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PM Defends Disaster Ministry

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
 Journal Staff Writer

Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis again shot down criticism that the newly minted Ministry for Disaster Preparedness, Management and Reconstruction is not another layer of government bureaucracy. The prime minister's response came after Opposition Leader Philip Davis said the new ministry is another layer of bureaucracy that will fuel more delays and deepen the level of dissatisfaction, anger and frustration among people. Dr. Minnis yesterday sought to make it clear



▶ Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis

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PLP Suggests New Ministry Headed for Disaster

BY DEANDRE WILLIAMSON
 Journal Staff Writer

Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) Chairman Fred Mitchell suggested yesterday that the new Ministry of Disaster Preparedness, Management and Reconstruction is headed for disaster. "So the lousy, no good, lazy, good for nothing FNM has now opened their sick mouths to blow smoke up the prime minister's derriere after this useless appointment of a



▶ PLP Chairman Fred Mitchell

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MINISTER OF STATE FOR DISASTER SWORN IN

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
 Journal Staff Writer

Taking the oath of office before family, friends and now cabinet colleagues yesterday afternoon was Central Grand Bahama MP Iram Lewis, who was sworn in as minister of state for the new Ministry of Disaster Preparedness, Management and Reconstruction. Lewis is an engineer by profession and before accepting the new role as minister of state, he served as parliamentary secretary in the Ministry of Works. Following his swearing in, Lewis told reporters that his goal is to get the islands affected by Hurricane Dorian back to some sense of normalcy as soon as possible. "Get my full portfolio.



▶ Iram Lewis (left) was sworn in by Governor General His Excellency the Most Hon. Cornelius A. Smith as minister of state in the Ministry of Disaster Preparedness, Management and Reconstruction under the Office of the Prime Minister, September 23, 2019 at Government House. (BIS Photos/Derek Smith)

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Bahamas Delegation Attends UNGA

The Cabinet Office announced on Sunday that Minister of Foreign Affairs Darren Henfield is in New York City for the 74th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).
 Minister Henfield

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Ministry of Social Services to Review Budget

BY EARYEL BOWLEG
 Journal Staff Writer

Minister of Social Services Frankie Campbell announced on Monday that the Ministry of Social Services will be reviewing its budget. Campbell maintained

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ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED TO READ IN THE MORNING

MINISTRY OF TOURISM HOST PAINT NIGHT TO PROMOTE UNAFFECTED ISLANDS

The Islands Of The Bahamas recently partnered with American Airlines to host a 'Sip and Paint' networking opportunity for some of American Airlines' top travel professionals in the Miami area.

The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism and Aviation's District Marketing Manager, Tina Lee, in brief remarks before the painting started, said, "We (The Bahamas) have been severely impacted by the hurricane (Dorian), but it's important for us to do these industry events, as well as consumer events, to get the message out there that although two of our Islands are down, we still want you to travel to The Bahamas."

Lee emphasized that "Now, our other Islands need your support more than ever. Nassau and Exuma are great options on American Airlines. We have 14 Islands still open for business and you can really help us by sharing this information on your social media channels and sending it out to your clients."

The tourism executive

expressed thanks to the travel professionals in attendance at the event and said, "We are here to have a fun time and enjoy the intimacy of this small group."

Also encouraging the group to have a fun time, American Airlines' Sales Manager for the Southeast and Northeast United States, Juan Rodriguez, said that the 'Sip and Paint' was a fun opportunity to engage with travel agents and to get a deeper connection on a personal level with them as well as to deepen already existing relationships. "Events like these are crucial," Rodriguez noted. "They provide an opportunity to speak with the agents one on one, and you get to know them in a way that you would not in a dinner presentation or at a trade show."

Travel agents participating in the event described the fun gathering as interactive and different. They also remarked that they were glad for the opportunity to speak with members of The Bahamas sales team and receive an update on



► Bahamas Tourist Office Sales Team host Sip and Paint with American Airlines agents. (Photo by M.O.T.)

The Bahamas in the wake of the category 5 Hurricane Dorian.

Luisa Yu of Westchester Travel in Miami said that the event was great, but she was mostly glad to hear about The Bahamas. "When people hear about the devastation in The Bahamas they think everything is destroyed but as we were told earlier, there are 14 other Islands," Yu said. "I feel so bad because

the Bahama Islands are all so beautiful. I will tell my clients that only two Islands were affected so you can still go. I will encourage them to go to The Bahamas. I love The Bahamas," the travel professional shared.

The painting event was organized with a twist. Although it included wine along with instructions for individual masterpieces, a special Bahamian lunch was pro-

vided. The subject selected for the painting activity was a photo of a conch shell on the beach, and lunch included the special Bahamian delicacy of 'cracked' (battered and fried) conch.

In addition to conch, the event's taste of The Bahamas featured Bahamian fruit punch and desserts including coconut and pineapple tarts as well as miniature guava duff. Songs from

The Bahamas and the Caribbean dating back to the sixties and early seventies comprised the soundtrack for the event.

The Team from the Bahamas Tourist Office (BTO) at the event included Lee; Adrian Kemp and Phyla Shivers, Senior Marketing Representatives; Elke Pettiford, Marketing Coordinator and Jeannie Gibson, Manager, Global Communications.

PM Defends Disaster Ministry

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that this new ministry will accelerate the process of disaster preparedness.

"The authority is so that professional individuals who would know how to manage, make decisions and the best decisions that is applicable for what's happening today," the prime minister said.

"They would be able to contract and make those decisions very quickly as suppose to the government bureaucracy and red tape."

Additionally, the prime minister said NEMA is being restructured to be better than before, but noted that the agency will play the same role.

"We've learned a lot from this disaster. We've learned a lot from the international agencies that were here," Dr. Minnis said.

"They were very

impressed with our organization, but still we will take it to another level because the storms we saw yesterday will not be the storms we see tomorrow."

To the criticism that the government did not respond fast enough post Hurricane Dorian, Dr. Minnis said supplies and helicopters from the United States was in Andros and Exuma awaiting the all clear to move in.

"We were delayed in getting into Abaco because the storm unfortunately sat over Grand Bahama and the feeder bans were still over Abaco," Dr. Minnis said.

"As soon as the feeder bans moved, the choppers from both Andros and Exuma were able to be dispatched immediately. So you couldn't do it any faster than that."

The prime minister

stressed that the task of rebuilding those islands badly damaged by Hurricane Dorian will take time.

He added that the government will report regularly on its progression.

During his press conference on Sunday, the prime minister said in restructuring NEMA the government will work with disaster preparedness, recovery and management experts from around the world, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) of the United States.

"Let me be clear, it cannot be business as usual in government," Dr. Minnis said.

"We have to break down the silos. There is no time for territorial or turf battles. Egos must be put aside in the interest of the common good."

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 20th 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



FORM B Notice of Intended Marriage (Section 7(3))

The persons named and described hereunder have given notice to me of their intended marriage, namely --

Terence James Ellis, Divorced,
of Aelbryn Pentregat, Liandysul Ceredigion SA44 6HN, Great Britain (UK)

and

Tara Claire Howells, Single,
of Aelbryn Pentregat, Liandysul Ceredigion SA44 6HN, Great Britain (UK)

Any person knowing any just cause or impediment why this marriage should not be allowed should enter caveat forthwith in the office of the Registrar of Marriages.

Dated this 17th day of September, 2019.

Sally Platt

Registrar of Marriages

Volunteers Help to Rebuild GBCH

BY EARYEL BOWLEG
Journal Staff Writer

Volunteers from all over North America, including Florida, Colombia, Mexico and Trinidad are helping to restore the Grand Bahama Children's Home (GBCH).

In the wake of Hurricane Dorian's

wrath, rising floodwaters not only displaced the more than 30 children, but also gutted the home's buildings.

"We sustained significant damage," explained GBCH Executive Director Sheila Johnson-Smith.

"What wasn't totally destroyed is now mold-infested, so we are literal-

ly starting from the ground up."

Volunteers are emptying the buildings of their soggy, moldy contents.

While the home is unlivable, all 32 children have been safely tucked away in New Providence at the Ranfurly Home for Children and two other homes there.

"This has been a har-

rowing and very traumatizing experience for our children," said Johnson-Smith. "However, the directors of the homes have all been in constant contact with me, reassuring me that our children are being well taken care of. That has been a relief for our entire team and has made it a little easier to focus on the rebuild

efforts."

Johnson-Smith noted that the teams are working feverishly to put their home back together as Hurricane Dorian has led more Grand Bahamians to the children's home.

"At this time, we simply have nowhere to house anyone or take anyone in, which is why this restoration effort is

so important," Johnson-Smith said.

"We understand that now, more than ever, our services will be in great demand and we are working along with the Department of Social Services to assist where we can until we are able to reopen our doors as a place of safety and protection for our children."



► Volunteers from across North America including Florida, Colombia, Mexico and Trinidad converged on the home's back-of-town site to assist with the mammoth cleanup effort. (Photo GBCH/Barefoot Marketing)

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Bahamas Delegation Attends UNGA



► Minister of Foreign Affairs Darren Henfield attended a High-Level Luncheon on September 22 at the United Nations co-hosted by the prime ministers of Norway and Jamaica on the theme, "An Urgent Call to Countries to Partner for Climate Action -- A Race We Can Win." (Photo/Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

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heads The Bahamas delegation, which includes Minister of Transport and Local Government Renward Wells, North Eleuthera Member of Parliament Ricky Mackey, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Director General Sharon Brennen-Haylock and Ministry of Foreign Affairs Foreign Service Officer Kenneth Wallace-Whitfield.

Minister Henfield will also attend various meetings on the margins of the general assembly, including the US-CARICOM Ministerial with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, where the minister will provide an update on The Bahamas' Hurricane Dorian response.

Minister Henfield will also represent Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis at the Western Hemispheric Leaders

Meeting with United States President Donald Trump to discuss the democratic transition of Venezuela.

Minister Henfield's credentials as head of delegation will expire on September 26, when Prime Minister Minnis will arrive in New York to deliver the Bahamas' National Statement at the UNGA on September 27.

Minister Henfield will return to The Bahamas on Saturday.

Minister of State for Disaster Sworn In

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Get a clear understanding and assemble my team. There will be an office in Grand Bahama and in Nassau and one in Abaco for operational purposes so I can stay on top of what's going on," he said.

"We're going to have a board that's going to be very active, very focused and we will be reporting on a regular basis to the Bahamian public as to what we are doing."

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) will fall under this new ministry.

When questioned about the heavy criticism

NEMA has faced post Hurricane Dorian, Lewis said there will be naysayers, but those who mean well, must remain positive.

He accepted that ongoing training is key for NEMA.

"We need to have a focus approach, to see how we can work hand in glove to ensure that if we go through another serious super storm like this that we would be more prepared," Lewis said.

"So preparation is key, preparation and ongoing training because every experience will be different and you could learn something and we can build on whatever we

learn." Meantime, contracts are being prepared for teams to move into Abaco.

"Let me be clear, we are going to use all of the Bahamian companies. We are going to do an inventory of all the machinery that we have in The Bahamas, owned by Bahamians and use those first," he said.

"Of course, if the work load becomes excessive and you need to bring in other help then we would, but we're looking at Bahamian focus first."

It's to be a layered cleanup process taking into consideration bodies may be beneath the rubble.

Social Services to Review Budget

Continued from / PAGE 1...

that the budget will not impact housing and uniform assistance for displaced residents.

"During the budget, we've found that personal emoluments would have been set aside for persons who are no longer there. These personal emoluments would have been moved," Campbell said.

"Nothing else was decreased in the budget as it relates to social services. Mindful of the aftermath of Dorian we now have to review those very same services that we

would've been giving because we now realize that the numbers will increase."

He could not provide a solid figure, but Campbell could confirm the number of missing persons have gone down as more persons are being reunited. He added that the number persons in the shelters have reduced.

The ministry wants to help those displaced by Hurricane Dorian by helping with cleaning and the restoration of Abaco and Grand Bahama.

That's why, according to Campbell, assessments

are being done.

"The assessments are geared towards identifying persons who, based minimal damage of their own houses equipped with small assistance, go back to their houses and start to seek some form of normalcy and then the second stage will be persons who need greater assistance be it labour etc. The central government has set aside arrangements to cause those things to happen while we continue to work with our international partners for the longer term," Campbell said.



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

Signed
Charles B. Zonicle
Acting Director of Physical Planning

KEY MAP

