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Volume: 107 No.13

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2010

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INSIGHT



Uncommon sense
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NEWS



Alan Arkin honoured
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INSIDE



Real Estate
SECTION INSIDE

RBDF fears after poaching arrests

POLICEMAN SHOT BY ANOTHER OFFICER DIES OF INJURIES

By ALISON LOWE
Tribune Staff Reporter
alowe@tribunemedia.net

A POLICE officer who was accidentally shot in the chest by another officer on Thursday has died, police said.

Inspector Miller died of his injuries in hospital at 12.15pm yesterday.

He had been admitted for treatment on Thursday morning after being shot during what police described as a "covert

SEE page 13

96 Dominicans held as reports of illegal fishing increase

By AVA TURNQUEST
Tribune Staff Reporter
aturnquest@tribunemedia.net

THE seizure of two illegal fishing vessels this weekend and increased reports of poachers in the Ragged Island chain have "heightened" the concerns of the Royal Bahamas Defence Force.

Reports reaching *The Tribune* late last night indicated that another vessel may have been seized in addition to Saturday morning's catch, which led to the arrest of 96 fishermen.

Details could not be confirmed up to press time, however officials explained that the number of boats seized did not match initial reports, and RBDF members were still scouring the area.

Officers on the Defence Force's Dauntless Class P48 boarded and searched two 65ft vessels fishing shortly

after 7am on Saturday. According to reports from Spanish Wells, the boats were picked up on the Conchina banks, just west of Ragged Island, which are well known for its grouper schools. The grouper season officially closed at the beginning of this month.

In a press statement yesterday, the Defence Force said: "The search led to the confiscation of a large quantity of shelled and scaled fish, and the arrest of nearly 100 persons, believed to be Dominican fishermen, on board."

"The apprehended craft are being escorted by Defence Force vessels to the capital, where the foreign fishermen will be turned over to relevant authorities for further processing."

Throughout the years, and most recently in October, local fishermen have cried

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'HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA CONCERT'

FELIPE MAJOR/TRIBUNE STAFF



FESTIVE PERFORMANCE: The Royal Bahamas Police Force held its 'Drum Beat Holiday Extravaganza Concert' in conjunction with the National LEAD Institute and the PACE Foundation at the National Centre for the Performing Arts. Police officials including Commissioner Ellison Greenslade (left) were present at the event.

UNMARRIED MOTHERS ACCOUNT FOR MAJORITY OF BIRTHS IN BAHAMAS

UNMARRIED mothers once again accounted for the majority of all births in the Bahamas, and 20 per cent of all registered births were to non-Bahamian women, according to the latest figures from the Department of Statistics.

In its completed Vital Statistics Report for 2008, the department said it

recorded 5,480 live births, a decrease from 5,854 in 2007.

The proportion of births registered rose from 87 per cent in 2007, to just over 93 per cent in 2008.

Unwed mothers accounted for 60 per cent of all births.

The largest number of

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DETAINEE DESCRIBES 'TERRIBLE' EXPERIENCE AT DETENTION CENTRE

By ALISON LOWE
Tribune Staff Reporter
alowe@tribunemedia.net

ALLEGATIONS of overflowing and stinking toilets, insufficient food, beds and bedding, and sexual assault have again emerged from the Carmichael Road Detention Centre, with one recent detainee describing the experience as "terrible."

The man, who does not

wish to be identified, was picked up recently by Immigration officers and taken to the centre for around 24 hours.

"I know it's not meant to be the Ritz Carlton, but it was really disgusting," said the man, who told *The Tribune* he felt compelled to raise awareness of the conditions on behalf of those

SEE page 14

Holiday Gift Guide

Children's Gifts!

- Nintendo Wii
- Computers
- Scoters
- Bicycles
- Roller Blades
- Barbies
- Cars
- Electronic Toys
- Nerf
- Power Wheels
- Games
- Books
- Arts & Crafts
- Puzzles
- Cribs
- Action Figures
- Stuffed Animals
- Baby Clothes
- Gift Baskets
- Baby Accessories
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- Walkers
- Car Seats/Carriers
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- Luggage
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- Microwaves
- and much more!

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- Hand Tools
- Tool Boxes
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LOCAL NEWS

JOHN BULL JUNKANOO EXTRAVAGANZA



HOLIDAY FUN: John Bull held a holiday event on Saturday at its Bay Street store. There was fun for all the family with magic shows, face painting, arts and crafts and balloon animals. Santa also paid a visit and there was a Junkanoo performance.

PHOTOS: Felipé Major/Tribune staff



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LOCAL NEWS

SIR JACK HAYWARD VOICES CONCERNS OVER ELECTRICITY

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREEPORT: Sir Jack Hayward, one of the principal owners of the Grand Bahama Port Authority, expressed his annoyance over the high electricity cost and inefficiency in power service, which he says are hindering major investments in Freeport.

He noted that big companies have already pulled out of Freeport because of the electricity cost, and others have sustained major equipment damage and loss as a result of the frequent power outages.

"We had the glass company pull out and we had other people do the same," Sir Jack commented during a press conference in the Port Authority Boardroom.

"We (also) had complaints from Pharmachem. Every time there is a power cut it blows out some of their machinery and computers, and the power company has not been compensating them."

In March, Fenestration and Glass Services closed its \$20 million investment in Freeport because of the high cost of power and poor service reliability of the Grand Bahama Power Company.

CEO Steve Howes reported at the time that they were being charged "six times the price" of electricity the company would be billed in North Carolina, where it has relocated.

In addition to a power bill of \$120,000, the Queen's Highway-based company also lost critical manufacturing equipment, resulting in at least \$170,000 damage, as a result of surges in power supply on numerous occasions.

Polymers International Limited, a major plastics manufacturing plant located on Queen's Highway, were also hit with electricity bills amounting to \$500,000 a month, forcing the company to lay off 26 contractors.

Greg Ebelhar, chief operating officer, said the electricity costs is nearly five times that of its nearest US competitor.

Sir Jack said the Port Authority has been very concerned over the power situation and has no plans to approve any request for rate hikes.

"The high cost of electricity and frequent power outages discourage industry," he said.

"It is something we were fighting against. We had no control over it except to set their rates which we had resisted them putting up rates over the past two years.

"Providing such inefficient electricity, we are not going to approve any hike in rates. I hope that they can bring in more generating equipment and more reliable equipment, but I hope also that they will bring their prices down and read the meters," Sir Jack said.

Even though many residential customers had taken steps to limit their power usage and consumption by turning off major appliances

SEE page 13

Supermarket targeted in weekend armed robberies

By ALISON LOWE
Tribune Staff Reporter
alowe@tribunemedia.net

SIX armed robberies took place between Friday and Saturday afternoon, with Cost Right supermarket at the Town Centre Mall targeted by

three men armed with "high powered weapons", and two Nassau web shops also hit.

Four men have been taken in for questioning in connection with two separate incidents, but up to press time last night, police were still on the lookout for those responsible in four

of the matters.

According to Police Press Liaison Sergeant Chrislyn Skippings, the weekend's activity began when police were called to an armed robbery at Flamingo Web Cafe, on Amos Ferguson Street and Poinciana Avenue, at around 2.35pm on Friday. They were

informed that two men armed with handguns entered the business and demanded cash.

"The culprits robbed the establishment and a customer of an undetermined amount of cash," said Sgt Skippings.

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HONOUR: Alan Arkin

Actor Alan Arkin honoured at BIFF

By MEGAN REYNOLDS
Tribune Staff Reporter
mreynolds@tribunemedia.net

STAGE and screen star Alan Arkin stepped out on the red carpet at the Atlantis hotel on Saturday night to be honoured with a Career Achievement Award by the Bahamas International Film Festival (BIFF).

The prolific actor whose performance in Little Miss Sunshine earned him the Academy Award for best actor in a supporting role in

2007, was presented with his latest accolade by the young actress who starred opposite him in the film.

Abigail Breslin, 14, said she was honoured by the opportunity to pay tribute to "one of the best actors ever" who was kind and patient with her when they worked together on the movie set, as she was just aged nine.

"Alan is one of the best actors ever," Miss Breslin told the audience of around 150 people in the Atlantis theatre.

"People always ask me if

he gave me any acting tips, and while I can't remember any specific pointers or tips, I can say that whenever Alan became Grandpa, I was so convinced that he was actually Grandpa that it made me become more Olive, and I actually forgot that we were pretending.

"So I want to thank you (Mr Arkin) for all of the characters that you've created, and I can't wait to see the characters that you have yet to bring to life, so congratulations."

Mr Arkin praised the

SEE page 15

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| FASTER | C | 1:10 | 3:35 | N/A | 6:15 | 8:30 | 10:35 |
| BURLESQUE | C | 1:30 | 3:25 | N/A | 6:00 | 8:20 | 10:40 |
| TANGLED | A | 1:10 | 3:35 | N/A | 6:15 | 8:30 | 10:35 |
| LOVE & OTHER DRUGS | T | 1:05 | 3:30 | N/A | 6:00 | 8:25 | 10:40 |
| UNSTOPPABLE | T | 1:10 | 3:30 | N/A | 6:15 | 8:30 | 10:50 |
| THE NEXT THREE DAYS | T | 1:10 | 4:10 | N/A | 7:10 | N/A | 10:10 |
| FOR COLORED GIRLS | C | 1:05 | 4:05 | N/A | 7:05 | N/A | 10:05 |
| MEGA MIND-3D | A | 1:15 | 3:40 | N/A | 6:05 | 8:20 | 10:30 |
| HARRY POTTER | B | 1:30 | 4:00 | N/A | 7:00 | N/A | 10:00 |
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| TANGLED | A | 1:15 | 3:40 | N/A | 6:10 | 8:25 | N/A |
| HARRY POTTER | B | 1:00 | 4:00 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| UNSTOPPABLE | T | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 10:50 |
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Law about Customs duty on aircraft should be quickly taken off books

EDITOR, The Tribune.

As a citizen of the Bahamas I would like to put in my 5 cents worth on the controversial matter between Customs and the Aircraft Charter Companies which are legally operating a very much needed service to the tourists that come to the Bahamas as well as to the Bahamian public who would have a nightmare travelling to the Family Islands if it were not for these charter services.

First and foremost if as I am made to understand that this law about Customs duty on aircraft has always been on the books then I suggest it be very quickly taken off the books because it has never ever been made known to the public since Independence came to the Bahamas.

Therefore making it is a gross injustice to all of a sudden to decide that you are now going to try to collect duties which for all intents and purposes was not applicable in the first place.

I would be willing to bet a fortune that there has not been a Customs officer in the Bahamas with the exception of the top 3 or 4 (and I doubt even they knew) during the last 37 years of Independence that had any clue that this

LETTERS

letters@tribunemedia.net

was a law on the books.

If this has been allowed to exist in this manner with Customs officers on a daily basis giving clearance to these aircraft for all of this time and not letting people know that they were required to pay duty then it cannot be fair and just to now come and say they are going to collect.

Besides all of this, there is the nightmare of aircraft having been in the Bahamas for 30 years or more and having had three or four different owners during that time span and now the innocent person who owns the aircraft is being hounded to pay, when if Customs had known and been doing their job the individual who brought the aircraft in would have had to pay the duty in the first place and it would not be a problem today, because it cannot be fair if Customs allowed someone else to break the law and then decides to penalize me for their negligence.

Civil Aviation is supposed to be trying to clean up the charter industry to ensure the safety of the flying public, but

this is not the way to go about this because the legal charter companies have to spend a small fortune to maintain their aircraft and keep them up to standards that can pass Civil Aviation inspections in order to keep a licence. While the hackers do not maintain their aircraft thus putting the flying public at grave risk.

Also if it is fair for taxi operators to be able to get taxi duty free then it should also be fair for legal charter companies to get duty free privileges as well because, as I said before, they are supplying a very necessary service for tourists and Bahamians alike.

I am writing this letter so that all fair-minded Bahamians can see and know what the true story behind all of this hullabaloo is really all about and give their support for fairness and equality.

All who know me know that I strive every day to make sure that what belongs to the Treasury legitimately gets to go in the Treasury but fairness must be given to all.

ABNER PINDER,
Spanish Wells,
Eleuthera,
December 4, 2010.

Let's take back our basketball parks

EDITOR, The Tribune.

Our Bahamaland is in crisis. Crime is rampant and some of our young people are seemingly lost in a world of decadence and deviant behaviour.

But there is hope for a change and we can start by taking back our basketball parks.

These basketball parks that are in our communities should be safe zones, but as they are now they are very unsafe. A basketball game sometimes turns into a fight amongst the players, people use foul language and play music spouting foul lyrics and there's the smoking of tobacco and marijuana cigarettes and the open consumption of alcoholic beverages.

I say it's high time we the people become brave enough to take back our basketball parks. How? What we need to do is make these places Christian themed basketball parks. By that I mean we need to repaint over all of that gang graffiti and now erect billboard signs displaying Biblical scriptures like the Lord's prayer, the 23rd Psalm and the ten commandments. We should also erect large, towering crosses of concrete that can withstand the elements and time. Some of our people, though misguided, still have a deep respect and fear of God.

There should also be a sign of park rules:

1. No fighting
2. No cursing
3. No graffiti
4. No weapons
5. No loud music
6. No smoking
7. No alcohol

If these rules are abided by then these parks will indeed become safe zones. There should also be the placement of uniformed park wardens to help maintain order, control and discipline.

Further to this, the church must get involved for it is often said that the church does not take their message out into the community anymore.

Therefore the churches in the areas of these basketball parks should adopt them and hold regular evening services at least twice per week.

These services should be of a casual and informal nature where the attendees may come as they are and dressed as they are. Services should be no more than 40 minutes long as young people can become bored very easily and quickly.

There would be the usual singing and preaching but the preaching of the word must take a tone that is soft spoken, kind and uplifting. We must not preach down to the attendees, raining down hellfire, damnation and judgment upon them as this would be a turn-off and they may not return.

There must be no collection of an offering as these services should be focused on the giving of the word not the receiving of money because attendees may feel that the church is only doing these services to take their money which would be another turn-off.

At the end of each service there should be a call-out to those in attendance who wish to come forward and receive the cleansing of the Holy Spirit and be born again thus setting them on the right road in turning their lives around. This is how we can change the minds of our wayward youth. Phone and e-mail contacts should also be given out for those wishing to seek further counsel.

Yes there is a lot of talk out there but I feel this is a plan of action in the right direction. I am not a very religious person but I do recognise the power that religion has and the impact it can have on a person's life.

These are desperate times and though this plan may seem small I feel it can aid greatly in making a positive change in our great Bahamaland. Let us remember the song that says "it only takes a spark to get the fire going."

DEREK
Nassau,
November 29, 2010.

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Claim 'criminal deportees' creating problems

JAMAICA'S justice system is facing a serious problem of witness tampering.

According to Jamaica's weekend Gleaner the matter came up for discussion last week at a case-management conference in the Home Circuit Court. In many cases, the complaint was that witnesses could not be found.

One of the judges suggested that if a witness had disappeared, the case should be thrown out. However, as it was pointed out such action would only encourage the disappearance of more witnesses with more cases being thrown out for lack of evidence and accused—guilty or not—going free without trial. The whole judicial system would collapse.

A Jamaican defence lawyer brought to the Circuit Court's attention five men accused of murder whose case has been on the court's calendar for the past six years. However, the case has now been put off because of insufficient jurors.

Jamaica's Director of Public Prosecutions, while sympathising with judges and lawyers, acknowledged that a lot of witness intimidation was taking place in Jamaica. She said that as prosecutors they are "operating in a challenging environment where a lot of people are afraid to testify and there are instances where witnesses are killed."

However, she said, "we would be handing a weapon to perpetrators to just simply have their friends put potential witnesses in fear because they know the system has a new rule that once the witnesses do not turn up in court, the case is automatically thrown out." She said that a balance had to be arrived at, always bearing in mind that the accused had to be charged within a reasonable time.

"We have to strike a balance too in the challenging environment, the high crime rate and intimidation of witnesses," she said.

Does the Bahamas have the same problem? The answer is yes, but certainly not to the same degree.

We have heard of a case in which a family is being terrorised right from a prison cell.

"They have been threatened that if they talk, they will be killed or their home will be burned down," we were told.

It is understood that this family is so frightened that in three years they have changed homes 10 times.

This is a murder case. We have heard of another case—very similar in nature—where henchmen of the accused torture witnesses by threatening reminders, either by

phone or in person, as to what would happen if they talked. These are cases of which we are aware. However, we have been told that there are others, and that witness tampering is becoming a problem.

Several years ago a well known drug lord was jailed.

There were several killings, some in Freeport, some in Nassau. Our reporters were always told that they were murders of retaliation—one "of the boys" of a certain drug gang getting even with "the boys" of another gang. They were slowly wiping each other out. All of our investigations led to a certain cell at HM Prison, Fox Hill.

This is very serious. Somehow this threat to society has to be neutralised. Prison administrators should know who these people are. A system has to be found to cut off their contact with the outside world and prevent them from directing their "boys" to do their dirty work for them. When discovered such persons—regardless of their other charges—should be jailed for life as being a danger to society. And the "boys" on the outside should also be severely dealt with. If our system cannot protect the witnesses then those who threaten them should be locked away so that they cannot harm them.

We have been told that a "serious drug war" is going on in the East Street, Market Street and Blue Hill Road areas, which would take in Bain Town. The allegation is that some criminal deportees are mixed up in this tug-of-war over drugs.

Criminal deportees—those jailed in another country for serious crime, now being deported back to their last address—are causing havoc in Trinidad and Jamaica and the rest of the Caribbean.

It is understood that the situation is so bad in Trinidad that a plan is now under serious consideration to hold court in prison using computer screens. It has been decided that to move prisoners to regular courts—as is done on a daily basis in Nassau—is much too dangerous. We have been advocating such a change of court venue for Nassau for some time. Trinidad is finally going to do it to protect its citizens.

Criminal deportees, who have served time in other criminal systems, bring a certain criminal sophistication back with them when they return to home turf. There are those who maintain that it is this element that has infiltrated the local scene.

It is devastating Trinidad and Jamaica, we were told. "Nassau," they say, "is only catching up."

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LOCAL NEWS

UNMARRIED MOTHERS ACCOUNT FOR MAJORITY OF BIRTHS IN BAHAMAS

FROM page one

births were to women aged 25 to 29.

Teenage mothers accounted for about 12 per cent of registered births. Ten per cent of these births were to girls under 15.

The majority (75 per cent) of all registered births were to mothers whose usual residence is New Providence.

In 2008, registered births to non-Bahamian mothers stood at 20 per cent. Just over three quarters (79 per cent) of the non-Bahamian mothers were of Haitian origin.

The year 2007 recorded the highest sex ratio of male to female registered births, reporting 105 boys for every 100 girls born.

However, in 2008 a decline of 97 boys to every 100 girl births were recorded.

There were a total of 1,863 deaths in 2008, resulting in a crude death rate of 5.5.

Mortalities among the male population continued

to be the highest at 1,026; while the incidences of death for females stood at 837 in 2008.

Hypertensive and heart diseases remained the major causes of death among men and women.

The second largest number of all deaths occurred among persons with cancer.

Breast cancer in women and prostate cancer in men continue to be the two major types of cancer deaths.

Deaths caused by AIDS declined for the second consecutive year.

Infant immortality rate increased slightly over the previous year from 17.6 in 2007, to 17.9 in 2008.

A similar growth pattern was registered for stillbirths from 14.2 in 2007, to 15.0 in 2008.

There were 1,969 marriages recorded in the Bahamas in 2008, which showed a slight decline of 2.6 per cent from the previous year. The marriage rate declined to 5.8 in 2008 from 6.1 in 2007.



DRUM BEAT HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA CONCERT

ON-SONG: Singers perform at the 'Drum Beat Holiday Extravaganza Concert' held by the Royal Bahamas Police Force in conjunction with the National LEAD Institute and the PACE Foundation at the National Centre for the Performing Arts last night.

Felipé Major/Tribune staff

POLICEMAN SHOT BY ANOTHER OFFICER DIES OF INJURIES

FROM page one

operation." Pressed for further details on the circumstances surrounding the incident at the time, Assistant Commissioner of Police Hulan Hanna said he could provide no more information because it would risk compromising the police's work.

"Officers were participating in an operation in southwest New Providence when an officer was accidentally shot to the upper body by one of his colleagues.

"This was a police operation, we cannot say anything else about it. A lot of the work officers do are by nature covert, and if we comment on some of the things we have to engage in, it would compromise future operations," he said.

A tribute to the officer was expected to take place during the police's "variety concert" at the National Centre for the Performing Arts yesterday evening.

SIR JACK HAYWARD VOICES CONCERNS

FROM page three

in their homes, they complained that their monthly bills were still very high and suspected that the company was estimating their bills based on past billings.

Sir Jack, who also owns a residence in Freeport, said he too received a bill for over \$600 although he had been off the island for an extended period of time.

"We vacated it for a whole month, cut off all electricity: the light, air condition, even hot water heater, and we still got a bill for \$625 when there is no one at the cottage at all," he said.

Last Thursday, the G B Power Company announced that Emera had purchased 55.4 per cent of MaruEnergy's (a Japanese based company) interest in the company, making it the majority owner of the power company with a total interest of 80.4 per cent.

Emera CEO Chris Huskison also announced plans to build a new \$35 million generating station to provide more reliable and efficient power supply on Grand Bahama.

He also stated that the company will install two, one megawatt wind turbine, early next year after a wind study on the island which concluded that wind energy is possible.

"We want to make the island's electrical system less reliant on fossil fuel and less susceptible to variable fossil fuel prices," Mr Huskison said.

Sir Jack was pleased by the news and called it "a real step forward" for the power company. "It is great, we couldn't be more delighted in the Port Authority," he said.

• SEE PAGE FIVE AND BUSINESS SECTION

RBDF FEARS AFTER POACHING ARRESTS

FROM page one

out for greater security measures against poachers – most notably Dominican – who were said to "rape" and "plunder" Bahamian waters indiscriminately.

Those most affected called for authorities to form an international coalition to crack down on companies which profit from poaching in Bahamian waters.

When a boat from the Dominican Republic was captured in October with more than 25,000lbs of illegal fish, Myron Lockhart-Bain, former chief counselor of Ragged Island, said the only way to alleviate the problem was to implement stricter regulations which

affect the boat owners.

Mr Lockhart-Bain suggested cooperation between Bahamian and Dominican governments to impose stricter fines and sentencing for poachers.

Brent Symonette, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, declined to comment on whether or not there could possibly be a diplomatic solution to the poaching issue.

However, Mr Symonette said: "Obviously each country knows where its fishing waters are. We have very fruitful waters and we intend on protecting our fishing rights. At the end of the grouper season, we increased patrol in certain areas and the recent arrests are a result of that."

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LOCAL NEWS

FROM page three

DETAINEE DESCRIBES 'TERRIBLE' EXPERIENCE AT DETENTION CENTRE

who remain inside.

Immigration Minister Brent Symonette yesterday promised he would have some of the man's claims investigated – those regarding the toilets – saying that if true, this would be “totally unacceptable.” He also said he was “unaware” of a bedding issue in the Detention Centre, saying the last time he visited there was bedding provided for detainees.

However, he further charged that “if conditions are uncomfortable then people shouldn't break the law.”

“Those in The Bahamas working illegally should regularise their status or leave immediately,” said Mr

Symonette.

The detainee said his previous work permit had elapsed, and he had applied to the Department of Immigration for a new one to be issued.

His claims come over a year and a half after the government commissioned a report on conditions at the Detention Centre following repeated claims of abuse, insufficient food and generally squalid living conditions at the immigration holding

centre.

The government claimed the findings of the review, which involved a tour of the facility by a number of government and non-government individuals, including psychologist Dr David Allen, Social Services Director Melony Zonicle, Archdeacon James Palacious, Royal Bahamas Defence Force Senior Lieutenant Frederick Brown and Immigration Director Jack Thompson, were that some

of those allegations could not be substantiated while other concerns would be addressed.

Despite promises from previous minister of state for immigration, Branville McCartney, that a report commissioned into conditions at the facility would be released, it never has been.

In an interview with *The Tribune* in April, Minister of Immigration and Deputy Prime Minister Brent Symonette said he was unsure if the report would be released.

However, Mr Symonette said at that time that as far as he knew “there are no outstanding issues at the Detention Centre.”

Yesterday, the detainee told *The Tribune* that after having been brought to the Detention Centre at around 5.30pm, he and a number of others were not fed anything until the following morning.

For breakfast, detainees were given “porridge with weevils in it.”

“A lot of the people I spoke to in there said that if it weren't for friends or family bringing them food, they would not have enough to eat in general,” said the man.

A visit to the men's bathroom was a horrifying experience, he claimed.

“The toilets were blocked and overflowing. There was (faeces) everywhere. There were no urinals, just a hole in

the wall where I guess it used to be, and no toilet paper. There was water leaking from a pipe on to the floor. You wouldn't want to go within five feet of those toilets but if you were at that end of the dorm you could smell everything.

“There just looked like there was so much potential for disease to be spread throughout the place,” said the man.

Showers for bathing were also located in the same area as the toilets, making the possibility of washing another daunting prospect, he added.

“I met a Cuban man who had been in there for six months. Others had been in there for a couple of years. The Cuban guy said the cleanest place was in the wash-house where they had a hose and so he used that to shower,” said the man.

According to the detainee, there were “no tables or chairs” in the area, meaning that even sitting down except on the floor was a difficulty.

Meanwhile, the man heard secondhand stories about the alleged experiences of others which were more appalling than his own – including claims of rape and a woman who was haemorrhaging blood but went without requested medical attention for “two or three days.”

“People said no-one except the guards ever come in to check on people's health or see how people are doing,” said the man.

With around 70 people in the Detention Centre at the time he was admitted, there were only around 50 beds.

“This meant that there



IMMIGRATION MINISTER
Brent Symonette

were a lot of people who were not able to sit or lie down, and there was no bedding whatsoever.

“In weather like this, if you didn't have much to wear, you would freeze,” said the man.

Mr Symonette said the government has been making efforts to keep the number of people at the Detention Centre to a minimum and recently the facility was “almost empty” after a number of repatriations.

However, following the destruction of one of the dormitory buildings in late 2008 during an alleged arson attack by a detainee, “only a finite number of beds” are available.

“When we do have apprehensions we can't control the numbers that we apprehend,” said Mr Symonette.

Supermarket targeted in weekend armed robberies

FROM page three

pings. "They fled the area in a red 1997 Mitsubishi Montero licence plate 118324, which was stolen from outside the establishment. A short while later police recovered the vehicle on Cordeaux Avenue and Exuma Street."

One of the crooks was wearing a white T-shirt and a black pants, the other a multi-coloured shirt and blue jeans.

At around 7.15pm, police attended the scene of the next reported armed robbery on Lincoln Boulevard, south of Wulff Road.

Sgt Skippings said: "A female was inside her residence when she was approached by a dark male wearing a dark hooded jacket with a scarf over his face, allegedly armed with a handgun, demanding cash. The culprit robbed the woman of an undisclosed amount of cash and an ipod and fled the area on foot in an unknown direction."

A man arriving home at 3am on Williams Lane, in Nassau Village, became the next armed robbery victim

when he was accosted in his driveway by a masked man armed with a shotgun.

The robber demanded cash but was told by the victim he had none. The victim was then approached by another man armed with a handgun who took his vehicle, a 2001 black Ford Ranger, licence plate number 18393. The two men fled the area in the vehicle.

At around 8.20pm that day, police recovered the truck at the Texaco Service Station, on Faith Avenue and took two men, aged 23 and 40, into custody in connection with the incident.

Island Luck web shop on East Street and Windsor Lane was hit by an armed robber at around 5pm on Saturday. Police report that a dark-skinned man with a gold tooth, wearing a black-hooded sweater and short blue jeans, entered the building and demanded cash.

He got away with an undisclosed amount of money and fled the area.

Meanwhile, it was around 6.20pm when three men allegedly armed with high-powered weapons approached a woman security

guard at Cost Right foodstore at the Town Centre Mall, led her into the store and demanded cash.

"The culprits robbed the establishment of an undetermined amount of cash and fled the area on foot west on to Graham Drive, Yellow Elder. It is reported that one of the suspects wore a red jacket with red tennis shoes, a black pants and a white T-shirt," said Sgt Skippings.

Just under an hour later, police were called to another armed robbery at Baillou Hill Road and Graham Drive.

Officers were informed that a woman, while waiting at a bus stop on Baillou Hill Road, was approached by two men one of whom was armed with a knife.

The men robbed the woman of her cell phone and fled in a red two-door Honda Accord. Two men, aged 19 and 22, are assisting police with their investigations.

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Actor Alan Arkin honoured at BIFF



FROM page three

young actress as being as professional and brilliant as anyone he has ever worked with.

Having just finished three films and with an autobiographical book to be published in March, Mr Arkin has clearly not slowed the pace of his expansive artistic career.

In a candid interview with fellow New York native Jeffery Lyons, the host of the TV show Lyons Den, Mr Arkin divulged some of the highlights and pitfalls of his experiences from the stage to the silver screen, and then as a director, producer, writer and musician.

Mr Arkin broke into showbusiness after he wrote Harry Belafonte's mega-hit The Banana Boat Song (also known as Day-O), and went on to pursue his passion, a career in acting, with the Second City improvisational troupe in Chicago.

From Chicago he went on to Broadway and won a Tony award for his first stage role as the lead in Carl Reiner's Enter Laughing in 1963.

His first film performance as a Soviet sailor in the farcical 1966 comedy The Russians Are Coming! The Russians Are Coming! won him an Oscar nomination, and in 1968 his lead role in The Heart is a Lonely Hunter secured Mr Arkin his second Oscar nomination.

His career continue to expand as he developed his skills as an actor, director, producer and a writer, starring in films too numerous to mention throughout the years into the new millennium.

After viewing the montage of his work, Mr Arkin said: "It's like looking back on a family album for me. I see things I would like to have done better, but that's good, it means I have grown."

"It's been the only thing I know how to do basically, and I have got to make a living like everybody else in the world; except for some people who live in the Bahamas," he quipped.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Iran claims nuclear advance ahead of talks

ALI AKBAR DAREINI, AP
GEORGE JAHN, AP
TEHRAN, Iran

Iran delivered a resolute message on the eve of talks with six world powers: We're mining our own uranium now,

so there is no stopping our nuclear ambitions.

The Islamic Republic said Sunday it has produced its first batch of locally mined uranium ore for enrichment, making it independent of foreign countries for a process the West

fears is geared toward producing nuclear arms.

No matter the U.N. sanctions over the program, "our nuclear activities will proceed and they will witness greater achievements in the future," Iranian nuclear chief Ali Salehi told state-run Press TV.

Western officials downplayed the announcement, saying it had been expected and that Iran did not have enough ore to maintain the large-scale enrichment program that Tehran says it is building as a source of fuel for an envisaged network of nuclear reactors.

"Given that Iran's own supply of uranium is not enough for a peaceful nuclear energy program, this calls into further question Iran's intentions and raises additional concerns at a time when Iran needs to address the concerns of the international community," said Mike Hammer, spokesman of the U.S. National Security Council.

Sunday's announcement makes clear that Iran does not consider uranium enrichment to be up for discussion at the talks beginning Monday in Geneva. Tehran is determined to expand the program instead of scrapping it as the U.N.



PRESS BRIEFING: Iran's top nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili, right, speaks with media, during a press briefing, in Tehran, Iran, Saturday, Dec. 4, 2010. A picture of Majid Shahrhiri, a prominent nuclear scientist, is seen on the bottom of the podium, who was killed in a bomb attack on Monday, Nov. 29.

Security Council demands.

Expectations for the talks had been low even before the announcement, with Iran saying it is prepared to discuss nuclear issues only in the context of global disarmament. Officials from some of the six powers have said they would be pleased if negotiations yielded no more than agreement to meet at a later date to explore common themes.

The ultimate aim of the U.S., Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany is to commit Tehran to give up enrichment because of its potential use in making nuclear arms.

The talks in Geneva — the first in over a year — are meant to lay the cornerstone for establishing trust. Tehran says it does not want atomic arms, but as it builds on its capacity to potentially make such weapons, nei-

ther Israel nor the U.S. have ruled out military action if the Islamic Republic fails to heed U.N. Security Council demands to freeze enrichment and other nuclear programs.

The talks are expected to take two days. Saeed Jalili, Iran's top nuclear negotiator, will meet with EU foreign affairs chief Catherine Ashton, with Ashton's office saying she will act "on behalf" of the U.S., Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany. In fact, senior officials for those six powers will attend and do much of the talking with Tehran.

Ahead of the talks, Western officials urged Tehran to address international concerns about its nuclear activities.

Invoking possible military confrontation over Iran's nuclear defiance, British Defense Secretary Liam Fox said Saturday that the Geneva talks need to make a serious start toward resolving the issue.

"We want a negotiated solution, not a military one — but Iran needs to work with us to achieve that outcome," he said. "We will not look away or back down."

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said it was up to Iran to restore trust about its nuclear intentions, urging it to come to Geneva prepared to "firmly, conclusively reject the pursuit of nuclear weapons."

German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle said a nuclear-armed Iran "was unacceptable for us."

Sunday's announcement by Salehi burdened the pre-talk atmosphere, adding to tensions left by the assassination last week of a prominent Iranian nuclear scientist and the wounding of another.

Salehi, head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran and the country's vice president, said Iran had for the first time delivered domestically mined raw uranium to a processing facility — allowing it to bypass U.N. sanctions prohibiting import of the material.

Salehi said the uranium ore concentrate, known as yellowcake, was produced at the Gachin uranium mine in southern Iran and delivered to the uranium conversion facility in the central city of Isfahan for reprocessing.

Yellowcake is processed into uranium hexafluoride, which later can be turned into a gas used as feedstock for enriching uranium. Uranium enriched to low grades is used for fuel in nuclear reactors, but further enrichment makes it suitable for atomic bombs.

Salehi said the delivery was evidence that the mysterious bombings targeting the two Iranian nuclear scientists would not slow the country's progress.

"Today, we witnessed the shipment of the first domestically produced yellowcake ... from Gachin mine to the Isfahan nuclear facility," said Salehi, whose comments were broadcast live on state television.

Spain's airports recovering from controller strike

HAROLD HECKLE,
Associated Press
MADRID

Spanish airports were back operating at normal levels Sunday after a 24-hour wildcat strike by air traffic controllers caused travel chaos for hundreds of thousands of people on one of the country's busiest holiday weekends.

The government quashed the strike Saturday, announcing an emergency measure calling on the controllers to get back to work or face the threat of jail time. Shortly after the measure was implemented, controllers started trickling back to their posts.

More than 4,000 flights were scheduled and out of 296 controllers supposed to be working, 286 were at their posts, enabling airports to "operate fully," Spain's civil aviation authority said.

The government implemented a "state of alarm," normally reserved for catastrophes such as earthquakes or floods, to get planes back in the skies and clear chaotic airports clogged with irate travelers who had seen their holiday hopes dashed by the unannounced strike.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Scientists aim to map and save endangered habitats



LOGGING THREAT: In this Nov. 5, 2006 file photo, Kessi, a young female orangutan looks at the stump where her hand was cut off by plantation workers at an orangutan rehabilitation center in Palangkaraya, Kalimantan, Indonesia. Logging poses a serious threat to the lowland forests on Indonesia's Borneo Island that are home to endangered orangutans and scientists are figuring out how to catalog and map the world's most threatened ecosystems, just like their familiar list of endangered species.

IAN JAMES, AP
CARACAS, Venezuela

From mangrove swamps in Venezuela to lowland forests in Indonesia, entire communities of plants and animals are under threat. Now scientists are figuring out how to catalog and map the world's most threatened ecosystems, just like their familiar lists of endangered species.



CUT DOWN: In this Nov. 2, 2007 file photo, logs sit before being transported as natural forest is seen on the right in Pangkalan Kerinci, Riau province, on Sumatra island, Indonesia.

Some experts say drawing up a global "Red List" of vanishing ecosystems would help them spot looming crises caused by climate change, cutting of forests and many other problems. The list also would sharpen the focus on areas that should be handled as conservation priorities.

Along the shore of Venezuela's Lake Maracaibo, runoff filled with sediment and pesticides has been smothering animals that once lived among the roots of the mangrove trees, including crabs, fish hatchlings and shellfish, said Luz Esther Sanchez, a marine biologist and ecologist. She has been studying such dead zones and says saving the mangroves requires a comprehensive effort to reduce water pollution and halt the clearing of other forests upstream.

"Declaring the mangrove ecosystem threatened would be very useful for conserva-

tion," Sanchez said. "People stand up to defend dolphins. People stand up to defend turtles. But I've never seen them defend the mangrove forest with the same vehemence."

An international working group of biologists and conservation experts has been developing a system for classifying threats to ecosystems, and in October presented an initial blueprint at a U.N. conference on biodiversity in Nagoya, Japan.

"If we can get a good, rigorous scientific system in place that is relatively easy to monitor worldwide, ... you can follow these changes and describe them and ring the alarm bell where things might go wrong," said Dutch conservation expert Piet Wit.

He chairs the Commission of Ecosystem Management of

the International Union for Conservation of Nature, or IUCN, which maintains the Red List of thousands of threatened plants and animals that is the international standard.

Some scientists caution that agreeing on precise categories to divide up habitats would be a monumental task. But many already agree on some ecosystems that are threatened or endangered, including many coral reefs, salt marshes, mountain habitats threatened by rising global temperatures, grasslands in southern Russia and Brazil's Atlantic forest.

Logging poses a serious threat to the lowland forests on Indonesia's Borneo Island that are home to endangered orangutans. In the Andes, expanding farmland has fragmented the cloud forests where spectacled bears live.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Winfrey, McCartney in DC for Kennedy Center Honors

BRETT ZONGKER, Associated Press WASHINGTON

When The Beatles were storming America, Oprah Winfrey had the band's poster on her bedroom wall, Merle Haggard was free from prison, Jerry Herman was making Broadway sing and Bill T. Jones was not yet a dancer but growing up in a migrant labor camp. On Sunday, these leading artists who followed divergent paths since the 1960s joined Paul McCartney to receive the Kennedy Center Honors. They heard accolades from President Barack Obama. "Although the honorees on this stage each possess a stag-

gering amount of talent, the truth is, they aren't being recognized tonight simply because of their careers as great lyricists or songwriters or dancers or entertainers," Obama said. "Instead, they're being honored for their unique ability to bring us closer together and to capture something larger about who we are — not just as Americans, but as human beings." Stars also were performing as part of the nation's top prize for those who define U.S. culture through the arts. The president and first lady Michelle Obama had arrived and former Secretary of State Colin Powell was sitting with them in their box.

HONOREES: Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, left, talks with Kennedy Center honorees for 2010 Jerry Herman, Merle Haggard, Bill T. Jones, and Paul McCartney while waiting for Oprah Whitney to arrive for a group photo after at a dinner held at the State Department honoring the recipients of the Kennedy Center Honors, in Washington, on Saturday, Dec. 4, 2010.

(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)



Gwen Stefani and her band, No Doubt, were going to perform the Beatles' "Hello, Goodbye." "It's so hard doing someone else's song, especially a genius," Stefani said. Secretary of State

Hillary Rodham Clinton hosted a dinner Saturday for the honorees, along with visiting celebrities, including Stefani, Julia Roberts, Claire Danes, Steven Tyler from Aerosmith.

The guests also included veteran entertainers Carol Channing, Angela Lansbury and Sidney Poitier. Clinton marveled at the diverse "genres and generations" of artists.

said. "She's not just a talk show host." Winfrey was one of the first to support Obama in his presidential run.

"What can I say about our final honoree. Michelle and I love Oprah Winfrey, personally love this woman," he said. "And the more you know Oprah the more spectacular you realize her character and her soul are, the more you appreciate what a wonderful gifted person she is." Performers who will honor Winfrey and the others will be a surprise until they appear on stage Sunday night, but Winfrey has admitted she doesn't like surprises.

At the State Department, the ornate Benjamin Franklin room was a swirl of Hollywood, Nashville, New York and Washington power players, including President Bill Clinton. Roberts said it was both exciting and nerve wracking. She said the mix of art and politics "can converge in a very interesting way, so when it's done right, it's really exciting."

After the honors were announced in September, Jones, the son of potato pickers, said he could recall dreaming of big things as a 9-year-old boy in upstate New York. He went on to create the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company in 1982 after college with his late partner Arnie Zane. His work has tackled racism, AIDS and other tough issues, sometimes sparking outrage. Jones said he's often felt like an outsider, yet he's being honored for helping to shape the country. His portrait also is included in a current Smithsonian Institution exhibit, the first to explore the impact of sexual orientation on art history. The exhibition has recently drawn complaints from conservatives.

"Someone asked me last night how I feel and it was Julia Roberts," Jones said. "I feel as if it's a dream and I'm speaking to Julia Roberts." Opera singer Jessye Norman, who toasted Jones' work Saturday, said she admired him for being brave enough to stand alone at times in his advocacy on social and political issues.

King said it was a fitting tribute for Winfrey as a communicator, actress, producer and humanitarian.

"They're recognizing her whole body of work," King

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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 SUV 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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All resumes must be received by 10th December 2010.

Only persons meeting ALL of the requirements above need apply.



Fund targeting \$1m bottom line swing

- BIX-listed Bahamas Property Fund prioritises getting vacant 18,000 sq ft at Financial Centre rented, in bid to get CAM costs to bottom line
- 'Optimistic' some tenant deals will be closed in next few months, after 16% net income drop, with Financial Centre and One Marina Drive 82% and 95% leased
- Looking at add 'at least another \$30-\$40m' worth of real estate to existing \$54m portfolio, as ambition to create \$100m-strong business remains
- Shopping centres and downtown Nassau redevelopment eyed as future opportunities, although no talks being held with any potential seller



MICHAEL ANDERSON

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

The Bahamas Property Fund is hoping to close leases for some of the vacant 18,000 square feet at its Bahamas Financial Centre property within the next few months, in a bid to flow an extra \$990,000 per annum into its bottom line, as it targets adding "at least another" \$30-\$40 million worth of real estate to its portfolio as opportunities arise.

Confirming that the BIX-listed fund had targeted the creation of a \$100 million-strong real estate portfolio when it was formed in 2000, Michael Anderson, the Bahamas Prop-

erty Fund's administrator, told Tribune Business that the real estate investment trust (REIT) was expected to generate a better financial performance in 2011, as several potential tenants it was in discussion with were expected to sign long-term leases.

He also told Tribune Business that the Bahamas Property Fund was interested in diversifying its real estate holdings, moving beyond the prime office properties it held currently into high-end shopping centres, while also eyeing long-term retail rental opportunities that could ultimately result

SEE page 4B

Water Corp: Inaction will taken water loss to 60%

- * Government-owned Corporation targeting increased private sector help to reduce non-revenue water to 23% by 2020
- * Partners with Bahamas Renewable Energy Corporation for solar/wind power solution to Eleuthera water plant, seeking costs 25% below BEC
- * Looks at outsourcing engineering department, and cutting water loss losses of \$13-\$16 million in Nassau and \$6-7m in Family Islands
- * Failure to act on water losses will force Corporation to increase supply from 10.6 million gallons of water to 14.1 million in 2014, and 17.1m gallons in 2020

By ALISON LOWE
Business Reporter
Alowe@Tribunemedia.net

The Water and Sewerage Corporation is targeting an increased level of private sector involvement in its operations, and is examining retrofitting its facilities with renewable energy, as it targets reducing non-revenue water from a potential 60 per cent of its supply to 23 per cent by 2020.

Glen Laville, Water and Sewerage's new general manager, said additional outsourcing of its functions to private companies will involve both the further construction and operation of reverse osmosis plants, plus sewerage treatment

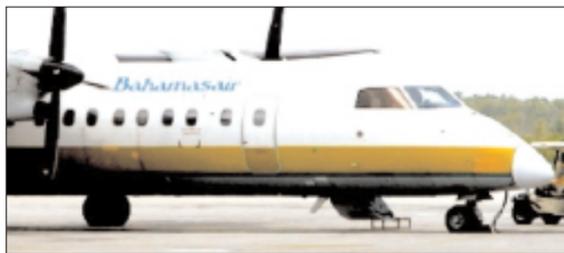
SEE page 6B

BAHAMASAIR DENIES 'WHISTLEBLOW' FIRING

By ALISON LOWE
Business Reporter
alowe@tribunemedia.net

Bahamasair has reached an out-of-court settlement with a former employee days before her legal action went to trial in the US courts over allegations she was dismissed for "whistle-blowing" on US federal law violations supposedly committed by the airline.

Bahamasair general manager, Henry Woods, denied the ex-employee's claim that the airline had "routinely" violated US federal regula-



READY FOR TAKEOFF: A Bahamasair Dash-8 waits for departure.

tions stemming from 2001 anti-terrorism legislation, and refused to comment on allegations that she was fired for exposing alleged wrongdoing on Bahamasair's part to the US authorities.

Speaking to the claims of US federal regulation violations by the national flag carrier, Mr Woods said:

SEE page 8B

| | |
|-------------|--------|
| GAS TRACKER | |
| Shell | \$4.30 |
| Esso | \$4.45 |
| FUEL | |
| TEXACO | \$4.34 |

The information contained is from a third party and The Tribune can not be held responsible for errors and/or omission from the daily report.

BTC'S \$15M NET CASH SET TO COVER RESTRUCTURE COSTS

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

Senior Cable & Wireless executives have confirmed that the \$15 million in net cash that they will inherit on the Bahamas Telecommunications Company's (BTC) balance sheet will be used to at least partly cover the costs of the downsizing/restructuring that will see the company's workforce reduced by 30 per cent.

Tony Rice, Cable & Wireless Communications (CWC) chief executive, and Tim Pennington, its chief financial officer, disclosed this in a London conference call with analysts

SEE page 7B

New Robin Hood store '80% ready'

* Owner targeting soft opening this week, and Prince Charles location will be '95% complete' by Friday

* Hoping Christmas season will be 'at least as good as last year'

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

Robin Hood's new Prince Charles store is "probably 80 per cent" complete and on target for a soft opening at the end of this week, its president and owner told Tribune Business, adding that the company was "expecting to do at least as well as last year" with Christmas sales at its Tonique Williams-Darling Highway location.

"I would say we are probably 80 per cent of the way there, and hopefully by the time next week rolls around, a week from now, we will be 95

per cent of the way there. We will be there," Sandy Schaefer told Tribune Business of the Prince Charles store, which will be located in the former Pepsi-Cola manufacturing plant.

"We're trying for some sort of soft opening at the end of [this] week. We will be open this month, but are not really planning a groundbreaking opening until mid-January."

Mr Schaefer told Tribune Business that there were "well over" 100 construction workers at the Prince Charles site,

SEE page 8B

PM backs building inspection outsource

By ALISON LOWE
Business Reporter
Alowe@tribunemedia.net

Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham and the Bahamas Society of Engineers president have thrown their support behind private engineers being able to carry out building inspections in place of, or in addition to, government inspectors, the latter arguing that such a move would have a "really phenomenal" impact on expediting development.

Speaking to engineers at the Bahamas Society of Engineers (BSE) Engineering, Design and Construction Conference, Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham said he was in favour of private sector engineers being able to undertake building inspections and certification that "it now takes the Government of the Bahamas weeks,

SEE page 9B

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BUSINESS

RoyalFidelity Market Wrap

By ROYALFIDELITY CAPITAL MARKETS

It was another slow week of trading in the Bahamian stock market. Investors traded in five out of the 24 listed securities, with all stocks remaining unchanged.

EQUITY MARKET

A total of 57,300 shares changed hands, representing an increase of 1,394 shares compared to the previous week's trading volume of 55,906 shares.

Commonwealth Bank (CBL) was the volume leader last week, trading a volume of 55,000 shares to see its stock price close unchanged at

\$6.85. FOCOL Holdings (FCL) traded a volume of 1,000 shares to see its share price close unchanged at \$5.46.

BOND MARKET

Fidelity Bank Bahamas Series B Notes (FBBSB) traded a volume of \$30,000 at par value.

COMPANY NEWS

Earnings Releases:
Colina Holdings Bahamas (CHL) released unaudited financial statements for the quarter ended September 30, 2010, reporting net income available to common shareholders of \$2.6 million compared to \$5.3 million in the same quarter in 2009.

It was noted that both net premium revenues and net policyholder benefits were up quarter-over-quarter.

Net premium revenues stood at \$28.2 million, increasing by \$1.48 million, while net benefits paid totalled \$19.6 million, up by \$4.1 million.

CHL reported net investment income of \$8.2 million, an increase of \$2.4 million in comparison to the prior quarter, while its expenses reflected reduced changes in provision for future policy benefits of \$3.5 million.

These climbed by \$1.3 million. CHL reported earnings per share of \$0.07 compared to \$0.19 in the

comparative quarter, a decrease of \$0.12.

At September 30, 2010, CHL reported total assets and liabilities of \$520 million and \$406 million, respectively, an increase of \$21 million and \$11 million from year-end December 31, 2009.

Focol Holdings (FCL) released its audited financial results for the year ended July 31, 2010. Net income available to common shareholders was \$18.5 million, an increase of \$3.4 million or 18 per cent compared to \$15.1 million last year.

Revenues stood at \$267 million, down \$6 million or 2 per cent, while cost of sales reflected a larger decline

of \$11.9 million or 8 per cent to total \$216.4 million.

Gross profit totalled \$50.5 million, increasing by \$5.9 million or 12 per cent during the period.

It was noted that FCL's operating expenses for the period were \$28.4 million, up \$2.2 million or 8 per cent in comparison to the prior year.

Earnings per share for the year were \$0.47, up \$0.10 when compared to \$0.37 in the comparative period last year.

Total assets and liabilities at July 31, 2010, stood at \$136.8 million and \$23.7 million respectively, compared to \$126.6 million and \$33.9 million at July 31, 2009.

EQUITY MARKET - TRADING STATISTICS

Week ending 03.12.10

| BISX SYMBOL | CLOSING PRICE | WKLY PRICE | 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 | \$ 2.70 | \$- | 0 | -14.29% |
| CAB | \$ 10.46 | \$- | 0 | 4.81% |
| CBL | \$ 6.85 | \$- | 55,000 | -2.14% |
| CHL | \$ 2.40 | \$- | 900 | -11.76% |
| CIB | \$ 9.74 | \$- | 0 | -2.50% |
| CWCB | \$ 1.81 | \$- | 0 | -35.79% |
| DHS | \$ 1.60 | \$- | 0 | -37.25% |
| FAM | \$ 6.07 | \$- | 0 | -6.47% |
| FBB | \$ 2.17 | \$- | 0 | -8.44% |
| FCL | \$ 5.46 | \$- | 1,000 | 14.47% |
| FCLB | \$ 1.00 | \$- | 0 | 0.00% |
| FIN | \$ 7.23 | \$- | 0 | -22.09% |
| ICD | \$ 5.59 | \$- | 400 | 0.00% |
| JSJ | \$ 9.82 | \$- | 0 | -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 | 30 | \$1,000 |
| FBB17 | FBB Series A Notes Due 2017 | 0 | \$1,000 |
| FBB22 | FBB Series B Notes Due 2022 | 0 | \$1,000 |

INTERNATIONAL MARKETS

| Currency | FOREX Rates Weekly | %Change |
|----------|--------------------|---------|
| CAD | 0.9974 | 1.71 |
| GBP | 1.5783 | 1.19 |
| EUR | 1.3421 | 1.33 |

| Commodities Commodity | Weekly | %Change |
|-----------------------|----------|---------|
| Crude Oil | 91.62 | 7.06 |
| Gold | 1,403.50 | 3.58 |

| Index | International Stock Market Indexes Weekly | %Change |
|---------|---|---------|
| DJIA | 11,382.09 | 2.62 |
| S&P 500 | 1,224.71 | 2.97 |
| NASDAQ | 2,591.46 | 2.24 |
| Nikkei | 10,178.30 | 1.38 |



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PM pledges reform to 'lowest bidder'

Says 'too much wastage of public resources' in public works and contract tendering, and government must stop tendency to go with lowest offer

By ALISON LOWE
Business Reporter
alowe@tribunemedia.net

Complaining that "too much wastage of public resources" take places as a consequence of how the Government contracts out public works, Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham pledged that reforms must be introduced to the process.

The Prime Minister said it was "very difficult" for the Government to ensure projects do not end up costing more than it had anticipated.

Speaking at the Bahamas Society of Engineers Engineering, Design and Construction conference on Friday, Mr Ingraham said: "We have got to discontinue the practice of saying we will automatically award a job to the lowest tender, and we have also got to put some conditions down on what qualifies you to tender on this job.



HUBERT INGRAHAM

Government of the Bahamas. A lot of wastage. It's very difficult for the Government to say this job is going to cost \$100 and for it not to end up costing \$150, and we've got to find a way by which we can do something about that."

In an interview with Tribune Business after the conference, Minister of Works, Neko Grant, said it has been "an assumption" rather than something in law which has typically guided the Government towards selecting the lowest-cost contractor when

awarding public contracts that have been put out to tender.

However, echoing Mr Ingraham, he stated that government must be "sensible" in this regard, as this can "sometimes get ourselves and the contractor in trouble".

Asked about the Prime Minister's comments, Mr Grant said: "It's not always awarded to the lowest bidder. There's a benchmark and we allow a 15 per cent plus or minus, and so we look at the bid. If it's too low we simply cannot award it because we would've calculated in house what it should cost. In awarding it to the lowest bidder we can sometimes get ourselves and the contractor in trouble.

"If it's thought he's unable to do the job for the money bid, then we've got to be sensible, look at what we've estimated the contract to cost and then award the contract accordingly. If it's out of the plus or minus 15 per cent

range then the flags go up."

Acting chief mechanical and electrical engineer in the Ministry of Works, Bradley King, noted that at present the only requirements that exist for a contractor wishing to bid on a government project are that they must be up to date and in compliance with their National Insurance Board contributions, they must have a business license and show the ability to take out public liability insurance.

This may make it harder for the Government to determine whether or not the contractor will be genuinely able to do what he has suggested he can do for the price he has put forward.

"The lowest bidder might not be the best bidder. You can have a lot of problems, expenses, delays...so it ends up costing more in the long run," said Mr King of some of the problems that can be encountered.

\$8m project on target for early 2011 opening



2011 OPENING: Dunmore Court entrance.



LUXURIOUS: Main floor.

The Bahamian development company behind the \$8 million Dunmore Court community of 28 luxury homes in southwestern New Providence has said the project is on target, with Phase I slated for an early 2011 opening eight months after ground was broken.

"We are very pleased with the progress of the development," said Vhaul Thompson, its owner.

"We have worked hard to stick to schedule and to budget, while maintaining our quality of construction every step of the way.

"We are so proud of this. In fact, we hope Dunmore Court will be used as a model of what an all-Bahamian owned, designed and built project can be.

"We want to be the standard bearers for high-end Bahamian-built residential communities and inspire others."

When news of the Dunmore Court project first unfolded, it was considered an indicator of confidence in a recovering economy.

"There has been tremendous interest in Dunmore Court, which is a good economic indicator," said realtor Sidney Bethell, Mario Carey Realty.

Interest

"A number of factors contribute to the interest.

"The townhomes themselves are extremely attractive.

"Each home is three storeys, with an interesting lay-out and generous 2,200 square feet.

"Right pricing is always a predictor of success and at \$499,000, Dunmore Court is priced right," said Mr Bethell.

"Location is a major factor. Dunmore Court is min-

utes from the new Albany resort and residential community, and not far from Lyford Cay. With investors including Joe Lewis, Tiger Woods and Ernie Els, Albany promises to put southwestern New Providence on the map in a way that it never has been before."

Phase I of Dunmore Court consists of the first of seven buildings, each with four residences.

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FROM page 1B

Fund targeting \$1m bottom line swing

from downtown Nassau's revitalisation.

Describing the Bahamas Property Fund's performance for the first nine months of 2010 as "not great and not bad", Mr Anderson, who is also RoyalFidelity Merchant Bank & Trust's president, said the fund continued to be affected by having to carry Common Area Maintenance (CAM) costs for the 18,000 vacant square feet at the Bahamas Financial Centre.

This had resulted in the Bahamas Property Fund's other expenses increasing to \$768,983 for the nine months to September 30, 2010, an increase of 28.4 per cent compared to the \$598,840 incurred the year before.

The other drag on the company's performance is the 'cash flow neutral' nature of its Providence House acquisition, the deal having been financed by a six-year, \$3.5 million preference share that has increased the Bahamas Property Fund's dividends year-over-year by more than \$204,000 - from \$58,333 to \$262,500.

Pointing out that CAM carrying costs at the Bahamas Financial Centre had also risen as a result of higher electricity prices, Mr Anderson said: "We haven't managed to rent any of the space in the last quarter, so it's still more of the same.

"The CAM costs we have are slightly higher. Electricity, as an example, is a lot higher today than it was a few months back, so there's been an increase in CAM costs."

The RoyalFidelity chief said vacant space at the Bahamas Financial Centre had increased slightly by "a few thousand square feet" between year-end 2009 and now, with "one or two of the smaller clients having left".

"The trick is to get the space at the Financial Centre rented, and what we've seen over the last few months is an interest in that space. There are a few people we hope to finalise things with in a month or so," he added.

"We're optimistic about getting that space rented in the next few months. The whole aim for the Property Fund in the next year, or as soon as we can, is to get that

"Ten years ago we looked at having a \$100 million property portfolio, and currently we have around \$53-\$54 million, so we're looking at adding at least another \$30-\$40 million. I think a \$100 million portfolio would be a good portfolio to have."

Michael Anderson

rented and turn it into the bottom line.

"When you take 18,000 square feet at the Financial Centre, it's where we've really got to be focused. It's such a big piece of space. The Financial Centre is 100,000 square feet, so 18,000 square feet may not sound too much, and it's still 82 per cent rented."

Detailing the impact the vacant space was having on the Bahamas Property Fund's profitability, Mr Anderson said the increased Financial Centre CAM costs came straight off its bottom line. With CAM costs, inclusive of square footage, about

\$55 per square foot per annum, Mr Anderson said that multiplying this by the 18,000 square feet vacant gave a figure of \$990,000 - what the BISS-listed fund was currently incurring in increased costs and lost profit.

The RoyalFidelity president added that the Bahamas Financial Centre tenant search was likely to be aided by "a general sense that the economic environment is picking up", which might encourage companies that had deferred relocation plans to move them back to a priority agenda.

Of the fund's other two

properties, One Marina Drive on Paradise Island was 95 per cent rented, Mr Anderson said, another smaller tenant having departed, while the Bahamas Property Fund's shareholders should start to see some benefits from the Providence House purchase coming through from year-end 2011 onwards.

This was because the lease on that property, which is occupied by the PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) accounting firm, expires at year-end 2011 and is due to be renegotiated - with an improved monthly rental payment likely - starting in mid-June.

Mr Anderson conceded, though, that it would be "four-and-a-half years before we see the real benefits of that purchase", as that represents the period for which the \$3.5 million preference share issue has to run, although there would be "some improvement next year as the lease gets renewed".

The Bahamas Property Fund's rental revenues are running 1.5 per cent ahead of 2009 comparatives for the first nine months of 2010, standing at \$3.068 million compared to \$3.023 million the year before, with total revenues up by a similar margin. This will have been aided by the 2-3 per cent per annum rental increases built into the contracts of most Bahamas Property Fund tenants.

Although interest charges came down as the Bahamas Property Fund continued to pay down on its debt, the CAM costs and preference share dividends pushed operating expenses up by just over 25 per cent, from \$1.324 million the year before to \$1.66 million.

As a result, funds from operations dropped by 16.2 per cent to \$1.447 million, compared to \$1.726 million for the nine months to September 30, 2009. As a result, net income dropped by 16 per cent, from \$1.6 million to \$1.345 million.

But despite the latest financials, Mr Anderson said the Bahamas Property Fund had "great potential" to make acquisitions as the commercial market recovered. This was due to the fact that debt accounted for just 25 per cent of its capital structure, the rest being equity, giving it a one:three debt/equity ratio.

"There's nothing really out in the market," Mr Anderson conceded. "We've been told about a couple of properties that may come to market, but

we're not currently in negotiations with anyone."

He added, though, that "downtown may represent some opportunities for the Property Fund" to diversify into ownership of properties where there were long-term retail tenants, exploiting the interest of investors such as the Dart Group and the revitalisation project to make the switch from being purely a commercial office space owner.

Believing that with the assistance of Baha Mar, the Bahamas is "going to come out of recession a little earlier than other countries", Mr Anderson said that while a move into shopping centres was also being eyed, the Bahamas Property Fund would continue to focus on long-term tenants, rather than residential properties where leases tended to be shorter term.

"We are patient property owners, and believe long-term that we will build a decent portfolio of properties," Mr Anderson said. Referring to the recent failed effort to purchase the UBS (Bahamas) properties on East Bay Street, he added that the Bahamas Property Fund will "just back away from properties where we feel the risk/reward is not adequate".

"Ten years ago we looked at having a \$100 million property portfolio, and currently we have around \$53-\$54 million, so we're looking at adding at least another \$30-\$40 million. I think a \$100 million portfolio would be a good portfolio to have," Mr Anderson said.

The key to successful property development, he explained, was to ensure any debt financing was paid down quickly, thus keeping interest payments to service that debt below rental income.

"I think we will see an improved performance," Mr Anderson said of the Bahamas Property Fund's 2011 prospects. "The economy is going to be improved, and we have tenants we are discussing opportunities with. Some of those we believe will come through, so next year will be a better year for us."

He added that the Bahamas Property Fund had placed Caribbean real estate purchases "on the back burner" for the moment, having looked at the possibility a year ago, in favour of focusing on the Bahamas. But should such opportunities arise in the longer-term, Mr Anderson said they would be assessed.

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Sir Jack hits out on Babak work permit

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
 dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREPORT - Sir Jack Hayward, one of the principal owners of the Grand Bahama Port Authority (GBPA), said the Government's decision not to renew the work permit of former chairman Hannes Babak has left the organisation "leaderless".

Sir Jack also noted that some of the big projects that Mr Babak was working to bring to Freeport are now "gathering dust". He said the Port Authority was doing its best to improve the economy of Freeport.

"We are working on things," he told reporters on Friday at a press conference announcing the Port's plans to start construction of a new \$4 million bridge at the Grand Bahama Highway.

"We are a bit leaderless without Hannes Babak, who has been denied a work permit, of course, without any explanation."

Sir Jack said Mr Babak had been working on bringing several major projects for Freeport, including an LNG plant, a second rock dredging company, a refinery, and a new cement plant.

"The projects are gathering dust. He flew to Texas several times for an LNG plant to provide cheap electricity to Grand Bahama, Abaco, and also for export to Florida. That was one project that was looking very promising," Sir Jack said.

"But the Government denied his work permit, no explanation to me or to us (the Port); just did it arbitrar-

ily. I think one man, I don't think the Government, but... we are missing, obviously, his input and we need that; we need someone."

Mr Babak, a native of Austria, was appointed GBPA chairman on June 1, 2006. His work permit expired in December 2009, and was not renewed by the Government.

According to an article published in January in 'Tribune Business, Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham himself confirmed that he had personally informed Mr Babak during a meeting at which Sir Albert Miller was present that the Government would not renew his work permit, as it did not believe he was the right person to chair the GBPA.

When asked whether there

would be a replacement for Mr Babak, Sir Jack said there are no plans at the moment to replace him.

He said the Port Authority currently holds only one work permit. He said the company's application for a second work permit for the position of special projects was also denied.

"We have one work permit in our organisation (Graham Torode, president of DEVCO), we have over 250 Bahamian employees and...I think that's a hell of a good record," added Sir Jack.

"When we applied for another work permit for Chris Johnston it was denied. We wanted him for special projects... to supervise the bridge (construction). He is an engineer of 22 years with Hutchi-

son Whampoa, and he worked seven days and had to leave."

Sir Jack stressed that there is an urgent need for an alternate bridge, as the Casuarina Bridge is now old and the only causeway connecting Freeport and East Grand Bahama.

When asked his opinion on

the state of the Grand Bahama economy, Sir Jack said he hopes it is improving.

He noted that one of the hindrances has been the high cost of power and frequent outages that have affected major businesses on the island.

"We are doing our very best. I don't know that the

Government is doing their best," he commented.

"I like the building (the new government complex under construction), I think it is terrific. We gave them the site free of charge, but what they are doing to stimulate the economy, I don't know. We are doing our very best."



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Bahamas Public Services Union

COMPARATIVE SALARIES
DEPARTMENTS OF CUSTOMS/IMMIGRATION
VS.
ROYAL BAHAMAS POLICE FORCE (RBPF)

As a result of a number of Customs and Immigration Officers statements of not being paid on par with the Royal Bahamas Police Force (RBPF) Department which they said would be acceptable, in order to accept a shift system. In addition to receiving a shift allowance of \$125 per month, shift premiums of .40 to .60 cents per hour and health insurance which costs a minimum of \$400.00 per officer.

We now wish to show the beginning of Salary Scales as was compared to rank and based on level of responsibility. Because of the amount of Police Officers, we agreed to fewer steps in the salary scales for Customs and Immigration ranks. See Below:

COMPARATIVE SALARIES
DEPARTMENTS OF CUSTOMS/IMMIGRATIONS vs.ROYAL BAHAMAS POLICE FORCE (RBPF)

| Rank Customs/Immigration Officers | Current Salary (Nov.09) | Old Salary | Rank Royal Bahamas Police Force | Current Salary |
|---|-----------------------------|------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Trainee Customs/Revenue Off. Trainee Immigration Officer | \$18,000 | \$16,050 | Recruit | \$18,000 |
| Customs/Revenue Officer II Immigration Officer II | \$21,250 Increment \$600 | \$17,650 | Police Constable | \$21,350 Increment \$600 |
| Customs/Revenue Officer I Immigration Officer I | \$28,450 Increment \$600 | \$19,050 | Police Corporal | \$28,250 Increment \$600 |
| Senior Customs/Revenue Officer Senior Immigration Officer | \$33,650 Increment \$600 | \$23,100 | Police Sergeant | \$31,950 Increment \$600 |
| Chief Customs/Revenue Officer Chief Immigration Officer | \$39,150 Increment \$700 | \$31,550 | Police Chief Inspector | \$38,450 Increment \$700 |
| Customs/Revenue Superintendent | \$44,050 Increment \$700 | \$36,050 | Police Deputy Superintendent | \$42,350 Increment \$800 |

BUSINESS

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Water Corp: Inaction will taken water loss to 60%

FROM page 1B

facilities, with the Corporation paying these companies for their services - whether it be measured gallons of water produced or gallons of sewerage treated.

Meanwhile, the Corporation is further considering following in other utility companies' footsteps and divesting itself of its engineering department, only to buy back their services on a contractual basis. Mr Laville updated engineers of these developments at the Bahamas Society of Engineers' first engineering and design conference on Friday at the Sheraton Nassau Beach Resort. He said such developments within the Water and Sewerage Corporation could enhance work opportunities for private engineers.

"The idea is that typically the private sector does things more efficiently, and until we reach a point where we can do things more efficiently it's better to have the private sector do those things that they are experts in. They can do things less expensively and the only thing we need is the water. If you can do it efficiently, and meet certain expectations then we can work with you," said Mr Laville. Speaking of the potential for the further involvement of renewable energy in the Corporation's operations, Mr Laville said that whether or not retrofitting of its plants with sustainable power sources will go ahead depends in large part on the success of a new partnership with the Bahamas Renewable Energy Corporation, which is installing a solar and wind power facility on to a new 15,000-gallons-a-day desalination plant being constructed to service Tarpum Bay and Rock Sound, Eleuthera.

The plant, which is being developed by - and is to be owned and operated by - General Electric, is set to come on stream in around five months' time.

"We hope that this will be a model for the future. If this is successful we can move to some other plants and start retrofitting them to use renewable energy. We have a 25-year contract with (RE Corporation Bahamas), and they are guaranteeing giving us a rate for power that is 25 per cent below what the BEC rate is," said Mr Laville.

Mr Laville said the increased need to obtain water through desalination rather than shrinking groundwater resources has driven the increased private sector involvement in the Corporation's operations. Storm

surges from hurricanes, which introduced increased levels of salt into the groundwater, as well as encroachment into aquifers by developments throughout the Bahamas, are a major threat to already limited groundwater supplies.

The Water and Sewerage Corporation is at present applying to the Government to have an area of land with significant water reserves preserved in Spring City, Abaco, as it is threatened by development in the area - including from a nearby government subdivision.

The Corporation already gets 70 per cent of the water it supplies in New Providence from reverse osmosis plants, with the other 30 per cent coming from limited well fields in Andros. It expects the amount coming from reverse osmosis to rise to 90 per cent in New Providence in the next several years.

Desalinated water is produced from around 20 plants throughout the Bahamas, and three main suppliers.

"Everyone seems to think we have quite a robust ground supply throughout country but that's not the case. There are only three islands with a very satisfactory supply - Abaco, Grand Bahama and Andros," said Mr Laville.

The Corporation is also considering entering into a "build, own, operate" contract with a private firm to handle some of its sewerage operations.

"The idea is that the private sector puts up all financing and operates and owns the plant and we pay them on a per thousand gallon basis," said Mr Laville.

And it is aiming to pin down a contractor soon to begin addressing the critical and worsening problem of non-revenue water for the Corporation - water lost through leakage, theft or other means.

This currently amounts to around 52 per cent of all water the Water and Sewerage Corporation puts into the system in New Providence, and 50 per cent in the Family Islands, costing the Corporation between \$13-\$16 million here in Nassau and \$6-7 million in the other islands annually. Through an \$80 million contract it is intended that steps will be taken to reduce the amount of water lost per day from 5.5 million gallons to 2.5 million in New Providence, with this being achieved over five years and maintained for a further five under the terms of the contract.

"In 2005, we did a test performance-based contract. A

contractor came in and guaranteed a reduction of \$1 million gallons a day of non-revenue water. If they did not do that, they had to provide us with one million gallons of free reverse osmosis water. We are now looking to put that project on larger scale," said Mr Laville.

"This will be done over five years, and then in the final five years they will have to maintain those savings.

"That will cost in the region of \$70-80 million, but we will have saved that same amount by not having to buy that water to sell to our customers."

If such steps are not taken it is projected that non-revenue

water will increase greatly. At present, the Corporation puts around 10.6 million gallons of water into the supply system daily, and 5.5 million never reach the customer. It is projected that by 2014, if nothing is done, the Corporation would have to put around 14.1 million gallons a day into the system to get the same amount of water to customers, while by 2020 this would increase to 17.1 million.

"The target under this contract is that by 2020, instead of non-revenue water of 60 per cent, you'll have about 23 per cent. By international standards that's quite acceptable," said Mr Laville.



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- Strong organizational, problem solving and decision-making skills
- Good oral and written communication skills

POSITION SUMMARY

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- Monitor admissions to the facility
- Follow-up on delinquent accounts as needed
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NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that DWIGHT ANTONIO MILLER of P.O. Box AB-20662, Marsh Harbour, Abaco, 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 6th day of December, 2010 to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.

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- Ability to work independently with limited supervision

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS 2009

IN THE SUPREME COURT CLE/QUI/000647

COMMON LAW AND EQUITY DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF all that piece or parcel of land comprising of lot Number 23 in Block Number 7 in the Englerston Subdivision in the Southern District on the Island of New Providence, one of the Islands of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas

AND

IN THE MATTER OF the Quieting Titles Act, 1959

AND

IN THE MATTER OF the Petition of the Bahamas Development Bank, Sean Gibson and Estell Gibson

NOTICE OF PETITION

The Petition of the Bahamas Development Bank, Sean Gibson and Estell Gibson, all of the Island of New Providence, one of the Islands of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas in respect of:

“ALL THAT piece or parcel of land comprising of Lot Number 23 in Block Number 7 in the Englerston Subdivision in the Southern District on the Island of New Providence, one of the Islands of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, which said piece parcel or lot of land has such position shape marks boundaries and dimensions as are shown on the plan filed in this matter and is delineated on that part of the said plan coloured Pink.”

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Bahamas Development Bank, Sean Gibson and Estell Gibson claim to be the owners in fee simple in possession of the said land and have made application to the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas pursuant to the **Quieting Titles Act, 1959 (Chapter 393)** to have their title to the said land investigated and the nature and extent thereof determined and declared in a Certificate of Title to be granted by the Court in accordance with the provisions of the said Act.

AND TAKE NOTICE that copies of the Petition and a plan of the said land may be inspected during normal office hours at the following places:

The Registry of the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas on the second floor of the Ansbacher Building situate at East Street and Bank Lane on the Island of New Providence one of the Islands of the said Commonwealth of The Bahamas. The Chambers of the Gibson, Rigby & Co., Ki-Malex House, Dowdeswell Street in the City of Nassau, New Providence aforesaid.

AND TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that any person having dower or right to dower, an adverse or an claim not recognized in the Petition shall on or before the 5th day of May, 2010 file in the Supreme Court and serve on the Petitioners or their Attorneys an Adverse Claim in the prescribed form supported by Affidavit.

FAILURE OF ANY PERSON to file and serve an Adverse Claim on or before the 5th May, 2010 will operate as a bar to such claim.

Dated this 4th day of March, A.D., 2010

GIBSON, RIGBY & CO.
Chambers
Ki-Malex House
Dowdeswell Street
Nassau, Bahamas

Attorneys for the Petitioners

BUSINESS

BTC'S \$15M NET CASH SET TO COVER RESTRUCTURE COSTS

FROM page 1B

to announce details of their \$210 million acquisition of a majority 51 per cent BTC stake plus management control, confirming that the restructuring costs associated with the planned downsizing should not be "massive".

Given that BTC had some 1,228 persons on staff at year-end 2009, a 30 per cent restructuring would entail around 410 jobs going at the company, whose privatisation is scheduled to be completed around February 15, 2011, midway through the first quarter.

The two unions representing BTC line staff and middle managers, the Bahamas Communications and Public Officers Union (BCPOU), and Bahamas Communications and Public Managers Union (BCPMU), outlining their opposition to CWC (which operates as LIME in the Caribbean) as BTC's purchaser, suggested that the restructuring could save the privatised company \$22 million per year.

With a further \$5 million gain coming from 'reengineering' associated with the downsizing, the unions estimated that the exercise could ultimately save BTC \$27 million per annum - money that would flow straight to the bottom line.

BTC's salary and benefit costs in 2009 were \$84.273 million, and 30 per cent of this is \$25.28 million, so the CWC downsizing plan is likely to reduce staff costs by somewhere around this amount.

Defraying

Therefore, the \$15 million net cash CWC will inherit will go a significant way to defraying any downsizing expense, possibly covering half of this - and maybe even more - if it is all used for this purpose.

While BTC had some \$61.902 million in cash on its balance sheet at year-end 2009, Tribune Business has been told that the maximum \$15 million 'net' cash position on the balance sheet at the privatisation date will come after the Government has paid-off BTC's existing loan obligations.

At year-end 2009, BTC had short-term and long-term loan liabilities of \$11.236 million and \$35.564 million respectively, amounting to \$47 million - almost exactly the difference between the year-end 2009 position and the \$15 million net cash CWC will inherit.

With that net cash figure, and the Government agreeing to cover any pension fund deficit, many observers are arguing that the Ingraham administration will receive less than \$210 million net for the majority BTC stake, although is balanced by the Stamp Duty it will receive on the sale. A rate of 10 per cent is payable on BTC's real property, and 4 per cent on the assets of the business being sold,

although this could well be split between government and CWC.

With the \$210 million price being around 4x (four times) BTC's operating income and net profit for 2009, many rival Bahamas-based telecoms operators have suggested that CWC got a 'sweet deal', although this does not account for the impact competition will have on the state-owned incumbent's profits and revenues as a result of market liberalisation.

Mr Rice said of CWC's plans: "What we need to do is get into the business, get a handle on it, talk to the management and work with the unions."

Adding that CWC had yet to discuss its restructuring plans with either BTC union, with previous talks on the subject having been held between the Government and it, and the Government and the unions, Mr Rice told the conference call: "In terms of the restructuring, I think it's too early to comment in detail."

He added that prior to closing the purchase, CWC would spend its time developing a business plan for BTC, plus the details of how the restructuring was going to work, the cost and how the company would proceed forward.

Tribune Business disclosed on Friday how Mr Rice pledged that CWC would "engage as quickly as possible" with the unions, and how he felt both sides "can reach a mutually acceptable point".

Uncertainty

He also added during the conference call that BTC staff had been forced to live with years of uncertainty due to the protracted 12-year privatisation process, and that CWC would attempt to explain to the unions how it planned to "create success" and take the firm forward.

"I anticipate them being good discussions and positive," Mr Rice said of the impending union talks, "and having a good partnership with the unions going forward and making the company as successful as it could be."

However, Mr Rice may not have endeared himself to the Bahamian media via the conference call, as he effectively appeared to accuse the press of "stoking" the unions' anti-CWC position.

Mr Pennington, though, pledged that CWC (LIME) would "grow the business and improve the product offering, which is quite limited at the moment".

Pledging that service levels and product offerings would improve to world class levels, he added: "There's very strong opportunities to get margins up to more palatable levels".

Mr Rice said BTC "ticks all the boxes for us" in terms of its fit with LIME's existing regional operations, Mr Pennington adding that the company was "an ideal fit", with CWC seeing "significant scope for synergies" in areas such as IT solutions and operational support.

Acknowledging that the Bahamian government had "been very slow to do this" in terms of privatising BTC, and had had "quite an extensive courtship with a variety of people", Mr Rice said: "We've had some very good conversations with them, and see a really good opportunity to deliver value for them in terms of world class telecommunications services."

On Friday, Tribune Business reported CWC executives as saying that per capita incomes in Jamaica and Barbados were some 40 per cent and 75 per cent lower, respectively, than the Bahamas. That is not quite correct, as what should have been reported was that they were 60 per cent and 25 per cent lower than this nation's, respectively.

Proposed Privatization of BTC

BCPMU & BCPOU

Strategic Framework Document

November 29, 2010

Overview

Consistent with the global trends of privatization and liberalization – particularly in the telecommunications sector, The Government of the Bahamas (GOTB) took the first steps toward privatization in 1996, which it envisaged would lead to the sale of a majority stake in The Bahamas Telecommunications Corporation (BaTelCo), subsequently incorporated as The Bahamas Telecommunications Co. Ltd (BTC). Over the past 14 years significant strides have been made to that end by successive Governments of the Bahamas (GOTB), but no deal has been consummated to date.

In recent weeks, the Rt. Hon. Hubert Ingraham, Prime Minister/ Commonwealth of The Bahamas, announced that his Government had reviewed preliminary recommendations presented by its Privatization Committee and was satisfied that the company under consideration, Cable & Wireless (C&W), was fit and deemed a proper potential strategic partner for BTC.

The BCPOU and BCPMU have publicly expressed their disagreement and raised grave concerns with respect to the track record of C & W in its Caribbean jurisdictions with respect to employee and labor relations, as well as overall corporate philosophy and performance. In order to clearly state its position and best represent the interest of its members, both Unions have articulated its collective strategic position in the report following.

Strategic Pillars

1. The BCPMU & BCPOU support the principles of Bahamians First and Bahamianization. Consequently, as part of the sale of any national asset – particularly one as lucrative as BTC, Bahamians should be allowed to purchase shares at the same rate offered to foreign investors.

Benefits include the following:

- Expansion of the Bahamian economy,
- Expansion of Bahamian ownership of the economy,
- Enhanced opportunities for Bahamians to work and hold top positions in corporate Bahamas,
- Enlightenment of the national psyche to the power and potential of Bahamian talent, and
- Stem the tide of economic colonization that is rampant in developing countries

2. The GOTB is in blatant violation of its own tenets of privatization with respect to the fitness of any potential strategic partner. Two of the GOTB's core principles are:

- Accelerated infusion of state-of-the-art technology
- Improved quality of customer services offered to BTC customers

With respect to the former point, BTC currently outstrips most of C & W operations in the Caribbean in terms of network development as well as the availability of cutting-edge products and services. In the area of customer services, C & W's inefficiencies and ineptitude is widely known throughout its jurisdictions in the Caribbean.

3. The BCPOU & BCPMU does not support the proposed selection of C & W as the strategic partner of choice for the GOTB to sell a 51% stake in BTC.

Rationale includes the following:

- C & W has a poor reputation for employee and labor relations throughout all of its jurisdictions in the Caribbean.
- C & W has a stated agenda of centralizing management and leadership for all of its operations in the region.
- BTC's gross revenues amounts to more than 50% of C & W revenues in all of its operations in the Caribbean combined.
- Based on BTC's revenue trend over the past few years, C & W proposed management fee of 2% of gross revenues in the first two years and 3% in subsequent years, which amounts to an \$8 - \$12 million per annum. Further, the fee is independent of any dividends that may be declared and the fact that the fee is calculated on gross revenues is onerous because management's compensation is not tied to corporate profitability.

4. C & W profitability in the Caribbean is primarily due to its signature downsizing activities versus the deployment of cutting-edge network infrastructure and the delivery of superior customer services. The Caribbean Telecom News reported in its edition of May 22, 2009 in an article titled "Cable & Wireless plans to cut more jobs" that Mr. John Pluthero, Executive Chairman of C & W Worldwide stated that job cuts will be an "on-going feature" as the Company evolves its operations.

5. Should the GOTB accept the 30% decrease in staff as proposed by Cable & Wireless, there would be a saving to the Company in the first year thereafter of over \$22 million. The business process re-engineering exercise that would normally accompany such major reduction in headcount could easily yield a further \$5 million dollars. The result is a \$27 million cost saving that goes directly to the bottom line.

6. Successive Governments have already spent near \$100 million on employee disengagement packages, consultancy fees, and other associated costs since the initial steps to privatize BTC were undertaken in 1996 to the current exercise with C & W. All such costs associated with the preparation of BTC for privatization have been borne by BTC.

7. Notwithstanding The Unions' objection in the first instance, should the GOTB opt for the C & W partnership, the Unions will only agree to the relationship under specific terms and conditions skewed to the interest of Bahamian workers. Terms & Conditions include the following:

- Provision to facilitate a 5% ESOP as part of the sale (Examples include C & W Panama and Belize operations).
- No exportation of jobs (call center, engineering, etc).
- 100% Bahamian leadership – The recent merger of two prominent banks to form First Caribbean Bank has centralized decision making outside of The Bahamas and stifled the full expression of Bahamian talent and expertise.
- Autonomy – to the extent practical – of administrative and operational decision-making within the jurisdiction of the Bahamas.

8. The BCPMU & BCPOU deem that it is in the best interest of their members to pursue the negotiation and finalization of new industrial agreements to replace the respective contracts that have expired September 30, 2010.

Rationale:

- Multinational companies could be insensitive to the nuances of workforce dynamics in the Bahamas. Due to the role of such instruments in setting the parameters for the way forward in terms of the workplace, employee security and labor relations, the GOTB should not leave this exercise to the strategic partner.
- New industrial agreements prior to the sale of 51% would send a strong message of the Government's commitment to advance the interest of workers in the country.

9. BTC has served as the greatest asset for the GOTB and a prized treasure of the people of The Bahamas.

Benefits

a. In the past three years, the GOTB and its agencies has benefited from BTC to the tune of over \$200 million, which includes the following:

- Over \$100 million dollars cash,
- Approximately \$17 million in franchise fees,
- Approximately \$8 million in NIB contributions,
- Approximately \$30 million in business license and other fees, and
- Over \$30 million in customs duties (BTC receives no exemptions).

The above mentioned statistics speaks to the value of BTC to the GOTB and its role in positively impacting the public purse. It stands to reason, therefore, that an offer of approximately \$200 million to purchase a 51% stake in BTC is ill-advised, particularly with respect to the challenging economic times that the Bahamian economy is facing.

FINANCIAL Implications & Assessments

10. BTC's combined CAPEX over the past four years exceeds \$200 million, which is what the GOTB is being offered for a 51% stake in the Company

11. BTC's annual contribution to the Bahamian economy

- Entrepreneurial spin-offs – Phone card vendors collectively earn approximately \$30m annually
- BTC annual sponsorships ranges from \$250 - \$350 thousand annually
- Numerous other vendors and business concerns depend on the consistent purchases of BTC to keep their operations afloat.

12. C & W has more to gain in the purchase of a stake in BTC from such partnership than, the GOTB and the Bahamian people.

- In comparing the financials of both companies, C & W and BTC, based on their respective financial statements of 2009, C & W's revenues in its 13 operating units within the Caribbean was \$873 million whereas BTC's revenue was \$361 million in 2009, which represents approximately 41% as compared to C & W.

Conclusion

The BCPOU and BCPMU, firmly supports the GOTB decision to privatize BTC Ltd, but we vehemently deprecate the selling of BTC to C&W. The negative scenarios and information received from our colleagues in the region and researched documents are sufficient for our decision.

We are also convinced that the Bahamas should be for Bahamians first and this is a classic case for us to demonstrate our willingness to permit qualified and experienced Bahamians to take ownership; couple with the shares being offered to the Bahamian populace. To put BTC Ltd into the hands of a foreign company after nearly 100 years of successful development and operation, will be demoralizing to the psyche of every qualified, trained aspiring Bahamian and will be synonymous with pre-abolition of slavery in this region.

BUSINESS

FROM page 1B

New Robin Hood store '80% ready'

but denied claims by Tribune sources that an Immigration Department raid had removed several contractors of varying nationalities - including Americans and Filipinos - for not being in possession of valid work permits.

Jack Thompson, director of immigration, could not be reached for comment, and Mr Schaefer denied that any work permit and Immigration law violations had taken place. He acknowledged that while Immigration had visited the Prince Charles site during the middle of last week, and taken away several Haitian and Jamaican nationals who were working, all had later been released after they were subsequently found to be in possession of valid papers.

Meanwhile, Mr Schaefer told Tribune Business that

rapid progress was being made in getting the Prince Charles store ready to receive its first customers, with the property now being sealed from the elements and paving of the parking lot and surrounding space having begun.

"We're actually starting to stock the shelves with groceries," he added, saying that the initial inventory would cost "a couple million dollars".

"We're going to open in a way, shape or form," Mr Schaefer said. "It's going to be special, more so on some levels than the first store. In a four-mile radius of here, it's

the most densely-populated area on the island. That's the beauty of it."

Telling Tribune Business that Robin Hood will likely have invested \$7 million in getting the Prince Charles store ready for opening, he added that the retailer was still on target to "break ground" on the planned 44,000 square foot, two-storey retail complex, which will be situated in front of the store, in January.

Asked about tenants, Mr Schaefer replied: "Nothing yet, but assume within the next two weeks we will have the whole place rented." Talks, he added, were still ongoing about branding the proposed gym, health and fitness centre under the 'Magic Johnson' name.

Asked about how the Tonique Williams-Darling Highway store was performing, Mr Schaefer said it was "running similar to last year's numbers right now".

As for the upcoming Christmas season, he added: "We're expecting to do at least as well as last year. It would be nice to be a few percentage points up, but if we're 3, 4, 5 percentage points up we'll be doing really well, because the economy is struggling even worse this year".

Mr Schaefer said there

seemed to be "less money" in the Bahamian economy in 2010 than 2009, and the Baha Mar project aside, there was a perception that the general environment was "impacting everyone in a harder way than it did at this same time last year".

Asked how Robin Hood expected to perform in 2011, its president told Tribune Business: "I think it's going to be a turnaround for everybody. I think we're all going to experience it. It will start slowly and build up as the year goes on.

"The world economy is turning, and Baha Mar is going to infuse the whole Bahamian environment and economy with a morale booster. It is probably 60-70 per cent of reality that is perception, and if people perceive that things are getting better, they will become better. It's a self-fulfilling prophecy."

Mr Schaefer added that Robin Hood would "aggressively pursue" its Family Island franchise plans in the New Year, adding: "We've already spoken to a few people, and got some very positive responses.

"There are always opportunities when things are difficult for everybody; you just have to find them and exploit them to your advantage."

BAHAMASAIR DENIES 'WHISTLEBLOW' FIRING

FROM page 1B

"We got no notice of any federal violation from any federal agency, and therefore there was no violation. Had there been a violation Bahamasair would've been fined."

In court documents obtained by Tribune Business, it was recorded that legal action pursued by 23-year Bahamasair employee, Deborah Pinder, in the south Florida district court was dismissed on June 22, 2010, six days before it was due to go to trial.

This dismissal of the case came after Mrs Pinder filed a "notice of settlement" with Bahamasair.

Mrs Pinder had sued the company in 2008, alleging that it violated the Florida Whistleblower Act when it fired her over her decision to copy a letter she had written, highlighting an alleged violation by a Bahamasair manager of US federal regulations regarding passenger check-in, to the Transport Security Administration (TSA).

Her court action charged that she "engaged in protected activity when she objected in writing to Bahamasair's violation of federal law", and was otherwise "performing satisfactorily in her position".

In her letter to the Miami station manager for Bahamasair, Glenda Pletscher, advising of the alleged contravention of regulations governing the Airline Passenger Information System (APIS) by a co-worker in Florida, Mrs Pinder described how the manager had checked in a passenger for a flight under an entirely different and incorrect name and passport number.

Discrepancy

The discrepancy on the passenger manifest was only corrected by a different employee after the flight had departed, following discovery of what had taken place by a gate agent.

Having been suspended without pay a year earlier for "inadvertently entering incorrect information into the APIS (Airline Passenger Information System)", mixing up the name of one passenger with another who had a very similar name, Mrs Pinder said in her letter that "all Bahamasair employees deserve to see the procedures and policies of this airline applied uniformly".

She suggested that she was "well aware of the negative impact such breaches of security" can have on the welfare of Bahamasair, and added that while her mistake was not intentional, other employees may be "intentionally engaging in actions which undermine" Bahamasair's compliance with TSA guidelines.

Under rules and regulations stemming from post 9/11 anti-terrorism legislation in the US, it was a requirement that a proper passenger manifest be completed and sent electronically to the federal tracking agency prior to securing any airplane for departure.

In the letter Mrs Pinder received a month later, advising her of her termination, director of human resources for Bahamasair, Cornel Mortimer, stated: "We have decided further and more severe disciplinary action is warranted based on your sending a copy of your letter (alleging violations of US federal regulations by Bahamasair) to the TSA.

"We believe your motive in doing so was malicious and that your intent was to harm the company.

"The company does not want employees who desire to cause it harm."

Mr Mortimer claimed in the termination letter he sent to Mrs Pinder that it was "in further reference to the incident that occurred on October 2, 2007" - the incident in which Mrs Pinder entered incorrect information into the APIS system, resulting in her previous suspension.

In her subsequent lawsuit, Mrs Pinder alleged she suffered "financial and psychological" damage as a result of being terminated from Bahamasair, being unable to find other unemployment after finding that she had been "essentially blacklisted from the industry because of Bahamasair's actions".

COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS 2009
IN THE SUPREME COURT CLE/qui/No.01268
Common Law & Equity Division
BETWEEN
IN THE MATTER OF ALL THAT piece parcel or tract of land containing 6.888 acres situate on the Eastern side of the Eleuthera Main Road and approximately 1.2 miles Northwest of Haynes Avenue in the Settlement of Governor's Harbour on the Island of Eleuthera one of the Islands of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE Quieting Titles Act, 1959
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE Petition of Alban Johnson

NOTICE

THE PETITION OF ALBAN JOHNSON in respect of:- ALL THAT piece parcel or tract of land containing 6.888 acres situate on the Eastern side of the Eleuthera Main Road and approximately 1.2 Miles Northwest of Haynes Avenue Governors Harbour Eleuthera one of the Islands of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas which said piece parcel or tract of land is bounded Northeastwardly by land now or formerly the property of Eleuthera Adventurers Ltd. now Cigatoo Estates and running thereon 350.81 feet and Southeastwardly by land now or formerly the property of the Estate of D. Artie Nottage and running thereon 949.97 feet and Southwestwardly by Eleuthera Main Road and running thereon 297.53 feet and Northwestwardly by land now or formerly the property of Eleuthera Adventurers Ltd. now Cigatoo Estates and running thereon 933.14 feet.

ALBAN JOHNSON claims to be the owner of the unencumbered fee simple in possession of the said land and has made application to the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas under Section Three (3) of the Quieting Titles Act, 1959 to have his title to the said land investigated and the nature and extent thereof determined and declared in a Certificate of Title to be granted by the Court in accordance with the provisions of the said Act.

Copies of the Petition and Plan of the said Land made by inspected during normal offices hours in the following places:

- 1. The Registry of the Supreme Court, East Street North, Nassau, The Bahamas;
- 2. The Administrator's Office, Governor's Harbour, Eleuthera, The Bahamas; and
- 3. The Chambers of Lockhart & Co., 35 Buen Retiro Road, off Shirley Street, Nassau, The Bahamas.

NOTICE is hereby given that any person having dower or right to dower or an Adverse Claim or a claim not recognized in the Petition shall on or before the expiration of Thirty (30) days after the final publication of these presents, file in the Supreme Court and serve on the Petitioner or the undersigned a Statement of his claim in the prescribed form verified by an Affidavit to be filed therewith.

Failure of any such person to file and serve a statement of his claim on or before the expiration of Thirty (30) days after the final publication of these presents will operate as a bar to such claim.

Dated the 8th day of February, A.D., 2010

LOCKHART & CO.
Chambers
35 Buen Retiro Road
Off Shirley Street
Nassau, The Bahamas

Attorneys for the Petitioner

COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS 2001
IN THE SUPREME COURT
COMMON LAW SIDE No.132
BETWEEN

BANK OF THE BAHAMAS LIMITED

Plaintiff

AND

LLOYD MILTON SUTHERLAND

Defendant

NOTICE OF ADJOURNED HEARING

TAKE NOTICE that the Order for Examination filed on the 4th day of December, A.D., 2009 and set down to be heard on Thursday the 4th day of March, A.D., 2010 at 12:00 o'clock in the afternoon will now be heard before a Deputy Registrar, Marilyn Meeres of the Supreme Court, Ansbacher Building, Bank Lane, Nassau, The Bahamas on Monday the 24th day of January, A.D., 2011 at 11:30 o'clock in the forenoon.

Dated this 20th day of September, A.D., 2010

REGISTRAR

This Notice was taken out by Messrs. Gibson, Rigby & Co., Chambers, KI-Malex House, Dowdeswell Street, Nassau, The Bahamas, Attorneys for the Plaintiff.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS 2008/CLE/qui/1439
IN THE SUPREME COURT
Common Law & Equity Side
IN THE MATTER of the Quieting Titles Act
AND

IN THE MATTER of the Petition of ELGIN WRIGHT
AND
IN THE MATTER of ALL THAT piece parcel or lot of land being numbers 27 & 28 containing 0.250 on An acre situate on Miami Street in the Englerston Subdivision situate in the Southern District of the Island of New Providence, Bahamas

COPIES of the said Plan may be inspected during Normal Office hours at the following places:-

- (c) The Registry of the Supreme Court
In the City of Nassau on the Island of New Providence
- (d) Collie & Collie Law Chambers
K. S. Darling Building
Dowdeswell Street & School Lane
in the City of Nassau on the Island of New Providence, The Bahamas

NOTICE is hereby given that any person having Dower or a right to Dower or any Adverse Claim or a Claim not recognized in the Petition shall on or before the day of 2010 file in the Supreme Court in the City of Nassau aforesaid and serve on the Petitioner a Statement of claim in the Prescribed form verified by an Affidavit to be filed therewith. Failure of any such person to file and serve a Statement of Claim on or before the day of 2010 will operate as a bar to such claim.

Elgin Wright
Petitioner

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------|--|----------|----------------|------------------|------------|---------------|------------------|--------|-------|-------|
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BISX LISTED & TRADED SECURITIES AS OF: THURSDAY, 2 DECEMBER 2010 BISX ALL SHARE INDEX: CLOSE 1,482.65 CHG -0.02 %CHG 0.00 YTD -82.73 YTD % -5.28 INDEX: 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 | Symbol | 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% |
| 6.16 | 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 | 2.70 | Bahamas Waste | | 2.70 | 2.70 | 0.00 | | 0.168 | 0.090 | 16.1 | 3.33% |
| 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 | | 10.46 | 10.46 | 0.00 | | 1.050 | 0.310 | 10.0 | 2.96% |
| 2.84 | 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) | | 6.85 | 6.85 | 0.00 | | 0.422 | 0.260 | 16.2 | 3.80% |
| 3.65 | 1.63 | Consolidated Water BDRs | | 1.74 | 1.72 | -0.02 | | 0.111 | 0.045 | 15.5 | 2.62% |
| 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 | Famguard | | 6.07 | 6.07 | 0.00 | | -0.003 | 0.240 | N/M | 3.95% |
| 10.20 | 10.20 | Finco | | 7.23 | 7.23 | 0.00 | | 0.287 | 0.520 | 25.2 | 7.15% |
| 11.40 | 8.77 | FirstCaribbean Bank | | 9.39 | 9.39 | 0.00 | | 0.645 | 0.350 | 14.6 | 3.73% |
| 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% |
| 5.59 | 5.00 | ICD Utilities | | 5.59 | 5.59 | 0.00 | | 0.012 | 0.240 | 465.8 | 4.25% |
| 10.50 | 9.82 | J. S. Johnson | | 9.82 | 9.82 | 0.00 | | 0.971 | 0.640 | 10.1 | 6.52% |
| 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 | | | |
| 1.5122 | 1.4076 | CFAL Bond Fund | 1.5122 | 5.11% | 6.79% | 1.490421 | 1.467397 | 31-Oct-10 | | | |
| 2.9265 | 2.8300 | CFAL MSI Preferred Fund | 2.9187 | 1.10% | 3.13% | 2.919946 | 2.911577 | 30-Sep-10 | | | |
| 1.5668 | 1.4954 | CFAL Money Market Fund | 1.5683 | 4.06% | 4.67% | 1.548897 | 1.532712 | 26-Nov-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 | 1.47% | 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 | | | |
| 106.5528 | 99.4177 | CFAL Global Equity Fund | 106.5528 | 4.75% | 7.18% | 100.779540 | 105.776543 | 30-Sep-10 | | | |
| 11.1367 | 1.0000 | FG Financial Preferred Income Fund | 1.1367 | 4.30% | 5.21% | | | 31-Oct-10 | | | |
| 1.0974 | 1.0000 | FG Financial Growth Fund | 1.0974 | 2.75% | 6.87% | | | 31-Oct-10 | | | |
| 1.1363 | 1.0000 | FG Financial Diversified Fund | 1.1363 | 4.18% | 5.78% | | | 31-Oct-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 7/1/2007 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| YIELD - last 12 month dividends divided by closing price | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bid \$ - Buying price of Colina and Fidelity | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ask \$ - Selling price of Colina and Fidelity | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Last Price - Last traded over-the-counter price | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Weekly Vol. - Trading volume of the prior week | | | | | | | | | | | |
| EPS \$ - A company's reported earnings per share for the last 12 mths | | | | | | | | | | | |
| NAV - Net Asset Value | | | | | | | | | | | |
| N/M - Not Meaningful | | | | | | | | | | | |
| FINDEX - The Fidelity Bahamas Stock Index, January 1, 1994 = 100 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TO TRADE CALL: CFAL 242-502-7010 ROYALFIDELITY 242-356-7764 FG CAPITAL MARKETS 242-396-4000 COLONIAL 242-502-7525 | | | | | | | | | | | |

Economy is making steady gains despite weak hiring

PAUL WISEMAN,
AP Economics Writer
WASHINGTON

The economy is starting to fire on almost every cylinder these days but the one that matters most: Job creation.

Factories are busier. Incomes are rising. Autos are selling. The holiday shopping season is shaping up as the best in four years. Stock prices are surging.

And many analysts are raising their forecasts for the economy's growth. Goldman Sachs, for instance, just revised its gloomy prediction of a 2 percent increase in gross domestic product in 2011 to 2.7 percent and forecast 3.6 percent growth for 2012. "The upward momentum has more traction this time," says James O'Sullivan, chief economist at MF Global.

If only every major pillar of the economy were faring so well. Despite weeks of brighter economic news, employers still aren't hiring freely. The economy added a net total of just 39,000 jobs in November, the government said Friday.

That's far too few even to stabilize the unemployment rate, which rose from 9.6 percent in October to 9.8 percent last month. Unemployment is widely expected to stay above 9 percent through next year, in part because of the still-depressed real estate industry. Job creation ultimately dri-

ves the economy, and it remains the most significant weak link.

The meager job gains for November confounded economists. They'd expected net job growth to reach 145,000 and for the unemployment rate to stay at 9.6 percent.

Some economists dismissed the November data as a technical fluke, a result of the government's difficulty in adjusting the figures for seasonal factors. They think the number will be revised up later.

Others saw the jobs report as a reminder that the economy is still struggling to emerge from an epic financial crisis that choked off credit, stifled spending and escalated a "normal" recession into the worst in 70 years. The depth of the financial crisis means the recovery will proceed more slowly than many had hoped or expected, they say. The fits and starts are not surprising, says Jack Kleinhenz, chief economist at the National Retail Federation. "We've had a unique recession and therefore a unique recovery."

In the view of most economists, the direction of the overall economy remains positive — even if its pace feels agonizingly slow. The latest unemployment report was a setback, but likely a temporary one, they say.

"Which are you going to believe," O'Sullivan asks, "one

month of payrolls or all the other data?"

Among encouraging signs:

— Consumers, whose spending fuels about 70 percent of the economy, are regaining confidence. The Conference Board's index of consumer confidence rose in November to the highest level since June as consumers expressed more optimism about business conditions and jobs. Consumers are suffering "austerity fatigue," says Scott Miner of Guggenheim Partners. They're ready to replace old clothes, old appliances, old cars.

— Family finances have improved. Personal income surged 0.5 percent in October. That put cash in shoppers' wallets for the holiday shopping season. Households cut their debts to 122 percent of annual disposable income in the April-June quarter, according to Haver Analytics. That was the lowest debt level since the end of 2004.

— The holiday shopping season got off to a buoyant start. The National Retail Federation expects holiday retail sales to rise 2.3 percent this year, the best performance since 2006. One reason: Stock prices have surged. A 14 percent rally in the Dow Jones industrial average since late August has made households feel wealthier, Kleinhenz says.

PM backs building inspection outsource

FROM page 1B

months and years to say yes or no to".

Mario Bastian, the BSE secretary, put it to Mr Ingraham during a question and answer session engineers were allowed with the Prime Minister, that given ongoing problems with the length of time it takes government building inspectors to certify construction work, private engineers "could in some way or form could assist the Ministry in carrying out that task".

"There are engineers who are qualified and equipped to inspect constructions throughout the country, and think it would be a good thing for us to assist the Ministry, so people can get occupancy as quickly as possible," said Mr Bastian.

Mr Ingraham responded that this was "music to (his) ears".

"But you must bear in mind that the Ministry of Works and government departments are bureaucracies. They don't want to give up any power - like to hog it all, even though they can be overwhelmed," the Prime Minister said.

"But no, be assured they will be mandated to do it and it can be done easily."

"We have 130 certified engineers and architects, and there's no possibility of the Government of the Bahamas hiring sufficient people to do these inspections."

"We can agree reasonable fees and expedite these things. That's no problem whatsoever. We'll act on that," said Mr Ingraham.

Responding to a query from engineer Marcus Laing about the building permit process, which has been criticised of late for how long it can take - especially in comparison to other jurisdictions globally - Mr Ingraham suggested that under the new Planning and Subdivision Act, there are provisions for the expedited approval of building plans put forward by licensed professional engineers and architects, and which are under a certain size.

Mr Laing said: "One of the things that's really been a hindrance is the long time for approvals on the engineering or architectural side. Around the world they have an expedited process where applications are made by licensed professionals. A study was put forward to the Ministry which spells out that where licensed architects and engineers put forward plans for a building under a certain size, the jurisdiction just allows it to be passed, with all liability falling on that professional. It allows more revenue, more jobs to flow into the community."

Mr Ingraham said: "We are as frustrated as you are in terms of how long it takes to have various simple things determined in the Bahamas. One of the big irritants is permission to build a simple house or office, or to determine if this or that area is commercial etc."

"We are well underway in terms of being able to structure the Government in that fashion, and the point you make will be dealt with shortly." Speaking of the potential impact of allowing for private engineers rather than just government-employed building inspectors doing building inspections, BSE president Robert Reiss, told Tribune Business that this could be a useful revenue stream for such professionals at a time when many are "unemployed and a lot are under-employed".

"Where it has much more significant impact is to actually expedite developments in our country."

"To become more attractive to developers and FDI, getting our ranking up higher worldwide in terms of the development process and having Bahamians building their own home being able to do it smoothly and effectively, and eliminate some of that red tape and time constraints," Mr Reiss said.

"That specific action that we very much hope is implemented really could just expedite the whole building process in the country, and those benefits could be really just phenomenal."

Major firm in the financial and legal services industry invites applicants for the function of:

Corporate Assistant

Successful candidate will:

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Minutes, Notices, share transfers and share certificates, bank opening forms, etc.
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NATIONAL CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY The GOOD OLE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

New Providence

Bay Street
Bank Lane
December 1, 2010

Elizabeth Estates
Elizabeth Estates Library
December 10, 2010

Carmichael
Carmichael Post Office
December 11, 2010

South Beach
South Beach Police Station
December 14, 2010

Family Islands

Governor's Harbour, Eleuthera
December 3, 2010

Marsh Harbour, Abaco
December 4, 2010

Treasure Cay, Abaco
December 13, 2010

Deadman's Cay, Long Island
December 8, 2010

Georgetown, Exuma
December 15, 2010

Fresh Creek/Nicholl's Town
December 17, 2010

Freeport, Grand Bahama
Grand Bahama Post Office
December 18, 2010

NEW RESORTS OWNER: ALL AILING CASINO NEEDS IS LOVE



(AP Photo/Mel Evans, file)
AILING: Resorts Hotel and Casino, Atlantic City's first casino, which opened Memorial Day 1978, is seen in this Nov. 14, 2007 photograph.

WAYNE PARRY,
Associated Press
ATLANTIC CITY, N.J.

Asked about his plans to save Resorts Atlantic City, the first casino in the United States to open outside Nevada, new owner Dennis Gomes briefly touches on spruced up hotel rooms, guest suites and a snazzier casino floor. But what the place really needs, he says, is a whole lotta love, with some positive spiritual energy thrown in. Despite his buttoned-down appearance, Gomes is not your typical casino executive.

"There's something in the martial arts called 'chi,' the life energy that guides you ... I think I give energy," said Gomes, a veteran casino executive who got approval on Wednesday to buy the struggling casino with partner Morris Bailey for the fire-sale price of \$31.5 million from lenders who had taken it over a year ago.

"I think love is the most powerful force in the universe. If you do everything from love, you can tap into that energy," he told the Casino Control Commission, drawing big laughs by adding, "those Wall Street guys hate that."



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A man suffered from severe pain in his right knee for a long time. He found it difficulty to move around. His knee was swollen and very stiff. He had this problem for 2 1/2 years. After three treatment visits the swelling went down and he was able to move around with no problem. I recommend this treatment for persons who want results and do not want to have surgery.

An elderly man 84 years old suffered from high blood pressure and diabetes. After 3 visits his blood pressure went to normal and his diabetes is now under control.

Special Treatment for

DIABETES, HYPERTENSION, SINUS, ARTHRITIS, CARPEL TUNNEL SYNDROME, REPETITIVE STRESS INJURIES, STIFF NECK

FROM page 12B

Uncommon sense

technical and vocational training – less expensive for young men of modest means.

The friend pointed out that helping young men to earn and contribute to a household can be a huge help to them and their often young and struggling mothers as well.

She said: "I'm a young mother; my daughter is 16. I grew up in Montell Heights where there was shooting and violence every day. I try and get out of that but if someone can't help me get a house or move out of this area then my child is gonna grow up in that same system, the same thing. My time was good, but her time will be worse."

"All it is just the same thing, just a different day, different year, but it trickles down. My mummy had two children for two different men. It will trickle down – I end up with two, my child will end up with two. My mummy had a baby when she was 18; I had mine when I was 16.

"Good thing I break the cycle and my daughter didn't have hers when she was 16, but I feel as though if she was still in Montell Heights where I was growing up she

might have. So I break the cycle by trying to say, 'Well you try to go to college, mummy couldn't go. Mum-mummy didn't graduate from high school, but I have a good job'."

But these women are not fooled by all those who cry poor mouth.

Ms Smith said that simply having qualifications is not enough on its own, "because it's a choice to improve your life – it's on you."

Her friend noted that many people in Bain Town claim they need help, but "could get a hair-do every day and don't go to work."

"So it depends on who wants to be helped – people will tell you 'Oh I want to be helped', but they don't want to do the work. You can open up the door for me, but I have to walk through that door. Some people want everything handed to them, but that's not what we're saying."

"If I'm willing to work for what I want and my child is younger, help me so that I can be able to help the young one growing up."

"If you help me, I might

be able to take in another child who's not doing so good – my sister's child, whose mother may be drinking or doing drugs – she sees man beating up her mummy every day, she's going to say, 'Well man take care of my mummy, man can take care of me'."

"She could live with me to have a better life because what she sees her mother doing, she will do the same."

However, they know it is unrealistic to expect that everyone will react with such generosity, so they feel that whenever possible, it would be best to remove children from the suffocating atmosphere of these neighbourhoods altogether.

The aunt suggested a kind of national recreation centre, "that way, you have someplace for kids to go. Right now there is no place for our kids to go, nowhere."

The friend said: "Or they could do a daycare for when parents go to work – they don't have no one to watch their children. Instead of leaving their child home with this one and that one who drinks rum or don't stay home or whatever, have

somewhere, a nursery where people could come and drop their children off during working hours and then pay (that's a job too; parents don't have a problem paying because you have to go to work to make money). A lot of people don't go to work because they don't have anyone to watch their children."

The aunt added: "Not only that – if you go to work and something happens to your children, the first thing people say is 'If that woman used to stay home and keep them children, this wouldn't have happened, or the child would have grown up different'. But parents have to work."

For these women, crime, its causes and possible solutions are clearly complex issues requiring far reaching action. Whether or not the majority of Bahamians living in "Over the Hill" communities share these sentiments is unfortunately very difficult to judge; the opinion of the common man or woman features rarely in the Great Debate on Crime which the "experts" seem to be perpetually engaged in.

In addition to the official police line, substantial attention is given to the insistence of the religious bunch that crime is a righteous plague visited upon us as a penalty for turning from God – a view which conveniently ignores the comparative peace and safety enjoyed by numerous societies much less saturated with "religion" than ours. Then there are the fearful wealthy, who – despite the fact that the vast majority of victims are someone else – seem to suspect crime is a specific attack on their way of life, perpetrated by mindless barbarians bent on destroying them exclusively.

Meanwhile, "Grass roots" views on crime are usually aired only at moments of heightened tension or emotion – immediately following a murder or other violent incident for example – resulting in understandably extreme reactions being taken for common opinion.

As a result, working people are seen to be either part of the "pro-hanging march" torch-and-pitchfork crew, eager to sacrifice any and all suspects to the gods of vengeance; or the "Thug Life" crime-as-righteous-rebellion crew, who see the police as an enemy guilty of harassment and provocation. But Ms Smith and Co. are

right: it is not just a matter of turning to God, catching and keeping a handful of criminals, of putting up higher fences around your house.

To deal with crime, you have to face the fact that it has become deeply entrenched in this society, that the cycles of abuse and neglect of which these women spoke will not be broken easily.

The solutions have to be practical, realistic – but crucially, must involve personal responsibility as well as a helping hand.

The simple decision to see things clearly, no matter how bad they are, can itself lead to healthier behaviour and begin to restore our sense of community.

Ms Smith said: "We have to live as one – I always told my co-workers that, because you don't know who's next. On the job I try to talk and laugh and joke, because you don't know who is next. I didn't know I was next."

Ms Smith is, however, under no illusions that good sense will prevail anytime soon. Referring to her son's death, she said, "It ain't the first one, and sad to say, it ain't gon' be the last."

What do you think?
email: pnunez@tribunemedia.net

More foreign fighters seen slipping back into Iraq

BAGHDAD

INTELLIGENCE officials say foreign fighters have been slipping back into Iraq in larger numbers recently and may have been behind some of the most devastating attacks this year, reviving a threat the U.S. military believed had been almost entirely eradicated, according to Associated Press.

It is impossible to verify the actual numbers of foreign insurgents entering the country. But one Middle Eastern intelligence official estimated recently that 250 came in October alone. U.S. officials say the figure is far lower, but have acknowledged an increase since August.

At the same time, Iraqi officials say there has been a surge in financial aid to al-Qaida's front group in Iraq as the U.S. military prepares to leave by the end of 2011. They said it reflects fears by Arab states over the growing influence of Iran's Shiite-led government over Iraq and its Shiite-dominated government.

On Sunday, security official Maj. Gen. Qassim al-Moussawi said Iraqi forces are searching for six foreign fighters who are among Iraq's most wanted terrorists.

The six are suspected of involvement in the Oct. 31 siege of a Christian church that left 68 people dead and drew international outrage, al-Moussawi said. They are also suspected in two summertime attacks on an Iraqi army headquarters in central Baghdad that killed a total of 73 people.

"All who committed these attacks are (non-Iraqi) Arabs," he said. "This indicates the failure of al-Qaida leaders to recruit Iraqis to carry out suicide attacks."

Al-Moussawi said five of the six suspects are hiding in two Sunni Muslim-dominated provinces bordering Syria, while one has fled to Syria.

U.S. officials are playing down the threat.

Army Col. Barry Johnson, a spokesman for U.S. forces in Iraq, said the military noticed a slight increase in foreign fighters starting in August, but would not say how many. He said the number remains far lower than when insurgents were rushing in from Arab states between 2005 and 2007.

"There were some indications of a flow of foreign fighters in," Johnson said. "And that is often associated with suicide attacks, so we were anticipating something happening."

Last year, U.S. counterterrorism officials said the number of foreigners heading to Iraq had trickled from hundreds to "tens" in what they described as a severely weakened al-Qaida in Iraq.

But a Mideast counterterrorism official said an estimated 250 foreign fighters entered Iraq in October alone. He said they came through the Syrian city of Homs, a hub for Syrian Muslim fundamentalists that is run mostly by Tunisians and Algerians. Other fighters have come from Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Libya and Yemen.

Additionally, the official said tens of millions of foreign dollars annually are funding the Iraqi insurgency, which has received about \$5 billion in aid since 2007. The money comes from al-Qaida leaders, Muslims who want the U.S. to leave, and so-called 'Arab nationalists' who are eager for Sunni Muslims to regain power in Shiite-dominated Iraq.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to brief the media.

Even at the height of the war, foreign fighters were considered a small percentage of the total insurgents in Iraq. But their presence encouraged donations from overseas, and they made up some of the most hardcore jihadists who were willing to carry out suicide bombings.

Officials see the fingerprints of foreign



IRAQI MILITARY spokesman Maj. Gen. Qassim al-Moussawi speaks to the media during a press conference in Baghdad, Iraq, Sunday, Dec. 5, 2010. Al-Moussawi says security forces are on the lookout for six foreign fighters who helped launch horrific attacks this year that killed more than 140 people. (AP)

fighters in a spate of recent attacks:

—Four of the church bombers who were from Libya and Syria and carried fake ID cards that identified them as mutes to avoid talking in foreign accents to checkpoint guards, Iraqi Deputy Interior Minister Ahmed Abu Raghef told The Associated Press. He said \$70,000 cash was seized from a western Baghdad home where their cell's leaders were operating.

—A Tunisian who was also pretending to be mute was arrested on terror charges in August in eastern Diyala province, according to an Iraqi security official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media.

—A Moroccan fighter was captured and two non-Iraqi insurgents were killed in a raid last Thursday in the northern city of Mosul, said Defense Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Mohammed al-Askari.

—Four Jordanian fighters were killed by U.S. troops in Iraq, according to a Novem-ber claim by the Islamic State of Iraq, a front group for al-Qaida.

—A Nov. 2 string of rapid-fire blasts in Shiite neighborhoods across Baghdad killed 91. Iraqi counterterrorism commander Maj. Gen. Fadhel al-Barwari said it must have been carried out with foreign financing to buy the explosives needed "to launch an attack with a big number of casualties."

U.S. officials and experts voiced doubt that the foreign aid is as high as Iraqi and Mideast authorities believe.

A senior U.S. military official who spoke on condition of anonymity to talk candidly about the sensitive issue estimated about 10 foreign fighters enter Iraq each month. Michael Knights, a Lafter Fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy predicted there are only "small cells of experienced foreign fighters in ISL."

But an analysis by private global intelligence firm Stratfor concluded that foreign help in the church siege signals al-Qaida "may have found a new source for militants, and they may have more resources to carry out fresh attacks."



GN-1141

MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

TRAFFIC PRESS RELEASE NOTICE THE ANNUAL JUNIOR JUNKANOO PARADE ON THURSDAY 9 DECEMBER, 2010

INFORMATION

The Annual Junior Junkanoo Parade will be held on Thursday, 9 December, 2010 on Bay Street at 6:00 p.m. until.

ROUTE

The routes of the parade are as follows:

The starting point is Bay and Fredrick Streets ending at Bay and East Streets

NO PARKING

From 3:00 p.m. and until the parade no vehicles will be allowed to park on the following streets.

- BAY STREET BETWEEN FREDRICK AND EAST STREETS - BOTH SIDES
- BANK LANE - BOTH SIDES
- FREDRICK STREET BETWEEN SHIRLEY STREETS AND WOODES RODGERS WHARF - BOTH SIDES
- CHARLOTTE STREET BETWEEN WOODES RODGERS WHARF AND SHIRLEY STREET - BOTH SIDES
- WOODES RODGERS WHARF - BOTH SIDES
- ELIZABETH AVENUE - BOTH SIDES
- EAST STREET BETWEEN SHIRLEY STREET AND WOODES RODGERS WHARF - BOTH SIDES
- PARLIAMENT STREET BETWEEN WOODES RODGERS WHARF AND EAST HILL STREET - BOTH SIDES
- MARKET STREET BETWEEN BAY AND DUKE STRETS - BOTH SIDES
- TRINITY PLACE - BOTH SIDES

From 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, 9 December 2010 until after the parade the following streets will be closed to vehicular traffic:

- EAST STREET BETWEEN FREDRICK AND EAST STREET - BOTH SIDES
- BANK LANE - BOTH SIDES
- FREDRICK STREET BETWEEN SHIRLEY STREET AND WOODES RODGERS WHARF - BOTH SIDES
- CHARLOTTE STREET BETWEEN WOODES RODGERS WHARF AND SHIRLEY STREET - BOTH SIDES
- PARLIAMENT STREET BETWEEN WOODES RODGERS WHARF AND EAST HILL STREET - BOTH SIDES

TRAFFIC DIVERSION

Vehicular traffic traveling north along Navy Lion Road will continue east along Woodes Rodgers Wharf to East Street., south along East Street to Bay Street.

Vehicular traffic traveling east bound on Bay Street will be diverted south onto Market Street.

Vehicular traffic traveling north bound on East Street will be diverted east on Bay Street.

Ellison E. Greenslade
Commissioner of Police.