Four Quarantined

Unidentified Bodies to be Buried

Bannister: Straw Market Closure Criticsms ‘Political’

Johnson Supports PM’s Move to ‘Take Country Back’

Minister of Health Dr. Duane Sands said yesterday that there are no DNA matches for the unidentified bodies of storm victims. Earlier this month, Dr. Duane Sands said 50 bodies on Abaco had not yet been identified.

“AS we have said, they will be given Christian burial rights once we have identified the plot of land. Each set of remains will be indexed so if there are DNA or identification, then family members would have the ability to get closure,” he said.

“AS of today, I’m advised that there has been no match of DNA with any of the remains to any individual who has come forward,” Dr. Sands said during this process of identification, he is mindful of the victim’s family members, whom he believes are vic-

Minister of Works Desmond Bannister said the Straw Market is in desperate need of repairs due to safety chal-

CHERISHA JOHNSON
Journal Staff Writer

Minister of Immigration Eleworth Johnson agreed with the prime minister that the government should put Bahamians first and take the country back, as illegal immigra-

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Four Quarantined

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Straw Market Closure Criticisms

**Take Country Back**

*Contended from / PAGE 10...*

The event of the Straw Market and explained why the repairs were necessary. That system was corroding on a daily basis and was not operable. So the longer we left it, the more it was going to corrode," he said.

"Engineers advised that as a safety measure, we had to deal with that urgently. So the vendors have now moved out, the market is now being properly serviced. When the pipes go in now, they are going to be coated, so that the corrosion won’t be an issue and a problem," Bamister continued, “Also in the market, there are some other issues that will have to be dealt with. There is a terrible termite infestation in that Straw Market. You will see that the people are working there now, removing the wood because a lot of the wood that was brought in is termite infested.”

Bamister said vendors have been given an opportunity to continue their work, relocating to Paradise Island and the Prince George Wharf.

Bamister said the repairs at the Straw Market are a five-day operation and will it reopen on Saturday at 7 a.m.

When asked to respond to criticisms leveled at his ministry, having agreed to be a Cabinet minister, I take the criticism whether it is appropriate or not. I can assure you that at every single step of the way, we have sought to do what is right, what is just and what is humane.”

Last week, Minister of National Security Marvin Dames said the government accepts the criticisms from individuals who believe the government is moving too slowly to identify the bodies of victims of Hurricane Dorian.

Dames said the government continues to work with Social Services, the Ministry of Health, the Red Cross Society, the Attorney General's Office and external agencies to assist with the process.

He added that most of the bodies in Grand Bahama have been identified and released.
Fortify Commitments to Achieve CEDAW Recommendations

The time is now for the Bahamas to fortify its commitments, efforts and partnerships to help women achieve the recommendations put forth by the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Minister of Social Services and Urban Development, Frankie A. Campbell said Monday.

Addressing the first Women’s Empowerment Summit hosted by the Political Subdivision of Women United at St. Joseph’s Roman Catholic Church Hall, Monday evening, Minister Campbell further said the “time is now for us to fortify our commitments, efforts and partnerships to help women achieve the CEDAW recommendations and the commitments made to the United Nations Population Development Fund.”

“Today, over 190 countries around the world will convene at the United Nations to provide reports of their progress and accomplishments since implementing the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals, 2015. The Bahamas too, will be required to account for our implementation of the 277 goals, 189 targets and 233 indicators. Let us present a report that is actually working or our women and girls.”

Minister Campbell told his audience that in October 2018, he was “privileged” to lead a delegation to Geneva, Switzerland for a constructive dialogue with the CEDAW Committee on The Bahamas’ progress with respect to the achievement of women’s empowerment.

The Committee, he said, noted that they remained concerned about the low participation of women in political and public leadership, in particular the decision-making which could be attributed to a number of factors, among them, patriarchal attitudes, lack of statutory quotas or a parity system for political appointments, limited access to political networks and insufficient capacity-building programmes for women in leadership and political skills.

“The Committee therefore recommended the following: that we establish concrete goals and timetables for strengthening the equal participation of women in political and public life on an equal basis with men. You would agree that it will take a collaborative effort to accomplish these goals. It will take persistence and creativity to overcome stereotypic beliefs of the roles that women should play with respect to holding leadership positions.”

“As the Minister with responsibility for women’s affairs, I am proud of this group of dynamic women who have united and decided to take action to bring about positive change, not only for women, but for girls, men and boys. Additionally, your action bodes well for our country.”

Minister Campbell concluded.

Mental Health Support to Communities in Disasters

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) partnered with the Ministry of Health (MOH), the Bahamas Psychosocial Association (IPA) and the Healthy Bahamas Coalition (HBC) to host a media forum under the theme “Are we Depressed? Telling stories of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Disaster” with the Bahamian media at the University of The Bahamas, Monday, February 24, 2020.

The purpose of the media forum was to provide media journalists with the background of what is mental health psychosocial support (MHPS), its application before, during and after hurricanes Dorian.

The background should inform the media’s development of stories about mental health services that were provided, and continue to be available to the affected persons better coupled with the psycholog- ical impact of the disaster. Additionally, the forum endeavored to raise awareness, and reduce stigma in seeking mental health assistance.

Court of Appeal President Sworn In

Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis, Monday, brought remarks, congratulating Sir Michael on his appointment, highlighting Sir Michael’s tenure as chief justice.

“An office that was held with great love of the law and his desire to offer greater public service. A constitutional expert, he has written and reflected on a range of constitutional questions dealing with varied aspects of law and society,” Dr. Minnis said.

In his address, Sir Michael used the oppor- tunity to thank the new Justice System’s response before, during and after hurricanes Dorian.

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Intergroup and communication skills and preparation for certifications and internships are among the essentials that teachers must impress upon students in Family and Consumer Science, said Keyshan Bastian, Assistant Director of Education, Career and Technical Education Section.

"Your degree does not make you qualified. Your experience speaks to who you are and the lifelong field that you develop. It doesn’t matter if you have a Masters’ Degree or PH.D. If you’ve never been in industry, you’re still coming in as a junior," said Mrs. Bastian. "If they’re coming in to make beds, let them spend a day making beds.

"We need our children to be coached into what we want them to be. They don’t leave high school as high school students, come to industry and be where they are, but if we have a relationship that’s on-going we are allowing them the opportunity to develop the kind of experiences they need.

"We want industry to tell us more of what it is you want them to come out with so we can push them in that direction. Collaboratively, we want to prepare the kind of students so industry is running, fighting to get them with joint partnerships," she said.

Further, Mrs. Bastian appealed to industry professionals to invest in teachers.

"You can only take your degree as far as you’ve been. You can talk about the experience because you’ve been a part of the experience. Whatever we want to see in our students we’ve provided the opportunity whether it’s through an agency like the National Training Agency (NTA) or the American Hotel and Lodging Educational Institute.

Providing an overview of NTA, Gadville McDonald, Executive Director, said it is a competency based training organization that focuses on workforce development.

He said NTA partners with training providers and industry leaders to ensure that individuals are properly trained and prepared for the workforce.

"We’ve trained 600-850 students annually — who have not successful-ly completed high school and are not necessarily prepared for the work-force. We take them through 4 weeks of mandatory workforce preparation, ensure attitude and mindset are right — for the most part that is the number one challenge in our country.

"We’ve been successful over the last 5 years of training over 6,000 young Bahamians. More than 40% of them every year choose the hospitality industry," said Mr. McDonald. The panel also comprised industry professionals including Sommese Bowe, Director, Human Resources, Ministry of Tourism; Martysta Tarrant, Outreach Specialist, Bahamas; Suzanne Pittou, Executive Vice President, Bahamas Hotel & Tourism Association and Ricardo Ramos, Global Organization Program Director, AirBnB. Representatives from the American Hotel and Lodging Educational Institute and the National Restaurant Association participated in the two-day event held at C. C. Swearing Senior High School.

MOE Holds Professional Development Workshops for Family and Consumer Science Educators

Ms. Madame Senior Justice Estelle Gray Evans was sworn in as acting chief justice by His Excellency the Most Hon. Cornelius A. Smith, governor general, during a swearing-in ceremony at Government House on Tuesday.

The Hon. Madame Senior Justice Estelle Gray Evans was sworn in as acting chief justice by His Excellency the Most Hon. Cornelius A. Smith, governor general, during a swearing-in ceremony at Government House on Tuesday. (Photo: Letisha Henderson)

Bubbles, zero calories

The Hon. Madame Senior Justice Estelle Gray Evans was sworn in as acting chief justice by His Excellency the Most Hon. Cornelius A. Smith, governor general, during a swearing-in ceremony at Government House on Tuesday. (Photo: Letisha Henderson)