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**16** **HOUSE & HOME**  
PAGES

**SPORTS: GARDINER SAYS IT'S HIS BEST YEAR YET**

# Moody's: Deficit could hit \$636m

By **NEIL HARTNELL**  
Tribune Business Editor  
nhartnell@tribunemedia.net

THE Bahamas' 2016-2017 fiscal deficit could rise as high as \$636m or seven per cent of GDP, Moody's has warned, due to the Christie administration's pre-election spending binge.

The rating agency, in an August 25 "credit opinion" that accompanied its decision not to downgrade The Bahamas to "junk" status, suggested that the "red ink" could amount to \$136m more than the Government's own \$500m estimate - a difference equivalent to 1.5 percentage points of gross domestic product (GDP).

Moody's estimate is almost double the former Christie administration's own \$350m forecast, with the rating agency disclosing that the 2016-2017 deficit had been inflated by an accounting method switch.

The Deputy Prime Minister, K Peter Turnquest, defended this move, telling Tribune Business: "The best policy is to be up front and honest."

He said Moody's decision to leave The Bahamas with an investment grade credit rating was vindication of the Minnis administration's sudden switch to accrual-based accounting for the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

FULL STORY - SEE BUSINESS

## SACKED BPL STAFF 'SHOWN NO EVIDENCE'

By **RASHAD ROLLE**  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
rolle@tribunemedia.net

ATTORNEY Wayne Munroe said yesterday he is going to seek redress through the Supreme Court for the three Bahamas Power & Light employees who were fired in connection with a fraud probe.

He's concerned, he said, that proper procedures were not followed in dismissing the employees and claimed that the accounting system BPL had in place makes it nearly impossible to know who was responsible for committing fraud.

He wants his action to

be considered concurrently with the one Trade Union Congress President Obie Ferguson is said to have launched some time ago. Mr Ferguson could not be reached for comment yesterday, but Mr Munroe said Mr Ferguson's action, scheduled for September 4, involved three employees of BPL who were previously fired in connection with the same probe. Mr Munroe said two of those employees were rehired after Mr Ferguson made filings in the Supreme Court but one of those people remains unemployed.

SEE PAGE SIX

## MARIJUANA MOUNTAIN



JUST over \$3m worth of marijuana was seized by the Royal Bahamas Police Force's Marine Support Unit in waters off Exuma in a joint operation with the RBPF's Drug Enforcement Unit, and the United States' Drug Enforcement Administration. At about 7am on Saturday, the three teams went to waters off Williams Town, Exuma, and intercepted a go-fast vessel. A total of 65 bales of suspected marijuana, weighing 3,201 pounds and with a street value of \$3.2m, was discovered. Two suspects are in custody.

Photo: RBPF

## CORPORATE TAX CHEATS PAY UP \$96M

By **NEIL HARTNELL**  
Tribune Business Editor  
nhartnell@tribunemedia.net

THE Government netted almost \$96m in the first six months of its crackdown on corporate and high net worth tax cheats, it has been revealed.

Moody's said the initiative launched in November 2016 under the former Christie administration had generated additional tax revenues equivalent to 1.1

per cent of GDP (gross domestic product).

"On the revenue side, the Government will maintain various revenue-enhancement measures that were introduced by the previous administration in the 2016-2017 first half," Moody's confirmed. "The tax and Customs enforcement unit, which focused on property tax compliance and customs (air and sea freight) fees, is expected to uplift in

revenues. Through the first six months of this process, additional revenues collected by this unit were \$95.5m (1.1 per cent of GDP)."

Deputy Prime Minister K Peter Turnquest hailed the crackdown's success, and pledged that the Minnis administration would further intensify its efforts to go after businesses and high-end property owners deemed not to be paying their fair share in taxes.

FULL STORY - SEE BUSINESS

## GLENYS SIGNALS BID FOR LEADERSHIP

By **RASHAD ROLLE**  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
rolle@tribunemedia.net

ENGLERSTON MP Glenys Hanna Martin is expected to announce her intention to run for leader of the Progressive Liberal Party at a press conference today.

In so doing, she will challenge Cat Island, San Salvador & Rum Cay MP Philip "Brave" Davis at the party's convention.

The press conference will be held at Mrs Hanna Martin's constituency office and a flyer advertising the event invited all PLP officials, members, stalwart councillors and supporters to attend.

Despite the nature of the Bahamian electorate, which has not re-elected an incumbent government since 1997, the convention comes at a critical time for the PLP following the party's historic loss in the May 10 election.

The PLP's convention is set for October 22-25.

SEE PAGE SIX

## MANHUNT AFTER NEW STREET SLAYING

By **NICO SCAVELLA**  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
nscavella@tribunemedia.net

POLICE have launched an island-wide manhunt for the suspect responsible for the shooting death of a man that occurred in the Bain Town area over the weekend.

According to reports, shortly after 9.30pm on Saturday, a man was walking on Dumpus Way between Dumping Ground Corner and Finlayson Street, when another man armed with a handgun approached and shot him before fleeing on foot. The victim died on the scene.

Yesterday, Assistant Commissioner of Police Clayton Fernander said police currently have no motive for the shooting, but said officers are on the ground "trying to put the pieces together" in their attempts to resolve the matter.

SEE PAGE SIX

## SHOCK REPORT LIFTS LID ON CRIME

SEE INSIGHT

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# Company kept on to chase down property tax debts

By RASHAD ROLLE  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
rolle@tribunemedia.net

KIKIVARAKIS and Company, a local financial advisory firm, remains contracted with the government to go after real property tax arrears. Deputy Prime Minister K Peter Turnquest confirmed yesterday.

The firm was contracted by the Christie administration in 2014 to go after an estimated \$557m in outstand-

ing real property taxes. "It's still here," Mr Turnquest said when contacted Sunday. "We're reviewing all options, whether we want to continue contracting out that service or bring that in-house is something we are determining."

In its statement Friday confirming the country's Baa3 credit rating, Moody's cited strengthening tax enforcement, "particularly in property tax collections where evasion is relatively high," as

one reason it declined to downgrade the country's credit rating. The agency also cited prospects for debt stabilisation from the government's fiscal consolidation programme, credit metrics that remain in line with its Baa3 peers and a contained liquidity risk as factors that influenced its decision.

It's not clear whether the Minnis administration has taken new steps to go after real property tax arrears. The cost of the country's

contract with Kikivarakis and Company was never revealed, nor have the terms of the contract or its success rate been made public to date.

The company's selection in 2014 was the first time the government outsourced the collection of real property tax to the private sector.

According to draft estimates of revenue and expenditure for 2017-2018, property tax revenue was forecast to be \$153,500,000

for 2016-2017, a 48 per cent increase from 2015-2016. Property tax revenue projections for 2017-2018 have revenue dropping to \$143,500,000.

In 2013, the Christie administration launched a real property tax amnesty programme to give owners a chance to have their property assessed without penalty. It allowed people to bring their accounts current purportedly with a chance to secure significant savings.



DPM PETER TURNQUEST

## AVOIDING DOWNGRADE 'SHOWING CONFIDENCE IN FNM ADMINISTRATION'

By RASHAD ROLLE  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
rolle@tribunemedia.net

MOODY'S decision not to downgrade the country's credit rating "is clear and unambiguous evidence of the unmistakable confidence in the economic policies of the Minnis administration," Free National Movement Chairman Sidney Collie said yesterday.

Although Moody's changed the country's credit outlook from stable to negative, its confirmation of its Baa3 rating appears to be one of the first significant victories for the new administration, as a downgrade would have been costly for The Bahamas.

The confirmation of the credit rating "also demonstrates that (the) significant steps that the administration has taken in three short months are gradually returning the economy of The Bahamas to sound financial footing," the FNM said.

"After five years of disastrous PLP mismanagement, fraud, a series of downgrades, and the consequential economic turmoil, this country was left not only with a crisis of confidence but also with major economic structural challenges," the party added.

"The PLP and its naysayers are now forced to accept that Prime Minister Minnis, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Peter Turnquest and his Cabinet colleagues have indeed been working day and night around the clock since taking over the reins of government to demonstrate to Moody's and others, that this administration will leave no stones unturned by taking the necessary actions to get the economy and the country out of the fiscal crisis left by the PLP."

It has been previously reported that Moody's cited the potential for "debt stabilisation" because of the government's fiscal consolidation programme as a reason for its decision.

It also considered that the country's

credit metrics "remain in line with Baa3 peers" and the government's liquidity risk "remains contained".

The negative outlook, however, "reflects potential downside risks to the fiscal consolidation process posed by weaker-than-expected growth, exposure to climate-related shocks in the form of hurricanes, and implementation risks associated with measures to rein in expenditure growth and enhance revenues," the agency said. "Absent successful fiscal consolidation, The Bahamas' fiscal and credit profile would likely weaken."

Last year, Standard & Poor's downgraded this country's credit rating to junk status.

After Moody's initiated a review of this country's credit rating following the Minnis administration's revelations about the government's fiscal condition during the budget debate earlier this year, experts predicted it would be a huge challenge for the country to avoid another downgrade.



DILLON ALBURY, who is missing after falling from a boat off Abaco.

## SEARCH CONTINUES FOR MISSING BOY IN ABACO

SEARCH and rescue teams in Abaco continued their search over the weekend for missing teenager Dillon Albury, who reportedly fell off a boat last Wednesday.

Up to press time, his body had not been found but friends fear the worst and

expressed sympathies and condolences for the teen on Facebook over the weekend. The 15-year-old was in the Marsh Harbour point

area near Pelican Shores in a 17-foot whaler, according to reports from residents. The boat was later found with a broken steering wheel.

## RETIRED COMMODORE IN HOSPITAL

THE retired Commodore of the Royal Bahamas Defence Force, Clifford "Butch" Scavella, reportedly suffered a suspected stroke yesterday.

In a statement issued by the Leader of the Opposition, Philip "Brave" Davis, it was reported that Scavella had been admitted to the Accident and Emergency department of Princess Margaret Hospital.

The statement added: "He is undergoing observations for a suspected stroke. His wife, Sharon, and family are with him. He is conscious, ambulatory and stable."

"I visited him this evening and spoke to him. Doctors have advised that he is to remain in hospital for further observations. We extend prayerful support to him and his family."

## HUNT AFTER FIVE ARMED ROBBERIES

POLICE are searching for the suspects responsible for five separate armed robberies that occurred Thursday night.

According to a police crime report, three businesses were robbed after men armed with handguns

robbed cashiers of an undetermined amount of cash.

Then in two separate incidents, armed men robbed two people as they arrived home.

Police did not provide further details on the incidents.

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KIDNAP	C	1:10	3:30	N/A	6:10	8:20	10:50
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## 'Only fools rush in where angels fear to tread'

PLP CHAIRMAN Bradley Roberts and his sidekick, PLP Senator Fred Mitchell, have gone out of their way to criticise the FNM government for at last telling the unvarnished truth — at least as far as the FNM knew it at the time — about the critical state of the economy. They laid it out in their first budget debate in parliament in June giving notice that the new government would have to borrow \$323m to cover the deficit for the 2017-2018 fiscal year and an additional \$400m to cover the fiscal overhang for 2016-2017.

"In our parliamentary debates, the leader of the opposition, our MPs and senators tried to warn the FNM, stop talking down this economy," said Mr Mitchell. "We thought it reckless to borrow nearly a billion in their first week in office. We said the only reason for the less than promised fiscal performance (by the PLP) was Hurricane Matthew. Moody's affirms those facts." This is not true — Moody did not affirm those facts — if they ever did they are certainly not standing by them now.

The Christie administration probably tried to blame all of the country's financial woes on Hurricane Matthew, but the hurricane only added to this country's problems. It did not cause them. In its latest report, Moody's clearly stated: "The Bahamas economy has performed poorly over the past five years."

It is true that Moody's called neither government's name, as Mr Mitchell affirms, but in this statement only the slow-witted would think that over the "past five years" had anything to do with the FNM. The PLP government was the only government around in the last five years, and so Moody's was clearly talking about the performance of the PLP. As for Hurricane Matthew being the cause of all of the problems, we must recall that Matthew was not lurking around for five years — the years that the PLP government was playing cat-and-mouse and hiding the truth from Bahamians. Hurricane Matthew hit The Bahamas on October 6, 2016 — only seven months before Bahamians went to the polls and gave the PLP government the "order of the boot".

The Christie government assured Moody's that all it had to do was get Baha Mar open and the economy would eventually turnaround. True to its word a section of Baha Mar opened to many invited officials and non-paying guests just 19 days before the election — not in enough time to have any effect on the economy. It still has had no effect.

"Stop talking down the economy," begged the Christie government, or else Moody's will reassess its Baa3 credit rating. Standard and Poor's Christmas present to The Bahamas was to downgrade this country's credit rating to junk. All they needed now was for Moody's to get wind of what was being said by the FNM to attract their attention. And so Mr Mitchell was criticising the FNM for not buttoning their lips. In other words,

to put it in the vernacular, the PLP were reminding the FNM that "shut mouth catch no flies!" But the FNM refused to shut their mouths, instead they spoke the truth, earned respect for the country and much-needed help.

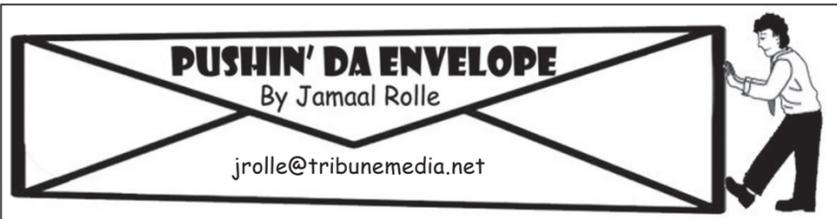
This should be a lesson to the PLP — lying, especially to the people, has its consequences. Moody's has reviewed this country's status, heard its financial problems, studied its plans for a fiscal rescue, and decided to hold the status at Baa3.

"Although Moody's changed the country's credit outlook from stable to negative, its confirmation of its Baa3 rating appears to be one of the first significant victories for the new administration, as a downgrade would have been costly for The Bahamas," said a statement from government. The statement added that government is also "resolved to bringing greater accountability, transparency and sound fiscal management principles to bear on the country's finances. Improvements in fiscal management and policy outcomes are being promoted through the planned introduction of Fiscal Responsibility legislation, which will target, inter alia, the achievement of an annual GFS balanced budget deficit that would allow for a more sustainable evolution of the debt to GDP ratio. IMF Technical resources are already on board to assist the Government in ensuring a well-designed legislative and operational framework, which should be finalised prior to the next budget year."

The FNM government has been in office a little over 100 days and opposition voices are already crying that they have done nothing. To borrow the words of Alexander Pope: "Fools rush in where angels fear to tread." The financial situation of this country is so precarious today that it cannot survive "fools" rushing in with quick fixes to impress an impatient people. This government has to be given time to assess a very bad — far worse than we ever imagined — situation and have sober heads come to the rescue. This time the people will have to have patience, because any nonsense now could rock and sink an already listing Ship of State.

When the FNM presented its first budget to parliament members had only had time to have a cursory look at the books. After that superficial search parliament was given an estimate of how much government would have to borrow to stabilise the finances. However, as time has passed and even more unsavoury truths and dumb political decisions are being uncovered do not be surprised if government has not underestimated its debts and will have to go back for even more financial support.

True patriots would not be calling for demonstrations at this time. Those who are now trying to stir up trouble are really showing their true colours. They are proving what we have known of them for some time — their political careers come before the good of their country. They are not true patriots.



## IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR!



# Bishop Neil Ellis and his sermon

EDITOR, The Tribune.

I assume Bishop Nei Ellis has a thorough knowledge of the 10 commandments specifically for this letter the 8th Thou Shalt Not Steal.

If a young man from his congregation held up a local bank, got caught and the young man's mother came to the good bishop for help she would get I suspect little sympathy. You can almost hear the sermon he broke the sacred 8th commandment, he brought it upon himself, etc.

The likelihood of the boy being defended by an overseas QC charging up to \$1000 per hour are non-existent. The boy would be shackled, taken to court and defended by a lawyer way down the chain from a QC.

The lawyer would not use

## LETTERS

letters@tribunemedia.net

in the boy's defence that he is being victimised or there is a witch hunt perpetrated by the bank upon his client. Yes absurd no defence at all. The boy would spend 20 years plus at Fox Hill and we society at large would be pleased as justice was done.

A cabinet minister in The Bahamas earns \$88,000 per year or \$1615 per week. This whilst being a large sum for the average Bahamian its certainly not enough to own multi-million dollar homes in gated communities either here or overseas. It's not enough to fly in QC's should you require defending in a corruption case. A good defence by a team of four QCs would run anywhere from

\$500,000 to a million.

The maths for a cabinet minister do not add up. Yet we all pretty much know some PLP ministers from the woefully corrupt previous administration appeared to live outside their legitimate salaries and those ministers charged with corruption will have the best legal help money can buy.

My questions for some of these Ministers are where does all this money come? How can you live like a King on \$1,615 per week?

For the good Bishop can he please explain to us mere mortals if the 8th commandment applies to all members of our society or is it a selective commandment?

THE REALIST

Nassau,  
 August 8, 2017.

## Electoral reform

EDITOR, The Tribune.

THE recent revelation regarding BPL's \$1.5m dollar payout as authorised by Shane Gibson and former DPM Philip 'Brave' Davis reiterates the need for reformation of the electoral process.

We know that both of these men and indeed their political party are above reproach and no one should question the circumstances under which

this payout was made, but few could argue that we must change the way we do things in this country. We must insist that legislation creates clear boundaries to ensure the governing party cannot use its position to create an advantage for itself going into an election. Transparency in financial contributions to political parties, limits in pre-election hirings, granting of contracts and payment of public

service bonuses might significantly reduce the ability of corrupt politicians manipulating the system for their advantage.

While I am sure that our politicians can always be trusted to do the right thing and the BPL payout was above board, as a country we cannot afford to go down this road again.

JB

Nassau,  
 August 22, 2017.

## Bad service at NIB

EDITOR, The Tribune.

I THINK it is very ridiculous that I have spent 30 minutes of my morning (9am-9:30am) calling the National Insurance Board to ask one question and I can't get the phone answered. How is it possible for a building of at least 300+ people and no one an-

swers the phone?

I literally selected every option and got no one! I went online and, of course, there are more numbers and again no answer! So I must now resort to an email that you probably won't respond to.

This is so unprofessional and very irritating!

It is now 9:38am and before I send this email I am

listening to this voice recording lying and talking about it's a pleasure yet again and no one is answering. Oh wait someone answered and hung up on me when I started talking. Oh I wish I got her name.

TONIA

Nassau,  
 August 16, 2017.

# First Class or People's Class?

EDITOR, The Tribune.

SO are the Ministers of The People's Government travelling 'People's Class' or 'First Class'?

Delegation of PM-Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Education off almost immediately after May 10th to CARICOM Heads meeting - what class did they fly?

Minister of Foreign Affairs soon after was known to take two other trips, what class did he fly?

Minister of Transport to London for IMO meeting with the Deputy Speaker

what class did they fly? Still can't fathom out why the Deputy Speaker went to an IMO/Maritime meeting?

Now Minister of travel-Minister of Youth and .... London for IAAF7 now off to deepest Africa for Commonwealth Youth Ministers -Prime Minister it was from your lips you said your Ministers will stop wasting travel money - we 'The People' want a full report ... now, not in two-three months.

Whilst you are having audits there are two particular

CHOGM trips of the past Prime Minister and entourage-delegation the cost of which has never been reported - please find the accounts and publish them. We want to know how they wasted the people's money, hundreds of thousands, I fear.

You see, we don't believe what they say it is as simple as that...a Prime Minister, a Minister fly 'People's Class' - you will never see it!

W THOMPSON

Nassau,  
 August 19, 2017.



HUNDREDS gather outside Pineapple Express on Friday morning.

Photo: Terrel W. Carey/Tribune Staff

# Pineapple pandemonium as investors demand money

By SANCHESKA DORSETT  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
sdorsett@tribunemedia.net

CHAOS erupted at Pineapple Express Asue Holders' office off Cowpen Road early Friday morning after hundreds of angry persons stormed the building in an attempt to collect money owed to them.

When *The Tribune* arrived on the scene shortly after 8am, scores of persons had already gathered outside the office, which was still closed.

Nearly a dozen Royal Bahamas Police Force officers attached to the Central Detective Unit and the K-9 Unit attempted to organise the crowd but their efforts were in vain.

Those gathered at the headquarters were told by police shortly after 10am that no one was coming to issue refunds and the owner of the business complex where Pineapple Express had rented office space wanted "the crowd" off his premises.

In fact, the owner began towing vehicles off the sidewalks and from parking spots in the plaza in order to free up space for customers in the surrounding shops.

Despite being asked to leave, the crowd refused to disperse. Shortly after 11am, officers told the group that a representative from the company was on the way but everyone had to get in one line.

Payouts began around 11.30am and several persons told *The Tribune* that they were fully reimbursed.

Raquel Bowe, 34, said she joined the scheme because she is unemployed and needed money. Despite not being able to receive the payout she was promised, Ms Bowe said she would join a scheme like this again.

"I really thought this was going to work, the lady seemed sincere. After she couldn't pay, she called a meeting and in the meeting, she said she overwhelmed herself by collecting too many applicants each day and because of that she is

going to have to restructure," Ms Bowe said.

"I believe this is ridiculous today, I didn't have to go through this to give them my money but I have to wait with all these people to get my money. People are hurting and we invested our money with plans to get the money they promised."

Ms Bowe added: "I am not employed and I need my funds. As a matter of fact, I already purchased a plane ticket with the anticipation of getting this money to go away. I have a friend that has children that she wanted to get ready for school for Monday but now she can't do that, next time I will join sooner."

Shanika Longley, 42, said she received one "draw" several weeks ago and paid another \$300 for another "draw" which she hasn't received. She also said she would join this type of scheme again.

"I put \$300 and I got \$1,590 and I reinvested \$300 and they are telling me persons who reinvested won't get their money back. I don't think this was a scam, her intentions were very good, she just got overwhelmed," Mrs Longley said.

"When it initially started, it was a good process but everyone caught on to it and she kept taking and taking and it was hard to pay people back. I don't think these people will get their money back, she just doesn't have it and taking it to court don't make no sense.

"I would do this again," Mrs Longley said, "I benefitted. Persons gambling and losing money, everything in life you do is a gamble."

On Wednesday, the Securities Commission warned the public the local "asue" business should be viewed as "unsafe and very high risk" and advised members of the public to "exercise extreme caution when considering to engage with this entity or persons soliciting membership."

The commission said the methods used by Pineapple Express are structured like a "pyramid or Ponzi scheme" where promoters

claim they can turn a small investment into large profits within a short period of time.

The statement urged anyone with concerns about the company to contact police.

On Monday, the company, after being unable to pay out several "hands" or disbursements to customers was called into a meeting with the Securities Commission.

In order to join the "asue," persons were required to pay a one-time fee of \$200 and receive \$1,050 or pay \$100 and receive \$540. Participants were also required to pay a \$25 membership fee. Persons are also required to pay a \$25 processing fee each time they rejoin for a payout. After signing up, persons receive a payout in "around 14 business days".

On Monday, Pineapple Express executives met with members at the Breezes Resort to discuss the way forward.

Hours before the meeting, the company posted that they would be closed on Monday, August 21, and reopen for business on Tuesday, August 22.

However, on Tuesday, they remained closed and asked anyone with questions or concerns to send them a message on Facebook.

Shortly before midnight, the company issued a statement saying government officials and authorities have "asked them not to open" and that they would issue refunds to customers between 10am and 1pm on Friday.

Many persons have described the business as a "pyramid scheme," similar

to the "loom" phenomenon, which became popular in The Bahamas several months ago.

In January, the Securities Commission announced

that looms are fraudulent pyramid schemes.

In the loom scheme, persons were asked to join groups and contribute small sums of money to get a large

er payout, for instance \$100 with the promise of getting \$800.

People have been told to return to the company today to receive their refunds.



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## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS University of The Bahamas Alumni Magazine

The University of The Bahamas Office of Institutional Advancement and Alumni Affairs invites competitive proposals from suitably qualified vendors for the high quality graphic design and layout of the University of The Bahamas Alumni Magazine Issues 1 and 2 for Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 respectively.

The magazine will be produced as a full-colour, quality design that presents compelling narratives of UB's happenings, developments, milestones and achievements and showcases how faculty, staff, alumni, students and supporters are helping UB to achieve its mission of "advancing and expanding access to higher education, promote academic freedom, drive national development and build character through teaching, learning, research, scholarship and service".

The complete RFP is accessible online at <http://www.ub.edu.bs/get-to-know-us/rfps/>.

### SUBMISSIONS

Sealed copies of the RFP must be hand-delivered in triplicate to the Office of the Vice President of Institutional Advancement and Alumni Affairs addressed as follows:

Ms. Davinia Blair  
Vice President, Institutional Advancement and Alumni Affairs  
Top Floor, Keva M. Bethel Building, University of The Bahamas  
University Drive  
P.O. Box N-4912  
Nassau, The Bahamas

For further information contact: 302-4301 or 302-4366.

### DEADLINE

The deadline for proposal submissions is: 4:00 p.m. EST Friday, 8th September 2017.

## BAHAMIANS REPORTED SAFE AS HURRICANE HITS TEXAS

AFTER a briefing with Minister of Foreign Affairs Darren Henfield, Honorary Consul to Houston Lynden Rose reported Saturday that all Bahamians he had been in contact with have relayed to him that they are safe and secure in the wake of the onslaught of Hurricane Harvey across Texas.

According to the US National Weather Service, Hurricane Harvey made landfall on Texas Friday night as a category four storm. As of press time, it had been downgraded to a tropical storm, however, it has the potential to produce 15-25 inches of rain over the state and dump as much as 40 inches of rain over isolated areas of Texas, bringing the possibility

of life-threatening flooding.

American news agency CNN reported that more than 1,000 people were rescued overnight Saturday from record flooding in the area. At least two people are confirmed dead and officials expect that number to rise.

Mr Rose said that he will continue to brief Mr Henfield and the ministry throughout the upcoming days, in order to report on any impact to Bahamians in Texas and nearby states.

He also urged others who may find themselves in need of assistance or distress in the upcoming days to make contact with him through the avenues he has already provided them.

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# Glenys signals bid for leadership

from page one

In a statement released yesterday, the party said: "During this year's highly anticipated convention the party will undergo an extensive assessment and begin the process of strategising the way forward."

"As party officials and supporters collectively analyse the post-election results and begin the process of strategic development, it is the convention committee's aim to focus on engaging discussions about rebuilding, strengthening our core values and forging the way ahead for the Progressive Liberal Party."

"The party will modify and reform as necessary internal policies to ensure it remains relevant and reflects the desires of a changing electorate. At convention, supporters throughout The Bahamas will uplift the promotion of ideas and beliefs that will govern a holistic approach to our country's national development," the statement said.

"There is shared confidence in the party's capabilities to produce progressive leaders who will foster common interest around core issues that are near and dear to the hearts of many Bahamians. This year's convention translates into our organisation's ability to build an environment for emerging leaders who will lead in the best interest of the future development of this nation and the Bahamian people."

Former Tourism Minister Obie Wilchcombe has said he will run for chairman of the party. Former State Minister for Legal Affairs Damian Gomez has also said he is considering running for that position as well.

Insiders have put Exuma MP Chester Cooper's name forward as a contender for the deputy leader post, a position held by Mr Davis until former Prime Minister Perry Christie quit as PLP leader in May.

Mr Cooper has not publicly said if he will vie for the post.



MEMBER of Parliament for Englerston, Glenys Hanna Martin.

Photo: Terrel W. Carey/Tribune Staff

# SACKED BPL STAFF 'SHOWN NO EVIDENCE'

from page one

"I'm in the process of filing actions in the Supreme Court similar to Obie Ferguson's actions concerning the first three persons that were terminated," Mr Munroe said, describing his case against BPL as "straight forward".

"The (employees) were not given a chance to be heard," he said. "No allegations were ever put to them. No information was put to them like this supposed audit report so they

could say, 'We are accusing you based on this, what do you say in response?' They have a right to that in their industrial agreement. If BPL didn't comply with the procedure, the industrial agreement says the people should be reinstated."

The Minnis administration has kept a tight leash on the audit report into BPL prepared by Ernst & Young, which few people have seen.

"The position we put is they cannot have complied with the industrial agreement if they didn't show the

report to our clients," Mr Munroe said. "Our position is you didn't follow procedure, so these people should be reinstated. If they think they could show these people had something to do with what happened, do it properly; come and say we suspect you of falsifying invoicing and ask the workers what they have to say about it. The fact that nobody has the audit means BPL could not have complied with the industrial agreement."

Aside from concerns about procedure, Mr Munroe said there are other sub-

stantive concerns about the firing process.

"The allegation is that fraudulent invoices were processed for payments," he noted. "However, they had no system in place to show how the fraudulent invoices came to be in the department (in question). The messenger could've brought those invoices, but no system was in place to record that; the managers could have done so but no system was in place to record that. It could have been created in the department (in question) but you'd only know that if you had a system in place to show that. There was a failure to put in place

procedures to track potential dishonesty. People may always steal and someone may forge a signature on an invoice. The question is, how do we know who did it?"

"If invoices come in to the department (in question), you would have to ask, who brought every invoice into the department? Those are the sort of procedures that managers put in place, not line workers who follow any procedure that falls into place."

The Bahamas Electrical Workers Union (BEWC) has been critical of the fact that line-staff have been fired but managers have not.

Echoing this complaint, Mr Munroe said: "I've been made to understand the difference between managers and line staff is in political affiliation."

BEWU leaders also chalk up the difference in treatment between the two groups to "familial ties," linking managers to elected officials.

Nearly two weeks ago BPL fired three employees from the department in question.

Last week, two managers were suspended from the company.

The BPL board has also fired Pamela Hill, the company's former CEO.

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# MANHUNT AFTER NEW STREET SLAYING

from page one

Saturday's murder pushed the country's murder count to 89 for the year, according to *The Tribune's* records.

Police also reported that a man is in hospital after he was shot after 7.30am Friday while at Armbrister Street in Fox Hill. The man was sitting outside his home when occupants of a silver car passed by and shot him. The victim is said to be in stable condition.

On Wednesday, in Grand Bahama, police were called to the Yorkshire Drive area in South Bahama shortly before 10pm, where they saw a

vehicle parked in front of a residence with a man inside suffering from a gunshot wound in his body.

EMS personnel were called to the scene and reported no signs of life.

About a week ago, police launched an island-wide manhunt for the suspects responsible for three separate shootings that left three men dead on Friday, August 18.

In the first incident, around 8am, police received a report of a man found dead in Hospital Lane. Responding officers arrived at the scene where they found the lifeless body of a man who had been shot.

Then shortly after 8am, police received a report of

a man found dead in bushes off Step Street, Fox Hill. Responding officers arrived on the scene where they saw the lifeless body of a man who had been shot.

Later that same evening, shortly after 9pm, a man was standing in front of his home on Kemp Road, when the occupants of a silver coloured Honda Fit car pulled up and shot him before speeding off. The man was taken to hospital where he later died from his injuries.

Investigations continue. Anyone with information on any of these incidents is asked to call police at 919, 502-9991, the nearest police station or the Crime Stoppers hotline at 328-TIPS.

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# Boycotted for a Knighthood

**G**EOFFREY Boycott is a BBC cricket commentator. He was an England cricketer for 24 years. Over that period, he scored 8,114 runs in 108 Test matches for England and was the first England cricketer to pass 8,000 Test runs. For this accomplishment, he received the award of Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) from Her Majesty The Queen, through the UK National Honours Committee. But, he clearly felt that the award was not of a sufficiently high rank and he merited more.

It is not a secret that Boycott hankers after a Knighthood and he has publicly expressed his disappointment that, though nominated twice, he has been rejected. His sense of dissatisfaction is understandable, given his intense yearning for the award.

However, to have remarked that he would have a better chance of being knighted if he "blackened up" was inexcusably stupid, deeply offensive and racist.

In a question and answer session (for which the audience was charged a hefty sum in order to pay him), Boycott said that knighthoods were handed out like "confetti" to West Indian cricketers, including Sir Viv Richards, Sir Garfield Sobers and Sir Curtly Ambrose. He added "Mine's been turned down twice. I'd better black me face."

The West Indian cricketers, who have been knighted by the two territories from which they originate - Antigua and Barbados, were outstanding cricketers. They contributed enormously to the thrill and excitement of the game. It might be argued that, in terms of service to cricket, each of them contributed much more than Mr Boycott. However, the award of their knighthoods



**GEOFFREY BOYCOTT**, whose comments about having a better chance of being knighted if he "blackened up" have caused widespread offence.

## World View

By **SIR RONALD SANDERS**



did not derive only from their excellent contribution to cricket; it stemmed much more from the unmatchable pride and world standing that they gave to the small states in which they were born. Since cricket is the leading sport in both Antigua and Barbados - even now in the era of poor performances by the West Indies Cricket Team - it is natural that their higher awards should be bestowed upon their exceptional cricketers.

Further, the West Indians were awarded the dignity of

knighthood by the honours committees of their countries; not by the Honours Committee of the United Kingdom which is the body that would determine Mr Boycott's worthiness in their own context.

In the United Kingdom, there are many more sporting disciplines from which choices have to be made for the award of knighthood. Ten cricketers have been knighted by England; four more than by Barbados and six more than by Antigua. If volume is the measure of knighthoods be-

ing handed out like "confetti", Mr Boycott should have directed his objection to the National Honours Committee of the United Kingdom which, incidentally, is blameless in all this. What is more, unlike England, no country in the West Indies had granted knighthoods in any other sport. Britain on the other hand, has granted another 60 - 12 for Rugby, 12 for Athletics, 9 for yachting, 7 for motor-racing, 7 for football, 4 for Rowing, 4 for Mountaineering, 2 for Equestrians, and 1 each for boxing, Squash and Fencing - each of them judged to be fully merited by the UK Honours Committee.

Mr Boycott should have reserved his anger for the British National Honours Committee that has rejected him. Turning his ire on the West Indies and its cricketers by suggesting that he'd better "black" his face, demonstrates that racism is not very far from Mr Boycott's judgment. Further, he misses the point that it is not only exceptional cricketing abilities, and service to cricket, that led to the knighting of Vivian Richards, Garfield Sobers and others; it is the sense of dignity, of excellence and of strength that they gave to the people of the West Indies, who, until the emergence and ascen-

sion of these players, were marginal to the rest of the world. Only the more recent glorious athletic performance of Usain Bolt has occasioned the sense of pride, distinction and pure joy that these cricketers gave to the people of the West Indies. Bolt too deserves to be knighted.

Mr Boycott's comment has led many sports commentators, including Caribbean icon, Joseph "Reds" Perreira, to suggest that the BBC should remove him from its commentary team for the second test match between England and the West Indies. Lamentably, that will not happen. A BBC spokesperson said: "He has rightly apologized unreservedly for these clearly unacceptable comments. He will be part of the team for the West Indies Tests." The BBC position shows a lack of sensitivity equal to the ignorance displayed by Mr Boycott. Common decency should have advised the BBC to drop Mr Boycott for his offensive and uninformed remarks, particularly as his "apology" was given on Twitter and not at an event equivalent to the venue of his original comment where the media was in full attendance.

But Mr Boycott's presence in the BBC commen-

tary team on the England-West Indies test matches changes nothing. He remains "Mr" Boycott, denied a knighthood by his own country's National Honours Committee for coming up short when measured for his suitability for the award. In the meantime, the pantheon of West Indian cricketers sparkles brightly with men who were not knighted because their faces were black, but because their prowess was magnificent and their contribution to the West Indian people's sense of self-worth was great. From Barbados: Garfield Sobers, Frank Worrell, Clyde Walcott, Everton Weeks, Conrad Hunte and Wesley Hall; and from Antigua: Vivian Richards, Andy Roberts, Curtly Ambrose and Ritchie Richardson. They will forever be "Sir" - honoured by their people and richly deserved.

Responses and previous commentaries: [www.sir-ronaldsanders.com](http://www.sir-ronaldsanders.com)

The writer is Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the United States. 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. The views expressed are his own.

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# A NATION HIT BY CRIME

By RASHAD ROLLE  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
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A DAMNING new report paints The Bahamas as one off the most violent crime-ridden nations in the Caribbean.

The report – coming on the weekend another man was shot dead in Nassau – shows the country is second only to Jamaica in some instances of crime and worse in other categories.

Alarming, researchers determined that not only does crime cost the region 3

per cent in Gross Domestic Product (GDP), but the Bahamas is more affected by financial loss because of crime than any other country.

“To contextualise the cost,” the report said, “three per cent of GDP is about on par with the average Latin American and the Caribbean is roughly equal to the income of the poorest 30 per cent of the population in the region. In other words, if crime were to be extinguished completely, the income of the poorest 30 per cent of individuals could be doubled.”

More than 15 per cent of people in The Bahamas and nearly 20 per cent of people in New Providence reported being victims of one of five types of crime in a 12-month period – vehicle theft, theft, robbery, burglary, or assaults and threats, according to the report by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in a paper: “Restoring Paradise in the Caribbean: Combatting violence with numbers.”

The rates for this in New Providence were higher than the rates for any the

other city of the Caribbean that was analysed.

Other countries examined included Barbados, Jamaica, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

“New Providence and Kingston stand out with the highest levels of assault and threat,” the report said. “In New Providence and Port of Spain, the level of robbery is comparatively high, as is the number of victims seeking medical care after experiencing robbery or assault.”

The report said there were more reports of as-

sault, threat and theft in New Providence than in any of the other cities examined.

Under the Christie Administration, the IDB loaned \$20m to tackle violent crime by concentrating on conflict resolution, address high unemployment rates among youth, high recidivism rates and by solving the limited capacity of the criminal justice system to deal with crime and violence.

The last administration’s most high-profile effort as part of this programme was the introduction of a parole

system at the Department of Correctional service.

National Security Minister Marvin Dames told *The Tribune* earlier this month that the Minnis Administration has put the programme on hold as it reviews the project with a view toward tweaked what had been established.

“One of the things we haven’t been doing or been good at as a country is we introduce programmes and there is never a measurement of whether the programme is successful or not,” he said.

## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN

BEYOND being a violation of the fundamental human rights of women and children, experiencing or witnessing violence in the home at an early age has been established as a strong risk factor linked to later perpetration of violence and delinquency. Women and children are more likely to be victimized by family or intimate partner violence, which is not well captured in police statistics or crime victimization surveys.

The study found one in three (34 percent) Caribbean adults approve or understand wife beating if she is unfaithful, which is significantly higher than the Latin American average or the United States. The majority (66 percent) of Caribbean respondents also say it is necessary to physically discipline a child who misbehaves.

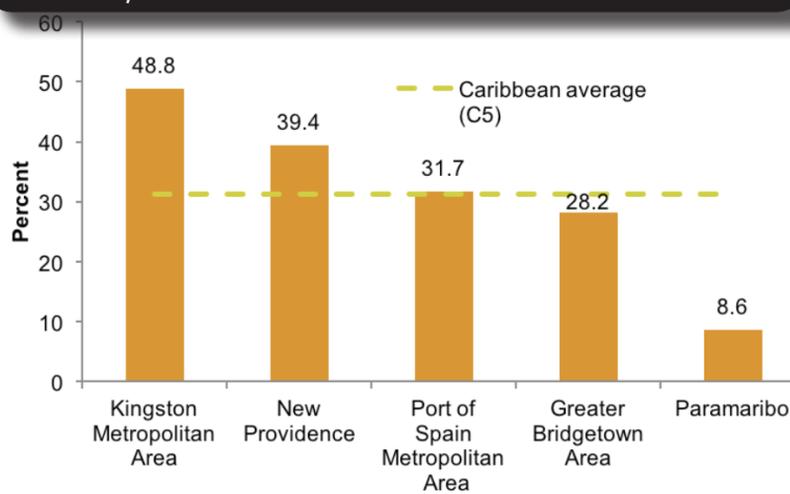
## GUNS

Firearms are involved in the majority of homicides, including in The Bahamas (82.4 percent), Jamaica (73.4 percent), and Trinidad and Tobago (72.6 percent).

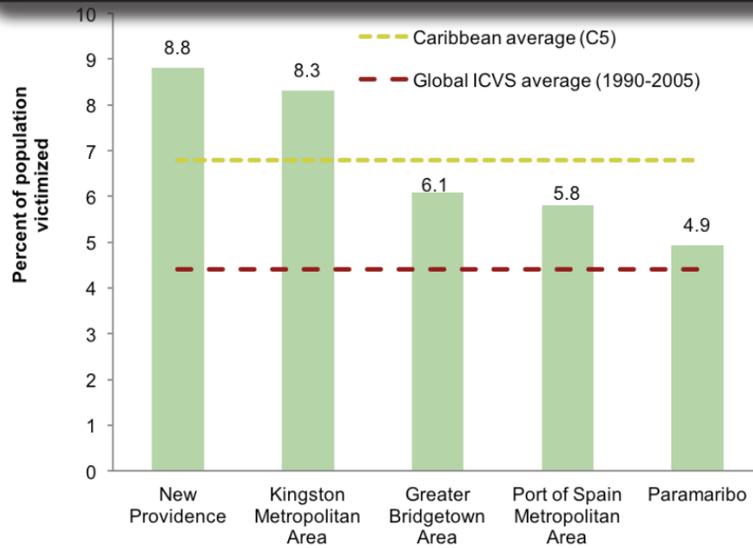
However, the use of knives in homicides has been more or equally as common in Barbados and Suriname, where homicide is lower. Guns are also used about twice as often in robbery and three times as often in assault in the Caribbean compared with the global average.

Handgun ownership is relatively high (on par with the average for Latin America and below the average for Africa, but above all other regions). The most common reason reported for owning a gun is for protection (52.2 percent). The best predictor of gun ownership is the belief that having a gun makes one safer, over and above experiences of actual household burglary (in the past five years), fear (being afraid to walk alone in one’s neighbourhood), neighbourhood conditions, and lack of trust in the police, none of which were significant predictors.

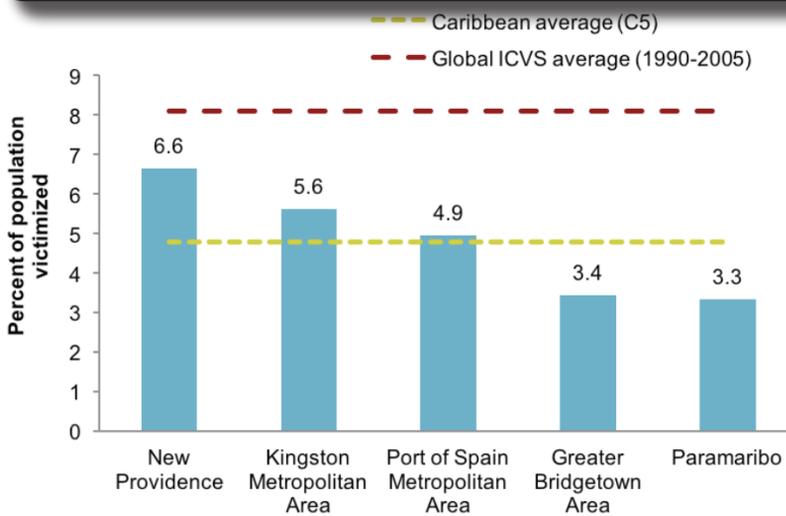
## LIFETIME PREVALENCE OF LOSING SOMEONE CLOSE TO VIOLENCE, FIVE CARIBBEAN CAPITAL CITY METROPOLITAN AREAS



## VICTIMS OF ASSAULT AND THREAT



## VICTIMS OF THEFT



## POLICE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

THE police-to-population ratios in the Caribbean are relatively high by international comparison, but police capacity to respond quickly to citizens and investigate and identify perpetrators of the most severe violent crimes is low. A cursory look at the prison population reveals that most offenders are imprisoned for nonviolent crimes, specifically drug offences and theft. One in four Caribbean residents considered police harassment to be a problem, with significant interregional variation and greater concern expressed in neighbourhoods with a gang presence. About 7 percent of individuals reported being asked by police to pay a bribe in the past year, which is low compared with Latin America, but high compared with Canada, Chile, the United States, and Uruguay.

Caribbean residents’ trust in the police varies widely by country, with high levels of trust in The Bahamas and Suriname and low levels in Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.

Increasing police effectiveness and efficiency, while maintaining integrity and respect for citizens’ rights, is the best way to increase trust in the police.

The report suggested a number of ways progress could be made to bring the crime numbers down but in conclusion it noted many governments were financially constrained.

“The size of the violence problem in the Caribbean merits an equally robust response, and from other sectors beyond criminal justice alone. These measures require financial and political support in the face of restricted budgets,” said the report.

“However, in many cases we do not clearly understand how existing budgets actually contribute to violence reduction. By focusing on select evidence-based, targeted, and evaluated initiatives, governments can more easily determine what is working and where scarce resources should continue to be allocated.

“Although the challenge is great, the Caribbean can restore paradise by combatting violence intelligently and strategically.”

## YOUTH VIOLENCE

VICTIMISATION data show that youth (ages 18–24) and young adults (ages 25–30) are overrepresented among victims and those arrested and imprisoned for crime, when compared with their proportion of the population.

Adolescents under 18 years old are a small percentage of victims and perpetrators of serious violent crimes (i.e., homicide); however, early problem behaviours are often linked to later perpetration of violence and offending. The prevalence of five problem behaviours—early sexual intercourse, drinking, drug use, fighting, and getting in trouble after drinking—among adolescents ages 13–17 were found to be generally higher in Caribbean countries than in Latin American countries.

Engaged parenting appears to be one of the most important and significant protective factors for both reducing early problem behaviours and victimization from bullying.

## GANGS

Even though their prevalence and power vary by country, gangs are responsible for much of the crime and violence in the Caribbean.

Gang presence was highest in the capital metro areas of the countries with the highest rates of violent crime (homicide and assault and threat): Port of Spain (49 percent), New Providence (39 percent), and Kingston (32 percent).

Among respondents with gangs in their neighbourhood, more than half said that gangs interfere with everyday activities. Victims of crime were about 1.6 times as likely to report a gang presence in their neighbourhood (42 percent) compared with nonvictims (26 percent).

Gang neighbourhoods are also associated with statistically lower levels of social cohesion (trust among neighbours) and higher levels of physical disorder.

# MAN CRIES IN COURT AS HE IS JAILED FOR TWO YEARS

By **NICO SCAVELLA**  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
nscavella@tribunemedia.net

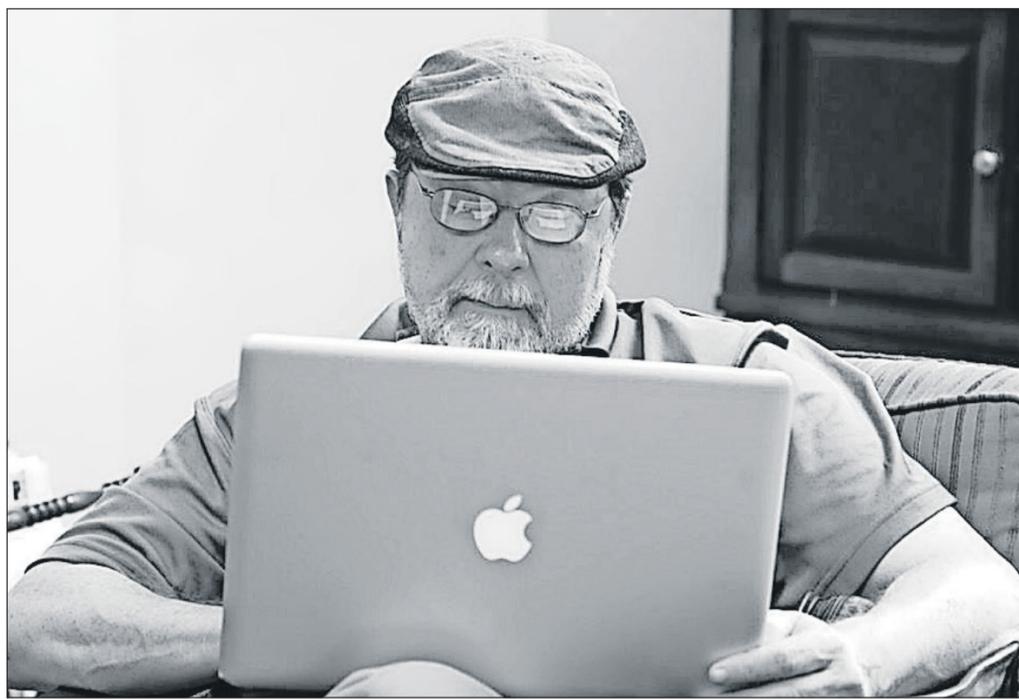
A 23-YEAR-OLD man broke down and cried in a Magistrate's Court just moments before being sentenced to two years at the Bahamas Department of Correctional Services in connection with nearly a dozen charges ranging from threats of death to assaulting a police officer.

The tearful display came after Gabriel St Remy, of Butler's Way, was questioned by Magistrate Sub-sola Swain about accusations that he stole \$3,375 worth of items – ranging from a refrigerator to a broom — after breaking into a woman's Marshall Road home on August 11.

St Remy, who had pleaded guilty to all nine charges, tearfully told the judge he was homeless and had nowhere to stay. St Remy also said he did what he did primarily to secure school items for his daughter, who is preparing to start her education at primary school.

However, Magistrate Swain sentenced him to two years each for the one count of housebreaking and one count of stealing. The sentences are to run concurrently. However, she disregarded the tenth count of receiving.

St Remy was also arraigned on two counts of threats of death, one count of assaulting a police officer, one count of resisting arrest, one count of disorderly conduct in a police station, and one count of disorderly behaviour. St Remy was sentenced to three months each for the two counts of threats of death, one count of assaulting a police officer and one count of resisting arrest, and 30 days each for disorderly conduct in a police station, disorderly behaviour, and obscene language. Those sentences are to run concurrently with his original two-year sentence.



LARRY SMITH, who has died, aged 67.

# TRIBUNE WRITER LARRY SMITH DIES, AGED 67

LARRY Smith, 67, well-known columnist, died suddenly at his High Vista home on Sunday of complications from heart failure.

From 2004, he wrote the weekly column, "Tough Call," in *The Tribune*.

Larry Andrew Smith was born in Nassau in 1950 to Roy and Barbara Smith. He attended Queen's College before attending the University of Miami on a government scholarship to study political science and journalism. He worked for the Bahamas News Bureau before starting Media Enterprises in 1984.

He was married to Joanne Smith, daughter of Mr Justice van Sertima, and they have two daughters, Aliya Carey and Casey Smith.

Funeral services will be announced later.

# POWERSECURE CHOOSES INTERIM BPL CHIEF

By **NICOSCAVELLA**  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
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POWERSECURE has selected subcontractor Mike Harreld to assume the role of interim CEO of Bahamas Power & Light (BPL) effective today, as the company's board prepares to implement systems to "track and eliminate fraud and financial abuses."

BPL's board, in a statement obtained by The Tribune, also announced that it is in the "final stages" of "separating from the company, the last of the employees" identified in the forensic audit report into the multi-million theft scheme at BPL.

However, the board said it is not at liberty to release the report as the matter is still under police investigation.

The board's announcement comes just days after former BPL CEO Pamela Hill was terminated. Mrs Hill's termination came less than a week after the

company fired three junior employees in connection with the more than \$2m fraud scheme uncovered earlier this year.

The five-month long scheme involved approximately 44 cheques paid out to 16 vendors from December 16, 2016 to May 9, and prompted a wide-ranging audit by Ernst and Young of the electricity provider.

The board's statement, however, stressed yesterday that Mrs Hill's termination was "in the best interest of BPL," and not a "consequence of the ongoing fraud investigations in BPL."

The statement also said company is prepared to leverage its leadership and current business assets and platforms to execute what it sees as "enormous growth opportunities" on which BPL can "capitalise."

It added BPL "can and will return to a path of robust growth, renewed financial strength and an innovation leader in the industry," and that the board is "committed to exploring and evaluating possibilities

and opportunities that will put BPL on a trajectory for revitalisation and deliver value to shareholders."

The statement further said the board is "resolved" to pursue a "steady course of action towards the attainment of all of the company's human and capital resources functioning at optimal levels of efficiency and capability."

That plan, the board said, includes the implementation of systems to "track and eliminate fraud and financial abuses;" the engagement of local professionals and talents to help enhance BPL's management and core staff units; treating "with respect" both the Bahamas Electrical Workers Union (BEWU) and the Bahamas Electrical Managers Union (BEMU) as well as the executive team, and ensuring BPL's customers "receive top quality of service at a reasonable rate."

"Once these objectives can be achieved the company will emerge as a more productive, efficient and

profitable exercise," the statement added.

"Enormous growth opportunities exist on which BPL can capitalise," the board's statement continued. "We fully intend to leverage the company's leadership and current business assets and platforms to execute against these opportunities. We have the support of our talented teams and tremendous resources.

"This company can and shall return to a path of robust growth, renewed financial strength and an innovation leader in the industry. This board is committed to exploring and evaluating possibilities and opportunities that will put BPL on a trajectory for revitalisation and deliver value to shareholders.

"The board has addressed various performance issues with PowerSecure, and is anticipating that these are rectified in a specified timeframe.

"Our success depends on all stakeholders uniting behind our common goal of 'building for better'

and it will call for mutual respect, patience, trust and a unified approach. It is our duty to serve at the highest levels to ensure that 'our better becomes best.'"

Mrs Hill was named CEO in May 2016. She replaced Jeff Wallace, who resigned citing "personal reasons" weeks after the government finalised its deal with BPL's management company PowerSecure.

PowerSecure's five-year management services agreement (MSA), reportedly worth as much as \$25m, was promoted by the former Christie administration as being the answer to sub-par electricity service and high electricity bills.

In a surprising move last week, however, BPL's board instructed its legal counsel to demand reimbursement from PowerSecure of all funds gone missing due to the vendor fraud scheme. Additionally, the board called on PowerSecure to "cure all deficiencies and/or breaches" set out under the MSA within 30 days.

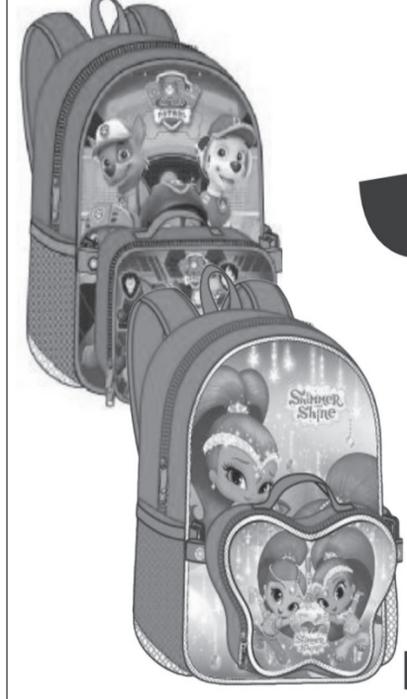


# JOHN'S

## Back-To-School Headquarters

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# 'Fruitful' talks on future of Grand Lucayan Resort

By DENISE MAYCOCK  
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DURING his first day in office in Grand Bahama, Prime Minister Dr Hubert Minnis engaged in "fruitful talks" with representatives from Hutchison Whampoa regarding the Grand Lucayan Resort, which has been closed for nearly a year.

However, he would not reveal any details discussed or progress reached during his meeting with them at the Office of the Prime Minister on Friday.

He said: "We continue meaningful discussions towards the forward movement of the Lucayan hotel strip.

"I don't want to go into specifics to derail or prejudice the investment moving forward, but we would continue discussions, and we will continue to work as much as is necessary to try and bring back the Lucayan strip.

"There are too many people here in Grand Bahama suffering, and this has happened not as a result of the recession, but Grand Bahama has been in pain even before the recession."

A deal for the sale of the hotel property in Lucaya is critical to the survival of Grand Bahama's economy, which has been struggling since last October when the three-resort hotel property closed following significant hurricane damage.

On Thursday, The Nassau Guardian reported that Paul Wynn, CEO of the Wynn Group of Canada, had pulled out of the deal to purchase the Grand Lucayan Resort on the Lucaya Strip, and was seeking to get his refundable deposit back from Hutchison Whampoa, the owners.

In late July, Dr Minnis revealed during a national address the government is negotiating to become temporary joint owners of the Grand Lucayan Resort in a

bid to boost the hotel until it can sell off its equity. At the time, he said "all signs point to the beginning of renovations at the resort" sometime this month, with the facility "ready for business for the winter season."

On Friday, Dr Minnis said he intends to keep his commitment to come to the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) in Grand Bahama once a month to deal with matters. Friday was the first of those visits.

While in office, he reviewed ongoing projects and new initiatives with the team in Grand Bahama, made up of Minister of State in the Office of the Prime Minister Kwasi Thompson, Pakesia Parker Edgecombe, parliamentary secretary for communications in the Office of the Prime Minister, Iram Lewis, parliamentary secretary in the Ministry of Works, and Rev Fredrick McAlpine, chairman of the Hotel Corporation and Senator

Jasmin Darius.

"I am pleased to have spent my first day in office today here in Grand Bahama," he told reporters at a press conference at OPM in the Harold DeGregory Complex in Freeport.

Dr Minnis also met with the principals of Harcourt Development concerning the revitalisation of the former Royal Oasis property, which was acquired by the developers a decade ago.

"I expressed in clear terms that the status quo as it exists today is unacceptable. This office will take an active role in ensuring this property is revitalised," Dr Minnis said Friday.

"I am happy to report that these meetings were very productive and that the government is focused on its commitment to Grand Bahama.

"The economic revitalisation to Grand Bahama is critical to the team and me here in Grand Bahama. All efforts are being made to

ensure Grand Bahama can touch and feel the impact of economic opportunities," Prime Minister Minnis said.

"I am committed to Grand Bahama, and my commitment is evident through this office. I will continue to be in office one day a month to serve this community. I promise that I will be back to experience a 'Taste of Port Lucaya' which I encourage all Grand Bahamians to support," he said.

The initiative was launched early this month to help boost and spur economic activity at the Port Lucaya Marketplace, which has suffered tremendously following the closure of the three-hotel strip.

Dr Minnis also gave an update on the hurricane relief programme on Grand Bahama.

"I have instructed officials to review the programme with a view to bringing assistance to the

people of Grand Bahama in a more expeditious manner," he said.

"The programme may be of a voucher system; one exists today, but there can be an advancement on it," he explained.

"But I want Grand Bahama to know; it is impossible for the government to rebuild every home in Grand Bahama. It is impossible for this government or any government after the hurricane to rebuild every home in Grand Bahama or any island in the Bahamas. However, it is government's responsibility to improve the quality of life of every citizen and to give them all fair opportunity.

"We have limited revenue. If I was to spend \$150,000 in every home, what will happen is that many in Grand Bahama will be left out or marginalised, but I can improve the quality of life for all, and that's what we will concentrate on," he said.



PRIME Minister Dr Hubert Minnis speaking at a press conference in Grand Bahama.

Photo: Vandyke Hepburn/Tribune Staff

## ENTREPRENEUR PROGRAMME TO BE LAUNCHED

By DENISE MAYCOCK  
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PRIME Minister Dr Hubert Minnis said that the Office of the Prime Minister would soon launch an apiary entrepreneur programme, and put at least 20 persons in business on Grand Bahama.

An apiary is a place where bees are kept.

Dr Minnis was in Freeport on Friday. It was his first day in office at the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) in Grand Bahama. He said the first mandate of the office is the economic revitalisation of Grand Bahama.

He noted that the Office of the Prime Minister is actively engaged in the establishment of a Grand Bahama Investment Unit, a

one stop shop for investors to improve the ease of doing business.

"Ultimately, this unit will be the place for Grand Bahama's specific application processing. This will mean a faster turnaround in investment applications, thus putting persons to work sooner," he said.

The prime minister also discussed the establishment of the Grand Ba-

hama Promotions Board to drive Foreign Direct Investments to Grand Bahama, creating greater opportunities.

He noted that that the OPM will soon host the Grand Bahama Tech Summit with leading local and international technology companies to expose entrepreneurs to the global market.

"Grand Bahama will be

on the way to becoming a tech hub of the Bahamas," he added.

The prime minister said the tech sector has a great opportunity for advancement and offers high-end salaries.

When asked about investments outside of Freeport, Dr Minnis indicated that his government is in discussions with a particular investment group concerning

West End.

"We made a commitment not to talk about the project as it is an ongoing process, but as we continue to advance I am sure you will hear more about it," he said.

"With respect to the entire Grand Bahama, we will utilise all its resources available, and that is with respect to eco-tourism, we (will) push that further."

## MORTIMER LAMENTS THE LACK OF 'HOPE OR HELP'

DESPITE the Free National Movement's landslide victory and its five seats in Parliament for Grand Bahama, there is "still no hope or help" for the devastated island, said Democratic National Alliance Deputy Leader Chris Mortimer.

Mr Mortimer also said withdrawal of the Wynn group from negotiations on the sale of the Grand Lu-

cayan Resort in Grand Bahama and the government's relative silence on the matter beg many questions.

Mr Mortimer said the Minnis administration, which ran on a promise of transparency in governance, missed an opportunity last week to openly and honestly discuss the matter.

"The withdrawal of the Wynn group from the ongoing talks is telling in many

ways and raises some very important questions, including one obvious one: Why would the front runner for the purchase suddenly abandon the negotiations in which it has invested so much time and money into over the past many months?"

"Equally troubling has been the government's response. When speculation about the viability of the talks broke last week,

the Minnis administration, whose entire campaign was run on transparency, missed an opportunity to frankly and honestly address the situation. "Instead, they attempted to deflect from the ensuing complications by promising an announcement soon," Mr Mortimer noted in a statement released Sunday.

"These empty, open-ended promises harken back to the previous administration

that while promising help and hope did nothing but ignore Grand Bahama and its residents.

"During the last electoral cycle, Grand Bahama showed overwhelming support for the Free National Movement sending all five of its nominated candidates to Parliament. It is the responsibility of these five individuals to do everything in their power to protect

the interests of the men and women who voted for them.

"Now, more than ever, Grand Bahamians deserves honest, transparent communication. They deserve a road map detailing the government's plans to rescue Grand Bahama from the precipice of economic decline. They deserve real help and hope and not just more empty promises," Mr Mortimer said.

# The little kitchen that could

By DIANE PHILLIPS

IN a world of fast-paced, high tech talk and expectations, a ritual plays out every week in a modest house in an even more modest neighbourhood that reminds us of what humanity is all about.

The building where it takes place is called Mosseff House. Donated by the Davis family who never forgot their humble beginnings in the Fox Hill community, the little yellow structure next to the Fox Hill Police Station comes alive every Thursday and Sunday preparing food for the hungry.

Volunteers clean, chop, marinate and cook over 500 pounds of chicken a week. They grate cabbage for coleslaw, stir massive pots of peas 'n rice, wash and tear enough lettuce to lay out a regulation football field.

And every movement, every stirring with a super-sized spoon or plating and packaging in individual containers is accompanied by a smile and inspired by compassion.

"Hunger is a horrible thing to endure, but together we can wipe it out," said Philip Smith, who has been feeding the hungry for more than a decade, these days as executive director of the Bahamas Feeding Network. "What we see out there breaks your heart. Some of the people in the community who come to collect their meal may not eat another hot meal until the



**BAHAMAS** Feeding Network board members such as Robin Symonette, centre, work alongside mother and daughter volunteers Alicia Pugh and Lisa Pugh to help plate and package up to 1500 meals every Sunday at Mosseff House, Fox Hill Road.

next time they come to the door which could be three or four days away. We are a rich nation and yet there are people hunting for scraps in dumpsters."

Founded in 2013, the Bahamas Feeding Network is the brainchild of its patron Frank Crothers, ambassador of the order of Rhodes & Malta. Since its launch, the network has provided

hundreds of thousands of dollars in food coupons and supplies to help ease the pain of hunger. It has donated food or cooked meals for over 120 soup kitchens, churches with feeding programmes, children's homes and senior centres throughout the Bahamas. Its vans crisscross the island meeting up with church or feeding centre representatives or feeding centres, its packages are routinely shipped to Family Islands.

The Feeding Network's board of directors reads like a who's who of the Bahamas - Felix Stubbs, chairman, Bamboo Shack and Sapodilla entrepreneur Elaine Pinder, financial services executives Shayne Davis and Patricia Hermanns, Osprey Development and Gunitie Pools chairman Peter Whitehead, tireless community service worker Robin Symon-

ette, McKinney, Bancroft & Hughes Partner Sean Moree, Pastor Timothy Stewart.

Nearly every major food retailer or wholesaler has gifted food or sold it at reduced prices for the cause.

Their donations are essential, said Mr Smith. "We could not do it without our sponsors."

But all the supplies, the 40-lb bags of chickens, the 50-lb sacks of rice, the hundredfold high stacks of Styrofoam containers would be inanimate promises of hope without the hands and hearts of volunteers like Skully and Solomon.

"Their dedication is unbelievable," said Mr Crothers. "I don't know how they do what they do and do it with such love."

Skully, short for Recina Ferguson, hauls hundreds of pounds of chicken. It may be 1am Saturday morning

when she unlocks the door at Mosseff House to begin prepping for Sunday. While others are sound asleep, she is cleaning, chopping, seasoning. A retired teacher and tutor, she's been known to work 18 hours straight. And never a penny's pay.

"This is my heart," she said. On Sunday, her male counterpart, Solomon, a tall, wiry and fit man, hoists a huge steaming tub of peas 'n rice, running with the burning hot pan to replace the one that volunteers like Wendy Deveaux have just finished dishing out.

With as many as 30 volunteers, often buoyed by organisations like Rotary, Kiwanis and Rotaract that swell the numbers even higher, the cooking and preparation of containers can take as little as five hours or as much as nine. A week ago, people from the

Fox Hill community collected 300 meals before the distribution with vans even began or church and feeding centre representatives showed up to collect the distribution trays.

"These meals are going to help people who largely fall below the poverty level which the government pegs at \$11.74 a day. And the government's own statistics show that one in every seven to eight people falls into that category. When we cook, plate, package and donate meals to the hungry, everything is carefully accounted for but what we can never measure is the love that goes into each one," said Mr Smith. "You have to be there, to hear the singing, watch the camaraderie and feel the spirit. Then you will understand."

A small house with a very large mission.



**GOVERNMENT** statistics put the level of hunger in The Bahamas at one in every 7-8 people of just over 12% of the population.

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# RISE scheme under review

By **AVA TURNQUEST**  
Tribune Chief Reporter  
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THE Ministry of Social Services and Urban Development's RISE programme reportedly suffered "substantial challenges" and is under review to determine whether the pilot project will be adopted, according to Press Secretary Anthony Newbold.

Mr Newbold, in a statement on Friday, said the natural conclusion explained that those challenges negatively affected the project unit's ability to meet targeted goals. However, he noted successful elements such as the production of a data management system to document and monitor client benefits, and the integration of a pre-paid automated card system.

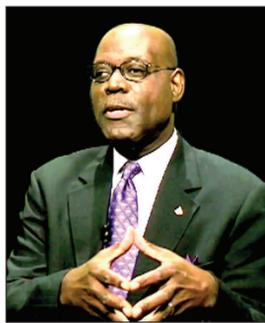
The project was facilitated by a five-year loan contract with the Inter-American Development Bank, and its conclusion is not expected to hinder or interrupt the delivery or quality of services, he said.

Mr Newbold was responding to questions sent by *The Tribune* to Social Services Minister Lanisha Rolle, who has repeatedly declined press inquiries.

"The general aims of the pilot were to test the following initiatives," the statement read, "programmes designed to provide support to households in need; approaches indicative of institutional strengthening; and a software system designed to monitor and evaluate services delivered to clients."

"The programme has reached its natural conclusion, and the ministry is at the stage of final assessment of the pilot as per the contract. To this end, the IDB has communicated its assessment and the government of The Bahamas intends to review the contents of its report."

It continued: "Though a well-intentioned initiative, it would appear, how-



**ANTHONY NEWBOLD**

ever, that the project suffered substantial challenges that negatively impacted the unit's ability to meet its targeted goals.

"Notwithstanding the challenges, to date, however, the pilot has produced a data management system to document and monitor client benefits in addition to the integration of a pre-paid automated card system which allowed for greater efficiency and an enhanced quality of service."

The contract period was from August 2012 to August 2017; however, *The Tribune* was told that the project has been suspended for at least two months.

It was managed as a joint effort between the IDB and the ministry, with the latter serving as the executing agency.

The press statement read: "At this juncture, the government of The Bahamas will have to consider the final reports of the IDB and the existing project team with a view to assessing the programme's overall performance and to make its determination as to whether or not it is feasible to extend the Pilot or adopt and integrate any portion/s of the programme for the benefit of Social Services existing and potential clients."

It added: "In due course, the ministry will promptly inform the public of the government's final decision in relation to the RISE Programme which will be made in the best interest of the Bahamian people."

## FOREIGN MINISTRY MOVES HAITIAN VISA SERVICE

By **RICARDO WELLS**  
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THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs has announced the establishment of "temporary measures" regarding the visa process at its embassy in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, due to "technical constraints".

"While the temporary measure may initially result in minor delays," noted a ministry statement released on Friday, "the ministry wishes to assure the public that every effort will be made to process applications in a timely manner."

"All other functions of the embassy will continue uninterrupted," it continued.

"The ministry will advise the public in due course when the embassy resumes its normal visa issuing function. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs apologises for any inconvenience caused."

When contacted by *The Tribune* for clarification, Foreign Affairs Minister Darren Henfield insisted the Bahamian government has been steadfast in its attempts to resolve this matter, adding that persons in Port-au-Prince needing a visa can still "go through the process".

aren't ending the service there. We have simply repatriated the service to New Providence, adding, at most, two to three days to the process.

"The system itself hasn't changed, you go into our office there, submit your application; once that is done, we will review at our offices here, make a ruling, and forward that information back to our offices there," he added.

In 2014, concerns were raised over a possible visa scam in Haiti after online reports alleged that the Bahamian Embassy in Port-au-Prince issued thousands of fraudulent Bahamian entry visas to Haitians.

The report further alleged that the scam had been operational over a six-month period, with some entry visas having been sold to persons in Haiti for as much as \$1,000.

In December 2014, then Foreign Affairs and Immigration Minister Fred Mitchell confirmed all visas issued over a three-month period prior to the matter going public were cancelled by the Bahamas government.

Mr Mitchell, at the time, said the matter was still under investigation by the Royal Bahamas Police Force.



**ASSISTANT** Commissioner of Police Clayton Fernander.

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

## MURDER CASE SUSPECT FOUND IN HAITI

By **NICO SCAVELLA**  
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A MAN who police wanted to question in connection with a murder that took place at a bar on Quintine Alley and Wulff Road earlier this year was found by Haitian authorities in that country after he skipped town, senior police officials confirmed yesterday.

Assistant Commissioner of Police Clayton Fernander confirmed that the suspect was found in Haiti by Haitian law enforcement officials about two weeks ago.

ACP Fernander told *The Tribune* that the Royal Bahamas Police Force (RBPF) is currently "doing the necessary paperwork" to have the suspect returned to the Bahamas to be questioned

by local police.

"It is confirmed and we are just doing the necessary paperwork to get him back here," ACP Fernander told *The Tribune*.

An all-points bulletin was previously put out by the RBPF for the suspect following a shooting incident that left a man dead and another detained in hospital on March 25.

According to reports,

shortly after 1.30am on the day in question, two men were at a club located on Quintine Alley and Wulff Road when they were shot. The two men were taken to hospital where one of them later died. The other man was said to be in stable condition. The victim, said to be 32-year-old John Hutchenson, was reportedly killed just two days before his birthday.



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# Back to school safety advice

## Police advice

By SERGEANT 3150 NATHALIE RANGER



**C**HILDREN are on their way back to school so let us make back to school safety a top priority.

Every day thousands of children take to the streets to get to and from school. Many children may not understand or be able to use safety rules. Children do not have the same frame of reference for safety as adults. They may not “look before they leap,” which is why it is so important for families to supervise children and practice safety skills with their children to make certain they really know and understand. The tips noted below will help prepare for a safer school year.

### Drivers

- Be alert, slow down and avoid any distractions inside your car so you can concentrate on the road and your surroundings.
- Do not talk or text while driving.
- Make sure everyone in the car buckles his or her seatbelt. Not only will it keep you safe, it is also the law.
- Exercise extra caution as you head out to work and be on the lookout for school children.
- Pay special attention to the speed limit in school zones. Familiarise yourself with traffic laws.
- Do not park on sidewalks and obstruct visibility for both pedestrians and motorists.
- Do not drink and drive.

### When driving in the rain

- Slow down, take your time, turn your lights on and give other vehicles space.
- Driving in conditions that involve strong or heavy wind and rain may not seem like the most pressing safety concern for many drivers, but know that driving in any type of severe weather can significantly increase your risk for a dangerous situation for you, your family and other drivers. Remember that severe weather demands your undivided attention, so be sure to reduce any possible distractions by turning the radio down or turning off your phone to keep your attention fully on the road.

### Tips for parents and guardians

- Instruct your children to, always stay in well-lit areas, never take shortcuts, and never go into isolated areas.
- Teach them to stay aware of their surroundings and observe all traffic rules in place to more safely share the roads and sidewalks with others.
- If anyone bothers your children or makes them feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused, while going to or from school, teach your children to trust their feelings, immediately get away from that person, and tell you or another trusted adult.
- If an adult approaches your children for help or directions, remember grown-ups needing help should not ask children; they should ask other adults.
- Instruct your children to never accept money or



gifts from anyone unless you have told them it is OK to accept in each instance.

- Always provide supervision for your young children to help ensure their safe arrival to and from school.
- Show your children which way to walk to and from school.
- Teach your children about the tricks someone may try to use to confuse them or engage them in conversation.
- Ensure current and accurate emergency contact information is on file for your children at their school.
- If you, or another trusted family member or friend, need to pick up your children, make sure to follow the school's departure procedures. These procedures need to include the school's confirmation of your children's departure with only those you authorize to pick them up.
- Teach your children if anyone tries to take them somewhere they should quickly get away and yell, “This person is trying to

take me away” or “This person is not my father/mother/guardian.”

- Teach your children if anyone follows them on foot to get away from that person as quickly as possible. If anyone follows them in a vehicle they should turn around, go in the other direction, and try to quickly get to a spot where a trusted adult may help them. Advise them to be sure to tell you or another trusted adult what happened.
- Instruct your children to tell a trusted adult if they notice anyone they do not know or feel comfortable with hanging around them.
- In the event your children may be lost or injured, make sure they carry a contact card with your name and telephone numbers such as work and cellular. This card should be hidden from plain view.
- Talk to your children about the kind of friends they keep. Teach them how to deal with conflicts if faced with them.
- Attend (PTA) meetings. Get to know all of your children's teachers.

your parents have told you it is OK to do so in each instance.

- Quickly get away and yell, “THIS PERSON IS NOT MY MOTHER/FATHER/GUARDIAN” if anyone tries to take you somewhere or is following you. If anyone tries to grab you, make a scene and every effort to get away by kicking, screaming, and resisting.
- Never leave school grounds before the regular school day ends. Always check with the office before leaving school early.
- Never take shortcuts or walk through alleys to get to or from school faster.
- Let your parents know about activities you participate in that may cause you to leave earlier or arrive home later.
- Remember to call your parents once you arrive home.

While at school most teachers have their own rules for what goes on in their classroom but here are a few other things you should remember when you are in class:

- If another student, even a friend asks you to do something you do not want to do, do not do it.
- If you get into an argument, talk it out, fighting will hurt you and probably get you in trouble. It may even give you a reputation as a bully.
- If anything bothers you or makes you feel weird, like a fight with a friend, a run-in with a bully, or anything, talk to an adult you trust.
- Do not carry a gun, a knife, illegal drugs or any weapon to school. Possession of these items will lead to arrest and criminal charges.

### Tips for teachers

- Greet your students as they enter your classroom. Introduce yourself and make it a point to create small talk with your students over the first few weeks. This establishes trust and students often go the extra mile for teachers they trust.
- Establish and review classroom routines. Take some time to reflect on the

previous school year and any changes that may need to take place within your classroom. Reflect on what worked and what did not, as well as why it did or did not work. You do not have to revamp it all, just polish it every year. Then model your expectations, starting on the first day. Students crave structure whether they will admit it or not!

• Focus on ways to create a safe environment for your students. This can be done through morning meetings where teachers and students greet each other and take time to share their thoughts as well as review a run-down of the day's events. Create activities that promote students to take risks, and have a safe place for them to fall. After all, we often learn more from our mistakes than we do from our successes.

• Use colleagues as a sounding board to get advice. Professional support is an important part of the learning process that will ensure success. Remember to use your planning time to complete your to-do list.

• If you notice any of your students return to school with a different behaviour and it seems as if something is going on with them. Do not ignore the signs. Talk with that student and get help immediately.

### To all citizens and residents

Let us all do our part in making this a safer school year. If you see a child in danger or away from school during school hours and you feel that something is not right. Contact the relevant authorities right away. “It takes a village to raise a child”, meaning it takes an entire community to raise a child. A child has the best ability to become a healthy adult if the entire community takes an active role in contributing to the rearing of the child.

• For more information, contact the National Crime Prevention Office on 302 8430, 3028431, 3028154 or visit our website [www.royalbahamaspolice.org](http://www.royalbahamaspolice.org).

## JOB OPENING

### Sales Training Manager

Bahamas Food Services, a wholesale food distribution company located on Gladstone Road, seeks a full-time associate to fill the position of Sales Training Manager at our sister location in San José, Costa Rica. Candidates for this role must be willing and able to relocate to, and work in San José, Costa Rica. Candidates must be fluent in both the English and Spanish languages, carry a valid passport and successfully meet all immigration requirements.



### JOB SUMMARY

This position is responsible for the development, coordination and facilitation of current and future sales-related training, development programs, and initiatives in support of Sysco's International Americas division including: Mayca (Costa Rica), Sysco Panama, Pacific Star (Mexico), International Food Group (Florida), Sysco Panama, and Bahamas Food Services.

The Sales Training Manager will report directly to the *Director of Commercial Integration—International Americas* and work closely in strategic alignment with the Operating Company VPs of Sales. In addition, cross-functional alignment with Sysco's Corporate Learning and Development Team will ensure personal development opportunities and improve the messaging and execution of centre-led training targeted to optimise sales leadership and sales performance results.

### RESPONSIBILITIES

Develop partnerships with local Operating Company leadership, translate insight from inclusion with management into training action plans with measurable outcomes bi annually.

Develop original training curricula or customise existing curriculum generated in the U.S. or Canada to fill the training needs. Training to be developed and delivered in Spanish and/or English.

Develop and facilitate a new sales hire training program tailored to each Operating company and working with the VP of Sales to develop an annual schedule.

Remain engaged with trainee's progress as they advance from training into territory.

Work with the VP of Sales and District Managers to communicate on acceptable progress through trainees first year of tenure.

Act as a trusted resource to the districts for continued skill development.

Develop individual results through planning, communicating, facilitating and following up on all scheduled training.

### QUALIFICATIONS

A minimum of 50% travel may be required in this role.



The ideal candidate will have:

- Bachelor's degree (4 year)
- Fluent and literate in English and Spanish
- 3+ years of experience in sales or training role or equivalent experience
- 3+ years of experience working in a similar project, results-driven or field engagement type role is strongly preferred
- Proven experience in content development, instructional design, and learning facilitation

Interested applicants must submit their resumes via email to [sbain@bahamafood.com](mailto:sbain@bahamafood.com) or deliver by hand on or before 15th September 2017 to:

THE DIRECTOR  
Human Resources Department, Bahamas Food Services

~ Only short listed candidates will be contacted ~

**Bahamas Food Services**  
a Sysco company

### Back to school safety tips for children

- If walking to school, use sidewalks where available. In areas where there are no sidewalks, walk along the side of the road facing traffic.
- Avoid using headphones or other electronic devices that will distract you from traffic.
- While at your bus stop: do not run into traffic.
- Arrive to your bus stop early.
- Never walk behind the bus.
- Make sure you know which bus to catch.
- Make sure the bus comes to a complete stop before trying to enter or exit the bus.
- When crossing the street observe traffic, watch for the signal from drivers to cross..
- Say no if anyone you do not know or a person who makes you feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused offers a ride. Do not accept a ride from anyone unless



### Operations Associate/ Senior Analyst - Bahamas

The Bahamas Country Office of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), wishes to contract the services a Resource Planning & Administration Assistant. The IDB is a regional multilateral development bank seeking to contribute to the social and economic development of 26 member countries in Latin America and the Caribbean through lending and non-reimbursable grants.

The Operations Associate/Senior Analyst reports to the Chief of Operations, works closely with Sector and Fiduciary Specialists in the design and execution of the Bank's operation, and supports the Country Office in discharging its main responsibilities. These are: a) work closely with public and private sector institutions, as well as with civil society and academia, to identify country development needs; b) develop, implement, and monitor the Bank's Country Strategy; and c) oversee the delivery of country and regional, public and private, operational programs.

### Qualifications

**Education:** Master's degree in Business Administration, Economics, Finance, Engineering or similar studies is required. A Bachelor's degree is required, a Master's preferred. Certification in Project Management would be an asset. Familiarity with IDB operations and activities in Bahamas, Suriname, or Jamaica would also be an asset.

**Experience:** At least two years of relevant professional experience, preferably in administration of projects financed by multilateral development institutions or other external donors. Knowledge of national procurement policies, norms or practices and experience in writing reports is a plus.

**Language:** English as native language or with excellent working knowledge is required. Excellent written and oral communication skills, as well as knowledge of a second Bank language (Spanish, French, or Portuguese) is highly recommended. Language skills will be tested

All candidates must be citizens of The Bahamas or of an IDB member country in possession of a valid work permit providing eligibility to work in The Bahamas.

For more information about this position and to apply, please refer to the following link before September 11, 2017:

<https://iadbcareers.taleo.net/careersection/external/jobdetail.ftl?job=170000675&lang=en>