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'No jobs being lost at Atlantis'

Prime Minister speaks out at Marathon rally

By CHESTER ROBARDS
Tribune Senior Reporter
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properties as collateral for a multi-billion dollar loan was a "very bad decision".

He also insisted that there is nothing the government of the Bahamas can do if Atlantis has defaulted on its loans.

"There is nothing the government could do about a bank that lends you money and you don't pay them back and you put your building up for it and the bank wants to sell it," he said.

"Now, the bank has an interest in making sure it can get its money back."

"The people who lent money to Atlantis have an interest in making sure they can get their money back."

"So, it is in their interest to make sure Atlantis succeeds and makes money so that they can eventually get their money back."

The opposition has chided Mr Ingraham for being mum on the deal between Kerzner International and Brookfield Asset Management.

SEE page 8



PRIME MINISTER Hubert Ingraham with the new candidate for Marathon, Heather Hunt, who was literally passed the electoral torch by Earl Deveaux last night.

Photo: Chester Robards/Tribune Staff

HOSPITAL'S PLEA TO FUND NEW MACHINE

By KHRISNA VIRGIL
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PRINCESS Margaret Hospital officials are appealing to corporate Bahamas and the public to make donations to a new digital mammography machine that will replace the near obsolete equipment they are using.

So far, the hospital along with other organisations have raised more than \$100,000 toward the new equipment that will include a new monitor, software and storage space for digital images.

More than 12 years old, the current mammography machine is not only less cost efficient, but has also at times, created a backlog of patients.

According to Dr Solange Payne, director of radiology, the hospital has seen six weeks upward to four months of back log with routine patients.

However, anyone with lumps, discharge or urgent circumstances is seen immediately.

Dr Payne explained that PMH's equipment has seen a great amount of traffic as it is the only government owned

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UNION WARY OF MEETING WITH MINISTER

By SANCHESKA BROWN
Tribune Staff Reporter
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UNION officials suspect a meeting with Labour Minister Dion Foulkes, scheduled for next week, is nothing but a "publicity stunt" with the general election looming.

Sloane Smith, vice-president of the Bahamas Customs, Immigration and Allied Workers Union (BCIAWU), said he hopes Mr Foulkes is not disrespecting the union by using their issues to gain political points.

"It's almost as if the minister is acting like the issue has just come up," said Mr Smith.

"This is a matter two years in the making. We have been making noise formally as a union from 2010, and before that behind the scenes for months. Now all of a sudden he desperately wants to help us and rectify the situation.

We know elections are right around the corner. So his efforts now do not give the impression of sincerity.

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PORT CHAIRMAN MUST BE 'FIT FOR WORK PERMIT'

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
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FREEPORT: Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham says Sir Jack Hayward can appoint whom he wishes to serve as chairman of the Grand Bahama Port Authority as long as the individual is considered "fit" for a work permit by the government.

The Port Authority has not

appointed a chairman since 2009 when the government refused to renew the work permit of former chairman Hannes Babak.

"Sir Jack can appoint whoever he wants to be chairman so long as he is a fit person; we are only concerned with who is fit from the point of view of getting permission from the government," Mr Ingraham said.

Prime Minister Ingraham's

comments came while addressing questions from the media in Grand Bahama on Wednesday at the Office of the Prime Minister.

He said the government did not find Hannes Babak to be a "suitable" person to head the Port Authority.

"We find Hannes Babak unacceptable. We came to that conclusion for good,

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LOCAL NEWS

Prince Charles closes down as construction work begins

By DANA SMITH
dsmith@tribunemedia.net

PRINCE Charles Drive will open in sections as the New Providence Road Improvement Project moves further west, according to Ministry of Works officials.

Drivers were left frustrated yesterday as the closure of a portion of the road led to lengthy traffic delays.

Prince Charles Drive is closed between College Gardens Road and Winters Road, meaning drivers must divert through Beatrice Avenue, Sea Breeze Lane or Fox Hill Road.

Spokesperson Shenique Albury said the ministry does realise there has been "some inconvenience", but added that staff are "working as hard and diligently as they can".

"We understand there has been some levels of frustration from motorists, but we're making every effort to keep it on track so we can keep up the good progress," Ms Albury said.

She explained that this portion of Prince Charles Drive is "critical" to the road improvement project, but said they are currently working on the last section that requires major diversions.

"Once we get beyond that, we feel that we will be able to use a diversion scheme that is not as lengthy," she said.

Ms Albury also pointed out that yesterday's closing of the Prince Charles Drive entrance to St Augustine's College was for one day only.

The work on Prince Charles Drive consists of widening the road area, constructing underground utility ducts, and repaving the entire road.

Water mains, drainage systems and ducts for BTC, BEC, and Cable Bahamas are all currently being placed



THE CLOSURE of Prince Charles Drive has left many motorists unhappy, with lengthy traffic delays yesterday after the road was closed off. The work will see the road widened and repaved.

Photos: Tim Clarke/Tribune Staff

underground.

Once this is completed, the above ground construction will begin.

"We're working in phases," Ms Albury said. "We're doing layers and layers and all of this takes time. The project is still on target to be fully completed by sum-

mer."

On Wednesday, Ms Albury said: "We have now gotten to the point where we have crossed the halfway mark. We are not working in as many areas and most of these areas have gotten up to the first level of asphalt."



A ROAD SIGN warns drivers of the closure of Prince Charles Drive for construction work.



WORKERS get the construction work at Prince Charles Drive under way.



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LOCAL NEWS

Relative tells court of build-up to sex attack

By LAMECH JOHNSON
ljohnson@tribunemedia.net

THE relative of a 30-year-old woman who was sexually assaulted and murdered on a Friday the 13th morning two years ago told the Supreme Court what transpired hours before the incident.

In yesterday's proceedings, Patrina Rolle, a cousin of the victim Chrishonda Swain, gave evidence about the morning in question.

The prosecution alleges that on Friday, August 13, 2010, 29-year-old Phillip McCartney killed Swain, whose body was found on a track road.

Ms Rolle told Justice Bernard Turner and a 12-member jury that she, Swain

and another cousin Lakeisha Lockhart, had gone to the Yardee Dance on Soldier Road, having caught a ride from the Four Quarters Sports bar in Pinewood Gardens with a male friend shortly before 2am.

Ms Rolle said she and Ms Lockhart wanted to go home after nearly two hours at the sports bar, "however Chrishonda had said she wanted to go somewhere else."

She said when they got to the club, they had to wait to enter because police officers were breaking up a fight.

"At first we went to the rest room," she said, adding that after that, "we stood 'lil ways off from the bar."

Ms Rolle said that within "two to five minutes" the vic-

tim had spotted her boyfriend's friend, but the witness said she did not pay any attention to this person.

After leaving the club "because it was smoky and dark inside", she said the three women began walking on soldier road, until a car pulled up next to them.

They all eventually got in to the "two door, gray silverish Mirage" she said, because the cousins did not want Chrishonda to go by herself.

Ms Rolle noted that the car's sound system and customised steering wheel – which bore a horn – stood out to her, along with the wave-like patterns in the dark tinted windows.

When prosecutor Jillian Williams asked the witness

if she knew the driver or could describe him, she said "No".

"He had a baseball cap on. He had fair skin and no facial hair," she added.

Ms Rolle said when she and Ms Lockhart were dropped off in Pinewood Gardens, the victim "looked fine".

The next time she saw Swain, it was after her body had been discovered in Southern New Providence, the witness told the court.

When cross-examined by defence attorney Ramona Farquharson-Seymour, the witness admitted persons were taking photos at the Yardee Dance and that her cousin had given the impression she did not want to be on camera.

She said the victim was texting on her Motorola Razr cell phone throughout their time at the club.

Mrs Farquharson-Seymour asked the witness if police investigators had asked for her cell number, but she said they had not.

Regarding the car Ms Rolle described, the defence suggested she did not mention certain details to the police in her first statement on the day the incident took place.

After reading the statement, she affirmed that the details were not there, but said she did give them to police.

She denied the suggestion she and Lakeisha Lockhart met up to co-ordinate their

descriptions of the car, but admitted Ms Lockhart had joined her at the Central Detective Unit, where she was invited to attend an identification parade.

Asked if she picked out anyone, Ms Rolle replied, "I think I did."

At this point, the defence asked to make submissions to the court in the absence of the jury.

As a result of the discussions between Justice Turner, lead prosecutor Jillian Williams and Mrs Farquharson-Seymour, the trial was adjourned until next week Monday at 11am.

The judge will to deliver his decision regarding yesterday's discussions in the hour before the trial resumes.

SENATOR HITS OUT AT FNM RECORD

By SANCHESKA BROWN
Tribune Staff Reporter
sbrown@tribunemedia.net

THE FNM has done little to nothing in Grand Bahama in the past five years but ignore the needs of the people, Senator Dr Michael Darville said yesterday.

Dr Darville, who is the PLP's candidate for Pineridge, said despite what Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham and the FNM may say, they have turned their back on Grand Bahama ever since they became government.

"They had the ball in their court for the past five years and did nothing. It does not make any sense for them to blame the PLP for what has happened in Grand Bahama when they have been the government for five years," he said.

"Under the FNM, the unem-

ployment rate skyrocketed, businesses have closed, there is an excessive use of the social service programme, people are out of work and the list goes on. The fact is the people in Grand Bahama are hurting. They need jobs. If the FNM did any actual work on the ground they would know that."

Dr Darville was responding to comments made by the Prime Minister while speaking with the media in Freeport, Wednesday. In that interview, Mr Ingraham accused the PLP of turning their back on Grand Bahama.

"Well I thought a good example of turning a back on Grand Bahama was the plans we had for the new Accident and Emergency and theatres that sat down for five years and nothing happened with them – that is a good example of who turns their back on whom," the

Prime Minister said.

"Look at the school that we built, the opening of the new administrative complex, the work we did in East Grand Bahama and the list goes on and on. One of the things about my opponents is that they are very boldfaced people. They don't concern themselves with the facts. They will tell you an outright lie and they will repeat it over and over and they will have some people who believe them. How could

they fix their mouth to talk about who looks after Grand Bahama and who doesn't is beyond my comprehension but I have to learn how to comprehend it and respond to it."

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DR MICHAEL DARVILLE

'LONG ISLAND HAS LONG BEEN NEGLECTED'

By DANA SMITH
dsmith@tribunemedia.net

DNA candidate for Long Island Mario Cartwright claims the constituency has long been neglected and now the list of problems "goes on and on".

According to Mr Cartwright, a Long Island native, issues like unemployment, inadequate infrastructure, "archaic" schools and an airport in disrepair, have been frustrating the community for some time.

The FNM has given Long Islanders "very little to nothing" over the last five years, he said, adding that the constituents view both the FNM and PLP with suspicion. "They appear to be in collaboration," he said.

Speaking of PLP nominee Alex Storr and the FNM's Loretta Butler-Turner, Mr Cartwright said: "As far as my opponents go, they really have no zest or interest in Long Island. If any one of them win, they will disappear until the next election."

Mr Cartwright said he felt the "most logical choice to bring about change" in Long Island was to offer himself as a candidate, and he is confident the DNA will win.

"I was born and raised in Long Island. I am of the people of Long Island. I am for the people for Long Island, and I will back the ambitions of Long Island," he said.

"I'm very confident I will win by a comfortable margin. I think I can do very well."

As the former president of the Long Island Chamber of Commerce, Mr Cartwright said he has "significant ties" on the island and believes he can offer Long Islanders "excellent representation".

"I'm a businessman here, I live here and I'm accessible to them," Mr Cartwright said.

"I can represent them very



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|-------------------------------|-----|------|------|-----|------|------|-------|
| UNDERWORLD | NEW | 1:15 | 3:40 | N/A | 6:15 | 8:40 | 10:45 |
| THE IRON LADY | C | 1:10 | 3:35 | N/A | 6:10 | 8:30 | 10:50 |
| RED TAILS | T | 1:05 | 3:40 | N/A | 6:30 | N/A | 10:00 |
| EXTREMELY LOUD AND INCREDIBLY | T | 1:00 | 4:00 | N/A | 7:00 | N/A | 10:00 |
| CONTRABAND | T | 1:10 | 3:30 | N/A | 6:05 | 8:25 | 10:45 |
| THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TAT | B | 1:00 | 4:30 | N/A | 8:30 | N/A | N/A |
| JOLIE NOIR | B | N/A | 3:25 | N/A | 6:00 | 8:20 | 10:40 |
| THE DEVIL INSIDE | C | 1:15 | 3:40 | N/A | 8:15 | 8:40 | 10:50 |
| MISSION IMPOSSIBLE | B | 1:10 | 3:50 | N/A | 6:30 | N/A | 10:00 |
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| UNDERWORLD | NEW | 1:10 | 3:40 | N/A | 6:10 | 8:35 | 10:50 |
| CONTRABAND | C | 1:05 | 4:00 | N/A | 6:10 | 8:25 | 10:40 |
| JOLIE NOIR | B | 1:00 | 3:35 | N/A | 6:05 | 8:25 | 10:45 |
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'LONG ISLAND HAS LONG BEEN NEGLECTED'

By DANA SMITH
dsmith@tribunemedia.net

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EDITORIAL/LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Tribune Limited

*NULLIUS ADDICTUS JURARE IN VERBA MAGISTRI
Being Bound to Swear to The Dogmas of No Master*

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Don't listen to the messengers of doom

THE SOUND bites being fired off by opposition politicians over the collapse of the Kerzner agreement with its Brookfield creditor gives the impression that they are intent—in order to deal a mortal political blow to Prime Minister Ingraham—on striking fear in Kerzner's staff just at a time when the resort is experiencing a favourable turn-around in business.

Although the Kerzner attempt at an ownership transfer failed last week, the current dispute is between creditors, aggrieved that a junior in their midst appears to have outsmarted the remaining six, all senior in the creditor lineup. They feared that Brookfield, in its proposed \$175 million debt-for-equity swap, would be the sole beneficiary to any future success of the resort, leaving them empty handed. They appealed to a court in Delaware, which stopped the ownership transfer pending a court hearing. Brookfield, instead of wasting precious time in court, cancelled the Kerzner agreement, in the meantime continuing to try to broker a deal with its fellow lenders.

The Atlantis resort and the One & Only Ocean Club remain in Kerzner hands and under Kerzner management. Kerzner International president, George Markantonis, has repeatedly assured his staff and the public that the Kerzner-Brookfield transaction would in no way affect their jobs. Prime Minister Ingraham has also been given assurances that as far as the present transaction is concerned, Bahamians—almost 8,000 of them—have no reason to fear.

What they do not realise is that the debt crisis in Greece—now tottering on the brink of default—could create such an economic tsunami that international commerce, including tourism, could grind to a sudden halt. And as everything has a logical conclusion, the results would be—no tourists, no jobs, no hotels. In these circumstances, employment at Atlantis would suffer a faster after-shock, forcing downsizing more than the present squabbles among Kerzner lenders.

And so, as the Kerzner president has said, not only would the lenders' foreclosing or putting the company into bankruptcy be "very far fetched", but so would the loss of local jobs. At present, said Mr Markantonis, "it's really looking like a nice January... and a strong winter." He hinted that additional staff might even be taken on.

In fact, Atlantis is too big to fail. It would cost more to go into bankruptcy than to keep the hotel open and continue to fight for business with a dedicated—not a politically spooked staff—as important members of the team.

Based on a \$3 billion valuation of the property stamp tax alone would be \$360 million. (See Tribune Business Editor Neil Hartnell's article in today's Business section).

Opposition Leader Perry Christie has berated Prime Minister Ingraham for not telling the Bahamian people on Friday that the Brookfield deal had failed. How could anyone speak on this matter with any authority when no one—not even the Kerzner team—knew what was going on at that time. Mr Ingraham could have opened his mouth and babbled a lot of nonsensical platitudes that might have sounded good, but would have meant nothing because he—like everyone else—knew nothing. A wise man does not open his mouth unless he is sure of what he is going to say. This was a fight among lenders as they saw a lucrative deal about to slip through their fingers.

Mr Christie accused Mr Ingraham of not fighting for Bahamian jobs. How could Mr Ingraham enter the debate until he received an application from Brookfield for the government's approval of the transaction? It was at that point that he could have had his say and presented Bahamian demands, but before Mr Ingraham could properly read the application, Brookfield withdrew it. What did Mr Christie want Mr Ingraham to do—fly to wherever the creditors were meeting, kick the door in and demand an audience? The idea, although ridiculous, is good political fodder for the ignorant. Mr Christie knows he is just making political noise. If he sincerely wanted to save Bahamian jobs he would stop ringing alarm bells.

And if Atlantis employees really want to save their jobs they will close their ears to "the sky is falling" myths and avoid the disaster into which Chicken Little led his friends by his false alarm.

According to the nursery rhyme, a very foolish Chicken Little was in the woods one day when an acorn fell on his tail. The silly little chick decided that the sky was falling, and so he ran to alert all his farm-yard friends. When he told Henny Penny, she wanted to know how he knew that the sky was falling in. "I saw it with my eyes," said Chicken Little. "I heard it with my ears. Some of it fell on my tail." "We will run," said Henny Penny, "and tell the king." They lined up three more friends, frightening them into action with the same end-of-the-world story. Eventually, they came to the den of Foxy Loxy, who listened to the sky is falling in tale, and told them: "We will run," he said. "We will run into my den, and I will tell the king."

They ran into Foxy Loxy's den,

But they did not come out again!

And that is just what will happen to Atlantis staff if they pay serious attention to all of these Chicken Littles, Henny Pennys, Turkey Lurkeys, Ducky Luckys and Goosey Looseys running around in today's political arena ringing false alarm bells.

Atlantis might have problems, but so far the sky has not fallen in.

Why I will boycott the election**EDITOR, The Tribune.**

AS A supporter of the Free National Movement (FNM) and a voter in the great constituency of Marco City, I am very disappointed in several political moves that were made on Grand Bahama by the governing party in the past two months.

I had voted for the FNM in 1997, 2002 and in 2007. In the 2007, general election I had supported Zhivargo Laing. Like many Grand Bahamians, I was utterly flabbergasted after hearing in the press that the Marco City incumbent will be moving to the constituency of Fort Charlotte in New Providence to run against Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) candidate Dr Andre Rollins.

I have said before that this move could end up backfiring on Laing and the FNM. Fort Charlotte will be very difficult for Laing or any other FNM candidate for that matter to win.

Right now, the mood of the country, particularly in New Providence should be a major cause of concern for every single candidate of the FNM. True, the constituency of Fort Charlotte has been restructured by the Boundaries Commission.

I am hearing that several polling divisions that are purported to have many loyal FNM supporters have been added to Fort Charlotte. This was done in order to help the FNM candidate win, according to critics of the FNM.

Having said that, Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham and the FNM hierarchy must certainly know that boundaries don't vote, people do. While I appreciate the fact that the final decision on who will be running and where has been settled by the leadership of the FNM, I am still of the view that Laing should have been kept on Grand Bahama, notwithstanding the negative campaign of the PLP public relations machine.

Also, why hasn't Senator Michael Pintard been given a nomination to run in Grand Bahama? I find it utterly amazing that Senator Pintard has been given a nomination to run in the Cat Island, Rum Cay and San Salvador constituency, a PLP bastion.

The current Member of Parliament for that constituency is Official Opposition Deputy Leader Philip

LETTERS

letters@tribunemedia.net

"Brave" Davis. Davis is one of the most powerful and influential politicians in The Bahamas. In my estimation, Pintard simply doesn't stand a chance against the noted attorney.

Interestingly, Pintard first ran as an FNM candidate in the Centreville constituency in the 1997 general election. He went up against the present Opposition Leader Perry G Christie. It seems as if the FNM has a propensity of running Pintard in constituencies he has no realistic chance of winning.

As with the case of Laing, Pintard should have been given a nomination in Grand Bahama. I had heard rumours circulating through the press that Pintard was going to receive the nomination for East Grand Bahama. Instead, the governing party has decided to send the noted playwright and poet to a constituency where the PLP incumbent is deeply entrenched.

I don't believe that the team the FNM has assembled to contest the five seats in Grand Bahama is going to do well at all. I could be wrong. But as a Grand Bahamian supporter of the FNM, I can tell you that I am not at all impressed with the team Ingraham has put together.

As an objective observer of Bahamian politics, I am of the opinion that the five candidates of the PLP are more palatable and impressive to the average Grand Bahamian voter. It pains me to say this, but it looks like there is a dearth of talent within the FNM on Grand Bahama. In fact, I would even go as far as saying that this is by far the most unimpressive team in the history of the FNM on Grand Bahama.

Like many Grand Bahamians, I am not impressed at all. To put it mildly, this is a very subpar team. And this is at a time when many Grand Bahamians have been brought down on their knees because of the worst recession in living memory.

I don't believe that this slate of candidates, if elected to Parliament, will stand up to a powerful company like the Grand Bahama Power Company (GBPC) for thousands of struggling consumers who are buckling under the weight of exorbitant electricity bills.

Moreover, what are the plans of the FNM candidates to nurse Grand Bahama's ailing economy back to some semblance of health?

To be sure, I am not the only FNM supporter who is not at all impressed with this slate of candidates. I have heard a few FNM supporters on Grand Bahama voicing their utter dissatisfaction with this team Ingraham has assembled.

Ingraham might as well have kept Kenneth Russell and Verna Grant on the FNM ticket.

I am of the view that the FNM stood a better chance of at least holding onto either two or three of its seats with its 2007 slate of candidates. I don't believe that

the FNM can "sweep" Grand Bahama with this present team. Anyone who sees what is going on in Grand Bahama with respect to the stagnant economy and then turn around and say that the FNM will win all of the seats is unrealistically optimistic.

The way things are going right now, I would even be surprised if the FNM manages to win one seat on Grand Bahama. I have said before that Grand Bahama is experiencing a paradigm shift from a political standpoint. Any-one who denies this is either living on the planet Pluto or is just plain naive.

While I am not blaming the Ingraham administration for the economic slump on Grand Bahama, I am still of the view that more could have been done to revitalise the economy. For instance, the FNM government could have built an airport in either West End or East End, Grand Bahama in order to help the sagging tourism industry. The FNM government is presently building a \$27 million airport (Leonard M Thompson International Airport) in Abaco, so why hasn't the same thing been done for Grand Bahama, "FNM country"?

My mother was recently unjustly fired from her job at one of the major hotels on the island. She now has very few options because of the situation in Grand Bahama. There are hardly any jobs on this island. I am very disappointed with how things have gone in Grand Bahama over the past four-plus years. And to add injury to insult, the FNM has fielded a slate of candidates who are nowhere near the quality of the 2007 group of candidates. As it stands right now, the PLP candidates should win at least four of the five seats with their backs tied behind their backs and their eyes blindfolded.

While I will be collecting my voter's card, I will not be voting this time around. I will use my voter's card as an identity card, that's all. The FNM got three valuable votes out of my house in Marco City in 2002 and in 2007. My family had even voted in the Pineridge constituency in 1997 for the governing party. But I can say without hesitation that I will not be going to the polls on election day.

I don't care when PM Ingraham rings the proverbial bell. Also, my brother who has supported the FNM all of his life has vowed to vote against the party.

Like me, he too is very unhappy with the candidates the FNM has fielded. The day that the FNM announced that Zhivargo Laing will be leaving Marco City was the day I decided that I won't be voting at all. For too long now, Grand Bahamians have been treated like pawns in a chess game by politicians. For too long, we have been taken for granted. This is one Marco City constituent who will be boycotting this election.

KEVIN EVANS
A disgruntled Marco City constituent,
Freeport, GB
January 17, 2012.

EDITOR, The Tribune.

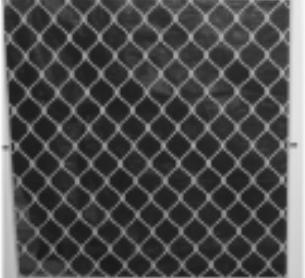
AS A resident of Spanish Wells I have waited now for a week to see if any of the PLP loudmouths and some Internet site called Bahamas Press - who carried on in the media and also in Parliament back in July about the fact that they had finally gotten rid of Abner Pinder as the Chief Councillor for Spanish Wells and he had been replaced by one of their people, Gilbert Pinder - and none of them have been decent enough to admit that Gilbert Pinder had resigned since sometime in December 2011 and now Abner Pinder has had to come back as Chief Councillor to take care of the people of Spanish Wells the way that he did before.

It is really no surprise

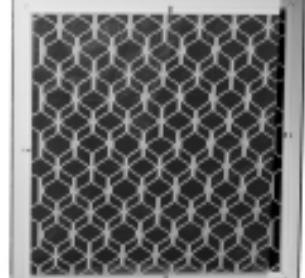
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LOCAL NEWS

Japanese grant to reduce debt

By CELESTE NIXON
Tribune Staff Reporter
cnixon@tribunemedia.net

THE Bahamas is getting a boost in its effort to reduce the \$4.25 billion national debt – courtesy of the Japanese government.

Minister of State for Finance Zhivargo Laing yesterday signed a technical agreement with a Japanese special fund and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for a \$765,000 grant.

At a press conference

with Japanese Ambassador Hiroshi Yamaguchi and the IDB's country representative Astrid Wynter, Mr Laing said the funds will be used "to support new and existing government programmes designed to strengthen our framework of fiscal accountability".

The funding consists of \$612,000 provided by the special fund through the IDB and \$153,000 which was raised locally.

The Bahamas, like many countries around the world,

had to increase its level of national debt in order to minimise the impact of the global recession and support the country's economy and financial systems, Mr Laing said.

He said that the grant will be used to modernise and reform the Bahamas' financial systems, ensuring they are in line with international standards and best practices.

"The focus of this technical co-operation is to support our fiscal rebalancing through improving our current system of revenue collection, with emphasis on property tax administration and strengthening of our debt management sys-

tems," he said.

Expressing the country's gratitude to Japan and IDB, Mr Laing said the project is a "timely one" for the country, as it will funnel additional resources to government initiatives already in motion in the financial sector, such as the debt management committee.

Mr Laing said: "I express the thanks of the government of the Bahamas for this grant facility and remain confident that the relationship between the Bahamas, Japan and IDB will continue to grow as we continue to work in the interest of advancing our countries and their institutions."



ZHVARGO LAING has signed a technical agreement for a \$765,000 grant.

God's People Are Comforted Isaiah 40:1-5

Comfort, yes, comfort My people! Says your God. Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, That her warfare is ended, That her iniquity is pardoned; For she has received from the LORD's hand Double for all her sins." The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the LORD; Make straight in the desert[a] A highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough places smooth; The glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

By KHRISNA VIRGIL
kvirgil@tribunemedia.net

A LOCAL doctor is calling on the government to create legislation allowing for everyone diagnosed with cancer to be recorded in a national database.

Princess Margaret Hospital oncologist Dr DuVaughn

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CALL TO CREATE NATIONAL DATABASE OF CANCER CASES

Curling said many of the unanswered questions about the prevalence of cancer in the Bahamas could be tackled if specific information was kept in a central location.

Dr Curling said new laws should obligate doctors to report to a central body anyone who is diagnosed any type of cancer.

He said: "We have a hospital-based registry, so that anything that comes into Princess Margaret gets placed into the database. We don't have the ability to pop up and say 'I want all of the cancers in Andros this year'.

"With the public registry here, we have the ability to

do that when the information is recorded, but that's just for the patients that come in to PMH."

Without such a central resource, Dr Curling, said "we are never going to be able to say what the actual complete incidence of breast cancer or prostate cancer is".

Dr Curling explained that there is no system in place to conduct research according to demographics.

He said: "If I want data for all of the women between 18 and 50 on Cat Island that got diagnosed with colon cancer in the past five years, I should be able to type that, click a button and it comes up."

"That is the only way that we will be able to address the specific needs and identify the cluster areas of where there might be some problems."

According to Dr Curling, such legislation exists for persons diagnosed with HIV and syphilis.

It has been estimated that 34 per cent of Bahamian breast cancer sufferers are diagnosed at 44 years old or younger, compared to only 12 per cent of American women in the same age range.

This means one in every three women diagnosed with breast cancer in the Bahamas will be diagnosed before the age of 50.



Advertisement for the position of Community Outreach Coordinator

The Government of The Bahamas has received financing under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) to manage HIV/AIDS Strategic Information, Laboratory Testing and Prevention Programs.

The Ministry of Health invites application to fill the position of Community Outreach Coordinator

POSTS FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

COMMUNITY OUTREACH COORDINATOR

General Function

Develop and launch A Community Outreach Unit with activities and programs emphasizing HIV education and HIV prevention in New Providence and several Family Islands. Provide ongoing interactions between outreach workers and clients that motivate behavioral change among most at risk populations. Strengthen Contact Tracing/Partner notification of HIV/STI/TB services. The incumbent will report on the related output indicators in the work plan and will be required to work independently, function as a supervisor, and project leader.

Educational and Experiential Criteria

- i. A Masters Level Degree or Higher in field related to Programme Coordination
- ii. At least 4 years of experience in Programme Management/Coordination position
- iii. Knowledgeable on HIV/AIDS and particularly the challenges faced by Special Populations
- iv. Knowledgeable on human resource and budget management practices and procedures

Salary will be commensurate with degree and experience and includes standard project benefits. Interested persons are invited to submit a cover letter and current curriculum vitae in Word or PDF format to paulabowleg@bahamas.gov.bs. Applications must be received by **5pm on Friday, January 27th, 2012**.

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LOCAL NEWS

CUBAN AMBASSADOR WELCOMED

GOVERNOR GENERAL Sir Arthur Foulkes (right) receives Ernesto Soberón Guzmán, Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba to the Bahamas in a courtesy call at Government House on January 17.

Photo: Derek Smith/BIS

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- Ability to assess complex business environments and make recommendations.
- Possess excellent oral and written communications skills to achieve effective client interactions, presentations, demos and proposals.
- Ability to work in a dynamic, entrepreneurial organization as an independent contributor and as part of a team.
- Able to be responsive under deadlines and changing priorities.
- Posses accredited university degree.
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Interested persons should send all inquiries and resumes to exec.bus.consultant@gmail.com

Only qualified candidates will be contacted



FROM LEFT, GBPA president Ian Rolle; Mr Hatcher; GBPA vice-president Ginger Moxey; and Derek Newbold, GBPA business development manager.

EMBASSY OFFICER LOOKS TO BUILD TIES WITH BUSINESS

FREEPOR - "We're very much oriented towards building business ties," said the US Embassy's economic officer Kyle Hatcher during his first official trip to Grand Bahama.

"Part of my portfolio is to do outreach as much as I can outside of Nassau. Freeport is the economic engine and on an economic and political level, it's good for us to get out and build those relationships," he said.

Mr Hatcher's comments were welcomed by the executives of the Grand Bahama Port Authority (GBPA) with whom he held discussions.

GBPA president Ian Rolle said: "We certainly welcome your involvement and want to see an even greater United States presence."

"Our whole city is a free trade zone and Freeport is far better suited for growth than anywhere else in the Bahamas."

"Our message is about using this unique situation in Freeport to benefit the island's residents and our brothers and sisters in the entire Bahamas."

Opportunities for developing sister-city relationships between Freeport and key US cities were discussed, along with the prospect of establishing information technology programmes or related businesses in the Bahamas.

"Elsewhere in the Caribbean, even the smallest countries have burgeoning IT industries, and here you've got an incredibly smart and educated workforce," Mr Hatcher said.

The discussions touched on possible economic opportunities available through bilateral partnerships, as well as social issues.

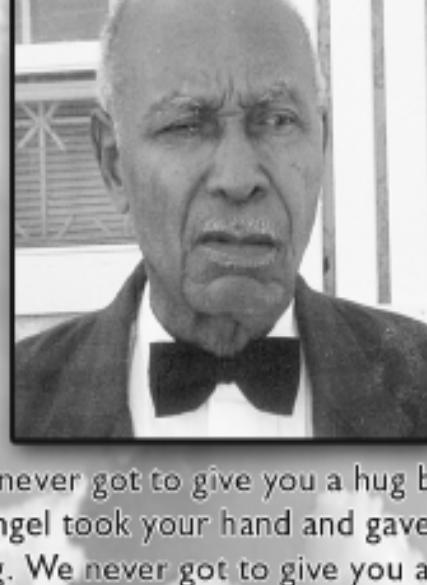
Citing his country's significant involvement in the fight against AIDS as an example, Mr Hatcher encouraged more non-governmental agencies (NGOs) on the island to take advantage of available grant funds.

The current call for proposals expires on March 15 and details of the application process are available on the embassy's website.

"The more partnerships we can foster, the better," said Mr Rolle.

Mr Hatcher agreed: "There is much potential here, along with expertise, will power and governmental goodwill on this side."

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Adapted from Emilee Reynolds

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LOCAL NEWS

MAN'S BODY DISCOVERED BY THE ROADSIDE

BY DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREEPORT – A man's body was discovered on the roadside in the Kennedy Drive area early Thursday morning, and police later found his

vehicle abandoned several miles away.

The body was identified by police as that of 46-year-old Franklyn McIntosh of North Bahamia.

Police officials are trying to determine the circumstances surrounding the

man's death.

Asst Supt Loretta Mackey, press liaison officer, said police are awaiting the results of an autopsy to determine whether foul play was involved.

Meanwhile, police investigations are continuing into

the matter.

According to police reports, sometime around 3.18am police discovered the body of a black man on the side of the road at Kennedy Drive.

Mr Mackey reported that a few hours after the body was

found Central Detective Unit officers recovered the victim's car at Watkins Lanes off Pioneer's Way.

"The investigations are in the preliminary stage and the incident has not been classified," Mackey said.

The police are urging members of public who have any information that can assist them with their investigation to contact officers.

To contact the police, call 350-3107/8, 352-9774/5 or 911.



CONVICTED rapist Eric O'Neil Strachan is escorted by officers.

'LONG ISLAND HAS LONG BEEN NEGLECTED'

from page 3

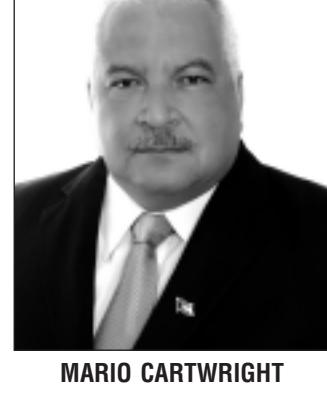
well in parliament."

He made the decision to accept the DNA nomination around mid-December and prior to Christmas, he visited the homes of nearly 600 Long Islanders.

"I must say, for the most part, I was warmly received and was embraced by the people. I got the feeling that people are ready for change," he said.

"I think they need someone who can make genuine steps to improve the economic stakes of Long Island. The FNM have been here for 15 of the last 25 years and we got very little to nothing in return."

The "greatest issue" plaguing



MARIO CARTWRIGHT

Mr Cartwright explained that islands such as Exuma, Eleuthera, Grand Bahama and Abaco have strong economies because each has an international airport.

Tourists want convenience, he said – "they do not like layovers and connections".

Once tourists and investors can more easily arrive in Long Island, he hopes hotels and other business will not be far behind.

"We are proud people," Mr Cartwright said. "We want to work, but we need jobs and the government has denied us adequate infrastructure."

Better regulation of commercial fishing and a more modern high school are other key issues for the candidate.

BY DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREEPORT – The sentencing of convicted rapist Eric O'Neil Strachan has been postponed a third time because a psychiatric report is still lacking.

A new hearing has been fixed for February 22.

Senior Justice Hartman Longley, who presided over the rape trial last September, initially set sentencing for November 11, 2010.

At the hearing, Strachan's attorney Devard Williams requested a psychiatric evaluation of his client and the judge adjourned sentencing to November 29, 2010.

At the second hearing, prosecutors informed the court that the psychiatric report was still not complete and the matter was adjourned to yesterday.

Strachan was found guilty of raping a 69-year-old woman at Eight Mile Rock last December. He was also found him guilty of two

counts of attempted rape and one count of indecent assault.

The victim was staying with a relative in Andros Town, Eight Mile Rock, on December 10, 2010 when the incident occurred.

The woman testified that Strachan dragged her from a living room sofa to his bedroom and raped her.

At trial, Strachan denied raping the victim. He claimed the sex was consensual and that the elderly woman made sexual advances on him.

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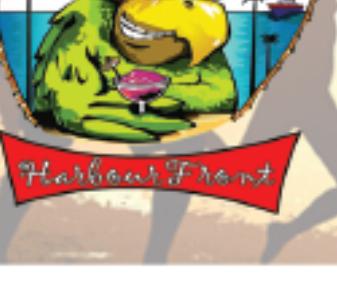
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LOCAL NEWS

PORT CHAIRMAN MUST BE 'FIT FOR WORK PERMIT'

from page one

valid, sound reasons, and recent events have reaffirmed and reconfirmed to us that he is not a suitable person to be in charge of the Port," said the Prime Minister.

Mr Babak, an Austrian, was forced to step down as chairman when his work permit expired in December 2009.

The government's decision not to renew Babak's permit resulted in a fall out with Sir Jack Hayward, one of the principal owners of the Grand Bahama Port Authority, who felt the organisation was left "leaderless" without any explanation given by the government.

Mr Ingraham, however, said Sir Jack was told a lie.

"I met with Sir Jack on many occasions. I am delighted that Sir Jack has now come to the conclusion that we can have a chat as we used to in the past that's uninfluenced by any other considerations."

"See, for instance, Sir Jack was told a lie. He put it in the newspaper. He said that we had refused Hannes Babak a work permit without telling him anything, etc – that is a total lie."

Mr Ingraham said he had dispatched Branville McCartney, the then Minister of Immigration, to Freeport to have a meeting with Babak to tell him that the government no longer regarded him as someone who should be in charge of the Port Authority, and that the government would not give him a work

'We find Hannes Babak unacceptable. We came to that conclusion for good, valid, sound reasons, and recent events have reaffirmed and reconfirmed to us that he is not a suitable person to be in charge of the Port.'

Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham

permit when his expired.

"He had his notice. Hannes Babak was not satisfied with that. He got Sir Albert Miller to call me saying he will come to Nassau to see me. They both came.

"He (Babak) asked whether McCartney spoke for



HANNES BABAK, whose potential role as port chairman has prompted Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham to speak out.

the government or for himself. I assured him that Mr McCartney came to Grand Bahama to see you upon my instruction and he delivered the message I sent, that you are not the person we are going to support to be in charge of the Port.

"Sir Jack never knew any of that, he was told something different," Mr Ingraham explained.

When asked why the government came to its conclusion about Babak, he did not wish to say why.

Asked whether he would support a foreigner or Bahamian as chairman of the Port Authority, the Prime Minister said Sir Jack can appoint whomever he wants to be on his team so long as he is a fit person.

"We can't determine who you want to appoint your chairman, we are delighted to support whatever you want to do with your chairmanship so long as the individual is someone that we regard as fit to have a work permit in the Bahamas. You must bear in mind that Mr Hannes Babak came to the Bahamas on the basis that he was a person who did not need to work.

"He got permanent residence on being able to work in his own business, not to go and work for somebody else as a work permit holder. So he could run his own business as much as he like," Mr Ingraham said.

Mr Ingraham said he has had a very good chat with Sir Jack and supports the plans they have for Freeport.

"I am of the view that Sir Jack is going to be cooperative with the government and the government will be cooperative with him.

"They have some plans they will announce in due course and we will be in support of those," he said.

Mr Ingraham stated that Zivargo Laing has indicated government's willingness to undertake specific investment promotion for Grand Bahama.

"We made available half a million dollars from the government and asked the business community and Port in Grand Bahama to match us and we will take Freeport on the road," he said.

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DEATH NOTICE**Marie Miller neé Russell, 74**

of 1st Street Coconut Grove died at the Princess Margaret Hospital on Thursday January 12, 2012.

She is survived by her **husband**: Wilfred Miller; **sons**: Anthony Wilson, William Cartwright; **step sons**: John and Ulaces Saunders; **daughters**: Cleo Evans Forbes, Bernadette Pratt, Clarinda Albury; **adopted daughters**: Julie McNeil and Canrea Scott; **sisters**: Emmie Walkes, Alva Knowles, Lillian McNeil and Sonia Russell; **brother**: Tommy Russell; **numerous nieces and nephews and a host of other relatives and friends too numerous to mention**.

Funeral Announcements will be announced at a later date.

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P.O. Box N-712, Nassau, Bahamas

Funeral Service For**Stephanie Sarah McIntosh-Sears-Rhoden, 59**

of Nassau Village, will be held on Saturday, January 21st, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. at New Lively Hope Baptist Church, Jerome Ave and Chesapeake Road. Officiating will be Bishop Chester Rolle, assisted by other ministers. Interment will follow in Woodlawn Gardens, Solider Road.

Left to cherish her memories are: **her husband**: Oscar Rhoden; **her mother**: Jacqueline Bernice McIntosh; **her children and their spouses**: Sandra and Allen Darville, James and Evelyn Sears, Fabian and Annmarie Sears, Charlene and Gordon Saunders, Carla Lotmore, Henry, Adrian and Mark Sears; **her step daughter**: Stacyann Rhoden; **seventeen grandchildren**: Paul and Tanya Ferguson, Selena and Miquel Saunders, Robin Sears, Brittney Strachan, Ashton, Alesha Curtis, Allesia Sears, Fabianno Sears, Nicholas, Fabian Jr., Fabianna, Ishmel, Precious, Henrick and Melia Sears; **step grandchild**: Jordan Thomas; **two brothers**: Christopher and Cecil McIntosh; **three sisters**: Rosemary Wilson, Sarah Martin and Gloria McKinney; **one aunt**: Nell Williams; **one uncle**: Roland Knowles; **five sisters-in-law**: Monique Knowles, Christine Bell, Majorie and Dredie Rhoden, Cassandra Campbell; **one brother-in-law**: Kemar Campbell; **nieces and nephews**: Olander, Rufus Dean, Felix and Nyasha Wallace, Charles, Kevin, Larry, Crystal and Matthew Culmer, Edell and Douglas Rolle, Tiffany and Dwight McPhee, Melinda and Walter Rose, Vincent and Rudell Arnett, Bernice Arnett, Jeffery Rolle, Kendrick, Clinton, Christopher and Sheniqua McIntosh, Charles Bodie Tameka and Delano Davis, Rochelle McIntosh, Shamecco and Karen McIntosh, Monique, Natasha, Kimberly and Krista McKinney, Lithela Wilson and Stephanie Johnson; **other relatives and friends including**: Michelle Pennerman, Shameka Basset, Warren Curtis, Paula Grant, Larina Davis, Elsa McIntosh, Georgia, Jimmy Sears, Doreen Stubbs, Alfred Spence, Hyacinth Ramsey, Eleanor Bain, Miriam and family, Steve Collie and family, Ann Scannaberry, Prison Officer Ivy Bastian, Dona, Gloria, Cynthia, Joann Pennerman, Kenilworth Street, Mount Royal Avenue, and Nassau Village families and many others too numerous to mention.

Friends may pay their last respects at Butlers' Funeral Homes & Crematorium, Ernest and York Streets on Friday, January 20th, 2012, from 10:00 a.m until 4:30 p.m. and at the church on Saturday, January 21st, 2012, from 10:00 a.m. until service time.

'No jobs being lost at Atlantis'

from page one

However, he explained last night that it would have been "inappropriate" and "unhelpful" to speak about the Atlantis matter day after day while still trying to focus on "the people's business."

He also told reporters while in Grand Bahama this week that the Government did not have an opportunity to approve the Brookfield purchase or have it transferred to them, before a judge ordered the deal stopped. And Brookfield withdrew its application to government.

"I think it is important for the government to keep people informed and abreast about developments at Atlantis," Mr Ingraham said.

"It is especially critical for people to be informed while all this false information, misinformation and speculation on the matter at hand continues day after day."

"Our overriding responsibility is for the protection of Bahamian jobs and the long term viability of Atlantis."

Mr Ingraham said Atlantis is one of the leading resorts in the Bahamas and it has been good for the Bahamas.

"Sol Kerzner has been good for us and good to the Bahamas," he said. "We have your back and we have your best interest at heart. We are connected, we are involved and we are engaged."



EARL DEVEAUX, right, passes on the electoral torch for Marathon to new candidate Heather Hunt. Photo: Chester Robards/Tribune Staff

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Funeral Service for**Thomas (Tommy) Elta Bethel**

will be held on Saturday, January 21, 2012 at 11:00 am at New Vision Ministries, Marsh Harbour, Abaco. Officiating will be Pastor Derek Benjamin, assisted by Pastor Rich Roberts.

Left to cherish his memories are his **wife**, Eleanor; **daughter**, Donna; **son-in-law**, Reg; **grandson**, Ryan; **granddaughter**, Tonya; **sisters**, Carolyn, Cheryl and Patrice; **five sisters-in law**, Janet, Annie, Retta, Myrtie and Cheryl; **six brothers-in-law**, Chuck, Stan, Ron, Roy, Michael and Scott; **numerous nieces and nephews, many other family members and close friends including** Philip Sawyer and Nathlee Brown.

He was pre-deceased by his parents, Elta and Vivian Bethel, his parents-in-law, Eric and Bernice Lowe, daughter, Patricia; son, Michael, brothers-in-law, Jerry and Perry, and sister-in-law, Kathy.

Special thanks to Doctors Frank Boyce, Benerji Swarna, George Charite, Kevin Moss, Michael Darville, Wesley Francis and the staff of Doctors Hospital- ICU. Pastor Tommy Albury of Calvary Bible Church and The Hanna Family.

Our sincere gratitude to all of you who have called, visited, sent flowers and for your prayers on our behalf.

Tommy, Rest in Peace until we meet again.

UNION WARY OF MEETING WITH MINISTER

from page one

"We only hope the ministry does not disrespect us by sending persons who cannot help us to our next meeting. This better not be a publicity stunt. In fact, once we sit at the table, we are hoping the government just says 'we have completed what you asked so let's move on'. If this is what's going to happen then there is no need to negotiate. As a matter of fact there is no need to negotiate. You can't negotiate something you already agreed to."

Mr Smith's comments came after Mr Foulkes announced yesterday that he certified a strike vote for the BCIAWU.

He said: "I met with the unions on Wednesday for three hours. We have agreed to meet again on February 7 to continue our discussion. There were several matters raised in the meeting so we are giving the various partners involved additional time to consider."

"Even though the strike vote has been certified, I am hopeful that the leadership in customs and immigration will allow the process to work and will not engage in any industrial action. We are hopeful we will get their matters resolved."

While Mr Smith remained tight-lipped on whether or not



the union is prepared to strike, he said he hopes it doesn't have to come to that.

"Once persons come to the table to resolve these issues seriously and fairly there is no need for further action on our behalf. However, I want to caution the minister that our members are not pleased. It's been two years. They are tired," he said.

"While we will be patient and we are encouraging our members to be patient, we do not want to be disrespected. If they feel it, they will meet the government with the type of resistance that meets that level of disrespect. We are hoping this will not be the case. We are hoping there is some real intent to resolve the issues, a sincere attempt not just because it is political season."

Mr Foulkes also certified a strike vote for the union at First Caribbean Bank.

LOCAL NEWS

Hospital's plea to fund new machine



DIRECTOR OF RADIOLOGY Solange Payne Fielding shows X-rays which will soon be the thing of the past.
Photos: Felipe Major/Tribune Staff

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machine with consistent manpower.

She said: "There is another mammography machine at the RAND Memorial Hospital to do screening for Grand Bahama, however there has been a lack of radiologists."

"Really and truly to tackle all the screening, we need to have more mammography machines and that is something that really should be done so it reaches everybody."

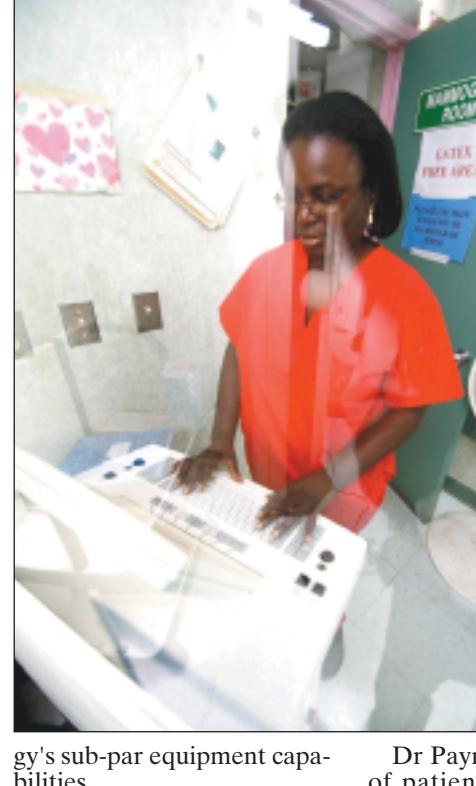
The new digital machine, however, will allow images to be instantaneously seen on a computer screen, stored into a data base, and retrieved as needed.

Dr Payne explained the machine's age has presented a many challenges for the department.

"As a result," she said, "we have down time due to machine failure, and equipment failure or the need to replace parts, the machine is now to the point where they don't even make the parts anymore."

"Yes, we could continue to fix it, but the rate at which we could continue, it just becomes less cost-effective."

As breast cancer is prevalent in the Bahamas, Dr Payne said a new digital machine will boost radiolo-



CAROLINE WILLIAMS, technologist for radiology, works on a ten-year-old mammogram machine in the Princess Margaret Hospital.

gy's sub-par equipment capabilities.

During the past 10 years, the development of digital imaging and the whole use of computers and the use of the Internet, along with the type of equipment that now is available has totally changed," she said.

"The common man doesn't have pictures, everybody has digital. Why is it that the hospital is still limping along with the film?"

Dr Payne said the number of patients seen every day could be doubled with the digital machine.

The new equipment will also use 30 per cent less radiation.

Mammography is the only recognized way of screening for breast cancer.

It has been proven and documented that screening mammography, decreases mortality and the morbidity associated with breast cancer.



THE DARK ROOM, where film is developed.



NURSES still have to search through paper files, which will soon be a thing of the past with more modern equipment.



DIRECTOR OF RADIOLOGY Solange Payne Fielding and Sandra Donald explain the need for the new machine.

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