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**INSIGHT**

**Do the BTC customers not have a say?**

**SEE PAGE 12B**



**INSIDE**

**Real Estate**

**SECTION INSIDE**



**SPORTS**

**Arianna wins bronze**

**SEE SECTION E**



# PM warns BTC staff over walking off job

## MAN FOUND DEAD IN YEAR'S 94TH HOMICIDE

POLICE are appealing for information which may help them solve the country's 94th homicide for the year.

Early Saturday morning, police found the body of a man lying in front of an apartment off Buttonwood Avenue, Pinewood Gardens. He had an injury to the abdomen and was wearing long blue jeans and a

**SEE page 13**

## Ingraham says they have 'no guarantee' of remaining employed

By NOELLE NICOLLS  
 Tribune Staff Reporter  
 nnicolls@tribunemedia.net

IF BTC workers walk off the job, they have "no guarantee" of keeping their employment, warned Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham, in his latest comments on the BTC sale.

"The truth of the matter is that for those who are employed at BTC and elsewhere in the public sector – I wish to caution them not to follow the current plans of the president of the NCTU and BCPOU; Ms Jennifer Isaacs-Dotson and Mr Bernard Evans – because when you walk off your job, if you do, there is no

guarantee that you can come back to that job – no guarantee," said Mr Ingraham, while speaking to Free National Movement supporters in Grand Bahamas.

"Jobs are scarce. Jobs are hard to find. And no one is able to stop you from cutting off your nose to spite your face; that is your face. But at the end of the day, you will not have a nose – that is the judgment you can make," he said.

Union leaders were unable to comment last night, as they said they were unaware of the Prime Minister's comments.

Last week, union members

**SEE page 15**

## 'HUNDREDS OF LAYOFFS WOULD BE THE COST' OF REDUCED CELL PHONE RATES

By NOELLE NICOLLS  
 Tribune Staff Reporter  
 nnicolls@tribunemedia.net

A NATIONAL Christmas surprise could be reduced cell phone rates, said Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham, but "hundreds" of layoffs at BTC would be the cost.

"I heard one of the Union presidents say

**SEE page 13**



'COST':  
 Hubert Ingraham

## CHRISTMAS BEAT RETREAT



ON THE MARCH: The Royal Bahamas Police Force got into the festive spirit this weekend with its Christmas Beat Retreat at Rawson Square.

• SEE PAGE SEVEN FOR MORE PHOTOS

## PLP CHAIRMAN HITS OUT AT PM FOR 'THREATENING JOBS'

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

PLP Chairman Bradley Roberts condemned Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham yesterday for threatening the jobs of union workers and called upon him to enter into "sincere" dialogue and stop acting the part of a "political hack."

"The PLP is convinced that the remarks in Grand Bahama by the Prime Minister on Saturday last were not logical, reasoned and sober reflections by the Prime Minister," Mr Roberts began.

"It appears to us that he may have been carried away with the

Yuletide spirit and was not reasoning locally or sensibly.

"We read carefully what he had to say in the official transcript that was issued by the Bahamas Information Services. Mr Ingraham cannot be seriously threatening the jobs of workers in this country at a time like this. The threats are obvious and direct at the workers at BTC. We condemn them and call upon Mr Ingraham to enter into sincere dialogue with the trade unions. This is not politics. It is time for him to rise to the level of a statesman and stop acting the part of a political hack," Mr Roberts said.

Over the weekend, Prime

**SEE page 14**

## FOREIGNERS' INCOMES 'AFFECTING THE BAHAMAS ELIGIBILITY FOR GRANTS'

By NOELLE NICOLLS  
 Tribune Staff Reporter  
 nnicolls@tribunemedia.net

WEALTHY foreigners who live in the Bahamas are skewing the national per capita income calculation and making it difficult for service organisations to access international funding, claim civil society leaders.

With a per capita income averaging at \$30,000, Bahamian non-profits (NGOs) are ineligible for grants, sometimes by policy or practice, with several major funding organisations, including the Commonwealth

Foundation and USAID.

"On the one hand the country is compared economically to other Caribbean jurisdictions by inter-governmental agencies. We are considered among the wealthiest. At the other end of the spectrum, many of our community service organisations (CSO) are among the poorest in the region," said Terry Miller, president of Civil Society Bahamas, an umbrella body for civic organisations.

"Why is that? In most instances our Caribbean coun-

**SEE page 15**

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LOCAL NEWS



**SAFETY FIRST**

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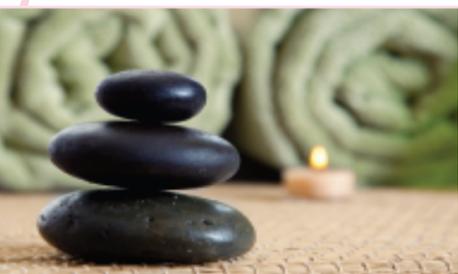
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LOCAL NEWS

# Fundraiser seeks miracle for family battling cancer, eviction

**\$10,000 in personal donations since story appeared in Tribune**

By AVA TURNQUEST  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
aturnquest@tribunemedia.net

A MASSIVE community-based fundraiser seeks to bring about a miracle for a family of eight who are battling cancer and are facing eviction from their home.

In addition to efforts by religious groups and concerned individuals to ensure the Thurston family are not homeless in the new year, the family has also received more than \$10,000 in personal donations since their story was first published in the Tribune last week.

Consuela Thurston, mother-of-seven, said: "My phone has been ringing off the hook. Everybody has been calling, asking if I am the woman from the story. I said 'yes, yes I am'. This has just been so amazing - a real miracle."

Mrs Thurston was diagnosed with cancer last year, and since then it has spread throughout her body, affecting her bones and brain. Over the course of her treatment, the Solomon's Super Centre employee of 15 years had to be reduced to half days as she recovers from chemo treatments, and is currently on medical leave.

When her husband Peter, 42, was diagnosed last month with lymphoma - a cancer of the immune system - during a routine physical, his immediate hospitalisation crippled the family financially.

During the last interview Mrs Thurston said after she found out about her disease - treatments cost her around \$10,000 each - her bills spiraled out of control.

She said: "We have never been in this kind of debt."

The couple, who live in New Hope Road, Joan's Heights, owed their landlord \$4,470 in unpaid rent, were served an eviction notice for



**SEEKING A MIRACLE:** Consuela Thurston is pictured above holding hands with her husband Peter Thurston who has been in hospital for the past month after he was diagnosed with lymphoma. Although she is currently undergoing treatment for cancer as well, Mrs Thurston is now the primary care-giver for the couple's six children.

January 4.

Mrs Thurston added: "The landlord, he really bear with us for a really long time - for the rent to get up that high like that - he was giving us a break because I was sick, but now that my husband is sick, he's saying now what? Who is going to pay?"

After learning of the Thurston's unfortunate situation, a community-led initiative was launched to construct a home using building plans the family had gotten approved but were financially unable to bring to fruition.

The joint effort by Miracle Revival Fellowship pastor Howard Stuart, and widespread community members, is spearheaded by Dwight Armbrister, the host of ZNS morning show Inspiration Station on 107.9FM.

Mr Thurston had been willed the land by a family member, and had planned to build an apartment complex. Now, organisers plan to complete as much as possible to ensure not only secure housing for the Thurstons as soon as possible, but also a means of income while the family recuperates.

Mr Armbrister said: "This a faith move. Every family somehow some way is touched by this dreadful disease. I've got some police officers who have already committed their manpower. Several persons have already committed to purchase the steel bars, to get cement and plywood."

Meanwhile, doctors have diagnosed Mr Thurston with Hodgkin's lymphoma, previously known as Hodgkin's disease, and a 70 per cent chance for successful recovery.

However, now in his fifth week of hospitalisation, Mr Thurston admits he is only at the beginning of his treatment.

Mrs Thurston said: "He may come out next week, but it's up to his body actually. I pray it do happen."

Still undergoing treatment and now the sole care-giver of their six children, Mrs Thurston she finds the strength to keep going through prayer and staunch faith.

Moved to tears by the unbridled compassion of strangers, Mr Thurston professed his gratitude to those dedicated to ensuring secure accommodations for his

family.

Mrs Thurston added: "I went and took my children out and bought them some new clothes. Something I haven't done in a very long time - it felt so good, they felt so good, just going shopping. I really appreciate that."

An account has been set up at FYP Builder's Mall, Wulff Road, to fund necessary construction materials in the name of Peter or Consuela Thurston. Persons can contact Consuela at 544-3444 or donate to the Thurstons at the Scotiabank branch on East Street and Soldier Road, account number 19303.

# PM hits back at CLICO employees complaining over owed money

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



**'NO OBLIGATION':**  
Hubert Ingraham

PRIME Minister Hubert Ingraham voiced his frustration with the ingratitude of a few CLICO employees who complained of not getting all of the monies they were owed when the insurance agency went into liquidation.

In a passionate address to FNM supporters at their pre-Christmas breakfast in Grand Bahama over the weekend, Mr Ingraham reminded the public and those former CLICO employees the government of the Bahamas was under "no obligation" to pay any of them any money at all.

"I picked up the newspaper this morning and I saw on the front page where a Ms Outten is complaining that she was an employee or agent of CLICO, and that she only got \$100,000, and that she should have gotten much more. And I was reminded of the story in the Bible about the lepers who were cleansed, and how one came back [to say thank you]."

"There were about 129 people or thereabouts. The Government of the Bahamas had no legal or moral or ethical obligation to pay anybody any money at all. It was not the Bahamas Government's bill, it is not your bill as the taxpayers of the Bahamas."

"Out of the goodness of our heart we determined that we would put in place a means by which we would pay the wages that were due to these people up to \$100,000, and that we would do the same thing for the policyholders up to

\$100,000. We did that for all 129 of them. There were only five people who were owed more than \$100,000. So 124 of the 129 were owed \$100,000 or less, and we paid them in full," he said.

Now however, Mr Ingraham said, because five persons who were owed more than \$100,000, one of whom was owed only \$280 more (\$100,280), this matter makes it way into the newspapers without a single word of the other 124.

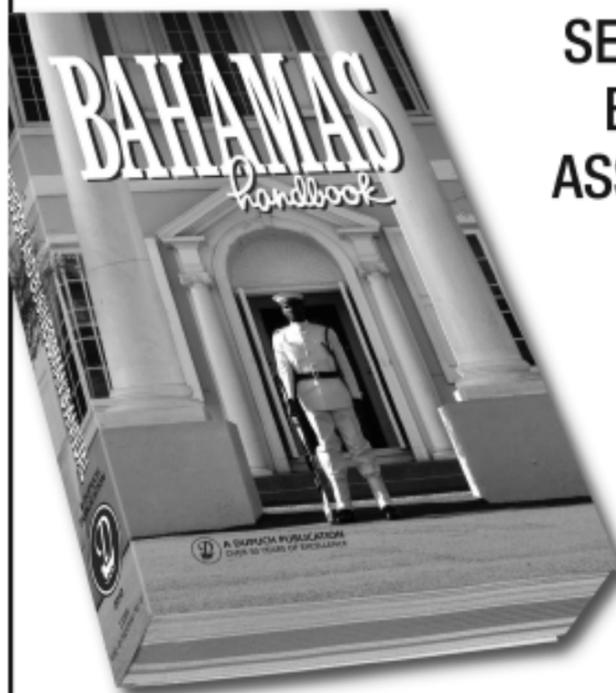
"You know, in public life you often get blamed for many things and you don't get credit for many things you do, but it is not intended to be a thankful job. It is intended to be a job that you do the best you can everyday and you satisfy yourself that I did all I could and the best I could, and that you will never be able to satisfy everyone," he said.

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# Restrained revelations of a Caribbean

By SIR RONALD SANDERS

(The writer is a Consultant and former Caribbean diplomat)

NOW that the general elections in St Vincent and the Grenadines are over I can safely comment on the recently published book, "The Making of The Comrade: The political journey of Ralph Gonsalves."

The book is a very welcome addition to the literature on the Caribbean's

## insight WORLD VIEW

political history because it is an account by a political leader and Head of Government of at least some of the events that have affected our regional condition. Not enough regional leaders have bothered to record, for contemporary analysis and for history, the behind-the-

scenes events that led to crucial decisions, including the decisions not to make decisions of which there have been many.

Gonsalves describes this book, in his Preface to it, as "an autobiographical sketch."

In truth, it is part autobi-



SIR RONALD SANDERS

ographical sketch and part attempt to convince the electorate of St Vincent and

the Grenadines to return him and his Unity Labour Party (ULP) to a third consecutive term in office.

In the context of the latter point, the book is an understandably biased view of the political and economic scene in St Vincent and the Grenadines.

But, even that account is written in a racy style that makes for engaging reading.

The book suffers from its mixed objectives which are: to give an account of events that helped to shape contemporary Caribbean history, and to promote a political party for re-election. By its very nature, the latter objective is promotional while the former should be studious.

It also suffers because Gonsalves has written it while still holding office as Head of Government. Clearly, in the interest of preserving a relationship with his colleague leaders, particularly in the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM), he pulled his punches.

But, there is sufficient in the book to whet the appetite and for Caribbean

people, as a whole, to look forward to Gonsalves writing – once he has left office – a scholarly and "no-holes barred" account of the last decade of the region's history; a period that I have described elsewhere as a "lost decade" because of the failure of regional leaders to fulfil the pledge of deeper regional integration and to bring to fruition the single Caribbean community they promised the Caribbean people.

### Politics

Nonetheless, "The Making of The Comrade" should be required reading for all who are interested in the Caribbean's politics and its economic development. Every sixth form student in the region should be required to read it critically, and so too should students of the regional universities.

The book contains many nuggets that indicate a rich vein to be mined of crucial Caribbean events that tell the story of mistakes made in pursuance of inappropriate ideologies; and indecision about the governance

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# Prime Minister

structure of the region when, if the bull had been taken by the horns, CARICOM would today be in a better position to cope with the turbulent international economic environment in which it is engulfed.

Also, the book teasingly opens windows on policies and relationships whose pursuit is not fully explained but which remain controversial in the context of hemispheric relationships – in particular, the relationship with the Hugo Chavez government of Venezuela and participation in the Chavez-initiated Bolivarian Socialist Alternative for the Americas (ALBA) as a rival to a US-sponsored idea of a Free Trade Area of the Americas that has been dead and cold for some time.

Clearly, a Ralph Gonsalves – unshackled from political office – who returns to academia and scholarship has a great account to give to the Caribbean people of his ride in a political journey that they shared with all its ups and downs.

A few events stand out in the book. In March 1982, he attended in Grenada a regional conference of “black nationalists, anti-imperialists, socialists, and communists” where he expressed concern that the New Jewel Movement – the group led by Maurice Bishop and Bernard Coard that had seized power in a Coup d’état in 1979 – was becoming more Leninist in “its structure, orientation, and articulation.”

According to Gonsalves: “The wrong song was being sung in a land unsuited to its lyrics, borrowed wholesale from elsewhere.”

He warned Bishop against this trend which he clearly attributed to Coard,

and he records: “Interestingly, the Cuban comrades (also) warned against this kind of dogma and infantile ultra-leftism.”

A year later Bishop was dead, gunned down by members of the Army of his own revolutionary government “in a classic internal power struggle” and the revolution ended by external intervention.

This idea of the importation into the region of what Gonsalves describes as an “inappropriate organizational guide” and the story of the internal conflicts in Grenada – and outside – of which he has a unique insider knowledge is a lesson for the region that hopefully he will tell more fully.

## Failure

Of more immediate concern to CARICOM countries is Gonsalves’ report of the failure of Heads of Government to correct the existing governance and administrative structures which “were correctly deemed to be inadequate for the deeper regional integration tasks at hand.”

Appointed to head a Prime Ministerial sub-committee to try to settle once and for all governance arrangements that had been tossed back and forth for years, Gonsalves records that “it became clear to me that the “political will” for deeper and more appropriate governance structures was absent.”

A subsequent report in February 2007 was “talked to its death.”

He is now a member of yet another Prime Ministerial Committee, and it will be interesting to see if, in his third term, as Prime

Minister he will use his seniority to establish a governance structure that would imbue again in the people of CARICOM a belief that regional integration can help enormously to improve their lives and their standing in the international community.

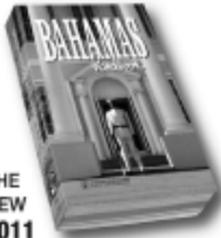
Gonçalves also discusses briefly the proposal from the former Patrick Manning government in Trinidad and Tobago for a political union with the members of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States.

Intriguingly, he says he awaits “a definitive policy” from the new government in Trinidad and Tobago.

As a distinguished Caribbean attorney and former Barbados government Minister, Sir Richard Cheltenham, says in the Foreword to the book: “It is a story worth telling.”

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LOCAL NEWS

# Tips for staging your home

By MIKE LIGHTBOURN



HAVE you ever heard of the "home staging" profession?

These people assist sellers with presenting their home in a fashion that will increase the likelihood of a full price offer on a properly priced home.

This profession is more common in the US, but there are persons here who are able to assist.

Successful BREAs agents have been doing this for years.

Interior decorators do a wonderful job in furnishings, layouts, etc.

While the value added by such professionals is often worth the investment, many sellers can put the basics into action themselves, and enjoy the same benefits.

There are several "quick fixes" that stagers commonly recommend, and here are some highlights for your consideration as you prepare to market your home.

First, the dirty work. You've got to clean your windows, but don't forget about washing all the screens to let in as much sparkling sunlight as possible.

In tiled bathrooms, clean and regrout the floors.

You know what they say about cleanliness!

Nothing will turn a buyer off more than dirty grout. Don't forget the interior and exterior must be properly cleaned or painted. No loose shingles!

Second, create space in two ways.

In the kitchen, roll away any movable utility carts and clear clutter from the countertops and the refrigerator. Don't forget to clean the fridge door.

In the rest of the home, move the furniture one to two feet away from the walls to create the illusion of more space.

Finally, impart a sense of warmth and coziness by making up beds with colourful sheets and comforters with matching window treatments.

All of these preparations should make it that much easier for the buyers to imagine how comfortable they will be in this home. Your pride of ownership will encourage them to feel the same!

**Tip of the Week - Don't forget your garden! It should be well maintained, trimmed and tidy.**

**A few flowering plants, such as hibiscus, go a long way in setting the stage. Don't put your home on the market until everything is in tip top shape.**

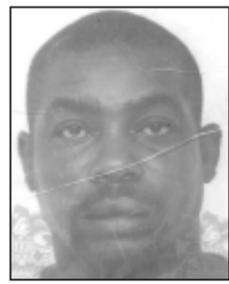
**Remember, your BREA agent is ready to help. Use him/her.**

(Mike Lightbourn is president of Coldwell Banker Lightbourn Realty).

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**Funeral Service For**



**BARRON DOUGLAS TINKER, 42**

of Apple Street and formerly of Union Village, will be held on Wednesday, December 22nd, 2010 at 10:30am at The New Good Will Church Of God, Peardale. Officiating will be Rev. Denzle Hutchinson, assisted by Rev. Edgburt Tinker. Interment will follow in Old Trail Cemetery, Abundant Life Road.

Left to cherish his memory are: (1) son, Barron Jr.; (4) sisters, Denise McKinney of Mastic Point, Andros, Sabrina Beneby, Thalse Tinker and Bernadette Burrows; 2 Brothers, Stephen & Alphonso Beneby; (5) Nieces, Shavonne, Shandia, Shaquella, Christina and Alyillia; (8) Nephews, Kendrick, Stephan, Sybreon, Shaquella, Ramon, Justin, Ryan, and Stephano; (3) Grandnieces, Gabrielle, Quindia and Kendnique; (2) Grandnephews, Philip & Deangelo; (1) Brother-in-law, Antonio McKinney; (1) Step grandmother, Mrs. Carmen Tinker; (1) Adopted grandmother, Eleanor Black; (12) Aunts, Olive, Loreina, Doralyn, and Dr Judy Tinker Major of Baltimore, Maryland, Evelyn Newbold, Lavern, Brenda Albury, Creola Pinder, Leona Smith, Arnette Pinder and Coral Kemp; (4) Uncles, Cyril Ben Tinker of Long Island, New York, Reginald Farrington, Carlton Smith and Joseph Brown; Special Friend, Carolyn Dias; Cousins, Luceille Higgs and Family, Portia, Aniska, Deandre, Monique, Nicole, Judy, Marva, Cyrelle & Cyril Jr. Tinker of Manhattan, New York, Elmira, Wayde, Andy, Devon, Sean, Mario, Quintin, Neil and Mariano Percentie Megan Cox and Lavelle Laing, Tatiana and Erica Pinder, Samantha and Shericka, Sterling Dean, Lynden Alleyne of Freeport, Grand Bahama, PC 1507, Stephen Darling, Dwayne and Dwight Tinker, Miguel, Adam Tinker of Miami, Florida, Verna and Joan, Lilly Ash, Kenneth and Bertram Miller, Bursil Woods, Mable Newton and Family Diana Tinker Dean, and Edgburt Tinker & Family; Numerous Friends, Halister Ferguson, Raymond Bain, Johnny Webb, Junior Penn, Darren Roker, Eric Maynard, Reid, Slim, Ms. Dorsette & Family, The Zonicle Family, Idell Butler, Yvonne Andrew, Jackie Duncombe, Mary Stubbs, Ms Muriell, Jennings and Family, Frank Jones, Wallace, Rahming, Simmons, and Bullard Families, the Union Village Family past and present, The Rolle Avenue and Peach Street Family, Julia Smith Family and the Community of Smith's Hill and Kemps Bay, South Andros, Lisa McKenzie, The Hepburn Family, The Whymys Family, Lamant Knowles, Lala and Thorne, Omar, Humphrey, Marie & Hudley Rolle of Smith's Hill South Andros, Sandra Moss & Family, The Mackey Family, Edward Bastian and Family (Mark, Babes) and Wansil Bowe.

Viewing will be held on Tuesday, December 21st at Clarke's Funeral Home #10 Tonique Williams-Darling Highway from 1:00pm to 4:00pm ONLY and on Wednesday from 9:00am at the church until service time.

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LOCAL NEWS

**DEFENCE FORCE MEMBERS THANKED FOR HARD WORK AT CAROL SERVICE**

MEMBERS of the Royal Bahamas Defence Force were thanked for their hard work and dedication at the RBDF Christmas Carol Service.

Peter Deveaux-Isaacs, acting Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of National Security, thanked the officers and marines for their instrumental roles in search & rescue and search & recovery operations.

He also congratulated their "due diligence on the high seas", especially with the recent capture of poachers in the southern Bahamas.

The RBDF Chaplain, Reverend Prince Bodie, delivered a Christmas message reminding all about the real reason of Christmas—the Christ child.

At this year's ceremony, Mr Deveaux-Isaacs made presentations to the marines who have distinguished themselves.

They are: Engineering, Leading Mechanic Terrence Culmer; Headquarters, Leading Seaman Marco Roberts; Squadron, Able Seaman Wayde Watson; Force Protection, Leading Seaman Marvin Lightfoot; Commando Squadron, Leading Seaman Dwayne Ferguson; Supply, Leading Seaman Kevin Seymour; Training, Able Seaman Nivado Ferguson; Administration, Able Woman Marine Christina Rahming; Airwing, Leading Seaman Shannandor McKenzie.

The overall Marine of the Year, an award renamed the "Leon Livingstone Smith Award of Excellence" went to Able Seaman Nivado Ferguson.

The Defence Force also extended invitations to the students of the Gambier and Adelaide primary schools, who entertained with song and dance.



**THE OFFICERS** and Marines at the Royal Bahamas Defence Force Christmas Carol Service at the Coral Harbour Base. Also shown are some of the faculty and students from the Adelaide and Gambier primary schools.



**ABLE SEAMAN** Nivado Ferguson being awarded the overall Defence Force Marine of the Year 2010 from Retired Commodore Leon Smith. Standing from left are Commodore Roderick Bowe, Acting Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of National Security, Mr Peter Deveaux-Isaacs, Able Seaman Ferguson and Retired Commodore Leon Smith.

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LOCAL NEWS

FROM page one

'HUNDREDS OF LAYOFFS WOULD BE THE COST'

'all that has to happen is for Hubert Ingraham to call down to BTC and reduce the rates.' Yes, I could reduce the rates – and fire hundreds of you. It follows like night follows day," said Mr Ingraham, while speaking to a group of Free National Movement supporters in Grand Bahama on the weekend.

He was referencing comments made by leaders of the Bahamas Communications and Public Officers Union (BCPOU) and the Bahamas Communications and Public Managers Union (BCPMU), during last week's protest of the government's planned sale to

Cable and Wireless.

Bernard Evans, BCPOU president, said it is "disingenuous" for the Prime Minister to suggest BTC needs a foreign partner in order for the company to reduce cellular costs. He said the URCA-controlled cellular rates could be reduced by the PM with a stroke of the pen.

Responding to the claims, Prime Minister Ingraham said: "The rates are high because we have more people employed there than they need there. And you have people who are seeking to protect what they have to your disadvantage. It has nothing to do with whether or

not we sell to Cable and Wireless – they don't want it sold, period, because there is plenty juice there for them, and we want you to have more minutes for your five dollars.

"We think that you are spending a disproportionate amount of your money on cellular service, and we think its being done to sustain a few people to the disadvantage and at the expense and cost of the many in The Bahamas," he said.

Union leaders were unable to comment last, as they said they were unaware of the Prime Minister's comments.

The leaders continue to criticise the government, however, for leaving them out of the privatisation negotiations.

Of his 18-month presidency, Mr Evans claimed he was only invited to three meetings of the advisory committee, and T. B. Donaldson, chairman of the Government-appointed BTC privatisation committee, attended none of them.

"T Baswell Donaldson said he was surprised to hear the union's position. Well he would be surprised because he was not present to one of those three meetings. There was always an excuse for his absence, and neither did he call in between to have any discussion with the union. He was never present to hear what my position was," said Mr Evans, refuting claims that as members of the advisory committee the unions were a

part of the privatisation discussion.

The meeting at which the advisory committee approved the recommendation for the government to accept the sale to C&W, Mr Evans said union representatives were not invited.

Even though they have yet to receive a copy of the MOU, Mr Evans said he "presumed" other members of the advisory committee were privied to a copy, which would have been necessary for them to arrive at a consensus on the recommendation.

At its second annual 'State of Civil Society' address, yesterday, the Bahamas Civil Society organisation called for more transparency in government.

Terry Miller, president of the organisation, said the Bahamas is party to several international charters, treaties, and agreements "in which they have committed to developing systems of transparency in government".

"To those who say the unions are merely being political, let me note that at the town meeting held at the BCPOU headquarters, members of the opposition were made quite uncomfortable by speaker after speaker who either stated that they felt the former government also abused them, or by those who directed their members to look beyond party politics and not be influenced by the 'Official Opposition' as this was a national issue, not a political ball game," said Mr Miller.



CRIME scene investigators assess the country's 94th homicide on Saturday. Man found dead in year's 94th homicide

FROM page one

blue shirt with a white T-shirt underneath. Investigations continue as police wait for the coroner's report to determine the cause of death. The victim's identity is not yet known.

LOCAL NEWS

FROM page one

# PLP chairman hits out

Minister Ingraham warned those persons employed at the Bahamas Telecommunication Company (BTC) and elsewhere in the public sector to not follow the plans of the President of the NCTU Jennifer Dotson and BPOU President Bernard Evans and participate in any national strike. He cautioned these workers that if they walked off their job, there was "no guarantee" that they could come back to that job.

"Jobs are scarce," Mr Ingraham noted. "Jobs are hard to find. And no one is able to stop you from cutting off your nose to spite your face; that is your face. But at the end of the day, you won't have a nose - that is the judgment you can make."

However, Mr Roberts said that Mr Ingraham and his party are continuing to try to "poison the well" by suggesting that the unions

are engaged in a political fight with him, with the PLP pushing its own political agenda to the mix.

"If he wishes to turn it into a political fight that is his business, but the fact is the unions have legitimate grievances which they are seeking to address by lawful means. It is unconscionable and reprehensible and just plain lousy of a Prime Minister to threaten people's jobs and to try and mix the PLP up in his lame attempt to defend an indefensible policy. The PLP simply stands with the people and their legitimate concerns. No amount of propaganda can change the facts on the ground. The PLP simply stands for the people," he said.

In a statement released last night, the government also accused the unions of acting contrary to the Employment and Industrial Relations Act. It called

on opposition members of parliament to support "the government's legal actions and oppose any actions by the unions not in accord with the law".

"The FNM has gone to extraordinary lengths to preserve jobs at BTC, as well as to agree to a partnership with C&W which will make Bahamians shareholders in the new company. We have and will continue to act in good faith. As the Government of the day, we also have an obligation to uphold the rule of law. In accordance with that solemn obligation, we will act in an appropriate manner," stated the FNM response.

On Saturday, Mr Ingraham also hinted at reports that major PLP players were in fact behind Bluewater's bid to purchase BTC back in 2007. Addressing FNM supporters at their pre-Christmas breakfast at the Mary Star of the

Sea School auditorium, Mr Ingraham said he had just been reminded that morning by his Minister of State, Zhivargo Laing, that normally in the Bahamas you would find a Bahamian fronting for a foreigner.

"They agreed to sell to somebody who some people think were fronting for some of them," he said.

However Mr Roberts said this statement by the Prime Minister is a well known "untruth" that is being peddled by the FNM for propaganda purposes.

"Mr Ingraham is being less than frank in this matter. If the Prime Minister is correct in his assertion of fronting, then his government has some explaining to do to the Bahamian people. His government recently paid \$1.9 million to a foreign entity (plus significant legal fees), the company he now accuses of fronting. If the company was fronting why did the government pay the hard cash of the Bahamian tax payer to this for-

eign entity voluntarily?

"This was a penalty which the FNM agreed to pay to Bluewater the putative buyer of BTC's minority interest because the FNM cancelled the deal. If the Prime Minister is correct that there was fronting then surely by logical reasoning then the FNM is now complicit in the fronting exercise by paying those who were fronting to end the deal.

"There was no fronting. The Prime Minister must put up or shut up on this issue or stop his party from spinning this total and absolute lie. We call for him to put the entire file on the table and produce the evidence or cease and desist.

In response to the PLP's statement, the government reiterated its criticism with respect to the "proposed fire sale of BTC to the phantom entity Bluewater Ventures".

"Firstly, it is not possible to know who Bluewater is because there is no history to refer to. Bluewater was a shell company registered offshore in Jersey in the Channel Islands, and was established in 2003, 140 years after Cable & Wireless commenced operations. It had no financial statements and no organisational support. It only had two issued shares of one UK pound each. It was previously called Bluewater Communications Ventures Ltd. It changed its name to Bluewater Ventures Ltd. removing the word "Communications", stated the

FNM.

"As far as we know, given the two shareholders are nominee companies, its principal is one individual foreigner who used to be in a communications business, NTL, which went into bankruptcy in 2002. We don't know who the shareholders are, as this information was never provided to us. It is mind-boggling that a decision was once taken by a Government of the Bahamas to sell BTC to this entity. It is even more astonishing that there are those still bold enough to publicly tout this experience today."

The FNM maintains that Cable and Wireless is a reputable company in good financial standing.

Mr Roberts also hit out at the Prime Minister's comments on reducing rates.

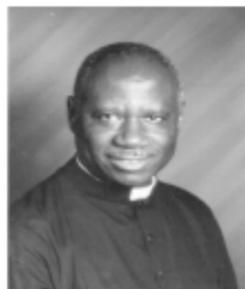
"Another incredible statement by the Prime Minister was if he reduces the rates of cellular hundreds of people at BTC would be fired. Rates changes fall within the preview of URCA ex Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and not the government. Clearly the PM did not think that such a proposition through, as it was the then PUC who turned down BTC's request to lower cellular rates to protect SRG (Indigo).

"We hope that in a period of sober reflection that the Prime Minister will rethink his views and provide the country with a more reasoned and considered approach to the public policy on this issue," he said.



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Saturday, December 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day  
 11 AM – Family Eucharist

Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup> – First Sunday After Christmas  
 Eucharist – 7 AM & 9 AM  
 Nine Lessons & Carols For Christmas – 6:30 PM

Friday, December 31<sup>st</sup> – 10:30 PM  
 The Eve of the Holy Name of Jesus  
 Watch Night Service  
 Carols & Mass of the Holy Name of Jesus



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LOCAL NEWS

# Foreigners' incomes 'affecting the Bahamas eligibility for grants'

FROM page one



DION FOULKES

terparts are eligible for international grants, and we are not. USAID and several others tell us that we are too wealthy," said Mr Miller at the second annual 'State of Civil Society' address at Windsor Park.

Civil Society Bahamas is looking at avenues for creating greater linkages between financing sources and the local non-profit sector. With such wealth in the country, it is "sad" that the local non-profit sector is so challenged, said representatives of the organisation.

"While we boast a vibrant civil society, and a comparatively 'rich' economy, we are really not nearly as strong as we can be," said Mr Miller.

The average income calculated by the Department of Statistics includes an average of total income earned against the total number of workers, including expatriate and Bahamian workers, said Dion Foulkes, Minister of Labour.

Were the calculation made based on the "mean or mode" income, which would be determined by looking at the middle range income or the most frequently earned income, he said the national income picture might have a different "feel".

"It is skewed on the higher end because we have a lot of financial services workers, for example, who make very high salaries. We also have a very large professional class, both Bahamians and non-Bahamians, who make fairly large salaries," said Mr Foulkes.

"So when the average is calculated, the average is skewed towards the higher end because of these high income earners. There are several other statistical means for which you can get a different feel for what the situation is. Either (the mean or the

mode calculation) would probably give you a more accurate reading for the vast majority of Bahamians," he said.

To the extent that civil society organisations are disadvantaged, Mr Foulkes said he could not speak authoritatively. Although he said he is aware of local charities who have "traditionally received funding from any number of institutions and individuals not withstanding the high wages in the Bahamas".

Leonard Archer, former Bahamas High Commissioner to the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said even if a mean or mode calculation were used to compare national incomes, the Bahamas would still "rate fairly high".

The per capita income calculation includes not only the people who live in Acklins and Crooked island but also those who live in "Lyford Cay, and other gated communities". While they might not be Bahamian nationals, their income is included in the average because "they are residents", said Mr Archer.

"When you average that you get a high income, but that masks the fact that there are a lot of people whose incomes are way below the average. As a generalised measure it is probably not the best one to use, but it

is one that the Bahamas for good or ill has to deal with," he said.

Grant money is usually directed to the "people who need it the most", said Mr Archer, and in the "obvious comparison" with regional counterparts, such as Haiti or smaller OECS countries, the Bahamas will likely lose out "all the time".

"Some countries, Japan is one of the best known for this, will direct their grant aid to countries that have a per capita income lower than a certain

amount, usually in the low \$3-4,000 per capita income range. Quite obviously if countries have that kind of stipulation for grant aid, the Bahamas would not qualify," said Mr Archer.

"Because of the high per capita income, countries who are making donations are reluctant to give to the Bahamas; (the thinking goes), you can afford to do things for yourselves. That is a problem any organisation will have if you apply to international organisations that have

grant money. They say, 'why are you asking for money when you can do things for yourself,' he said.

The challenge extends into the political arena as well, said Mr Archer. With an average income higher than some poorer members of the European Union, many countries look at the Bahamas' per capita income in trade negotiations and because of that "view what you do in a different light".

## PM warns BTC staff over walking off job

FROM page one

from across the public sector joined with their umbrella bodies, the National Congress of Trade Unions (NCTU) and the Trade Union Congress (TUC), to protest the planned sale of BTC to Cable and Wireless.

At least 10 unions participated in the mass demonstration last week, where union leaders threatened to shut down a number of vital services in protest of the sale.

Of the "noise and threats" of the unions, Mr Ingraham said "that does not get anywhere with me".

He said the call for staff reductions did not originate with Cable and Wireless. He said leading into the privatisation exercise, the present Bahamian management at BTC proposed for the government to let go of more than 300 people at BTC, "because they say they are overstaffed".

The question of layoffs arose most recently in negotiations over the set period of exclusivity, said Mr Ingraham. He said the government wanted to limit the period of exclusivity to two years.

However, it considered the assessment of Cable and Wireless that it wanted "to be able to disengage up to 30 per cent of the staff" immediately after the conclusion of the sale.

"We said we cannot have that. So we negotiated a deal that says you can have it for three years, you offer a voluntary disengagement package so that those who have entitlement to pension and others who would like to leave can do so, and that you would not terminate anyone to downsize the company for at least the two years," said Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham.

"Now in doing that, it affected the price we get paid for it, and it affected how long you are still going to pay higher than you should, because as soon as competition comes, cellular rates are going to drop right down. We did that for the benefit of the employees of BTC. Apparently their union leadership does not appreciate that," he said.

The government is going to proceed with "what we think is the right thing for The Bahamas" said Mr Ingraham. He also said the government is "convinced" the country will be "better off" as a result of its privatisation plan.

**HELLMANN'S Christmas Wish List**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL WINNERS!**

These lucky participants each bought Hellmann's Mayonnaise, took their receipt to Asa H. Pritchard Ltd, filled out an entry form and selected (1) prize from the Hellmann's Christmas Wish List.

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These lucky participants each bought Hellmann's Mayonnaise, took their receipt to Asa H. Pritchard Ltd, filled out an entry form and selected (1) prize from the Hellmann's Christmas Wish List.

Melissa Nichols, Giles Joyce, Gaylord Newbold and Rochelle McKenzie each received the prize of their choice from the Wish List!

**Melissa Nichols**  
Panasonic Flat Screen TV WINNER

**Giles Joyce**  
Ft. Lauderdale Getaway for 2 WINNER

**Gaylord Newbold**  
32 GB Apple iPad (3G) WINNER

**Rochelle McKenzie**  
\$1,000 Grocery Shopping Spree WINNER

**The Bahamas Electricity Corporation**

**Tender**

The Bahamas Electricity Corporation invites Tenders for the services described below:

Bidders are required to collect packages from the Corporation's Administrative Office, Blue Hill & Tucker Roads  
Contact: Ms. Charlene Smith at telephone 302-1158

Submissions should be marked as follows:

**Tender No. 739/10**

**Clear The Utility Easement Along Queens Highway from Stafford Creek to Barc ANDROS, BAHAMAS**

Tenders are to be addressed to:

**Mr. Kevin Basden**  
General Manager  
Bahamas Electricity Corporation  
Executive Offices – Blue Hill & Tucker Roads  
Nassau, Bahamas

Deadline for delivery to BEC:  
**28th January, 2011**  
no later than 4:00 p.m.

The Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals.  
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**Mr. Wayne Farquharson** at telephone 302-1216

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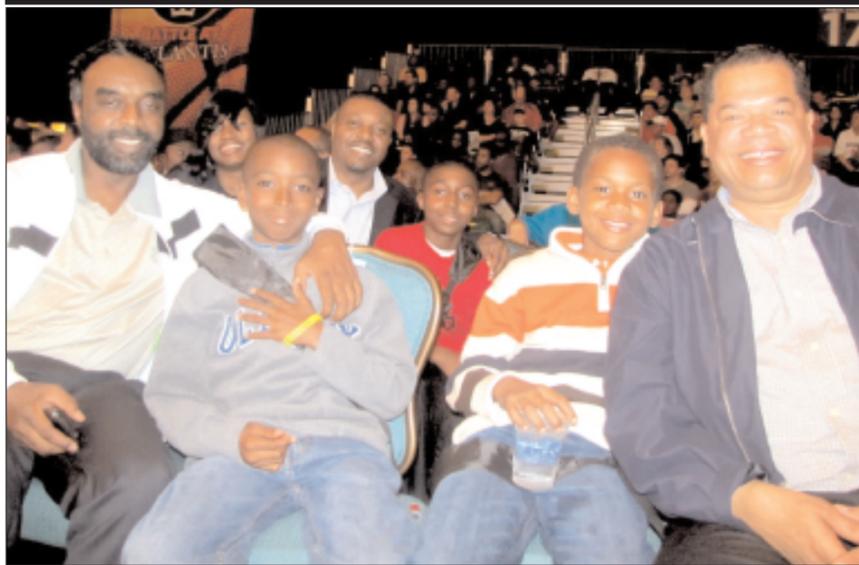
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LOCAL NEWS

FATHERS AND SONS AT BATTLE AT ATLANTIS



CABINET MINISTERS took out time on Saturday night to enjoy U.S.A. Division 1 College Basketball at Atlantis, Paradise Island.

ABOVE: Senator Vincent Vanderpool Wallace and his son Killian; Minister Zhivargo Laing and Mrs. Laing and their son Zhimaal and Senator Dion Foulkes and his son Dion William.

BELOW: Minister Tommy Turnquest and his sons Carey and Robert.

Also attending were Attorney General John Delaney and Ministers Earl Deveaux and Phenton Nymour.

• SEE SPORTS SECTION FOR MORE FROM THE EVENT



We take this opportunity to wish all our valued customers

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Friday, December 24th Closes at 1:00 p.m.  
 Saturday, December 25th Closed  
 Monday, December 27th Closed  
 Tuesday, December 28th Normal Hours

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Star Ride Knit Pants <b>\$11.99</b>	Boys Dunlop Knit Pants <b>\$12.99</b>	Womens Tresics Athletic Draw-string Pants <b>\$11.99</b>	Mens Renegade 10oz Fleece Cargo Pants <b>\$17.99</b>		

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

OPRAH VACATIONS IN MILITARY-CONTROLLED FIJI

SUVA, Fiji

FRESH OFF an Australian tour with her frenzied talk-show fans, Oprah Winfrey is taking a respite in the South Pacific island nation of Fiji, where the military regime wished her "a great time", according to Associated Press.

Fiji's tourism minister said Winfrey was spending the Christmas holiday there and that officials wanted to respect her privacy. Local media reported she arrived Thursday and that she and longtime beau

Stedman Graham were to stay until Dec. 26.

Tourism on Fiji is active, though relations with other countries have been strained by the lack of democracy since a December 2006 military coup. Australia and New Zealand imposed travel bans on Fiji leaders, and international trade sanctions have been imposed, but elections have only been pushed back. The U.S. State Department has warned Americans to carefully consider the risks of travel to Fiji and to be vigilant while there.

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## BTC salaries more than 2x the average

\* 25% of BTC to be sold to Bahamian public in three years  
\* No talks on Port area property tax, business licences until GBPA 'house in order' and election finished  
\* PM wants Port area utilities to be placed under national regulation, as Lubert Adler pushes out Ginn from \$4.9bn project

The average annual salary and benefit packages enjoyed by Bahamas Telecommunications Company (BTC) staff amounted to just under \$69,000 in 2009, more than double this nation's per capita income, as the Prime Minister pledged this weekend to sell 25 per cent of the state-owned incumbent to Bahamian public investors within three years.

Calculations carried out by Tribune Business, using data in BTC's 2009 audited finan-

**SEE page 4B**

## Top attorney launches his own practice

By **NEIL HARTNELL**  
Tribune Business Editor

A top Bahamian attorney who earlier this year left one of Nassau's leading law firms has set up his own "boutique" practice, aiming to exploit his size and 34 years of commercial litigation experience to build on what is already an expanding client base.

Confirming to Tribune Business that Scott & Company had been operating since November 22, 2010, from offices at The Lagoon Centre, Sandport, Michael Scott, the former Callenders & Company attorney and partner, said he had already been referred two matters by the international lawyer and client relationships he had established, one of which was "potentially quite big".

"I've been operating since November 22, offering a

**SEE page 7B**

## Nassau/PI hotels eye 5-6% Xmas rate rise

■ Sector 'continues upward trend', with occupancies also set to be up 3-4% over 2009 figures for December  
■ 2010 Q3 business grew by 18%, with visitor 'five million' set to arrive this week

By **ALISON LOWE**  
Business Reporter  
[alowe@tribunemedia.net](mailto:alowe@tribunemedia.net)

Nassau/Paradise Island hotels are set to enjoy an average 3-4 per cent year-over-year increase in occupancy levels for Christmas 2010, and a 5-6 per cent rise in average daily room rates, leading the minister of tourism and aviation to pronounce that the sector is "continuing the upward trend".

Vincent Vanderpool Wallace revealed that results from a recent sample of hotels in Nassau and Paradise Island suggest that occupancy levels for December are set to be up around "3 to 4 per cent" for 2010 over last year.

The week between Christmas and New Year's Day specifically will "see some hotels with 100 per cent occupancy in the Family Islands, some 90 per cent full in Nassau and Paradise Island and in Grand Bahama, occupancies of around 70 per cent" during this



**VINCENT VANDERPOOL-WALLACE**

traditionally busy week. A key driver of hotel profitability - average daily room rates - have climbed up by 5 to 6 per cent for Christmas visitors in 2010. "The combination

of occupancies up by 3-4 per cent and room rates up by 5-6 per cent gives us reason to believe that we are continuing the upward trend," said Mr Vanderpool-Wallace of prospects for the hotel sector.

Looking back over the year, Mr Vanderpool-Wallace highlighted the third quarter - from July to September - as showing the most impressive growth vis-a-vis 2009.

"Our overall business grew by more than 18 per cent in terms of the overall increase over the same period. It is a phenomenal surge, which shows what can happen if you have the right combination of an attractive destination and the right pricing," he said.

Ministry of Tourism officials expect the total number of visitors to the Bahamas in 2010 to break the five million mark some time this week, this being "only the second time ever"

**SEE page 3B**

## Our Lucaya sees below par Xmas

Occupancy levels to rise to 'a little over 50%' in Christmas-New Year period

By **ALISON LOWE**  
Business Reporter  
[alowe@tribunemedia.net](mailto:alowe@tribunemedia.net)  
and **DENISE MAYCOCK**  
Tribune Freeport Reporter  
[dmaycock@tribunemedia.net](mailto:dmaycock@tribunemedia.net)

Despite a year which brought increased tourist numbers to the Our Lucaya resort when compared to 2009, the resort's Christmas occupancy levels are "not as good as we had expected", its general manager told Tribune Business.

"The Christmas season is not as strong as we would have liked it to be. We were expecting better occupancy," said Michael Weber.

According to the general manager, "peak days" during the Christmas period - the week between Christmas and New Year's Day, which typically brings some of the highest visitor numbers to hotels - will see occupancy rise to "a little over 50 per cent".

This is "pretty close to the same" as the resort experienced last year, when tourism underwent a significant slump in light of the global economic downturn. Our Lucaya is pro-

jecting between 30 and 50 per cent occupancy during the Christmas and New Year.

Room rates have stayed "at a standstill", added Mr Weber. "The competition is so fierce for the same tourist that it's hard to go out their and ask for \$50 more," he said.

But the Our Lucaya resort is

**SEE page 3B**

## \$7-\$10m Andros resort deal 'still very much alive'

\* Scheck still eyeing 'significant investment' in government-owned Lighthouse Club, including total revamp of marina and doubling existing rooms  
\* Later phases include FBO plans, but government guarded on initial amount of land to be conveyed and insisting on timelines/milestones

By **NEIL HARTNELL**  
Tribune Business Editor

The frontrunner to acquire the last government-owned hotel is "still alive" and contemplating a "significant" \$7-\$10 million first phase investment in revamping Andros's Lighthouse Club resort, with plans including a "complete refurbishment of the marina" and a 20-strong room inventory expansion.

Michael Scott, the Hotel Corporation chairman and noted attorney, who has just set up his own law practice, told Tribune Business that the proposal by Illinois-based Scheck Industries to acquire the Lighthouse Club was still on the table, the main unresolved issue between the two parties being the amount of land conveyed to the developer for the first phase.

"Andros is still very much alive in terms of negotiations with Scheck to do a development which encompasses the Lighthouse Club," Mr Scott told this newspaper. "They're looking at a significant investment in that first instance. There's also going to be a fair amount of infrastructure work, because what there is at Fresh Creek is minimal.

"In relation to the Lighthouse Club and Scheck, the initial investment will be about \$7-\$10 million, sorting out the marina, upgrading the hotel, residential sectors and creating a Marina Village."

Mr Scott told Tribune Business that once Scheck accom-

**SEE page 6B**

## \$1.8BN PROJECT REVISION TALKS 'AT VERY DELICATE, SENSITIVE STAGE'

By **NEIL HARTNELL**  
Tribune Business Editor

Negotiations over revisions to the \$1.8 billion Mayaguana-based I-Group project are at "a very sensitive, delicate stage", Tribune Business has been told, with the developers in talks with a high-end, Asian boutique resort brand as the Government seeks to transform the development into one in line with its revised Family Island model.

Michael Scott, the Hotel Corporation's chairman, told this newspaper that the Ingraham

**SEE page 8B**

\* Mayaguana developers in talks with high-end Asian boutique brand as government attempts to re-work 'repugnant' initial deal

\* Hotel Corp chair says Christie government's agreement 'wasn't watertight' in terms of giving I-Group 'timelines, goals and milestones'

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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 two out of the 24 listed securities, with one advancer and one decliner.

**EQUITY MARKET**

A total of 53,000 shares changed hands, representing an increase of 32,100 shares compared to the previous week's trading volume of 20,900 shares.

Commonwealth Bank (CBL) was the volume leader and sole advancer last week, trading a volume of 51,000 shares to see its stock price close up by \$0.10 at \$6.95.

AML Foods (AML) was the sole decliner in the week, trading a volume of 2,000 shares to see its share price fall by \$0.04 to close at \$0.97.

**BOND MARKET**

No notes traded during last week.

**COMPANY NEWS**

**Earnings Releases:**  
ICD Utilities (ICD) released unaudited results for the nine-month period ended September 30, 2010. For the period, ICD reported net income of \$131,000 compared to \$912,000 in the comparative period in the prior year.

It was noted that total income of \$244,000 in the period declined by \$758,000 from \$1 million in the prior period, due primarily to lower dividends received. ICD's total expenditures in the nine-month period, of \$113,000, increased slightly by \$23,000 compared to the \$90,000 reported in the same period in the prior year. Total assets and liabilities of ICD were \$55.4 million and \$129,000 at September 30, 2010, compared to \$56.6 million and \$63,000 at December 31, 2009.

**EQUITY MARKET – TRADING STATISTICS**

BISX SYMBOL	CLOSING PRICE	WKLY PRICE CHANGE	VOLUME	YTD PRICE CHANGE
AML	\$ 0.97	-\$-0.04	2,000	-17.09%
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	\$ 6.95	-\$0.10	51,000	-0.71%
CHL	\$ 2.40	-\$-\$-	0	-11.76%
CIB	\$ 9.39	-\$-\$-	0	-2.50%
CWCB	\$ 1.84	-\$0.04	0	-35.44
DHS	\$ 1.60	-\$-\$-	0	-37.25%
FAM	\$ 6.07	-\$-\$-	0	-6.47%
FBB	\$ 2.17	-\$-\$-	0	-8.44%
FCL	\$ 5.46	-\$-\$-	0	14.47%
FCLB	\$ 1.00	-\$-\$-	0	0.00%
FIN	\$ 7.23	-\$-\$-	0	-22.09%
ICD	\$ 5.59	-\$-\$-	0	0.00%
JSJ	\$ 9.82	-\$-\$-	0	-0.30%
PRE	\$ 10.00	-\$-\$-	0	0.00%

**INTERNATIONAL MARKETS**

FOREX Rates Currency	WKLY	%Chge
CAD	1.0120	2.13
GBP	1.5520	-1.93
EUR	1.3175	-0.48

Commodities Commodity	WKLY	%Chge
Crude Oil	88.60	-2.15
Gold	1,368.50	-0.49

International Stock Market Indexes Index	WKLY	% Chge
DJIA	11,491.90	0.71
S&P 500	1,243.91	0.28
NASDAQ	2,642.97	0.21
Nikkei	10,303.80	0.90

**BOND MARKET – TRADING STATISTICS**

BISX SYMBOL	FBB13
DESCRIPTION:	FBB Series C Notes Due 2013
VOLUME	0
PAR VALUE	\$1,000
BISX SYMBOL	FBB15
DESCRIPTION:	FBB Series D Notes Due 2015
VOLUME	0
PAR VALUE	\$1,000
BISX SYMBOL	FBB17
DESCRIPTION:	FBB Series A Notes Due 2017
VOLUME	0
PAR VALUE	\$1,000
BISX SYMBOL	FBB22
DESCRIPTION:	FBB Series B Notes Due 2022
VOLUME	0
PAR VALUE	\$1,000

## VACANCY

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RBC Mackey Street Branch extends great appreciation to all of our clients and business associates who have partnered with us throughout the years.

**Pictured from left:** Lynda Lambert, Manager, Client Care, RBC Mackey St Branch; Cheriele Martinborough, Manager, Personal Financial Services, RBC Mackey St. Branch; Marsha Kanady, Community Relations and Development Director, The Salvation Army Bahamas and Delisa Armbrister, Executive Assistant, The Salvation Army Bahamas

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Wishes The Bahamas, especially our Policyholders, a Joyous Christmas and pray that we let the Christ Child within us all manifest himself to all as we enter The New Year.

#### Holiday Hours

December 20-23, 9:00am- 4:30pm  
December 24-27- CLOSED  
December 28-30, 9:00am- 4:30pm  
December 31st- 9:00am- 12:30pm  
January 3rd- CLOSED  
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### HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

Friday, December 24  
Closed  
Friday, December 31  
Closed 1/2 day

Main Line: 393-0234,  
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The Management and Staff of URCA wish you and yours HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

\*URCA - Promoting Competition, Safeguarding Consumers\*



## BUSINESS

# Nassau/PI hotels eye 5-6% Xmas rate rise

FROM page 1B

such numbers have been recorded in any given year.

Overall, visitors to the Bahamas are up by 14 to 15 per cent this year over last, with that driven primarily by an "explosion" in cruise visitors, as opposed to stopover visitors who stay one or more nights in the country.

With 70 per cent of all cruise visitors to the Bahamas coming on a "Bahamas only" cruise, Mr Vanderpool-Wallace said this was especially meaningful.

"It's the best indicator of what a low-cost, high quality vacation to the Bahamas will deliver," said the Minister.

Mr Vanderpool-Wallace said his Ministry intends to reward the five millionth visitor with an as-yet undisclosed prize for coming to the Bahamas.

The last time the Bahamas crossed the five million tourists threshold was in 2005. That year's performance took place under very different domestic and global economic circumstances, with the Bahamas enjoying what many considered a "boom" period, with GDP growth in the region of 4 per cent.

## Our Lucaya sees below par Xmas

FROM page 1B

certainly not alone in this predicament. Having called other hoteliers in the Bahamas and South Florida, Mr Weber said he got the impression that their Christmas was also not so merry. "Their numbers are not as strong either," he said.

Outgoing president of the Bahamas Hotel Association, Robert Sands, recently stated that many hotels were experiencing Christmas occupancy levels which were "flat to last year" or showed minor improvements.

Meanwhile, Mr Weber suggested that bad weather in the US and/or recent headlines referring to crime and labour conflict in the Bahamas could be a factor in a would-be tourist's decisions to stay at home.

"If you were travelling here from the States and you 'googled' Bahamas and Freeport, and saw the headlines, you'd see stuff about rape, cop's death probes, unions clashing with police. People are coming here looking for a relaxed, fun atmosphere - they don't think of stuff like that," he added.

However, Mr Weber said he was happy with the performance at the hotel generally this year, which was up compared to "the last couple of years".

The Our Lucaya resort



MICHAEL WEBER

employs around 800 staff, and this year all were able to work full weeks throughout the year, even in the traditionally slower period in August and September, when staff have usually been put on rotation with reduced work hours.

Asked about the extent to which Our Lucaya's owner, Hong Kong-based conglomerate Hutchison Whampoa, has had to continue to step in with capital when the hotel property has been unable to meet its costs, Mr Weber said: "The company is very supportive of us."

"Our owners have been very accommodating to our requests, if there are shortfalls. We give them a lot of credit as owners. If we need marketing funds or assistance in any way they are always there to help and that's not found easily. Many other hoteliers when they run into situations the owners would just be looking to sell it out."

At the nearby Pelican Bay

Resort, the occupancy for the Christmas period is projected to be about 40-50 per cent.

However, Nicoya Bethel reported the resort is expecting about 90 to 100 occupancy during the New Year.

Two properties that are reporting occupancy levels above 50 per cent during Christmas are the Ocean Reef Yacht Club and the Island Seas Resort, which are timeshare resorts.

Edmond Saunders, reservation supervisor at Island Seas, reported that the 189-room timeshare property is projecting about 70 to 80 per cent occupancy for the Christmas week. However, the occupancy rate will drop to about 40 per cent for the New Year.

The Ocean Reef Yacht Club is reporting about 80-90 per cent occupancy for Christmas and the New Year.

The Island Palm Resort, in Freeport, and Old Bahama Bay Resort, in West End, are reporting very low occupancy rates for both Christmas and New Year.

"Our occupancy is not good," said Old Bahama Bay reservation manager Jackie Carroll. "Most of our business comes from the marina and weather conditions have not been good lately."

Ms Carroll said Christmas will be slow, but she expects business to pick up at the beginning of the New Year.



Announce our special Holiday Hours:

Friday, December 24, 2010 CLOSED

Saturday, December 25, 2010 CLOSED  
(Christmas Day)

Monday, December 27, 2010 CLOSED  
(Boxing Day Observed)

Friday, December 31, 2010 CLOSED

Saturday, January 1, 2011 CLOSED  
(New Year's Day)

Monday, January 3, 2011 CLOSED  
(New Year's Day Observed)

On behalf of the Management and Staff of Fourth Terrace Diagnostic Centre and Imaging At Grosvenor we wish you a Safe Holiday and Prosperous New Year!

## THE CLEARING BANKS ASSOCIATION

Announces

### Christmas Holiday Banking Hours

Thursday, December 23, 2010  
9:30am – 4:30pm

Friday, December 24, 2010  
9:30am – 1:00pm

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2010  
CLOSED**

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2010  
CLOSED**

Normal Banking Hours will resume on  
Tuesday, December 28, 2010  
(9:30am – 3:00pm)

Bank of The Bahamas Limited  
Citibank, N.A.

Commonwealth Bank Limited  
Fidelity Bank (Bahamas) Limited

FirstCaribbean International Bank (Bahamas) Limited

RBC Royal Bank (Bahamas) Limited  
Scotiabank (Bahamas) Limited

## The Anglican Central Education Authority



The Anglican central Education Authority invites applications for the following teaching position immediately available at **St. John's College** Preparatory on New Providence.

**Music**

**Grades K-6**

**Qualifications:** Candidates must possess **at least** a Bachelors Degree from an accredited University **together with** a Teacher's certificate from an accredited Teacher's College.

Letters of application with the requested supporting documents must be **received** by the Anglican Education Department by **Friday, 17th December 2010** and must be addressed to:-

**The Director of Education  
Anglican Central Education Authority  
P. Q. Box N6S6  
Nassau, Bahamas**

Applications may be mailed to the Education Department at the above address or emailed to [jdavies@aceabahamas.org](mailto:jdavies@aceabahamas.org)

*Providing quality education in a Christian environment by developing the whole child spiritually, academically, physically and socially thus preparing the child for life.*

BUSINESS

FROM page 1B

# BTC salaries more than 2x the average

cial statements, show that based on total salary and benefit costs of \$84.273 million, and some 1,228 staff at year-end, BTC's average salary and benefits package was worth \$68,626 per person.

This is more than double the estimated Gross domestic product per capita (average income) of \$29,700 that Bahamians generally were estimated to take home in 2009, some 131 per cent above average salary levels.

It is likely this, and other factors, that prompted Prime

Minister Hubert Ingraham to declare in Grand Bahama over the weekend that telecommunications rates in the Bahamas - especially for cellular - were high because there were more people employed at BTC than the company needed.

And, in a thinly-veiled reference to BTC salary and benefits packages, he added:

"You have people who are seeking to protect what they have to your disadvantage. It has nothing to do with whether or not we sell to Cable and Wireless - they don't want it sold, period, because there is plenty juice there for them, and we want you to have more minutes for your \$5.

In fact, many of you have no idea how much money you spend for cellular service. Start adding up how much you are spending on it. We think that you are spending a disproportionate amount of your money on cellular service, and we think its being done to sustain a few people to the disadvantage and at the expense and cost of the many in the Bahamas."

Apart from Mr Ingraham's comments, the scale of BTC salary and benefit packages is again likely to prompt debate over whether worker productivity levels in the Bahamas are often misaligned with compensation, given the frequent complaints about BTC's service and pricing levels. One leading attorney recently told Tribune Business he had been waiting two months for BTC to respond to his request for a fax line to be installed at his new office.

In fact, BTC's staff benefit and salary packages are even

higher if the company's National Insurance contributions and payments to the staff's defined benefits pension plan are included in the calculation. Factoring these into the mix gave BTC total staff costs of \$96.457 million for 2009, more than 25 per cent or one-quarter of its \$361 million turnover for that year.

Dividing this by the 1,228 BTC staff gave an average/salary benefit package of \$78,548, some 164 per cent above average GDP per capita.

Meanwhile, Mr Ingraham revealed that part of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the sale of a 51 per cent BTC stake stipulated that Cable & Wireless could not terminate anyone to achieve its desired 30 per cent labour force downsizing within two years of privatisation completion.

Hinting that without the \$210 million sales proceeds the Government would have to continue to borrow to meet public sector salaries, a situation that was unsustainable, Mr Ingraham said: "We intend over the next three years for 25 percent of BTC to be owned by the public. The Government will continue to own 24 percent until another point in time when decisions are taken."

Elsewhere, Mr Ingraham said the Government had told the Grand Bahama Port Authority (GBPA) that it would not discuss continuing the real property tax and business licence fee exemptions for Freeport-based businesses, which are due to expire in 2015, beyond that date until the organisation was "able to get their own house in order in terms of ownership".

"We are not inclined, first of all, to have any discussions on it with them while they are divided, and secondly, we don't think it is appropriate to have discussion before the next election," the Prime Minister said.

He also hinted that any continuation of such investments might depend on the GBPA giving up the right to licence and regulate utilities, such as electricity and water, in the Freeport area. Tribune Business brought this issue into the national spotlight when it disclosed Cable Bahamas' Judicial Review application over whether it should pay licence fees to the Utilities Regulation & Competition Authority (URCA) based on its Freeport Inter-

net revenues, arguing that here it was regulated by the GBPA and requiring it to do this would be tantamount to 'double taxation'.

Mr Ingraham, though, reiterated his determination to bring all utilities under one national regulator, such as URCA.

The Prime Minister also confirmed that Bobby Ginn was out of the \$4.9 billion West End project, having met the "owners" last week. Tribune Business can reveal that they are Lubert Adler, the real estate investment/private equity firm that provided the initial seed capital (equity) for the project and Mr Ginn.

While the Credit Suisse group has foreclosed on a substantial chunk of the property at West End, Tribune Business understands that apart from the existing Old Bahama Bay property, Lubert Adler still controls the 150 acres that were earmarked for the project's core - hotels and the casino. Sources familiar with developments say Lubert Adler is now attempting to find investors/partners to help it develop this core.

## HELP WANTED

### CASHIER & SALES PERSONS

needed for retail store on Paradise Island

Mature and reliable persons only. Willing to train the right individual. Must be able to work nights/days including Sundays and Holidays.

Fax Resume to 328-6948

# Colony Club Inn & Suites

Comfortable Rooms at Comfortable Rates!

## Rooms from just \$59.00 Per Night plus gratuity

Restaurant and Bar, Pool, Recreation Room, Meeting Room.

St. Albans Drive • Tel (242) 325-4824 or (242) 325 1325 • (242) 325 1408

WYNDHAM NASSAU RESORT & CRYSTAL PALACE CASINO

Seaside

## Christmas Menu 2010

Soup Station • Carving Station  
Salad Station • Entrees • Desserts

*All Inclusive* \$35.59 Adults • \$22.09 Kids (11 & Under)

Seaside  
New Years 2011

Dinner Menu  
\$80.00 + 15% Gratuities (Adults)  
\$35.00 + 15% Gratuities (Kids 11 & Under)

Includes Champagne & Party Favors

Angus/Maso  
New Years 2011  
Dinner Menu

Appetizers • Soup or Salad  
• Entree  
• Dessert

\$125.00 + 15% Per Person  
Includes A Glass of Champagne

ANGUS/MASO  
RESTAURANT

**For More Info Call: 327-6200 EXT #6280**

BISX LISTED & TRADED SECURITIES AS OF:											
THURSDAY, 16 DECEMBER 2010											
BISX ALL SHARE INDEX: CLOSE 1,487.84   CHG 0.00   %CHG 0.00   YTD -77.54   YTD % -4.95											
FINDEX: CLOSE 000.00   YTD 00.00%   2009 -12.31%											
WWW.BISXBAHAMAS.COM   TELEPHONE: 242-323-2330   FACSIMILE: 242-323-2320											
52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Security	Symbol	Previous Close	Today's Close	Change	Daily Vol.	EPS \$	Div \$	P/E	Yield
1.28	1.00	AML Foods Limited		1.01	1.01	0.00	0.150	0.040	8.7	3.96%	
10.75	9.67	Bahamas Property Fund		10.63	10.63	0.00	0.013	0.200	817.7	1.88%	
6.18	4.50	Bank of Bahamas		4.90	4.90	0.00	0.598	0.260	8.2	5.31%	
0.58	0.18	Benchmark		0.18	0.18	0.00	-0.877	0.000	N/M	0.00%	
3.49	2.70	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)		6.95	6.95	0.00	0.422	0.260	16.5	3.74%	
3.65	1.63	Consolidated Water BDRs		1.85	1.85	0.00	0.111	0.045	16.7	2.43%	
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	7.23	Finco		7.23	7.23	0.00	0.287	0.520	25.2	7.19%	
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	4.23%	
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			
99.48	99.48	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	
0.06	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	1.5179	5.51%	6.90%	1.498004	1.475244	30-Nov-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	1.5697	4.15%	4.18%	1.551550	1.532712	3-Dec-10			
3.2025	2.8522	Royal Fidelity Bahamas G & I Fund	2.7108	-13.03%	-14.96%			30-Nov-10			
13.6388	13.0484	Royal Fidelity Prime Income Fund	13.2825	-0.63%	-0.14%			30-Nov-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			
1.1415	1.0000	FG Financial Preferred Income Fund	1.1415	4.74%	5.21%			30-Nov-10			
1.1101	1.0000	FG Financial Growth Fund	1.1101	3.94%	7.60%			30-Nov-10			
1.1428	1.0000	FG Financial Diversified Fund	1.1428	4.78%	5.90%			30-Nov-10			
9.7485	9.1005	Royal Fidelity Bah Int'l Investment Fund Principal	9.7950	4.85%	5.45%			30-Nov-10			
11.2361	10.0000	Royal Fidelity Bah Int'l Investment Fund Principal	10.6417	-1.20%	0.50%			30-Nov-10			
10.0000	9.1708	Royal Fidelity Bah Int'l Investment Fund Principal	9.6635	-3.37%	-3.37%			30-Nov-10			
8.1643	4.8105	Royal Fidelity Int'l Fund - Equities Sub Fund	7.9442	2.94%	6.47%			30-Nov-10			
MARKET TERMS											
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											
(S) - 4-for-1 Stock Split - Effective Date 8/2/2007											
(S) - 3-for-1 Stock Split - Effective Date 7/1/2007											
TO TRADE CALL: CFAL 242-502-7010   ROYALFIDELITY 242-356-7764   FG CAPITAL MARKETS 242-396-4000   COLONIAL 242-502-7525											

NOTICE

**DOMINION CAPITAL FUND LIMITED**  
(In Voluntary Liquidation)

Notice is hereby given that the above-named Company is in dissolution, commencing on the 14th day of December 2010. Articles of Dissolution have been duly registered by the Registrar. The Liquidator is Lion Support Services Limited, P. O. N-10818, Nassau, The Bahamas.

All persons having claims against the above-named Company are required, on or before the 31st day of January 2011, to send their names and addresses and particulars of their debts or claims to the Liquidator of the Company or, in default thereof, they may be excluded from the benefit or any distribution made before such debts are proved.

Dated this 17th day of December 2010.

LION SUPPORT SERVICES LIMITED  
LIQUIDATOR

**COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS** 2009  
**IN THE SUPREME COURT** CLE/QUI/No. 00041

**IN THE MATTER OF ALL THAT** piece; parcel or tract of land of containing 10.87 acres situate in the Crown Land Allotments in the Settlement known as and called "Crown Haven" on the Southern Coast of the Island of Little Abaco, Bahamas.

AND

**IN THE MATTER OF THE** Quieting Title Act, 1959

AND

**IN THE MATTER OF THE** Petition of WELLINGTON LEONARD FORBES

NOTICE

**WELLINGTON LEONARD FORBES** by Power of Attorney of Alexander Julius Rolle, claims to be the beneficial owner in fee simple in possession of the parcel of land hereinbefore described and such ownership arises by virtue of possession of the said land.

Copies of the filed plan of the said piece parcel or lot of land may be inspected during normal office hours at the following locations:-

- (a) The Registry of the Supreme Court, Anasbacher House, East Street, North, Nassau, Bahamas;
- (b) The Chambers of Messrs. Richard L. Boodle & Co., 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, K. G. Malcolm Building, Bay Street & Victoria Avenue, Nassau, The Bahamas

**NOTICE** is hereby given to any person(s) having a Right of Dower; 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** by any person to file and serve a statement of such claim on or before the said date will operate as a bar to such claim.

**RICHARD L. BOODLE & CO.**  
Chambers,  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, K. G. Malcolm Building  
Bay Street & Victoria Avenue  
Nassau, Bahamas

*Attorneys for the Petitioner*

BUSINESS

# \$7-\$10 million Andros resort deal 'still very much alive'

FROM page 1B

plished its first phase goals, there were further development phases that called for the creation of a Fixed Base Operation (FBO), targeted at the burgeoning private aviation market, and a golf course on land leased from the Government (Hotel Corporation).

Emphasising that Scheck and the Government were still "very much at the negotiating phase", he explained that the developer's first phase proposal called for the "complete refurbishment" of the property's existing 20 rooms, the expansion and addition of 20 extra rooms, and the "complete refurbishment of the marina with docks and so forth".

Apart from creating spin-off jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities for Bahamians in areas such as bonefishing, Mr Scott said Scheck was also looking to incorporate "eco sensitive facilities such as a spa", with one such spa/resort operator under consideration being Virginia-based Greenbrier.

"The problem in negotiations with the Government has been the amount of acreage that should be conceded to the developer in the first phase," Mr Scott told Tribune Business.

"The Government's preference is to modulate or sell land, part with the land, in increments so that it's not used for speculation."

As with the \$1.8 billion Mayaguana project (see other article on Page 1B), the Government is seeking to incorporate into any agreement with Scheck a series of timelines, goals and milestones for the developer to accomplish.

Once the first phase targets are met, the Government and Scheck will then enter into talks over a second development phase, and the amount of land and investment incentives appropriate to that.

Then, once that phase and its goals are accomplished in a phased manner, the two parties will then sit down for further talks on any future development phases.

## Rejected

Tribune Business previously reported that the initial Scheck deal, which aimed to transform the Lighthouse property and surrounding real estate into the Andros Sporting Club, was rejected by the Ingraham Cabinet on the grounds that it did not want to convey to the developer the estimated 6,000-7,000 acres surrounding the resort - property owned by the former Hotel Corporation.

Vincent Vanderpool-Wallace, minister of tourism and aviation, effectively confirmed this to Tribune Business, also acknowledging that the previous Scheck proposal - which called for the redevelopment of the Lighthouse property in a project covering 600 acres, 350 freehold and 250 leasehold - had involved the surrounding acreage.

"The property is obviously still available, and we're likely to put it up for sale," Mr Vanderpool-Wallace said of the Lighthouse Yacht Club & Marina. "I believe Mr Scheck is very much interested in putting an offer in for it. That's imminent, and should be received this week."

He added: "We have cut back significantly on what was offered. We want to make sure the marina and hotel get going as the core part of Fresh Creek, and thereafter other people can come in" and develop the surrounding land in planned phases.

The minister indicated that the Government wanted any development at the Lighthouse Yacht Club & Marina to take place in carefully staged, managed phases, keeping pace with Andros's infrastructure and population, rather than a developer getting their hands on all the real estate at once.

### LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE

International Business Companies Act  
(No.45 of 2000)

#### In Voluntary Liquidation

Notice is hereby given that, in accordance with Section 138 (4) of the International Business Companies Act, (No. 45 of 2000), **CASTLE PROPERTIES (MMI) LTD. (the "Company")** is in dissolution. Jorge Rodrigo Garcia Bellamy is the Liquidator and can be contacted at Via 1 4-88 zona 4 Guatemala. All persons having claims against the above-named Company are required to send their names, addresses and particulars of their debts or claims to the Liquidator before 31st day of December, 2010.



Jorge Rodrigo Garcia Bellamy  
Liquidator

### LEGAL NOTICE

#### FIF HOLDINGS INC.

International Business Companies Act  
(No.45 of 2000)

#### In Voluntary Liquidation

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 138 (4) of the International Business Companies Act, (No. 45 of 2000), **FIF HOLDINGS INC.** is in dissolution. PANAMERICAN MANAGEMENT SERVICES (BVI) LTD., is the Liquidator and can be contacted at Vanterpool Plaza, 2nd floor, Wickhams Cay I, Road Town, Tortola, BVI. All persons having claims against the above-named company are required to send their names, addresses and particulars of their debts or claims to the Liquidator before 28th December, 2010.



PANAMERICAN MANAGEMENT SERVICES (BVI) LTD.  
Liquidator

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS COMPANIES  
ACT,2000  
(No.45 of 2000)

#### MANSA HILLS INC. (In Voluntary Liquidation)

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with Section 137 (4) of the International Business Companies Act,2000, No. 45 of 2000, **MANSA HILLS INC.** commenced Dissolution on the 19th day of August, A.D., 2007.

Mr. Nathaniel Cooper, Nassau Bahamas has been appointed the Sole Liquidator of the Company.

Mr. Nathaniel Cooper  
Liquidator

### LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE

International Business Companies Act  
(No.45 of 2000)

#### In Voluntary Liquidation

Notice is hereby given that, in accordance with Section 138 (4) of the International Business Companies Act, (No. 45 of 2000), **G.A.M. CORPORATION LIMITED (the "Company")** is in dissolution. Jorge Rodrigo Garcia Bellamy is the Liquidator and can be contacted at Via 1 4-88 zona 4 Guatemala. All persons having claims against the above-named Company are required to send their names, addresses and particulars of their debts or claims to the Liquidator before 31st day of December, 2010.



Jorge Rodrigo Garcia Bellamy  
Liquidator




Merry Christmas

## HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

**Friday, December 24 – Christmas Eve – Closed for All Departments**  
EXCEPT PAYMENT COUNTERS  
Thompson Blvd. and Mall-at-Marathon  
**OPEN from 8:30 am to 1 pm on Christmas Eve**

**Saturday December 25- Christmas Day all offices (CLOSED)**  
Except for Emergency Complaint Line: 325-0505

**Monday December 27 – Boxing Day Observation (CLOSED)**

**Friday December 31 New Year's Eve CLOSED at 1:00 pm for the day at**  
Thompson Blvd. and Mall-At- Marathon

**Monday, January 3, 2011 New Year's Day Observation (CLOSED)**

*Management and Staff of the  
Water and Sewerage Corporation wish our valued customers a Merry and Blessed Christmas  
and a Happy and Prosperous New Year*

## The Anglican Central Education Authority



The Anglican Central Education Authority invites applications for teaching positions available at **St. John's College and St. Anne's School** on New Providence, **Bishop Michael Eldon School** on Grand Bahama, and **St. Andrew's Anglican School** on Exuma.

English Language and Literature	Grades 7-12	( 14 positions)
Mathematics	Grades 7-12	( 9 positions)
Physics/Chemistry	Grades 7-12	( 4 positions)
Biology /Health Science	Grades 7-12	( 2 positions)
History/Social Studies	Grades 7-12	( 1 positions)
Geography/Social Studies	Grades 7-12	( 2 positions)
Religious Studies	Grades 7-12	( 3 positions)
French	Grades 7-12	( 1 position )
Spanish	Grades N-12	( 6 positions)
Music	Grades N-12	( 5 positions)
Art	Grades 7-12	( 3 positions)
Home Economics	Grades 7-12	( 3 positions)
Primary Librarian	Grades 1-6	( 2 positions)
Lower Primary	Grades K-3	( 8 positions)
Upper Primary	Grades 4-6	( 15 positions)
Information Technology	Grades 1-1	( 5 positions)
Accounts/Commerce/Economics	Grades 7-12	( 3 positions)
Physical Education	Grades K-12	( 7 positions)
Guidance & Career Counselor	Grades K-12	( 6 positions)
Technical Drawing	Grades 7-9	( 1 position )
School Nurse	Grades N-12	( 3 positions)

**Qualifications:** Candidates must possess **at least** a Bachelors Degree from an accredited University **together with** a Teacher's Certificate from an accredited Teacher's College.

Applications may be collected from the Education Department located on Sands Road off of East Street.

Completed application forms with the requested supporting documents must be **received** by the Anglican Education Department by Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2010 and must be addressed to:-

**The Director of Education  
Anglican Central Education Authority  
P. O. Box N656  
Nassau, Bahamas**

*Providing quality education in a Christian environment by developing the whole child: spiritually, academically, physically and socially thus preparing the child for life.*

# Top attorney launches his own practice

## NOTICE

### GOLDEN DELIGHT LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN as follows:

GOLDEN DELIGHT LIMITED is in voluntary dissolution under the provisions of Section 137 (4) of the International Business Companies Act 2000.

The dissolution of the said company commenced on the 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2010 when the Articles of Dissolution were submitted to and registered by the Registrar General.

The Liquidator of the said company is Peter Leppard of c/o 1 Raffles Link #05-02 Singapore 039393.

Dated this 20<sup>th</sup> day of December A. D. 2010

**Peter Leppard**  
Liquidator

## FROM page 1B

boutique operation, and am going to be very selective in the clients I take on," Mr Scott told Tribune Business. "I've decided that small is better.

"I'm busy, and I obviously have local clientele, particularly those I do insolvency work for, the likes of Clifford Culmer and BDO Mann Judd, but I also have a network of international law firms and clients to refer work to me. I've got 34 years of litigation experience, particularly trust, insolvency and thereafter."

Scott & Company's practice areas will chiefly be commercial litigation and insolvency work, and Mr Scott said he aimed to expand early in the New Year through the hiring of a junior attorney to "help with the leg work". He has already hired a secretary and clerk.

Asked how small law firms managed to attract clients and compete against larger rivals, Mr Scott said: "It really depends on the individual. Some people like to deal with small firms. The problem with larger firms is that you are paying for their overheads in terms of fees and services, and so forth. It all depends on who the person is and the marketing you do."

## NOTICE

### CORFIELD HOLDINGS INC.

(In Voluntary Liquidation)

Notice is hereby given that the dissolution of the above-named. Company commenced on the 3rd day of December, 2010. The Liquidator is John M. Lawrence of P.O. Box CR-56766, Suite 1000, Nassau, Bahamas.

  
John M. Lawrence  
Liquidator

## NOTICE

### STATEMENT OF DISSOLUTION

OF

### ANGIERS INVESTMENTS LIMITED

Notice is hereby given that liquidation of the above company commenced on the 29th day of November, 2010. **Triangle Administration Limited** of Bahamas Financial Centre, Shirley & Charlotte Streets, Nassau, The Bahamas has been appointed Liquidator of the Company.

**Triangle Administration Limited**  
Liquidator



### To our valued clients

**Please be advised that our Nassau and Freeport offices will be closed on the following dates:**

- **Friday, December 24, 2010, re-opening on Tuesday, December 28, 2010**
- **Friday, December 31, 2010 at 1:00 p.m., re-opening on Tuesday, January 4, 2011**

**We apologize for any inconvenienced caused.**

### AUDIT • TAX • ADVISORY

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## The Anglican Central Education Authority



### VICE PRINCIPAL NEEDED

The Anglican Central Education Authority invites applications from qualified Bahamians for the position of **VICE PRINCIPAL** of St. John's College Preparatory School beginning September 2011.

The Applicant must have a Degree in Education from a recognized University, with at least 5 years administrative experience. The applicant must also be computer literate.

Key job functions and responsibilities include:

- Assisting with staff supervision and evaluation
- Admissions and student orientation
- Scheduling (Timetables; examinations, invigilation)
- Assisting with discipline
- Assisting with supervision of academic programmes
- Assisting with Curriculum Development
- Administration of School and External examinations
- Oversee Inventory
- Oversee Requisitions
- Share responsibility for sustaining culture of excellence throughout the school
- Share responsibility for providing a climate that fully develops the concept of teamwork.

Application forms are available from the Anglican Diocesan office on Sands Road off East Street. The completed application together with a cover letter, statement of educational philosophy and a recent photograph must be sent to:

**THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION**  
**ANGLICAN CENTRAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY**  
**P. O. BOX N-656**  
**NASSAU, BAHAMAS**

*The Deadline for Applications is Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> January 2011.*

Providing quality education in a Christian environment by developing the whole child: spiritually, academically, physically and socially thus preparing the child for life.



## FINANCIAL CONTROLLER

This is great opportunity to work for a small but rapidly expanding offshore Brokerage Firm. The successful applicant will be CPA qualified, and possess excellent organizational and communication skills, and a minimum of 3 years experience in a similar industry.

### Primary Responsibilities include:

- Management review of accounting functions and procedures
- Review and authorization of daily client wires transfers
- Audit and authorization of the daily posting of the General Ledger transactions
- Preparation of the daily reconciliation of Bank and Brokerage Accounts
- Monitor of accounts receivable and payable
- Processing of staff salaries ensuring deductions, bonuses and pay rate changes, take effect as stipulated by Management.
- Acting as the company's Liason Officer during Financial Audits performed by external auditors and providing assistance with onsite inspections conducted by the industry's regulators.

### Benefits: To be negotiated

Applicants may email resume via [info@ggsibahamas.com](mailto:info@ggsibahamas.com) or [Janis@ggsibahamas.com](mailto:Janis@ggsibahamas.com) or hand-deliver same to:

**Human Resource Dept.**  
**Gibraltar Global Securities Inc.**  
**#214 Lagoon Court, Sandport**  
**Nassau, Bahamas**

**BUSINESS**  
**PROJECT REVISION TALKS**  
**FROM page 1B**

GN-1151



# SUPREME COURT

COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS  
THE SUPREME COURT  
PROBATE DIVISION

DEC 23 2010

No. 2006/PRO/npr/00535

Whereas **YOLENE FERNAND** of Maxwell Lane, Rockcrusher in the Western District of the Island of New Providence, one of the Islands of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas has made application to the Supreme Court of The Bahamas, for letters of administration of the Real and Personal Estate of **FERNANDO FERNAND** late of Maxwell Lane, Rockcrusher in the Western District of the Island of New Providence, one of the Islands of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, deceased.

Notice is hereby given that such applications will be heard by the said Court at the expiration of 14 days from the date hereof.

.....  
*Nicoya Nelly*  
(for) Registrar

COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS  
THE SUPREME COURT  
PROBATE DIVISION

DEC 23 2010

No. 2010/PRO/npr/00737

Whereas **CLARENCE STYLES**, the eldest lawful son, of the Eastern District, New Providence one of the Islands of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas has made application to the Supreme Court of The Bahamas, for letters of administration of the Real and Personal Estate of **JULIA MONICA FERGUSON**, late of Acklins Island, one of the islands of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas deceased.

Notice is hereby given that such applications will be heard by the said Court at the expiration of 21 days from the date hereof.

.....  
*Nicoya Nelly*  
(for) Registrar

COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS  
THE SUPREME COURT  
PROBATE DIVISION

DEC 23 2010

No. 2010/PRO/npr/00741

Whereas **RICARDO PRATT**, the Attorney by Deed of Power of Attorney for **FRANKLYN PRATT**, the son, of the Settlement of Tea Bay on the Island of Cat Island, but temporarily of the city of Freeport, Grand Bahama, one of the Islands of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas has made application to the Supreme Court of The Bahamas, for letters of administration of the Real and Personal Estate of **RUEL PRATT**, late of the Settlement of Tea Bay on the Island of Cat Island, one of the islands of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas deceased.

Notice is hereby given that such applications will be heard by the said Court at the expiration of 21 days from the date hereof.

.....  
*Nicoya Nelly*  
(for) Registrar

COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS  
THE SUPREME COURT  
PROBATE DIVISION

DEC 23 2010

No. 2010/PRO/npr/00758

Whereas **LOVELY RAHMING-HANNA** and **PRINCE ALBERT RAHMING**, both of Romer Street, Fox Hill in the Eastern District of the Island of New Providence, one of the Islands of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas have made application to the Supreme Court of The Bahamas, for letters of administration with the will annexed of the Real and Personal Estate of **CECIL RAHMING** late of St. Margaret Road in the Eastern District of the Island of New Providence, one of the Islands of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, deceased.

Notice is hereby given that such applications will be heard by the said Court at the expiration of 14 days from the date hereof.

.....  
*Nicoya Nelly*  
(for) Registrar

COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS  
THE SUPREME COURT  
PROBATE DIVISION

DEC 23 2010

No. 2010/PRO/npr/00764

Whereas **IDAMAE MAGGIE WILLIAMS**, of Alexandria Street, New Providence, one of the Islands of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas has made application to the Supreme Court of The Bahamas, for letters of administration of the Real and Personal Estate of **CYNTHIA WILLIAMS**, late of Alexandria Street, New Providence, one of the Islands of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas deceased.

Notice is hereby given that such applications will be heard by the said Court at the expiration of 14 days from the date hereof.

.....  
*Nicoya Nelly*  
(for) Registrar

COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS  
THE SUPREME COURT  
PROBATE DIVISION

DEC 23 2010

No. 2010/PRO/npr/00765

Whereas **TROY FOX**, of Stapledon Gardens, New Providence, one of the Islands of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas has made application to the Supreme Court of The Bahamas, for letters of administration of the Real and Personal Estate of **PEARL LOUISE FOX**, late of Finlayson Street, New Providence, one of the islands of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas deceased.

Notice is hereby given that such applications will be heard by the said Court at the expiration of 14 days from the date hereof.

.....  
*Nicoya Nelly*  
(for) Registrar

COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS  
THE SUPREME COURT  
PROBATE DIVISION

DEC 23 2010

No. 2010/PRO/npr/00766

Whereas **PAULINE DENICE MCPHEE** and **LAMONT JEROME MCPHEE**, both of Golden Sun Subdivision, Golden Gates No.2, New Providence, one of the Islands of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas has made application to the Supreme Court of The Bahamas, for letters of administration of the Real and Personal Estate of **WALTER JEROME MCPHEE**, late of No.140 Sea Breeze Lane, Eastern District, New Providence, one of the islands of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas deceased.

Notice is hereby given that such applications will be heard by the said Court at the expiration of 14 days from the date hereof.

.....  
*Nicoya Nelly*  
(for) Registrar

COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS  
THE SUPREME COURT  
PROBATE DIVISION

DEC 23 2010

No. 2010/PRO/npr/00767

Whereas **YVONNE SANDS** of Bel-Air Estates in the Western District of the Island of New Providence, one of the Islands of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas has made application to the Supreme Court of The Bahamas, for letters of administration of the Real and Personal Estate of **SHACARA SANDS** late of Sandflats Village Road in the Eastern District of the Island of New Providence, one of the Islands of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, deceased.

Notice is hereby given that such applications will be heard by the said Court at the expiration of 14 days from the date hereof.

.....  
*Nicoya Nelly*  
(for) Registrar

COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS  
THE SUPREME COURT  
PROBATE DIVISION

DEC 23 2010

No. 2010/PRO/npr/00769

Whereas **CHARLES ALDIN FERGUSON** of Miami in the State of Florida, one of the States of the United States of America has made application to the Supreme Court of The Bahamas, for letters of administration of the Real and Personal Estate of **CHARLES AUSTIN FERGUSON** (a.k.a.) **CHARLES AUSTIN FARQUHARSON** late of Miami in the State of Florida, one of the States of the United States of America and formerly of Long Cay, Acklins, one of the Islands of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, deceased.

Notice is hereby given that such applications will be heard by the said Court at the expiration of 21 days from the date hereof.

.....  
*Nicoya Nelly*  
(for) Registrar

COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS  
THE SUPREME COURT  
PROBATE DIVISION

DEC 23 2010

No. 2010/PRO/npr/00770

Whereas **MARILYN MURIEL WALLACE** of West and Fleming Streets in the Island of New Providence, one of the Islands of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas has made application to the Supreme Court of The Bahamas, for letters of administration with will annexed of the Real and Personal Estate of **CHARLES JAMES WALLACE** (a.k.a.) **CHARLES J. WALLACE** (a.k.a.) **CHARLES WALLACE** late of West and Fleming Streets in the Island of New Providence, one of the Islands of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, deceased.

Notice is hereby given that such applications will be heard by the said Court at the expiration of 14 days from the date hereof.

.....  
*Nicoya Nelly*  
(for) Registrar

administration upon taking office in May 2007 found the Heads of Agreement signed by the former Christie-led PLP administration "essentially repugnant", since it handed "too much land" - especially prime waterfront and developable land - to the Boston-based developers.

Explaining that the Hotel Corporation had yet to be formally wound-up via an Act of Parliament, Mr Scott, the former Callender's & Co attorney and partner, said one of the "residual matters" that remained was to complete a renegotiated agreement with the I-Group, adding that the initial deal with the Christie administration "wasn't watertight" in terms of timelines, goals and milestones that the developer had to meet.

"Although the Hotel Corporation is being wound-up, it's not finished yet, because the Bill repealing the Hotel Corporation Act has not been brought to Parliament yet," Mr Scott told Tribune Business. "The Board is going to be re-appointed to deal with some residual matters, like finishing off the audited accounts. One of the residual matters we have to clear up is with the I-Group on Mayaguana. The way forward is being negotiated. They're [the negotiations] at a very delicate, sensitive stage."

Reiterating the Ingraham administration's opposition to the Mayaguana Heads of Agreement that it inherited from its Christie-led predecessor, Mr Scott told Tribune Business: "It involved too much land. It was like selling off all the waterfront between the eastern end [of New Providence] and Lyford Cay at \$600 an acre. Yes, Mayaguana is not New Providence, but it's a huge and vast amount of land."

The initial Heads of Agreement between the Government and the I-Group, which is headed by the Roy family, involved the conveyancing of some 9,999 acres of Crown Land to the developers. Their vision for Mayaguana initially included plans for an airport, utilities, a marina village, residential lots, private villas and condos, two 200-room hotels, two golf courses, an equestrian ranch facility, a 500 acre industrial park and nature preserves.

Mr Scott, who will carry out working as a tourism/hotel development consultant to the Minister of Tourism once the Hotel Corporation was wound-up, told Tribune Business that "the intent and philosophy of the Minister and myself is to ensure about half of that land [some 5,000 acres] comes back to the Government, and what's left does comprise all the prime, viable properties".

Mayaguana covers a land mass of 310 square miles and has a population of just 300 persons, and Mr Scott said some "prime and developable" properties needed to be retained and made "available for Bahamians to piggyback on what development takes place there, so they are not left out in the cold". He added that in renegotiating the I-Group Heads of Agreement, the Government wanted to "tighten the timelines and phasing for the developers, creating certain milestones they have to meet", and said of the initial agreement: "It wasn't watertight."

Mr Scott implied that these goals and timelines, apart from incentivising the developer, also ensured that the amount of land and investment incentives granted to them was based on physical progress made on the ground. In doing so, the Government was also guarding against huge chunks of prime Bahamian real estate being tied up for years with no development, and against unbridled land speculation.

Acknowledging that the I-Group had already made "a considerable investment", totalling some \$30-\$40 million, in the Mayaguana project, Mr Scott said the developer was "entitled to an acreage to reflect that".

Detailing another aspect of the Government's Out Island development strategy, Mr Scott said it was now insisting that developers brought in internationally-recognised brands, such as hotel partners, if they were not one themselves.

This was the case with Mayaguana, he added, with the Government wanting to ensure that the I-Group was not just interested in golf course and villa development. The Boston-based developer, Mr Scott said, was already talking to Six Senses Resorts & Spas, a high-end Asian-based boutique brand of the same ilk as Banyan Tree and Aman. "There are discussions going on between the I-Group and them currently," Mr Scott said, adding that Six Senses were viewed as a perfect fit from "an environmental and every other perspective you can think of" for Out Island development.

INSIGHT

FROM page 12C

and union chiefs who are responsible for the incompetent, corrupt system we must all now endure.

Consider this week's [tribune242.com](http://tribune242.com) online poll (SEE STORY ON THIS PAGE) on whether the government should move forward with the CWC deal in the face of union opposition.

The poll may not be scientific, but as roughly the same number of people took part as turned up for the unions' Rawson Square protest - billed as a demonstration of "the will of the people" - it can at least claim equal legitimacy. More than twice as many respondents supported the sale as opposed it, but what was most telling were their comments. Overwhelmingly, readers expressed exasper-

Do BTC customers not have a say?

ation with the ineptitude of the public service in general, and BTC in particular. "Sell the thing already," was their message.

They have heard the argument that CWC doesn't deserve the generous terms it has been offered, but feel this pales in comparison to the ultimate "sweetheart deal" - the one between politicians, union leaders, and hoards of self-satisfied slackers willing to trade their votes to the first two groups for lucrative posts for which they are not qualified, and which they do not intend to fulfil honourably.

What do you think?  
email: [pnunez@tribunemedia.net](mailto:pnunez@tribunemedia.net)

TRIBUNE ONLINE POLL COMMENTS

POLL QUESTION

*Should the government continue with the sale of BTC to Cable and Wireless considering the threat of industrial action by the unions?*

READER RESPONSES

Erasmus Folly: "Yes, please do. Then proceed with BEC, Water & Sewerage and every other Bahamian company. The role of government is not to run businesses. We need a massive investment in education as well. Bahamians need to take responsibility for their own lives and their own futures. Stop looking to the 'nanny' state. Job creation is not a government task. Entrepreneurs create jobs, not government. Government jobs invite extinction, because the actual economic value of the government job gets lost in the political game. Economics works better when unfettered by the heavy hand of the state and of politicians. Education, education, education! It's 2010 people. Wake up!"

"C&W were the best bid. No one else bid. You can't wait til kingdom come to privatize. Every year that goes by BTC was losing value. The deal had to be done. Bahamians need to wake up to the new global reality. It is better than the Bluewater bid that was to a non-telecoms company, hedge fund, paying in instalments allegedly as a hand over to the PLP's friends and cronies. In the real world, you don't get perfect, you get the best option possible."

TB: "The unions do not, and never have represented the will of the people. Parliament represents the will of the people in a democracy. The poll above shows clearly that the people want BTC to be privatized. Most importantly we want competition. This will ensure low fees and good service."

K: "Will of the people? Not likely, it's more the will of the UNIONS! The people are sick of the uncaring and unprofessional service from BTC. Bring in someone who knows the business instead of the loudmouths who just want to keep the Bahamas on the bottom rung of telecommunications development!"

I say diversify baby: "Yes, erasmus is right you don't get perfect you strive for the best option. Cable and Wireless now, rather than the same old lousy service and high prices later if no privatization is done..."

Frank Burrows: "The quicker we can privatise the public utilities, the sooner this country can move to the next level. The unions are only afraid of having to do an honest day's work and be accountable for their actions. The majority of their members cannot survive working in the private sector."

A bunch of lazy arrogant people."

RJ Pratt: "I don't think anyone is really that against privatization, but to Cable & Wireless?"

Lisa Rolle: "I don't care which party got the best financial deal to privatize BTC. I am all for privatization but it needs to be Bahamian privatization. Why let a viable Bahamian company go to foreigners. Cable Bahamas got the right idea - they sold all their shares to Bahamians."

Erasmus Folly: "Large shares will be sold to the Bahamian public in this deal as well. Check your facts."

Bahamian: "The only thing the government should proceed with is educating the people of the Bahamas of the pros and cons of privatization... too much Bahamians ain sure what dey sign up for... I heard foolishness from, 'Cell phone rates ga go down so we shud sell it' to 'We don wan sell it cos we don't wan answer to da white man.' Both reasons are utter stupidity if ya ask me. Obviously people ain doin dey research an da govt wud do well to hold a few forums to educate people and/or come on talk shows to show BOTH sides of the story... Then people wud be in a better position to decide what dey really want... juss my 5 cents!"

Peter Dean: "I cannot see why the unions should feel that it is their duty to mislead the world on the issue of the sale of BTC to Cable and Wireless. For starts this divestment of government interest and participation in the operation of services like BTC is an essential component in the development of the nation. This developmental process cannot be interrupted because a minority choose to plead ignorance of globalisation, the EPA and shared services. This disorderly and disruptive tendency is perpetrated by Bahamians who are failing to recognise that it is misbehaviour such as this that has caused the otherwise beautiful and stable country to be overlooked for significant investments and important moves like regional headquartering by foreign businesses operating locally and regionally for more than 50 years. I know that Bahamians have losts of financial resources but I fail to see how any group of Bahamians with the resources to purchase BTC could run it in a manner that produces net profits higher than Cable and Wireless could, with the ultimate gloss that company can give the nation."

Liz: "I am appalled of the way the unions are conducting themselves and what action represents leadership... please tell me! Racial remarks? How Stone Age are you really?"

Take a look around Mr Union man/woman. More than 75 per cent of our population are mixed. What does economics moving forward have to do with whether a white man or black man has positioned himself in life to purchase BTC? We here in the Bahamas are definitely Christians of convenience. We should take that out of our 'constitution' because it does not relect our behaviour. Wake up Bahamians and seriously give thought to our actions and conduct as we preach from the pulpit Church then Country. And a for the Christians supporting this form of behaviour, maybe this is exactly why our country is where it is today.

Leadership: Earn your success based on service to others, not at the expense of others."

Jaime: " Most people don't understand what privatisation means - selling a company from one entity to the other, in this instance from the public (govt) entity to a private entity. If you bought a monopoly from someone who was making great profits and had no competition, would you lower prices? Would I be interested in giving the customer the lowest price possible? Not if I wanted those same profits the last owner got. If I reduced prices and got lower profits, that wouldn't be a good business model would it? It wouldn't look good for C&W management, and it wouldn't look good for C&W shareholders, eh? And what could the Bahamian consumer do about it - appeal to the govt? When the govt had the monopoly they didn't reduce the rates, so why should they interfere with a private entity's operations? What we need is a caring govt to reduce rates now, that's ALL! so simple, its unbelievable. Let's ask the FNM govt to reduce the rates now. Or open the market to competition, now. Let market forces drive the prices to where they should be. Simple."

Erasmus Folly: "They have a 3 year window on cell phones, in return for hard cash. Too many Bahamians have little to no understanding of economics. They think they can do economics via politics. It doesn't work that way. Cable Bahamas will now go head to head with BTC for 'digital' communications and media, including cell phones etc. C&W has a three year window to get their house in order, the whole time knowing that Cable Bahamas/Indigo will come out of the gates roaring. The FNM has done well. Not perfect, but well. Bahamians, wake up! Work hard! Educate yourselves! Stop looking to government to solve all your problems! Think independently! Independence isn't just something that happens to countries, first and foremost, it is a STATE OF MIND!"

Stop this mess: "The masses should empower themselves through education and hard work."

Open our economy to more competition make living in the Bahamas more than bearable not expensive. Only our Celebrities the Politicians, and Lawyers and Business people living a very comfortable life. And we the people allow it. And give us the rewards for our hard work. Not materliasm but just to live comfortably not struggling."

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
to  
**ALL OUR CUSTOMERS & FRIENDS**  
from



**PREMIER IMPORTERS**

May the Holidays be shared with Loved Ones in Peace and Happiness

**WE WILL CLOSE FOR THE HOLIDAYS**  
@ 12:00 P.M. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24TH & REOPEN  
AT 7:00 A.M., TUESDAY DECEMBER 28TH, 2010

St. Alban's Dr. off West Bay St. East Bay and Mackey St.  
P.O. Box N-1085 Bridge Plaza Commons Bldg.  
Tel (242) 322-8396 Tel/Fax (242) 393-4210  
Fax (242) 323-7745 Toll Free (242) 300-7035

GN 1152



**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC AND TRANSPORT  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL  
FAMILY ISLAND ROAD MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

The Government of The Bahamas through the Ministry of Works & Transport seeks to continue its annual road maintenance program by engaging suitable parties for the procurement and distribution of road maintenance material to the Family Islands.

The Ministry of Public Works & Transport now invites interested parties to collect the Request for Proposal (RFP) documents and to complete and submit same in accordance with the instructions therein.

RFP documents may be obtained by interested parties as of **Thursday, December 2nd, 2010** from:

The Civil Engineering Section  
1st Floor East Wing,  
Ministry of Works and Transport,  
John F. Kennedy Drive,  
P.O. Box N-8156,  
Nassau, The Bahamas.  
Telephone: (242) 302-9772 or 9

Between the hours of **9:30 am and 5:00 pm Mondays to Fridays.**

The **original and one (1) copy** of the completed proposal must be placed in a sealed envelope and clearly marked on the outside.

**"RFP Family Island Road Maintenance Program"**

to be deposited in the Tender Box at the Ministry of Finance, Cecil Wallace Whitfield Building, West Bay St, Nassau The Bahamas no later than **10:00 a.m.** on or before **Tuesday, December 21, 2010.**

Tenderers are invited to attend the opening of Proposals at **10:00am, Tuesday 21 December, 2010** at the Tenders' Board.

Applicants will be notified of the results after the submissions of the documents and evaluation.

Signed  
Colin Higgs  
Permanent Secretary

**NOTICE**

NOTICE is hereby given that **MAUDLAIN PIERRE OF P.O. BOX N-9486, #21 BALT AVENUE, SOUTH BEACH, NASSAU, BAHAMAS**, is applying to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, for registration/naturalization as a citizen of The Bahamas, and that any person who knows any reason why registration/ naturalization should not be granted, should send a written and signed statement of the facts within twenty-eight days from the **20TH** day of **DECEMBER, 2010** to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, P.O.Box N-7147, Nassau, The Bahamas.

GN 1153



**Ministry of Labour and National Security**

**NOTICE**  
**NOTICE OF CANCELLATION OF TRADE UNIONS**

The Public is hereby notified that the Registration of following Trade Unions have been cancelled pursuant to section 15 subsection 1(b) and 2 of the Industrial Relations Act Chapter 321 Statue Laws of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

- Bahamas Brewery Distillers Workers Union
- Cable Beach Bus Drivers and Owners Association
- Public Service Drivers Union
- Bahamaland Construction Trade Union Employees Association

Signed  
Harcourt V. Brown  
Registrar of Trade Unions

INSIGHT

# Thieves cause pipeline blast in Mexico, killing 27

**SAN MARTIN TEXMELUCAN, Mexico**

A PIPELINE exploded in central Mexico early Sunday as thieves were trying to steal oil, killing at least 27 people and sending rivers of flaming crude through city streets, according to Associated Press.

Authorities said 12 of the dead were children and estimated that the explosion and resulting spill affected a three-mile (five-kilometer) radius, injuring at least 52 people and scorching more than 115 homes.

The principal explosion, followed by four additional minor blasts, forced hundreds to flee the city of San Martin Texmelucan, 55 miles (90 kilometers) east of Mexico City.

"We saw rivers of fire in the streets," Valentin Meneses, interior secretary for the

state of Puebla, where San Martin is located, told Mile- nio Television.

Television images showed a scorched ghost town of houses, businesses and trees black- ened by the huge explosion and a black crude-like sub- stance covering the streets.

Meneses said the explo- sion, which happened before dawn Sunday, was apparent- ly provoked by thieves trying to steal crude oil.

"They lost control because of the high pressure with which the fuel exits the pipeline," he said, adding that the oil began to flow down the city's streets and into a nearby river.

President Felipe Calderon expressed his condolences to the families of the dead and his support for those injured and affected.

He said that the federal government would give its

full support in investigating who was responsible and bringing them to justice.

The state-owned oil com- pany Petroleos Mexicanos, or Pemex, said in a statement that it had shut down the pipeline.

Government authorities said the fire was under con- trol by midday, and fires are burning the remaining crude. The area was without elec- tricity or water.

Civil protection authorities, firefighters and military offi- cers are investigating and try- ing to ensure there are no more explosions. No one has been detained.

Pemex has struggled with chronic theft, losing as much as 10 percent of all of its product.

Criminals tap remote pipelines, sometimes build- ing pipelines of their own, to siphon off hundreds of mil-

lions of dollars' worth of oil each year, Pemex has said.

In 2009, the U.S. Justice Department said U.S. refineries bought millions of dollars' worth of oil stolen from Mex- ican government pipelines and smuggled across the bor- der in illegal operations led by Mexican drug cartels expanding their reach.

Two Texas oil company officials were sentenced to probation in September for their roles in the sale of petroleum products stolen from Mexico.

Pemex sued five companies in the U.S. in June for allegedly buying stolen Mex- ican petroleum products.

Also in June, police arrest- ed 13 people who they said excavated a 500-foot (150- meter) tunnel under a busy neighborhood in Mexico City to steal fuel from oil company pipelines.



**SOLDIERS WALK** through a street after an oil pipeline explosion in the town of San Martin Texmelucan, Mexico, Sunday Dec. 19, 2010. An oil pipeline operated by Mexico's state-owned oil company Petroleos Mexicanos, or Pemex, exploded early Sunday when thieves were attempting to steal oil, killing at least 27 people, injuring at least 52 people and scorching more than 115 homes, authorities said. (AP)



## CAREER OPPORTUNITY

### Manager, Environmental Services

The Nassau Airport Development Company (NAD) is seeking candidates for the position of Manager, Environmental Services. The duties and responsibilities of the successful applicant will include researching, planning and writing environmental procedures and plans, conducting regular inspection of company and tenant facilities and acting as a liaison with government agencies and contractors on environmental matters.

The ideal candidate will have a minimum of a Bachelor's degree, experience in identifying environmental issues, knowledge of environmental field monitoring protocols and the ability to manage environmental programs from inception to completion.

This position offers competitive compensation and benefits, consistent with experience and qualifications.

**For more details, please visit our website at [www.nas.bs](http://www.nas.bs)**

If you are qualified and interested, please submit your resume by **December 31, 2010** to:

Manager, People  
Nassau Airport Development Co.  
P.O. Box AP 56229  
Nassau, Bahamas  
Email: [people@nas.bs](mailto:people@nas.bs)



## THE COLLEGE OF THE BAHAMAS

Visit our website at [www.cob.edu.bs](http://www.cob.edu.bs)

### COB and Canadian Friends of The Bahamas launch Janyne M. Hodder Endowment Fund

On Thursday, November 25th The College of The Bahamas, Canadian Friends of The Bahamas (CFOB) and other friends of COB celebrated the establishment of the Janyne M. Hodder Endowment Fund with gifts totalling \$50,000.

As the former College of The Bahamas President, Ms. Hodder's 40-year career in education spans The Bahamas, Canada and other parts of the world. Her contributions to The College of The Bahamas have augmented its capacity to develop leaders in The Bahamas and this endowment will further position The College to offer enriching international exposure for its students.

The endowment will fund annual study abroad awards for students who are in pursuit of a dynamic and diverse complement to their tertiary education. Since Fall 2007, 46 students have participated in study abroad and student exchange programmes. College of The Bahamas students have benefited from academic and cultural immersion at partnering institutions in Canada, Cuba, England, Mexico, Spain, the United States and the Semester at Sea programme.



From left: Stuart Dunn, Chairman, Holdun Asset Management; Ross McDonald, Head of Caribbean Banking, RBC & Canadian Friends of The Bahamas Board Member; Janyne M. Hodder, former President of The College of The Bahamas; Kareem Cumberbatch, COB student and study abroad recipient; Judith Whitehead, College Council Deputy Chair; and Earla Carey-Baines, President of The College of The Bahamas



# New Year's Day

# Breezes

## Main Dining Room

**Raw Bar**  
Gulf Stream Iced Cocktail Shrimps  
Caribbean Crab Claws

**Soup**  
Creamy Seafood Chowder  
Roasted Pumpkin Bisque

**Breezes Super Salad Bar**  
Mix it up as you like it

**Our Famous Trio**  
Grilled Ginger Scented Beef Tenderloin with Caramelized Onion Mojo  
Chicken Breast w/ Roasted Scotch Bonnet & Vanilla Wine Sauce  
Lamb Chops with Mint & Coconut Chutney

**Taste of the World**  
Seafood Stuffed Fish with Old Fashioned Mustard & Dill Cream Sauce  
Caribbean Curried Rice w/Dates and Roasted Almonds  
Green Beans Almondine  
Herb-Marinated Potatoes  
Broccoli Au Gratin  
Caribbean-Style Ratatouille  
Bourbon Glazed Carrots  
Tamarind Glazed Pork Loin w/Apples & Guava Wood Smoked Bacon  
Citrus-Splashed Bahamian Broiled Lobster Tails

**DESSERT**  
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**Also check out Martino's and Garden of Eden**  
**Night Pass Rate: \$120 per person (6pm - 2am)**  
Includes: Dinner, Drinks, Entertainment

**Room Rate: \$150.00 per person, per night (Double Occupancy) and \$190.00 per night (Single Occupancy)**

**Entertainment:** Special guest performance by Therese Hepburn "The Bahamian Diva"  
\*Junkanoo Rush Out \*Funky D and the Summer Breeze Band \*Hurricanes Disco  
\*Gift certificates available for purchase, ideal for the Christmas Season

**Contact Info: Space is limited so please call us at (242) 327-5356 ext. 6353/6354**

# INSIGHT

The stories behind the news

# Do BTC customers not have a say?

Crafty union bosses and hungry politicians would have us believe that in opposing the BTC sale, they are protecting humble labourers from a return to the colonial yoke. In reality, the self-serving culture they represent is holding the average Bahamian hostage. Insight reports...

By PACO NUNEZ  
Tribune News Editor

ORGANISED labour is supposed to be about defending the right of a worker to wages, benefits and job conditions that are a fair reflection of their effort and productivity.

Historically, trade unionism has represented an attempt to balance the scales of exertion and reward for the average worker, often in the face of a ruthless and selfish employer class.

Local union leaders would have us believe their opposition to the BTC deal is part of this struggle – that David-like, they are fighting to stop the foreign Goliath Cable and Wireless (CWC) from trampling the little man.

The trouble is, the vast majority of BTC employees aren't little men. Not even close.

As it turns out, the average BTC worker earns just under \$70,000 a year (see story in Business section) – almost three times the salary of the average Bahamian worker.

Consider, in light of this fact, a cornerstone of the argument against the sale: that CWC has a reputation for poor customer service.

Undoubtedly it does, but could it possibly have performed worse than the generously compensated BTC staff over the years?

It seems hard to imagine there is anywhere to go but up, even without the evidence that CWC has made considerable efforts to reform its practices.

Anyone who has seen a BTC repair crew at work understands this. Large groups of men, sitting, eating, standing around, all watching the one man whose turn it is to actually contribute some labour.

Obviously, all BTC workers don't ply their trade in the



PROTEST: Unions held a downtown demonstration against the proposed sale of BTC last week.

trenches or up the poles. While they are not as visible, the anemic state of customer service and the woeful record of dropped calls, loss of signal, system-wide shutdowns, billing mistakes, et cetera, give a good idea of how "office staff" earn their 70-grand a year.

Yet, despite all the laziness and incompetence, not to mention the gross over-staffing, BTC does actually turn a profit, and opponents of the deal say this is another reason not to sell.

Most of them are well aware, however, that their argument is nothing more than a mirage, as the company's profits are completely dependent on the monopoly on cellular services it enjoys, which lends a glossy veneer to a structure that is rotting away from the inside. When the monopoly goes, BTC's profitability will come crashing down with it.

But the public desperately needs the monopoly to be

broken, so competition can drive prices down and allow new providers – Bahamian start-ups among them – to woo us with offers of better service and cutting-edge options.

Under the CWC deal, BTC will lose the monopoly in three years. Under the PLP's earlier proposal, it was to be six years.

Meanwhile, the profits are declining and will continue to do so, meaning future offers will be worth less and less.

As the prime minister said: "The longer we wait, the less we have to sell, so let's be thankful a serious buyer is still interested."

In identifying CWC as a "serious buyer", Mr Ingraham was no doubt making an oblique reference to the anonymous hedge funds and shady Bahamian-fronted arrangements that some have touted, not to mention the various fantasy scenarios involving an all-Bahamian consortium that was always

about to come forward but never actually managed to appear.

Despite the urgency, union leaders are happy to hold up the sale until a number of unreasonable demands are met. They want, for example, a guarantee that all disengagement packages for staff to be let go will equal those offered in the 1990s.

These earlier packages were described to Insight by one beneficiary as, "A sweet deal, the sweetest you'll ever get" – as in the most advantageous, extravagant, undeserved.

Some union leaders are determined to reject the sale regardless of the terms. BCPOU president Bernard Evans said as much: "We don't support this deal no matter what. We don't mind privatisation but the union's position given Cable and Wireless' track record is that it's just not a good fit for the Bahamian people and not for us. So the number one issue is

that we really don't want to work for them."

Of course, it is easy to say they "don't mind privatisation" when there is no other deal on the table, and unlikely to be one any time soon given the future prospects of BTC.

Other union leaders have gone so far as to threaten a repeat of the infamous general strike of 1958. This is a familiar crutch for labour bosses, who often resort to banging the drum of past achievements in an effort to bolster their positions.

But despite the stale rhetoric of the past few weeks, full of class and race warfare, the Bahamian public is not what it was in the 1950s.

Back then, most Bahamians were poorly educated, unskilled day labourers, unsure of where their next meal would come from.

The population that rose up for 16 days were an oppressed majority. Just as in the Burma Road riots of the

previous decade, they shared a common cause with the small persecuted group that sparked the chaos.

Today, whereas most BTC employees are in their late 40s or 50s, the majority of the population is much younger, and far less susceptible to the kind of nationalist paranoia that encouraged the development of an inefficient, bloated and corrupt public service in the name of protecting the "birthright" for Bahamians.

This truth cannot be disguised by the braying of the PLP and certain fringe political groups which, thinking they smelled government blood in the water, have jumped in the deep-end with the unions.

The fact is, the consumer – today's common man – feels no brotherhood with BTC workers at all, but rather believes they should be lumped with all the politicians

SEE page 10B



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