

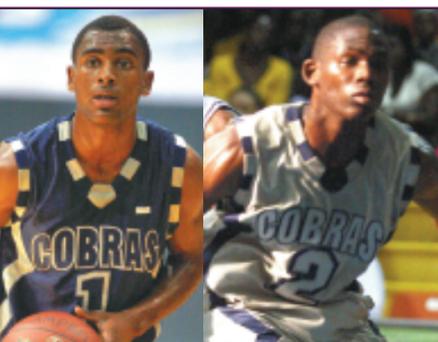


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Zero tolerance pledge by PM

Crackdown will include minor crimes

PRIME Minister Hubert Ingraham declared war last night on the casual attitude to petty crimes in the Bahamas.

Speaking at the opening of the FNM's Ft Charlotte constituency office, Mr Ingraham said he is spearheading a zero-tolerance policy on all law breakers.

"Reversing the tolerance for other crimes includes less tolerance for small things.

This includes things like running the traffic light, driving with a back light out, or ignoring the speed limit," Mr Ingraham said.

The Prime Minister said his greatest priority is the safety and security of Bahamians, and this is why his party is tough on both crime and its causes.

He said the government is

SEE page 9

PLP: PROVE 'DIRTY MONEY' CLAIM

By CHESTER ROBARDS
Tribune Senior Reporter
crobards@tribunemedia.net

has suggested that the PLP has been receiving campaign funding through unscrupulous sources.

During his address at the opening of his party's Southern Shores constituency office he asked the Prime Minister to directly name these sources.

SEE page 9

WATER CORPORATION WORKERS STRIKE



DWAYNE WOODS, president of the Bahamas Utilities Services and Allied Workers Union, addresses the media yesterday.
Photo: Felipe Major/Tribune Staff

By CELESTE NIXON
Tribune Staff Reporter
cnixon@tribunemedia.net

WATER and Sewerage Corporation workers abstained from work in protest yesterday morning, claiming some staff have been working there more than a decade without being granted permanent employment.

Minister of State for the Environment Phenton Neymour said the illegal strike

action was premature, as the issues in question are under active discussion.

With around 40 employees standing and holding signs outside the corporation's headquarters, Bahamas Utilities Services and Allied Workers Union (BUSAWU) president Dwayne Woods said 80 per cent of the 400 Water and Sewerage employees the union represents throughout the country will do what is necessary to

resolve outstanding matters.

Apologising to the public for any inconvenience that may result from any further actions by the union, Mr Woods said: "We have come to get these matters resolved and if takes... well Kentucky took a week so I think we can take a week or two or three or four - what ever it takes. We are prepared for the long haul."

SEE page 9

DON'T miss *The Big T* tomorrow, packed with news, features, fashion, entertainment and up to \$150 in food and shopping coupons.

This week in *The Big T*, read about how a Bahamian actor and director have teamed up to bring an internationally acclaimed Shakespeare adaptation home in "Othello, or the Tragedy of the Conchy Joe".

In our regular weekly columns, **John Marquis** talks about memorable "martial arts" encounters between parliamentarians both here in the Bahamas and in the UK, while **Adrian Gibson** explains why the official national stadium opening was a cultural disappointment for him.

In our entertainment and lifestyles section, read about the new Bahamian singing sensation **Angelique Sabrina** who is offering her fans a chance to appear in her new music video.

And in our STYLZ section, learn all about how **wild animal print nails** and **colour block designs** are all the rage right now.

Then in Local Sports, you can read about how two of The Bahamas' Olympic hopefuls are being put through the paces in an intense training camp in Wales leading up to the 2012 Games.

CUSTOMS WALK OFF THE JOB

CHAOS erupted at the Lynden Pindling International Airport last night after Customs and Immigration officials walked off the job at 5pm, citing General Orders.

SEE page 9



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Main photo: **Letisha Henderson/BS**

...and Saunders Beach is next



WORKMEN have started to give a facelift to Saunders Beach, bringing in boulders and carrying out protective work to the shore. Photo: **Felipé Major/Tribune Staff**



THE CAST in rehearsal at the Dundas Centre for the Performing Arts.

Actor says theatre can benefit young

By **CARA BETHEL**
cbrennen@tribunemedia.net

THEATRE can be an excellent way to channel the energies of young people into something positive.

Bahamian actor Craig Pinder, who will take to the stage tonight as the title character in *Othello or the Tragedy of Conchy Joe*, told *The Tribune* that it could be one way to steer young people away from crime.

“There is a lot of crime and suicide in young people and it’s not just something that is happening in the Bahamas, but if you can channel their interests, so that even if they don’t want to act, they can build sets, apply make-up, or be involved behind the scenes, it can be positive.”

He said that theatre encourages a sense of pride as it allows persons to “show-off” – a feeling which could carry into other aspects of their lives.

Mr Pinder, who is a renowned actor on the English stage, said it has always been his dream to contribute to the theatre scene in the Bahamas.

He is joined in this desire by the play’s director, Bahamian Robin Belfield, who adapted Shakespeare’s original version to make the lead role that of a white “Conchy Joe” Bahamian and place the story on a modern Bahamian fishing boat.

Mr Belfield said he wanted to introduce Shakespeare to a new generation that may have previously frowned upon it.

He said that one of the highlights of the performances here will be the student matinee on Wednesday.

“I want them to think ‘wow, I didn’t know Shakespeare was that good’. I want them to see it can be different and exciting.”

Mr Pinder added that the theatre scene in the Bahamas

has suffered from a lack of funding, like so many other countries, which makes producing a large amount of material difficult.

“Some people feel that you don’t get your investment back, and that is not valuable, but it is definitely worthwhile and adds to the country’s cultural fibre,” he said.

“There is definitely an abundance of talent in the Bahamas. You have to be willing to be fairly free. Acting is about being willing to change completely into another person.”

There will be six performances of *Othello* at the Dundas Centre for the Performing Arts – tonight, Saturday, March 3 at 8pm; an 11am matinee on Wednesday for schoolchildren; and performances at 8pm on Thursday, March 8, Friday, March 9, which is the gala performance; and Saturday, March 10. Tickets are \$25 and \$50 for the gala.



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LOCAL NEWS

Union says it may become official agent at ministry

By **DANA SMITH**
dsmith@tribunemedia.net

THE Bahamas Educators Managerial Union could become the official bargaining agent for supervisors and managers at the Ministry of Education before the month is over, union representatives said yesterday.

Speaking at a press conference, BEMU president Charles Wildgoose said fighting for official recognition has been a "long struggle" that began in 2008.

At the time, there was "no voice" for school administrators, he said.

Trade Union Congress (TUC) president Obie Ferguson, who acted as BEMU's lawyer, said that on February 21, Supreme Court Justice K

Neville Adderley ruled against the government, which had sought to block the union's attempt to represent ministry managers.

"The court saw fit after hearing arguments, to order the Labour and Social Development Minister to carry out his statutory duty to determine whether the BEMU is entitled to recognition as the bargaining agent for the supervisory and management employees of the ministry of education," Mr Ferguson said.

"The court went further to be rather specific. The court said such determination is to be made according to law within a reasonable time but in any event, before 4pm on Friday March 30."

Mr Ferguson said he con-

tacted Labour Minister Dion Foulkes following the ruling and scheduled a meeting well before the court's deadline.

"I wrote the minister a letter and I advised the minister that we are to meet on March 7 to dispose of paragraph 28 of this order which determines the exact time (and) the date, when the certificate ought to be realised," Mr Ferguson said.

"I've gotten assurance from the minister that we - meaning the executive council of this union along with me as counsel - will have a meeting with him on March 7, at which time the minister will facilitate the granting of the determination certificate.

"That is a very significant move and I want to thank the minister in advance for doing

that which is right, that which is in accordance with the law, and that which I think will help to establish this union."

Education managers need their own representation because of the special role they play, Mr Wildgoose said.

He noted that the BEMU doesn't feel school administrators or managers are better than teachers, but that there is a "distinct difference" in the terms and conditions of service.

"We were always desirous and often felt that the educational managers - who include school administrators, principals, vice principals, senior persons, and education officers in the Department of Education and the department section in the Ministry of Education - we always felt

that these persons needed a voice," he said.

"We felt that everyone else had a voice, the Bahamas Union of Teachers basically spoke for teachers and they acted for teachers, but we felt that because of our job description, because of the special role we play in education - we run schools that are responsible for millions of dollars and hundreds of children and also teachers and auxiliary staff - we felt that our role has always been very important."

There are around 240 members in the BEMU. The union wants to discuss a number of issues with government, among them comprehensive medical insurance, workplace safety and hours of service.

14 FOUND AFTER HAITIAN BOAT RUNS AGROUND

DIRECTOR of Immigration Jack Thompson yesterday confirmed that a boat carrying a group of Haitians ran aground near Governor's Harbour, Eleuthera.

He said: "My information coming out of Freeport, Grand Bahama is there was a 40 foot fiber glass vessel that ran aground near the island.

"There were 14 persons that were found in the community; 12 men and two women.

"We have already dispatched a team of officers from New Providence to Governor's Harbour, Eleuthera to question them.

"We will find out how many persons were on the vessel and how long they were on the seas."

Mr Thompson added that the type of vessel used surprised him, as it seemed to be an upgrade from the usual wooden sloop used to transport immigrants from Haiti.

SUSPECTS IN COURT FOR HALF OF 2012 MURDERS

By **SANCHESKA BROWN**
Tribune Staff Reporter
sbrown@tribunemedia.net

POLICE have put suspects before the courts in connection with more than half the murders committed for the year and say they are on track to close the remaining cases as well.

Assistant Commissioner of Police Anthony Ferguson said 52 per cent or 11 of the 21 murders committed in the past two months have been "solved by police".

In a press conference at Police Headquarters, ACP Ferguson updated the press on the progress the Royal Bahamas Police Force has made in the fight against crime in 2012.

According to crime statistics released by the RBPF, in January homicides decreased by 25 per cent, down to nine from 12 during the same period last year.

However, in February murder statistics increased by 41 per cent, up to 12 from seven during the same period in 2011.

Police have classified 21 killings as homicides so far this year with 18 in New Providence and two in Grand Bahama.

Ten were committed in the street, in alleys or backyards.

Police have removed 128 firearms from the streets



along with 3,359 rounds of ammunition.

ACP Ferguson said this is significant as the gun was the weapon of choice in the majority of murders in 2011 and 2012.

He also identified southwestern and northeastern New Providence as the areas where most homicides were committed.

Police believe a handful of the murders were retaliation killings, while the majority were drug related or a due to a lack of conflict resolution skills.

ACP Ferguson said: "We have groups of young men that have issues with each other. They have conflicts then they go out in public, see each other and cause incidents.

"We are appealing to members of the public to come for-

ward and tell us these things before they escalate. We know they know who these persons are.

"Please come to us and let us know so we can have an intervention before a problem arises."

ACP Ferguson also refuted claims the police were not properly monitoring accused persons outfitted with electronic monitoring bracelets.

"We are doing our job. In all technology you will have from time to time some glitches but not to the extent where we do not know where a person is for a significant period of time. We do have back up plans in case something happens in order to deal or circumvent anyone who tries to breach whatever technology we have in place," he said.

This came after the opposition PLP claimed the failure of the government to properly monitor people on bail who are fitted with ankle bracelets is "another example, out of the mouth of the minister no less, of failed procedures of the FNM to keep the Bahamian people safe."

Minister of National Security, Tommy Turnquest, admitted on Wednesday that 30 persons who were being electronically monitored were able to use foil paper to deactivate the system.

He said, however, that when the problem was discovered on February 10, police were able to track the men using alternative measures.

There are currently 219 people on bail being monitored via ankle bracelets.

MINISTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY Tommy Turnquest has warned that 30 people have managed to overcome their electronic tags using foil paper but said police were able to track down the men by other means.

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THE VOW	NEW	1:00	3:30	N/A	6:05	8:30	10:40
DR. SEUSS THE LORAX	NEW	1:15	3:35	N/A	6:10	8:35	10:35
PROJECT X	NEW	1:10	3:40	N/A	6:15	8:40	10:50
WANDERLUST	C	1:15	3:30	N/A	6:10	8:35	10:50
ACT OF VALOR	C	1:00	3:30	N/A	6:05	8:30	10:45
GOOD DEEDS	T	1:05	3:25	N/A	6:00	8:25	10:40
GOOSE	C	1:10	3:35	N/A	6:10	8:35	10:50
GHOST RIDER SPIRIT VENGEANCE	C	1:00	3:40	N/A	6:15	8:40	10:50
SAFE HOUSE	C	1:15	3:25	N/A	6:00	8:20	10:45
JOURNEY 2	B	1:15	3:35	N/A	6:05	8:25	10:35
THE SECRET WORLD OF ARRIETTY	B	1:05	3:35	N/A	6:05	N/A	N/A
UNDERWORLD	C	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8:30	10:45

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PROJECT X	NEW	1:15	3:40	N/A	6:15	8:40	10:55
ACT OF VALOR	C	1:05	3:25	N/A	6:05	8:25	10:40
GOOD DEEDS	T	1:00	3:30	N/A	6:00	8:30	10:45
GHOST RIDER SPIRIT	C	1:15	3:30	N/A	6:15	8:30	10:45
SAFE HOUSE	C	1:00	3:20	N/A	6:05	8:25	10:50
JOURNEY 2	B	1:05	3:30	N/A	6:10	8:30	10:35

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WOMAN MISSING FROM SHIP

THE FBI is investigating the disappearance of a Canadian woman aboard a Bahamas cruise.

While the US Coast Guard continued searching an area spanning 900 miles for the 47-year-old woman, an FBI spokesman said Thursday there was no additional information about her disappearance from the Bahamas Celebration.

Authorities say the woman's boyfriend last saw her early Wednesday when he left her at a ship gift shop. The ship was returning from Freeport, Bahamas, to the Port of Palm Beach.

The man said he left the gift shop for the casino and then returned to their cabin. He alerted the ship's crew when he woke up and realized she had not returned.

Celebration Cruise Line spokesman Glenn Ryerson says the ship resumed its cruise schedule and returned to sea Wednesday evening.

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Little hope for Israel in Korea nuclear deal

ISRAEL says the economic pressure that appears to have brought a dramatic breakthrough in nuclear negotiations with North Korea is unlikely to work on Iran.

This gloomy assessment delivered by Israel's deputy foreign minister on Thursday came ahead of a key visit to the White House by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The Israeli leader is expected to argue that economic sanctions are not stopping Iran from moving ahead on developing nuclear weapons, and that military strikes should be considered a viable option.

On the eve of the trip, another country under pressure for its nuclear programme — North Korea — announced that it would cease uranium enrichment and missile tests in exchange for US food aid. The deal is seen as a success for sanctions imposed on Pyongyang.

In a radio interview, Deputy Foreign Minister Danny Ayalon cautioned against drawing parallels, saying North Korea is more susceptible to international pressure than Iran.

"North Korea is a small and weak state," Ayalon told Israel's Army Radio station. "If it had a nuclear bomb or two in its cellar it was only for economic blackmail. Iran has global ambitions, with ideological motivations. And it is a direct threat on its (regional) environment."

Tehran says its nuclear programme is aimed at peaceful uses like power generation and cancer treatment, but Israel, the US and other Western countries all believe that Iran is developing the capability to build a weapon.

Despite the agreement over Iran's goals, sharp differences have emerged between the allies over how to respond.

Israel has argued that time is running out to stop Iran, and that it could soon be compelled to carry out a military strike against Tehran's nuclear installations. The US and its European partners say economic sanctions set to go into effect this summer must be given time to work, though they have not ruled out military action.

There are concerns that an Israeli attack on Iranian nuclear facilities could prompt missile strikes against Israel either by Iran or from its Lebanese proxy Hezbollah, as well as rocket attacks by Hamas in Gaza.

On Thursday, state-run Israel Aerospace Industries announced that it would be testing an advanced missile interceptor system, the Arrow 3, "in the near future".

The joint US-Israel Arrow system is designed to bring down ballistic missiles

far from their targets.

"Arrow 3, the improved model of the Arrow system...is more capable than ever to deal with future threats," said Itzhak Kaya, head of the Arrow missile program. Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak has been in Washington this week for talks with top US security officials.

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un announced Wednesday that his country would stop nuclear weapons testing, freeze uranium enrichment, and allow foreign inspectors to visit its nuclear sites. In exchange, the United States promised to deliver more than 200,000 tons of food aid.

Although the announcement falls short of ending the North Korean nuclear programme, it signals a long-awaited victory for Washington's use of economic pressure.

North Korea faces tough UN sanctions that were tightened in 2009 when it conducted its second nuclear test and launched a long-range rocket. Millions continue to go hungry, according to the World Food Programme.

North Korea is also in a state of transition following the death of its longtime leader, Kim Jong Il, in December. Kim's untested son, Kim Jong Un, was subsequently named the reclusive nation's leader.

Although Iran's nuclear programme is not believed to be as advanced as North Korea's, analysts said the Tehran regime is far more entrenched.

Hazhir Temourian, an Iran expert at the Limehouse Group of Analysts in London, said the leadership change in North Korea provided an opportunity to pursue a more moderate policy. In contrast, he said "there is no sign" that Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, "wants to share any power".

Eldad Pardo, an expert on Iran at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, said North Korea and Iran appear to be going in different directions.

North Korea is one of the last holdovers of communism, long cut off from its former patrons China and the disbanded Soviet Union, he said. But Iran, he said, is "the wave of the future".

"If you look across the Middle East, they started as one Islamic regime and now you have Islamic regimes all over," he said. The nuclear programme boosts Iran's rising profile, he added. "Therefore it is harder for the Iranians to compromise."

This article is by Daniella Cheslow of the Associated Press

Mortimer good for Bahamas

EDITOR, The Tribune.

THE Democratic National Alliance (DNA) announced its deputy leader on Wednesday night at the Wyndham Nassau Resort ballroom. Chris Mortimer won the post of deputy leader for the DNA, but in my view the real winner is the Bahamian people.

I had the opportunity to meet and speak with Mortimer on at least three occasions and on each occasion I became more and more impressed with his leadership style and his business acumen.

He has no qualms about speaking on any issue and he has an "arsenal" of plans to try to improve the Bahamian economy.

He is a man of purpose and this is evident by the way in which he runs Galleria Cinema and his DNA campaign office aka "The C A Mortimer Sr Resource Centre".

Just before the boundaries commission, he was the candidate for the Sea Breeze constituency. He is now the DNA's candidate for Nassau Village.

When I visited his campaign headquarters, I was tak-

LETTERS

letters@tribunemedia.net

en aback by the level of professionalism and organisation being exuded by his staff members.

They addressed everyone with respect and even though they were hosting a domino tournament, staff members maintained their professional poise. In my view, this was no accident.

His campaign headquarters has a modern kitchen, a waiting area, a full-sized backyard, an entertainment room for children, offices and even a computer room where access is granted only to authorised persons. Persons who look for detail in business operations would be very impressed if they visited his campaign headquarters.

Mortimer and his team also use cutting edge technology in their campaign. I was very impressed with the Android devices that are used to track voters and keep a database record of their addresses, names and phone contacts. They can locate voter details at the touch of a button when

campaigning on the road.

I asked him point blank several months ago about what type of contribution he plans to make to the Bahamas. He said that he is all about empowering Bahamians and that he will make no compromises with regards to same.

I don't find Mortimer to be the most passionate public speaker but my honest opinion of him is that he has the itch to serve. This is lacking in many of our candidates who just have the itch to get rich and talk foolishness.

If Mortimer's running of his campaign is any indication of what he intends to do if elected, then this can only serve as a blessing for the Bahamas. We need more men like him who will stay above the fray and bring focus and order to the many policies affecting our governance. Even if Mortimer is not elected, I think he has already built a model from which all other candidates can learn. I truly hope that he continues what he has started.

DEHAVILLAND MOSS
Nassau,
February 18, 2012.

Renunciation of the Gospel is Obama's message

EDITOR, The Tribune.

REGARDING the Reuters article "Santorum says Obama agenda not 'based on Bible'" — February 18, 2012.

Rick Santorum was right to attack President Obama's Christianity and agenda as being based on "some phony theology. Not a theology based on the Bible. A different theology".

The radical anti-life, anti-family agenda Obama pro-

motes — contraception, sterilisation, abortion, homosexuality, embryonic stem cell research — is not Christianity; it is another religion — a secular religion.

President Obama, like many others today, wants to measure the truth of the faith by modern society's standards. They mistakenly believe that divine Revelation must adapt itself to the current mentality in order to be credible, instead of the current mentality converting in

the light that comes to us from on high. The result is a stripping of the Redeemer of man of his radical uniqueness, and classifying Him as someone who can be managed and domesticated. In the final analysis, you end up with a renunciation of the Gospel and this is really what is at the heart of Obama and his message.

PAUL KOKOSKI
Canada,
February 18, 2012.

By George, stadium shows we've got it!

EDITOR, The Tribune.

MY FRIEND, Bishop Neil Ellis told me: "There comes a time, which when it comes, will define your life for the rest of your life."

Could it be that time came for the Bahamas on February 25, 2012 at the opening of the Thomas A Robinson National Stadium.

There will be persons that write about every detail, but it is suffice to say that the whole affair was a testimony to what

we can do.

We can only hope that from this day forward, Bahamians realise what came to be on February 25, 2012. Yes, I am sure there were hiccups, but so what!

There was no hiccup in the sense of pride we felt about where we came from, where we are and where we can go.

We came together, without the division of colours, but with Bahamian spirit.

I may not have physically

been there, but WE were all there. We can only hope it sets the tone for the weeks ahead.

Congratulations Bahamas, the future is promising. A generation is now exposed to the world of possibilities, which will define us for the rest of our lives.

By George, we've got it.

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We The People,
Nassau,
February 26, 2012.

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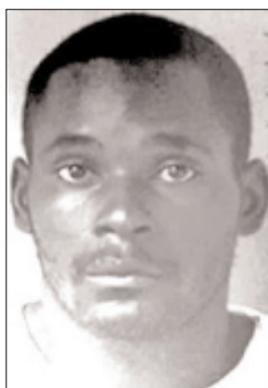
If you see this pretty girl this weekend, wish her a Happy 60th Birthday!

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LOCAL NEWS

Police yet to confirm captured man's ID

By **SANCHESKA BROWN**
Tribune Staff Reporter
sbrown@tribunemedia.net



ESCAPED prisoner Frederick Green, also known as Frederick Neely.

POLICE said they arrested a man thought to be a prisoner who escaped custody, but 24 hours later still didn't know if they had the right man.

Senior officers refuted a *Tribune* article that reported Frederick Green, alias Frederick Neely, 29, was apprehended on a bus at Wulff Road around 2.30pm Wednesday.

At around noon yesterday, they confirmed they had someone in custody since Wednesday, but said they couldn't be sure if it was Green because officers had yet to fingerprint him or establish his identity by other means.

When first asked about the arrest at a press conference yesterday, senior officers denied all knowledge of it.

However, when shown an official document in *The Tribune's* possession detailing the incident and identifying the detained man as Green, the officers confirmed it came from the Police Control Room (See sidebar).

DOCUMENT SENT TO THE TRIBUNE

AT ABOUT 2:25pm on Wednesday 29/02/12 an anonymous male caller reported that he had observed a male fitting the description of the escape prisoner FREDRICK GREEN/NEELY who had just got onto a purple and white jitney licence # (withheld) on

Kemp Road and reported to be headed west on Wulff Road.

Information was immediately transmitted to all mobile units where a number of them responded. A few minutes later a number of units intercepted said jitney on Wulff Road in the

At that point, Assistant Commissioner of Police Anthony Ferguson admitted an arrest took place but said the man in custody had not been officially identified as Green.

"This could be case of mistaken identity. I am not aware of the information or where it was acquired but I can tell you he is still out there and we are looking for him. Someone may have thought it was him and then discovered it was not. I am not privy to that

area of FYP Hardware Store.

Said Jitney was checked and said male was confirmed to be the escapee FREDRICK GREEN alias FREDRICK NEELY d.o.b 21/07/82 of CARMICHAEL ROAD who was arrested and taken to Wulff Road Police Station.

information or document," he said.

The document, sent to *The Tribune* by a police source, said officers received a tip-off from a man who said he saw someone fitting Green's description getting on to a purple and white jitney on Kemp Road, heading west toward Wulff Road.

Minutes later, the bus was intercepted by police on Wulff Road in the area of FYP Hardware Store.

One man was taken into

custody.

Green escaped while seeking medical attention under guard at the Princess Margaret Hospital on February 21.

He allegedly fled the hospital's chest ward through a window around 4am after the prison officer assigned to him left to use the bathroom.

After his escape, prison officials maintained that the officer secured Green in restraints before leaving to use the restroom.

Green was remanded to Her Majesty's Prison, Fox Hill after being charged with the 2009 armed robbery of 18 tourists at Earth Village. He is still awaiting trial.

He was previously charged with the 2004 stabbing death of Dale Williams.

However, he was acquitted of the charge after claiming he was defending himself against an attempted rape by a "gay, HIV positive man".

The last prisoner to escape from PMH was 28-year-old Dorian Armbrister, on December 13.

Armbrister was serving a 27-month sentence for stealing from a shop. Although he was outfitted with leg restraints and on 24-hour guard, he escaped the health-care facility by jumping through a bathroom window.

He was shot in the buttocks by prison officers on Dowdeswell Street a short time later.

FNM CONDEMNS PLP STADIUM BOYCOTT



PRIME MINISTER Hubert Ingraham addressing the crowd at the opening of the Thomas A Robinson National Stadium.

THE Free National Movement slammed the PLP yesterday for boycotting the opening of the Thomas A Robinson National Stadium last week.

While the PLP did send a "small delegation" to the opening out of respect for the Chinese government, the FNM said the absence of the rest of the opposition could be seen as a boycott of the Bahamian people - particularly "young Bahamians".

"The PLP also dishonoured the legacy of Tommy Robinson and his contributions to national development.

"The opposition turned an event of national unity into a partisan political event. At the grand opening Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham thanked the leader of the opposition

and his predecessors in office for their contributions towards the development of the new stadium.

"In showing more concern for the feelings of the Chinese government than the Bahamian people, the PLP put a lie to its claim of putting Bahamians first.

"In boycotting the Bahamian people, the PLP put a lie to its claim of putting people first. In boycotting the youth of the nation, the PLP put a lie to believing in our young people.

"It should be recalled that prior to the 1992 general election the PLP was set to appoint an ambassador to Taiwan.

"It was the Ingraham administration that recognised the People's Republic

of China in 1997.

"Without that recognition, there would never have been the gift of a new national stadium.

"In addition to building the new Thomas A Robinson National Stadium, the FNM will transform the QE II Sports Centre into a world-class athletic complex. This new sporting facility will boost employment and economic opportunity. It will aid in youth development, urban renewal and serve as a venue for programmes which will help to fight crime," the party said.

The FNM described the opposition as "shameful" for seeking to use one of the biggest national events since independence "for their own selfish and partisan motives".

ISLAND POWER OUTAGE

BY DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREETPORT - The Grand Bahama Power Company said the island-wide power outage on Tuesday was caused by damage to part of its transmission line.

The interruption occurred after 3pm and power was restored three hours later to all customers on the island.

According to the company there was severe damage to two insulators, and a pole was burned and charred.

The company's statement did not confirm the cause of the damage, but said: "Witnesses who reported the event informed us of severe weather in the vicinity just prior to the event."

The company apologised to the public for the blackout and thanked its employees for their quick response and hard work during the restoration efforts.

TROPICAL EXTERMINATORS FOR PEST PROBLEMS PHONE: 322-2157

UNION TO CONSULT LAWYERS OVER LOST KFC WAGES

By **KHRISNA VIRGIL**
kvirgil@tribunemedia.net

KFC employees could take legal action to recover wages lost when the chain shut down after the company refused to continue business without a new industrial agreement.

Yesterday, Bahamas Hotel, Catering and Allied Workers Union (BHCAWU) vice-president Darren Woods said employees raised the wage concerns when they met with union officials hours before the franchise opened following a nine day closure.

He said: "The employees asked us about it and we told them that we would consult with out lawyers and get back to them on if their are sufficient grounds to take such actions."

Last night, Mr Woods said he had no new information on whether union attorneys would advise the move.

All nine KFC locations reopened on Wednesday following four consecutive days of negotiations with union officials and company owners.

Union president Nicole Martin said a new industrial

agreement would be signed within the next two weeks.

Under the new agreement, new employees will be hired under a lower salary scale than current employees with a guaranteed work shift of at least four hours.

KFC's contributions to its staff's pensions will also be reduced from six per cent to two per cent for four years.

She said: "I think it's fair to say that the negotiations were extremely rough because we were faced with challenges, as far as just not being able to bargain and then of course we were faced

with a company wanting to undo everything that has been done over the years.

"It was not the easiest negotiations but we are happy we concluded with an agreement we can live with."

Last month, tensions escalated after the fast food chain cancelled its voluntary recognition of the union.

Following the announcement, staff staged a sit-down, leading to the closure of the company's New Providence outlets.

Later that evening, Minister of Labour Dion Foulkes certified BHCAWU as the offi-

cial bargaining agent.

The labour agreement between the two parties expired on September 24, 2011, and negotiations on a new agreement began in December.

KFC has argued that its current wage and benefits package is "two times higher than all other fast food brands".

Staff salaries were said to be between 79 to 92.5 per cent higher than its fast food industry competitors.

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LOCAL NEWS



THE EXECUTIVE TEAM of the Antique Auto Club of The Bahamas Richard Blake, Wayne Aranha, Murray Forde, Don Pinder, Brendan Foulkes, Don Aranha, Dion Bethell.

Antique Auto Club announces its new officers for 2012/2013

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THE Antique Auto Club of the Bahamas has announced the election of new officers and directors for 2012/13.

The new president is Brendan Foulkes and the new vice-president is Dwain Wallace. Murray Forde and Wayne Aranha were returned to the positions of secretary and treasurer respectively.

The directors are: Don Aranha, John Damas, Dion Bethell, Donald Pinder and immediate past president Richard Blake. Elections are held every two years and Mr Blake was thanked for his dedication and leadership in 2010 and 2011.

While primarily a hobby club, the AACB also believes in giving back to the community, including organising, together with the Riders of Distinction Motorcycle Club, the annual "Cruise to the Cure" for the Cancer Society. The club also supports the Kiwanis Club of Cable Beach in its annual Antique Auto Show, a major fund-raiser that provides gifts and groceries to around 80 underprivileged children on Christmas time.

The club's biggest event, the Annual Antique Auto Show and Cook-out, always benefits a charity or organisation involving children.

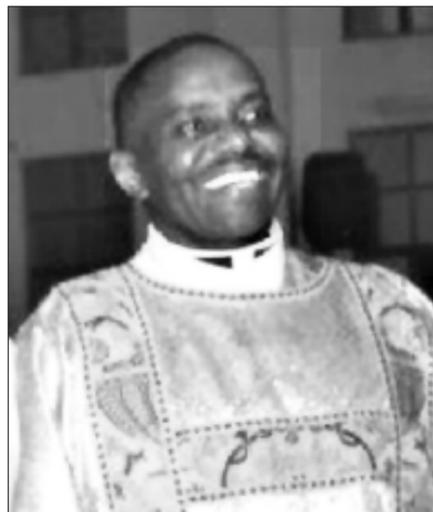
The club was formed in

July 1987 by six men interested in vintage automobiles and this year is celebrating its 25th anniversary with a membership of 50 men and women.

A number of events are being planned to celebrate the "Silver Jubilee", the first of which will be the Annual Antique Auto Show and Cook-out at Arawak Cay on Saturday, March 17.

Several family events are being planned along with the show and members are striving to have a record-setting 100 vehicles plus motorcycles at the event.

The beneficiary selected for this year is the Elizabeth Estates Children's Home.



DEACON WHITFIELD HUTCHINSON

MINISTRY'S 'THREE POWERFUL NIGHTS'

DEACON Whitfield Hutchinson, curate of St George Anglican Church, will be among the speakers during Christ The King Evangelism Ministry's Three powerful nights of Soul Searching and Inspiring Lenten Mission Services.

On Wednesday, March 7, at 7pm, Bishop Kirkland Murphy, senior pastor of Temple Fellowship Ministry, will speak on The Anointing.

Minister Francis Fawkes, of Carmichael Bible Church, will speak on The Holy Spirit on Thursday, March 8, at 7pm, and Deacon Whitfield "Brudda Hutch" Hutchinson will speak on Salvation on Friday, March 9, at 7pm.

Members of the public are invited to attend.



Schedule of Services Christ Church Cathedral The Second Sunday In Lent Sunday March 4th, 2012

7:00 a.m.
Holy Communion Service

10:30 a.m.
A Service of Morning Prayer
To celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
In the presence of His Royal Highness Prince Harry of Wales

6:00 p.m.
Solemn Evensong, Sermon & Benediction

CATHOLIC MISSION TO GATHER RESIDENTS

FREEPORT - The Catholic Annual Island-wide Mission will take place on March 5 through 9 this year, bringing all Catholic parishes on Grand Bahama together as residents prepare for the upcoming Easter season.

Under this year's theme, "Living the Christian Life each day: From Death to Resurrection," the mission will be held 7.30pm each night at Mary, Star of the Sea Church, where Monsignor Patrick Anthony will be the guest preacher.

The Catholic parishes of Mary, Star of the Sea, St Vincent de Paul, St Agnes and St Michael, and the Our Lady of Perpetual Help are extending an invitation to all residents of Grand Bahama to embrace this week of spiritual renewal and enrichment.

Monsignor Anthony is director of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Centre in St Lucia, and Archdiocesan press officer.

He holds a Masters degree in theology from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, and a doctorate from the English Department of the University of the West Indies, Trinidad.

Theologian, cultural activist and communications specialist, Msgr Anthony is the founder of the Folk Research Centre in St Lucia.

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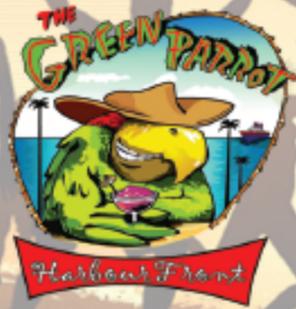
Green Parrot,

East Bay Street

\$3 Bacardi Anejo

ALL Night

DJ Kirk starts at 9pm



Zero tolerance pledge by PM

CUSTOMS WALK OFF THE JOB

from page one

improving road safety by creating new and refurbished roads and traffic lights, passing modern traffic laws and enforcing them vigorously.

The police are "out in full force" searching for those who break traffic laws for three reasons, Mr Ingraham said: to save lives and prevent injury, because traffic law enforcement helps in the fight against illegal drugs and guns, and because the Bahamas must fight lawlessness at every level.

He said: "I still am trying to understand why we are happy to abide by the traffic laws in US, but at home so many of us ignore our own traffic laws - act as if they don't exist."

"We can do better. Furthermore, we are spending plenty money and time building the best roads in this region. So, if you throw garbage in the road, you going to get fined."

"Same goes for rubbish falling off the back of trucks. And, let me put those cement trucks on notice. Stop spilling cement on our roads."

"This goes too for those people who like to mix cement on the road."

"Now you know someone will say something like,



PRIME MINISTER Hubert Ingraham wants a crack-down on all crime - even minor crimes such as littering or even mixing cement on the road.

"Instead of dealing with people who break traffic laws, the police should deal with serious criminals". Stop talking fool.

"We have to do both at the same time. This is why even in tough times when other countries were laying-off police, we hired over 400 police officers."

Mr Ingraham said that while his government has a comprehensive and strategic plan to combat crime as well as the conditions which give rise to it, Perry Christie and the PLP do not.

"They don't have a crime plan. They have a crime brochure. They have TV commercials about crime. That's all they have," Mr Ingraham said.

"We know that the PLP do not have the kind of tough and decisive leadership or clean hands needed to fight crime."

"And, you really believe that the party of 'late-again' can do anything quickly, much less something they like to call, Swift Justice?"

Mr Ingraham said that in order to fight crime effectively, you must start with a zero tolerance attitude to all infractions, but follow it with improvements to public infrastructure and beautify public spaces.

"We are doing these things all over this island - improving spaces for public recreation from Saunders Beach to South Beach to Big Pond to Montagu Foreshore."

"We are also fixing the street lights on lamp poles, naming streets and numbering houses. You know how them other people like talk about the so-called things we do. Well, small things like these save lives."

"A small thing like a sign with the name of your street reduces the time it may take an ambulance to get to your house. A small thing like a number on your house can speed up the response time by the police or BEC in case of an emergency," Mr Ingraham said.

He added that the government is doing a number of "big" things as well.

"We continue joint operations with police forces around our region and particularly with agencies of the United States government on tackling the big transnational criminal issues."

"We have increased the number of police officers and vehicles while improving the conditions of service on the force."

"We are targeting crime hotspots through targeted manpower. We are also deploying advanced technology including sophisticated computer systems and software to track and strike at hotspots."

"We are expanding the

CCTV network. This will be the most comprehensive expansion of crime-fighting technology in our nation's history."

"Our two state-of-the-art RBPF mobile strike force vehicles are on call, 24/7. They are fully equipped mobile police stations each with the capacity for video recording, flat screen viewing screens, specialised recording equipment and high-tech police lighting/siren/public address systems."

"We know that it takes more than crime-fighting tools and technology to fight crime. But we also know that the fight against crime will not succeed without them."

Mr Ingraham added that while being tough on crime, the FNM will do everything in its power to provide alternatives to those who may be attracted to criminal behaviour.

"We are working through our schools and in our communities to promote peaceful settlements of disputes; to encourage and support greater involvement and volunteerism in our community and to discourage and seek to correct bad behaviours."

"But, let me clear - anyone who 'gat a mind to 'tief and kill and do serious crime, you 'ga feel the full weight of the law."

from page one

According to Sloane Smith, the acting president of the Bahamas Customs, Immigration and Allied Workers Union, his members simply followed the instructions of the Prime Minister, who informed them to abide by the official rules for public servants, which speak to an employee working a regular 9am to 5pm day.

"There is no industrial action at the airport," Mr Smith said. "What has happened is that we simply followed what the PM said."

On Wednesday, Mr Smith instructed members to abandon their shift schedule as it did not comply with regulations.

The system has been a long-standing issue of contention for workers, who feel there are no guidelines to organise overtime work.

Labour officials, union representatives and staff met with Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham on Saturday to discuss the trade dispute stemming from a 2005 Industrial Agreement.

Mr Smith told *The Tribune* yesterday his members were introduced to a shift system last year, but it was not in line with labour laws.

"The PM himself did not accept it and neither did his office. So to say that they are doing industrial action would not be accurate. We are simply coming in to work from 9 to 5 like everyone else," he said.

It is understood that Customs and Immigration managers filled in for line staff at LPIA, handling any flights after 5pm.

However, Mr Smith said that this is at best only a "stop-gap" measure.

"If the government requires assistance on the weekend, we have asked them to set up a schedule. That schedule would allow for different ranks of officers to manage different ports or areas. That is what is available to them. But there is no provision in General Orders for a shift system."

Attempts to reach Minister of Labour Dion Foulkes were unsuccessful.

WATER CORPORATION WORKERS STRIKE

from page one

"These are matters that can be resolved easily with a stroke of the pen," he said.

One of the "critical" issues raised by Mr Woods was the status of contract workers, who in some cases have been working with the corporation for up to 11 years with being made permanent workers.

The status of separation packages for retired workers, unilateral changes in promotion procedures which have resulted in reduced benefits, gratuity, and over-time pay

are among the other issues that need to be addressed, Mr Woods said.

According to Minister Neymour many of the issues raised by the union are being addressed and are before the Water and Sewage Corporation board, which is scheduled to meet today.

For example, Mr Neymour said, the issues concerning contract workers were dealt with in an agreement between the union and the corporation on February 2, which is currently before the board.

Union heads have been

asked to allow the board to carry out its responsibilities and should there be any unresolved matters, Mr Neymour said a meeting with the union is scheduled for Monday - on the understanding employees go back to work.

He said "We have encouraged them to go back to work. This is an industrial action that they are taking, which the government wasn't advised of or knew nothing of."

"I felt that they should have brought any matter to the government before taking any

such action that could affect customers. I would say it was an illegal act, industrially."

"We recognise the economic times and we recognise the commitment that many of these individuals have made to their corporation in their long service and took that into consideration," Mr Neymour said.

The minister said he does not agree with claims that the government is trying to minimise the union's influence by not including contract workers within the bargaining unit. He said: "Over the years

the government has shown a commitment to regularise a number of the contract workers that existed when the we were elected in 2007 and we have begun that process."

"However it is important that the policies and procedures are consistent and it be done in a manner where it is sustainable by the Water and Sewage Corporation."

Mr Neymour said as far as he knows services have not been interrupted by the strike action and union members will be reporting back to work.

PLP: PROVE 'DIRTY MONEY' CLAIM

from page one

"I don't know what he means when he says that the PLP is getting dirty money," he said. "Who we getting dirty money from and when?"

Davis mentioned Victor Kozeny, suggesting that he was one of the men Mr Ingraham fingered as one of the PLP's campaign donors.

Mr Kozeny, 46, was wanted by US authorities to face charges of bribery and money laundering. He is accused of being the driving force behind a multi-million dollar bribery scheme which sought to corrupt Azerbaijan officials in

the early 90s. US officials allege that Kozeny bribed senior government officials of the former Soviet republic of Azerbaijan with millions of dollars in an effort to gain an unfair advantage during the privatisation of the state-owned oil company SOCAR.

Mr Davis suggested that Mr Kozeny may even be a campaign financier of the Free National Movement, through another of the FNM's alleged fundraisers.

"And did he not raise in the past at least 1.3 million dollars for your election efforts?"

"Check the records. For the record, Victor Kozeny has

never donated one cent to the PLP or any of its candidates," he said.

Mr Davis also hit out at the FNM's alleged spending.

"Don't forget how they spent almost \$300,000 to build a bathroom at Saunders Beach," he said. "Yet students in Cat Island and Crooked Island cannot get repairs done to their classrooms."

He also touted his party's Southern Shore's candidate Kenred Dorsett as a top candidate for the constituency, calling him a good man.

"He is the right man to put Southern Shores back on track," said Mr Davis.



HAPPY 85th BIRTHDAY

*I looked for you this morning, I looked for you last night,
I looked for you everywhere, but you were not in sight*

*I looked up to the night sky above, and saw your face in the stars
It was then I realized, you're not here anymore*

*But this one thing we realize, you'll always be with us
You are in our hearts and minds with each passing day*

*Life is something all of us must borrow, returning it in time to whence it came
Goodbye doesn't mean you're gone, so long as we still love you*

*Always in our hearts and missing you dearly
Your widower: Randolph, Sr.,
Children: Rosemary, Ruth, Randolph, Robert and Ruthanne
Grandchildren: Steffan (Kelli), Renauldo, Antoine, Randia, Randawnique, and Davonya*

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Sunset: January 27, 2005



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Manslaughter verdict due today as policeman waits to hear fate

By LAMECH JOHNSON
Tribune Staff Reporter
ljohnson@tribunemedia.net

A SUPREME Court jury will hand down the verdict today in the manslaughter trial of a policeman accused of beating a prisoner who died months later.

The nine-member jury, having heard evidence for more than two weeks, will decide whether Constable Donovan Gardiner is guilty of causing the death of 28-year-old Desmond Key.

The prosecution claims that on the Father's Day evening of June 17, 2007, the officer assaulted Key with a baseball bat in a cell at the Grove Police Station. Key died seven months later in hospital.

His colleague and former co-accused, Constable Tavares Bowleg, had been charged with abetment. It was claimed he watched Gardiner assault Key.

On Monday however, Justice Vera Watkins directed

the jury to acquit Mr Bowleg when she ruled, following closed discussions with counsel, that there was not sufficient evidence for a case against him. Regarding Corporal Gardiner, she ruled that there was still a case for the accused to answer.

In yesterday's proceedings, prosecutor Linda Evans and defence attorney Wayne Munroe made closing submissions.

Mr Munroe, assisted by Tecoyo Bridgewater and Tonique Lewis, was expected to begin his closing statements when court resumed at 10.30am.

However, he asked Justice Watkins for an opportunity to present a last witness.

Ms Evans noted that the court had the discretion to honour or reject the request but later said she would not object in the interest of fairness to the defence.

Dr Carlese Henry, a clinical pharmacist at Princess Margaret Hospital since Decem-

ber 2008, told the court her job is to advise doctors about drugs and their side effects.

Though she had no direct involvement in his case, she said patients like Key who are unable to take food orally, must be fed their "liquid meal" through tubes.

Lipids was the drug administered to Key along with his liquid meals according to medical files presented in court.

"A side effect of Lipids therapy is it could induce pancreatitis in certain individuals," Dr Henry said.

She added that each drug, "no matter how innocent it may seem, has a side effect."

Dr Henry said despite the side effects of this drug, there is no substitute available.

During cross-examination, Dr Henry admitted she was not a clinical pharmacist at the time of the incident.

But she added that according to international case studies, patients predisposed to high levels of cholesterol or alcohol are those most at risk of devel-

oping acute pancreatitis.

Reexamining, Mr Munroe asked the witness what advice she would have given the physician attending a patient like Key regarding Lipids.

She said she would recommend a different treatment or constant monitoring of the patient if Lipids were used.

Dr Henry admitted the hospital did not have a certified clinical pharmacist on staff at the time of Key's stay.

After her testimony, Mr Munroe told the jury the prosecution's case against Gardiner made "no sense and should not have been brought before the courts."

He questioned why Desmond Key, "who everyone testified that he was drunk" and swearing at police officers, "made no complaint of the beating to the EMT, no complaint to Sgt Major and this is the foolishness that Constable Roberts put before you".

He contended that officer Kevin Robert's lied about seeing Corporal Gardiner

strike Key in the head and side, adding that his testimony and admission to being pressured to give a statement against the accused, attested to his cowardice.

He referred to the evidence of both Dr Duane Sands and Dr Caryn Sands who testified that there were no bruises on Key when he was examined.

"Dr Duane could not say if the pancreatitis that Key developed had resulted from blunt force trauma or alcohol consumption," Mr Munroe said.

He also questioned the likelihood of a person not having a mark or bruise after being struck with a blunt object, when a fist would leave such a mark.

"There is no theory to explain how a person can be struck twice with a wooden baseball bat and receive no bruise. And since parliament has changed the law to allow me to address you first, I challenge my learned friend to explain that."

In response, prosecutor Ms Evans said she did not find

the latest evidence from the defense to definitively prove Key's pancreatitis was caused by drugs.

She reminded the jury that Key's attending physician did attribute blunt force trauma as a cause for pancreatitis, and she maintained that it was the "excessive force" used by the accused that led to his death.

She questioned the credibility of the accused and defence witness Tavares Bowleg. She reminded the jury that both men gave different accounts of the positioning of the computer and charge rooms in the station and also of the alleged escape attempt by Desmond Key, which did not add up "What they are saying are lies and they aren't even properly constructed."

"This is not CSI Miami. This is not Law and Order. This is reality" she concluded.

Justice Watkins will summarise the evidence before excusing the jury to deliberate. The evidence summation begins at 11am.



SANDALS WELCOMES FIRST FEMALE BUTLER CHAUFFEUR

SANDALS Royal Bahamian has welcomed into its ranks its first and only female Butler Chauffeur. Nathasha Bethel is making her mark amidst her three male counterparts. Ms Bethel has been employed with the resort for the past 16 years as a member of Sandals Royal Bahamian's kitchen staff, and has recently transferred to the property's elite Butler department.

POLICE STAFF ASSOCIATION CRITICISED FOR PUBLISHING INFORMATION

By KHRISNA VIRGIL
kvirgil@tribunemedia.net

THE Police Staff Association yesterday criticised a former high ranking official for publicising confidential RBPF information in an attempt to gain political mileage.

Dwight Smith, the organisation's executive chairman, was responding to the comments made by Keith Bell, an ex-superintendent, on a daytime radio talk show.

Mr Bell told of glitches in the government's electronic monitoring system for those granted bail.

According to the chairman, who spoke to the media at the association's office on Bank Lane, Mr Bell also implied that the force was too poorly-equipped to tackle crime or the other challenges it has been confronted with.

Rejection the notion that Mr Bell could speak for the force, Mr Smith said the ex-officer does not have the authority to do so.

He said: "The RBDF is well disciplined enough to know the protocol of its structure and certainly the Police

Staff Association adheres to the truth."

The chairman also questioned whether Mr Bell's claims supported a particular political party.

Mr Bell is the Progressive Liberal Party's deputy chairman.

Mr Smith said Mr Bell's claims aimed to cast the RBPF in a light which implied political persuasion.

"To make the Bahamian public to believe that the politician decided how and when we tackle crime is an insult to the Commissioner of Police, his executives, commanders, and the rank and file of the force."

"The commissioner only asks the politician or government to enact laws and to provide resources and funding to make these initiatives a success."

"So to say or make the public believe that the politician creates the many operations and initiatives is a direct insult to the existence of the police," he said.

In response, Mr Bell issued a statement saying the association has for years been rid-

dled with FNM operatives.

He said: "During the press conference, segments of the RBPF Association sought to align it, and by way of extension the line staff of the

RBPF, with the FNM through what was clearly a political endorsement. This is unacceptable."

"If any executive member of the Association wishes to

endorse a candidate or political party, they ought to resign."

"It is interesting that after four and a half years without promotion or raise by this

FNM government, segments of the Association have now found its voice, not to support its members, but rather a failed minister who has not supported them."