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**INSIGHT**

**What can we learn from Haiti and Egypt?**

**SEE PAGE 12B**



**INSIDE**

**CARS FOR SALE, HELP WANTED AND REAL ESTATE**

**BAHAMAS BIGGEST**



**SPORTS**

**Four-peat glory**

**SEE SECTION E**



# Sewage crisis hits Pinewood

## One million gallons of untreated waste overflowing daily

By **AVA TURNQUEST**  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
aturnquest@tribunemedia.net

MORE than one million gallons of untreated waste from residences in Pinewood Gardens and its outlying areas is estimated to be overflowing daily.

Pinewood MP Byron Woodside explained the spillage was a chronic problem for the Waste and Water Treatment Plant at Pigeon Plum Street, as it had become inundated by the load from both Pinewood Gardens and Lynden Pindling Estates.

Water and Sewerage employees worked throughout the weekend to cap a spewing valve, unclog waste reservoirs and stem the flow of raw sewage into the community; which some residents fear has contaminated their water supply.

Mr Woodside said: "This has been going on from time to time for years, prior to my being elected to Pinewood, and I will seek within every means to have the matter dealt with – with a degree of finality – so it will not occur in the future."

**SEE page 12**

## Bahamas Information Services apology over fire press release

By **GENA GIBBS**  
Bahamas Information Services

IN a press release issued by Bahamas Information Services, the erroneous misquotes attributed to Environment Minister Earl Deveaux wrongly concluded that he has confirmed the source of the Betty K dock fire and the future use of the waterfront property.

Minister Deveaux did not make any statement which said the Fire Marshall had concluded his investigations regarding the cause of the fire.

**SEE page 12**

## STRUGGLING FAMILY'S DARKEST HOUR AFTER DEATH OF FATHER

By **AVA TURNQUEST**  
and **KARIN HERIG**  
Tribune Staff Reporters  
aturnquest@tribunemedia.net

AFTER struggling with harrowing health and financial challenges over the past year, Consuela Thurston and her children – who have been featured several times by *The Tribune* in recent months – were yesterday dealt a

tremendous blow.

Mrs Thurston's husband and the father of five of her seven children died yesterday morning in hospital from cancer related complications.

At this time, *Tribune* readers are asked to send their prayers, kind words, and any financial or emotional support they can, to assist the

**SEE page two**

THURSTON FAMILY OPEN THEIR HOME TO THE TRIBUNE



Tim Clarke/Tribune staff

**FAMILY'S STRUGGLE:** The youngest Thurston child, Brianna, two, points to a photo of her parents as her sisters Sarah, eight, and Brittiny, 10, and her mother Consuela look on. This weekend after church, the Thurston family opened up their home to *Tribune* readers. But later that day, the family would learn that Mr Thurston, 42-year-old husband and father, had died. Despite personal health challenges, Mrs Thurston's staunch faith, boundless optimism and positivity remains to be the source of strength for her family. *Tribune* readers are asked to send their prayers and support to the family during their darkest hour.

• SEE STORY ABOVE RIGHT

## PLP 'EXAMINING OPTIONS' FOR DR ANDRE ROLLINS IN ELECTION

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



THE PLP leadership is reportedly examining its options as to "if or where" they can run party newcomer Dr Andre Rollins in the next general election.

Originally exploding on the political scene last year as a

candidate in the Elizabeth by-election as the then leader of the National Development Party (NDP), Dr Rollins was heralded by some as a new powerful young politician who could "go far" if aligned with the proper party.

Having now decided to launch his political future with the PLP, party insiders said that they are

**SEE page 13**

## BAHA MAR GROUNDBREAKING TO GET \$2.6BN PROJECT UNDER WAY

GROUNDBREAKING on the \$2.6 billion Baha Mar resort will begin today with construction expected to start immediately on the luxury resort.

Today's ceremony signals the long-awaited start of a project which overcame many hurdles, including the loss of its first partner, Harrah's Entertainment, before signing a \$2.5 billion financing arrangement with the Export-Import Bank of China and China State Construction and Engineering Corporation in March, 2010.

Yesterday the opposition Progressive Liberal Party said it expects Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham to thank PLP Leader Perry Christie for his early negotiations on Baha Mar, a project expected to revitalise the tourism product, during this morning's ceremony.

"We hope that the Prime Minister has the decency and the respectfulness to acknowledge tomorrow that his hostility to this project was wrong and that he ought to pay credit."

**SEE page 12**

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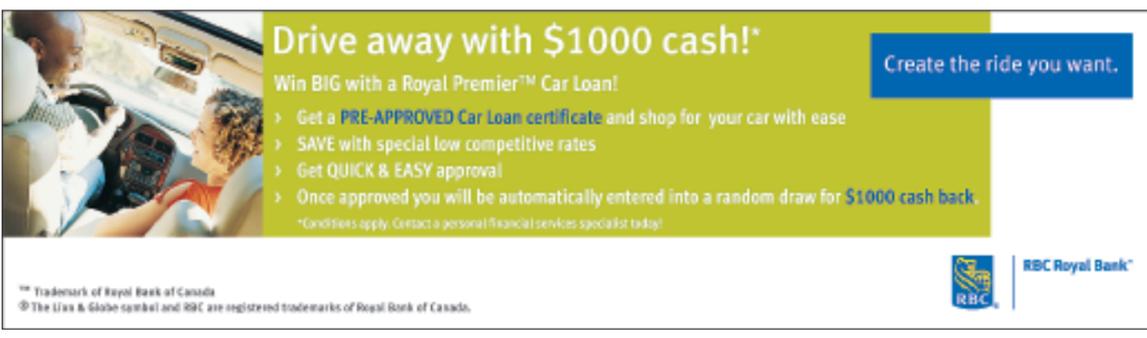
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LOCAL NEWS

# Struggling family's darkest hour after death of father

FROM page one

Thurston family during their darkest hour.

Overwhelmed by grief, Mrs Thurston, who herself is a stage-four cancer patient, is now questioning how she and her children will be able to cope with this latest in what seems to be a never ending series of terrible hardships.

Mrs Thurston, 38, was diagnosed with breast cancer, already in its advanced stage, in 2009.

In November, her husband Peter, 42, was diagnosed with Hodgkins Lymphoma, another form of cancer that affects the immune system.

The Thurstons have two boys and three girls, ages 10, nine, eight, six and two. Mrs Thurston had two daughters before her marriage. They are now 16 and 19 years old.

Up until the emergence of their health challenges, the Thurstons were always able to care for their children.

**CONSUELA THURSTON** holds up an X-ray of her eldest son's spine. Doctor's have diagnosed 10-year-old Peter Jr with scoliosis.



Only this weekend, Mrs Thurston told *The Tribune* that her family is now facing a new medical challenge; her nine-year-old son, Peter Jr, has just been diagnosed with scoliosis, a condition in which a person's spine is curved from side to side.

Nurse Charlene McPhee, co-founder of the Sister Sister Breast Cancer support group, told *The Tribune* she first met Consuela two years ago through the group's treasurer.

In an interview before Mr Thurston's death, Nurse McPhee said: "Consuela's case is really such a difficult one. She has so many things coming at her at one time, besides her and her husband, there are the children. She's carrying a load for everyone, but who's helping her to carry her load? She's not checking for herself, and in spite of all of that you have to take some time out and think about yourself and what you're going to do for you."

At this point, Mrs Thurston not only has to struggle with her husband's death and taking care of her children, but she is also facing some serious decisions about her own health.

Mrs Thurston, whose kidneys are only working at 32 per cent capacity, will soon have to decide whether she wants to continue a painful course of chemotherapy.

In an interview before her husband's death, Mrs Thurston, in a rare incidence of flagging optimism, broke down as she related her current health status.

"When you keep hearing bad news after bad news it really gets you discouraged. I don't care how much faith you have it really discourages you. It tries to break your faith, but I just have my faith and I'm holding on to that because I'm not giving up on that, I'll forever praise the Lord," she said.

As it concerns the continuance of her chemotherapy, the mother of seven said she has not made up her mind yet.

"It's just a waiting period right now for me. I'm not even sure if I even want to do this chemo. I really have to pray hard for this one. I need an answer."

"My liver is infected with the cancer. The cancer is just all over my body right now. It went to my bones to my head they told me they can't count all the tumours."

As for what happens to her children when she can no longer be there to care for



**THE THURSTON FAMILY** posed for a family shot outside of their church, Miracle Revival Fellowship, on Sunday morning. From left: Sasha, 16; Justin, 6; Brianna, 2; Sarah, 8; Peter, 9; and Brittney, 10.



**THE CHILDREN** are pictured above with their parents' wedding photo.

them, Mrs Thurston said she will let her younger daughters live with their 19-year-old sister and the boys with their aunt in Freeport.

Nurse McPhee said: "Right now this is not a money thing

for her, it's a time for hope and reassurance and just to know that people care, that there are people around her who care. Wouldn't it be wonderful to know that the Bahamas is praying for her?"

Anyone who can provide any type of assistance to the Thurstons can contact Consuela at 544-3444 or donate to the Scotiabank branch on East Street and Soldier Road, account number 19303.

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LOCAL NEWS

news BRIEFS  
**Police probe club violence**

POLICE are investigating two incidents of violent crime occurring at the Lodge Club on Lewis and East Streets. One man was shot in both legs while another man was stabbed in his neck as a result of an argument that broke out early Saturday morning.

The shooting victim was approached by a man, armed with a handgun, who was dressed in a white shirt and black trousers, and who started to shoot at him.

The stabbing victim, a 25-year-old man from Montrose Avenue, suffered his injuries after he got into an argument with a group of people.

Both men were taken to hospital by private vehicle and were said to be in stable condition as police investigations continue.

**Armed robbers target pharmacy**

POLICE are investigating a weekend armed robbery at McCartney's Pharmacy on Mount Royal Avenue. Early Saturday morning, two men – one of whom was armed with a handgun – entered the store and demanded cash. The gunman was said to have worn a green shirt, and his accomplice a white shirt.

The culprits fled east on foot with an undetermined amount of cash around 8.30am.

**Ambassador hears claims of immigration officials mistreating Haitians**

By DENISE MAYCOCK  
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FREEPORT – Haitian Ambassador to the Bahamas Antonio Rodrigue heard reports of mistreatment and abuse of Haitians at the hands of the island's immigration officials as well as claims of work permit approval refusals during his visit to Grand Bahama on Saturday.

The ambassador paid a courtesy call on local immigration officials and met with members of the Haitian community on the island.

Grand Bahama has one of the largest Haitian populations in the Bahamas, outside of New Providence. It was the ambassador's first visit to the island since taking up his appointment in October at the Embassy of the Republic of Haiti in Nassau.

Mr Rodrigue was scheduled to visit the Haitian communities in the Pinder's Point and Eight Mile Rock settlements yesterday.

"I want to visit everywhere where there are Haitians. I need to see them; the way they are living, the place they are living and how things are going for them here.

"I have been doing that in Nassau (and) try to visit them because I feel when I know the situation I would be in a position to better assist them," Mr Rodrigue said.

The ambassador spoke with *The Tribune* on Saturday evening at Mary Star of the Sea auditorium, where he

# Grocery store damaged in fire

Firefighters also put out smouldering rubble at Betty K Agencies



**FIRE FIGHT:** Firemen fight to put out a fire at J D Food Store on Minnie Street. They were unable to save the top floor of the two-story building and two adjacent wooden structures.

By TANEKA THOMPSON  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
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FIREFIGHTERS were called to the scene of two fires yesterday, with crews working into the night to extinguish smouldering rubble at the fire-ravaged Betty K Agencies and a grocery store blaze on Minnie Street.

According to an officer in the control room at Police Fire Services, firemen were called to the destroyed Bay Street block yesterday evening to put out smouldering debris. The hot spot was extinguished around 6.22 pm the officer said.

Firemen also worked to put out a fire at J D Food Store on Minnie Street but were unable to save the top floor of the two-story building and two adjacent wooden structures. When *The Tribune* arrived on

scene around 6.30 pm, two trucks were on site as firemen directed water at the burning building. Officers were called to the scene shortly before 5 pm, *The Tribune* was told. It is believed that the fire began in an abandoned wooden building behind the grocery store and quickly spread to the adjacent shop and an unused shanty.

**Occupants**

The *Tribune* was told the occupants living on the destroyed second floor of the grocery store were not inside the building at the time of the fire and the food store was closed.

"When we arrived we met a single-story wooden structure at the eastern side of the rear of the building fully involved, we attacked this fire aggres-

sively however the fire was able to spread to a nearby two-story stone structure which has a grocery store at the bottom and residence at the top floor. The top floor was extensively damaged, the fire was able to spread to another abandoned structure on the southern side and that was extensively damaged.

"The fire fighters did a valiant effort to extinguish the fire however we were unable to and both abandoned structures were destroyed," said a firefighter on the scene.

While *The Tribune* was on site, firefighters were in the "mop up stage" trying to extinguish remaining fires and smouldering areas.

Firefighters were not worried that the blaze would spread to neighbouring buildings explaining that the fire had been contained.

**SKELETAL REMAINS FOUND**



**GRIM FIND:** Funeral home workers yesterday evening removed unidentified skeletal remains from Dick's Point.

POLICE are investigating the discovery of skeletal remains found on the shoreline of Dick's Point yesterday afternoon.

At this stage, the Royal Bahamas Police Force could not say if the deceased was a victim of foul play or died of natural causes. Up to press time, the victim's gender could not be determined.

"At 3.30 pm (Sunday) the police control room received a call of skeletal remains found on the beach at the eastern end of Dicks Point. Officers responded and found the remains. . . clad only in blue jeans," said Superintendent Ismella Davis, officer-in-charge of the eastern division, from the scene yesterday.

Up to press time investigators could not say how long the remains were on the shoreline and were working to determine a timeline and cause of death.

Investigations continue.



**TAKEN AWAY:** The remains are carried away.

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UNKNOWN	NEW	1:30	3:20	N/A	6:00	8:25	10:50
I AM NUMBER FOUR	NEW	1:05	3:25	N/A	6:05	8:25	10:35
JUSTIN BIEBER 3D	A	1:05	3:30	N/A	6:05	8:30	10:30
GNOMES ANF JULIET	A	1:15	3:35	N/A	6:10	8:40	10:40
JUST GO WITH IT	T	1:00	3:20	N/A	6:15	8:20	10:50
THE ROOMMATE	C	1:15	3:40	N/A	6:10	8:40	10:45
SANCTUM	T	1:05	3:30	N/A	6:00	8:25	10:45
THE RITE	C	1:00	3:20	N/A	6:00	8:20	10:40
THE MECHANIC	C	1:05	3:35	N/A	6:10	8:35	10:50
THE GREEN HORNET	T	1:00	3:25	N/A	6:00	8:20	10:40

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UNKNOWN	NEW	1:05	3:25	N/A	6:00	8:20	10:50
I AM NUMBER FOUR	NEW	1:10	3:30	N/A	6:10	8:25	10:35
JUSTIN BIEBER 3D	A	1:10	3:35	N/A	6:00	8:25	10:40
JUST GO WITH IT	T	1:05	3:25	N/A	6:05	8:20	10:45
THE MECHANIC	C	1:10	3:35	N/A	6:15	8:30	10:50

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EDITORIAL/LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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## Fighting govt secrecy an ongoing battle

OXFORD, Miss. — Fast-moving world events remind us again how secrecy harms societies and how critical the free flow of information is to protecting citizens' rights.

As Egypt descended into anarchy, revolutions were being spawned in other countries.

Efforts to impose secrecy on unfolding events by shutting down the Internet and attempting to prevent news media from reporting the story have failed and instead fueled the people's revolution.

By closing off access to information, governments obscure the truth and avoid accountability to the public.

But hiding behind a wall of secrecy to maintain power and preventing people from having a voice in matters affecting their lives can cook up a volatile, toxic brew of frustration escalating into violence.

We don't have to pay the high price of risking lives and economic hardship as people in the Middle East who are fighting to force government accountability and gain a voice in decisions and policies.

But we must remain vigilant to challenge lack of transparency and work to improve access to information.

A growing number of Americans realize how essential it is to assume responsibility for keeping tabs on local and state government within their communities.

They understand that they have a real stake in decisions made by mayors, boards of supervisors, city councils, schools boards and other decision-makers who set policies and spend taxpayer funds.

But Americans trying to stay informed face considerable frustration despite the open meetings and public records laws.

You go to a meeting, and members of the public body zip through an agenda without deliberation or explanation. Or they immediately adjourn for an executive session to discuss public matters privately. You ask to see minutes of meetings and are told they're not ready even months after the meeting.

You're left in the dark and uninformed. But bills pending in the Mississippi Legislature could punish individuals who violate the open meetings law with fines from \$500 to \$1,000 and declare actions in illegal executive sessions null and void. Depending on what part of the state you live in, you could be socked with excessive search and copy fees for public records. Mississippi has no standard policy on how much can be charged, although the law states "actual cost."

Bills have been introduced in the Legislature to address these problems, but indications are they are unlikely to pass this year.

One solution would be to make public records available online in user-friendly, easily searchable databases.

Online government transparency, in fact, is the new frontier attracting the interest of a variety of citizen groups around the U.S. who are pushing for online databases on government spending at the state and local level.

Research by the U.S. Public Integrity Research Group (PIRG) indicates that states that have responded to the accountability and accessibility challenge with electronic records made available in user-friendly searchable databases report positive outcomes. A PIRG 2010 report said states with this type of website "are saving money, restoring public confidence in government, and preventing wasteful or pay-to-play contracts."

These states have set up websites without much upfront cost according to the report, and PIRG explains how to do it.

In a time of economic hardship and major budget cuts, the investment in online records of government expenditures could pay great dividends by reducing waste, deterring corruption and saving taxpayer money.

Mississippi government is moving in the right direction in utilizing the Internet but has a long way to go to catch up with other states.

The Mississippi Accountability and Transparency Act of 2008 was a good step in providing information, requiring the state Department of Finance and Administration to put state expenditures online.

A bill to amend the 2008 law introduced in the Legislature would strengthen this law in several ways, including expanding the data on expenditures online in searchable databases and making it available in a more timely manner without charge to the public.

But much more information than spending could be put on the Internet to inform citizens. Notices of upcoming meetings with agendas, copies of minutes of meetings, budgets, salaries and many other types of information are routinely put online in other states. There are government officials in Mississippi who are taking seriously their responsibility to be transparent in conducting public business. They have been pro-active in broadcasting public meetings, putting records, agendas, minutes and videos online, blogging about public business, utilizing Facebook and Twitter, opening up the budget decision-making process and inviting citizens to share their ideas. The Internet has revolutionized the world. It's a powerful tool to inform citizens about government. Posting information online is efficient and saves time and money.

Technology improves transparency and government accountability, and steps taken by Mississippi government to harness this tool are encouraging.

(This article was written by Jeanni Atkins, Mississippi Centre for Freedom of Information).

# Historical importance of 'tick-tack-toe' building

Editor, The Tribune.

Why should the "tick-tack-toe" building on Bay Street survive?

Easy! It's part of the historic fabric that makes up the character of Bay Street.

It's where Austin T. Levy's Harrisville Company operated one of a chain of Hatched Bay Farm "milk stands."

The stand, with its wooden planked floor, sold locally produced milk, eggs, ice cream and chicken. The ice cream – served in little cardboard containers with wooden paddle spoons – played Pied Piper to many a child.

Harrisville also owned charming tourist cottages, a food store and a "yacht club" in Hatched Bay, Eleuthera. It had its own inter-island mail boat system. It was the only company to successfully run such an operation in the

**LETTERS**  
letters@tribunemedia.net

Bahamas. Mr. Levy put food on the Bahamas' table and helped create full employment in Eleuthera, but he couldn't join the Chamber of Commerce because he was an American Jew. My father, Theodore Damianos, the general manager of Hatched Bay Farms, couldn't join the Chamber because he was the son of Greek sponge brokers. A second generation Bahamian, he too felt the sting of ethnic discrimination.

Many years later, when the PLP government bought Hatched Bay Farms from the Levy Estate, they fired all the white Bahamians and expats, including my father.

Hatched Bay Farms, Prime Minister Pindling's

"triumph of the human spirit," subsequently collapsed because the new kids on the block were completely out of their depth. So there's a lot of history in that little building.

It's a lovely cut stone building. To get an idea of its potential, look at the beautifully preserved Dawson E Roberts chambers on the corner of Shirley and Parliament Streets.

The poor, bedraggled "tick-tack-toe building tells a story, as do so many historic buildings. It should be incorporated in the plan to revitalize the old city of Nassau.

Hello? Does anyone travel?

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Athena Damianos  
Nassau,  
February 16, 2011.

## ACP Basil Dean, one of a vanishing breed

EDITOR, The Tribune.

On hearing of the sudden passing of ACP Basil Dean a few days ago, I was deeply saddened. I retreated to my favourite spot under a shade tree in my garden and quietly recalled the many moments I spent with him as a young policeman during the late 1960s.

1958 was the last year in which the government of The Bahamas sought recruits for the Force from other countries in the Caribbean and South America.

From 1960 onwards all Islands in the archipelago were canvassed for recruits to complement the ranks of the force.

During the early and mid-60s the major portion of the men recruited were from Cat Island.

It was during this period that a massive campaign in public relations in all secondary schools in New Providence and the Family Islands was being conducted by the RBPF and the Kiwanis Club of Nassau.

It was also during this period that many of the senior echelon of the Force during the 80s and upward were recruited, a number of whom served under my command in various sections of the force. These men were indeed, a breed, that are fast vanishing from the front lines of the security forces in this nation.

Three from that era became Commissioners, B K Bonaby, Paul Farquharson and Reginald

Ferguson, and in my humble opinion if it had not been for political insensitivity and interference, there was nothing to stop Basil Dean from achieving that feat.

Like so many a good officer before him who, like him, were forced to take that path and like them, he is now being given the roses; but, alas, he is unable to smell them.

Nathaniel Rolle, Ashton Miller and Basil Dean were Assistant Commissioners.

These officers of whom I write were dedicated, hard working, loyal to the brand and incorruptible.

With Basil's sudden and inhumane departure from CDU and the force, a void was left that is still felt to this present time.

The personal tragedy and indignities experienced by this fearless advocate of law and order did nothing to deter him from his goal of ridding our social system of the scourge of criminality.

It is sad but true, that men of his quality and ilk are fast becoming extinct in our security forces of today. My heartfelt condolences go out to his family.

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LOCAL NEWS

# Deputy PM to lead delegation to CARICOM Inter-Sessional Meetings

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Brent Symonette will lead a delegation to the Twenty-Second Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community in St George, Grenada from February 25-26.

He will represent the Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham.

Prior to the Heads meeting, Mr Symonette will also participate in the Foreign Ministers meeting from February 23-24.

He will be accompanied by Eugene Newry, First Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Sidney Collie, newly-appointed High Commissioner to CARICOM.

Matters up for discussion include a report on the developments in relation to Haiti – one year later since the devastating earthquake; the establishment of a Permanent Committee of CARICOM Ambassadors within a structure of the Caribbean Community; matters relating to the Caribbean Court of Justice; Financial stability relating to the British American and



DELEGATION: Brent Symonette

CICO issue as requested by St Vincent and the Grenadines; and the constitutional issue regarding the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Major issues and recommendations from the Prime Ministerial and Sub Committee on the CARICOM Single Market and Economy; critical issues in the area of health and human development, towards the establishment of the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), and climate change are also up for discussion.

The Bahamas will specifically exchange views with Commonwealth Secretary General Kamallesh Sharma about sharing facilities in Geneva where The Bahamas is setting up office towards its accession into the World Trade Organisation.

There also will be recommendations as to who will succeed CARICOM Secretary General Edwin Carrington, who resigned in December 2010 after 18 years at the helm.

Mr Symonette and his delegation will return to The Bahamas on Monday, February 28.

# Citizens action group 'We The People' prepares for launch in Grand Bahama

AFTER its launch in New Providence last November, the citizens action group "We The People" is now gearing up to start its work in Grand Bahama.

The group – the brainchild of Ed Fields, radio personality and Kerzner International's vice-president of public affairs – has as its aim to galvanise public interest and involvement in the Bahamas' development.

This coming Saturday, WTP will take its message to Grand Bahama.

"Grand Bahamians will have an opportunity to share in the vision of this community based organisation during its launch at the Regency Theatre starting at 7.30pm sharp.

"WTP promotes the empowerment of the masses, by encouraging and inspiring individuals to come together to find solutions to the myriad of problems affecting this nation, as opposed to waiting on the government or others to offer solutions," the group said in a press statement.

According to the group's founders, "WTP crosses political, racial and religious boundaries and brings together a diverse group of Bahamians, called the 'First Thirty' – the initial members of the organisation, among them Bishop Neil Ellis; businessmen Fred Hazelwood and Franklyn Wilson; former Central Bank Governor Julian Francis; former Director of Culture Dr. Nicolette Bethel and many others."



ED FIELDS speaks at the official launch of 'We The People' in Nassau on November 16.

WTP was officially launched in the Nassau on November 16, 2010. Since its formation, membership has increased from 30 to over 600.

The association is a registered non-profit organisation whose membership is open to the general public, students, academia, business professionals, retired public officials, other institutions and associations and anyone who loves the Bahamas, the group said.

Speaking at the WTP launch in New Providence, Mr Fields said: "Are we a third party? Absolutely not. We might be called the Bahamian tea party. Our answer will be the tea party is about ideology, 'We the People' is about ideas. Some will classify us a think tank. That's okay too, except that in addition to thinking, we will be about doing.

"Others will say we are an advocacy group, our response will be that we will advocate civility and constructive means of arriving at solutions, and then there are those that will define us as a pressure group.

"Our mission will be to pressure our people to engage for the national good, rather than to depend on others for the quality of our collective welfare.

"Call us any of these things, but most of all call us concerned citizens – Bahamians."

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LOCAL NEWS

# PRIME MINISTER ATTENDS GRAND OPENING OF DEEP WATER CAY CLUB

**GRAND Bahama** – Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham praised the work and investment of the principals of the Deep Water Cay Club in East Grand Bahama this weekend, as he officially opened the new and expanded development that provides employment for more than 40 Bahamians in the eastern part of the island.

Prime Minister Ingraham said: "I came to say to the people of East Grand Bahama, McLean's Town in particular, that you've got some wonderful people here who have invested substantial sums of money, who did what nobody else I know has done before and that is they paid your wages for a long period of time while they did not own the place – they had no obligation to do so; they wanted to demonstrate that they were



**PRIME MINISTER** Hubert Ingraham is taken on a golf cart tour of the Deep Water Cay Club by project owners Sonja Engelhorn and Paul R Vahldiek, Jr.

people with a heart and that they were interested in your welfare and your best interest."

About two years ago, the

Deep Water Cay Club – considered a fixture in the high-end bone fishing industry on Grand Bahama – came under new ownership and management.

Since then, approximately \$10 million have been invested in the refurbishment, expansion and modernisation of the development.

After meeting with the Government, the new investors undertook to upgrade the facility.

Mr Ingraham also expressed his pleasure that the new investors are "conservationists," persons who he said would work to ensure that the development provides no threat to the area's fish and marine life.

"There are many places in the Bahamas that would be envious of having this facility near them," he said.

"As a small place, this place is employing and providing income for 40 or 45 people – these are the sort of things that we would like to encourage in our Family Islands."

Prime Minister Ingraham affirmed his Government's support for the Deep Water Cay Club and pledged its commitment to enabling the development to operate efficiently and successfully.

Paul Vahldiek, co-owner of Deep Water Cay resort, said: "We are thrilled to have the prime minister here to see the work we have done. We met



Sharon Turner/BIS

**PRIME MINISTER** Hubert Ingraham is welcomed by project owner Sonja Engelhorn as he and members of Parliament on Grand Bahama arrive for the grand opening of the Deep Water Cay Club, East Grand Bahama.



**DEEP WATER CAY CLUB** owner Paul R Vahldiek, Jr. shows Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham the facility's new infinity pool.

two years ago to discuss our goals and I am very pleased to be able to show him the investment we have made on this beautiful cay."

Some of the improvements made on Deep Water Cay include accommodation

upgrades to seven oceanfront cottages, cell and internet service at the lodge and welcome centre and the addition of AJ's dockside bar.

Several guest homes have been added to the rental pool, thereby increasing the resort's

occupancy capacity to 38 guests.

As a convenience for guests and as a protection for the environment, a desalination and waste water treatment plant has been completed, management said.



**Betty Taylor**  
Journalist / Entrepreneur

## Quote of the week

*A man, who has the desire to motivate others in an affirmative way, is classified as one who helps shape the world with independence, integrity and respectability.*

~ Betty Taylor ~

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LOCAL NEWS

# Heart Ball top award goes to Lady Camille Barnett

UNDER the theme, "Saving little hearts for 50 years, one beat at a time", the Heart Ball Committee celebrated the 47th annual Heart Ball and the 50th anniversary of the Sir Victor Sassoon (Bahamas) Heart Foundation at the Sheraton Nassau Beach Resort on Saturday.

One of the highlights of the evening was the presentation of The Lady Sassoon Golden Heart Award to Lady Camille Barnett.

Lady Barnett is an associate professor at the College of the Bahamas in the School of Social Sciences.

In 1989, she became a member of the Zonta Club of Nassau. It was through Zonta that she began her work of public charity. As a Zontian she helped establish the Golden Z Club at COB and the Z Club at St John's College.

Through Zonta, Lady Barnett helped in the establishment of the PACE Foundation, which is dedicated to helping teen mothers.

She was a charter director of the National Art Gallery Board and served as a director of the Gallery Board, during the period when Villa Doyle was refurbished and established as the National Art Gallery of the Bahamas.



**R E BARNES**, chairman of the Heart Foundation, presents Lady Camille Barnett the 2010 Golden Heart Award.

predecessors whose work she was able to build upon. She also thanked her family for their support.

R E Barnes, chairman of the Sir Victor Sassoon (Bahamas) Heart Foundation, said in his presentation of the Golden Heart Award: "When Lady Barnett took up the cause of HIV and AIDS, she quickly realised that ignorance and bias were stopping us from doing our best to lessen the impact of this disease in the Bahamas. Through her commitment she has helped raise awareness which in turn has assisted dramatically in reducing the impact of HIV/AIDS on members of our community for almost two decades."

He noted that there had once again been many worthy nominees, but this year's winner "stood out as a wonderful example of what a person can do when they set their mind to it."

In addition to the Golden Heart Award presentation, the evening's other events were also deemed a success by organisers.

According to Committee member Ingrid Sears, "It was a fabulous evening. The patrons of the ball truly had a great time. Old friends and new friends all came out to show their support for the Heart Foundation, as we continue to raise funds to repair children's hearts. My colleagues and I are very grateful and thankful to all who have helped to make this event a great suc-

cess. We encourage you to continue to lend your support as we move forward."

"I was most impressed with the new logo that I saw," said Health Minister Dr Hubert Minnis. "The heart and the adult hand reaching out to help uplift a child. Not only does it extend to the heart, but

the populous at large. The adult reaches down and pulls up. Children represent the future of the country. It is our responsibility to help to prepare them and protect them for the future."

Dr Jerome Lightbourne, paediatric cardiologist, said there has been an evolution in heart care in the Bahamas. Senator Dr Duane Sands, cardiologist, further expanded and said that "things have continued to evolve, and continue to get better."

## Professionals

"I can only imagine that the next generation of Bahamian professionals will take this to an even higher level," he added.

Mr Barnes, who is also the nephew of the late Lady Sassoon, said, "I'm very proud to be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Foundation."

"We are also cognisant that it is because of the Bahamian public, that their support has made this all possible to help these children who need heart care."

"We thank the Bahamian public and the Bahamian business community for their support over the past 50 years."

## Winner

Despite these undertakings, she is best known for her work with the Bahamas AIDS Foundation. Again through Zonta, this year's winner was a signatory to the documents establishing the Foundation in 1992. She has been a director of the AIDS Foundation from its inception. For the past nine years she has also served as the president of the AIDS Foundation and has in many ways been the face of that organisation to the community.

"Through her stewardship, the AIDS Foundation has worked tirelessly to educate people, encourage prevention, overcome prejudices, provide support, and fund treatment and care to persons living with HIV/AIDS," the Heart Ball Committee said.

Lady Barnett has been married to Sir Michael Barnett, Chief Justice of the Bahamas for more than 30 years, and is the mother of two daughters and the grandmother of one.

In her acceptance speech Lady Barnett applauded her

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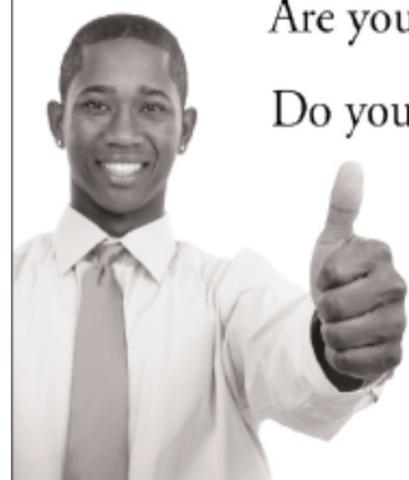
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# El Dorado may be in sight at last

By SIR RONALD SANDERS

(The writer is a Consultant and former Caribbean diplomat)

## insight WORLD VIEW

SINCE the late 1970's and until recently, the economy of Guyana has been the sick man of the Caribbean falling second only to Haiti as the poorest country in the region. Much of that has changed, and the economy looks set to change for the better even more.

The improvement in Guyana's economic circumstances will have several beneficial effects.

Among them will be a reversal of the migration of people from Guyana to others parts of the Caribbean and, indeed, the world.

This trend has already begun to happen, particularly from Caribbean countries.

More than 80 per cent of Guyana's tertiary educated people live outside of Guyana; a return of a fraction of them would help to accelerate economic activity and the rate of growth.

Apart from the remigration of Guyanese to Guyana, if the economy continues on its upward trajectory, the country could also become a magnet for nationals of other Caribbean countries, fulfilling its promise as the land of the future for the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM).

A richer Guyana would be good for CARICOM as a whole in other ways. Already, the share of

Guyana's imports from CARICOM countries has increased and, as the economy expands and advances creating a better-off population, that share will increase still further helping to sustain employment and revenues throughout the regional grouping.

Between 2006 and 2010, Guyana enjoyed average economic growth of 4 per cent – an enviable achievement among CARICOM countries, the majority of whose economies have contracted especially since the global financial crisis that started in late 2008.

### Economy

The Guyana Finance Minister, Ashni Singh, attributes the growth in the economy to several factors, among them being the diversification of the productive sector; studied government policy decisions to generate activities that have a multiplier effect in the economy; and the creation of a stable environment for doing business.

In terms of the business environment, Singh emphasizes that Guyana enjoys exchange rate stability, low and declining interest rates, and a low rate of inflation.

These factors give existing and new investors a platform of predictability for planning their busi-

nesses.

In his January budget, Singh also lowered corporate taxes by 5 per cent to 40 per cent for commercial companies and 30 per cent for manufacturing firms.

There is certainly clear evidence of investment in the economy.

The construction industry is booming across the country in housing, factories and office buildings.

In turn, construction is spinning-off other growth areas in the supply of materials, transportation, and also in the spending by the work force on consumption – food, rent, clothing and so on.

Guyana's debt to GDP ratio is now around 60 per cent, considerably lower than many CARICOM countries whose ratios are more than 100 per cent, and its foreign reserves represent five months of its import requirements.

This is remarkable not only because many CARICOM countries are seeing their foreign reserves dwindling, but also because of the years of cutting back on imports that Guyana suffered because of insufficient foreign earnings.

A striking development in social terms is the steady increase in government expenditure directed at old age pensioners and other vulnerable communities. US\$20 million is now ded-



SIR RONALD SANDERS

**“A significant development in Guyana has been the use of Information Technology. More than 2,000 computer literate Guyanese young people, mostly women, are employed in call centres providing services to companies located in countries as distant as Australia.”**

icated to these communities, again with a multiplier effect in the economy since these funds are spent on consumption.

In the current budget, the government has also allocated US\$300 million to building roads, bridges, schools and hospitals; a sum twice as large as it was five years ago and which provides much needed public goods as well as employment, consumer spending and workers' savings in banks.

### Infrastructure

A significant development in Guyana has been the use of Information Technology. More than 2,000 computer literate Guyanese young people, mostly women, are employed in call centres providing services to companies located in countries as distant as Australia. Experts suggest that the sector could employ as many as 6,000 people by 2013 given the fact that Guyana is English-speaking and its telecommunications infrastructure is improving to provide faster broadband service.

The salvation of Guyana has been in its natural resources, and the diversification of its productive

base to exploit these resources more effectively. Twenty years ago, Guyana depended almost entirely on export earnings from sugar, rice and bauxite.

Today, while these three commodities remain important, the agricultural sector has been diversified and Guyana is now a net exporter of agricultural products.

But, it is its other resources, especially gold, that has made a difference in recent years, and will catapult the country's economic growth in the future.

For instance, last year the country earned US\$346.4 million from gold, almost three times the sum it earned from bauxite (US\$114.6 m), sugar (US\$104 m) and rice (US\$154.6 m).

Singh is confident that – as early as this year – the country's gold sector is set for “catalytic investment” on an unprecedented scale that will earn the country even greater revenues while introducing new technology that conforms to the high environmental standards that Guyana has set as part of its policy to employ a low carbon development strategy.

And then there is oil. Studies done by the United States indicate that the basin off-shore Guyana contains rich reserves of

oil. This possibility is now being explored by several oil companies, large and small, and there is even on shore exploration. It is almost a creed amongst Guyanese that it is only a matter of time before oil starts to flow.

Measured by its rich natural resources, its recent economic performance, and the investments set to be made in gold and oil, Guyana's economic prospects and the contribution it can make to CARICOM look healthy and heartening.

2011 is an election year in Guyana. So far, there is no sign of anything but a peaceful process.

The political parties are each engaged in trying to identify a candidate for the nation's Presidency.

There are five known candidates in the ruling Peoples Progressive Party and a similar number in the main opposition Peoples National Congress.

By mid-March both parties would have chosen their candidate in processes which have been internally rancorous but have shown no sign of erupting into national strife. There are smaller political parties, including the Alliance for Change which has a set tled candidate.

Elections have to be held by November, and the campaigning season will start in earnest by April.

Whichever party wins the Presidency and forms the government, it will inherit an economy that is stronger than it has ever been with every indicator for greater growth.

For Guyana – the fabled land of “El Dorado” may be in sight at last if this election is conducted by mature democratic standards and the new government uses the country's resources for the benefit of all, especially its disadvantaged.

Responses and previous commentaries at: [www.sirronaldsanders.com](http://www.sirronaldsanders.com)

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LOCAL NEWS

# Bahamian movie 'Wind Jammers' screens in Grand Bahama to a sold-out audience

THE Bahamian feature-length family film "Wind Jammers" was screened for the first time in Grand Bahama on February 12 at the new Canal House conference centre of the Pelican Bay Hotel to a sold-out audience.

Families enjoyed complimentary popcorn provided by Pelican Bay and had a chance to meet and get autographs from the star of "Wind Jammers", Justice von Maur.

Both co-directors, Kareem Mortimer and Ric von Maur, were in attendance along with actors Moya Thompson and Claudette 'Cookie' Allens.

"I am so glad we were invited to show the movie in Grand Bahama, and everyone was so nice. I really enjoyed sailing with the kids at the Grand Bahama Sailing Club the day following the screening," said 15-year-old Justice von Maur, who learned to sail when she was ten.

Methice Rigby sang the national anthem and guests were welcomed by Pelican Bay's general manager, Magnus Alnebeck.

"Pelican Bay is happy to have sponsored this event, and the Grand Bahama Sailing Club in extension. We are looking forward to seeing more young Grand Bahamians being introduced to the sport of sailing," said Mr Alnebeck.

Donna Mackey spoke on behalf of the Ministry of Tourism's Film Commission



and shared her delight to have had the opportunity to work with director Kareem Mortimer on various occasions over the years as he has made his way up the ladder to now being a director with several movies under his belt, in particular his multi-award winning film "Children of God" which is set to be out on DVD later this year.

Mr Mortimer shared his thoughts on the screening by saying, "It was great playing the movie to another Bahamian audience.

"We were very pleased to see how the community supported this event and it was wonderful to have such a great turnout."

A brief question and answer session with the cast

took place after the film and then David Valentine of the Grand Bahama Sailing Club invited everyone out for the following day's Sunday Sailing while also providing information on the sailing programmes they have available on the island.

Chris Paine, co-founder of the Sailing Club, said: "It was great to meet the cast and directors of 'Wind Jammers' which added much to the actual showing of the movie. The GBSC is enormously grateful to the Bahamas Weekly team who put together the entire event and have been extremely generous in donating most of the proceeds to the Club which in turn will support the Junior Sailing programme."

Photo/The Bahamas Weekly



STAR of 'Wind Jammers', Justice von Maur, took in some sailing at the Grand Bahama Sailing Club the day after the screening. The local sailors challenged her to a race, and she was able to come in fourth.

'WIND JAMMERS' screened in Grand Bahama on February 12 in aid of the Grand Bahama Sailing Club (GBSC). (l-r) Ric von Maur, co-director; Justice von Maur, lead actor; David Valentine of the GBSC; Claudette 'Cookie' Allens, actress; and Kareem Mortimer, co-director.

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## LOCAL NEWS



**PAINT FAIR'S 'REUSE PAINT DEPOT'** – Persons wishing to support on-island community projects can donate left-over or excess paint to the 'Reuse Paint Depot'. Inspecting containers of donated paint before passing them on are (l-r): Gary Carey, sales associate, and Eric Baptista, store manager and sales representative of Paint Fair.

**PAINT FAIR'S** sales associate Bridgette Storr (left) and general manager Lesley Baptista arrange assorted displays.



## Firm launches initiatives to keep Grand Bahama clean

THE Grand Bahama company Paint Fair has introduced several new programmes to encourage persons to preserve and protect their homes, businesses and communal areas.

Since the inception of the Keep Grand Bahama Clean (KGBC) initiative, Paint Fair has been a staunch supporter helping to spread the message of 'reduce, reuse and recycle', campaign officials said.

"Keeping our island clean is in our best interests – it protects all of our livelihoods and the future of our children and their children," said Paint Fair general manager Lesley Baptista.

"What we think is important is for everyone to realise that small steps can add up to make a big dif-

**"Keeping our island clean is in our best interests – it protects all of our livelihoods and the future of our children and their children."**

Paint Fair general manager  
Lesley Baptista

ference, the key is to start."

Initial steps the company has taken include reducing waste by eliminating it in the first place. Ms Baptista said they offer customers the best information possible at the outset regarding not buying more paint or accessories than is really needed.

Additionally, Paint Fair

said it is committed to providing environmentally friendly, durable products.

KGBC chairperson Nakira Wilchcombe praised Paint Fair's commitment to the campaign.

"We are thrilled to have such concerned green citizens as Paint Fair as a KGBC partner. They have always demonstrated a

keen desire to positively impact the community and this is evident in the expert advice and quality products that they offer when it comes to protecting the environment," she said.

Of particular note is the company's 'Reuse Paint Depot' where individuals can drop off excess or left-over paint.

Launched in late 2009, this partner programme with KGBC provides a place for persons to bring in used or excess paint to be passed on to those in need or to be properly disposed of.

According to Ms Baptista, after passing proper inspection, the donated paint is then given to various beneficiaries such as schools, churches and various organisations.

"We never re-blend the donated paint with our new stock, nor do we recycle it, but it is given to those in need to support community projects," she said.

Student entrants in the KGBC Downtown Mural Competition were recently on the receiving end of this initiative.

Paint Fair's 'Reuse Paint Depot' made donations to school art departments and young artists used the paint to produce award-winning pieces for the contest.

Ms Wilchcombe further noted that Paint Fair has also been a major supporter of the Downtown Turn-around Project which the Grand Bahama Port Authority launched in 2009.

Ms Baptista offered several eco-friendly tips for

local paint consumers: "Use it – try to use up any left-over paint by adding an extra coat for richer colour and extra protection, or use paint to give new life to furniture and accessories that could use a facelift; share it – as long as paint is in good condition, swap it with a friend or neighbour; clean up – water-based paint, brushes and accessories can be cleaned with water, and solvent cleaners (for oil paints) can be strained and reused after cleaning brushes, rollers etc; dry it out – latex (water-based) paint can be dried up with paint hardener, sand, newspaper or cat litter and then safely thrown away; deliver to your local paint depot – if you can't use it up, bring it in to be passed on."

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LOCAL NEWS

# Women 'have proven they can unite and withstand challenges'

By LLONELLA GILBERT  
Bahamas Information Services

WOMEN have proven over the years that they have the stamina to withstand challenges and the perseverance to stay the course to achieve desired goals and unite for a common cause, Minister of State in the Ministry of Labour and Social Development Loretta Butler-Turner said.

However, there is a need for wider participation and commitment from women who are in a position to help others still facing social and economic challenges, Mrs Butler-Turner explained during her keynote address at the Positioning Women for Promotion and Prosperity seminar organised by the Bahamas Public Services Union Women's Association on Thursday.

For women to prepare for promotions and prosperity, they must take advantage of opportunities to get a more formal education, through such institutions as the College of the Bahamas and the Bahamas Technical and Vocational Institute, she said.

"While on the job experience is a valuable asset for upward mobility, the possession of educational qualifications will certainly place one at a distinct advantage," Mrs Butler-Turner said.

This sometimes involves sacrifices, which include time and money, she added. "This will have to be balanced with your other responsibilities, especially those of your family."

"Then there is a cost involved and many may not want to expend the money or may have to forgo something else, but in the long run it will be money well spent," Mrs Butler-Turner said.

"Living above their means" is another thing standing in the way of many female public servants achieving promotions and prosperity, she stressed.

"Too many of our people including public officers, have chosen the easy path of salary deductions to obtain almost everything.

"Far too many of us are spending more than we make and this is creating untold strain in our homes and even on the job," Mrs Butler-Turner said.

"Similarly, too few Bahamians have chosen the path of saving money, showing financial



MINISTER OF STATE in the Ministry of Labour and Social Development Loretta Butler-Turner delivers the keynote address at the one-day Public Services Union Women's Association Seminar on 'Positioning our Women for Promotion and Prosperity' at the BCPOU Hall

prudence and plain common sense, which though difficult leads to peace of mind."

The Minister of State noted that promotions require hard work. "If you wish to be promoted you have to work harder and smarter than those around you."

Preparing for a promotion involves a change in thinking and attitude, which means going the extra mile, paying attention to details, performing additional duties when necessary even though they may not be part of your job description without having to be asked or told, she said.

When it comes to becoming prosperous, Mrs Butler-Turner told the women participating in the seminar that it is important to be industrious, control expenses and save a portion of earnings.

"Finding new ways to spend money is always easy, but finding ways to save is hard. It takes effort to manage one's money wisely, and my advice to you is to be honest and realistic in respect to your needs versus your wants. Take care of your needs rather than your wants," Mrs Butler-Turner said.

Women from throughout the public service and some private firms heard from such diverse speakers as former Permanent Secretary and diplomat Missouri Sherman-Peter speak on "Preparing Women for Public Life"; co-founder of the GEMS Radio Station Debbie Bartlett on "Climbing the Corporate Ladder"; Rev Anna Russell on "Working Women Pursuing a Purpose" and Dr Ismae Whyns from the Public Hospital Authority on "Quality Assurance on Work Ethics."



Patrick Hanna/BIS

WOMEN from the Public Service as well as some private firms attended a one-day Public Services Union Women's Association Seminar on 'Positioning our Women for Promotion and Prosperity'.

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LOCAL NEWS

FROM page one

**Sewage crisis hits Pinewood**

WSC. Mr Woodside told The Tribune that residents started to contact him concerning the nauseating odour that "emanated"

from the area in December.

After consulting Minister of State for Public Works Phenton Neymour, and also penning a follow-up letter, Mr Woodside said he was contacted by the WSC on January 31.

Mr Woodside said: "The letter said that last year both wells failed, which led to spillage onto the site causing the odour. Both wells were cleared on December 26 and put back into service. It was said that the odour would have receded over time."

In response to increased concerns by residents, Mr Woodside said he also contacted the Department of Environmental Health, after which a public analyst was dispatched to assess the matter.

"He (public analyst) spoke to the fact that it was clear that there was a nuisance to the residents because of the unsightly appearance of the plant," Mr Woodside said, "the hydrogen sulfide smell, water accumulation, overgrown vegetation and signs of indiscriminate dumping."



EMPLOYEES from the Water and Sewage Corporation are pictured above working at the Water and Waste Treatment Facility at Pidgeon Plum Street, Pinewood Gardens yesterday.

Tim Clarke/Tribune staff

The public analyst recommended consistent odour treatment of the area by DEH; no dumping signs; land elevation and for the valves at the plant to be raised; and a new deep injection well for the expansion and improvement of the facility, which should be enclosed by a concrete wall.

The official also advised that the property should be cleaned on a regular basis, to remove

solid waste and keep vegetation under control.

Mr Woodside said: "The matter was brought to my attention and I sought to have it dealt with by the appropriate agencies. At my monthly meeting, I outlined to residents the reports by the Department of Environmental Health and the statement from the Water and Sewage Corporation towards corrective action."

The Water and Sewage Corporation was said to be in the tender process for the construction of a new disposable well. Contracts for the well, which will be 10 inches in diameter and 600ft deep, are expected to be awarded at the end of March.

Mr Woodside also explained that the corporation planned to erect security fencing as it prepared a proposal to build, own and operate a new facility at the location.

As the various agencies work to improve and restore operations at the plant, Mr Woodside said he planned to investigate why the site property was never turned over to the Bahamas government.

Mr Woodside added: "The Water and Sewage Corporation has charge of the plant, but the property is owned by Arawak Homes Limited. I'm concerned with the fact that on the site, and also the surrounding area, the property owned by Arawak Homes is being used for indiscriminate dumping."

In response to the health concerns expressed by some residents, Mr Woodside said that he has also alerted the Ministry of Health.

**Butler's Funeral Homes & Crematorium**

Telephone: 393-2822, York & Ernest Sts. P.O. Box N-712, Nassau, Bahamas

**FUNERAL SERVICE FOR**



**Gustavos Elisha Major, 86**

of Gleniston Gardens, formerly of Roses, Long Island, will be held on Tuesday, February 22nd, 2011, at 11:00 a.m., at Ebenezer Methodist Church, East Shirley Street. Officiating will be Rev. Bill Higgs and Rev. Godfrey Bethell. Interment will follow in Ebenezer Methodist Church, East Shirley Street.

Left to cherish his fond memories are: **his Daughters**, Sandra Major, Paulette and Stephen Humes, Karen and Michael Belfield and Lauren and Bill Higgs; **Grandchildren**: Corey and Ashley Humes, Miles and Sally Belfield, Robin and Becca Belfield, Ruth Belfield, and Rory and Kara Higgs; **Great Grandchildren**: Brittany, Mia, Cora-Rose, Ochi and Lexi-Mae; **Brothers**: Jerome Major, Luton Major, and Lorenzo Major; **Sister**: Ella 'Pud' Major; **Sisters-in-Law**: Avis Major, Connie Major and Julia 'Tessa' Thompson; **Nephews and Nieces**: Horace Major, Tony Miller, David and Margie Major, Reuben Major, Sandra R. Major, Joyce Johnson, Sarah and Douglas Ausberry, Jackie and Enrique Sewer, Courtney Major, Douglas Major, Doris McCray, Donald and Shane Thompson, Maitland and Winifred Thompson, Kenyon Thompson, Elizabeth and Peter Collins, Eloise Jones, Stephanie and Vincent Ritchie, Linda Thompson, Anthony Allens, Cecil and Pamela Allens, Mitchell Allens, Eugenie and Philip Francis, Claudette 'Cookie' Allens, Celeste and Fletcher McIntosh, Alexandria Allens, Natalie and Christian Salvant. **Other Family and Friends including**: Willis Ferguson and family, Family of the late Eric 'Froggy' Lightbourne, Robert and Eleanor Elliot, Everette and Leonie Sweeting, Patricia Jarvis and family, Antoinette Thompson and family, Edna Miller and family, Errol Munroe and family, Nurse Wright, Madrica Roberts and family, the old Hawkins Hill community, the Ebenezer Church Family, especially the Men's Fellowship and the Focus Family Group.

Friends may pay their last respects at Butler's Funeral Homes & Crematorium, Ernest and York Streets on Monday, February 21st, 2011 from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and at the church on Tuesday February 22nd, 2011 from 10:00 a.m. until service time.

FROM page one

it to the leader of the PLP for the visionary leadership in approving this project during the time he was prime minister," said the statement.

The \$2.5 billion project is expected to include 3,000 rooms, a 100,000 square foot casino, two signature spas and a third world-class destination spa, an 18-hole Jack Nicklaus golf course, 200,000 square feet of meeting space, 3,000 feet of continuous beach front, a 20-acre beach and pool expe-

FROM page one

Nor did Minister Deveaux announce that the site of the fire would become a public greenspace.

We regret any misunderstanding that resulted from the claims in a BIS release that was published in Friday's *Tribune*.

Yesterday Fire Marshall Supt Jeffrey Deleveaux reassured fire victims, the public, and the Government that investigations into the cause of the Kelly's Dock fire are inconclu-

**BAHA MAR GROUNDBREAKING**

rience and a 35,000 square foot retail village with upscale shopping, chef-branded restaurants and entertainment venues.

Earlier this month Baha Mar's senior vice-president of government and external affairs Robert Sands told The Tribune that the general contractor for the development, China State Construction and Engineering Corporation, have arrived in the country. Company officials are being housed in

one of Baha Mar's two hotels, the Wyndham Nassau Resort or the Sheraton Nassau Beach Resort.

Planning continues on a pre-fabricated housing complex that will be constructed on the grounds of the old Hobby Horse race track to house the majority of the thousands of Chinese labourers who will enter the Bahamas to work on the project over the course of its development.

Developers anticipate creating over 8,000 new jobs for Bahamian workers across all sectors of the hospitality industry.

**Bahamas Information Services apology over fire press release**

sive. He stated it would take months before a complete report will be available to the public.

"The investigations are ongoing now and we have not put a cause to it, that is what may have caused or may not have caused the fire," said Supt Deleveaux, Director of Fire Services.

"Presently the investigations are ongoing and basically that's it. We do not have a cause at

this time. The point of origin of the fire, we do not know as yet."

Supt Deleveaux said that investigators would probably take months to be certain they have covered all areas of the investigation before publishing a comprehensive report.

He added that they cannot come up with a conclusion until after investigations have been completed.

"We have taken a number of

statements, but the employees from Betty K have not presented themselves to us to give a statement. We would welcome those persons definitely," said Superintendent Deleveaux.

"Let them come and do a statement for us. We would like to know. We would like to clear it up. As it is now, we are just searching for information."

Fire Marshall Deleveaux was at the Kelly's Dock fire from the beginning of the fire.



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- Mikasa Celebration Crystal Vase - \$23.99
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LOCAL NEWS

ROYAL BAHAMAS POLICE FORCE NATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION OFFICE: PERSONAL SAFETY TIPS

By CONSTABLE 3011  
MAKELLE PINDER



The odds of you being victimized by crime while in a public places is low.

However, your personal safety is at risk anytime you go out.

For this reason you must protect yourself. Remember, criminals often plan crimes and look for the right opportunity with the easiest victim. Your best defence is to plan ahead.

Being safer doesn't require changing your lifestyle, personality wardrobe or to stop going out. The following crime prevention measures to are provided to increase your personal safety and security.

**AT HOME**  
Have your key in hand when approaching the entryway  
Wait outside if anything

looks unusual (i.e. open door or broken window)  
Give the hide-a-key to a trusted neighbor  
No personal identification on key rings  
Change the locks if you lose your house keys

**AUTOMATED TELLER MACHINES (ATM)**  
Memorize your personal

identification number  
Have everything ready before arriving  
Be aware of people loitering and sitting in parked cars who may be watching customers transact business.  
Never use an ATM after dark

**WHILE WALKING**  
Avoid walking alone. Be confident & walk with purpose  
Choose busy, well-lit streets and avoid isolated areas, alleys and vacant lots.  
Walk facing traffic to see approaching cars  
Earphones make you less able to sense potential danger.  
Keep valuables in an inside pocket and hold your purse under your arm so they are harder to snatch

**PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION**  
Locate well-lit and frequently used bus stops  
Do not wait alone  
Sit near the driver on buses  
Immediately report incidents of verbal or physical harassment to the driver or to and to the police

**WHILE DRIVING**  
Keep your car in good running order  
Plan your route in advance  
Drive with the doors locked and windows rolled up  
Carpooling is a safe alternative to driving alone  
Don't stop if another driver tries to force you off the road

**AT WORK**  
Get involved with improving work place security

Walk to and from the parking areas with other people  
Avoid using the isolated and deserted stairways  
If a suspicious person follows you into or is already in an elevator, get out immediately  
Check rest rooms before locking the door

**WHEN PARKING**  
Choose well-lit parking areas  
Keep valuables and packages locked in the trunk  
Always remove the keys and lock the doors  
Be alert in underground or enclosed parking garages

**WHEN SOCIALISING**  
Advise someone of your route before leaving  
Carry proper identification  
Vary your route and schedule so you are not

predictable  
Avoid outdoor activities after dark  
Carry the necessary tools in case of an emergency  
Carry a personal alarm

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

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

DR ANDRE ROLLINS IN ELECTION

FROM page one

working to ensure that the young politician was "properly rewarded" for his decision.

"We often don't know how to treat our own, so we don't want to make the same mistake here again," the party insider said.

Currently there are a few seats being discussed that could be offered to Dr Rollins – amongst them: Bamboo Town, Pinewood, Montagu, St Anne's, Long Island, and South Eleuthera.

However, according to sources within the party the most likely seat where the young politician would have the greatest possibility of winning may be in the Family Islands – preferably in South Eleuthera.

"Having just switched over, he might face a harder fight in New Providence from that standpoint. People here may be less forgiving than on the Family Islands where the particular needs of each constituency far outweigh the personality or history of the candidate.

"While obviously constituents will care about who ultimately will be representing them, they are just as concerned about the quality of that representation. The PLP this lap around will have the obligation to run not only the best candidate in each seat, but the best candidate who can assist the party from a national standpoint – particularly if that candidate's age and experiences can be used in comparison to what is not being offered in the FNM," he said.

At this point the next great battle, the source said, would be to convince an incumbent MP – such as Oswald Ingraham – whether or not it would be in the larger national interest of the party to have a younger unknown candidate seek the seat he currently holds purely from a strategic standpoint of offering the populace "change" and "youth."

"The message must be seen and not just heard. We cannot simply talk about being the party of change and progress without showing voters that we are actually about that. We must lead by example, and I think the voting public will see that in 2012," he said.

AMBASSADOR HEARS CLAIMS OF IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS MISTREATING HAITIANS

FROM page three

held a forum with Haitians to introduce himself and to hear their concerns.

During the two hour meeting, he said Haitians had expressed concerns about a number of things, including the inefficient service at the Haitian Embassy, claims of mistreatment and abuse during apprehension exercises, and work permit related issues.

Ambassador Rodrigue held a Consular Clinic to assist persons with issues concerning passports, birth certificates, and other legal documentations. He also took time to meet with religious leaders and pastors in the Haitian community.

The ambassador felt it was also very important as well to pay a courtesy call on immigration officials here.

"I think when you know people you can have better discussions, and my job would be easier when people know me and I know them," he explained.

Mr Rodrigue noted that Haitians have complained about the treatment they receive from immigration and other law enforcement officers in Freeport.

"The way they are treated when immigration apprehends them, some complain about mistreatment or abuse they receive during the operation, and they feel they are not treated with dignity and basic human rights," he said.

The refusal of work permit renewal and the short time period given to leave the country, especially for those Haitians who have been working and living in the country for many years, was also a concern.

"They say sometimes they can have 10, 12 or 15 work permits and suddenly they say (immigration) don't want to renew it.

"They have 21 days to leave the country without the possibility to take anything, their belongings or money they have in the bank," he said.

Ambassador Rodrigue not-

ed that the Haitians who have been told to leave the country also expressed concern about their contributions to the National Insurance Board.

"They say after contributing all this time they have to leave the country and they can't get any money they contributed," he added.

When asked whether he was concerned about the repatriation of illegal Haitians, Ambassador Rodrigue said sending them back will make things worse in Haiti.

"I am concerned about repatriation due to the situation in Haiti," Ambassador Rodrigue said.

"All those people are going to aggravate the situation and especially those going back with children. Often times they send the parents with the kids, and you have some kids who have lived here since they were born; they don't know Haiti, they have been to school here and have to return after 10 or 12 years here in the Bahamas and they cannot go back to school because they cannot speak the (Creole) language, and that is a very difficult situation for them," he said.

"But, I have to agree that people in that situation if they are caught they have to be repatriated, I cannot say anything about that, that is the law.

"If they are caught the Government of the Bahamas is going to repatriate them so that's a thing the Embassy cannot interfere, except that in the treatment that we see.

"I think whether they are arrested for whatever reason, there is a kind of treatment they (Haitians) have to receive.

Mr Rodrigue was pleased with the turn out.

"I feel they are supportive of what I am doing...and they can expect better service now," he said.

He said they have appointed a voluntary agent Lorena Ciceron Jusma in Freeport who is not paid to receive passport applications and send them onto Nassau. Ms Jusma can be contacted at 533-7632, 374-3288, or 352-1182.



**COMPLETION OF THE NEW PROVIDENCE ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

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**CORRIDOR 15 MARATHON ROAD**

**JOSE CARTELLONE CONSTRUCCIONES CIVILES S.A.** has been awarded a Contract by the Government of The Bahamas for the Completion of the New Providence Road Improvement Project (International Package).

**Please be advised that from Monday February 14<sup>th</sup> 2011, Road Works will be implemented on sections of Marathon Road.**

**WHAT IS THIS PHASE OF THE PROJECT ABOUT?**  
Road widening will be done on both sides to accommodate additional road width. The existing two (2) lanes will be widened to three (3) lane carriageway.  
- Two (2) central turning lanes between Robinson & Wulff Road.

The works include **laying of 12 & 16" PVC Watermain pipes, Milling of existing pavement, installation of new drainage facilities, utilities, asphalt pavement, sidewalks, street lighting, traffic signs and road markings.**

**WHAT TO EXPECT IN A FEW WEEKS?**  
The public should expect partial lane closures on the western side of Marathon Road. If travelling northbound, eastern access will be granted.

Motorist travelling southbound are encouraged to follow the temporary traffic diversion signs through **CLARIDGE ROAD** or **SOLDIER ROAD**.  
**While works are ongoing access will be granted to residents, motorist & pedestrians.**

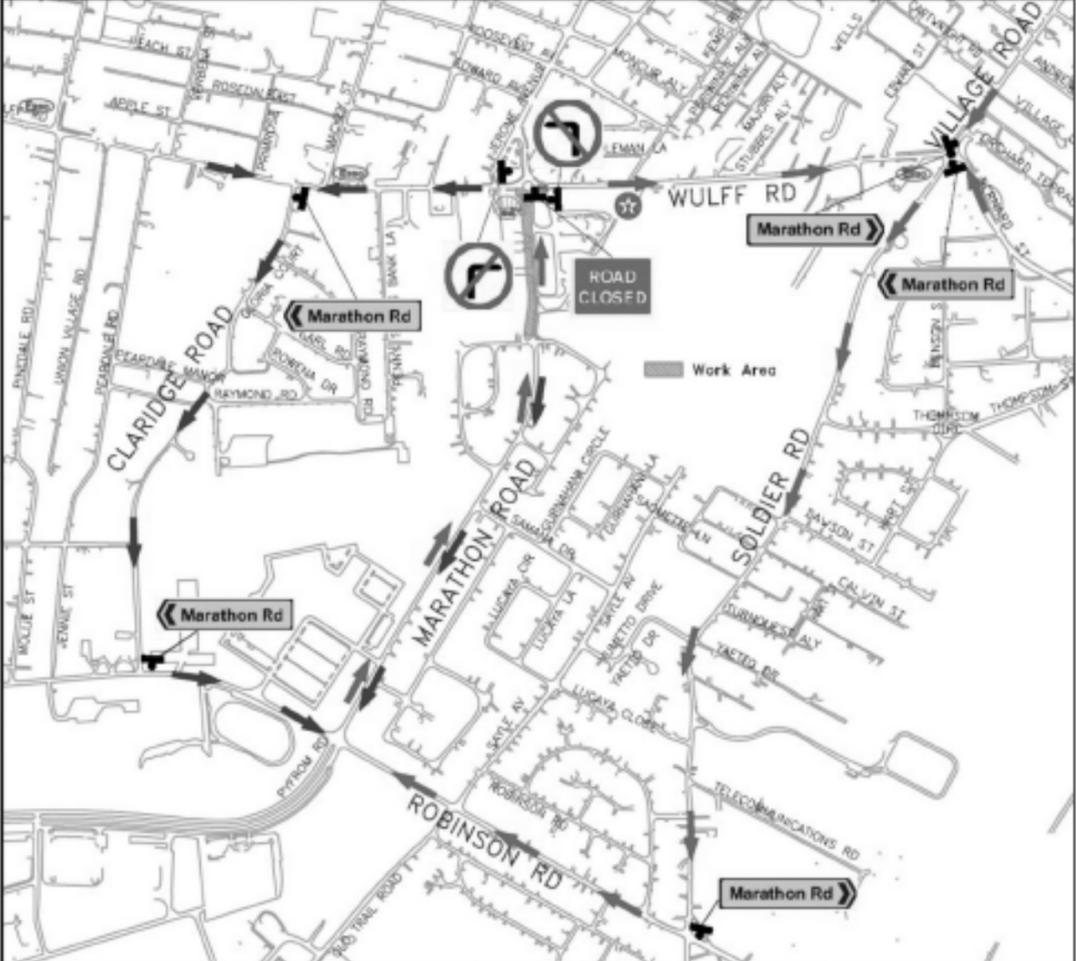
Construction works will be carried out in different stages as the works progress from **WULFF ROAD (roundabout) to FERGUSON WAY**. Updates will be posted and announced through the media.

**LOCAL BUSINESSES.**  
Kindly advise customers & clients that access will be granted to your business place during the construction works. Signs will be in place to identify safe passage for Pedestrians.

**We do apologize for any inconvenience caused and we look forward to the cooperation of the motoring public.**

**For further information please contact:**

<p><i>(The Contractor)</i> <b>Jose Cartellone Construcciones Civiles S.A</b> Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00am to 8:00 pm Tel: (242)322-8341 or (242)322-2610 Email: bahamasneighbors@cartellone.com.ar</p>	<p><i>(The Contracting Agency)</i> <b>Ministry of Public Works &amp; Transport</b> The Project Execution Unit Hotline: (242)302-9700 Email: publicworks@bahamas.gov.bs</p>
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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

# US condemns crackdowns on protests in Middle East

WASHINGTON  
Associated Press

ARAB and Muslim leaders facing pro-democracy protests need to lead the way rather than resist reform, a senior U.S. diplomat said Sunday while condemning violent crackdowns against demonstrators in Libya, Algeria and Yemen.

Susan Rice, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, said the Obama administration was "very concerned" about reports that Libyan security forces had fired on peaceful protesters in the eastern city of Benghazi. A Libyan physician told The Associated Press that at least 200 people had been killed in six days of demonstrations against the regime of Moammar Gadhafi.

"We've condemned that violence," Rice told "Meet the Press" on NBC television. "Our view is that in Libya as throughout the region peaceful protests need to be respected."

Al Jazeera television reported Sunday that protesters in Benghazi had seized army vehicles and weapons, that the police academy had been set ablaze and that some soldiers had joined the demonstrators. Libya's response to opposition demonstrations is shaping up to be the most brutal since uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt began spreading across the region.

Rice said that President Barack Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and other top administration officials last week pressed the government of Bahrain to back off after an assault by police on protesters in the capital's Pearl Square. Five were killed and some 230 wounded after riot police stormed the demonstrators' makeshift camp at night, wielding clubs and firing tear gas.

"We've been very clear with our partners in Bahrain that they ought to exercise restraint, that there's no



**IN THIS THURSDAY**, Feb. 25, 2010 file photo, Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi is seen during prayers after delivering a speech in the city of Benghazi, Libya. Libyan special forces stormed a two-day-old protest encampment in the country's second largest city of Benghazi, clearing the area early Saturday, Feb. 19, 2011, said witnesses, as a human rights group estimated scores of people have died in the crackdown on demonstrations. (AP)

place for violence against peaceful protesters there or anywhere else," Rice said. She said Bahrain officials had apparently responded, citing reports that military forces had been withdrawn from Pearl Square and jubilant protesters had returned.

Rice said Bahrainian officials had begun a "real

effort" at dialogue with the opposition.

Asked if King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's pro-U.S. government could survive the protests, Rice said: "I wouldn't want to be in the business of predictions in this very volatile environment." She added that Mideast leaders need to



**DEMONSTRATORS** gather near the White House in Washington in a show of solidarity with the Libyan protestors on Saturday. (AP)

respect calls for reform and "need to get ahead of it by leading rather than being pushed."

Rice rejected allegations that the White House has been inconsistent, for example by pressuring Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to resign while standing by Bahrain's King Hamad. If U.S. policy differs between countries, she said, it is because the situations are different.

"We are not pushing people out or dictating that they stay," she said. "What we're doing is we're saying consistently across the board that there are universal human rights that need to be respected."

Rice downplayed concerns raised by the risk that the Islamist Muslim Brotherhood, tightly controlled under Mubarak, would gain influence in a newly democratic Egypt.

The newspaper USA Today, in an interview with a Muslim Brotherhood spokesman last week, reported that the group was seeking more political power, and planned to use it to push for laws that would punish gays, require women to wear headscarves and condemn adulterers to death by stoning.

"First of all, there is no indication that the Brotherhood is going to dominate Egyptian politics," she said. "We have faith in the people of Egypt and we have faith in democracy."

Sen. Richard Lugar, the ranking Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said Sunday that the U.S. has to recognize that it will have limited influence over Egypt's future political course. "The military has right now the ball in their court," Lugar told CNN's "State of the Union."

Clinton, appearing on ABC television's "This Week" in an interview taped



**IN THIS IMAGE** released by NBC News U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Susan Rice speaks about the uprising in Libya, the latest in a series of popular uprisings in the Arab world, on NBC's "Meet the Press" in Washington Sunday, Feb. 20, 2011. (AP)

Friday, rejected criticism that the Obama administration has pulled back from President George W. Bush's support for democracy and human rights in Egypt and elsewhere.

"That's just not the case," Clinton said. "There is no debate that, for 30 years, Republican and Democratic administrations alike sent the same message to President Mubarak and the regime, that they had to change."

Clinton added that "none of us were particularly successful, because we kept running into an absolute rejection that (reform) was not going to be done in Egypt."

Violence broke out during protests Saturday in Yemen, where riot police fired on marchers, killing one and injuring five. Seven have been killed since in Yemen, a key ally in the U.S. war against al-Qaida militants, since the unrest began.

Al Jazeera television reported that hundreds of Algerian riot police broke up an anti-government rally in the capital Saturday, beating and kicking protesters with steel-toed boots.

At least three protesters were arrested and three opposition political leaders injured, the network said, citing eyewitnesses and local media.

## Birders prepare for count mindful of mass die-offs

By MARY ESCH  
Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, N.Y. (AP) — Thousands of citizen-scientists across North America are getting out their tally sheets for the 13th annual Great Backyard Bird Count, a usually festive weekend given a more serious edge after the mass deaths of thousands of birds in the South this winter.

The National Audubon Society and Cornell Lab of Ornithology sponsor the count. They hope to have more than 100,000 backyard counters for the February 18-21 effort this year, especially after public attention on threats to birds was heightened when blackbirds fell from the sky in Arkansas on New Year's Eve.

"An isolated event such as the dead birds in Arkansas may be within the range of normal ups and downs for an abundant species like the red-winged blackbird," said Janis Dickinson, director of citizen-science at the Cornell lab in Ithaca. "But the count can serve as an early warning system for worrisome declines in bird populations that result from more widespread problems."

The deaths in Arkansas — where officials believe the birds

### Bird count maps show the spread of species introduced from Bahamas in the 1970s

were spooked by fireworks — and subsequent bird kills in Tennessee, Kentucky and Louisiana aren't believed to be connected or a sign of widespread contagion.

The backyard count is one of a number of citizen-science projects that gather data on birds. Others are Audubon's Christmas Bird Count, the North American Breeding Bird Survey and Cornell's Project FeederWatch and NestWatch.

"One thing we anticipate this year is the presence of birds from the boreal forest of Canada, such as common redpolls, at feeders in the Northern U.S.," said Cornell's Miyoko Chu. "They stay up North when they can find enough seeds, but this year birders are seeing them at their feeders."

In the Northeast, where much of the landscape is buried under deep snowdrifts, American robins

are likely to be scarce, based on data from previous years showing they tend to avoid areas with heavy snow cover, Chu said. While robins are traditionally considered harbingers of spring, many winter up north but stick to thickets where they feed on dried berries and fruit.

Participants, from novice to expert birdwatchers, keep track of the number of birds they see of each species in their yards or local parks during the four-day count and report the data online at [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org).

"The exciting thing about Great Backyard Bird Count data is that it provides a big picture almost instantaneously," Chu said. "People can watch on the website as reports come in."

Past Backyard Bird Counts showed a drop in the numbers of American crows since 2003, coin-

cident with the first widespread outbreaks of West Nile virus. The signal was confirmed by the more intensive Breeding Bird Survey.

Maps from the count have captured the paths of sandhill cranes migrating from Arizona and New Mexico to breeding grounds in Nebraska, demonstrating whether they had an early or later migration in a particular year, Chu said. Bird count maps also show the spread of new species such as the Eurasian collared dove, which was introduced from the Bahamas in the 1970s and spread from eight states in the 1999 backyard count to 39 states and Canadian provinces a decade later.

Counters in Arkansas aren't expecting that the birds lost on New Year's Eve — about 5,000 specimens of the abundant red-winged blackbird — will affect their results, but they acknowledge the die-off is on their minds.

"When it comes to trends in bird populations, you've got to look at the long term," said Dan Scheiman of Audubon Arkansas. "That's what's so great about the Backyard Bird Count; it can produce long term trends over large scales."

Lois Geshiwl and Nancy Castillo, owners of Wild Birds

Unlimited in Saratoga Springs, participate in the backyard bird count and several other citizen-science programmes each year from their log home surrounded by feeders stocked with seed, suet, peanut butter and other treats.

"I like to think of the Great Backyard Bird Count as the every-person's science project," Castillo said. "It's the easiest one for the real casual birdwatcher to step in for one day a year, or four days a year, to count the birds."

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# Thousands in Morocco march seeking reform

RABAT, Morocco  
Associated Press

THOUSANDS of people marched in cities across Morocco on Sunday, demanding a new constitution to bring more democracy in the North African kingdom amid the wave of Arab world upheaval.

Demonstrators shouted slogans calling for economic opportunity, educational reform, better health services and help coping with rising living costs during a march on central Hassan II Avenue in the capital, Rabat.

But scattered violence broke out in some places. Stone-throwing youths clashed with police near the ochre-colored walls of touristic hub of Marrakech, where angry mobs overturned and torched several parked cars.

The day of demonstration was Morocco's entree into the series of protests that have swept up North Africa and the wider Arab world after popular uprisings brought down longtime autocrats in Tunisia and Egypt.

The main target of Sunday's rallies was parliament, where many Moroccans fear their voices are not heard. Still, the protests are likely to pressure King Mohammed VI, who has been seen as a reformer compared to his iron-fisted father, Hassan II, and who still holds absolute authority.

A sea of white banners covered Casablanca's rain-splattered Mohammed V square, where young men in baseball caps and hoods joined young women in Islamic headscarves as well as middle-aged women in black-rimmed glasses and earrings in the diverse crowd.

Plainclothes police mingled among the demonstrators in Rabat, though police were gen-

erally discreet.

Morocco, like Tunisia and Egypt has been a magnet for tourists and a strong Western ally. Anger over rising prices and corruption hasn't so far appeared to dent the loyalty many Moroccans feel toward the king.

"Today we are here to say that we are all Moroccans, we love our country, we love our king, but we are against corruption and economic and political monopoly," said demonstrator Youness Karach in Rabat.

Some called for the release of political prisoners, the recognition of the Berber language, a freer media, a rise in the minimum wage and better social services. While most marches took place peacefully, Marrakech appeared to be the biggest epicenter of unrest.

People there besieged a McDonald's restaurant and a clothing store, said a security official on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak publicly on the matter.

And in the northern city of Larache, roaming crowds set upon the regional governor's house and set fire to a gasoline station, prompting firefighters to intervene to put out the blaze, the official said.

The self-styled "February 20 movement" — apparently not for any particular historic reason — was largely summoned through social media like Facebook. But the open call to demonstrate also caused confusion, as disparate political and religious groups elbowed their way in and sought to reshape a protest movement to serve their own ends.

One youth-led group initially behind the call to march — whose name translates as the Freedom and Democracy Now



**PROTESTERS IN MARRAKECH** during one of a string of nationwide protests that brought thousands to the streets across Morocco yesterday, in an effort to push for greater democracy and constitutional reform. Protesters in Morocco and other Arab nations may also be wary as they watch Tunisia and Egypt grapple with the challenges of building a new system, and maintaining order, after breaking free of autocrats. (AP)

Movement — canceled its plan to take part on Saturday, saying the movement was hijacked by leftist political parties and Islamists seeking to infuse ideology and faith issues.

The official news agency, MAP, cited a "weak turnout" — including at 2,000 both in Rabat and the northeastern city of Beni Bouayach, 1,000 in Casablanca, Al Hoceima and Targuist, and 900 in Marrakech.

An Associated Press reporter in Rabat estimated the turnout there at 3,000 to 5,000. Organizers put the turnout outside the parliament building at 20,000.

The Facebook page of the February 20 movement claimed tens of thousands of people marched in northern Tangiers, and said that rioting erupted in Safro, near Fes.



**A BURNING** car during a demonstration in Marrakech in one of a string of nationwide protests that brought thousands to the streets across Morocco on Sunday Feb. 20, 2011. Thousands of people marched in cities across Morocco on Sunday, demanding a new constitution to bring more democracy in the North African kingdom amid the wave of Arab world upheaval. (AP)

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**Hotel occupancy, revenue decliners drop 50% in 2010**

By NEIL HARTNELL  
Tribune Business Editor

The number of Bahamian hotels reporting revenue and occupancy declines dropped by around 50 per cent in 2010 compared to 2009, the Bahamas Hotel Association's (BHA) president said, with "marginal" occupancy improvements expected to continue in 2011.

Stuart Bowe, responding via e-mail to a series of Tribune Business questions, said of the BHA's 2010 review and 2011 outlook survey findings: "One year ago when we asked hoteliers to assess their business performance in 2009, 85 per cent of the hotels indicated that revenue and occupancy was down.

"In 2010, 40 per cent reported that room occupancy was up and 46 per cent reported that revenue

SEE page 3B

**Dealer's job cut fear over tripling tax rate**

■ Executive Motors boss warns 'can't hold on much longer', as Business Licence bill likely jumps 50% and real property tax assessments triple

■ Warns: 'Abaco and Grand Bahama operations are sinking in red ink, so whether they continue to exist, I don't know'

■ Urges government to set age limit on new car imports

By NEIL HARTNELL  
Tribune Business Editor

A leading new car dealer has warned that a tripling of his real property tax bill, plus an estimated 50 per cent Business Licence fee increase, coupled with the increased auto import duties and general economic malaise means that he cannot avoid staff downsizing "for much longer".

Fred Albury, president/owner of Executive Motors, told Tribune Business he was "sitting here with my life jacket on" waiting for the expected rising economic tide in 2011 to lift his business and others, but warned that his sector was "having a very difficult time" - and not just because of the increased auto Excise tax rates and changed structure resulting from the 2010-2011 Budget.

Explaining that he paid Business Licence fees worth \$80,000 last year, Mr Albury said that "with the new structure" his business, which

employs some 100 people across three islands, was "probably" looking at a \$120,000 bill this year - a 50 per cent increase.

"I've just had the real property tax people in here to assess real property tax," he added. "The real property tax has gone from \$20,000 to \$75,000 on the parts and service building in the last month. My showroom has gone from \$4,000 to \$12,000.

"We've been holding off on any sort of employee number cuts, but the rate things are going I don't see us being able to hold on much longer. We're going to have to look at downsizing some staff numbers.

"On top of that, the Abaco and Grand Bahama operations are sinking in red ink, so whether they continue to exist, I don't know."

Mr Albury said his group of companies com-

SEE page 4B

**Car dealers: 15 years to recover from 50-60% drop**

\* Industry hit by duty hikes of up to 25% pts, weak US\$ and influx of used car imports

\* Incoming vessel has 670 used cars, compared to 120 new models

\* Sector seeking to avoid lays-off, even though 'slammed with the highest duty increases of any retail industry'

By NEIL HARTNELL  
Tribune Business Editor

It will take 15 years for Bahamian new car dealers "to get back up to the sort of industry that was there" pre-recession if last year's 3.27 per cent growth rate is maintained, with total sales levels down 50-60 per cent from their high.

While agreeing that last year's total new car sales growth, as measured by the Bahamas Motor Dealers

SEE page 6B

**Plan promised to address City Markets pension fund well-being**

**Supermarket chain AGM pledged once ABDAB meeting held**

By NEIL HARTNELL  
Tribune Business Editor

City Markets' majority owner has promised to hold an annual general meeting (AGM) of all shareholders once the absorption of his 78 per cent majority stake into Associated Bahamian Distillers & Brewers (ABDAB) is approved, with an action plan to address deficiencies in the supermarket chain's employee pension plan also set to be issued for beneficiary approval.

Mark Finlayson, head of Trans-Island Traders, the Finlayson-owned family vehicle that acquired City Markets from the ill-fated BSL Holdings group for \$1, said he wanted to "get the ABDAB AGM out the way first" before moving to hold the AGM for the supermarket chain's operating parent, Bahamas Supermarkets.

The ABDAB AGM, and prior Board meeting, is expected to pave the way for that company, in which the Finlayson family has a controlling 70 per cent stake, to acquire the 78 per cent majority Bahamas Supermarkets interest from Trans-

SEE page 4B

**'BETTER OFFER' IF 51% BTC STAKE GIVEN EARLIER**

\* Former finance minister says Bluewater offer had 'more emphasis' on Bahamian talent and no BTC staff downsizing

\* But says impossible to compare with CWC deal, as 'goalposts have changed rather dramatically'

\* Says regulators would have 'been all over' BTC's 2:1 dividend/profit ratio if firm private

By NEIL HARTNELL  
Tribune Business Editor

Previous governments may have obtained a better price for the Bahamas Telecommunications Company (BTC) if they had offered to sell a 51 per cent stake, rather than the minority 49 per cent interest made available under previous privatisation processes, a former finance minister has admitted.

James Smith, who as minister of state for finance in the 2002-2007 Christie administration oversaw the failed 2003 'beauty contest' privatisation attempt and the subsequent Bluewater effort, told Tribune Business it was impossible to compare the \$210 million sale to Cable & Wireless Communications (CWC) with these efforts because "the goalposts have changed rather dramatically".

"The extra 2 per cent makes it much harder to compare," Mr Smith said, explaining that the first Ingraham administration, plus the Christie-led PLP government, only intended to offer BTC's 'strategic partner' a 49 per cent equity interest in the state-owned incumbent.

"You've given up effective control, and I know that in the early days all the suitors wanted to have 51 per cent, so the last 2 per cent is more valuable than the 49 per cent."

Under the earlier, failed privatisation processes, Tri-

SEE page 5B



**"The extra 2 per cent makes it much harder to compare."**

James Smith

**GOVERNMENT'S \$14M NET CASH GAIN IF BTC DEAL DONE NOVEMBER**

By NEIL HARTNELL  
Tribune Business Editor

The Government would have received almost \$14 million in net surplus cash had the sale of a 51 per cent equity interest in the Bahamas Telecommunications Company (BTC) closed on November 30, 2010, documents seen by Tribune Business show, with sources close to developments confirming its is expected the Ingraham administration will receive a payment of this nature.

The privatisation agreement

with Cable & Wireless Communications (CWC) provides that if there is net cash on BTC's balance sheet in excess of \$15 million when the privatisation sale is completed, the difference will be remitted to the Public Treasury, giving the Government gross proceeds from the sale in excess of the \$210 million plus \$7 million Stamp Duty previously advertised.

Documents buried in the privatisation papers tabled in

SEE page 7B

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BUSINESS

# Limit taxation and spending

By RICK LOWE

In recent years, numerous people have recommended that the Bahamas change the current tax regime from one dominated by tariffs (import tax) to a Value Added Tax (VAT).

From government, opposition supporters and other commentators alike, the main arguments against the present structure run like this:

- \* It's regressive so hurts the 'small man' or low income earners.
- \* Import tariffs have outgrown their usefulness
- \* Business people have to tie up inordinate amounts of cash to pay the taxes up front while they wait to sell the imported goods/product.

The arguments in favour of introducing a VAT are:

- \* A VAT is progressive
- \* They are levied on goods and services
- \* Government income will increase

Regrettably, with the exception of The Nassau Institute, not one commentator raises the concern that government might be over spending, rather than under taxing.

That government might simply be too large.

But let's look at the moral argument that import taxes hurt low income earners for

a moment. According to James A. Dorn (<http://bit.ly/gROgA3>), of the Cato Institute, a Libertarian think-tank, the idea that taxation could be "progressive" was introduced by Marx and Engels in 1848 to take capital from the "bourgeoisie" in increments, while the Government controlled the means of production.

Yet, even though communism failed as an economic system, the idea that 'social justice' can be achieved with so-called progressive taxation is still entrenched in the psyche of modern-day socialists.

## Moral

The attempt at gaining the moral high ground in this way is lost as the entrepreneurial class is hampered in their efforts to create wealth by ever increasing taxes and regulations, and this slows economic growth, which ultimately hurts everyone. In other words, tax policy based on envy or class warfare is surely immoral. Free markets create wealth, not governments.

As long as government continues its out-of-control borrowing and spending, to paraphrase P.J. O'Rourke, giving them more money and power to tax society in ever-increasing ways and levels is like giving whisky and car keys to teenage boys.

If, at the end of the day, Bahamians agree that the tax system must be changed, I'm firmly in the camp that taxes should be as low as possible with limits on government debt and spending levels.

That said, a flat tax (<http://bit.ly/esohAy>) with Constitutional controls on government seems to be the best alternative for future generations.

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BUSINESS

# Hotel occupancy, revenue decliners drop 50% in 2010

FROM page 1B

was the same or better than last year. While we are not yet at pre-recession levels, we are moving in the right direction on occupancy with continuous challenges on rates. We expect the marginal occupancy improvement trend to continue in 2011.

"While individual hotel performance will vary, on the whole we expect continued marginal improvement in the industry."

Asked how concerning it was that 60 per cent of hotels responding to the BHA's latest survey characterised the tourism environment as 'weak', Mr Bowe replied: "Many of our hotels, particularly our small hotels in the Family Islands, are challenged. The Ministry of Tourism and the private sector have stepped up efforts to address the matter of more affordable and accessible air travel.

"BHA has also advanced strategies and policies to help reduce costs and increase revenue, some of which the Government has put in place, others which are being considered."

And, as for concerns about the two-thirds, or 63 per cent, of Bahamian hotel properties expecting to suffer a net loss in 2010, the BHA president said: "Keeping in mind that some hotels have had losses over the past three years, most have trimmed costs where possible, becoming more energy efficient and learning to do more with less.

## Hold

"A number of hotels indicated in the survey that they will continue to put a hold on any significant capital spending. Despite these challenges, last year we didn't see any mass lay-offs, which is encouraging. BHA's major focus this year will be on energy cost reductions, education and training, and helping member hotels become more efficient."

Mr Bowe added: "It is difficult for us to compete on price, so high cost must translate into high value to the consumer. Our competitive advantage must be our proximity and our ability as a people and country to deliver an exceptional experience to the visitor.

"The recession has forced us to find more ways to be efficient and reduce costs. At the same time, value is king, and this has caused us to come up with creative ways to offer customers less expensive vacations."

Asked how quickly Bahamian hotel industry employment levels were expected to recover, Mr Bowe said: "Employment is driven by business activity. While employment levels are not expected to increase with any significance in 2011, some member hotels have planned increases."

With airlift access and price a major concern for Bahamian hotels, Mr Bowe acknowledged: "It impacts consumer's time and money, two huge factors in buying decisions. Simply, they want to get here as quickly and as inexpensively as possible.

"The Ministry of Tourism is placing considerable emphasis on the airlift issue with the full support of the BHA and the Promotion boards.

"The Companion Fly Free program has been successful and well-received by the hotels which participated in it, exceeding expectations for many of them."

# Shipping agent in global alliance

GAC, the global shipping, logistics and marine services provider, has strengthened its global network by signing an alliance agreement with Bahamian agency, Elnet Maritime Company, forming GAC-Elnet with effect from March 1, 2011.

Elnet Maritime Company was formed by then 28-year-old shipping veteran Elbert 'Ellie' Hepburn in 2008, after he served in a variety of managerial positions at agencies in Grand Bahama. Since then, the company has provided agency services to principals with vessels calling at ports throughout the Bahamas.

The alliance is GAC's move to expand its network to the Bahamas in response to client needs, in particular oil majors operating and using the country's terminals and refineries. One oil client plans to use its South Riding Point crude storage and transshipment terminal on the island of Grand Bahama to supply two refineries in New Jersey and Delaware City, on the

**"The professionalism and performance of Elnet Maritime make it an easy match to the values of GAC. Expansion in the Caribbean makes strong business, and Elnet Maritime is the ideal partner to help make that happen."**

US east coast, with crude oil and feedstock.

## Opportunistic

"Throughout its history, GAC's growth has been opportunistic and customer-driven to meet the needs of our

clients - and this latest move into the Bahamas is another example of that," said Lars Heisselberg, GAC's group vice-president for the Americas.

"The professionalism and performance of Elnet Maritime make it an easy match to the values of GAC. Expansion in the Caribbean makes strong business, and Elnet Maritime is the ideal partner to help make that happen."

Mr Hepburn said: "Our local know-how and GAC's global standing make GAC-Elnet a winning combination.

"Through this alliance we will be able to pursue international clients, and GAC's customer will benefit from our frontline expertise here in the Bahamas."

Specialised support services for the energy industry can be provided by Houston-based GAC Energy & Marine Services (GEMS), and GAC-Elnet also works closely with the group's global hub agency teams.

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THURSDAY FEBRUARY 24, 2011

4PM GOOD-BYE, MY LADY

6PM BAND OF ANGELS

8.30 PM MARK OF THE HAWK

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 25, 2011 8PM

4PM RED BALL EXPRESS

6PM EDGE OF THE CITY

8PM NO WAY OUT

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 26, 2011

3 PM BLACKBOARD JUNGLE

5 PM PORGY AND BESS

8PM SOMETHING OF VALUE

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 27, 2011

6PM CRY, THE BELOVED COUNTRY

8PM THE DEFIANT ONES

## BUSINESS

# Dealer's job cut fear over tripling tax rate

FROM page 1B

prised Executive Motors and Quality Auto in Nassau, Quality Freeport and part of the Abaco Motor Mall. He added that the two National Insurance Board (NIB) contribution rate increases had imposed a further burden on his businesses.

The Executive Motors president also urged the Government to follow the lead established by other Caribbean countries and impose an age limit on vehicle imports coming into the Bahamas, explaining that this would benefit consumers, the environment and the Treasury's revenue base.

Acknowledging that this might cause concerns about pricing lower and middle income Bahamians out of the

market, Mr Albury said there were enough vehicles in the supply pipeline to ensure that "today's new vehicles become the vehicles of tomorrow".

"The proliferation of used car outlets and importation of 10-12 year-old used cars is not contributing to the new car business," Mr Albury told Tribune Business. "You also have to link that with the environmental aspect and the road aspect."

"Many are on the road for a short period of time and become derelict vehicles. The Government does not realise much revenue from them, so it impacts the tax base as well. A lot of the older models also tend not to use the newer technology, which is more fuel efficient."

The Executive Motors boss

said there had been a "proliferation" of used car dealerships springing up around New Providence on "any vacant land and corner", and noted the recent duty revaluations carried out by Customs on some dealers' vehicle imports over concerns - as yet unproven - that import bills and invoices were being undervalued.

"One of the things the Government should consider doing is what Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad and other Caribbean countries have done when they were hit by used car imports from Japan, which is to put an age limit on them," Mr Albury told Tribune Business.

Suggesting the Bahamas impose the same four-year age limit, he explained that this would "cut into the Japanese bureaucracy of inspections and

how they keep them on the road".

In Japan, when automobiles pass four years of road service, it becomes much more expensive to licence them and pass inspections, depreciating a vehicle's value drastically. As a result, Japan ends up with a huge surplus of cars in the seven-eight year-old range, which are typically sold and shipped to places like Australia, New Zealand and the Caribbean.

Explaining that this practice "floods the market", Mr Albury told Tribune Business of the age limit benefits: "I think the Government's revenue base on some models would improve considerably, because what's imported would be of far more substantial value. So from what comes in, the Government will realise greater value."

"People will say that will price the 'small man' out of the market, but there's enough vehicles in the system today so that the new vehicles of today will become the used vehicles of tomorrow, so there'd still be total access effectively."

## Plan promised to address City Markets pension fund well-being

FROM page 1B

Island Traders, a 100 per cent-owned Finlayson family vehicle. That ABDAB AGM is set for February 24.

"As soon as we've finished with that, we will announce when the Bahamas Supermarkets AGM will be, and we will be able to provide a very clear path as to where the company is going," Mr Finlayson told Tribune Business.

### Beneficial

"We believe it's going to be very beneficial to the Bahamas Supermarkets shareholder if ABDAB acquires the majority interest in their company. The average shareholder is going to benefit from it, and benefit greatly, if everything goes to plan, as I expect it will."

Mr Finlayson also pledged to release the two forensic accounting reports by John Bain, one of which examined the operating business, the other a probe into the state of the employee pension plan, which is funded only by contributions from the company - nothing from the employee.

"John has done a very, very thorough job," Mr Finlayson added. "The pension fund document is 86 pages long, and he's



MARK FINLAYSON

gone into every detail. "There's not any skeletons in the closet, but there were things done before that, as I'd said before, had the trustees known what the results were going to be, I think they'd not have done those things."

"It's going to be on the table for every stakeholder in the fund to see," Mr Finlayson said of the report. "Going forward, we have a plan to present to these stakeholders and I think they'll approve it."

In a previous interview in late December 2010, Mr Finlayson told Tribune Business that City Markets would look to turn over stewardship of the employee pension plan to independent, professional trustees, thus removing any potential for, or perception of, a conflict of interest between the company's current role as settlor and trustee.

### Trustee

He added at the time of how the plan was handled under the BSL Holdings' ownership: "If I was a trustee, I would not have done certain things that were done. I'm not saying they were unethical or illegal, but the results were not good for the people involved with the trust. I think the beneficiaries got the bad end of the stick with some of the decisions made."

"In the final analysis, it can be repaired over time, but in my opinion some of the decisions should not have been done in the first place. The two trustees involved, I have a lot of respect for and have known for many years, but with some of the decisions made they looked at the overall benefit to the employees of making sure they [the staff] had a job....."

Questions had previously been raised over Bahamas Supermarkets' sale and lease-back of \$3 million worth of store equipment and improvements, at its Cable Beach store, to the staff pension plan.

This had been defended at the time as allowing the pension plan to gain a higher rate of return than it would otherwise enjoy on alternative investments, but it was queried by external auditors, Deloitte & Touche, in the 2009 audited accounts, over whether it should be treated as an operating or finance lease, the company not having assessed the value of lease assets.

The same audited financial statements also showed that Bahamas Supermarkets, operating parent of City Markets, owed the staff pension fund almost \$519,000 at the 2009 year-end in unpaid rent for the company's head office - an asset owed by the plan.

## ACCOUNTS CLERK NEEDED

A progressive mid-sized Law Firm seeks to employ an Accounts Clerk. The successful candidate will primarily be trained by and report to an Accounts Officer.

Applicants should possess the following qualifications and attributes:

- Associate's Degree or Bachelors Degree in Accounting from a recognized post secondary institution.
- High grades in accounting and business subjects.
- Three to Four years experience in a structured business environment.
- Aptitude for learning new accounting systems and other computer software applications.
- High self initiative and positive team player.
- Able to complete work within strict deadlines.
- Excellent communication skills and strong work ethics.

Only Bahamians or persons with the right to work in The Bahamas will be considered for the position. The position offers an attractive compensation and benefits package commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Cover letter and CV should be sent via email to: [lawfirmseeks@yahoo.com](mailto:lawfirmseeks@yahoo.com) no later than **Friday, 4th March, 2011.**

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

### TRAINING COORDINATOR

#### Key responsibilities:

- Identifies training and development needs based on information regarding achievement of strategic objectives, job requirements, operational problems, and uses this information to plan and forecast training programs.
- Satisfies training and development needs through researching, designing, delivering, and selecting training programs.
- Evaluates training and development effectiveness, assesses trainees' performance, conduct feedback surveys, and site visits to all branches.
- Conducts reviews of performance evaluations, analyze results, and recommend courses of action.
- Review employees' personal development plans and monitors to ensure the result assures effective people development.
- Evaluates the adequacy of "on-the-job" training/development programs to ensure delivery of desired results.
- Designs and coordinates leadership development and mentoring programs and develops appropriate testing tools to determine the effectiveness of these programs.
- Oversees all activities and equipment related to the Training Center.

#### Position requirements:

- Bachelor's degree in Human Resources Development; A Master's degree is a plus
- Recognized Training certification/designation
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### NOTICE

#### AfricaDream Room Ltd.

In Voluntary Liquidation

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with Section 138(4) of the International Business Companies Act, 2000, **AfricaDream Room Ltd.** is in dissolution as of February 16, 2011.

Momchil Durelev of 45 Horsley Court 45, Montaigne Close, SWIP 4BF, United Kingdom is the Liquidator.

LIQUIDATOR

### LEGAL NOTICE

#### OLDENDORFF EXPRESS LINES LTD.

(In Voluntary Liquidation)

Notice is hereby given that the winding-up for **Oldendorff Express Lines Ltd.** has been completed.

Dated the 17<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2011

Craig A. (Tony) Gomez  
Liquidator

# NOTICE

The following persons are asked to contact  
**STOR-IT-ALL OF NASSAU, LIMITED**  
in connection with items left in storage:

- MARSHA ALLEN
- ANWAR ROLLE
- ORRIS KNOWLES
- DEREK SANDS
- RENO BRENNEN
- IAN CURRY

Payments not made by February 22nd, 2011 - Items will be sold on February 25th to cover outstanding account.



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## BUSINESS

# 'BETTER OFFER' IF 51% BTC STAKE GIVEN EARLIER

FROM page 1B

bune Business understands that while only a 49 per cent stake was offered for sale, the successful bidder would still have had Board and management control, thus making the extra 2 per cent a relatively immaterial semantic game.

However, in comparing the terms of the CWC deal with those offered to previous unsuccessful bidders, such as Bluewater and Tom Bain's BahamaTel consortium, Mr Smith told Tribune Business: "It's changed so much. You can only compare it to the early efforts to privatise, and the goalposts have changed rather dramatically.

"If 51 per cent had been offered to everyone looking at investing in BTC, we could have ended up with a better offer. These are the only guys [CWC] offered 51 per cent. For me, it's opaque in the sense that I can't figure out what exactly they [CWC] are paying for this and what we're getting for it. For me, there are unknowns, and it's difficult to do an impartial and objective evaluation."

In fact, the 51 per cent equity stake was offered to the four bidders admitted to the latest privatisation attempt's due diligence round - One Equity Partners/Vodafone, Atlantic Tele-Network/CFAL, Trilogy International Partners and Digicel. Only the first two of this group went ahead to submit formal bids, both of which were ultimately rejected by the Government and its privatisation committee.

Meanwhile, Mr Smith said the Bluewater offer had more emphasis on using Bahamian talent, particularly management talent, and involved no talk of any staff restructuring downsizing.

"They offered to bring in the same higher level of services and pay more for it [BTC], but there was more emphasis on using as much local talent as possible, and

**"There is also the question, although no one really argues it, whether being part of a regional network is the optimum way to go."**

James Smith

no talk about any sort of downsizing," the former finance minister said of the Bluewater bid, a process that he oversaw while in office.

While Bluewater had offered to pay \$260 million, as compared to the \$210 million 'headline' figure CWC is paying, Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham criticised that deal for essentially acquiring BTC 'on credit', paying \$220 million upfront, followed by a further \$35 million after five years and \$5 million in year six. Bluewater was also set to enjoy a five-year cellular exclusivity, compared to CWC's three years, thus making the former's deal infinitely more attractive.

And sources close to the privatisation committee had also expressed surprise at Mr Christie's highlighting of the BTC pension issue as one the PLP would change if it came to power.

They told Tribune Business that, based on a review of the documents, not only was his government planning to invest the same \$39 million to cover the BTC employee pension fund deficit, but also to close the existing scheme completely and put all beneficiaries into the new defined contribution scheme.

Under the CWC deal, the existing defined benefit scheme will be maintained for all existing beneficiaries, supported by contributions from BTC equivalent to 10 per cent of pensionable salaries, with it being closed only to new members.

Elsewhere, Mr Smith questioned whether BTC would be better off as part of a regional operator, such as CWC's Caribbean subsidiary, LIME, or as a stand-

alone operator, and whether CWC was the right partner given its previous track record in the region.

"There is also the question, although no one really argues it, whether being part of a regional network is the optimum way to go," Mr Smith told Tribune Business. "I don't know if that was put out in print, as decision-making tends to be driven from the regional as opposed to the national perspective, but that remains to be seen.

"What we do know is that BTC needs improvement in the delivery of services and that's being promised, but who's best suited to do that is the issue.

"In the early days, Cable & Wireless's track record was thought not a good fit for the Bahamas, but the Government seems to have other evidence that I've not seen so far."

Still, Mr Smith conceded that BTC would be better off as a privatised entity, simply because it would no longer be impacted by political interference.

He added that the situation in 2009, when the \$95.7 million in dividends paid out to the Government was almost double its \$47.942 million in net profit, would not be tolerated, especially by an independent regulator.

Explaining that regulators would "be all over that" dividend ratio if BTC was a private company, Mr Smith said: "I think at the end of the day the sector will be performing more efficiently, if only to the extent the company will be able to get along with doing telecommunications business, without being hampered by other concerns."

## WANTED

### TEACHER NEEDED

#### Job Description

The successful candidate should have undergraduate degrees in Education and Music and a teaching certificate. Work experience should include ten years teaching at the elementary level, both locally and internationally, and should include experience teaching with inquiry-based programmes such as the Primary Years Programme (PYP) or the Quebec Educational Program (QEP). The successful candidate should be committed to the principles of student-centered learning and differentiated instruction. Experience of or training for teaching with split-level classes and student individual education programs (IEPs) would be a plus. Finally, the successful candidate should have extensive training and/or experience teaching using the principles of Six Plus One Traits of Writing, Daily 5, Balanced Literacy, Guided Reading, Guided Writing, Touch Math.

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Previous candidates need not apply

**PUBLIC NOTICE****INTENT TO CHANGE NAME BY DEED POLL**

The Public is hereby advised that I, **FREDRICK BOWE** of Stapledon Gardens, P.O.Box CR55982, Nassau, Bahamas intend to change my name to **Virgil Victor Bowe**. If there are any objections to this change of name by Deed Poll, you may write such objections to the Chief Passport Officer, P.O.Box N-742, Nassau, Bahamas no later than thirty (30) days after the date of publication of this notice.

**RENAR INVESTMENTS FUND LTD****IN VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION**

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with Section 137 of the International Business Companies Act 2000 **RENAR INVESTMENTS FUND LTD** is in dissolution.

The Date of the Commencement of dissolution was 29<sup>th</sup> October 2010. David Thain of Amer Bank & Trust (Bahamas) Ltd., Building 2 Caves Village, P.O. Box N 3917 is the Liquidator of **RENAR INVESTMENTS FUND LTD**. All persons having claims against the above-named company are required to send their address and particulars of their debts to the Liquidator before the 29<sup>th</sup> November 2010.

David Thain  
Liquidator

**BUSINESS**

# Car dealers: 15 years to recover from 50-60% drop

**FROM page 1B**

Association (BMDA), was a modest bit of good news, dealerships spoken to by Tribune Business said the challenges faced by the industry, combined with the 2010-2011 Budget tax hikes and Excise tax structure change, and the general economic malaise were all working against any sudden rebound.

Andrew Barr, Friendly Motors' sales manager, told Tribune Business: "Any shift in that direction is a positive shift. It's better to gain 3.3 percentage points than to drop 3.3 percentage point. There's a certain feeling of optimism that it might have bottomed out, and while 3.3 per cent growth in a year is nothing to brag about, it's a positive figure."

Mr Barr explained that next month's Car Show would give the industry "a

better idea" of where demand for new autos, and the ability to finance purchases, stood, since consumers would then be fully exposed to the higher prices resulting from the 2010-2011 Budget tax hikes and duty structure change.

With the Excise Tax structure now dependent on engine size, not the CIF bill, Mr Barr said 6V engine models had jumped from the 60 per cent to 85 per cent duty category, a 25 percentage point increase.

"Whichever way you look at it, it's a big hike and direct to the segment of the market that's paid tremendous amounts into the Public Treasury in duties over the years," Mr Barr told Tribune Business. "That is a big increase in duty, and most dealers have reduced their inventory for this type of vehicle. Our lots are a lot emptier than in years gone

by. That's where the problem lies. Price increases of \$15-\$20,000, that's a huge jump."

Acknowledging that it would take time for the benefits of the \$2.6 billion Baha Mar project to filter through to the wider Bahamian economy, and for unemployment to reduce, Mr Barr said banks were "rightfully" being cautious about who they advanced money to for auto loans, having tightened the lending criteria considerably.

**Risk**

This was unlikely to change "in the near future", with many people no longer falling into the "good category of risk".

On the positive side, Mr Barr added: "All the dealerships right now are staying open, selling enough cars

to maintain staff levels, not letting anyone go, and if the status quo remains then we'll be able to carry on without impacting unemployment levels in the country, even though the industry has been slammed with the highest duty increases of any retail industry".

He said it was "very hard to imagine" the Bahamian new car industry returning to pre-recession sales levels, "at least not for many years", although 2010's sales figures - while up against weak 2009 comparatives - at least indicated the sector was headed in the right direction.

Referring to that 3.27 per cent improvement, Mr Barr told Tribune Business: "If that's the level of growth we're going to sustain, we're looking at 15 years to get back up to the volume of industry that was there."

"Fifty to 60 per cent is a pretty good estimate of where sales are compared to pre-recession. Three per cent sounds good, but if you've dropped 50-60 per cent, it takes a long time to get back.

"For us, as the Bahamian dealer industry as a whole, the goal is to keep staff employed, keep our companies viable, and not contribute to unemployment. Many companies who have seen a 50-60 per cent reduction in sales would cut back on staff, but that's not the way we want to go."

Fred Albury, Executive Motors' owner/president, confirmed the 50-60 per cent decline in new car sales compared to pre-recession, telling Tribune Business that one only had to watch the wharves to see how consumers had switched to less expensive used car purchases.

He said one vessel he observed docking in Nassau Harbour had 670 used vehicles, and the last ship carrying new cars only 120 vehicles. "That's a benchmark as to what's happening in the industry," Mr Albury said.

Adding that the 3.27 per cent new car sales increase for 2010 was "not too significant", Mr Albury said dealers were not having much trouble in moving high-end vehicles priced in the \$60,000-plus bracket, such as the Lexus and Toyota 4Runner.

"Those who have money, have money. Recession or no recession, they are still buying new vehicles," Mr Albury said, adding that the sector was concentrating on those clients. It was in the \$25,000-\$30,000 price bracket, where lower and middle income purchasers were found, that had seen the significant drop-off.

"January was better than expected, and February is turning out to be reasonable. OK, we can see and feel that things have bottomed out. I think the consumer just has to get adjusted to the price levels of what new vehicles will be," Mr Albury told Tribune Business.

"The first half of this year, I don't see an improvement that much, and in the second half, if the economy starts to move upwards, the industry will but at a slow pace."

The Executive Motors boss said there were "a number of factors beyond our control" impacting the Bahamian new car industry, namely the weakness of the US dollar against the Japanese yen, which meant that the Japanese car brands favoured by Bahamian consumers were relatively more expensive, with or without the import duty increases.

And US-made vehicles, such as the General Motors and Ford brands, had been hit by those duty increases due to their large engine sizes.

**PUBLIC HOSPITALS AUTHORITY  
ADVERTISEMENT****VACANCY****TECHNICAL SERVICES OFFICER 1**

The Public Hospitals Authority invites applications from suitably qualified persons for the post of Technical Service Officer 1 in the Information Communication Technology operations /infrastructure Development Unit, Public Hospitals Authority, Corporate Office.

Applicants must possess the following qualifications:

- Bachelors Degree in Information Technology or equivalent;
- Certification in Microsoft Certified System Administrator (MCSA), Certified Cisco Network Associate (CCNA) or A+ Certification or equivalent with five (5) years relevant experience;

The Technical Service Officer 1 will report to the Information Communication Technology Operations Consultant/Infrastructure Development.

**JOB SUMMARY**

The Technical Service Officer 1 will provide technical support to end users; trouble-shoot IT problems; repair personal computers and monitor network systems and platforms. Perform routine daily operations and backups independently.

**DUTIES:**

1. Provides technical support to end users and identifies user needs;
2. Assists with planning, managing and coordinating work assignments for technical staff;
3. Ensures compliance with security protocols and integrity of systems;
4. Installs, maintains and upgrades operating systems and applications;
5. Performs essential network functions; configures network users, creates and maintains user profiles and other basic functions;
6. Performs backup, monitors AS400 system utilities and maintains program libraries;
7. Assists users with AS400 terminal operations and request Query Reports;
8. Prepares managerial reports for distribution to functional departments;
9. Researches current and new technologies and recommends business enhancing processes and procedures;
10. Assists with coordination and providing end user training;
11. Assists with projects with the Unit;
12. Maintains logs and operations procedures manuals (Linus/Unix background a plus)

The salary of the post is in Scale HAI56 (\$26,150 x 700 - \$32,450)

Letter of application and curricula vitae should be submitted to the Director of Human Resources, Corporate Office, Public Hospitals Authority, 3<sup>rd</sup> Terrace West, Centreville; of P.O. Box N-8200, Nassau, Bahamas no later than **28<sup>th</sup> February, 2011**.

## NOTICE

**IN THE ESTATE OF BENJAMIN CURTIS LOWE**, domiciled and late of Hope Town, Little Guana Cay, a.k.a. Elbow Cay, Abaco, The Bahamas, deceased.

**NOTICE** is hereby given that all persons having any claim or demand against or interest in the above Estate should send same duly certified in writing to the undersigned on or before 18th March, 2011 after which date the Administrator will proceed to distribute the assets of the Estate having regard only to the claims, demands or interests of which he shall then have had notice **AND** all persons indebted to the above Estate are asked to settle such debts on or before 18th March, 2011.

**FREDERIK F. GOTTLIEB & CO.**

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

**Kingsway Academy****Teacher Vacancies for September 2011**

Kingsway Academy invites applicants from qualified and experienced **Bahamian** candidates for teaching positions at the:-

**Elementary School** – all grade levels

**High School** – all subjects, with particular interest in:-

- English Language and Literature
- Spanish
- French
- Social Studies
- Christian Education
- Physical Education
- Mathematics (up to Advanced Placement Calculus)
- Mathematics and Technical Drawing
- Physics and Chemistry (up to Advanced Placement)
- Home Economics
- Biology and General Science
- Carpentry and Joinery
- Music
- Office Procedures
- Information Technology

The successful candidates should have the following:

- An academic degree in the area of specialization
- A teaching certificate
- Excellent communication skills
- A love for children and learning
- High standards of morality
- Be a born-again Christian

A complete application package consists of: (a) completed and signed Kingsway Academy application form – available at the school's Administration building or on the website [www.kingswayacademy.com](http://www.kingswayacademy.com) (See Document Downloads) (b) detailed resume with cover letter (c) copies of degrees/certificates (d) recent photograph (e) police record (f) health certificate (g) three (3) reference letters, one (1) being from your church's minister (h) legible e-mail address and working telephone contacts.

**Note:** All documents should be submitted at the same time.

Please forward to:  
**Kingsway Academy Employment Application**  
**Kingsway Academy**  
Box N-4378, Bernard Road  
Nassau, The Bahamas  
e-mail: [kingswayemployment@yahoo.com](mailto:kingswayemployment@yahoo.com)

**Deadline:** To ensure consideration, complete application materials must be received by: **Friday, February 25th, 2011**

## BUSINESS

# Portugal's debt woes spell more trouble for Europe

**BARRY HATTON,**  
Associated Press  
**PAN PYLAS,**  
Associated Press  
**LISBON, Portugal**

Portugal's financial agony has deepened, threatening to pitch Europe into a whole new round of economic turmoil over its debt crisis.

The country's borrowing costs are punishingly high, with the interest rate on its 10-year bonds holding above 7 percent for a 10th straight session Friday.

As Portugal — one of the smallest and frailest in the 17-nation euro zone — runs out of options, its leaders are pressing fellow European nations to adopt new crisis management measures at a summit next month, before a euro4.5 billion (\$6.13 billion) debt repayment that falls due for Portugal in April.

Yet the broad consensus in markets is that Portugal is doomed to become the third member of Europe's bailout club, after Greece and Ireland, partly because the continent's paymaster Germany doesn't want the issue to fester for much longer.



(AP Photo/ Francisco Seco)  
**STRIKING OUT:** Passengers at Lisbon's Rossio train station argue about workers' right to strike and the country's economic situation Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2011.

Another bailout for a euro-zone member is sure to further undermine market confidence in the fiscal soundness of the single currency bloc and carry severe consequences for other vulnerable — and much bigger — countries such as Spain, Belgium and Italy.

Filipe Sila, debt manager at Portugal's Banco Carregosa, said investors have turned their backs on Portugal, frightened away by a level of risk that's deemed too great and worried they might not get their money back.

"Many political decisions are pending that could have a lot of bearing" on what happens, he said.

"It's an additional risk. I think nobody is buying Portuguese debt at the moment except the European Central Bank."

The catalyst for the renewed tensions was euro-zone leaders' failure at a Brussels meeting two weeks ago to come up with anything dramatic that could douse the yearlong financial firestorm, despite bold pronouncements from many that

a "comprehensive package" was in the offing. Those predictions briefly calmed investors. The most visible sign of the new heightened state of stress is in the bond markets, where Portuguese bond yields have spiked dramatically.

The spread between two-year Portuguese and German bond yields has risen by more than a percentage point this week alone, while Portugal's 10-year yield has risen three quarters of a percent to a potentially unsustainable 7.5 percent.

Portugal's borrowing costs for its three-year government bonds stands at 5.6 percent — more or less the rate the International Monetary Fund and euro-zone countries charged Athens and Dublin for their loans and making a bailout look more palatable for the Portuguese.

A number of analysts think the bailout option will become more acceptable for Portugal, given that its economy is contracting once again.

Although Portugal has a lower debt level than Greece, its high fiscal deficit and dismal growth prospects expose the country's debt dynamics to

market risks," said Athanasios Vamvakidis, a strategist at Bank of America Merrill Lynch.

"Beyond debt sustainability concerns, the lower IMF-EU borrowing cost should look

increasingly attractive to Portugal." But the Portuguese government, keen to keep its domestic political reputation for economic management intact, insists it doesn't want or need assistance.

## Government's \$14m net cash gain if BTC deal done November

FROM page 1B

The House of Assembly show that, at November 30, 2010, BTC had total cash on its balance sheet of \$68 million, and total indebtedness (most of this coming from \$36.4 million in borrowings) of \$39.1 million.

Subtracting the latter from

the former, and BTC's net cash position at end-November last year was \$28.9 million.

With \$15 million to be left on the balance sheet when CWC and the Government close the privatisation agreement, this means that, if the deal had closed then, some \$13.9 million in cash would

be remitted to the Public Treasury. And, if that was added to the \$217 million in purchase price and Stamp Tax being received initially, it would take the gross proceeds to the Government to \$230 million-plus, more than the gross \$220 million first installment that Bluewater Ventures would have paid under its now-terminated deal.

A source close to the privatisation efforts confirmed: "We're expecting there to be a net cash surplus, but it depends on the performance of BTC over the next couple of months."

And, in addition, the Government will also receive any surplus net working capital above \$6.1 million, the documents show, this being calculated from subtracting current liabilities (such as accounts payables) from current assets,

(namely receivables).

"The Government is leaving in the business the average working capital it needs to run. If there is any excess, it will come back to the Government on completion," the source said. "The net working capital issue is completely standard. There's not an acquisition that happens without it."

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### INTENT TO CHANGE NAME BY DEED POLL

The Public is hereby advised that I, **JULIETH BILLIE JANE JOHN** of the Yellow Elder Constituency of the Island of New Providence intend to change my name to **JULIETH BILLIE JANE GREENE**. If there are any objections to this change of name by Deed Poll, you may write such objections to the Chief Passport Officer, P.O.Box N-742, Nassau, Bahamas no later than thirty (30) days after the date of publication of this notice.



### AUCTION

#### U.S. EMBASSY

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 25, 2011

#### SHIPAHYOY COMPLEX (Eastern Gate)

West Bay Street, Opposite Well's Texaco Service Station

DOORS OPEN FOR INSPECTION & REGISTRATION  
9 A.M. – 10 A.M.

AUCTION  
10 A.M. – 3 P.M.

Office Furniture, Computer equipment, Vehicles and other miscellaneous supplies.

Vehicles - successful bidders on vehicles must pay a \$300 non-refundable deposit immediately after winning the vehicle bid. The balance will be due by 3:00PM on Monday, February 25, 2011.

Bids for all other items must be paid in full at conclusion of auction.

GENERAL PUBLIC IS INVITED



BAHAMAR  
NASSAU, BAHAMAS

### Career Opportunity

Baha Mar Ltd. seeks to hire a talented **Environmental Monitor** to join its dynamic team.

The successful applicant will be responsible for:

- Review and management of the Owner's Environmental Policy
- Review and comment on Contractor Environmental Plan submittals and monitor implementation. Construction experience evaluating and monitoring:
  - o Construction work zone, staging areas, exclusion fencing, and protection of environmental resources.
  - o Hazardous material control plans
  - o Spill prevention control and countermeasure plans
  - o Soil Management plans and spoils (contaminated) disposition
  - o Demolition Debris plans
  - o Dewatering plans
  - o Noise Control plans
  - o Dust Control plans
- Evaluation of contractor methods to ensure compliance with Environmental Management Plans (EMP) and any other environmental standards
- Oversight of all works on the project that have been identified as having a potential for significant environmental impact
- Preparation of environmental reports for submission
- Participation in meetings to provide updates and insight on environmental-related activities
- Site monitoring and preparation of monitoring reports
- Creation of a register of significant environmental issues and impacts
- Identification of environmental competence training needs, development of a training program for the project and delivery of the training program to relevant staff and construction workers
- Development of a communications strategy which will include reporting formats and protocols
- Conducting any environmental audits required for the project
- Oversight of project components once they are operational

The qualifications required for the position as Environmental Monitor shall include:

- Applicant must be a Bahamian citizen or be eligible to work in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas
- Bachelor's degree in environmental science, engineering or a related technical degree.
- Minimum five (5) years experience including three (3) years of construction environmental monitoring (preferred). Strong communication and writing skills with ability to handle complex issues. Preferred experience in utilities construction.
- Demonstrated knowledge of environmental laws including but not limited to;
  - The Environmental Health Act
  - Conservation and Protection of the Physical Environment of The Bahamas Act and the Declaration of Protected Trees Order
  - The Wild Birds and Plant Protection Acts
  - The Fisheries Resources Act
  - The Bahamas National Trust Act
  - Antiquities, Monuments and Museum Act
  - The Public Works Act
- Advanced mathematical, science and analytical abilities.
- Effective written and oral communication skills.

Please forward your curriculum vitae (resume) via e-mail to [hr@bahamar.com](mailto:hr@bahamar.com) no later than February 25, 2011. All responses will be held in the strictest confidence. Only short listed applicants will be contacted.

BUSINESS

**NOTICE**

NOTICE is hereby given that **VICTORIA PIERRE** of **ABNER STREET, FOX HILL, P.O. BOX GT-2252, 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 **21<sup>st</sup> DAY of FEBRUARY 2011** to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.

**NOTICE**

NOTICE is hereby given that **MICHAEL STAPLETON** of **SWAN DRIVE, FREEPORT, GRAND BAHAMA, BAHAMAS** is applying to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, for registration/naturalization as a citizen of The Bahamas, and that any person who knows any reason why registration/naturalization should not be granted, should send a written and signed statement of the facts within twenty-eight days from the **21<sup>st</sup> day of FEBRUARY, 2011** to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, P.O.Box N-7147, Freeport, Bahamas.

**Fuzzy compromise threatens the relevance of G-20 forum**

**GABRIELE STEINHAUSER, AP Business Writers  
GREG KELLER, AP Business Writers  
PARIS**

The world's dominant economies struck a watered down deal on how to smooth out trade and currency imbalances many say exacerbated the financial crisis, but the difficulty in getting vastly different economies like China and the United States on the same page doesn't bode well for the Group of 20 rich and developing countries as a forum for global decision making.

G-20 finance ministers and central bankers meeting in Paris agreed Saturday on a list of technical indicators to track those imbalances — caused by some countries consuming



(AP Photo/Francois Mori)

**FAMILY SNAPSHOT:** From left to right, German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schauble, France's Finance Minister Christine Lagarde, U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner pose during the family picture of the G20 Finance summit at Bercy Finance Ministry in Paris, Saturday, Feb. 19, 2011. Finance chiefs from the world's 20 industrialized and fastest developing nations wrestle over how to steady the world economy at a two-days meeting in Paris.

more while others tend to hold on to their money — but left the more tricky questions of when those imbalances actually become dangerous and what to do to mitigate them for later.

French Finance Minister Christine Lagarde, whose coun-

try holds the G-20 presidency this year, said the all-night talks had been "tense" at times, indicating the clash in national interests between countries that find themselves on completely divergent growth trajectories after the 2008 financial crisis

that plunged the world into its worst economic recession in 70 years.

The result was a "balanced compromise (that) doesn't stigmatize any one country," Lagarde told journalists.

The G-20 itself is a recognition of the rise to power of nations such as India, China and Brazil, having supplanted smaller forums like the G-7 and G-8 during the climax of the financial crisis, when it achieved its biggest successes.

But since then — with some countries growing at an almost unprecedented pace while others remain in the through of recession — the G-20 has lost much of its swagger.

"What I was worried about — I'm sorry to say — materialized: which is that it's more difficult than it was before to have people agree," Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the managing director of the International Monetary Fund said of Saturday's compromise. "When they were really scared, they were happy to find a consensus. Now ... many believe — wrongly — the crisis is behind us and they have domestic concerns."

At the heart of the debate about imbalances is the realization that a decades-long global economic order centered on the U.S. buying exports from the rest of the world and running huge trade deficits, while countries such as China and Germany accumulate vast surpluses, is no longer tenable.

In the years before the meltdown, countries with trade surpluses plowed money into mortgage and other investments in the United States, driving up their value and exacerbating the crash when the bubble eventually burst.

But the opaque language of Saturday's deal shows the challenge of moving beyond that basic recognition.

China's large current account surplus, a measure of trade and capital flows in and out of a country, made it reluctant to include that as one of the G-20's indicators for imbalances. Compromise wording was agreed on making that measurement a mix of current account balance — the indicator most countries wanted — and trade balance — the yardstick China had been pushing for.

The valuation of national currencies — long a sticking point in Chinese-U.S. relations — did not survive as a separate indicator, but will be considered as part of the broader analysis of capital flows. That saved Beijing from even more direct pressure to let its currency — the yuan — rise more quickly against the dollar. The U.S. complains that the artificially low value of the yuan gives Chinese exports an unfair advantage. Foreign currency reserves — the largest of which are also held by China — were dropped all together, although some officials insisted they survived under the oblique heading of "other policies."

Lagarde touted the very fact that the words "exchange rate" were even mentioned on the list as a success. The indicators also include more traditional yardsticks such as public debts and deficits and private debt levels and savings rates.

With agreement on what to track, work will now begin on the more difficult task of setting what the G-20 calls "indicative guidelines" against which to measure each of the criteria. Lagarde said the goal is to agree on this at the next G-20 finance ministers meeting in Washington in April.

Asked whether deciding the list of indicators presaged even more divisive talks over thresholds and enforcement, Lagarde said "I take things one day at a time. If it is difficult, it will be difficult."

While some analysts said the compromise on imbalances was a natural result of slow international decision making, others warned that an agreement on a list of indicators didn't mean much for rebalancing the global economy.

Saturday's deal is "totally irrelevant," said Charles Wyplosz, professor of international economics at the Graduate Institute in Geneva. "Everybody knows what is the exchange rate of China and the current account of Germany."

Enforcing any eventual agreement on firm thresholds will be even harder. "What we're down to is peer pressure..., which has never ever worked," Wyplosz said.



GN 1181

**GOVERNMENT NOTICE**

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

NOTICE

**THE INDUSTRIES ENCOURAGEMENT ACT (CHAPTER 326)**

It is hereby notified pursuant to Section of the Industries Encouragement Act, Chapter 301, that the Minister is about to consider whether the manufacturer specified in the first column of the table below should be declared an "APPROVED MANUFACTURER" in relation to the products specified in the third column.

MANUFACTURER	LOCATION OF FACTORY PREMISES	PRODUCTS
Glass Suppliers & Installers Ltd.	Carmichael Road	PVC Impact Resistant Doors and Windows

Any interested person having any objection to such a declaration should give notice in writing of his objection and of the grounds thereof to the Office of the Prime Minister, before the 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2010, by letter addressed to:-

**THE PERMANENT SECRETARY  
OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER  
P.O. Box CB-10980  
NASSAU, N.P.,  
THE BAHAMAS**

**DAVID R. DAVIS  
Permanent Secretary**

**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER**

**NOTICE**

**THE INDUSTRIES ENCOURAGEMENT ACT (CHAPTER 326)**

It is hereby notified pursuant to Section 7 of the Industries Encouragement Act that the Minister is about to consider whether the following products should be declared "APPROVED PRODUCTS" for the purposes of that Act.

PRODUCTS	RAW MATERIALS TO BE USED IN MANUFACTURE
PVC Impact Resistant Doors and Windows	PVC Extrusions, Aluminum/Steel Extrusions, Glass

Any interested person having any objection to such a declaration should give notice in writing of his objection and of the grounds thereof to the Office of the Prime Minister, before the 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2010, by letter addressed to:-

**THE PERMANENT SECRETARY  
OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER  
P.O. Box CB-10980  
NASSAU, N.P.,  
THE BAHAMAS**

**DAVID R. DAVIS  
Permanent Secretary**

COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS 2010  
IN THE SUPREME COURT  
Common Law & Equity Division CLE. qui.00775

IN THE MATTER OF the Quieting Titles Act, 1959

AND

IN THE MATTER OF the Petition of  
BRENETTA MAE JOHNSON

AND

IN THE MATTER OF ALL THAT Tract of land containing Five Thousand Three hundred and twenty-four square feet (5,324) being Lot Number 542 and situate on the North-Eastern junction of Moonshine Drive and Windward Isle Way In Golden Gates No. 2 Subdivision the Western District of the Island of New Providence, The Bahamas

**NOTICE**

The Petition of BRENETTA MAE JOHNSON of the Western District of the Island of New Providence one of the Islands of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas in respect of:-

ALL THAT Tract of land containing Five Thousand Three Hundred and twenty-four square feet (5,324) being Lot Number 542 and situate on the North-Eastern junction of Moonshine Drive and Windward Isle Way In Golden Gates No. 2 Subdivision the Western District of the Island of New Providence, The Bahamas and bounded North by lot Number 541 and running thereon One Hundred (100.00) feet South by a road reservation Moonshine Drive Thirty-six (36.00) Feet wide East by land the property of the Petitioner and running thereon Fifty and Sixty-two (50.62) feet West by a road reservation, Windward Isle Way, Forty feet wide (40.00) Brenetta Mae Johnson claims to be the owner of the fee simple estate in possession of the said piece or parcel of land free from incumbrances. And the Petitioner has made application to the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas under Section 3 of the Quieting Titles Act, 1999 to have title to the said piece parcel or tract of land investigated and the nature and extent thereof determined and declared in a Certificate of Title to be granted by the Court in accordance with provisions of the said Act.

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

Copies of the Petition and filed plan of the said land may be inspected at:

1. The Registry of the Supreme Court, Nassau
2. The Chambers of Messrs Mangra & Co., No. 20 Parliament Street.

Dated the 12th day of April, A.D. 2010

**Mangra & Co.**  
No. 20 Parliament Street  
Nassau, N.P.  
The Bahamas

BUSINESS

# Obama says companies can help bottom line and nation

**DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press HILLSBORO, Oregon**



**INVESTMENT IN FUTURE:** In this Feb., 18, 2011, file photo President Barack Obama talks with a group of seventh grade students who are Intel Science Talent Search finalists, about their projects during a visit to the Intel Corporation in Hillsboro, Ore. Obama recorded his weekly radio and Internet address during the visit Friday.

Pushing his jobs agenda, President Barack Obama made the case Friday that companies can make money and build up the country at the same time, citing the giant Intel Corp. chip maker as his model of smart investing in education. "We know what works. We know how to succeed," the president told employees here after getting an eye-opening tour of Intel's manufacturing facility. "We know how to do big things. And all across this nation, in places just like this one, we have students and teachers, local leaders and companies who are working together to make it happen." Though Republicans in Washington are balking at Obama's call for more spending on education, Obama said Intel's example has shown that spending on education and worker training is a good investment — even in difficult financial times. "You're not just a good cor-

had picked company CEO Paul Otellini, a sometimes critic, to serve on a presidential competitiveness council. Intel last year announced a 10-year, \$200 million commitment to promote math and science education; Obama was wowed by the projects of the students he met during his visit. The company is among those that are working to help meet Obama's goal of getting the U.S. to first place in science and math education in a decade. The president is proposing a freeze on overall domestic spending for five years, but increases in select areas like education. "In today's economy, the quality of a nation's education is one of the biggest predictors of a nation's success," he said. "It is what will determine whether the American dream survives."

porate role model," Obama said. "You're a corporation that understands that investing in education is a good business model. It's good for the bottom line." The president spoke during a West Coast swing designed to highlight his vision of making the U.S. more competitive globally. Before the visit, the White House announced that Obama

(AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster, File) Intel last year announced a 10-year, \$200 million commitment to promote math and science education; Obama was wowed by the projects of the students he met during his visit. The company is among those that are working to help meet Obama's goal of getting the U.S. to first place in science and math education in a decade.

NOTICE

**BIBLIOS HOLDINGS LIMITED**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN as follows:  
(a) BIBLIOS HOLDINGS LIMITED is in voluntary dissolution under the provisions of Section 137 (4) of the International Business Companies Act 2000.  
(b) The dissolution of the said company commenced on the 15th February, 2011 when the Articles of Dissolution were submitted to and registered by the Registrar General.  
(c) The Liquidator of the said company is Dizame Consulting SA, Pasea Estate, Road Town, Tortola, BVI  
Dated this 21st day of February, A. D. 2011  
**Dizame Consulting SA Liquidator**

NOTICE

**GRAPHOS HOLDINGS LIMITED**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN as follows:  
(a) GRAPHOS HOLDINGS LIMITED is in voluntary dissolution under the provisions of Section 137 (4) of the International Business Companies Act 2000.  
(b) The dissolution of the said company commenced on the 15th February, 2011 when the Articles of Dissolution were submitted to and registered by the Registrar General.  
(c) The Liquidator of the said company is Dizame Consulting SA, Pasea Estate, Road Town, Tortola, BVI  
Dated this 21st day of February, A. D. 2011  
**Dizame Consulting SA Liquidator**

NOTICE

**RBC FINCO INVITES TENDERS**

RBC FINCO invites tenders for the purchase of the following:  
"All THAT" piece parcel or lot of land comprising Lot #31, Ponderosa Subdivision, situated in the Western of New Providence, one of the Islands of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. Situated thereon is a Multi Family Residence consisting of 3 units: 2-2 Bedrooms and 1 Bathroom and 1-1 Bedroom and 1 Bathroom.  
Property Size: 6,000 sq. ft.  
Building Size: 1,909 sq ft  
This property is being sold under Power of Sale contained in a Mortgage to FINANCE CORPORATION OF BAHAMAS LIMITED.  
All offers should be forwarded in writing in sealed envelope, addressed to the Manager, Royal Bank Collections Centre, P.O. Box N-7549, Nassau, Bahamas and marked "Tender 2090". All offers must be received by the close of business 4:00 p.m., Friday 11th March, 2011.



**NOTICE RBC FINCO INVITES TENDERS**

RBC FINCO invites tenders for the purchase of the following:  
"All THAT" piece parcel or lot of land comprising Unit #15, Lot#2, Blk#1, Nassau East, situated in the Eastern of New Providence, one of the Islands of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. Situated thereon is a Multi Family Condominium Unit consisting of 2 Bedrooms and 1 Bathroom.  
Building Size: 832 sq ft  
This property is being sold under Power of Sale contained in a Mortgage to FINANCE CORPORATION OF BAHAMAS LIMITED.

All offers should be forwarded in writing in sealed envelope, addressed to the Manager, Royal Bank Collections Centre, P.O. Box N-7549, Nassau, Bahamas and marked "Tender 0506". All offers must be received by the close of business 4:00 p.m., Friday 11th March, 2011.



**NOTICE RBC FINCO INVITES TENDERS**

RBC FINCO invites tenders for the purchase of the following:  
"All THAT" piece parcel or lot of land comprising Unit #4, Chardel Estates Condominium Sandford Drive, situated in the Western of New Providence, one of the Islands of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. Situated thereon is a Multi Family Residence of a Townhouse consists of 3 Bedrooms and 2 Bathrooms.  
Building Size: 1,440 sq ft  
This property is being sold under Power of Sale contained in a Mortgage to FINANCE CORPORATION OF BAHAMAS LIMITED.  
All offers should be forwarded in writing in sealed envelope, addressed to the Manager, Royal Bank Collections Centre, P.O. Box N-7549, Nassau, Bahamas and marked "Tender 2068". All offers must be received by the close of business 4:00 p.m., Friday 11th March, 2011.



**NOTICE RBC FINCO INVITES TENDERS**

RBC FINCO invites tenders for the purchase of the following:  
"All THAT" piece parcel or lot of land comprising Lot #38, Kenedy Subdivision, situated in the Southern of New Providence, one of the Islands of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. Situated thereon is a Single Family Residence consisting of 4 Bedrooms and 2 Bathrooms.  
Property Size: 4,461 sq. ft.  
Building Size: 1,348 sq ft  
This property is being sold under Power of Sale contained in a Mortgage to FINANCE CORPORATION OF BAHAMAS LIMITED.  
All offers should be forwarded in writing in sealed envelope, addressed to the Manager, Royal Bank Collections Centre, P.O. Box N-7549, Nassau, Bahamas and marked "Tender 3868". All offers must be received by the close of business 4:00 p.m., Friday 11th March, 2011.



**NOTICE RBC FINCO INVITES TENDERS**

RBC FINCO invites tenders for the purchase of the following:  
"All THAT" piece parcel or lot of land comprising Lot #17, Sunnyside Subdivision, situated in the Eastern of New Providence, one of the Islands of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. Situated thereon is a Multi Family Residence consisting of 1-2 Bedrooms and 1 Bathroom and 1 Bedroom and 1 Bathroom.  
Property Size: 6,455 sq ft  
Building Size: 1,618 sq ft  
This property is being sold under Power of Sale contained in a Mortgage to FINANCE CORPORATION OF BAHAMAS LIMITED.

All offers should be forwarded in writing in sealed envelope, addressed to the Manager, Royal Bank Collections Centre, P.O. Box N-7549, Nassau, Bahamas and marked "Tender 1177". All offers must be received by the close of business 4:00 p.m., Friday 11th March, 2011.



**NOTICE RBC FINCO INVITES TENDERS**

RBC FINCO invites tenders for the purchase of the following:  
"All THAT" piece parcel or lot of land comprising Lot #11, Little Hyde Park Subdivision, situated in the Eastern of New Providence, one of the Islands of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. Situated thereon is a Single Family Residence consisting of 4 Bedrooms and 2 Bathrooms.  
Property Size: 5,551 sq. ft.  
Building Size: 1638 sq ft  
This property is being sold under Power of Sale contained in a Mortgage to FINANCE CORPORATION OF BAHAMAS LIMITED.  
All offers should be forwarded in writing in sealed envelope, addressed to the Manager, Royal Bank Collections Centre, P.O. Box N-7549, Nassau, Bahamas and marked "Tender 1212". All offers must be received by the close of business 4:00 p.m., Friday 11th March, 2011.

<b>BISX LISTED &amp; TRADED SECURITIES AS OF:</b> WEDNESDAY, 17 FEBRUARY 2011 BISX ALL SHARE INDEX: CLOSE 1,481.69   CHG 0.05   %CHG 0.00  YTD -17.82   YTD % -1.19 FINDEX: CLOSE 000.00   YTD 00.00%   2009 -12.31% <b>WWW.BISXBAHAMAS.COM   TELEPHONE: 242-323-2330   FACSIMILE: 242-323-2320</b>											
52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Security	Symbol	Previous Close	Today's Close	Change	Daily Vol.	EPS \$	Div \$	P/E	Yield
126	0.97	AML Foods Limited	1063	10.63	0.00	0.00	100.04	0.123	0.040	8.5	3.88%
10.75	9.67	Bahamas Property Fund	10.63	10.63	0.00	0.00	0.013	0.200	817.7	1.86%	
6.18	4.42	Bank of Bahamas	4.42	4.42	0.00	0.00	0.153	0.100	28.9	2.26%	
0.58	0.18	Benchmark	0.18	0.18	0.00	0.00	-0.877	0.000	N/M	0.00%	
3.49	2.70	Bahamas Waste	2.70	2.70	0.00	0.00	0.168	0.090	16.1	3.33%	
2.15	2.14	Fidelity Bank	2.17	2.17	0.00	0.00	0.016	0.040	135.6	1.84%	
12.50	9.62	Cable Bahamas	10.21	10.21	0.00	0.00	1.050	0.310	9.7	3.04%	
2.84	2.36	Colina Holdings	2.40	2.40	0.00	0.00	0.781	0.040	3.1	1.67%	
7.00	5.40	Commonwealth Bank (S1)	6.85	6.85	0.00	0.00	0.488	0.260	14.0	3.80%	
3.65	1.63	Consolidated Water BDRs	2.08	2.13	0.05	0.05	0.111	0.045	19.2	2.11%	
2.55	1.40	Doctor's Hospital	1.40	1.40	0.00	0.00	0.107	0.110	13.1	7.86%	
6.99	5.47	Famguard	5.47	5.47	0.00	0.00	0.357	0.240	15.3	4.39%	
10.20	7.23	Finco	6.51	6.51	0.00	0.00	0.287	0.000	22.7	0.00%	
11.40	8.77	FirstCaribbean Bank	9.39	9.39	0.00	0.00	0.494	0.350	19.0	3.73%	
6.00	3.75	Foocol (S)	6.00	6.00	0.00	0.00	0.452	0.160	13.3	2.67%	
1.00	1.00	Foocol Class B Preference	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.000	0.000	N/M	0.00%	
7.40	5.00	ICD Utilities	7.40	7.40	0.00	0.00	0.012	0.240	616.7	3.24%	
10.50	9.82	J. S. Johnson	9.82	9.82	0.00	0.00	0.859	0.640	11.4	6.52%	
10.00	10.00	Premier Real Estate	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.00	1.207	0.200	8.3	2.00%	
<b>BISX LISTED DEBT SECURITIES - (Bonds trade on a Percentage Pricing basis)</b>											
52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Security	Symbol	Last Sale	Change	Daily Vol.	Interest	Maturity			
99.46	99.46	Bahamas Note 6.95 (2029)	BAH29	99.46	0.00		6.95%	20 November 2029			
100.00	100.00	Fidelity Bank Note 17 (Series A) +	FBB17	100.00	0.00		7%	19 October 2017			
100.00	100.00	Fidelity Bank Note 22 (Series B) +	FBB22	100.00	0.00		Prime + 1.75%	19 October 2022			
100.00	100.00	Fidelity Bank Note 13 (Series C) +	FBB13	100.00	0.00		7%	30 May 2013			
100.00	100.00	Fidelity Bank Note 15 (Series D) +	FBB15	100.00	0.00		Prime + 1.75%	29 May 2015			
<b>RoyalFidelity Merchant Bank &amp; Trust Ltd. (Over-The-Counter Securities)</b>											
52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Symbol	Bid \$	Ask \$	Last Price	Daily Vol.	EPS \$	Div \$	P/E	Yield	
10.06	5.01	Bahamas Supermarkets	5.01	6.01	14.00		-2.945	0.000	N/M	0.00%	
0.55	0.40	RND Holdings	0.35	0.40	0.55		0.001	0.000	256.6	0.00%	
<b>CFAL Securities Ltd. (Over-The-Counter Securities)</b>											
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%	
<b>BISX Listed Mutual Funds</b>											
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			
2.9527	2.8300	CFAL MSI Preferred Fund	2.9527	0.18%	1.61%	2.918697	2.910084	31-Jan-11			
1.5837	1.5141	CFAL Money Market Fund	1.5837	0.61%	4.59%	1.564030	1.545071	11-Feb-11			
3.2025	2.8522	Royal Fidelity Bahamas G & I Fund	2.7049	-0.56%	-15.54%			31-Jan-11			
13.6388	13.0484	Royal Fidelity Prime Income Fund	13.4164	0.44%	-0.10%			31-Jan-11			
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			
1.1465	1.0000	FG Financial Preferred Income Fund	1.1465	5.20%	5.20%			31-Dec-10			
1.1185	1.0000	FG Financial Growth Fund	1.1185	4.73%	4.73%			31-Dec-10			
1.1491	1.0000	FG Financial Diversified Fund	1.1491	5.35%	5.35%			31-Dec-10			
9.7485	9.1005	Royal Fidelity Bah Int'l Investment Fund Principal Protected TIGRS, Series 1	9.7950	4.85%	5.45%			30-Nov-10			
11.2361	10.0000	Royal Fidelity Bah Int'l Investment Fund Principal Protected TIGRS, Series 2	10.6417	-1.20%	0.50%			30-Nov-10			
10.1266	9.1708	Royal Fidelity Bah Int'l Investment Fund Principal Protected TIGRS, Series 3	10.1266	1.27%	1.27%			31-Jan-11			
8.4510	4.8105	Royal Fidelity Int'l Fund - Equities Sub Fund	8.4510	0.72%	9.95%			31-Jan-11			
<b>MARKET TERMS</b>											
BISX ALL SHARE INDEX - 19 Dec 02 = 1,000.00											
52wk-Hi - Highest closing price in last 52 weeks											
52wk-Low - Lowest closing price in last 52 weeks											
Today's Close - Previous day's weighted price for daily volume											
Previous Close - Current day's weighted price for daily volume											
Change - Change in closing price from day to day											
Daily Vol. - Number of total shares traded today											
DIV \$ - Dividends per share paid in the last 12 months											
P/E - Closing price divided by the last 12 month earnings											
(S) - 4-for-1 Stock Split - Effective Date 8/2/2007											
(S1) - 3-for-1 Stock Split - Effective Date 7/11/2007											
YIELD - last 12 month dividends divided by closing price											
Bid \$ - Buying price of Colima and Fidelity											
Ask \$ - Selling price of Colima 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											
<b>TO TRADE CALL: CFAL 242-502-7010   ROYALFIDELITY 242-356-7764   FG CAPITAL MARKETS 242-396-4000   COLONIAL 242-502-7525</b>											

## INSIGHT

# Ireland's ruling party braced for historic elections

GALWAY, Ireland  
Associated Press

IRELAND holds historic elections this week — a ballot that could devastate the party blamed for the country's dramatic economic reverse and dump it from office after dominating Irish politics for almost 80 years.

The ruling Fianna Fail party faces defeat in Friday's poll as voters vent their anger over Ireland's rapid decline from economic miracle into debt-ridden disaster. The country has been forced to accept a multibillion rescue deal from European neighbors and the International Monetary Fund.

Karen Holland, 29, stood with her arms crossed defiantly outside Paddy's pub in Galway, on Ireland's west coast, as she described struggling to raise her four chil-

dren on the salary brought home by her husband, a security guard.

For Holland, the politicians had it coming. "They should have let the banks go down," she said, referring to the government's fateful decision to guarantee debts held by some of its biggest banks with public money. "They let us go down instead."

Holland's anger has found echoes across the country, and some observers predict this week's vote has the potential for revolutionary change.

"The word I'd use here is 'seismic,'" said Noel Whelan, a staunch critic of the government's handling of the crisis and commentator for the Irish Times. "We're going to see next weekend a political earthquake in Ireland."

Investors are watching for

aftershocks in London, Paris, and Berlin.

European banks have billions tied up in Ireland's troubled financial sector. The current government has guaranteed their money, but Fine Gael — the party tipped to take over from its longtime rival — has said that it is unconscionable "for taxpayers to be asked to beggar themselves to make massive profits for speculators."

Fine Gael has raised the prospect of forcing some senior creditors to take a cut on their investments, and the possibility of a new dose of red ink being splashed across European balance sheets has spooked the markets at a time when concern persists over the financial health of countries such as Greece and Portugal.

Earlier this month, credit rating agency Moody's



**FINE GAEL LEADER** Enda Kenny during a public meeting at the Aviva Stadium, Dublin, Sunday Feb. 20, 2011. Ireland holds historic elections this week, a ballot that could devastate the party blamed for the country's dramatic economic reverse and dump it from office after dominating Irish politics for almost 80 years. The ruling Fianna Fail party faces defeat in Friday's poll as voters vent their anger over Ireland's rapid decline from economic miracle into debt-ridden disaster. The country has been forced to accept a multibillion rescue deal from European neighbours and the International Monetary Fund. (AP)

downgraded the creditworthiness of six major Irish banks as politicians argued whether or when to inject more cash.

Ireland's 4.6 million people have their own worries. The one-time Celtic Tiger economy was one of the first victims of the Great Recession. Its government quickly guaranteed the debts racked up by its over-stretched banks — a promise which turned into political poison.

Unemployment has tripled in three years to 13.4 percent, Ireland's welfare system is shriveling away and taxes have gone up in a bid to fight a deficit estimated at more than one third of the country's \$204.1 billion GDP.

The election could claim as many half of the legislators in Ireland's 166-seat lower house, polls suggest.

Recent surveys show the opposition Fine Gael is within reach of a parliamentary majority in the Dail Eireann — a potential historic upset for Fianna Fail, the party that has won the most seats in every election since the party first went into government in 1932.

Ireland's crisis has already seen Prime Minister Brian Cowen announce he will quit after the poll. He won't stand in the election.

Even if it falls short of a majority, Fine Gael — a center-right political party — is still expected to rule with the help of indepen-

dents or the left-leaning Labour, which has also seen a huge jump in support. Fianna Fail, seen as more centrist than its rival, has been pushed into third place in most recent polls.

The rhetoric surrounding the electoral campaign has some worried. Editorials grumble darkly about resisting German domination and "burning the bondholders," reflections of the concern here that investors in Europe — and particularly Germany — are making money off the Irish people's misery.

A recent poll showed that 84 percent of the population backed renegotiating terms with bondholders, though it isn't considered a likely prospect.

The new government can't push too hard against the European Central Bank, which, along with the International Monetary Fund, extended euro67.5 billion in support of the Ireland's nearly bankrupt economy in November, said Frank Barry, a professor at Trinity College Dublin's business school.

"We have no other source of funds, and everybody understands that," he said.

In Galway, students at the city's National University of Ireland seemed resigned to years of continued sacrifice. Talk of getting a new deal from Europe and the IMF was "totally unrealistic," said Mary Walsh, a 26-year-old science student. "Our

hands are tied," she said. "We'll have to repay the money."

Across the rain-streaked campus, professor Chris Curtin of the School of Political Science and Sociology says few in Ireland are excited about the election — despite the changes it promises for the country's leadership.

"The general mass of the population is being hammered into the ground," he said, calling the international bailout "a humiliation." He, like other political watchers, said there'd be very little room for a renegotiating of its terms.

The election could eventually result in reforms of political institutions found wanting during the debt crisis.

Both Fianna Fail and Fine Gael call for a job stimulus, the scrapping of the Irish parliament's upper house, the Seanad, and plans to tackle negative home equity.

Constitutional reform, a shake up of the civil service and a move away from Ireland's patronage-dominated election system are also promised.

But Curtin said any hope for a better future was buried under the weight of the country's crushing debt.

Voters aren't even worrying whether there's light at the end of the tunnel, Curtin joked, because they're wondering: "Can we find the tunnel? Is there even a tunnel?"

## Biologists watch as bears migrate to southern Mich

HESPERIA, Mich.  
Associated Press

GROWING numbers of black bears are migrating into southern Michigan as the state's population surges, leading biologists to step up efforts to trace their movements and prevent unwanted encounters with people.

The Upper Peninsula is still home to 80 percent or more of the state's bears, and 95 percent of the others live in the northern Lower Peninsula. But sightings are picking up farther south, the Department of Natural Resources and Environment says.

"They tend to be younger males that have been chased off by older males as they look for territory, so they disperse to areas where they don't have competition," Mary Dettloff, spokeswoman for the agency, said Friday. "They're following the fruit belt, all those orchards right down the west side of the state. We often get reports in the spring, when they wake up hungry."

Michigan's bear population has risen for the past two decades and is estimated at 9,000 to 11,000, DNRE bear program specialist Adam Bump told The Grand Rapids Press. The department gets 10 to 30 reports of bears in southern counties each year. They've been spotted from Flint to Ionia and even in Jackson County, south of Lansing.

A state bear management plan approved in 2008 recommends letting the population expand naturally, Bump told the Press. That means the DNRE needs to educate people in southern Michigan, who are less accustomed to coming across bears in the wild than northern Michigan residents are.

"They eat a lot of vegetation but do have the potential to harm people and pets if they are not respected," Dwayne Etter, a DNRE research specialist, told The Associated Press. "But they are not an animal to be feared. If people follow our suggestions on how to respond when encountering a bear, there shouldn't be conflicts."

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# What can we learn from Haiti and Egypt?

## FROM page 12B

any kind of abatement of the violence and for the constitutional process to be respected," said Mr Sears.

Insight into the backdoor dealings raises so many questions about the uprising that threatened the nation's stability and the stability of those with interests. What really happened in Haiti seven years ago? Was it a true people's revolution? Was it a controlled opposition? Was it a political mob that had passed its breaking point?

Egypt showed us a modern day example of a true people's revolution. Haiti brewed a different stew: there were too many sticky political fingers in the pot. I am inclined to think, in the case of Haiti, the decisions made by the various political actors served political and economic ends more than the interests of the people. The three most often do not coincide.

I could be challenged that the uprising was not a true people's revolution, but here is why it feels right.

Political leaders make decisions based on their desire to win political competitions, most notably in the form of elections. Competition is the foundation of modern democracy, and the rules of politics are the same as the rules of a capitalist enterprise. It is a dog eat dog world and it literally is a fight to the top.

Why do you think the Free National Movement and the PLP when they have their political hats on are always fighting? Look at the rhetoric they use, the tactics they employ: the mass of supporters who turn out to political rallies appear as an unruly mob ready to go to war.

These people are beholden to their collective political identities for a number of reasons: pure intent, historical obligation, familial connection, miseducation, ignorance, and selfish interests. Politicians take advantage of them regardless of the reason, because the thing about politics is: the leadership has to be in control. They have to maintain the ability to manoeuvre the mob. So a popular uprising with loyalty to political leaders is in fact a controllable entity.

Naturally there is a breaking point for this type of opposition movement. It is kept in check by the nature and intent of its leaders and most times we can count on our leaders to use their power for the greater good of the few people they can't fully control, in other words affluent people or those with perceived influence.

Based on the nature of politics, I am inclined to believe Haiti's 2004 uprising was a political opposition capable of being led; that good men chose to do nothing allowing evil to prevail. Unlike President Mubarak who eventually caved to the will of the people and stepped down, President Aristide refused to be moved short of being kidnapped, which he said he was.

President Mubarak had seven months left on his term; Aristide had 13. In the case of Egypt, I am certain

the people would have asked themselves: why should we respect the constitutional process, which should serve the will of the people, and wait seven months for an election, when for decades Mubarak has governed with little respect for the constitution or the people?

Somehow, President Mubarak must have been convinced that the protest movement was no small fraction or fringe group. It was an honest representation of the people's will. I would imagine President Aristide did not have those same feelings.

Still, President Aristide had many choices that could have demonstrated a commitment to the constitutional process and respect for the will of the people. President Aristide insisted he serve out his term, as President Mubarak originally wished to do; he could have chosen to stepped down immediately as President Mubarak stalled in doing.

Unlike Mubarak, who had no choice of running in the next election because the public's trust was so corroded, President Aristide could have stepped down voluntarily and offered himself again in the next election. A win that time around would have decidedly silenced the critics. He could also have asked to stay, but chosen to call an early election.

## Power

Colin Powell once intimated that President Aristide had become arrogant and unreasonable with his allies, and probably his people, which endeared him to neither. I would not venture as far as to compare him with President Mubarak, but I am inclined to believe Aristide had on his mind holding power at all cost for the sake of his personal pride and dignity.

President Mubarak has demonstrated that while history will mark his inglorious departure as a personal failure, it will write an inspiring story of his country. Egypt, a Muslim land, is without a doubt the new beacon of hope for freedom. Egypt's final colonizers still govern its lands, but get this: the beacon of light has returned to Africa.

Haiti in 2004 had no such story to tell. With American and French fingers deep in the pot, and Caribbean interests contending for influence, Haiti had its internal politics to deal with and its external politics. Stability was more important than democracy for the Bahamian government, as well as the French and American governments. Instability would mean a migration influx for the Bahamas, and economic losses for the Americans and French.

So what happened? Aristide somehow ended up on an American government jet headed to the Central African Republic. Aristide's ouster was the lowest common denominator of agreement between the greatest number of influential forces: external interests and the internal political opposition. One could say the people never determined Aristide's fate: their revolution was hijacked.

President Aristide went



A MAN holds a calendar depicting Haiti's ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide during a protest in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Friday. A few thousand supporters of Aristide marched through Haiti's capital shouting they will derail a presidential runoff set for next month unless his leader returns. Aristide left the country in 2004. (AP)

to Jamaica from the Central African Republic and then on to South Africa, where he was granted asylum. We will never know if he was really kidnapped by the United States or if he left voluntarily. I think it is probable he was pressured under the threat of being otherwise killed.

At the end of the day, our best hope for knowing what really happened is probably Wikileaks. Short of that it will be a perpetual, he said she said game between self-interested parties. What we do know is that President Aristide's stronghold was proven to be untenable, and his departure did not lead to national solidarity.

This brings us back to my starting point: politics is dirty, deceptive, stubborn and life altering. So much is placed in the hands of our political directorate, but in the midst of their game playing, their manoeuvring of economic interests, we can never be sure if they really do right by us. And yet we give them chance after chance after chance, never stopping to think that the usefulness of a politician has an expiry date.

Do our leaders do their best to make a positive impact in our lives or do they just do enough to stay in the game? Are they morally, spiritually or intellectually capable of knowing the difference?

These are questions for all of us to contemplate, because the actions and inaction of our leaders can change the course of history. The whole world felt the impact of America's war-mongering President George W Bush.

There is no doubt, the political instability in Haiti has robbed its people of so many opportunities. For all of its natural wealth, the financial resources of its wealthy elite, its strong intellectual foundations, rich cultural heritage and prized historical legacy, Haiti should want for nothing.

Unfortunately this is not the case. And the turbulent

conditions in Haiti combined with our own political game playing have thwarted attempts at building a meaningful relationship between next door neighbours.

I imagine there is some genuine interest, but as Mr Sears explained, it is not an easy road. The repeated interruption of democratic rule over the years has made relationship building, for example, a tightrope to walk.

"In one of the negotiations we had, I think it was with Jean-Robert Estimé, foreign affairs minister, when he left, two weeks later he was out of office. In fact, once we had to deal with six to seven foreign ministers in the space of four years; it was not easy," said Mr Sears.

## Leader

Regime change, at almost any cost, has been ingrained in the way "they solve their problems," said Mr Sears. Virtually every political leader is dead or outside the country.

"These are intelligent people. They know continued instability is the consequence of unilateral interruptions of the democratic process. You never give the country a chance for those issues to be set aside. That is a dangerous phenomenon we have witnessed," he said.

With all the lessons we have to learn from Egypt, Haiti and global politics is there any hope of revolution in the Bahamas? I think the odds are against us and the status quo will be our accepted condition for some time to come.

After all, we recently had an Egypt opportunity, to use the phrase loosely, and we squandered it. I think it can be summed up in the story of the day the Prime Minister was driven from the House of Assembly burning tyres with no seatbelt on.

Barring the mass rally, the biggest demonstration of BTC unions was their

march to Parliament Square. That was the day Parliament ended early; members of the governing party went fleeing and members of the opposition jumped on the bandwagon.

The actions of our leaders was predictable, but that day I watched in astonishment as the people cowered to the might of the state on two fronts. The people amassed in Parliament Square on the street to the west and on the bleachers to the north. They were cordoned off by police barricades and police officers. At one time, the frontliners made a move to push through the barricades and march to the House. They were successful, to a point.

When the "revolution" started, half of the people fled to the bleachers; they held their position in the comfort of their distance; they divided the opposition. Those were no Egyptian revolutionaries. The efforts of the frontliners was so concerted that had the people stuck together, they would have surely overpowered the flimsy cohort of police and made it to the House.

Sadly, they succeeded only in pushing through to the middle of the road. What they demonstrated was their lack of conviction and their powerlessness. A union member who had broken through the barricades, said: "They have y'all corralled like a bunch of animals. That is how they have you. Y'all look like a bunch of animals." It was true. The police knew this, and they also knew how incensory it would be if the people realized, so they told the protester to "stop that". They had their greatest momentum that day and they broke.

In Egypt the people were prepared to die for their cause and many of them did. Those who survived stepped into the shoes of the dead without hesitation: themselves prepared to go all the way. There was no shortage of conviction or cohesive-

ness. The other telling incident

that day had to do with union's action to the PLP opposition. When the House of Assembly was adjourned, PLP members of parliament congregated at the site of the demonstration. They did not cross the barricades to join the union members; instead, they hijacked the moment. They assembled their own impromptu press conference by the south side bleachers and sidelined the unions and all their members to put on their own show. Of course the media spotlight shifted to them, and after all of the sound bites and video footage was collected the PLP left. Again, that was expected.

## Unions

The unions, they tried sheepishly to compete for the spotlight, shouting over their bullhorns to the corralled mass of sorts.

People tend to forget: the government is comprised of the ruling party and the opposition.

After all, an ineffective opposition makes for an ineffective government.

The PLP opposition is no real friend to the unions and they should have told them so.

Some of the present union leaders admit; had they been in power under the PLP administration, they would have opposed their "bad Blue Water deal" back then as well. But the unions allowed their movement to be hijacked on that day. Egyptian revolutionaries they are not.

In the weeks and months ahead, the world will see what Egypt makes of its revolutionary moment. In the meantime, I am sure, politicians and wannabe revolutionaries across the world will continue with their trite use of the Egyptian moment to further their personal objectives. The true revolutionaries, hopefully, will look beyond the rhetorical gimmicks for the real lessons of Egypt, Haiti and all of the movements, past and present.

# INSIGHT

The stories behind the news

# What can we learn from Haiti and Egypt?

Lessons from 2004 and this year's Middle East 'pro-democracy movement'

By NOELLE NICOLLS  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
nnicolls@tribunemedia.net

*"Politics: A strife of interests masquerading as a contest of principles. The conduct of public affairs for private advantage."*

— Ambrose Bierce, American journalist, satirist.

I found this quote on the e-mail signature of Philip "Brave" Davis, deputy leader of the Progressive Liberal Party. Tribune editor in chief, Paco Nunez, once used the same quote as his e-mail signature.

I thought it unsurprising in the latter instance since Mr Nunez also has on his desk a quote from another American journalist, satirist H.L. Mencken that says a journalist is to a politician as a dog is to a lamp-post. But on Mr Davis' signature, I thought it was a classic case of something hidden in plain sight.

Like this timeless quote, Egypt this month lifted the veil on a fundamental nature of politics: it is dirty and deceptive; it is stubborn and it is life altering. What we also saw was an example of what is possible when people awaken, when they are slapped into consciousness and demand accountability from the public masqueraders.

Some Bahamians have already been swept up in the Egyptian revolutionary euphoria, but less their nobleness and naivety lead them astray, they should know, it takes a lot more than rhetoric to make a revolution.

As the Egyptian story unfolded over the past few days and weeks, there was something eerily familiar about the plot. That is because Egypt faced a test that Haiti last took in 2004, and we invigilated it from across the waters. How well Haiti passed is still up for debate, and as the dust settles on the Egyptian streets their results are being tallied.



THOUSANDS OF EGYPTIAN anti-government protesters march in Alexandria, Egypt earlier this month. (AP)

Both stories, as well as the "pro-democracy movement" that is rippling across the Middle East, have lessons to teach us, about the nature of our politics and our people.

## Government

The Indonesian people, who themselves are familiar with people's revolution responded to Egypt's news with cautious jubilation, advising the Egyptian people that the hard part had only just began. Revolution is a temporary moment. It is the gust of wind represented by the hurricane, and its seasonal occurrence is nowhere near as sure or firm. Egyptians now have the task of reconstructing a government and giving birth to the national dream.

Democracy is hard work and revolution does not guarantee evolution. Revolution is a critical spark, par-

ticularly needed to achieve quantum leaps, but it is unstable and it is transitory. Evolution is the process of growth and development in all things as they transition through the cycles of life and death.

The world wishes Egyptians well as they strive towards their highest ideal. They will need our best wishes and much more. Given history, and the nature of politics, success is a Sisyphean task, and no modern democracy has accomplished it successfully yet. Really: where in the world has democracy truly given birth to the national dream?

The truth is we live in an unsustainable way that is in direct conflict with our very desire for success, whether it is measured by democracy, freedom for all, the end of hunger and poverty, national unity, justice, racial equality, social equity, peace and stability, the pursuit of hap-

piness, independence, whatever the dream.

Yet we must trod on in faith and do our best. Egypt showed us that people are capable, and sometimes driven, to exerting their people power to bring about a revolution. However, most times political electorates are like blind sheep being shepherded and the political directorate is like an abusive lover. In their natural state, and even after a revolution when the dust settles, people most often find themselves beholden to their leaders and powerless in the evolutionary process of governance and nation building.

## Politicians

Last week I heard Fred Mitchell, Fox Hill Member of Parliament ask a group of supporters, how we would get young people like Andre Rollins, PLP freshman,

National Development Party absconder, their "Egypt moment." That was not surprising to hear, politicians are notorious band-wagonists. But what of this "Egypt moment": what does Egypt and Haiti have to teach us?

First of all, people are rightly amused when they hear politicians talk about revolution. Egypt teaches us that the nature of a true people's revolution is that it is not given to the people. The people make and take the power. In the midst of the revolution political leaders are made virtually irrelevant.

The popular uprising in Egypt was not led by its political opposition. It was a youth movement, wielding people power. This made it infinitely more difficult for a negotiated solution to have emerged, because such a movement has no allegiance to the

establishment and little respect for any authority, but its own vision of democracy and freedom. It was not surprising that the people refused to negotiate with President Mubarak. There was no trust in his authority.

Ironically, the military turned out to be the only institution that held public confidence. And it is the military now tasked with the responsibility of bringing about democratic reform, until constitutionally mandated elections are held.

Despite our faith in the electoral process and representational politics, political leadership is no substitute for people power or military power for that matter. We would definitely be telling a different story today if the popular uprising witnessed in Egypt was a movement born of the political opposition. Our next door neighbour Haiti shows us why.

In 2004 a CARICOM team, of which the Bahamas was a party, travelled to Haiti to meet with political actors and help negotiate a resolution to the political unrest threatening the country's stability. During the 2004 protest movement there were calls for President Jean Bertrand Aristide's resignation.

## Supporters

Joshua Sears, director general at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said there was a stand off between opposition forces, who "decided Aristide had to go", and supporters wanting the constitutional process to be respected. President Aristide's term was to expire in 13 months.

"They couldn't wait 13 months; they wanted to kick him out. The situation had reached a point where the violence had increased; instability had overwhelmed institutions; there was a social breakdown of law and order. If the parties don't agree there is no chance of

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