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# The Bahama Journal

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# 'Bodies May Never Be Found'

BY LEAH COOPER  
 Journal Staff Writer

Although the official Hurricane Dorian death toll is 50 and former Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham said the death toll is in the hundreds, Minister of Health Dr. Duane Sands said some of the bodies may never be recovered.

Sands told The Bahama Journal that the first 25 autopsies were performed in Abaco by the Princess Margaret Hospital's Department of Pathology last week,

See page 3...



Minister of Health Dr. Duane Sands

## 'Gov't Not Credible With Hurricane Death Toll'

BY LEAH COOPER  
 Journal Staff Writer

The opposition wants to know how many people perished during Hurricane Dorian, according to Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) Chairman Fred Mitchell.

Mr. Mitchell said yesterday that there are too many numbers being passed around in this regard.

"The government does not seem credible with its

See page 4...



PLP Chairman Fred Mitchell

## Gov't Stops Abaco Shantytowns from Rebuilding

The Minister of Housing and the Environment Romauld Ferreira has issued a Prohibition to Build Order for The Mudd, Pigeon Pea, Sand Bank and Farm Road community areas located on the island of Abaco, with immediate effect.

According to the Order, "no person shall erect any new building or development for the purposes of residing or carrying out any commercial activity" in the identified community areas.

The purpose of the

See page 6...

## PLP Wants Climate Change Refugees Discussion at UNGA

BY LEAH COOPER  
 Journal Staff Writer

Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) Chairman Fred Mitchell yesterday said the issue of climate change isn't esoteric anymore, its essential, as government officials head to New York for the United Nations Annual General Assembly (UNGA) next week.

Mr. Mitchell insisted that the country must

See page 7...

## UN - HURRICANE DORIAN CATEGORY 'HELL'



United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres visited Abaco on Saturday, September 14, as part of a two-day visit to The Bahamas that also included high-level discussions and a joint press conference with Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis, on Friday, September 13. The secretary general viewed the devastating damage at Treasure Cay and Marsh Harbour. He also met with Abaco Hurricane Coordinator Jack Thompson and visited the NEMA Command Centre on the island. Secretary General Guterres was accompanied by Minister of Foreign Affairs Darren Henfield, Minister of Housing and the Environment Romauld Ferreira and NEMA Director Captain Stephen Russell. On Friday, the secretary general also visited a shelter in Nassau housing evacuees and NEMA's headquarters. (Photo/Patrick Hanna/BIS)

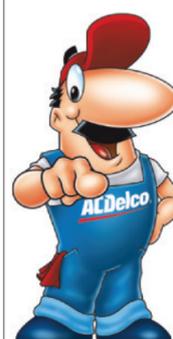
BY DEANDRE WILLIAMSON  
 Journal Staff Writer

Hurricane Dorian was a Category 5 hurricane, but United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres said he believes it was a "hurricane category hell".

"But it was not powered by the devil. It was powered by climate change," Guterres said on Saturday, during his tour and assessment of the destruction left by Hurricane Dorian in Abaco, which was aired in a United Nations video.

"It's impossible not to be horrified with the destruction in Abaco after Hurricane Dorian. I've never seen such a dramatic devastation anywhere else in the world."

See page 7...



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ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED TO READ IN THE MORNING

# 'Hurricane Repair Cost Billions'

## UN Secretary General Warns of Climate Crisis

BY EARYEL BOWLEG  
Journal Staff Writer

United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres warned The Bahamas about the effects of the global climate crisis and the billions of dollars in repairs left by Hurricane Dorian.

Speaking at a press conference at the Office of the Prime Minister last Friday, Guterres added that "science is telling us that this is the start" and "without urgent action, climate disruption is only going to get worse".

He asked all leaders to come with plans not speeches at the Climate Change Summit in New York next week.

"These new large scale climate disasters demand a new multilateral response. Climate financ-

ing is one element. We must reach a target of \$1 billion per year from public and private sources for mitigation and adaption in the developing world, as rich countries have been promising for nearly a decade and we must improve access to development financing," Guterres explained.

"This climate emergency packs a triple punch. First, the impact is in countries with the lowest greenhouse emissions - The Bahamas is a very good example of that."

"Second, it is the poorest and most vulnerable people in those countries who suffer most and again, the same has happened to those communities here in The Bahamas."

As for the threat of more disastrous hurri-

canes, Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis said he will focus on strengthening the building codes, particularly in the shantytowns.

"We know that those individuals are in danger of being affected by the elements of the storm, so those are the areas that we must aggressively pursue and correct", Dr. Minnis said.

"It's essential for individuals to know that they must live in proper accommodation and we will continue to build resilience and improve continuously because the strength of the hurricane was Category 5, who knows what's next."

On Saturday, the Secretary-General assessed Hurricane Dorian's damages in Marsh Harbour, Abaco.



► United Nations Secretary General António Guterres and Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis, at the Office of The Prime Minister, September 13, 2019. The secretary general is visiting The Bahamas to assess the damage from Hurricane Dorian. (BIS Photos/Yontalay Bowe)

# 'Gov't Was Prepared for Dorian'

BY LEAH COOPER  
Journal Staff Writer

Director of the Pacific Disaster Center Dr. Erin Huey this past Friday insisted there was nothing more the Minnis administration could have done in preparing for a storm of Hurricane Dorian's size and intensity.

This was said considering the government taking a great deal of flack after the storm ripped through Abaco and Grand Bahama.

"Your building codes are some of the strongest in the Western Hemisphere. Your commitment to disaster management that NEMA and the Family Islands have placed to build disaster resilient communities is really unmatched," Dr. Huey said.

"So, I think when you're talking about a really mammoth storm like this, the best thing we could do is help support the people that were impacted. In that respect, I believe very strongly that

NEMA has developed quite a robust structure that is able to work with the incoming amount of NGOs in the international community that is supporting. They're able to absorb it, task them effectively and get the resources out and that is very commendable."

Furthermore, Dr. Huey said she does not think the challenges experienced in the country are unique.

She said as with any other archipelago or island nation, the biggest challenge right now is getting information, transporting goods from point A to B and tracking individuals to ensure affected persons receive the right level of support.

When asked if she thought mandatory evacuation legislation should be necessary, Dr. Huey said, "The problem is, even in the U.S. and many parts of the world, even those that have mandatory evacuation, you cannot physically force someone to leave."

"Someone's attachment

to a place is very strong and I think we need to understand the psychosocial components of disasters. There's a lot of people suffering. They may still have their home, but the trauma of experiencing something like that exists," she added.

In terms of rebuilding, Dr. Huey said she is unable to give an estimated price tag, as many variables stand in the way.

"It's going to take a very resilient nation to commit to rebuilding these communities and rebuilding them in a way that is safe and prepared for climate change," she explained.

Dr. Huey said Dorian is an example of the changing landscape of disaster management.

She added that it illustrates the need not only to rely on historic information, but continued efforts to advance understanding climate change and how it will continue to impact the islands.



► Businesses and homes in Marsh Harbour sustained major damage. (BIS Photo/Patrick Hanna)

## 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

# 309 Haitian-Bahamians Missing

BY EARYEL BOWLEG  
Journal Staff Writer

Rights Bahamas revealed last Friday that 309 Haitian-Bahamians were reported missing by families and loved ones after Hurricane Dorian made landfall.

Rights Bahamas President Stephanie St. Fleur compiled a three-page list for the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) with names and pictures of the missing persons. The majority of the persons are from Abaco.

Currently, St. Fleur is working with shelters in New Providence to assist evacuees.

“We’re making contact with the administrators of these shelters. They’re calling to us and request certain things,” St. Fleur mentioned.

“Fox Hill call us saying that they didn’t have size five pampers or diapers. However, we’re able to assist them with supplies. That’s what we’re doing right now.

“There are still people right now as we speak, club called me and said there were 50 persons that

were housed there and the person who put them up cannot afford to house them. So right now, that’s a priority to find shelters for these 50 families right now.”

United Haitian Community Front is a newly formed group with a dozen organizations and the League of Haitian Pastors is helping victims with education, health and other necessities to aid in recovery.

United Haitian Community Front Marketer Robertson Dieudonne was on the ground in Abaco to assist those evacuating. There are those that choose, as he explained, they “don’t have nothing they can relate to in Nassau”.

“I think most of us understand island life. They come and they do what they have to do and they go back to the airport and they wanna go back. That’s island and that’s Bahamians, Bahamians of Haitian descent and Haitian residents living. They’re not attached to Nassau.

“Then there’s the hope they’re gonna build from scratch. That they can



► Aerial view of heavy damage at Treasure Cay. (BIS Photo/Patrick Hanna)

rebuild. I’ve heard Bahamians on the island saying on the phone ‘I ain’t going nowhere. I gotta be here to rebuild.’”

The group’s

Education and Counseling Director Edward St. Fleur is looking to give mental health support for the survivors.

“We have an organiza-

tion that’s ready to assist us in providing counseling either one-to-one or group counseling so that we can help them to debrief. Get into the

proper mind frame to continue their education. That’s for the children and of course the parents,” St. Fleur explained.

# ‘Bodies May Never Be Found’

Continued from / PAGE 1...

under the oversight of the coroner and with the full knowledge of the Office of the Attorney General.

“Now we have the ability to create a death certificate and begin the process of trying to match these persons with their loved ones. This is a very compli-

cated process because we don’t know, in all instances, who these persons are,” he said.

“We now have a list of missing persons reduced to 1,300, but here are only 50 recovered bodies. The ocean came in Grand Bahama and Abaco and receded. It is possible that we may never find some of

those bodies.”

However, the minister of health said last Friday that the government is open to the donation of services from any concerned Bahamians in response to the Bahamas Funeral Directors Association expressing that it was left in the dark concerning the recovery dead bodies in

islands impacted by Hurricane Dorian.

“Sometimes people feel like we’ve been a bit slow to accept their generous offer. We apologize for that, but it is by no means a deliberate slight,” Dr. Sands said.

He added that shortly after, a plan was outlined by the Ministry of National

Security using the mapping and retrieval services of the Americans and Canadians on the ground with cadaver dogs.

“Well, this has been an issue in evolution in the first day or two when Dorian cleared Abaco. We recognized we had a number of retrieved bodies and an inoperable cooler with

the ability to retain the remains safely. That’s a big problem,” he said.

“We then had discussions with a group of four mortuary companies headed by one in particular and the idea was to go to Abaco and embalm.”

He said considering the circumstances, that crisis was placed in abeyance.

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# Small Hurricane Damage in Little Grand Cay

BY LEAH COOPER  
Journal Staff Writer

Bahamas Power and Light (BPL) yesterday reported that an early assessment of Little Grand Cay, Abaco indicated that the area made it through the monster Category 5 Hurricane Dorian in relatively good condition.

BPL further explained that Little Grand Cay suffered some damage, but not as much as other communities in Abaco.

This assessment was carried out by a BPL representative on the island and representatives from Allen Exploration Walker's Cay, which powers the island.

The representatives also indicated that there is food and water and the clinic is operational.

In a release BPL said, "Allen Exploration Walker's Cay is bringing in a larger team to do a more comprehensive assessment of Little Grand Cay."

The team is expected to be on the ground tomorrow.

Additionally, the power company reported that Moore's Island has been fully restored as of Friday evening.

Meantime, the BPL team continues to work to restore power to the mainland Abaco, beginning in the south.

The company is also expected to update the public on the reconstruction of its infrastructure in Abaco.

# 'Grand Cay's Restoration Expected Within Days'

BY BERTHONY McDERMOTT  
Journal Staff Writer

Former Prime Minister and long-time North Abaco Member of Parliament Hubert Ingraham said he is uncertain on how long it would take to rebuild Abaco, but Grand Cay, just off North Abaco can be up and running in a matter of days.

So far, the owners of Walker's Cay - Carl and Gigi Allen have nearly \$1 million for the Grand Cay's restoration.

"If they were given permission or if BPL would go and restore the couple poles, the two

transformers and the fuses that are missing or damaged, his generation capacity would be able to hook into and generate electricity for Grand Cay and they could be up and running in a matter of days," Mr. Ingraham said.

The former North Abaco MP accepted that the task at hand is a great one.

"Just to restore the electricity in Abaco, for instance, and to make sure there is safe potable water in the island of Abaco is a massive task. To make sure the ports are operating, to get sup-

plies in and to undertake the reconstruction work," the former prime minister said.

"There is going to be probably \$500 to \$600 million in insurance money paid out for claims in Abaco resulting from this hurricane.

"The vast majority of that will be money that will be spent back to restore."

Former Prime Ministers Ingraham and Perry Christie returned from a fact-finding trip to Abaco last Wednesday.

The two planned to make a similar visit to Grand Bahama this week.

# 'Gov't Not Credible With Hurricane Death Toll'

Continued from / PAGE 1...

figures, but worse than that, they don't seem to be working quickly enough on this issue," he said.

"We believe this is part of the reason why people are so anxious coming out of this storm."

Currently, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) is reporting that the death toll is at 50.

In an infographic released this past Friday, NEMA indicated that "conditions of urban search and rescue are

faced with unprecedented logistical challenges in trying to access hard-to-reach areas and widely dispersed numbers transient and undocumented populations."

Police Commissioner Anthony Ferguson at a NEMA press conference last week said this process is slow and law enforcement has not made much progress since the last update last week, ensuring that the police will only report factual information.

**GOT NEWS?**  
Please call The Bahama Journal's News TIP LINE at 356-7254 and let us know!



**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL PLANNING**

The public is hereby notified that an application for Building Permit Approval (BL # 126731) on behalf of Michael Carey is presently being reviewed by The Department of Physical Planning for presentation to the Town Planning Committee.

The applicant proposes the development of a commercial building in Joan's Heights Subdivision in Block 3 on Lots 101-104. Lots 102 and 104 are located along East Street, south of Starkist Lane. Lots 101 and 103 are located directed behind along New Hope Drive. Therefore, the applicant requests rezoning of lots 101 and 103 from duplex to commercial land use. The proposed development consists of a two-unit commercial building with drive-through facilities.

A public meeting will be held on October 3, 2019 at 7pm at C.V Bethel Senior High School for all interested parties to discuss and address planning issues related to the proposed commercial development.

The building permit application for the proposed development is available for viewing at The Department of Physical Planning, located in the Aventura Plaza on John F. Kennedy Drive, during working hours of 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Interested persons and organizations are invited to review the information on file and provide written comments prior to the meeting. Comments should be directed to the Acting Director of Physical Planning. Submissions can be made via P.O Box N-1611, Nassau Bahamas or fax (242) 328-3206. Further inquiries can be made to the Acting Director via Tel. (242) 322-7550/1/1 OR (242) 328- 3202 or [CHARLESZONICLE@BAHAMAS.GOV.BS](mailto:CHARLESZONICLE@BAHAMAS.GOV.BS)

Signed  
Charles B. Zonicle  
Acting Director of Physical Planning

**KEY MAP**

