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Questions raised by the Crown land investigation

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Racquel Williams qualifies for Carifta Games

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PM blasts Haiti policy critics

Ingraham speaks out over move to grant temporary status to detainees

By MEGAN REYNOLDS
Tribune Staff Reporter
mreynolds@tribunemedia.net

PRIME Minister Hubert Ingraham cried shame on critics of the government's move to grant temporary status to Haitian detainees following the devastation of their home country by the magnitude 7.0 earthquake last week.

Speaking with members of the media over the weekend, Mr Ingraham said he was deeply disappointed by the misinformation, prejudice and hard-heartedness spewed especially over the airwaves in the past few days.

"In this Christian society of ours where most households have televisions, everyone should be able to see what is happening in Haiti," the Prime Minister said.

"I can't imagine hypocrites going to church on Sunday morning and then saying on the radio, and in the newspapers, and in their hearts that we are to detain and keep these people

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PM to attend international emergency meeting over Haiti

By MEGAN REYNOLDS
Tribune Staff Reporter
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PRIME Minister Hubert Ingraham will attend an international emergency meeting in the Dominican Republic today to coordinate assistance for Haiti following Tuesday's catastrophic magnitude 7.0 earthquake.

In a press conference to address the nation about the Bahamian contribution to the massive relief effort Mr Ingraham said the situation

SEE page 10

US citizens feared dead in plane crash

THREE American citizens are feared dead today after their plane crashed in waters off Bimini yesterday.

According to police press Sergeant Chrislyn Skippings, police in Alice Town, Bimini, received a report of a plane crash sometime around 3.45pm about 500 yards north east of the Bimini Bay Resort.

Police responded with local residents and members of the US Coast Guard and conducted a search of the area. They found the tangled debris of an aircraft.

However, according to Sergeant Skippings, the wreckage was so badly mangled that officers were unable to determine what type of plane it was.

The flight is believed to have left New Providence for Ft Lauderdale's Executive Airport with three American citizens onboard. While the rescue teams were unable to locate any of the persons on the aircraft yesterday, their search efforts will continue today.



PRIME MINISTER
Hubert Ingraham speaks to the media in the Cabinet Office.

Felipe Major/Tribune staff

Man is found stabbed to death

THE country recorded its sixth murder last night when the body of a man was found stabbed to death in a vehicle in Montell Heights.

According to police press Sergeant Chrislyn Skippings, officers received information around 4.45pm that a male was suffering from stab wounds at a garage on Hill Flower Road.

Officers responded and found the lifeless body of a man in an old Bronco jeep with an apparent stab wound in his abdomen.

Sergeant Skippings said that it is unclear at this time

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PM: FNM will not 'cash in' Elizabeth seat

By PAUL G TURNQUEST
Tribune Staff Reporter
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FNM Leader Hubert Ingraham promised the voters of Elizabeth over the weekend that if they were to support his party in the upcoming by-election, their representative will not be "cashing in" their seat as the PLP did earlier this month.

Addressing a crowd of supporters just moments before the FNM's candidate Dr Duane Sands took to the streets to speak with voters in the area, Mr Ingraham reminded the people of Elizabeth that they had trusted the PLP with their seat in the last election.

"The PLP cashed in; threw their hands in and said they don't want the seat. The man that they put in the House of Assembly has decided he wants

SEE page 10

Haitian-Bahamian heads to Haiti in search of family

NOELLE NICOLLS
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AS A last ditch effort to find his family, Prosper Bazard, a Haitian living in the Bahamas, is hitching a ride to Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Uncertain about what he will find or where he will sleep, Mr Bazard said he

has been anxious for days, wanting to jump on an airplane.

Since the 7.0 magnitude earthquake hit Haiti's capital on Tuesday he has been unable to contact his son, daughter, brothers, sisters and other extended family members.

"I feel hurt very bad. I even got sick. I can't sleep. I stay up almost the whole night on the

television. I don't know what has happened to my family yet. I can't get any contact with any member of my family. I don't know who is alive, who is dead. I'll keep praying until I find what is going on," said Mr Bazard.

He planned to leave Sunday

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LOCAL NEWS

DEATH OF ANDREW CURRY

Well-known organist and choir master dies aged 73



SADLY MISSED: Andrew Curry

ANDREW Curry, 73, well-known organist and choir master at St Francis Xavier Cathedral, died shortly after 7am yesterday.

Mr Curry was a fixture at the Catholic church's cathedral and recently played during the Red Mass marking the official opening of the judicial year. He was

reportedly getting ready to leave for church yesterday morning when he died.

For the past year Mr Curry was suffering from emphysema, a progressive disease of the lungs that causes shortness of breath. Mr Curry was the first lay headmaster at Aquinas College in the early 1970s and composed a number of musical productions throughout his tenure.

He has been known throughout his career as a master organists who was unmatched in his field.

Mr Curry had four children, three boys and one girl — with one son predeceasing him. He is survived by his wife Lynn, his daughter Alaina, and his sons, Andrew Jr, and Emile.

In brief

Freeport men charged with gun possession

THREE men have been charged in the Freeport Magistrate's court with possession of a firearm.

David Pottier, a 41-year-old resident of Holy Burn Circle; Alton Bastian, 53, of Essex Road; and Allen Demeritte, 48, of Inagua Place, Hawksbill, appeared before Magistrate Andrew Forbes.

Ammunition

It is alleged that on January 7, the accused were found in possession of a firearm with several rounds of ammunition.

They all pleaded not guilty and were granted \$7,000 bail with sureties.

The case was adjourned to June 22, 2010 for trial.

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CRIME BRIEFS

Grand Bahama police investigate stabbing

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREEPORT – Grand Bahama Police are investigating a stabbing incident that occurred early Saturday morning in the Pio-

neer's Way area. The victim, a 19-year-old male resident of Freeport, reported that at about 1.20am he was stabbed in his back during a fight.

He was taken to Rand Memorial Hospital, where he is reported to be in stable condition.

Police are continuing their investigations into the matter.

UPDATE ON SHOOTING VICTIM

A security officer who was shot last week during an armed robbery at the City Market Foodstore in Eight Mile Rock has been released from hospital.

ASP Mackey said police are continuing investigations into the matter and are appealing to anyone with information to call 911.

FIREARM SEIZED

A firearm was taken off the streets last week when Grand Bahama police searched a young man in the area of Explorer's Way. Asst Supt Loretta Mack-

ey reported that officers on mobile patrol arrested the 31-year-old resident of Freeport on Thursday sometime around 7.20pm at Explorer's Way and Kent Street. During a search of the man officers discovered a .40 calibre Smith and Wesson pistol with one magazine and seven live rounds of .40 ammunition.

The suspect was taken into police custody and will appear in the Magistrate's Court in Freeport on Monday morning to face charges of possession of an unlicensed firearm and possession of ammunition.

MAN CHARGED

A 23-year-old man was charged with possession of ammunition in Freeport Magistrate's Court on Friday. Galen Forbes, a resident of Gladstone Terrace, pleaded not guilty to the charge. It is alleged that on January 13, the accused was found in possession of several live rounds of ammunition at Freeport, Grand Bahama.

Forbes was not represented by counsel. He was granted bail and the matter was adjourned for trial.

ATTEMPTED HOUSEBREAKING

Two men were arrested and taken into custody in connection with an attempted housebreaking in the Lucaya area.

ASP Mackey said the two men, ages 31 and 35, are assisting police with their investigations. According to reports, police received a call around 10.45am on January 14 from a resident of Bennington Lane, Acacia Groves. The caller reported that sometime around 10.15am some attempted to break into his residence but fled the scene when the alarm was activated.

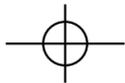
When police arrived at the residence, the complainant said there were two males: one was tall, wearing black clothing and a tam, and the second was short with a dreadlocks hairstyle and also wearing black clothing. The culprits attempted to break into the house, but fled into nearby bushes when the alarm was activated. During a check of the area and on receiving additional information, officers arrested two men. The accused men are expected to be arraigned in the Freeport Magistrates' Court today.

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LOCAL NEWS

Families of murder victims take to the streets in protest

ON SATURDAY scores of Bahamian families of murder victims, once again took to the streets of Nassau, on foot and in cars, to protest the wave of murder, violence and fear that has gripped this country for several years without any sign of abating.

This march and motorcade, the first for the year 2010, was led by Rodney Moncur, Leader of the Workers Party and the just-announced candidate in the up-coming by-election in Elizabeth.

As he spoke to the protesters at the beginning of the march, he pointed out to them that their action of marching peacefully through the streets to voice their concerns about crime, was the most powerful means for achieving their demand that murderers not be given bail but be hanged promptly upon conviction.

He specifically urged the number of young men and boys participating in the march, to stay away from bad company and learn to walk away from conflict situations.

As the procession moved from RM Bailey Park at

about 11am and headed west on Robinson Road to Blue Hill Road, onlookers, pedestrians and motorists alike, loudly shouted their support and honked their horns.

The protesters proceeded north on Blue Hill Road to Bay Street through the throngs of Bahamians and cruise ship tourists who also voiced their support.

The march and motorcade then continued on East Street to Wulff Road; then east to Marathon and back to RM Bailey Park.

At the end of the protest, representatives from each of the families of murdered victims spoke briefly about their specific situation; of the pain that has been felt following their tragedy; and committed to continuing to protest until the laws are changed to prevent persons accused of murder and convicted murderers from having access to bail and to reinstate the prompt hanging of all convicted murderers.



SUPPORTERS OF capital punishment conducted another peaceful march on Saturday. Led by Workers Party leader Rodney Moncur, the demonstrators paraded throughout the streets of New Providence carrying placards and the Bahamian flag Mr Moncur can be seen at the far left of photograph.

Among those taking part was the family of Vernell Kemp, whose son was a recent murder victim. The

family flew in from Eleuthera specifically for the event to express a part of their feelings in this time of deep mourning. They are particularly concerned because the murder accused is already out on bail.

CRIME BRIEFS

POLICE conducted three firearm arrests over the weekend.

According to Sgt Skipings, sometime around 1.10 am on Saturday, January 16, officers of the Mobile Division, while on routine patrol in the area of Market Street and Robinson Road, saw a man in a dark coloured hooded jacket acting suspiciously.

"On seeing the officers, the male fled; however, officers gave chase and caught up with the suspect a short distance away. Officer's made a search of the suspect and retrieved a 9mm pistol with three live rounds of ammunition. The 20-year-old resident of Montel Heights was taken into custody," she said.

Secondly, sometime around 2.10 am on Saturday, January 16, police, acting on information, intercepted a gold coloured Chevy Impala occupied by a man and woman at the junction of Market Street and Cordeaux Avenue. Officers conducted a search of the vehicle, but nothing was found. However, when officers conducted a search of the man's residence they recovered a shotgun with 14 shotgun shells. The male, a 32-year-old resident of Kemp Road was taken into custody.

And finally, sometime around 12.20 pm on Saturday officers of the Mobile Division executed a search warrant on an Apartment upstairs at Big Ten on Farrington Road.

Officers recovered a black .40 pistol with two live rounds of .40 ammunition. Two men, one 29, the other 31, both residents of Farrington Road, were taken into custody. Police investigations into these and other matters continue.

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BOOK OF ELI	NEW	1:00	3:25	N/A	6:00	8:20	10:45	
THE SPY NEXT DOOR	NEW	1:15	3:35	N/A	6:15	8:40	10:50	
LOVELY BONES	NEW	1:35	N/A	4:35	7:35	N/A	10:35	
PRECIOUS	NEW	1:05	3:30	N/A	6:05	8:25	10:55	
DAYBREAKERS	C	1:10	3:40	N/A	6:10	8:30	10:55	
UP IN THE AIR	T	1:00	3:30	N/A	6:00	8:25	10:45	
LEAP YEAR	T	1:10	3:35	N/A	6:10	8:35	10:40	
SHERLOCK HOMES	C	1:00	3:25	N/A	6:00	8:20	10:40	
IT'S COMPLICATED	C	1:30	N/A	4:30	7:30	N/A	N/A	
BROTHER	C	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10:50	
ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS	B	1:20	3:45	N/A	6:20	N/A	N/A	
AVATAR	T	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8:40	N/A	

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THE SPY NEXT DOOR	NEW	1:15	3:45	N/A	6:15	8:40	10:40	
DAYBREAKERS	NEW	1:10	3:30	N/A	6:10	8:30	10:40	
SHERLOCK HOMES	C	1:00	3:35	N/A	6:15	8:35	10:50	
ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS	B	1:15	3:35	N/A	6:15	8:35	10:35	
AVATAR	T	1:00	N/A	4:10	7:15	N/A	10:20	

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EDITORIAL/LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Being Bound to Swear to The Dogmas of No Master

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McCartney really needs a wake-up call

EDITOR, The Tribune.

LETTERS
letters@tribunemedia.net

Mr McCartney's views as Insurance Commissioner on the "composite" insurer prohibition rule and the competition issues as they relate to the proposed business combination of Bahamas First and Family Guardian are in my opinion woefully misguided at best and, at worse, a sad capitulation to the wishes of influential special interests pushing for the transaction.

The "composite" insurer prohibition rule was never intended to be easily defeated by a simple three-company structure where one company acts as the holding company of the other two companies, one a licensed general insurer and the other a licensed life and health insurer. The statutorily imposed rule was borne out of public policy concerns about the issues associated with the common ownership and com-

mon management control (in this case by the directors of a common holding entity) of the business activities of both a general insurer and a life and health insurer.

As for Mr McCartney's view on the competition issues, he needs to be reminded that by definition (and by licensing requirements) both general insurers and life and health insurers are public interest entities and, as such, warrant important public policy considerations on the part of their regulators which necessarily encompass competition issues that may threaten to harm the public interest. Like Mr McCartney, too many of our regulators of public interest entities are of

the misguided view that they can turn a blind eye to competition issues simply because our legislators have thus far failed to address such issues by way of an anti-trust statute.

It is my opinion that Mr McCartney weakens his Office by not understanding the extent of his duties and the powers available to him under existing legislation. This apparent leadership weakness in the Office of the Insurance Commissioner reminds me of the leadership weakness demonstrated by the Securities Commission at the time the Colina Group acquired Imperial Life.....and we all know only too well how that earlier tragic "marriage" of two insurance giants played out, including the devastating toll taken on the limited resources of our judiciary.

JULIA CHILE
Nassau,
January 9, 2010.

Haitians have to be treated with compassion

FOR A few hours last week Bahamians were transfixed by fear when news spread of a devastating earthquake in Haiti that threatened to turn into a tsunami for the Bahamas and wipe these islands off the face of the Earth.

The first thought of many Bahamians who phoned us for information was how to escape these islands — America was the obvious port of call. No sooner had the threat passed than many Bahamians settled back in their old smug, selfish ways, gathered their country unto themselves and locked its doors.

Most residents today have television sets. They daily see a dying country in our region — thousands of its citizens buried under piles of rubble, dead bodies, covered with flies, lying in the streets, hospitals demolished, many Haitian medics dead, members of the police force dead, all infrastructure decimated — no functioning government, all ports closed to commercial traffic ... total chaos. Bahamians say they sympathise, they will send in rescue teams, even money, but when the Haitian asks the same question as did the Bahamian when he thought he was under tsunami watch— "Where can we find safe haven?" — Bahamians have put up the sign: "No room in this Inn. We feel sorry for you, but put your knapsack on your back and keep moving."

That's what you call Bahamian Christianity in practise.

No wonder Prime Minister Ingraham told the media yesterday that he could not imagine "hypocrites going to church on Sunday morning and then saying on the radio, and in the newspapers, and in their hearts that we are to detain and keep these people and send them back to Haiti."

Mr Ingraham was referring to his government's decision to release all Haitians presently held in the Carmichael Detention Centre, document them and stipulate that within a given time they report back to Immigration.

He had hoped that until Haiti had returned to some semblance of a functioning government, the released Haitians could find homes in the Bahamas with family and friends. The intention was that they would not work.

The first plan to release them is practical, the second is not. There is no Haitian in this country today who can afford to feed an extra mouth without that mouth singing for

its supper in some tangible way. To believe otherwise is not practical. If these persons are not allowed to work, they will be forced to break the law just to be able to purchase a crust of bread and get a roof over their heads. They have two choices — break the law by working illegally, or break the law by stealing.

It makes no sense for government to continue having the taxpayer feed and house these immigrants indefinitely when there is nowhere to send them. Government would just be footing a bill that would be growing daily with no end in sight.

However, if these Haitians were permitted to work until the major crisis in their native land had passed, then by finding a job, no matter how temporary, they would be contributing to the economy if only by paying National Insurance, paying their rent and purchasing their groceries.

Bahamians say that Haitians will be taking jobs from Bahamians, because they will work for next to nothing. Today that is an old, tired story. We know Bahamian employers who pay good wages to their Haitian gardener/handyman — the same as they would pay a Bahamian who had the same dedication to hard work. But the Bahamian doesn't want the job. We have heard contractors complain that a Bahamian will work for a couple of days, get some money in his pocket and decide not to show up the next day. Not so the average Haitian. This does not mean that there are not some very good — indeed excellent — Bahamian handymen and artisans. But there are not enough of them. Nor does it mean that there are no lazy Haitians. They do exist, but because they don't stand a chance of getting a job, and as they have to eat, the lazy ones are few and far between.

We agree with Mr Ingraham. In the name of humanity, the Haitians now in the Detention Centre have to be freed. And again in the name of practical humanity they will have to be allowed to work to keep them on the right side of the law.

In the meantime Bahamians should go back to the Bible that they are so fond of quoting and discover what it has to say about loving ones neighbour as oneself. The Bahamas would be a better place if Bahamians would practise their Christianity instead of talking so much about it and putting on "holier than thou airs" as though they were practising it.

True believers should stay clear of this heretical sect of priests

EDITOR, The Tribune.

I wish to express my disappointment with the Uganda priests who have formed the group called the Catholic Apostolic National Church which does not require celibacy.

This group is outside the Catholic Church and should not use the name "Catholic". True Believers should stay clear of this heretical sect of priests. It's members are likely to be excommunicated as was their leader Rev Luciano Anzanga Mbewe.

Celibacy has an eminent spiritual dimension that greatly transcends the question of discipline. Stefan Heid, professor of Liturgy and Hagiography at the Pontifical Institute of Christian Archeology stated that "according to the judgment of the early Church, ecclesiastical celibacy has dogmatic relevance."

Celibacy is a time honoured tradition that has been embraced and guarded by the Catholic Church for centuries as a brilliant jewel.

The Second Vatican Council confirmed that the Christian priesthood can be understood only in the light of the newness of Christ, the Supreme Pontiff and eternal Priest, who instituted the priesthood of the ministry as a

real participation in His own unique priesthood.

To share authentically in the ministerial priesthood of Christ means to devote one's entire life to the faith while sharing with Christ his very condition of living. Indeed Jesus promised a more abundant recompense to anyone who should leave home, family, wife, and children for the sake of the Kingdom of God. (Luke 18:29-30).

There is ample evidence in the words of Jesus and St Paul (Matt. xix 12; Cor., vii, 7-8 and 32-35.) for looking upon virginity as the higher call, and by inference, as the condition befitting those who are set apart for the work of the ministry.

In the words of Pope John Paul II: "The value of celibacy as a complete gift of self to the Lord and his church must be carefully safeguarded...The life of chastity, poverty, and obedience willingly embraced and faithfully lived confutes the conventional wisdom of the world and challenges the commonly accepted vision of life."

PAUL KOKOSKI
Hamilton, Ontario,
Canada,
January 9, 2010.

Thank you for the music — as I wait for sleep

EDITOR, The Tribune.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to all those establishments that make it a point of providing musical entertainment for their neighbours. Here it is, 1.30am and the generous management team at Montague Gardens Restaurant is once again serenading me as I lay in my bed waiting for sleep. Just think not only are they eager to please their customers but as a public service they ensure that everyone in a one mile radius of their establishment can join in the party without even having to leave their home. I must say that it makes my heart beat a little faster to see that at least someone in this country is willing to give just a little bit back to the community. As the late great musical group ABBA phrased it, "Thank You for the Music."

MICHAEL SMITH
Nassau,
December, 2009.

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LOCAL NEWS

Fired BEC employee 'may not be able to afford surgery'

By MEGAN REYNOLDS
Tribune Staff Reporter
mreynolds@tribunemedia.net

A BEC employee fired without warning just months after he was diagnosed with a stomach tumour may no longer be able to afford the surgery he needs.

Clint Seymour, 36, lost his pay and medical insurance when the Bahamas Electricity Corporation (BEC) terminated his employment contract in December.

The popular BEC messenger had fallen ill just nine months before and his medical bills had mounted to \$27,000 during that time.

He feels his illness is the reason he lost his job as he maintains he had been a valued employee for four and a half years.

But in April last year he was admitted to hospital with dangerously low iron levels in his blood, found to be caused by internal bleeding from a gastric tumour.

Mr Seymour was admitted to hospital for nearly a week, took 18 days sick leave and extended

his recovery period with annual leave.

But when he returned to work, Mr Seymour said he received little sympathy from his co-workers.

On his first day back he was ordered to return the company car keys he had held throughout his employment and his duties were reduced, Mr Seymour claims.

"I think they were trying to make me look incompetent," he said. "I saw it as a control tactic and an act of humiliation. I thought they were trying to force me into resigning or pressuring me to resign."

He said he was not given his annual pay increment in June; and the victimisation he felt increased when he returned from another two weeks' sick leave in July following medical examinations and blood transfusions.

In August he was prescribed medication to shrink the tumour in preparation for surgery, at a cost of \$3,500 for 30 tablets.

And side-effects meant he was exhausted and unable to lift heavy boxes.

He was sent out on the road less and less and one month before he was fired his superiors informed him he would be permanently based in the filing department, Mr Seymour said.

But on December 14 he was called into a meeting with BEC executives and told his employment had been terminated with immediate effect and in January he learned his medical insurance coverage ceased on the same day.

Mr Seymour now requires another internal scan at a cost of \$1,000 as well as continuing treatment before surgery.

He said: "It seems so cruel. I have no job and no income."

"I am not scared, I am just disappointed and shocked to know that someone could be so violently victimised in his own country."

"I think it's a striking coincidence that the same day my services were terminated is the same day my insurance payments were mandated as well."

"I have to get the surgery one way or another, I don't have a choice. It's just that it's so disappointing that it turned out the

way it did; that people would go this far just to prove a point.

"Kicking men of integrity out of the public service is not the prescribed method for building a better Bahamas."

His union maintains it is usual for medical insurance and all benefits to be cancelled on the date employment ceased, however it was unusual to not explain to Mr Seymour why his employment was terminated.

BEWU secretary general Stephano Greene said the union will support Mr Seymour in a grievance meeting requested with BEC, which he hopes will take place early this week. If the meetings cannot reinstate Mr Seymour in his job, the matter will be reported to the Department of Labour, Mr Greene said.

He added: "Unfortunately the

grievance procedure isn't something that happens right away, it's a timely process. The corporation don't like to admit when they are in the wrong — they usually fight and fight without taking into consideration how their actions, whether right or wrong affect employees and their families. But I cannot say today whether they were justified or not until I have all the facts.

"These things happen whether justified or unjustified. The union is here and we try to make sure everyone is treated fairly in justice and where there is injustice we act on it and correct it."

BEC assistant general manager for human resources and training Antoinette Turnquest said: "We are not allowed to discuss with third parties the reason



CLINT SEYMOUR

behind any termination as it's a confidential relationship between employer and employee.

"Under the group insurance policy, in order to be covered by benefits you have to be employed or retired, and ceases with immediate effect when employment ceases."

"Any action that we have taken would be justified and in line with the industrial agreement in place and the Employment Act."

Man dies in vehicle collision

THE FIRST traffic fatality of the year was recorded in Abaco over the weekend when the driver of a 2002 Lincoln Navigator died of his injuries after colliding with a 1999 Chevy truck.

According to police press officer Sergeant 2026 Chrislyn Skipplings the incident occurred sometime around 3pm near the Long Bay School in Dundas Town.

The driver of the Lincoln Navigator, licence plate 152000, was reportedly travelling east on Forest Drive when he collided with a 1999 Chevy truck L/P 4876 travelling west on Forest Drive, driven by a 34-year-old resident of Central Pines, Dundas Town.

The driver of the Navigator died of his injuries. Police investigations into this matter continue.

Also over the weekend, the police reported two stabbing incidents.

The first occurring after 4.50pm on Saturday evening when a 17-year-old girl got into an argument with a group of women in the Robinson Road area near Market Street.

According to Officer Skipplings, one of the women was stabbed in the back of her head with an unknown object.

She had to be taken to hospital by ambulance, where she was treated and discharged. Police are currently following significant leads into this matter.

The second stabbing report-

ed to police occurred shortly after 9.20pm the same day.

According to information received by police, a 17-year-old male resident of Elizabeth Street got into an argument with another male on Lyon Road.

As a result, the 17 year old was stabbed multiple times about his body.

He was taken to hospital by private vehicle, where he is listed in serious, but stable condition. The police are questioning an 18-year-old male of St Margaret's Road, in connection with this matter.

Over the weekend the police also reported two armed robberies.

The first occurring sometime around 12.35am on Friday January, 15th.

According to Officer Skipplings, police received information of an armed robbery on Bacardi Road.

Upon their arrival at the scene they discovered a man at his residence who reported that he had been held up by another man dressed in dark clothing,

allegedly armed with a handgun, demanding cash.

The culprit robbed the victim of his black 2000 Honda Accord licence plate number unknown along with an undetermined amount of cash and fled the area in an unknown direction.

In the second reported armed robbery, police report that a man was robbed as he got into his vehicle in the parking lot of the Comfort Zone Restaurant and Bar on Wulff Road shortly after 3am on Sunday.

According to information received by police, the man was held up by another man dressed in a light blue linen suit, allegedly armed with a handgun, who was demanding cash.

The culprit robbed the man of an undetermined amount of money and fled the area heading south on Baillou Hill Road.

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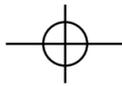
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LOCAL NEWS



DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER Brent Symonette discusses the importance of the Animal Protection Bill which is about to come up in the Senate with members of a large lunch held at Graycliff to garner support hosted by Frances Singer-Hayward, Honorary Chairman, The Humane Society of Grand Bahama, left, and Kim Arenhas, second from right, President The Bahamas Humane Society.

Lunch held in aid of Animal Protection Bill

PRESIDENT of The Bahamas Humane Society in Nassau Kim Aranha, and Frances Singer-Hayward, Honorary Chairman of the Humane Society of Grand Bahama hosted a lunch at Graycliff in aid of the forthcoming "Animal Protection and Control Bill", which it was hoped would be passed within the next several months.

Among those present were Deputy Prime Minister, Brent Symonette, and Lawrence Cartwright, Minister of Agriculture and Marine Resources under whose Ministry the Bill falls.

Members of the Senate and House from "both sides of the political isle" attended including Senator Allyson Maynard-Gibson, Kenneth

Russell, Minister of Housing and Senator Anthony Musgrove.

Frances Singer-Hayward made an impassioned plea on the importance of Animal Protection laws, which are now being passed all over the world, emphasizing that with so many animal loving tourists visiting our country, the Bahamas cannot afford to be left behind as thanks to the work of organizations such as the Humane Society of the United States, the issue of Animal Protection is growing into a powerful political lobby.

Mrs Aranha, in her introduction of DVM Dr Peter Bizzell, who was instrumental in drafting the legislation, spoke of the tragic plight of

neglected and abused animals which knows no borders as it is a battle being waged throughout the Bahamas and one in which all persons equally share the burden.

Dr Bizzell explained the various components and issues covered by the Bill and everyone present was given a copy, which is now online at www.bahamas.gov.bs.

There followed lively and spirited discussion on the various aspects and subjects covered, including the licensing of all owned animals, the importance of spay/neuter, which has become mandatory in many parts of the United States as well as stiffer penalties for animal abuse.

RBC DONATES \$100,000 TO RED CROSS HAITI EARTHQUAKE RELIEF FUND



Help & Hope for Haiti

RBC has announced a \$100,000 donation to the Red Cross to support relief and humanitarian efforts in Haiti. In addition RBC has made its entire network of branches in The Bahamas, Caribbean and Canada available to receive donations on behalf of the international Red Cross.

"The international Red Cross is on the ground in Haiti and responding to the needs of the Haitian people as quickly as possible," said Caroline Turnquest, Director General of the Bahamas Red Cross. "Support of this effort will require massive resources so we urge you to give with the assurance that the strength and reach of the international Red Cross will make a difference in Haiti immediately during this difficult time."

"The Bahamas has very close ties with Haiti and as our neighbors we must support them. I appeal to the public to exercise the generosity that Bahamians are known for and help our brothers and sisters in Haiti," said Nathaniel Beneby, Vice President and Country Head, RBC Bahamas.

The public is invited to visit any RBC Bahamas branch and donate to the Red Cross Haitian Relief Fund via account # 2893865 or to the Embassy of Haiti, Haitian Relief Fund at account #2892958

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Restore Haiti's stature now

By **SIR RONALD SANDERS**

(The writer is a Consultant and former Caribbean Diplomat).

insight WORLD VIEW

THE massive 7.0 earthquake on January 12th in Haiti, which killed tens of thousands of people, evoked remarkable responses from all over the world; most of them were spontaneous outpourings of human compassion and care, except infamously for the most vulgar and outrageous racist remarks from an American Evangelist and a rabid anti-Obama Conservative radio host

The people in Haiti's neighbouring countries in the Caribbean watched the horror unfold with particular poignancy because there but for the grace of God could have been any of them. They well know that, just as Haiti could not have been prepared to cope with a catastrophe of such magnitude, neither could they. This was not only a disaster that was emotionally upsetting in the scale of its human carnage and destruction; it was also very close to home.

The reaction of the government of the second poorest country of the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) was exemplary and heart-warming. Guyana's President Bharat Jagdeo summoned a meeting of leaders of various groups, including the leader of the main Opposition political party, Robert Corbin, and announced that Guyana would provide US\$1 million in immediate assistance.

This figure is impressive not only because Guyana is rated after Haiti as the poorest country in CARICOM, but also because it is the same sum that the government of oil-rich Trinidad and Tobago announced that it would be contributing. This comment is not in any way to denigrate the contribution of the Trinidad and Tobago government, it is simply to underscore the magnanimity of Guyana.

Challenges

All CARICOM countries are today confronted with serious financial challenges. Their unemployment levels have risen; their debt has increased; prices for many of their commodities on the world market have declined; receipts from tourism have fallen; and their terms of trade have worsened. The sums they have offered are therefore proportionate to their means in some cases, and very generous in others.

The sums pledged by Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago matched the US\$1 million amount assured by the Caribbean Development Bank. Other governments, including the governments of Barbados and Jamaica, under the leadership of their Prime Ministers David Thompson and Bruce Golding respectively, indicated their readiness to provide help in needed ways. Prime Minister Thompson himself chaired a lengthy meeting the day after the earthquake to determine how best Barbados could respond.

In Jamaica, Milton Samuda, the president of the Chamber of Commerce appealed to the private sector and all Jamaicans to help, saying: "We urge the Government and people of Jamaica to respond with a level of human concern which will encourage them to urgently transmit to the government and people of Haiti whatever assistance is possible." And in Barbados and other parts of the Caribbean, Starcom Network launched a radiothon appeal entitled, "Help Haiti Now" under the personal supervision of its CEO, Vic Fernandes.

What all this says is that people in CARICOM countries have recognised that Haiti is fully a CARICOM country, no longer a distant

poor cousin whose poverty is to be disdained. Haiti is no longer an inconvenient Caribbean tragedy that can be expediently pushed to the back of regional thinking. Haiti led the way for the freedom for all of Latin America and the Caribbean – that debt has never been discharged.

This awful human tragedy in Haiti may now have the benefit of bringing the country Haiti fully into the CARICOM fold, and advancing its developmental needs higher up the agenda of regional governments.

If CARICOM countries do nothing else in the period after the immediate devastation is over, they should take a meaningful lead in securing for Haiti the assistance it requires, not only to rebuild the country but also to create a better Haiti where every child can expect to be educated, and none should go to bed hungry; where forests can be replanted and sustained; where investment can create employment and where the weight of oppressive poverty is lifted from the backs of the Haitian people.

The global community has shown that it has a con-

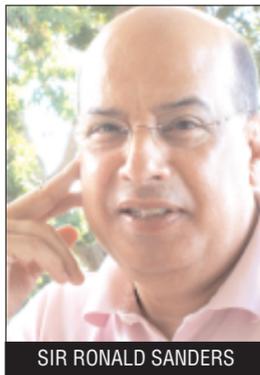
science about Haiti by their remarkable and instant response with help. Far away nations such as Finland and Iceland are two countries in point. But the two nations that should have the greatest sense of guilt are France and the United States which, in the past, have contributed to crippling Haiti.

Retribution

France kept it in a financially pecuniary state, forcing it to pay retribution to French plantation owners in the aftermath of Haiti's revolt against slavery. The United States brutally occupied it as a service to US banks to whom Haiti was indebted, and did little, during that period, to help the country to develop.

Persistent poverty became a way of life, and the country had little resilience to cope with the many catastrophes that have befallen it.

It is therefore all the more reprehensible that, after President Barack Obama's announcement that the United States government would provide US\$100 mil-



SIR RONALD SANDERS

lion to Haiti immediately, the conservative right wing personified by Rush Limbaugh, attacked him for it. In overtly racist remarks, Limbaugh said: "They'll use this to burnish their, shall we say, 'credibility' with the black community — in the both light-skinned and dark-skinned black community in this country. It's made-to-order for them (meaning the Obama White House team).

And, if Limbaugh was not bad enough, the Evangelist Pat Robertson showed both his ignorance of Haiti's history and his innate racism when he claimed: "They (Haitians) were under the heel of the French...and they got together and swore a pact to the devil. They said 'We will serve you'...and so,

the devil said 'Okay, it's a deal' and kicked the French out". The man did both Christianity and America a grave disservice.

As this commentary is being written the full loss of human life has not been determined.

But it will be huge. So too will be the destruction of physical plant, particularly hospitals and schools.

A country already impoverished and without the capacity to cope is now worse off in terms that most countries in the Western Hemisphere cannot comprehend.

It is shocking that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) announced that its executive board "could consider" support for Haiti of US\$100 million. Dominique Strauss-Kahn, Managing Director of IMF said that the money would be "subject to the approval of the executive board". But, this is not a time for weasel words and phrases, Haiti needs help now both to alleviate its urgent needs today and create a better and sustainable tomorrow.

The IMF should move faster and more comprehensively. Similarly, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) announced that

it was providing the sum of US\$200,000 to help with immediate needs. This sum is the regulation amount allowed at times of disaster, but this was no ordinary catastrophe – it was extraordinary in its scale and required an extraordinary response, particularly as the IDB has had US\$330 million in undistributed funds in its Haiti portfolio. It was a relief to hear that it subsequently said that US\$90 million of that money would be re-directed to helping rebuild infrastructure.

The time for all the talk on Haiti should now be over. If International Financial Institutions (IFIs) have determined that Haiti does not have the technical capacity to write project documents or to implement projects, the IFIs should provide the expertise they need. Every way should be found to overcome the obstacles to building a better and stronger Haiti.

In this way, countries like the Bahamas and the United States which has borne the brunt of Haitian economic refugees would rest easy that there would be far fewer of them.

Responses and previous commentaries at: www.sirronaldsanders.com

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Public Notice

The Public is notified that an advertisement appearing in page 9 of The Tribune and page A7 of The Nassau Guardian on Thursday, January 7th, 2010, inviting persons to invest in Preference Shares of In House Investments Limited is hereby retracted.

Pursuant to Section 54(1) of the Securities Industry Act, 1999 (the Act), this invitation constituted a Public Offering and is in breach of the Act as it was issued without first having a Prospectus filed with the Securities Commission and as such it should not have been issued.

The Securities Commission of the Bahamas has therefore directed that this NOTICE be issued advising the public to have no regard to the referred advertisements, thereby retracting the offer inviting persons to invest in Preference Shares of In House Investments Limited.

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Devastated Haiti in the aftermath of earthquake

By ADRIAN GIBSON
ajbahama@hotmail.com

YOUNG MAN'S VIEW ADRIAN GIBSON

IN THE wake of a catastrophic 7.0 earthquake, the Haitian capital Port-au-Prince has been left in a state of utter devastation. The mangled heap of collapsed blocks, with reinforcement rods piercing through gapping holes and protruding through collapsed rooftops, has left the capital looking more like a village of rubble coated in unworldly grey dust.

Today, Port-au-Prince is a chaotic, deconstructed field of death whose blasted landscape, obliterated landmarks and hordes of hungry potential refugees are enraptured in an inconsolable pool of grief that has undoubtedly been shared

with thousands of Haitians living here in the Bahamas who have themselves suffered the loss of family members.

The capital city has devolved into a national graveyard, with bodies lining the streets and the stench of death oozing through the cracks of the rubble. Thousands were crushed at the fatal moment when the tragic earthquake struck.

Following the Haitian disaster, Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham—in what appears to

have been his zeal to put people first and cultures second—decided to temporarily grant status to the Haitian migrants housed at the Detention Centre. The United States took a similar approach a day later, leading some to assume that backroom talks with American diplomats may have impressed upon Mr Ingraham's decision.

Last Friday, the PM's decision to release the Haitians—even with temporary status—was met with a chorus of dissent and questions about its legality as local radio talk shows were bombarded by livid callers. Indeed, there is a para-



right cynicism being expressed in some quarters about the Prime Minister's decision.

Following the historic slave

revolt and its declaration of independence in 1804, there has hardly been an episode of utopianism in Haiti as the country has been overwhelmed by abject and systemic poverty, desolation, a wretched economy and unsavoury regimes. Haiti—the oldest black republic and the second oldest western republic—was once France's most prosperous colony. Nowadays, this land of mountains is one of the poorest countries in the western hemisphere, with the recent natural disaster further inflicting immense suffering on Haiti's already impoverished people.

Haiti's history has been marked by violence and turmoil. After a disheveled band of rebels defeated Napoleon's army and became the first nation established by slaves, the French contributed to Haiti's underdevelopment by demanding a large, unjust indemnity for the loss of slaves.

In 2004, former Haitian President Jean Bertrand Aristide demanded, through the French courts, that France repay Haiti US \$21 billion that is equal to the 90 million gold francs that was required by a French ordinance against Haiti that was

SOME OF THE earthquake-devastated areas of Port-au-Prince, Haiti are seen in an aerial photo. (AP)

finally paid off in 1947. Complete payment was attained 122 years after the Haitian Revolution. According to Debra Miller, of the Inter Press Service News Agency, historians generally accept that Haiti—having been forced to pay "unjust and oppressive" reparations to France in what amounts to an absurd hypocrisy—was severely setback, particularly as these payments played heavily upon its current state of poverty and underdevelopment.

Moreover, the United States refused to recognize the sovereignty of the Haitian nation for more than 50 years following the revolution, even occupying Haiti for self-serving interests in 1915 and, for more humanitarian causes, in 1994. After the Haitian revolution, the US imposed trade sanctions on the island nation.

With an ignorant, Eurocentric view no doubt shared by

SEE page nine

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Matio Cleare	Drameca Glington	Shakelle Meddow	Shawn Rolle	Letrell Walker
Ashanique Colebrooke	Cicely Gomez	Kenton Meronard	Orabessa Rolle	Abigail Williams
Laurel Colebrooke	Ashli Gordon	Lance Miller	Keric Rolle	Antonia Wilson
Anthonya Cooper	Ashli Gordon	Terahn Miller	Ashley Rolle	Gary Wong
	Matthew Grammatico	Jasmine Miller		

Persons attending are expected to be seated by 9:45 a.m.

The Exhibition will be open for viewing by schools and the public from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, 21st January, 2010 after the ceremony and Friday 22nd January, 2010 during the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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LOCAL NEWS

Discovery Sun set to undergo maintenance

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREEPORT – Discovery Sun, which is operated by Discovery Cruise Line, will discontinue sailing on Wednesday to undergo maintenance work over the next two weeks.

Hanns J Hahn, General Manager of Discovery Cruise Line, announced that the vessel will be on dry dock until January 27 at the Grand Bahama Shipyard.

He said sailing will resume on January 28.

“Every other year the Discovery Sun undergoes regular underwater maintenance work”, said Mr Hahn. The work is once again scheduled at the Grand Bahama Ship-

yard which supports the local economy.”

Discovery provides daily ferry service between Fort Lauderdale and Grand Bahama. The vessel consists of seven passenger decks and is approximately 9,903 tons.

Schedule

Mr Hahn said that there will be a change in schedule for the Discovery Sun when the ship commences sailing on January 28.

He said the new departure time at Port Everglades is 9.45am. Check-in will commence at 7am and the doors will close at 8.45am.

Discovery Sun will arrive at Freeport Harbour at 2pm. It will set sail from Freeport at 6pm, arriving at Port

Everglades at 10.30pm.

Terminal doors at Freeport Harbour will open to commence passenger check-in at 3pm and doors will close at 4.45pm.

Mr Hahn said Discovery Cruise Line will also introduce its new all-inclusive ship concept effective January 28.

The concept will feature an all you can eat brunch buffet served until noon, with house brand alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks included.

On the outbound service to Port Everglades, passengers will be able to enjoy an all-you-can-eat dinner buffet served from 6-9pm, with new music, deejay, movies, introducing an exciting Wii room and new action in the

Casino.

“This new all-inclusive concept and user friendly departure time should drive more business to Discovery and consequently to Grand Bahama island”, said Mr Hahn.

Society

Discovery is a member of the Confrerie de Lais, and a member of the Confrerie de La Chaine des Rotisseurs gourmet society, the most prestigious society of its kind in the world. Discovery Cruise Line was named Spain-US Chamber of Company of the Year. Discovery Cruise Line has twice been the recipient of the Prestigious Cacique Award for the Best Cruise Service.

Devastated Haiti in the aftermath of earthquake

FROM page eight

many Bahamians unappreciative of their own African heritage, right wing American pastor Pat Robertson has espoused the view that Haiti is cursed because of the retention of elements of its African culture by some citizens, asserting that the nation has made a pact with the devil because of voodoo practices—which, frankly, are shunned by conservative and Christian Western societies.

Before last Tuesday's earthquake, Haiti was facing a myriad of social, economic and environmental woes. The country is plagued by mass unemployment and social unrest. In the wake of the earthquake, Haiti is on the brink of anarchy, falling deeper into the abyss of impoverishment that many have tried so desperately to elude. With that in mind, we must take a cue from the Dominican Republic and secure our borders.

The uproar by Bahamians to the Prime Minister's recent decision is also evident of a xenophobia and fear that a mass exodus of Haitians could result in Bahamians becoming minorities in our own homeland. Bahamians are apprehensive about an invasion of Haitians, as there is little doubt among the general populace that rickety sloops—with countless Haitians wedged in their bellies in scenes reminiscent of the slave trade—will be making the trek to the Bahamas from this ravaged land.

Countries and donors across the globe have seen the Haitian struggle with compassion and have responded with a massive foreign aid campaign. It is heartwarming to watch the interconnectedness of the world in this humanitarian effort as there has been an influx of volunteers and no indications that we, citizens of the world, reacted with leaden feet. The American response has been extraordinary. That said, the foreign aid must be properly managed and it must be ensured that it reaches the people, rather than lining the



Hubert Ingraham

pockets of corrupt politicians or being misused to foster further instability.

The plight of the Haitian people has unquestionably led to a rise in the murky underworld of scammers and con artists who will attempt to capitalize on their misfortune and hoodwink donors. Bahamians must be wary of these nefarious individuals and their so-called charitable organizations.

In the Bahamas, the crux of the matter regarding undocumented Haitians is the numbers, particularly as the inner city and some family island settlements are swollen with migrants—many of whom are here illegally. Today, they comprise a sizeable percentage of the work force, working many low-end jobs that Bahamians reject and/or working for lower wages (e.g. construction, agriculture, cooks, house cleaners/maids, yard work, etc). Indeed, the government must enforce the law and revoke the business licenses of persons hiring all illegal immigrants, as well as fine landlords who rent to these individuals. While many Bahamians view the local Haitian population as a drain on the public coffers, many of these individuals greatly bolster the country's economy. Frankly, the contributions of these immigrants have advanced the financial, educational and social development of the Bahamas.

As I watch the images of the mass burials in shallow graves, I am saddened and deeply empathize with the Haitian people in their time of grief.



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LOCAL NEWS

FROM page one

Emergency meeting

requires a collaborative approach and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) is coordinating its response with Caricom's regional Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA). It is currently on standby for regional directives.

retire from the defence force on Thursday and be made the Prime Minister's special envoy to Haiti. He will also travel to the region this week to undertake an assessment of the situation and draw up a report to advise the Prime Minister on the country's directive. Mr Ingraham said he also intends to appoint Commodore Scavella as the Bahamian ambassador in Haiti.

CDEMA has sent damage assessment teams into Port-au-Prince and the southwest region of Haiti devastated by the earthquake to determine how best the Caribbean can help.

Mr Ingraham and his delegation will discuss medium and long term plans for aid in a meeting held in Santo Domingo today with Haitian President Rene Preval, the Prime Ministers of Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, and the Dominican Prime Minister and Caricom chairman Roosevelt Skerrit.

As the Bahamas is the only Caribbean country with an embassy in Haiti, the Bahamas' embassy will be the headquarters for Caricom efforts on the ground. Royal Bahamas Defence Force Commodore Clifford Scavella will

Senior representatives of the Spanish Government and ambassadors of the United States, Canada and France will also attend as well as National Security Minister Tommy Turnquest and Director of NEMA Captain Stephen Russell.

The Prime Minister emphasised how Haiti is one of the two most important countries to the Bahamas and it is crucial to assist.

"The two most important countries to the Bahamas are the US and Haiti," the Prime Minister said.

"The US for one reason and Haiti for the other, so there is no

greater priority we can have in terms of an external event that transpires in Haiti as a direct impact is on the Bahamas."

Mr Ingraham encouraged people to give generously to assist the cause, stressing the desperate need for funds over goods to provide people with what they need through the Haitian government and international relief agencies operating in Haiti.

The government has established a Haiti Relief Fund at the Royal Bank of Canada and a number of churches and organisations are also accepting donations for the cause.

Mr Ingraham said: "I want to encourage Bahamians to be generous in their donations to our near neighbour. Natural disasters impact all of us at one time or the other and it is important that we give when we are able."

"We will seek to ensure the donated funds reach the agency best able to assist the large number of Haitian victims of the earthquake."

"In due course I will advise of the government's direct contribution to Haitian emergency assistance and relief."

The Prime Minister does not plan to visit the region himself

as he said he is not convinced such a visit would serve any purpose and would interfere with relief efforts. He declined an invitation to travel to Port-au-Prince with the Prime Ministers of Barbados and Dominica last week and announced at the NEMA headquarters in the Churchill Building, Bay Street, yesterday how the mission was aborted.

He emphasised how the Bahamas currently contributes to the maintenance of law and order in Haiti by making regular contributions to the United Nations peacekeeping forces in Haiti.

FROM page one

and send them back to Haiti.

"We call ourselves an enlightened Christian society, so on behalf of the majority of Bahamians, I feel good that we are in a position to take such a humane and compassionate decision on behalf of humanity and on behalf of the Bahamian community."

A total of 102 Haitian detainees held for repatriation were released from the Carmichael Road Detention Centre on Saturday, and the 84 men, 15 women and three children were given the right to reside in the Bahamas for the next six months.

Although they were not given the right to work, Mr Ingraham said he is of the view they should be allowed to seek gainful employment and he vowed to address the matter in a meeting on Tuesday.

Critics of the move to accommodate Haitian migrants have said the release of detainees will increase crime and put additional pressure on already stressed Bahamian infrastructure. And 131 of 249 respondents to an online *Tribune* poll called for the detainees to be repatriated as normal.

But Mr Ingraham said the granting of temporary status to detainees falls in line with policy decisions in the United States and other countries with large numbers of

PM blasts critics

undocumented Haitians.

Detainees granted temporary status in the Bahamas will be required to check-in with the Department of Immigration in three months time and their status will be reviewed when it ends in six months.

Meanwhile apprehension exercises will continue and illegal Haitian migrants will be detained as normal under Bahamian law.

However, repatriation must be suspended until Haiti becomes functional once again.

The Prime Minister said: "You can only send people back to a country if the country accepts them. If there's no operational governmental structure in Haiti that can't happen."

"The Haitian government has had to turnover the operational function of its airport at Port-au-Prince, its capital, to the Americans because they are unable in their view to manage it at this time."

In a press conference at the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) headquarters broadcast live on ZNS yesterday he explained how the sea port in Port-au-Prince is closed and flights into the capital's airport are being managed by the

US military and are restricted to those involved in the relief and recovery effort.

Bahamian aircraft flying undocumented Haitians to Port-au-Prince or Cape Haitien in northern Haiti would not only be turned away, it would earn the Bahamas the scorn and condemnation of the civilised world.

Mr Ingraham said: "The circumstances are that the Haitian homeland and especially their capital city has been devastated by the worst catastrophe in 200 years, with tens of thousands dead and more dying every day, with people starving, with infrastructure destroyed and with governmental agencies rendered impotent."

"It should be obvious that in these circumstances it is simply impossible to send undocumented Haitians back to their homeland."

"No one knows how long it will be before Haiti is restored to some semblance of normalcy and when repatriation flights from the Bahamas and other places will again be able to land and be processed in Port-au-Prince."

"So it makes sense and it is compassionate not to keep them incarcerated indefinitely."

The Department of Immigration remains ready for the possible arrival of Haitian migrants in Inagua, just 70 miles northwest of Haiti, but Mr Ingraham said food and shelter will not be sent there at this time.

PM: FNM will not 'cash in'

FROM page one

to resign, which has put Elizabeth now back in the election place. The FNM has come along and said 'let us have it please, we know what to do with it, you can trust us with your seat'.

"We will not be cashing in our seat, we will not be throwing our hands in. We will hold it, we will defend you, we will promote you, we will represent you and we will govern in your best interest. And so we are delighted that the PLP gave it up, so that we can pick it up," the FNM leader said.

With there currently being some 290 additional persons registered in the Elizabeth constituency to date, Mr Ingraham said he is not particularly concerned by the narrow margin of victory that the PLP had in the seat in the 2007 election as there are not nearly six per cent more voters in the area.

"I do not know what the net result is going to be at the end of the day."

"We think it is a competitive seat, and we are going into it hopeful that the people of Elizabeth will join the FNM's Trust Team."

"We have selected a first-class candidate, we think that we have provided good governance for the Bahamas, and we think that we have the programmes and the vision for the Bahamas and that we are the better of the two major parties to represent Elizabeth and to govern the Bahamas at this time," he said.

Currently the Prime Minister said he does not know how much the FNM intends to spend in the constituency in the race up to the by-election only adding that the party has "very little money" at this time.

"We have to buy posters - we are not like the PLP, as you see they have posters left over from the last election because their posters came in late. And so they can plaster Mr (Perry) Christie all over the place telling the Bahamian people that he is still the right choice for the Bahamas. They are arrogant. They couldn't care



DR DUANE SANDS shakes hands with Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham

less about how the people felt - they say they are still the right choice. Well they will find out whether they are still the right choice. The people told them already [that] they are not the right choice for the Bahamas. He is not the right man for the Bahamas. He might be the right man for the PLP, but not for the Bahamas," Mr Ingraham laughed.

Along with Dr Duane Sands who represents the FNM in the constituency, the PLP has selected attorney Ryan Pinder to carry their banner into the election.

In addition to Mr Pinder and Dr Sands, political activist and

Workers Party leader Rodney Moncur will be challenging the seat along with Bahamas Democratic Movement leader Cassius Stuart, and attorney Godfrey "Pro" Pinder who represents the newly formed United Christian Love Revolution Movement.

The National Development Party (NDP) has also announced plans to run a candidate in the by-election, but to date that candidate has yet to be named. The NDP has vowed to canvas the people of Elizabeth first to allow them to determine who they would like to see represent them from the NDP in Parliament.

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BUS400	01	CREDIT & COLLECTIONS I	6:00pm-9:00pm	Tues	16-Feb	8wks	\$225
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BUS1906	01	INTRODUCTION TO BUSINESS II	6:00pm-9:00pm	Thu	25-Feb	10wks	\$225
BUS1902	01	BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS	6:00pm-9:00pm	Mon	8-Feb	10wks	\$300
COMPUTERS							
COMP901	01	COMPUTER APPLICATIONS I	6:00pm-9:00pm	Mon	1-Feb	12wks	\$450
COMP901	01	COMPUTER APPLICATIONS I	11:00am-2:00pm	Tue	2-Feb	12wks	\$450
COMP902	01	COMPUTER APPLICATIONS II	6:00pm-9:00pm	Thurs	5-Feb	12wks	\$550
COMP941	01	QUICKBOOKS	6:00pm-9:00pm	Wed	3-Feb	6wks	\$330
COMP930	01	WEB PAGE DESIGN W/S I	9:30am-4:30pm	Thurs/Fri	17-Mar	2 days	\$550
COMP931	01	WEB PAGE DESIGN W/S II	9:30am-4:30pm	Thurs/Fri	15-Apr	2 days	\$650
COSMETOLOGY							
COSM902	01	MAKE-UP APPLICATION	6:00pm-9:00pm	Mon	22-Feb	8wks	\$225
COSM907	01	SCULPTURED NAILS	6:00pm-9:00pm	Mon	15-Feb	10wks	\$500
DECORATING							
DECO600	01	INTERIOR DECORATING I	6:00pm-9:00pm	Tues	23-Feb	8wks	\$225
FLOF800	01	FLORAL DESIGN I	6:00pm-9:00pm	Mon	15-Feb	8wks	\$225
FLOF801	01	FLORAL DESIGN II	6:00pm-9:00pm	Mon	26-Apr	8wks	\$275
ENGLISH							
ENG990	01	EFFECTIVE WRITING SKILLS	6:00pm-9:00pm	Tues	16-Feb	10wks	\$300
HEALTH AND FITNESS							
HLTH901	01	HEALTHY LIFESTYLES W/S	8:00am-12:00pm	Sat	10-Apr	1 day	\$155
MASG900	01	MASSAGE THERAPY ESSENTIALS I	6:00pm-9:00pm	Thurs	18-Feb	10wks	\$465
MASG901	01	MASSAGE THERAPY ESSENTIALS II	6:00pm-9:00pm	Mon	15-Feb	10wks	\$620
BWAX900	01	BODYWAXING	9:30am-4:30pm	Tue/Wed	23-Feb	2 days	\$300
MANAGEMENT							
MGMT900	01	HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT I	6:00pm-9:00pm	Thurs	4-Feb	10wks	\$250
MGMT901	01	HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT II	6:00pm-9:00pm	Mon	1-Feb	10wks	\$300
SEWING							
SEW306	01	HIGH FASHION DESIGN II	6:00pm-9:00pm	Thurs	18-Feb	8wks	\$225
MEDICAL							
MEDT900	01	MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY	6:00pm-9:00pm	Wed	24-Feb	10wks	\$225
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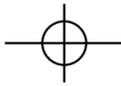
75th Anniversary

St. Anselm's Parish will be having three nights of reflections to mark the beginning of its 75th Anniversary as a Parish

The reflections will be held at St. Anselm's church on Bernard Road from Monday January 18th to the Wednesday January 20th beginning at 7pm.

These reflection will be conducted by Fr. Philip Chircop a Jesuit priest born on the island of Malta, presently working in the Canadian Province.

Under the theme "Go build my Church: Becoming a living stone in the body of Christ", the reflections are designed to spiritually renew participants. We are people of God, the body of Christ, a communion of broken people blessed and called out to serve and heal the world we live in.



sports

MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 2010

PAGE 14 • Team results



T-BIRD FLYERS TRACK CLASSIC

Williams qualifies for Carifta Games



RACQUEL WILLIAMS

17-year-old joins Julianna Duncanson as automatic qualifier

By BRENT STUBBS
Senior Sports Reporter
bstubbs@tribunemedia.net

ALTHOUGH this is just her first year in the under-20 girls division, Racquel Williams wasted very little time in qualifying for the Carifta Games.

Williams, last year's gold medallist in her final appearance in the under-17 division, joined her arch-rival Julianna Duncanson as the first two automatic qualifiers.

They both did it over the weekend at the T-Bird Flyers Track Classic, the first official meet for the Bahamas Association of Athletic Associations' 2010 calendar.

While Williams did her feat in the shot put when her winning toss of 12.71 metres or 41-feet, 8 1/2-inches surpassed the qualifying mark of 12.00m (39-4 1/2), Duncanson won the discus with 38.17m (125-2 1/2) to go well beyond the qualifying mark of 33.80m (110-11 1/2).

Williams, a 17-year-old 12th grader at CV Bethel, said she was really surprised by her performance, which came on her third attempt.

"This is my off-season right now, but I know I could do better because I've been doing better in practice," she admitted. "When I came out here, I wasn't concentrating at all, so I knew I could do better." Her coach Ronald Cartwright said it was



ON THE CHARGE: Athletes put on a sharp turn of speed.

good that Williams has gotten the monkey off her back early in qualifying, but he was disappointed in her performance.

"We've been having very good practices. She's been consistent around 13 metres, so I think she's capable of getting at least 14 in the shot this year."

Coming in second behind Williams was Jennie Jacques, a graduate of CC Sweeting, who is now attending the College of the Bahamas. Jacques did 11.81m or 38-9.

In the discus, which was delayed for quite some time as it was not originally on the meet schedule, Duncanson beat out Williams in the only other Carifta qualifying event.

Three other athletes came close to qualifying, including Elvardo Carey in the boys under-20 shot put. He won with 14.07m (46-2), but fell shy of the mark of 14.20m (46-7).

On the track, Trevor Mackey out-classed the field in the open men's 200 metres in 21.68 seconds to just fall shy of the qualifying mark of 21.65.

"I got out hard because I knew I had to come out strong and bring it home because the guy in lane five was going to give me some combo," said Mackey of Lavardo Smith, who did 21.85 for second.

Also, Stephen Newbold ran 50.25 in winning the under-17 boys 400 on Friday, but he just missed going under the qualifying mark of 50.00.

On Saturday, a number of athletes tried to complete the double winning feat on the track.

Leading the assault was Antonique Strachan, who took the under-20 girls' 100 on Friday in 12.22 over Katrina Seymour (12.52) before she came back for the 200 in 24.56 over Yanique Clarke (24.56) and V'Alonee Robinson (25.37).

"The race was a little difficult at the start because I have a weak block start," said Strachan, the Club Monica representative about the half-lapper. "But I'm trying to improve on. On the curve, I have to work hard and on the home stretch, I just had to push hard."

Stephen Newbold of the Star Trackers took the 400 on Friday in 50.25, but on Saturday, he knew that it would have been a

SEE page 14

JUMPING FOR GLORY



LATHORNE MINNS winning the Under-17s Boys long jump.

PHOTOS: Felipe Major/Tribune staff

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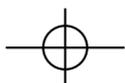
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SPORTS

SPORTS NOTES

Wellington Miller returned as Amateur Boxing Association president

By BRENT STUBBS
Senior Sports Reporter
bstubbs@tribunemedia.net

WELLINGTON Miller was returned as president of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Bahamas with a landslide victory over his unexpected challenger Ray Minus Jr.

In the elections held on Saturday at the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture, Miller knocked out coach Ray Minus Jr. 11-1 in the only contested position.

While he was surprised that Minus Jr. had issued his challenge just a few days before the election, Miller said he was confident that he would have been returned to office for the next four years. "The majority of the members respect my leadership," said Miller, who is also serving as the president of the Bahamas Olympic Association. "Together, we had a very good plan. We still have a good plan to go on and promote amateur boxing and boxing on the whole. So I'm pleased that I was re-elected."

Miller's entire slate of officers were also elected to office.

They include Alvin Sargent as first vice president; Dr. Francis Saunders is the second vice president. George Turner was returned as secretary with Ike-na Johnson as his assistant. The treasurer is Terry Goldsmith from Grand Bahama. "We will look forward to another great term in office," Miller pointed out. "We have two or three good elite athletes or senior boxers and we have a good junior programme, so the programme is going well. We have it all together."

Minus Jr., in offering himself for president, said he was disappointed that the elections were low-keyed. But Miller refuted that charge, indicating that they had informed their members in sufficient time.

"It was open and it got some publicity. He came in and he got a chance to run," Miller said. "But we were confident that we would have returned to power. Boxing has always been doing well and we are looking forward to that continuing. We are a small fraternity, but we are doing very well."

Miller said the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture has promised the ABAB their own

building to host their amateur boxing programme and so they are looking forward to the programme becoming even stronger. One of the things coming out of their AGM, according to Miller, is their decision to name their elite programme - the Reno Johnson Elite Programme.

Miller said the programme is designed to recognize the two elite boxers - Carl Hield and

Valentino Knowles - who are training in Cuba and the other outstanding boxers whom they hope to submit their names to the Ministry to be included on the subvention programme so that they can also train in Cuba.

Johnson, in the meantime, is said to be in the United States where he's training. It's not known, however, whether or not Johnson will continue in the amateur ranks, or he will

venture as a professional.

Another interesting aspect that came out of the AGM was the fact that Andre Seymour has been retained as the national coach.

Minus Jr. had indicated that if he was elected, he would have recommended that Stevie 'the Heat' Larrimore become

SEE page 14



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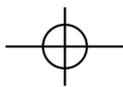
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SPORTS

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

The Pros outlast Stingrays in tight contest

The Commonwealth American Football League's defending champions earn another berth to the league's title game

The Commonwealth American Football League's defending champions overcame a sluggish offensive effort and narrowly escaped an upset loss and earned another berth to the league's title game.

The Orry J. Sands Pros outlasted the V8 Fusion Stingrays in a tightly contested and hard fought 14-6 win Saturday at the D.W Davis field.

The Pros received two goal line touchdown passes from Michael Foster, and a defence which forced four turnovers in route to the playoff win.

The Stingrays defense was able to contain reigning league MVP Charles Edwards for much of the afternoon, but failed to capitalize on several scoring opportunities, including a trip to redzone where they advanced the ball within the five yard line but failed to score.

Miscues on special teams gave the Pros prime field position and dug the Stingrays into an early deficit in the first quarter.

With their regular starting punter not available early in the game, V8 Fusion

relied on replacements in the kicking game. The Pros capitalized with back to back blocked punts, one of which was recovered on the Stingrays goal line and was converted to the game's first touchdown two plays later on the first of two Foster scoring passes.

The extra point was converted and the Pros went ahead 7-0 with 1:48 left to play in the first quarter.

Struggled

The Stingrays offence struggled to move the ball up field until running back Jamal Storr broke a series of tackles for an electrifying 60 yard run to place the Pros in scoring position.

Storr ran it in for a touchdown three

plays later with 10 seconds left to play, but without a kicker the Stingrays were forced to attempt a failed two point conversion, and trailed 7-6 at the half.

Edwards came out early in the second half intent on establishing the run, with several big gains on the Pros opening drive as they moved toward the redzone.

Stingrays' safety Carl Rolle halted the drive with an interception and kept the Stingrays within striking distance.

After a scoreless third quarter for both teams, the Pros scored the clinching touchdown on another two yard touchdown pass from Foster to take a 14-6 lead.

Orry J. Sands will await the winner of the John Bull Jets and Defence Force Destroyers matchup to decide the league championship "Boil Fish Bowl."

T-BIRD FLYERS TRACK CLASSIC

Williams qualifies for Carifta Games

FROM page 12

little harder to win the 200. He did in 22.54 over Anthon Farrington (23.02).

"The fellow who was in front of me was a little stronger, so I knew I had to do my best," Newbold said.

Shaunae Miller, whom many believe is a much better quarter-miler, took the 100 in 12.41 on Friday over Pedrya Seymour. The Club Monica standout came back and won the 200 in 25.08 over her Bahamas Speed Dynamics rival (25.08).

"It was pretty good. I just wanted to get out and run my curve," reflected Miller of her dominating performance in the deuce. "I always good out hard, even if I don't have the competition."

Other double winners were Demetri Charlton of Spirit of Excellence in the under-15 boys; Makeya White of Club Monica and Talia Thompson in the under-15 girls; Striders' Anthony Rolle and Julius Nottage in the under-13 boys; Dreshanae Rolle of the Sunblazers in the under-13 girls; Ryan Bethel of the Sunblazers in the under-11 boys; Striders' Nathan Moss in the under-9 boys and Club Monica's Makayla White in the under-9 girls; Road Runners' Malcolm Williams in the under-7 boys and Striders' Tamia Moss in the under-9 girls.

* Results of the three finishers in each event are posted.



BRINESHA FOULKES, T Bird Flyers, taking part in the Girls High Jump Under 17.

TEAM RESULTS

- Here's a look at the team results from the T-Bird Flyers Track Club held over the weekend at the Thomas A. Robinson Track and Field Stadium.
- Striders – 691.5
- Club Monica – 559
- Spirit Of Excellence – 338
- Road Runners – 312
- Star Trackers – 228
- Sunblazers – 200.5
- Ambassadors – 198
- Bahamas Speed Dynamics – 145
- Silver Lightning – 133
- T-Bird Flyers – 128
- College of the Bahamas – 98
- RC Athletics – 79
- Jumper's Inc. – 75
- Alliance Track Club – 43
- Tonique Williams
- Darling Athle – 31
- Pinnacle Athletics – 27
- Nassau Christian Academy – 13
- CC Sweeting Sr. High School – 8
- Mount Carmel – 8

Wellington Miller returned as president

FROM page 13

the new national coach and Seymour would be the director of the amateur programme. After soundly defeated at the polls, Minus Jr. said he will continue to lend his support to the amateur programme with his Champion Boxing Club. But he said he will still agitate for some of the changes that he had stated in his pre-election campaign, including the inclusion of more people being recognized like Leonard 'Boston Blackie' Miller, who has made a valuable contribution to the sport and is currently ailing.

"I want to congratulate Wellington Miller for being re-elected as the president," Minus Jr. said. "But I also want to thank the members for allowing me to run. I think I have gotten a better insight about the association and I will continue to push forth my ideas because I still think that a lot more could be done with the sport that is being done."

MINISTRY OF WORKS & TRANSPORT

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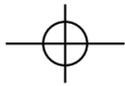


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NEW AD as of December 10, 2009



LOCAL NEWS

FROM page one

Haitian-Bahamian heads to Haiti in search of family

on a chartered plane sponsored by the Van Meurs Corporation. Van Meurs, an energy consulting firm, is mobilising its clients and international friends and partners to gather medical supplies, clothes and relief items to send to Haiti. Mr Bazard will assist in the distribution of these supplies as he assesses the situation with his family.

he said this is the worst disaster he has ever seen. "I have no idea how my heart is going to be, how I am going to feel when I get there. It is going to be completely different when I arrive in Haiti. Things are different looking on television than being on the ground.

"It is something that really hurts me, when I look at so much dead. All the houses, all the businesses, all the places like the (presidential) palace, the police department, everything is down," he said.

Mr Bazard came to the Bahamas as a visitor in 1986. This was the same year that a populist insurrection forced military dictator Jean-Claude 'Baby Doc' Duvalier to flee the country.

Because of the political instability of the time and widespread killings, Mr Bazard said his father advised him not to return home. He was granted a work permit, originally to work as a tailor, and has maintained steady employment in the Bahamas ever since. In 2001 he applied for permanent resi-

dence, and is waiting on his application to be processed.

Mr Bazard said it devastated him to think how his country would be set back by the tragedy. According to United Nations reports, more than half of Haitians live on less than a dollar a day, unemployment is over 80 per cent, illiteracy is high and infrastructure is weak.

Despite the poverty and economic hardship that characterised Haiti prior to the earthquake, many Haitians and international observers believed the nation was on the path to recovery, with fledgling signs of growth. Haitian Ambassador Louis Harold Joseph said much of the news coming out of Haiti over the past few months was positive news about development gains.

"For the past six years, we have a lot of efforts going on in Haiti to rebuild the country to put everything on track. The government with the assistance of the international community was doing its best. It is like we are going two steps forward and then now five steps backward. It is a pity that all the time we have to deal with such situations," said Ambassador Joseph.

Construction on a series of international hotel brands was set to begin this month in Jacmel, Haiti, a seaside town known as Haiti's arts capital. The Miami Herald reported earlier this month that Choices Hotels International, owners of Comfort Inn, franchised its brand to two hotels in Jacmel. Best Western and Hilton hotels were also reported to be in negotiations with local hoteliers in Port-au-Prince.

According to Ambassador Joseph, Haiti recently constructed a new wharf at a cost of \$50 million to facilitate the docking of the mega cruise ship, the Oasis of the Sea in Labadee, Haiti. That wharf was damaged in the earthquake.

Understanding the impact of the quake, for many Haitians a tempting sense of hopelessness lingers in the air. Ambassador Joseph said

Haitians were nonetheless resilient, a condition rooted in a strong and proud history.

Haiti was once considered the Pearl of the Caribbean. It was the first black republic formed from free Africans, enslaved under French rule. This is a great source of national pride for Haitians and the African Diaspora.

"We got independence just like with our hands, fighting with our hands against the big French army who have big machine guns and material. We did not have anything we just fought them with our intelligence and our strength until we killed them," said Mr Bazard.

Over the past two centuries, Haiti survived a few dozen coups d'etats, many resulting in rule by brutal military dictators. Haiti survived several military interventions by the United States, including the 1915 US invasion.

When US troops withdrew from Haiti just under 20 years later, they maintained fiscal control of the country until 1947.

Rich in natural resources, Haiti was of great economic interests to foreign investors. For much of Haiti's history, the only stable institutions were military institutions.

With the latest tragedy to strike, the international community has rallied behind the Caribbean nation to assist with the recovery effort. Of Haiti, Puerto Rican writer and blogger Mayra Santos Febres wrote on Global Voices online: "I have an old debt with Haiti. We all have. Haiti is the first womb, the place where the Caribbean was born, it's the Africa from within, the unnamable pain, the scar.

"It was the first country in America where a black person dared think of himself as free, to think of himself as a leader of the people (Toussaint L'ouverture). Haiti has paid heavily for this impertinence. They are still paying... Haiti is falling again. And we are also falling. We cannot keep on walking. Not without Haiti. Without Haiti we all fall."



Felipe Major/Tribune staff

THE BODY of the man is removed from the scene.

Man is found stabbed to death

FROM page one

what happened or who might have killed him.

However, police have issued an appeal to residents in the area who might have heard or seen a disturbance or altercation to come forward with their information and assist them in this case. They are asked to call their nearest police station or 911/919.

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LOCAL NEWS

Turnquest tells new officers expectations are very high



TWENTY-NINE young Bahamians officially became Police Officers during a graduation ceremony in Freeport on Thursday. The new officers are pictured with National Security Minister Tommy Turnquest (centre), Police Commissioner Ellison Greenslade, and other senior officers.



Simon Lewis/BIS

BOTH THE BATON OF HONOUR and the Commandant's Award went to No. 3444 Lynette Leadon. She accepted the top recruit honours from National Security Minister Tommy Turnquest.

Graduation for 29 officers on Grand Bahama

By SIMON LEWIS
Bahamas Information Services

FREEPORT — National Security Minister Tommy Turnquest told the latest group of Police Officers that they were selected in keeping with the Force's forward-looking policy of recruiting progressive young people with skills, competence, capability and talent.

During the graduation ceremony on Thursday, Mr Turnquest added that the training over the past six months was holistic and reflective of the broad range of matters that will challenge them as Bahamian law enforcement officers.

The vast majority of the new officers of C-Squad were recruited and trained in Grand Bahama.

"Having come through both the recruitment and training processes, let me say that expectations of your Squad is very high," Mr Turnquest said.

"You are coming into a dynamic Police Force that has gone through a generational change, particularly within its leadership. New policing strategies are being put in place, which you will be required to implement, and to which you will have the opportunity to contribute your ideas and proposals."

Mr Turnquest told the group that as they begin their career in policing, he expects them to be flexible and adaptable, capable of performing the multiple roles they may be required to play during their career as law enforcement officers.

"I expect you to be responsible and accountable, courteous and professional. The uniform of Police Officer does not give you licence to treat people with rudeness and contempt. Rather your uniform is a statement that you are at their service," he said.

"I expect you to be men and women of discipline and of integrity. I expect you to meet your obligations to counter crime and criminality, no matter who perpe-

trates it, and no matter where it occurs. I expect assertive and energetic policing. Above all, I expect you to avoid corruption, and do nothing that would bring you or the Police Force into disrepute or disgrace."

Mr Turnquest challenged the officers to develop effective partnerships, particularly in the context of Neighbourhood Community Policing, which will aid in doing their job effectively.

"I know that policing brings danger and risk," he added.

"But those risks can be limited by taking the appropriate precautions.

"I, therefore, expect you to take the necessary precautions, in the interest of protecting the people you serve and for your own protection."

He told the graduates that he made the points about his expectation having taken into account the crime situation in The Bahamas.

"I have said repeatedly that the level of crime in our society is unacceptable, and that the Police have a significant role to play in countering this crime," he said.

Again he cautioned the new officers saying, "Only you can determine the kind of Police Officer you will be. Only you can organise yourself to ensure that you attain your goals.

"You do, however, have a context in which to work. In this regard, I urge you to hold firmly to the time-honoured tradition of the Police Force, and its commitment to serve the people of The Bahamas with courage, integrity and loyalty."

Over the past six months a considerable amount of time, effort and resources went into training the 29 young men and women. Their training was described as being very comprehensive, which encompassed a myriad of disciplines.

The most outstanding recruit was No. 3444 Lynette Leadon who captured the Commandant's Award for outstanding academic achievements, and the Baton of Honour for her over-all accomplishments.



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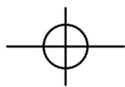
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Bank liquidator may appeal on \$313m verdict

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

A Bahamian bank's liquidator has told Tribune Business he may appeal to the Privy Council a ruling requiring that he admit an alleged \$313.648 million claim against the institution's assets from plaintiffs in a US-based class action lawsuit.

Craig A. 'Tony' Gomez, the Baker Tilly Gomez accountant and partner, told Tribune Business he was now discussing with his attorneys the course of action that was "in the best interests of all creditors" after the Court of Appeal dismissed his appeal against admitting a claim against Leadenhall Bank & Trust's estate.

The claim had been submitted by investors in the Cash 4 Titles Ponzi scheme, who are seeking to enforce a \$313.648 million default judgment they obtained against Leadenhall in the US district court for southern Florida.

Mr Gomez had initially rejected the Cash 4 Titles investors proof of debt, but attorneys Peter and Jason Maynard, acting for the class action plaintiffs, have now obtained rulings from both the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal requiring him to accept their claim.

"I'm taking counsel from my legal advisers and we are evaluating our options as to this verdict on the appeal," Mr Gomez told Tribune Business. "In addition to seeking advice from my counsel, and looking for their guidance as to how to proceed, it is noteworthy the Appeal Court left it open to me to move on to the Privy Council.

"This is an option I would have to consider, as it may be in the best interests of all creditors."

A statement issued on behalf of the Cash 4 Titles class action plaintiffs, by the Miami-based law firm Tew Cardenas, claimed the Mr Gomez, as Leadenhall's liquidator, was in possession of some \$21 million of cash and faced \$27 million in liabilities.

The statement alleged that as a result of being forced to accept their claim by the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal, creditors of Leadenhall's estate would receive only \$0.06 of every \$1 owed to them, instead of the \$0.77 payout they had been looking at previously. It was claimed that the Cash 4 Titles' investors total share of Leadenhall's assets would amount to \$19.75 million.

This, though, would appear to be premature. The court rulings, as they stand today,

SEE page 7B

'We must turn the fiscal tide'

* Government takes \$100m from BTC in 17 months, but minister denies latest \$25m payout used solely to pay down on \$60m BEC fuel bill

* Confirms 2010-2011 Budget will 'take measures' to get public finances back on track, implying stimulus phase coming to end

* Revenues improve to be only \$15m down year-over-year, as minister confirms debt-to-GDP ratio above 50%

* But Bahamas to 'continue deficit spending for some time to come', due to inherent capital deficit

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

The Bahamas must "turn the tide" on its public finances starting with the upcoming 2010-2011 Budget, a government minister has told Tribune Business, confirming that the administration recently received a \$25 million dividend from the Bahamas Telecommunications Company (BTC).

Zhivargo Laing, minister of state for finance, told this newspaper that he "expected measures to be taken" to rein in both the fiscal deficit and expanding national debt when the Budget for the Government's upcoming financial year was announced in May.

Declining to detail what "measures" may be taken to bring the Government's



ZHIVARGO LAING

finances back into line, and set this nation's debt-to-GDP ratio back on course towards the 30-35 per cent range, Mr Laing said revenue intake had improved in recent weeks, with the administration now only \$15 million behind year-over-year comparatives.

Acknowledging that the Bahamas' total debt-to-GDP ratio was now likely to have breached the 50 per cent mark, the minister told Tribune Business that despite increased debt servicing costs the Government was having no trouble in meeting its financial obligations.

Meanwhile, Mr Laing described as "nonsense" suggestions that the Government took the November 2009 BTC dividend specifically to help its fellow 100 per cent state-owned corporation, the Bahamas Electricity Corporation (BEC), meet its obligations.

Tribune Business had been told by sources close to the situation that the Government had used the proceeds from the \$25 million BTC declaration

SEE page 5B

Port chair's firm avoids negative net worth drop

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

The BISX-listed company whose major shareholder is the Grand Bahama Port Authority's (GBPA) chairman did not end fiscal 2009 in a negative net equity position, Tribune Business was told, after trading in its shares was suspended to allow for completion of its audit.

Hannes Babak, the GBPA/Port Group Ltd chairman, who owns 43 per cent of Freeport Concrete, told Tribune Business in a brief Friday night phone interview that the company's chief executive had told him the anticipated \$1.2 million net loss for the year to August 31, 2009, had not left the BISX-listed entity with negative net worth. "He told me that is not the case," Mr Babak said of conversations with Ray Simpson, Freeport Concrete's chief executive, on the question of whether the company had slipped into negative net equity territory. Freeport Concrete's last audited financials, published for the financial year ended on August 31, 2008, showed the company had net assets of \$1.467 million - some \$6.724 million in total assets, and \$5.216 million in total liabilities. That position, though, was largely aided by a \$1.434 million revaluation surplus, stemming from the fair value of land owned by the company compared to the sum spent on acquiring it.

Without that revaluation surplus, Freeport Concrete would have been close to a negative net worth position at year-end 2008, and the \$1.2 million net loss incurred for 2009 will take the company to a net equity position of around just \$267,000. The loss will also take Freeport Concrete's accumulated deficit, \$5.788 million at year-end 2008, to above \$7 million. The company's fate may explain why there has been so little appetite of late for going public. Freeport Concrete was the last company to conduct an initial public offering (IPO) in the Bahamas, back in 2001, but investors have seen the stock slide from a \$3 per share IPO price to just \$0.27 as of Thursday's close, a more than 90 per cent decline that has left the value of their investment at less than 1/10 of what it initially was following a succession of annual losses. In last week's statement to shareholders, Mr Simpson said the company's unaudited total sales for the year to end-August 2009 fell by almost

* But BISX-listed Freeport Concrete likely to have just over \$200k in net equity at year-end 2009, with accumulated losses hitting \$7m

* Shares suspended to allow time for audit completion, after \$1.2m 2009 loss

* In talks with investor group for new funding

25 per cent from \$13.6 million to \$10.2 million. Sales at its Home Centre retail format were off by 23 per cent year-

over-year, leaving the business with an unaudited loss of more

SEE page 4B

St Georges: No talks with Hayward buyer

* Estate opposed to selling 50% Port Authority stake to Mid-Atlantic Projects

* Port Board considers legal action against government over Babak work permit

* Estate's attorney claims Sir Jack views ownership dispute as 'Battle of Britain or Custer's Last Stand'

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

The late Edward St George's estate is not involved in any "ongoing negotiations" to sell its 50 per cent Grand Bahama Port Authority (GBPA) stake to Mid-Atlantic Projects, Tribune Business has been told, and is opposed to legal action against the Government over the renewal of chairman Hannes Babak's work permit.

Fred Smith QC, the Callenders & Co partner and attorney for the estate, said his clients had no intention of following Sir Jack Hayward's lead in selling his family trust's stake to Mid-Atlantic Projects, and questioned why the latter would seek to become embroiled in a pre-existing ownership dispute.

"I can confirm that the estate has no ongoing negotiations with Mid-Atlantic Projects, and any suggestion to the contrary is flouting by Sir Jack, Mr Babak and/or Mid-Atlantic," Mr Smith told Tribune Business.

"A legitimate, bona fide investor is not going to enter the fray, taking sides and trying to slide in through the back door by purchasing litigation. Applications for work permits, the acquisition of shares in the Port Authority - these are matters of diplomatic, subtle, private negotiations between

SEE page 6B

Bahamians 'losing' \$16-\$17m per year on bank interest

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

Bahamians are losing a collective \$16-\$17 million in interest on their savings accounts per annum as a result of how commercial banks calculate these payments, a businessman has argued, urging reforms to the school curriculum so its products graduate with "black belts in financial self-defence".

Dr Jonathan Rodgers, the well-known 'eye doctor', told Tribune Business that if the Bahamas was forced to eventually devalue its currency there were not enough US dollars in the foreign reserves for conversion to take place, as he again urged the Government and Central Bank of the Bahamas to cut interest rates and bring relief to hard pressed household and consumer borrowers.

He also argued that living costs in the Bahamas could be reduced by "at least 50 per cent" if the tax system was reformed to one

SEE page 2B

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BUSINESS

FROM page 1B

reliant on a Sales or Value-Added (VAT) tax, doing away with the huge sums tied-up up front by the import duties structure. Bahamian companies, Dr Rodgers said, had no choice but to recoup these substantial advance tax outlays by increasing prices to the end consumer.

Recapping the central theme of his address to the Bahamas Business Outlook Conference, Dr Rodgers said it was vital for Bahamians to be financially literate "because we need to protect ourselves as individuals" due to the sheer volume of financial-related transactions persons engaged in on a daily basis. "Who comes out on top of these transactions is the person who has the most financial literacy," he added, advocating that there was a direct correlation between a country's gross domestic product (GDP) and quality of its "human capital assets".

For the Bahamas to compete, Dr Rodgers said its education system graduates needed to be literate, numerate, have financial literacy and technical literacy, and be able to speak two foreign languages. "If we are not financially literate it puts us at a tremendous disadvantage, with corporate and national implications," he added.

Arguing that there were three key financial indicators - inflation, interest rates and the risk/reward analysis - Dr Rodgers said that if a Bahamian had \$100 in a bank account, and the bank paid 3 per cent interest on the account, the year-end balance would not be \$103 "because of the way the banks calculate and apply interest".

Dr Rodgers claimed Bahamian commercial banks often calculated interest payments based on a savings account's minimum balance, and applied the interest quarterly or bi-annually. This, he alleged, contrasted with the likes of Canada-based banks, which calculated customer interest based on the average daily balance and applied it to accounts monthly. Based on Bahamians having a collective \$1 billion in savings accounts, Dr Rodgers told Tribune Business: "If they calculated it like they should, Bahamians would collectively earn an extra \$16-\$17 million on their savings accounts at the end of the year."

If Bahamians were financial-

Bahamians 'losing' \$16-\$17m per year on bank interest

ly literate they could challenge such practices, Dr Rodgers said, further criticizing this nation for putting "sophisticated" legislation ahead of simple consumer protection laws such as 'Truth in Lending'. This, he added, would safeguard consumers against "predatory banking practices", much like similar laws did in the US, UK and Canada.

Dr Rodgers also resumed his call for a 1 per cent cut in the Bahamian PRIME interest rate, telling this newspaper that it would "put an extra \$60 million into the economy every year, or \$5 million per month". This was some 40 per cent of the \$135 million that the National Insurance Board (NIB) injected into the economy annually, and represented "a lot of money that will help us at this time".

Central Bank and government inflation estimates, pegging this at between 2-4 per cent, underestimated the level of sustained rises in the weighted average of prices in this economy, Dr Rodgers said.

He called for a Consumer Price Index (CPI) spread over different baskets of goods that would compare Bahamian prices with their US counterparts. "If we had a sales tax or VAT the cost of living would come down dramatically by at least 50 per cent, and the Government would still make its money," Dr Rodgers said.

Businesses would now pay their taxes at the back door of the production chain, not the front door, and it would also encourage "more people to shop at home" because the price differentials between the Bahamas and the US would either be eliminated or substantially reduced.

As for devaluation, Dr Rodgers argued that were it to happen the Bahamian dollar would effectively be equivalent to \$0.10 US dollars. "If there was thrust to devaluation, the \$6.5 billion Bahamian dollars in the system don't convert into \$850 million US dollars [currently in the Central Bank's reserves]", he added. "If we were to rush to convert, there's not enough US dollars to convert to."

Looking ahead, Dr Rodgers

said: "We need to introduce a financial literacy programme in the schools for kids in high school, so that when they graduate they do so with a black belt in financial self-defence and are able to make rational financial decisions."

"We now have to make sure our policymakers are financially literate and knowledgeable, and those people advising them are the same, because those people are responsible for the financial affairs of the country. They have to be responsible and rational in their decision-making."

Dr Rodgers said a key interest of his was 'Futurnomics' - "looking at the impact of non-economic events or decisions on the economy down the road". One example of this was Janyne Hodder's resignation as College of the Bahamas (COB) president, something he took to mean that COB would not progress to university status - at least not as quickly as first thought. With just 15 per cent of Bahamians going on to tertiary education, and university costs some \$25,000-\$50,000 in the US and \$15,000 in Canada per year, Dr Rodgers said not having a University of the Bahamas had "tremendous implications for us".

"The Government now has to reapply its attention and show a real commitment to tertiary education in this country, otherwise the economic future is very dim for us," Dr Rodgers told Tribune Business.

Another of his passions, he added, was 'Prohumonics' - making economics and finance "more meaningful and understood" for the average Bahamian. This, Dr Rodgers said, was based on the 'Dream Index' - the amount of money needed every year to live the 'Bahamian Dream', which he said was home and car ownership, healthcare and paying for the children to go to school.

Rather than use statistics such as GDP and income per capita, which were relatively meaningless, Dr Rodgers said determining the amount of money needed to achieve the 'Bahamian Dream' showed whether Bahamians were "cutting it" and, if not, gave them a target to work towards.

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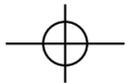
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BUSINESS

Blacklisting response halved bank numbers

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

Partisan politics prevents Caribbean parliaments from devising the necessary response to G-20/OECD initiatives aimed at their financial services industries, a former Bahamian attorney-general revealing that this nation's response to its 2000 'blacklisting' cost the Government \$40 million and more-than-halved its number of registered banks and trust companies.

Addressing the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force's (CFATF) sixth annual compliance conference in Trinidad & Tobago on Friday, Alfred Sears, who was this nation's chief legal officer under the former Christie administration, said Caribbean legislatures

were having to safeguard their financial industries from the "competing threats" of international crime and the G-20/OECD regulatory initiatives.

Acknowledging that failing to implement the evolving anti-money laundering, terror financing and tax co-operation standards was "not an option", Mr Sears said the 2000 Financial Action Task Force (FATF) 'blacklisting' had created "significant reputational loss and economic costs" for the Bahamas that were "still being felt to this day".

"The Bahamian Government expended or lost revenue estimated to be between \$38 to \$40 million," Mr Sears said. "Thousands of international business companies migrated from the Bahamas to the British Virgin Islands, Hong Kong, Singapore and other jurisdictions."

"Scores of mutual funds migrated from the Bahamas to the Cayman Islands, the number of banks registered in the Bahamas decreased from over 700 to 270. The Bahamas again suffered significant reputational loss and economic costs when it was characterised as a jurisdiction engaged in unfair tax practices and placed on the 'grey list' by the OECD in April 2009, resulting so far in a major French bank, BNP Paribas, leaving the jurisdiction."

Apart from their role in legislating laws relating to the financial services industry, Mr Sears said Caribbean parliaments also have to ensure their regulatory agencies were adequately funded to implement and monitor the evolving supervisory regimes.

Yet he added that this role

was "compromised by a number of factors", especially the "intense partisan rivalry" between different political factors, which meant governments often did not share research

data and position/policy papers with the opposition.

"Therefore, the parliamentary process often lacks national solidarity and the collective wisdom contained in the par-

liament, which are necessary to meet external challenges, such as when a country is threatened with counter-measures by the FATF or the OECD," Mr Sears said.

Electronic payments system set to launch

The long-anticipated Bahamas Automated Clearing House (BACH) is set to go live on January 22.

"The advent of the Bahamas Automated Clearing House will affect every single person who deposits money to a chequing account, writes a cheque or wishes to pay a bill online," said Brian Smith, BACH's business manager.

"By speeding up the time it takes for deposits to clear, it will provide a boost to businesses, particularly those that depend for much of their revenue on cheques from customers. Individuals will benefit as well because they will have access to the B\$ cheques they deposit on Monday as early as Tuesday. No longer will anyone - businesses, institutions or individuals - have to wait for up to five days to use the money that is rightfully theirs."

But speedy clearance of deposits means those who write cheques must have funds in their account to cover them, or be prepared to pay fees to their banks for returned cheques.

"For years, as long as anyone can remember, because it took so long for a cheque to clear in the Bahamas, individuals 'perfected' the habit of writing a cheque based on funds they expected to deposit later," said Mr Smith.

"That practice, in fact, was illegal and those days are gone. With the introduction of system-wide electronic imaging, banks will no longer transport physical pieces of paper back and forth. Once the deposit is made by 3pm, the cheque will

clear overnight and be available the following business day."

In addition to slicing deposit clearance time from up to five days down to one, the BACH will expand online bill payment and commerce.

"Before the ACH, you and your employer had to bank at the same bank or your employer had to maintain accounts at various banks if that employer wanted to pay you by direct deposit," said Mr Smith.

"Within three months of the ACH going into effect, banks will be to accommodate interbank transfers as easily as they do intra-bank transfers now, meaning direct deposits may be made to any account in the system, even if the employer and employee bank at different institutions. The same principle will apply to any bill you want to pay. You do not have to go to the paint store or the doctor's office to pay a bill or call your plumber back to collect a cheque. You can have it deposited right into their account while you are sitting at home on your laptop handling your online banking, watching the Heat play the Lakers."

Converting to electronic clearance also improves security, eliminating the need for cheques to be physically transported between banks with messengers carrying such deposits in satchels. All seven clearing banks are participating in the system that allows confidential same day settlement or clearance of direct credit and next business day clearance of Bahamian dollar cheques and debits.

Those banks include Bank of the Bahamas, Citibank, Commonwealth Bank, Fidelity Bank (Bahamas), FirstCaribbean International Bank (Bahamas), RBC Royal Bank of Canada and Scotiabank. Regulatory oversight is provided by the Central Bank.



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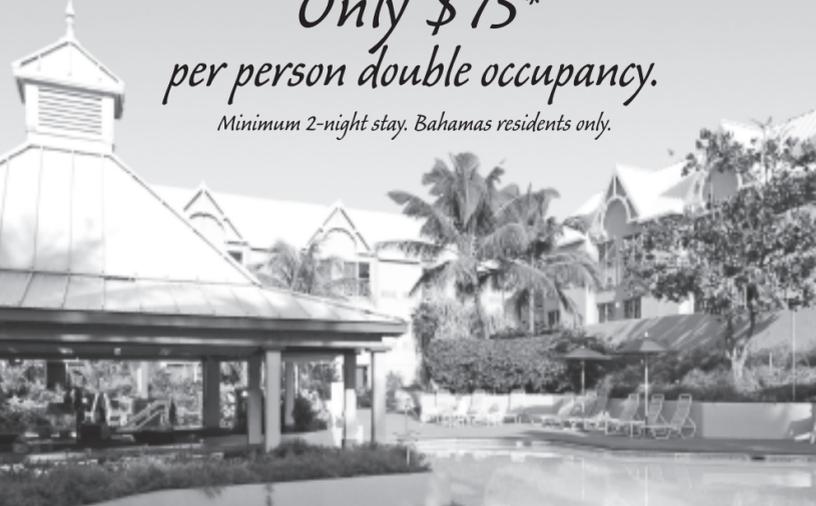
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Job Requirements:

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BUSINESS**FROM page 1B****Port chair's firm**

than \$550,000. Freeport Concrete's other business unit, its concrete division, saw a 30 per cent decline in sales revenues that turned into a \$660,000 loss.

And, in contrast to optimism expressed in an interview with Tribune Business on August 20, 2009, in which he predicted Freeport Concrete would achieve profitability in the first quarter of its 2010 financial year, Mr Simpson told shareholders the company's poor performance had continued with total sales revenues down 53 per cent year-over-year for the period. Despite reducing expenses by 42 per cent in the past two years, this had not been enough to offset the sales decline's impact on the bottom line. At the risk of sounding like a 'broken record', having off repeated this line to Tribune Business in the past, Mr Simpson reiterated that Freeport Concrete needed an equity capital injection to provide it with the necessary financing to purchase the necessary additional inventory for the Home Centre - high-margin inventory such as TVs and appliances,

which are expected to enhance sales and profits.

Mr Simpson previously told Tribune Business that some \$500,000 in additional funding was required, but debt financing - such as bank debt, overdrafts or preference shares - was not attractive as it would add to Freeport Concrete's debt burden. As at year-end 2008, Freeport Concrete had breached certain debt covenants, and its combined bank loan and overdraft debt stood at \$2.029 million.

As a result, the BISX-listed firm was seeking additional equity funding, many observers believing that the best method would be a rights issue underwritten/guaranteed by Mr Babak. This would give all shareholders the opportunity to take up new shares in proportion to their existing holdings, ensuring they were not diluted. However, according to Mr Simpson's statement, Freeport Concrete is in talks with an unnamed investment group for additional financing. While sources close to the com-

pany said the talks appeared "promising", no deal has been reached and it is unclear what form their interest would take. If it was equity - either buying part of Mr Babak's stake or being issued new shares from Treasury - the concern for shareholders would be the dilution of their existing holdings.

Mr Babak has recused himself from any involvement in Freeport Concrete's management and day-to-day operations to avoid the perception of an potential conflict of interest with his GBPA job.

He did, though, confirm to Tribune Business that Freeport Concrete had sought - and been granted - a suspension of trading in its shares until the audit for the 12 months to August 31, 2009, had been completed. "There was a delay in the audit, and until it was completed it was felt it was better that there was no trading," Mr Babak told Tribune Business, indicating that BISX had experienced difficulties in recent times with companies failing to file their audited financials within 120 days (four months) of year-end. Given that Freeport Concrete has material information to release, and is in talks with new investors, the share trading suspension makes sense to prevent insider information seeping out and creating a 'false market' in the company's shares. Should some investors obtain more details on what is happening, they will benefit at the expense of other investors who have not.

Keith Davies, BISX's chief executive, confirmed to Tribune Business that the exchange had decided to suspend trading in Freeport Concrete's shares following the company's request and subsequent discussions. "They were having some issues relevant to their audit, and a delay with respect to publishing their audit," Mr Davies said, confirming that Freeport Concrete had been given until March 15, 2010, to publish them. "The company wanted time to provide up-to-date information relevant to its financials," Mr Davies added. "We thought it was reasonable that the company provide material information to its shareholders and the public. We afforded them time and the opportunity to do that."

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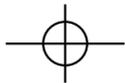
Applications should be sent on or before the 19th February 2010 via email to: positionsavailable2010@gmail.com or addressed to Position Available, P.O. Box N-3937, Nassau, N.P., The Bahamas.

2) VP of Operations

New office of established international firm is seeking Vice President of Operations. The position requires direct reporting to the President, entails responsibility for local operations and finance, management of a small staff and requires a great degree of integrity, maintaining utmost confidentiality. The position pays a very competitive salary. A successful applicant must:

- Be extremely organized, disciplined, mature, independent and very attentive to details;
- Hold a Degree in either Accounting, Law or Business Management;
- Have minimum of 5 years management experience;
- Possess a working knowledge of Bahamian employment and labour laws;
- Possess proficient computer skills;
- Have excellent communication skills with fluency in English, written and oral; an understanding of Mandarin would be an advantage;
- Be a team player, displaying strong problem solving skills, the ability to effectively manage and motivate people, as well as a positive and proactive attitude;
- Be able to work long hours and weekends as required;
- Be willing to relocate to and be stationed in Freeport, Grand Bahama.

Applications should be sent on or before the 19th February 2010 via email to: positionsavailable2010@gmail.com or addressed to Position Available, P.O. Box N-3937, Nassau, N.P., The Bahamas.



BUSINESS

FROM page 1B

'We must turn the fiscal tide'

exclusively to pay down on the \$60 million fuel bill that BEC owes to Shell, but Mr Laing said there was no direct transfer of funds between the two entities.

"The only corporation we would have got a dividend from was BTC, and it was \$25 million," the minister confirmed to Tribune Business.

"The BTC dividend went to the Consolidated Fund. No dividend payment went to BEC. It's all government revenue, to which it is entitled to, and which it can use to make payments on its bills."

Pointing out that it was all government revenue, and it made no difference whether funds came from either the Consolidated Fund or the BTC dividend directly, Mr Laing said the timing of the latest dividend declaration was not unusual from the Government's perspective.

"The Bahamian people have corporations that suffer perennial losses. They pay for those," Mr Laing said. "It only makes sense that when they have corporations that are profitable we use that to offset some of the losses taxpayers incur."

The International Monetary Fund's (IMF) Article IV consultation last year disclosed that the Government planned to take a \$30 million dividend from BTC prior to its privatization. This newspaper has calculated that, together with the \$25 million and \$50 million dividends declared in June 2008 and April 2009, the latest BTC payout means the Government - as 100 per cent owner - has taken some \$100 million out of the telecommunications provider within a 17-month period.

"The Government of the Bahamas has been in the deficit spending business for decades now. In recent times, with the former administration there was deficit spending every year, and with the current administration there has been deficit spending. The BTC dividend has been a source of revenue for the past several years, through a couple of administrations."

Addressing the impression that the Government could be suffering a cash flow/liquidity crunch, as a result of the suggestion that the BTC dividend directly paid down on BEC's obligations, Mr Laing added: "If one was to suggest we were strapped for funds, and used the BTC dividend for payments, and among those payments were some for BEC, what will explain the declaration of dividends under the previous administration, when things were supposed to have been extraordinarily good?"

It is uncertain whether BTC will continue to be the reliable

revenue source that it now is for the Government. If it is privatized and a 51 per cent stake sold, control over dividend payments will pass to the strategic partner/purchaser, given that they will have Board control. Dividend decisions will then be dictated more by BTC's profit performance and underlying capital needs, as opposed to the state of the Government's finances and political considerations. But whatever BTC's future holds, Mr Laing indicated to Tribune Business that this year's Budget will mark the end to the main phase of the Ingraham administration's economic stimulus programme, as it attempts to set the public finances back on a more even keel.

He told Tribune Business that the 2010-2011 Budget would be the first step in the Government's medium and long-term strategy to reduce the fiscal deficit to more manageable levels and reduce the national debt's rate of growth.

"It's my expectation that measures will be taken towards that end," Mr Laing replied, when asked by this newspaper whether the upcoming Budget would seek to tilt the scales away from supporting the Bahamian economy and back towards fiscal retrenchment.

"The Bahamas will continue to have deficit spending for some time to come, as it has had for decades past," he acknowledged. "What we can't do, as we've indicated before, is do in any sustainable way what we had to do in the last couple of years in light of extraordinary demands."

"That rate of borrowing and deficit spending is not sustainable, but it was necessary in extraordinary circumstances. We have to turn the tide, given that things seem to have stabilized, and there is a recovery - tenuous as it is - in place.

"We are meeting our obligations and have seen some improvement in revenues compared to the same period last year. We believe we may now be around \$15 million below the actual performance last year [for 2009-2010 to date]," the minister added.

"This same time last year, we were looking at the prospect of being, year-on-year, almost \$100 million behind. I call that a notable improvement on the situation. It's not where we want to be, it's not where we need to be, but it is what it is, and there are clear signs the economy is not as bad now, although it is still sluggish."

Still, without the BTC dividend and the one-off \$60 million-plus payment resulting from the South Riding Point sale, revenues might indeed be close to \$100 million down year-over-year.

The pace of the Ingraham administration's fiscal retrenchment, Mr Laing added, would depend on several factors, namely the rate of recovery in government revenues and the global/national economy. Whether the plans will involve further public spending cuts, and possibly even a public sector pay freeze, remain to be seen.

The minister told Tribune Business that the Bahamas' total national debt-to-GDP ratio - the Government's direct debt plus contingencies such as borrowings it had guaranteed on behalf of the public corporations - was "hovering around,

or a little over, 50 per cent".

Some commentators have placed it as high as 53 per cent or 55 per cent, compared to the ideal level of a 40 per cent ratio or below. But while the Government has come under fire for borrowing \$872 million during its first two-and-a-half years in office, as it sought to support the economy in the midst of the worst global recession seen for a lifetime, and those affected by it, Mr Laing said the key indicators were the Government's debt servicing ability and net debt.

He told Tribune Business that the Government repaid a certain amount of principal annually, and added: "We are in a position to service our debt. The Government of the Bahamas has no challenge in servicing its debt. Debt servicing costs have increased, but as it stands we have no difficulty servicing our debt. Our creditors are able to get the money they borrowed from us on time."

The Government's likely move to emphasise fiscal prudence as opposed to fiscal stimulus is likely to be welcomed by the likes of Standard & Poor's (S&P), which downgraded the Bahamas' long-term sovereign credit rating pre-Christmas. However, Mr Laing said the decision was the Government's, and was not being driven by S&P. The Minister told Tribune Business that due to the Government's minimal capital revenue earnings, and the country's per annum \$200 million-plus needs for infrastructure upgrades and maintenance, any administration would be faced with a significant capital budget deficit.

Therefore, the term 'balanced Budget' in the Bahamian context referred to the recurrent side - taxes and fees meeting the Government's fixed costs, chiefly salaries and rents.

"We will have capital expenditure needs for some time now, and to the extent we have little capital revenue, we're always going to have capital deficits to a large extent," Mr Laing explained. This makes the Government's need to attract private capital investment into major Bahamian infrastructure projects all the more urgent. Simon Townend, KPMG Corporate Finance's managing director, told last week's Business Outlook Conference that the Bahamas' social and infrastructure needs amounted to \$2.1 billion over the next five years - the equivalent of at least 10 Budget capital spending allocations.

Vacancy for

PRODUCT IMPLEMENTATION & SUPPORT SPECIALIST

Solutions Via Internet is a start-up but growing company based in Freeport, Grand Bahama that develops, markets and supports web-based software solutions for companies in North America and abroad, such as Chambers of Commerce. Our solution meets the needs of membership and association management companies ranging from 1 to 10 employees. We are looking for a PRODUCT IMPLEMENTATION & SUPPORT SPECIALIST to support our growing client base.

Job Description:

The PRODUCT IMPLEMENTATION & SUPPORT SPECIALIST will be responsible for all facets of an implementation, including working with customers to map out implementation plans, delivering product training, consulting, guidance and support throughout the duration of the implementation phase. Post implementation, the position will be responsible for all support related questions and trouble shooting of software problems. This position will report to directly to the Operations Manager.

Primary Responsibilities:

- Provide full business analysis beginning with needs assessment through to successful implementation, including business process review and recommendations on best practices;
• Overall responsibility for the successful planning, execution, monitoring, control and closure of implementation process;
• Deliver software training (online and via conference) to customers;
• Interface with other team members to manage customer requirements;
• Provides software support to customers post implementation, answering complex questions on function and usage of product via the telephone and internet;
• Work systematically through hardware or software problems and help customers understand the features and benefits of new features that best meet their needs;
• Acquire, maintain and apply detailed knowledge of our product suite;
• Continually strive to exceed customer expectations.

Experience/Qualifications:

- Completion of a post-secondary degree;
• Extensive computer experience including graphic arts, web design, MS Windows and office applications;
• Experience with consumer level software implementations, consulting, training and rollouts;
• Customer service/support experience;
• Strong oral, written and presentation communication skills;
• Must have the ability to work independently and be self-motivated.

To succeed in this role you must have a customer-oriented attitude, excellent project and time management skills and have extraordinary interpersonal skills to allow you to communicate with team members internally and with various members of the customer's organization. We are looking for a hard driving individual that is looking for opportunities for growth.

Interested persons should submit their resumes in confidence to info@thechamberworks.com by January 20, 2010.

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BUSINESS

FROM page 1B

the Government and the owners of the Port Authority.

"Instead, Sir Jack, Mr Babak and Joe Rosetti [Mid-Atlantic Projects senior managing director] are slapping the Government, the public and the St Georges in the face with all these confrontational newspaper articles. That's just not how business is conducted."

On the face of it, Mid-Atlantic Projects' hopes of acquiring the St George estate's GBPA/Port Group Ltd stake, as well as the Hayward Family Trust's equity, appear to be going nowhere fast – and are possibly non-existent.

Tribune Business under-

stands that while Mr Rosetti met Sarah St George in New York pre-Christmas, the St George estate has taken the position of not responding to any further correspondence sent to them by Mid-Atlantic Projects, at least for the time being.

It appears that the St George Estate's attitude towards Mid-Atlantic Projects is the same as the one employed towards UK merchant banker Roddie Fleming, who also struck an agreement to purchase Sir Jack's GBPA stake before the deal fell through. In that episode, the St Georges regarded Mr Fleming as an 'interloper' who had no place intervening in the ownership dispute with Sir

'No talks with Hayward buyer'

Jack. Still, in the business world no door is completely shut if the right offer comes along. But it seems as if Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham is also keeping Mid-Atlantic Projects at arm's length for the moment, having delegated David Davis, permanent secretary in his office, to meet Mr Rosetti until more about the group is known. Indeed, many in Freeport are refusing to give Mid-Atlantic Projects full credibility until more is known about its plans, principals and financial backing.

Meanwhile, Mr Smith reiterated that the St George Estate still wanted to resolve the ownership dispute amicably, and accused Sir Jack and Mr Babak of treating the situation as "Custer's Last Stand or the Battle of Britain" by refusing to set their own interests aside and negotiate a settlement for the benefit of Freeport.

And, in a January 15, 2010, letter to Ian Rolle, the GBPA's president, Mr Smith said the St George Estate was opposed to initiating litigation against the Government by the Port over the former's refusal to renew Mr Babak's work permit.

In the letter, which was copied to the Immigration Department and the GBPA and Port Group Ltd Boards of Directors, Mr Smith wrote: "It

is our client's understanding that the Board has been considering litigation against the Government challenging its refusal to issue and/or renew Mr Babak's permit.

"I am instructed to state for the record that my client is opposed to any such litigation effort and, as a 50 per cent beneficial owner, instructs you [Mr Rolle], as president, not to engage in any further initiative to obtain a work permit for Mr Babak."

Mr Babak last week told Tribune Business that while he was still GBPA/Port Group Ltd chairman, he was at home and not at the companies' offices because the work permit had not been renewed. While able to meet with potential investors in Freeport outside the Bahamas, he could "not discharge my duties in the Bahamas".

In his letter to Mr Rolle, Mr Smith urged: "We understand that notwithstanding the fact that Mr Babak has no permit, he continues to attempt to act as chairman and to be gainfully employed in such capacity by conducting business from his home. We understand that you and other executives and/or employees attend at his home in furtherance of such activity.

"We are instructed to demand that you and any and

all other executives and employees of our client's companies desist in any such further activities and refrain, henceforth, from communicating or dealing with Mr Babak.

"Further, we request that you and all officers, directors and employees forthwith desist in dealing with Mr Babak in regard to the business affairs of the Port Group of companies. He should no longer receive any information or be apprised of the Port Group's business dealings."

Stating that the St George Estate opposed any further attempt to renew Mr Babak's work permit, Mr Smith said that according to section 29(1) of the Immigration Act, no foreigner could be employed in the Bahamas without a valid work permit.

He added: "We do not agree with the opinion of Thomas Evans QC that past practice somehow overrides the clear and unambiguous letter of the law here. Any directors who support the continued gainful employment of Mr Babak will be held responsible for any loss suffered by the companies as a result."

Meanwhile, Mr Smith told Tribune Business last week: "It is regrettable that such a sensitive position as chairman of the Port Authority Group of Companies should be at the epicenter of such controversy.

"The estate of Edward St

George, as you are aware, is opposed to Mr Babak being or acting as chairman. It has always been the estate's position that there never was a concluded contract, and that he was never accepted by the estate as having been properly appointed or contractually appointed."

Mr Smith said the Court of Appeal was due to hear the estate's appeal against the decision of Justice Neville Adderley to throw out its 'oppression' argument and case against Mr Babak and Sir Jack next month.

He added that "it does no augur well" for investors to be meeting with Mr Babak when his position as GBPA chairman was opposed by both the St George estate and the Government. "The estate echoes the pleas by so many in Grand Bahama, begging Sir Jack and Mr Babak to end this debacle that is so bad for Freeport and employment and investment opportunities," Mr Smith said.

"I would like to emphasise that the St George Estate remains willing, ready and able to resolve this dispute. Unfortunately, Sir Jack, in alliance with Mr Babak, has a vision of this being Custer's Last Stand or the Battle of Britain. It seems that both Sir Jack and Mr Babak would prefer to see Freeport destroyed before putting their personal interests aside in this dispute."

NOTICE

ESSO EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION ANGOLA (BLOCK 25) LIMITED

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 137 (8) of the International Business Companies Act 2000, notice is hereby given that the above-named Company has been dissolved and struck off the Register pursuant to a Certificate of Dissolution issued by The Registrar General on the 30th day of November, A.D., 2009.

Dated the 13th day of January, A.D., 2010.

**Carol G. Gray
Liquidator of
ESSO EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION
ANGOLA (BLOCK 25) LIMITED**

IN THE ESTATE OF IVAL EVANS

late of Key West in the Southern District of the Island of New Providence, Bahamas, deceased.

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that all persons having any claim or demand against the said estate are required to send the same duly certified in writing to the undersigned on or before the 1st day of February, A.D. 2010, after which date the Executrix will proceed to distribute the estate having regard only to the claims of which she shall have had notice.

AND notice is hereby given that all persons indebted to the estate are required to make full settlement on or before the date hereinabove mentioned.

Dated the 15th day of January, A.D. 2010

**CEDRIC L. PARKER & CO.
Attorneys for the Executrix
9 Rusty Bethel Drive
Nassau, Bahamas**

Legal Notice

NOTICE

**ADAMS INVESTMENT HOLDINGS LIMITED
(In Voluntary Liquidation)**

Notice is hereby given that the above-named Company is in dissolution, which commenced on the 24th day of September 2009. The Liquidator is Argosa Corp. Inc., P. O. Box N-7757 Nassau, Bahamas.

**ARGOSA CORP. INC.
(Liquidator)**

Legal Notice

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN as follows:

(a) **AD MAIORA FUND LIMITED** is in dissolution under the provisions of the International Business Companies Act 2000.

(b) The Dissolution of said Company commenced on January 15, 2010 when its Articles of Dissolution were submitted and registered by the Registrar General.

(c) The Liquidator of the said company is Zakrit Services Ltd. of 2nd Terrace West, Centreville, Nassau, Bahamas.

(d) All persons having Claims against the above-named Company are required on or before the 1st day of March, 2010 to send their names and addresses and particulars of their debts or claims to the Liquidator of the company or, in default thereof, they may be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.

JANUARY 18, 2010

ZAKRIT SERVICES LTD.

LIQUIDATOR OF THE ABOVE-NAMED COMPANY

Legal Notice

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN as follows:

(a) **ALMA INTERNATIONAL FUND LIMITED** is in dissolution under the provisions of the International Business Companies Act 2000.

(b) The Dissolution of said Company commenced on January 15, 2010 when its Articles of Dissolution were submitted and registered by the Registrar General.

(c) The Liquidator of the said company is Zakrit Services Ltd. of 2nd Terrace West, Centreville, Nassau, Bahamas.

(d) All persons having Claims against the above-named Company are required on or before the 1st day of March, 2010 to send their names and addresses and particulars of their debts or claims to the Liquidator of the company or, in default thereof, they may be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.

JANUARY 18, 2010

ZAKRIT SERVICES LTD.

LIQUIDATOR OF THE ABOVE-NAMED COMPANY

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that **ERLINE FERTILE of #258 JOHN RUT CIRCLE, HUDSON ESTATE, FREEPORT, GRAND BAHAMA, BAHAMAS**, is applying to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, for registration/naturalization as a citizen of The Bahamas, and that any person who knows any reason why registration/naturalization should not be granted, should send a written and signed statement of the facts within twenty-eight days from the **11th day of JANUARY, 2010** to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.

Legal Notice

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN as follows:

(a) **SP ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND LTD.** is in dissolution under the provisions of the International Business Companies Act 2000.

(b) The Dissolution of said Company commenced on January 15, 2010 when its Articles of Dissolution were submitted and registered by the Registrar General.

(c) The Liquidator of the said company is Zakrit Services Ltd. of 2nd Terrace West, Centreville, Nassau, Bahamas.

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(c) The Liquidator of the said company is Zakrit Services Ltd. of 2nd Terrace West, Centreville, Nassau, Bahamas.

(d) All persons having Claims against the above-named Company are required on or before the 1st day of March, 2010 to send their names and addresses and particulars of their debts or claims to the Liquidator of the company or, in default thereof, they may be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.

JANUARY 18, 2010

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BHRDA cordially invites you to join us:

Our Installation of Officers & New Members

Guest Speaker: Mrs. Beverly Saunders, Vice President, Training & Organizational Development, Kerzner International

Theme: Engineering the HR profession for productivity and profitability

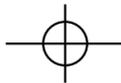
Date: Wednesday, 20th January, 2010

Time: 5:30-7:30pm

Place: J. Whitney Pinder, Collins Avenue.

**To attend: RSVP to
Bonnie Nguyen at BonnieN@bahamasfirst.com
or BHRDA@gmail.com
by 18th January, 2010
No later than January 13th 2010**

BISX LISTED & TRADED SECURITIES AS OF: THURSDAY, 14 JANUARY 2010											
BISX ALL SHARE INDEX: CLOSE 1,565.41 CHG -0.10 %CHG -0.01 YTD 0.03 YTD % 0.00											
FINDEX: CLOSE 000.00 YTD 00.00% 2008 -12.31%											
WWW.BISXBAHAMAS.COM TELEPHONE: 242-323-2330 FACSIMILE: 242-323-2320											
52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Security	Symbol	Previous Close	Today's Close	Change	Daily Vol.	EPS \$	Div \$	P/E	Yield
1.49	1.03	AML Foods Limited		1.17	1.15	-0.02	10,000	0.283	0.000	4.1	0.00%
10.75	9.90	Bahamas Property Fund		10.74	10.74	0.00		0.992	0.200	10.8	1.86%
7.00	5.77	Bank of Bahamas		5.90	5.90	0.00		0.244	0.250	24.2	4.41%
0.63	0.63	Benchmark		0.63	0.63	0.00		-0.877	0.000	N/M	0.00%
3.49	3.15	Bahamas Waste		3.15	3.15	0.00		0.168	0.090	18.8	2.86%
13.95	2.14	Fidelity Bank		2.37	2.37	0.00		0.055	0.040	43.1	1.69%
2.88	2.72	Colina Holdings		2.72	2.72	0.00		1.406	0.250	7.1	2.50%
7.00	5.00	Commonwealth Bank (S1)		7.00	7.00	0.00		0.419	0.300	16.7	4.29%
3.65	2.21	Consolidated Water BDRs		2.78	2.79	0.01		0.111	0.052	25.1	1.86%
2.55	1.32	Doctor's Hospital		2.55	2.55	0.00		0.627	0.080	4.1	3.14%
7.80	5.94	Famguard		6.49	6.49	0.00		0.420	0.240	15.5	3.70%
11.80	8.75	Finco		9.28	9.28	0.00		0.322	0.520	28.8	5.60%
10.45	9.80	FirstCaribbean Bank		9.99	9.99	0.00		0.631	0.350	15.8	3.50%
5.53	3.75	Focol (S)		4.77	4.77	0.00		0.326	0.150	14.6	3.14%
1.00	1.00	Focol Class B Preference		1.00	1.00	0.00		0.000	0.000	N/M	0.00%
10.30	9.27	Freeport Concrete		0.27	0.27	0.00		0.035	0.000	7.7	0.00%
6.13	5.00	ICD Utilities		5.59	5.59	0.00		0.407	0.500	13.7	8.94%
10.50	9.95	J. S. Johnson		9.95	9.95	0.00		0.952	0.640	10.5	6.43%
10.00	10.00	Premier Real Estate		10.00	10.00	0.00		0.156	0.000	64.1	0.00%
BISX LISTED DEBT SECURITIES - (Bonds trade on a Percentage Pricing b ases)											
52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Security	Symbol	Last Sale	Change	Daily Vol.	Interest	Maturity			
1000.00	1000.00	Fidelity Bank Note 17 (Series A) +	FBB17	100.00	0.00		7%	19 October 2017			
1000.00	1000.00	Fidelity Bank Note 22 (Series B) +	FBB22	100.00	0.00		Prime + 1.75%	19 October 2022			
1000.00	1000.00	Fidelity Bank Note 13 (Series C) +	FBB13	100.00	0.00		7%	30 May 2013			
1000.00	1000.00	Fidelity Bank Note 15 (Series D) +	FBB15	100.00	0.00		3 Prime + 1.75%	29 May 2015			
Fidelity Over-The-Counter Securities											
52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Symbol	Bid \$	Ask \$	Last Price	Weekly Vol.	EPS \$	Div \$	P/E	Yield	
14.60	7.92	Bahamas Supermarkets	10.06	11.06	14.00		-2.248	0.000	N/M	0.00%	
8.00	6.00	Caribbean Crossings (Pref)	2.00	6.25	4.00		0.000	0.480	N/M	7.80%	
0.54	0.20	RND Holdings	0.35	0.40	0.35		0.001	0.000	256.6	0.00%	
Colina Over-The-Counter Securities											
41.00	29.00	ABDAB	30.13	31.59	29.00		4.540	0.000	9.03	0.00%	
0.55	0.40	RND Holdings	0.45	0.55	0.55		0.002	0.000	261.90	0.00%	
BISX Listed Mutual Funds											
52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Fund Name	NAV	YTD%	Last 12 Months	Div \$	Yield %	NAV Date			
1.4387	1.3535	CFAL Bond Fund	1.4387	6.30	6.30			31-Dec-09			
2.8869	2.8266	CFAL MSI Preferred Fund	2.8869	-1.81	-1.81			31-Dec-09			
1.5087	1.4336	CFAL Money Market Fund	1.5071	0.08	0.08			31-Dec-09			
3.3201	2.9343	Royal Fidelity Bahamas G & I Fund	3.1168	-7.94	-7.94			31-Dec-09			
13.2400	12.6816	Royal Fidelity Prime Income Fund	13.2400	4.93	5.90			31-Dec-09			
103.9873	93.1909	CFAL Global Bond Fund	103.9873	3.41	3.41			31-Dec-09			
101.7254	96.4070	CFAL Global Equity Fund	101.7254	5.52	5.52			31-Dec-09			
1.0804	1.0000	FG Financial Preferred Income Fund	1.0804	4.32	5.26			31-Oct-09			
1.0364	1.0000	FG Financial Growth Fund	1.0269	-0.59	-0.19			31-Oct-09			
1.0742	1.0000	FG Financial Diversified Fund	1.0742	3.56	4.42			31-Oct-09			
9.5795	9.1005	Royal Fidelity Bah Int'l Investment Fund	9.5795	5.33	5.33			31-Dec-09			
11.2361	10.0000	Royal Fidelity Bah Int'l Investment Fund	11.2361	12.36	12.36			31-Dec-09			
7.7171	4.8105	Royal Fidelity Int'l Fund - Equities Sub Fund	7.7171	40.05	40.05			31-Dec-09			
MARKET TERMS											
BISX ALL SHARE INDEX - 19 Dec 02 = 1,000.00											
52wk-Hi - Highest closing price in last 52 weeks											
52wk-Low - Lowest closing price in last 52 weeks											
Previous Close - Previous day's weighted price for daily											



BUSINESS

Bank liquidator may appeal on \$313m verdict

FROM page 1B

merely require Mr Gomez to accept – rather than reject – their claim. The Cash 4 Titles investors now have to stand in line with Leadenhall's other creditors, and they are not guaranteed preferential treatment.

There are also questions over whether the liquidator, and the Bahamian courts, would accept the 'treble damages' awarded by the US courts, as these are not recognised in Bahamian law. The Cash 4 Titles investors won \$94 million initially, but these were trebled by the US court and the RICO statute.

Therefore, the Cash 4 Titles investors' claims about the \$0.77 to \$0.06 payout reduction are by no means correct, and the court rulings to date are just the initial stages in what could be a protracted legal battle.

However, Mr Gomez's last report to the Supreme Court on the Leadenhall liquidation, which took the proceedings up to November 30, 2008, showed that apart from \$20.062 million in cash, he had some \$24.303 million in his possession. Creditors at that stage only faced a collective \$2.471 million loss, as liabilities were measured at \$26.774 million, but it is unclear what

has happened in the past 15 months as no judge currently has carriage of the case following Senior Justice John Lyons' departure.

In their statement, the Cash 4 Titles investors said Leadenhall's liquidator had stopped participating in the US court proceedings, leading to them obtaining a \$313.648 million default judgment on September 10, 2007.

Mr Gomez and his attorneys believed that the US ruling would have no standing in the Bahamas, relying on a section of the law implying that the Cash 4 Titles should have first sought the Bahamian courts permission to continue with their action.

Yet this was rejected by two Bahamian courts. The investors statement said: "In dismissing the appeal the Court of Appeal found that:

"The stay of all proceedings involving Leadenhall as set out in the winding-up order had no extra-territorial effect, and therefore the US proceedings were not affected by the stay.

"The liquidator failed to follow the procedure set out in the UNCITRAL (United Nations Commission on International Trade Law) model law on insolvency (and adopted in Chapter 15 of the US Bankruptcy Code and in many other countries around

the world) in which he should have applied to the US Bankruptcy Court in Miami to be recognised, which would have led to all proceedings involving Leadenhall in the United States being automatically stayed.

"That the Liquidator should have sought the directions of the Bahamian Court as to what steps he should have taken with regard to the US proceedings."

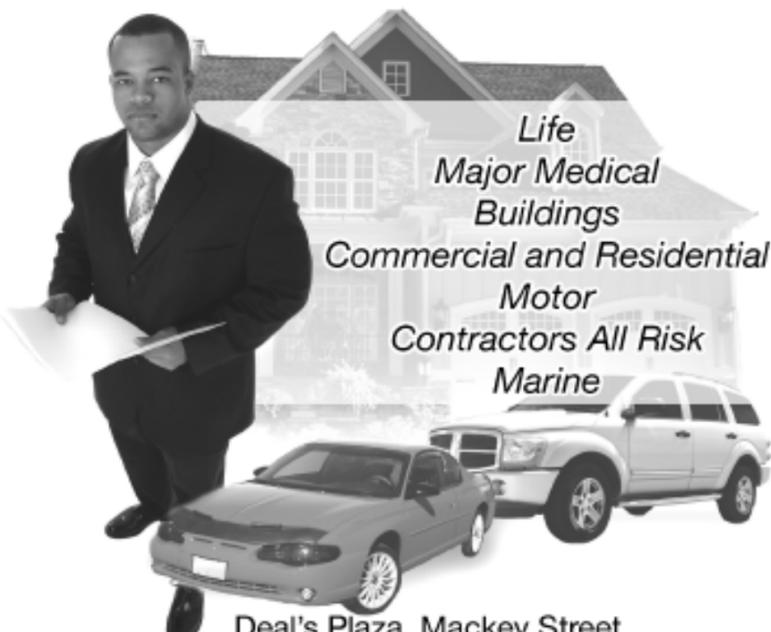
Cash 4 Titles was a Georgia-based investment scheme, in which investor monies were solicited for a financing scheme whereby low income applicants pawned the title to their motor vehicles as collateral for a loan. Pawning received favourable tax treatment in Georgia, but Cash 4 Titles ultimately became a fraudulent Ponzi scheme, attracting some \$120-\$130 million in investor funds.

Leadenhall was sued on the alleged grounds that it provided financial services to Cash 4 Titles knowing the scheme was a fraud.

Another institution, Bank of the Bermuda, settled with investors for \$0.50 on the \$1 or \$61.644 million, and this high payout seems to have encouraged the investors and their attorneys to come after Leadenhall's estate.

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Qualifications and Experience

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- Relevant litigation experience in civil and commercial litigation matters
- Legal experience in the formation, administration, maintenance and compliance of public, private and global companies
- Strong presentation and negotiation skills, solid business instincts and judgment, and outstanding written and verbal communication skills
- Creative and flexible problem-solving skills
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The key functions of the successful candidate are

- Assist the General Counsel in developing and implementing all legal and corporate governance policies
- Lead various projects including litigation management; direction of leases, deeds of release, and conveyances; privacy and employment matters, corporate governance, domestic and international compliance and other matters requiring legal support
- Provide senior management with effective legal opinions on company strategies and implementation
- Advise and counsel corporate departments on general and specialized legal matters; including complex international and commercial business transactions
- Assist in providing legal representation on international local projects at preliminary stage of negotiations and throughout development
- Provide legal counsel and advice regarding various corporate business transactions to ensure compliance with Bahamian Law and company policies and procedures

All applications **MUST** be submitted on or before the 1st February 2010. Salary and benefits commensurate with qualifications and experience.

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- Relevant litigation experience in civil and commercial litigation matters
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- Strong presentation and negotiation skills, solid business instincts and judgment, and outstanding written and verbal communication skills
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The key functions of the successful candidate are

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- Participate in various projects, relating to compliance, privacy, corporate, and employment matters
- Providing Senior Management with effective advice on all matters of a legal nature
- Assist with managing the company's internal function and staff
- Provide and maintain the Corporate Affairs of GBPA, PGL and the Group of Companies
- Participate in complex business transactions and negotiating critical contracts
- Play a key role in managing risk and helping to make business decisions.
- Experience in the preparation of Leases, Deeds of Release, Conveyances, etc.

Interested persons should send curriculum vitae and supporting documents to:
The Grand Bahama Port Authority, Limited

P.O. Box F-42666
Freeport, Grand Bahama Island

Or
GENERALCOUNSEL@GBPA.COM

All applications **MUST** be submitted on or before the 1st February 2010. Salary and benefits commensurate with qualifications and experience.



INSIGHT

Bush and Clinton call for long-term help for Haiti



FORMER PRESIDENTS Bill Clinton and George W. Bush. (AP)

WASHINGTON
FORMER Presidents George W. Bush and Bill Clinton called on Americans Saturday to dig deep in their pockets for desper-

ately poor Haiti, not just in the coming weeks, but for its long-term recovery after a devastating earthquake, according to Associated Press.

The two presidents

sketched out their vision for a more prosperous and healthy Haitian future than the poor Caribbean nation has ever known.

"We have a chance to do things better than we once did; be a better neighbor than we once were; and help the Haitian people realize their dream for a stronger, more secure nation. But we need more than just support from governments," the presidents wrote in an op-ed that appeared Saturday on The New York Times Web site.

They noted that 30 percent of Haiti's population—

about three million people—have been affected by the 7.0 magnitude earthquake on Tuesday.

In the first two weeks, private money will be directed to meet the needs of those who are "hurt, homeless and hungry." But their effort will also focus on the long-term: new and better schools and buildings able to withstand future earthquakes; getting health care and education to the poorest residents, attracting new industries to create jobs and foster economic growth, and the development of clean energy.

"At our best, we can help Haiti become its best," they wrote.

While the earthquake is a tragedy for Haiti, it has focused the world's attention on the impoverished nation, they wrote. The Haitian government, Haitians living abroad and countless non-governmen-

tal organizations, and many donor nations have a chance to help make the long-term improvements, they added.

Both presidents attended a White House news conference Saturday where President Barack Obama asked them to head private-sector fundraising efforts.



Temple Christian High School

Temple Christian High School

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Temple Christian High School will hold its Entrance Examination on SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6th, 2010 at the school on Shirley Street from 8:00a.m. - 12noon for students wishing to enter grades, 7,8,9 and 10.

Application forms are available at the High School Office. The application fee is twenty five dollars (\$25.00). Application forms should be completed and returned to the school by Friday, February 5th, 2010.

For further information please call 394-4481 or 394-4484

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All Candidates must possess:

A college degree and a minimum of five years successful experience in a senior management level position.

* Experience with airport aviation and security matters is desirable but not essential.

The General Manager will serve as Secretary to the Board and will be responsible to the Board for:

Liaisons with Nassau Airport Development Company (NAD), for planning, development and maintenance of LPIA in accordance with contractual matters.

Planning, organizing and managing the affairs of the Airport Authority.

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Working in concert with the CEO of NAD, securing and maintaining a high level of cooperation and coordination between all airport stakeholders, including Bahamas Customs and Immigration officials, the Royal Bahamas Police Force, United States officials, airline operators and others.

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Competitive salary and benefits offered. Applications are to be received no later than Friday 17th February, 2010. Interested applicants should forward a cover letter and resume to:

General Manager's Position
Attention: Office of the Chairman
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Lynden Pindling International Airport
P.O. Box, AP-59222
Nassau, Bahamas

Or Hand Deliver To:

General Manager's Position
Attention: Office of the Chairman
Airport Authority
Lynden Pindling International Airport
Nassau, Bahamas

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- Administrative functions such as assigning staff to specific duties and tasks, scheduling, reports, disciplinary issues and implementing engineering operations policies and procedures.
- Create a courteous friendly, professional, work environment through open line of communication.
- Other duties as required

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- Attributes include strong interpersonal skills, organization, self-motivated, assured, persuasive and positive personal image.
- Effective communication skills with individuals at all levels of the organization.
- Excellent computer skills including MS Word, Outlook, PowerPoint & Excel as well as time-keeping.
- Union experience helpful.

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US charges more with terrorism than any year since 2001

WASHINGTON

U.S. PROSECUTORS charged more suspects with terrorism in 2009 than in any year since the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, providing evidence of what experts call a rise in plots spurred by Internet recruitment, the spread of al-Qaida overseas and ever-shifting tactics of terror chiefs, according to Associated Press.

A review of major national security cases by The Associated Press found 54 defendants had federal terrorism-related charges filed or unsealed against them in the past 12 months.

The Justice Department would not confirm the figure or provide its own. But an agency spokesman said 2009 had more defendants charged with terrorism than any year since the 2001 attacks. The year that came closest was 2002, said the spokesman, Dean Boyd.

Bruce Hoffman, a terrorism expert at Georgetown Uni-



DAVID KRIS (AP)

versity, called it "an extraordinary year, across the board," adding that the wide range of cases show al-Qaida "is in it for the long haul and we need to be as well."

The rate of terrorism charges accelerated in September, when authorities dis-

rupted what they said was a burgeoning plot to detonate bombs aboard New York commuter trains. The quick pace of cases continued until the end of the year, with an attempted Christmas bombing aboard a Detroit-bound airliner.

One day alone was particularly heavy: On Sept. 24, federal prosecutors announced charges in five separate terrorism cases in Illinois, New York, North Carolina and Texas.

David Kris, the top terrorism official in the Obama administration's Justice Department, marveled at the volume of terrorism cases when he spoke at a conference of lawyers in November.

"The last several weeks or months have been kind of a crucible experience for us," Kris said.

What truly constitutes a terrorism case can be a matter of legal and political debate.

In counting major terrorism cases, the AP used a rigorous

standard that produced a conservative count. The various charges that made the list include conspiring to provide material support to terrorists, conspiring to murder people abroad and conspiracy to use a weapon of mass destruction. The list also includes some cases that did not involve Islamic terrorists, such as the kidnapping of a U.S. citizen in Panama.

But the 54 defendants do not include, for example, those charged only with lying to agents in a terrorism investigation, or the Army psychiatrist in the Fort Hood military base shooting who faces non-terrorism murder charges brought by military prosecutors instead of civilian charges. Nor do the 54 include the five Washington, D.C.-area youths charged in Pakistan.

If all those cases were also added — and some commentators do count them — the total number of defendants would be 63.

David Burnham of the

Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse, a private group at Syracuse University that analyzes government prosecution data, urged caution in counting terrorism charges.

"You have to be careful because everyone's got a different way of doing it," Burnham said.

Public charges don't reflect other law enforcement activity, such as investigations that don't lead to terrorism charges or sealed indictments that have yet to be revealed.

For example, in 2002 in the immediate aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks, there were a tremendous number of active investigations, and in some cases suspected terrorists were not actually charged with terrorism, but faced lesser accusations such as credit card fraud or immigration violations.

As hectic as 2009 was, counterterrorism officials will only be busier this year as the administration prepares to bring some detainees from the

prison at the U.S. Navy base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to trial in the U.S., predicted Patrick Rowan, who was President George W. Bush's top Justice Department counterterrorism official and now works at the private law firm McGuire Woods.

"It is going to be an extremely busy and challenging year because of these Gitmo cases coming in that are going to place tremendous stress on the prosecutors, the judicial system, and the FBI," said Rowan.

As for what's behind the current increase, Rowan said it's too soon to tell whether it's a temporary rise or will continue.

Anti-terrorism agents and prosecutors are more experienced and better at building criminal cases, Rowan said, but the terrorists have also adapted, using the Internet to recruit or in some cases just motivate so-called lone-wolf attackers who take action on their own.

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THE WEATHER REPORT



INSURANCE MANAGEMENT (BAHAMAS) LIMITED
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5-DAY FORECAST

TODAY	TONIGHT	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly sunny and pleasant High: 80° Low: 67°	Partly cloudy High: 80° Low: 70°	Partial sunshine High: 82° Low: 72°	Mostly sunny High: 85° Low: 70°	Partly sunny, windy and hazy High: 81° Low: 65°	Chance for a couple of showers High: 81° Low: 65°

ALMANAC
Statistics are for Nassau through 1 p.m. yesterday

Temperature	80° F/28° C
High	70° F/21° C
Low	77° F/25° C
Normal high	85° F/29° C
Normal low	70° F/21° C
Last year's high	79° F/26° C
Last year's low	67° F/20° C

UV INDEX TODAY
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
LOW MODERATE HIGH X-HIGH EXT.

TIDES FOR NASSAU

Day	High	HL (H.L.)	Low	HL (H.L.)
Today	8:30 a.m.	2.6	3:10 a.m.	0.0
	8:52 p.m.	2.3	3:54 p.m.	-0.1
Tuesday	10:04 a.m.	2.5	3:57 a.m.	0.0
	10:31 p.m.	2.3	4:27 p.m.	-0.1
Wednesday	11:40 a.m.	2.4	4:38 a.m.	0.1
	11:12 p.m.	2.2	5:02 p.m.	0.0
Thursday	11:19 a.m.	2.2	5:22 a.m.	0.3
	11:57 p.m.	2.2	5:39 p.m.	0.0
Friday	12:05 p.m.	2.1	6:12 a.m.	0.4
	—	—	6:22 p.m.	0.0
Saturday	12:48 a.m.	2.4	7:08 a.m.	0.4
	12:54 p.m.	2.0	7:12 p.m.	0.0
Sunday	1:45 a.m.	2.5	8:11 a.m.	0.4
	1:53 p.m.	1.9	8:09 p.m.	-0.1

SUN AND MOON

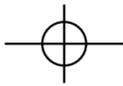
Sunrise	6:37 a.m.	Noonrise	8:49 a.m.
Sunset	5:44 p.m.	Noonset	8:47 p.m.
First	Jan. 23	Full	Jan. 30
Last	Feb. 5	New	Feb. 13

INSURANCE MANAGEMENT TRACKING MAP

MARINE FORECAST

ISLAND	Today	WINDS	WAVES	VISIBILITY	WATER TEMPS.
ABACO	Today: W at 13-25 Knots	4-7 Feet	10 Miles	82° F	
ANDROS	Today: NW at 3-6 Knots	3-6 Feet	10 Miles	74° F	
CAT ISLAND	Today: NE at 4-8 Knots	1-2 Feet	10 Miles	77° F	
CROOKED ISLANDS	Today: NW at 3-6 Knots	2-4 Feet	7 Miles	77° F	
ELEUTHERA	Today: ENE at 3-16 Knots	1-3 Feet	7 Miles	77° F	
FREEPORT	Today: WNW at 4-8 Knots	2-4 Feet	7 Miles	68° F	
GREAT EXUMA	Today: WNW at 3-6 Knots	1-3 Feet	10 Miles	64° F	
GREAT INAGUA	Today: WNW at 3-6 Knots	1-3 Feet	10 Miles	78° F	
LONG ISLAND	Today: NW at 3-6 Knots	1-2 Feet	10 Miles	63° F	
MAYAGUANA	Today: ENE at 7-14 Knots	1-2 Feet	10 Miles	78° F	
NASSAU	Today: WNW at 3-6 Knots	1-3 Feet	10 Miles	68° F	
SAN SALVADOR	Today: NE at 3-6 Knots	0-1 Feet	10 Miles	75° F	
RAGGED ISLAND	Today: WNW at 3-6 Knots	1-2 Feet	7 Miles	68° F	

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INSIGHT

The stories behind the news

Questions raised by the Crown land investigation

By PAUL G TURNQUEST
Tribune Staff Reporter
pturnquest@tribunemedia.net



THE SELECT COMMITTEE on Crown Land includes Fred Mitchell, Philip 'Brave' Davis, Branville McCartney, Kenyatta Gibson and Charles Maynard. The committee was formed by the House of Assembly and is expected to make public its findings on Wednesday.

FOR several months now, *The Tribune* has led an investigation into the Department of Lands and Surveys looking particularly into the disposition of Crown land over the years. As a result of this investigation a Select Committee was formed by the House of Assembly which on Monday of last week completed its public hearings. At the next sitting of Parliament on Wednesday, January 20, the Committee is expected to make public its findings and put forward its recommendations.

Among some of the last persons to testify were the newly appointed Permanent Secretary David Davis, the newly appointed Director Alexander Flowers, and the current under-secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister Audley Greaves. When questioned at length on matters pertaining to the Department, one can forgive Mr Flowers and Mr Davis for not being acutely aware of every matter or minute detail as they both have been at the job for less than a year. However, Mr Greaves it appears falls into another category. Having had carriage of this ministry in some form or another since the first PLP administration, one would have expected pearls of wisdom during his testimony — or at the very least, clarity on government policy and what measures could be put in place to mitigate any possible abuse.

Instead the impression given was that the Committee was faced with apparent arrogance. In fact, when *The Tribune* tried to speak with Mr Greaves following his testimony on Monday evening of last week, his response was: "You are Mr Turnquest? I do not want to speak to you. On or off the record, I will not speak to you. You? Not you!" Any questions, Mr Greaves said, that I might have should for now on be directed to the Director of Investments at the Prime Minister's Office. Turning to say his good-

byes to Mr Flowers, who was present for this exchange, Mr Greaves then got into his government issued car (red license plate) and sped off. While this behavior might appear rude to most, it is one that is too often endured by members of the media. We in the Fourth Estate have to endure this type of treatment by these so-called 'little gods' who seem to believe that they are not only above us as professionals, but above the public that we, the press, represent. They also seem to be oblivious of the public's right to know how its business is being administered.

tioned about a Ministry that he has been in charge of for all these years. But instead of embarrassment, there seemed to be an air of indifference. When the PLP's MP for Cat Island and San Salvador Philip Davis pressed Mr Greaves about his wife's application for Crown land in Abaco, the undersecretary admitted that in hindsight maybe the application should not have been made considering his placement in the Ministry. But he stopped short of offering to return the land. In fact he outright accused the PLP MP for Cat Island for being wrong in his assessment that his wife's application was dealt with more favourably than others. However, after being pressed by the FNM MP for Kennedy Kenyatta Gibson on the point, Mr Greaves was forced to withdraw his remarks in the most embarrassing of fashions. And yet this is the same undersecretary who told this reporter and by extension this newspaper, and thus by extension you, the Bahamian people, that he does not care to speak to us. People in his position, it was implied, should not be expected to speak to those who, it seems, they misguidedly view, as of a lower rank than themselves. But when last I checked Mr Greaves was still a pub-

lic official and paid by you and me — the Bahamian people. One would have thought that there would have been an ounce of embarrassment, but it appears that just with transparency and accountability, embarrassment has also abandoned the Department of Lands and Surveys. But in all of this we have to ask ourselves the question, what can be done? What can we, the Bahamian people, do with people like this who seem to feel they are above us — their employers! Should there not be a recourse for us to take them to task, to even ask them simple questions? Questions like, why is it that the agricultural industry in this country has been allowed to fall to its knees and the senior officials remain in place for 10 to 20 years earning good salaries? What ever happened to cause and effect? What happened to performance? Performance, it appears, like customer service has taken a hiatus. But to you the general public I say, do not burden yourselves with concern for these persons. Every year they will receive their mandatory pay increases, and yes every year they will receive their hefty Christmas bonuses. And yes, in some instances some of these senior officials will drive home tonight in their government cars and even pull up to the pumps and get their cars filled on the public purse. In many of these instances these senior officials often make more money than a Cabinet Minister and yet it appears are not called to answer to the public like a Minister is expected. So where is the accountability? Where is the justice? Ordinarily if an employee does not perform up to the level that their employer requires they are asked to see the door. But alas, it appears we do not have that authority.

Answer

To Mr Greaves, I would remind him that he, like all government officials/employees are exactly that — employees. He is paid like any other secretary, janitor, or Minister by the Bahamian people, and when the Bahamian people seek an answer from him, it should be forthcoming. But as in this case, and with countless others, it appears that Mr Greaves thinks he is above being questioned — that his "power" gets him a free pass. I guess it must have been a very rude awakening for him to be questioned by the Committee — ques-

Decision

And through *The Tribune's* investigations it appears that Mr Greaves has had the full confidence of both Prime Ministers Perry Christie and Hubert Ingraham. This individual, it appears has the best job security in this country, although it is still to be seen whether he has always done his job. How can it be that one person after the next appears before the Committee to complain of writing to him and not getting even a response for five or eight years? What was he doing that was so important? It could not be keeping an account of the people's land, because it appears to be painfully obvious that if that were his job he has failed. How-

ever, this is not for me to say, it is a decision left to the Committee. But it appears that the point to be learned throughout this entire fiasco seems to be that it is the Bahamian people who must be kept in their place, because what right do we really have to question persons like Mr Greaves? What right do we have to ask him how it is that things have got so bad under his watch? So let us forget about Mr Greaves, because he will remain in his post until he decides that he is ready to retire in comfort and collect his full pension. But government officials, like elected politicians are public servants — and that is all they are. They are not here to pick and choose when and who they will speak to. They must learn what their place is in the grander scheme of things and if necessary be reminded of it when they are tempted to take on airs of superiority. I only hope that we as Bahamians wake up and see what is happening around us. We truly are a blessed nation and deserve better than what we are getting. We deserve more. We deserve better.

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