



DPM: RCL PART OWNERSHIP OF SANDALS “ALL POSITIVE”

CIRT LEADS NATIONAL CYBER SECURITY IN PORTS WORKSHOP

See Story Cont. Pg.2

Hon. Leon Lundy
Minister of Transport

PM DAVIS LEADS DELEGATION TO 81ST UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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GOVERNMENT TO REMOVE VAT FROM TRUST SERVICES AND LAUNCH FAMILY OFFICE PROGRAMME

The Government will remove Value Added Tax from trust services by the end of 2026 and will also remove VAT from transfers of property into trusts for specified beneficiaries, including family members, Minister of Economic Affairs Senator Jerome Fitzgerald announced this week.

He said, the measures form part of a wider plan to make The Bahamas more competitive for international family offices and private wealth.

The plan also includes a new Family Office Programme, a coordinated Bahamas Invest Concierge service and a modern Tax Residency Certificate framework.

Fitzgerald told the Association of International Banks and Trust Companies Nassau Conference 2026 at Baha Mar that clear rules, coordinated administration and predictable processes reduce risk for families making long-term decisions.

He said, “That is why I have come to view certainty as a product in and of itself.” That focus on certainty underpins the proposed VAT changes.

The Government intends to remove VAT from trust services at the end of this year. It will also remove VAT from property transferred into trusts for certain classes of beneficiaries, including family members.

The Department of Inland Revenue is reviewing Guidance Notes and draft

legislative amendments that the Government intends to issue or table and debate in Parliament before year-end.

“VAT should not penalize anyone that chooses to plan ahead,” Fitzgerald said. “We do not believe a family should be taxed for succession planning.”

Together, the changes are expected to reduce the cost of establishing and maintaining Bahamian trust structures and remove VAT from qualifying transfers of assets from one generation to the next.

Fitzgerald said the policy responds directly to feedback from trust companies, banks, professional advisers and families. The wider package also includes a new Family Office Programme, to be administered through Bahamas Invest Concierge.

Qualifying family offices will enter into transparent agreements with the Government, similar in concept to agreements used for major development projects. The agreements will set out obligations and provide coordinated treatment across immigration, work permits, business licensing, exchange control, regulatory requirements and investment approvals.

Fitzgerald said a substantial family office can bring high-value professional jobs, internationally mobile capital, demand for Bahamian banking and professional

services, local operating expenditure, real estate investment, philanthropy and direct investment in Bahamian businesses and projects.

He said, “The value proposition is certainty, speed, coordination and predictability. The Bahamas already possesses many of the statutory, professional and lifestyle attributes required to compete successfully for international family offices. What is presently missing is the Government product that joins them together.”

He said to support that work, renovations for the Bahamas Invest Concierge Unit are underway and are expected to be completed before the end of the year.

Once launched, the unit will give qualifying investors a single point of contact from initial enquiry through final approval, bringing together the agencies responsible for investment, residency, wealth management and related approvals.

The Government is also finalising legislation for the Bahamas Tax Residency Certificate and preparing accompanying Guidance Notes.

Under the proposed framework, qualifying individuals and entities will be able to establish and demonstrate Bahamian tax residency with a requirement of 90 non-consecutive days in the jurisdiction.

Fitzgerald said the certificate will give internationally mobile individuals and families clearer rules they can plan around while reinforcing The Bahamas as a credible place to work, live, invest and build a long-term presence.

Fitzgerald said the success of these reforms will depend on close coordination among Government, regulators and industry as global financial services continue to shift. Government must provide policy, legislation and efficient administration; regulators must protect the jurisdiction’s credibility; and industry must contribute market knowledge, innovation and direct insight from clients.

“Our goal is to be the most responsive, sophisticated and trusted international financial services centre in this hemisphere. Strong coordination among these three stakeholder groups gives our jurisdiction its best chance to compete and succeed,” Fitzgerald said.



Hon. Jerome Fitzgerald
Minister of Economic Affairs



CIRT LEADS NATIONAL CYBER SECURITY IN PORTS WORKSHOP

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He warned that when critical systems are affected, the consequences can reach the economy, communities and national security. “That is why cybersecurity can no longer be treated as simply an IT issue. It is a national resilience issue. This workshop is therefore about more than identifying threats, it is about building capacity, the systems and the relationships necessary for when those threats emerge, and perhaps more importantly, it is about recognizing that no agency can do it alone.”

“We must already know who is responsible, who must be contacted, which information must be shared and what action must be taken. That is the value of the work taking place here over the next several days,” said Lundy.

He urged participants embrace the

training and the serious responsibility they have in protecting the country from cyber threats.

He said, “I want us to leave this workshop with greater preparedness, greater concentration, and greater confidence in our ability to protect The Bahamas.”

The Minister said, “I want us to leave this workshop with something greater than a training certificate. I want us to leave with greater preparedness, greater concentration and greater confidence in our ability to protect The Bahamas, because we cannot wait for the next cyber incident to tell us what we should have done.”

He said, “We must prepare before the crisis, we must strengthen before the threat and we must build resistance before it is tested. That is responsible governance. That

is national preparedness. That is how we protect the future of The Bahamas.”

Some of the topics addressed in the forum included: Current and emerging maritime cyber threats-analysis of the evolving threat landscape affecting the maritime and logistics sectors in the region; security of maritime systems and infrastructure-protecting integrated internet technology (IT) and Operational Technology (OT) environments, including port and vessel systems; and technological innovations in maritime security-the impact, opportunities and risks of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and automation.

The workshop ended Wednesday with a table-top exercise simulating a cyber incident targeting Bahamian ports.



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MALE STUDENTS' TOP CONTENDERS FOR THE BAHAMAS ALL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP

BY MAKEIRA TUCKER
Journal Staff Writer

The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology announced Jayden Sands as the recipient of the 2026 All Bahamas Merit Scholarship this week. Gary Neilly was named the All-Bahamas Merit Scholarship runner- up.

Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Science and Technology, Chester Copper, acknowledged the accomplishments of the two young men, stating, “I point out that both are young men who are receiving the first and the runner- up award.”

Sands, who is currently a freshman pursuing a degree in Accounting and Finance at St. John’s University in Minnesota, will receive \$35,000 per academic year for a total of \$140,000 over four years. He joined the announcement virtually from his university.

“I can assure you that I will continue to work hard, keeping my education as my priority with the goal to contribute to the development of The Bahamas,” Sands said.

This scholarship is the most prestigious scholarship presented to a Bahamian student from the Ministry, and noted that out of 29 applicants, the top three contenders were male students.

The All-Bahamas Merit Scholarship requires candidates to have a cumulative GPA of 3.7 and above, a minimum of eight BGCSE’s with an A pass, and a SAT score of 1220 or an ACT score of 25 or higher.

Cooper explained the Government’s dedication to advancing education this academic year by creating more opportunities for Bahamian students.

“The Government of The Bahamas remains committed to investing in the education of our people. This year we have a total scholarship budget of 14 million dollars, and I’m pleased to tell you we have listed and approved 500 new scholarships total,” Cooper said.

The minister also noted how these scholarships play an important role in the development of the country by allowing students to study abroad and come back home to apply their talents.

He said, “Government funded scholarships are more than awards for academic achievements. They’re strategic investments in the human capital of our country.”

“The continued growth and development of The Bahamas will depend heavily on the knowledge, skills, creativity, innovation and leadership capacity of out people,” Cooper continued.

Cooper also announced the government is exploring the reintroduction of bonding requirements for scholarship recipients, which would require scholars to return to The Bahamas and work for a period equivalent to the length of their scholarship.

“We are investing substantially in developing Bahamian talent and we want that investment to translate into a stronger capacity here at home,” Cooper said.

“Our intention is to create a stronger connection between the opportunities we provide our scholars and the human-capital needs of the public service and wider country,” he added.

An additional 27 students were named 2026 National Merit Scholarship recipients. Eighteen students including Kendal Brooks, Zion Carey, Christopher Carter and Ziarre Darville will receive \$20,000 per year and nine others including Kaylee Fernander, Evan Johnson and Michael Knowles will receive \$15,000 per year for four years.

PM DAVIS LEADS DELEGATION TO 81ST UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Story Cont. From Pg.1

“So let us be honest about what this quiet is. The hurricane season is not over and to date we have been spared. Others have not. And many of them are sitting in this room. No policy spared us. No treaty. No fund. No sea wall. Mother Nature chose. To date this year, she chose the Pacific. Next year she may choose the Caribbean. We remember what that feels like,” said Prime Minister Davis as he reminded of the devastation of the 2019 hurricane Dorian.

He explained this type of uncertainty is life in a small island state. “Friends, no nation’s survival should depend on luck. And no nation should take comfort in a mercy that is paid for by someone else’s suffering. Yet that is the temptation of our time. We live in a fragmented world.

Nations are turning inward. Promises are made loudly and kept quietly, if at all. Each country is tempted to say: it is not my storm, not my coastline, not my problem.”

Continuing to build his point Mr. Davis said, “The ocean does not recognise that thinking. It is one body of water. What warms in one hemisphere breaks upon another. The sea has never been fragmented. Only we are. That is why the Declaration we honour tonight matters so deeply. In a divided world, the nations of the world agreed. It is proof that we can still act as one. Now we must make it real. Real means this. Climate mobility is the human face of this crisis. By 2050, up to 8.2 million people across the Greater Caribbean could be on the move.”

“Our people do not want to leave. So, protect their right to stay, with adaptation finance that is larger, faster, and placed in the hands of communities themselves. Some cannot leave, even when they must. The poor. The rural. Too often, women. Do not abandon them on the front line. And where people must move, let them move with dignity, with rights, and with their culture intact. This is the work of the Rising Nations Institute and the Communities Climate Adaptation Facility. The Bahamas stands fully behind them,” committed Prime Minister Davis.

The purpose of the UN’s General Assembly is to serve as the main deliberative, policymaking, and representative body, providing a forum for all 193 member states to discuss global issues, make recommendations, approve the UN budget, and elect key UN officials.

Prime Minister Davis is expected to address the General Assembly today (Friday September 25th). The theme for the general debate is “Restoring Trust, Managing Transformation: A United Nations That Delivers for All”.

Earlier in the week on Tuesday, The Bahamas Foreign Affairs and Immigration Minister, Fred Mitchell, who is part of The Bahamas Delegation at the 81st United Nations General Assembly, announced that The Bahamas has officially joined the French-Mexican Initiative on restraint in the use of the veto in cases of mass atrocities.

This critical announcement by Minister Mitchell came during a ministerial meeting with his colleagues; the Foreign Ministers of France and Mexico. The United Kingdom’s Foreign Secretary Ed Milliband and The Government of Guyana also announced they had joined the initiative that was first introduced in 2015 and now with some 128 countries of the United Nations now a part of it. It is now just one country shy of reaching a two-thirds threshold of UN member states.



Hon. Philip Davis, K.C.

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BAHAMAS REPRESENTATIVES MEET WITH U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



On 18 September 2026, His Excellency Wendall K. Jones, Ambassador of The Bahamas to the United States, led a Bahamian delegation during a meeting with the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) in Washington, D.C., to discuss matters of mutual interest.

Ambassador Jones was accompanied by Dwight Adderley, Assistant Commissioner of Police for the Security and Intelligence Branch of the Royal Bahamas Police Force (RBPF),

and Anthony Ferguson, Director of the National Intelligence Agency.

The United States delegation was represented by Brian Skaret, Acting Assistant Attorney General, Emily Siedell, Associate Director of the Office of International Affairs, and Philip Mervis, Trial Attorney of the Office of International Affairs.

Following the DOJ meeting, the Honourable Frederick Mitchell, Minister of Foreign Affairs of The Bahamas was debriefed at the Embassy on the discussions.



AFRO-CARIBBEAN SHOWROOM OPENS DOOR TO WIDER TRADE OPPORTUNITIES

BY TYNIA BROWN
Journal Staff Writer

Efforts to strengthen trade and cultural ties between The Bahamas and Ghana are gaining momentum, with the soft opening of a new Nassau showroom aimed at giving businesses and creatives from both regions greater access to international markets.

The Afro-Caribbean Trade and Logistics Consulting Group, ACT-LCG, officially opened its Nassau showroom as part of a wider push to connect African and Caribbean entrepreneurs, designers and investors.

Chief Executive Officer Sabrina Maria Manley-LaFleur said the space will serve as more than a traditional retail outlet, providing a platform where brands and designers can gain international exposure.

“We now have an outlet where brands and designers we discover through the corridor can receive international visibility,” she said, adding that the showroom can help turn cultural connections into commercial opportunities.

LaFleur also announced plans for the AfriCarib Fashion House, which will initially bring Ghanaian and Bahamian designers together through a shared commercial platform. The pre-launch is expected in the first quarter of 2027.

Chairman of the Bahamas Trade Commission and Chief Trade Negotiator Senator Barry Griffin said the initiative reflects growing efforts to build stronger economic relations between The Bahamas and Ghana.

Griffin noted that officials and business groups from both countries have participated in reciprocal trade missions and diplomatic engagements in recent years.

“We are in the process of building that foundational friendship with Ghana, and this is one of the true, real fruits of that labor,” Griffin said, describing the showroom as a space dedicated to the creative economies of Ghana, Africa, The Bahamas and the wider Caribbean.

Ghana’s Presidential Special Envoy to the Caribbean, His

Excellency King Kwasi Kyei Darkwah, said the partnership is also intended to deepen historical and cultural ties while expanding economic opportunities.

He said both regions have strengths that could complement each other, pointing to tourism in the Caribbean and agriculture, manufacturing, fashion and design in Ghana.

“We want to find ways of bringing our energies together so we can work together to create more jobs for our people and to build economic prosperity for our people,” he said.

The broader AfriCaribbean Trade Corridor is being developed as a network connecting businesses, investors, institutions and professionals across Africa, the Caribbean and the global diaspora, with the goal of increasing trade, investment, tourism and economic opportunities between the regions.

The ACT-LCG Nassau showroom is located at Nassau Court.

PROSTATE CANCER SURVIVOR URGES MEN NOT TO WAIT FOR SYMPTOMS

BY TYNIA BROWN
Journal Staff Writer



Mr. Val Maura



Prostate cancer survivor Valentine Maura is urging Bahamian men not to wait until they experience symptoms before getting tested, after recalling that he felt completely healthy when he was diagnosed with the disease.

Maura said he had been involved with prostate cancer awareness efforts and testing initiatives, but had gone about two years without being screened himself.

“I was feeling good. No symptoms or anything that I could identify would be prostate cancer,” Maura said. He said Dr. Robin Roberts eventually encouraged him to undergo an examination, which revealed that he had prostate cancer.

Maura said he was fortunate that the cancer was detected relatively early and was not aggressive. He was given the option of surgery or radiation and ultimately chose radiation treatment.

“You don’t have to have any symptoms, and don’t wait for any symptoms,” Maura warned. “You could be 40-something and you could have prostate cancer.”

Dr. Robin Roberts, medical advisor to Zero Prostate Cancer Bahamas, echoed Maura’s warning, saying one of the major challenges surrounding prostate cancer is that men can live with the disease for years without knowing it.

Roberts said prostate cancer may develop without noticeable symptoms leaving men feeling perfectly healthy while the disease progresses.

“You feel perfectly normal and you’ve gone on quite a while, and this cancer can be going for up to 10 years or more, and you have not felt anything,” Roberts said.

He said cultural attitudes also contribute to men delaying medical care, particularly the belief that men should only visit a doctor when they are sick or in pain.

Roberts also noted that men of African descent face a higher risk of developing prostate cancer and may develop the disease at an earlier age and in a more aggressive form.

Zero Prostate Cancer Bahamas is encouraging men between the ages of 40 and 70 to participate in its prostate cancer clinics and undergo regular screening.

Roberts said early detection remains critical, stressing that men who are diagnosed at an early stage have a greater opportunity for successful treatment and long-term remission.

PUBLIC HOSPITALS AUTHORITY FOUNDATION DONATES DIALYSIS MACHINES TO PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL

The Public Hospitals Authority (PHA) Foundation, a philanthropic organization launched in January 2024 to support public hospitals and healthcare clinics, donated eight additional dialysis machines for the PMH Renal Services unit.

Director of Foundations, Corporate and Community Relations for the Public Hospitals Authority and Executive Director of the foundation, Alana Major, said this initiative is a part of the foundation's "Sun, Sea and Second Chances" campaign. PHA Foundation aims to secure 30 machines for Princess Margaret Hospital.

"As of today, with this donation, we are now up to 15 machines, so we are very excited about that," Ms. Major said.

Other members of the foundation were present, including PHA Foundation Chairman Mr. Selvin Basden, who said the foundation is committed to doing its part in fulfilling the mandate of the Government of the Bahamas.

"One of the tenets of the Government is to ensure that access to healthcare is a human right. We are committed to ensuring that, at least from our part, we can deliver on that principle," Mr. Basden said.

The PMH Renal Services Unit dialyzes about 150 to 170 patients annually. The unit provides care for patients who have been diagnosed with end-stage kidney disease and now need renal support. Patients who receive dialysis typically come to the unit three times a week, either on a Monday-Wednesday-Friday schedule or a Tuesday-Thursday-Saturday schedule.

Head of Department for Renal Services, Dr. Thurston Carroll, said she and the unit are excited to receive the donation, as it will replace machines that are not operating optimally.

"We are particularly excited about today's donation because, although we have 20 stations within the dialysis unit, we have an aging fleet. These new machines and new water-treatment equipment will allow us to replace some of our aging equipment so that we can continue providing services to our patients."

Foundation representatives noted that one or two organizations are already considering making bulk donations and if it happens, the foundation may be able to secure another 10 machines or another five machines in the very near future.

PMH Deputy Hospital Administrator Angelica Lockhart-Bastian and Hospital Administrator Mr. Tevard Bastian thanked the PHA Foundation for its donation to Princess Margaret Hospital.

Also in attendance were PHA Foundation Deputy Chairman Dr. Erecia Hepburn; Foundation guest Dr. Maria Oriakhi; Chief Biomedical Engineer Mr. Theodore Nottage; Administrative Officer Ms. Appapisa Neely; and Senior Assistant Hospital Administrator Mr. Valdez Bowe.



Photo, from left: Dr. Rhea Thurston Carroll, Director, Renal Services, PMH; Nurse Kim Harris, Dialysis Nurse, Dialysis Unit, PMH; Sister Darnell Roker, Nurse Manager, Dialysis Unit, PMH; Mrs. Angelica Lockhart-Bastian, Deputy Hospital Administrator PMH; Mr. Tevard Bastian, Hospital Administrator PMH; Mrs. Alana Major, Director, Foundations, Community and Corporate Relations, PHA; Mr. Selvin Bxasden, Chairman, PHA Foundation; Dr. Erecia Hepburn, PHA Foundation Board; Ms. Donette Danvers, Executive Assistant, Foundations, Community and Corporate Relations, PHA



Selvin Basden, PHA Foundation Chair



Dr. Rhea Thurston Carroll, Director, Renal Services at PMH

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GRAND BAHAMA MARKS 40TH INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP (ICC) WITH GROWING COMMUNITY SUPPORT



The Ministry of Tourism (MOT) continues its commitment to preserving the natural beauty of Grand Bahama as residents, schools and civic organisations participated in the 40th International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) on Saturday, September 19, 2026.

The annual initiative, spearheaded by MOT in partnership with the Ocean Conservancy, brought volunteers together at beaches throughout Grand Bahama as part of a worldwide effort to remove marine debris and promote greater awareness of the impact of litter on the environment.

According to Jermaine Johnson, MOT Coordinator and Manager of the GB Sustainable Tourism Development Department, participation in the ICC continues to grow.

"Every year we've been growing, we've been getting bigger and bigger. Last year we had over 750 participants, which was up over 115 individuals from the previous year. This year, from the numbers I've seen so far, I think we're going to surpass that 750," he said.

The initiative also expanded this year with the addition of a new cleanup location at the Freetown Heritage Site, bringing the total number of participating beaches on Grand Bahama to 11.

Johnson noted that the island's beaches and natural environment remain an important part of Grand Bahama's tourism product.

Beyond the removal of debris, the annual cleanup also relies on cooperation among tourism officials, beach captains, sanitation providers and local government to ensure that collected waste is properly removed and disposed of.

MOT continues to encourage residents, businesses, civic organisations, schools and community groups to support ongoing efforts to keep Grand Bahama's beaches and communities clean.

With the continued expansion of the ICC, officials are also looking ahead to further growth, with the possibility of adding other cleanup locations on Grand Bahama in 2027.

GHANA'S PRESIDENTIAL SPECIAL ENVOY TO THE CARIBBEAN VISITS THE BAHAMAS

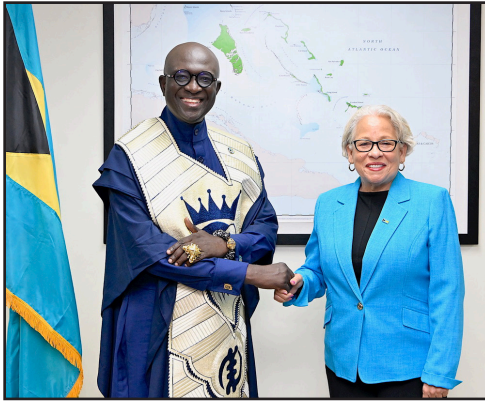
H.E. King Kwasi Kyei Darkwah, Republic of Ghana's Presidential Special Envoy to the Caribbean Region is currently visiting The Bahamas at the invitation of the Afri-Caribbean Trade and Logistics Consulting Group to build upon cultural and commercial ties with the Caribbean region. The Trade and Logistics consulting group is the operational arm of the Afri-Caribbean Trade Corridor. The visit of the Presidential Special Envoy is September 20-24, 2026.

King Kwasi Kyei Darkwah has met with Bahamas government and trade leaders towards expansion of trade, investment and tourism between Ghana and The Bahamas.

With the profound shared historical and cultural relationships between Africa and the Caribbean, the Afri-Caribbean Trade and Logistics Consulting Group envisions transforming the connection into greater economic participation -- through platforms of government, trade, tourism, investment and the creative economy.

On Wednesday, September 23, H.E. King Kwasi Kyei Darkwah and delegation paid a courtesy call at the Ministry of Tourism and met with the Minister, the Hon. Glenys Hanna Martin, and tourism officials.

Pictured at the courtesy call are H.E. King Kwasi Kyei Darkwah, third left; Minister Glenys Hanna-Martin, third right; Ministry of Tourism Permanent Secretary Lorraine Armbrister, second right; Acting Director General of Tourism Valery Brown-Alce, right; and members of the Envoy's delegation.



INSPECTORS STRENGTHEN CONSUMER PROTECTION SKILLS AT 4TH ANNUAL NATIONAL INSPECTORATE TRAINING



A cross-section of inspectors and other financial stakeholders within the government are participating in a week-long training programme designed to strengthen their knowledge, skills and capacity in consumer protection and price enforcement.

The 4th Annual National Inspectorate Training is being held September 21–25, 2026 at Breezes Bahamas Resort under the theme, “Building the Next Generation Price Inspector.”

The training brings together inspectors and other stakeholders for a series of presentations, practical exercises and interactive sessions aimed at enhancing

the effectiveness of price inspection and enforcement.

Minister of Economic Affairs, Senator the Hon. Jerome Fitzgerald, delivered welcome opening remarks, affirming the government's continued commitment to protecting consumers.

Minister Fitzgerald encouraged participants to take full advantage of the workshop, and use the opportunity to acquire knowledge and practical skills that will enhance their professional capacity.

He wished participants a productive and successful seminar as they engage in the week's activities.

Building Knowledge for Modern Consumer Protection

The first three days of the training will feature open sessions covering a range of topics relevant to contemporary consumer affairs and price inspection.

Presentations will include “The Evolution of Consumer Affairs,” which will examine the development of consumer protection and its relevance to the work of inspectors.

Participants will also explore “The Digital Transformation and the Tablet Era – Tools for Modern Enforcement,” highlighting the role of technology and digital tools in supporting modern inspection and enforcement activities.

Another key area of focus will be “The Mathematics of Consumer Protection,” providing participants with practical knowledge relevant to their responsibilities in protecting consumers and monitoring compliance.

The programme also places significant emphasis on practical application. Participants will work through real-world scenarios, including exercises in document examination and identifying errors.

Role-playing exercises will further allow participants to apply their knowledge in simulated enforcement situations. These sessions will focus on areas including “Inspection to Enforcement,” “Cyber Hygiene

Essentials,” and the prosecution of offending merchants.

The practical nature of the training is intended to provide participants with opportunities to apply concepts and techniques in situations that reflect the responsibilities they may encounter in the field.

Inspectorate-Focused Sessions
The final two days of the training — Thursday and Friday — will consist of closed sessions for members of the Inspectorate only.

These sessions will provide inspectors with an opportunity to focus specifically on matters relating to their work and responsibilities within the Inspectorate.

The 4th Annual National Inspectorate Training forms part of ongoing efforts to build the capacity of inspectors and strengthen the tools and knowledge available to those involved in consumer protection and price enforcement.

Through a combination of technical presentations, practical exercises, role-playing and inspectorate-focused discussions, the training seeks to support the development of a knowledgeable and capable cadre of inspectors equipped to meet the changing demands of consumer protection.

The 4th Annual National Inspectorate Training continues through Friday, September 25.

PROTECTING THE BACKBONE OF THE BAHAMIAN ECONOMY: CIRT-BS, PORT DEPARTMENT AND LAC4 LAUNCH THREE-DAY CYBERSECURITY IN PORTS WORKSHOP

The National Computer Incident Response Team of The Bahamas (CIRT-BS), the Bahamas Port Department and the Latin America and Caribbean Cyber Competence Centre (LAC4) commenced the nation's inaugural Cybersecurity in Ports Workshop on Monday, 21 September 2026, at the Paul Farquharson Conference Centre, Royal Bahamas Police Force, East Street. The workshop, funded by the European Union, convenes from 21 to 23 September under the theme “Strengthening Inter-Institutional Cyber-Resilience for Bahamas Maritime and Logistics Infrastructure”, assembling port, security and government agencies safeguarding the digital systems on which Bahamian ports depend.

The sessions commenced with an opening address delivered by Director of CIRT-BS, Sametria McKinney, who went on to welcome distinguished partners to deliver additional remarks, including Minister of Transport the Hon. Leon Lundy, Port Controller of the Bahamas Port Department, Captain Carlon Bethell, and Programme Manager of LAC4, Leonardo Daniel Ortega Prudencio. Delegates in attendance included port facility security officers, information technology managers, officers of the Royal Bahamas Police Force and the Royal Bahamas Defense Force, port operators and maritime stakeholders.

Minister Lundy conveyed the Government's appreciation to the European Union for its funding of the workshop and affirmed the standing of the ports within the national security architecture. “The security

of our ports is the security of our nation,” said Minister Lundy. “Our ports move the goods that our people depend on. They support our businesses. They facilitate tourism and trade, and they form an important part of our national security infrastructure.”

Addressing the necessity of preparation, the Minister said, “When a crisis comes, that is not the time to be exchanging telephone calls. We must already know who is responsible, who must be contacted, which information must be shared, and what action must be taken.”

Director McKinney commended the partners whose collaboration made the workshop possible and spoke to the significance of the maritime sector. “Seaports and maritime trade routes are the backbone of the Bahamian economy,” said Ms. McKinney. “Our cruise terminals carry our visitors. Our cargo terminals carry our supply chain. Our ship registry carries our name around the world.” She expressed the hope that the three days will mark the first in a continuing series of training for port and maritime operators.

Captain Bethell characterised the ports as national lifelines that sustain “commerce, tourism, employment, inter-island connection, and our link to the wider world.” He added, “The true measure of this workshop will be what we are prepared to do differently when we leave this room.”

Mr. Ortega presented LAC4 as the cyber capacity centre for Latin America and the Caribbean, operating under the auspices of the European Union. Addressing the breadth of



institutions represented, he said, “It requires the executive, the operator, the regulator, the Port Department, the CIRT, and international collaborators to speak the same language and act as one resilient system.”

Proceedings on the first day were led by instructors Dan Ungureanu, Head of Cyber Exercise Team at CR14, and Lisbeth Laurie, Maritime and Port Security Expert and Programme Manager. Sessions examined maritime operations in the digital age, current and emerging maritime cyber threats, cyber risk in maritime operations, and the security of maritime systems, infrastructure and supply chains.

The programme continued through Tuesday, 22 September, with deliberations

on the human factor and insider risk, national strategy and regional alignment, and governance, risk and compliance, followed by a national maritime risk matrix and gap analysis exercise and sessions on the building of maritime cyber resilience and on external communications and disinformation.

Wednesday, 23 September, delegates will consider incident detection and response, threat intelligence and information sharing, and an information-sharing simulation, before taking part in an afternoon table-top exercise built around a scenario affecting Bahamian ports, designed to test the communication and response protocols of the participating agencies. Certificates will be conferred at the conclusion of the workshop.

BAHAMIAN DELEGATION AT 81ST UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

