



The Bahama Journal

Quo Vadis, Bahamas?



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75 CENTS

2023 ATLANTIC HURRICANE SEASON Are you prepared?

“PRIMED FOR EXPANSION”

A Stable And Receptive Environment

Promoting The Bahamas before a large number of Chicago business leaders on Monday, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Philip Davis said “our beautiful archipelago is a stable and receptive environment for doing business -- one that is getting better every day.”

In his remarks at the City Club of Chicago Mr. Davis said over the last two years his administration enjoyed tremendous success with investors, setting the stage for sustainable growth and prosperity.

“Our resilience and our ability to weather external shocks have helped to persuade investors to see us as a safe harbour for investments.

“We are focused on making strategic investments that grow and diversify our economy, while continuing to strengthen our country’s fiscal health,” said the Prime Minister.

Story Cont. Pg. 4

Top COP Defending Police Reward System

RBPf recently launched reward points system for Police



Commissioner of Police Clayton Fernander

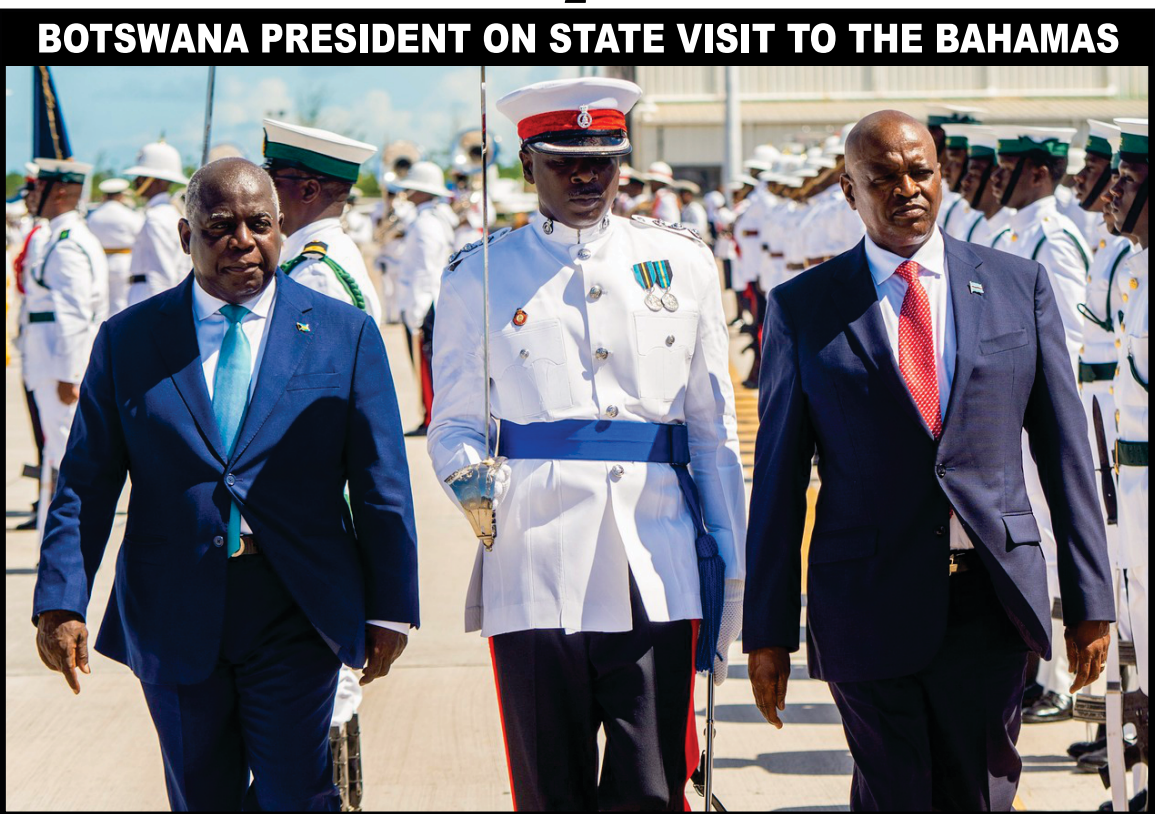
By Licec Bastian Journal Staff Writer

Police officers who make arrests, find and recover illegal weapons with an arrest and those who make arrests for dangerous drugs and recover dangerous drugs during searches will be rewarded in a new arrest incentive system within the Royal Bahamas Police Force (RBPf).

Commissioner of Police Clayton Fernander while defending the new points system that was revealed when a copy of the document was leaked on social media, told reporters on Wednesday that the force is trying to find out who leaked the document.

“Well first of all, I don’t know how that document got out and that’s what we are trying to find out, this is an inhouse, friendly competition.

Story Cont. Pg. 8



Prime Minister the Hon. Philip Davis this week welcomed the President of the Republic of Botswana, His Excellency Mokgweetsi E.K. Maasi. The President and his delegation arrived in Nassau on Tuesday for a State Visit to The Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

Billions of dollars in pipeline for tourism investments

DESTINY JOHNSON Journal Staff Writer

Billions of dollars in tourism investments are in the pipeline for all islands across The Bahamas. This coming from Minister of Tourism Investments and Aviation Deputy Prime Minister Chester Cooper as he again applauded the growth in stop over visitors coming into the country year after year.

He said up to 3,000 jobs will be created out of these projects. “We are seeing the coming of the Hilton later this year, and that would be positive for room capacity; and we see in

the pipeline Melia is going to be announcing some significant, additions to overall rooms.”

Continuing he said, “We have about \$6 billion; generally \$7 billion of new investments in the pipeline, with maybe \$6 billion related to tourism. Some of it is already coming out of the pipeline. We have Hog Cay and the Exumas for example, which is about a \$300 million investment.

We see the construction levels there are really ramping up and we also see Montage Cay in Abaco were construction is well on the way.”

Story Cont. Pg. 2



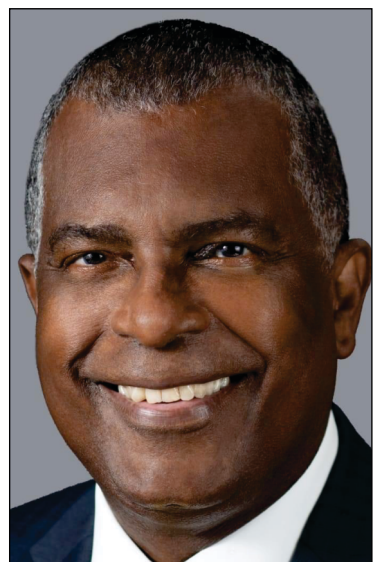
Minister of Tourism Investments and Aviation Deputy Prime Minister Chester Cooper

Mitchell tells FNM mind own business; PLP convention approaches

By Gerrino J. Saunders

It is “really sad” to see the leader of the opposition Michael Pintard trying to take credit for the Prime Minister’s decision to make adjustments within his team of cabinet ministers, said Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) Chairman Fred Mitchell while speaking from the city of Chicago, USA on Monday morning.

In his capacity as Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Mitchell accompanied Prime Minister Philip Davis on an official visit to



Progressive Liberal Party chairman Fred Mitchell urges leader and chairman of the Free National Movement to focus on their own party issues.

Chicago to mark the 50 th anniversary of The Bahamas Independence with the Bahamian community and business community that city over a two days period.

Mr Mitchell said Mr Pintard and his colleagues are “living in a dream world, and an air of unreality.” He claims that there are strong divisions in the Free National Movement among the leadership and recommended that “Duane Sands and Michael Pintard better mind their own business and stop fooling with the PLP.”

Mr Mitchell then shared details about the PLP’s 55 th National Convention that will take place November 9th and 10th at Baha Mar resort under the theme “Building On Progress: Driving Change.”

In the written statement Minister Mitchell explained a number of new procedures in regards to nominations for party

officers. He said nominations will now be accepted on forms; and that under the new procedures no nominations will take place from the floor.

All nominations will take place in writing and must be entered at least 14 days before the convention to the Secretary General who is the returning officer for the elections.

Twenty delegates will be taken for each branch in accordance with the party’s new constitution. According to Mr Mitchell all posts will be open.

He said the council has also set a non-refundable fee for anyone who wishes to run for office.

“For the office of Leader, 2,500 dollars; Deputy Leader, 2,000 dollars; Chairman, 1,500 dollars and all other offices, 250 dollars.” The PLP’s last convention was held in 2019.

PM Davis Calls On U.S To Reconsider On Climate Matters

PM Responds to U.S Climate Envoy



Prime Minister Philip Davis

By: Licec Bastian Journal Staff Writer

United States Special Presidential Envoy for Climate (SPEC), John Kerry shot down the suggestion that the U.S could pay “climate reparations”. In fact, when he testified at a House of Foreign Affairs Oversight and Accountability Subcommittee hearing on the State Department’s climate budget back in July this year, Mr. Kerry, based on international media outlets, exclaimed: “No. Under no circumstances”.

According to online publication Reuters, “The United States has backed the creation of a funding mechanism to address the loss and damages incurred by vulnerable countries as result of major or recurring disasters that was secured at the COP27 conference in Egypt last November, but the deal did not spell out who would pay into the fund or how money would be disbursed”.

Story Cont. Pg. 4

Billions of dollars in pipeline for tourism investments

Story Cont. Pg. 1

Billions of dollars in tourism investments are in the pipeline for all islands across The Bahamas.

This coming from Minister of Tourism Investments and Aviation Deputy Prime Minister Chester Cooper as he again applauded the growth in stop over visitors coming into the country year after year.

He said up to 3,000 jobs will be created out of these projects. "We are seeing the coming of the Hilton later this year, and that would be positive for room capacity; and we see in the pipeline Melia is going to be announcing some significant, additions to overall rooms."

Continuing he said, "We have about \$6 billion; generally \$7 billion of new investments in the pipeline, with maybe \$6 billion related to tourism. Some of it is already coming out of the pipeline. We have Hog Cay and the Exumas for example, which is about a \$300 million investment.

We see the construction levels there are really ramping up and we also see Montage Cay in Abaco where construction is well on the way."

"So I'm positive about what I'm seeing generally in terms of what we will be able to offer in future years; we believe we can increase the overall percentage of stop overs within the next few years," said Mr

Cooper.

After confirming that \$6 billion of new investments are currently approved in the tourism sector, Mr Cooper listed some to the projects.

"In the Exumas, it's roughly \$1.5 billion, we have Elizabeth Island where construction is underway; in the early stages but underway nonetheless; we have Hog Cay as I mentioned before, construction there is booming, we have Cave Cay with all of approvals received, and we anticipate construction to begin there; we have a project in Samson Cay where some renovations have started, there are two other small projects in Samson Cay which have not yet started, so they are in varying stages but

construction work has begun in many of these projects already," he said.

Mr Cooper said his ministry is currently working with the tourism investment authority and multi-agency groups to help facilitate other projects out of the pipeline.

Given the numerous projects planned, Mr. Cooper asserted that room capacity must and will be increased. "I think we will increase overall room capacity in the next three years by perhaps 30 percent maybe 40 percent," he anticipates.

He said he did not have the numbers in the front of him, but thinks it will be fairly dramatic if the government is able to quickly get these projects going.

"In South Eleuthera, for example,"

he said, "we have the Ritz, that's making fairly significant progress; Cotton Bay, you know there's talks there as well of steady progress in South Abaco.

There are two very large projects in the \$800 million range, so I expect if we are able to really get these projects going quickly in the next three to five years, I would say that we'd be able to dramatically increase room capacity."

While he believes the fastest way to grow the economy is through foreign direct investments, the Deputy Prime Minister said he hopes to see greater Bahamian investment in the Bahamian economy.

"PRIMED FOR EXPANSION"

Story Cont. Pg. 1

He told his audience that the Bahamian economy has recovered at a healthy rate since the pandemic with real GDP growth of 14.4 per cent in 2022 and 17.0 per cent in 2021, outperforming regional peers.

He said, "by all indications, we are projected to continue to see GDP growth for the foreseeable future. We are not sitting still either, -- we are revamping domestic and foreign direct investment policies to ensure a supportive environment. We are improving both internal systems and external ones to ensure we have the most productive and efficient practices," said Mr. Davis. The Prime Minister reminded the business leaders that The Bahamas is a tax-neutral jurisdiction that openly welcomes investors whose vision for their businesses aligns with our labour market and economic needs.

"While we are considered a tax-neutral or low tax region, which can be an appealing prospect for investors, our international record of compliance with international transparency and accountability standards is stellar. In fact, in December 2022, we became only the sixth nation in the world to become largely compliant with the Financial Action Task Force's 40 recommendations related to compliance with anti-money laundering, counter-terrorism financing, and transparency standards.

"Our resilient external position is bolstered by the second highest level of foreign exchange reserves among our regional peers, and our national debt management strategies are working -- government deficits are on a downward trajectory," he said.

Mr. Davis asserted, "in essence, when you invest in our safe harbour, you can be sure you are investing in a stable environment with responsible government practices that will give your investments the opportunity to

thrive unimpeded. From a (Tourism) industry perspective, we are primed for continued expansion.

"We have built on our standing as a regional leader in tourism over the past two years with year-over-year increases of 233 per cent between 2021 and 2022, and over five million tourist arrivals in the first half of 2023.

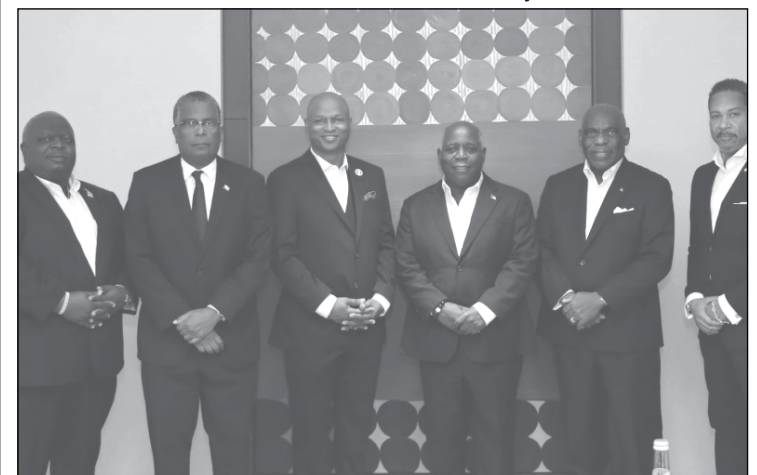
"We've focused investments on increasing air arrivals throughout our islands and improving our core experiences through new cruise port facilities. We are on track for record breaking year, even as we are investing in new initiatives for future growth.

"Moving forward, we are working to attract major tourism investments, especially on our less populated Family Islands, each of which offer its own local and very special version of truly idyllic paradise. We're building new airports across our islands and building on progress in attracting eco-tourism resorts and experiences, as well as sports and cultural tourism opportunities.

"Our financial sector continues to provide a strong foundation for economic stability and investments, with assets representing about 164 per cent of GDP in 2022," said the Prime Minister.

He told his audience, "The Bahamas is rich with opportunities in a diverse range of sectors, and the list of emerging opportunities grows every day. Our commitment to sustainable practices, economic growth, and good governance makes us an ideal partner for investments."

The Prime Minister was accompanied to Chicago by Minister of Foreign Affairs, Fred Mitchell; Bahamas Ambassador to the United States, Wendall Jones; and Parliamentary Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister Leon Lundy.



Photographed at the City Club of Chicago this week are from left: Mr. Leon Lundy, Parliamentary Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister; Hon. Fred Mitchell, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Mr. Emanuel Welch, Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives; Prime Minister Hon. Philip Davis; His Excellency Wendall Jones, Bahamas Ambassador to the United States; and Mr. Michael Fountain, Honorary Consul for Chicago.



Road Traffic Department PUBLIC NOTICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Last year, the Government of The Bahamas confirmed its intention to modernize the transportation sector in the country. A key component of this plan is to create opportunities for small business ownership in the tourism and hospitality industry, the success of which is largely dependent on the discontinuation of the unlawful and unfair practice of franchise leasing.

The Road Traffic Department supports entrepreneurship and diversification and to demonstrate its commitment to ending this unfair practice, franchises were issued to public service drivers who for decades, operated under unlawful "lease arrangements". Additional franchises were also issued to new market participants. The Road Traffic Department wishes to advise members of the public that the number of available franchises (taxi, livery, self-drive and other public service plates) have been fully subscribed for New Providence Island. New franchises may be granted when plates are surrendered, or franchises revoked.

New applications will be placed on hold to enable the Road Traffic Department to complete an assessment of all franchise plates. As a part of this assessment, the Board reserves the right to require franchise holders to show cause why license plate(s) should not be surrendered to the Department of Road Traffic immediately. All dormant/inactive plates should be surrendered to the Road Traffic Department in accordance with section 27 of the Road Traffic Act.

The decision to place new applications on hold is to allow for the full completion of the assessment process and to avoid oversaturation in the public transportation industry. Interested persons remain eligible to apply, however, applications will only be processed and advanced as issued plates become available in proportion to the franchises sought by applicants. Franchise approvals for which conditions have not been satisfied within the ninety (90) day period will expire and applicants will be required to re-apply.

The Ministry of Transport and Housing will provide an update to members of the public once the assessment process is completed. Members of the public are reminded that the Road Traffic Department and the Ministry of Transport and Housing are committed to acting in a transparent, responsible, and fair manner that supports national development.

As the Road Traffic Department is committed to being transparent and open with this process, persons who have submitted applications can contact the Franchise Unit, Road Traffic Department for assistance.

The Government of The Bahamas believes in the empowerment of Bahamians and the ability of Bahamians to earn and generate wealth in The Bahamas.

LANECIA DARVILLE
CHAIRPERSON
ROAD TRAFFIC AUTHORITY

The Bahama
Journal
Quo Vadis, Bahamas?

FNM Chairman Duane Sands accuses government of victimizing women

BY: KEILE CAMPBELL
Journal Staff Reporter

In the backdrop of Director of Immigration Keturah Ferguson reportedly forced to retire, the Free National Movement (FNM) Chairman Dr. Duane Sands accused the Davis administration of “systematically terminating” women in the public sector.

Though he acknowledged some women being part of Prime Minister Philip Davis’ cabinet and Cynthia ‘Mother’ Pratt recently named and seated as the new Governor-General, he states that over the past months, several female public officers have been sidelined, going on to name some of the females he’s noticed now gone from the public sector.

“There was Anthonette Thompson at the Ministry of Transport and Housing; Deputy Financial Secretary Athena Marsh at the Ministry of Finance; Director June Collie at the Department of Information and Communications Technology; Dr Geannine Moss, controller at

Customs,” The FNM Chairman listed.

Continuing he listed, “Director Brenda Bullard-Colebrook Department of Local Government; Deputy Director Carol Roach also at the Department of Information of Technology; Deputy Director Faustin Major-Smith at Immigration; and the most recent Director of Immigration Keturah Ferguson, but don’t forget, Melanie Roach, a Director of Works, and Kayleaser Devaux-Issacs at ZNS.”

Dr Sands goes also claims that seven female Family Island administrators were also sent home, asking what message is being sent out.

He mentioned the “watering down” of the Gender Based Violence Bill, calling the Protection Against Violence Bill “inadequate” and labelling the government as “casting a casual eye” towards criminal acts against women and children increasing in the country.

Story Cont. Pg. 7

Grand Lucayan has multiple offers for purchase

DESTINY JOHNSON
Journal Staff Writer

The Grand Lucayan Resort has a number of potential buyers for the property; this coming from Minister of Tourism Investments and Aviation Deputy Prime Minister Chester Cooper as he spoke about new and exciting plans for Grand Bahama earlier in the week.

Asked for more information on those negotiations during the Office of the Prime Minister’s Weekly Press Briefing, the tourism minister says he could not say at the time.

“Let me tell you that there is always a delicate balance when you’re doing a business negotiation with providing information in the public interest and protecting the integrity of the deal that you are in fact negotiating”, he said. “I don’t plan to provide any more information in relation to discussions on the Grand Lucayan Resort at this time. I hope that I will be able to provide more information shortly.”

Minister Cooper said, as soon as there’s more to tell he will make a statement, promising members of the media that, “as soon as the money is in the bank, I’ll tell you first.”

He did say though that prospects for investments in the country’s second city remains high.

“What we are doing in Grand Bahama is a multi-pronged approach to the revitalization of the island, Mr Cooper explained. “I can tell you that stopover visitor growth for Grand Bahama Island is faster than any other island in the Bahamas year over year. I can tell you that cruise arrivals are up 20 percent. I can tell you the Ministry of Tourism and its executive team visited the island of Grand Bahama. We are working with all of the stakeholders from east end to west end to help the island of Grand Bahama to tell their own story. Tell the story of their magnificence.”

Minister Cooper explained that in the East End of Grand Bahama there are the natural beauties of the Lucayan Park and the sun bars; and on western end of the island the

authentic experiences that can be enjoyed, and the cosmopolitan life of Freeport.

The deputy prime minister went on to highlight some of the recent developments in Grand Bahama. He said, “There is a deep, broad product in the island of Grand Bahama. I’m enthusiastic about some of the developments that we’re seeing. We announced recently the sixth census resort. We announced recently the redevelopment of the Grand Bahama international airport. There are other developments in the pipeline.”

“I want the people of The Bahamas to know, and the people of Grand Bahama to appreciate that the growth of tourism, as I’ve indicated in the statistics yesterday and in the statistics of Grand Bahama just now, is really for the ultimate benefit of Bahamians,” he said.

He said it is the governments’ duty and opportunity to create new businesses, and to provide opportunities for more experiences.

Story Cont. Pg. 4



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PM Davis Calls On U.S To Reconsider On Climate Matters

Story Cont. Pg. 1

This was the backdrop of Prime Minister Philip Davis's comments when he called on the U.S to reconsider its position on climate change matters and the impact climate change has on Small Island Development States.

"I wish to call upon them [U.S] to revisit a statement that was made by John Kerry where they are declining to consider assisting Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in respect to some loss and damage particularly for those over the last several years which is burdening most of our Small Island Developing States with the debt incurred as a result of recovery efforts following hurricane events.

And so, it is clearly important [and] I'm hoping that they [U.S] could revisit that question and we could firmly address it and come out with concrete outcomes at COP28, in Dubai, when we meet," PM Davis said.

In less than 100 days the 28th Conference of the Parties to the U.N Framework Convention on Climate Change or COP28 will be held in Dubai. The COP28 UAE (United Arab Emirates) intends to bring world leaders together who are then expected to "to deliver transformative Climate Action" at Expo City Dubai.

"The United States plays a very import[ant] [role] on most issues that impact the global community. They are viewed as leaders in most aspects of issues impacting the global landscape; and so their role at COP[28] is particularly important and significant for the advancement of the issues that impact Small Island Developing States (SIDS), like ourselves.

"And, so, it is expected that they continue to lead but lead in a way that is sensitive to our needs and that is responsive to our needs," the prime minister said.

"Climate reparations" suggests liability on the U.S's part as SIDS contribute very little to or not at all to climate change, particularly when it comes to carbon emissions which are warming oceans and causing more intense hurricanes.

At COP27, held in the green city of Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, participating countries agreed to set up a fund – a Loss and Damage Fund – to assist vulnerable countries that have seen climate related natural disasters.

In June Prime Minister Davis and U.S Vice President Kamala Harris co-hosted a U.S Caribbean Leaders Meeting which focused on addressing the existential threat of the climate crisis in Caribbean nations.

The prime minister, during a visit in Chicago earlier this week, sat down and spoke with Press Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and noted that at the end of this month Caribbean leaders will meet again before COP28.

"The more alliances that are formed around the issues that are common to all of us, the better chances we have of succeeding in having, what I call, successful outcomes.

"I know the declaration that came out of the African Union's meeting, in that they called their pre-COP meeting to enable them to do with one voice; not dissimilar to what we did last August when we called all the Caribbean leaders together and we went to COP[27] with one voice and was able to make a difference in respect to [the] loss and damage debate. And so, that is very useful.

"And when you look at that declaration, their issues and concerns are not dissimilar to ours. We are having our Caribbean meeting at the End of this month in Grenada where we will craft our declaration to enable us to come out with one voice," Prime Minister Davis said.

While in Chicago, Prime Minister Davis was a part of a roundtable conversation on Climate Change held at Loyola University and an interview on National Public Radio focused on climate change, according to a statement from the OPM.

During his time in Chicago, "The Prime Minister also urged action on fair climate finance to help small island nations like ours prepare for the new climate era and described our country's steps to grow stronger, including scaling up our mitigation and adaptation initiatives, working with scientists to map and protect our carbon-absorbing seagrasses, and strengthening our new Youth Guard, in which young Bahamians will work alongside our national security forces to offer communities support before and after storms.

"Prime Minister Davis was in Chicago, Illinois, on Monday, working to deepen ties to city and state leaders and the Obama Foundation to promote investment opportunities in our country's tourism, clean energy, and digital assets sectors; to advocate for action on our country's climate change agenda; and to celebrate 50 years of Independence with Bahamians who reside in Chicago," the statement added.

Grand Lucayan has multiple offers for purchase

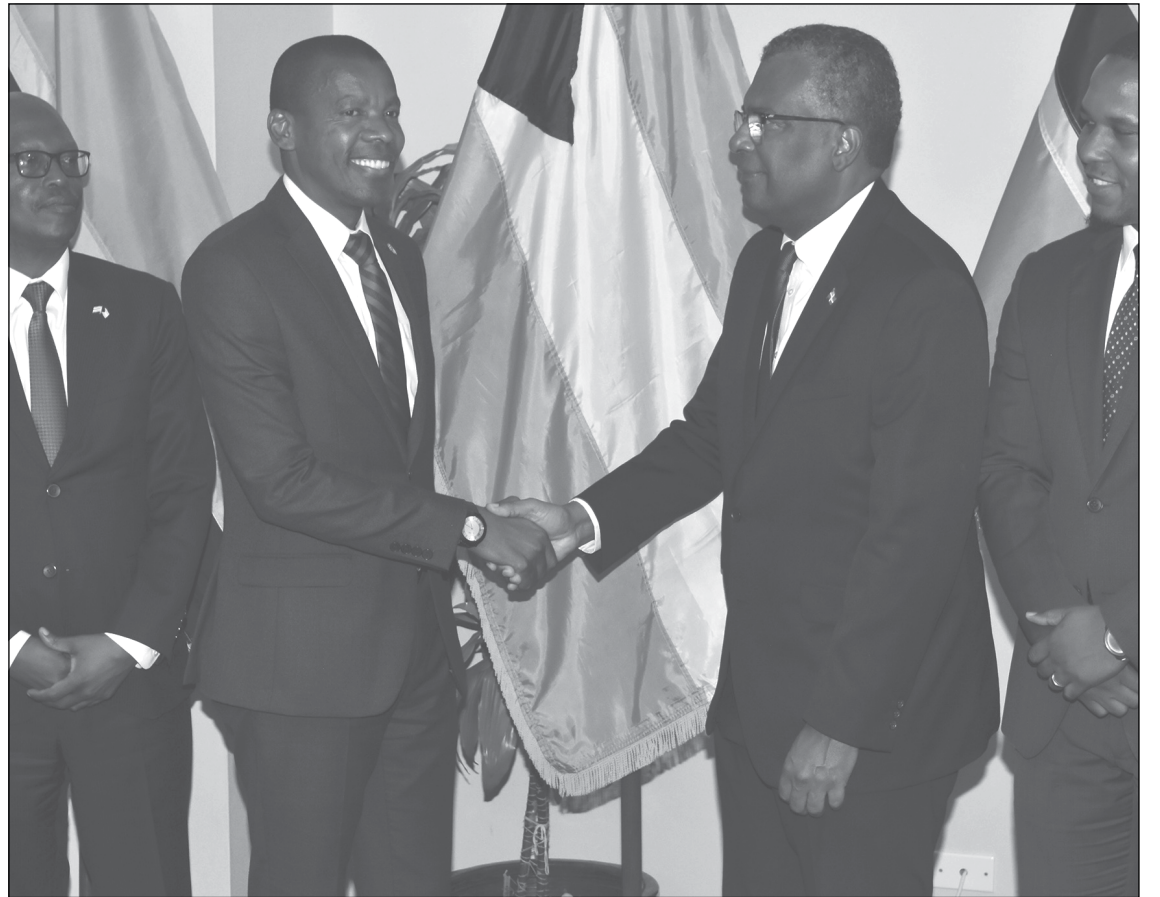
Story Cont. Pg. 3

He said, "The Tourism Development Corporation in New Providence and Grand Bahama will be working along with entrepreneurs to do, to do just that."

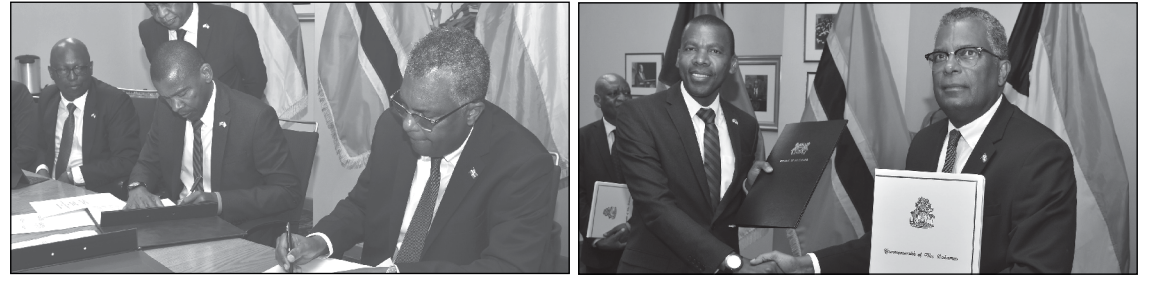
Minister cooper asserts that the government will continue to provide support for small business development through Small Business Development Centre (SBDC) and he is excited for what is to come.

GOT NEW? CALL OUR OFFICE AT 356-7254

MOU Setting the Framework for Cooperation Between The Bahamas and the Republic of Botswana, Signed



The Bahamas' Minister of Foreign Affairs the Hon. Fred Mitchell and the Minister of Foreign Affairs for the Republic of Botswana the Hon. Dr. Lemogang Kwappe signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Wednesday, September 13, 2023. The MOU sets the framework for cooperation between the countries in areas such as tourism and finance. The signing comes during the official State Visit of the President of the Republic of Botswana, His Excellency Dr. Mokgweetsi E.K. Masisi, to The Bahamas. The visit, scheduled from the 12th to the 15th of September 2023, underlines the expanding diplomatic ties between The Bahamas and African nations as The Bahamas repositions itself on the global stage. Throughout the visit meetings with counterpart Ministers are being held with a view to signing a Memorandum on Political and Technical Cooperation that will ensure that institutional relationships are forged now and in the future. This visit signifies the Davis Administration's commitment to strengthening its diplomatic and economic relationships with African countries to diversify the Bahamian local economy and forge closer political and cultural ties between peoples. (BIS Photos/Patrick Hanna)



PUBLIC NOTICE

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL PLANNING

The public is hereby notified that an application for Preliminary Support of Application Approval (PSA/83/2023), on behalf of Eslette G. Kerr C/O Higgs and Johnson Counsel and Attorneys-at-Law, is presently being reviewed by The Department of Physical Planning for presentation to the Town Planning Committee.

The applicant is seeking planning approval to rezone portions of Lots 12 and 13 in the Ocean Beach Colony Subdivision from Multi-family residential to Commercial. The site is located on the southern side of Coral Boulevard in the Coral Harbour neighborhood. The site is approximately 25,000sq.ft and a residential building currently exists on the site. The applicant proposes to rezone the site to Commercial for the use of a professional/medical office.

A public meeting will be held 21st September, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the Hearing Room of the Department of Physical Planning, JFK Drive, for all interested parties to discuss and address planning issues related to the proposed Commercial development.

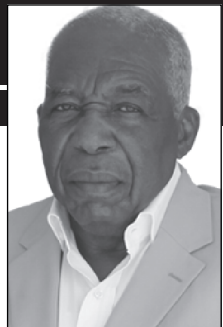
Preliminary plans for the proposed development are available for viewing at the Department of Physical Planning, located in the Aventura Plaza on John F. Kennedy Drive, during working hours of 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Interested persons and organizations are invited to review the information on file and provide written comments prior to the meeting. Comments should be directed to the Director of Physical Planning within twenty-one (21) days of the date of this notice. Submissions can be made via P.O Box N-1611, Nassau Bahamas. Further inquiries can be made to the Director via Tel. (242) 322-7550/1/1 OR (242) 328-3202 or DEPTPHYSICALPLANNING@BAHAMAS.GOV.BS

Signed
Charles B. Zonicle, Director
Department of Physical Planning

@departmentofphysicalplanning

ENEAS FILES



By Godfrey Eneas

TRANSFORMING A FISHING VILLAGE-TYPE ECONOMY TO A SERVICE ECONOMY

PART 3: THE 21ST CENTURY

By the 21st Century when Perry Christie and Hubert Ingraham came on the scene to take the reins of government after succeeding Sir Lynden Pindling, Tourism was a big business worth billions of dollars. Over the years, the Bahamian economy faced several challenges like the global meltdown in 2008 and the continuous efforts by the European Union to blacklist The Bahamas, yet tourism grew and developed.

Since 1992, there have been four Prime Ministers and each Administration has placed a progressive stamp on the tourism agenda. It is this refined action by successive governments that has been able to keep The Bahamas as a leading destination in the Caribbean Region. Even though from time to time there may be hiccups in the industry, Bahamian people on the whole, I believe, understand and appreciate the importance of tourism to our economy and the role it has played in enhancing our quality of life.

By 2000 there was an upgrade of hotel properties in The Bahamas. There was an upgrade properties on Paradise Island by Sun International with a billion-dollar investment by Sol Kerzner. There was John Issa's SuperClub Breezes, Butch Stewart's Sandals Royal Bahamian and Hutchinson Whampoa's purchase of the

Holiday Inn and Lucayan Beach Resort and Casino in Grand Bahama. Airlift was expanded and legislation was passed to encourage cruise ships to stay in port longer. There was also an expansion of the product when cruise lines started developing their own islands, i.e. Half Moon Cay by Holland America in the Berry Islands.

A new \$300 million cruise port was constructed at Prince George Dock in order to accommodate the mega cruise ships which are now in operation. This is a part of the redevelopment program for Downtown Nassau.

Hurricane Dorian and COVID-19 were two serious setbacks for the Industry, yet the Davis Administration after being in office for about two years has been able to ratchet up the industry to pre-Dorian and COVID-19 levels.

The future looks bright for the industry, as it is apparent that a three-phase agenda has been launched to continue the forward development thrust - Family Island refurbishment of airports, the redevelopment of Downtown Nassau via the demolition of dilapidated buildings and overseas promotion of The Bahamas in new destinations.

Tourism has been good for The Bahamas; however, the country has experienced External Shocks, like 9/11, over which it had no control. These Shocks created

substantial economic setbacks for the country because of the lack of economic diversity. Presently, Tourism is carrying the country again as there are no activities on the horizon to highlight economic diversity. The Pindling Government initiated some diversity programmes and policies. Prime Minister Christie attempted to diversify the economy via agriculture with the introduction of the Bahamas Agriculture and Marine Science Institute (BAMSI). In this era of technology, there are new technologies which can be introduced in order to prepare our youth for the technological advances which are here like Artificial Intelligence (AI).

The Bahamas has become a residual economy of the United States. This means that once an activity or technology is prevalent in the U.S., it will reach here because we have developed the consumer culture, owing to U.S. TV advertisements and our travel, to mimic Americans. It is this pattern of behaviour that drives Bahamians.

There was a time when Tourism was thought to be a fickle industry. Some saw it like the goose that laid the golden egg; however, we have not been shortsighted hence the maintenance of this valuable industry. We, must, however, find ways to sustain it. Economic diversification is one avenue.

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The Bahama Journal
Quo Vadis, Bahamas?

Kimaley Jones
Chief Executive Officer

Kristy Stubbs
Chief Operating Officer

E D I T O R I A L

ON THE RIGHT TRACK

The Davis administration is now celebrating its second anniversary in governing The Bahamas and the vast majority of the electorate is quite pleased with the performance.

There was a scientific poll released at the beginning of this week which showed a sixty percent approval in the population for the government led by the Honourable Philip Davis. A man from humble beginnings in Old Bight, Cat Island, he has shown all and singular that he has the capacity, the intellect and indeed the emotional intelligence to run the affairs of state. There has been no government since the Pindling administration after Majority Rule that has been more popular.

Mr. Davis and his colleagues have been able to properly reopen the economy since COVID-19 and has set the tourism industry on a growth path where the country will boast of the arrival of eight million visitors this year. In addition, we now see a reduction in fiscal deficit and positive signals all around.

Now political leaders throughout the Caribbean and the Americas point to the Bahamas as a well-governed nation. While many challenges remain, such as the need to reduce the cost of energy and electricity to Bahamians, there is evidence of a serious concern on the part of the government and plans are afoot to bring relief in this regard.

In resetting his government for the rest of its term, the Prime Minister and his team must seek to bring focused attention on Grand Bahama and Abaco which have been the second and third largest revenue producers for the government.

In Grand Bahama, pressure is being placed on The Grand Bahama Port Authority to adhere to the Hawksbill Creek Agreement and to fulfill its responsibilities. We believe that the Freeport model put in place in 1955 is now an anachronistic. The principals of the Port have made a tremendous profit on their investments over the last 68 years. It is now time to sell their shares, preferably to the government and move on.

It is clear that the Port Authority does not now possess the capacity to move Freeport forward. The days of the grand

promoter, the late Edward Saint George, are over. Before him, Wallace Groves and his partner Jack Hayward did well to attract foreign investors to Grand Bahama, but that era is past. Any investments in Freeport now would be driven by the government and not the Port. The discerning international investor will look to the government for concessions and not the Port.

If the Port Authority had the kind of interest in developing Freeport as it had decades ago, it would have reinvested in the construction of an airport after Hurricane Dorian destroyed the Freeport Airport four years ago.

We believe that the Bahamian people, especially those who reside in Freeport agree with Prime Minister Davis that GBPA must move out of the way of progress. It can no longer hold on to the ownership because of ego or to be socially accepted by their friends in high places around the world.

Beyond all of this, Bahamians in Freeport must be more patriotic and nationalistic and believe that 50 years after Independence they and their government should wholly own Freeport in the national interest.

We believe that Prime Minister Davis and his government are on the right track and must make a serious offer to the two families of Freeport to purchase the shares in that company which has been running a "Company Town" with an economy which has been stagnant from the beginning of this century.

The Owners of Freeport have made a tremendous contribution to the overall development of The Bahamas and the country is grateful.

However, while other Family Islands in the Bahamas have been showing real growth and development, the Freeport economy is not moving and it appears that only the government has the capacity to stimulate the growth needed with new policies.

We suggest that both sides must now meet in conclave to find the way forward for the social and economic prosperity of the Bahamian people.

Letters To The Editor

A Ministry of Good Sense

Dear Editor:

Blind Blake sang the eulogy Run Come See Jerusalem, in memory of the more than one hundred souls who perished at sea during the great 1929 Hurricane. Here, in The Bahamas, almost a hundred years later, is there a single public memorial to mark that tragic occasion? Our former colonial overlords made no such effort, so we make no such effort. We'll just have to wait and see if there is any official commemoration of that significant episode in Bahamian history come 2029. We may also note with interest whether or not there will be much pomp and pageantry that same year to mark 300 years of so-called Parliamentary Democracy in The Bahamas. In my opinion, this all begs the question: Are we in dire need of a Ministry of Good Sense?

With a Ministry of Good Sense, perhaps we could tackle a few issues which are long past overdue for some attention and positive actions. Maybe a Ministry of Good Sense could set about establishing publicly displayed, as well as electronic media versions of meaningful tributes to the ill-fated Mertyl Ethel and Pretoria. Additionally, fitting memorials dedicated to the memories of those Bahamian heroes martyred with the sinking of the HMBS Flamingo could also be materialized. Any other noteworthy and deserving memorials may be erected to honour outstanding historic figures and events. It's never too late to do the right thing, or at least that's the way the saying goes.

I say that that's the way the saying goes because we could wait for another devastating hurricane before we construct the first bona fide hurricane shelter here in The Bahamas. That might seem a bit odd to anyone with a little common sense, but with our new Ministry of Good Sense, no doubt that would be one of the first projects tackled and achieved. You would think that with a centuries-old history of encounters with hurricanes on an annual basis, proper hurricane shelters would be generously

sprinkled across this archipelago. If you did think that, you would be oh so wrong. Wrong, not because the idea is not an exceedingly good one, but wrong because, when you search our 700 islands, rocks and cays, you won't find even one. Okay, yes, there are church buildings, school buildings, lodge buildings, gymnasiums, a sports center, clinics and a variety of makeshift facilities used in times of hurricanes distress. But, a proper building site, specifically for public use in hurricanes or other major disasters is yet to see as much as a groundbreaking ceremony.

Guess what? Our colonial government did not build any. Our 50-year-old Independent Bahamas government did not build any. So much for independent thinking. Dragging colonial baggage is another story. Ministry of Good Sense, where are you?

As a matter of full disclosure (not at all like the Mps annual obligations), I can't say whether or not proposals have been made, and plans are in the offing for such shelters. But no announcements have been forthcoming, despite a recent near brush with that major hurricane Lee still out there in the Atlantic.

With other storms out there on the radar, a Ministry of Good Sense would have its work cut out for it ... on day one. Our new Ministry of Good Sense would be a harbinger of what a better Bahamas could provide for Bahamians, stormy weather or not. Ideally, a hurricane shelter building complex would be able to pay for itself --- Government contracts aside, and community volunteerism considered. The shelter complex could be used for any number of other worthwhile activities and functions to generate funds related to building costs and maintenance. Ministry of Good Sense, where are you?

Blind Blake also sang ...Never mind the noise in the market, only mind the price of the fish.

Notwithstanding that the majestic blue marlin is on our coat-of-arms,

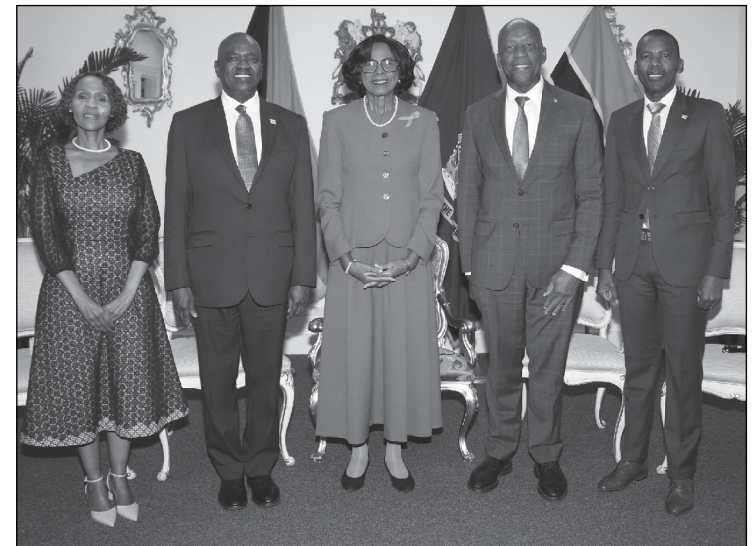
and the Nassau grouper being perhaps most favorite on our menus, tourism appears to be the only fish in our sea these days. After 50 years as an Independent Bahamas, we are still hooked almost exclusively --- hook, line, and sinker --- on that tourism bait. Unarguably, Stafford Sands is most responsible for such a fixation on the tourism product. Then, ought not some token tribute, say, plaque at least be placed at each port-of-entry throughout The Bahamas in this regard? Otherwise, we can choose to take a one-eyed view of things and simply carry on smartly. Our new Ministry of Good Sense can either be objective or subjective, likewise be politically partisan or break with long-held tradition, whatever makes good sense.

With a long history of reactively addressing problems, rather than proactively making decisions, plans and actions to avoid or limit problems, it might be wrong for any of us still to give up hope, thinking that that paradigm is the only card in our hands. Nevertheless, even though you will never find me wagering in any of our many gaming outlets, I am willing to otherwise bet that there is little chance of us seeing a Ministry of Good Sense, or the proactive initiatives it might have fostered in developing a better Bahamas.

In my sweet, short life I have seen incredible changes here in The Bahamas, as well as around the world (not to mention outside of this planet). At least every week, I am amazed by the wonders that were once fantasies, becoming more and more commonplace. Who knows, maybe, just maybe, we could all wake up one day soon and see a Bahamas that we knew was possible but could not imagine it happening in our lifetimes. For the time being, though, without our Ministry of Good Sense, it is much easier to get a comfortable pillow and stretch out to have a good dream about such a Bahamas.

Yours sincerely, MB

Botswana's President Masisi pays a courtesy call on the Governor General



Governor General, Her Excellency the Most Hon. Cynthia Pratt welcomed in a courtesy call the President of the Republic of Botswana His Excellency, Mokgweetsi E.K. Masisi and First Lady Her Excellency Mrs. Neo Jane Masisi at the Office of the Governor General, Tuesday, September 12, 2023. His Excellency and the First Lady arrived in Nassau on Tuesday for a State Visit to the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

Pictured from left: First Lady H.E. Mrs. Neo Jane Masisi; President of the Republic of Botswana, His Excellency Mokgweetsi E.K. Masisi; H.E. the Most Hon. Cynthia Pratt; the Hon. Alfred Sears, KC, Bahamas Minister of Immigration and National Insurance (and Actg. Minister of Foreign Affairs); and the Hon. Dr. Lemogang Kwape, Botswana's Minister of Foreign Affairs. (BIS Photos/Letisha Henderson)

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Letters To The Editor

It Is Time To Pull The Plug On BTC

Dear Editor:

There comes a time in most persons' lives when they are forced to decide. It can be a personal matter, or it can be one which involves a service provider in this case BTC, if only to preserve your mental health.

You come to accept that no amount of complaining; no fervent entreaties; no subtle threats; no appeals to URCA; and no promises by them to "escalate" your matter will do any good. You know that the endless promises to send a technician to resolve your problem will never materialize and indeed, you wonder if technicians exist at all. But you do know that their billing systems are alive and functioning and not a figment of your imagination?

During your frequent attacks of angst, you wonder how a service which is supposed to provide entertainment, education a workplace from the office and

relaxation now reminds you of an unwanted guest who overstays their welcome. How, in a few short years could an historically efficient, reliable, and responsive service provider be transformed into a clown show? Why, is the government and URCA allowing Bahamian consumers to go through the seven rings of hell on a daily basis to receive services paid for?

Intuitively, you know that the answers to these questions are out there somewhere but, do you really want to know them?

Do we have to summon some senior persons formerly employed by BTC to The Bahamas to get them?

Only time will tell, and time is not on the side of BTC as many who have messed with Bahamians soon find out.

Sincerely,
Michael J. Brown

MEN CHARGE WITH HAVING UNLAWFUL SEX WITH TEENAGERS

Delvarido Emmanuel
Journal Staff Writer

Two men appeared in The Magistrate's Court on Monday morning, charged with unlawful sexual intercourse with minors. 32 year-old, William Lewis was charged with two counts of unlawful sexual intercourse with two 15-year-old girls while on Harbor Island.

The incidents occurred on Saturday 12 th August and Tuesday, 29 th August 2023 according to police reports.

Also arraigned for a similar offence but in a separate incident was 24 year-old Alzono Pinder, who was also charged with unlawful sexual intercourse with a minor, yet another 15 year old girl on Harbour Island on Thursday 1 st June.

Both men were denied bail and remanded to The Bahamas Department of Corrections.

They return to court on the 25 th January where they will be presented with a voluntary bill of indictment which would fast track their matter to the Supreme Court.

FNM Chairman Duane Sands accuses government of victimizing women

Story Cont. Pg. 3

Dr Sands suggests the government has no policy in place or legislative response to the matter at hand.

"To add insult to injury, NGO's in The Bahamas have had to work around an administration that is only pretending, or as some say, pump faking on gender affairs; they're doing just the bare minimum to save face, so how can our women feel confident that they are important in the new day Bahamas." asked the FNM Chairman.

"I say that there's an emerging pattern of contempt for women affairs, and this isn't random or happenstance, but a clear deliberate strategy to marginalize hard working women. The most recent victimization of the director of immigration can not only be viewed in isolation, but it is yet another example of this administration's assault on women."

The FNM Chairman felt that it is unfortunate to witness what he perceives as victimization of women under this Davis administration considering how the woman's suffrage movement contributed to the rise of the Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) and the significant role women play in Bahamian society.

While proclaiming that women matter, FNM Chairman Dr. Sands called on the Davis Administration to stop "bullying" mothers, sisters, daughters, wives and friends adding that "unstoppable change" is coming.

FIRST LADY OF BOTSWANNA OFFICIAL TOUR

Delvarido Emmanuel
Journal Staff Writer

Spouse of President of Botswana Mrs Neo Jane Masisi was impressed with her visit to the Nassau Cruise Port on Wednesday morning.

Mrs. Masisi is in country with her husband Dr. Mokgweetsi Masisi in an official state visit. The first lady was greeted by Minister of State for Housing and Urban Renewal Lisa Rahming and President of The Nassau Cruise Port Mr. Mike Muara.

During a tour of the facility, First Lady Masisi visited some of the authentic Bahamian vendor booths as well the Junkanoo Museum. She expressed her appreciation for the welcome.

"Thank you very much, Minister, and let me thank everybody who's here for such a warm welcome. Thanks for taking me to this beautiful place, the Nassau Cruise Port. I was very impressed by the local vendors, the fact that it's work done by real people, real women, our women. You know, it makes me think of our own women back home, I'm taking

back so many ideas from this short experience," She said.

In welcoming First Lady Masisi, Minister of State Lisa Rahming presented her with a straw bag and portfolio handmade by inmates at The Bahamas Department of Corrections.

"We had the opportunity to walk through the Nassau cruise port and we wanted to show her everything that is authentically Bahamian and she was so excited," said Minister Rahming.

"We went to several vendors where she was able to see handcrafted bikes; we had bees, bee syrup, jams, everything and the First Lady was extremely excited to see the handcraft events; she even gave some recommendations of how the vendors could even add more economic boosts to their products," said Minister Rahming.

"We're so happy to have her here, we just want her to experience the local side of us, rather than everything just being state," she said.

Mr Muara said he was "so impressed you know there was the First Lady of Botswana, Her Excellency."

"She was holding hands with the vendors and learning about the craft and how many generations is this, that they have been doing this and where did they learn it from. I mean, she was dialled right in on the

culture," said Mr Maura.

First Lady Masisi concluded her tour with an official visit to the children's ward of the Princess Margaret Hospital.

Pintard inspires BGCSE literature students at St. Johns College

BY: KEILE CAMPBELL
Journal Staff Writers

This week Free National Movement (FNM) Leader Michael Pintard momentarily switched from his main responsibility of holding the government accountable as the Official Opposition leader, and took a softer tone to deliver an address to the 11 th and 12 th grade students of St. John's College taking Literature BGCSE.

Mr. Pintard gave a breakdown of his book 'Still Standing' that is currently on the BGCSE curriculum, impressing on the students the importance of Bahamians appreciating their local dialect while still having proficiency in standard English, mentioning that his book included Bahamianese, English, Ebonics and Patois.

While he encouraged the young Jolly Green Giants to be the authors of their own destiny with regards to their careers paths and dreams, he emphasized that Bahamians are as talented as anyone else anywhere else and should celebrate our unique voice and culture.

When the students were given a chance to pick the opposition leader's brain with regards to his upbringing and its influence on his literary work as a poet, storyteller and playwright, Mr. Pintard expounded on the social and political environment he grew up in as well as his spiritual journey that inspired his work.

As it relates to literature, he also spoke on the authors and books which inspired him as well as the literary devices that helped him refine his work.

Before thanking Karen Vaughn, head of the Language Arts Department and St. John's College for their invitation, Mr. Pintard encouraged the students to pay close attention to national issues and "be the change" they want to see in The Bahamas.

He also encouraged the students to consider coming back home after university and if not, find ways to still improve their homeland from wherever they are in the world.



VACANCY FOR SOCIAL WORKERS
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL SERVICES & URBAN DEVELOPMENT
(DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES)

Applicants are invited from suitably qualified Bahamians to fill the position for the post of Social Worker, Scale W14, within the Department of Social Services.

Requirements for the Post:

- Applicants must possess a Bachelor's degree (from an accredited institution, approved for The Bahamas Government's purpose) in Social Work,

OR

- A Bachelor's degree (from an accredited institution, approved for The Bahamas Government's purpose) in a related Social Science, Sociology, Psychology, Counselling, Human Services, Criminology/Criminal Justice, Family Services, plus a Certificate in Social Work.

Note: This is the entry level for persons with a Bachelor's degree in Social Work or Bachelor's degree in a Social Science plus a Certificate in Social Work.

Specific duties of the post include:

- Investigation of allegations of neglect and abuse cases reported either by telephone or in person;
- Investigation of cases where children may require care and protection and act as necessary;
- Secure placement for children in a substitute home or in an institution for children;
- Complete intake interviews and assess the needs of clients to determine required service;
- Conduct domicile and home visits to monitor and follow up on cases;
- Maintain accurate case records of assessment, activities and plans;
- Prepare case summaries, social history reports, letters and memoranda as necessary;
- Prepare court documents (court reports, care orders, Affidavits, search and production orders);
- Attend Court to assist with matters and provide testimony as necessary; and
- Liaise with other professionals, for example police, child guidance counseling centres, physicians, nurses and other contacts to assist children.

The salary of the post is in **Scale W14, \$27,450 x \$600 - \$39,450 per annum (July 2023 Scales)**. Starting salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Interested serving officers must apply through their Heads of Departments.

Application forms may be obtained from the Department of Social Services, Baillou Hill Road, New Providence, or online at www.bahamas.gov.bs. They must be returned, completed with original qualifications and documentary proof of relevant experience, so as to reach the Secretary, Public Service Commission, Poinciana Hill Complex, Meeting Street, not later than **29th September, 2023**.

Gina Thompson (Ms.)

Top modeling agencies coming to the Bahamas

DESTINY JOHNSON

The top modeling and acting agencies from across the world are coming to The Bahamas on November 10th and 11th for the 2023 two-day Cays Conference.

Founder of the Cays Conference Stephanie Nihon said this is the first of its kind to come to The Bahamas. The agencies will be scouting new talent for commercials, runways and more.

Ms Nihon giving more details on this event said, "Nothing of its

kind has ever existed to this magnitude. This is a history making event for The Bahamas and we are finally in a place where we have developed actors and models with CMM Agency that are ready to present to these type of agencies, and anybody that's a new aspiring model or an actor can take part," she said.

According to Ms Nihon they will have up to 15 of the top modeling and acting agencies in the world attending, including famous names such as Elite, Ford Models, Wilhelmina,

Stewart Talent, Talent Direct, Joy Pervis, Nomad Management Society, Lubert Rothlin, Care of Link, KLG, A3 Artist Agency, BMG and many more based out of LA, Atlanta, New York and Miami.

"They're very eager to see our talent because they have not been able to scout Bahamian or Caribbean talent, as they've just had no way to really do it, especially on the acting side," she said.

Ms Nihon noted that they are offering a very low-ticket price compared to other scouting events to encourage more people to attend.

As to what participants can expect, she said there is a lot that will be going on. "The two-day event will be one day model focused and one day acting focused.

The model day will have great entertainment, like a high-end fashion show from top Bahamian models and designers as well as an orientation that will start the day. Then participants will go into industry panels and

workshops where they will learn all about the industry. It will then go into a scouting event where the models will walk for the agents and introduce themselves.

Following that Ms Nihon said there will be call backs at the end of the day by the interested agencies that would like to represent any of those models. Successful participants will then get the work visa.

"On day two the acting day will mirror the modeling day, but it will be in a private room, and they will ask you to do a monologue of 30 seconds if they're interested," Nihon explained. She reminded that participants have to upload a professional actor's head shot to the website when you register, as part of their requirements.

She said, "The events on acting day will include entertainment, industry panels and workshops in what should be a great networking event with all participants leaving with a wealth of knowledge.

In terms of the requirements, models females must be 5'7 or taller and males must be 5'10 and taller.

For actors you must be six years-old and up and must have a monologue prepared for presentation.

For those who are interested and for the comprehensive list of all requirements for actors and models, you can visit www.The-cays.com.

JUNKANOO GROUP RECEIVES DONATION

DELVARDO EMMANUEL
Journal Staff Writer

One Family Junkanoo Group receives a substantial donation for the upcoming 2023 Boxing Day and 2024 New Years Day Junkanoo parades.

With a little over three months before the big junkanoo showdown on Bay Street Sunshine Insurance made a hefty donation of \$40,000 to the back-to-back defending champions.

President of Sunshine Insurance, Paul McSweeney says this among other donations is the company's way to protect the culture of junkanoo. "We're fortunate to be in a position to do so, but junkanoo is the most precious expression of our culture; we all have a duty and responsibility to ensure that it's promoted adequately, and that it

gets the amount of prominence it deserves, and that we all can participate and learn from it," he said.

Continuing Mr McSweeney said, "I think it's a natural step for our organization and certainly our chairman, Sir, Franklin. It's huge on culture, but certainly, culture is embedded in the entire Sunshine Family Group."

Sunshine Insurance has been a major corporate sponsor to the junkanoo group for over ten years.

One Family's Chairperson Christina 'Muffin' Fernander says donations like such goes a long way. She adds that because of the group being a

See Pg. 8

Man and Toddler Son Die in Bizarre Incident

Postmortem and toxicology examinations are expected to be conducted to determine the exact cause of death of a father and son who both died mysteriously during a bizarre incident in the early morning hours on Tuesday.

A 42-year-old taxi driver, identified by his wife as Jermaine Miller and his 22-month-old son Anwar Miller, died at Miller's apartment complex on Family Street, off Soldier Road west sometime around 1am.

Police reports had indicated that officers were called to the area sometime around 12:30am and when they arrived on the scene, they met a nude male on the outside the apartment complex, who reported that his landlord attempted to kill him and a female tenant, both of whom were renting separate rooms.

"Police were alerted to a disturbance and on their arrival, they met a male who gave them some information and told them that he was being attacked by his landlord.

When the officers went to the area that he directed them to, they met a male on the inside of his apartment.

"As they were about to confront him, he barricaded himself into a bedroom. As they were about to breach that bedroom, they heard glass being broken on the outside.

"When they went on the outside of the apartment building, they met this male jumping through a window.

"The officers attempted to subdue him. They had to chase him a short distance. He jumped a fence and went into a garbage bin," Officer-in-Charge-of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Chief Superintendent Michael Johnson told reporters on Tuesday afternoon.

Chf. Supt. Johnson noted that officers had to take Miller out of the garbage bin which resulted in a struggle.

"A struggle ensued between the officers and this male as they were making attempts to subdue him. Finally, they were able to arrest him. He was placed in handcuffs and brought back to the yard when EMS was contacted," Chf. Supt. Johnson said.

Asked about the toddler, Chf. Supt. Johnson said after the officers were alerted that the landlord had a child with him, they then conducted a search of the apartment and discovered the child in one of the bedrooms.

"They were then alerted to another bedroom inside of that apartment building. When they went inside that bedroom, they met the body of a male child lying

on his back on a mattress.

"He appeared to be unresponsive. They attempted CPR; however, they waited on EMS personnel to come to the aid of that child.

"They took that child inside of the ambulance where they were trying to resuscitate him.

"He was eventually taken from that scene, and he was brought in dead," Chief Supt. Johnson explained.

"The male who was restrained by the officers was also checked by EMS personnel and he had no signs of life."

The child was subsequently identified by the mother, who has no relation to the landlord. Police say she is assisting with the investigation.

Police did not reveal the mental state of the man when questioned, nor did they give an account as to what actually caused the man and the child's death.

Chf. Supt. Johnson however confirmed that the toddler did have some discoloration of the skin.

"We'll have to wait on the autopsy. I'm not sure of his mental capacity, but again, that is a part of our investigation that we will be checking into.

"Then again, I say we have to wait on the postmortem to determine the exact cause of his death along with the child.

"It's early in the investigation. I've given you the facts thus far, although there's some sensitive information that I wish not to disclose, but we are progressing in the investigation very efficiently. Of course, at the end of this investigation, you will be abreast as to what our findings are."

The head of CID noted that security cameras in the area are helping police with their investigation.

Bahamas Christian Council President, Bishop Delton Fernander, who was present at the police press briefing, said he was saddened by the news of the death of the father and son.

He encouraged persons who may have family members that display erratic behaviour to reach out and seek help; contact the church.

"We are making ourselves available as we did before with the tensions that are arising. We're going to work again to open up the hotline in short order. We will seek the spot again we did it during COVID when we opened up the hotline for prayers.

"I think as we counsel this family. As we go and try to bring relief to the situation, we realise that as a society, we've got to intervene when things are going

away from the norm.

"We are appealing to the public at large to do your very best to intervene when it appears that those around you are not acting in the fashions that are normal. It's now time for us to intervene and not sit back; if you see something, do something.

Chf. Supt. Johnson echoed similar comments to Bishop Fernander. "I ask persons, parents and all clear-minded, thinking Bahamians to ensure that children are protected.

"Our children are innocent, and we must protect them at all costs. It is very concerning to the police and I'm sure to members of the public when we have any incident involving children.

"And so, I again appeal to persons, even if these persons are relatives of your children and you're feeling uneasy with having those children to be in the company of those relatives, you must at all costs protect the child," Chf. Supt. Johnson encouraged.



Permanent Secretary

VACANCY FOR ASSISTANT SOCIAL WORKERS MINISTRY OF SOCIAL SERVICES & URBAN DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES)

Applicants are invited from suitably qualified Bahamians to fill the position for the post of Assistant Social Worker, Scale W17, within the Department of Social Services.

Requirements for the Post:

- Applicants must possess a Bachelor's degree (from an accredited institution, approved for The Bahamas Government's purpose) in a related Social Science area (Sociology, Psychology, Human Services, Family Services, Counselling, Criminology/Criminal Justice).

Note: Officers in this scale will receive no further advancement until they meet the requisite requirements for the post of Social Worker.

Specific duties of the post include:

- Maintain acceptable standards of professional practices in the assigned area;
- Investigate all cases requiring assistance from the various programmes of the Division;
- Secure information on physical and social factors contributing to client's situations;
- Assess the clients' needs thoroughly and make the necessary recommendations;
- Provide counselling and intervention through casework and or group work to clients and families;
- Complete intake and social history reports in a timely manner;
- Ensure that all relevant information is documented on casework activities and that files are maintained in a professional manner; and
- Liaise and coordinate services with relevant social agencies in order to avoid duplication while supplementing services not available by the Community Support Services Division.

The salary of the post is in **Scale W17, \$23,000 x \$600 - \$36,800 per annum (July 2023 Scales)**. Starting salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Interested serving officers must apply through their Heads of Departments. Application forms may be obtained from the Department of Social Services, Baillou Hill Road, New Providence, or online at www.bahamas.gov.bs. They must be returned, completed with original qualifications and documentary proof of relevant experience, so as to reach the Secretary, Public Service Commission, Poinciana Hill Complex, Meeting Street, not later than **29th September, 2023**.

Gina Thompson (Ms.)
Permanent Secretary

**BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER TOM HARTLEY
PAYS COURTESY CALL ON THE LEADER OF
HIS MAJESTY'S LOYAL OPPOSITION
HON. MICHAEL C. PINTARD**

British High Commissioner Tom Hartley and Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Michael C. Pintard, engaged in a comprehensive courtesy call today, discussing various crucial topics of interest to both the United Kingdom and The Bahamas. During the meeting, Hon. Michael C. Pintard recounted his recent visit to the Turks and Caicos Islands, where he had productive meetings with the Governor, Premier, Deputy Premier, and the Leadership team of the Opposition. This visit highlighted the importance of regional cooperation and dialogue, demonstrating a commitment to fostering positive relationships within the Caribbean.

Illegal migration much like gang activities were briefly discussed as important issues which require a cross border collaborative approach to address effectively.

Both sides noted the potential for economic growth through increased bilateral trade and investments, underscoring the importance of developing closer economic ties especially post-BREXIT. The Opposition leader was briefed on an upcoming British mission to the Bahamas some consultations underway.

The aftermath of Hurricane Dorian was a topic of mutual interest, with the British Government's assistance in the relief efforts being acknowledged and applauded.

The leaders explored the possibility of future collaboration in disaster relief to ensure a more resilient response

to such natural disasters. Hon. Pintard expressed the Opposition's keen interest in building deeper relationships with the UK government, extending this interest to both the governing side and the opposition. Pintard also sought avenues to connect with various entities in the UK to facilitate cooperation.

The discussion included talks on agricultural development, with the Opposition Leader emphasizing the importance of agricultural insurance in supporting the sector's growth and stability.

Both parties recognized the transformative power of technology across various sectors, particularly in the area of agriculture and in response to major climatic events such as hurricanes. They discussed the potential for grassroots tech hubs to play a pivotal role in fostering innovation, economic growth, and job opportunities, thereby enhancing the country's competitiveness.

The visit between British High Commissioner Tom Hartley and Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Michael C. Pintard, concluded with a commitment to future discussions addressing shared challenges, and exploring opportunities for mutual benefit and growth.

The Courtesy Call marked another significant stride in the Opposition's continuous efforts to foster greater collaboration under Pintard's leadership, reinforcing the importance of building lasting partnerships for the betterment of The Bahamas.



**JUNKANOO GROUP
RECEIVES DONATION**

Story Cont. Pg. 8

non-profit community organization, they have had to come up with other creative ways to rake in more funding to help them make it to Bay Street.

"It means a lot to us knowing that coming off the heels of COVID, the price of materials to do what we do on Bay Street increased tremendously because of the shipping crisis. We're not just a juvenile organization that goes to Bay Street and compete, we're also community bound," she explained.

Ms Fernander said, "Having corporate Bahamas with us and for them to keep considering us as part of their family, it means a lot; Sunshine Insurance would have been the second set of funding that we've received and it's very timely."

She said, "We don't make money we beg for money

nowadays, we've considered using our practices to engage in fund raising."

One Family won the 2022 Boxing Day parade with a wonderful performance led by their music section and choreograph dancers who had a crowd pleasing performance; then they backed it up with another victory on New Years' Day 2023 with the help of Sunshine Insurance and Royal Star Assurance.

The ceremony of the cheque presentation was held on the steps of the new Sunshine Insurance headquarters on John F. Kennedy Drive.

If you want a taste of what you will see on Bay come December 26th and January 1st One Family will resume practice sessions Thursday, September 21st on the grounds of the old City Market Food Store on Market Street.




PUBLIC NOTICE
MINISTRY OF WORKS
DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL PLANNING

The public is hereby notified that an application for Preliminary Support of Application Approval (PSA/95/2023) on behalf of Stone's Throw Away, is presently being reviewed by The Department of Physical Planning for presentation to the Town Planning Committee.

The applicant is seeking planning approval to rezone a 16,526 sq. ft. property, located on the western corner of West Bay Street and Tropical Gardens Road, from Residential to Commercial. Two residential buildings currently exist on the site. The applicant proposes to rezone the site to Commercial in order to renovate the existing buildings for a café, flower shop and grocery store.

A public meeting will be held on **2nd October, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Hearing Room of the Department of Physical Planning for all interested parties to discuss and address planning issues related to the proposed Commercial development.

Preliminary plans for the proposed development are available for viewing at the Department of Physical Planning, located in the Aventura Plaza on John F. Kennedy Drive, during working hours of 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Interested persons and organizations are invited to review the information on file and provide written comments prior to the meeting. Comments should be directed to the Director of Physical Planning within twenty-one (21) days of the date of this notice. Submissions can be made via P.O Box N-1611, Nassau Bahamas. Further inquiries can be made to the Director via Tel. (242) 322-7550/1/1 OR (242) 328-3202 or DEPTPHYSICALPLANNING@BAHAMAS.GOV.BS

Signed
Charles B. Zonicle, Director
Department of Physical Planning

 @departmentofphysicalplanning



HGC Sells Record-Breaking La Ceiba Property on Paradise Island

After just a few months of being on the market, the 20,800 sq. ft. ultra-exclusive La Ceiba property at Ocean Club, Paradise Island was sold for an undisclosed amount, last asking price offered of \$37.5 million – the sale was a record-breaking one for Paradise Island.

The sale was offered exclusively by Broker Realtor John Christie with agent Dylan Christie, who touted the extraordinary deal as historic.

“This was a record-breaking sale as the highest price achieved on Paradise island and one of the top single-family home purchases in the country,” according to John Christie. “La Ceiba is a very special property, set on two lots on Cabbage beach in the Ocean Club Estates. There is simply no other house like it.”

The 2.33-acre property is a private oasis of Asian-infused luxury, complete with waterfalls, pools and 300 ft of spectacular beachfront that takes your breath away, making it like none other on the market. With impeccably maintained residences, La Ceiba has ten bedrooms, nine full bathrooms, and is also an entertainment hub with cinemas, game rooms, manicured croquet/bocce ball green, infinity edge pool, lap pool and beach.

The 2,400 sq. ft. main house, with seaside verandahs, features recreation spaces, outdoor lounging areas, two kitchens, a gym, wine cellar, 4-car garage,

and mechanical rooms. Two tennis courts and a children’s playground are adjacent to the property, while the Tom Weiskopf championship golf course and protected private marina are only a golf cart ride away.

With the sale of La Ceiba becoming a record-breaking real estate deal for Paradise Island, John Christie called it a true example of The Bahamas’ robust real estate market.

“Our Real Estate market remains strong, especially with international cash buyers,” he said.

“We are finding that as high net worth buyers scan the globe for a place to settle, The Bahamas is a shining star, with its tax neutral status, great location, only minutes from South Florida and a number of direct flights from London. The Bahamas is the place to be; not to mention we are 50-year-old successful thriving real democracy.”

For the past century HGC has been the leader in The Bahamas’ real estate industry, specializing in luxury homes and condos, vacation homes, beachfront properties and private islands throughout the country. As the oldest and largest real estate agency in The Bahamas, HGC continues to lead the way, making the opportunity of luxury home ownership throughout the archipelago a reality.



Ultra-exclusive La Ceiba property at Ocean Club, Paradise Island was sold for an undisclosed amount, last asking price offered of \$37.5 million – the sale was a record-breaking one for Paradise Island. Broker Realtor John Christie offered the sale exclusively with agent Dylan Christie, who touted the extraordinary deal as historic. (Photos by HGC for Barefoot Marketing)



John Christie



Dylan Christie

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Youth Leaders Rewarded for SDG Impact

Kevanté Cash, Liam Miller and Wildaphenie Fils-Aïme are recipients of the Sustainable Development Goals Propel Youth Award presented by the Cable Cares Foundation. Presented in partnership with the Bahamas Development Bank (BDB) and United Nations Bahamas Resident Coordinator's Office (UNRCO), the award will support the impactful social, economic, environmental or civic activity each recipient is involved in.

Kevanté is a literary artist, workshop facilitator and researcher, who sometimes experiments with scratch film. Kevanté uses poetry, art journalism, creative non-fiction and scriptwriting to facilitate creative writing workshops for community organizations through Fostering Love through Community (FLC).

"I believe the work I do via Fostering Love through Community is impactful because it purely serves underserved communities.

FLC started as and remains a passion project that aims to bring queer, trans and disabled communities together by designing, coordinating, supporting and facilitating safe spaces through events and adventures, where community members can gather to feel supported and foster love amongst each other," Kevanté said.

Liam Miller founded and currently serves as the Executive Director of Basic Income Bahamas, a premier not-for-profit think tank that aims to provide a space for the discussion and eventual implementation of universal basic income (UBI) policies in The Bahamas.

Liam said, "the work of Basic Income Bahamas is transformative because of its willingness to collaborate with academia, government and the private sector on the creation of a UBI pilot program targeting the residents of Abaco and Grand

Bahama.

The UBI pilot program would serve as the first to be conducted in Bahamian history and would be monitored by economists and social scientist researchers to study the impact of a basic income on personal finance and well being."

Basic Income Bahamas works with the University of The Bahamas Government and Public Policy Institute to evaluate the impact of a potential basic income for Bahamians based in New Providence and Grand Bahama. This initiative is built off of the study A Living Wage for The Bahamas: Estimates, Potentials, and Problems

by Lesvie Archer, Olivia Saunders, Bridget Hogg, Vijaya Permual and Brittney Johnson.

Akhepran International Academy senior, Wildaphenie Fils-Aïme, is a founding member of a non-profit organization called Akhepran Ambassadors and played an important part in the school's application process to become an ECO School. She has demonstrated her leadership skills by collaborating with Fox Hill community leaders, Royal Bahamas Police Force and Royal Bahamas Defense Force officers and Clean Up Bahamas directors to organize the Fox Hill Ocean Blue Holes Clean Up Campaign.

In her role as a Climate Change Youth Ambassador, Wildaphenie has also been instrumental in fostering positive change within her school and community.

According to Akhepran International Academy's Vice Principal, LaQuaya Bethel, "Wildaphenie's innovative and transformative efforts extend beyond individual actions to influencing her peers and policymakers. Her ability to motivate youth through initiatives like the blue hole cleanup and her active engagement with influential figures in climate change action highlights her innovative

leadership. Through her work, she has been pivotal in shaping a generation of environmentally-conscious individuals, contributing to a transformative shift towards sustainable practices and environmental preservation."

The Sustainable Development Goals Propel Youth Award recipients were selected based on their initiative's alignment with the principles of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development impact, approach, scalability, replicability, demonstrated leadership and supporting evidence. Nominees had to be between the ages of 16-20 or 21-29 and their work had to relate to Economic Prosperity, Equality and Well-being, Climate Change and National Resource Management or Peace, Safety, Justice and the Rule of Law.



Pictured from left to right are Trei Pinder, Bahamas Development Bank (BDB) Document Control Officer; Alicia Rolle, Cable Bahamas Senior Strategic Partnerships Coordinator; Amesah Abdulla, United Nations Country Coordination Officer (The Bahamas); Liam Miller, SDG Propel Youth Award recipient; Dave Munroe, BDB Deputy Managing Director; Wildaphenie Fils-Aïme, SDG Propel Youth Award recipient; Kevanté Cash, SDG Propel Youth Award recipient and Garnell Pelecanos, BDB Director of Administration.

officers," Commissioner Fernander said.

A criterion is set for the incentive, according to the commissioner.

"We show up every day to ensure that the Bahamian people and visitors who come to our shore are safe.

"And that will not deter us, in respect to our mandate. You can see the results out there. We are recovering firearms; we are making arrests. You are seeing a number of vehicles out there in saturation in high crime areas; and we will continue to do that," Commissioner Fernander said.

"It's the devil who stepped in and tried to turn something into bad; only the devil, but we will pray that devil away."

The friendly competition, according to the leaked document "will operate for three months under the supervision of a Commander."

The incentive "is intended to encourage all officers to fully engage in "Operation Secure City" as the dedication and commitment of offices are critical in achieving the goals of the operation and enhancing safety of our community".

The officers on the winning team will receive a special award, although it was not disclosed what the reward will be. Individual officers will also be personally commended by the police commissioner.

Top COP Defending Police Reward System

Story Cont. Pg. 1

"It's not uncommon throughout the world in [law enforcement] where we honour officers for good work," the top COP said.

The RBPF's points system, according to the document aims to "foster teamwork, boost morale and recognise outstanding performance".

Commissioner Fernander said with the friendly competition, senior police officers "encourage officers to go above and beyond".

"Even a dog, if he does something good, the handler award[s] him. Let me tell you a story. Just last week, during an operation with our K9 Unit, the handler took him into some deep bushes where we suspected there were drugs and firearms. The K9's were able to recover a lot of drugs in that area.

"And you know what the handler did to reward him? He lifted the dog up and put him on his shoulder and brought him out to the front area. I thought that was so profound.

I thought it was an excellent initiative by the handler. When I first saw the photo, I thought the dog was injured, but that's what he did for his reward.

"And, what I did in house, and all of my senior team, along with officers, we agreed that we have a total of four separate operations out there working together. And just a friendly competition, in terms of days off. We encourage commanders to look out for the welfare of

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PUBLIC NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS

New Providence
City of Nassau

IN THE MATTER OF THE PLANNING AND SUBDIVISION ACT, 2010

AND

IN THE MATTER OF SUBDIVISION & DEVELOPMENT APPEAL BOARD RULES, 2011

The below listed APPELLANT and interested members of the PUBLIC are hereby notified of a Sitting of the Subdivision and Development Appeals Board on Wednesday the 27th day of September, 2023 commencing at 1:30 p.m. at the Hearing Room, located in the Aventura Plaza on Bethel Avenue and John F. Kennedy Drive, New Providence.

The Intended Sitting will be subject to there then being no prohibition against the said hearing taking place under any Emergency Powers (CoVid 19 Pandemic) Order then in force.

Subject also to postponement in the event of the issue of any Bahamas Government Hurricane alert for the Island of New Providence.

The following APPEAL will be heard as stated below:-

APPEAL No. 4 of 2023 – being an Appeal by Sir Baltron Bethel and Susan Haslauer-Schauff et al by Notice of Appeal dated the 21st day of February 2023.

APPEALING: from the decision of the Town Planning Committee made on or about the 16th day of January, 2023 under Town Planning Application Number PSA/182/2022 to grant Preliminary Support of Application Approval to Jason

Kinsale /Passion Point Development Limited for construction of Condominium Development on Lots 6 and 7 – Love Estates, West Bay Street, New Providence.

Dated the 11th day of September, 2023.

R. DAWSON MALONE
CHAIRMAN,
SUBDIVISION & DEVELOPMENT APPEAL BOARD

SUBDIVISION AND DEVELOPMENT APPEAL BOARD
Aventura Plaza
Bethel Avenue and John F. Kennedy Drive
Nassau

Sun Oil ignites future business leaders with \$10,000 gift to Junior Achievement Bahamas

Demonstrating its commitment to the empowerment of aspiring Bahamian entrepreneurs, Sun Oil Limited, a leader in the energy sector, recently announced a generous donation of \$10,000 to Junior Achievement (JA) Bahamas. The contribution is another testament to the company's vision of fueling growth for people.

Highlighting the rationale behind the donation, Fabian Fernander, Sun Oil's Marketing Manager, stated, "Our aspiration is to cultivate a generation of Bahamians who are not only ambitious but also well-equipped with the tools essential for transformative national progress. Through our partnership with JA Bahamas, we are investing in a future where business is synonymous with innovation, resilience, and community."

Throughout the past four decades, Junior Achievement Bahamas has played a pivotal role to spark an entrepreneurial spirit in the nation's youth. Tammy Lecky, the program's executive director, remarked, "The donation from Sun Oil Limited is a game-changer for Junior Achievement. It will enable us to enhance our existing programs and develop new initiatives that will equip young people with the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in today's competitive world. With this support, we can provide more resources, training, and

mentorship opportunities to students, fostering their personal growth and preparing them for a brighter future."

Furthering this sentiment, Philip Simon, chairman of Junior Achievement Bahamas, emphasized, "With Sun Oil's support, we can empower the next generation with essential financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and work readiness skills, enabling them to thrive in the ever-evolving global economy. We hope this serves as an inspiration for other companies to follow Sun Oil's lead and become sponsors of Junior Achievement, as we continue to make a difference in the lives of young people."

The relationship between Sun Oil and Junior Achievement Bahamas is a testament to the transformative power of collaboration through financial support that provides greater access to resources that empowers the Bahamian entrepreneurial spirit. Fernander concluded, "At Sun Oil, we remain steadfast in our pledge to uplift the upcoming generation of business visionaries. Through our alliance with Junior Achievement Bahamas, we are certain that our support will inspire a community of entrepreneurs, ready to bring innovative products and solutions to the forefront of our nation."



Philip Simon, JA Bahamas Chairman, Tammy Lecky, JA Bahamas Executive Director and Fabian Fernander, Sun Oil Sales & Marketing Manager

Senior Justice Deborah Fraser sworn in as Acting Chief Justice



Governor General, HE the Most Hon. Cynthia Pratt administered the requisite Oaths to Hon. Madam Senior Justice Deborah Fraser as Acting Chief Justice during a Swearing In Ceremony at the Office of the Governor General, Thursday, September 7, 2023. (BIS Photos/Letisha Henderson)



FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE UNIT OF THE BAHAMAS

PUBLIC NOTICE – RELOCATION OF FIU OFFICE

30th August, 2023

All registrants, stakeholders and the general public are hereby notified that effective **Monday, 4th September, 2023**, the Financial Intelligence Unit will be relocated from its current location at 3rd Floor, Norfolk House, Frederick Street, to its new location at the address noted below:

Poinciana House
31B Annex Building, 2nd Floor
East Bay Street
Nassau, Bahamas

Telephone, fax number, postal and email addresses will remain unchanged.

Further inquiries can be directed to the Director at:

P.O. Box SB-50085
Nassau, Bahamas
Phone: 397-6300
Fax: 322-5551
Email: director.fiu@fiubahamas.bs
Website: fiubahamas.org.bs

Emrick K. Seymour Sr., KPM
Director