

FRIDAY

HIGH 95°F **LOW 81°F**

The Tribune Weekend



Volume:114 No.176, AUGUST 4TH, 2017

THE PEOPLE'S PAPER: \$1

You can have it all

A credit card with no annual fee plus cash back rewards! Visit cibfcib.com



Banking that fits your life.®

CIBC FirstCaribbean
International Bank

**Weekend**Simple perspective
Artist celebrates the ordinary

Art pages 10&11

What's your plan for summer?

Up to 10 months of 0% interest
\$1,000 minimum
Subject to approval

cliu

WEEKEND: ARTIST CAPTURES EVERYDAY LIFE IN NEW EXHIBITION

Gibson facing \$250k charges

By SANCHESKA DORSETT
Tribune Staff Reporter
sdorsett@tribunemedia.net

FORMER Labour and National Insurance Minister Shane Gibson was granted \$40,000 bail with two sureties in the Supreme Court yesterday afternoon, less than one hour after he was arraigned in Magistrate's Court on 36 bribery and extortion related charges.

It is alleged that Gibson solicited some \$250,000 in bribes.

The former Golden Gates MP was greeted by chants of "PLP all the way" from a crowd of supporters as he limped while handcuffed towards the Nassau and South Streets court complex.

Officers assisted him as he hopped up the steps.

Gibson, dressed in white pants and blue checkered shirt, had a noticeable leg injury his attorney said was caused by a boating accident prior to his arrest on Wednesday.

He did not have crutches when he headed into Magistrate's Court to be arraigned, but was later seen using the walking aides while at the Supreme Court for his bail hearing.

Gibson was charged in Magistrate's Court shortly after 1pm with one count of misconduct in public office, 16 counts of bribery, two counts of conspiracy to commit bribery, two counts of conspiracy to commit extortion and 15 counts of extortion – all of these

SEE PAGES TWO & THREE



FORMER Minister of Labour and National Insurance Shane Gibson outside court yesterday. He was later granted bail. Family members and PLP supporters gathered outside court for his appearance.

Photos: Terrel W. Carey/Tribune Staff

SUMMIT ACADEMY
Home of the International Primary Curriculum
NOW ACCEPTING applications for 2017
K2 - Grade 7

SUMMIT ACADEMY
The Smaller, Smarter Choice for a World Class Education™
East Bay Street | Tel: 394-4781/3
Website: www.summitacademybahamas.net
Email: info@summitacademybahamas.net
Facebook: Summit Academy (Bahamas)

VASYLI RELEASED FOR JANUARY TRIAL

By LAMECH JOHNSON
Tribune Staff Reporter
ljohnson@tribunemedia.net

DONNA Vasyli, who is scheduled to be retried in January 2018 concerning the fatal stabbing of her millionaire podiatrist husband, was granted \$250,000 bail by a Supreme Court judge on Thursday.

The 57-year-old Australian widow and her lawyers Murrio Duccile and Elliot Lockhart, QC, appeared before Justice Bernard Turner on Wednesday afternoon seeking a bond for the Australian's "employee verification" exercise could slash recurrent spending by around \$80m.

SEE PAGE THREE

'GHOST' AUDIT TO SAVE GOVT \$80M

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor
nhartnell@tribunemedia.net

THE Bahamas Public Services Union's president yesterday suggested the Government's "employee verification" exercise could slash recurrent spending by around \$80m.

John Pinder told Tribune Business he backed the effort to weed out "phantom" workers in the public sector.

FULL STORY - SEE BUSINESS

THE NEXT EDITION OF THE TRIBUNE IS ON TUESDAY AFTER THE HOLIDAY



Nassau & Bahama Islands' Leading Newspaper



FORMER Minister of Labour and National Insurance Shane Gibson being led into Magistrate's Court yesterday.

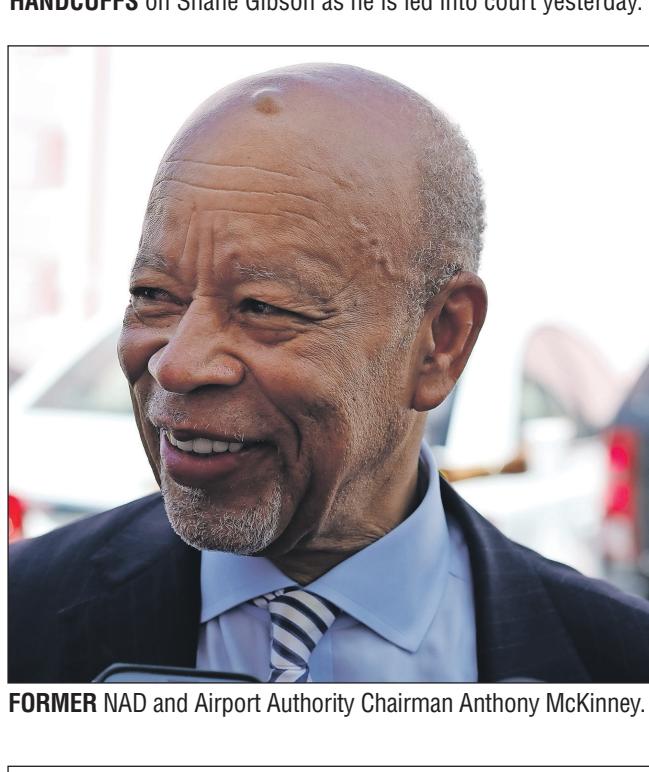
Photos: Terrel W. Carey/Tribune Staff



HANDCUFFS on Shane Gibson as he is led into court yesterday.



RODNEY Moncur outside court yesterday at Shane Gibson's arraignment.



FORMER NAD and Airport Authority Chairman Anthony McKinney.



ATTORNEY Damien Gomez outside court.



JERMONE Fitzgerald outside court yesterday.



ED FIELDS

Live

KISSfm

Feel The Music! 96.1

With co-host: ROGAN SMITH

Mondays & Thursdays**5:30pm - 7:00pm****Rebroadcast****Sundays @ 7:00pm**

Email: ed@edfieldslive.com

rogan@edfieldslive.com

Facebook: Ed Fields Live

TRADE MARK
Heineken

a part of your life and the Bahamas since 1927

BURGER KING

INSURANCE MANAGEMENT
WE COVER THE BAHAMAS

It's finger lickin' good

Gibson facing \$250k charges

from page one

concerned with Johnathan Ash.

It is alleged Gibson, between January 2 and April 30, 2017, concerned with another, extorted \$250,000 from Mr Ash.

As it relates to the bribery challenges, it is alleged Gibson solicited more than \$250,000 from Mr Ash between February 2 and March 30, 2017.

Gibson was also charged with conspiracy to extort \$250,000 from Mr Ash between January 2 and April 30, 2017.

A short time later, Supreme Court Justice Cheryl Grant Bethel heard the bail

application and did not impose any travel restrictions on Gibson. He was also not required to surrender his travel documents or check in to any police station.

Gibson is represented by Damian Gomez, QC, Wayne Munroe, QC and Anthony McKinney, QC, and Alex Dorsett.

After Gibson's bail hearing, Mr Munroe said he will return to court in September for a constitutional challenge to the Bail Act.

"It did not start out as a bail application, we are challenging the constitutionality of Section 4 3A of the Bail Act which removes the jurisdiction of magistrates to grant bail in these circumstances, in my view,

it's long overdue, it has not come to pass and the date for that for mention is set in September and we will set a date for that motion," he told reporters.

Gibson's bail was granted with two sureties on the condition he does not reoffend and attends his trial.

Former Progressive Liberal Party Marathon MP Jerome Fitzgerald, former Yamacraw MP Melanie Griffin and former Senator Keith Bell were among those seen supporting Gibson outside the courtroom yesterday.

Gibson's matter was adjourned until October 3 but he will return to court on September 19 for a status hearing.



ATTORNEY WAYNE MUNROE, QC, outside court yesterday.



SHANE Gibson after his bail hearing.

Photos: Terrel W. Carey/Tribune Staff

VASYLI RELEASED FOR JANUARY TRIAL

from page one

jury's verdict concerning the March 24, 2015 murder of Phillip Vasyli, who is also Australian.

In the hearing that was held in chambers, Crown prosecutors Algernon Allen II and Destiny McKinney opposed the application on the basis that the resident of Old Fort Bay was a flight risk.

However, her lawyers contended this was not the case given her substantial connection to the community, her being on bail prior to her initial conviction which has been quashed, and her adherence to the conditions of her previous bail bond.

In handing down his ruling on the application yesterday morning, Justice Turner noted "counsel for the applicants (also) reminded the court that there is precedent for a non-national of The Bahamas being granted bail for the offence of murder."

"In response, the Crown which had also filed an affidavit in opposition to bail submitted that there has been a material change in circumstances since the applicant has since had last been placed on bail. In that the applicant has had a trial," the judge continued.

"They contended that now that the applicant had been convicted and spent one year and nine months at the Bahamas Department of Correctional Services as a convicted prisoner, although that conviction has been set aside and a retrial ordered, it demonstrated the cogency of the evidence arrayed against her and is a powerful incentive for her not to appear for her trial. That retrial date, fixed by this court at the conclusion of the bail application, it is the 29th of January, 2018."

He continued: "The affidavit in opposition and the submissions also referred to the nationality and resources of the applicant as making it easier for her to flee the jurisdiction, specific reference being made to the gated community in which the applicant lived and the presence of waterways with direct access to the sea."

"Counsel for the crown also submitted that the decision of the Attorney General v Mendez and Ayo is distinguishable as a critical feature in that decision



DONNA Vasyli during her return appearance before Justice Bernard Turner for a bail hearing yesterday. Vasyli was granted bail with a \$250K surety.

Photo: Terrel W. Carey/Tribune Staff

was the apparent lack of cogency in the evidence. I am constrained to concur with that submission. Indeed, the Court of Appeal in the first Vasyli appeal had indicated as much when the learned president stated at the end of paragraph 16 and I quote 'The case of AG v Mendez & Ayo were the appellants who were visitors to The Bahamas who were granted bail on the charge of murdering a man who had robbed them as he was fleeing and two, on the face of the evidence, appeared to have some justification for killing the deceased, a case clearly distinguishable from this one.'

"Indeed, I note that the criminal charges against the defendants in that matter never came to trial and were brought to an end by the entry of a nolle prosequi by the attorney general. That case therefore stands very much on its own facts and provides very little precedence to apply to other factors or scenarios."

The judge continued: "I have considered this application and all of the submissions therein (and) I find that there is some force to the submissions of the Crown in respect of the cogency of the evidence, as evidenced by the majority decision of the Court of Appeal in ordering a retrial, and the concerns expressed to the

heightened incentive to flee.

"However, the general issue as to the incentive of the applicant to flee would have been previously considered by a judge of the Supreme Court, and the decision was made to grant the applicant bail. The issue of the applicant's resources and the access to the sea of the community in which her residence is located were all considered and it was determined that the applicant should have been released on bail. This is a separate and pre-standing bail application and the potential for the applicant's flight from her trial has not significantly changed even with the conviction and the order of a retrial.

"I accept that the order of a new trial does mean that the court had judicially considered there was a case to answer, though the Court of Appeal ordered that the conviction be quashed, considered that there was sufficient evidence on which a retrial, in the circumstances, be ordered.

"However, with the quashing of the conviction, the applicant returns to the status of a person on remand for an allegation of murder. As a matter, the presumption of innocence again attaches to such a person. The most that can be said about the evidence, without making any actual determination about it at

all, since this is merely a bail application, is that, as already stated, the court of appeal has ordered a retrial on the same," Justice Turner noted.

"The applicant has now, in effect, spent several years in custody in respect of this charge of murder. In these circumstances, that is to say: (1) the applicant is a 57-year-old non-Bahamian, from a Commonwealth country, ie an Australian citizen who is a permanent resident of The Bahamas; (2) (She is) a mother of two grown children who also reside in The Bahamas; (3) a person who appears to have substantial ties to The Bahamas inclusive of real property; (4) a person who has already spent several years in custody in respect of this allegation in respect of the murder of her husband and (5) a person who was previously on bail for this offence having abided by all of the terms of that bail inclusive of appearing for her trial.

"The applicant has demonstrated that this is indeed the proper case of the exercise of my discretion to grant her bail," Justice Turner said, prompting Vasyli to utter "Oh my God" from the prisoner's dock.

"I am satisfied that notwithstanding the previous conviction and order for a retrial, which may come toward an increased risk for

the applicant not appearing for her trial, that conditions can be imposed to ensure that the applicant will remain and appear for her trial in a little less than six months' time. In these particular circumstances and notwithstanding the serious allegations against the applicant, I have determined that she should be granted bail with stringent conditions," the judge continued.

"Bail is therefore granted upon the following conditions: (1) bail in the sum of \$250,000 with two sureties; (2) the applicant has to be electronically monitored and is required to comply with the regulations for the use of such device; (3) the applicant is required to sign-in at the Lyford Cay Police Station on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays before 6pm; (4) the applicant is required to reside at an identified residence Lily Pond Drive and is required to remain within 100 ft of

"Whether taking a ride out on the open seas just for the day or going out for crawfish season, be sure to stop in and pick up the CASTROL SUPER OUTBOARD PLUS". Get a FREE CASTROL CAP & T-SHIRT with the purchase of 7 cases of quarts."

Castrol
"QUOTE OF THE DAY"
Distributed By
BAY STREET GARAGE
Dowdeswell Street
322-2434 • 322-2082

The Tribune Limited

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

LEON E. H. DUPUCH,

SIR ETIENNE DUPUCH,

EILEEN DUPUCH CARRON,

Publisher/Editor 1903-1914

*Kt., O.B.E., K.M., K.C.S.G.,
(Hon.) LL.D., D.Litt.*

*Publisher/Editor 1919-1972
Contributing Editor 1972-1991*

*C.M.G., M.S., B.A., LL.B.
Publisher/Editor 1972-*

Published daily Monday to Friday
Shirley & Deveaux Streets, Nassau, Bahamas N3207

TELEPHONES

News & General Information
Advertising Manager
Circulation Department
Nassau fax
Freeport, Grand Bahama
Freeport fax

(242) 322-1986
(242) 502-2394
(242) 502-2386
(242) 328-2398
(242)-352-6608
(242) 352-9348

WEBSITE, TWITTER & FACEBOOK

www.tribune242.com  @tribune242  tribune news network

PLP should regroup for sake of democracy

IN these columns earlier this week, we condemned the refusal of leading figures in the Progressive Liberal Party, in particular the former Member of Parliament for Fox Hill, to accept the reality of a failing economy as a result of mismanagement and alleged malfeasance during the past five years of the Christie government. We also drew attention to the requirement for stern action to restore the nation's economic fortunes.

Today, we reflect further on this and on Mr Mitchell's distorted view about the conduct of foreign affairs. We also look at the pressing need, following its crushing defeat in May's election, for the PLP to re-establish itself in opposition with fresh leadership and policies in order to be able to keep the new Free National Movement government under constant parliamentary scrutiny.

Despite the refusal by Messrs Davis, Roberts and Mitchell to recognise the serious fiscal position left by the outgoing PLP government - leading to an unprecedented level of debt and downgrading by the ratings agencies - the party's interim leader has finally conceded that major mistakes were made resulting in a loss of public trust. He has at the same time admitted that the election result was a clear message to the PLP that it now needed to change, though his attempt to justify his and his colleagues' actions while in government on the grounds that they always put the people's interests first will be seen as lame and unconvincing.

It is therefore welcome news that Mr Davis and other PLP leaders have already started a period of reflection and listening to the people. A strong opposition is vital for our nation's democracy as a constraint on potential excesses and abuse of power by the sitting government.

The original ideals and mission of the PLP were laudable, but the party has sadly lost its way as a result of recent weak leadership together with greed, dishonesty, alleged corrupt practices and poor governance overall. In order to regroup and reinvent itself as a force to be reckoned with, the party must accept the reality of what has happened on its watch and why the voters turned against it. It must also rid itself of the failed old guard and listen to newcomers like Exuma and Ragged Island MP Chester Cooper who seems to talk much sense and could lead the way with innovative thinking untainted by previous flawed attitudes and actions.

The FNM government has reacted sensibly and responsibly to the seriousness of the nation's economic situation by cutting public expenditure in an attempt to balance the budget and start reducing debt together with the cost of debt servicing. Reliant as we are on the tourism and financial services sectors, this country depends on the sale of services to create foreign currency earnings that provide the means to import the goods and services not produced in the Bahamas which are essential to our way of life. We hope that, in addition to

imposing fiscal discipline, the government will look for ways of diversifying the economy. But at present it is vital to ensure that our country remains a user-friendly place to both tourists and businessmen, and our top priority must be to make it attractive for inward direct foreign investment.

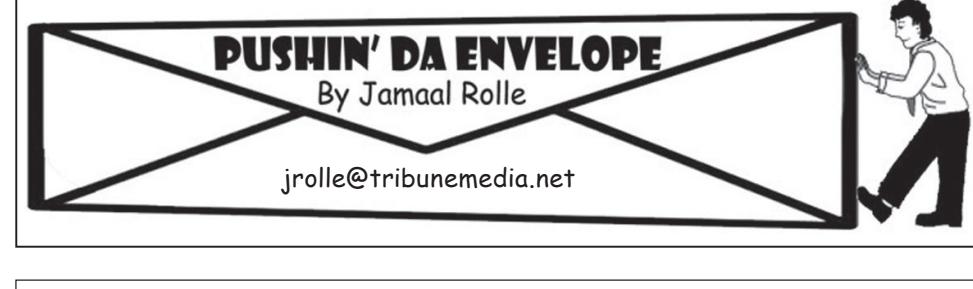
In addition to Mr Mitchell's ill-judged views on the economy, his criticism of the FNM's decision to make savings by reducing the number of Ministry of Foreign Affairs staff overseas is equally misguided. His reportedly grandiose ideas about "enlarging the footprint of the Bahamas throughout the world" seems to be based on personal aggrandisement and on a need to justify his cavorting around the globe at public expense on spurious missions of little, if any, benefit to the Bahamas. Moreover, his attack on the Baha Mar project's founder and original investor, threatening him with deportation, sent exactly the wrong message to foreign investors.

With cleverer and wiser people now at the helm, we hope there will be a review of the nation's foreign policy in our current strained economic circumstances. Instead of trying to grandstand on a world stage, there should be greater emphasis on events nearer to home.

First, we need above all to maintain a harmonious and productive relationship with the USA as our giant neighbour and remain a reliable partner on issues like drug interdiction, counterterrorism and human trafficking. We should also seek to persuade the US to play a full role in dealing with climate change, the effects of which could be devastating for us as a small island state, and we should be active in the United Nations committees in New York. While our bilateral relations should be mutually beneficial, as a small nation we also look to the US for protection, to the extent possible, of our own interests. It is noteworthy that, with an ambassador-designate now going through the confirmation process in Washington, the Bahamas is under the spotlight with US Senators expressing concern about China's growing involvement in our economy.

Secondly, we should seek to play as full a role as possible in CARICOM consistent with our size, wealth and influence as a leading country in the region; and, thirdly, it is in our interests to address anew the issue of illegal Haitian immigration, not least because one aspect of statecraft is to identify incipient threats and take action to prevent them from developing into major ones.

It is worth reiterating that this newspaper does not favour one political party over another. Our aim, on behalf of the people, is to help to ensure good and effective governance in accordance with the established democratic principles and practices of our nation. In order to try to fulfil this aspiration, we shall continue to hold the political class to account - and we trust that the PLP will successfully regroup as a party in order to provide a viable parliamentary opposition.

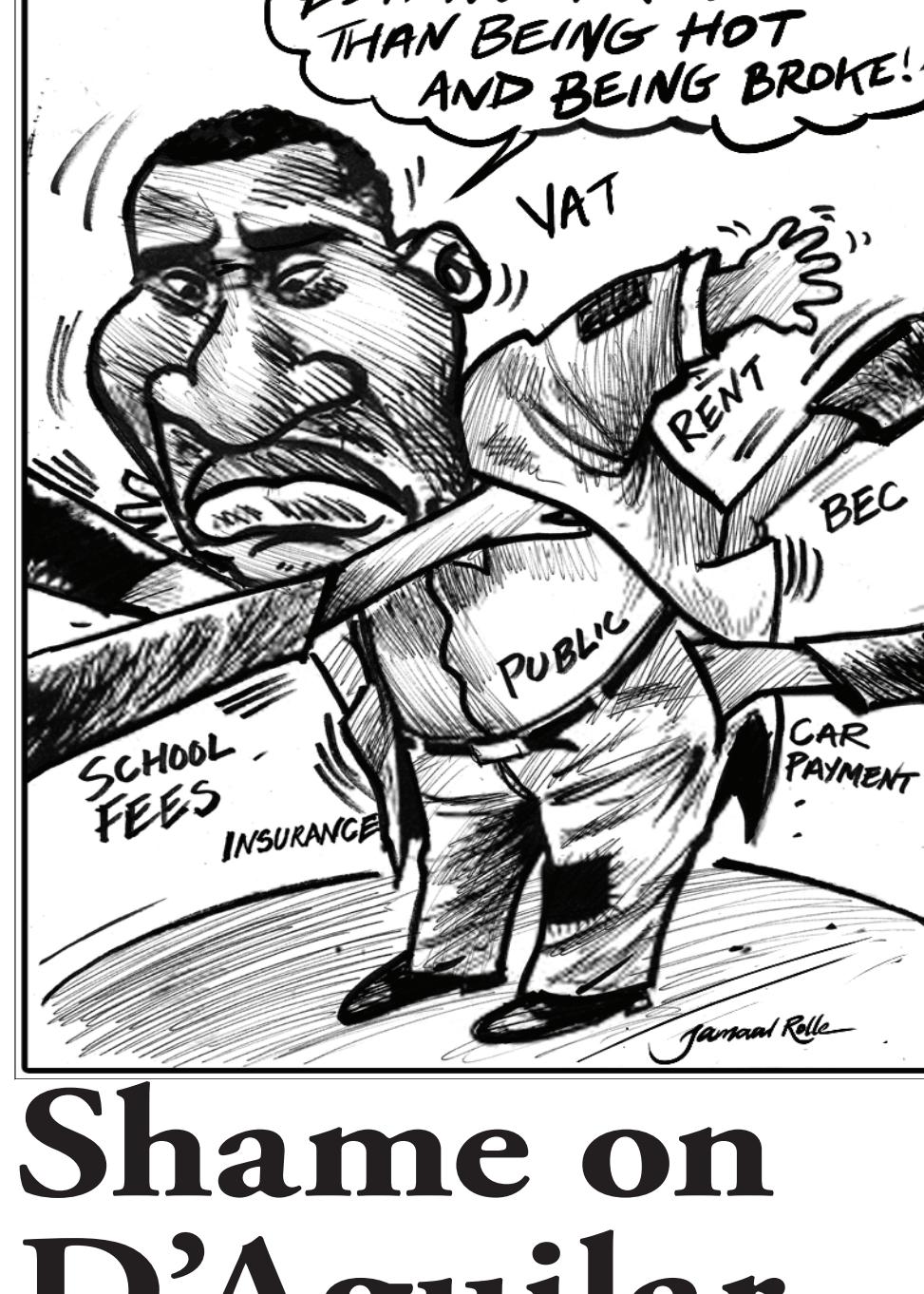


PUSHIN' DA ENVELOPE

By Jamaal Rolle

jrolle@tribunemedia.net

TINGS' TUFF



Shame on D'Aguilar

EDITOR, The Tribune.

I ENJOY what I do as the number one rated (or so some say) talk show host in the nation. As host of The Real Deal, I have been presented with a huge electronic platform to promote nation building public policy initiatives and to make a difference in the lives of many Bahamians. No, I am not bragging, it is simply what it is. Most Bahamians know that I have been a life long supporter of the Progressive Liberal Party (PLP). I was in the trenches when that party secured its first electoral victory in 1967. I was there when the Union Jack came down for the last time in our country. In short, I have been blessed to witness most of the exercises in our evolution as a sovereign nation.

The PLP, however, lost its way during the last term in office. It had come to be hated by a large number of Bahamians and was, clearly, out of touch with reality. The people, inclusive of me, spoke loud and clear on May 10, 2017. I, for one, despite my support for the party in 2012, could no longer tolerate the blatant mismanagement; overt cronyism and tragic, almost criminal, wastage of public funds. The now permanently deposed former Prime Minister Christie, almost single handedly, dragged the PLP down to its political death. It may be resurrected one day, but, I submit, not until the cow jumps over the Moon.

I voted FNM over in Mount Moriah and have no regrets, so far, save for one or two salient concerns. The fiscal affairs of the nation must be cleaned up and reorganised on a sustainable basis. Protocols must be established and put in place so as to avoid a repeat of the gross errors and deliberate acts of malfeasance perpetuated by the PLP and its hoggish inner sanctum. No problem here. The problem that I have is witnessing the wholesale termination of staffers with the Ministry of Tourism in Freeport. They say that 10 Bahamians were 'let go' in an act of reconciliation and right sizing. Is this, beloved reader, the beginning of the end, so soon, for the FNM?

Minister of Tourism Dionisio D'Aguilar (FNM-

LETTERS

letters@tribunemedia.net

Free town) was one of the few FNM candidates whom I supported for many months leading up to the general elections of this year. Marvin Dames (FNM-Mt. Moriah) and Elsworth Johnson (FNM-Yamacraw) were others whom I supported and campaigned for.

Dionisio, a friend and benefactor, was born with a golden spoon plumb in his mouth, just like me. He does not know what it is to live from pay cheque to pay cheque like the vast majority of Bahamians. For him and the Minnis Administration, at this crucial time of the year, to just terminate those ten or more individuals is akin to cruelty of the highest order and I cry shame on them.

Please do not misinterpret what I am saying. Yes, there are times when personnel have to be let go, but timing, I contend, is everything. Schools are about to reopen here and abroad. Parents and guardians are in search of every dollar to pay tuition fees; buy uniforms and other supplies for their children, etc. The Christmas Season is just around the corner. The FNM and Dionisio now say 'go home' and make ends meet the best you are able!! Those workers in Freeport should have been kept on until the end of this year or be paid cash in lieu of such a period. This is cruelty of the highest order and will come back to haunt the FNM.

It is impossible to gauge the emotional and financial pain inflicted on the terminated workers.

It has long been accepted by all and sundry that there are too many employees and consultants at Bahamair. There are hundreds of non essential workers down there that could be downsized, with the appropriate compensation packages but the cowards in the MOT and the Minnis Administration do not have the Chinese conuts to dare try this exercise. The union down there would shut down the LPIA within hours as well as our cruise ports. Chaos would result and Moody along with Standard & Poor (what an apt name) would downgrade

our economy within nano seconds! Dionisio, my second favourite FNM, should be ashamed of himself. He is a first generation Bahamian who is now sending third and fourth generation real Bahamians home? How sad.

(Dionisio (deGregory) D'Aguilar is not a first generation Bahamian - he is at least of the third or fourth generation. - Ed.)

Another thing which is causing me a great deal of concern is the fact for many ears the FNM was very vocal about transparency and consultation with the people of The Bahamas. In opposition, they stated that they would release all contracts into the public domain upon assuming office. We have yet to see the Baha Mar 'contracts'; we have yet to see the Power Secure Agreement and we have yet to see a single public policy initiative relative to the economy. Yes, it's only been about three months but, it is obvious, that the FNM was not prepared to govern from day one. The PLP fumbled the ball badly, while jacking all of you, right up! The FNM won by default and the overt lousy behaviour of the PLP.

The FNM is right to review all contracts and positions but, My God, 10 Bahamian workers at the MOT in Freeport, at this time, where the economy has been depressed for decades? This is pure and unadulterated cruelty with shades of 'victimisation'. Shame on you Dionisio and Dr Minnis.

It was announced with much flourish by the PM that there would be a 10% cut across the board, but he never indicated a 10% cut in ministerial salaries?

Peter K Turnquest (FNM-Pineridge), Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Finance, along with Michael "Moon Beam" Pintard (FNM-Marco City), Minister of Youth, Sports & Culture and the other two Grand Bahama MPs are, obviously, politically tone deaf and Scrooge like in behaviour. Was this what people in Grand Bahama voted for? To God then, in all of these things, be the glory.'

ORTLAND H BODIE, JR
Nassau,
August 3, 2017.

Price war

EDITOR, The Tribune.

JOHN ISSA'S comments on the generally accepted fear of a hotel price war are interesting if not significant.

The Bahamas is fortunate we have a number of air carriers that serve us daily, with an efficient but costly service. Some of the daily rates to fly here and return are without doubt excessive. Which indicates that there is a high demand and the US-based airlines are taking full advantage.

Have beds will air carriers increase service?

Baha Mar will add a minimum of 300,000 beds annually. An average jet

flying to Nassau has a complement passengers, of say 180 so that covers to an increase of 1,666 planes per year. I would expect most of the existing carriers, would be willing to take up that opportunity, but the use of larger equipment means additional landing fees - longer turn-arounds and no certainty that the passenger load level will be as high as it is now, Thursday through Sunday.

Is LPIA able to service this projected new level? Let us not be stupid, LPIA is far from an easy airport, to get in and out of within less than an hour plus or more. Is there the ground transportation?

Hotels are being challenged by the self-serve residential short rental sector, the world of AirBnB and Home Away from Home... price competitive and very attractive for those seeking a low cost vacation, and serving the larger family group or group of friends to clearly the disadvantage of the hotels.

Those guests do cause considerable business in the supermarkets, liquor stores and restaurants, which are not appreciated from guests in the hotels, them being all-inclusive, prepaid.

D. J. HUMES

Nassau,
August 1, 2017.

Mitchell warns of tit-for-tat response to PLP arrests

By KHRISNA VIRGIL
Deputy Chief Reporter
kvirgil@tribunemedia.net

IF the Free National Movement loses the next general election, National Security Minister Marvin Dames "will understand what tit-for-tat means," Senator Fred Mitchell has said, adding the governing party is "slave shaming" the opposition Progressive Liberal Party by charging former PLP politicians in court.

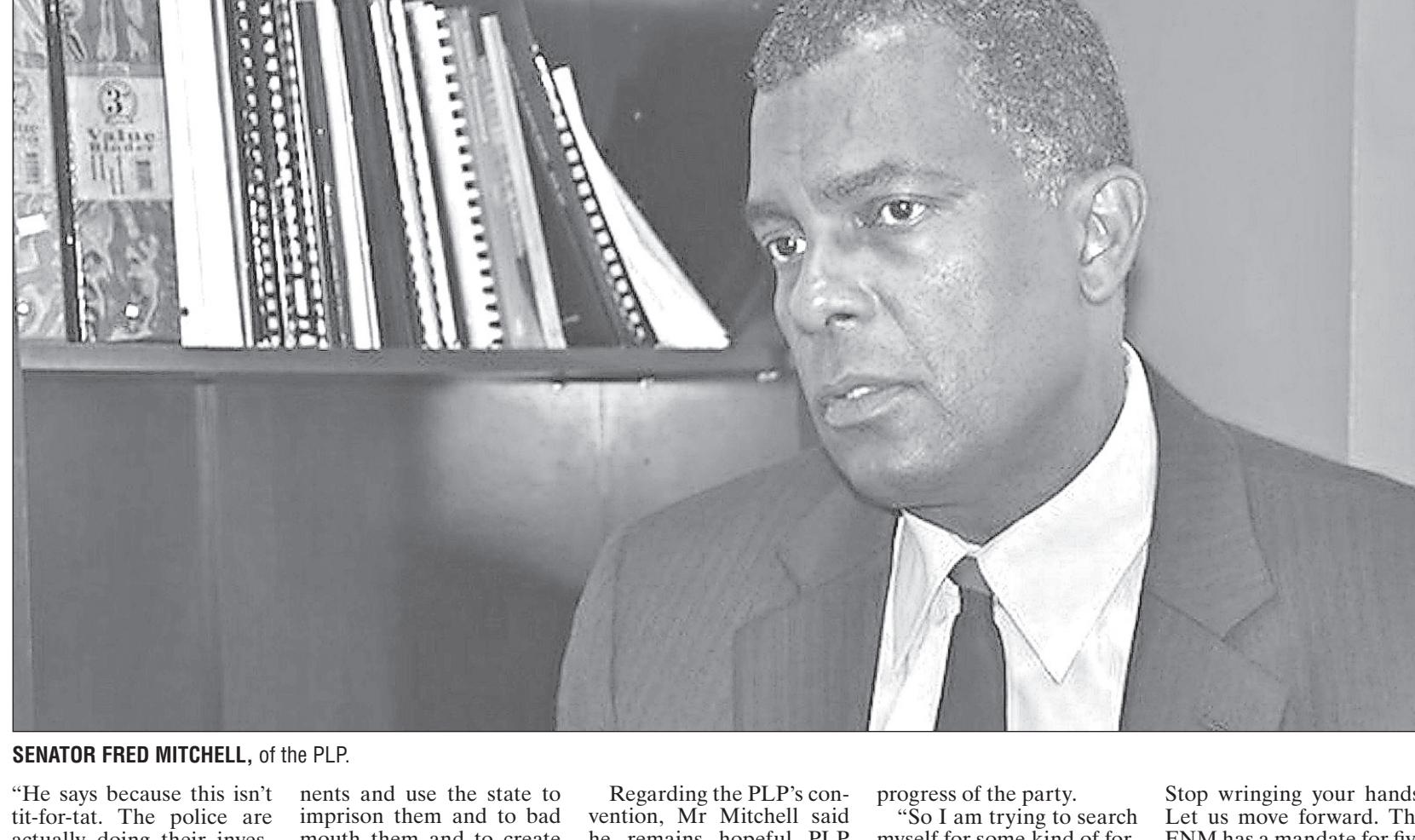
Mr Mitchell insisted the FNM is "setting a dangerous precedent" in how it is now handling the political affairs of the country.

He suggested the governing party has "turned on" its opponents and is attempting to use the state to imprison, bad mouth and create a bad image of them across the country.

While the former Fox Hill MP encouraged supporters to move forward despite the government allegedly creating "political prisoners," Mr Mitchell said the party will hold a national convention in October.

However, PLP Chairman Bradley Roberts would not confirm whether the party plans to have its convention in two months. He said when this is set in stone, the organisation would make a formal announcement.

"Poor Marvin Dames who is the minister of national security and appears to be conducting this witch hunt against the PLP from his office in Nassau went to the newspaper a couple of days ago last week and said he didn't understand the notion of tit-for-tat," Mr Mitchell said to the small group of supporters gathered Wednesday night in Bailey Town, Bimini during a PLP branch meeting.



SENATOR FRED MITCHELL, of the PLP.

"He says because this isn't tit-for-tat. The police are actually doing their investigations and he doesn't understand it.

"Well I tell you what. I bet you (certain PLP politicians') children understand what tit-for-tat means. And when they lose in five years, I think Marvin Dames will understand what tit-for-tat means because if this now is the precedent for how you conduct the political affairs of The Bahamas you are setting a dangerous precedent.

"Because it means now that every little faux pas and every exercise of judgment and every little management issue you're involved in suddenly becomes criminal and you then turn on your political oppo-

nents and use the state to imprison them and to bad mouth them and to create a bad image of these people across the country.

"So that's the precedent.

So you can't be surprised if PLP supporters, upon winning again, say that's the road that we are going to go down. So if... whoever survives the FNM government is seen in handcuffs being paraded before the court because of some decision that he made while he is in government, nobody can feel sorry for them in five years. We have to be very careful.

"What is happening here is they are slave shaming us. Emancipation Day is coming up on the 6th of August."

Regarding the PLP's convention, Mr Mitchell said he remains hopeful PLP Leader Philip "Brave" Davis will retain the post.

"I told him what I'm trying to do, I actually want him to succeed as leader of this party.

"I am actually concretising where we are in building on a solid base and putting together an organisation that is like the one I remember during the glory days of the PLP where branches met on a regular basis and existed, where being a branch chairman was an important thing to be in a community, where people knew who the leaders of the PLP are and where younger people were engaged in the dialogue of the forward

progress of the party.

"So I am trying to search myself for some kind of formal role to be able to do that. So I'd like to work and talk to him about what that role could be. I think it is important not to abandon ship.

"I know the current fashion is that everybody who is in quotes 'old' must go because everybody is held responsible for the loss."

He continued: "Let me put it this way, the last leader of the PLP was Perry Christie. He gave a speech (and) he indicated that he accepted fully the responsibility for the loss.

"That puts a red line under this matter, there needs to be no discussion or debate about it. It's done.

Stop wringing your hands. Let us move forward. The FNM has a mandate for five years. That's 60 months. Three have gone. That's 57 to go, next month four will be gone and 56 to go.

"Now that's the same time period that we have to get a victory wagon going and the more we sit around ringing our hands and saying 'oh dear God we lost and they are locking up this one and the next one' get up on your hind quarters and let's go and move. Let's move forward. The party has a great legacy (and) there is nothing to be ashamed of. The only apology that we have to give is for allowing this country to be turned over to these people," Mr Mitchell said.

'I'LL ONLY APOLOGISE TO SIR LYNDEN FOR COUNTRY BEING RUN BY CROOKS'

By KHRISNA VIRGIL
Deputy Chief Reporter
kvirgil@tribunemedia.net

IN the wake of calls from Prime Minister Dr Hubert Minnis for the Progressive Liberal Party to say "sorry" for the actions of the Christie administration, PLP Senator Fred Mitchell is adamant the only apology he will offer is to former Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling for allowing the country to be turned over "to a set of gangsters and crooks dressed up in white gowns" calling themselves the government of The Bahamas.

While the former Fox Hill MP said he could not speak for the former governing party, Mr Mitchell said the prime minister will get "no apology from me".

His comments came while speaking to PLP supporters at a branch meeting in Bailey Town, Bimini on Wednesday night.

A day earlier, Dr Minnis told reporters that while he appreciated PLP Leader Philip "Brave" Davis' admission the opposition party made mistakes during its last term in office, he was still waiting to hear "a real apology".

Dr Minnis said he listened "attentively" to Mr Davis' address to the nation on Monday night and said he noticed the words "I am sorry" were missing.

"I saw some headlines saying that the prime minister wants an apology from the Progressive Liberal Party," Mr Mitchell said Wednesday night.

"Now I can't speak for the Progressive Liberal Party, but let me tell you what my personal position is: he'll get no apology from me except this one. I want to apologise to Lynden Pindling for allowing this country to be turned over to a set of gangsters and crooks dressed up in white gowns calling themselves a legitimate government of The Bahamas. That's what I want to apologise for.

"I don't know how we let it happen. We shouldn't have let it happen and we have to work to overturn this because if we are not careful, and some people have already pronounced this, if we are not careful we have reversed ourselves (and) all of the progress that has been made from '67 to the present.

"We are at risk of reversing ourselves to a pre-1967 period. So that's the fear I have. So I apologise to the man who has gone on above because we have some work to do to get back to where we were."

In his national address Monday night, Mr Davis admitted the former government was not perfect, made "serious" mistakes

*** 20% off School Supplies**

Bahamian Composition Book
B&W or Colour

99¢ now

Mead 100 sheet Composition Book
B&W or Colour

125¢ now

GIVE-AWAYS • GIVE-AWAYS • GIVE-AWAYS

we're OPEN

Sunday, September 3 (11am-6pm)

Purchase \$50 worth of School Supplies to become eligible to win one of these fabulous prizes!

- HP 255 Computer w/laptop bag & anti-virus
- 1 BTS Gift Basket
- 1 of 2 Huffy Bicycles (draw Friday September 1, 2017)

*** 1 minute "GRAB ALL YOU CAN" BTS SHOPPING SPREE**

(Friday Aug. 11, 2017 - \$1,000 limit BTS supplies ONLY!!
* restrictions may apply)

FIVE RESCUED FROM SUNKEN VESSEL

FIVE individuals are counting their blessings after they were rescued from their sunken vessel Thursday morning.

While on routine patrol,

Royal Bahamas Defence Force patrol craft P-128 under coxswain Petty Officer

Bernard Cash came upon a 30-ft craft approximately 18 miles south of New Providence.

The vessel was already filled with water with five men sitting on top. The quick-thinking marines rescued the men moments be-

fore their vessel sank.

The men were grateful and thanked the coxswain and crew of P-128 and the Royal Bahamas Defence Force for saving their lives, according to a statement from the law enforcement agency.

Kelly's House & Home

Mall at Marathon Monday-Friday 7:00am-8:00pm

Saturday 7:00am-9:00pm

Sunday closed

www.kellysbahamas.com

Tel: (242) 393-4002

Fax: (242) 393-4096

VAT excluded pricing. VAT will be collected at the current rate at the time of purchase.

MINISTER PLANS ISLAND-WIDE CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN

AFTER several meetings, Environment and Housing Minister Romuald Ferreira finalised on Monday a planning team with public and private partners to organise an island-wide New Providence clean-up campaign.

The Keeping OUR Ba-

hamas Beautiful initiative will be launched on National Heroes Day, Monday, October 9 and will encompass a phased clean-up approach with the island being divided into five zones. The scope of the clean-up will involve removal of

derelict vehicles, lot clearances, removal of white waste which are household appliances, and will also incorporate rodent control.

"We are determined to educate our people, enforce our laws, and constantly monitor our communities

to bring about sustained change in the way our surroundings are maintained," said Mr Ferreira.

The cleanup of New Providence will be supervised by inspectorate and solid waste management staff of the Department of Environmental Health Ser-

vices.

"We understand that the aesthetics of litter free communities, clean green spaces and the like will not occur overnight but we are unwavering in our efforts to make a forceful impact and invite all residents to part-

ner with us in keeping our Bahamas beautiful," he said.

The Ministry of the Environment and Housing in the coming weeks will announce the plans for the launch of the Keeping OUR Bahamas Beautiful campaign.



FOX Hill MP Shonel Ferguson, right, pictured during a thank you celebration on Eastwood Park for her FNM supporters after her election victory.

Photo: Shawn Hanna/Tribune Staff

Ferguson wants to remove crime label from Fox Hill

By NICO SCAVELLA
Tribune Staff Reporter
nscavella@tribunemedia.net

FOX Hill MP Shonel Ferguson yesterday expressed concern about the recent wave of gun-related violence in her constituency, as she pledged to "eradicate" the "stigma" of Fox Hill being labelled a crime hotbed by Bahamian society.

Ms Ferguson, in an interview with *The Tribune*, said her constituents are "enraged" over the stigma of violence attached to the area, saying much of what has happened in Fox Hill has also occurred in other areas in New Providence.

She pledged to eliminate the negative connotations associated with the community by "pushing the positive things" about the area.

Ms Ferguson's comments come after weeks of police reported gun violence in

the eastern New Providence community.

Just on Tuesday, a man was shot and killed following an argument between a group of men in the area. The deceased, who The Tribune was told is Rahajio Wright, was shot several times and died on the scene. That murder was the ninth to occur in the country in two weeks.

Two weeks earlier, a 32-year-old man was shot multiple times and killed during a drive by shooting in front of his home on Johnson Terrace in Fox Hill. Police said the victim was getting out of his car shortly after arriving home when persons in a vehicle opened fire on him before speeding off in an unknown direction.

A week before that officers conducted a walk-about in the community, gathering information and giving

residents safety tips.

At the time, Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police Stephen Dean said the walk-about was "the first of many" officers plan to conduct in the area, known to police as a crime hotspot.

Additionally, Chief Superintendent of Police Maxine Rolle, officer-in-charge of the Eastern Division, said she plans to canvass the area "at least twice a month".

When questioned on the state of affairs in her constituency, Ms Ferguson said while there are "so many wonderful things that are happening in Fox Hill," the recent wave of police reported violence in the community is "something that we are paying attention to".

The Fox Hill MP said she and the Minnis administration are currently looking at ways to implement various youth programmes and enforcing positive initiatives "that will keep children on

a path that takes them to a fulfilling life rather than to a life of crime."

"...If you look at the little children, if I go to Sandilands School, if I walk through the village I'm surrounded by children, they grab me, they hug me," she said. "And then something changes after junior school for some of them, and those are the ones we are very concerned about, and we will have programmes to pull them in to show them that life can be different."

She added: "When you think about what's come out of Fox Hill, you look at people like Antonius Roberts, (former) Central Bank Governor Julian Francis out of Fox Hill, Daniel Ferguson (Bahamas Institute of Chartered Accountants) out of Fox Hill, the national pledge that children recite every day at school, (came from) Philip Rahming out of Fox Hill.

"And there's so many

good things out of Fox Hill, and this is what we will push, this is what I will push over these five years and beyond, that Fox Hill is the cradle of so much that's good in this Bahamas, and we refuse to be defined by forces outside of Fox Hill.

We will write our story, and that story will be a good story."

Still, Ms Ferguson suggested that her constituency has unfairly received a bad reputation for its crime issues over the years, arguing that "the same thing could happen in Pinewood, Kemp Road, Nassau Village, and it doesn't seem to garner the same national attention that happens in Fox Hill."

"I don't see Fox Hill as being any different from some of the areas that I mentioned before, but there's something about the mystique that causes Fox Hill to stand out, whether it's for good or for bad," she said. "I remember as a child many years ago they used

to call us 'crazy Fox Hill people,' and I don't know if it emanates from way back then, but we have to have a programme that is intentional to work on fixing that, and we will fix it."

"We'll fix it in the national consciousness, because it's there, and just like The Bahamas, you see some people who have thrown out some negative stuff about The Bahamas and our tourist product. And we are all enraged as Bahamians when it happens."

"In Fox Hill, we are enraged when it happens, because The Bahamas as a tourist destination is not very different from many other tourist destinations. But usually when they throw something at The Bahamas it seems like it's the end of the world, or when something happens in Fox Hill it's the end of the world."

"All these things are fixable. We will do as much as we can to change that perception."

FOR LEASE



Nissan Atlas Flat Bed Trucks for Lease.
Ideal for individuals and small businesses who are in the delivery and construction business.

Great daily and weekly rates.
For more details please call: 803-4894
676-3108 / 636-0222 or 449-6683.

THE Grand Bahama Human Rights Association said it is "shocked and appalled by the cynical posturing" of the Progressive Liberal Party in the face of ongoing police anti-corruption probes.

The group also responded to attorney and former PLP candidate Wayne Munroe, QC, who recently said he had a list of alleged corrupt FNM members he would not yet turn over to police because he does not trust the Anti-Corruption Unit.

"If PLP attorney Wayne Monroe has information regarding alleged FNM corruption, he should turn it over to the police immediately and let the chips

fall where they may," the GBHRA said.

"In true PLP form, however, Munroe now says he must keep his list secret. Suddenly, and quite conveniently, it seems the police cannot be trusted."

"This is nothing more than rank PLP hypocrisy."

The GBHRA said while the PLP was in office, the party saw the police as "trustworthy and impartial even when threats of violence against the environmentalists of Save The Bays (STB) – who the PLP just happened to view as opponents – were repeatedly ignored."

The group added: "Only when those same envi-

ronmentalists appealed to the international community for help did the police take action – aggressively seeking to interrogate the victims rather than arrest their politically connected attackers."

"Supporting the police at every turn, the PLP accused environmentalists of 'defaming the country' and delivering a 'grievous insult to the professionalism of the officers of the Royal Bahamas Police Force, who have always and continue to carry out their public duties without regard to the personalities or politics.'

"Yet now, when the shoe is on the other foot, the police are politically motivat-

ed. This is the very definition of duplicity and double standards."

The GBHRA said the PLP did not speak out when the Christie administration implemented "an abusive and unconstitutional immigration policy" in 2014 "targeting individuals based on ethnicity and obstructing children's access to school based on their parent's nationality."

The statement ended with an offer to protect any member of the PLP who had a legitimate human rights complaint.

"Otherwise, they should remain quiet, cooperate with police and allow the law to run its course," the GBHRA noted.

Zero tolerance approach by police for Emancipation Day

By NICO SCAVELLA
Tribune Staff Reporter
nscavella@tribunemedia.net

ASSISTANT Commissioner of Police Samuel Butler yesterday promised to ensure public safety at the upcoming Fox Hill Day/Emancipation Day celebrations, warning potential troublemakers that police "will tolerate nothing other than proper behaviour".

ACP Butler, during a press conference at the Fox Hill Park, invited "all and sundry" to attend this year's festivities without fear, vowing that attendees who do not "behave themselves" will be "immediately" removed by members of the Royal Bahamas Police Force.

ACP Butler also said police, who will be present at the events in "very large numbers," have already "strategically reviewed and canvassed" the Fox Hill community and are satisfied that all of their various "mechanisms" to combat potential incidents are "in place".

ACP Butler's comments come after a spate of violence in the eastern New Providence community.

Two men have been shot and killed in Fox Hill since July 5, and senior police officials have already pledged to conduct a walkabout in the area at least twice

a month in response to shootings in the eastern New Providence community.

"We are satisfied that we have strategically reviewed and canvassed the community, we looked at all of our arteries, and we want to assure the public that you will be safe coming to this event," ACP Butler said yesterday. "We invite families to come out, police will be out in very large numbers. We will have our professional hats on. We will tolerate nothing other than proper behaviour."

"And so while we invite families and other individuals throughout our communities to come out and join the community of Fox Hill, we also send a strong message out to persons who seek not to behave themselves, you will not be a part of this event, we will be in place to remove you immediately. But we invite all and sundry to come out and be a part of it."

"We are pleased that all of our mechanisms are in place, our lighting, we'll have proper barricades, and we'll be properly directed to the artery to enter this event and we simply just want to let you know that it's going to be a very safe event, and the police will be here in support of this event."

According to Maurice Tynes, chairman of the Fox



EMANCIPATION Day celebrations in Fox Hill last year.

Hill Day Committee, this year's celebrations, which start today and end on Tuesday, will feature a youth seminar, a tour of the Fox Hill community for kids, a concert, steak-out, and Junkanoo rush-out featuring participation from all of the major Junkanoo groups.

The festivities will also

feature an ecumenical service that will be attended by Governor General Dame Marguerite Pindling, as well as a luncheon for the elderly at the Fox Hill Community Centre. On Tuesday, which is Fox Hill Day, church services will be held at the constituencies various Baptist churches. There

will also be "all-day activities" held at the Fox Hill Park on that day.

Shonel Ferguson, MP for Fox Hill, urged the public to attend.

"It's an exciting time for us here in the village and the surrounding areas of Fox Hill," she said. "We are moving more and more

towards culture and heritage, and bringing in more of those elements that made Fox Hill such a signature and important part of the Commonwealth. Fox Hill is the cradle of so many exciting and wonderful things."

The Emancipation Day holiday is Monday, August 7.

THREE HURT IN SHOOTINGS

POLICE are searching for several suspects responsible for three separate shootings on Wednesday that have left three men in hospital.

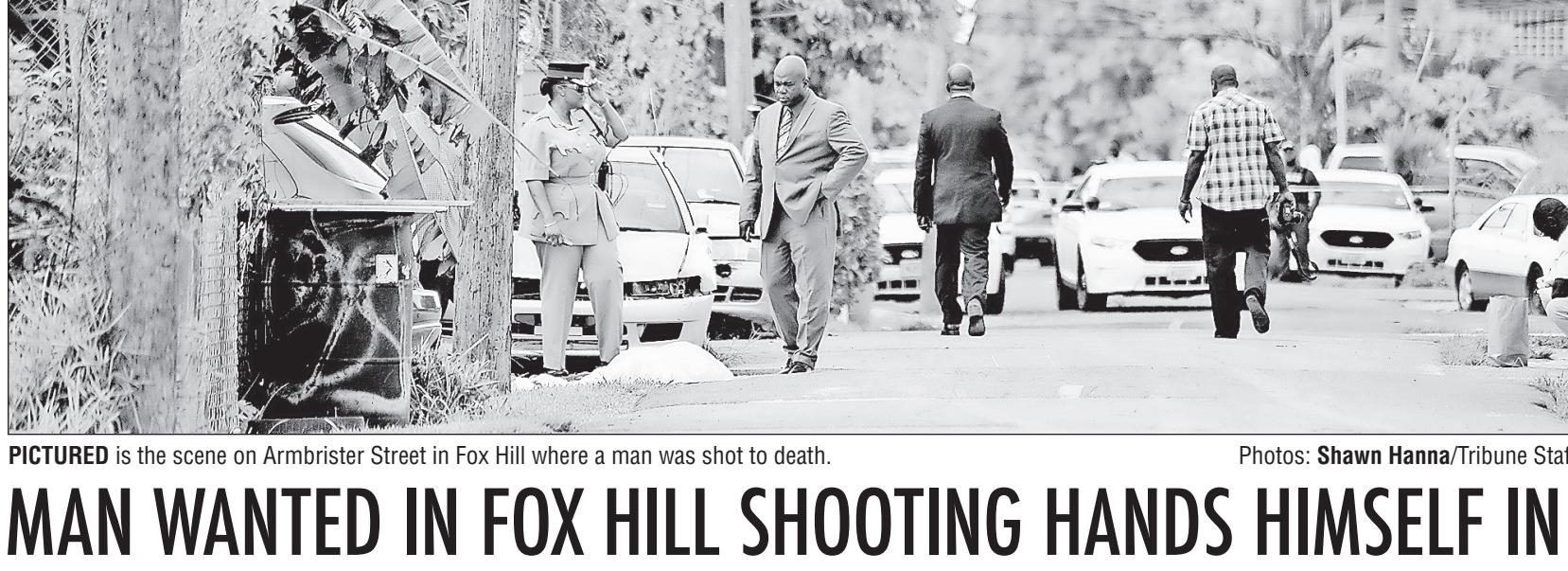
In the first incident, a man was standing in front of his home located on Key West Street around 11pm when four men in a black Honda, armed with handguns, pulled up shot him, then sped off. The man was taken to hospital where he is detained in serious condition.

In the second incident, shortly after 11pm, a man was standing near a Kemp Road nightclub when he was shot. The man was taken to hospital where he is detained in stable condition.

Then shortly before midnight, a man was sitting on his front porch on Tucker Road when he was shot. The man was taken to hospital where he is detained in stable condition.

Police also reported that two high powered weapons were taken off the streets.

Shortly after 9pm Wednesday, Eastern Division officers, acting on information, conducted a search of an abandoned vehicle in an area off Kemp Road, where they found an MP-5 automatic machine gun with seven rounds of ammunition. In the second incident, around 11am on Thursday, officers assigned to the Selective Enforcement Team, acting on information, conducted a search of a well in front of a home off Sea Breeze Lane, where they uncovered an AK-47 assault rifle. No one was arrested in these incidents.



PICTURED is the scene on Armbrister Street in Fox Hill where a man was shot to death.

Photos: Shawn Hanna/Tribune Staff

MAN WANTED IN FOX HILL SHOOTING HANDS HIMSELF IN

By RICARDO WELLS
Tribune Staff Reporter
rwells@tribunemedia.net

A 22-YEAR-OLD suspect in the recent shooting death of a man on Armbrister Street in Fox Hill turned himself into police yesterday.

Police said the suspect turned himself into detectives at the Central Detectives

tive Unit around 10.30am Thursday.

The statement added that police also recovered a handgun from the suspect.

According to police, 21-year-old Rahajio Wright was shot several times on Tuesday following an argument with a group of men.

The shooting happened shortly after the deceased

and another man got out of a blue 2007 Honda Accord just outside an apartment complex on the western side of the street.

Police said the two men were then accosted by a group of men gathered on the block, with one of them producing a firearm.

The homicide marked the ninth killing in the past two

weeks.

Shortly after officers cleared the area on Tuesday, the victim's loved ones, some of them overcome by grief, had fallen to the ground sobbing.

One relative, dressed in a blue top and black slacks, knelt near the spot where the deceased's body had fallen, rubbed the palms of her hands in the dirt where

his blood was still fresh, and screamed.

When she stood up, she embraced others around her, all of whom had looks of despair.

Anyone with information about this shooting or any other crime should contact police at 919, 502-9991 or the Crime Stoppers hotline anonymously at 328-TIPS.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING SUSPECT DENIED BAIL A SECOND TIME

By LAMECH JOHNSON
Tribune Staff Reporter
ljohnson@tribunemedia.net

A WOMAN awaiting trial on allegations related to human trafficking had her bail application rejected in the Supreme Court yesterday.

Abigail Wilson, 20, and her lawyer Bernard Ferguson appeared before Justice Bernard Turner seeking pre-trial release ahead of Wilson's August 15 trial before Chief Magistrate Joyann Ferguson-Pratt on four counts of trafficking in persons allegedly committed between March and May 26 of this year.

The charges were brought under Section 3 (1)(a) of the Trafficking in Persons Prevention and Suppression Act Chapter 106.

It is alleged that the Jamaican, being concerned with others, recruited, received, harboured and transported a woman to and within the Bahamas for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

She pleaded not guilty to all of the allegations at her May 30 arraignment and was expected to stand trial on July 13.

Three weeks before the date, Wilson applied for bail before Justice Turner on June 26. The application was rejected after the judge considered the seriousness of the allegations, Wilson's lack of substantial ties to the jurisdiction, and of her being a potential

flight risk.

However, the court had indicated she could reapply for bail in the event her trial did not start as scheduled.

On July 13, the case was adjourned by 24 hours because the court complex had to be closed at 1pm due to a malfunctioning air-

conditioning unit.

It was expected the matter would be resolved by the following day when Wilson and her lawyer reappeared for the case.

However, the chief magistrate explained to her that the matter would have to be adjourned again to August

15, 16 and 17.

In yesterday's proceedings, Justice Turner said he would not grant bail at this time given the close proximity of her trial. He rejected her application.

However, he scheduled a status hearing for August 31 concerning an update.



**Positions Available for
TIRE REPAIR/
INSTALLATION**

Provide resumes by email to humanresources@aidltd.com or leave with the receptionist at Wulff Road location. Include a copy of a recent police record and picture.

PRIME Minister Dr Hubert Minnis during his tour of Albany this week - could Albany's proposal for BPL be behind the pleas for patience over the Bahamian power supply?



Patience for power

BAHAMAS Power and Light (BPL) chairperson Darnell Osborne has pleaded for "patience" from consumers while the new BPL Board will work on a "loose timeline" of a "few months" to spark (no pun intended) long-needed improvements within the company.

Osborne also mentioned that the board is seeking to revolutionise and improve the sector in order to provide electricity at a reduced rate to consumers.

Since being formed July 1st, 2017, the new board has officially had meetings, with Osborne offering the following in regards to the outcome of those meetings.

"We have met a few times, we had introductory meetings with the minister and then with stakeholders in an effort to be proactive in addressing the challenges that have accumulated over the years."

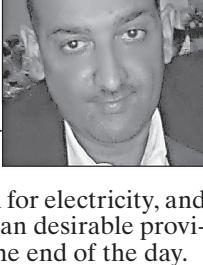
Translated into "Bahamanese" this is what I'm getting -

"Yinna take ya time, we don't know how the war set."

"Dem other brothers before us, leave the vibe sour. Until we know what's really

A Comic's View

By INIGO 'NAUGHTY' ZENICAZELAYA



gern on, we can't flex.

"Once we could figure out what is what, and who is who, then could deal with the vibe. Right now t'ings mash up, so ain' nuttin' happenin'

"Until then, sit small til we figure out how da ting ga go, and how we ga work the vibe moving forward."

The more things change the more they stay the same, as the old adage goes, especially when it comes to BPL, and BEC before it.

Sadly Mrs Osborne, through no fault of her own, has a job to do after all, and while in the line of duty, seems to be reciting past political rhetoric regarding the nation's power provider.

The same rhetoric spewed by past incarnations of the FNM and PLP, which left Bahamians paying way

too much for electricity, and its less than desirable provision, at the end of the day.

Nothing has changed for years when it comes to the cost of electricity and its provision in this country. Why are we still using fuel is beyond me, but we are, so brace yourselves for the usual "summer spike" on your power bills this summer. (Rosary beads in hand as I type) Mrs Osborne had this to say in relation to billing, and the "summer spike".

"The management team is responsible for the day-to-day operations. We as a board have met and we just ask that the public is patient as we revolutionise and improve the sector in order to keep the cost of electricity down for individuals and for businesses."

"Based on each of our backgrounds, I think most of us are business owners and also just residential customers and we really understand and are working towards the government's mandate of lowering the cost of energy in the country and also providing other alternative forms of energy for the country."

Again, translated into "Bahamanese" this is what I'm getting -



DARNELL OSBORNE

alike.

Now I'm not one to criticise, without offering a suggestion that may lead to positive change in the long run.

So may I offer two suggestions:

1. Commission John Bostwick to set up, implement operations and introduce the Floating Power Plant to Bahamian consumers.

The original idea was put forward to the general public by John Bostwick, it's his brainchild, he's a young visionary Bahamian

that will ensure the Floating Power Plant succeeds from start to finish, with Bahamians reaping the benefits.

Sorry Victor Kozeny and Tennyson Wells. (What's the obsession with wealthy old men, running with alleged "suspect" Russians these days, when did that become en vogue?)

2. Solar Power, and all its long-term benefits, environ-

mentally, economically and socially.

Until then, I guess I just have to be "patient" and continue to sweat.

POWER STRUGGLE

It was also interesting to note that in Thursday's *Tribune*, Albany's Managing Partner Christopher Anand revealed that Joe Lewis and his Tavistock Group, the principal developers of the \$1.4 billion project, offered the former Progressive Liberal Party government \$700m to "fix the issues" at the former Bahamas Electricity Corporation and the city landfill. Mr Anand also said, for "some reason" the offer was never accepted.

While hosting PM Dr. Minnis to a tour of the entire luxurious property, Anand also suggested to the present administration, to "work with them" to solve the problems plaguing the electricity company as well as the consistent burning at the New Providence Landfill.

PM Minnis offered this in response after completion of the tour, "We look for the best deal possible that is in the best interest of the Bahamian people."

In my opinion, if it means it's the best deal possible for all Bahamians, not just influential 'paper' Bahamian's then it should be researched thoroughly, with a view to its feasibility and implementation.

Could this be the reason the BPL Board is asking Bahamian's to be patient?

My real question with all of this, if the \$700M Albany offer was so sweet, why didn't the former PLP government accept it in a heartbeat? They were never known to look a gift horse in the mouth. What was so wrong with the offer that they didn't accept?

In any case I've got my Jack Daniels and popcorn ready, this is better than reality TV!

The Bahamas Public Services Union

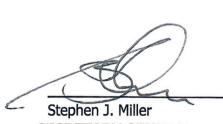


SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING FOR NOMINATION OF OFFICERS TO SERVE FOR 2017-2020

The Bahamas Public Services Union in accordance with Article 21-(i) of the Union's Constitution will hold a Special General meeting, for the nomination of officers to serve for the year 2017-2020 on Thursday, August 17th, 2017 beginning at 6:00pm at the Bahamas Communication and Public Officers Union located Farrington Road, Nassau Bahamas.

Nomination forms may be collected at the Union's Administration Office, Wulff Road between the hours of 9:30am to 4:40pm Monday through Friday commencing Thursday, 3rd August, 2017

Candidates for all positions are urged to collect and return the completed forms to the Secretary General on or before 5:00pm Wednesday, 15th August 2017.


Stephen J. Miller
SECRETARY GENERAL

BOB

Head Office
Claughton House
Charlotte & Shirley Streets
P. O. Box N-7118
Nassau, Bahamas

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS

Pursuant to Sections 98(2) and Sections 99(1) of the Securities Industry Act, 2011, Bank of The Bahamas Limited ("the Bank") hereby advises that the following persons were elected to the Board of the Bank at its Annual General Meeting on August 2, 2017:

Mr. Wayne J. Aranha
Mr. Anthony C. Allen
Mrs. Ruth Bowe-Darville
Mr. Kirk Antoni
Mr. Timothy Brown

 Bank of The Bahamas
L I M I T E D

Henfield plays down comments by US ambassadorial nominee

By RICARDO WELLS
Tribune Staff Reporter
rwells@tribunemedia.net

DESPITE "misstatements" made during his confirmation hearing before a United States Senate committee this week, Foreign Affairs Minister Darren Henfield said yesterday he is still "enthused" by the opportunity to work with the nominee for United States ambassador to The Bahamas, Doug Manchester.

In an interview with *The Tribune* on Thursday, Mr Henfield called for "understanding and reasoning" in the wake of

Mr Manchester's controversial comments when he called The Bahamas a "protectorate" of the US earlier this week.

Mr Henfield insisted that while he was "caught off guard" by the comments, he opted to "look at the full specs" during Mr Manchester's extended Senate hearing Wednesday.

Responding to questions by New Jersey Democratic Senator Bob Menendez, a member of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Mr Manchester suggested that the United States views The Bahamas, "for all intents and purposes" as a "protectorate".

Those comments received immediate push back from former Foreign Affairs Minister and current Leader of Opposition Business in the Senate Fred Mitchell, who slammed them as "patently offensive".

Senator Mitchell, in a statement Wednesday evening, demanded Mr Henfield address the comments and clarify whether the FNM minister accepted the claims as a part of the Minnis administration's foreign policy.

"A protectorate is an instrument of colonialism," the former Fox Hill MP affirmed. "Is this now the

intention of the United States?"

"We have a moral right to exist and the right to our way of life and to self-determination. Our size and lack of world power does not negative those rights," he added.

However, in response Thursday, Mr Henfield said while he expected reaction to Mr Manchester's hearing, he was somewhat puzzled by the "range" of Mr Mitchell's reaction.

"I truly don't know what influenced his mind or thought process. We have a good relationship with the United States and I expect that to continue."

"Misstatements, I didn't see it as nothing more or nothing less. I didn't see it as an attack or as disrespect to the sovereignty of our nation and I didn't think it required such push back as he offered," Mr Henfield said.

"Look at the work done between our two countries over the years. I don't think the ambassador designate is coming here with the intention of infringing on our rights as a nation."

"Let's all settle down and look at everything else he brought up in his hearing. When you look at the full specs of what he said with a level of understanding and

reasoning, you would conclude very quickly that this is a man who has respect for the values and achievement of this great country."

"I am enthused by that," he added. "I am looking forward to his confirmation because I think we will work well together and push the US-Bahamas relationship to the next level."

In addition to his "protectorate" comments, Mr Manchester urged more US investment is needed in The Bahamas, noting that it would be the only way to limit Chinese investment.

He also praised existing links between the two countries.

DOMINICANS DETAINED BY RBDF ARE RELEASED AND SENT HOME



DOMINICAN fishermen headed home after being released. Photos: Royal Bahamas Defence Force

FIFTY Dominicans, who were charged and held in custody for illegally fishing in Bahamian waters last year, were released on Wednesday and turned over to Dominican officials to be sent home.

According to a press release from the Royal Bahamas Defence Force, HMBS Madeira captured two Dominican vessels and arrested both of their captains and crew members for illegally fishing in Bahamian waters in November 2016.

"During the incident one of the Dominican vessels rammed the defence force vessel in a failed attempt to escape," the RBDF noted.

"The two Dominican vessels, Sheyla and John-

nuel, were caught with approximately 68,000 pounds of fish and crawfish aboard. Altogether, 51 Dominicans were arrested."

Fifty of the poachers were subsequently charged with illegal fishing and sentenced to six months in prison or a fine of \$20,000 each.

The captain of one of the vessels was charged with endangering a vessel and subsequently sentenced to 16 months in prison.

Nine months after the incident, the 50 Dominicans were subsequently released yesterday (Wednesday) from the Carmichael Road Detention (Centre) and transported to Prince George Wharf where they were handed over to the Dominican naval vessel, Almirante Didiez Burgos, to begin their journey home.

The Dominican naval vessel was escorted in and out of Bahamian waters by a defence force patrol craft.

The RBDF said the captain of the Dominican poaching vessel that rammed the RBDF patrol craft, Victor Diaz, will remain in custody at the Department of Correctional Services until 2018.

He pleaded guilty to an additional charge of eight counts of causing the safety of HMBS Madeira to be endangered with intent to cause danger or harm and one count of damage, the RBDF said.

He was, therefore, sentenced to an additional 16 months at the Department of Correctional Services.



SHIPS seized by the RBDF.

**Bank of The Bahamas
L I M I T E D**

NOTICE

The Government of The Bahamas has agreed to purchase through Bahamas Resolve Limited ("Resolve") impaired commercial loans of Bank of The Bahamas Limited at gross value, which is estimated to be \$166 million. Resolve in consideration for the loans will issue short-term notes aggregating \$107 million and long-term notes for the balance. It is anticipated that this transaction will be consummated by 10th August 2017.

Reputable growing Gaming Company, accepting resumes for the position of Director of Security

Overview

The Director of Security plans, directs and coordinates activities relating to the protection, safeguarding and security of the Company's assets, employees, customers and others; ensures that established goals and objectives are accomplished with prescribed priorities, time limitations responsibilities; advises, makes recommendations, assists in the formulation of goals and objectives; designs, implements and monitors security policies, procedures and programs; complies with local legal regulations; and exercises independent judgment in the course of carrying out overall responsibilities and other activities as assigned.

Essential Duties and Functions: (include but not limited to)

- Ensure the security of equipment, information and personnel of the organization from fraud, internet hacking, physical assault, robbery among other threats
- Plan, direct and monitor the implementation of security systems for protection of the customers and staff of the company;
- Responsible for the training and supervising of all staff who are a part of the Security Department;
- **Investigating** crimes committed against clients.
- **Planning** personal security.
- **Analyzing** data of internal operations.
- **Advising** about security weakness and procedures.

Required Skills

- Having excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Being able to work with a team.
- Having organizational skills.
- Being able to handle various security procedures.
- Having decision making skills.
- Being analytical.
- Having supervisory skills.
- Being detail oriented.
- Having investigation skills.
- Being proactive.

Education

Candidates for the **Security Director** position are required to have a Bachelor's or Master's Degree in Information Systems, Public Security, Computer Science, Police Science, Law Enforcement or related subjects. A minimum of ten years (10) experience in the relevant areas of security policy and management fields.

Remuneration will be based on qualifications and experience.

Interested applicants are invited to send their resumes to:

info@242careers.com

Deadline for applications is August 18th, 2017



CIBC FirstCaribbean staff and 'Walk for the Cure' beneficiaries are all smiles as they anticipate exceptional turnout, support, and loads of fun with this year's 'Walk for the Cure campaign.'

From left: Diane Bingham from the Cancer Society of The Bahamas, Andrea Sweeting from Sister Sister Breast Cancer Support Group, CIBC FirstCaribbean Managing Director Trevor Torzsas, and CIBC FirstCaribbean Marketing Manager Maya Nottage.



Walk for the Cure campaign sets sights on \$100,000 target

CIBC FirstCaribbean launched its 6th annual "Walk for the Cure" campaign this week with a press conference at their Shirley Street headquarters.

The popular fundraising event held during cancer awareness month each year is set for Sunday, October 1, at Goodman's Bay Corporate Centre.

With activities scheduled from August to October, this year's events commence with a soca "Battle of the DJs" party on Saturday, August 12, at the British Colonial Hilton Hotel. Soca fans, dance enthusiasts and campaign supporters can enjoy fierce, rhythmic beats and fun music from 7pm until 10pm. Tickets are \$25 each and can be purchased at any CIBC FirstCaribbean branch in Nassau.

The official walk is set for October 1 in New Providence and September 30 in Grand Bahama, Eleuthera and Abaco. The public is invited to buy tickets, priced at \$20 for adults and \$15 for children, ages 12 and under.

Additionally, donations can be made to any CIBC FirstCaribbean branch. Bank managing director Trevor Torzsas expressed enthusiasm for the anticipated turnout.

"We look forward to growing the event here in The Bahamas. We had over 700 people last year. It's a lot of fun. It's a Sunday morning and everyone gets together...there's food, there's a prayer service, there's music, and it's really a great event. And it's not just for the adults – it's for the kids, too. So it's really becoming a true family event in the Caribbean, and here in The Bahamas," he said.

boys aged six to 18. It will be held at St John's Baptist Church, Meeting Street.

Camp registration will be on Monday, August 7, and will include a fun day and grill out.

For more information, contact 393-4132.

The camp aims to bring

The 2016 "Walk for the Cure" campaign attracted 42 corporate sponsors, more than 700 walkers over four islands, and raised \$73,000. This year, the bank has a target of over \$100,000 and hopes to attract even more support. Mr Torzsas is positive about the outlook for their goal.

"We haven't even [officially] started our fund-raising and we've raised over \$10,000, so the sky's the limit and together we can really make a difference."

Proceeds go to the Sister, Sister Breast Cancer Sup-

port Group and the Cancer Society of The Bahamas. Diane Bingham, a representative from the Cancer Society, appealed to the public for support.

"The cost involved in [caring for patients] is fully supported through donations from institutions such as [CIBC FirstCaribbean] and personal donations from the general public.

This is why we continue to say thank you so much to CIBC for supporting the efforts of the Cancer Society, and to individuals that continue to donate to the efforts of the Society.

Those interested in becoming a part of any of these events can also visit their nearest FirstCaribbean branch.

Each year, the "Walk for the Cure" October event is held to coincide with the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation's CIBC "Run for the Cure," sponsored by the bank's parent company, CIBC.

CIBC has been supporting this event for more than 20 years, donating millions to breast cancer research in Canada and now cancer awareness and patient support in The Bahamas.

competition, sports, social studies and cooking, tours, daily meals, daily devotion and Bible study, and more.

Antique Auto Club

Antique Auto Club. - The Antique Auto Club of The Bahamas is very pleased to announce the holding of its first Charity fund-raising raffle, in continuation of its 30th. anniversary celebrations.

Drawing of the raffle will be held in conjunction with the Kiwanis Club of Cable Beach, Annual Antique Auto Show and Steak-out on Saturday, August 12, at the Cultural Centre on Arawak Cay.

The proceeds continue in aid of the Zion Children's Home on Current Island and continues the Auto Club's efforts to help underprivileged children in our Bahamaland.

Books of ten raffle tickets for \$10 are available from club members over the next two weeks and, of course, will be on sale at the show on the 12th.

There are excellent prizes for the lucky winners, including: A three night, 4 day stay at Sandals Emerald Bay, Exuma valued at in excess of \$2,000; A 50" flat screen Smart Television; Round trip tickets for two on Bahamasair; A digital Camera from John Bull; A ceiling fan from Nassau Glass Company and many other beautiful prizes.

Peter Armstrong, director of public relations, said: "Do come out to the show and enjoy a great day looking at many beautiful old cars, trucks and motorcycles and wonderful food, tickets for which are just \$12 and can be obtained from members of the Kiwanis Club of Cable Beach – or just arrive and buy on site."

The Boys Brigade

Boys Brigade. - The Boys Brigade is holding its 10th annual summer day camp from August 7-18.

The camp runs from 9am-4pm and is open to

KEMP'S FUNERAL HOME LIMITED

19 Palmdale Avenue, Palmdale
Nassau, N.P., The Bahamas

Funeral Service

Angela Marguerite Roberts née Pinder, 89



of Eastern Road, Nassau, The Bahamas, passed away peacefully at her residence, in the early morning of Saturday, 29th July, 2017, will be held at Bible Truth Fellowship, West Avenue, Centreville, Nassau, on Saturday, 12th August, 2017 at 10:30 a.m.

Brother Charles Carter and Brothers of the Bible Truth Fellowship will officiate and interment will follow in Ebenezer Methodist Cemetery, East Shirley Street, Nassau.

Mr. Roberts was predeceased by her husband, Charles Harry Roberts Jr., grandson, Christopher Curtis Roberts; parents, Curtis Osbourne Pinder and Esther Whilemina Pinder.

She is survived by her sons, Colyn Brent Roberts and Craig Dwayne Roberts; daughter, Donna Heather Davis; grandsons, Jared Davis, Neil Roberts, Brett Davis, Brendan Roberts, Sean Davis and Scott Roberts; great grandsons, Noah and Jaden Davis, Coby Davis, Tai Davis, Luke Davis, Calvin Roberts and Beckett Roberts; sister, Joan Amelia Hoel; son-in-law, Robert Davis; daughters-in-law, Janet (Scheidecker) Robert and Diana (Cuevas) Roberts and many nieces, nephews and cousins, who called her "Auntie Angela" and cared for her greatly.

The many who affectionately knew her as "Nan". The Bible Truth Fellowship congregation, to whom she was "Sister Angela". Friends and family far and near here in Nassau, Abaco, Spanish Wells, Palmetto Point, Minnesota, Iowa and elsewhere.

Special thanks to Marylow Silva who has been constant and consistently at her side for the last seven years and to Dr. Ian Kelly for his sound advice, support and care.

In lieu of flowers the family request that donations be sent The Cancer Society of The Bahamas, P.O. Box S.S. 6539, Nassau or to the Bible Truth Fellowship Sunday School, P.O. Box N-551, Nassau, in memory of Mrs. Angela Marguerite Roberts.

Arrangements Kemp's Funeral Home Limited.

FIDELITY

Passionate, Team Player, Ability To Work In A High Pressure Environment, Driven To Succeed

If you possess these qualities, we invite you to apply for the position of:

COMPENSATIONS & BENEFITS ADMINISTRATOR

Job Summary:

The Compensation & Benefits Administrator, is a critical contributor to the Human Resources team. The role requires expertise in all aspects of Compensations and Benefits, Labour Laws, entering data, and generating reports from the Company's payroll system, currently ABRA. Time management, organizational skills, attention to detail, accuracy, multi-tasking, high proficiency in Excel, and effective communication are critical to the success of this role. This position reports to the Group HR Director.

Duties and Responsibilities Includes:

- Managing weekly and monthly payroll process for the Group.
- Preparing terminations and employee final settlement letters as requested.
- Maintaining staff attendance records.
- Processing health insurance and pension enrollments.
- Preparation of quarterly and annual Human Resources reports.

Requirements/Qualifications:

- Bachelors degree or Human Resources Certifications
- Minimum 4 years experience in a Human Resources /Compensation & Benefits
- Analytical with excellent report writing skills
- Display competence in the execution of compensation and benefits matters
- Highly Confidential

PLEASE SUBMIT BEFORE

August 18th, 2017 to:

HUMAN RESOURCES

Re: Compensations &

Benefits Administrator

careers@fidelitybahamas.com

ABSOLUTELY NO

PHONE CALLS



JOIN THE CLUB

OUR Clubs and Societies page is a chance for you to share your group's activities with our readers.

To feature on our Clubs and Societies page, submit your report to clubs@tribunemedia.net, with "Clubs Page" written in the subject line.

For more information about the page, contact Stephen Hunt on 502-2373 or 447-3565.

Residents line up to take out money as RBC quits Bimini

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

THE Royal Bank of Canada closed its operations in Bimini on Wednesday, ending more than 50 years of banking services on that island.

Residents stood in long queues outside the bank from 8am waiting for it to open at 9am to withdraw their money and close out their accounts.

The Tribune understands that some customers went to the bank on Thursday to access the ATM, but it had already been removed and taken out of service.

The pull-out by RBC leaves many concerned, in particular for the elderly customers and visitors as well as businesses on the island.

"Man, everyone is panicking because Friday is supposed to be payday,

and so we will have to see how this will play out come Friday," said Pat David of Eddie's and Pat Bonefish Club in Bailey Town.

Ms David said that some businesses paid their staff on Thursday, but there are still many persons who have not yet been paid.

It is understood that Bank of the Bahamas is expected to fill the void and that bank applications are already available on that island, according to residents.

Pakesia Parker-Edgecombe, MP for West Grand Bahama and Bimini, told The Tribune when contacted Thursday that banking services are expected to commence on the island by mid-August.

"While the government was not successful in having RBC remain on island and service that community, the state-run Bank of the Bahamas will take over where RBC left off," she said.

She stated that Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance K Peter Turnquest and his team have worked feverishly to ensure that the island of Bimini is not without a financial institution.

RBC was the only bank on the island for many decades, and the institution informed its customers in July by public notice that it was closing the branch in Bimini and the bank would be merging the branch with the RBC Freeport branch on August 2.

Robbie Smith, local government councillor, described the closure as a "sad day" for Bimini residents.

He reported people were lined up from around 8am at the bank to get their money out.

"The lines were ridiculous. It is a sad day that RBC has closed," he told a ZNS reporter.

Mr Smith said that many

tourists used the ATM.

"The machine is gone, and everyone is stranded. What are we to do...get on a plane and fly to Freeport or Nassau for banking?"

He expressed concern for the island's senior citizens and also felt that people and businesses will be at risk.

"This is a trying time (for us), and I think security will be tightened up here," he said.

Charles Ellis, a 90-year-old resident of Bailey Town, felt it was "terrible" of the bank to close its operation to its loyal customers.

"Some people still went to the bank on Thursday to use the ATM to get something, and all they saw was a big hole, they done take the machine out," he said.

Mr Ellis said he was a customer of the bank since it opened 50 years ago.

"I was banking with them for 50 years. It was terrible,

to me, the way how it was done. They did not give sufficient time for residents, especially the elderly."

He recalled the days when customers used a bank book.

"We are not use to the machinery and the online (banking). You used to go down there with your book," he said.

He remembered when the banking services were first introduced to the island.

"Two guys started coming down here with the box and money from Nassau in the morning, and there was a little shack in town where they would meet and do business, and around about 3pm they were on their way back to Nassau — that's how they started," he said.

Mr Ellis said the bank's absence is an inconvenience for residents.

"If you have someone to do something for you and you give them a cheque there

is no place at the moment they can cash it. And so right now, it's a difficult situation for people in general, but moreso for the elderly."

Mr Ellis, who celebrated his 90th birthday just this week, said: "For the bank to do us like it was done, was terrible. As of now, we are at a standstill."

He said that bank applications for the Bank of the Bahamas are now available on the island.

Mrs Edgecombe said she was indeed thankful to Mr Turnquest and his team. She stated that BOB has already visited the community of Bimini to begin the process and that residents of the island have been able to sign up for accounts.

"We do believe that BOB will service the community of Bimini well and continue to encourage businesses as well as residents to take advantage of those services," she said.



BOATS at the Bradford Marine yacht repair facility.

Photos: Denise Maycock/Tribune Staff

LOCAL REPAIRS KEEPS YACHT REPAIR FACILITY TICKING OVER DURING SLOW SEASON

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

BRADFORD Marine's yacht repair facility in Grand Bahama is getting a lot of local commercial work during the slow yacht repair season.

Dan Romence, general manager at Bradford's shipyard in Freeport, reported that 2015 and 2016 were relatively "good years" for the company because it was able to pull a lot of work from various markets.

The shipyard's primary markets are mega yachts and recreation cruisers, but they are also doing repairs and maintenance for mail boats, ferry companies, freighters, and commercial vessels, as well as storage services.

Bradford Marine is headquartered in Fort Lauderdale and is one of the world's largest yacht repair, refit and service shipyards. The company employs 65 full-time employees at its shipyard in Freeport.

"Over the last two years, we had some challenges as most businesses in the US and the Bahama locally over the periods between 2012 and 2014. But we are utilising a marketing company trying to get company information out to the different markets because we do a lot of work on not only big yachts and on recreation cruisers, but also

a lot of commercial work," said Mr Romence.

The company is currently completing work on some Royal Bahamas Defence Force vessels and Bahamas Fast Ferries' Bohengy III is also there.

"Our customer base is very dynamic. Our company needs to be able to maintain a good level of business to be profitable," he said.

"The yacht business has become more competitive specifically in our region, and one of the reasons that our company came over to Freeport is to start operating much higher tonnage lift," Mr Romence explained.

Bradford Freeport has a dry dock with a lift capacity of 1,200 tonnes, which in 2001, far exceeded the lift capacity of most shipyards in South Florida.

According to the shipyard executive, this helped to establish a good amount of business, but since that time other shipyards have also increased their lift capacity to 1,200 tonnes making the yacht repair business very competitive.

"More boats are around now and require such tonnage lift, but they are going over to three or four places as opposed to one or two before," he said.

Mr Romence indicated that their challenge is to try to stabilise the amount of incoming business.



THE BRADFORD Marine repair facility.

At the 42-acre shipyard there are about three or four current boat repair jobs underway, and another three or four more that have work ongoing over the next period of days or weeks.

Sometimes, if the yard gets a real labour intensive boat, it can employ almost the entire yard on it, depending on the nature of the work, Mr Romence said.

Many of the cruise yachts operate in summer months in the Mediterranean and the northeast US, and in the Caribbean during the winter months.

During this slow season, Bradford has managed to secure some big contracts for repairs and maintenance work of the Royal Bahamas Defence Force launchers. The company

also got some commercial work and work from private individual boat owners.

Mr Romence stated that Bradford also does a lot of storage for cruise vessels, sailboats, and powerboats at the yard.

"Some boat owners want their boats to be out of water in the hurricane season because they don't want to have to worry about the

boat and it provides the boat protection from the storm," he said.

Mr Romence said Bradford Marine has been in business for 50 years and has changed its logo. The company has provided outstanding service in the yachting industry and to mark the special occasion, decided to premiere a new look, he said.



YOUNGSTERS pictured during the closing ceremony for the Urban Renewal Summer Camp.
Photos: Patrick Hanna/
BIS

URBAN RENEWAL SUMMER CAMP ENDS WITH A CELEBRATION

SUMMER camp came to a close for over 700 campers who participated in a three-week programme put on by the Ministry of Social Services and Urban Development. The camp officially closed during a ceremony at Loyola Hall, July 31.

Children from 5 to 15 years engaged in wholesome activities including needlework, ceramic painting, sports, liturgical dance, field trips, decorative arts and more at nine Urban Renewal centres throughout New Providence. The theme for the camp was "It's a Bahamian Thing."

The closing ceremony was attended by Minister of Social Services and Urban Development Lanisha Rolle, Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Social Services and Urban Development Vaughn Miller and members

of Parliament, camp facilitators and parents.

The inner-city urban campers represented their centres and performed songs, cultural dances, dramatisation, and choral speaking during the three-hour event.

In her address, Mrs Rolle emphasised the importance of working together. "More than anything I want all of you to take from this experience the fact that the only thing that is going to make us stronger and better as a community is team work," she said.

She informed the campers that the government is here to provide opportunities for them to realise their dreams and help to develop the country.

An exhibition highlighting the work of the campers followed the ceremony.



YOU ASKED FOR IT AND WE LISTENED!



Tune in all week long for all of your classic hits only on
Y98

IT'S THE MUSIC THAT'S WHY



**AC
IN THE AM**

6AM-10AM



**MIDDAY'S
with MJ**

10AM-2PM



**DRIVE HOME
with SARAAN**

2PM-6PM

TUNE INTO TODAY !!!