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# The Bahama Journal

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**WEDNESDAY - SEPTEMBER 25TH, 2019**

**75 CENTS**

# Major GB Oil Spill

## 75 Million Gallons of Oil Spilled

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT  
Journal Staff Writer

An estimated 1.9 million barrels of crude oil or 75 million gallons of oil was spilled from Equinor's oil facility in Grand Bahama, according to Minister of the Environment and Housing Romauld Ferreira.

While speaking to reporters yesterday, Ferreira added that 6,000 barrels or 252,000 gallons of oil has been recovered.

■ See page 4...



► Minister of the Environment and Housing Romauld Ferreira

## Various Sources to Fund New Ministry

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT  
Journal Staff Writer

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Peter Turnquest admitted yesterday that funding for the new Ministry of Disaster Preparedness, Management and Reconstruction will call

■ See page 4...



► Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Peter Turnquest

## Former MP Dies at 72

BY DEANDRE WILLIAMSON  
Journal Staff Writer

Former Member of Parliament and Cabinet minister Tennyson Wells died yesterday morning at the age of 72, a few days after his release from hospital.

Mr. Wells was a part of the first Free National Movement (FNM) administration in 1992 and served as member of



■ See page 4...

► Former Member of Parliament Tennyson Wells

## 'PM Insulating Himself'

### Davis Calls Lewis 'Dorian Whipping Boy'

BY EARYEL BOWLEG  
Journal Staff Writer

Opposition Leader Philip Davis insisted that the prime minister is "insulating himself from criticism and culpability" associat-

ed with the new Ministry of Disaster Preparedness, Management and Reconstruction.

Davis said on Tuesday, during the Progressive Liberal Party's press conference, that Prime

Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis is "passing the buck" of his primary responsibility to a junior minister.

"Now he has essential-

■ See page 2...

## LOVE 97 CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF BROADCASTING



► Love 97 FM celebrates its 25th Silver Jubilee Anniversary. Jones Communications Network CEO Wendall Jones and staff celebrated the milestone on Tuesday during a cake cutting ceremony. (Photo/Rayvon Morrison)




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ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED TO READ IN THE MORNING



# ‘PM Insulating Himself’

## Davis Calls Lewis ‘Dorian Whipping Boy’



► Opposition Leader Philip Davis and other members of the opposition held a press conference yesterday to discuss the government’s post hurricane relief and restoration efforts. (Photo/PLP)

Continued from / PAGE 1...

ly placed poor, but well intentioned, Iram Lewis on his back to absorb much of the public backlash intended for him. Mr. Lewis is now the new ‘Dorian whipping boy,’” Davis said.

Lewis is the Central Grand Bahama member of parliament and the prime minister appointed him as the minister of

state responsible for the new ministry.

“It only adds to the expenses of the government. It is a waste of public resources, financial and otherwise. What we need is structural and functional reform of NEMA. That entity must become an autonomous and fully resourced corporate sole entity,” Davis said.

“This new ministry is

nothing more than an additional layer of bureaucracy that will cause more and longer delays thus deepening the frustration, anger feelings of hopelessness among our already distressed people. This will no doubt intensify the criticism of the prime minister, his policies and his government.”

On the issue of tax concessions under the

special economic recovery zones policy and bonded warehouses, Davis cautioned the government against re-inventing the wheel and in duplicating efforts as this, he said, will only add to the delays and create more confusion.

“As the management and accounting systems are already in place to facilitate this tax concession policy, the govern-

ment need only tweak it, making it specific and relevant to the needs of the Abaco community,” Davis said.

“Concerning real property tax, there is no real property tax for Bahamians residing outside of New Providence. Therefore, the prime minister’s statement is confusing concerning the circumstances surrounding this exemption for

foreigners who live, own property and businesses in the affected areas. This requires some clarification.”

The opposition further charged that given the extent of the damage sustained to Grand Bahama’s businesses, the government’s allocation of \$10 million is not enough and the government should give at least \$100 million.

## 70,000 to Benefit from Hurricane Tax Waivers

BY BERTHONY McDERMOTT  
Journal Staff Writer

Approximately 70,000 people in Grand Bahama and Abaco will benefit from post hurricane tax waivers and incentives, according to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Peter Turnquest.

Turnquest told reporters yesterday that a group from the international community will soon be in the country to calculate the exact number.

“They will be here on October 1. So October 1 and 2, they will be flying into the affected areas to do the economic assessments and so we should have a report shortly thereafter,” he said.

The deputy prime minister added that the order is simply awaiting his signature.

“The order is actually on my desk to sign. We’re doing a few tweaks to it and today we’ll get a bit of clarification on a couple of points so that we make sure we have

the document drafted as the prime minister has intended,” Turnquest said.

“So hopefully if not today, certainly tomorrow or Thursday the latest I imagine, we will have that order out in full detail with the details behind it as to how people would access the various incentives that are available in that order.”

Abaco and Grand Bahama have been deemed special economic recovery zones for the next three years.

## 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

**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.

Registrar of Marriages



# Love 97 Celebrates 25 Years

BY EARYEL BOWLEG  
Journal Staff Writer

Love 97 FM, a subsidiary of Jones Communications Network, celebrated its 25th anniversary on Tuesday.

When the first show aired on the radio station 25 years ago, CEO Wendall Jones said Love 97 "shall at all times strive not only for technical excellence, but also for fairness, decency and objectivity in the presentation of all" the station's programs.

Mr. Jones embarked on a journey "to transform broadcasting for the better by offering programming which will enhance the social, religious, economic and political well-being" of the country.

"It has been a long journey, but it has been quite a fulfilling experience for not only myself



► Jones Communications Network CEO Wendall Jones cutting cake to share with staff. Pictured right is JCN News Anchor Macushia Pinder. (Photo/Rayvon Morrison)

and a number of people who've been associated with Jones Communications and Love 97 over the last 25 years," he said.

"We started with a very small staff doing radio and we became quickly a very dominant radio station because at that time, there were only a few

probably three in the country and then we grew into Grand Bahama."

Some may know of the station's programs like Issues of the Day and

Jones and Company, but Love 97 has the reputation for training some of the best journalists in the country, which Mr. Jones highlighted of the sta-

tion's legacy.

"Those people who come through our doors. They must subscribe to very high standards and many of them come from colleges and universities," he said.

"They come with theoretical knowledge, but we ensure they have the kind of practical experience to do the kind of work they ought to do.

"Another good thing about it is that in this media enterprise, you are involved in the production of news for radio, television, as well as newspaper. So you are a well-rounded journalist by the time you leave Jones Communications."

Love 97 thanks the public for tuning in for over two decades.

Nothing describes the radio station more than Love 97's slogan, "It's a Great Feeling."

# Gibson's Trial Delayed Again

BY LICEC BASTIAN  
Journal Staff Writer

The criminal trial for former Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) Member of Parliament Shane Gibson was delayed for a second day after prosecutors and Gibson's attorneys spent the better part of Tuesday morning conducting pre-trial arguments.

For nearly four hours, the attorneys were engaged in those pre-trial arguments before Justice Carolita Bethel.

Yesterday was also expected to be the start of jury selection. However, that too did not take place as potential jurors were taken into court shortly after mid-morning for jury selection, but

just after noon were dismissed.

Although it was confirmed by Gibson's lawyer Damian Gomez, QC, that a gag order remains in effect, The Bahama Journal understands that yesterday's proceedings will have a preliminary legal issue argued.

The former minister of

labour and national insurance was in August 2017 arraigned in Magistrate's Court on two counts of conspiracy to commit extortion, two counts of conspiracy to commit bribery, 16 counts of bribery, 15 counts of extortion and one count of misconduct while in public office.

It is alleged that while

serving as a Cabinet minister, Gibson received \$610,000 from contractor Jonathon Ash to speed up the process of payment related to clean up efforts after Hurricane Matthew in 2016.

The extortion charges were later withdrawn by the Crown.

The former PLP MP is being represented by

Keith Knight, QC, from Jamaica, Damian Gomez, QC, Owen Wells and Philip McKenzie.

James Guthrie, QC, from England leads the Crown assisted by Destiny McKinney and Terry Archer from the Attorney General's Office.

Gibson returns to court on Thursday.

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# Major GB Oil Spill

Continued from / PAGE 1...

“Of the 6,000 barrels collected, some of it can be reused. But of course, it’s going to have to be reprocessed because it may be mixed with water and other debris,” he said.

“There is about 12,000 cubic meters of sludge so that will be shipped out of the country for disposal to the United States pursuant or under the Basel Convention because under the convention, we have to confirm what we are actually sending to the U.S. and they have to agree to accept it. But it will be disposed of out of the country.

“There is about 750 cubic yards of contaminated soil and rock aggregate because the Bahamas doesn’t have much soil. So anytime you scrape soil, you always scrape

rock.

“That mixture will be treated by way of delusion injection of microbes and aeration and disposed of at the Grand Bahama landfill.”

Ferreira added that Equinor has quadrupled its staff to address the issue.

“They went from having a staff of about 50. Now they have 200 plus persons on the ground involved in recovery and remediation,” he said.

“Those persons are housed in two offshore vessels that are on site. The equipment that has been mobilized, in addition to booms and skimmers, they have about 13 vacuum trucks, two helicopters and of course, two boats. So that’s ongoing.

“The ambient air, there in order to protect the recovery team, is being

monitored for benzene.

“Benzene is a compound that’s not safe to breathe. That’s being monitored by an external third party for independent modification.”

In terms of cleanup costs and just how much Equinor has lost, that’s still being calculated.

Equinor has investigated the impact the spill may have had on the environment.

“So far, they did extensive aerial recognizance along the entire western seaboard of Abaco and of course, Grand Bahama,” Ferreira said.

“They saw two areas of interest, but they turned out to be seaweed. They used visuals and infrared technology to do their scopes. On land, we can confirm that one goat and three birds were impacted by the spill.”

# Various Sources to Fund New Ministry

Continued from / PAGE 1...

for a number of adjustments to be made and that some of its functions will fall under existing portfolios.

“A lot of the work that this ministry will do will be coordinating more so than actually doing things themselves. But to the extent that there is budgetary needs for them specifically, there are a number of places we can draw from,” Turnquest said.

“As you know, we are taking funding from the international community through donors, as well as through the contingent line of credit that we have drawn down on, as well as the dormant

accounts fund.

“We are taking some money from that, which as you know, when we did the legislation was designated towards disaster relief.

“So we will take a combination of funding sources to make sure that the ministry has what it needs to be effective.”

What the government does not plan to do, he added, is use the money pouring in from the international community.

“Not to fund the ministry, let’s be clear, but to fund the services that the ministry will provide,” Turnquest said.

“So for instance, monies that may have been donated may be allocated to shelter. They

may be designated for reconstruction of infrastructure that’s critical to getting people back into those communities, that kind of thing.

“So we are very careful and want to be very careful about how we utilize donor money in particular so I want to be very clear about that.

“Donor money is going towards the intended purpose of assisting people, not for public infrastructure, not for administrative cost. It’s going to the people where it’s intended to go.”

As for staffing needs, the deputy prime minister said there are plans to draw from different areas of the public service.

# Former MP Dies

Continued from / PAGE 1...

parliament for Bamboo Town and held several Cabinet positions, including attorney general and minister of agriculture and fisheries.

Following his death, many condolences and tributes poured in from his FNM colleagues, including Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis.

“He played a role in the work of FNM administrations which oversaw vibrant growth in the economy, infrastructural improvements across the archipelago, greater participation for women in senior roles of government, the freeing of the broadcast media and more fairness in accessing opportunity for more Bahamians,” Dr. Minnis said.

“Many admired the resolve Mr. Wells displayed at any task to which he applied himself.

“I was pleased that after the 2017 general

election he accepted an appointment as chairman and president of the Bahamas Agriculture and Marine Science Institute (BAMSI).

“To the end, he sought to ensure that greater opportunity was afforded to more Bahamians, including farmers and those in the fishing industry. For this, and all his service to his beloved country, I am grateful.”

According to Minister of Agriculture and Marine Resources Michael Pintard, Mr. Wells understood the value of having an institution like BAMSI serving the heart of a Family Island community and making a national impact.


“The institution, under his tenure, was well on its way toward that goal with a number of capital projects under way. These included a new packing facility with modern equipment for preparing produce for market,” Mr. Pintard said.

“His innovations at BAMSI also included a focus on crop diversity based on the needs of consumers as well as the introduction of aquaculture to BAMSI’s portfolio. As an agriculturalist with a strong business sense, Mr. Wells oversaw a transformation at BAMSI that will reap rewards well into the future.”

Mr. Wells was also a native of Long Island and in a tribute, Long Island Member of Parliament Adrian Gibson said Mr. Wells embodied many of the core values held by Long Islanders.

“His indelible imprint and contributions to our country’s national development will stand the test of time,” Mr. Gibson said.

“I was honoured to have had his support during the last general election. He was a vocal supporter and offered advice that was instrumental to our campaign and thereafter. I am forever grateful for his input.”



## 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

