to Minister of Health Dr. Duane Sands.

"We have had teams go into Abaco and Grand Bahama. We have had limited counseling in New Providence, but we are amping up the efforts even more," Dr. Sands said yesterday.

"I spoke with Bishop Simeon Hall just this morning about adding counseling trained pastors to the team. We would have met with PAHO about this particular issue and the health implications of this disaster. So,

they're on board in terms of helping us to identify additional professionals to do counseling."

Dr. Sands said that this process can take a while considering the extreme conditions of the storm.

"People have been subjected to horror, to hell. They have witnessed their loved ones pulled away from them never to be seen again. They have seen the most horrible images. They have seen their life's work and life savings lost," he said.

"So when you add that on top of all of the stress and challenges that people have been having, you realize the extent of the psychological impact."

Eugene Ferguson, a

resident of Spring City, Abaco told The Bahama Journal that his 18-year-old son Gino has not been the same after venturing into Marsh Harbour to explore the damage.

"We saw like 10 body bags with bodies in it and he told me he saw this guy who got trapped in his car holding the steering wheel and apparently drowned right there," he said.

"It's affecting him on some level because he came home that evening and went to bed at six o'clock in the evening. Eighteen-year-olds don't go to bed at that time. He went straight to bed."

Director of Education Marcellus Taylor also indicated that the Ministry



▶ Minister of Health Dr. Duane Sands

of Education is committed to assisting impacted students in this regard.

He said counseling will also be provided as a part

of those displaced students' registration process.

It has been two weeks since Hurricane Dorian

assaulted the northwest islands of The Bahamas, leaving Abaco decimated and the island of Grand Bahama in ruins.

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# Trinidad and Tobago Troop arrives in Capital

► Minister of National Security Marvin Dames, the Commander Defence Force, Commodore Tellis Bethel, and Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of National Security, Mr. Eugene Poitier, welcomed one hundred and nineteen (119) soldiers from the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force (TTDF) on Sunday 8th September. Included in the group were Trinidad and Tobago's Minister of National Security, the Honourable Stuart Young, and TTDF Chief of Defence Staff, Commodore Darryl Daniel. The officials were met at the Lynden Pindling International Airport. The CARICOM troops will be deployed to assist with Disaster Relief Operations in Abaco and Grand Bahama in the areas of reconstruction and security operations. **(BIS Photos)**



► The Minister of National Security, the Honourable Marvin Dames and the Commander Defence Force, Commodore Tellis Bethel walking with Trinidad and Tobago Minister of National Security, the Honourable Stuart Young, and TTDF Chief of Defence Staff, Commodore Darryl Daniel at the Lynden Pindling International Airport on September 8, 2019.



► Trinidad and Tobago Minister of National Security, the Honourable Stuart Young, bringing brief remarks following his arrival to The Bahamas.

# Ex-PMs Divisive

■ Continued from / PAGE 1...

tisan politics or jockeying for position”.

During a press conference on Wednesday, the former prime ministers offered to help Dr. Minnis in the aftermath of Hurricane Dorian and advised the prime minister to seek help from those who preceded him.

At that time, Mr. Ingraham said Dr. Minnis is not carving out a role

for him in the hurricane relief process.

According to the prime minister, Mr. Ingraham contacted him and he offered Mr. Ingraham a major assignment.

However, Dr. Minnis said Mr. Ingraham declined the offer.

“He also declined to meet with me at the Office of the Prime Minister,” Dr. Minnis added.

Mr. Ingraham strongly emphasized that Dr. Minnis needs to pull on

the resources available to him.

“To pull on those resources and let me just say one point that may perceive criticism and if it is, that’s too bad, too sad. Some people have the views that listen, ‘I have this job, so no, I don’t need any help from you, I got it,’” Mr. Ingraham said.

Dr. Minnis also pointed out that Mr. Ingraham claimed that government officials did not visit shan-

tytowns in Abaco with Creole speakers to warn Haitian residents to evacuate before the hurricane.

“Mr. Ingraham is mistaken on that issue as well. Media reports attest to this fact,” Dr. Minnis explained.

In the spirit of bipartisanship, the prime minister expressed that Cabinet recommended that Mr. Christie should also be asked to serve.

“An approach was also made to Mr. Christie,” Dr.

Minnis said.

“It is clear that there was and still is a misunderstanding, but patriotism requires us to put this aside and move forward.

“I am heartened and deeply grateful for the extraordinary number of Bahamians and foreigners who volunteered to help and are helping the government and charities in response to Hurricane Dorian. I thank all who are contributing their time, resources and tal-

ents.

“As I have said in my addresses, this is a time for the greatest act of volunteerism in Bahamian history. We welcome all Bahamians of goodwill and generosity of spirit to make their contributions to helping those in need.”

The government remains committed to restoring the lives of the residents of Abaco and Grand Bahama after the deadly and catastrophic Hurricane Dorian.

# Tropical Storm Threatens Bahamas

■ Continued from / PAGE 1...

so,” he said.

“The system is working towards the northwest and the northwestern Bahamas and towards the Florida peninsula at five to 10 miles per

hour.”

If this trend continues, Mr. King said, a tropical storm advisory will be issued.

“This disturbance will bring heavy rainfall and gusty winds across portions of The Bahamas

through Friday. Especially, portions of the northwest Bahamas affected by Hurricane Dorian,” he said.

“A reconnaissance aircraft is scheduled to investigate the system this afternoon if neces-

sary. Formation through 48 hours is 70 percent and formation through five days is 80 percent,” he said.

The tropical wave trailing behind this system is 700 miles west off the Cape Verde islands.

At this point, it is producing disorganized showers and thunderstorms.

Mr. King added that conditions seem to be conducive for development and a tropical depression could form

early next week, while the system moves westward towards the tropical Atlantic.

Formation through 48 hours, he said, is low at zero percent and formation through five days is 40 percent.

## CHIEF JUSTICE BRIAN MOREE PAYS RESPECTS AT THE LYING IN STATE OF FORMER JUSTICE EMMANUEL OSADEBAY



► The Hon. Mr. Justice Brian Moree, Chief Justice of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, pays his respects and signs the Book of Condolence at the Lying in State of Late Former Justice Emmanuel Osadebay at the Supreme Court, Thursday, September 12, 2019. **(BIS Photos/Letisha Henderson)**