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16 HOUSE & HOME PAGES

INSIGHT: THE FNM HONEYMOON IS OVER

Alert over China strategy switch

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

THE CHINESE government's reported crackdown on "irrational" overseas investments may affect projects in the Bahamas with new restrictions on such projects in property, hotel and entertainment and a ban on gambling investments.

Bahamas Institute of Chartered Accountants (BICA) President-elect Gowan Bowe told The Tribune that while it was important to distinguish between the Chinese state and capital markets in Hong Kong, which has its own independent stock exchange, the recent codification of its policy highlights the critical need for the Bahamas to strengthen its own economic planning unit.

Baha Mar buyer Chow

Tai Fook Enterprises (CTFE) and Grand Bahama port developer Hutchison Whampoa (HW) are on the Hong Kong stock exchange, and the Grand Lucayan - currently up for sale - is owned by HW's real estate arm Cheung Kong Property Holdings.

However, The Pointe is owned by China Construction America (CCA), a subsidiary of China State Construction and Engineering Company (CSCEC). China Harbour Engineering Company is also developing a port in North Abaco.

Mr Bowe said: "While China has significant influence over Hong Kong, Hong Kong has capital markets, effectively it has a stock exchange and the stock exchange doesn't have restrictions on who can invest in it. While there

SEE PAGE 11

PRIVATE SECTOR KEY TO SCHOOL OVERHAUL

By **RICARDO WELLS**
Tribune Staff Reporter
rwells@tribunemedia.net

THE Minnis administration plans to build at least one new school in south-west New Providence this term, Education Minister Jeffrey Lloyd has revealed.

Presenting details of the government's new public private partnership (PPP) education strategy, Mr Lloyd said plans are already in motion to build at least one "well-equipped and well-resourced" primary

school, the first in what he hopes will become an extensive overhaul of infrastructure attached to the Ministry of Education.

"To keep it simple, the physical structures are old and require immediate upgrades to service the quality of education this administration aims to deliver to the country," Mr Lloyd stated. "Being resourced challenged, we must look at options never considered, never explored."

SEE PAGE SIX



PRIME Minister Dr Hubert Minnis greeting supporters following the victory service at St Barnabas Anglican Church celebrating their 1992 General Election win. See page five for more.
Photo: **Shawn Hanna/Tribune Staff**

HENFIELD HAPPY ON FNM PROGRESS

By **RICARDO WELLS**
Tribune Staff Reporter
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SENATOR Ranard Henfield said on Sunday he has not received a request from any of the sub-groups associated with the We March Bahamas organisation to stage a protest against the Minnis administration for inaction during its first 100 days.

In May, Mr Henfield in his endorsement of the Free National Movement

(FNM), presented a list of demands he wanted addressed within 100 days if the party was successfully elected.

That list included jail for alleged corrupt politicians, lower cost of living, term limits for prime ministers, the removal of Crown land distribution from the Office of the Prime Minister and the distribution of such land to people, local government for New Providence, an independent director of public prosecutions and the ap-

pointment of former Court of Appeal President Dame Joan Sawyer as attorney general.

Mr Henfield also called for a recall system for MPs, a fixed date for elections, easier ways of doing businesses and easier ways of exporting items from The Bahamas.

A failure to carry out these, along with the promises laid out by the FNM on the campaign trail, would prompt the organisation

SEE PAGE SIX

TRIPLE MURDER TRIGGERS NEW CRACKDOWN

By **RICARDO WELLS**
Tribune Staff Reporter
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IN the face of rising homicides, National Security Minister Marvin Dames over the weekend presented a number of crime fighting initiatives, highlighting plans to clamp down on persons out on bail, firearm traffickers, drug houses and enhancing senior command at the divisional level of the force on a 24-hour basis.

Oedia at a press conference Saturday evening at the Paul Farquharson Conference Centre, Mr Dames said effective immediately, the Royal Bahamas Police Force (RBPf) will "double down" on its efforts to combat violent crimes across the country.

SEE PAGE THREE

TOURISM PR DEAL COST \$600,000

By **AVA TURNQUEST**
Tribune Chief Reporter
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THE re-engagement of global public relations firm Weber Shandwick will cost taxpayers \$600,000, *The Tribune* has learned.

A senior official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, yesterday confirmed the contract's value, and said that the contract period was around nine months.

However, the official noted that there was a possibility it would be renewed for a longer period.

Weber Shandwick was dropped in 2013 by the former Progressive Liberal Party administration after an 18-year long run with the Ministry of Tourism.

SEE PAGE 11

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Three killed in a single day

By RICARDO WELLS
Tribune Staff Reporter
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POLICE have launched an island-wide manhunt for the suspects responsible for three separate shootings that left three men dead on Friday.

The latest killing took place shortly after 9pm on August 18.

Police said a man was standing in front of his home off Kemp Road when the occupants of a silver coloured Honda Fit pulled up and shot him before speeding off.

The man was taken to hospital where he later died.

Earlier that day, police responded to two other fatal shootings.

According to officer-in-charge of the Central Detective Unit, Assistant Commissioner of Police Clayton Fernander, residents in the Hospital Lane community reported hearing gunshots around 10pm Thursday, however responding officers were unable to locate a scene.

ACP Fernander said police then received reports Friday morning, shortly after 8am, that a body was discovered in the passenger seat of a vehicle just off Hospital Lane.

ACP Fernander said officers established a perimeter around the scene, and investigators were called.

The victim is believed to be in his mid-thirties, ac-



OFFICIALS take the body away from the scene after a body was found in bushes just south of Step Street.

Photos: Terrel W. Carey/Tribune Staff

cording to police.

In another incident, police discovered the body of a man believed to be in his early twenties, in bushes just south of Step Street in Fox Hill.

ACP Fernander said residents reported sounds of gunshots around 3am Friday, but a discovery wasn't made until 9am.

Speaking to the press at the Fox Hill scene, ACP Fernander said the victim was identified as a resident of the area.

ACP Fernander also confirmed that police had taken a man into custody on Friday for questioning in connection with that matter.

"We are appealing to members of the public, with respect to both matters, who would have been in the areas and would have heard, as we indicated gunshots were fired so someone may have heard or seen something, to please come forth to assist with (these) investigations," ACP Fernander said on Friday.

"We are also encouraging members of the public to, things like this where you would hear gunshots being fired, please reach out to the police, reach out to your commanders."

ACP Fernander, flanked by several senior officers, added: "Let's try to build relationships with your

commanders so that incidents like this, where you heard shots or any information, to reach out to the commander so that they will be able to respond to these things."

He concluded by insisting that any information obtained by police from residents will be kept in the strictest confidence to ensure the long-term safety of those persons.

Anyone with information on these incidents is asked to call police at 919 or Crime Stoppers at 328-TIPS.

The killings pushed the homicide count to 87 for the year according to *The Tribune's* records.



POLICE at the scene of the murder in Hospital Lane.

TRIPLE MURDER TRIGGERS NEW CRACKDOWN

from page one

Reflecting on the country's latest murders, Mr Dames revealed police will be taking a more aggressive approach to handling drug peddling and shutting down drugs throughout the country, which he referred to as "the source of many of the crime problems that exist".

The Mount Moriah MP also indicated that police will be increasing intelligence and operational efforts to identify and disrupt gang activities. More specifically, he said from an intelligence perspective there will be an increased focus on firearm traffickers with a view to bringing them to justice.

Mr Dames said: "The police have informed me that they have conducted a review of persons on bail who are not in compliance with their bail conditions. Further, they have discovered that more than 50 persons were not in compliance and they have already arrested a number of those persons and subsequently their bail was revoked.

"At present, there are 268 persons currently being monitored for various offences. Out of the 268 serious offences committed there are 70 for homicides, 18 for attempted murders, 102 for armed robberies and 59 for firearm offences."

He continued: "I will like to send a warning out to all those persons who continue to live a life of crime - moving forward we intend to make your life very uncomfortable. We will use every resource at

our disposal to ensure that you are made to account for your wrongdoings. This is a promise."

Mr Dames added police intelligence has also revealed that a large percentage of recent homicides have occurred in what law enforcement refers to as "hot spots," specifying the areas of Pinewood, Kemp Road, Bain Town, Yellow Elder, Fox Hill and Carmichael Road.

Flanked by several senior officers on hand for Saturday's briefing, Mr Dames gave reporters a detailed look at crime figures, presented on an interactive map that highlighted the exact location of recent homicides.

Pointing to areas of concern, Mr Dames said police will increase vehicle and foot patrols and will be using all the technology available to them, including increased monitoring of CCTV and all of their resources to curtail these violent crimes.

Mr Dames said the efforts of police have already yielded some results, but admitted that more must be done, primarily he said, to improve technology and build capacity.

He later insisted that while efforts in tackling crime are static in many ways, strategies must also continue to be "fluid," as a means of addressing crime in all of its variations.

To that end, he said the government will immediately begin with the establishment of the National Crime Prevention and Neighbourhood Watch Council to grow community involvement in the fight against crime.

The initiative is expected to be commanded by Senior Assistant Commissioner Stephen Dean.

Mr Dames said the council will look to set up crime watch groups in every community and attempt to establish commonality and examine community prevention measures.

Additionally, Mr Dames said the council will collaborate with multi-governmental agencies and non-governmental agencies.

Moreover, the national security minister revealed the government will review the establishment of the RBPF to determine the requisite number of officers at any division.

Mr Dames said the government will also move to decentralise the Central Detective Unit (CDU), a move he suggested would place detectives at stations to readily respond to serious matters on a timely basis.

This was a strategy reportedly shelved by the Christie administration.

Mr Dames said the government intends to produce, very shortly, its legislative agenda which will have a number of crime prevention bills, including legislation to establish a National Anti-Corruption Agency and an overhauled National Intelligence Agency, among others.

Of the initiatives presented Saturday, Mr Dames said he doesn't expect an increase in the base shifts of officers or increase in work load.

This comes just days after the government was forced to back off plans to pay out the second instalment of overtime wages owed to officers this month.

Mr Dames said he is sure the senior command of the RBPF will be able to "make adjustments" to allow for these new initiatives to be effectively carried out.

He said despite limited resources, he is confident that police will be able to "get the job done" and, ef-

fectively, "bring an end" to many of the criminal elements plaguing the country.

Saturday's conclave came on the heels of the country's three latest homicides, all of

which occurred over a 24-hour period, in or around areas highlighted by police.

Investigations into all three matters are continuing.

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ANNABELLE CREATION	T	1:05	3:35	N/A	6:05	8:25	10:45
THE DARK TOWER	T	1:15	3:45	N/A	6:15	8:45	10:50
EMOJI MOVIE	A	1:15	3:35	N/A	6:15	8:30	10:35
GIRLS TRIP	C	1:00	3:25	N/A	6:00	8:20	10:45
WAR FOR THE PLANET	T	1:00	3:30	N/A	6:00	8:50	10:45

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The confused world of Trump

FIFTY years ago, the US was torn apart by racial unrest, rioting and social upheaval. Race relations, political assassinations and an unpopular Vietnam War fuelled the tumult.

Decades passed. There was healing, and progress. The first black president was elected, and then he was re-elected. Golden anniversaries of landmark civil rights legislation were celebrated. The nation has not since the 1960s suffered the shock of an assassination of a major public figure of the stature of Martin Luther King or the Kennedys, though there have been attempts.

And the US now fights its wars with a volunteer military force and contract mercenaries and suffers relatively few casualties, so there is comparatively little organised opposition. The military draft was abolished two generations ago.

Then 2016 arrived. To the astonishment of many, and apparently also him and his campaign, an obviously unprepared Donald Trump was chosen to be the US president. He campaigned with at least a benign nod to white supremacists, neo-Nazis and other fringe groups most associated with remote American territories beyond the reach, and conscious awareness, of mainstream voters who were rarely reminded of their existence. There would occasionally be a standoff in isolated eastern Oregon over public land use, or a deadly shootout on a dusty compound in Texas, or indeed the bombing of a large federal building in Oklahoma City, but this did not seem to be a major American social or political phenomenon of significance.

Now and for the intermediate future, all of that is no longer true. Donald Trump's artless waffling and inability to find an appropriate response to the recent tragic deaths in the leafy Virginia university town of Charlottesville has the US media, and many national politicians, in what has become their latest uproar. The large rally in Boston may foretell many more to come, with clashes, casualties and headlines sure to follow.

Trump is without caution and largely inept when called upon to respond to public crises. This may be partly because in his seven months as president, so many of those crises are of his own making. But the fact remains that he

gave opponents reason to suspect that his real sympathies lie with the nativists, xenophobes and misanthropes who have clearly found their voice during his so far unsuccessful term in office.

It is hard to avoid the conclusion that Trump, who campaigned so hard against the Washington status quo, respects neither the presidency nor the professional politicians in the capital who strive to maintain that status quo and their privileged part in it.

Both American political parties now face what may be existential dilemmas.

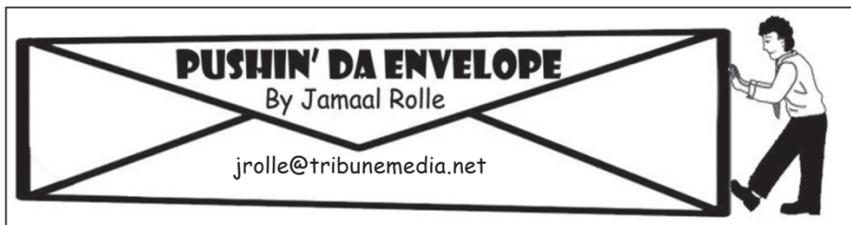
The Republican majorities in both the Senate and the House are visibly flummoxed. On the one hand, they are members of the party of which Trump is the titular head. They share with him many of the elements of the traditional GOP agenda, including reducing taxes. They are pro-business, with a strong belief that less government and regulation can open the way for new business creation and, therefore, job growth. These policies are durable icons of Republican politics.

On the other hand, Trump speaks and Twitters like an ignorant bigot at times. He is national embarrassment to many Americans, despite retaining the obdurate support of over one-third of his party's faithful.

What are Republican officials to do? If they dare to oppose him, they face what for many is the greatest risk: A primary challenge from a passionate, motivated, likely well-funded core of their party that brooks no dissent from the new contemporary orthodoxy. If they stay in line in silent or muted support, they risk going down with what may be an already sinking Trump ship. All House members face re-election next year, as do a third of US Senators, and the president rarely misses an opportunity to remind them of that fact.

Meanwhile, the Democrats are not united in opposition. They remain riven by the disagreements that surfaced last year between supporters of Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton. Accounts of recent intraparty feuds in the Democratic strongholds of California and New York have revealed the current lack of a unifying party theme.

The party that is quickest to unity should prevail next year.



How many holes do we dig?

EDITOR, The Tribune.

IT IS oftentimes good to look at the past to see how far we've gone and what has happened along the way.

When I was in my mid-teens, I was photographing players like Kendal Isaacs (later to become Sir Kendal) at the Gym Tennis Club competing against a team from Jamaica. I was talking to Inspector of Police, Mr Albert Miller (later to become Sir Albert). He was telling me how Nassau was really going to the dogs. He went on to say that there was one murder in the Court system for the entire year!

That was then. Now it seems we have several murders a day! Times change. But why? We all know Gussie Roberts, one of the great photographers of the then Development Board. Well Gussie had a father who was also called Gussie, but he was a policeman, an Inspector with the Royal Bahamas Police Force, who later became Assistant Commissioner of Police.

One afternoon Inspector Roberts was on point duty with a number of young policemen checking licenses on West Bay Street. One of the young Corporals came to Inspector Roberts and said, "Sir, we have a problem in front."

Inspector Roberts asked: "What's the problem young man?"

The young officer said, "Well, sir, there is a woman up front who does not have a license."

Inspector Roberts replied: "Book her."

The young officer said, "But, sir, you don't understand, the young lady is your sister."

Inspector Roberts replied: "Young man you don't understand, I said book her."

That was Nassau many

LETTERS

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years ago when there was discipline, law and order.

Let's fast forward to today.

Hundreds of young men and women are investigated, charged and brought to court. Some of the crimes are petty. But the offending parties are investigated, arrested and if found guilty, go to jail.

Apparently, it is now the standard that when a politician is investigated, charged and brought to court it's a "witch hunt."

How come? As I remember, and granted I'm getting old, there's not a PLP law, or an FNM law, or a white man's law, or a black man's law, or a poor man's law or a rich man's law, it is the law of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas. It applies to everybody.

I was surprised to hear both a PLP and an FNM lawyer hurling threats at each other. "If you don't watch out I'll tell on you," they shouted to each other. Two so-called lawyers! Don't they both know that it is against the law to withhold acts of criminality from the police? That, I believe, is called obstruction of justice. It is a crime. That's jail talk.

Furthermore, it is blackmail. Again against the law. Again jail talk.

And we want to know what's wrong with our society?

A friend who I have a tremendous amount of respect for has suggested to Prime Minister Doctor Minnis that when he is digging one hole, he should dig two. I don't agree. Instead he should dig three because two may not hold all the crooks that seem to be running around!

I read somewhere that a PLP has asked why Prime

Minister Doctor Minnis does not investigate the sale of BaTelCo for just over two-hundred million dollars.

If my memory serves me right it was the PLP who promised the people that if elected they would investigate the sale of BaTelCo. They won and true to their promise the PLP appointed a committee that met, investigated and came to a conclusion.

They never published their conclusion. It seems that they may have been covering it up. Now why?

The only reason for an investigation was not to determine whether or not it was a bad deal, or if it was sold for too much or too little, but rather, to determine whether or not there was some wrong doing? We were never told, or maybe I missed it.

We were, however, told what the committee got from the deal. It was quite impressive, but unusual.

As I recall, they got the buyer to give back a percentage of the sale, plus extra. Was that from the goodness of the buyer's heart or had the buyer been involved in some shenanigans - like buying off a politician?

I don't know. The PLP committee knows. Why were the findings not published? Why ask Prime Minister Doctor Minnis to investigate? The PLP committee has already met, investigated and come to a conclusion.

What was the conclusion? Publish it! We're entitled to know.

It is time we take the future of our children and our country seriously.

Let's dig three holes and fill them with all crooked politicians, PLP and FNM!

PIERRE V. L. DUPUCH

Nassau, August 17, 2017

Don't kill the goose - it's still growing

EDITOR, The Tribune.

Re: your piece in the Business Section today (Thursday).

Level the playing field suggests that competition exists between the Airbnb Host and the hotels. This is patently untrue and simply shows that Mr Russell knows very little, if anything, about the vacation rental business.

The suggestion that by taxing the Airbnb business "it will help address issues of parity, pertaining to cost of product and services" is another unfounded statement that further demonstrates that Mr Russell knows nothing about this business. Since when has the Ministry of Tourism marketed to New Zealand, Australia, Italy, France, UK, Sweden, Denmark, mid-west USA, West Coast USA?

While our Governments have been paying millions of dollars in advertising, Airbnb has developed a very successful social media business for very little money. Our Tourism Minister is having the AG's office bring legislation to tax approximately 1,200, mostly

Bahamian, Airbnb Hosts.

Just because he thinks they are making money. Talk about a black crab syndrome! The Minister says ... and ensure those landlords are in full compliance with local rules and regulations. Just when he has any arm of government been successful in regulating anything? The huge success of Airbnb is that it is "self-regulating" on both the Host and the Guest. Each publishes a scorecard of their experience, and if something is not right for the Host or the Guest they will be kicked out. The referrals are public, so potential guests can see what has happened with the host they are thinking of renting from, and the host can see what other hosts have experienced with the proposed guest. And no one needs the Ministry of Tourism at all. Sorry!

Whenever you impose regulation, you open the door to corruption. We are seeing it every day now. You can't get a Physical Planning inspection without waiting days and weeks on end, and finally you buy lunch for someone, and you get your certificate.

I would like to invite Mr Russell to go on a tour with me of places that I would like to show him, that don't have fire alarms and extinguishers and sanitation records, and everything else that is inspected once and never again. He must think that Bahamians are really stupid and will buy anything you tell them. Just look what the regulation and so on did with "Fyre Festival". That was not an Airbnb deal, my friend.

Finally, Mr Russell notes that it is a thriving business. Yes it is, and it thrives without yours, or anybody else's help. If the Government gets involved, it will be over for The Bahamas. And no, the Airbnb guest is not going to book at Atlantis or Bahama or Grand Lucayan or Pink Sands. They are a different kind of tourist and you meddle with them at your peril. They will just go elsewhere. And you will earn nothing and the former hosts will earn nothing. But the people will know who killed the goose.

BRUCE G. RAINE
 Nassau,
 August 17, 2017.

'It's time for ethical government - and to let England go'

By AVA TURNQUEST
Tribune Chief Reporter
aturnquest@tribunemedia.net

THE Free National Movement administration was yesterday given a strict charge to overhaul the country's governance structure and implement an ethics and human rights commission.

During the anniversary service of its 1992 election victory, Parish Rector at St Barnabas Anglican Church Canon Basil Tynes drew numerous parallels between the present-day struggle of average Bahamians and the biblical portrayal of the Israelites.

He also suggested it was time to "let Mother England go and start working on our own".

"There are too many of us that bow to the powers that be, a hangover from colonial days," he said, as he criticised the failure of religious leaders and unionists to use their platforms to pursue justice and good governance.

"I am not a politician nor do I want to engage in your public debates, but one thing I can tell you is that the situation in this country is extremely complex, far more than ancient Israel. Please we need help.

"I will tell you as a citizen of this country as a parish priest, as a leader in the church of God what I believe needs to take place at this particular time in our country," he said.

"My text for this afternoon tells us that God in his word ought to be foremost in informing every facet of our lives, and while we talk about corruption and evil that surrounds us, these are the symptoms of an even greater issue."

Canon Tynes added: "We need to get to the root of the unchecked greed godlessness and wickedness of the people who use everything at their disposal to rape and plunder this country and they do it and don't give a hell about the rest of us.

"What I'm about to say may be very controversial, but it needs to be said. We



THE CONGREGATION at St Barnabas Anglican Church yesterday.

refuse to hire persons because they have relatives in particular ministries or in certain corporations, but we allow family and friends of those in public office access to inside information and to public funds as though it were their personal slush fund. So that the few could keep on exploiting the many.

"We tired of that," he said, "it's time to follow the money.

"We need to establish an ethics commission to put an end to the hypocritical practice of the few screwing the many. It is 'the people's time,'" he said, invoking the FNM's election slogan.

Canon Tynes called for a deliberate attempt on the part of the government, to stop "domesticated slavery".

"The educational system is not just to prepare our children to be the maids and the domestics within the hotel industry," he said. "It is time to expose our people to science, research, technology, business commerce in its diverse forms and open it up for many."

Salute

For his part, Prime Minister Dr Hubert Minnis saluted his predecessor former Prime Minister and FNM Leader Hubert Ingraham as he remarked on the parallels between the party's 1992 and 2017 victories.

He heralded the party's founders - known as the Dissident Eight - and spoke to the vigorous opposition

the party maintained in its two decades-long struggle to governance.

The Dissident Eight included Sir Cecil Wallace Whitfield, Sir Arthur Foulkes, Warren Levarity, Maurice Moore, George Thompson, Dr Curtis McMillan, Jimmy Shephard and Dr Elwood Donaldson.

"Amidst the fear, the mass corruption, the assault on democracy; amidst the brutal victimisation, the destruction of values and the cult of personality arose men and women of courage, who dedicated their lives to save the land and the people they loved," Dr Minnis said.

"The Freedom Fighters of the FNM, including many of you, sacrificed much to save our land. The sacrifices were not for the sake of power, but for the sake of doing what was right even at great risk.

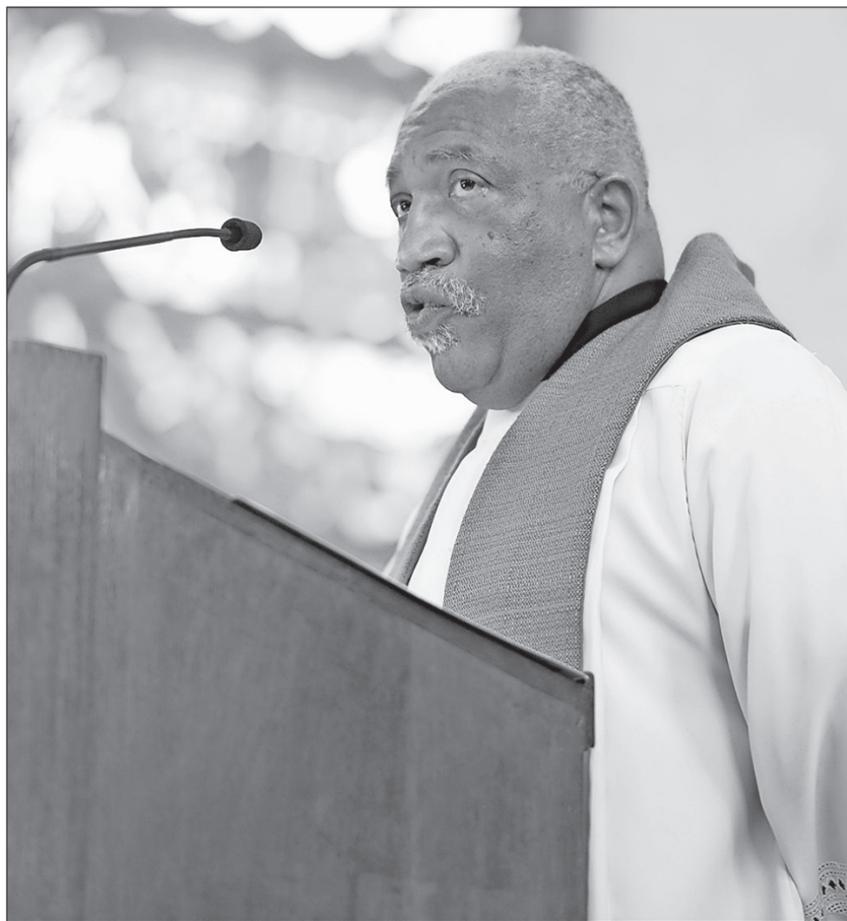
"Their courage is our legacy. Their legacy is our duty and guiding star."

"Deliverance has always been a rallying cry of the FNM. It remains a central theme today.

"Once again," Dr Minnis said, "the Free National Movement has the awesome responsibility to rescue an economy that was on the brink of collapse.

"We must once again restore the good name, international reputation and public finances of the Bahamas.

"Once again, our task is to clean up the massive



CANON Basil Tynes during his sermon at the FNM's service of reflection and thanksgiving at St Barnabas Anglican Church marking the 25th anniversary of the party's 1992 General Election. Photos: Shawn Hanna/Tribune Staff

and pervasive corruption that was bankrupting our democracy and devastating the Public Treasury."

Notwithstanding the similarities, however, Dr Minnis reiterated his charge for the party, and its officials, to remain humble.

"Any arrogance shown to the people, including public officers, is unacceptable and goes against the spirit of our victory."

Dr Minnis added: "The election is over but it is still 'the people's time.' We are stewards of the people's business. We have not been elected to dominate. We have been elected to lead and to represent in a spirit of humility."

The party commemorated the 25th anniversary of its 1992 victory with a service at St Barnabas Anglican Church, followed by a parade to its headquarters on Market Street.



GENESIS Junkanoo band performing during the FNM's victory parade yesterday.



FNM MP for Bain Town Travis Robinson dancing with a supporter during the victory parade.

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Henfield happy on FNM progress

from page one

to take to the streets and march again.

However, in an interview with *The Tribune* yesterday, Mr Henfield said despite the "impatient, intolerant and radical" nature of his organisation, the group sees no need to march.

"We see progress on a number of our issues and appreciate that no administration can fix five years of plundering and mismanagement in 100 days," he said. "As long as we can see changes being made on our issues, the We March organisers can keep our black shirts on the hangers."

Last Friday marked 100 days since the FNM was overwhelmingly elected to office, while Thursday August 24 will mark 100 days since the Minnis administration's first Cabinet meeting.

Friday, September 1, will mark 100 days since the Speech from the Throne, which marked the opening of the new session of Parliament.

Mr Henfield added that the government's actions will determine whether We March Bahamas takes to the streets, and he said so far, the government is taking action on their issues.

The outspoken senator also revealed that he has been privately called upon by senior members of the PLP to "rise up" against the Minnis administration, calls which he said, have gone answered.

"I am not sure which history books those persons read that said the abused returned to the aid of the abuser. I trust that Mrs Cheryl Bazard and Mr Chester Cooper will purge that party by year's end," he added of the PLP.

Reflecting on the achievements of the FNM as it nears the mark of its first 100 days in office, Mr Henfield said despite issues with the environment, wildlife, ease of doing busi-



RANARD HENFIELD, now a Senator, pictured during one of the We March protests.

ness, leasing of taxi plates and natural resources, his organisation sees improvements.

He claimed that sections of the organisations that marched for local government in New Providence are satisfied with the planning phases undertaken by the government, phases he noted We March has been intricately involved in, along with the Office of the Prime Minister and the International Development Bank.

He added: "We are excited to launch local government in New Providence once the necessary public consultation, Cabinet approval and proposed legislation is passed."

On the sections of the group that marched for audits of the various government departments and ministries, Mr Henfield said they are satisfied with the audit process announced after the election in May.

He added: "We marched for the government to cut

spending and so far, we are satisfied to see that the PM has significantly cut government spending for every ministry, while cautious not to negatively impact essential services."

Mr Henfield also praised Deputy Prime Minister K Peter Turnquest and Public Service Minister Brensil Rolle for their roles in tightening the belt of the public service; which he claimed has cost taxpayers nearly \$700 million per annum.

He continued: "Persons like myself that marched to uproot the status quo in Parliament and those that have had our economy in a clenched fist are comforted when we see the 25 plus new faces in Parliament. There has been a paradigm shift to servant leadership and the PM has repeatedly warned all parliamentarians to adhere to such."

"Those of us that marched to remind the government that Nassau is not the entire Bahamas are also comforted to see the high number

of 'resident' Family Island parliamentarians who are aggressively fighting for their next door neighbours in Abaco, Eleuthera, MICAL, Andros and Grand Bahama.

"The We March groups that marched to unseal the Baha Mar deal are also satisfied that the same was unsealed within one month of the prime minister appointing the attorney general."

"The government has also met with Atlantis and welcomed Atlantis' new approach to promote small and medium sized Bahamian owned businesses right in the Atlantis resort."

"It goes without saying that while I appreciate that foreign direct investment is needed to boost our economy, I think we need to ensure that our heads of agreements benefit small and medium sized businesses immediately, in the short and long term."

Mr Henfield insisted that the Minnis administration must start to negotiate from

a position of strength and pride, asserting that it would be the only way to ensure that small and medium-sized business can flourish for decades to come.

On national security matters, Mr Henfield said: "Those of us at We March that marched to do away with the 'Spy Bill' are also delighted to see the minister of national security go even further and scrap the spy agency that was a part of the RBPF under the PLP government."

He also said he is hopeful that when Parliament returns in September, the government will introduce legislation that will protect whistle-blowers.

"In my opinion, should anyone, including a banker or lawyer learn of any suspicious activity by any senator, member of Parliament, public servant and/or their next of kin, legislation should be in place to protect those persons that blow the whistle from any civil or criminal action."

We must protect those that want to point out and stand up to wrongdoings if we are serious about good governance," he said.

Additionally, on culture Mr Henfield said: "Personally, I am still adamant that the government should cancel Junkanoo Carnival and promote 12 months of Bahamian festivals inclusive of the return of Goombay to downtown."

He added: "While my wife is Trinidadian and I respect her country and culture, Trinidad does not invest millions in promoting Bahamian music, artists or our cultural festivals and for the life of me, I don't see why Bahamian tax dollars should be used to promote soca or carnival and to fly in, house and feed Trinidadian artists while Bahamian artists are struggling to get a proper fee for their talent. I am in full support of 'KB' and suspect he'll have a lot more to add to this issue in due course should the government seem to further insult Bahamian culture and artists in 2018."

Mr Henfield also called for action on land reform; resolution on several environmental matters, namely addressing the Blackbeard's Cay court order and the Abaco fly fishing industry.

He also called for more to be done for children born with autism.

We March Bahamas gained prominence after more than 1,000 protesters marched from Arawak Cay to Rawson Square in November 2016 to protest the Christie administration's performance.

As the group continued to put pressure on the political class, Mr Henfield was accused by some detractors of being in partnership with the FNM.

However, he has maintained that he is not a member of the party, but rather an independent servant of the people. He was appointed to the Senate by Prime Minister Dr Hubert Minnis.

PRIVATE SECTOR KEY TO SCHOOL OVERHAUL

from page one

To that end, Mr Lloyd said the government has looked into several PPP strategies to plan and construct new schools, with a handful of them advancing to the concept stage of development.

Once finalised, the government will enter into "25-year, lease to own agreements" with private entities for several properties.

Of the arrangement, Mr Lloyd said the "trade off" of the government not holding ownership titles to these properties in the short-term

is the concept of not having to directly keep up properties year to year. This offers the government a chance to "focus on education and leave the unsustainable repairs scheme to those solely focused on it".

"We want to remove the annual anxiety of annual repairs, and the angst of day-to-day management," the South Beach MP told *The Tribune*. "We want to focus on what goes on in the classroom, manage how our kids work day-to-day, this allows us that as our main focus."

"This will not only relieve the major issue of overcrowding at the primary and

junior high levels, but ease us out of the legacy problems outdated buildings. Brand new schools are needed in Inagua, Exuma, and Grand Bahama; here in New Providence, you need to replace R M Bailey, C I Gibson and Government High.

"That's on top of the need for at least four primary schools with pre-school attachments, two in the eastern and two in the southwestern districts; and two junior high schools, again one in the east and one in the south."

"The financing has always been and continues to be the most impeding element, with the PPP strategy, I am of the belief that we have finally discovered a strategy that will yield the results we so desperately need," Mr Lloyd said.

Last week, education officials announced that there will be a slight delay for students to start classes at Stephen Dillet Primary School by one week as officials await the arrival of new furniture and other equipment.

The government has undertaken an extensive \$4m overhaul of the school, nearly half of the allocation for school repairs throughout the country this year.

When contacted for comment on the allocation made to the Ministry of Education, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance K Peter Turnquest said the government was in the process of "re-engineering" the processes and tendering of contracts to ensure procedures are in place that maximise value for dollars.

Mr Turnquest added: "We obviously recognise the limitations before us financially however education is one of those areas like health that you really can't skimp on. So while we try our best to economise, we will have to find the means to fund the infrastructure, human capital and equipment needs of our educational professionals."

He touted the PPP strategy as an opportunity to "delay immediate capital needs". Public schools are expected to resume for the 2017-2018 academic year on September 4.



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PRIME Minister Dr Hubert Minnis, Jeff Lloyd, South Beach MP, and Reece Chipman, Centreville MP, leading their victory parade from St Barnabas Anglican Church to FNM Headquarters on Mackey Street. Photos: **Shawn Hanna/Tribune Staff**

Voter dissonance as the honeymoon ends

By **MALCOLM J. STRACHAN**

ON day 102 of the Minnis Administration's tenure in governance, there is a growing feeling of voter dissonance throughout the country. No longer are they seen as the rockstars some crowned them to be on May 10, after the dust settled on their easily won battle – even though their win was secured because the Bahamian people desperately wanted the PLP gone.

As the first 100 days came and went this past Saturday, it did so with no real causes for celebration and no real policies of note. Some Bahamians are now feeling the anxiety equivalent to what a consumer who is reconsidering a purchase feels.

Unfortunately, our electoral system doesn't give warranties or allow us to make returns for full refunds of our votes. Typically, once a government is elected, that is for the long haul. The previous five years under the PLP regime have been some of the longest, toughest years in our country. What made them so laborious may have been the disintegration of human hope – that moment when we realized that the previous government was not who they said they were.

Ironically, it came within the first 100 days as campaign promises by the Progressive Liberal Party fell flat.

Though, we are at a similar timestamp, the current government may have not arrived at that particular juncture as yet. Nevertheless, they are certainly treading on familiar footing.

Bear in mind, setting aside the public disdain for the PLP, Prime Minister Minnis and his party members took to the campaign stage and promised everything under the sun. For a

people so desperate for a symbol of hope, after feeling bamboozled five years earlier, we truly wanted to believe it is the people's time.

We still want to believe it. However, recent decisions by the government leave us wondering if we are dealing with a "same script, different cast" scenario.

VAT repeal on breadbasket items was touted as a key relief measure for the long-suffering citizens living in the inner-cities. It has been 102 days, and this relief has yet to have been felt in their pockets. The familiar feelings of disappointment as a result of broken promises come with such a gravitational pull the second time around that disengagement with government will surely be a much swifter process.

However, the government still affirms that it is in its plans to do so. The issue is, we aren't even sure if such a plan exists at this point. Further, without a plan, how will the government propose to execute such a task with so many moving parts?

Prior to the FNM winning the election, and as day 1 became 100 in the prime minister's term in office, we are hard-pressed to believe that any real plans exist.

This thought echoed in the back of our minds and even worse when it was confirmed by FNM Chairman, Sidney Collie, that there aren't any policies or initiatives on the table.

This is tough to accept. It is also startling to imagine that the Minnis Administration took on this mammoth task of "modernising The Bahamas" without a real plan.

This practice of parading former Parliamentarians before the courts will give this administration a much needed, but short-term boost of support.

But how is our sovereignty being secured? How will Bahamian lives be protect-

ed? How will our economy bounce back? What will be done to create jobs for our brothers, sisters and our children?

As this chorus resounds the congregation is now singing loudly, "What have you done for me lately?"

In response, the government is asking us to be patient. However, patience is scarce for citizens that have endured what we have endured for the last five years under the PLP. The FNM was elected to fix all that was broken.

Politicking is not going to get the country back on track. We hope that justice will be served in the matters that are before the courts, but we need the government to roll up its sleeves and seriously get to the people's business.

Instead of implementing policies like solarization and initiatives that would increase the ease of doing business in the country, we are seeing Bahamians lose hope in the wake of cost-cutting austerity measures.

While Minister of Tourism, Dionisio D'Aguiar was closing different shops in the US and in Freeport, he has also reengaged a previously contracted foreign firm to support the ministry's public relations efforts. How can a Government fixed on providing jobs for Bahamians continue to engage foreign labour where Bahamians have shown that they can, and should do the work?

It is manoeuvres like this that make many people who were supportive on day one take a more discerning look at the government it elected now.

This scepticism, we should add is spreading quickly.

Bahamas Union of Teachers (BUT) President, Mrs Belinda Wilson, expressed a shared optimism in working with Minister of Education, Jeffrey Lloyd, but also pointed out that

the BUT expects to see results and to be treated as partners by the Ministry. With various school repairs taking place, millions of dollars in unpaid back pay and the continued influx of foreign teachers, it will be interesting to see how long the openness that exists between both sides lasts.

It is quite evident that the goodwill the FNM government received is just about gone.

The government is now beginning to see chinks in its armour. People that were of the view that they would be the anti-PLP are beginning to see them as the same since the party colours are off.

The government, like its predecessor, is desperately depending on Baha Mar to bring more inventory on stream.

Remember, it was Prime Minister Dr Minnis that lacerated his predecessor, Perry Christie, for how soft he was on the Chinese, going so far as to infer that he was a puppet for his "Chinese allies". Now in office, it is not clear yet how the prime minister will move forward in our relations with the Chinese.

The concerns associated with the influence of the Chinese over the last administration are certainly palpable. That being said, it will be most interesting to see if Prime Minister Minnis continues down the same path as his former – especially when he was so critical of Perry Christie on the campaign trail.

The first 100 days in office have been met with a few missteps and no real triumphs. The government took its bride on May 10th amidst all the fanfare and excitement that a new day was on the horizon.

It was certainly a memorable day.

Now, however, the honeymoon has officially ended, and the real work of this marriage begins.





DEMONSTRATORS raise clenched fists in defiance to racism during a protest in the Venice beach area of Los Angeles on Saturday. Hundreds of people rallied in Southern California to condemn racism in the wake of the deadly events in Charlottesville, Virginia. Photo: **Richard Vogel/AP**

Lessons from India's partition and Charlottesville's strife

ON August 14 and 15, Pakistan and India, respectively, celebrated the 70th anniversary of their Independence from Britain, a country whose policies, as an occupier, fomented - and then bequeathed to them - the hostile communalism that led to their partition and their continuing antagonism. Religious dissimilarity, as Muslim and Hindu, proved more defin-

World View

By **SIR RONALD SANDERS**

ing and more divisive than common ethnicity, common culture, common foods and shared history.

The invented notion that



Muslims and Hindus were two distinct communities and that they rivalled each other for access to economic resources, social development and domination, was deliberately promoted by the British colonial power to divide and rule the two groups. It was the only way that a small, foreign occupying force could control a vast country and a huge population. As Muslims and Hindus set against each other, the British thrived on their disunity, transferring wealth that enriched Britain and impoverished India for almost two centuries. This phenomenon could not have occurred if the people of India had remained cohesive.

Of course, except for Mahatma Gandhi, who was assassinated by a Hindu for being too accommodating of Muslims, the local politicians stoked the fire of communal rivalry for their own narrow political purpose. None more so than Muhammad Ali Jinnah whose political ambition drove his battle for partition and the creation of Pakistan. In accentuating that difference, Jinnah on the one hand, and Hindu nationalists on the other, let

loose demons of violence that wounded their communities so deeply that, 70 years later, the scars still evoke enmity and a refusal to confront the manipulation to which they were - and are - victims.

The progress of India and Pakistan has been retarded by the enormous resources each spends on defence from the other. These are resources that could have been expended on education and health for people who still live on less than two dollars a day.

Forty-seven years later, another leader - this time from Africa - who had suffered at the hands of a minority group of exploiters, using race to subjugate a majority, observed that: "No one is born hating another person because of the colour of his skin, or his background, or his religion". That man was Nelson Mandela, who despite his own agony in apartheid South Africa, recognised that hate is not a natural condition. Hate, whether racial or religious, has to be taught, encouraged and engendered. And when it is taught, the process is usually for the profit of those who manipulate it, not for the benefit of those who are its targets.

Another 23 years later, yet another leader - this time from the United States - invoked Mandela's words in response to violence resulting from a white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, just days before the 70th anniversary of In-

dia's partition into Muslim Pakistan and Hindu India. That man was Barack Obama, the first black President of the US. Like many other right-thinking Americans, he was alarmed at the intent of a rally of white supremacists and the violence it provoked.

Under the banner of the so-called "alt-right" more than 700 white supremacists invaded the city, calling for "Unite the Right". They were an intimidating group of militia, racists, and neo-Nazi chanting Nazi slogans; some openly carrying rifles. The hate was palpable. And, the worst of it was the untimely and unnecessary death of Heather Heyer, a young white woman mowed down by a van hurtled into a crowd by a 20-year old self-avowed white supremacist.

This racist communalism, long a feature of American history, is one that most Americans want eliminated from their reality. Those Americans found voice not only in Obama but in others, such as Speaker of the US House of Representatives, Paul Ryan, who said: "We must be clear. White supremacy is repulsive. This bigotry is counter to all this country stands for. There can be no moral ambiguity".

Yet, as in India and Pakistan - 70 years ago - there are still those in the US who encourage and engender communal hate and hostility for political purposes. As no good came from such communalism in the past of the United States, in the partition of India, in ethnic cleansing in Rwanda and in Bosnia, or in racial conflicts in Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago,

no good can come from encouraging hate such as was experienced in Charlottesville. That is why in America - as in India and Pakistan and elsewhere, including in the Caribbean - the teaching of Mandela has to be instilled into these societies by their leaders. In making the point that no one is born hating another person because of race or religion and that people learn to hate, Mandela also observed that "if people can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite." And that is the task of leaders in all parts of society if the world - and the states within it - are to enjoy peace and prosperity.

Race loathing and religious hatred have been created, fostered and provoked for the political and economic advantage of a few over the many. In the Caribbean - in both Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago - first the British colonialists, and then the post-colonial local politicians, promoted racial communalism for their own advantage. Both countries struggle with that unpleasant and unproductive legacy today. It will only be overcome when all political and religious leaders preach against it and practice what they preach.

Communal divisions - in race or religion - should not be allowed to blossom and grow, for they can shatter a country however rich. Appeasing racists and religious bigots by silence or tacit approval of strife for political gain, comes at the high price of death and destruction, as history - and recent events - have shown. Great leaders should be unhesitant in speaking out fiercely against all acts of racial and religious bigotry.

• *Responses and previous commentaries at www.sirronaldsanders.com.*

The writer is Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the United States and the OAS. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies at the University of London and Massey College in the University of Toronto.



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Back to college in the face of hatred

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA. Associated Press

WHEN Carl Valentine dropped off his daughter at the University of Virginia, he had some important advice for the college freshman: Don't forget that you are a minority.

"She has to be vigilant of that and be concerned about that, always know her surroundings, just be cautious, just be extremely cautious," said Valentine, 57, who is African-American. A retired military officer, he now works at the Defense Department.

As classes begin at colleges and universities across the country, some parents are questioning if their children will be safe on campus in the wake of last weekend's violent white nationalist protest here. School administrators, meanwhile, are grappling with how to balance students' physical safety with free speech.

Friday was move-in day at the University of Virginia, and students and their parents unloaded cars and carried suitcases, blankets, lamps, fans and other belongings into freshmen dormitories. Student volunteers, wearing orange university T-shirts, distributed water bottles and led freshmen on short tours of the university grounds.

But along with the usual moving-in scene, there were signs of the tragic events of last weekend, when white nationalists staged a nighttime march through campus holding torches and shouting racist slogans. Things got worse the following day, when a man said to harbor admiration for Nazis drove his car into a crowd of counter-protesters, killing one woman and injuring 19 others.

Flags flew at half-staff outside the university's Rotunda, and a nearby statue of founder Thomas Jefferson was stained with wax from a candlelight vigil by



STUDENT Council President Sarah Kenny poses for a portrait by her room on the lawn of the University of Virginia campus, on Friday, in Charlottesville, Virginia, a week after a white nationalist rally took place on campus. Kenny is among the students who have since posted signs on their rooms denouncing hatred. Photo: Jacquelyn Martin/AP

thousands of students and city residents in a bid to unite and heal. Some student dormitories had signs on doors reading, "No Home for Hate Here."

In an address to students and families on Friday, UVA President Teresa Sullivan welcomed "every person of every race, every gender, every national origin, every religious belief, every orientation and every other human variation." Afterward, parents asked university administrators tough questions about the gun policy on campus, white supremacists and the likelihood of similar violence in the future.

For Valentine, of Yorktown, Virginia, the unrest

brought back painful memories of when, as a young boy, he couldn't enter government buildings or movie theaters through the front door because of racial discrimination. "We've come a long way, but still a long way to go for equality," he said.

His daughter Malia Valentine, an 18-year-old pre-med student, is more optimistic.

"It was scary what happened, but I think that we as a community will stand together in unity and we'll be fine," she said.

Christopher Dodd, 18, said he was shocked by the violence and initially wondered if it would be safe at UVA.

"Wow, I am going to be

in this place, it looks like a war zone," Dodd, a cheerful redhead, remembered thinking. "But I do think that we are going to be all right, there is nothing they can do to intimidate us. I am not going to let them control my time here."

Others feel less confident. Weston Gobar, president of the Black Student Alliance at UVA, says he'll warn incoming black students not to take their safety for granted. "The message is to work through it and to recognize that the world isn't safe, that white supremacy is real, that we have to find ways to deal with that," he said.

Terry Hartle, senior vice president of the Ameri-

can Council on Education, said colleges are reassessing their safety procedures. "The possibility of violence will now be seen as much more real than it was a week ago and every institution has to be much more careful."

Such work is already under way at UVA.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Sullivan said the university will be revamping its emergency protocols, increasing the number of security officers patrolling the grounds and hiring an outside safety consultant.

"This isn't a matter where we are going to spare expense," Sullivan said.

Hartle said some universities may end up making the uneasy decision to limit protests and rallies on campus and not to invite controversial speakers if they are likely to create protests. "There is an overarching priority to protect the physical safety of students and the campus community," he said.

Student body presidents from over 120 schools in 34 states and Washington, DC, signed a statement denouncing the Charlottesville violence and saying college campuses should be safe spaces free of violence and hate.

Jordan Jomsky, a freshman at the University of California, Berkeley, said his parents had advice he plans to follow: "They told me to stay safe, and don't go to protests."

"I wish people would just leave this place alone. It's become this epicenter. We're just here to study," said Jomsky, an 18-year-old from a Los Angeles suburb.

The school has become a target of far-right speakers and nationalist groups because of its reputation as a liberal bastion. In September, former Breitbart editor Ben Shapiro is scheduled to speak on campus. Right-wing firebrand Milo Yian-

nopoulos has vowed to return for a "Free Speech Week" in response to violent protests that shut down his planned appearance last February.

UC Berkeley Chancellor Carol Christ told incoming freshmen last week that Berkeley's Free Speech Movement in the 1960s was a product of liberals and conservatives working together to win the right to hold political protests on campus.

"Particularly now, it is critical for the Berkeley community to protect this right; it is who we are," Christ said. "That protection involves not just defending your right to speak, or the right of those you agree with, but also defending the right to speak by those you disagree with. Even of those whose views you find abhorrent."

"We respond to hate speech with more speech," Christ said to loud applause.

At the same time, though, she said, there's also an obligation to keep the campus safe. "We now know we have to have a far higher number of police officers ready," she said.

Concerns for safety are compounded for international students, many of whom have spent months reading headlines about the tense US political situation and arrived wondering if their accents or the color of their skin will make them targets.

"It was scary taking the risk of coming here," said Turkish international student Naz Dundar.

Dundar, 18, who considered going to university in Canada but felt relief after attending orientation at Berkeley. "So far, no one hated me for being not American."

She plans to stay away from protests. "Especially as a person of another race — I don't want to get stoned," she said.

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FORMER PLP SENATOR'S BRIBERY TRIAL TO START IN NOVEMBER

By NICO SCAVELLA
Tribune Staff Reporter
nscavella@tribunemedia.net

FORMER PLP Senator Frank Smith's extortion and bribery trial will start in late November.

Smith will face 15 criminal charges in a Magistrate's Court concerning his alleged solicitation of \$65,000 in bribes from a woman he is said to have assisted in getting a contract. He is currently out on \$50,000 bail.

Chief Magistrate Joyann Ferguson-Pratt, in a status hearing on Friday, said Smith's trial will be held on November 28, 29, 30, and again on December 11. He will remain on bail until then.

Smith's lead lawyer, Damian Gomez, QC, expressed a desire to have the matter commence as soon as possible.

Anthony Delaney, of the Office of the Attorney General, had initially said he would not be available to proceed until December.

In the presence of Smith's wife, Sharlyn, his father, Richard, father-in-law, Sir Franklyn Wilson, and his uncle, former PLP Cabinet minister George Smith, the chief magistrate said it is her "earnest expectation" that both the Crown and lawyers for the accused do their part to help the matter see its conclusion as quickly as possible. The Chief Magistrate said the trial was of

national significance.

Smith was initially arraigned before the Chief Magistrate in July charged with 13 counts of extortion, and a count each of attempted extortion and bribery.

The extortion and attempted extortion charges were brought under Section 453(1) of the Penal Code while the bribery charge was brought under Sections 4(2)(a) and 10(b) of the Prevention of Bribery Act.

It is alleged that Smith, between April 2016 and April 2017, in respect of his duties as a public officer, demanded and obtained \$5,000 per month from Barbara Hanna, knowing he was not lawfully authorised to do so.

He is also alleged to have attempted to extort another \$5,000 from Ms Hanna in May 2017.

Concerning the bribery charge, it is alleged that he solicited \$5,000 a month from Ms Hanna for helping her get a contract with the Public Hospitals Authority (PHA). Smith is former chairman of the PHA.

Smith pleaded not guilty to all of the allegations during his arraignment.

Within an hour of the arraignment, Mr Gomez, QC, and assisting lawyers, Glendon Rolle and Valentine Grimes, appeared before Senior Justice Stephen Isaacs asking for Smith to be released from custody ahead of trial.



FRANK Smith outside court on Friday.
Photo: Terrel W. Carey/Tribune Staff

ATM skimmers steal \$72,000 from 86 people in a month

By RASHAD ROLLE
Tribune Staff Reporter
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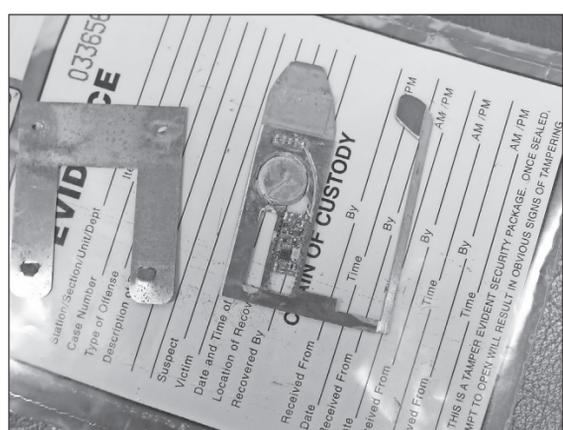
EIGHTY-SIX people have been victims of fraud involving ATM skimming devices in the last month, Debra Thompson, assistant superintendent in charge of the Business & Technology Crime Unit of the Royal Bahamas Police Force said Friday.

Fraudsters have stolen \$72,000 so far, an amount police expect to rise as more people check their financial records.

Complaints suggest the fraud has mostly involved ATM machines in the downtown and Palm-dale areas. All banks, however, are equally susceptible to the fraud as past cases suggest fraudsters move from bank to bank over time, ASP Thompson said during a press conference at the Criminal Detective



A PINHOLE camera and fake overlay that can be placed on an ATM machine and a deep insert skimming device, above right.



Photos: Terrel W. Carey/Tribune Staff

At least two suspects remain at large from cases that go back to 2014.

Based on past experiences, ASP Thompson said she expects fraudsters to use the stolen information to make transactions within a week after capturing the information.

Their period of operation is usually about a month. Fraudsters have been known to withdraw funds locally and in other jurisdictions.

"We want the public to be aware of their surroundings when using machines," ASP Thompson said. "Shake the mouthpiece of the ATM. If it's easily detached or rattled or appears to be tampered with, don't use the machine. Notify the bank and the police department. If suspicious people are lurking around a machine, be aware and don't use that machine. Protect your pin as you enter the code into the machines."

Banks investigate suspected fraud and victims could expect to get their money back, ASP Thompson said.

Unit.

Fraudsters have been using one of two types of devices to steal information: a fake overlay device or a deep insert skimming device. Both are used along with a hidden camera that captures pin numbers. Stolen information is then

used to create duplicate cards with which money from a person's account can be drained.

"One device is a fake overlay where they create a fake overlay to put over the mouthpiece of the ATM with a card reader that captures the magnetic strip and

information of customers using the machine," ASP Thompson said.

She added that a "deep insert skimming device" is "inserted deep in the ATM machine by the fraudsters."

"As people use their cards that device captures the data of their magnetic strip."

The suspects in the crimes do not appear to be Bahamians, ASP Thompson said.

They have been caught on surveillance cameras

installing devices on machines between 10pm and 3am.

They are partly distinguished by their clothing, wearing hooded jackets, baseball caps and sunglasses despite the summer weather.

They often have multiple cards at ATM machines, a sign of probable criminal activity, ASP Thompson said.

This isn't the first time the country has been affected by skimming fraud.

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Friday July 28 - Tuesday September 5, 2017

MINISTRY OF FINANCE WORKER ACCUSED OF \$500,000 FRAUD

By NICO SCAVELLA
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A MINISTRY of Finance employee was arraigned in a Magistrate's Court on Friday accused of defrauding the ministry of over half a million dollars within a five-month period.

James Anwar Johnson, 27, of St Andrew's Beach Estates, stood before Chief Magistrate Joyann Ferguson-Pratt facing 11 counts of falsification of accounts between December 2016 and April 2017.

It is alleged that Johnson, an accounts clerk at the Ministry of Finance, falsified the payment records of VMMS Business Service from December 15, 2016, to April 5, 2017, purporting to show that VMMS Business Service was entitled to receive payments totaling \$530,377.67.

Johnson was also charged with ten counts of stealing by reason of employment. He is accused of being concerned with others and stealing a total of \$445,996.42 in cash from the Ministry between December 21, 2016, and March 31, 2017, which he had access to by reason of employment.

Johnson also faced one count of attempted stealing by reason of employment. It is alleged that he attempted to steal \$41,115 from the Ministry on April 5, 2017.

Johnson pleaded not guilty to all of the charges.

Given the nature of the charges, Chief Magistrate Ferguson-Pratt could not consider bail and adjourned the matter to November 17 at 11am. Johnson was remanded to the Bahamas Department of Correctional Services until that time.

However, Johnson's attorney, Devard Francis, told the court that he intend-



JAMES JOHNSON, 27, outside court on Friday where he faced fraud-related charges.
Photo: Terrel W. Carey/Tribune Staff

ed to apply to the Supreme Court for bail for his client.

Before concluding Johnson's arraignment, however, the chief magistrate expressed her observation that Johnson was a fairly "heavy set man," who seemed to be "unduly uncomfortable" with his hands being cuffed behind his back.

A senior officer told her that two pairs of handcuffs were used to alleviate any discomfort Johnson might have experienced.

Nonetheless, the chief magistrate requested the senior officer to have Johnson handcuffed with his hands in front, while also expressing her desire not to interfere with the role of the Royal Bahamas Police Force plays in providing security throughout the complex and safeguarding persons in custody.

The senior officer granted her request.

Mr Francis then rose to express his displeasure that his client had to be paraded through the front doors of the court complex

while leaving, particularly as he had gone through the same process when officers had escorted him to court for his arraignment.

Mr Francis stressed that something had to be "fundamentally wrong" with that process. He also suggested it was even more concerning to him considering how some individuals in custody were taken into the courtroom through a side door in the courtroom itself rather than through the court's main entrance.

However, the chief magistrate told Mr Francis that it is not her place to address matters of security, which would normally fall under the purview of the RBPF.

Chief Magistrate Ferguson-Pratt subsequently allowed Johnson's family to briefly speak with him before he was escorted from the courtroom by officers.

Despite his lawyer's protest, Johnson was escorted through the court's main door and down the building's front steps.

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No problem, insists Dames - but Greenslade out of sight

By RICARDO WELLS
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NATIONAL Security Minister Marvin Dames over the weekend continued to downplay the noticeable absence of Police Commissioner Ellison Greenslade amid reports that he has been asked to step down from the post.

Commissioner Greenslade was a no-show during a press briefing at the Paul Farquharson Conference Centre at police headquarters on Saturday, where Mr Dames, with the senior command of the Royal Bahamas Police Force presented several new crime strategies.

Throughout the briefing, Mr Dames insinuated that Commissioner Greenslade was present for the planning and review part of the conclave earlier in the day.

However, at the time of the press briefing, he had already left the property.

When asked about the absence, Mr Dames insisted that there was no reason for concern, adding that Mr Greenslade continues to operate in the post of commissioner on a day-to-day basis.

When pressed by *The Tribune* on the matter, he responded: "He (Commissioner Greenslade) was here this (Saturday) morning. He was here to my meeting and he



MINISTER of National Security Marvin Dames on Saturday.
Photo: Terrel W. Carey/Tribune Staff

participated. This was a sudden meeting, so sometimes people have commitments, but critical part of this happened earlier this morning."

Mr Dames continued: "I am satisfied now that after having met with Commissioner Greenslade and Deputy Commissioner (Anthony) Ferguson; the other executive team members, as well as the divisional commanders. Often when we speak to these issues you don't

hear from the divisional commanders. These are the critical individuals who command the police stations throughout New Providence. They have to be at the forefront."

In mid-July, *The Tribune* reported that plans are in place to promote Deputy Commissioner Anthony Ferguson to the top post, contingent on Commissioner Greenslade accepting the post of high commissioner to London. It was also reported that Deputy

Commissioner Emrick Seymour, now in charge of Freeport, will be transferred to Nassau as deputy commissioner.

In the weeks since these reports first surfaced, Commissioner Greenslade has remained out of the spotlight.

Earlier this month, Mr Dames told reporters he was in the "business of governing", as he sidestepped questions on Commissioner Greenslade's future.

Commissioner Greenslade was appointed the sixth commissioner of police on January 4, 2010, after serving as the acting deputy commissioner of police from January 1, 2009, upon completion of a one year training initiative with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Canada.

Mr Dames also took part in this training in Canada when he was a member of the RBPF.

In January 2009, Mr Dames, then senior assistant commissioner of police, was appointed commander for Grand Bahama. Mr Dames was later promoted to deputy commissioner while Commissioner Greenslade ascended to the RBPF's top post.

Mr Dames quit the RBPF in May 2011 to take up a post at the Baha Mar resort.

He won the Mount Moriah seat in the House of Assembly in the May 10 general election.

**TOURISM PR DEAL
COST \$600,000**
from page one

The PR firm was reportedly re-engaged by the Ministry of Tourism in recent weeks; however, Minister of Tourism Dionisio D'Aguilar has declined comment on the matter.

The Weber Shandwick contract follows the termination of at least 27 employees from the Ministry of Tourism.

On Friday, the Ministry of Tourism confirmed that 16 employees were terminated - 13 from New Providence, and three from Bimini.

Redundancies in its Grand Bahama office earlier this month affected 11 persons.

In July, 12 persons were recalled to Nassau after the ministry amalgamated its Washington, DC, and Los Angeles offices with New York and Houston. It was not made clear whether those persons were retained or terminated.

Reacting to the reports on Weber Shandwick last week, former Tourism Minister Obie Wilcombe said it was unfortunate the Minnis administration would prefer to spend millions creating employment overseas.

He noted that the government saved \$3.5m in agency fees and commissions in 2016.

As he defended the capacity of the ministry's in-house public relations team, at the time, Mr Wilcombe underscored that the cadre of young professionals at the Ministry of Tourism must not be overlooked or shunned.

ALERT OVER CHINA STRATEGY SWITCH

from page one

is the notion of influence from China, (the Hong Kong stock exchange) is more free market economy as opposed to communist.

"But China itself has a tremendous amount of capital, it still controls its currency, and its investment policy, and controls what companies can and cannot do."

Mr Bowe, former Chamber of Commerce president, explained that the restrictions reinforce shifts taken by the Chinese government to push its Belt and Road Policy, a transition in investment agenda that focuses on projects that increase trade with long-term sustainability.

His comments were supported by US news agency Bloomberg, which reported that the National Development and Reform Commission, the top economic planning body, has criticised "irrational" overseas investment in some sectors, while encouraging projects linked to the Belt and Road initiative. The NDRC reportedly cited problems with overseas investments, adding that some companies made rash decisions and sustained losses.

In a statement on Friday, China's State Council announced a ban on investments in core military technology, gambling, sex industry, and investments contrary to national security.

Investments in property, hotel, film, entertainment, sports, obsolete equipment are restricted, along with investments that contravene environmental standards.

Investments that further the Belt and Road framework, enhance China's technical standards, research and development, oil and mining exploration, agriculture and fishing are encouraged.

According to Bloomberg, "China's outbound investment slumped 44.3 per cent in the first seven months from a year earlier as policy makers imposed brakes on companies' foreign acquisition following a record spending spree in 2016."

"The One Belt, One Road policy centred on trade," Mr Bowe said, "looking at China's investment in other countries and investing in projects that would have the ability to actually increase trade. So the building of transshipment ports, roads, to increase the trading economy. Their focus on investment has moved to what they termed

long-term sustainable type initiatives."

He continued: "The (Bahamas) government has to strengthen its own economic planning unit to develop land policies, investment concession policy, and then overall investment policy to say what the government wants investment in."

"So we can fight fire with fire," Mr Bowe said, "by having technically competent or experienced individuals directly employed or through consultancy, using the great minds in the Bahamas that have already done it. So that any government-owned enterprise or influenced enterprise is treated no different than a private investor. Where we analyse sovereignty, and our ability to regulate the investment."

He said the country has taken for granted that good foreign direct investment projects like Atlantis and Baker's Bay remain in our collective memories longer than negative outcomes like the failed Ginn sur Mer project in West End, Grand Bahama and the shuttered South Ocean resort.

Last month, Bloomberg reported on an escalated clamp down by the Chinese government on overseas investments, citing pressures on Anbang Insurance Group Co to sell the Waldorf Astoria hotel in New York.

The Chinese insurer's 2014 purchase of the iconic property for \$1.95 billion signified the global rise of China Inc, jumpstarting an historic acquisition spree. Bloomberg reports that the landmark New York hotel now stands to symbolise "corporate China's rapidly shrinking global ambitions."

Concerns have been raised over whether CTFE will also face state pressures given that the Baha Mar asset will be held by China Export Import Bank until mid-2018.

Yesterday, Mr Bowe advocated for the shift in the Bahamas government's agenda from investor to facilitator and regulator, and a concrete investment identity for the country.

"Too often we've had bespoke negotiations, where every single investor comes and sits down with a new playbook," Mr Bowe said.

"What do we want the identity of The Bahamas to be? What do we want to give up to develop that identity (concessions), and how do we obtain the technical expertise to ensure what we get back is what we intended when we gave it up?"

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Raise your child to be a law-abiding citizen

RAISING your children to be law-abiding citizens is one of your biggest responsibilities as a parent. This will help you make sure your children don't follow the wrong path in life.

As parents, we all want our children to grow up to be responsible citizens and good people. We want them to learn, feel, think and act with respect for themselves and for other people. We want them to pursue their own well-being, while also being considerate of the needs and feelings of others.

We want them to recognise and honour the principles upon which our country was founded. We want them to develop strong character. Encouraging our children's character development are enormous. Research has shown that children who grow up with strong, positive values are happier and do better in school. They are also better able to balance their personal wants and needs against those of others and to make positive contributions to society.

On the other hand, if children do not learn proper values and behaviour when they are very young, problems can develop. These problems can mushroom with serious consequences as children grow older. Such as dropping out of school, drug use, teenage pregnancy, violent crime, the list goes on. The most important thing we can do for our children is to help them acquire values and skills that they can rely on throughout their lives. In doing so, they will have the best chance to live good lives as individuals and as citizens of their communities and in our country.

Police advice

By SERGEANT 3150 NATHALIE RANGER



Be an example to your children

Children naturally imitate what they see their parents doing on a day-to-day basis. By following not just the laws, but rules wherever you go, your children will follow suit. Make sure you don't talk negatively about police, lawyers, or any other law enforcing person in front of them. You want them to have complete respect for our law enforcement.

Don't bend the rules

Those children are watching you more than you think. They pick up on the littlest things. Don't ever eat or drink something in a store or restaurant without paying for it first. Always obey the traffic laws, especially speeding or using your cell phone while driving. Keep in mind that you will one day be watching them drive off, and they will have stored away all this information.

Show respect

Law-abiding citizens respect authority as well as their elders. Teach your children that respect towards teachers, parents, and all others in leadership roles are required at all times. Show them that they can disagree with a situation, but they still need to treat others kindly.

Self-respect

Teaching children to gain

self-respect improves their skills to learn, love and be creative. Self-respect is closely related to happiness and success in life. Self-respect is a combination of both good education and the love they get from their parents.

Having a high degree of self-confidence makes children creative and loving individuals. Children need to believe that they are valued. They also need to be happy in their own environment and with themselves. The way you develop your child's skills/talents will directly affect their future.

Community respect

Along with respecting authority figures, your children need to learn how to respect their surroundings. Start small with showing them how to pick up trash and not litter themselves. Explain the benefits of recycling. Demonstrate how to be kind to plants, animals, and people, and, of course, let them know they should never damage other people's belongings.

Discipline

Make it clear to your children that not following the rules will result in discipline. Children will undoubtedly make mistakes. As a parent, you need to enforce the rules. Teach them that they will be punished for bad behaviour. As adults, they will then make intelligent decisions and



STEER your child the right way - and away from crime.

choices. They will know that crimes result in punishments, while doing well is always rewarded in the end.

Good judgment

Children develop strong character by learning to think about and make sound judgments about what is right or wrong, good or bad. These are not always easy distinctions for adults to make, much less children.

For example, it can be difficult for a child to recognise the difference between acting bravely and acting recklessly. As parents, we can help by showing, through what we do as well as what we say, that it is important in such situations to think carefully and honestly about what should be done, carefully weighing how others will be affected by what we do.

Sometimes we get into trouble because we "just didn't think". We let our emotions lead us to actions that we regret later. Making good judgments requires skills in monitoring impulses, using reasoning to sort through feelings and facts, and thinking about the consequences of our actions.

Your child's ability to think and make sound judgments will improve as they mature. With age, however, it also may become easier for them to try to justify and make excuses for selfish or reckless behaviour. However, if you have helped them develop strong habits of honesty, courage, responsibility and self-respect, your child will have the ability to see the flaws in their reasoning and be able to come to the right conclusion about what to do.

Coach

How you learned to drive or cook? You practised while someone coached you, reminding you what to do until you were able to coach yourself and then, eventually, do it automatically. Children learn values much the same way.

They practise different kinds of behaviour, while you, as coach, help focus their attention on what is important and on fine-tuning important skills.

You support them with your praise, encouragement and gentle reminders. If you don't coach your child, they will find coaches elsewhere and be guided by the val-

ues of the media, peers and anyone else who captures their interest. So, step up to the plate, don't be afraid and help your child learn how to be a good person, step by step.

Media pressure

Without doubt, media messages influence the values that make up our character. The media: TV, radio, newspapers, social media, movies, songs, video games and advertising uses powerful techniques to get our attention and to get their messages across in the most effective way. Taking charge of our use of the media requires learning to say "no" to media images and messages. It takes practice for children to learn to do this.

To help your child deal with media pressures, you should talk with your child about media pressures. Explain that the media can use subtle or clever messages about whom they should be, how they should look, how they should act, what should be the focus of their life, what they should do with their time, what kind of people they should value, what they should think of adults, and so on. Help your child identify the different kinds of pressure they face every day.

Conclusion

Raising your child to be a law-abiding citizen isn't that hard. All it takes is watching your step in front of them, and make sure they have been shown right from wrong.

Be safe, Bahamas!

For more information, contact the National Crime Prevention Office on 302-8430, 3028431, 3028154 or visit www.royalbahamaspolice.org



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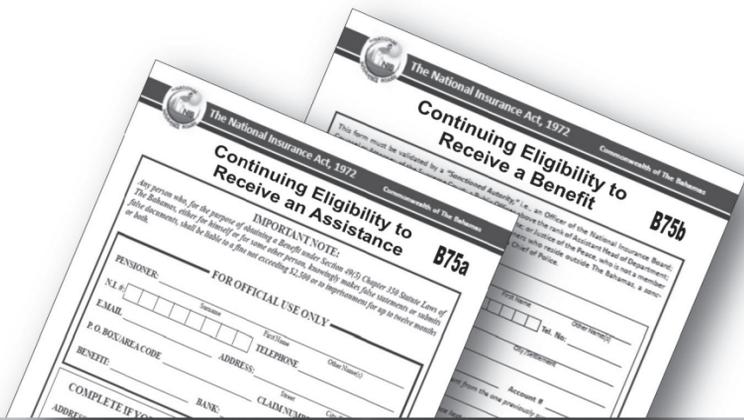
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TWO HELD AFTER GUN FIND

DRUG Enforcement Unit officers took two men into custody following the seizure of a high-powered weapon and a quantity of drugs on Saturday.

According to police, shortly before 10pm, a team of officers from the Drug Enforcement Unit acting on intelligence executed a search warrant on a home in Moncur Alley off Kemp Road, where they uncovered an AK-47 assault weapon along with a quantity of marijuana.

Two male occupants of the home were subsequently taken into custody in connection with this discovery.

Police also reported that Selective Enforcement Team officers took three men into custody for drug possession in separate incidents on Saturday. In the first incident, shortly after 3pm, officers acting on information conducted a search of a stall on Potter's Cay Dock where they uncovered a quantity of marijuana. Two male oc-

cupants of the stall were subsequently taken into custody.

In the second incident, shortly before 8pm, Selective Enforcement Team officers acting on information executed a search warrant at a home in Gleniston Gardens, where they uncovered a quantity of marijuana and two live rounds of ammunition. A male occupant of the home was subsequently taken into custody in connection with this find.

Investigations continue.



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Work resumes on seawall after contractor change

By DENISE MAYCOCK
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THE seawall project at Smith's Point in Grand Bahama has resumed and work is progressing well following the hiring of a new contractor two weeks ago.

Work is expected to be finished in about 28 weeks at the cost of some \$4.2m, according to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance K Peter Turnquest who, along with Iram Lewis, parliamentary secretary in the Ministry of Works, visited the site on Friday and met with the contractor for an update on the project.

"I am pleased to come and inspect (the project) today just to see how far we are progressing with the work. I am pleased to say we are now making positive progress with respect to this project," Mr Turnquest told reporters.

Waugh Construction signed a contract with the government two weeks ago in Nassau after the previous contract was terminated in June with Smith's Construction due to serious project delays and other issues about the method of construction used.

Smith's Construction was awarded a \$4.8m contract under the former Christie administration on June 24, 2016, with a 26-week construction schedule. The contractor failed to meet two project deadlines, leaving the community vulnerable to tidal surge, officials have said.

Ministry of Works inspectors had issues with the materials and the method of construction used and the slow pace of work, which were enough grounds to terminate the contract.

Mr Lewis, Central Grand Bahama MP, and an architect by profession was very happy with the work to date by the new contractor.

"I am extremely pleased where we are now as opposed to where we were then," he said. "The contractor we selected... is working at full speed and we are happy with the timelines," he said.

"The whole idea is to protect this settlement. We are working as best we can to ensure the project is completed not only at a fast pace, but at a very high quality where we won't be concerned about washout moving forward."

"It is going to be a well-done project, and we are fully confident we picked the right team to do the job, and the community would be pleased with the product," Mr Lewis said.

Mr Turnquest, the MP for East Grand Bahama, said the government is also hap-



DEPUTY Prime Minister and Minister of Finance K Peter Turnquest, second from left, and Central Grand Bahama MP Iram Lewis toured the construction site of a sea wall in Smith's Point, Grand Bahama on Friday. Photo: Vandyke Hepburn/BIS

py that the contractor has agreed to offer employment to residents in the Smith's Point community.

"It is unfortunate that we had delays and as a result of issues already outlined. But again we are making positive steps now to get the project completed and are very excited about that," Mr Turnquest said.

"As you know, this is hurricane season, and that is a paramount concern for us at this stage. It is important that we make the kind of progress as quickly as possible to secure and stabilise the site if we do have a storm," Mr Turnquest said.

"We wanted to come and observe the progress and to get an update from the contractor as to where they are and the timeline before us. We are certainly pleased with what we have seen so far," he said.

Mr Lewis said officials expect to meet with residents to give them an update on the project.

"We came to do our fact-finding, and we will talk to them about the timeline. The residents are happy to see that activity has (resumed) on the site," he said.

Residents have had some concerns about safety during the construction phase. But Mr Lewis indicated that the area is adequately secured in the day and at night.

He stated that the new contractor has assured them that in addition to hiring security officers on site in the day, the site is secured by barriers and is well-lit in the evenings.

Contractor Godfrey Waugh said workers encountered "a lot of mess" left at the site.

Reinforcing steel bars (rebar) and other debris

that was in the trench, and trees removed from the site by the previous contractor

and left piled up on a resident's property, boulders, and other excavation mate-

rials were cleaned up and removed.

Mr Waugh stated that they had hired a subcontractor to blast and treat the exposed rebar.

"We had a few challenges, but we are working through them. One challenge is that water intrusion in the trench is quite substantial and we have brought in submersible pumps," explained Mr Waugh.

Mr Waugh is planning to employ ten additional workers on the project and is requesting applications, but will be considering applications first from residents in the Smith's Point area.

Mr Turnquest noted that government would continue to update residents on the project as they have been doing previously through community meetings.

"We have a vision for this (project) when it is done, and we are talking to the contractor about making it a real promenade so that we can increase economic activity to this area," he said.

"We are expecting and

visioning a real transformation of this water-front such that it becomes not only useable for residents and provides a safety factor, but also gives the opportunity to spur economic activity in this area.

"We are looking at plans to see how we can alter it, but work within the budget. We don't have the luxury of growing the project, but we will look to see where we can adjust the plan already in place to take in a little bit more of a user-friendly product to do things we would like to do.

"When the previous government came up with the plan for this, that was one of the things I mentioned. I had hoped they would have created areas where we can create vending opportunities for small vendors...to bring diversity in products and opportunity for residents to create their own little businesses. We will see how we can utilise this asset as best we can for the benefit of residents of Smith's Point, Mr Turnquest said.

BE PREPARED, NEMA CHIEF WARNS AHEAD OF PEAK STORM SEASON

NATIONAL Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) Director Capt Stephen Russell has urged residents throughout the country to finalise hurricane preparations as the country enters the peak of the 2017 Atlantic hurricane season.

On Friday, Capt Russell cautioned residents to routinely check local media and social media platforms for updates, pointing to the projected path of current system Invest 92L through The Bahamas.

An invest is an area of disturbed weather that has been designated as a system of interest by the United State's National Hurricane Centre (NHC) with potential of subtropical or tropical development.

On Sunday, NHC forecasters said that conditions "are expected to be unfavorable for development of this system during the next couple of days, but they could become slightly more conducive for development by midweek when the system is near the northwestern Bahamas or Florida."

"Invest 92L has a 20 per

cent chance of becoming a tropical cyclone within the next five days," the NHC said.

Capt Russell said: "You should all be aware at this time that there are a number of tropical systems in the Atlantic Ocean, and one or two are projected to cross over, or come near The Bahamas during the upcoming week.

"Even though the systems have not been named, I would like to urge all residents throughout The Bahamas to continue to monitor these systems as we go into the weekend."

He continued: "We are all aware that in 2015, Tropical Storm Joaquin, rapidly intensified and became a major hurricane, which impacted islands in the central and southeast Bahamas.

"As long as the current system (Invest 92-L) is projected to pass through The Bahamas, I would like to urge all residents to make those final preparations to protect homes, businesses, check your family disaster plan, family emergency kits, and your communication plans."



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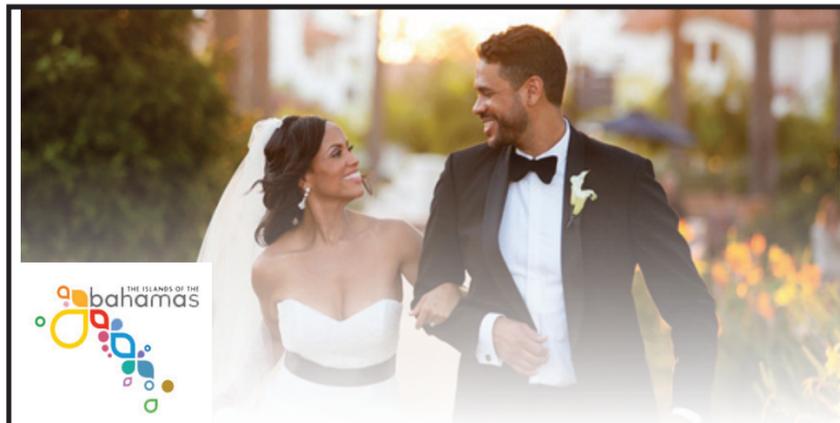
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BACK TO SCHOOL WITH ISLAND LUCK



THE ISLAND Luck Cares Foundation held a back to school fair on RM Bailey park on Saturday - with activities for youngsters and giveaways.

Photos: **Terrel W. Carey**/
Tribune Staff



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10 SAILORS MISSING AS US SHIP HITS TANKER

SINGAPORE (AP) — A US Navy guided-missile destroyer collided with a tanker early Monday in waters east of Singapore and the Strait of Malacca, and at least ten sailors are missing. The Navy said five others were hurt.

The USS John S McCain sustained damage on its port side aft, or left rear, from the collision with the Alnic MC that happened at 5:24 a.m., the Navy's 7th Fleet said.

It wasn't immediately clear if the oil and chemical tanker sustained damage or casualties in the col-

lision. The Navy said Osprey aircraft and Seahawk helicopters from the USS America were assisting.



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