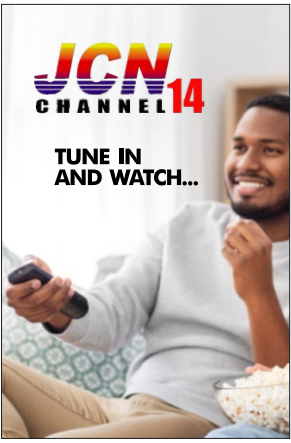




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PM WELCOMES FNM LEGAL CHALLENGE

BY GERRINO J SAUNDERS
Journal News Editor

Prime Minister Philip Davis said he would welcome a legal challenge from the Official Opposition, the Free National Movement regarding the movement of funds from the National Investment Fund.

While outside the House of Assembly Thursday morning after viewing the body of the late Member of Parliament and Cabinet Minister Neville Wisdom, the Prime Minister told reporters, “I welcome whatever political antics they think will get them the answers they seek. We answered I thought very thoroughly. The Minister of Finance explained what had happened. He explained where the money went, and it is very clear that there is nothing untoward.”

Mr. Davis chastised the Opposition for some of the comments they have made. He said, “The irresponsible characterization of this matter as fraud without even knowing the facts; and the fact is that this is a transparent transaction; the concerns raised by them about the transfer of the funds was because we reported it. Isn’t that transparent?” asked the Prime Minister.

Prime Minister Davis explained that if the transactions were not reported by the government the Opposition would not have been able to raise their concerns. He said, “It wasn’t hidden. It said what we did. And so, they ask the questions.”

The Prime Minister pointed out that “governing is about priority and choices, and while our priorities and our choices may be different from theirs doesn’t mean there is any malfeasance. Why would you want to attach malfeasance or any untoward conduct on our part because they would have done it differently? That’s why they ga remain where they are.”

Mr. Davis also dismissed the FNM’s suggestions that the fiscal health of the economy is in jeopardy after it was reported that the Davis administration increased the national debt by one billion dollars during the final year of its previous term.



Prime Minister the Hon. Philip Davis signs the book of condolences of the Late Right Honourable Neville Walter Wisdom, CB, former educator, coach, Cabinet Minister and Member of Parliament, who lay in state in the Foyer of the House of Assembly, Parliament Square, September 17, 2026.

See Story Cont. Pg.4

NEW LAWS TO PROTECT ELDERLY

BY GERRINO J. SAUNDERS
Journal News Editor



Dr. Hon. Michael Darville
Minister of Health

The Older Persons Rights, Protection and Care Bill, 2026 was tabled in parliament this week and the proposed legislation comes as the country experiences a measurable demographic shift, with Bahamians living longer and older people accounting for a growing segment of the population.

It also comes at a time when there is growing concern for elderly people left abandoned, abused and forgotten by their community and often times their very own family members including siblings, children and grandchildren.

The Minister of Health and Wellness Dr. Michael Darville is adamant that the new legislation is extremely important and long overdue. During a communication to the House of Assembly prior to tabling the Bill Dr. Darville said “growing older must never mean becoming less valued, less visible, less protected or less entitled to dignity. Ageing is not somebody else’s issue. It is one of the few public policy matters that, if we are blessed with longevity, will eventually touch every one of us.”

Dr. Darville shared that The Bahamas, like the world, is experiencing a clear demographic shift with the number of people age 65 years and older rising by 28.2 percent since 2010.

The health minister noted that in 2025, the United Nations Human Rights Council established an Intergovernmental Working Group charged with developing a legally binding international instrument on the human rights of older persons.

He said while the international community is negotiating what a future global legal instrument should contain, The Bahamas is moving now with legislation that goes beyond a declaration of principles.

He said, “This Bill recognizes older persons as rights-holders. But it also recognizes that rights written on paper mean little if there is no machinery to make them real.”

Darville noted that the Bill was developed after widespread consultation across Government and other stakeholders whose work places them directly in contact with older persons and their families.

He said, “This is a comprehensive Bill. First, it establishes in law the rights of older persons, including dignity, equality, privacy, autonomy, participation, financial self-management and access to healthcare and public services. Second, it confronts abuse and abandonment. Physical abuse. Sexual abuse. Psychological and emotional abuse. Neglect. Abandonment. These are expressly prohibited. For far too long older persons have been abandoned at hospitals with no recourse. This ends today.”

See Story Cont. Pg.4

OPPOSITION LEADER ACCUSES GOVERNMENT OF MISAPPROPRIATING NIF FUNDS

BY MAKEIRA TUCKER
Journal Staff Writer



“They wrote the law and then they broke the law. “That is what Leader of the Opposition, Michael Pintard said about the use of hundreds of millions of dollars from the National Investment Fund (NIF).

Pintard delivered these remarks in the Minority Room after the morning sitting of the House of Assembly this week. Pintard refused to accept the Minister of Finance, Michael Halkitis’ response to how the government spent the NIF funds.

“We sat in parliament and listened to the Minister of Finance, the Honorable Michael Halkitis and his words condemned this government,” Pintard said.

“They wrote the law relative to the NIF and then they went ahead and broke the same law,” Pintard added.

He claimed Halkitis’ legal basis for moving millions of dollars out of the NIF was not in the National Investment Act created back in 2022.

The purpose of the NIF was to fund national infrastructure, public improvements, and projects tied to the green, blue, and orange economies, as well as handle revenues from public-private partnerships and natural resources.

Recently Governor of the Central Bank of The Bahamas John Rolle revealed that the Board of Directors for the NIF has never met, despite its board members being appointed back in June of 2025.

See Story Cont. Pg.4

PM WELCOMES FNM LEGAL CHALLENGE

See Story Cont. From Pg.1

The Prime Minister said the national debt to gross domestic product ratio has decreased from over 100 percent when they took office in 2021 to between 60 and 70 percent today, suggesting the economy is vibrant, “although there is always room for improvements.”

After coming under fire for the past few weeks regarding the use of millions of dollars from the National Investment Fund (NIF), as was expected the Government of The Bahamas took the opportunity when the House of Assembly returned from its summer break on Wednesday to explain its actions in obtaining the funds and how the money was used.

Prior to the Parliamentary sitting the Opposition Free National Movement threatened to take legal action against the government due to their concerns surrounding the governance of the NIF with the Opposition accusing the Davis administration of removing some \$265 million from the fund without going through the proper process and without providing documentation on how that money was used.

The governments Six Month Report on Budgetary Performance for fiscal year 2025-2026 showed that the NIF totaled \$265.3 million in December 2025, but by the end of March 2026 the balance had fallen to just \$200,000.

Additionally, the Opposition leader expressed concerns about approximately \$700 million borrowed by the government and transferred into the NIF as revealed by the Minister of Finance Michael Halkitis during the budget debate in May.

He explained that funds were made available through savings generated by reinvestments made from two debt refinancing exercises. However, Pintard said the opposition “could locate no authorization for any borrowing up to \$700 million,” and they “could not find the legal parliamentary appropriation to move \$700 million to the NIF.”

Mr. Pintard went so far as to say that the NIF does not exist because the board was never set up. He accused the government of “lying” and committing “fraud” with public funds.

Mr. Pintard questioned the legality of the government’s administration of the NIF upon learning from John Rolle Governor of the Central Bank that the board of

directors for the NIF though appointed in June of 2025 has never met.

As for how the money was used, in August Senator Latrae Rahming, Communications Officer in the Office of the Prime Minister told reporters that the funds were used to fund infrastructural projects on the Family Islands and that an explanation on how the money was spent would be forthcoming once the audit was complete.

Mr. Pintard said this explanation was insufficient. He pointed out that the government in its last term entered a number of public private partnerships in the form of power purchase agreements. He was curious to see if any of the individuals connected to those agreements would have benefited from the money that came from the NIF.

On Wednesday the Minister of Finance began his communication to the Parliament by acknowledging that it is the responsibility of any government to safeguard national resources while also addressing legitimate questions concerning their administration or use of such resources, explaining that the government’s actions were both transparent and legal.

He said, “Questions have been raised about the National Investment Fund, the authority under which its resources were administered, and the public purposes for which they were used. These questions arose following the Ministry of Finance’s public reporting on the movement and application of the funds, demonstrating the transparency of that movement on our part.”

“On the 10th of March 2025, Parliament, by resolution authorised the Government to borrow up to \$300 million and approved the deposit of the proceeds into the National Investment Fund to support infrastructure and national development,” he added.

Minister Halkitis admitted that before the NIF governance arrangements became fully operational, the Ministry of Finance acted on the basis that the Public Finance Management Act governed the administration and application of these public resources through the Ministry and the Treasury.

He informed that, “The Government has sought settled advice from the Office of the Attorney-General concerning the

interaction between the Public Finance Management Act, the National Investment Funds Act and the relevant parliamentary authority. We acted in accordance with that advice and will bring any measure considered necessary before Parliament at the appropriate time.”

Research shows that the NIF was established mainly for the purpose of domestic, cultural and societal advancements in the blue, green and orange economies of The Bahamas. However, the act also states that a fund may be established for the development of national infrastructure and public improvement projects, and that the NIF is to be governed by a board.

While the Public Finance Management Act, 2023 which the government is relying on as the basis for its administration of the NIF in this instance, consolidates key fiscal legislation, including the Fiscal Responsibility Act (2018) and the Public Procurement Act (2021), into a single framework to modernize and strengthen financial governance in the Bahamas, with a primary purpose to promote fiscal responsibility, transparency, and prudent management of public resources, ensuring that government spending aligns with approved budgets and national economic objectives

As for how the money was spent Mr. Halkitis gave a breakdown on the spending noting that the resources were directed towards public investment.

He said, “To date, \$310.9 million of the Bahamas’ National Investment Fund proceeds have been strategically utilized to strengthen public infrastructure and strategic national assets across The Bahamas, again consistent with the March 10, 2025, Resolution of Parliament. These investments have supported projects designed to improve essential public services, modernize public facilities, enhance transportation connectivity, and create a stronger foundation for economic development.”

He noted that most of the funding was allocated across two key areas including buildings and road construction and aviation infrastructure.

He said “Buildings and roads represented the largest category of investment, accounting for \$210.6 million of the total. These investments supported



Hon Philip Davis K.C.
Prime Minister

the construction, renovation, acquisition, and modernization of critical public assets, including roads, a new court complex, and an administrative complex. In addition, the National Investment Fund supported the acquisition of water infrastructure.”

Continuing he said, “Aviation infrastructure investments totaled \$100.3 million of the total, supporting major airport development projects across the Family Islands and strengthening air connectivity. Funding covered airport construction, runway and terminal improvements, land acquisition, engineering, project management, surveying, and related professional services. Examples of key projects included improvements to airports in Cat Island, Long Island, Exuma, and San Salvador, to name a few.”

Through those investments, Minister Halkitis said, the National Investment Fund had advanced critical infrastructure projects that improved public services, enhanced transportation connectivity, strengthened public facilities, and supported sustainable economic development across The Bahamas.

He said, “They supported infrastructure that serves Bahamians: government buildings from which essential services are delivered, roads that connect communities and facilitate commerce, water systems upon which households and businesses depend, and airports that sustain the social and economic life of our Family Islands.”



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CABBAGE BEACH VENDORS TO BE RELOCATED

BY TYNIA BROWN
Journal Staff Writer

Approximately 21 vendors displaced from Cabbage Beach are expected to be relocated to other public beaches as the government moves to ensure they can continue earning an income while work in the area continues.

Public Parks and Beaches Authority Executive Chairman Jamahl Strachan said the agency is working to accommodate the affected vendors at Goodman's Bay, Montagu Beach and Junkanoo Beach.

Strachan said there is currently no definite timeline for how long the vendors will remain at the alternative locations, but the government intends to resettle them as quickly as possible.

"We look to resettle them as soon as possible so that they're not disenfranchised, so that they don't lose any of their earnings," Strachan said. Questions have also been raised about reports that vendors could receive \$10,000 to assist with relocation. However, Strachan said he was not in a position to speak to those reports.

From the Parks and Beaches Authority's perspective, Strachan said relocation involves distributing vendors across public beaches under its management where there is sufficient tourist activity to support their businesses. He said discussions surrounding whether vendors will be allowed to return to Cabbage Beach once construction is completed would have to be addressed more directly by the Ministry of Tourism.

Concerns have also been raised about overcrowding at some public beaches and whether the addition of displaced vendors could worsen the situation. However, Strachan said Parks and Beaches executives have reviewed the available space and are working to bring existing vendors into compliance. Each vendor is allocated a 10-by-10-foot space.

"If we adhere to that particular allocation, then we'll have more than enough space to accommodate the new vendors," Strachan said. He added that inspectors have been deployed for about two weeks to ensure vendors comply with their allocated spaces and to prepare for relocating those displaced from Cabbage Beach.

Strachan also acknowledged concerns that Bahamian vendors can sometimes feel sidelined during developments, but said he views those concerns as input and part of the wider negotiation process.

The authority maintains that the relocation effort aims to protect vendors' earning opportunities while managing available space on public beaches.



Jamahl Strachan
Public Parks and Beaches Authority
Executive Chairman

NEW LAWS TO PROTECT ELDERLY

See Story Cont. From Pg.1

According to Darville the Bill permits anonymous reporting of suspected abuse and protects persons who make reports in good faith. He said certain healthcare, social service, law enforcement and other professionals will have a statutory duty to report where they reasonably suspect that an older person requires care and protection.

Taking things a step further, he said third, the Bill also confronts an abuse that can sometimes remain hidden behind family relationships, financial exploitation.

"Taking an older person's pension. Misusing their bank card. Coercing them to transfer property. Manipulating a will. Using their National Insurance benefit for purposes other than their welfare. Preventing them from accessing their own money. These matters are specifically addressed in this legislation, with financial exploitation attracting serious penalties," warned the Health Minister.

On the other hand, he said the Bill is not only about punishment, but is also about support as it provides for the development of a National Older Persons Policy within twelve months, with priority given to a National Dementia Strategy. Additionally, it promotes community nursing, home-based care and older persons' day-care services.

He said, "Where it is safe and appropriate, we should help our older persons remain independent, connected to their communities and supported in familiar surroundings. The Bill recognizes the tremendous responsibility carried by caregivers and provides for caregiver training and support."

As it relates to elderly people living in the Family Islands that need medical attention beyond the island clinics Dr. Darville explained that the Bill establishes liaison support for older people, including coordination and verification of appointments before inter-island travel, notification of cancellations, assistance with rescheduling and access to telehealth where appropriate.

Additionally, the Bill calls for the streamlining of processes so that an older person will no longer need to visit multiple sites to access social service assistance, when needed. In conclusion he said, "The Bill incorporates the needs of older persons into disaster preparedness, response, relief and recovery. And importantly, it rejects the idea that retirement means irrelevance."

Dr. Darville asked Members of Parliament from both sides to support the Bill once the debate begins.

OPPOSITION LEADER ACCUSES GOVERNMENT OF MISAPPROPRIATING NIF FUNDS

See Story Cont. From Pg.1

Pintard stated the NIF board is not properly set up or operating, but the government has found a way to transfer money into and out of the fund.

"They did not do their job. They did not appoint a board that was holding meetings, that had set up its infrastructure, that had put in place an investment committee, but yet they were moving public funds," Pintard explained.

In the House of Assembly Halkitis said before the Board of Directors for the NIF could be fully operational the government

sought legal advice and use the Public Finance Management Act that Governs and administrates public Resources.

Halkitis goes on to defend the government's NIF spending stating that the money was used for investments in infrastructural works including roads, airports and a court complex.

"These resources were directed toward public investment to date 310.9 million of the Bahamas National Investment Funds proceeds have bin strategically utilized to strengthen

public infrastructure and strategic national assets across the Bahama lands," he explained.

The opposition leader stated Halkitis acknowledged the funds could've been managed better which shows that the government did not do their job.

"His explanation shows that the government miss lead parliament, they lied to parliament, they lied to the public, they about the state of the deficit, and the lied about the surplus," Pintard said.

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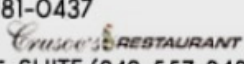


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HANNA MARTIN: TOURISM GROWTH MUST TRANSLATE INTO BENEFITS FOR BAHAMIANS

BY TYNIA BROWN
Journal Staff Writer

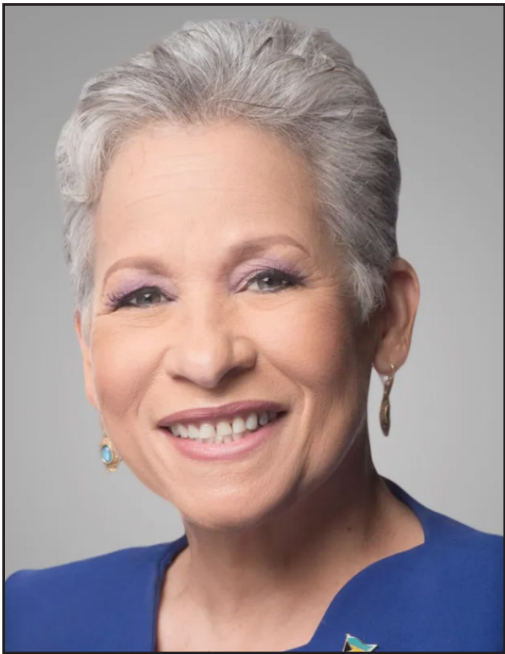
Minister of Tourism Glenys Hanna Martin says the continued growth in the tourism industry demonstrates the strength of The Bahamas’ stopover business, but stressed that tourism performance should extend beyond increasing arrival numbers. Her remarks came after The Bahamas recorded its strongest January-to-July stopover performance on record in 2026, welcoming 1,314,639 stopover visitors during the first seven months of the year.

The figure represents a 4.3 percent increase over the same period in 2025, amounting to more than 54,000 additional stopover visitors. March, April, June and July all set new monthly records. March recorded 228,693 stopovers, while April welcomed 190,013 visitors. Several key international markets also saw growth, with Canada up 15.4 percent, Latin America up 16.4 percent, and Europe up 4 percent.

Nassau and Paradise Island remained the country’s main tourism gateway, with air arrivals up 6.4 percent year-to-date, while Exuma rose 18.6 percent.

“These results are about more than visitor numbers,” Hanna-Martin said. Hanna Martin said the growth should create opportunities for Bahamian businesses and have a meaningful economic impact on communities, adding that the government’s focus is on maintaining tourism momentum in a way that benefits Bahamians across the country.

Hanna Martin has also called for greater attention to how much tourism revenue remains in the local economy. During her contribution to the 2026/2027 Budget debate,



Hon. Glenys Hanna Martin
Minister of Tourism

Hanna Martin said The Bahamas welcomed nearly 11 million cruise passengers in 2025, but argued that more arrivals alone do not necessarily mean greater prosperity.

She said the Ministry intends to focus on increasing visitor spending, repeat visitation and the amount of tourism revenue retained locally, while also encouraging cruise passengers to spend more within the wider Bahamian economy and potentially return as stopover visitors.

Hanna Martin said the ultimate aim is to ensure the country’s continued tourism growth creates broader opportunities for Bahamian workers, entrepreneurs and communities.

GOVERNOR-GENERAL PAYS RESPECTS AT THE LIE-IN-STATE FOR THE RT. HON. NEVILLE WISDOM



Governor General, HE the Most Hon. Dame Cynthia A. Pratt paid respects at the Lie-in-State ceremonies for the Late Right Honourable Neville Walter Wisdom, CB, former educator, coach, Cabinet Minister and Member of Parliament, in the Foyer of the House of Assembly, Parliament Square, September 17, 2026. Dame Cynthia also greeted the widow of Mr. Wisdom, Mrs. Manita Wisdom, and other family members.



SON AND ELDERLY WOMAN FACE CHARGES AFTER DOG ATTACK

BY: MAKEIRA TUCKER
Journal Staff Writer

The family of the owner of a dog which viciously attacked a three year old girl causing her to require surgery is urging authorities to drop charges against an elderly woman because she is living with dementia.

On Monday the Minister of Agriculture and Marine Resources, Jomo Campbell, called for the owner of the dog to turn themselves in. Later that evening the owner turned himself in after hearing police had taken his elderly mother, into custody who was home at the time of the attack. It was revealed the owner was in hospital at the time and was not home when the incident occurred.

Reports stated family members of the elderly woman are now questioning why she is still facing charges if her son already turned himself taking responsibility for the dog.

The mother and son are scheduled to appear in court next Tuesday.

Benticka Lightbourne, the mother of 3-year-old Skye Lightbourne, said the vicious attack took place on Ida Street while walking her daughter to school in the morning. Lightbourne recalled hearing a neighbor’s scream minutes before the animal slipped out the gate.

The Belgin Malinois- German Shepherd mixed dog then charged at her daughter, knocking the toddler to the ground and biting her about the head. She stated she had to fight off the dog and pried its mouth open with her bare hands in efforts to free her child.

“Only God knows how he gave me the strength because I couldn’t think,” Lightbourne claimed.

Lightbourne said her daughter underwent surgery for injuries to her temple, forehead and the back of her head and may need facial reconstructive surgery. Lightbourn expressed since the incident on September 9th she has a hard time sleeping.

“I can’t sleep because every night, I’m looking at my baby, touching my baby to make sure she’s still here with me,” Lightbourne added.

“If I wasn’t minutes from my baby, I would have lost my baby and I love my baby so much,” she cried.

This week during the Ministry of Urban Renewal and Community Relations women outreach community walkabout in Mason’s Addition, Minister Campbell revealed that the dog responsible for the attack was taken away by authorities. Campbell also demanded its owner to turn themselves into the police as they already have their identity and they will be facing charges.

“We know who the owner is and we’re making this appeal to the owner at this time, please present yourself to the nearest station to your residence which would be the Wulff Road Police Station, so we can discuss the way forward on this matter,” Campbell said.

The Minister stated that upon hearing news about the attack the Animal Control Unit went into action right away to assess the matter. Campbell also thanked the members of the Ida Street community for providing information to the police that assisted with their investigations.

This attack comes just weeks after the Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources launched its “Mission Pawsible” project. An initiative that focuses on educating pet owners about the rules and laws in place to ensure the proper handling and treatment of dogs.

One of its citations includes the proper restraint of a dog in an open yard.

PM WELCOMES FNM LEGAL CHALLENGE

See Story Cont. From Pg.2

As he approached the conclusion of his communication Halkitis said, “This is the wider purpose of national investment: to use resources available today to create enduring public value for tomorrow. At the same time, the Government does not suggest that a worthy public purpose removes the need for proper governance. Public benefit and accountability are complementary obligations. The stronger the public investment, the stronger the systems of oversight, reporting and assurance must be.”



Hon. Michael Halkitis
Minister of Finance

As for the Board of Directors for the NIF Halkitis said the government is completing the remaining arrangements required for the Fund’s continuing operation, including its regulations, mandates, committee structure, financial reporting and audit processes.

He said, “The objective is to ensure that future decisions are taken within a clear and settled framework, with defined responsibilities, effective oversight and the reporting required by law.”

He made it clear that the Ministry of Finance maintains the financial records associated with the transactions undertaken during the period in question.

He said, “Those records will be addressed through the applicable statutory accounting, reporting and audit processes.”

Minister Halkitis stated that the Government intended to fully cooperate with the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee on that matter.

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THE BAHAMAS MAKES FAMILY ISLAND PROJECTS BANKABLE

Essential infrastructure cannot be determined by population size. However, for small islands, attracting the private capital needed to build it can present a significant challenge.

The Bahamas is responding to this by changing the way it takes projects to market.

Minister of Energy, Utilities and Aviation the Hon. JoBeth Coleby-Davis says the country is packaging infrastructure projects across its Family Islands to create greater scale, strengthen their financial viability, and make essential investments more attractive to private capital.

Speaking at the 10th Annual Caribbean Infrastructure Forum (CARIF), sponsored by CIBC alongside KPMG, Coleby-Davis said the approach recognizes a reality familiar to small island states across the region: infrastructure is needed, regardless of whether an individual island has sufficient demand to make a standalone project commercially attractive.

“On the Family Islands, we don’t have as great as the demand as some other countries, but we still are required to provide that sort of infrastructure,” Coleby-Davis said.

Rather than treating each project in isolation, she said The Bahamas has combined projects to create investment packages capable of achieving greater scale.

“Putting projects together, instead of isolating them, allows us to expand our relationship with investors, and for them to be able to reach financial close,” she said. The strategy forms part of a wider effort to make critical infrastructure projects bankable while balancing the country’s development needs with the commercial realities facing investors.

During a discussion with Aldo Malpartida, Head of Infrastructure and Energy for the Caribbean region at IDB Invest, Coleby-Davis said creating bankable projects begins well before they are presented to potential investors.

The government, she explained, has focused on updating legislation, strengthening regulatory frameworks, and using technical support from multilateral agencies to help structure projects in ways that are familiar to financing institutions and private investors. Recent reforms have included updates to the Electricity Act, the introduction of a Natural Gas Act, and a revamp of the country’s energy policy.

For Coleby-Davis, those changes are as important to attracting capital as the projects themselves.

“Investors want predictability. They want to know the start. They want to know how we’re going to get to the finish line, and they want that stability. But they also want to see their returns,” she said.

The approach is being applied as The Bahamas advances major infrastructure improvements across energy, water, and aviation. Coleby-Davis said the country’s energy transformation is expected to require more than \$500 million, while approximately \$200 million is expected to be spent on waterworks transformation across the Family Islands. Airport redevelopment is also progressing through the Family Island Airport Renaissance program.

The scale of that investment, she said, makes private-sector and multilateral participation essential. Coleby-Davis also said blended approaches can be particularly important for projects that deliver significant social and economic benefits but may not initially meet all the requirements of a conventional private investor.

“What we did in our public-private partnerships was ensure that in the negotiation stage, we remove as many risk as we can,” she said.

That includes addressing potential administrative barriers early.

Coleby-Davis said steering groups for projects have been structured to include representatives from relevant government agencies, allowing regulatory and permitting matters to be addressed as projects move forward. The government has also taken on portions of infrastructure development where appropriate to reduce the requirements subsequently placed on private investors.

In aviation, for example, Coleby-Davis said the government has undertaken some preparatory and airside works associated with airport projects, leaving investors to focus on other components, including terminal infrastructure.

“Finding ways to de-risk but also reduce the financial burden when the government is able to partner, helps out with getting those projects across the finish line,” she said.

The same philosophy extends to financing. Coleby-Davis said concessional funding, guarantees, technical assistance and multilateral financing can be combined with private capital to make projects viable while limiting the strain on government finances. The approach is particularly relevant as Caribbean countries face the simultaneous challenge of modernizing ageing infrastructure and making new investments capable of withstanding increasingly severe climate events. For The Bahamas, Coleby-Davis said resilience is not simply a policy ambition.

“Resiliency is not because of an abstract policy objective, it’s actually an economic necessity,”



she said.

That combination of resilience and financial viability is increasingly shaping how The Bahamas structures infrastructure development, particularly across its Family Islands. In energy, the government is pursuing micro-hybrid projects incorporating liquefied natural gas, solar and battery energy storage to create more diversified generation systems on islands that have traditionally depended heavily on diesel.

For smaller islands, however, Coleby-Davis’ message at CARIF was that attracting capital requires more than identifying infrastructure needs. Governments must also structure projects in ways that investors and financiers can support. That means creating scale where possible, establishing predictable regulatory environments, addressing risks early, and finding the appropriate combination of public, private and multilateral financing.

Coleby-Davis said The Bahamas intends to continue using those partnerships as it advances its infrastructure agenda.

“Investors, we’re open for business and looking for great strategic partners that will continue to help us build the framework for our country and grow in places where we can continue to meet the economic demand, but also build with a resilient approach so that we can remain to be sustainable,” she said.

“Investors, The Bahamas is working. We have a busy agenda, and we’re looking for continued friendship and partners along the way.”

From left is Minister of Energy, Utilities and Aviation for The Bahamas, the Hon. JoBeth Coleby-Davis and Head of Infrastructure and Energy for the Caribbean region at IDB Invest, Aldo Malpartida having a discussion during this year’s Caribbean Infrastructure Forum (CARIF), sponsored by CIBC alongside KPMG.



Minister of Energy, Utilities and Aviation for The Bahamas, the Hon. JoBeth Coleby-Davis participates in various meetings at the CIBC Caribbean booth during CARIF 2026.



Minister of Energy, Utilities and Aviation for The Bahamas, the Hon. JoBeth Coleby-Davis.

DUNKIN’ RETURNS AS GOLD SPONSOR OF CIBC WALK FOR THE CURE



Dunkin’ Bahamas has reaffirmed its commitment to supporting cancer awareness and community initiatives, returning as a Gold Sponsor of the annual CIBC Walk for the Cure.

The partnership forms part of Dunkin’ Bahamas’ ongoing commitment to giving back to the communities it serves and supporting initiatives that positively impact Bahamian families.

“We are proud to once again support CIBC Walk for the Cure and the important work being done to raise awareness and resources in the fight against cancer,” said Katherine Nelson, CEO of Dunkin’ Bahamas. “This is a cause that touches so many families, and we are pleased to play our part.”

Dunkin’ will continue its support of breast cancer awareness throughout October, including the return of its special pink donuts, with further details to be announced.

Dunkin’ Bahamas recently presented its sponsorship in support of the CIBC Walk for the Cure. Pictured L–R are Antionette Fox, Business Analyst; Terrance Gibson, Head of Country; Raquel Rolle, Operations Manager, Dunkin’ Bahamas; Sheila Brown, Branch Manager, CIBC Caribbean JFK Branch; and Felicia Albury-Mitchell, Marketing Manager.

NEVILLE — A TRIBUTE TO THE FORMER MINISTER OF YOUTH, SPORTS AND CULTURE THE “WISDOM” IN COACHING

BY: DR DANIEL JOHNSON



ADVERTISE IN THE BAHAMA JOURNAL

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MAKE YOUR MARKETING DOLLARS STRETCH FURTHER

Neville Walter Wisdom and I were the sons of two sisters and grandsons of the venerable educator E. P. Roberts. On that maternal side rest our deep Abaco roots in Marsh Harbour and Green Turtle Cay, and a family tradition in which public service was held almost sacred.

Neville never wavered from that tradition. He made us proud and kept the candle burning in the spirit of family public service.

But my tribute to Neville extends far beyond his stellar political career.

“Coach,” as hundreds of Bahamians knew him, had a special gift for discerning hidden talent and nurturing it to its fullest potential. He became a father and uncle figure to generations of young athletes. His work with the Bain Town Flyers Association and at Government High School, where he served in senior administration and as Head of the Physical Education Department, is an enduring part of our sporting history.

His influence reached athletes who represented The Bahamas from CARIFTA to the Commonwealth and Pan American Games, World Athletics and ultimately the Olympic Games. Long before Neville became Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture, his name and his work were already blowing in the winds across the Queen Elizabeth Sports Centre.

When he eventually assumed that national portfolio, Neville brought to public policy the wisdom of a coach, educator and administrator who understood sports from the ground up. His tenure helped advance the development of the National Stadium through cooperation with the People’s Republic of China and the National Sports Authority. He championed athlete subventions and scholarships abroad, worked to heal the longstanding rift in baseball and supported the continued development of Junkanoo and Bahamian culture.

Yet Neville’s greatest legacy rests in people. He took tremendous pride and personal satisfaction in the advancement and achievements of others, particularly

those whose lives he had helped shape. He never lived in the spotlight of his protégés. He was never one to boast, “I did this” or “I did that.” His satisfaction came from seeing others succeed.

Neville was also a man of Christian faith and humility, devoted to Trinity Methodist Church. He could communicate with people from every level of society and shift gears effortlessly, but he wore the same smile for everyone. Whether in Rock Crusher Road, Lightbourne Avenue, Farrington Road, Queen’s Park or Gambier Village, ordinary people gravitated towards him because his connection with them was genuine.

Ten years after Neville’s sterling run, I too sat in the chair as Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture. Even after another administration had served between us, Neville’s impact remained. The movers and shakers at the Ministry still hailed Neville Wisdom as a breath of fresh air.

I benefited from his goodwill, his comradeship and the linkages he had built. We dusted off and revived initiatives and ran with the baton Neville was ready in his lane to hand off.

Neville remained loyal to his principles, his family, his faith, public service and his country.

Neville Walter Wisdom was truly a man of tremendous talent — some of which, I believe, even he did not fully recognize. It simply came naturally.

Rest well, “Nev”
You left The Bahamas a much better place because you were once a passerby.

In the end, God and country matter.
— *Danny Johnson*



Dr. Daniel Johnson

LABOUR MINISTRY HOLDS WORKSHOP TO REVIEW OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REGULATIONS

The Minister of Labour, Public Service and National Insurance the Hon. Pia Glover-Rolle said in recent years, the country has had a “fair share of workplace incidents.”

“I truly believe that even one on-the-job injury or death is one too many. And each of these incidents is a reminder of what is at stake,” the Labour Minister said during the Ministry’s Validation Workshop on the National Regulation for Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) held at St. Gregory’s Anglican Church on Wednesday, September 16, 2026.

Social partners, industry professionals, colleagues from the public and private sectors, and members of civil society attended the workshop to review, amend, update, and validate the Occupational Safety and Health Regulations first approved in 2013 — regulations that social partners agreed to but never brought into force.

The Minister noted that the stakeholders were to examine new regulation developed specifically for the country’s construction industry.

“These are practical instruments that will govern how Bahamians are protected at work. However, they will be only as strong as the tripartite process behind them, and that is why the work we do today is so important.”

She said, “Every worker deserves to return home safely at the end of the workday.

“Every employer deserves clear guidance and support to maintain a safe workplace.

“And every government administration is responsible for working with our tripartite partners to build the systems, standards, and enforcement measures that preserve the safety and health of Bahamian workers.”

The Labour Minister explained that upholding that responsibility requires the creation of new rules for the realities of the 21st century.

She said that includes accounting for thermal stress and its detrimental effect on workers as the climate grows warmer.

The Minister added that it means recognizing that mental health deserves greater consideration in the nation’s occupational safety and health standards, which is why the government’s move to legislate the first national standard for mental health leave is such an important step.

She said, “Strong regulations require strong enforcement. So, we are strengthening the Occupational Safety and Health Unit within the Department of Labour with plans to expand inspection and public education.”

The Labour Minister said, “Our inspectors cannot be everywhere at once, so we need the public to serve as our eyes on the ground, reporting violations when they see them.

“That requires widespread public awareness and trust that we must continue to build each day, not just through public communication and legislative amendments, but through the action we take to demonstrate our dedication to enforcement.”

She said the government is also preparing to introduce new technologies, including drone-assisted inspection, to monitor remote sites across the country through its partnership with the Organization of American States.

The Minister said that capability will improve the government’s reach to the islands and cays that are often difficult to access.

She noted that alongside this work, the government’s broader labour reforms will bring forward a slate of related legislative changes.

The Minister said, “Today’s session lays the foundation for many of these changes and sets the stage for the seminar we will host in November as we move toward finalizing the new OSH framework, as well as the amendments to the Health and Safety at Work Act.”



FROM SAC ROOTS TO BAHAMIAN SOIL: TERRANCE AND LAVENDER ROBERTS CULTIVATE A LEGACY

More than five decades after Terrance L. Roberts and Lavender Juanita Roberts walked the halls of St. Augustine’s College, the husband-and-wife alumni have built a legacy spanning education, business, national development and, today, sustainable Bahamian agriculture.

Terrance graduated with the SAC Class of 1970, while Lavender (née Parker) followed with the Class of 1972. They married in 1979, joining two SAC legacies that continue through their family and professional accomplishments.

At the centre of their latest chapter is Berkshire Bahamas Farms, the family-owned agricultural and livestock enterprise in Pine Ridge Agricultural Estates, Freeport, developed with their son, Terrance Roberts III.

Established in 2019, the farm combines the Roberts family’s generations-old agricultural roots with modern, climate-smart practices. From its beginnings with Berkshire pigs, the operation has diversified into poultry, egg production and other livestock, with an emphasis on technology, sustainability and strengthening Bahamian food security.

For Roberts, farming is directly connected

to national self-reliance.

“True national sovereignty cannot exist on political independence alone; it requires robust economic independence. By modernizing our ancestral farming roots with climate-smart technology, we build a resilient foundation where Bahamian land directly fuels Bahamian self-reliance, security, and wealth.”

The family’s success has earned national recognition. Terrance Roberts III was named Male Farmer of the Year at the inaugural Agrarian Awards, while Berkshire Bahamas Farms has also been recognized for its contribution to the country’s Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise sector.

The elder Roberts brings more than four decades of leadership to the enterprise. His career has spanned journalism with The Freeport News, senior tourism and hospitality positions, corporate governance and economic development. He has served with the Grand Bahama Island Tourism Board, Tourism Development Corporation, Hotel Corporation of The Bahamas, Lucayan Renewal Holdings Ltd., the Hawksbill Creek Agreement Review Committee Secretariat and the Grand Bahama Economic Advisory &

Tourism Task Force. He also served two terms on the Freeport Local Government Council and was a founding member and chairman of the former Grand Bahama Child Care Committee.

Alongside him, Lavender Juanita Roberts, B.A., M.Sc. Ed., has built a successful career in education, particularly Early Childhood Education, dedicating her professional life to nurturing children and inspiring them to learn and grow.

In many ways, their journeys beautifully complement each other: she has spent her career cultivating young minds, while he is now helping to cultivate Bahamian land — both investments in the future.

Terrance and Lavender are the parents of Aryana, Imani and Terrance III, who is married to Alexis (née Smith), and grandparents to Terrance IV and Nyla Kaye.

The couple will be among the distinguished alumni honoured at the 2026 SAC Alumni Lighthouse Awards & Gala Ball on Saturday, October 24, 2026, at the Atlantis Ballroom, under the distinguished patronage of His Grace, Archbishop Patrick Pinder.

Tickets are \$300, and SAC alumni, students, families, friends and supporters are



Terrance L. Roberts



Lavender Juanita Roberts



encouraged to attend, with proceeds helping to support the continuing needs of St. Augustine’s College and its students.

For tickets and additional information, visit the St. Augustine’s College Alumni Association website.

From SAC to the classrooms of The Bahamas and the agricultural fields of Grand Bahama, the Roberts family legacy continues to grow — rooted in education, enterprise, service and Bahamian soil.