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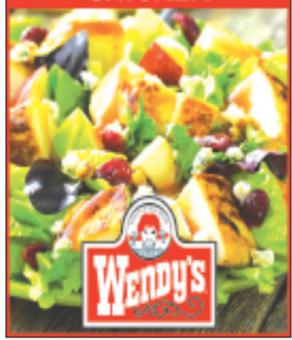
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Volume: 106 No.291

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2010

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INSIDE



Real Estate
SECTION INSIDE

SPORTS

SPORT: new bigger and brighter section

BAHAMIAN SIMON LOWE WINS CONCHMAN TRIATHLON



Driver killed in 'stolen' car

BUSINESSWOMAN IS SHOT BY TWO GUNMEN

By DENISE MAYCOCK
 Tribune Freeport Reporter
 dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREEPORT: A Grand Bahama businesswoman was shot after she was confronted by two gunmen in the driveway of her residence in the Yeomans Wood area.

Although police have not yet released the victim's name, *The Tribune* has learned that Candy Sawyer-Laing was taken to hospital with gunshot injuries to the arm and upper body.

According to reports, Ms Laing is in a stable condition at Rand Memorial Hospital.

Assistant Superintendent Hector Delva said the shooting occurred at about 8.30pm on Friday.

He said police received informa-

SEE page eight

Three die in road tragedies

By AVA TURNQUEST
 Tribune Staff Reporter
 aturnquest@tribunemedia.net

POLICE are investigating an incident in which a car that was reported stolen crashed into an electricity pole killing its driver and injuring a passenger yesterday.

It was one of three traffic fatalities on Bahamian roads over the weekend.

The high-powered silver BMW, license plate 194228, was occupied by two men when it sped past patrol officers travelling east on Bernard Road, in the area of Monastery Park.

It had been reported stolen less than 30 minutes earlier, at

around 3.15am from East and Hay streets.

After turning around to follow the car, police discovered the vehicle overturned on the northern side of the road. It had crashed into a pole.

The driver was found trapped inside the car and was pronounced dead by emergency medical services.

The passenger was taken to hospital by ambulance where he was treated, discharged and subsequently arrested.

Up to press time, police investigators said it was too soon to determine whether or not charges will follow.

SEE page eight

MAN DIES 'IN SHOOTING ACCIDENT'

POLICE have launched an investigation into the shooting death of an Abaco resident in the Matthew Point Pond area yesterday.

Details of the shooting were sketchy up to press time, however sources believe injuries sustained by the man were accidental.

It was reported the man was on a boat with friends on a pigeon shooting trip when an accident caused him to receive fatal gunshot injuries.

NATIONAL YOUTH CHOIR PERFORMS WITH VISITING ORCHESTRA



ON-SONG: The Bahamas National Youth Choir (above) and the Nazareth College Symphony Orchestra, directed by Nancy Strelau, held a concert over the weekend at the Christ Church Cathedral. Pictured right is Cleophas Adderley directing the orchestra and the choir.

• SEE PAGE 13



Felipe Major/Tribune staff

PLP HITS OUT AT MINISTER'S 'IRRESPONSIBLE' TRIP TO CHINA

By ALISON LOWE
 Tribune Staff Reporter
 alowe@tribunemedia.net

THE PLP has condemned the Minister of National Security as "irresponsible" for "trotting off on a joyride to China" as law and order in the country "collapses".

PLP Chairman Bradley Roberts called for the immedi-

SEE page eight

VOTER REGISTRATION IS UNDERWAY AMID PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSIONER CONTROVERSY

By RUPERT MISSICK Jr
 Chief Reporter
 rmissick@tribunemedia.net

WITHOUT fully addressing the "failures, omissions and errors" of the Parliamentary Commissioner and his staff during the 2007 General Election and 2010 Elizabeth by-election, which "threaten the fairness of the electoral process and ultimately our democracy", early voters registration for the 2012 ballot began last week.

Concerns over these "failures, omissions and errors" were raised twice on two separate occasions in two separate rulings by two Senior Justices of the Supreme Court, but one is hard pressed to discover what exactly has been done to ensure the integrity of the democratic process in the Bahamas.

Last week there was a heated debate between

the FNM and PLP over whether Parliamentary Commissioner Errol Bethel should remain in his position. The passion in which this point was debated would make one think it mattered if Mr Bethel kept his job or not.

His employment or dismissal would not address the concerns of the court.

Since the last General Election, there has been no changes to the laws, or any reforms made, to the procedures surrounding the preparation of the voter's registry in the Bahamas, therefore, it seems that the political directorate missed the point.

It is not really Mr Bethel who risks being martyred under the guillotine of political demagoguery, but the democratic process itself.

• READ RUPERT MISSICK JR'S SPECIAL REPORT ON PAGES 6 & 7

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LOCAL NEWS

Christie at odds with PM over six planned Baha Mar hotels

PLP leader Perry Christie is at odds with Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham over his belief that the six hotels which are to be built as part of the Baha Mar Resort should be built or opened in phases.

Mr Christie said it would only increase the cost of the project to break down the construction into phases, and would make little sense for the resort developers not to open all of the hotels at the same time if they were all constructed simultaneously.

Information reaching *The Tribune* is that Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham may have asked the Chinese if the hotels could be built in phases rather than all at once or that if this could not be accommodated, that they would open in a phased manner.

But Mr Christie said that considering the fact that so much money was being borrowed to fund the hotels' construction it would "not make sense to have hotels sitting there that they couldn't sell", referring to the ability to sell rooms within the hotels once they are completed.

And he added that the size of the Baha Mar development

was one of the reasons for the re-development of the Lynden Pindling International Airport.

Studies

"Don't forget, Baha Mar engaged a company to do studies which concluded that both the Baha Mar development and Atlantis can co-exist/be developed at the same time," said Mr Christie.

Meanwhile, Mr Christie also told *The Tribune* that he understands that coming out

of the Prime Minister's meetings with Baha Mar financiers, China Export Import Bank and the China State Construction Company, its general contractor, an arrangement may have been reached whereby the Bahamian labour component on the construction project would be increased by ten per cent, with 40 per cent Bahamian and 60 per cent Chinese labour.

Some sources had suggested Mr Ingraham had sought

SEE page eight

ANNOUNCEMENT



Scotia Private Client Group

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Sean Newbold

Sean Newbold has been employed with Scotiabank Bahamas since 2008 when he joined the Scotia Private Client Group in Nassau as a Private Banking Relationship Manager.

As a part of his professional development within Scotiabank, Sean Newbold has recently been assigned to the Scotia Private Client Centre in Panama as Relationship Manager, Private Banking.

With his strong relationship building and credit writing skills, Sean will be responsible for ensuring profitable portfolio growth and revenue generation in Panama in both Private Banking and the Private Client Group.

He holds an AA Business Degree from the College of the Bahamas and is fluent in English, Spanish and Portuguese.

We wish to congratulate Sean and wish him all the best as he starts this new chapter in his career with Scotiabank.



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MAN'S BODY FOUND IN TRUCK



POLICE have ruled out foul play in the death of a man whose body was discovered early yesterday morning. Up to press time, police had not yet released the man's identification however sources say the body was discovered in this Ford truck off Cowpen Road. Police have classified the incident as a sudden death.

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LOCAL NEWS

Daily gunfire, intimidation claims emerge after shooting of shopkeeper

WOMAN IN HER SIXTIES ATTACKED AND RAPED IN HER HOME

By ALISON LOWE
Tribune Staff Reporter
alowe@tribunemedia.net

POLICE are seeking to reassure women in Eleuthera after a woman in her sixties was attacked and raped in her home shortly after midnight on Saturday.

Assistant Commissioner of Police Hulan Hanna has called on the public to assist with any information they may have that could assist them in solving this "despicable" crime.

ACP Hanna said police are following "significant leads" into the case, but charges are still some way off.

"We want to reassure the public that we believe the island and that community is still generally safe, and while there is every reason for concern, going forward we want to discourage people from being fearful. We don't think women in general are under attack."

ACP Hanna added: "It is very, very sad that this despicable act has been perpetrated against this lady."

BAHAMAS ABOVE REGIONAL AVERAGE IN THE UN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX

THE Bahamas has ranked at the top of all countries in the "high human development" category of the United Nations' Human Development Index.

Placed 43 out of 169 countries ranked in the Human Development Report, The Bahamas came out above the regional average for Latin America and the Caribbean. The Bahamas has slowly moved up the ranks, having ranked 50th five years ago.

The Human Development Index (HDI) published annually since 1990, was introduced as an alternative to conventional measures of national development such as levels of income and the rate of economic growth.

"The HDI represents a push for a broader definition of well-being and provides a composite measure of three basic dimensions of human development: health, education and income," according to the UN.

Bahamas's HDI is 0.784. The HDI of Latin America and the Caribbean as a region increased from 0.578 in 1980 to 0.706 today, placing Bahamas above the regional average.

By AVA TURNQUEST
Tribune Staff Reporter
aturnquest@tribunemedia.net

CLAIMS of daily gunfire and intimidation of residents on the streets of one of the oldest eastern communities in Nassau have emerged following the shooting of a 52-year-old Fox Hill shopkeeper.

Derek Davis, owner of the Village Food Store on Fox Hill Road, was one of three men who received gunshot injuries in this weekend's spate of violent crime.

His shooting, according to MP for the area Fred Mitchell, has further increased the number of calls from the community for a town meeting with police.

Mr Mitchell said: "The request was made more than a month ago to the police for a meeting in the hope of starting special initiatives in our Fox Hill community, given the complaints which I got from residents about the amount of daily gunfire and the threats and intimidation they suffer as



CRIME CONCERNS:
Fred Mitchell

they walk along the streets."

Mr Davis is listed to be in serious but stable condition at hospital after three masked thugs entered his store around 8.30pm on Saturday and demanded cash.

While robbing the store of an undetermined amount of money, one of the men shot Mr Davis in his chest with a handgun.

Mr Mitchell added: "This applies not only to Fox Hill but also to that area known as Congo Town along Step Street, where there continues to be criminal violence. I urge all residents to continue to exercise the greatest diligence in their own protection."

Police are questioning a 20-year-old resident of Pine Barren Road, as they continue their investigations into the shooting.

Assistant Commissioner of Police Hulan Hanna said the concerns of residents in the Fox Hill area are not unknown to police, and he affirmed the organisation's commitment to policing the entire country.

Mr Hanna said: "We take these concerns very seriously, and we will speak to the principles of the community, because whenever a community is threatened, we are all threatened as a country."

"We are aware that there is daily gunfire because we have arrested persons for such activity and placed them before the courts. That isn't

to say the area is not without challenges, and I think that is what Mr Mitchell is speaking to, the more deep rooted challenges of the area, and it is our intention and our objective to work with him and all stakeholders.

"There have been significant successes in the Fox Hill community, however the crusade continues ... it never ends."

Meanwhile, in another incident, a man was gunned down on Friday evening when he tried to escape a gang on Collins Avenue.

The victim was shot in his back with a handgun as he attempted to flee the gang, all of whom wore dark clothing.

In another shooting, which took place around 3.20am on Saturday at Kemp Road and Sutton Street, a man was shot

in his knee as he was walking to his car in the parking lot of B & B Liquor Store.

On Saturday evening, around 10.45pm, patrol officers spotted two men near an abandoned building on Wilson Street.

The men fled the area but police recovered a shotgun with ammunition after conducting a search.

Early yesterday morning, officers from the Central Detective Unit and the Mobile Division recovered three handguns - with ammunition - after they searched the interior and exterior of the Four Quarters Nightclub on Nassau Street.

Less than an hour later, while still in the area, police arrested a 38-year-old West Street resident.

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MEGA MIND 3D	NEW	1:15	3:40	N/A	6:05	8:20	10:30
DUE DATE	NEW	1:10	3:30	N/A	6:10	8:25	10:40
SAW-3D	C	1:10	3:40	N/A	6:15	8:25	10:45
HEREAFTER	T	1:30	4:00	N/A	7:00	N/A	10:00
MY SOUL TO TAKE	C	1:10	3:30	N/A	6:05	8:20	10:35
PARANORMAL ACTIVITY 2	C	1:15	3:40	N/A	6:15	8:30	10:50
LIFE AS WE KNOW IT	T	1:00	3:25	N/A	6:00	8:20	10:50
N-SECURE	C	1:05	3:25	N/A	6:00	8:25	10:45
RED	C	1:00	3:25	N/A	6:05	8:20	10:50
ALPHA & OMEGA	A	1:00	3:40	N/A	6:10	8:20	10:40

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DUE DATE	NEW	1:15	3:40	N/A	6:10	8:30	10:45
PARANORMAL ACTIVITY 2	C	1:10	3:35	N/A	6:15	8:30	10:50
RED	C	1:05	3:35	N/A	6:05	8:20	10:45
THE TOWN	C	1:00	3:30	N/A	6:00	8:25	10:55

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The end does not justify dishonest means

MR RONALD Lightbourn, a long time Tribune reader, has taken us to task for not having mentioned the US mid-term elections for at least two days after they were over. (See his letter to the editor on this page today).

As far as we are concerned there was no need to mention the elections in The Tribune because USA Today, which is included in The Tribune, was filled with election results that recorded the "historical political shift." It would have been pointless to have repeated the same news in The Tribune, where space was needed for local news.

However, on November 4, we did mention the elections in this column, condemning all sides — Republicans, Democrats and fringe movements — for their lying tactics. We were also appalled at the low calibre of some of those aspiring to lead the American people.

It was obvious who won, it was obvious that there will be a political shift in Washington that will affect much in the future, but it is also obvious that America hit a new low in its campaigning — and it was on that aspect of the election that we chose to comment.

We still maintain that no one had any reason to be proud of the deliberately false propaganda.

Contrary to what Mr Lightbourn has said in his letter we did not say that CNN inferred that "American voters were bamboozled." They were our words, not CNN's. What in fact we did say was that if it were not for "CNN 'Keeping them honest' by researching the truth and damning the lie, American voters would really have been bamboozled in this election."

In fact we commend CNN for doing such a good job in this department.

There were many aspects of this election that merited comment, but we chose the one that daily irritated us the most as the campaign dragged on. We maintain that no matter how noble the end, no one is entitled to use lying, deceitful means to achieve it. Not only were extraordinary dirty tricks used in this election, but those using them thought it smart.

It is true, as Mr Lightbourn says, that our "currencies sink or swim together, Americans are our main source of tourist business and product supply, and the US is, at least for now, a fellow Democracy!" However, that still does not justify dirty politics, either by the Bahamas or the US — we are two democracies that should be above such low behaviour. Again, in our opinion, no end, no matter how noble, jus-

tifies what we witnessed during these mid-term elections in the US.

And now that electioneering is at an end carelessness with the truth continues.

For example, a couple of nights ago CNN's Anderson Cooper was interviewing Michele Bachmann (R-Minnesota).

After congratulating the Congresswoman on her victory, Mr Cooper wanted to know if to cut the deficit she would go along with fellow Republican Paul Ryan's recommendation for sharp cuts in Medicare and Social Security. So anxious to get on the airwaves her own bit of propaganda, she completely ignored Cooper's question and announced that US President Barack Obama's trip to India on which she said he was taking 2,000 people, would cost US tax payers \$200 million a day. Asked by an incredulous Cooper where she got this figure she said she read it. Obviously, anyone with any commonsense would have known that such an extraordinary sum had to be checked and cross checked before being stated as a fact for public consumption — especially by a member of the US Congress.

The Indian press attributed the report to an unknown provincial official who would have had no access to such information because, for security reasons, it is never released by the US government. The White House denied the claim, calling the figures "wildly inflated," and on checking a similar Asian trip made by Bill Clinton, considered the most expensive trip ever made by a president, it was discovered that that trip in its entirety — not per day — cost a total of \$50 million. President Obama's trip is shorter and does not take in as many stops as did Mr Clinton's, so there is no way that Mr Obama would be spending \$200 million a day. But so says Michele Bachmann, a lofty US congresswoman, who would be expected to be more responsible with the truth.

As the interview progressed she told Anderson Cooper that if tax cuts were not extended in her Minnesota district "we will see \$1.6 billion — \$1.2 billion taken out of the pockets of my constituents and taken out of my local community, where it will be spent. Instead, 1.2 additional dollars will be sent to Washington, DC, sucked into that hole."

If she can be so wrong on the \$200 million per day Indian-trip, why should anyone accept her figures as to what it will cost her constituents if tax cuts are not extended? As a matter of fact why should anyone believe anything she says in the future?

In my opinion it is an insult to the voter's intelligence for anyone is such a lofty position to be so careless with the truth.

At what cost will the Baha Mar jobs be created?

EDITOR, The Tribune.

I MUST support what the letter writer Abraham Moss wrote concerning the value of the concessions that we will give Baha Mar.

What surprises me is that we have not heard anything from the Minister of Tourism — Senator Hon. Vanderpool Wallace on Baha Mar.

As Cabinet operates, if a Minister disagrees with the opinion of their fellow Ministers, then are they not required to resign?

LETTERS
letters@tribunemedia.net

Minister Wallace's silence indicates, that the policy of the Prime Minister could well be on the advice of his Minister.

For sure this is not simply jobs, now or in the future, but we have to know at what cost these jobs will be created.

Remember back when Kerzner was starting, I think

when he built phase 2 under the FNM?

The PLP made all kinds of noise about the cost in concessions but today they are totally silent, except they have from what it seems thrown everything behind Baha Mar whatever the costs are.

We had better know everything before signing this baby Mr. Prime Minister.

DEREK WILLIAMS,
Nassau,
November 2, 2010.

No mention of the historic swing elections in the US

EDITOR, The Tribune.

I WAS flabbergasted that for two days following Tuesday's historic swing elections in the United States the Tribune made *no mention of them at all!* Good heavens — our currencies sink or swim together, Americans are our main source of tourist business and product supply, and the US is, at least for now, a fellow Democracy! I doubt that

any other newspaper in the world failed to mention America's historic political shift!

Your editorial today, November 4th, was also extraordinary.

Imagine CNN inferring American voters were bamboozled!

RON LIGHTBOURN
Nassau,
November 4, 2010

Time for change at Straw Market

EDITOR, The Tribune.

PLEASE allow me some space in your newspaper. It's a sad situation, that the straw vendors found themselves in.

The reality is that the vendors didn't take heed about the law.

They were warned over and over again. The reality is that the bags were fake designer's collection, supposedly very expensive items that they couldn't afford, and anything that is purchased on the "black market" means that is illegal goods — plain and simple.

The Straw Market has become a modern day U.S.A. Flea Market where anything could be purchased — drugs, numbers, breakfast,

jewellery, designer bags, illegal immigrants and the list goes on.

It is no more rules and standards that govern the Market.

It is time that the Straw Vendors wear proper uniforms like the Hair Braiders Association.

The vendors should wear

Jean-T-Shirt or Androsia printed blouses with jeans. It is time for a new dynamic young body to lead the Straw Market Association to the next millennium.

MS. SHEENA THOMPSON,
Nassau,
October 4, 2010.

New station should be played in every classroom

EDITOR, The Tribune.

Thanks for the space today. Just to opine on the new station 98.1. The best thing that has been done for a long time and way overdue. May I suggest that it should be mandatory to be played in every classroom, while the students are in class, perhaps they may gain more control over their exuberance for the hyperbole that is heard everywhere we turn.

J. CASH
Nassau,
November 5, 2010.



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Northern New Providence
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at the Ministry of Health Cafeteria, Meeting Street

Southern New Providence
7 p.m., Wednesday, November 10, 2010
at CV Bethel School

Eastern New Providence
7 p.m., Wednesday, November 17, 2010
at Dame Doris Johnson School

Registration forms will be available and refreshments will be served.

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The Public is hereby advised that I, **SOPHIA KEISHA AUGUSTIN** of Shirley Street, Nassau, Bahamas, intend to change my name to **SOPHIA KEISHA TI COMPERE**. If there are any objections to this change of name by Deed Poll, you may write such objections to the Chief Passport Officer, P.O.Box N-742, Nassau, Bahamas no later than thirty (30) days after the date of publication of this notice.



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Wife, Janice Mackey, Children, Family, Employees & Friends

LOCAL NEWS



MARCH: Yamacraw Beach Estates residents march in protest on Saturday afternoon. Photo/Amy Swaby

Residents call for govt to rebuild basketball court

YAMACRAW Beach Estates residents are calling on the government to restore their community park by rebuilding the neighbourhood's basketball court.

Residents claim Freedom Farm baseball league executives have "maliciously destroyed" their tennis courts prior to the most recent demolition of the basketball court.

In a signed petition, dated Thursday, November 4, 2010, to Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham, Minister of Sports Charles Maynard, Yamacraw MP Melanie Griffin and Freedom Farm president and founder Greg Burrows Sr, the residents said they are "tired of the injustice within our community."

"Freedom Farm has been granted a portion of land for their league and a portion has been designated for the community's residents," it stated.

On Saturday afternoon, demonstrators with placards took to the streets in protest, with passing motorists blowing their horns in support.

A motorist who stopped told *The Tribune*: "They need to do something. You can't just tear down the people them park and force baseball down their throat. They should put back a new court with bleachers and Gatorade."

A demonstrator added: "Tell Greg Burrows to put the basketball court back. All my children crying for that court. All of our children can't play baseball."

When contacted yesterday, Mr Burrows said he wasn't aware of the weekend protest.

However, Mr Burrows did say there was an "abandoned" basketball court in the area that wasn't being used.

"They had one (basketball) court by Freedom Farm, an abandoned thing, but I don't know, they never used to use it or nothing like that," he said.

The basketball court has been removed and is now being resurfaced for another baseball field.

The community park has three baseball fields, and residents believe it is more than enough room for the baseball league to operate. A number of people have signed the petition in hopes of getting their basketball court back with proper 24-hour lighting.

In the petition, the residents also stated that Mr Burrows has done a great deal of good in the Bahamas "but our youths should not be forced into baseball."

"They should have the option to participate in the desired sport of their choice. This is the first of our complaints and we demand that our basketball court be restored and this time with proper 24-hour lighting. We recommend that the government diligently find a piece of land to aid Mr Burrows and the Freedom Farm organisation works. We also recommend that swings be installed for the kids of our community. There should be protection from deprivation of property," it said.

"The constitutional rights of the Yamacraw Beach Estates residents have been violated and we demand justice within our community."

AWARAK HOMES APPEALS TO PUBLIC OVER TITLES

IN LIGHT of the recent supreme court ruling which awarded Arawak Homes Limited nearly \$500,000 in damages against a trespasser, the land development firm has renewed its public appeal for people involved in similar land dispute to regularise their title.

On Friday, Senior Justice Anita Allen ruled Dennis Dean pay \$49,998.80 for his trespass of 21 lots owned by Arawak Homes, and also ordered him liable for the legal costs incurred by the firm.

In her ruling, the Senior Justice stated there was

"irrefutable evidence" supporting Arawak Home's title to the disputed land.

The ruling follows numerous attempts by Mr Dean to contest the ownership of property within the Sir Lynden Pindling Estates subdivision.

In October, Supreme Court judgments by Chief Justice Michael Barnett deemed Arawak Homes the rightful owner of a 156-acre tract of land in Sir Lynden Pindling Estates and others who claim ownership of the land were sold the property without good title.

At that time, president of Arawak Homes Franon Wilson discouraged persons from seeking recourse against Arawak Homes and instead urged those affected to take issue with the attorneys who failed to ensure good title to the land they bought.

Mr Wilson encouraged those who purchased land without good title to seek full compensation from their attorneys as quickly as possible and to reg-

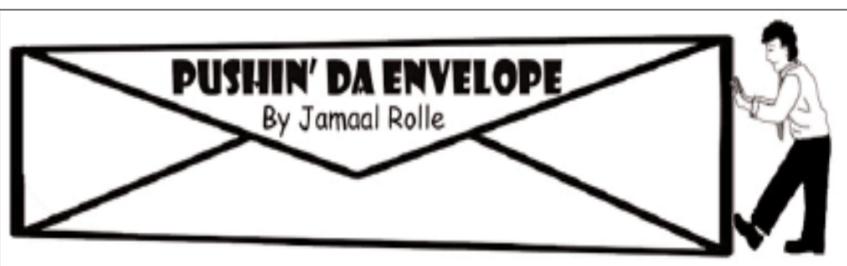
ularise their title to the land by working with Arawak Homes.

In the October ruling, the Chief Justice also ruled Mr Dean had abused the Supreme Court process as previous rulings had already declared Arawak Homes rightful owner of the property.

Yesterday, the company urged people who may be involved in similar trespass to make contact with them.

A spokesman said: "Arawak Homes renews its appeal to all those persons who are trespassing on the company's land to visit the company's office with a view to arriving at an agreement by which the position of the trespasser can be made legitimate."

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PM RETURNS FROM CHINA



ROYAL SOCIETY OF ST GEORGE MEMBERS SELLING POPPIES

MEMBERS of the Royal Society of St George are currently selling poppies at various outlets in Nassau. The proceeds collected will benefit the few remaining Bahamian veterans, all of whom are members of the Nassau Branch of the British Legion.

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Debate surrounding Parliamentary

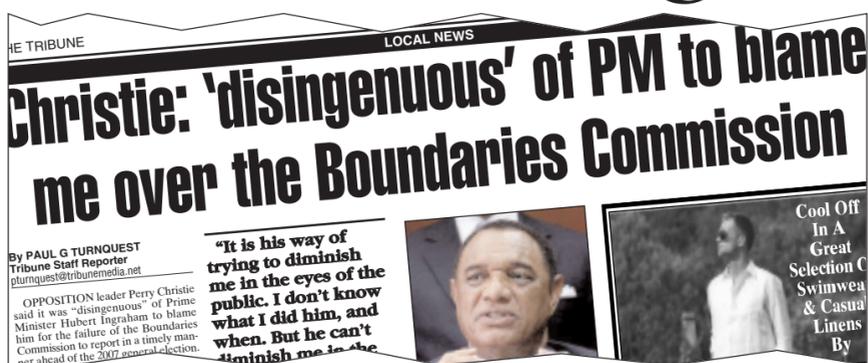
SPECIAL REPORT by RUPERT MISSICK Jr
 Chief Reporter
 rmissick@tribunemedia.net

IN THE past three years, the country has faced three high profile and contentious election court challenges in the Marco City, Pinewood and Elizabeth constituencies.

It is easy to forgive Parliamentary Commissioner Errol Bethel for the failings of his office stemming from Marco City and Pinewood, considering his team had to contend with complicated boundary changes and late reporting from the Boundaries Commission.

When it came to the Elizabeth by-election, however, Mr Bethel's performance falls short of stellar and some of his actions were even described by the Supreme Court as unlawful.

In the by-election, Mr Bethel showed questionable compe-



CLASH: PLP leader Perry Christie clashed with the Prime Minister over the Boundaries Commission last week.

teny in understanding the extent of his powers as Parliamentary Commissioner and there was certainly a lack of good judgment; but it is still hard to justify the image of Mr Bethel as a corrupt and evil civil servant sitting at the helm of the Parliamentary Registration

Department. Nevertheless, no one can blame persons for questioning the wisdom of keeping Mr Bethel, who is currently past the age of retirement, the source of so much controversy and possibly past his prime, in a position so vital to the integrity of our

democracy. The Boundaries Commission was formed in September, 2006. The chairman was then Speaker of the House, Oswald Ingraham. Representing the Government was former Minister of Works Bradley Roberts and PLP MP Philip "Brave" Davis.

The Supreme Court representative was Justice Stephen Isaacs, and representing the Opposition was then Montagu MP Brent Symonette.

When the Commission met, Mr Symonette said his side warned Perry Christie that the report's delay would have caused "widespread confusion."

Report

Elections were slated for May 2, 2007, and the report was tabled in the House of Assembly only a month and a half before, on March 20.

Former Prime Minister and current leader of the PLP Perry Christie, in an interview with *The Tribune*, admitted that from a technical point of view, the more time the political directorate can give the Parliamentary Commissioner, the better.

"You would want to make sure that he can ensure that people who live in a constituency are eligible to vote there. So the question of being pressed for time was a problem," he said.

The Commission's report went un-tabled for so long because Mr Christie felt his hands were tied by the slow registration of eligible voters. When the report was eventually tabled, in New Providence just over 63,000 voters had registered out of a projected 120,000, and only 15,000 voters had registered in Grand Bahama with another 15,000 voters registered in the Family Islands.

"Bahamians were not registering. We were going out and encouraging them but they were not registering. We started making communications but it was very slow. So the Boundaries Commission was impacted seri-

ously by that," Mr Christie said.

Back in 2007, Mr Christie had been roundly criticised for the delay in the report.

Then Opposition leader Hubert Ingraham said the report should have been completed in November of the previous year – five years after the last Boundaries Commission report was presented to Parliament – and that he had never in his political career seen constituencies determined at such a late date before the election.

However, Mr Christie felt the provisions of the Constitution with respect to the requirement that the report be submitted within five years of the last report are directory, not mandatory – meaning that there is no consequence or prescribed penalty if the time is exceeded.

"No one can seriously argue that just because the deadline has past you cannot have general elections any more," he said.

It was the FNM's belief that the creation of new constituencies, and the way the boundaries had been cut, would require significantly more ground work to be done by the Parliamentary Registration Department.

Mr Symonette told *The Tribune* that the former prime minister underestimated the significant difference the creation and elimination of several constituencies in New Providence would make to the electoral map.

Ultimately, this was one of the reasons why Mr Symonette refused to sign the Commission's report.

The Boundaries Commission recommended the elimination of the St Margaret's, Delaporte and the Adelaide constituencies.

Delaporte and Adelaide constituencies had been reconstituted to the new constituencies of Clifton, Killarney and assimilated into part of the Golden Isles constituency.

Then leader of the opposition Hubert Ingraham predicted that this situation would increase the work load of the parliamentary registrar's office in the very limited time before the election.

In creating the new constituency of St Anne's, which is currently Mr Symonette's seat, a massive movement of voters was created. While a similar realignment occurred in Grand Bahama, constituency lines were only moved over by one polling division. Not so in New Providence.

"You will notice that I and my colleague, the MP for Montagu, Loretta Butler-Turner won by the largest margins in New Providence. In my case that was a result of them taking certain polling divisions out of Yamacraw and putting them

in St Anne's which allowed (Yamacraw MP) Melanie Griffin to hold her seat but it created a massive realignment in New Providence," Mr Symonette said.

Mr Christie also pointed out that during the last General Election, the constituency of Elizabeth had a problematic composition.

"That was a confusing register because of the movement of people into rental areas.

"People likewise had moved out of areas and never registered. So we really had to wait them out. Especially in a recession there is a tremendous shift in people, to apartments from other residential areas, who don't re-register when they move out. They don't bother to go in and indicate that they have moved and that is what we found in Elizabeth," the PLP leader said.

Mr Symonette said that the harsh criticism of Mr Bethel by the PLP is "totally wrong" and while the comments from the judiciary after the election court challenges in Pinewood were critical of the parliamentary commissioner, he does not see how the department could do any better with the time limits that existed and the drastic change in boundaries.

Court

However, the buck does stop with the commissioner as the court indicated.

"This case exposed the most egregious failures in the parliamentary registration system. The Parliamentary Commissioner failed, for whatever reason, to ensure the integrity of the registration process in Pinewood.

"It was indeed startling to the Court that Counsel for the petitioner and the first respondent, were forced to concede that 85 of 183 votes challenged were unlawful votes.

"Perhaps the time is appropriate for the Parliamentary Commissioner to comprehensively examine the practices and procedures of the Parliamentary Registration Department with a view to ensuring that what we saw in Pinewood does not reoccur because it threatens to undermine the fundamental basis of our parliamentary democracy," the ruling said.

In the meantime, the governing FNM, Mr Symonette said, is doing its best to avoid a similar commotion under their watch.

He pointed out that Prime Minister Ingraham has announced the start of a new registry well in advance of the 2012 general election and has indicated his intention to cut boundaries along familiar or at least noticeable lines.

While Mr Symonette believes that the delay of the commission's report was a product of Mr Christie's ineptitude, FNM campaigner Ivone Ingraham believes the former prime minister had more Machiavellian intentions.

"He (Mr Christie) wanted to create low voter turnout," Mr Ingraham alleged.

Mr Ingraham, one of the governing party's perennial supporters, was given the responsibility by the FNM in defending Mr Woodside's win to go door-to-door in Pinewood to check the legitimacy of the challenged voters in that constituency.

He covered areas of Pinewood, parts of Seabreeze and Kennedy and discovered the late submission of the

SEE page seven

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Scripture Thought

Micah 7: 2-4

2. The faithful man has perished from the earth, And there is no one upright among men.
They all lie in wait for blood;
Every man hunts his brother with a net.
3. That they may successfully do evil with both hands—
The prince asks for gifts,
The judge seeks a bribe,
And the great man utters his evil desire;
So they scheme together.
4. The best of them is like a brier;
The most upright is sharper than a thorn hedge;
The day of your watchman and your punishment comes;
Now shall be their perplexity.

apple-tanned leather and
clarks to the core.

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SPECIAL REPORT

Commissioner Errol Bethel

FROM page six

boundaries report had sent the whole electoral system "into a tailspin."

"The parliamentary registration department had very little time to make corrections. The PLP intentionally delayed the report to cause mass confusion and they expected that it would work in their favour," Mr Ingraham speculated.

This is an assertion that Mr Christie has heard several times and is continually offended by it.

"There was no intention, no design to do such a thing. For God sake, the people working down there (at the Parliamentary Registration Department) can say that. No one had any control over stopping people from registering. At the end of the day we had a good registration but the FNM won. People are stretching it to imply sinister intentions on our behalf. But it is a culture thing (with Bahamians) of not registering early. The Boundaries Commission cannot do its work if people don't register early," the PLP leader said.

However, in Mr Ingraham's mind, Mr Bethel must have been a "magician" to pull off the registration process in the time he had and the PLP has no one to blame but themselves for the irregularities.

"The PLP was in power and they kept him in place. If they wanted to change him they could."

"If they felt he was corrupt or easily influenced by outside forces, they could have changed him. He was commissioner in 2002 when they won the last election after losing in 1997 so if they did not approve of him, they could have dismissed him," Mr Ingraham pointed out.

He thinks Mr Bethel is being scapegoated by the PLP leadership so that their party members cannot hold them responsible for the loss.

"This should stand for them as a perfect example of how Mr Christie is not capable of managing anything because he was responsible for everything. If he had done his due diligence well in advance of the date of the actual voting this would not have happened."

"It was egregious that there were voters who were disenfranchised in this process but they (the PLP) have no one to blame but themselves," Mr Ingraham said.

Raynard Rigby who was the PLP's chairman going into the last general election said that if nothing else the court challenges coming out of the 2007 election should signal to the powers that be that there needs to be serious change to our electoral system and more testicular fortitude from the commissioner's office.

"I think the parliamentary registration department does a yeoman's job in registering persons and protecting the rights of voters giving the constraints they had. I think the Parliamentary Commissioner has to understand that he has to ensure the integrity of his own office. If something cannot be done he has to say to the politicians that this cannot be done and has to speak frankly knowing the constraints a short time period places on him."

"The rulings that come from these challenges are clear testimony that we have to review the law so that it meets our requirements and to ensure that the will of the voter is not repressed," Mr Rigby said.

However, all of these considerations relate to the 2007 General Election. When it comes to the most recent Elizabeth by-election, the commissioner faces a new set of problems which boundary changes and late reports do not explain away.

In the Elizabeth election court ruling the Senior Justices Anita Allen and Jon Isaacs determined that the five protest votes cast in favour of PLP candidate Ryan Pinder in the February 16 elections should be allowed.

During the trial, in an admission that shocked many people, Mr Bethel said that he had removed a voter's name from the register after it was closed and allowed a voter's address to be changed on their counterfoil and written oath. This was overstepping the bounds of his powers.

The court said that the law did not allow the Parliamentary Commissioner to simply summarily remove persons off the register even if he believed the information on the register was wrong.

Justice Allen said that even if Mr Bethel had reasonable cause to believe that the voter did not reside in Elizabeth, the law required the commissioner to

send a notice telling the voter of his objection and hold a hearing to be heard in the public not less than seven days after the voter is notified.

The court was particularly stern toward Mr Bethel surrounding his decisions as related to a voter identified as "D".

"When presenting to vote the voter produced a voter's card, the counterfoil of which shows that Elizabeth was crossed out in red ink and Yamacraw inserted."

"The address of 152 West Commonwealth Boulevard South Malaysia Way was crossed out by crossing out the S and inserting an N which consequently put the address out of Elizabeth. The same alterations are on the form B," the judgment stated. The court noted that the Parliamentary Commissioner had admitted that he had authorized the alteration.

"The second respondent also accepted that the voter was first put on the register on January 12, 2010."

"He testified that the register was deemed closed at 11pm on the day before the Writ of Election, which was January 20, 2010. Under section 25 of the Act, no name or entry can thereafter be removed from any of the appropriate parts of the register until after polling day," it was stated in the judgment.

Judgement

The judgment further stated, "The second respondent admitted his obligation to correct the register and to his credit acknowledged that he cannot change the register unless he verifies the information or contacts the voter and if he is unable to do so the information must remain on the register. When the second respondent purported to remove this voter's name off the register on January 30, 2010, then, he could not lawfully do so."

"He is not competent to summarily remove persons off the register whether or no he had reasonable cause to believe the information on the register is wrong and they should not be on the register."

As the debate surrounding Mr Bethel and the performance of his department during the last general election rages on, the question arises as to how many times the Parliamentary Commissioner should explain or defend himself. The answer is simple; every time.

Mr Bethel was contacted on several occasions during the past week for an interview regarding these issues. His refusal to speak gives an indication that he is not interested in addressing the events surrounding the past two elections. This fact is, to say the least, frustrating.

Frustrating because it is becoming increasingly apparent that civil servants view their positions as mere jobs and demand a sort of personal privacy when it comes to questions of their competency. However, a functioning western democracy does not permit them such a luxury.

The Parliamentary Registration department in general and the Parliamentary Commissioner's position specifically is much bigger than Mr Bethel and cannot be bookended by the years he spends in that office. Therefore, the way he handles public scrutiny will echo through the future on a number of levels.

His quiet acquiescence to being defined as the man who



PRIME MINISTER Hubert Ingraham (above) 'thinks Parliamentary Commissioner Errol Bethel (right) is being scapegoated by the PLP leadership'.



mishandled the 2007 general election and acted "illegally" during the Elizabeth by-election sets a precedent that allows any politician in power or out, to scapegoat or demonize The Parliamentary Registration Department with the foreknowledge that they will not be called out on their false characterizations.

It also seems to indicate that future Parliamentary Commissioners do not have to publicly account for their actions outside the confines of court, which cannot be the case.

Through his silence he is allowing persons to question the legitimacy of his position, the integrity of the electoral process, his personal integrity and the competency of his staff.

Sadly he is also leaving room for persons to question the strength and integrity of the foundation of our democracy. Our small democratic country cannot sustain constant challenges to election results every time the nation goes to vote.

One of the more sobering statements of the three election court rulings came from the Elizabeth by-election. If the gravity of this statement is dismissed by our politicians there may be darker and more confusing days ahead for the voter in the Bahamas.

"Again this process has exposed failures, omissions and errors on the part of the Parliamentary Commissioner and his staff which may, if not corrected, threaten the fairness of the electoral process and ultimately our democracy."

"It is not an answer to say that the Parliamentary commissioner did not have resources to do what he is mandated to do by the law to do. No court can accept that as an explanation from disenfranchising a voter."

"We say emphatically that the Parliamentary Commission must be provided with sufficient resources, both financial and human to ensure he is able to properly discharge the duties imposed on him by law."

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LOCAL NEWS

Driver killed in 'stolen' car

FROM page one

The weekend's first traffic fatality occurred just after midnight on Saturday at East Street and Coconut Grove Avenue.

While travelling in opposite directions on East Street, a green 1994 Toyota Windom collided with a blue and white Yamaha motorbike carrying two men.

The passenger on the motorbike, who was said to be a police reserve officer, died of his injuries, while the driver received injuries to his face and legs.

The driver of the Windom, which was travelling south, was unharmed.

Meanwhile, a woman died and six other people were injured following a traffic accident in East End, pushing Grand Bahama's fatality count to six.

The victim, who is believed to be 26, was among five passengers in a truck that was involved in an accident on Grand Bahama Highway in the area of Pelican Point.

According to police reports, a collision occurred around 8pm, involving a truck, driven by Frank Pinder, and a Buick LeSaber, driven by Howard Thomas.

A fire erupted and both vehicles were engulfed in flames.

None of the victims was inside the vehicles at the time.

ASP Hector Delva said both drivers and the five passengers were injured in the crash and taken by ambulance to the Rand Memorial Hospital for treatment.

However, a female passenger in Mr Pinder's truck later died.

Police investigations into all three tragedies continue.



CRASH SCENE: The driver was found trapped inside this car and was pronounced dead by emergency medical services.



ON SATURDAY, a green 1994 Toyota Windom collided with a blue and white Yamaha motorbike carrying two men. The passenger on the motorbike, who was said to be a police reserve officer, died of his injuries.

Felipe Major/Tribune Staff

PLP hits out at minister's 'irresponsible' trip to China

FROM page one

ate resignation of Tommy Turnquest, MP for Mount Moriah, suggesting that if he does not resign, the Prime Minister must "do the right thing" and force him to do so "before it is too late".

"The PLP continues to note with alarm the fact that the inept, hapless and hopeless FNM government continues to bury its head in the sand as crime and disrespect for law and order run rampant

and out of control.

"Policemen have been attacked in front of the courts; the courts have been broken into and ransacked, and there has been a brazen robbery at a Police Station. Within 48 hours we have experienced the shooting of a prominent businessman in Fox Hill, the rape of a woman in Eleuthera and the shooting of a businesswoman in Grand Bahama.

"Right under our noses, we are experiencing degeneration and breakdown in every arena in which citizens have a right to expect national security to be heightened," said Mr Roberts.

He condemned Mr Turn-

quest for taking the October trip to China with the Prime Minister "at the expense of the same citizens who are being held hostage" by their fear of crime and while "disintegration and breakdown of national security proliferates".

"We call for the immediate restoration of law and order. We believe that it is possible to restore law and order in a country as small as The Bahamas and on an Island as small as New Providence," said Mr Roberts.

The PLP suggested that those persons who broke in to the Supreme Court and Magistrates Courts, and who caused injury to a police officer in Bank Lane, must be

"tried immediately".

The party said bail must no longer be granted to those charged with murder, a "special regime to deal with those in illegal possession of firearms and ammunition" should be established so that "their trials should be expedited and they are severely penalised" and a system of monitoring by electronic bracelets - as is currently in the process of being rolled out by the government - must be "implemented immediately."

"These suggestions can and ought to be implemented without delay. We are sure that we will see an immediate and positive result," said Mr Roberts.

Businesswoman is shot by two gunmen

FROM page one

tion that a woman resident of Freeport, who was accompanied by her daughter, had arrived at her residence when they were confronted by two masked men, pointing handguns in their direction.

She immediately reversed the vehicle. As she sped off, the gunmen fired several shots at the vehicle, hitting the woman twice.

Although shot, she was able to drive to

Cooper's Service Station on Midshipman Road, where she sought assistance.

EMS personnel and police officers were dispatched to the service station.

ASP Delva said the woman and her daughter, who was not harmed, were taken by ambulance to the hospital.

Police believe robbery was the motive behind the shooting.

Mr Delva said police are appealing to anyone with information to call 911 or 352-9774/5.

Christie at odds with PM over six planned Baha Mar hotels

FROM page two

to negotiate a \$200million increase in the amount of funding that will go to Bahamian contractors in connection with the project.

"The Prime Minister, I presume upon his return, will advise the country as to whether or not he was able to succeed in these discussions," said Mr Christie last week.

Stephen Wrinkle, President of the Bahamas Contractors Association, said yesterday that prior to Mr Ingraham leaving for China he told the BCA in a meeting that he would seek to increase the Bahamian content of the labour force and get more work for Bahamian contractors as part of the Baha Mar project.

"We have to ensure we've

got the quantity of the workers and the dollar value comes to the contractors and not just payrolls," said Mr Wrinkle yesterday.

The contractor added that as the industry awaits an announcement on what was the outcome of any efforts on behalf of Mr Ingraham to achieve this end, the BCA continues to dialogue with Baha Mar and BTVI on training workers so they are prepared "at such time as when the facts and figures emerge".

"We know there will be a Bahamian content in the labour force and the project and we are continuing to focus our efforts on preparing our workers and contractors so if the work the Prime Minister is doing comes to fruition we will be able to presentable work force for project," said Mr Wrinkle.

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LOCAL NEWS

Nurses' presidential candidate pledges to address problems

NURSES' Association presidential candidate Paulette Cash has pledged to address a myriad of problems affecting her colleagues if she is elected on November 10.

Ms Cash said she will address the nurse shortage problem, work to have a revised Nurses and Midwives Act introduced into Parliament, and strive for educational advancement and empowerment of the "heartbeat" of the country's health care system.

"The Nurses Association of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas has representation in a number of agencies and committees of national importance. It is therefore in a strategic position influence policy development and effect change," said Ms Cash, who is Neonatal Units and Nursing Research Coordinator at Princess Margaret Hospital.

"Therefore, my desire to become president of this most noble organisation is driven by the knowledge that I would be in a key position to lead the Nurses Association in addressing issues that are important to nursing, health care and national development."

Foremost on her agenda, she said, will be addressing the shortage of nurses, a problem she says has severe implications for the health care system.

She will also advocate for a revised Nurses and Midwives Act and lead in collaborative efforts with key



PLEDGE: Paulette Cash

tion of community health and to address the needs of vulnerable groups in our community, such as children with special needs, the elderly, and the mentally and physically challenged, and we must also lead in addressing the social ills of our society, for we believe in holistic care.

"I envision a Nurses Association in the Bahamas which is the envy of other organisations both locally and internationally. There is a lot of work to be done, I am committed to serving our nurses and the people of the Bahamas," she said.

Ms Cash has served as a longtime member of the association, and has held several positions as a member of the Executive Board of the Association. She serves as a facilitator for the Leadership for Change Programme, a leadership programme of the International Council of Nurses (ICN). Ms Cash served as the National Registered Nurse of the Year for the Bahamas in 2003-2004.

stakeholders to develop and advance a National Nursing Policy, establish a National Nursing Foundation to support nursing scholarship, nursing leadership, nursing research and clinical practice.

"The Nurses Association will lead in promoting the educational advancement and empowerment of nurses in the Bahamas and in addressing opportunities for upward mobility in the workplace. Thus, the association will play a key role in advancing nursing career paths, and in developing and supporting programs to enhance the personal and professional development of nurses," said Ms Cash.

She also pledged to mentor nursing students and strengthen the association's community outreach programmes.

"As nurses, we are called upon to lead in the promo-

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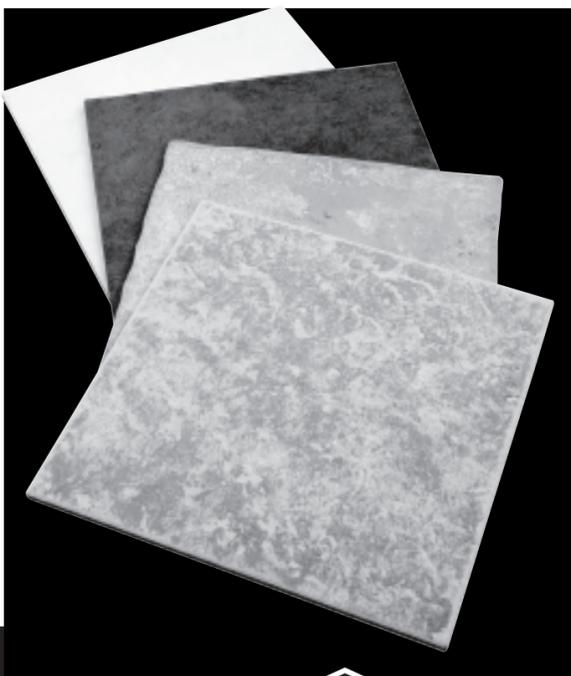
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LOCAL NEWS

Royal Bahamas Police Force National Crime Prevention Office BUSINESS ARMED ROBBERY PREVENTION TIPS

By **CONSTABLE 3011
MAKELLE PINDER**



ARMED robbery is one of the most serious and potentially dangerous crimes committed today.

A robber commits a hold-up because he or she believes that their profit will be worth the risk.

By decreasing the possible profit and increasing the risk of apprehension, potential businesses can reduce their chance of becoming a target.

Businesspersons must face the possibility of robbery on their premises realistically, and they should make security training a high priority.

You can avoid becoming a victim

of such crime by adopting the following crime prevention measures provided by the Royal Bahamas Police Force National Crime Prevention Office:

BEFORE A ROBBERY

- Greet everyone who enters your business.
- Keep doors and windows clear of signs and posters to allow good two-way visibility.
- Use video surveillance and make it well known.
- Make bank deposits at least once a day.
- Place a surveillance camera behind the cash register facing the front counter.
- Install an emergency (panic) alarm.
- Make your sales counter clearly visible to observers.
- A clean environment is good for business and uncomfortable for robbers.
- Keep your business well-lit inside and outside

DURING A ROBBERY

- Stay calm and don't resist!
- Do as instructed. Don't make sudden moves.
- Keep your hands in sight at all times.
- Get a look at the robber but don't stare.
- If safe - Get a description of the robber's vehicle and direction of travel.
- Activate the panic alarm ONLY when it's safe.
- Personal safety first! Money and merchandise are not important.
- Don't chase or follow the robber out of your place of business. Let the police catch the robber!

AFTER A ROBBERY

- Close the store and lock the doors.
- Call the police; even if the alarm was activated.
- Don't touch anything the robber may have touched.
- Ask witnesses to stay until the police arrive.
- Only step outside when the police arrive and contact you via telephone.
- Call your business owner, manager or other designated person.

TIPS

- Use a drop safe that is secured to the floor.
- Post signs indicating limited cash on hand.
- Professionally install security cameras to capture the best images of the suspects.
- Trim landscaping for good view into and out of your business.

Should you be a victim of crime, please do not resist but take note of the description of the culprit e.g. his appearance, clothing, height, physical details and the direction or mode of escape. Call the police as soon as it is safe to do so.

If you come across any suspicious person(s) loitering around your business or have any information pertaining to any crime, please do not hesitate to contact call the police emergency at '919' or Crime Stoppers at 328-tips (New Providence), 1-300-8476 (Family Islands)



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Cool heads and no crowns: The Caribbean in a storm

By SIR RONALD SANDERS

(The writer is a Consultant and former Caribbean diplomat)

NOT for the first time in the history of the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM), Heads of Government are conveying mixed signals to the people of the region about how they feel about the CARICOM relationship and, indeed, about themselves.

Two incidents brought this reality into sharp focus over the last few days. The first was an inflammatory statement attributed to Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister, Kamla Persaud-Bissessar, that she did not make, and the other was the almost complete turn out of CARICOM Heads of Government to the funeral of David Thompson, the late Prime Minister of Barbados, and the genuine sense of "family" that they showed.

The statement that Persaud-Bissessar is alleged to have made is, "No free help" for the islands of St Vincent and St Lucia that have been severely battered by Hurricane Tomas with St Lucia getting the worst of it. Earlier, as a tropical storm, Tomas had also sallied through Barbados uprooting trees, dislodging utility poles and wires, and damaging hundreds of mostly low-cost houses throughout the island.

"No free help" were not Persaud-Bissessar's words.

insight WORLD VIEW

"The entire Caribbean is going through what Professor Norman Girvan recently described as 'existential threats.' This is a time for cool heads."

They were the headline in the Trinidad Express Newspaper on November 1 which did report what the Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister actually said. According to the story and other newspaper reports, the Prime Minister was speaking at a press conference about a request that she had received from the Prime Minister of St Vincent and the Grenadines, Ralph Gonsalves, for assistance after his country was ravaged by the brutal Tomas.

What all the Trinidad and Tobago media reported her to say, was: "We will have to look at ways in which we would be able to assist. But you would recall my comments earlier this

year, when I said there must be some way in which Trinidad and Tobago would also benefit. So if we are giving assistance with housing for example, and that is one of the areas that we (Prime Minister of St Vincent and myself) spoke about, ... then we may be able to use Trinidad and Tobago builders and companies, so that whatever money or assistance is given, redounds back in some measure to the people of Trinidad and Tobago."

She did not say that the Trinidad and Tobago government would not help. Indeed, she is reported as actually saying that her government had already mobilised two containers of foodstuff, and a decision would be made about where to send them but "certainly to St Vincent."

The issue here is not that she refused to provide assistance.

If she had done so, I would have joined the chorus of voices that are now condemning her. When she talked earlier this year of Trinidad and Tobago not being "an ATM machine" for the Caribbean, I was one of the first to criticise that statement drawing attention to the fact that Trinidad and Tobago enjoys almost a monopoly market in the



SIR RONALD SANDERS

Caribbean for its cheaper-oil subsidised goods because of the CARICOM Treaty and that the Petroleum Fund (badly managed though it is) is as much in Trinidad and Tobago's interest as the rest of the CARICOM countries since it helps to keep those countries as markets for Trinidad and Tobago's goods.

The real issue with those who now condemn her is the link she drew between her government's assistance and the use of "builders and companies" from Trinidad and Tobago.

Heat over that issue should be tempered by two realities. First, other countries (not only the former imperialists) link their assistance to their own materials and people. As examples, Cuban projects in many CARICOM countries use Cuban material and Cuban labour, as do several Venezuelan-funded projects. And, China not only

insists upon the use of its material and people in aid projects, it does so for commercial projects too. And, it has long been the condition of many donors – either directly or through the agencies they use to finance aid projects – that their money be used for materials and workers from their countries exclusively.

The second reality is that Kamla Persaud-Bissessar is the leader of a political party and Prime Minister of a country that, like many others, has become sceptical of CARICOM.

It is up to her and her Ministers to demonstrate to a large section of the Trinidad and Tobago population that there is benefit in CARICOM for them.

Of course, they need to demonstrate CARICOM's benefit to them over a very wide range of issues which includes the fact that CARICOM is a very lucrative market for Trinidad and Tobago's products and services keeping thousands of its people employed; the country needs the support of CARICOM in fighting drug trafficking and crime, and maintaining security; it needs CARICOM in international bargaining in trade against larger entities such as the European Union; and it would not fulfil its international aspirations in the international system without the full backing of CARICOM.

Trinidad and Tobago, too, must realise that it alone does not wear a crown and it is not an island (not even-two) onto itself.

But Persaud-Bissessar should not be lynched for what she did not say, or for linking her government's assistance to use of her country's material and work force. At no time did she say no help would be forthcoming.

The entire Caribbean is going through what Professor Norman Girvan recently described as "existential threats." This is a time for cool heads. It is not a time for tit-for-tat statements or for statements whose content sound like "something will not be given for nothing."

Much of this present controversy is unnecessary and would not happen if CARICOM governments talk to each other on a platform of interdependence and common problems, and with a resolve to solve them collectively, recognising that none of them can go it alone and the task at hand is urgent and huge.

It was significant that at the well-organised and dignified funeral of Barbados David Thompson in the same week of this incident, CARICOM leaders turned out in full force to honour their fallen brother, and CARICOM was given an important role in the proceedings through its Chairman, Jamaica's Prime Minister Bruce Golding. It is on that sense of CARICOM "family" that the region needs to go forward in its own vital interest.

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Kia Sportage

The all-new 2011 Sportage received the organization's top honor by earning "Good" ratings – the highest achievable – in frontal, side, rear and rollover impact crash safety tests. Kia Motors' 2011 all-new Sportage compact utility vehicle leads the compact CUV segment for residual value ratings from ALG, the industry benchmark in the US for residual values and a leading provider of data and consulting services to the automotive industry.

Kia Optima

The 2009 Kia Optima midsize sedan was named to top 10 of the "Top 20 Cheapest Cars to Insure" list by Autobytel.com's MyRide. After analyzing every 2009 vehicle insurance quote request generated by insurance marketplace Web site InsWeb.com since January 1, 2009, the median automotive insurance rate for all vehicles was determined, with Optima landing seventh, of the 20 lowest median insurance rates for consumers.



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**DEVELOPER
'FRUSTRATED,
AGGRAVATED'**

Hits out at Physical Planning informing opponents of what it required from him, rather than himself, for 100-150 job-creating cinema and retail complex at Coral Harbour to go forward

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

A BAHAMAS-BASED developer has described himself as "very frustrated and aggravated" that the Department of Physical Planning has failed over the last six months to communicate its requirements for approving his proposed Coral Harbour multiplex cinema/retail complex to him, despite informing opponents of where it and the Town Planning Committee stood.

Tony Joudi, president of Fast Track Construction (FTC), also warned members of the Coral Harbour

SEE page 4B

Fitzgerald/Finlayson lead City Markets race

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

CITY MARKETS' majority shareholder is now in talks to sell its 78 per cent equity stake in the 11-store supermarket chain, now said to be on life support, to the group headed by PLP Senator Jerome Fitzgerald and his business partner Mark Finlayson, Tribune Business can reveal, the previous deal with Bahamas Food Services' (BFS) principal having fallen through.

Multiple sources in the food retail and wholesale business, speaking to this newspaper on condition of anonymity, including some familiar with BSL Holdings' attempts to sell its majority interest,

* Original \$50m bidders for Winn-Dixie stake now 'kind of' last player in talks with BSL Holdings to acquire majority 78% control

* Sources say their BK group has until Wednesday to close deal, as threat of receivership remains real possibility

* Bahamas Food Services principal Ben Frisch withdraws from race, something confirmed by union chief

confirmed that Ben Frisch, BFS's principal and owner of Jacksonville-based Beaver Street Fisheries, had decided not to pursue his interest in City Markets.

That has forced BSL Holdings and the majority owner of its voting rights, Trinidadian conglomerate Neal &

Massy, to commence talks with Messrs Fitzgerald and Finlayson, and their BK Foods group, the same sources said, a development which - if a deal is sealed - would cap a remarkable comeback for these Bahamian investors.

One source, confirming to Tribune



Jerome Fitzgerald and Mark Finlayson

Business that Mr Frisch had lost interest, told this newspaper that Messrs Fitzgerald

SEE page 7B

**ROYALFIDELITY EYES NOV
29 LAUNCH FOR \$5M FUND**



MICHAEL ANDERSON

* Aiming to start pitching Bahamian high net worths and institutional investors this week, and expects latest international structure to be 'well received'

* 'Consensus' among Bahamian investors that emerging markets the place to be, hence equity-linked indices being targeted

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

ROYALFIDELITY Merchant Bank & Trust is plan-

**'ALARM BELLS'
RING ON EASE
OF BUSINESS**

By ALISON LOWE
Business Reporter
alowe@tribunemedia.net

"ALARM bells" over the Bahamas' competitiveness should be ringing in both the Government and the private sector after this nation slipped another six places in the World Bank's annual Ease of Doing Business report, a former Bahamas Chamber of Commerce president has argued, although one government minister has questioned the accuracy of some data employed by the publication.

Minister of State for Finance, Zhivargo Laing, said that rather

SEE page 3B

ning to pitch its latest \$5 million foreign-currency denominated, international mutual fund to sophisticated Bahamian investors this week with a November 29 launch date targeted, telling Tribune Business that it

SEE page 6B

**Iraq beats Bahamas
on building permits**

* Nation slips yet again, this time by six spots, in World Bank 'Ease of Doing Business' ratings, and included among 15% of countries who have not seen regulatory efficiency improvement in last five years

* Guyana only country in Caribbean where commercial building takes longer to get electricity connection than Bahamas, this nation taking 101 days

* Nation suffers competitiveness fall in all key categories, doing especially badly in property registration

By ALISON LOWE
Business Reporter
alowe@tribunemedia.net

THE Bahamas fell by another six places this year when it

came to its competitiveness on the ease of doing business in this country, dropping to 77th place out of 183 countries ranked.

The World Bank/International Finance Corporation's

Doing Business 2011 report looks at the bureaucratic obstacles an entrepreneur has to negotiate when seeking to set

SEE page 7B

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ROYALFIDELITY MARKET WRAP

By ROYALFIDELITY CAPITAL MARKETS

It was slow week of trading in the Bahamian stock market.

Investors traded in six out of the 24 listed securities, with two decliners and one advancer.

EQUITY MARKET

A total of 14,930 shares changed hands, representing a decrease of 165,392 shares compared to the pre-

vious week's trading volume of 180,322 shares.

JS Johnson & Company (JSJ) was the volume leader last week, trading a volume of 6,000 shares to see its stock price close unchanged at \$9.92.

Colina Holdings (CHL) was the lone advancer last week, trading a total of 4,430 shares to see its share price increase by \$0.04 to close at \$2.40.

Doctors Hospital Health Systems (DHS) was the big

decliner in the past week, trading a volume of 1,000 shares to see its stock price decline by \$0.17, closing at \$1.60.

BOND MARKET

No notes traded in the Bahamian bond market last week.

COMPANY NEWS

Earnings Releases: There were no earnings releases from any of the listed companies last week.

EQUITY MARKET - TRADING STATISTICS

Week ending 05.11.10

BISX SYMBOL	CLOSING PRICE	WKLY PRICE CHANGE	VOLUME	YTD PRICE CHANGE
AML	\$ 1.01	\$-	0	-13.68%
BBL	\$ 0.18	\$-	0	-71.43%
BOB	\$ 4.90	\$-	0	-16.95%
BPF	\$ 10.63	\$-	0	-1.02%
BSL	\$ 5.01	\$-	0	-50.20%
BWL	\$ 2.84	\$-	0	-9.84%
CAB	\$ 10.47	\$-	0	4.91%
CBL	\$ 6.50	\$-	2,000	-7.14%
CHL	\$ 2.40	\$0.04	4,430	-11.76%
CIB	\$ 9.74	\$-	0	-2.50%
CWCB	\$ 2.05	\$-	0	-28.07%
DHS	\$ 1.60	\$-0.17	1,000	-37.25%
FAM	\$ 6.07	\$-	0	-6.47%
FBB	\$ 2.17	\$-	0	-8.44%
FCL	\$ 5.46	\$-	500	14.47%
FCLB	\$ 1.00	\$-	0	0.00%
FIN	\$ 7.29	\$-0.03	1,000	-21.44%
ICD	\$ 5.59	\$-	0	0.00%
JSJ	\$ 9.92	\$-	6,000	-0.30%
PRE	\$ 10.00	\$-	0	0.00%

BOND MARKET - TRADING STATISTICS

BISX SYMBOL	DESCRIPTION	VOLUME	PAR VALUE
FBB13	FBB Series C Notes Due 2013	0	\$1,000
FBB15	FBB Series D Notes Due 2015	0	\$1,000
FBB17	FBB Series A Notes Due 2017	0	\$1,000
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BUSINESS

FROM page one

than doing business in the Bahamas becoming more difficult, this nation's slip in the rankings according to friendliness of business environment is more a consequence of reforms to regulations by other countries - and the possibility that those researching the bureaucratic obstacles that exist in the Bahamas are getting information from sources "which may not accurately reflect" the true state of affairs.

Mr Laing, speaking after the World Bank/International Finance Corporation's 'Doing Business 2011: Making a Difference for Entrepreneurs' report showed a fall in relative competitiveness for the Bahamas when it came to efficiency of regulations in starting up and operating small and medium-sized businesses, said he "wouldn't be surprised" at The Bahamas' ranking given that "there's nothing that [government has] done so far in terms of trying to improve the ease of doing business which would have been in place prior to (the Doing Business team's) assessment".

He noted a number of steps which will be implemented this year by the Government, relating to minimising the time and cost associated with accessing government services, which should be "taken account of" in next year's assessment as it relates to enhancing the competitiveness of The Bahamas' business environment relative to other jurisdictions.

"When other people make reforms when you did not, then they move up and you slip down, so it is possible for us to have the same environment but have moved down because they really do this based on reforms people have done," said Mr Laing.

A former Bahamas Chamber of Commerce president, however, said he views the findings as a "poor reflection on the Government", given that they have "emphasised trying to make whole act of doing business much easier in the Bahamas."

Dionisio D'Aguilar said: "Either steps they have made have not yet been reflected or have not made a difference, so they need to evaluate whether what they are doing is really making a difference.

"If independent rating agencies are saying: 'Guys, it's gotten worse, there's no difference or the rate of change at which you're improving is not as fast as your competitors', that's what they (the Bahamian government) have to evaluate."

The Bahamas' competitiveness in the Doing Business 2011 report fell six places this year to 77 of 183 countries ranked, and 40 of 46 in the "high income" category. Dealing with construction permits and registering property appear to be the most problematic areas for the Bahamas based on the report's findings, while the Bahamas' slide of six places to 66 out of 183, or 28 out of 36 when compared to other 'high income' nations as it relates to ease of starting up a new business, was deemed to be a cause for "alarm" by Mr D'Aguilar.

"The private sector is the engine of your economy. If you are slipping in difficulty in starting a business, then that's an alarm bell - that we are doing this or that but it's not making a difference. It should be the easiest thing," he said.

In its 2011 report, the Doing Business research team note that the economies that are consistently ranked highly as 'ease of doing business jurisdictions' often have advanced e-government initiatives and performance-based assessment of civil servants.

Mr Laing noted that the Bahamian government this year consulted with Singapore over an e-government programme for the Bahamas, with this set to be presented to parliamentarians today for the first time, then implemented in phases. The Minister of State has touted this programme as likely to have a "humongous" impact on doing business in the Bahamas, with Singapore top ranked in the Doing Business report in part because of its efforts in this area.

'Alarm bells' ring

Meanwhile, the Government is busy getting ready to implement the new Business License Act, which it intends to drastically simplify and speed up the process of starting a new business, as well as ironing out inefficiencies in regulations governing business operations going forward. Pilot public service improvement programmes were also said to have stimulated efficiency in certain key public agencies over the last two years. The Government has said it is committed to public sector reform, with a new Public Service Bill proposed to introduce greater accountability to the service that Mr D'Aguilar and many others blame for much of the difficulty business operators face in accessing key services and fulfilling their legal obligations to the state.

"Unless you're 'biggity' and aggressive and rant and rave and jump up and down, more often than not you're set back by mindless stupidity. The problem is not so much dealing with the process but the mindset, and the mindset of the civil service is not to be particularly helpful," said Mr D'Aguilar.

The businessman also emphasised that the Government is "in the dark ages when it comes to technology", and as it relates to any e-government initiative, forewarned of what he projects to be complications in implementing such a program.

"The civil service is wholeheartedly against it for fear that its implementation will make them redundant, so they will do their utmost to make it not work," suggested the former Chamber president. Mr Laing said the Bahamas does take note of the findings of the 'Doing Business' report on an annual basis, and he expects planned reforms will be recognised by the World Bank/IFC in next year's assessment.

"Each time they come out we try to analyse what has happened and the concerns expressed, and do what may need to be done. However, we are not list watching; we are trying to do what makes sense for The Bahamas," he said. "I would expect that next time around, when some of what we have done has been implemented, that would be taken into account, but can't guarantee that means we will move up in the list. What we are trying to do is listen to the business community and their concerns about doing things easier. Based on our own observations, we are moving to do those things because they make sense for the Bahamas, and if that's sufficient to cause us to move up a list we'd be happy."

Adding that the Government appreciates and "does not get defensive" over the "external review", Mr Laing noted, however, that the Government "has made representation to the World Bank" based on its belief the researchers' findings on the Bahamas may be guided in part by sources who do not have all the facts.

"Sometimes there's an assessment based on inquiries in places that may not be fully informed, or that may not have fully reflected where we are today," said Mr Laing. He highlighted the report's findings relating to construction permitting as potentially one of these areas, although also admitting that the Government recognises a need to improve its efficiency, too.

"That's one of the areas where we think in part the information reflects a source that may not be the most accurate. In any event, we believe our process does need significant reform in terms of the time it takes and processes it takes to get a building permit as an example, so even as we speak there are some reforms we are looking at and we hope to be able to introduce to do something about that. We believe there is clearly the need for reform in our building permit process" said the minister.

Calls to current Chamber of Commerce president, Khaalis Rolle, were not returned up to press time Friday.

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FINPYME ExportPlus registration forms can be found on the Chamber's website <http://www.thebahamaschamber.com>

BUSINESS

FROM page one

Developer 'frustrated, aggravated'

South Homeowners Association that their claims of "victory" to date in preventing him from demolishing the pink walls on the northeastern and northwestern sides of the Coral Harbour Roundabout was not the end of the matter, telling Tribune Business: "The battle goes on. It is not over."

Mr Joudi was responding after the Homeowners Association issued a press release on Friday following receipt of a letter detailing the Town Planning Committee's decision to bar the developer from demolishing the walls, even though they sit on his property.

For the time being, the Town Planning Committee has sided with the Association, agreeing that the walls should not be demolished because they are an historical landmark - said to be the walls of the original Coral Harbour Club - something that is disputed by Mr Joudi.

A September 6, 2010, letter to Association president Joan Ferguson from Michael Major, the director of physical planning, confirmed: "The Town Planning Committee considered the application by FTC Ltd at their meeting held on 20 April, 2010, and resolved to refuse planning permission for the reason that the walls are a part of the Coral Harbour landmark that should be preserved. The applicant has the right to appeal the Committee's decision under Section 13 of the Town Planning Act."

When contacted by Tribune Business for comment, Mr Joudi expressed surprise that this information had been conveyed to the Association, his opponents, but not himself.

He said: "Right now, as far as I know, I have not received any information from the Minister himself or Town Planning. As far as we are concerned, the walls are not a landmark and we have evidence. We have submitted an application, and are going through the process of trying to get a permit to remove them. The battle goes on; it is not over."

And he pledged: "If the Government does not give us

any resolution, we will go to court to resolve the matter. It will be done the proper way. We will not break the law. They have done everything in the book to hassle me and destroy my image, but at the end of the day only right will prevail and wrong will be dismissed."

Sonya Alvino, secretary in the Coral Harbour South Home Owners Association, said: "The decision to preserve the Pink Walls by the Town Planning Committee is a bold step in the right direction in acknowledging the wishes of community members who are all stakeholders in the place they call home. "This decision fortifies the new Planning and Subdivisions Act, which allows community members a voice in the development of their home areas. Coral Harbour has certainly had that voice and we are deeply grateful for the opportunity to make this stand for what we believe in."

"Although we are victorious in the decision on the Pink Walls, we must stay vigilant against developers who are not so willing to take our wishes into consideration and who are more concerned with profit than community." Mr Joudi was also upset by

the Department of Physical Planning communicating to the Homeowners Association its position on his proposed eight-screen multiplex cinema and retail complex for the northeastern side of the Coral Harbour roundabout, telling Tribune Business that its requirements - completion of a traffic impact study and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) had not been relayed to him.

Referring to a Town Meeting held in Coral Harbour to review Mr Joudi's plans on April 14, 2010, Mr Major said in his September 6, 2010, letter that the meeting's conclusions were: "The drawings submitted were inadequate (lacked elevation plans to show the height and architectural style of the new buildings).

"A traffic assessment was required to address any potential traffic problems, and an environmental assessment of the impact on the underground water supply and removal of forest cover.

"The Department promised to provide a copy of all drawings and reports to the various Coral Harbour Homeowners Association members when the material became available. We have not yet received any of the referenced information, hence no reference was made to your association."

Yet Mr Joudi alleged to Tribune Business that the Department of Physical Planning had never asked him for such information, adding that he had been in 'waiting' mode since the April Town Meeting, something that was costing time and money.

He said that the drawings provided at the Town Meeting were only initial artists' impressions, and it was normal for the more detailed information referred to in Mr Major's letter to be submitted at a later date when a project had progressed to a point where it was likely to obtain approval.

"We never got any communication requesting a traffic study, nor requesting an EIA. They have never

SEE page 5B

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(No. 46 of 2000)

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Registration Number: 130101B
(In Voluntary Liquidation)

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with Section 138 (4) of the International Business Companies Act (No. 46 or 2000) **EXCLUSIVE RESORTS OR-IV, LTD.** is in Dissolution.

Any person having any claim against **EXCLUSIVE RESORTS OR-IV, LTD.** is required on or before the 30th day of November, 2010 to send their name, address and particulars of the debt or claim to the Liquidator of the company, or in default thereof they may have excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such claim is approved.

GSO Corporate Services Ltd., of 303 Shirley Street, Nassau, The Bahamas is the Liquidator of **EXCLUSIVE RESORTS OR-IV, LTD.**

GSO Corporate Services Ltd.
Liquidator

NOTICE

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OF

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Notice is hereby given that liquidation of the above company on the 26th day of October, 2010. **OCTAGON MANAGEMENT LIMITED** of Bahamas Financial Centre, Shirley & Charlotte Streets, Nassau, The Bahamas has been appointed Liquidator of the Company.

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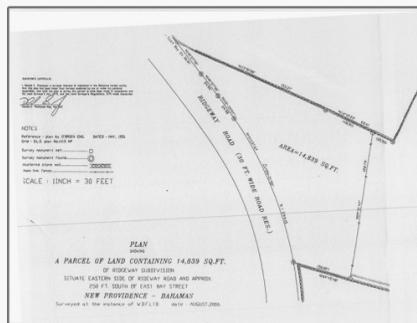
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BUSINESS

Licence suspension 'must remain open'

By ALISON LOWE
Business Reporter
alowe@tribunemedia.net

IN THE face of fears that its "vague" wording may leave businesses open to "victimisation" without recourse, the Minister of State for Finance said it was important that the basis upon which the Government can suspend or revoke a business's license "remain open" so it can effectively deal with infractions.

Attorney Sharlyn Smith had raised concern that the Government's Business License reforms were causing the private sector "a great magnitude of uncertainty", telling Tribune Business on Friday that the ability to suspend or revoke a firm's license "for other good cause" was too vague, especially in the absence of a clearly defined appeals process under the Act.

While a Board was to be formed to hear appeals against decisions made by the Revenue Secretary, the Act's wording only allows for such appeals to be made under sections four, five, 11 and 21 of the legislation - not section seven, which is what gives the Revenue secretary the power to suspend, cancel and revoke a company's business license, noted Ms Smith, of

Sharon Wilson and Company.

Speaking with this newspaper after Ms Smith raised the concerns regarding the wording in the new Business License Act with him at a Ministry forum on Wednesday, Mr Laing said: "My point is that we have a provision in there that remained open because there are any number of reasons why a license may need to be revoked that may not be covered on a defined list, and we need to have ability to address it."

"It cannot be that someone does something egregious in the conduct of their business and the state is left with no opportunity to revoke a license because I didn't include that on a list."

He added that if the Secretary of Revenue were to revoke or suspend a license on an "unreasonable" basis, business operators would be entitled to seek a Judicial Review of that decision.

In response to Ms Smith's position that such a review, which involves attorneys for the aggrieved and responding parties making representations before the Supreme Court - may be prohibitively expensive for many people who have already had their source of income taken away, Mr Laing said he concedes the Government may need to "revisit" the law on this point.

Developer 'frustrated, aggravated'

FROM page 4B

requested anything from me," Mr Joudi said. "I have not received any communication from Town Planning from the day the meeting was held in Coral Harbour....."

"I placed almost 10 calls to Minister Deveaux to find out where we stand on this matter, and not once did he call me back. I'm in the waiting mode, still waiting. It is very frustrating."

Mr Joudi accused the Town Planning Committee of "playing a political game" by pandering to the demands of the Homeowners Association, adding that this was "not a game benefiting the interests of the country when unemployment is so high, and I'm trying to provide employment".

He added that some of his opponents were patronising the Coral Harbour Shopping Centre he had already constructed on the northwestern side of the roundabout, telling Tribune Business this location was now "about 75 per cent leased", with 12-13 of the 17 tenant spots now leased to the likes of Domino's Pizza, Blue Harbour Restaurant and Bar, Transition Saloon, Spa and Beauty Supplies, D-Mart and Good Life Pharmacy.; World of Technologies, Value Electrical and Plumbing, Commandos Security, Forbidden Night Club and Lounge, and Beacon Baptist Church.

Mr Joudi said these businesses had created some 60-70 full-time jobs, and while City Markets' present woes had made attracting an anchor food store difficult, he was hoping to attract some government offices to fully lease the development.

In a previous interview with Tribune Business, Mr Joudi had outlined his plans for developing a five-acre site on the roundabout's northeast-

ern side five-acre site into a seven-screen cinema complex, complete with food court, games room, restaurant, eight retail outlets and 240 parking outlets.

He pledged that this would create 100-150 full-time jobs when opened.

Pointing out that the Bahamas was "crying out" for jobs, Mr Joudi said his project could help deliver this, but was not being moved forward.

"As far as I'm concerned, from the day I submitted my plans as required by them,

and after the Town Meeting, I've not received any correspondence from Town Planning, not one single letter saying this is what you need to do," Mr Joudi said. "Nothing, nothing, nothing."

Mr Major, in reference to concerns that Sun Oil (FOCOL) planned to develop a gas station at the same cinema site, said in his September 6 letter that while the gas company had acquired a one-acre site from J&J Investments for that purpose, no planning application had been made.

NOTICE

The Bahamas Taxicab Union will be holding a Special call meeting at Bahamas Taxicab Union Hall situated at #145 Nassau Street November 11th, 2010 between the hours from 9:00am to 3:00pm for the purpose of amending sections of the Union Constitution.

All financial members are urged to attend and be on time.

Jeffrey Murphy
Ast Secretary
BTCU



Bahamas Oil Refining Company International Limited DBA Vopak Terminal Bahamas (VTB)

Rotating Equipment Engineer

The Maintenance Department are looking to recruit a Rotating Equipment Engineer who will be responsible for directing and supervising technicians, designing rotating equipment, maintenance strategies, procedures, work instructions, methods, and installation and commissioning guidelines. Create work orders for planned and unplanned work and maintenance of equipment and diagnosis of the same.

Duties:

- Management of the technical content and overall project control of one or more technology development projects.
- Participation in and/or planning, management and execution of engineering studies.
- Provision of rotating equipment engineering services to existing OU's, debottlenecking studies and failure investigations.
- Management and/or review of work carried out by external engineering consultants.
- Provision of rotating equipment engineering input to Group Training and delivery of training.
- Providing advice across the broad spectrum of rotating equipment engineering expertise at various phases and asset life-cycle.
- To provide technical support services to engineering disciplines, procurement, commissioning and project management on all matters relating to process and topsides mechanical and rotating equipment on board the Company's engineered and constructed production units.
- To prepare engineering specifications of mechanical rotating equipment in accordance with customers and Company's standards / requirements.
- To study and evaluate bid invitations and prepare briefs on major issues and risks of the project.
- Provide inputs to new projects through review of design and follow up of new development in the industry.
- Perform technical audits on subcontractors and vendors, supports QA department in its functions
- Oversees and maintains reliability and availability of rotating equipment at all times. This includes analyzing problems and complaints etc. monitoring performance of equipment, evaluating data collected in monitoring phase and providing technical advice in Operations and Maintenance departments on operating parameters, condition of machines and repair methods.

Skills and Experience:

- Excellent English communication skills, both oral and written; listening skills
- Ability to translate technical plans into easy-to-understand laymen's terms and communicate such translations in clear terminology
- Ability to initiate and direct development program and strategies in maintenance with regards to rotating equipment in order to increase technical reliability.
- Experience in preparing a variety of reports such as yearly pumps failure report, performance indicators for rotating equipment, integrity monitoring points, major overhaul reports etc.
- The candidate must have strong analytical skills and be able to manage other rotating equipment mechanics. Proven track record in the Rotating Equipment Design, Maintenance and Troubleshooting for the petro-chemicals manufacturing industry. Condition monitoring & Vibration Analysis, RCA & RCM Principles. All types of Rotating Equipment including Gas Turbines.
- A university degree in Engineering (preferable mechanical or chemical) is a prerequisite.
- The successful candidate will have solid experience, at least 5 years field experience with particular emphasis on Rotating Equipment in a crude oil petrochemical environment, preferably in a supervisory position.

Instrumentation Technician

The Maintenance Department are looking to recruit an Instrumentation Technician who will be responsible for maintaining, repairing, overhauling, troubleshooting and installing both electronic and pneumatic instrumentation throughout the Terminal.

Duties:

- Systematically examines faulty equipment using diagnostic instruments and equipment to determine problems and repairs needed.
- Reads instrument schematics and specifications to ensure that repairs are properly made.
- Install, repair and service Rosemount Tank Radar Gauging System (Rex Radar).
- Installs, calibrate and certify M.S.A General Monitors gas detection analyzers.
- Installs, repair and calibrate Effluent Analyzers systems such as PH, Conductivity, atmospheric effluent monitors and oil in water analyzers.
- Troubleshoot, diagnose and repair Pneumatic and Electronic process control loops and systems.
- Repair, calibrate and install Electronic and Pneumatic flow, level, pressure and temperature transmitters, recorders, indicators, controllers and final control devices such as control valves.
- Overhaul repair and calibrate steam boiler PLC systems.
- Overhaul repair and program computerized diesel engines PLC instrumentation systems.
- Overhaul repair and test pressure relief valves.
- Informs immediate supervisor of problems found, method of repair, and time needed to make repairs.
- Prepares list of materials and/or parts needed and procures same through direct Supervisor.
- Obtains necessary tools/equipment to initiate repairs at job site.
- Fabricates or modifies parts, using instrument shop facilities, when parts are unavailable.
- Installs new equipment on Capital Projects or for temporary installations.
- Consults with instrument Maintenance Supervisor on unusual problems or changes that may effect scheduled completion of job.
- Execute scheduled Preventative Maintenance schedules as directed.
- Maintains Instrument workshop in a safe, clean and orderly state at all times.
- Expected to be available for after hours work and emergency callouts.

Skills and Experience:

- Excellent English communication skills, both oral and written; listening skills
- A High School Diploma is required, with BGCSE in Maths, Chemistry and/or Physics with a passing grade of C or above.
- Basic Electrical and Electronic theory. Computer literate in Word & Excel.
- Minimum of two (2) years repairing electronic equipment and a minimum of 3 - 5 years experience in Industrial Instrumentation Maintenance in a Processing plant or Power plant.
- Must be able to work with minimal supervision.

To Apply: Please forward your resume via email to
Heather.Parker@vopak.com
On or before November 12, 2010

VACANCY NOTICE

Grand Bahama Power Company invites qualified applicants to apply for the position of Assistant Financial Controller.

In collaboration with the Financial Controller, this position manages all activities related to Finance and Accounting.

The ideal candidate should possess the academic skills and experience to:

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- Ensure timely preparation and submission of monthly financial statements

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Freeport, Grand Bahama
Bahamas

OR BY EMAIL: hrdept@gb-power.com

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS IS
November 15, 2010



BUSINESS

NOTICE

IN THE ESTATE OF JOHN DALE domiciled and late of 11b Carefree Apartments, Cable Beach, New Providence The Bahamas, deceased.

NOTICE is hereby given that all persons having any claim or demand against or interest in the above Estate should send same duly certified in writing to the undersigned on or before 6th December, 2010 after which date the Executor will proceed to distribute the assets of the Estate having regard only to the claims, demands or interests of which he shall then have had notice AND all persons indebted to the above Estate are asked to settle such debts on or before 6th December, 2010.

FREDERIK F. GOTTLIEB & CO.

Attorneys for the Executor
Chambers
Bay Street,
P.O. Box AB-20405
Marsh Harbour Abaco,
The Bahamas

FROM page one

expected the product to be "well-received".

Michael Anderson, RoyalFidelity's president, said that new fund, which will come under the umbrella of the investment bank's TIGRS family, will largely be focused on investments in equity-based indices in emerging markets.

"We're actively working on finalising our product, which we anticipate we'll bring out on November 29," Mr Anderson told Tribune Business.

"We are busy finalising the mix in terms of product, and we will be out in the market next week [meaning this week] with it."

He added that based on RoyalFidelity's discussions with high net worth individuals and institutional investors in the Bahamian market, there was an emerging consensus that emerging markets in regions such as Asia would offer the best return potential in the immediate future, given that major markets such as the US and Europe were still struggling to recover from the recession.

RoyalFidelity eyes Nov 29 launch for \$5m fund

"We're largely focusing on the emerging markets," Mr Anderson told Tribune Business of RoyalFidelity's latest mutual fund. "The majority will be linked into these indices, and some will be invested in broader market indices."

"We believe, based on discussions with institutions and high net worth players, that that's where people's interests are, and we believe the key growth is coming to come from these markets. People want to get money into those areas to benefit over the next several years."

Of the likely market reaction to RoyalFidelity's latest investment product, Mr Anderson told Tribune Business: "We anticipate that it will be well received. There's a general consensus that emerging markets will be the place to invest, and we have thought that

for a while. We expect it to be well received by high net worth individuals and institutional investors."

RoyalFidelity also operates in Barbados, and Mr Anderson previously told Tribune Business that the company would be seeking a similar amount from Barbadian investors, although he made no mention of this in the latest interview.

International mutual

fund products structured by the likes of RoyalFidelity and CFAL give leading Bahamian investors exposure to potentially higher rates of return than they would otherwise achieve in this market, via exposure to investments that are also not obtainable at home, while also facilitating further portfolio diversification and risk minimisation.

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that **HYACINTH GLENORA WILLIAMS of 36 DIAMOND DRIVE, 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 8th day of **NOVEMBER, 2010** to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, P.O.Box N-7147, Freeport, Bahamas.

SALES MANAGER POSITION AVAILABLE

Local Company seeks **SALES MANAGER** for its Sales Department

Position Description

The Sales Manager plays an integral role in the Company's operations as this person serves as one of the first point of contacts for the Company's clients. We are looking for a qualified, young professional with a background in Business with strong development in sales and marketing to fill the position.

The individual would be responsible for the effective communication with clients the products and services the Company has to offer to a broad range of international clients at the major resorts for which the Company operates. To this end, the Sales Manager's responsibilities may include but is not limited to, site inspections, quotation/ agreement preparation and maintaining adequate records of client information.

This person will also be responsible for ensuring that all Company guidelines, procedures and policies are adhered to and will work closely with executive management (including the Sales Manager) on executing the business strategy and objectives.

Qualifications:

- Advanced knowledge of meeting and event practices.
- Moderate to advance knowledge in contract negotiations.
- Demonstrates ability to handle all scopes of meetings and events, small to large.
- Strong administration skills including the ability to set priorities and organize administrative systems and procedures.
- Exceptional professionalism, control and confidence and the ability to communicate effectively at all levels of the Company and with clients.
- Excellent customer service, interpersonal, oral and written communication skills.
- Excellent organizational, problem-solving and negotiation skills, including the ability to handle a variety of assignments simultaneously.
- Must be able to work with little oversight.
- Ability to work flexible hours, including evenings, week ends and holidays where required.
- Must be able to travel as necessary for site visits, training and other priority meetings.
- Strong presentation skills.

Education:

- Bachelors Degree in related field.
- Minimum 5-7 years experience in sales/marketing, meeting and event planning.
- Highly proficient with MS office programs

Resumes should be forwarded to jobseekersbahamas@yahoo.com

ACCOUNTANT

A privately owned, medium sized Bahamian company is seeking to recruit an experienced individual for the position of Accountant.

The successful applicant must have a bachelor's degree in Accounting, a minimum of five (5) years relevant experience in financial accounting together with an in-depth knowledge of computer's and control techniques.

The person appointed will report directly to the Financial Controller and will participate in:

- Preparation of the monthly financial statement package
- Performing analysis and reconciliations of various general ledger accounts
- Liaison with external auditors

The position will ideally suit a person with ambition, motivation, the ability to supervise and delegate and who is willing to work long hours.

Remuneration will be commensurate with qualifications, capability and experience. In addition, Pension and Group Insurance benefits are available.

Application in writing giving full details, i.e. qualifications, business experiences, etc., should be submitted no later than November 10th, 2010 to:

Human Resources Co-ordinator
P. O. Box N-3238
Nassau, Bahamas

We thank all applicants; however, only candidates to be interviewed will be contacted.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Restaurant managers needed for leading fast food franchise

Requirements:

- Must have at least two (2) years of restaurant management or food & beverage management experience
- Must have strong leadership skills
- Must be customer service driven
- Must be results-oriented & articulate
- Must have excellent inter-personal skills
- Must have excellent oral & written communication skills

McDonald's offers excellent benefits!

Please submit resume to:
Human Resources Department
McDonald's Head Office on Market St.
North
P. O. Box SS-5925
Telephone: 325-4444
Nassau, Bahamas



CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Assistant Controller

The Nassau Airport Development Company (NAD) is seeking candidates for the position of Assistant Controller. This position is responsible for assisting in formulating the policies, procedures, systems and controls required to direct the company's accounting function.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Professional accounting qualifications (ACCA, CA, CPA).
- At least five years experience in a similar position.
- Knowledge of finance, accounting, budgeting and cost control principles.
- Adept at operating in a computerized financial environment including the use of integrated financial accounting software.
- Ability to analyze financial data and prepare financial reports, statements and projections.

For more details, please visit the **PEOPLE** section of our website at www.nas.bs.

If you are qualified and interested, please submit your resume by **November 19, 2010** to:

Manager, People
Nassau Airport Development Company
P.O. Box AP 59229
Nassau, Bahamas
or e-mail people@nas.bs

BISX LISTED & TRADED SECURITIES AS OF:										
FRIDAY, 5 NOVEMBER 2010										
BISX ALL SHARE INDEX: CLOSE 1,488.07 CHG -0.53 %CHG -0.04 YTD -77.31 YTD % -4.94										
FINDEX: CLOSE 000.00 YTD 00.00% 2009 -12.31%										
WWW.BISXBAHAMAS.COM TELEPHONE: 242-323-2330 FACSIMILE: 242-323-2320										
52wk-HI	52wk-Low	Security	Previous Close	Today's Close	Change	Daily Vol.	EPS \$	Div \$	P/E	Yield
1.26	1.00	AML Foods Limited	1.01	1.01	0.00	0.150	0.040	6.7	3.96%	
10.75	9.67	Bahamas Property Fund	10.63	10.63	0.00	0.013	0.200	817.7	1.88%	
6.18	4.50	Bank of Bahamas	4.90	4.90	0.00	0.598	0.260	8.2	5.31%	
0.58	0.18	Benchmark	0.18	0.18	0.00	-0.877	0.000	N/M	0.00%	
3.49	2.84	Bahamas Waste	2.84	2.84	0.00	0.168	0.090	16.9	3.17%	
2.15	2.14	Fidelity Bank	2.17	2.17	0.00	0.016	0.040	135.6	1.84%	
12.50	9.62	Cable Bahamas	10.47	10.47	0.00	1.050	0.310	10.0	2.96%	
2.64	2.36	Colina Holdings	2.40	2.40	0.00	0.781	0.040	3.1	1.67%	
7.00	5.40	Commonwealth Bank (S1)	6.50	6.50	0.00	0.422	0.230	18.4	3.54%	
3.65	1.63	Consolidated Water BDRs	2.07	2.04	-0.03	0.111	0.045	18.4	2.21%	
2.55	1.60	Doctor's Hospital	1.60	1.60	0.00	0.199	0.110	8.0	6.88%	
6.99	5.94	Farmguard	6.07	6.07	0.00	-0.003	0.240	N/M	3.95%	
10.20	7.26	Finco	7.29	7.26	-0.03	0.287	0.520	25.3	7.16%	
11.40	8.77	FirstCaribbean Bank	9.74	9.74	0.00	0.645	0.350	15.1	3.59%	
5.51	3.75	Foocl (S)	5.46	5.46	0.00	0.366	0.210	14.9	3.85%	
1.00	1.00	Foocl Class B Preference	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.000	0.000	N/M	0.00%	
5.99	5.00	ICD Utilities	5.59	5.59	0.00	0.012	0.240	465.8	4.29%	
10.50	9.90	J. S. Johnson	9.92	9.90	-0.02	0.971	0.640	10.2	6.46%	
10.00	10.00	Premier Real Estate	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.991	0.800	10.1	8.00%	
BISX LISTED DEBT SECURITIES - (Bonds trade on a Percentage Pricing basis)										
52wk-HI	52wk-Low	Security	Symbol	Last Sale	Change	Daily Vol.	Interest	Maturity		
99.46	99.46	Bahamas Note 6.95 (2029)	BAH29	99.46	0.00		6.95%	20 November 2029		
100.00	100.00	Fidelity Bank Note 17 (Series A) +	FBB17	100.00	0.00		7%	19 October 2017		
100.00	100.00	Fidelity Bank Note 22 (Series B) +	FBB22	100.00	0.00		Prime + 1.75%	19 October 2022		
100.00	100.00	Fidelity Bank Note 13 (Series C) +	FBB13	100.00	0.00		7%	30 May 2013		
100.00	100.00	Fidelity Bank Note 15 (Series D) +	FBB15	100.00	0.00		Prime + 1.75%	29 May 2015		
RoyalFidelity Merchant Bank & Trust Ltd. (Over-The-Counter Securities)										
52wk-HI	52wk-Low	Symbol	Bid \$	Ask \$	Last Price	Daily Vol.	EPS \$	Div \$	P/E	Yield
10.06	5.01	Bahamas Supermarkets	5.01	6.01	14.00		-2.945	0.000	N/M	0.00%
0.55	0.40	RND Holdings	0.35	0.40	0.55		0.001	0.000	256.6	0.00%
CFAL Securities Ltd. (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 %	NAV 3MTH	NAV 6MTH	NAV Date		
1.5056	1.4076	CFAL Bond Fund	1.5056	4.65%	6.96%	1.482477	1.460225	30-Sep-10		
2.9265	2.8300	CFAL MSI Preferred Fund	2.9187	1.10%	3.13%	2.919946	2.911577	30-Sep-10		
1.5625	1.4954	CFAL Money Market Fund	1.5625	3.67%	4.49%	1.543785	1.527368	29-Oct-10		
3.2025	2.8522	Royal Fidelity Bahamas G & I Fund	2.8624	-8.16%	-7.49%			31-Aug-10		
13.6388	13.0484	Royal Fidelity Prime Income Fund	13.5642	1.97%	2.95%			30-Sep-10		
114.3684	101.6693	CFAL Global Bond Fund	114.3684	9.98%	12.49%	109.392860	107.570619	30-Jun-10		
106.6528	99.477	Fidelity Global Equity Fund	106.6528	4.75%	4.75%	100.779540	105.776543	30-Sep-10		
1.1318	1.0000	FG Financial Preferred Income Fund	1.1318	3.85%	5.22%			30-Sep-10		
1.0969	1.0000	FG Financial Growth Fund	1.0969	2.71%	6.44%			30-Sep-10		
1.1320	1.0000	FG Financial Diversified Fund	1.1320	3.79%	5.71%			30-Sep-10		
9.7485	9.1005	Royal Fidelity Bah Int'l Investment Fund Principal Protected TIGRS, Series 1	9.7458	4.35%	5.22%			31-Oct-10		
11.2361	10.0000	Royal Fidelity Bah Int'l Investment Fund Principal Protected TIGRS, Series 2	10.6000	-1.59%	4.26%			31-Oct-10		
10.0000	9.1708	Royal Fidelity Bah Int'l Investment Fund Principal Protected TIGRS, Series 3	9.5037	-4.96%	-4.96%			31-Oct-10		
8.1643	4.8105	Royal Fidelity Int'l Fund - Equities Sub Fund	8.1643	5.79%	9.42%			31-Oct-10		
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 volume										
Today's Close - Current day's weighted price for daily volume										
Change - Change in closing price from day to day										
Daily Vol. - Number of total shares traded today										
Div \$ - Dividends per share paid in the last 12 months										
P/E - Closing price divided by the last 12 month earnings										
(S) - 4-for-1 Stock Split - Effective Date 8/8/2007										
(S1) - 3-for-1 Stock Split - Effective Date 7/11/2007										
TO TRADE CALL: CFAL 242-502-7010 ROYALFIDELITY 242-356-7764 FG CAPITAL MARKETS 242-396-4000 COLONIAL 242-502-7525										

BUSINESS

FROM page one

Fitzgerald/Finlayson lead City Markets race

ald and Finlayson were currently the favoured suitors. "They're the ones," the source said, adding that they and Neal & Massy, on BSL Holdings' behalf, had until Wednesday this week to conclude a deal.

When asked whether BK Foods and Messrs Fitzgerald/Finlayson were the only players left in the race, one source told Tribune Business: "Kind of." There was a hint that Neal & Massy were continuing to explore all available options and buyers for City Markets, and had not ruled out bringing in the receivers if all else failed, as the Trinidadian group does everything possible to save the company and preserve as many jobs as possible.

"They were the initial guys with \$50 million on the table, and if they can do something, more power to them," one source said of Messrs Fitzgerald and Finlayson's City Markets interest. This statement itself outlines just what a coup it

could potentially be if the duo and their BK Foods entity were to capture City Markets for what is likely to be a price close to zero, plus an agreement to assume all the supermarket chain's liabilities and accounts payable.

It would represent a real 'phoenix rises from the ashes' moment, as BK Foods was the original bidder for City Markets when Winn-Dixie placed it on the market in late 2005/early 2006, offering \$50 million for a 78 per cent shareholding, only to be trumped by BSL Holdings' superior \$54 million offer.

Mr Fitzgerald last week denied that he and Mr Finlayson had been contacted by Neal & Massy, on BSL Holdings' behalf, to see if they were interested in concluding a deal, telling Tribune Business: "No, not at all. Up to now, we haven't heard anything. The company is in real bad shape and requires a lot of

investment."

Yet numerous grocery industry sources all reported to Tribune Business on Friday that it was Messrs Fitzgerald/Finlayson and their BK Foods vehicle who were in talks to purchase majority ownership in City Markets, something this newspaper was also able to confirm.

One source suggested that Mr Fitzgerald's reluctance to confirm his involvement stemmed from the ferocious confidentiality clauses that Neal & Massy were stipulating of every potential buyer. It is understood that these state that breathing even one word to the press or public could result in being sued, and has made information on developments particularly hard to confirm.

Still, many are likely to question whether the Bahamian business duo will be able to attract the depth and breadth of grocery retail management expertise needed to ensure City

Markets' survival, neither of them having worked in this particular business before.

The one huge plus in their favour is likely to be the cash pile Mr Finlayson has access to as a result of Associated Bahamian Distillers & Brewers (ABDAB) selling its Commonwealth Brewery/Burns House stakes to Heineken for a price thought to be around \$120 million. The Finlayson family controls around 60 per cent-plus of ABDAB, and Mr Fitzgerald was ABDAB's legal adviser on the deal.

Such deep pockets will be required, given that most estimates suggest that City Markets requires a minimum \$25-\$30 million immediate capital injection to re-stock the stores with inventory. The 11 supermarkets currently have little product, and therefore cannot secure customers.

Such concerns - about getting in the right management team, plus what was revealed about City Markets' parlous state during initial due diligence - were said to have put Mr

Frisch off as much as, or even more than, the negative 'push back' reaction BFS received from other Bahamian retailers and wholesalers to his plans.

Friday's deadline for BSL Holdings to complete the sale of its majority City Markets ownership to Associated Grocers of the Bahamas, Mr Frisch's investment vehicle, came and went without any confirmation from the supermarket chain's parent company, Bahamas Supermarkets, that the Memorandum of Understanding had been transformed into a 'cast iron' deal, indicating that the BFS principal had withdrawn.

Most observers believe that unless a deal is concluded imminently City Markets will fall into receivership and possible liquidation, jeopardising not just the 700 immediate jobs but the wages earned by the likes of packing boys, not to mention staffing levels at wholesale suppliers.

BSL Holdings' shareholders who, apart from Neal & Massy include the hotel industry pension funds, RoyalFidelity's private equity arm, Milo B Butler's family investment vehicle and Craig Symonette's, the Symonette Group, are said to be suffering from 'investor fatigue' and are desperate to offload City Markets.

They are likely to end up, if they have not already done so, writing-off the value of their City Markets investment, having loaned the company more than \$12 million in addition to the \$54 million purchase price. Some \$25 million of that was financed with shareholder equity, leaving them all on the hook for a collective \$37 million. No investor in BSL Holdings is understood to want to invest more money, viewing it as throwing 'good money after bad', and together with Neal &

Massy they are understood to have effectively 'pulled the plug'.

"There's potentially a major fall-out from this," one well-placed senior retail source said. "There's no product, there's no customers, and I think at this time they're waiting for the last rites. The end is nigh."

"City Markets has lost a lot of good people."

"The management there has already been losing people because of the fear of losing their jobs, and any buyer has got to put controls and systems in place. I think they're in for a severe challenge for six to 12 months."

Elgin Douglas, president of the Bahamas Commercial Stores, Supermarket and Warehouse Workers Union, which represents around 380 of City Market's 700-plus employees, said he had not received any updates on the status of the proposed deal with Associated Grocers of the Bahamas.

"I haven't heard anything new. I call Winford yesterday [Thursday]. The staff were saying to me they heard the deal didn't go through, but I told them I don't know anything."

"The union should be the first to know, and then the staff, so we will have to wait for the day to be concluded, I think," said Mr Douglas, who added that he would seek to get hold of Mr Winford for the latest news.

To rumours that City Markets was having some issues making payroll due to its mounting losses, Mr Douglas said there had been no problems with salary payments last week.

"Everybody was paid on Wednesday, there was no difficulty with that part," he stated. Mr Winford declined to comment when contacted by Tribune Business.

FROM page one

Iraq beats Bahamas

up, run and close a small or medium-sized business, focusing on how time consuming and costly various permitting processes may be.

Dealing with construction permits was identified as a sore spot for this nation, with the Bahamas ranked well behind nine other Caribbean nations in this regard, and even five spots behind strife-ridden Iraq.

Another area of non-competitiveness relates to access to electricity - with it taking longer on average (101 days) to get an initial electrical connection for a commercial building in the Bahamas than in any other country in the Caribbean except Guyana (109 days).

And the area where the Bahamas is least competitive, compared to other economies, when it comes to facilitating entrepreneurs is in registering property, according to the report's findings. In this area, the Bahamas ranks 154 - a slide of three spots since last year - out of 183.

Meanwhile, the Bahamas was not included among the 85 per cent of economies which were, despite year-by-year fluctuations, found to have seen an overall increase in the "overall efficiency of regulation" over the last five years that the report has been compiled. The Doing Business 2011 report ranks countries across nine indicators affecting the private sector, including: Starting a business, dealing with construction permits, registering property, getting credit, protecting investors, paying taxes, trading across borders, enforcing contracts and closing a business.

For 'dealing with construction permits', the Bahamas ranks 107th out of 183, falling far behind St Vincent and the Grenadines (3), St Kitts and Nevis (8), St Lucia (13), Grenada (15), Antigua and Barbuda (25), Guyana (33), Jamaica (47), Trinidad and Tobago (85). Iraq, where there has been no government for eight months, ranked at 102.

To determine a country's rank when it comes to dealing with construction permits, the report records all the procedures that a specified type of business in the construction industry would have to go through to get authorisation to build a standard warehouse and obtain connections to utilities.

For the Bahamas, this includes 18 procedures that would take an average of 197 days and cost 222 per cent of a Bahamian's per capita income, said the report.

For 'starting a business', the Doing Business team records all procedures that are officially required for an entrepreneur to start up and formally operate an industrial or commercial business.

"These include obtaining all necessary licenses and permits and completing any required notifications, verifications or inspections for the company and employees with relevant authorities," according to the methodological breakdown.

At 66, the Bahamas was ranked behind Jamaica (18), St Lucia (41), St Vincent and the Grenadines (52), St Kitts and Nevis (55). However, with an average of seven procedures to be fulfilled and an average time to

complete these of 31 days, at a cost of 9.1 per cent of per capita income, the Bahamas is ahead of the Latin American and Caribbean averages of 9.3 procedures, 56.7 days and 36.2 per cent cost. In OECD countries, the averages are 5.6 procedures, 13.8 days and 5.3 per cent cost.

Among the 'high income' countries with which this nation is categorised, the Bahamas places 40 out of 46 for overall ease of doing business, 28 out of 36 for starting a business, 43 out of 46 in registering of property and 41 out of 46 in dealing with construction permits.

The Doing Business project, which has issued reports annually since 2002, is compiled based on the responses to a survey designed and administered to more than 8,200 local experts globally, including "lawyers, business consultants, accountants, freight forwarders, government officials and other professionals routinely administering or advising on legal and regulatory requirements," according to its website.

One factor which potentially offsets its findings with regard to the competitiveness of the Bahamas having slipped versus other economies is that all other Caribbean countries ranked in the survey also fell. However, only two out of the other eight countries ranked fell as much or more than the Bahamas - that is, St Lucia (down eight places) and Antigua and Barbuda (down eight spots).

Continuing a trend, Singapore retains the top ranking on the ease of doing business this year, followed by Hong Kong SAR (China), New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States.

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that FRANCISCO GONZALO CASO DAGNINO of DEVONSHIRE ST., WESTWARD VILLAS, P.O. BOX N-3711, NASSAU, 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 1st day of November, 2010 to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.

SUN OIL LIMITED

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Sun Oil Limited seeks to identify a:
PROFESSIONAL TRACTOR TRAILER DRIVER
On the Island of Abaco

The successful candidate(s) will assume the role of **Driver/Operator**. This position is responsible for the daily execution of key responsibilities within a bulk fuel facility. These responsibilities include the safe receipt, storage and delivery of bulk petroleum products in accordance with strict industry and company standards. Successful candidates must be able to demonstrate a proven track record of safe driving. Successful experience in the petroleum industry would be a plus.

Core Responsibilities

- Daily inspection of assigned truck(s) and associated equipment.
- Safe truck loading and delivery of petroleum products throughout the island.
- Provide exceptional customer service at all times.
- Adhere to company driving policies and the Highway Code of the Bahamas.
- General fuel handling operations associated with the receipt, storage and re-distribution of petroleum products.

Job Requirements

- 5 years minimum work experience in a similar capacity.
- In depth knowledge of The Highway Code of The Bahamas.
- A strong safety record. Safety related trainings would be a plus.
- Defensive driving training would be a strong plus.
- A mechanical aptitude with some experience with equipment maintenance and repairs.
- Strong leadership skills with the ability to work as an effective team member.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- The ability to work flexible hours and weekends.

Benefits include: Competitive salary and benefits package, commensurate with work experience and qualifications.

Interested persons should apply no later than November 17, 2010 to:

jobs@sunoilbahamas.com

BDO Bahamas moves to Gresham House

BDO Bahamas has moved to the Bahamian historical site, Gresham House on Charlotte Street, Nassau. Proud to share a part of Bahamian history in occupying the landmark premises, the accountancy firm under the direction of Mr. George Clifford Culmer FCA, which has been in operation since 1977, celebrates its 33rd anniversary this month, and anticipates smooth operational continuity at the new premises. Gresham House was built by the Oakes family in 1929 and has been used as an office building for almost half a century. It was occupied by Butler's Bank in the 1960's and 70's and later by Carib Insurance Agency.

The colonial styled pink structure is consistent with that of colonial Nassau and is picturesque presenting a unified appearance with the other notable structures in the area.

BDO Bahamas is a member firm of BDO International Limited, a UK company limited by guarantee, and forms part of the international BDO network of independent member firms. The BDO International network is the 5th largest accounting organization in the world in 110 countries and 46,000 employees.

