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# Gov't Revenue Bust

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT  
 Journal Staff Writer

The near collapse of the economies of Abaco and Grand Bahama caused by Hurricane Dorian will drastically reduce the government's income for a few years.

According to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Peter Turnquest, it is estimated that the country's revenue will be hit with a \$200 million shortfall because of the hurricane's impact.

"Abaco and Grand Bahama represents somewhere between 15 and 20 percent of our GDP, so it's not an insignificant



Min. K. Peter Turnquest

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# 1.5 Billion Pounds of Debris in Abaco Removal Costs Millions

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT  
 Journal Staff Writer

Minister of the Environment and Housing Romauld Ferreria estimated that it will cost tens of millions of dollars to remove some 1.5 billion pounds of debris from Abaco following Hurricane Dorian.

While potential lay

down sites have been identified on that island, Minister Ferreira said it will only swamp the Abaco landfill.

"Marsh Harbour has a landfill. It has its challenges, but that is going to quickly overwhelm any kind of situation," he said.

"Of course, we have to



Min. Romauld Ferreria

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# Seven Years to Declare Missing Dead

## AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE OF ROMANIA PRESENTED LETTERS OF CREDENTIALS AT GOV'T HOUSE



His Excellency the Most Hon. Cornelius A. Smith, Governor General, received Letters of Credentials from Her Excellency Gentiana Serbu, Non-Resident Ambassador-Designate of the Government of Romania to the Commonwealth of The Bahamas during a presentation at Government House on Tuesday, September 17, 2019. (BIS Photos/Letisha Henderson)

BY DEANDRE WILLIAMSON  
 Journal Staff Writer

While 1,300 persons are missing following Hurricane Dorian, Minister of Health Dr. Duane Sands said it could take up to seven years for a missing person to be declared dead.

"Just because you are missing doesn't mean that you are dead. So if you were on Abaco, then your family would not be able

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Min. Dr. Duane Sands

## Equinor Declares Oil Spill Area Safe

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT  
 Journal Staff Writer

East Grand Bahama Member of Parliament Peter Turnquest said Equinor has declared the oil spill area safe, as recovery efforts are in full swing and a cleanup has been team dispatched.

Aerial footage has been released and accord-

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## Double Homicide on Gladstone Rd. Man Shot Dead in Fox Hill

Police are investigating two separate homicides which have left three persons dead and two others with non-life threatening injuries.

According to police, on Tuesday shortly after 4 a.m. they responded to an apartment complex on

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ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED TO READ IN THE MORNING

# GB OIL SPILL, A DIRE WARNING



► Oil saturates the ground after breaking through the protective barriers around the South Riding Point oil storage and transshipment terminal, formerly Statoil, after monster Hurricane Dorian blew the lids off several tanks. (Photo: Save the Bays)

Save the Bays Foundation believes the impact of Hurricane Dorian on Grand Bahama, which caused an as-yet undisclosed amount of oil to spill from the South Riding Point storage facility, should teach the government a lesson that leads to a definitive rejection of the Oban refinery proposal before it is too late.

Fred Smith, legal director of Save the Bays, said the government would be “insane” to continue courting another dangerous and reckless facility of this kind.

“The situation in Freeport today, where the coastline is polluted with heavy, dirty fuel oil, the water table is contaminated and residents have been told they must avoid the water supply, should serve as a dire warning,” he said. “The time has come to close the door on this potentially disastrous flirtation with the Oban proposal.

“The government will have to ensure Equinor urgently cleans up the South Riding Point and High Rock area. They would be insane to create

an even larger threat to the pristine and ecologically invaluable eastern end of the island.”

Smith said oil refineries are bastions of an outdated and defunct form of energy production and produce very few jobs for locals with the profits all being shipped overseas into the bank accounts of foreign owners.

“It is, and has always been a lose-lose scenario for Bahamians and the time has come to put an end to it. The government must tell Oban to take a hike,” he said. “Climate change means that storms will only get stronger and more frequent; a disaster on the scale of South Riding Point or even greater is not a question of if, only a question of when.”

The Norwegian oil company Equinor claims it is working to clean up the oil spilled from its terminal when Hurricane Dorian blew the tops off oil storage tanks, but according to STB chairman Joseph Darville, there is no evidence of this to date.

Darville visited the site of the spill last week and

was alarmed to find evidence of the oil contamination at least a mile and a half away. The roof of the company’s building appeared to have been stained by the oil slick which, riding on Dorian’s storm surge, had reached 35-foot high. He said the canopy of the surrounding pine forest was saturated with oil at the same level for a distance of 400 meters from the oil plant.

“The beach in High Rock, east of the terminal, was befouled with oil for more than a mile and a half,” he said. “I have no idea how far the oil drifted south into the water, but if you consider that the wind was coming from the north and, with gusts well above 200mph, was so strong that it pushed a storm surge over 30 feet high, the consequences for the seabed and marine life on the south side of Grand Bahama are terrifying to contemplate.

“We saw no one doing any kind of clean-up,” he said. “In fact the only people we saw were two security guards, who told us we were not allowed to fly our drone to take aerial shots of the spill.

“In the area immediately surrounding the plant, oil is settling into all of the puddles and low spaces. Worst of all, it has permeated our water table, which sits only three feet below the surface through porous limestone rock.”

Darville congratulated the Grand Bahama Port Authority for recognising the danger this poses to the health and safety of the public, warning residents

not to use the water supply for drinking or washing. But, he said, he knows of no plan in place to restore safe water supply to the island.

“I warned the Grand Bahama Utility Company that they needed reserve tanks for the island in case the water table became contaminated, but they ignored me. Perhaps they too would do well to learn a lesson from this,” he

said.

Regarding the proposed Oban oil refinery project in East Grand Bahama, Darville was adamant.

“This is a warning,” he declared, “that we need to permanently shelve this foolish, asinine, ignorant proposal for good. It would be unconscionable for the government to move forward with this proposal now.”

## 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



► While an emergency team has been assigned to address the environmental hazard, it may take several years for the grounds around the area to fully recover. (Photo: Save the Bays)

# Gov't Revenue Bust

Continued from / PAGE 1...

loss to the economy," Minister Turnquest told reporters yesterday before the weekly Cabinet meeting.

"Hopefully, the reconstruction, the inflow of insurance proceeds and people putting that to work will rebuild the

economy.

"Hopefully, that will offset some of the touristic losses that we expect and will be able to get them up and going and contributing again very shortly."

This financial setback has left the government with the task of returning to Bahamians with a revised plan.

"The Fiscal

Responsibility Act requires us to come in November with our fiscal projection outlook for the next budget season," Minister Turnquest said.

"So we will make whatever adjustments are necessary during that time and then when we come to parliament we will present that revised report I think January, early February.

"We will be able to outline exactly what has happened, what effect it has had and how we intend to adjust our fiscal outlook moving forward to account for and get us back on track."

As for those lump sum payouts to the public service, the DPM said there is still a desire to do so and it's now a matter of being

practical and reasonable given the expected expenditure over the next couple months.

"As you all know, this is a significant unexpected event for the government and so we have to make sure that we properly budget and consider all of the ramifications for our expenditure over the next couple of months for sure,

until we have determined and been able to put concrete numbers to what our outlook is going to look like," he said.

"So at the moment it's on hold and we'll see how we can adjust it and maybe see towards the end of the year how we can fit it in."

On Monday, India donated \$1 million to hurricane relief efforts.

# 1.5 Billion Pounds of Debris in Abaco

Continued from / PAGE 1...

separate the debris because there is going to be concrete rubble. There is going to be vegetative debris. There is going to be metals and there is actually a boat sitting on top of a roof in Marsh Harbour.

"It's quite something to see. It gives you an idea of

how high the sea surge was and the kinds of impacts. So, the waste has to be collected. It has to be sorted. It has to be reduced in volume which usually means a shredder or some cutting devices and then of course we take it out of the country."

Removing the debris will primarily be carried

out by the Department of Environmental Health Services.

The minister of the environment and housing acknowledged that determining the amount of debris left behind in Grand Bahama has been a task.

"The debris management plan calls for a certain kind of expertise to do

the sorting because remember that the entities receiving this want it sorted in such a way," Minister Ferreira said.

"So that calls for manpower, which calls for expertise. It calls for planning, that calls for aerial footage and the whole nine yards.

"One of the reasons

why we can't estimate or we have been unable or challenged in terms of estimating debris volumes in Grand Bahama is that a lot of the damage that happens to the homes in Grand Bahama happened internally.

"They basically have a house, but the sheetrock is all damaged and appli-

ances are all damaged. So it's a different kind of feature and so we're really going to have and develop two separate responses for how we deal with the damage and debris generated from that."

The government, he said, is taking advantage of the expertise provided by its international partners.

# Seven Years to Declare Missing Dead

Continued from / PAGE 1...

to collect life insurance, couldn't share property," Dr. Sands told The Bahama Journal yesterday.

"Cabinet has the ability to make any other ruling, in conjunction with the attorney general and the coroner, so but typically, it's seven years. So, if

you're a missing person, it's impossible to get closure because you don't know whether it's going to just show up next week."

The official hurricane death toll is 51 and if the bodies recovered so far are unable to be identified, Dr. Sands said they would be retained for a period of time while the

process of going through the missing persons list is completed and families try to identify their loved ones.

"Samples of DNA have been taken from those autopsies already completed and I'm advised that we have done at least 25 autopsies in Abaco already. At some point in time, a determination

would be made as to whether or not bodies would be removed from the cold storage and properly buried," he said.

"Once bodies are removed from the coolers, if they are not embalmed then they deteriorate. So you remove from the cooler, you have to bury them. While they are in the cooler they can stay

there indefinitely."

Yesterday, Commissioner of Police Anthony Ferguson announced that 43 dead bodies were recovered in Abaco and eight in Grand Bahama.

"We recognize that many persons are presumed missing and we anticipate the discovery

of more deceased persons, as the process of search and recovery progresses. As there are many more persons presume missing, since they have not been seen or heard from since the passage of hurricane Dorian, we are appealing to family members to file missing person's reports with the police," Ferguson said.

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# Surinamese Woman's Arraignment Postponed

BY EARYEL BOWLEG  
Journal Staff Writer

Surinamese national 55-year-old Ifna Magda Pinas appeared in the Magistrate's Court on Tuesday for an arraignment, but it was postponed due to a language barrier.

The lawyer, originally planned to represent Pinas, found out that she only spoke a Creole dialect called "Taki Taki" - a mixture of Dutch and English.

In addition, Pinas did not have a counselor representative from

Suriname in court.

With no interpreter or proper legal representation, Magistrate Andrew Forbes rescheduled the arraignment for today at 2 p.m.

Pinas will face four drug related charges, which includes conspiracy to possess dangerous drugs with intent supply, conspiracy to import dangerous drug, possession of dangerous drug with intent to supply and importation of dangerous drugs.

It's alleged that on September 6 and 15, she conspired to possess and

import a quantity of dangerous drugs, namely cocaine, with intent to supply.

According to police, Pinas arrived in The Bahamas via Copa Airlines from Panama and was refused entry by Bahamas Immigration. She was transported to the Detention Center where she was processed and searched and found in possession of eleven packages of suspected cocaine.

Police said the drugs weighed 10.4 pounds and has a street value of \$68,000.

# Equinor Declares Oil Spill Area Safe

Continued from / PAGE 1...

ing to Minister of the Environment and Housing Romauld Ferreria, it shows that the berms system is containing the oil within a certain perimeter.

"As I said in the first instance, the rooves blew off, so you had oil that was wind driven, so you have a large smear and that is challenging in and of itself to clean up," he said.

"The first priority is to stabilize the location, sta-

bilize the source, prevent any kind of further escape and then move out from there."

Equinor has engaged both local and international experts to assist in the cleanup as soon as possible.

Mr. Turnquest said the company has already pointed out that there's no spill on the south and north shore of the island.

"They are also testing for water contamination, as well as air contamination and so far they have

been doing a decent job as the untrained eye would have seen," the deputy prime minister said.

"They are being responsive and providing information certainly to the government, to the BEST Commission, to the Ministry of Environment, but also to me as the member of parliament."

The cost of the cleanup has not yet been determined.

The massive oil spill occurred during the passage of Hurricane Dorian.

# Double Homicide on Gladstone Rd.

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Gladstone Road where they discovered a male and female unresponsive with visible injuries to their bodies.

Paramedics were called to the scene and attempted to revive the injured persons, but were unsuccessful.

ful.

They were confirmed dead on the scene.

On Monday, police said shortly after 8 p.m. a group of men were standing on the outside of a home on Armbrister Street, Fox Hill, when a silver vehicle pulled up and the occupants opened

fire in their direction hitting three of the men, before speeding away.

Two men received non-life threatening injuries and were transported to hospital, while a third man succumbed to his injuries on scene.

Investigations into both incidents are ongoing.

# GB RESIDENTS RECEIVE HURRICANE RELIEF SUPPLIES



► The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) took hurricane relief supplies directly to the residents of Grand Bahama in "Operation Relief Saturday," on September 14, 2019. (BIS Photos/Lisa Davis)



**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**


