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Credit Rating Worries Gov't

BY DEANDRE WILLIAMSON
Journal Staff Writer

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Peter Turnquest said he is concerned about the country's credit rating following the massive devastation Hurricane Dorian left in Abaco and Grand Bahama.

"Obviously, in any circumstances like this where you're losing a significant portion of your GDP, there is concern," Turnquest told reporters yesterday, before attending his weekly Cabinet meeting.

"So yes, we have to be concerned because as the revenue drops as a result of the storm, expenditure rises in response to all of the needs both social and infrastructure costs. We



► DPM and Minister of Finance Peter Turnquest

Ash Admits Giving Gibson Money

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
Journal Staff Writer

Day three of the high profile bribery trial of former Cabinet Minister Shane Gibson continued yesterday and the prosecution called its principle witness Jonathan Ash to the



► Shane Gibson

Two More Bodies Found in Abaco Death Toll Now 60

BY EARYEL BOWLEG
Journal Staff Writer

Police in Abaco recovered the bodies of an adult male and female from the island's hurricane affected area on Tuesday.

Police said the recovery of the two bodies brings the death toll to 60.

However, police ensured that search and

■ See page 4...

GB Schools to Open This Month

BY EARYEL BOWLEG
Journal Staff Writer

Minister of Education Jeffrey Lloyd announced on Tuesday that schools in Grand Bahama will be opened before the end of October.

He told The Bahama Journal that classes should up be and running

■ See page 6...

'Bahamasair Suffers Million Dollar Loss from Evacuations'

BY DEANDRE WILLIAMSON
Journal Staff Writer

Minister of Tourism and Aviation Dionisio D'Aguilar revealed yesterday that Bahamasair

probably suffered a loss of millions of dollars by offering free evacuations to residents of Abaco and Grand Bahama following Hurricane Dorian.

"It hasn't been quanti-

fied into a number, but I'm sure for as many days they did it and the number of flights that they did, I'm sure it's in the hundreds of thousands, if not the low millions,"

D'Aguilar said yesterday.

"So you know mobilizing a plane, the opportunity cost of that, the cost of the fuel, the staff, all of

■ See page 6...

USAID DONATES ADDITIONAL \$7.5 MILLION FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN GRAND BAHAMA

The United States is providing an additional \$7.5 million dollars in humanitarian assistance to the people of The Bahamas who were affected by Hurricane Dorian, bringing the United States' total funding for the response to Dorian to more than \$33 million.

The additional funding was announced by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Administrator Mark Green, during a press briefing at Samaritan's Purse on Tuesday,

■ See page 4...



► President of the Senate Kay Forbes-Smith (right) welcomes the American bipartisan group of U.S. congressmen and officials from USAID to Grand Bahama on Tuesday at the Grand Bahama International Airport. The group had previously met with Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis in Nassau. They then flew to Grand Bahama where they met with Senator Kay Forbes-Smith toured Samaritan's Purse humanitarian field hospital, and other facilities in Grand Bahama and announced a \$7.5 million donation to Grand Bahama for humanitarian relief. Most of the funding will go towards Samaritan's Purse Hospital and the Rand Memorial Hospital. Meeting Senator Smith at the airport were (from left): Congresswoman Frederica Wilson, Congressman Gregory Meeks, Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman-Schultz, Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart and Mark Green, administrator, United States Agency for International Development (USAID). (BIS Photo/Lisa Davis)

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ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED TO READ IN THE MORNING

Older Persons Bill Being Drafted

BY LICEC BASTIAN
Journal Staff Writer

New legislation is expected to be drafted to ensure that older persons receive equality.

The Ministry of Social Services and Urban Development have taken its first steps to drafting the Older Persons Bill, which according to Governor General CA Smith, will codify rights long denied to older persons, thereby bringing The Bahamas in line with United Nations principles of older persons.

The governor general told an audience of young and old, during the thanksgiving service to kick off Older Persons Month, that one of those rights is the right to independence.

"That is having an income sufficient to ensure that your basic needs for food, for shelter and for health care are met," Mr. Smith said.

"These rights will also include the right to participation. That is you ought to be given the opportunity to have a voice in decisions that affect you and allow you to contribute positively in your community affairs.

"These rights also include the right to care, to health care, proper institutional care, the care of the family and the protection from abuse."

Mr. Smith added that these rights also include that of self-fulfillment and the right to dignity.

The governor general also told the seniors that treatment must be the same for all and that there must be a commitment to ensuring this equality.

"We must commit to bringing attention to the fact that old age inequality does exist in our country. We must commit to recognizing the urgency for dealing with existing

inequalities so that future old age inequalities can be prevented," Mr. Smith said.

"We must commit to reviewing changes that need to be made that would level the playing field for all citizens. And we must commit to reflecting how best to change negative stereotypes of old age and eliminate the old age inequality."

Passionate about older persons, former Speaker of the House of Assembly, Italia Johnson, chairperson of the National Council on Older Persons, remarked that she is pained by the treatment of older persons and welcomed the drafting of the Older Persons Bill which she says will eliminate seniors not being afforded their full rights.

"It [the bill] will ensure that your rights are addressed with penalties



► Governor General C.A. Smith

attached for violating your rights," Mrs. Johnson said. "You have rights. We live in a country of laws

and when those rights are violated, penalties will be imposed." Older Persons month

will be celebrated during the month of October under the theme, "A Journey to Age Equality".

Man Shot Dead on Highway

Police are investigating the circumstances surrounding a shooting incident which resulted in the death of a man on Monday.

According to police, shortly after 4 p.m., the man and another male

were sitting outside a business establishment on Charles Saunders Highway and Buttonwood Street, when two armed men came from a gray car and opened fire in their direction before making good

their escape.

The man succumbed to his injuries on scene, while the other was transported to hospital and is listed in stable condition.

Investigations continue.

Ash Admits Giving Gibson Money

■ Continued from / PAGE 1...

stand, where he admitted that he paid Gibson more than \$25,000.

During cross examination, the court heard that in the case of one of his projects, Ash had to start paying his workers himself as the government was taking too long and the payments ranged from \$50 per day to \$75 per day.

Ash said he got so frustrated with the lack of payment that he went to the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and met Jack Thompson around the third week of January 2017.

Thompson, he said, then directed him to meet with Deborah Bastian.

According to the witness, at this point, the government owed him anywhere between \$800,000 and \$1.5 million.

He said prior to this, he

had never met Bastian, adding that he met her and Gibson at Gibson's office. At the time, he explained he was owed money and needed to be paid.

Ash told the court that during the meeting, Bastian yelled out for him to tell Gibson he gave Mr. Rahming, the chief engineer at the Ministry of Works, some money.

Ash then admitted that he did pay Mr. Rahming money prior to the meeting.

Ash then said he didn't come to expose anyone, but at that point during the meeting, Gibson smiled, got up and said "y'all two talk" and left the room.

Following the 20-minute conversation with Bastian, Ash said he called the bank to get \$20,000 and went home to get another \$20,000, then met Bastian at the parking lot of Commonwealth Bank

Oakes Field branch to give her the funds.

As a result of that meeting he said he received a cheque between January 17 and 19 for \$250,000.

He added that Bastian gave him the cheque at NEMA on Harold Road.

All together, Ash said he gave \$200,000. Additionally, he said on a few occasions after paying Bastian, he saw Gibson and Bastian meeting in the then minister's car.

In January 2017, Ash said he started directly communicating with Gibson straight up to Election Day.

Sometimes, he said, Gibson told him he needed some shingles, which meant money and he paid him.

Ash said he paid Gibson \$25,000 on two occasions and \$10,000 on another three occasions.

The trial resumes today at 10 a.m.

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

House Speaker Appeals to Nation for New Way of Thinking



► Two Hundred and ninety years of unbroken parliamentary democracy in The Bahamas was celebrated on Sunday at Bethel Baptist Church, Meeting Street, attended by Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis, pictured centre left, Speaker of the House of Assembly, centre right, and other parliamentarians. Rev. Dr. Timothy Stewart conducted the service. (BIS Photo/Yontalay Bowe)

The Hon. Halson Moultrie, Speaker of the House of Assembly, has called for a new perspective, a new mindset and new ways of thinking and doing business as the nation celebrates 290 years of unbroken Parliamentary democracy.

“As we strengthen and deepen our democracy, The Bahamas needs a more educated popula-

tion, more involved and participating citizens and a more responsible, patriotic and positive perspective of who we are as a people and a nation. We owe that much to the legacy of our predecessors, and we owe that much to the next generation,” said the Speaker.

Mr. Moultrie addressed the 290th Parliamentary Anniversary Church Service at Bethel Baptist

Church, Meeting Street, on Sunday, September 29, 2019. Prime Minister the Most Hon. Dr. Hubert Minnis headed the list of parliamentarians in attendance. The theme for the celebrations is ‘A Stronger, Deeper Democracy.’

The Speaker underscored the necessity for the nation to rise above the recent negative experience of Hurricane

Dorian.

“Our expectations must cause The Bahamas to be strong and we must dig deep in our mental consciousness. As a people, we must face the challenges of the 21st century and move The Bahamas forward, upward, onward, together.”

He also provided a review of the country's parliamentary history,

highlighting the period from Woodes Rogers' appointment in 1728 to present.

Rev. Dr. Timothy Stewart, Pastor, Bethel Baptist Church, urged Prime Minister Minnis to be strong, courageous and unafraid.

“Be strong and courageous because there are going to be all kinds of agendas and all kinds of ‘special interests’ who are

going to be trying to get more than they're supposed to get in terms of what God's people are supposed to get. The only ‘special interest’ is God.”

He encouraged Bahamians to prepare for life's disasters -- the vicissitudes, the winds of adversity, winds of trials -- that are Category 5 -- just as they would Category 5 natural disasters.

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USAID Donates \$7.5 Mil

Continued from / PAGE 1...

October 1, 2019.

Green was a part of a bipartisan, government effort.

“This assistance is part of a whole of the United States’ Government effort in partnership with the Bahamian Government, charitable organizations and the private sector to address the humanitarian needs of those affected by the strongest storm ever to hit The Bahamas,” said Green.

“This is a bipartisan group. Republicans and Democrats; Administration, members of Congress... we are all united in our support for our neighbour, The Bahamas.”

Thanking USAID for their financial assistance on behalf of the Prime Minister of the Bahamas, President of the Bahamas Senate and Coordinator for the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Senator Kay Forbes-Smith said the United States and The Bahamas have such a great partnership and relationship.

“We’ve had so many international organizations come to our aid in Grand Bahama and we are appreciative of it,” said Senator Smith. “They have done a tremendous job and I know that the Prime Minister and the Bahamian people are thankful. We certainly are, because those who have come in have been extraordinary.

“I want to put a special plug in for the Coast Guard because they have really been working with

the NEMA team. We’re proud of them, we’re proud to have them with us. They’ve done a tremendous job with everyone else.

“We are extremely pleased to continue to accept the support and help from the United States and we remain both thankful and hopeful.”

Most of the additional funding from USAID will provide vital support to the USA’s humanitarian partner, Samaritan’s Purse, for its field hospital, and the Rand Memorial Hospital of Freeport. In addition to contributing to meeting the most immediate humanitarian needs, the funding to Samaritan’s Purse humanitarian aid organization will also pay for the removal of debris to help residents get back into their homes. “Emergency and transitional shelter for families whose homes Dorian damaged or destroyed in Grand Bahama and in the Abacos, also repairs to water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure and the provision of emergency water supplies to communities affected by the storm,” added Administrator Mark Green.

South Florida District Congresswoman, Debbie Wasserman-Schultz said South Floridians know and understand what kind of devastation a hurricane like Dorian could inflict on an island like The Bahamas. “Dorian was unique in and of itself because of the way it hung over Grand Bahama for such a long period of time,” said

Congresswoman Wasserman-Schultz. “Nowhere have we seen a storm impact a country the way Dorian has The Bahamas. So, we wanted to make sure that we were here to demonstrate our support and affection and show the Bahamian people, our extended family, how much we care.”

Congresswoman Frederica Wilson, originally from Abaco and the first Bahamian-American to be elected to the United States Congress, thanked the American people who assisted those Bahamians who migrated to Miami from Abaco and Grand Bahama immediately following the passing of Hurricane Dorian. She said they will continue to do their part in assisting Bahamians in Florida and looks forward to a quick recovery from the devastation of Hurricane Dorian.

Administrator Mark Green said that the assistance to The Bahamas will continue because it is America’s desire to see both Grand Bahama and Abaco recover quickly from Hurricane Dorian.

“I also want to pay tribute to the outpouring of compassion from the American people. I often say that when crisis strikes, especially in our neighborhood, America will stand with our friends because that’s who we are as Americans.

“We care very deeply about our neighbors in The Bahamas and we will continue to stand with them and assist them in their time of difficulty.”

Credit Rating Worries

Continued from / PAGE 1...

have to be concerned. We are trying to manage these things very actively to keep them in front of us to ensure that we are planning appropriately and responding as we see circumstances develop.”

While a possible drop in the country’s credit rating is a concern, Turnquest pointed out that the government believes the information reported by The Central Bank governor on Monday that the pace of investment throughout the islands not affected by the hurricane would continue to move forward.

“The investments in Grand Bahama continue to move forward and we had the signing last week and the hotel deal continues to be negotiated, so we continue to expect that to close,” Turnquest said.

“The Abaco community itself, the investors are eager to get back and to start to do their cleanup work and to get back into operation. The local business community too, despite the rumours, is also very eager to get back and have the opportunity to start rebuilding their properties. So we anticipate that within a reasonable period of time, we would start to see the

rebirth and these businesses come back on stream.”

The deputy prime minister ensured that the government is working with all its partners to ensure that responses are given to concerns and stories that The Bahamas is still open for business are disseminated.

“The level of investment and the destination, as a preferred investment destination, is still very attractive and again, we believe that we will have the best results we can do to control the circumstance as it exists today,” Turnquest said.

Two More Bodies

Continued from / PAGE 1...

recovery efforts continue.

This week, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) reported that 876 people, who were on the missing persons list, have been found and 3,481 evacuees are registered with the Department of Social Services.

NEMA also revealed that 424 persons remain missing following Hurricane Dorian.

Meanwhile, a team from NEMA discovered 62 Haitian nationals living

at Mission Baptist Church, Sand Bank, Treasure Cay Abaco.

The group consists of 40 adult males, 20 adult females, a 5-year-old boy and a 4-year-old girl. They have been at the church since August 28, 2019.

They are being supported by the Red Cross, Samaritan’s Purse, World Food Programme and other international partners. The Ministry of Health is providing medical support as well.

Pastor Herbert

Edgecombe from Faith Walk Church of God in Cooper’s Town, Abaco agreed to use his church as a shelter, as the hall previously used is now a distribution center.

According to NEMA, its team also visited Abaco Beach Resort to inquire about accommodations, but it was not possible due to a lack of running water.

NEMA added that the team was able to coordinate with the Water and Sewerage Corporation in Abaco to address the situation.



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

