

STANDARD SERVICES SUPPLIES LTD.
 Shirley & Church Street
 Phone: 322-4635



Shop at STANDARD SERVICES where you can get **20% OFF** Houseware, linen, lamps and draperies. and much, much more

The Bahama Journal

Quo Vadis, Bahamas?

DEAN & ASSOCIATES PROFESSIONAL INSURANCE AGENTS & BROKERS
 "Meeting Your Needs Efficiently and Professionally"



BUILDINGS (COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL)
 LIFE - GROUP - MEDICAL - ANNUITIES - LIABILITY - MARINE - HOMEOWNERS - AUTO

Tel: (242)-356-0986 Fax: (242)-356-0987
 Deal's Plaza, Mackey Street
 P.O. Box CB-13952 Nassau, Bahamas
 8:30am - 4:30pm

VOL. 32 - NO. 16

WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 26TH, 2020

75 CENTS

Four Quarantined

Four Bahamians who traveled to Canada are in quarantine after a passenger on a Canadian flight tested positive for the coronavirus (COVID-19), according to the Ministry of Health.

In a statement yesterday, the Ministry of Health said on February 14, Bahamian residents traveled on a Canadian domestic flight and later returned to The Bahamas on February 21.

"Canadian health officials discovered that a passenger on the said flight tested positive for COVID-19," the statement said.

"The Ministry of Health contacted the

Bahamian residents traveling on that flight, evaluated them, and placed them in quarantine out of an abundance of caution. Consequently, there are a total of four persons in quarantine. All patients remain asymptomatic, and show no signs of any respiratory disease.

"The Ministry of Health further continues to advise the public that there remains no suspected, reported or confirmed cases of COVID-19 in The Bahamas."

Common signs the coronavirus infection include respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, short-

■ See page 4...



▶ Minister of Health Dr. Duane Sands

Bannister: Straw Market Closure Criticisms 'Political'



▶ Min. Desmond Bannister

CHERIKA JOHNSON
 Journal Staff Writer

Minister of Works Desmond Bannister said the criticisms leveled against him after the closure of the Downtown Straw Market for maintenance purposes, are solely political.

Before entering the

weekly Cabinet meeting on Tuesday, Bannister said the Straw Market is in desperate need of repairs due to safety challenges and it is in no way done to force vendors out of the market.

"I think you saw one vendor saying some non-

■ See page 2...

Unidentified Bodies to be Buried

CHERIKA JOHNSON
 Journal Staff Writer

Minister of Health Dr. Duane Sands said the unidentified bodies of victims who perished during Hurricane Dorian will be given a Christian burial.

Nearly six months after Hurricane Dorian hit Abaco and Grand

Bahama, Dr. Sands said yesterday that there are no DNA matches for the unidentified bodies of storm victims.

Earlier this month, Dr. Duane Sands said 50 bodies on Abaco had not yet been identified.

"As we have said, they will be given Christian

burial rights once we have identified the plot of land. Each set of remains will be entered in an individual plot, which will be indexed so if there are appropriate matches to DNA or identification, then family members would have the ability to get closure," he said.

"As of today, I'm

advised that there has been no match of DNA with any of the remains to any individual who has come forward."

Dr. Sands said during this process of identification, he is mindful of the victim's family members, whom he believes are vic-

■ See page 2...

COURT OF APPEAL PRESIDENT SWORN IN



▶ Sir Michael Barnett was sworn in as president of the Court of Appeal by His Excellency the Most Hon. Cornelius A. Smith, governor general, during a swearing-in ceremony at Government House on Tuesday. Prime Minister Minnis congratulated Sir Michael. (BIS Photo/Letisha Henderson)

BY LAURENCIA I.A. SMITH
 Journal Staff Writer

Former Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs Sir Michael

Barnett took the oath of allegiance and judicial oath yesterday as he was sworn in as president of the Court of Appeal at the Government House.

Sir Michael's legal career spans more than four decades, serving both in the private and public sectors.

It was 2018 when Sir.

Michael was appointed as justice of appeal in the Court of Appeal, followed by his appointment as act-

■ See page 3...

Johnson Supports PM's Move to 'Take Country Back'

BY LAURENCIA I.A. SMITH
 Journal Staff Writer

Minister of Immigration Elsworth Johnson agreed with the prime minister that the government should put Bahamians first and take the country back, as illegal immigration has placed a heavy burden on The Bahamas.

On Monday, Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis announced that there will be strike force established to aggressively pursue illegal migrants in The Bahamas.

It's no secret that many believe illegal migrants put a heavy burden on the country's purse in the areas of education, welfare and health services.

However, Johnson said, "In a humane way, this how we are going to conduct ourselves. We have no more space in the schools and we don't have any monies to build anymore. We don't have any more beds in the hospital."

He added that at some

■ See page 2...



Don't sweat it. Stay cool.

ACDelco air conditioning parts along with routine maintenance can help you keep your cool. Stop In! We stock a complete line of quality ACDelco air conditioning parts for most GM model cars and trucks.

NMC PARTS DEPARTMENT • Shirley Street • 302-0130 partsorder@nassaumotor.com • www.acdelcobahamas.com

Four Quarantined

Continued from / PAGE 1...

ness of breath and breathing difficulties.

In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and even death.

As COVID-19 continues to spread outside of China, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention warned the

United States to prepare for a coronavirus outbreak which could lead to significant disruptions in everyday life.

Italy reported a total of 15 deaths from the coronavirus, which is the most deaths recorded outside of China.

In China 2,663 persons have died as a result of the coronavirus.

Unidentified Bodies Buried

Continued from / PAGE 1...

tims as well.

When asked to respond to criticisms leveled at his ministry for the process of identification, Dr. Sands said, "As a cabinet minister I represent the government of The Bahamas. At no time, does the management of the remains lie

solely with me or my ministry. That said, having been chosen to be an elected member of parliament, having agreed to be a Cabinet minister, we take the criticism whether it is appropriate or not.

"I can assure you that at every single step of the way, we have sought to do what is right, what is just

and what is humane."

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

Dames said the govern-

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

He added that most of the bodies in Grand Bahama have been identified and released.

Straw Market Closure Criticisms

Continued from / PAGE 1...

sense. We have to stop this politically motivated nonsense that we see," Bannister said.

"I sat down with that particular vendor the day before she made her statements. She brought Mr. Obie Ferguson, who is president of the TUC (Trade Union Congress). She brought her own engineering expert in. And when we left the meeting, the TUC president had to agree with me. Her expert went on the record saying, based on what I said, he agreed with me that the market needed to be closed immediately."

He continued, "This political nonsense they

sent out there, viral on the internet, is really ridiculous, really disgusting."

Bannister described the present condition of the Straw Market and explained why the repairs were necessary.

"That system was corroding on a daily basis and was not operable. So the longer we left it, the more it was going to corrode," he said.

"Engineers advised that as a safety measure, we had to deal with that urgently. So the vendors have now moved out, the market is now being properly serviced. When the pipes go in now, they are going to be coated, so that the corrosion won't be an issue and a problem."

Bannister continued, "Also in the market, there are some other issues that will have to be dealt with. There is a terrible termite infestation in that Straw Market.

"You will see that the people are working there now removing the wood because a lot of the wood that was brought in is termite infested."

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

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

'Take Country Back'

Continued from / PAGE 1...

point, when it comes to education, Bahamians must acknowledge that 50 students in a classroom is disservice and there is only so much a population of 400,000 can take.

Johnson confirmed

that when matters related to immigration are being addressed, the government is speaking from a place of truth and speaking without fear.

"When speaking to issues, we are being dispassionate, when speaking without fear or favour and or ill will. These are

the norm around the world. We are careful to say we protect the fundamental human rights around everybody," he said.

"Everything that is done at the Department of Immigration is designed to protect the borders of The Bahamas."



GOVERNMENT NOTICE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the general public that the Government of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas will commence the salvage and demolition of the Clarence A. Bain building, located **University Drive (Old Thompson Boulevard) & Moss Road** beginning **2ND FEBRUARY, 2020** through to **2ND JUNE, 2020** during the hours of **9:00AM to 5:00PM**.

Members of the public are advised to cautiously traverse the area during demolition hours.

Should you have any questions or concerns, kindly submit the same in writing to the Superintending Officer, Director of Public Works, P.O. Box N-8156, Nassau, N.P., The Bahamas.

The public's cooperation in this regard is greatly appreciated.

Signed

Cora Bain-Colebrooke
Cora Bain-Colebrooke (Mrs.)
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Public Works

LET'S MAKE IT HAPPEN!

Start this new year by getting your debt under control with a Debt Consolidation Loan from Fidelity Bank.

- Competitive interest rates and fees
- Fast approvals with no runaround
- One LOW, manageable monthly payment
- Savings Plan with interest rate of 5% pa
- FREE financial coaching



(242) 356-7764 | info@fidelitybahamas.com

Facebook Instagram | www.fidelitygroup.com

FIDELITY
We're good for you!

Fortify Commitments to Achieve CEDAW Recommendations

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

Addressing the first Women's Empowerment Summit hosted by the Political Subdivision of Women United at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church Hall, Monday evening, Minister Campbell further said: the "time is also now for us to fortify our commitments made to the United Nations Population Development Fund."

(Monday's Summit was sponsored by the Ministry of Social Services and Urban Development through its Department of Gender and Family Affairs.)

"During the past 16 months I have attended several national, regional and international meet-

ings, workshops and conferences where I witnessed true partnership between government, private sector and civil society," Minister Campbell old the grouping.

"I have (also) participated in bilateral meetings where issues and concerns of discrimination against women and girls seem insurmountable. There is no mistake, the time is now for us to fortify our commitments, efforts and partnerships to help women achieve the CEDAW recommendations and the commitments made to the United Nations Population Development Fund.

"This year, over 190 countries around the world will convene at the United Nations to provide reports of their progress and accomplishments since implementing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, 2015. The Bahamas too, will be required to account for our implementation of the 17 Goals, 169 targets and 233 indicators. Let us present a report that is actually working or our

women and girls."

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

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

"The Committee therefore recommended the following: that we establish concrete goals and timeframes for strengthening the equal participation of women in public



► Minister of Social Services and Urban Development, Frankie Campbell (BIS Photo/Eric Rose)

and political life; provide more training and capacity-building programmes for women who wish to enter political life or seek public office, and raise awareness among politicians, the media, church leaders and the general public to ensure the full, equal, free and democratic participation of women in political and

public life on an equal basis with men.

"You would agree that it will take a collaborative effort to accomplish these goals. It will take persistence and creativity to diminish the stereotypical beliefs of the roles that women should play with respect to holding leadership positions.

"As the Minister with

responsibility for women's affairs, I am proud of this group of dynamic women who have united and decided to take action to bring about positive change, not only for women, but for girls, men and boys. Additionally, your action bodes well for our country," Minister Campbell concluded.

Mental Health Support to Communities in Disasters

**MASTER
TECHNICIANS**

*"Keeping family traditions alive
for more than 50 years."*



KitchenAid® Whirlpool

* Free Delivery in Nassau

* 1 Year Warranty

* \$0 down Financing for Government Employees

78 Village Road

Phone: 677 4810

Hours: 8:30-5:30 Mon -Sat

www.mastertechbahamas.com

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

The purpose of the media forum was to provide media journalists with the background of

what is mental health psychosocial support (MHPSS), its application in disaster situations and the national MHPSS response before, during and after hurricane Dorian.

The background should inform the media's development of stories about mental health services that were provided, and continue to be available, to help affected persons better cope with the psychological impact of the disaster. Additionally, the forum endeavoured to raise awareness, and reduce stigma in seeking mental health assistance.



► Dr. Emmanuel Street, Mental Health Expert

Court of Appeal President Sworn In

Continued from / PAGE 1...

ing president of the Court of Appeal in December, 2019.

Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis, while bringing remarks, congratulated Sir Michael on his appointment, highlighting Sir Michael's tenure as chief justice

"An office that was suited for his great love of the law and his desire to offer greater public service. A constitutional expert, he has written and reflected on a range of constitutional questions dealing with varied aspects of law and socie-

ty," Dr. Minnis said.

In his address, Sir Michael used the opportunity to thank his support systems both his family and the legal fraternity, who all played a role in his career.

However, he was visibly emotional, especially when he thanked his wife Lady Camille, whom he said has sacrificed for his career and their family.

"You decided not to enroll in the faculty of Law at the University of the West Indies, Barbados and decided to forgo your dream of becoming a lawyer and accepted my request to return to

Nassau to marry me. It was a bold decision. You believed in me more than I believed in myself," Sir Michael said.

Dr. Minnis also gave special acknowledgement to Lady Camille for her years of service and work to The Bahamas Aids Foundation.

"The country needs men and women of judicial character and temperament to serve throughout the judiciary, especially as it continues the work of judicial reform, inclusive of the reform of the criminal justice system," Dr. Minnis said.

MOE Holds Professional Development Workshops for Family and Consumer Science Educators

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

"Your degree does not make you qualified. Your experience speaks to what you are able to do and the lifelong field that you develop. It doesn't matter if you have a Masters' Degree or PH.D. If you've never been in industry, you're still coming in as a junior," said Mrs. Bastian.

"If they're coming in to make beds, let them spend a day making beds.

If they're coming in to work the front office, let them spend a day working front of office."

Mrs. Bastian was among a panel of industry professionals who participated in a discussion during Family and Consumer Science Education Unit Spring 2020 Professional Development Workshop put on by the Department of Education for public and private junior and senior high school teachers. The theme for the workshop was 'Curriculum Implementation: Transitioning Students from School to Work and Beyond'.

She urged the teachers to be monitors and coaches, and to network with industry.

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

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

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

"You can only take

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

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

He said NTA partners with training providers and industry leaders to ensure that individuals are properly trained and prepared to contribute to

the industry on day one.

"We make sure they have NTA certificates at the end of completion but we [also] make sure they have international certification," said Mr. McDonald.

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

"We've been successful over the last 5 years of training over 6,000 young Bahamians. More than 40% of them every year choose the hospital-

ity industry," said Mr. McDonald.

The panel also comprised industry professionals including Simone Bowe, Director, Human Resources, Ministry of Tourism; Martysta Turnquest, Outreach Specialist, BahaMar; Suzanne Pattusch, Executive Vice President, Bahamas Hotel & Tourism Association and Ricardo Ramos, Global Organization Program Director, Air BnB.

Representatives from the American Hotel and Lodging Educational Institute and the National Restaurant Association participated in the two-day event held at C. C. Sweeting Senior High School.

ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE ESTELLE GRAY EVANS SWORN IN



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

Bubbles, zero calories



DASANI[®] SPARKLING