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# \$300M Baha Mar Expansion

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT  
Journal Staff Writer

A heads of agreement was signed yesterday at the Cabinet Office for Baha Mar’s second phase, a \$300 million undertaking that will take the mega resort’s total investment to \$4.8 billion.

Baha Mar President Graeme Davis said the mega expansion will provide nearly 500 direct permanent jobs and over 1,000 indirect jobs. More than 80 percent of those jobs will be given to Bahamians.

On hand for the signing was Prime Minister



► The government signed a heads of agreement yesterday for the second phase development of the Baha Mar Resort. The \$300 million investment is expected to attract more visitors to the country and will immediately provide 500 jobs during its construction phase. Job opportunities are expected to total approximately 1,000 in the long-term. (BIS Photo/Yontalay Bowe)

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## ‘Don’t Rush Disaster Bill’

BY LICEC BASTIAN  
Journal Staff Writer

Not one to mince words, Pineridge Member of Parliament Frederick McAlpine urged the government not to rush the proposed Disaster Preparedness and Response Amendment Bill 2019.

During his contribution to debate on the bill in the House of Assembly yesterday, Mr. McAlpine advised the government to slow down while in the process of passing the proposed bill.

"We need to step back, take a deep breath, and be logical and not emotional about what we are going to do moving forward,"

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► Pineridge MP Frederick McAlpine

## Cooper Against Disaster Bill

BY DEANDRE WILLIAMSON  
Journal Staff Writer

Progressive Liberal Party Deputy Leader Chester Cooper expressed his disapproval of the Disaster Preparedness and Response Amendment Bill 2019, which seeks to implement forced mandatory evacuations.

Debate on the bill continued yesterday in the

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► PLP Deputy Leader Chester Cooper

## Baha Mar Suffers \$10 Million Loss

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT  
Journal Staff Writer

Baha Mar President Grame Davis revealed yesterday that Hurricane Dorian has had a temporary impact on the resort,

as September and October has seen a falloff in bookings, resulting in a \$10 million loss.

However, Davis is confident that this will only

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## Chipman Shows PM ‘Political Sellout’



► Centreville MP Reece Chipman

BY LICEC BASTIAN  
Journal Staff Writer

Centreville Member of Parliament Reece Chipman provided more reasons as to why he resigned from the Free National Movement and questioned whether being a part of the party is being loyal, having integrity or being a political sellout.

Mr. Chipman expressed he reasons during yesterday’s session of the House of Assembly, where he also criticized Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis, who made a response, following his resignation, that politics require political maturity.

“You show me political maturity based on the way it’s defined in this political system, I show you political sell-out,” Mr. Chipman said.

“Mr. Speaker, we gave Mr. Politics [Dr. Minnis] leadership. I know because I was there. Others had to fight. We gave Mr. Politics a free ride in a constituency where he don’t even have to go door to door. You just have to email.

■ See page 4...





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# PTSD Rises Among GB Residents

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) revealed this week that there is a rise in post traumatic stress disorder and depression among Grand Bahama residents post Hurricane Dorian.

“Dr. Gregory Swann says that they are about 90 percent completed in their mental and emotional assessment of all government employees post Hurricane Dorian,” NEMA explained in a statement.

“The next step, he said, is to begin carrying out individual counselling sessions with about 10 percent of those already evaluated.”

According to NEMA, Dr. Swann said the con-

cerns and challenges that have begun to arise include a high rise in depression, behavioral adjustments and PTSD.

“He said it is necessary to return to individuals expressing these concerns to further evaluate them and offer emotional counseling,” the statement read.

Dr. Swann and a team were assigned to assess all government employees in Grand Bahama who were severely affected by Hurricane Dorian.

NEMA also indicated that unemployment has contributed to depression among Grand Bahama residents.

As the Department of Social Service continues

its assessment of the state of homes in Grand Bahama that were affected by Hurricane Dorian, the department’s Assistant Director Paula Marshall said it was discovered that individuals are in a state of depression due to the lack of employment.

“With more people getting word from their employers that the business has been closed, it has increased the number of unemployed people on the island,” Marshall said.

She added that this increase in unemployment has placed a severe strain on the Department of Social Services, as these individuals are seeking assistance from



► Civilians on small boats rescued several families from the rising waters of Hurricane Dorian. Those who could not be saved are presumed missing and leave behind friends and loved ones to grapple with the devastation and loss in Dorian’s aftermath.  
(Ramon Espinosa/Associated Press)

the department.

According to Marshall, the Department of Social Services is close to wrapping up its assessment of homes in West Grand Bahama and will soon return its focus to East Grand Bahama, where work started will be continued.

# ‘PM Favoured Dominica More After Hurricane’

BY LICEC BASTIAN  
Journal Staff Writer

Pineridge Member of Parliament Frederick McAlpine lambasted Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis’ reaction post Hurricane Dorian and compared that response to the to the response given to the people of Dominica in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria in 2017.

Mr. McAlpine, during his contribution on the

Disaster Preparedness and Response Amendment 2019 Bill, alluded that Dr. Minnis was more favourable to the island of Dominica than he was to his own people in the aftermath of devastating hurricanes.

The Pineridge MP charged that the perception is that Dr. Minnis visited Dominica after it was hit by Hurricane Maria in September 2017 quicker than he visited parts of Grand Bahama

following storm Dorian.

"For the record and I would not be going [here], but the prime minister opened the door on his first notification to the house," Mr. McAlpine said.

"For the record, there are many out there who feel and felt that the PM showed more passion and compassion for Dominica than he showed for Grand Bahama and Abaco and the Cays.

"Here me out, people

are extremely upset that the prime minister went to Dominica faster than he came to East Grand Bahama where Bahamians lives were lost.

"The most destructive part of Grand Bahama took our prime minister over a month to get there.

"I need the country and my colleagues to understand I’m just stating the perception is out there."

In September 2017, Hurricane Maria decimat-

ed Dominica and following such, local police and defence force officers were dispatched to the island to assist with recovery efforts.

Dr. Minnis also announced the government’s pledge to accept Dominican students.

The Pineridge MP questioned why Dominica didn’t reciprocate, adding that Grand Bahama students have been out of school for nearly three months.

"Why isn’t Dominica volunteering to take our people as students? That was the point at the time two and a half years ago," Mr. McAlpine said.

"[What] Dominica did for us is actually what I proposed we do for them, money and physical assistance. Dominica is a part of CARICOM of which all member states and affiliates, as far as I’m aware of, all pledged

■ See page 4...

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 --

Henry Cortez Adams Jr, Divorced,  
of 409 North Leonard, Sapulpa OK 74066, United States of America

and

Twiana Latrice Griggs, Divorced,  
of 4609 Hidden Pond Dr, Frisco TX 75014, United States of America

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 2nd day of October, 2019.

Registrar of Marriages

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 --

Tyler Jason Lawson, Single,  
of 5640 Highland Trl., Big Lake, MN, 55309, United States of America

and

Alexandria Katherine Nitti, Single,  
of 5640 Highland Trl., Big Lake, MN, 55309, United States of America

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 2nd day of October, 2019.

Registrar of Marriages

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 --

Alan Richard Mason, Single,  
of 64 Normanton Park, Chingford London E4 6HF, Great Britain (UK)

and

Suzanne Louise Arnould, Divorced,  
of 64 Normanton Park, Chingford London E4 6HF, 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 19th day of August, 2019.

Registrar of Marriages

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 --

Gary Peter Pusey, Single,  
of 16 Abbey Close, Holden Hill, 5089, South, Australia

and

Kelly Louise Chidgey, Single,  
of 16 Abbey Close, Holden Hill, 5089, South, Australia

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 2nd day of October, 2019.

Registrar of Marriages



# NEMA Grand Bahama Showers Royal Caribbean with Thanks

There were days when volunteers like Brittany Smith thought the work and the lines would never end, but there was never a moment when she thought of quitting. Smith, a Royal Caribbean crew member was one of more than 1020 people who over a period of more than a month turned out up to 20,000 meals a day in a bustling field kitchen set up and staffed by Royal Caribbean for survivors of Dorian, the catastrophic Cat 5 hurricane that pounded Grand Bahama and Abaco in the northern Bahamas. For Smith, the morning-to-night kitchen duty had double meaning

— her family, missing for days, were survivors themselves.

“They were in Abaco,” she said. “And everybody was asking, ‘Did you see them? Have you heard anything?’” Finally, after a week had passed, she got the good news, they were alive. And like many of the volunteers, crew members and Royal Caribbean staff who came from Miami headquarters to work in the field kitchen, she radiated goodwill.

On October 16, those volunteers and the award-winning cruise line who contributed more than \$1.5 million toward the

rebuilding effort, sent in massive amounts of medical, personal and other supplies and cooked nearly 600,000 meals were showered with thanks by officials and friends they had made in Grand Bahama.

Senator Katherine (Kay) Smith, NEMA Grand Bahama Coordinator, called the effort “amazing,” thanking Royal Caribbean and in particular, the cruise line’s Senior Vice President of Hotel Operations, Mark Tamis, who was a leapfrog, dashing back and forth between Florida and Grand Bahama to ensure



► Senator Kay Smith, Grand Bahama coordinator for NEMA and the island’s rebuilding effort following Cat 5 Hurricane Dorian, calls Royal Caribbean’s feeding and relief efforts ‘amazing’ as she thanks the cruise line for its constant support, being one of the first on the ground and staying the distance, turning out more than 600,000 meals since Sept 5. The occasion was the closing of the field kitchen and moving feeding to churches and homes for the aged, buoyed by financial support from Royal Caribbean and on the ground coordination by the Bahamas Feeding Network.



► Royal Caribbean’s Mark Tamis shows leadership even when it’s selfie time. That’s Brittany Smith, front row standing, 2nd from right. Smith, a Bahamian crew member who is usually aboard Symphony of the Seas, took time off from her regular job to work in the field kitchen in Grand Bahama even as the search continued for her own family that had not been heard from for days after the storm struck Abaco. Smith was cooking for others when she got the good news — everyone in the family survived.

smooth operation.

“I want to thank each and every person who has joined us today in appreciation of the Royal Caribbean Cruise Line’s amazing efforts to feed our citizens,” said the Senator, speaking to a crowd of more than 100 gathered for a sunset send-off for the field kitchen as it closed and a welcome reception for the new method of providing meals through the kitchens in 11 churches and two homes for the aged on the island. “Mr. Tamis, on behalf of the Prime Minister and the

Commonwealth of The Bahamas, we are grateful for the generosity of RCCL and its staff, crew and volunteers. We are thankful for your selfless work in Grand Bahama to set up a food distribution system on a scale that is truly amazing. RCCL was one of the very first organizations to come to our aid in Grand Bahama...Not only has Royal Caribbean fed Bahamians but they assisted with the evacuation of 1200 Bahamians to Nassau in the early days of the storm. On top of that, they brought in thou-

sands of pounds of goods and supplies, including more than 150,000 bottles of water, personal hygiene supplies, medical supplies and first aid kits and so much more.

“Let me personally thank you, Mr. Tamis, and to everyone from RCCL for feeding our communities in time of need, for your generous donations and for your partnership and commitment to rebuild Grand Bahama.”

Her sentiments were echoed by ministers including Grand Bahama

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## **NOTICE:**

The public is hereby advised that the Over-the-Hill Community Development Partnership Initiative, in conjunction with the Ministry of Public Works and the Bahamas Public Parks & Public Beaches Authority, has begun site works at Bishop Alvin Moss Park, Christie Park and Joe Billy Park in the Over-the-Hill community as part of its rejuvenation efforts.

*We apologize for any inconvenience caused.*

Kindly contact us if you have any concerns at  
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# ‘PM Favoured Dominica More After Hurricane’

Continued from / PAGE 2...

to give \$100,000 to any catastrophic or natural disaster within the region.

"The Bahamas has done this on many occasions as we too are a part of CARICOM.

"So, those who would

# \$300M Baha Mar Expansion

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Dr. Hubert Minnis, who acknowledged how such news come as many are still displaced and in need of jobs following Hurricane Dorian’s passing.

"Speaking with Graeme and the Baha Mar team, they have informed me that once it’s been signed, the job opportunities will commence immediately," Dr. Minnis said.

"Therefore, I will ask Bahamians out there who can hear my voice to take advantage of this opportunity at this particular time as this will help to rebuild both Grand Bahama and Abaco so that that 20 percent that we lost in our GDP can be replaced as quickly as possible and create more jobs so we can see our economy continue to boom."

In terms of what can be expected, amenities

have us to believe that there is something special being done by Dominica tend to be somewhat misleading.

"It would have been good to disclose what the other islands throughout the region contributed financially. While we were told about their con-

tribution, we were not told the amount."

Although McAlpine claimed that Grand Bahama students are still out of school, Minister of Education Jeffrey Lloyd announced on Sunday that both Abaco and Grand Bahama students return to school today.

include a major waterpark and entertainment facility to be known as Baha Mar Bay.

This will be built on the site of the former Wyndham Hotel on approximately 15.3 acres of land.

"It will include a family friendly recreational area with water attractions for guests of all ages. The theme of Baha Mar Bay is to be heavily influenced by the natural environment of The Bahamas," he said.

"There will be a public entry area where the general public can enter Baha Mar Bay to enjoy the attractions and activities."

Phase two will also include the widening and lengthening of the existing pier in front of Baha Mar and an upgraded and refurbished program for the Melia Hotel.

Additionally, a Rosewood Explorer Club

will be constructed within that hotel along with two children’s activity centers in the Rosewood and the Baha Mar Resorts as well as new amenities and improvements on Long Cay.

"Today marks a very proud moment for us with the partnership and support of the prime minister and his Cabinet to discuss the renovation of our \$100 million renovation and upgrades to our Melia Beach Resort," Davis said.

Baha Mar’s phase one opened in April 2017, featuring a 1,800 room hotel and a 200,000 square foot Convention Centre at Baha Mar, as well as a 95,000 square foot world class casino and an 18 hole jack Nicklaus golf course.

Baha Mar officials expect this project to be completed in the next 12 to 24 months.

# Chipman Shows PM ‘Political Sellout’

Continued from / PAGE 1...

"Political maturity are the words used now to describe us as we sellout our ideals, sellout ourselves, sell our families out and then of course, sell our country. You are freedom fighters. You treat them like political potcakes, your constituents, your stalwarts, your council, treating them like political potcakes. You only know them when you need them."

According to Mr. Chipman, a person cannot be a part of a political party that doesn’t allow participation.

"The word party comes from the word participation," Mr. Chipman said.

"However, I will take it further so as to say that leadership has its levels and there is such a thing as maturity in leadership. Insecure leadership will

not work, in a world so democratized by freedom of speech and the World Wide Web.

"Members, loyalty cannot be because you gave me a job, after your parents sacrificed so much for to give you an education. Loyalty cannot be that I must agree with everything you say, at the expense of your constituents.

"Loyalty, Mr. Speaker should never outweigh your integrity. It should preserve dignity and should demand honesty."

Mr. Chipman further alluded that he had attended many events that brought change to Bahamian politics.

Turning his attention to the proposed legislation that was debated in the House of Assembly, Mr. Chipman said the Disaster Preparedness and Response Amendment Bill is another bill brought

without the necessary regulations.

"I’ve had concerns about bills being brought to the House of Assembly and saying that ‘the Prime Minister may,’ I believe that this bill should reflect that ‘the prime minister must,’ Mr. Chipman said.

"To put it into context on our required mandatory evacuation, but to me we’re giving the prime minister an option.

"I believe that we need more guidelines, more policy driven legislation to reflect even education of disaster preparedness."

He added that as a part of the legislature, it should have been demanded of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to produce a plan every year that’s signed by the prime minister.

# Baha Mar Suffers

Continued from / PAGE 1...

be temporary.


"As far as the long-term outlook, we are now starting to see that gap close between prior years bookings and we’re very confident and optimistic that we’ll get to the end of the hurricane season as no

storms are brewing out there now," Davis said.

"That this will be a past memory in the travelers’ mind and they will understand that The Bahamas is open for business and so is Baha Mar and the other lodging establishments here in New Providence.

"So, we’re very optimistic that we will have a bright season ahead."

Davis said Baha Mar remains open to adding to the awareness that The Bahamas is still open for business and is committed to supporting the effected islands.



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 --


Gabriel Rivera Molina, Single,  
of Calle Teresa Capo, 1024 Country Club, PR 00924, Puerto Rico

and

Johann Nicole Mendez Lozada, Single,  
of Calle Teresa Capo, 1024 Country Club, PR 00924, Puerto Rico

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 2nd day of October, 2019.

  
Registrar of Marriages



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 --

Nicholas Alan Clarke, Divorced,  
of 18 Longford Road, Newport Shropshire TF10 7PU, England

and

Beverley Marie Wilkinson, Widowed,  
of 18 Longford Road, Newport Shropshire TF10 7PU, England

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 2nd day of October, 2019.

  
Registrar of Marriages



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 --

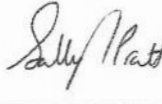
Kyle David Ingle, Divorced,  
of 600 NE Crestview Ln, Kansas City MO 64116, United States of America


and

Danielle Clarice Frazier, Divorced,  
of 600 NE Crestview Ln, Kansas City MO 64116, United States of America

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 11th day of September, 2019.

  
Registrar of Marriages



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 --

Michael Marendy, Divorced,  
of 9 Costata Crescent, Adamstorm NSW 2289, Australia

and

Michelle Mayun Andrews, Single,  
of 9 Costata Crescent, Adamstorm NSW 2289, Australia

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 16th day of September, 2019.

  
Registrar of Marriages

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# EDITORIAL

# EASE OF DOING BUSINESS

The World Bank is holding its annual meeting now and one of the topics being discussed is “Ease of Doing Business” in some 190 countries of the World.

In our examination of literature from the organization we found that overall the Bahamas is ranked 118. A high ease of doing business ranking means the regulatory environment is more conducive to starting and operating. Out of the 190 countries for starting a business, it is ranked 105; for dealing with construction permits it is ranked 91; getting electricity it is ranked 87; registering property it is 169; getting credit 144 and for protecting minority investors the Bahamas is ranked 132.

Over the last few years, the government has worked in various sectors to improve the ease of doing business, but it has not done enough. There must be a redoubling of efforts to ensure that the economy is positioned to create employment for the thousands of Bahamians who are in search of jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities.

An economy cannot thrive without a healthy private sector. When local businesses flourish, they create jobs and generate income that can be spent and invested domestically. Any rational government that cares about the economic well-being and advancement of its constituency pays special attention to laws and regulations affecting local small and medium size enterprises (SMEs). Effective business regulation affords micro and small firms the opportunity to grow, innovate and, when applicable, move from the informal to the formal sector of an economy. Like its 15 predecessors, Doing Business 2019 continues to enable regulators to assess and benchmark their domestic business regulatory environments.

Doing Business advocates for both regulatory quality and efficiency. It is important to have effective rules in place that are easy to follow and understand. To realize economic gains, reduce corruption and encourage SMEs to flourish, unnecessary red tape should be eliminated. However, specific safeguards must be put in place to ensure high-quality business regulatory processes; efficiency alone is not enough for regulation to function well. What use is it when one can transfer property in just a few days and at a low cost, but the property registry contains unreliable information with incomplete geographic coverage? Doing Business exposes cases with evident discrepancies between regulatory quality and efficiency, signaling to regulators what needs to be reformed.

Doing Business 2019 measures the processes for business incorporation, getting a building permit, obtaining an electricity connection, transferring property, getting access to credit, protecting minority investors, paying taxes, engaging in international trade, enforcing contracts and resolving insolvency. Doing Business collects and publishes data on labor market regulation with a focus on the flexibility of employment regulation as well as several aspects of job quality. However, this regulatory area does not constitute part of the ease of doing business ranking.

Each of the measured business regulatory areas is important to nascent and existing entrepreneurs. However, as Doing Business data show, SME owners face drastically different realities across economies as they set up and operate their businesses. An entrepreneur in Uganda, for example, will spend nearly a month and undertake procedures to set up a new company. The entrepreneur will then be

required to manage another 18 interactions with different

Agencies and wait an additional four months to obtain a building permit. Once the construction of the warehouse is completed, the entrepreneur will need to wait another two months and cash out 7,513.6% of income per capita to obtain a connection to the electrical grid. In contrast, a Danish entrepreneur can expect to be able to register a new business in just 3.5 days, complete all required legal procedures to build a warehouse through seven steps in slightly over two months and secure a reliable electricity connection for about 100% of local income per capita. Differences in regulatory and institutional quality can affect how many new businesses are created and the dynamism of the private sector, which generates jobs and economic opportunities. In Denmark the average number of newly registered companies is eight per 1,000 workers per year, whereas in Uganda this figure is less than one new company per 1,000 workers per year. Many factors explain this difference, including the level of business regulation.

Doing Business does not claim to cover all the areas pertinent to private sector development and growth. The report has a set of clear limitations; Doing Business data alone are not sufficient to assess the overall competitiveness or foreign investment prospects of an economy. Doing Business does not assess market size, the soundness and depth of financial markets, macroeconomic conditions, foreign investment, security or political stability. However, the Doing Business indicators do offer insights for policy makers to identify areas for reform and improve the local business environment. For more information on what is measured and what is not, see the chapter About Doing Business.

Doing Business includes indicator sets that measure aspects of business regulation which are important to domestic

Small and medium-size companies and national competitiveness. Evidence from economic literature corroborates the economic relevance and importance of the areas measured by Doing Business. In the case of the starting a business indicator set alone, more than 300 research articles have been published in the top 100 academic journals since 2003 assessing how the regulatory environment for entry affects a wide range of economic outcomes such as productivity, growth, employment and informality. Recent research shows the positive effects of improved business regulation. Fewer procedures and lower levels of minimum capital, for example, are positively and significantly associated with the process of starting a business. Where procedures are more complex or unclear, the likelihood of corruption is higher.<sup>3</sup> Another study discusses the benefits to companies of formal registration, such as greater access to new equipment and a larger scale of operations, which can lead to increased competitiveness and productivity.

In the context of construction permitting, simplicity and transparency are key in allowing businesses to expand and build new and safe infrastructure. Research shows that regulatory burdens often pose substantial obstacles for investors. Discrepancies among existing laws, for example, can lead to unnecessary and even contradictory compliance requirements. Furthermore, lengthy processing times for required approvals—as is the case in Ghana—

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# Government must respect the UN on deportations

***Call for pride parade should be supported by all Bahamians who support freedom of expression, fairness and equality***

## STATEMENT Rights Bahamas

Rights Bahamas fully endorses and supports the call of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to end deportations to Haiti in the wake of Hurricane Dorian.

It is the height of irony that a county newly elected to the UN’s Human Rights Council should have to be dressed down in this embarrassing fashion for its aggressive, inhumane and intolerant behaviour in the face of a humanitarian crisis. We should be working to help all victims of the storm, not heaping further misery on those who are most vulnerable.

This FNM government should be ashamed of itself. So too should members of the opposition who have been fanning the flames of hysteria. Let us not forget that it was the PLP that recently

launched the most frightening and discriminatory attack on people of Haitian ethnicity in Bahamian history.

We also welcome the OHCHR’s scrutiny of our immigration policy as a whole, which Rights Bahamas has continually maintained is illegal, unconstitutional and leads to countless human rights abuses on a daily basis.

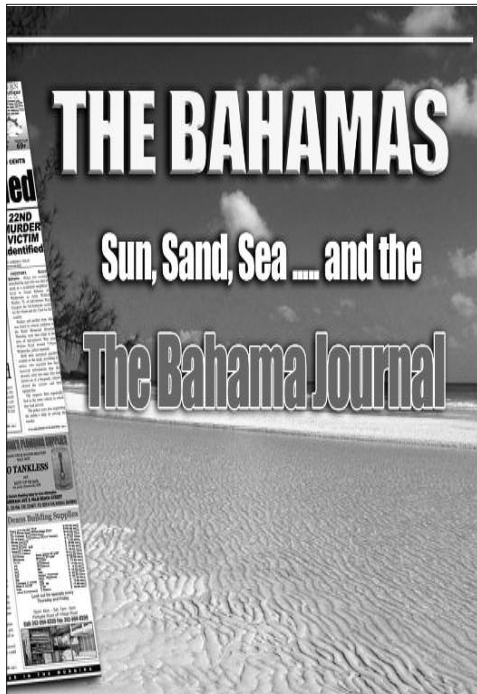
The government has been continually warned that local human rights activists are working with our international contacts, including the United Nations, the OAS, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and Amnesty International to bring awareness to the enormous excesses of the Immigration Department and the increasingly draconian pronouncements from the executive. Perhaps now they will start to listen.

can drive up costs and spur the development of an informal construction sector, where falsified construction permits result in unsafe infrastructure.

Electricity is a necessity for any business to function properly and expand. It is also an important element in the competitiveness and strengthening of human capital in an economy. Research data indicate that higher electricity costs tend to have an adverse impact on businesses. As prices rise, firms shift their focus to less electricity-intensive production processes, resulting in reduced output and productivity.<sup>7</sup> equally important is the reliability of a power connection. Recent research finds that power outages and deficient power infrastructure in Sub-Saharan Africa had a measurable negative impact on economic growth over the period 1995–2007.

Similarly, clearly defined regulation and equal access to property rights are essential for enabling businesses to expand their operations. If governments do not put in place adequate land ownership protections and leave investors open to land disputes or property seizures, stakeholders would be disinclined to put money into land and property development projects. A recent study exploring whether political institutions have an impact on the effectiveness of economic reforms in promoting growth finds that financial and trade reforms are more effective in developing economies with sound property rights. This evidence suggests that sufficiently developed property rights may be a precondition for reaping the growth benefits of reform.<sup>9</sup> Ample literature on the importance of property rights finds a strong association between investment, access to finance, productivity and economic growth.<sup>10</sup> Another area measured by Doing Business is the protection of minority investors. Greater protection helps foster trust and confidence and, in turn, spurs greater access to finance for entre-

preneurs. The indicator set focuses on how policy makers mitigate the risk that corporate executives, directors and majority shareholders will use their position to advance their own interests at the expense of the company and other shareholders. Clear rules, robust rights and increased transparency are some of the regulatory instruments at their disposal. Corporate governance is a key determinant of investment efficiency, while shareholders’ ability to sue and hold directors accountable are essential checks and balances.<sup>13</sup> Finally, the regulation of labor markets is critical as policy makers work to create more and better jobs for their citizens. Labor regulation is also an area of interest to researchers as they strive to assess the optimal balance between adequate worker protections and labor market efficiency. In India, for example, research shows that when faced with restrictive labor laws, firms choose to circumvent such legislation by hiring workers indirectly through contractors, especially in times of economic uncertainty.<sup>14</sup> another study on foreign investment and the organization of global firms suggests that firms consider the strength of worker bargaining power when making sourcing decisions.





# Cooper Against Disaster Bill

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House of Assembly, where Cooper said he cannot support the bill because it offends Article 29 of the Constitution.

“From all that I have read, and the advice that I have taken, what this bill seeks to do seems tantamount to forced mandatory evacuation by levying fines and prison terms for not leaving your home in time of a national emergency,” Cooper said.

“Not only is enforcement of this outside the bounds of practical reality, but as lawmakers we should not be in the business of crafting legislation that could violate our supreme law.

“This would also likely open the government up to lawsuits and further burden taxpayers and waste resources with lengthy court proceedings.

“So, this is really just window dressing, optics and publicity, for the moment, until we can be satisfied that it is appropriately aligned with Article 29.

“This seems like something we’re doing just to tick the box to fulfill what the prime minister said would happen after Hurricane Dorian came.”

According to Cooper, there is no shortage of powers given to the executive under the Constitution to effectively

evacuate a population.

“Just use the tools you have now,” he said.

“As the saying made popular by Bob Marley goes, ‘in the abundance of water, the fool goes thirsty.’

“Should people remain in their homes in low-lying areas during a storm? Of course not.

“Should we seek to save lives? Of course.”

However, he added that there are practical ways of getting people to evacuate without the threat of incarceration or detention.

“We must find the balance in law without offending the Constitution,” Cooper explained.

“If we look at the case of Abaco, would the government have arrested the thousands of people who decided to stay there?

“With what security force? Where would they have been taken if arrested?

“They couldn’t stay on the impacted island.

“You can’t take them to the Bahamas Department of Corrections without taking them to court, which would likely be closed in the case of a national emergency.

“The shelters weren’t effective on Abaco, so you wouldn’t take them there.

“This all seems poorly thought-out, or no thought at all, to be frank.”

Cooper pointed out that the bill also seeks to vest more power in the prime minister, which, he said, could lead to politicization of disaster relief and recovery efforts.

“And, as we have repeatedly reminded, there is no room for politics in all of this.

It was not possible to anticipate the magnitude of this storm, nor the impact,” he said.

Cooper also noted that the two of the only structures to survive in Marsh Harbour, Abaco were the government-built clinic and the administrative complex.

As a result, he asked, “Shouldn’t we be discussing mandating

specifically-designed government-built storm shelters?

“Last I checked, we had none. There should be at least one on each inhabited island that can withstand 200-plus mph winds.

“Perhaps several for islands that are segmented like Andros, Eleuthera and Exuma.

“I would think that today we would be talking about a multi-stage evacuation plan in the event of national emergency.

“Though we could not have known how powerful Dorian would become, like every other storm, we knew it was coming.”

# ‘Don’t Rush Disaster Bill’

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Mr. McAlpine said.

"Mr. Speaker, Pineridge along with the Bahamian people get the impression that if there was no hurricane there would be no bill. We should have been called back from vacation as an assembly prior to the entrance of Hurricane Dorian.

"And then, perhaps presented with this bill, Pineridge would have considered it even timelier. We are reacting to an action as opposed to systematically and intellectually coming up with something conducive and uncontroversial for generations to come."

According to the Free National Movement (FNM) MP, it is not to say that he is against the mandatory evacuations, but "to go where?"

He added that one needs to understand the psyche and circumstances of those not willing to leave.

"Whereas, it is important to eventually have mandatory evacuation bill, Pineridge thinks it's initially far more important for the government to build structurally sound hurricane proof centers throughout The Bahamas," Mr. McAlpine said.

"Then we can discuss mandatory evacuation. Mama says, 'You're putting

the cart before the horse.'

"Mr. Speaker, it makes no logical sense for me demanding mandatory evacuation without having a safe place to put the evacuees. [There's] no rocket science to this, this [is] common sense."

Mr. McAlpine is also of the view that the proposed legislation lacks specifics as it should also speak to fires, flooding and medical outbreaks.

He further stated that it gives too much power to a prime minister and that if not properly assessed, can open the door to an undemocratic state of governance.

He is convinced there needs to be a clear cut

plan for the revitalization and modernization for the Northern Bahamas.

"The country needs leadership that is clear and concise with what the


plan is. How long it will take to be executed and the proposed period for the accomplishment?" he said.

The Pineridge MP said

he no longer wants to hear about what Hurricane Dorian did, but rather what the government and the Grand Bahama Port Authority will do.

GOT NEWS?

Please call The Bahama Journal's News TIP LINE at 356-7254 and let us know!



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 --


Jeremy Robert Orr, Divorced,  
of 709 E High Street, Hicksville OH 43526, United States of America


and

Rachel Lynn Johns, Single,  
of 709 E High Street, Hicksville OH 43526, United States of America

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 19th day of August, 2019.

  
Registrar of Marriages



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 --


James Duane Sparkes, Divorced,  
of 31 Hussey's Road, Paradise NL A1L 3A5, Canada

and

Tanya Brenda Atking Canning, Divorced,  
of 31 Hussey's Road, Paradise NL A1L 3A5, Canada

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 19th day of August, 2019.

  
Registrar of Marriages



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 --

Jessie Luca Wiebe, Single,  
of 301-610 Johnson St, Victoria BC V8W 1M4, Canada


and

Stephany Wong, Single,  
of 301-610 Johnson St, Victoria BC V8W 1M4, Canada

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 12th day of September, 2019.

  
Registrar of Marriages



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 --

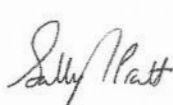
Kyle A Piccirillo, Divorced,  
of 24 City Brook Road, Naugatuck, Connecticut 06770, United States of America

and

Mary Kate Durette, Single,  
of 18 Spruce Brook Road, Seymour, Connecticut 06483, United States of America

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 1st day of October, 2019.

  
Registrar of Marriages