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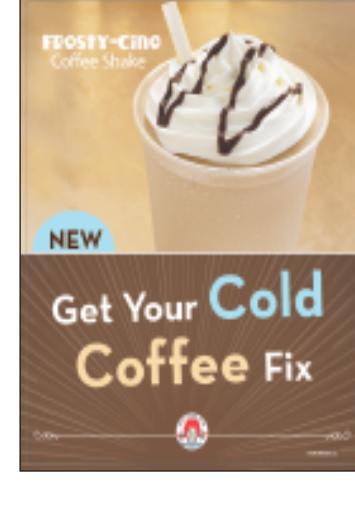
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BAHAMAS EDITION

www.tribune242.com



Volume: 106 No.44

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 2010

PRICE - 75¢ (Abaco and Grand Bahama \$1.25)

BUSINESS

'Solid as
a rock'
SEE BUSINESS FRONT



INSIDE

CARS FOR SALE,
HELP WANTED
AND REAL ESTATE
BAHAMAS BIGGEST



SPNBITS

Knights beat
the Stingrays
SEE PAGE NINE

COMING SOON

GET CAUGHT WIN CASH

Govt 'not stalling' over by-election

PM addresses rumours, confirms candidate

By NOELLE NICOLLS
Tribune Staff Reporter
nnicolls@tribunemedia.net

PRIME Minister Hubert Ingraham denied allegations that the government was dragging its feet on calling a by-election for the Elizabeth constituency.

Mr Ingraham addressed the political rumours at a Free National Movement press conference called to announce the confirmation and ratification by the FNM Central Council of Dr Duane Sands as the FNM's candidate in the by-election.

"The reality is, the government decides when by-elections

are held, not oppositions. The government is acting consistently with when by-elections have been called in the country from time immemorial. Nothing new, nothing changed," said Mr Ingraham.

He was responding to statements issued by the Opposition Progressive Liberal Party (PLP), stating that they found it suspicious that the Governor General was yet to receive a letter advising him of the vacant seat in the House of Assembly.

Member of Parliament for Elizabeth Malcolm Adderley resigned his seat eight days ago,

SEE page 12

Man shot dead after confronting robbers

By MEGAN REYNOLDS
Tribune Staff Reporter
mreynolds@tribunemedia.net

A YOUNG man was shot dead when he confronted armed robbers early yesterday morning, sparking a warning from police that the public should not challenge criminals alone.

SEE page 12

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Teachers union president tight-lipped on petition

By ALISON LOWE
Tribune Staff Reporter
alowe@tribunemedia.net

BAHAMAS Union of Teachers President Belinda Wilson yesterday declined to confirm or deny whether she was the author of a petition circulated among union members calling for them to vote for the resignation of eight of the organization's executive team.

According to BUT Secretary General Stephen McPhee, who was one of those targeted by the petition, the officers listed were all those who had supported the recent move to

SEE page 11

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LOCAL NEWS

RBC donates \$100,000 to Red Cross Haiti fund

RBC has announced a \$100,000 donation to the Red Cross to support relief and humanitarian efforts in Haiti.

In addition, RBC has made its entire network of branches in the Bahamas, Caribbean and Canada available to receive donations on behalf of the international Red Cross.

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

"The Bahamas has very close ties with Haiti and as our neighbours we must support them. I appeal to the public to exercise the generosity that Bahamians are known for and help our brothers and sisters in Haiti," said Nathaniel Beneby, vice president and country head, RBC Bahamas.

The public is invited to visit any RBC Bahamas branch and donate to the Red Cross Haitian Relief Fund by account No. 2893865 or to the Embassy of Haiti's Haitian Relief Fund, account No. 2892958.

Rotary Club donates \$5,000 to relief efforts

THE Rotary Club of East Nassau has made a donation of \$5,000 to the relief efforts in Haiti and has vowed to raise more in the coming days and weeks.

According to the club's president Michele Rassin, they have collected more than \$1,200 from members already and anticipate raising much more in the very near future.

The club is working with its sister Rotary branches to collect food, medical supplies, blankets, and other necessary items that can be transported to Haiti immediately.

In fact, Ms Rassin said, their past president Richard 'Dick' McCombe will be flying down to Haiti today to deliver the supplies that have been collected thus far.

She advised anyone who wants to donate food, medical items or clothing, to bring their contribution to Doctor's Hospital on Shirley Street or the Windermere Spa in the Harbour Bay Shopping Centre.

Govt establishing a Haiti emergency assistance fund

THE Government yesterday announced a Haiti emergency assistance fund is being established to provide an "organised and safe way" for the Bahamian community to donate cash for the relief efforts.

After talks with the Clearing

Banks Association, a specific Haiti Emergency Fund has been set up.

A statement issued yesterday said: "The Government will undertake to ensure that donations received are directed to the government of Haiti for use in its recovery efforts, or to

identified international charities and first response organisations rendering assistance on the ground in Haiti.

"The Government advises that assistance to Haiti is being co-ordinated with the member states of CARICOM and the Caribbean Dis-

aster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA)."

CARICOM efforts are likely to be co-ordinated from the Bahamas Embassy in Port-au-Prince, which did not sustain damage during the earthquake.

Bahamian officials tell of horror in Haiti

FROM page one

them in shock of jumping through windows and scaling fences to escape the collapsing concrete.

Despite the trauma endured, Mr Rolle said he was most concerned about his colleagues who were still unaccounted for in Haiti. He dreaded the responsibility of speaking to their wives and children.

Both men attended a Caribbean Civil Aviation meeting in Port-au-Prince with about 30 colleagues from St Vincent and the Grenadines, Antigua and Barbuda and Curaçao.

Just one hour before the earthquake struck, they left their colleagues at the Mon-



PAT ROLLE shows his head wound.

tana Hotel to return to the Caribe Hotel, where they were staying. The Montana Hotel was flattened in the earthquake. Mr Rolle said 60 per cent of the Caribe disappeared.

Both men were in their rooms at the Caribe sending e-mails when the quake struck. Mr Rolle said the walls of his room collapsed, striking him in the head and crushing his new laptop and phone.

He said the television sailed across the room.

With the hallway door jammed shut by the vibrations, he said he escaped



FLIGHT STANDARD INSPECTOR Hubert Adderley was emotional on his return from Haiti.

through the sliding door on top of a neighbouring rooftop.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the hotel, Mr Adderley also escaped through a sliding door, running into an open area, where he was relieved to see Mr Rolle on the roof top, holding his head wound with a towel.

"My immediate thought was my family at home. I didn't come not to get back home."

"It is going to take a couple of days to process everything, to be stable going back to my family or work," said Mr Rolle, who got emotional as he spoke.

Before the quake, there was a residential community covering the side of a hill behind the Caribe. Mr Adderley estimated the population to be in the thousands. He said it was gut-wrenching to see the entire residential community flattened. He said there was

simply a white cloud of dust, with moans and cries emanating from within.

Mr Adderley agreed that the international media was not sensationalising the situation. He said the first day they left the hotel to search for their friends, a young school girl lay dead on the road still in her uniform. The next day, she was still in the same position.

This was a characteristic scene, they said, as dead bodies on the street have not been collected by the authorities in many areas. Mr Rolle said surviving family members all over are simply sitting with their deceased loved ones. With rain falling for a period of time on Tuesday, Mr Rolle said this intensified the challenges faced by the authorities to bring dignity to the deceased and ensure public health.

When the men tried to seek assistance at a nearby hospital for Mr Rolle's open

head wound, they found a condemned building, formerly the site of a hospital, and an overcrowded United Nations clinic. At the station where they found treatment, Mr Adderley said the medical staff were boiling old syringes, because of supply shortages.

With no hotel to return to once the quake struck, the two Bahamian men slept in a bus belonging to one of the drivers assigned to their international delegation. Mr Adderley said he was particularly touched because the men were concerned about their safety to the point of refusing to go and search for their families.

"We had to tell them to go, we would be OK."

"The people were loyal. They made sure we were OK. That was mind boggling to me," said Mr Adderley, who was grateful for the kindness shown by the men.

BCMC launches Haiti disaster response

THE president of the Bahamas Conference of the Methodist Church, Rev Bill Higgs, announced yesterday that the BCMC is ready to launch its response to the devastating earthquake in Haiti.

According to Rev Higgs, the conference has received multiple reports on the severe devastation experienced throughout Haiti, especially in Port au Prince and as such, is moved to respond "immediately and significantly" with disaster relief through Bahamas Methodist Habitat.

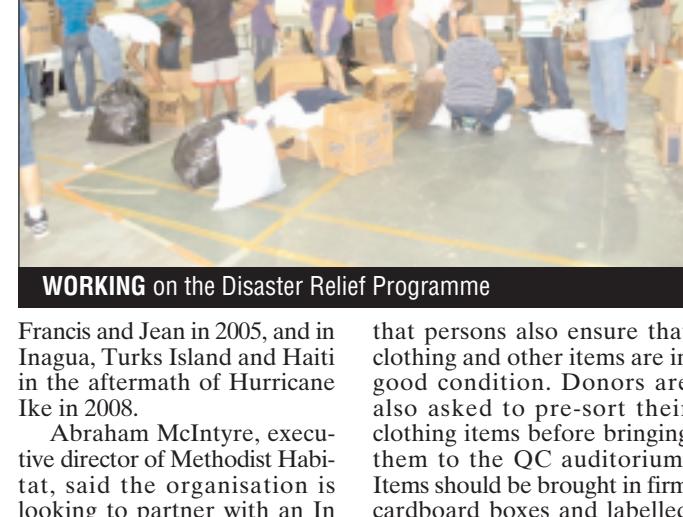
"We called an emergency meeting with our ministers and staff persons today to propose a response to the disaster. We are looking at a two-pronged approach: immediate/emergency and long term/rebuilding. Already we have begun to activate our partnerships throughout the Bahamas and North America to bring relief to the victims of the earthquake", Rev Higgs said.

"The BCMC can aptly offer some assistance in the immediate relief efforts but our strongest area is our ability to provide long term, sustainable aid in the areas of home repairs and reconstruction."

The BCMC began its Disaster Relief Programme in the wake of Hurricane Andrew in August 1992. Andrew devastated north and central Eleuthera and the Methodist Relief efforts led the way in partnership with the government to bring relief to many of the settlements there.

These efforts led to the establishment of a formal organisation now known as Methodist Habitat, a full time outreach programme based at Camp Symonette in James' Cistern, Eleuthera.

Methodist Habitat did a great deal of work in Grand Bahama following Hurricane



WORKING on the Disaster Relief Programme

Francis and Jean in 2005, and in Inagua, Turks Island and Haiti in the aftermath of Hurricane Ike in 2008.

Abraham McIntyre, executive director of Methodist Habitat, said the organisation is looking to partner with an International Flight Christian Pilot Association to be on call to fly in relief teams and emergency aid to Haiti.

Rev Higgs said the response of the conference is expected to be "far-reaching and diverse."

He explained that the conference has renewed its partnership with Queen's College school, which will open its auditorium on Saturday, January 16, 2010 to receive goods donated by the public.

Sought after items include: blankets, tarps, raincoats; clothing for men, women, children and babies; shoes, bed sheets, towels, small toys for children, household utensils and non-perishable food items.

Those making donations should remember that these items have to be packed and shipped to Haiti. They are therefore being asked to refrain from donating large items.

Rev Higgs added: "We ask

that persons also ensure that clothing and other items are in good condition. Donors are also asked to pre-sort their clothing items before bringing them to the QC auditorium. Items should be brought in firm cardboard boxes and labelled as to the content in each box.

"Used shoes should be placed in plastic bags with the shoe size clearly labelled on the bag. Church, student and faculty volunteers will be in place to receive, package and label the boxes. Donated items can also be delivered to BCMC Methodist Churches throughout New Providence."

"We also invite individuals, businesses, churches and all organisations to make a financial donation to the BCMC Disaster Relief Fund."

"Donations can be mailed to Bahamas Methodist Habitat, PO Box SS-5103, or if you contact us we can collect your donation. Call 393-3726 or email bcmc@bahamas-methodist.org.

"Direct bank deposits can also be made to Methodist Habitat, Royal Bank of Canada, Mackey Street – branch number 05715, account number 1284553," he said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGES TO THE EXCHANGE CONTROL ARRANGEMENTS FOR CURRENT PAYMENTS

The Central Bank of The Bahamas, after consultation with the Government, announces the following changes to the Exchange Control arrangements for current payments, under delegated authority to Commercial Banks and Money Transmission Businesses (MTBs), effective 18th January 2010.

ELIMINATION OF FORMS

The Bank has eliminated requirements for:

- a. the **E.1 Forms**, now filled out by customers when applying for foreign exchange.
- b. the **Import Form 1**, utilized when making applications for imports.
- c. the **Personal Allowance Card (Dollar Card)**, utilized for making gift and credit card payments.

DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

There are no changes in these requirements; however, banks will no longer be stamping passports or retaining source documents for transactions, except for imports, where the first and last pages will be required and retained.

ADJUSTMENTS IN DELEGATED APPROVAL LIMITS

All areas and limits under delegated authority have remained unchanged, except as follows:

- Business and professional travel, previously set at \$50,000 per year, has been changed to \$10,000 per trip; and
- Commercial Banks and MTBs have been granted approval authority limit for gift transfers, up to \$1,000 per transaction.

TREATMENT OF TEMPORARY RESIDENTS

Temporary residents (e.g., work permit holders and contract workers may now approach Commercial Banks directly to obtain approval for travel, imports, and other small current payments—consistent with the limits that apply to Bahamian residents. For the time being, however, temporary residents will continue to require Central Bank approval for salary/accumulated savings remittances.

EXCHANGE CONTROL COUNTER OPERATIONS

Operations at both the Nassau and Freeport Counter locations will be phased out, as the Central Bank has effectively delegated approval authority for the bulk of the current items, at limits which obviate the need for referral to the Central Bank.

All queries in regard to these changes may be directed to the Exchange Control Department at the following email address: ecd@centralbankbahamas.com or alternatively by contacting the Department's Help Desk at 302-2777.

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LOCAL NEWS

DONATIONS**RED CROSS BAHAMAS SOCIETY**

The Red Cross is appealing for donations of non-perishable foods, water, blankets, sheets, towels, cots, clothing and packing boxes.

Goods will be sent to Haiti, Inagua and the Carmichael Road Detention Centre.

Donations can be taken to the Red Cross Bahamas Society centre in JFK Drive; Quality Auto Sales in East Shirley Street; Le Petit Gourmet cafe in the Shirley Street Plaza; The College of the Bahamas Tourism Training Centre in Thompson Boulevard; and Bahamas Faith Ministries church in Carmichael Road.

The international societies of the Red Cross aim to raise \$10 million for the Haiti relief effort.

Financial donations can be paid directly to the Bahamas Red Cross Society's Haiti Relief Fund at the Royal Bank of Canada, account number 5165-289-3865.

THE SALVATION ARMY

The Salvation Army is appealing for medical experts to volunteer their services and assist on a mission trip to Haiti which is being organised with Salvation Army groups in Haiti.

Donations of goods and money to aid the effort will be accepted at their headquarters in Mackey Street and Grants Town, or call 393-2745.

THE NEW PROVIDENCE COMMUNITY CENTRE (NPCC)

THE NPCC organising a mission trip to Haiti in co-ordination with the Caribbean's Del Camino network churches in Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

As they work to put a firm response plan in place, the church will only be accepting monetary donations.

Cheques can be made payable to NPCC, with a note to indicate the money is for 'Haiti Earthquake Relief'.

Or call Tim Lee or Gillian Watson at the New Providence Community Centre in Blake Road, western New Providence on 327-1660, email relief@npcconline.org, or log on to www.npcconline.org.

THE BAHAMAS CHRISTIAN COUNCIL

Churches are encouraged to participate in a combined Haiti relief effort on Sunday by encouraging their members to bring in donations of money and goods to be sent to Haiti through the National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMA).

The churches are also in communication with churches in Haiti to learn more about the need and how they can help. Churches wishing to get involved in the Haiti Relief Sunday effort can contact Bahamas Christian Council president Patrick Pinder on 393-3453 or 393-2312.

HAITIAN BAHAMIAN SOCIETY IN GRAND BAHAMA

Society president Jetta Baptiste is accepting donations at Jetta's Multi-Service Centre, 37 Hearne Lane, Freeport.

Ms Baptiste met with church and business leaders in Freeport yesterday to assess ways of sending relief to Haiti and hopes to send a team this weekend.

For more information call 352-2384.

HAITIAN GOVERNMENT

The Haitian Embassy in the Bahamas has opened an emergency account at the Royal Bank of Canada main branch account number 2892958.

For more information call the embassy on 326-0325.

Members of the public are also advised to deposit funds into an account opened by members of the Clearing Banks Association, in aid of the Haiti relief effort.

Bahamian doctors, counsellors and construction workers head for Haiti

By MEGAN REYNOLDS
Tribune Staff Reporter
mreynolds@tribunemedia.net



Disaster in HAITI

Town, or at donation centres set up across the country.

Financial donations can also be made to various charities or directly to NEMA or the Haitian Embassy.

NEMA is also appealing for volunteers in the engineering, medical and counselling professions to assist in the disaster zone.

Tens of thousands are feared dead and countless more were injured and trapped in the rubble when the Haitian capital was rocked by Tuesday's magnitude 7.0 earthquake and the city collapsed around its 3.4 million population.

As aid pours into the capital it is feared the city's surrounding settlements and communities in southeast Haiti also ambushed by the earthquake will be neglected and Haitian authorities assisted by United

Nations troops on the ground are scrambling to co-ordinate assistance to the victims.

President of the Grand Bahama Medical and Dental Association Dr George Charite is co-ordinating a team of doctors to provide emergency medical attention and Bahamas Medical Association president Timothy Barrett has urged doctors wishing to volunteer to do so through NEMA.

Dr Barrett said: "Once we get on the ground we have to have a larger body to be associated with so we can be effective in getting help to the people that need it because one of the things that's categorically a nightmare is to organise help in some areas and not enough in others.

"We will have to hold off what's definitely going to be a health nightmare because there's no place to go and as time goes on people are going to be a lot more susceptible to things like dengue fever, flu, and malaria, so if you are going to have to be aware of all these things.

"We will probably be able to help in the coming weeks and months, so hopefully we don't lose our passion as the immediacy of the moment passes and we can still help later on."

The Salvation Army is also orchestrating a mission to Port-au-Prince to provide medical assistance and distribute food and water in co-operation with

its sister organisations in Haiti.

Both the Salvation Army and Red Cross are working with NEMA to send donations of food, water, bedding and clothing to Haiti, the Carmichael Road Detention Centre and Inagua where a refugee camp will be established to accommodate an expected influx of refugees.

Tents

The Department of Immigration has indefinitely suspended the repatriation of illegal Haitian migrants and tents will be set up at the detention centre to accommodate more detainees.

Haitian Ambassador to the Bahamas Louis Harold Joseph has thanked the government, the clergy, the diplomatic and consular corps, and the gener-

al public for their moral and financial support.

He said: "We are keeping our brothers and sisters in our prayers and will do everything in our power to assist ongoing relief efforts.

According to the first estimations made by the Haitian authorities, there is tremendous damage. Port-au-Prince is practically in ruins and great loss of human life is to be expected.

Faced with this situation, efforts are being made on the ground by the civil society, the government and the United Nations troops stationed in the country to rescue and give medical assistance to the victims.

Those wishing to volunteer are asked to contact NEMA at 322-6081/5.

To make a donation see the column on this page.

HELPING OUT THE PEOPLE OF HAITI



RESIDENTS IN THE MASON ADDITION AREA are urging their community to help the people of Haiti after this week's earthquake. People in the area showed their support and dropped off items to the organisers. Stacey Bullard, Audrey Domann, Kathleen Porter and Anthony Etienne came up with idea.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs information

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs is asking anyone with relatives in Haiti to contact undersecretary Carlton Wright.

Mr Wright can be reached at 502-9530 or 322-7624 ext 268.

The ministry says it is also doing all it can to notify Bahamian citizens visiting Haiti at the time of the earthquake of the address of the Bahamian Embassy:

12 Rue Goulard
Place Boyer, Petionville
Port-au-Prince
Telephone No. (509) 256-4407/257-8782
Fax No. (509) 256-5729
Mobile No. (509) 372-2982

A statement issued by the ministry said: "As communications to and within Haiti are difficult, persons in Haiti are

asked to call the mobile number in the first instance. Persons in the Bahamas should channel inquiries via the ministry so that the embassy numbers are kept free for persons in Haiti trying to communicate with the Bahamas."

The ministry has also been in consultation with the CARICOM Secretariat and has made the Embassy of the Bahamas available to assist in the co-ordination and delivery of assistance to Haiti.

CARICOM Assistant Secretary General Colin Granderson will head that mission.

The ministry said it has contacted the Ambassador of Haiti to the Bahamas to convey the government's commitment to assist to the best of its ability.

"Diplomatic representatives of the Bahamas abroad were

immediately instructed to support all initiatives to assist Haiti in responding to this disaster and are in contact with their Haitian counterparts overseas," the statement said.

"On behalf of the people and government of the commonwealth of the Bahamas, the ministry would wish to extend its deepest condolences to the bereaved people and government of Haiti for the loss of life and property in the wake of the earthquake."

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THE SPY NEXT DOOR	NEW	1:15	3:35	N/A	6:15	8:40	10:45
LOVELY BONES	NEW	1:35	N/A	4:35	7:35	N/A	10:35
PRECIOUS	NEW	1:05	3:00	N/A	6:05	8:25	10:55
DAYBREAKERS	C	1:10	3:40	N/A	6:10	8:30	10:55
UP IN THE AIR	T	1:00	3:00	N/A	6:00	8:25	10:45
LEAP YEAR	T	1:10	3:35	N/A	6:10	8:35	10:40
SHERLOCK HOLMES	C	1:00	3:25	N/A	6:00	8:20	10:40

IT'S COMPLICATED	C	1:30	N/A	4:30	7:30	N/A	N/A
BROTHER	C	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10:50
ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS	B	1:20	3:45	N/A	6:20	N/A	N/A
AVATAR	T	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3:40	N/A

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

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Published Daily Monday to Saturday

Shirley Street, P.O. Box N-3207, Nassau, Bahamas
Insurance Management Building, P.O. F-485, Freeport, Grand Bahama

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Why Haiti keeps getting hit by disasters

WHEN it comes to natural disasters, Haiti seems to have a bull's-eye on it. That's because of a killer combination of geography, poverty, social problems, slipshod building standards and bad luck, experts say.

The list of catastrophes is mind-numbing: This week's devastating earthquake. Four tropical storms or hurricanes that killed about 800 people in 2008. Killer storms in 2005 and 2004. Floods in 2007, 2006, 2003 (twice) and 2002. And that's just the 21st Century run-down.

"If you want to put the worst case scenario together in the Western hemisphere (for disasters), it's Haiti," said Richard Olson, a professor at Florida International University who directs the Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas project.

"There's a whole bunch of things working against Haiti. One is the hurricane track. The second is tectonics. Then you have the environmental degradation and the poverty," he said.

This is the 15th disaster since 2001 in which the U.S. Agency for International Development has sent money and help to Haiti. Some 3,000 people have been killed and millions of people displaced in the disasters that preceded this week's earthquake. Since the turn of this century the U.S. has sent more than \$16 million in disaster aid to Haiti.

While the causes of individual disasters are natural, more than anything what makes Haiti a constant site of catastrophe is its heart-tugging social ills, disaster experts say. It starts with poverty, includes deforestation, unstable governments, poor building standards, low literacy rates and then comes back to poverty.

This week's devastating quake comes as Haiti is still trying to recover from 2008, when it was hit four times by tropical storms and hurricanes, said Kathleen Tierney, director of the University of Colorado's Natural Hazard Centre.

And while there is bad luck involved, former top FEMA official Mark Merritt, president of the disaster consulting firm James Lee Witt Associates, says, "It's an economic issue. It's one of those things that feeds on each other."

Every factor that disaster experts look for in terms of vulnerability is the worst it can be for Haiti, said Dennis Milet, a seismic safety commissioner for the state of California and author of the book "Disasters by Design."

Add to that the high population density in the capital, many of them migrants from the countryside who live in shantytowns scattered throughout Port-au-Prince.

"It doesn't get any worse," said Milet, a retired University of Colorado professor. "I fear this may go down in history as the largest disaster ever, or pretty close to it."

For this to be the deadliest quake on record, the death toll will have to top the 2004 Asian tsunami that killed more than 227,000 and a 1976 earthquake in China that killed 255,000, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

While nobody knows the death toll in Haiti, a leading senator, Youri Latortue, told The Associated Press that as many as 500,000 could be dead.

"Whether it comes in as No. 1, No. 2 or No. 3, only time will tell," Milet said. "This is a major cataclysm."

Vulnerability to natural disasters is almost a direct function of poverty, said Debarati Guha Sapir, director of the World Health Organization's Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters. "Impacts are not natural nor is there a divine hand or ill fate," Sapir said. "People will also die now of lack of follow-up medical care. In other words, those who survived the quake may not survive for long due to the lack of adequate medical care."

University of South Carolina's Susan Cutter, who maps out social vulnerability to disaster by county in the United States, said Haiti's poverty makes smaller disasters there worse.

"It's because they're so vulnerable, any event tips the balance," said Cutter, director of the school's Hazards and Vulnerability Research Institute. "They don't have the kind of resiliency that other nations have. It doesn't take much to tip the balance."

(This article is by Seth Borenstein of the Associated Press).

Integration Now

Breaking barriers in Bahamian/Haitian integration, citizenship, residency and awareness of Haitian issues in the Bahamas.

Open working conference to be held at

New Providence Community Centre on Blake Road on January 18, 19, and 20th to participate please

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My response to Jamaican national's complaint about immigration officers

EDITOR, The Tribune.

Kindly allow me to respond to a complaint that I read in your paper dated, November 11, 2009, in which a Jamaican National, Mr Andrew Dillon, claimed that he was not treated fairly by Immigration officers on his arrival at the airport in October.

Whatever happened on that day, it appears that he did not like the experience, because he elected to have his story printed on the front page of the paper where it could be seen at first glance.

Let me say that these situations have been rising from the beginning, and officers will continue to refuse leave to land, to anyone who does not meet the requirement as stated in the Immigration laws.

As a former officer myself, I am quite aware of these situations, but I believe that it is time for a slightly different approach.

I know that no one wants to go through any adverse ordeal in a foreign country, but sometimes they do, especially on entry.

We must understand that

LETTERS

letters@tribunemedia.net

Immigration and Migration are becoming very serious issues these days, especially where people are travelling under the pretence of bona fide visitors, when in fact, they are not.

But there are many who are bona fide, but it is difficult to tell sometimes.

Regarding the detaining of visitors, I do believe that it is unfair to detain any visitor at the centre, who did not commit a crime.

Therefore I think the Hon. Minister, should immediately initiate talks with airline personnel, to work out a plan whereby, the aircraft, (emphasis on Air Jamaica) must not depart until all of the incoming passengers are cleared by the immigration officers.

If there are refusals, they should be returned on the same flight, or some other flight on the same day, regardless, whether the flight is full or not.

If it is full, arrangements

must be made to remove a passenger or passengers off to accommodate the refusals. Should the airline refuse to remove any passengers, then they must be prepared to pay officers overtime fees, to watch those refusals and also feed them, at another location, other than the detention centre (i.e. the airport) until they depart.

That is the way it was done in the early days. Persons who are refused leave to land should not be taken to the detention centre.

Though this plan may not work for nationals from countries on the other side of the globe, arrangements should be made for them to transit through other countries, should their funds allow.

Detaining people, causes the government money, monies that we do not have at this time.

Furthermore, detention would cause people to tell stories that may, or may not be true, as in the case of Mr. Dillon's account of his ordeal.

CAPTAIN H. BAIN

Nassau,
December 23, 2009.

It's 'Honorary' – never 'Honourary'

EDITOR, The Tribune.

Of all the religious denominations in The Bahamas, based on the 2000 census — next Census Day is May 3, 2010 — Baptists (35 per cent), Anglican/Episcopal (15 per cent), and Roman Catholic (14 per cent) comprise the overwhelming majority.

But for all, from the Bahá'í's to the Salvation Army, life after death is the most essential concept.

The different funerary rituals of these various belief systems, both local and international, provide solace and control during the highly personal and subjective set of responses that, not unexpectedly, come to the fore with the passing of a loved one.

The obituaries, or hymn sheets, normally associated with these final rites, in the words of Barron's Magazine's Up and Down Wall Street columnist, Alan Abelson, generally provide "a highly compressed and often fascinating biography of those noteworthy souls who have recently departed from the ranks of the quick."

Locally, however, it seems that, in most instances in these obits, "Honorary" pall-bearers become, incorrectly, "Honourary" pall-bearers.

Granted, it's probably a minor point under such sensitive circumstances, but perhaps, in a strictly orthographic context, and in order to bestow full honour to the distinguished individuals charged with carrying out such roles, the persons editing these "mini" biographies might wish to take note.

Hopefully if we can all get "a better grip" on some of the leading causes of death in The Bahamas — namely: Diseases of the heart; HIV/AIDS; Cancer; Accidents, Suicide and Homicide; Cerebrovascular Disease and Diabetes Mellitus — not only will there will be a significantly reduced demand for honorary pall-bearers and everyone else involved in facilitating our final journey to the Great Beyond, but we can all enjoy a fuller, more healthful and extended life on this side of the grass.

Happy New Year.

SIMON ARTZI

Nassau,
January 5, 2010.

Unwitting victims of bullying government and opposition

EDITOR, The Tribune.

How painfully ironic it is that in the very midst of our lamentations for the lack of

"majority rule" celebrations, the seemingly hapless constituents of Elizabeth Estates, 4000 plus strong, have unwittingly become the victims of a bullying government and opposition.

Could you not have found "a few good men" of sufficient character, integrity, intellect and with the all-important "Elizabeth Estates blood" running through their veins to seek true representation of the people and not perpetuation of the status quo?

In this regard, "we want the truth, the whole truth

and nothing but the truth" – if you can handle it.

The absurd notion that doctors and lawyers must continually resort to meddling in politics for the betterment of society (two diametrically opposed ideas) as opposed to confronting the "challenges of health and justice for all" is one that must die in order for Bahamians to live.

MICHAEL E NOTTAGE

Nassau,
January 13, 2010.

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LOCAL NEWS



Patrick Hanna/Photo

Chief Justice highlights the policies for new legal year

By NATARIO MCKENZIE
Tribune Staff Reporter
nmckenzie@tribunemedia.net

CHIEF Justice Sir Michael Barnett yesterday highlighted policies he said will increase the efficiency of the courts as well as imminent changes in the makeup of the Supreme Court.

Speaking at a ceremony to mark the opening of the legal year, the Chief Justice began by acknowledging the 7.0 magnitude earthquake that devastated Haiti on Tuesday.

"My thoughts and prayers are with the people of Haiti and I urge persons to support generously, relief efforts to assist our neighbours in the south," Sir Michael said. The Chief Justice noted that three criminal courts will operate in New Providence and one in Grand Bahama.

"It is expected that in the month of January, fixtures will be set by these three courts in New Providence for the cases to be heard throughout this year. "Once these dates are fixed, save in extreme cases the matters will be heard on their scheduled dates," Sir Michael said.

He added: "They will not be adjourned simply to accommodate the convenience of counsel for either side."

"Each trial judge will have a pre-trial conference in these criminal matters not less than a week before the trial date to ensure that there are no unresolved issues which would necessitate an adjust-

ment to the trial date."

The Chief Justice said that the purpose of the pre-trial review is to ensure that in the event the scheduled trial is unable to proceed, another trial will be heard in that period.

"This is designed to ensure that valuable court time is not wasted. Justices are expected to properly manage their calendars and the trials before them.

"Counsel and jurors should understand that the court will begin on time at 10 am and sit until 4.30 pm or later if necessary. We have impressed on the Commissioner of Police that persons in custody should be in court so that the court can commence at 10 am.

"Too much time is wasted if persons in custody are not brought to court until 10.30am or even later," Sir Michael said.

According to the Chief Justice

there will now be a policy that jurors not take electronic communication devices when they begin their deliberations.

"Jurors should also be aware that it will be the policy of all courts that all electronic devices must be given to the clerk of the court for safe keeping before jury deliberations begin. No electronic communication devices will be permitted in the jury room."

The Chief Justice acknowledged his predecessor Sir Burton Hall who was present yesterday, stating that the judiciary was grateful for his years of distinguished service. Sir Burton who served as Chief Justice of the Bahamas for eight years demitted office last August to become a permanent judge of the International Tribunal of the former Yugoslavia.

Sir Michael also expressed gratitude to Senior Justice John Lyons who resigned last August, stating that Senior Justice Lyons had brought energy and work ethic to the courts particularly on the commercial side. The Chief Justice also acknowledged Justices Rhonda Bain, former Director of Legal Affairs and former Director of Public Prosecutions Bernard Turner who were appointed to the bench.

Sir Michael also highlighted the

fact that there will be further changes to the makeup of the Supreme Court in 2010. According to Sir Michael, Justice Cheryl Albury will demit office on January 31. Court of Appeal Justice Hartman Longley will retire from that court on January 31 to again become a Supreme Court judge.

According to Sir Michael, The Legal Services Commission has advised the Governor General that he would become a Supreme Court judge again effective February 1, 2010.

"Justice Longley will be assigned as a resident justice in the northern region. This will result in the northern region having two resident justices, Justice Evans and Justice Longley.

"This will eliminate the need for a justice residing in New Providence, having to be assigned to Grand Bahama for short periods of time to conduct criminal trials.

"Both criminal and civil matters will be heard in Grand Bahama on a year round basis," Sir Michael said.

The Chief Justice also noted that contrary to some media reports, the Supreme Court does not have its full complement of judges. "It is important that we fill the complement of justices," he said. According to Sir Michael this will ensure that trials are dealt with on a timely basis, which will help to alleviate the backlog of cases.

Addressing the need for magistrates to serve on some of the major family islands, Sir Michael also noted that although advertisements were circulated last year only a limited number of attorneys applied.

"In a Bar made up of over 1,000 lawyers of whom 800 are practising, I was astonished at the limited number of applications received.

"The process of selection continues and it is expected that such magistrates will be in place in a few months.

"This is a matter of urgency.

The family islands cannot continue to be served by magistrates from New Providence travelling to these islands on an interim basis," Sir Michael said.

Man in hospital after stabbing

A 51-YEAR-OLD man was stabbed multiple times as he was leaving Royal's Takeaway near the corner of Market Street and Wulff Road on Wednesday night. Police say the three men approached on a bicycle and attacked him in Flemming Street just after 8pm.

He was taken by ambulance for treatment and remains in hospital in stable condition.

Police have launched an investigation into the incident and are urging anyone with any information which may assist investigations to call the Royal Bahamas Police Force Criminal Detective Unit on 502-9991, or call police emergency on 911 or 919, or Crime Stoppers anonymously on 328-TIPS (8477).

• Burger King Robbed

MASKED armed robbers threatened a cashier at gun-point at the Burger King drive-through on Prince Charles Drive and escaped with an undetermined amount of cash. Police said the two men pulled up to the cashier's window at the drive-through in a white Honda Accord at around 7.30pm on Wednesday. One of the men pulled out a handgun and demanded cash. Staff raised the alarm by pressing a panic button and police were called.

But officers did not arrive until after the men robbed the restaurant of an undetermined amount of cash and fled in an unknown direction. No one was injured during the robbery.

Officers investigating the incident are urging anyone with any information which may assist to call the Criminal Detective Unit on 502-9991, or call police emergency on 911 or 919, or Crime Stoppers anonymously on 328-TIPS (8477).

• Family arraigned on firearm and ammunition allegations

A NASSAU family of five and another man were arraigned in Magistrates' Court yesterday on five charges relating to unlicensed firearm and ammunition allegations. Keno Hamilton, 26; Barbara Hamilton, 46; Elizabeth Hamilton, 44; Kelson Hamilton, 25; Givanani Hamilton, 17; and Michael Jordan, 18, all of Amos Ferguson Street, pleaded not guilty to all charges.

Keno Hamilton was remanded in custody as he had previously been convicted of a similar crime, while the others were released on bail.

Magistrate Carolina Bethel read the charges to the family and Mr Jordan in Court Eight, Bank Lane yesterday morning.

The first charge was possession of an unlicensed firearm. Prosecutors say they were found with a .9mm pistol, serial number TZG51400, on Saturday.

The accused are further charged with being in possession of a .40 pistol, serial number 122-00868, on the same date.

Three further charges relate to possession of 11.9mm bullets, 24.45 bullets, and nine .40 bullets.

75th Anniversary

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

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

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

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



We the family of the late "Haday" Dean would like to say Thank You to all family and friends who has supported, prayed, and consoled us in your own special way during this time of our bereavement.

Special thanks to Demeritte's Funeral Home, Rev. Stephen Thompson and the Transfiguration Church Family, Monsignor Moss and the St. Anselm's Church Family, Curfew Temple Lodge #816, the Bain Town Helping Hands Association, RBC Airport Branch, Burns house Group of Companies and Woodlawn Gardens.

Love always, Coral, Monique, Trinka, Van and the rest of the family.

sports

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 2010

INSIDE • International sports news



Short-handed Lady Truckers defeat Caribs

IN the first series of the New Providence Volleyball Association playoffs, teams came out to execute their game plans in an effort to get one step closer to the championships.

In the ladies' match the Johnsons Lady Truckers, shorthanded with only six players, pulled off the first game against the COB Caribs 25-21, 25-19 and 25-12. Anastasia Sands-Moultrie and Shantia McPhee led all scorers with 12 and 11 points respectively for the win. Janet Williams scored 7 points for the Caribs.

In the men's match, The Scotiabank Defenders quickly disposed of DaBasement 25-21, 25-12 and 25-16. Sherrick Forbes and Sherwaine Arthurs led the charge with 11 and 9 points respectively to secure the win. Ronnie Lexidor led Da Basement with 5 points in a losing effort.

PLAYOFF ACTION CONTINUES FRIDAY:

7:30pm Scottsdale Vixens (Pennant winners) vs Champions

8:30pm Technicians (Pennant runners up) vs National Fence Intruders.

Knights whip Stingrays 67-11

By RENALDO DORSETT
Sports Reporter
rdorsett@tribunemedia.net

Bethel scores game high 26 points

ished with 14 points and dominated the painted area on both ends of the floor.

The Knights raced out to a 14-3 lead early in the quarter and took a 29-8 lead into the half.

A vaunted defence which has been C.R Walker's calling card all season held the Stingrays without a field goal in the second half as the lead ballooned beyond 50.

Bethel set the tone for the Knights in the second making three of her game high

five three pointers within the first two minutes of the half.

Bethel's third three gave her team a 48-10 lead with 12:41 left to play.

The efficiency of the Knights half court trap was amplified when an already shorthanded Stingrays team lost primary ballhandler and leading scorer Shatyna Stuart to an ankle injury on the very next possession.

Bethel's steal and breakaway lay-up gave the Knights their first 40 point lead of the

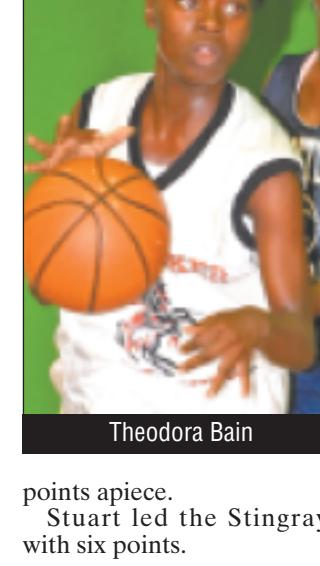
game, 50-10 with 10:04 remaining.

With Grant dominating the boards and delivering picture perfect outlet passes, the Knights' fastbreak attack was in full effect with Bethel generally serving as the beneficiary on the offensive end.

A trio of free throws from Shaquelle Bain served as the only Stingrays scores of the second half with Stuart sidelined.

Bethel's fifth jumper from long range gave the Knights a 50-point advantage with just over two minutes remaining, 61-11.

Tameka Martin was the third Knight to reach double figures with 14, while Kee-drah Hanna and Theodora Bain finished with eight



Theodora Bain

points apiece.

Stuart led the Stingrays with six points.

Magic dazzle Rattlers

By RENALDO DORSETT
Sports Reporter
rdorsett@tribunemedia.net

the Rattlers staged a rally midway through the second half to pull within two, however failed to surge ahead to take the lead.

A foul prone and sloppily played first half saw both teams struggle early on.

The Magic took an early 6-0 lead and maintained the advantage despite a slow scoring pace to go ahead 12-8 with 3:38 left in the half on a lay-up by Chiquita Ferguson.

Lashantah Deveaux gave the Magic their biggest lead of

the first half of the next possession with a three point play for a 15-8 advantage.

A streaking Magic team suddenly went cold as they missed their next eight shots from the field, however the Rattlers failed to capitalise on the lapse in offensive production.

Nekythra Gilcud finally broke the three-minute scoring drought for the Magic with a floater as her team took a 17-11 lead into the half.

Rattlers' leading scorer Robin Gibson began the second half with a three point which trimmed the deficit to three, but the Magic responded with a pair of free throws from Deveaux to maintain a two possession advantage.

Trailing 20-14, the Rattlers went on a 5-0 run as Gibson's jump hook in the lane made the score 20-19 with 10:20 left to play.

Rattlers' guard Stevandre Wells had an opportunity to take the lead or tie on the next possession, however, she missed both at the line.

After grabbing an offensive rebound, Jaliyah Colebrooke followed with the same opportunity when she was fouled but also missed both shots at the line.

The Rattlers would never



Marcelene St. Jean

threaten again.

St. Jean went on a 6-0 run of her own beginning with a tough running lay-up, stole the inbound pass and made a baseline jumper and capped the run with a fastbreak lay-up following a steal.

The third basket gave the Magic a 26-19 lead with just over two minutes remaining.

St. Jean sealed the win as she went three of four from the line in the game's waning moments, ending any hope of a Rattler comeback.

St. Jean finished with a team high 15 points, while Deveaux added seven and Gilcud chipped in with six.

Gibson led the Rattlers with a game high 16 points.

Whyly dominates as Cobras trounce Anatol Rodgers

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WITH the starters seeing just 10 minutes of gametime, the C.C. Sweeting Cobras had built an already insurmountable lead and easily defeated the league's bottom feeders in GSSSA senior boys play.

The Cobras scored a 52-13 win over Anatol Rodgers yesterday to keep pace with the C.V Bethel Stingrays in a pennant race which will more than likely come down to the season's final slate of games.

C.C. Sweeting held Anatol Rodgers scoreless in the first quarter and led 19-0 after the opening period.

Roosevelt Whyly was a matchup nightmare for Anatol Rodgers in the opening quarter, dominating with nine points which included one breakaway slam dunk.

Gabi Laurent added six in the quarter while Patrick Davis finished with four.

Starting point guard Angelo Lockhart began the second quarter with the second unit and quickly reeled off seven points before he was sent to the bench.

The Cobras built a 29-0 lead before Anatol Rodgers finally reached the scoreboard late in the second quarter.

Nearly 15 minutes into the contest, Anatol Rodgers reached the scoreboard for the first time when Tyler Thompson made a pair of free throws.

Their first field goal came

SEE page 10

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SPORTS

Cobras trounce Anatol Rodgers**FROM page nine**

about a minute later when Thompson made a three pointer from the right wing with 1:02 left to play in the half.

The Cobras' onslaught continued with a 14 point quarter and they led 33-5 at the half.

The lead reached 30 for the first time on a three point play by Kemsy Sylvester which made the score 36-6 early in the third quarter.

Ashanteo Cooper became the only other member of the Anatol Rodgers lineup to score with Thompson on the bench when he made a three pointer of the left wing for a 42-12 deficit.

Thompson added another free throw and the Cobras took a 42-13 lead into the fourth.

With the game well out of reach, the second half became a showcase for the flashy passing skills of backup point guard Leon Saunders who thrilled his bench with several highlight reel assists.

Saunders spun through a trio of Anatol Rodgers defenders, and dished a no look pass over his shoulders to a wide open Carson Saunders who finished to regain the 30 point lead for the Cobras, 44-13.

The Cobras' lead reached its biggest of the game when Saunders dished a wrap around pass behind his back to Sylvester who finished for the game's final score.

The Cobras ended the final quarter as they began the game as they held Anatol Rodgers scoreless.

Sylvester finished with seven points, while Leon and Carson Saunders added six points apiece.

Thompson led all scorers with 10.

Garcon hears from family after Haiti disaster

**FOOTBALL
INDIANAPOLIS****Associated Press**

PIERRE Garcon made contact with some family members in Haiti and received some good news.

The Indianapolis Colts receiver said Thursday he got calls earlier in the day from relatives, who let him know they had survived the earthquake that devastated Haiti two days earlier.

Garcon said his mother received a call from a relative on Wednesday night.

"I heard from some family, got some good information," he said. "We're still looking for the rest of them. We've still got more people that need to be found. We're still hoping that everybody's all right."

Garcon attended high school in Florida, but his parents emigrated to the U.S. from Haiti, and most of his relatives still live there. Garcon, visibly drained after Thursday's practice, said he's thankful for the concern people have shown for the nation.

"There's a lot of support," he said. "It's nice to get support from a lot of people. I really appreciate it. We need a lot more."

Garcon is expected to play in Saturday's playoff game against Baltimore, but he's struggling to focus.

"It's hard, but it's something

you've got to do," he said. "You've got to deal with it. It's kind of tough, but there's not much you can do about it."

Garcon has used Twitter to get people to help the country, and he is giving autographed items to fans who donate money to the relief effort.

"Eventually, I'll go down there," he said. "My mom's going down there soon, I have other family members going down there, and people from church are going down there."

Meanwhile, Jozy Altidore, who plays for the U.S. national soccer team, has been unable to get through to his relatives in Haiti and is already preparing to travel to the devastated country.

Altidore, whose parents moved to the U.S. from Haiti 35 years ago, has more than a dozen family members — uncles, aunts, nephews and nieces — unaccounted for.

With phone lines down and Internet connections wiped out, traveling there seems the only option.

"We are just praying — that is all we can do right now because communicating with Haiti is very difficult," the 20-year-old Altidore said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press on Thursday.

"There is not much (news) in terms of the status of my family. We have been constantly

tracking the Red Cross Web site but we still can't get through to anybody there. We know as much as everybody else."

Altidore plays in England for Premier League club Hull. "I want to go now if I'm able to make the trip over and help in any way," he said. "My mother and father (Joseph and Giselle) are also looking into going, but I'm also concerned for their safety there."

Altidore, who is expected to be on the U.S. squad at the World Cup in South Africa in June, was assured Thursday by Hull manager Phil Brown that he will be given compassionate leave to help the search.

Donations for victims of the 7.0 magnitude earthquake continue to flow in from the sports world.

Major League Baseball pledged \$1 million to help victims of the earthquake.

Commissioner Bud Selig said in a news release Thursday that the contribution is being made on behalf of the league and its 30 teams.

"This generous donation from Major League Baseball will help save the lives of Haitian children," said Ann M. Veneman, executive director of UNICEF. "The people of Haiti urgently need food, fresh water, shelter and medical supplies, and the first days are crucial."



IN THIS Dec. 6, 2009, file photo, Indianapolis Colts wide receiver Pierre Garcon (85) looks on during the first half of an NFL football game against the Tennessee Titans in Indianapolis. Garcon walked into the team's complex on Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2010, with a heavy heart. The fun-loving receiver's trademark smile was deeply concerned after Haiti's devastating earthquake and the fate of "countless" relatives who live near the capital city of Port-au-Prince.

Walker jumps into MMA the way he does everything — full tilt

**MARTIAL ARTS
MIAMI LAKES, Fla.
Associated Press**

HERSCHEL Walker is always looking for something to do.

He'll climb into a steel cage this time to try his hand -- fists, actually, and just about anything else on his still-sculpted 47-year-old body -- at mixed martial arts. This means Walker will have gone from ballet to bobsleds to brutality after winning the Heisman Trophy as a running back at the University of Georgia and a noteworthy pro football career, too.

"I had to forget some things," Walker said.

But he still looks good.

He's eating only one meal a day, as usual -- no red meat, as usual -- and getting through on "three or four hours" of sleep, as usual. His once-famous workout routine consisting of what he said was once 5,000 push-ups and 5,000 sit-ups per day is all the way down to 1,500 push-ups and 2,500 sit-ups on heaviest daily duty.

"I can lift a bus," Walker said.

Maybe he can.

He spars regularly with a kid who wasn't born when Walker won his Heisman Trophy in 1982. His trainer, Javier Mendez, went from thinking Walker was "ridiculous" for taking a fight while still an MMA novice to calling him a "one of a kind athlete."

Walker, at 6-foot-1 and 216 pounds, said his body fat has been measured at 4 percent, and Dr. Allan Fields, a physician on hand for Tuesday's news conference, declared him a cardiovascular marvel.

"He says his fight debut, scheduled for Jan. 30 at BankAtlantic Center, is no joke. Walker, in fact, said it was "an insult" to have watched unprepared former baseball star Jose Canseco embarrass himself in a mixed martial arts debacle.

If he's being fast-tracked in promotions by his Strikeforce handlers -- and he absolutely is -- Walker is a willing and fearless participant in the show.

"I'm not even a little bit afraid," Walker said. "I've



FORMER NFL player and Heisman Trophy winner Herschel Walker discuss his upcoming MMA match during a Strikeforce news conference in Miami Lakes, Fla., Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2010. The former running back holds a fifth-degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do.

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LOCAL NEWS

Teachers union president tight-lipped on petition

FROM page one

suspend Ms Wilson over alleged abuse of union funds.

Mr McPhee said he was never informed that the petition was being circulated and only learned of it when he was contacted by a "distraught" Family Island educator who wanted to know the meaning of it.

Having been told by the educator that he had received the petition with the information that it was "from the President", Mr McPhee then issued his own letter to union members. In it he told them that the individuals listed in the president's petition, which proposed their removal, were committed to working for union members as they were mandated to do. He said that they had been "working tirelessly" to internally address "serious breaches" allegedly attributed to President Wilson.

"You elected the executive committee in June 2008 to do the union's business responsibly and account for our actions. We take our duties seriously and have been doing just that," he told them.

The letter outlined numerous sums of union funds in the thousands that the executives alleged have either been used for non-union related purposes or were used without proper authorisation.

Among these, it is alleged that \$1,000 was used to have a non-union family member stay at a hotel. It claimed that \$65,000 was also taken out from the union's pension savings without the executive committee's knowledge.

The letter alleged that Mrs Wilson was circulating a petition asking members to recall the eight executive officers on the false claim that they were not doing the union's business. Those listed were Secretary General, Stephen McPhee; Assistant Secretary General, Jeleah Turnquest; Trustee, Julimae Johnson-Roberts; Trustee, Margaret Albury; Assistant Treasurer, Andrea Lockhart; Area Vice President for New Providence, Bridgette Seymour; Executive member for Exuma, Philip Sturrup, and Executive member for Grand Bahama, Mara-

lyn Burrows.

"The executive committee has been working diligently and at the greatest level of trust and accountability," said the letter sent out by the Secretary General.

The eight members listed in the petition make up over half of the total executive team of the union, which consists of 15 persons.

In the petition, which was apparently circulated sometime before Christmas, it is stated that two votes of "no confidence" brought against Mr McPhee and the union's Vice President at last year's annual general meeting were "withdrawn because the executive committee agreed to work together for the betterment of the union."

However, the petition goes on to outline how the executive committee later voted eight to four to suspend Mrs Wilson as president, accusing her of "misappropriation of union funds without an investigation being launched" and that the Appeals Committee "found the suspension to be out of order and declared it null and void."

The petition then alleges that the executives "disrespected the membership by declaring the decision of the Appeals Committee null and void."

"The President has consistently assisted and fought for members experiencing hardship, victimisation and persecution on their jobs, while most of the other executives have shown very little interest and support in this regard," said the petition. "They seem more focused on punishing the President than helping the membership," the petition continued.

The petition then outlined how the union's constitution allows for executive members to be forced to resign if a petition calling for such action gathers the signatures of 50 per cent of the membership. The petition urged members to add their signatures to this effort against the eight members listed.

It also asked that they support the calling of a special general meeting to deal with the matter.

Asked if she were responsible for the petition, and what she made of its contents, Mrs Wilson said she had "no comment."

Friend of Brenton Smith 'saw suspicious looking boys' on night of fatal shooting

FROM page one

far away where they stayed for several minutes.

He further testified that Brenton had intended to stop at the home of a girl in Kemp Road but after learning that she was not at home, they proceeded back to his house. Thompson said that as he and Brenton approached a short cut at the rear of the City Market food store on Village Road they saw two boys.

Thompson described one of the young boys as being about 4ft 11ins tall, brown skinned and between 13 and 14 years. He said the boy wore a red shirt and short white pants. He recalled that the other was about his height, 5ft 11ins, and very dark skinned. He said the other boy wore a dark coloured shirt and white pants. He appeared to be between 17 and 18.

Thompson said that on that night he was wearing a camouflage singlet and short black and white pants. He said that Brenton wore a white T-shirt and blue jeans.

Thompson recalled that the younger boy, who was standing by the hole in the wall at the rear of the food store, looked back through the hole, picked up his slippers and ran to catch up with the other boy who was walking towards them. Thompson said the two young boys walked past them.

"We continued to walk towards the shortcut. Brenton was saying and I was thinking it looked suspicious that the younger one began to run," Thompson said.

Thompson also recalled that a black Ford Explorer SUV drove around the corner and stopped in front of them before speeding off. He said Brenton told him to wait behind and started to walk ahead to the hole in the wall. Thompson said that Brenton peeked through the hole in the wall, then pulled his head back and leaned against the wall.

Thompson said he saw a hand with a gun reach around the wall and then a shot was fired. Thompson said the Explorer they had



BRENTON SMITH

was an entry gunshot wound to Smith's front left upper arm but no exit wound. He retrieved the bullet from Smith's back around his right shoulder joint. The bullet was turned over to police ballistics experts.

Sergeant Santrice Bowleg told the court that while on mobile patrol with Sergeant 451 Sands around 8.30pm, they received a call from the police control room about an armed robbery at the City Market foodstore on Village Road.

She said they arrived at what she recalled as Barbara Street where she saw a male dressed in a white shirt and blue jeans lying on the ground. She said she made inquiries and was informed by Detective Corporal 1476 Kelsie Munroe that he had discharged his weapon. She said a crowd had gathered and she took DC Munroe to where his marked police car was parked at the rear of City Market. She said DC Munroe and his partner left in the police vehicle with DC Munroe driving.

Sergeant Bowleg said she recalled hearing a description of a person wearing a white shirt and blue jeans in connection with the armed robbery but said she was not certain.

Attorney Roger Gomez Jr, who represents the Smith family, asked her why she was so concerned about officer Munroe.

Sgt Bowleg said it was a hostile environment and she wanted to get him out of that environment. She said it was normal police procedure when an officer is involved in a shooting.

Mr Gomez asked her if she had called an ambulance and she admitted that she did not as she had assumed that someone else had called for an ambulance already.

Mr Gomez also asked her why she and her partner had gone to the rear of the store. Sgt Bowleg said they believed the robbers would come from the rear. She said she had been concerned for Brenton's safety but Mr Gomez questioned how could that be so if she did not know if he were alive or dead.

The hearing continues.

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



Help & Hope for Haiti

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

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

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

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

LOCAL NEWS

Crime Doesn't Pay
By Michael Adderley

Having been exposed in today's publication earlier this week, the Royal Bahamas Police Force has issued a statement confirming that the officers involved in the beating of a man in Sunlight Cottage, off East Street, just before 1.30am yesterday by two men wearing hooded jackets, have been arrested.

The police said that the two men, who had held him up earlier, were identified as Barry McPhee, Jr., 20, of Carter Street, Oakes Field, Nassau, and McCarthy Jean-Baptiste, 20, of Carter Street, Oakes Field, Nassau, who was shot in the head in Sunlight Cottage, off East Street, just before 1.30am yesterday by two men wearing hooded jackets.

Police maintain Mr Jean-Baptiste was in Carew Street, off Mount Royal Avenue, when he was robbed by two men wearing hooded jackets.

He then saw the two men in Sunlight Cottage and confronted them, according to police reports.

One of the robbers then pulled out a handgun and opened fire, fatally shooting Mr Jean-Baptiste in the head.

He is the fifth murder victim of the year.

Royal Bahamas Police Force press spokesman Sgt Chrislyn Skippings issued a warning to the public.

She said: "If you are accosted or robbed by anyone, try to remain calm. Try not to panic, or show signs of anger or confusion. Do not fight back and try to take the matter into your own hands.

"Get a good description of the attackers and the direction they would have fled and contact the police."

An increase in murders and violence inflicted by armed robbers is feared by Bahamas Against Crime leader Reverend C B Moss who warned businesses to take extra precautions following the murder of a Bertha's Go-Go Ribs employee gunned down at the takeaway on Poinciana Avenue in September.

Just weeks earlier, mother-of-three Wendy Bullard was gunned down in front of her office at 21st Century Steel Welding on Royal Palm Street.

Police are appealing for information to aid the investigation into Mr Jean-Baptiste's murder.

Anyone with any information that may assist investigations should call the Criminal Detective Unit at 502-9991, police emergency at 911 or 919, or call Crime Stoppers anonymously on 328-TIPS (8477).

COMING SOON..... *Write On*

A UNIQUE INITIATIVE SHOWCASING THE WORK OF TALENTED YOUNG BAHAMIANS

Police respond to 'beating' allegations

IN REPLY to an article in Thursday's Tribune, headed "Police accused of beating, giving suspect electric shock", the Royal Bahamas Police Force has confirmed that the Complaints and Corruption branch of the force is investigating the allegation of brutality against an

unconfirmed number of police officers.

Barry McPhee, Jr., claimed he was arrested by police and accused of stealing an LG Shine cell phone, which he claimed he purchased from a street vendor.

His mother claimed that police officers "wrapped

Saran wrap around his head. They taped his mouth, handcuffed his hands behind his back, threw water on him and shocked him with a live wire connected to a car battery." She also alleged that the police could not produce any documentation to prove that there was a charge

against her son or a warrant for his arrest.

"The public is assured," said a statement from the Royal Bahamas Police Force, "that the Royal Bahamas Police Force takes all allegations of misconduct on the part of police officers, police reservists and police

civilians seriously. Similarly, members of the Royal Bahamas Police Force have the assurance of the Command of the Royal Bahamas Police Force that while they are performing their duties in line with the Constitution of the Bahamas, all other relevant laws and police force

policies which guarantee the rights of all persons, they have the full support of the Force.

"However, nothing in this statement is to be construed as an acceptance of abuse of members of the public or malicious complaints against police officers."

Government 'not stalling' over by-election

FROM page one

leaving the constituency without a representative.

During last night's conference Mr Ingraham also announced that the government plans to release Haitian nationals currently held at the detention centre and give them temporary status.

He said the government would apply a different course of action, although unspecified, for any new detainees that might arrive. He said the government did not fear a significant change in migration patterns, considering the fact that most Haitians who migrate to the Bahamas come from the northern part of Haiti. This area was unaffected by Tuesday's earthquake that ravaged Port-au-Prince. Mr Ingraham said Haitians living in Port-au-Prince were not historically an immigration concern.

The press conference was called, not only to announce the confirmation of Dr Sands as the FNM's by-election candidate, but to allay the opposition's suspicions about perceived stalling tactics in calling the election. He reminded them of the Bahamas' recent history of by-elections. He recalled the last record of a by-election that was called as a result of former Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling resigning his seat.

Sir Lynden resigned on July 9, 1997. The Speaker of the House advised the Governor General in a letter dated August 5, 1997. A writ of election was issued on August 11, and the election was held on September 5.

Mr Ingraham noted it took over 50 days for a by-election to occur the last time it was needed. With only eight days transpiring since the resignation of the former Elizabeth MP, Mr Ingraham said in keeping with established precedents,

an election would be ordered in due course.

In further addressing the unfolding humanitarian crisis in Haiti, Mr Ingraham said he considered organising a government mission to Haiti in keeping with plans by the Jamaican, Barbadian and Dominican Prime Ministers, but decided against it.

"What could I possibly do except get in the way of people? What we can do to help the Haitian people can be done from the Bahamas," he said, noting the government's account that was set up at all commercial banks to accept donations for the relief effort.

While private organisations are organising flights to Haiti with relief supplies, Mr Ingraham said the government was not making any efforts to transport equipment.

In speaking as Leader of the FNM, Mr Ingraham said the party was ready to contest the seat in Elizabeth with their newly declared candidate Dr Sands. He said the election would be fought on the ground, going street by street, house by house.

"You have heard a chorus of confusion from Opposition quarters ever since the resignation which precipitated this by-election. That is not surprising since confusion has been their hallmark for quite some time now."

"In due course we will sweep up all the debris they are attempting to strew in our path and dispose of all the smoke and mirrors they are using in an attempt to confuse the Bahamian public," he said.

Dr Sands said the people of Elizabeth could rest assured that he would bring the same level of service and professional expertise to his political career as he does to his medical career.

DR DUANE SANDS speaks to the media after Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham announced him as the candidate for Elizabeth.



Ruling sends hotel union back to polls

FROM page one

which represents more than 6,000 workers, will now have to go back to "square one" and hold new nominations and elections.

The executive council of the union now has seven days from yesterday's decision to meet and set a new nomination and election date, a suggestion that was raised by Justice Christopher Blackman and agreed by all parties.

Dozens of union members showed up at the Court of Appeal yesterday to witness the proceedings.

After an hour-long hearing, the Court set aside the decisions of Senior Justice Jon Isaacs and Justice Neville Adderley. Senior Justice Isaacs had declared the May 28 elections null and void. Nicole Martin had won that election by a landslide.

More than a month after that decision, Justice Adderley ordered a new nomination process which paved the way

for new elections in late September. Those elections yielded similar results for Ms Martin and her team. Last week, however, Justice George Newman granted a stay of Justice Adderley's decision pending yesterday's appeals hearing, resulting in Ms Martin once again having to vacate her post.

"We are saying that the judges' decisions regarding the appeals will not be allowed to stand. The matter will have to start afresh," Dame Joan said yesterday.

The court is expected to produce a written decision tomorrow. Also heard will be arguments on costs.

Outside the court yesterday, Ms Martin told reporters, "I think the obvious thing is that people preferred not to do this again but of course we have to respect and obey the wishes of the court."

"This has been a learning experience. My tolerance has been tried but at the end of the day if it is the people's

wish, the people's wish has always been what has been carried out. My personal feelings aside, I must now do what is in the best interest of the union. This is going to make our union in the long run a better union, a stronger union and union that really has to be responsible."

Roy Colebrooke, who remains the union's President in the interim, told reporters: "We have to do what is in the best interest of the organisation and not ourselves. This is a very costly venture for the union. While all of us are members of the union this is a cost that comes directly from the membership. I trust that this is the last time that we have to go through this process."

According to Mr Colebrooke, it costs the union \$20,000 to hold elections.

Attorney Keod Smith, who represents several union executives, said the decision is particularly significant because it highlights the function of the

union's executive council.

"What we have had is a clear situation where the courts have now articulated that the executive council of the union is the head body of the union. That has been the issue falling through cracks all the time."

"In those circumstances, we have a very clear articulation of what the position the executive council is that the executive council should have followed and what the members should follow," Mr Smith said.

During the hearing yesterday, the court noted the main issue for the court was the validity of the actions taken by Registrar of Trade Unions Harcourt Brown as well as the actions of Secretary General Leo Douglas.

The Registrar's decision to certify May 4, 2009, which was communicated to him by Mr Douglas as the nomination date for the first elections and his decision, was central to the union dispute. First vice-president Kirk Wilson had

informed the Registrar that May 11 was the nomination date. He was not allowed to run in the May 28 elections as he failed to nominate on May 4 but ultimately succeeded in getting the election results overturned because of procedural errors.

"It is the council that must exercise its power and it must exercise it in accordance with the constitution as to the date and time the union elections will be held. That is not something you can delegate beyond the rank of executive council," Dame Joan said.

Justice Newman also noted that the executive council could delegate general powers to carry out the union's business but there were specific powers the council had.

"What is just and right and proper is that each member of the union must have their right under the union's constitution to elect who they wish to carry on their business for the ensuing term. That is democracy in action," Dame Joan added.



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business

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 2010

FAMILY GUARDIAN
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'Solid as a rock'

- * Benchmark (Bahamas) 'shores up' balance sheet with \$1m private offering to escape negative net worth position at year-end 2009
- * BISX-listed firm confident 2010 will close in 'much better shape', after Carmichael Road project's \$3.5m-\$4m worth valued and listed on balance sheet
- * Raised just two-thirds of \$1.5m maximum sought
- * Office/retail complex 70% leased and set for February completion, with annual rental income estimated at \$500k

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

A BISX-listed company yesterday asserted it was "as solid as a rock" after raising \$1 million to "shore up" its balance sheet and ensure it did not end 2009 in a negative net equity position, telling Tribune Business its assets would grow by a further \$3.5-\$4 million when its Carmichael Road office/retail complex was valued upon completion.

Julian Brown, Benchmark (Bahamas) president and chief executive, said the company was not unhappy that just 67 per cent - or two-thirds - of its year-end private placement was taken up, telling this newspaper it had set itself a minimum goal of \$0.5 million.

"We were dodging around the deficit area, so we decided

to raise some capital to ensure the balance sheet was secure," Mr Brown told Tribune Business. "We did it to shore up our balance sheet in the event that we needed to make provisions in case the [investment] portfolio did not recover."

Tribune Business revealed back in November how Benchmark (Bahamas) was working on strategies to ensure it did not end 2009 in a negative net equity position, with an accumulated deficit of losses.

Mr Brown acknowledged that the company was then "teetering around" that position, as the net \$932,716 loss for the first nine months in 2009 had left the company close to dropping into a negative net worth position, given that net shareholder equity at year-end 2008 was just

\$494,525. The Benchmark (Bahamas) president told this newspaper yesterday that the \$1 million raised, and on which the company will pay an 8 per cent interest coupon, was due to mature by year-end.

He said this short-term financing - equivalent to a bridging loan - showed the confidence the company's Board and management had in their belief that Benchmark (Bahamas) balance sheet would be much stronger at the 2010 year-end.

"Our objectives were to raise \$0.5-\$1.5 million from the private placement, and we're quite pleased with it," Mr Brown added. "And we've only done it for a year, so that gives you a good indi-

SEE page 3B

Bahamas '90% rate' of finance illiteracy

Businessman warns this has made nation 'sinking, rudderless ship'

By CHESTER ROBARDS
Business Reporter
crobarbs@tribunemedia.net

crippling to a country such as the Bahamas, given that a large part of its economy is dependent upon financial services.

He added that general financial illiteracy has caused a large sector of the Bahamian population to fail to duly plan for retirement, and not invest in the 'Bahamian Dream'.

Dr Rodgers, the well-known

SEE page 5B

Tourism earnings fall 10% to \$1.5bn

Stopovers drop below one million mark after 12.8% decline

ZHIVARGO LAING

By CHESTER ROBARDS
Business Reporter
crobarbs@tribunemedia.net

STOPOVER visitors to the Bahamas fell below the one million mark in 2009 following a 12.8 per cent year-over-year contraction, with tourism industry earnings dropping 10 per cent to around \$1.5 billion.

The small and medium-sized sector is dying a slow death," Mr Rolle said. "We are a lumbering dinosaur, and if we do not change from being a lumbering dinosaur, I can almost guarantee you we will die."

"We have to be competitive. We have to change our business models. At the end of the day, consumers have infinite choice. We have to stand up and give consumers value for the dollar spent, and if we don't do it they will go for the low cost alternative. We cannot do business as usual and get the type of support we want."

SEE page 4B

SEE page 5B



Broker selects Bahamas for consolidation

The Bahamian financial services industry received a notable boost yesterday after a major international securities/brokerage business announced it had chosen Nassau ahead of the Cayman Islands as the destination in which to consolidate its Caribbean operations.

LOM Holdings, the Bermuda headquartered and listed broker, asset manager and financial services provider, said its Cayman operation would close on March 31, 2010, with all client accounts moving either to Bermuda or its Nassau offices at the British Colonial Hilton's Centre of Commerce.

"After an exhaustive review of our regional operations, we have decided that it is in the best interest of our clients and shareholders to support the entire Caribbean region from one office. Therefore, we have determined that Nassau, Bahamas will be our new regional hub. LOM has had an office in the Bahamas since 2001," said LOM (Bahamas) general manager Craig Lines.

"Uniting our entire Caribbean sales team in once place will allow us to more efficiently manage clients throughout the Caribbean, Central America and South America."

Beginning on April 1, 2010, all communications will be redirected to Nassau, and any remaining Cayman customers will be serviced out of the Bahamas office until they can be transferred as per client requests.

All LOM's staff and financial advisors in the Cayman office have been offered the opportunity to relocate to the Bahamas or Bermuda offices.

"While LOM regrets this move after 15 years of

SEE page 2B

Government needs 'Infrastructure Dept' to meet \$2.1bn need

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

The Government was yesterday urged to establish a department to deal specifically with this nation's physical and social infrastructure needs, a senior accountant estimating that the Bahamas needed to spend \$2.1 billion over the next five years to bring this area up to standard.

Simon Townend, a KPMG (Bahamas) partner and managing director of KPMG Corporate Finance, while "commending" the Government for forging ahead with infrastructure improvements across numerous sectors, said there were "a lot of areas" in which the Bahamas could improve, especially when it came to the maintenance and overhaul of existing assets.

SEE page 7B

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BUSINESS

Insurable wage rise to hit just 40% of workers

By CHESTER ROBARDS
Business Reporter
crobards@tribunemedia.net

THE NATIONAL Insurance Board (NIB) is financing more than \$100 million in government office complex projects that will "attract investment returns higher than the local investment market can pay", its director saying yesterday that the social security programme has enjoyed significant growth to reserves of \$1.6 billion.

Algernon Cargill said he and his staff were committed to keeping NIB solvent for years to come, something will require an increase of 2 per cent in contributions over the next several years - from the current 8.8 per cent to 10.8 per cent, with 1 per

cent rises required to fund both the National Drug Plan and unemployment benefit.

"As administrator of the nation's social security organisation, NIB must also fight to improve benefits paid to Bahamians and ensure that these benefits keep pace with the cost and challenges of 21 century living," said Mr Cargill.

NIB paid out \$158 million in benefits in 2009, and took in some \$160 million in contributions.

Mr Cargill added that the newly-implemented unemployment benefit programme was part of the effort to meet the needs of the changing social situation, while the Chronic Disease Prescription Drug Plan (CDPDP) - to be launched later this year - is designed to do

the same. The unemployment benefit programme has paid out more than \$20 million to 14,000 individuals as of year-end 2009.

The CDPDP will receive \$7 million in financing through the medical benefits branch of NIB for the first phase, which will require no new contributions, as it is a pilot programme designed to "work out the kinks".

Phase two funding will include funding from specified groups, new deductions from the earnings of workers and employers, and reimbursement from insurers through coordination of benefits for members with insurance plans.

"Let me assure you that we will be using the same investment management techniques described heretofore, so that

the plan will not negatively impact NIB's portfolio," said Mr Cargill.

"Your National Insurance contributions are very important to all that we do. It allows us to honor industrial claims, ensure that we can pay pensions and make a variety of other compensatory and benefit payments."

Mr Cargill said that despite the planned increase in the insurable wage from \$400 to \$600 per week, only about 40 per cent of workers will be affected, yet will receive more benefits for higher contributions.

"Properly supported and employed, NIB can rise to the noble calling for which it was established thirty-six years ago," Mr Cargill said.

He added that the introduction of the Med-4 form had reduced short-term claims on NIB by 20 per cent.

Broker selects Bahamas for consolidation

FROM page 1B

being in Grand Cayman, it is part of a wider review of our strategy regarding overseas offices, offshore costs and, ultimately, reflects the realignment of the offshore investment environment over the past few years," Mr Lines said.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Building Engineer / Superintendent – to oversee day-to-day management, maintenance and repairs of a leading office building, coordination of maintenance providers, coordination and supervision of repairs and maintenance.

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Qualifications: Basic hands-on knowledge and experience with air-conditioning systems, plumbing systems, electrical systems, fire & safety systems, standby emergency power systems and related preventative maintenance programs. At least five years experience in senior management position, excellent communication skills, excellent organizational skills, must possess a "hands-on" approach and must be self-motivated.

Qualified applicants are to fax (394-7069) a current and complete resume by January 22nd, 2010.

NOTICE

The Partners of Higgs & Kelly, Attorneys-at-Law, 384 Bay Street, Nassau, Bahamas are pleased to announce that effective 1st January, 2010 Ms. Leandra Esfakis, Attorney-at-law has joined our firm as a partner.

ERNST & YOUNG

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Independent Auditors' Report to the Board of Directors and Shareholders of Banif – International Bank Limited

We have audited the accompanying balance sheet of Banif – International Bank Limited (the Bank) as at December 31, 2008.

Management's Responsibility for the Balance Sheet

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the balance sheet in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards. This responsibility includes: designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the balance sheet that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these balance sheet based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the balance sheet is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the balance sheet. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the balance sheet in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate for the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the balance sheet.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the balance sheet presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Bank as of December 31, 2008, in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards.

Ernst & Young

June 30, 2009

BANIF- INTERNACIONAL BANK LIMITED

BALANCE SHEET

December 31, 2008

	2008	2007
	\$'000	\$'000
Assets		
Deposits with banks	496,246	831,461
Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss:		
Held for trading (note 3)	12,261	9,420
Loans and advances (note 4)	163,420	135,191
Property and equipment (note 5)	1,015	1,097
Other assets	2,125	1,720
Total assets	675,067	978,889
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss:		
Held for trading (note 7)	3,943	-
Deposits by customers (note 6)	434,803	437,993
Due to banks	149,608	390,514
Loan payable (note 8)	49,318	111,397
Other liabilities	724	511
Total liabilities	638,396	940,415
Shareholders' equity		
Share capital:		
Authorized, issued and fully paid – 25,000,000 shares of \$1.2092 each	30,230	30,230
Retained earnings	1,805	1,799
Statutory loan loss reserve	1,546	1,352
Foreign exchange translation	3,090	5,093
Total shareholders' equity	36,671	38,474
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	675,067	978,889

COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES (note 9)

Approved By The Board:

Joaquim Filipe dos Santos

Chairman

Carlos David Duarte de Almeida

Executive Director

A complete set of financial statements is available at the Bank's offices located at #1 Bay Street, Nassau, Bahamas.

Interested parties can obtain a full set of the financial statements at Banif International Bank, Ltd., Centre of Commerce, 1 Bay Street, 2 Floor-Suite 201, Nassau, Bahamas.

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- Ability to manage multiple tasks simultaneously

RESPONSIBILITIES WILL INCLUDE:

- Meet with prospective and existing clients and maintain client accounts inclusive of inputting trades and other client transactions
- Promotion and distribution of various investment products of the company
- Assist with the solicitation of securities transactions
- Conduct research on various domestic publicly traded companies and assist in the preparation of commentaries and research reports
- Participate in business development initiatives including public speaking engagements
- Administrative and other duties as assigned

A competitive compensation package (including base salary and commissions) will be commensurate with relevant experience and qualification.



BUSINESS

Hotel rate cuts were 'lowest in Caribbean'

* High costs prevented deep discounts for fear of 'deep unprofitability', and work against cruise conversion

* 'Asset utilisation' problem with Family Islands



VINCENT
VANDERPOOL-WALLACE

region" in response to the recession.

Mr Vanderpool-Wallace said these costs meant Bahamian hotels "had no choice" but to implement relatively minimal discounts, because "if they had reduced rates to the level of their competitors they would have fallen into deeper levels of unprofitability".

Per capita hotel room costs had grown by a \$100 average in the Bahamas in recent years, and Mr Vanderpool-Wallace said this nation's relatively high room rates and

operating costs meant it had to pitch for the high-end, premium travel market.

The Bahamas, he added, was unable to compete with rival destinations that offered Canadians travelling from Toronto a one-week, all-inclusive stay including airfare for just \$400.

"That is not our business. This is not the business we're competing in. We could never compete in that business," Mr Vanderpool-Wallace said. While Canada had been the only growth market for Caribbean tourism in recent times, the minister added that it was also one of the most price sensitive.

Mr Vanderpool-Wallace said there were also "a large number of people coming on cruise ships to the Bahamas that can't be converted", explaining that while cruise arrivals were up by 15 per cent year-over-year in 2009, this nation's hotels could not hope to attract the many passengers enjoying a \$199 three-day cruise.

Higher spending stopover visitors to the Bahamas declined by more than 10 per cent in 2009, but there had been a "steady increase" in those tourist numbers in the

four months between September and December 2009, a trend that had continued into January. Mr Vanderpool-Wallace said March was also looking good, and February not as promising, but pointed out that the shortened booking window made trends very difficult to predict.

The minister of tourism and aviation said the Bahamas had "an asset utilisation problem" in that it had focused on just one destination, Nassau/Paradise Island, to the detriment of all other islands. While stopover visitor numbers to Grand Bahama and the Family Islands had largely remained stagnant over the past 20 years, only Nassau/Paradise Island had shown a marked increase.

This had driven the Ministry of Tourism's quest to brand and differentiate all islands of the Bahamas. Mr Vanderpool-Wallace admitting that this nation's US proximity advantage had been negated because it was more expensive and, in the case of the Family Islands, more time consuming to fly to this nation from New York when compared to European destinations like Paris, London and Rome.

'Solid as a rock'

FROM page 1B

cation of what the balance sheet will look like in a year. We don't want to have that money around for too long, paying out on it."

When asked whether the BISX-listed company was disappointed at just being able to place two-thirds of the issue, Mr Brown replied: "It's a difficult time. Everyone's having their challenges. I would not say we'd complain."

"I think we've done OK under the circumstances. We did a private offering, and we got interest coming in to us from private investors."

Expressing confidence in the company's property investment, Mr Brown said: "We have not taken in anything on the Carmichael Road property. We will not have a valuation on the property until it's completed, so we're pretty confident that once that's done we will be in pretty good shape on the balance sheet. We would have at least a \$3.5-\$4m million investment included on a valuation basis."

"We took the private placement offering on the basis we wanted to ensure the balance sheet was secure until we got an opportunity to do the Carmichael Road project valuation and put it on the balance sheet. We're, as they say, solid as a rock."

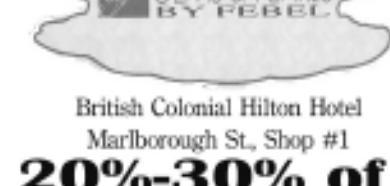
Mr Brown said the response from potential tenants of the 18,000 square foot Carmichael Road property had been "overwhelming". He added that on Wednesday afternoon he had given a proposal to a potential tenant who had met with him inquiring about leasing an 1100 square foot space.

"I think right now we have about 70 per cent of that project leased, and we should be signing lease agreements within the next 30 days," Mr Brown told Tribune Business, adding that he could not name any tenants apart from the anchor, Bank of the Bahamas International, until these agreements were signed.

Benchmark (Bahamas) was expecting to earn about \$500,000 in per annum revenue from the project, Mr Brown said, with rates set at around \$30 per square foot - \$23.50 for basic lease, and \$6.50 for common area maintenance (CAM) and other expenses.

The Benchmark (Bahamas) president said the Carmichael Road project's construction was scheduled to be completed by the end of February 2010.

While final figures for 2009 were yet to be produced, Mr Brown said the fourth quarter recovery in Commonwealth Bank's share price, one of Benchmark (Bahamas) major holdings, was likely to have a positive impact on the company's balance sheet and income statement.



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Legal Notice NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN as follows:

(a) CHATEAU OVERSEAS S.A. is in dissolution under the provisions of the International Business Companies Act 2000.

(b) The Dissolution of said Company commenced on January 14, 2010 when its Articles of Dissolution were submitted and registered by the Registrar General.

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

(d) All persons having Claims against the above-named Company are required on or before the 26th day of February, 2010 to send their names and addresses and particulars of their debts or claims to the Liquidator of the company or, in default thereof, they may be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.

JANUARY 15, 2010

ZAKRIT SERVICES LTD.

LIQUIDATOR OF THE ABOVE-NAMED COMPANY

Legal Notice NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN as follows:

(a) EDERA OVERSEAS CORP. is in dissolution under the provisions of the International Business Companies Act 2000.

(b) The Dissolution of said Company commenced on December 2, 2009 when its Articles of Dissolution were submitted and registered by the Registrar General.

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

(d) All persons having Claims against the above-named Company are required on or before the 14th day of January, 2010 to send their names and addresses and particulars of their debts or claims to the Liquidator of the company or, in default thereof, they may be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.

DECEMBER 3, 2009

ZAKRIT SERVICES LTD.

LIQUIDATOR OF THE ABOVE-NAMED COMPANY

IN THE ESTATE OF IVAL EVANS

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

NOTICE

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

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

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

CEDRIC L. PARKER & CO.

Attorneys for the Executrix

9 Rusty Bethel Drive

Nassau, Bahamas

KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 9 • DAY AND BOARDING • DEERFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

The Bement School, located in Deerfield, Massachusetts, is a day and boarding school, serving students in Kindergarten as well as grades 1 through 9. Day and boarding students come from seven states and nine countries.

Please join us to learn about the

THE BEMENT SCHOOL

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

7:00 - 8:00 P.M.

Bement will be hosting an information night at a private home in Lyford Cay, Nassau, for families to learn about the school and its programs. Hear more about Bement's strong academics, renowned fine and performing arts program, and the variety of athletics and community service options offered.

Meet with the Director of Admission, Kimberly Caldwell Loughlin

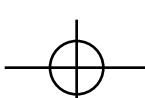
RSVP by January 15 to The Admission Office.

Email: admit@bement.org

Phone: 413-774-7061

www.bement.org





BUSINESS

FROM page 1B

Tackling the issues facing small and medium-sized businesses and, by extension, the wider Bahamian private sector, Mr Rolle hit out at the quality of labour being graduated from this nation's schools, arguing that too many workers did not understand their obligations to employers, and then wasted the company's time and money in Labour Board complaints after being rightfully dismissed.

"The woefully inadequate education system is the Achilles heel of the business community," the Chamber president told the conference, organised by TCL Ltd (The Counsellors).

"We are not getting what we need from the education system, and the business community, are the beneficiaries of the under-performing employees that come out of their doors.

Small businesses 'dying slow death'

It's extremely difficult having to spend time before the Labour Board, not because I've been a bad business person, but because people do not understand their obligations to their employer.

"We invest in training, making sure employees are comfortable and give them opportunities. If they don't show up for work, they don't rationalise that they're wrong for that."

Mr Rolle said the first response of employees rightfully dismissed in such situations was to "run to Mr [Harcourt] Brown, [the director of labour], who rings me and says he's got someone here for me. Ninety-nine point nine per cent

of the time I win the argument, but I spend valuable time in front of the Labour Board.

"There are a good cadre of performers, who are well-educated, understand what their obligations are and live up to it. It's that grouping that really tries our system."

Apart from the challenges in accessing the required capital, financing and resources, Mr Rolle said small and medium-sized businesses found it difficult to obtain technical expertise from the likes of attorneys, accountants and marketing managers because they charged the same fees to provide them with services as they did larger firms with deeper pockets.

The newly-established Chamber Institute, he added, was designed to find a way for small businesses to access such professionals at reduced cost, with fees "reasonable and proportionate to what their needs are". The Chamber's Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise Unit was an attempt to assess what companies needed "to survive and be viable".

Arguing that the Bahamas was "not realising our true potential" economically, with the small and medium-sized business sector under developed, Mr Rolle said these companies should be "shored up" to protect domestic demand in the event of an external recession

impacted key influences on this nation's well-being.

Based on the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business report, which ranked the Bahamas 68th out of 183 countries, Mr Rolle said it was still "too costly", as a percentage of GDP per capita, to start a business in this nation.

Urging small businesses to

stop seeking government handouts, Mr Rolle added: "We need to move small and medium-sized enterprises beyond traditional risk and ratio matrixes. We've been doing that for too long, and it's contributing to a dying sector."

Deno Moss, a Scotiabank (Bahamas) executive, suggested creating a national fund with two tiers of shares - one purchased by Bahamians, the other by foreigners - to provide financing for small and medium-sized businesses.

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that **MARTIA MOISE of JOE FARRINGTON ROAD**, 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 **7th day of JANUARY, 2010** to the Minister responsible for nationality and citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.

PUBLIC NOTICE

INTENT TO CHANGE NAME BY DEED POLL

The Public is hereby advised that I, **RHONDI LOUISE GRUND** of 26 Kent Avenue, Nassau East, P.O. Box N-3006, intend to change my name to **RHONDI LOUISE BETHELL**. 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.

Legal Notice

NOTICE

SILVER POLE LTD.



Notice is hereby given that in accordance with Section 138 (8) of the International Business Companies Act 2000, the dissolution of **SILVER POLE LTD.** has been completed; a Certificate of Dissolution has been issued and the Company has therefore been struck off the Register.

ARGOSA CORP. INC.
(Liquidator)

Legal Notice

NOTICE

DI'LEONARDO S.A.



Notice is hereby given that in accordance with Section 138 (8) of the International Business Companies Act 2000, the dissolution of **DI'LEONARDO S.A.** has been completed; a Certificate of Dissolution has been issued and the Company has therefore been struck off the Register.

ARGOSA CORP. INC.
(Liquidator)

Legal Notice

NOTICE

HAPPY INVESTMENTS LIMITED



Notice is hereby given that in accordance with Section 138 (8) of the International Business Companies Act 2000, the dissolution of **HAPPY INVESTMENTS LIMITED** has been completed; a Certificate of Dissolution has been issued and the Company has therefore been struck off the Register.

ARGOSA CORP. INC.
(Liquidator)

NOTICE

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS COMPANIES ACT. 2000

No. 45 of 2000

MONTALE OVERSEAS LTD.

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with Section 138 (8) of the International Business Companies Act, No. 45 of 2000, the dissolution of **MONTALE OVERSEAS LTD.** has been completed, a Certificate of Dissolution has been issued and the company has therefore been struck off the Register. The date of completion of the dissolution was **December 18, 2009**.

Marcos A. Mather
Liquidator

BISX LISTED DEBT SECURITIES - (Bonds trade on a Percentage Pricing basis)	Symbol	Last Sale	Change	Daily Vol.	EPS \$	Div \$	P/E	Yield
52wk-Hi 52wk-Low Security	Previous Close	Today's Close	Change	Daily Vol.	EPS \$	Div \$	P/E	Yield
1000.00 1000.00 Fidelity Bank Note 17 (Series A) +	FBB17	100.00	0.00	7%	0.000	0.000	19 October 2017	0.00%
1000.00 1000.00 Fidelity Bank Note 22 (Series B) +	FBB22	100.00	0.00	Prime + 1.75%	0.000	0.000	19 October 2022	0.00%
1000.00 1000.00 Fidelity Bank Note 13 (Series C) +	FBB13	100.00	0.00	7%	0.000	0.000	30 May 2013	0.00%
1000.00 1000.00 Fidelity Bank Note 15 (Series D) +	FBB15	100.00	0.00	3 Prime + 1.75%	0.000	0.000	29 May 2015	0.00%
52wk-Hi 52wk-Low Symbol	Bid \$	Ask \$	Last Price	Weekly Vol.	EPS \$	Div \$	P/E	Yield
14.60 7.92 Bahamas Supermarkets	10.06	11.06	14.00	-2,246	0.000	N/M	0.00%	
8.00 6.00 Caribbean Crossings (Pref)	2.00	2.25	4.00	0.000	0.480	N/M	7.80%	
0.54 0.20 RND Holdings	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.001	0.000	256.6	0.00%	
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%	
52wk-Hi 52wk-Low Fund Name	NAV	YTD %	Last 12 Months	Div \$	Yield %	NAV Date		
1.4387 1.3535 CFAL Bond Fund	1.4387	6.30	6.30			31-Dec-09		
2.8399 2.6156 CFAL Preferred Fund	2.8399	1.11	1.11			31-Dec-09		
1.5087 1.4336 CFAL Money Market Fund	1.5071	0.08	5.23			8-Jan-10		
3.3201 2.9343 Royal Fidelity Bahamas G & I Fund	3.1168	-7.94	-7.94			31-Dec-09		
13.2400 12.6816 Royal Fidelity Prime Income Fund	13.2400	4.93	5.90			31-Oct-09		
103.9873 93.1999 CFAL Global Bond Fund	103.9873	3.41	3.41			31-Dec-09		
101.7254 93.0770 CFAL Global Equity Fund	101.7254	5.2	5.2			31-Oct-09		
1.0364 1.0000 FG Financial Preferred Fund	1.0269	-0.59	-0.19			31-Oct-09		
1.0742 1.0000 FG Financial Growth Fund	1.0742	3.56	4.42			31-Oct-09		
9.5795 9.1005 Royal Fidelity Bah Int'l Investment Fund	9.5795	5.33	5.33			31-Dec-09		
11.2361 10.0000 Royal Fidelity Bah Int'l Investment Fund	11.2361	12.36	12.36			31-Dec-09		
7.7171 4.8105 Royal Fidelity Int'l Fund - Equities Sub Fund	7.7171	40.05	40.05			31-Dec-09		
BISX LISTED TRADE SECURITIES AS OF: THURSDAY, 14 JANUARY 2010								
BISX ALL SHARE INDEX: CLOSE 1,565.41 CHG -0.10 %CHG -0.01 YTD 0.03 YTD % 0.00								
FINDEX: CLOSE 000.00 YTD 00.00% 2008 -12.31%								
WWW.BISXBHAWAS.COM TELEPHONE: 242-323-2330 FACSIMILE: 242-323-2320								

BISX LISTED DEBT SECURITIES - (Bonds trade on a Percentage Pricing basis)	Symbol	Last Sale	Change	Daily Vol.	Interest	Maturity
52wk-Hi 52wk-Low Security	Bid \$	Ask \$	Last Price	Weekly Vol.	EPS \$	Div \$
14.60 7.92 Bahamas Supermarkets	10.06	11.06	14.00	-2,246	0.000	N/M
8.00 6.00 Caribbean Crossings (Pref)	2.00	2.25	4.00	0.000	0.480	N/M
0.54 0.20 RND Holdings	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.001	0.000	256.6
Colins Over-The-Counter Securities						
41.00 29.00 ABDAB	30.13	31.59	29.00	4,540	0.000	9.03
0.55 0.40 RND Holdings	0.45	0.55	0.55	0.002	0.000	261.90
BISX Listed Mutual Funds						
52wk-Hi 52wk-Low Fund Name	NAV	YTD %	Last 12 Months	Div \$	Yield %	NAV Date
1.4387 1.3535 CFAL Bond Fund	1.4387	6.30	6.30			31-Dec-09
2.8399 2.6156 CFAL Preferred Fund	2.8399	1.11	1.11			31-Dec-09
1.5087 1.4336 CFAL Money Market Fund	1.5071	0.08	5.23			8-Jan-10
3.3201 2.9343 Royal Fidelity Bahamas G & I Fund	3.1168	-7.94	-7.94			31-Dec-09
13.2400 12.6816 Royal Fidelity Prime Income Fund	13.2400	4.93	5.90			31-Oct-09
103.9873 93.1999 CFAL Global Bond Fund	103.9873	3.41	3.41			31-Dec-09
101.7254 93.0770 CFAL Global Equity Fund	101.7254	5.2	5.2			31-Oct-09
1.0364 1.0000 FG Financial Preferred Fund	1.0269	-0.59	-			

BUSINESS

Bahamas '90% rate' of finance illiteracy**FROM page 1B**

'Eye Doctor', said inept financial acumen had made the Bahamian economy a "sinking, rudderless ship", and a dull government as well as private citizens were at the helm.

"We can no longer look out for financial people to look after our best interests," said Dr Rodgers.

He said governments were looking out for their political endeavours, while the financial services sector was only interested in more money. The sector's regulators were "listening to the tune of government, but dancing to the tune of the financial sector".

Dr Rodgers said statistics have shown that countries where children perform well at maths typically have the best economies. And with a

national BGCSE exam average of 'D', and only 15 per cent of graduates pursuing tertiary education, he said Bahamian financial literacy was in a tailspin.

Dr Rodgers said the Government needed to take a strong look at the Bahamas' tertiary education. He suggested that the resignation of the College of the Bahamas' president, Janyne Hodder, should have dealt a sobering blow to those who control the educational system within the political ranks. Dr Rodgers said despite people's day-to-day financial interactions, there was no understanding of financial information. He lamented that there were limited laws protecting consumers of financial institutions, leading to predatory banking practices.

"We need to have more competition in the banking sector to bring down the cost of money," he said.

Tourism earnings fall 10% to \$1.5bn**FROM page 1B**

just under one million visitors.

"Developments were further complicated by the fact that the hotel sector had to enhance their incentive programmes in a bid to support operations," Mr Laing said.

Hotels across the Bahamas lamented that Revenue Per Available Room (RevPAR) was consistently down last year as rates were reduced to attract business.

Mr Laing said the Government "did what was necessary to respond to the extraordinary circumstances" caused by the global recession, although the Bahamian economy was estimated to have contracted by 5 per cent in 2009.

He added that the Government's stabilising social assistance programmes were "not sustainable" when viewed from the public finances' perspective.

Zhivargo Laing said the impact of the late 2008 financial collapse could have been worse effect for the Bahamian economy had the government not quickly enacted its social programmes, capital works projects and created the national unemployment benefit.

He added that despite the Government's efforts to minimise the inevitable job losses, the economy contracted by 5 per cent last year and unemployment was driven up to 14.2 per cent.

Without the Government's immediate injection of capital into public works projects, he ventured that unemployment percentages could have hit the

20 per cent range. Mr Laing said the Government's finances took a hit as a result of revenue decline and increased spending, with revenues contracting by 7 per cent in fiscal year 2008-2009 compared to fiscal year 2007-2008.

He said government expenditure also increased by 7 per cent, mainly owing to its investment in its social safety net projects.

Deficit

Mr Laing said that, consequently, the country's deficit surged from a range between \$100-\$190 million, or about 1.5 to 3 per cent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), to an estimated \$361 million or 4.9 per cent of GDP in fiscal year 2008-2009.

"These have been unprecedented times for governments around the world, which have been driven to implement measures to support their economies amid the contraction in private sector activity, and they have had varying

capacities to achieve this outcome," said Mr Laing. "Fortunately for the Bahamas, our low debt-to-GDP ratios have provided us with the fiscal space to incur additional debt in such critical circumstances."

Internationally-recognised credit rating agency, Standard and Poor's (S&P), recently reduced this country's long term sovereign credit rating from an A- to a BBB+.

"I hasten to note that despite the downgrade, our debt is still investment grade. Therefore, the new rating should not significantly impact our ability to grow," said Mr Laing.

He argued that he worst of the economic decline had passed, but said the recovery process will be challenging.

"Although global indicators have in recent months pointed to a modest recovery, the pace of growth is expected to be relatively slow compared to recoveries in past recessions, and high levels of unemployment will be the norm for some time," said Mr Laing.

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that **ANDREW SINCLAIR** of **58 POINCIANNA DRIVE, P.O. BOX N-8895, 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 **8th day of JANUARY, 2010** to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE**1) Operations Officer**

New office of established international firm is seeking operations officers/clerks. A successful candidate must:

- Have minimum of 3 years experience in sales and processing;
- Be proficient in Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Outlook;
- Possess excellent communication skills with fluency in English, Cantonese and Mandarin, written and oral;
- Be a team player, displaying strong problem solving skills and a positive proactive attitude;
- Be able to work long hours and weekends as required;
- Be willing to relocate to and be stationed in Freeport, Grand Bahama.

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

2) VP of Operations

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

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

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

**JOB VACANCY
SENIOR LEGAL COUNSEL**

A well established conglomerate on the Island of Grand Bahama is seeking a Senior Legal Counsel to assist in various areas of its Legal Department. The position will report to the General Counsel for the Grand Bahama Port Authority, Limited and its Group of Companies.

Qualifications and Experience

- Judicial degree along with international expertise
- 10 or more years of commercial transactional legal background, along with combined in-house and law firm legal experience
- Relevant litigation experience in civil and commercial litigation matters
- Legal experience in the formation, administration, maintenance and compliance of public, private and global companies
- Strong presentation and negotiation skills, solid business instincts and judgment, and outstanding written and verbal communication skills
- Creative and flexible problem-solving skills
- Ability and interpersonal skills to relate with internal and external customers, including government, business professionals, the community, corporate executives and managers, and contribute to strategic planning

The key functions of the successful candidate are

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

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

JOB VACANCY**UNDER LEGAL COUNSEL & COMPLIANCE OFFICER**

A well established conglomerate on the Island of Grand Bahama is seeking Legal Counsel & Compliance Officer to assist in various areas of its Legal Department. The position will report to the General Counsel for the Grand Bahama Port Authority and its Group of Companies.

Qualifications and Experience

- Judicial degree along with international expertise
- 7-10 years of commercial transactional legal background, along with combined in-house and law firm legal experience
- Strong transactional and general business and commercial law experience, including drafting and negotiating commercial contracts and licenses
- Relevant litigation experience in civil and commercial litigation matters
- Results-oriented, with skills to influence change and drive compliance within the Legal department and throughout the Grand Bahama Port Authority, Limited and its Group of Companies (including relevant regulatory and corporate compliance expertise and experience)
- Strong presentation and negotiation skills, solid business instincts and judgment, and outstanding written and verbal communication skills
- Ability and interpersonal skills to relate with internal and external customers, including government, business professionals, the community, corporate executives and managers and contribute to strategic planning

The key functions of the successful candidate are

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

Interested persons should send curriculum vitae and supporting documents to:
The Grand Bahama Port Authority, Limited
 P.O. Box F-42666
 Freeport, Grand Bahama Island
 Or
GENERALCOUNSEL@GBPA.COM

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

