Carnival Deal Signed

The government signed two major deals with Carnival Corporation yesterday, a $100 million heads of agreement for a cruise port in Sharp Rock, Freeport and an $80 million heads of agreement for the expansion of Half Moon Cay.

The signing was initially set to take place a few weeks ago, but was pushed back due to Hurricane Dorian’s unwelcomed visit.

Carnival’s economic injection is expected to lead to significant job creation and millions of additional tourists to Grand Bahama each year.

When completed, the cruise port is expected to be Carnival’s largest cruise port.

Dr. Minnis said the cruise port is expected to have many features which include the construction of aquatic facilities, including without limit-

Cruise Port Expansion

Five hundred and seven more CCTV’s will be added to the already existing 243 closed circuit surveillance throughout The Bahamas, the final component of the Ministry of National Security’s three pronged approach to fighting crime.

Minister of National Security Marvin Dames, during the signing of a contract with Proficient Services Ltd. (P.O. Box CB-13952 Nassau, Bahamas)

Dr. Minnis to Deliver Statement on Hurricane Dorian

Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis departs for New York today to attend the 74th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). During the General Debate on Friday, Prime Minister Minnis will deliver the National Statement of The Bahamas.

In his address, the prime minister will share with the assembly the impact of Hurricane Dorian on Abaco and Grand Bahama, and how the country is responding to the effects of climate change.

Minister of National Security Marvin Dames

The Ministry of Health related false social media claims surrounding the death of Royal Bahamas Defence Force (RBDF) Petty Officer Scott Eugene Wallace and explained that his death was not related to his duties. His remarks came during a press conference yesterday, where he announced the Ministry of National Security’s committees and boards.

Minister of National Security Marvin Dames

Police are left to figure out what led to a Grand Bahama woman’s death and a man’s subsequent attempt to end his own life on Tuesday night.

According to police reports, officers responded to an apartment complex in South Abaco, where they met the lifeless body of the woman with multiple stab wounds.

While assessing the scene, the man suspected of the crime was attempting to jump from the balcony’s third floor.

Police Fault’

According to police, despite officers finding the man’s first stab wound was self-inflicted, when they entered the unit, the man’s stab wound was found to be an arterial injury which led to a life-threatening blood loss.

The police are left to figure out what led to a Grand Bahama woman’s death and a man’s subsequent attempt to end his own life on Tuesday night.

RBDF Officer’s Death

The Ministry of Health released false social media claims surrounding the death of Royal Bahamas Defence Force (RBDF) Petty Officer Scott Eugene Wallace and explained that his death was not related to his duties. His remarks came during a press conference yesterday, where he announced the Ministry of National Security’s committees and boards.

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According to police reports, officers responded to an apartment complex in South Abaco, where they met the lifeless body of the woman with multiple stab wounds.

A man was found to have stab wounds and a stab to an area considered as a suicide attempt.

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Dames Announces Seven National Security Boards and Committees

Minister of National Security the Hon. Marvin Dames announced, yesterday, that there were a number of boards and committees that were under the purview of his Ministry. “There is a total of seven boards – one newly instituted, two reconstituted and four previously existing – that bolster the efforts of the Ministry of National Security in service to the people of The Bahamas,” Minister Dames noted, during a press conference at the Paul Farquharson Conference Centre at the Royal Bahamas Police Force Headquarters.

Among those present included Acting Permanent Secretary Eugene Politte; Commissioner of Police Anthony Ferguson; Commander of the Royal Bahamas Defence Force Commodore Telfish Bethel; Commissioner for Correctional Services Charles Mapple, Markonon and other senior unformed officials of the board and committee members and stakeholders.

Minister Dames went further to give a brief overview of each board and gave the names of the members who sit on them.

While speaking on the newly instituted Bahamas Security Boards and Committees, Minister Dames said that, for years after having served their sentences, ex-convicts have continued to be discriminated against in the wider society.

“This Committee is mandated to review records and empowered to make recommendations for the expungement of the records of ex-convicts meeting the criteria set out by law.”

The Committee will be chaired by former Commissioner of Police Mr. Paul Farquharson (QP), and the members include Mr. Khalil Parker; Mr. Darren Rolle; Pastor Shadrack Simms; Archdeacon Kendrick Forbes; Vicor Gentle; and Mr. Isaiah represent- tive from the Department of Social Services.

While pointing out the reconstituted boards, Minister Dames noted that the Aid to Discharged Prisoners is the only non- statutory Board. He added that oftentimes when inmates leave prison, they require housing, counseling and a myriad of other assis- tance, as well as support.

“The Committee works closely with Prisons Fellowship Bahamas to provide the support and necessities in an effort to ensure seamless reinte- gration into society and posi- tively affect recidivism members,” he said.

Members of that board are Archdeacon Keith Cartwright and Rev. Patrick Paul.

In the Police Complaints Inspectorate, Minister Dames said, members are mandated to review the investigation and determination of any complaint by the Commissioner of Corruption Branch of the Royal Bahamas Police Force, to ensure that investigations are con- ducted without bias.

The Inspectorate will be chaired by Attorney Mr. Tanya McCartney; members include Mr. Matthew Emmanuel; Mr. Allan Emmanual; Mr. Franklin Bethel; and Mr. Hilbert Collie.

“This is one of the boards that the press has been asking about,” he added. Minister Dames noted that the board has already started working.

Minister Dames stated that the previously exist- ing boards were the Advisory Committee on the Prerogative of Mercy; Correctional Service Review Board, Defence Commission Board and Police Commission Board.

Minister said that the reconstituted boards, including the Advisory Committee on the Prerogative of Mercy is reconstituted by virtue of letters patent from the prime minister, to ensure that members of that board, and other members of that advisory committee are empowered to conduct the matter and make recom- mendations for the expungement of records of inmates serving sentences, for the appointment and dismissal of members of that board, and other members of that advisory committee, for the expungement of records of inmates serving sentences, for the appointment and dismissal of members of that board, and other members of that advisory committee.

Minister Dames stated that Members of Correctional Service Review Board are tasked with the skill place- ment of inmates and making the skillset of inmates with available jobs through the Intramural Work Programme, and the Extramural Work Programme outside of the compound, with the pri- vate sector.

“The Committee is mandated to review records and empowered to make recommendations for the expungement of the records of ex-convicts meeting the criteria set out by law.”

Mr. Anthony Hamilton is the chairperson of that board, and Mr. Troy Clarke is the deputy chair, and other members are: Dr. Albert Francois, a Ministry of Health Representative; Mr. Edson Summer; Mr. Hilbert Collie; Rev. Patrick Paul and Archdeacon Keith Cartwright.

Minister Dames said that the Defence Commission Board has the responsibility of the commissioner of offi- cers. The Board is chaired by a member of the Public Service in the person of Ms. Theresa Delaveau.

“Members of the Board include retired Defence Force Commodore Roderick Bowe and Commander Raymond King,” he added.

In the Police Service Commission, Minister Dames pointed out, mem- bers are empowered to make recommendations for the appointments and promotions of officers within the Royal Bahamas Police Force, who have obtained the rank of Inspector and above.

He noted, “The Commission is chaired by Roy De Paul Stubbs, and other members of that board include two retired Police Commissioners, Mr. Reginald Ferguson, and Mr. Paul Farquharson (QP),”

“I want to publicly thank each member and those agreeing to serve in their varying capacities and I look forward to many positive results,” Minister Dames said.
shortly after 1 a.m., the victim was in his home when a gunman shot through the door, causing his injuries. The Ministry of Social Services has been working to find permanent housing and conducting assessments to determine the type of help people need to get back on their feet. Leading real estate broker and entrepreneur Christine Wallace-Whitfield said the evacuees, the majority being from Abaco, have a certain price budget. So they stick to more of the lower level of responsibility. They have a budget or that price mark they have very little savings, so they have a budget they need to stick to," she added. "This was certainly a tough month for the police, but it is not all the police fault. They continue to arrest these people. They have people in custody now for some of those matters that occurred this week and they're finding a nexus between quite a bit of them," Minister Dames said. "No, they are solving the matters. You have a situation where, the last time I gave a figure we had well over 100 people out on bail for murder. That's unheard of in any country. And how many in jail, either on remand or serving time, I think it was well over 200. So, the police are, in fact, doing their jobs. Are they there yet? No, they are far from it, but we are working to provide them with the tools they need and the training to even improve."

On Tuesday, police took a 23-year-old male into custody after an illegal firearm and ammunition were found in a home in Southeastern New Providence. The male is expected to be formally charged before a Magistrate's Court later this week.

Finding Homes for Evacuee Challenges BREA

By Carolly Bowles
Journal Staff Writer

The Bahamas Real Estate Association (BREA) is facing a challenge as it tries to find affordable homes for evacuees in Nassau. BREA President Christine Wallace-Whitfield and her 600 members have been actively seeking long term accommodation for evacuees, the majority being from Abaco. They have a certain price budget. So they stick to more of the lower level of responsibility. They have a budget or that price mark they have very little savings, so they have a budget they need to stick to," she added. "This was certainly a tough month for the police, but it is not all the police fault. They continue to arrest these people. They have people in custody now for some of those matters that occurred this week and they’re finding a nexus between quite a bit of them," Minister Dames said. "No, they are solving the matters. You have a situation where, the last time I gave a figure we had well over 100 people out on bail for murder. That’s unheard of in any country. And how many in jail, either on remand or serving time, I think it was well over 200. So, the police are, in fact, doing their jobs. Are they there yet? No, they are far from it, but we are working to provide them with the tools they need and the training to even improve."

According to police, shortly after 1 a.m., a gunman shot through the door of a residence in Nassau Village, causing the evacuee’s injuries. He was treated at a hospital and discharged. No one else was injured during this incident.

The last few weeks saw a number of murders, a result of multiple shootings, which also left persons with injuries. Minister Dames said police are doing their jobs, adding that more can still be done and called for everyone to bear some responsibility. "This was certainly a tough month for the police, but it is not all the police fault. They continue to arrest these people. They have people in custody now for some of those matters that occurred this week and they’re finding a nexus between quite a bit of them," Minister Dames said. "No, they are solving the matters. You have a situation where, the last time I gave a figure we had well over 100 people out on bail for murder. That’s unheard of in any country. And how many in jail, either on remand or serving time, I think it was well over 200. So, the police are, in fact, doing their jobs. Are they there yet? No, they are far from it, but we are working to provide them with the tools they need and the training to even improve."

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Haitians Complain of Poor Treatment at Shelter

BY DANIEL SCHLEGEL  Journal Staff Writer

Haitian evacuees at Bahama Academy Gym alleged that they are receiving poor treatment prior to their departure.

The Bahama Journal spoke with a few of the evacuees on Wednesday about the conditions at the shelter in Freeport, where 25-year-old Marsh Harbour resident, claimed that the conditions are deficient.

“This food is not good. I barely eat my food. I only eat the fruit,” he said.

“I am not used to this. This is not my type of lifestyle. Can’t complain, you get life. I watched plenty of my friends and family perish in the hurricane. The government ain’t put a hand in this. All these are just sponsors and donations. We see the people. We see the people who sponsor these things right there and talk to us. Sometimes I call one or two friends. They come and drop something to eat or give me couple dollars where I could walk across the road to Bamboo Shack.

“One day before, one company named Med Hope put Wi-Fi for us. It’s not good, but at least we get it and it’s an extra white lady sponsor, but we don’t have microwaves. These things the government is giving do nothing.

“Generals in government generally will be here the other day. She just gave every child a teddy bear and ain’t talk to one.”

Benson’s friend, 9-year-old Peter and family, which included his wife and three children, were also in the same shelter.

Peter is from Freeport, but moved to Abaco.

“We don’t really have a good treatment in there. They try to keep us busy. We don’t have a bed.” Peter claimed.

“We are in the worst shelter on the island, no TV, no A/C. If it raining, we get wet. We barely get to move their bed cause the rain come through the window and actually we just lay on the ground with one mattress that’s it.”

“I feel like Bahamians are taking this for granted. That’s their country, but what happen in Abaco they make it sound like only Haitians were living in Abaco. Abaco was filled with other nationals, not only Haitians were living in Abaco.”

Bernard Forbes, a Bahamian evacuee in the shelter, admitted his dissatisfaction.

“They do me wrong things. Last night I put my money inside my backpack – they gone. I know it only could be the Haitians that thief my money,” Forbes said.

The Bahama Journal tried to contact the shelter’s administrator, but was unsuccessful up to press time.

GB Woman Stabbed to Death

BY EARLY WELBOY

A Bahamian woman was stabbed to death.

“Stabbed to Death”

We have assistance in Grand Bahama, which will allow those officers who were working to get some rest. Based on that, it tells you the concern and care that we have for our officers,” Commissioner Ferguson said.

With an erupt in murder in the past few weeks, particularly in the wake of Hurricane Dorian, negative rumors have circulated on social media regarding officers and their response time to certain crimes.

“You can’t go out and say anything, I think people ought to exercise extreme patience,” Commissioner Ferguson and immediately.

“Do not allow, sometime in the past few weeks, particularly in the wake of Hurricane Dorian, negative rumors have circulated on social media regarding officers and their response time to certain crimes.

“The Bahama Journal has not been able to verify the sequence of events, the methods used and the context of the offenses, the offender,” Mr. Damas said.

The video footage may also be useful to corroborate, refute and/or contextualize other evidence of what transpired during the alleged incident.

“The fight against crime, the increased use of CCTV along with other technologies will ensure that The Bahamas will not be left behind.”

When fully installed, of the total grand total, 750 CCTV’s, 100 of the cameras will be equipped with license plate recognition capabilities, 100 facial recognition and another 120 with pan tilt zoom capabilities in real time.

The development proposes a two-month construction with delivery in November.

Commissioners and operators are invited to review the information on the site and provide written comments prior to the meeting. Comments should be submitted to the Acting Director of Physical Planning, Submissions can be made in PDF at 120-126, P.C. (Ph. 242 323-3091) or (Email: celeste@bahamas.com).