Teachers Demand Principal’s Removal

By Berthyon McDermott
Journal Staff Writer

Irate Carlton Francis Primary School teachers are calling for the removal of the school’s principal after they showed up to work on Wednesday morning and met more than 15 police officers at the gate restricting them from entering the Baillou Hill Road campus.

Teachers and union executives have been locked in an ongoing issue with the school’s principal that has stretched over two years. According to Bahamas Union of Teachers area Vice President Vernon Rodgers, a meeting between the union and the government was scheduled to address the matter, but never happened.

“The principal is rude. She’s disrespectful. She...

Min. of Education to File Trade Dispute

The Ministry of Education plans to file a trade dispute following failed attempts to resolve the issue at Carlton Francis Primary School. Minister of Education Jeffrey Lloyd said yesterday that there is a process to address grievances that he’s asking the union to follow.

“The conciliator, the Department of Labour and the people there are...

Bishop Calls for Unity

By Deandrie Williamson
Journal Staff Writer

Bahamas Christian Council President Bishop Delton Fernander encouraged Bahamians, during yesterday’s National Prayer Service, to put aside all that divides the nation and come together to rebuild The Bahamas.

“We are now left with the herculean task of rebuilding the northern most islands of our country and in doing so we must examine how we rebuild and what we rebuild,” Bishop...

National Prayer Service Mourns Hurricane Victims

A National Prayer Service was held at Bahamas Faith Ministries on Wednesday, with Bishop Delton Fernander and other members of the clergy praying for Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis during the service.

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The Central Bank of The Bahamas announced plans to eliminate the one cent coin by 2020 following recommendations of a study on the issuance, demands and use of the penny.

“The proposal is that the one cent coin should cease to be legal tender with effect from December 31, 2020 if the one cent coin is eliminated, the five cent coin will be the lowest denomination issued. Electronic payments made, for instance, by debit and credit cards, will not be affected by this initiative. However, cash payments will be rounded off to the nearest five cents,” The Central Bank said in a statement on Wednesday.

Last year, The Central Bank, assisted by Secura Sione International as consultants to the initiative, commissed a study to examine the need for continued issuance of the one cent coin, considering the use of the coin, the cost of producing and issuing the coin.

Without the one cent coin, the proposed rounding rules, which The Central Bank explained is “simple and fair for all” would be applied to bills paid in cash.

“Where a total bill is being paid in cash and the number of cents to be paid does not end in zero, five, then requiring either the customer to use one cent coins in payment or the retailer to use such coins in giving change, the amount of change to be paid will be rounded to the nearest five or 10 cents,” The Central Bank explained.

“One and two would be rounded down to zero (e.g $4.23 becomes $4.20). Three and four would be rounded up to 5 (e.g. $15.67 becomes $15.75). Eight and nine would be rounded up to 10 (e.g. $27.89 becomes $27.90).”

“It is important to note that rounding only takes place on the total bill, not on individual prices. As such, prices should not be changed in advance and existing price points (such as with items priced at 99 cents) should remain.”

However, the amount of value added tax paid is unaffected by rounding.

“VAT is calculated on the amount charged for taxable supplies. Rounding should take place after the VAT is calculated on a bill and only when the customer is paying the total amount of an invoice in cash or paying the bal- ance of an invoice in cash. If the customer is paying the total bill with cash and cash, an amount rounded to the nearest five cents should be paid by the customer. For example, a total bill of $23.39 could be paid with $23.39 by cash and $0.39 by card.”

In attendance were Bahamian Chief Commercial Officer Gervette Brown said the company has been working on the app for 15 months. It happened to be launched around the time of Hurricane Dorian.

“This website and this app feature together will allow all of you to raise funds transparently, inter- nationally and the most convenient and efficient way that you possibly can,” Brown said.

“It gives you access now to platforms all over the world here in Nassau and locally. Aggregated all charities in The Bahamas who are working together for vari- ous needs, not just Hurricane Dorian relief, on one single place so that people who want to help can go to one single website where they can find all of the ways that they can help.”

In attendance were Bahamian Red Cross, HeadKnowles and the Bahamas Feeding Network. Chairman and Group CEO of CIBC Bahamas Group of Companies Franklin Butler was also at the launch.

“I recognized immediately that this was a huge opportunity to have, a huge impact for organiza- tions throughout our country who are continu- ing to struggle to address those most at risk,” Butler said.

“Needless, hurricanes expose those most at risk and those who have in a very real way so to launch together today with ALIV and the CBL group is a really is excit- ing opportunity for me personally.”

“There is a small trans- action fees of one percent for the running cost, but those fees were suspend- ed during the time of Hurricane Dorian relief.”

The bank said: “There are clear signs that the one cent coins is used increasingly rarely by the general public. According to the Central Bank’s surveys, only about half of the popula- tion (52 percent) regular- ly uses the one cent coin for making payments. This share is much lower (40 percent) for the younger consumers (age group 16-34), likely related to generally lower usage of cash for payments as this age group. Over three quarters (79 percent) of the consumers never or rarely return accumulat- ed one cent coins to the banks or post offices. Only about a third (39 percent) of the retailers and the banks regularly receive one cent coins in the course of their busi- ness. There is a clear concern over the cost of handling one cent coins. A significant majority (61 percent) of business- estimates it to be equal or higher than the face value of the coin.”
PM and former U.S. Pres. Bill Clinton discuss Hurricane relief efforts

Yesterday, Prime Minister the Most Hon. Dr. Hubert Minnis spoke with former United States President Bill Clinton to discuss Hurricane Dorian relief efforts on the affected islands of Abaco and Grand Bahama.

Mr. Clinton expressed his sorrow over the devastation caused by the Category 5 storm, and the Clinton Foundation’s willingness to assist The Bahamas in its recovery efforts.

Prime Minister Minnis highlighted the need for temporary housing for residents who lost their homes during the storm, and the need for assistance with storm debris clean-up and power generation to essential services on islands affected by Hurricane Dorian.

Both the Prime Minister and Mr. Clinton emphasized the importance of rebuilding the storm-affected areas with resilience, given the impact of climate change on Small Island Developing States like The Bahamas.

Mr. Clinton noted that the Clinton Foundation had a special session on The Bahamas during one of its upcoming meetings.

Prime Minister Minnis thanked Mr. Clinton for his call and the continued support of the Clinton Foundation.

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has no morals when it comes to dealing with teachers. She’s unprofessional. She runs her classroom from her problem s like a visibly upset third grade teacher Deborah Rahming, who’s been teaching for nearly 30 years; insists that the school’s principal should be removed.

She goes on to express how you’re going to run a school." Rodgers said.

"We have not seen the gratitude for Unity 19th, 2019 Issue 102

"We have not seen the calls and grievances with the education system. “Minister, if you dare to give me a transfer please facilitate one at the Ministry of Tourism because I’m sick to my heart of the educational system in The Bahamas right now,” Rahming said. I refuse to teach under a system where I am victimized in open daylight, where officials are telling me that I am a criminal, that’s what they are saying in numbers.

They are saying it without opening their mouths that I am a criminal, not permitted on government premises to do the job that I was hired to do.”

Standing in solidarity with teachers was parent Darren Sargent. “Monday morning when I brought my child here on the first day of school there was a problem. This has been going on for two weeks now," Sargent said.

"Now Monday morning put a book there, let the parents sigh a petition. If the principal need to leave, we’ll do it. That’s it, end of story.

Teachers say the protest will continue until the minister of education addresses all their concerns, apologizes and the principal is removed.

H ubert Minnis also attended the National Prayer Service and said his principal’s Removal Principal’s Grievances with the education system.

"We also, now more than ever, must reconnect ourselves to emphasizing the importance of a God consciousness in our country." As the nation continues to mourn the loss of those who died during Hurricane Dorian, hundreds of Bahamians attended the National Prayer Service at Bahamas Faith Ministries. Also during his sermon, Bishop Fernander admonished Bahamians to appreciate human life instead of material possessions.

"How do we treat each other, how we speak of and to each other. Many who would have accomplished and acquired much found themselves wanting to ask for assistance. Many found out that while we place so much importance on cars, houses and other material things, on the days that Dorian hovered over The Bahamas, all our brothers and sisters to the north had sense of belonging that m ust push us forw ard. A ll of us, working together, making daily progress, will not only rebuild or island but we will become better," he explained.

"This text brings into focus two examples of the divine commitment to stand by, protect and empower the people of God. The first example shows God’s commitment to the children of Israel. Isaiah reminds Israel of God’s commitment to be with them regardless of their circumstances. Naturally, Isaiah looked toward rough times which were ahead. God warned the people to know that even though rough times were coming he would still be with them.

"God’s words to Israel were clear. "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee, when thou shalt walk through the fire, thou shalt not be burned.” These words emphasize a clear commitment by our Lord He is very much with his people in their time of need."

Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis also attended the National Prayer Service and said country needs spiritual and physical resources to rebuild.