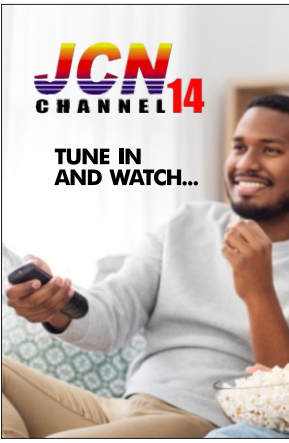




The Bahama Journal

Quo Vadis, Bahamas?



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4TH, 2026



LIKE US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Choose

CASH N'GO

CASHNGOBAHAMAS.COM

- Pay Bills
- Pay Insurance
- Purchase Airline Tickets
- Send Money & More

Download the CASH N'GO Mobile Wallet App Today

“SPY” ELLIS’ CONNECTION TO PLP REJECTED

BY GERRINO J. SAUNDERS
Journal News Editor

Following the gruesome shooting death of Warren ‘Spy’ Ellis on Abaco on Monday, there have been attempts by various social media personalities to link Prime Minister Philip Davis and other high ranking public officials and law enforcement officials to the alleged drug dealer and gang leader.

On Wednesday, there were more attacks on social media with someone sharing a photo of Kirk Cornish Progressive Liberal Party Member of Parliament for North Abaco together with Ellis, in an attempt to link the deceased to the PLP and the government.

Free National Movement Chairman Dr. Duane Sands also called on the Progressive Liberal Party to say whether Ellis received government contracts.

While speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the Disaster Risk Management Symposium at a local resort on Thursday Prime Minister Philip Davis was asked if there were any concerns regarding the perception of the government being connected to Ellis.

In response he suggested that such a scenario could only be conjured in the mind of someone looking to create mischief. When pressed about the perception of the photo of Cornish and Ellis the Prime Minister asked, “Presence speaks to what?”

See Story Cont. Pg.3

250 YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP



The Bahamas Ambassador to The United States of America His Excellency Wendall K. Jones this week presented copies of Jones Communications Network's newest publication, "250 Years of Friendship". The coffee table book was produced in commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of Independence of the United States of America. The book features articles and historic photographs that tell the story of the spectacular friendship between The Bahamas and the United States. Photographed receiving copies of the book are Prime Minister Hon. Philip Davis, KC; Sir Franklyn Wilson, Chairman of the Sunshine Group of Companies; Christina Rolle, Executive Director of The Securities Commission of The Bahamas; Hon. Michael Halkitts, Minister of Finance and Mr. Simon Wilson, Financial Secretary.

B.U.T. MEMBERS ON STRIKE ALERT -- PM MEETS WITH BEMU

BY MAKEIRA TUCKER
Journal Staff Writer



Belinda Wilson
President
Bahamas Union of Teachers



Stephen McPhee
President
Bahamas Educators Managerial Union

After members of the Bahamas Educators Managerial Union (BEMU) took strike action on Tuesday, members of the Bahamas Union of Teachers (BUT) could take similar action at any time after their President Belinda Wilson told her 1400 members that the BUT is now on industrial action alert. The message was issued via a WhatsApp message yesterday.

It comes after a meeting the BUT had yesterday morning and for the first few hours of class on Thursday, teachers and administrators failed to show up at schools, a possible hint towards what could happen. It also comes after the government failed to meet a deadline of 11:59 p.m. Wednesday to come back with an acceptable proposal for teacher salaries and previous proposals submitted by the government were rejected by the union.

But Bernard Evans lead negotiator for the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, said yesterday that a counterproposal should be submitted by today at latest.

Wilson said that the sole issues outstanding for their new five year industrial agreement were related to salaries. The union wants a 20 percent salary increase over the course of the agreement.

Wednesday evening, BEMU president Stephen McPhee met with the Prime Minister at the Office of the Pime Minister. A photograph of McPhee and Prime Minister Davis smiling and shaking hands was then released to the public.

See Story Cont. Pg.3

PARKS AND BEACHES AUDIT COMPLETED

BY TYNIA BROWN
Journal Staff Writer

Bahamas Public Parks and Public Beaches Authority Executive Chairman Jamahl Strachan says the long-awaited audits into the authority have been completed, but there is still no firm date for when they will be tabled in Parliament.

The audits follow months of scrutiny over the authority's spending after figures showed more than \$140 million was spent between July 2021 and March 2026 under former executive chairman McKell Bonaby.

Bonaby previously defended the expenditure, saying the authority's responsibilities had expanded to more than 250 parks throughout The Bahamas and that more than 1,200 Bahamian contractors benefited from its work.

He also maintained that taxpayer funds were accounted for, saying payments were supported by contracts, business licenses and tax compliance certificates, along with records showing work had been completed.

However, questions surrounding the authority's finances continued, leading to calls for greater transparency and the release of an audit.

Strachan has now confirmed that the audits are complete and committed to tabling them.

"I indicated that the audits are indeed completed and they will be laid. I will lay them. I commit to laying them," Strachan said.

While he said they would be presented "in the coming months," he could not provide a specific date when pressed.

The eventual release of the audits is expected to provide greater clarity on the authority's spending and financial operations.



Jamahl Strachan
Executive Chairman
Bahamas Public Parks and Beaches Authority

SEVEN YEARS AFTER DORIAN

DAVIS REMEMBERS VICTIMS AS ABACO LOOKS TO THE FUTURE

BY TYNIA BROWN
Journal Staff Writer



Seven years after Hurricane Dorian devastated Abaco and Grand Bahama, Prime Minister Philip Davis paid tribute to those who lost their lives, while Abaco community leader and pastor Silbert Mills said the island continues to demonstrate its resilience and recovery.

In a message marking the seventh anniversary of the Category 5 storm, Davis said the devastation caused by Dorian changed The Bahamas forever and acknowledged that many families continue to carry the weight of losing their loved ones.

“Today, we pause to remember those whose lives were taken in Abaco and Grand Bahama,” Davis said. “We honour their memory, we hold their families in our hearts, and we pray that God will continue to strengthen and comfort them, and bring restoration and healing.”

The Prime Minister also recognized survivors, first responders, volunteers, doctors, nurses and residents who stepped forward to assist in the aftermath of the disaster.

Davis said the country must continue applying the lessons learned from Dorian, particularly when it comes to disaster preparedness and strengthening communities.

“Preparation is not a choice. Resilience is a responsibility. No island and no settlement can be left behind,” he said.

Meanwhile, Mills said seven years after the storm, the resilience of Abaco’s residents remains on full display.

“The island has really bounced back well,” Mills said. “I suppose 95 percent of the people that left have returned.”

He said communities across North, Central and South Abaco are bustling once again, with some people who were employees before Dorian now operating their own businesses.

“We have many, many new people who were employees before Dorian [who] are now business owners,” Mills said. “Small businessmen and women came out of this.”

Mills also noted that homes are being built stronger as residents apply lessons learned from the destruction caused

by the hurricane.

“Our homes are built better, and we’re not reflecting too much on 2019, September 1st,” he said.

Instead, Mills said Abaconians are focused on continued recovery and development.

“We’re looking forward with hope that Abaco will continue to grow and be a significant player in the development of The Bahamas,” he said.

Davis said rebuilding should continue in honour of those who lost their lives and urged Bahamians not to forget families who are still grieving.

“To the families who still mourn: you are not alone. This nation stands with you, today and every day,” the Prime Minister said.

He added that the memory of those lost should inspire the country to build “a safer, stronger, and more united Bahamas.”



Cleaner Country. Brighter Future.

Bahamas Waste is proud to sponsor **Operation Love Your Country 2026**.
We’re committed to helping keep our islands clean, safe, and beautiful
for today, tomorrow, and for generations to come.



BAHAMAS WASTE

Reliable waste collection for commercial or residential properties.
Waste compactors & containers.
Portable toilet services & rentals.
Medical Waste Treatment and Disposal.

Gladstone Road North, P.O. Box N-4827, Nassau Bahamas
Tel (242) 361-6841 | Fax (242) 361-6842 | www.bahamaswaste.com  

B.U.T. MEMBERS ON STRIKE ALERT

See Story Cont. From Pg.1

Prime Minister Davis also spoke about the BEMU meeting, stating that, “They came to let me know things had been worked out and to update me on it. I was very concerned about the action they took, and all is well.”

McPhee said however, that if the Prime Minister does not follow through on his promised commitments the union would return to strike.

The BEMU strike came months after executives claimed they have repeatedly requested meetings with Ministry of Education officials to discuss salaries, promotions and administrative vacancies throughout public schools.

After the strike action, Education Minister, Deputy Prime Minister Chester Cooper said that he was blindsided by the strike and that he had met with BEMU executives in August.

He described the industrial action as “concerning, precipitous disruptive and disappointing.”

“I have an open-door policy for all unions and where there are issues especially of a nature that requires follow- up with other government agencies, we commit to doing so,” Cooper explained.

“We have been on a path over the last several months quite frankly to bridge the gap in terms of teacher shortages. There’s an actual connection between the shortage of teachers and the shortage of administrators,” Cooper said.

“So, it seems counterintuitive that if there is a short supply of administrators in the classroom that anyone would advise the remaining administrators to remove themselves from the school,” he added.

On Tuesday, the Ministry of Education released a statement via social media announcing it had obtained an injunction from the Supreme Court halting industrial action and requiring all principals and administrators to return to work the following morning.

However, on Wednesday, McPhee denied that BEMU had officially been served with an injunction, stating, “In the meeting we’d asked about this injunction. We’ve not been served any injunction. The persons who received and were aware by our employer of this injunction was the public.”

“We’re saying its actions like that and at that same time we were working with the labor relations officer and the Prime Minister with the reassurance that these will be addressed to go to work,” McPhee continued.

He also stated the reason BEMU members returned to work the following day was because of a phone call conversation he had with the Prime Minister.

“We did give the Prime Minister our commitment last night that we will go back and trust his word, because the two times prior he delivered,” McPhee explained.

DOG OWNERS MUST REGISTER PETS WITHIN 30 DAYS

BY MAKEIRA TUCKER
Journal Staff Writer



Minister of Agriculture and Marine Resources Jomo Campbell says dog owners have 30 days to register their pets or face several different penalties. The new policy comes after an increase in recent dog attacks and stray dogs that have disrupted communities across the country. This amnesty period will begin September 1, 2026, and end September 30, 2026.

Speaking during the “Mission Pawsible” Press Conference at the Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources headquarters, Campbell said, “During this period dog owners will have the opportunity to better understand their obligations and take the necessary steps to become compliant.”

This initiative is being done in partnership with the Animal Control Unit, The Bahamas Humane Society, BAARK and other partners to ensure responsible pet ownership, public safety, animal safety, compliance and enforcement.

The Minister explained, “For many years communities across The Bahamas have dealt with stray and roaming dogs, irresponsible ownership, poor containment, nuisance complaints, animal neglect, and situations where controlled dogs have posed real danger to not only people but to other animals as well.”

“We want residents to use this time wisely. Do not wait until enforcement begins. Check your dog’s license, check your dog’s identification, check your enclosure, make sure that your dog is properly restrained and cared for,” Campbell added.

The Minister stated that immediately after the warning period, enforcement will begin. Pearline Jones, Officer in charge of the Animal Control Unit, stated that most common complaints received are dog attacks, averaging three to four reports a day.

“Every call coming into Animal Control is addressed. Animal control deals with all, not only dogs or cats, but all animals that has been a nuisance to the public,” Jones explained.

During the amnesty period dog licensing will be free of charge and anything after that period licensing will be \$11.

“SPY” ELLIS’ CONNECTION TO PLP REJECTED

See Story Cont. From Pg.1

Continuing he said, “First of all these questions of presence and association has to be looked at to what our system is about. Understanding our system will give you the answer as to why politicians may be photographed with others who you might believe they should not be photographed with.”

“We have what is called the Westminster System, it is a representative government, and we are elected by persons who expect me to represent them, so if a member of my constituency, whoever he or she may be comes to me for representation or to have me advocate on their behalf I’m obliged to speak or hear them. If they take a picture

with me, what is wrong with a picture? Yes, we say a picture speaks a thousand words, but why would you want to make something out of nothing,” asked Mr. Davis.

Ellis who was well known to the police and who has been the center of several high-profile cases, including attempts on his life was ambushed by four gunmen and shot multiple times about the body in the parking lot of business establishment in Marsh Harbour Abaco, becoming the 55th person to be murder in the country this year.

Police investigators continue their investigation to uncover the motive and the suspects behind the killing.

COMFORT SUITES PARADISE ISLAND

END OF SUMMER

Sale

Starting at
\$120.00 per night
plus taxes & fees
(Single/Double Occupancy)

Valid August 1st – 31st, 2026
Special rate is subject to limited availability
Blackout dates apply



FOOD & BEVERAGE CREDIT
Up to \$25.00 per day
(Maximum of \$50.00 per stay)
Vat & Gratuity not included with
food & beverage credit

Available for use at CSPI Splash Pool Bar,
& Crusoe’s Restaurant only.

ALL THE PERKS OF COMFORT SUITES
ALL THE PLAY OF ATLANTIS

- Free access to all Atlantis facilities including AQUAVENTURE Waterpark
- 4th night free plus fees with minimum 3 paid nights
- Free daily full American buffet breakfast
- Kids Stay, Play & Eat Free

Comfort SUITES
PARADISE ISLAND, BAHAMAS
Comforting Days & Suite Nights

35 years
OF COMFORTING DAYS
& SUITE NIGHTS

sales@comfordsuitespi.com
(242) 605-6300/363-3180/363-3661/363-3680/363-5536 or
US Toll Free 1-888-638-0504 / 1-877-494-8770 / 1-877-520-5078
or Canadian Toll Free (888) 281-0437
Comfort Suites Local Residents Page
WhatsApp us for further information at 55-SUITE (242-557-8483)

POTABLE WATER COMING TO LONG ISLAND

BY GERRINO J SAUNDERS
Journal News Editor

The contract was signed June of 2025 and since then the Long Island Road Rehabilitation and Waterworks project has been progressing well. This week the Water and Sewerage Corporation (WSC) announced that 120 homes and businesses will soon receive potable water as the multi-million-dollar construction of new water mains nears completion in Millers, Long Island.

During the signing of the contract Prime Minister Philip Davis described the occasion as another meaningful step in the nation’s journey to build a stronger, more connected Bahamas. He said the project reflects the government’s belief that “every island should have smooth roads, accessible potable water, and the necessary infrastructure to support growth.” He said, “This project is about more than asphalt and pipes; it’s about people. It’s about progress that is long overdue for Long Islanders.”

The WSC has partnered with Rowdy Boys Construction Company to carry out the project, which involves the installation of over 50,000 feet of two-inch and four-inch water mains. The project is pegged over \$3.6 million. Jalen Knowles the Chief Financial Officer for Rowdy Boys Construction explained that so far, 21,000 feet of two-inch pipes of water mains have been completed with corresponding connections.

He said, “Homes and businesses will receive potable water through the distribution network for the first time. The government has also implemented 7,000 feet of water mains, which extends from Rocky Shores to Stella Maris, where the previous paving project stopped. We are looking to start that as soon as we are completed with the two-inch mains. Once we are finished, we will have another 15,000 feet and then move into the other 7,000 feet.”

Knowles a native of Long Island said the project is significant because it is close to the regatta site in Salt Pond, which provides a significant economic boost for the island.

“This project is very important to Long Island. Every pipe that we lay is a resident or business receiving Water and Sewerage’s potable running water for the first time. It brings us great pride as a Long Island company to be involved with this project because these are our friends, colleagues and family. It brings us great pride in providing infrastructure for generations to come,” said Knowles.

In April of this year Clay Sweeting the Minister of Works and Family Island Affairs visited Long Island to see first-hand the works that are being carried out. He expressed pride in knowing that a contractor from Long Island was carrying out the work.

WSC Assistant Supervisor Melissa Cartwright said the Corporation’s was overseeing the project to ensure the high quality of work remained consistent and the WSC specifications. She said, “We want to make sure that the pipes are embedded properly and to make sure the project stays on time.”

WSC Assistant General Manager of Family Island Administration Ayla Isaacs is also excited about the project. She said, “These works aid in bridging the gaps in our infrastructure system permitting more persons access to piped, potable water. Persons impacted by these works will no longer rely on private wells and water deliveries as their primary access to water; we view that as a priceless investment.”

The project is expected to be completed in December. The Government has engaged in similar projects on islands in the Exuma’s, Eleuthera, Abaco and Cat Island.



BAHAMAS HOSTS WORLD TELECOMS AND ICT FORUM

BY GERRINO J SAUNDERS
Journal News Editor



While speaking at the 41st Caribbean Association of National Telecommunications Organizations (CANTO) Conference in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic in early August Senator Jerome Fitzgerald, Minister of Economic Affairs invited CARICOM members to The Bahamas for the 7th World Telecommunication and ICT Policy Forum 2026. It is the first time this forum comes to the Caribbean, held this week September 1st-4th at the Atlantis Paradise Island Resort.

At the time he said the event belongs to all Caribbean nations and he invited each one to come to Nassau, bringing their respective governments, operators, and regulators, to let the world hear this region speak in one voice, and they responded in kind as scores of representatives from the region attended.

During the official opening Prime Minister Philip Davis gave the delegates from around the world and the Caribbean a warm welcome.

He said, “Over the next few days, you will exchange ideas and practical solutions and engage as partners in this work. I hope this dialogue strengthens cooperation among us and across the wider international community. The Bahamas is honoured to host you. We look forward to the conversations ahead, to the partnerships that will grow from them, and to the progress that we will build together.”

Highlighting the historic importance of the occasion Mr. Davis said, “For the first time, this forum is being held in The Bahamas. And for the first time in its history, it is being hosted by a Small Island Developing State. For us, that is both a milestone and a recognition that the conversations shaping the world’s digital future must also be informed by the experiences of small islands.

“For years, this forum has convened global leaders in places like Geneva and Lisbon. Even when the world closed its borders in 2021, this important work continued because connectivity had already become essential to how we live and how we govern. Today, that dialogue comes to our archipelago, where

connectivity is inseparable from opportunity and resilience. The Bahamas understands that reality intimately.

Our geography has taught us that although our islands are separated by miles of ocean, distance from the capital should never determine a person’s destiny or growth,” he said.

The Prime Minister said, seven years ago Hurricane Dorian reminded Bahamians that for a nation living with the realities of climate change and rising sea levels, resilience must be built into the nation’s infrastructure.

He said, “We have learned that a resilient digital network is one that can withstand disruption and continue to connect people when they need it most. That means redundancy in our networks, diverse connectivity pathways, and the cybersecurity to protect the systems that increasingly underpin our economy and our communities.

For The Bahamas then, infrastructure resilience is inseparable from digital development. That is why we continue to make investments today anticipating tomorrow’s storms, and that is the kind of progress we are building on.”

The Prime Minister noted that in his administration’s first term the government worked to ensure that the policy and regulatory environment kept pace with the technologies on which the Bahamian people increasingly depend.

He said through its’ Communications Fee Reduction Scheme, the government has used regulation to encourage investment in 5G, fibre and emerging satellite technologies.

Mr. Davis also noted that the Government of The Bahamas has strengthened the foundations of a trusted digital economy through data protection legislation, and has strengthened the national cybersecurity architecture through a National Cybersecurity Strategy.

And just this year, the Utilities Regulations Competition Authority (URCA), the country’s independent regulator, finalized

a technology-neutral framework for satellite services, including low-Earth-orbit, direct-to-device and Internet-of-Things technologies.

“This is what enabling regulation should do,” he said, “Create space for innovation, encourage investment and competition, and ensure that new technologies can serve the public interest. But the measure of digital transformation cannot be found only in legislation or regulatory frameworks.”

Continuing the Prime Minister argued that the measure of digital transformation cannot be found only in legislation or regulatory frameworks.

He said, “It must also be felt in the everyday lives of our people. Free public Wi-Fi is now available in more than 85 public parks and community centres across our country, with the rollout continuing. Government services are increasingly moving online, reducing the distance between citizens and their government. And connectivity continues to expand across our Family Islands.”

He said the establishment of the Ministry of Innovation and National Development (MIND) reflects a simple conviction which is innovation is central to national competitiveness, government modernization, and the future readiness of the Bahamian people of which nearly 95 percent of the people are connected to the internet, and more than 96 percent have access to mobile connectivity, giving The Bahamas one of the strongest connectivity foundations in the Caribbean.

He said, “Those numbers tell us we have made progress. They also remind us that our work is unfinished. The next step is ensuring connectivity is meaningful, reaches every community, and creates opportunity for every Bahamian. That is why hosting WTPF-26 carries real significance for our country. It tells the world that The Bahamas is prepared to convene conversations at the highest international level. It demonstrates that a Small Island Developing State can contribute ideas and help shape policy on issues that affect every nation represented here.

“And if this gathering is to leave a lasting legacy, it cannot be measured only by the conversations we have over the next few days. It must be measured by what those conversations inspire us to do together,” said Prime Minister Davis.

He went on to offer what he described as two hopes to those in attendance which he believed should guide strategic dialogue.

He said, “First, let us commit ourselves to connectivity that is meaningful. Our success cannot be measured by infrastructure alone. It must be measured by whether people have the skills, affordability, confidence, and access to participate fully in a digital society. Every island, every province, and every community, everywhere, deserves to be part of that future.

“Second, let us build resilience in a way that also creates growth. For countries like The Bahamas, resilience is a way of life. Our digital systems must withstand disasters, adapt to emerging technologies, and earn the trust of the people who depend on them,” Mr. Davis said.

But resilience is also about what comes next: creating an innovation economy where our people are developers, entrepreneurs, creators, and leaders in the industries of the future.

In the meantime, while at CANTO Fitzgerald cautioned that the region risks an economic model of “extraction without ownership, participation without power, and dependence presented as development” where Caribbean citizens generate data and pay subscriptions while profits and control remain overseas.

He proposed building a federated Caribbean cloud and computer network, pooling threats to intelligence, and establishing common standards for critical infrastructure under regional control.

He emphasized the need for local engineers, data stewards, AI and cybersecurity specialists, and regulators who can properly interrogate tech contracts and say “No” when necessary.

MINISTER MOXEY WELCOMES STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS AS NEW SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS ON GRAND BAHAMA

On Monday, August 31, 2026, Minister for Grand Bahama, the Hon. Ginger Moxey visited several schools across Grand Bahama to welcome students, parents, teachers and administrators as they began the 2026 – 2027 academic year.

Minister Moxey welcomed and encouraged the students, wishing them a successful and rewarding school year ahead.

The Minister said her visits were also an opportunity to reinforce the

government’s continued support for the educators, principals and administrative teams who play an integral role in ensuring the success of students.

“We know that we want to revolutionise education, as the Minister of Education has indicated, so we want to start off right,” she said.

“We want to start off not just with government schools, but also with the private schools, special needs schools, junior high schools and primary schools.”

During her visits, Minister Moxey also heard from principals about improvements and long-standing needs that have recently been addressed. She pointed specifically to Jack Hayward Jr. High School, where she said some matters that had remained outstanding for an extended period, have now been rectified.

“I’m excited about what’s to come and there is so much more to do, but we are right there with them along the way,” Minister Moxey said.

The Minister acknowledged that while progress is being made, there remains work to be done across the education sector and noted that her ministry will continue to listen to school administrators and educators and advocate for the resources and improvements required.

“We just want to continuously show support because we know that education is the key to success and that education impacts us in every way, every sector of society,” she said.



DRM AUTHORITY STARTS BUSINESS CONTINUITY PLANNING WORKSHOPS

The DRM Authority began a three-day Business Continuity Planning Workshop, September 1, 2026 as it launched its Business Resilience Programme to assist business owners in preparing for disasters, disruptions, aftermath and recovery. The workshop is held at the British Colonial, downtown.

Minister of State with responsibility for Disaster Risk Management, the Hon. Mckell Bonaby spoke to the significance and importance of such a programme and workshop for small business owners, who comprise the vast majority of business owners in the country.

“We are here because over the course of the next three days, nearly 100 micro, small and medium-sized enterprises will participate in practical business continuity planning training -- designed to strengthen your ability to prepare for disruption, respond effectively when it occurs, and recover as quickly as possible.”

Disruption threats may be hurricane, flooding, power and telecommunication outages, supply-chain disruption, or technology failures. Risks are the same despite the size of the business; but capacity to respond may be very different.

State Minister Bonaby remarked that at the end of the three-day workshop he hopes for the takeaway to be: “Business resilience is your business ability to prepare for disruption, withstand its impact, adapt when circumstances change and recover quickly while continuing to serve customers, employees and the wider community.”

The collaboration of the workshop and its participants began earlier this year with surveys conducted by the DRM Authority and the business community itself. The minister highlighted the fact that when businesses suffer, there’s a ripple effect because of their importance to communities.

He said: “During today’s session, I want you to identify the functions of your business you cannot afford to lose; examine your vulnerabilities; develop practical alternatives and consider how your business can continue operating when normal arrangements are disrupted.”

State Minister Bonaby remarked, the purpose of the Business Resilience Programme is to address the question: “How do we help our business

withstand disruption, protect what matters most, continue critical operations and recover more quickly?”

“That is the purpose of the Business Resilience Programme.”

Before closing, State Minister Bonaby spoke on topics that are essential to business preparedness that will be dissected within the workshop, and the absolute need for government and private sector to work together.

“Having a plan is important, but knowing that the plan will work is even more important.”

He noted that disaster risk cannot be managed by the government alone: “Government must lead, coordinate and create the conditions for resilience, but resilience must be built within our households, communities, institutions and especially into our businesses. The private sector is therefore not simply a stakeholder that government calls upon after a disaster. You are part of the national resilience system.

“So participate fully today. Ask questions. Challenge assumptions. Be candid about your vulnerabilities.

“Most importantly. Do not leave here simply with more information. Leave here with a plan to act.”

The DRM Authority’s Business Resilience Workshop continues at the British Colonial through September 3.

The workshop launches the Authority’s wider Business Resilience Programme and forms part of a series of interventions being developed in response to findings from the National Business Resilience and Disaster Management Survey.

The sessions support participating micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in identifying critical business functions, assessing vulnerabilities and dependencies, developing practical continuity strategies, clarifying roles and decision-making arrangements, strengthening communications, and building a usable Business Continuity Plan.

The business resilience programme will deploy digital tools and resources to help businesses strengthen, test and improve their resilience beyond the workshops.



PUBLIC HOSPITALS AUTHORITY ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF NEW MANAGING DIRECTOR



Mr. Charles Sealy II

The Public Hospitals Authority (PHA) is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Charles Sealy II as Managing Director, effective September 14, 2026. Mr. Sealy brings more than 25 years of executive and organizational leadership experience, with a strong background in healthcare administration, governance, operational transformation, and strategic leadership.

His career includes 14 years as Chief Executive Officer of Doctors Hospital Health System, following previous service as Chief Operating Officer and Vice President of Operations. His executive responsibilities have included oversight of multidisciplinary healthcare operations, nursing, human resources, pharmacy, laboratory services, facilities, and other critical support functions.

Mr. Sealy also brings extensive governance and board leadership experience. He is a Chartered Director and has served in leadership capacities across healthcare, insurance, corporate, and civic organizations. His academic and professional qualifications include a Master of Health Administration, Bachelor of Laws, Bachelor of Science in Public Administration, and executive training in healthcare leadership.

As Managing Director, Mr. Sealy will lead the Authority's efforts to strengthen organizational performance, empower employees at every level, and improve

the policies, procedures, and systems that support the delivery of public healthcare services.

His leadership mandate will focus on improving operational efficiency and accountability, strengthening institutional governance, enhancing the patient and employee experience, and ensuring that the Authority is positioned to respond effectively to the evolving healthcare needs of The Bahamas.

Central to this mandate will be the delivery of safe, compassionate, and high-quality care; the creation of a supportive and empowering work environment for healthcare professionals and support teams; and the continued strengthening of public trust in the country's public healthcare institutions.

Mr. Sealy's appointment represents an important step in the continued development of the Public Hospitals Authority and its efforts to build a high-performing organization in which people, processes, and systems work together effectively in service to the Bahamian people.

The Board of Directors and Executive Leadership of the Public Hospitals Authority welcome Mr. Sealy and look forward to working with him as the Authority enters its next phase of institutional growth, with quality care, an empowered workforce, and public trust at the centre of its mission.

UB APPOINTS INTERIM DEAN OF GRADUATE STUDIES



Professor Dr. Raquel Barr-Edgecombe

University of The Bahamas (UB) announces the appointment of Associate Professor Dr. Raquel Barr-Edgecombe as Interim Dean, Graduate Studies, effective immediately.

Dr. Barr-Edgecombe steps into this role at a pivotal time for the University, as UB works to strengthen graduate education, raise academic standards and open more doors for advanced learning in service of national development.

She succeeds Mrs. Remelda Moxey, who served UB with distinction for nearly three decades. Over the course of her career, Mrs. Moxey helped shape key areas of academic affairs and played a significant role in advancing the University's business, hospitality and tourism studies programmes, cultivating a strong academic community.

As Interim Dean, Dr. Barr-Edgecombe will lead the administration and continued growth of UB's graduate programmes. Her priorities will include strengthening programme quality and review, developing new graduate offerings that align with the University's strategic direction and the country's needs, growing graduate student recruitment and retention, and reinforcing the systems that help students progress and complete their degrees successfully.

She will also work closely with faculty, fellow Deans, and academic and administrative units to improve graduate

student services, support sound academic planning, and ensure that policies and procedures continue to uphold high standards across all of UB's graduate programmes.

Dr. Barr-Edgecombe brings a blend of academic leadership, institutional knowledge and hands-on experience in teaching, research, programme development and higher education administration. She currently serves as a Faculty Trustee on the UB Board of Trustees, and her career at the University spans roles as Lecturer, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, Coordinator, Head of Department and Chair of the School of Education.

She earned her PhD in Educational Leadership and a Graduate Certificate in Higher Education Administration from The University of South Florida, credentials that have further prepared her for academic leadership at the graduate level. She also holds a Master of Science and a Bachelor of Science degree in Home Economics Education from Florida International University and an Associate of Arts degree in Economics from the former College of The Bahamas.

The University warmly welcomes Dr. Barr-Edgecombe to this role and looks forward to her leadership in strengthening graduate education at UB.

MINISTER OF CULTURE, ARTS AND HERITAGE VISITS PORTFOLIO AGENCIES IN GRAND BAHAMA

Minister of Culture, Arts and Heritage, the Hon. Leslia Miller-Brice visited Grand Bahama recently and gained a first-hand view of agencies and facilities relevant to her newly-assigned portfolio.

Among the sites visited was the Antiquities, Monuments and Museums Corporation's cultural building in downtown Freeport. A cultural stakeholders meeting was held on August 26 at Kingdom Worship Centre on East Atlantic Drive.

Minister Brice was joined by Minister for Grand Bahama the Hon. Ginger Moxey, Permanent Secretary Lisa Adderley-Anderson, Director of Culture Dereka Deleveaux-Grant, and other ministry officials.

