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WOMAN: HOW TO COPE WITH 'HIM' DURING THE NFL SEASON

Killed doing homework

CHRISTIE 'AMAZED' BY DEBT

By **KHRISNA RUSSELL**
Deputy Chief Reporter
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FORMER Prime Minister Perry Christie was "absolutely amazed" to learn he owed the Water and Sewerage Corporation more than \$23,000, telling *The Tribune* yesterday he was never informed of such arrears and wondered how it was possible to accumulate this debt.

While he questioned the legitimacy of the claim – which he said he only found out about through *The Tribune's* reporting – Mr Christie said he "could pay it" if it is found he owes the money.

Meanwhile, WSC has expressed disappointment that details about the "alleged outstanding bills of its customers" were published in *The Tribune*, adding those found responsible for the "illegal" leak of customers' private information will be dealt with "severely" once found.

SEE PAGE SIX

- Boy, 8, dies as bullet tears into home
- Man fleeing gunman also shot dead

By **RASHAD ROLLE**
Tribune Staff Reporter
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AN eight-year-old boy, believed to be doing his homework, died in hospital after a stray bullet ripped through his wooden home in Chippingham, Senior Assistant Police Commissioner Stephen Dean said.

A man, the intended victim believed to be in his twenties, also died in hospital after the double shooting.

The brazen daytime attack in the densely populated area came after the shooter chased his intended target, running between houses in the Rosebud Street area as he fired several shots, one of which penetrated a wooden structure and its sheetrock,

striking the child. Both victims were rushed to the Princess Margaret Hospital in critical condition where they died shortly after 6pm.

Their deaths mean the country has recorded 105 murders so far this year. The boy's family was so distraught that Snr ACP Dean said it was too early to say how many children were in the vicinity of the shooting.

However, he said people saw a silver coloured van speeding away after the crime. "We noticed this is a densely populated area," he said, adding police believe someone "knows who the shooters are".

SEE PAGE THREE



DENNIS MOSS, who was pursued by a gunman and shot dead.



EUGENE WOODSIDE, who was shot dead as he did his homework.

DOMINICA AID PLAN 'NEEDS URGENT DETAIL'

By **SANCHESKA DORSETT**
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BAHAMAS Christian Council President Bishop Delton Fernander said Monday he "fully supports" the Minnis' administration plans to accommodate students from Dominica displaced by Hurricane Maria, but said the "details of how it will be done" are "very crucial".

In an interview with *The Tribune*, Bishop Fernander also said he hopes the people in Ragged Island and

Acklins, whose communities were devastated by Hurricane Irma, are "afforded the same opportunities" as the Dominican students.

The Minnis administration has already said students from Ragged Island will be accommodated in schools in New Providence and Exuma since the community's only school was destroyed.

In a press briefing following the departure of Dominica's Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit from Jet Aviation on Sunday, Dr

Minnis declared that whatever needs to be done will be done as quickly as possible to accommodate as many of the country's students displaced by the storm here in The Bahamas in both the public and private school systems.

Hurricane Maria, which made landfall in Dominica on September 18 as a massive category five storm, ripped through that island nation completely destroying communications, infrastructure and critical facilities.

SEE PAGE FIVE

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NEMA organised flights yesterday with Bahamasair and Flamingo Air returning Acklins residents home after their evacuation to Nassau because of Hurricane Irma. A youngster from the Williams family is pictured heading to the plane.



TIME TO GO HOME

FROM left, Jamori Emmanuel, Teneal Emmanuel and Jermaine Emmanuel pictured as Acklins residents packed up to return home after being evacuated because of Hurricane Irma.

Photos: Shawn Hanna/Tribune Staff

By RICARDO WELLS
Tribune Staff Reporter
rwells@tribunemedia.net

MORE than a week after refusing to return home to begin clean-up efforts, those remaining Acklins evacuees still in the Nassau were sent back following a tense ten-day period at the Sir Kendal Isaacs Gym.

Most visibly frustrated, 84 of the 92 remaining evacuees boarded flights to an island many referred to as problematic.

"I going home, no place better than home," one evacuee told *The Tribune* when asked for comment about finally returning to Acklins following the passage of Hurricane Irma more than two weeks ago.

The evacuee, who did not want to be named, added: "They made us look like the problem, home never did me nothing wrong. I going home."

He was referring to circumstances that led to many of the evacuees being relocated from the New Providence Community Centre (NPCC) to the gym earlier this month.

The NPCC had initially committed itself to acting as a shelter for residents for a specified period of time. Once that time-frame expired, residents still being housed at the shelter

refused to leave but were later moved to the gym.

Once at the gym, some of the residents took issues with conditions there.

The majority of those still being housed at the shelter were from Salina Point, Acklins.

The ordeal led Jeffery Forbes, one of his island's oldest living residents, to urge evacuees to come home and do their part to clean up the island post hurricane.

However, many of those evacuated shrugged off the comments and maintained that Salina Point was uninhabitable.

On Monday, Island Administrator Chrisfield Johns, present at the airport to see evacuees off, insisted the government, through his office, has done all it could do to "clean up" the island.

Mr Johns, assisted by both the island's chief councillor and deputy chief councillor on Monday, said the only way things could be completely restored would be for residents to return home.

"The focus that the government has given me was to clean up Salina Point, to make that community, to put it back in a state of readiness so when the people returned, at least the children would be safe

in that community," he said. "Today is the day when the remaining settlements are going to be ready to receive them."

Mr Johns said he was aware that some residents were not happy to be returning home so soon, but called it "essential" for them to do so.

He stressed: "I believe that some of them are happy to go back because they realise that in order for them to protect their home, in order to ensure that their yards are cleaned, to make sure that the necessary repairs that are essential to putting their house back in order, they have to be there to oversee that."

Mr Johns later added: "The government is prepared to take whatever action necessary to make them as comfortable as possible with respect to transitioning them to a place where they can have a place to stay, have something to eat, give them all the basic amenities available to them while this transitional phase is taking place."

"I believe many of them want to go back, there may be a few who are resistant to that, but the fact remains that there are a lot of people in Acklins right now who welcome them back and believe that this is where they should be."

Deputy Chief Councillor Marvin Campbell, for his part, insisted the island was in a position to receive returning residents this week.

He said he, along with general workers on the island, have worked tirelessly to ensure that the island was properly cleaned.

"We checked all the graveyard sites, we checked the seashores for fallen debris and stuff like that. We also checked wells and stuff," he said.

Mr Campbell added: "We have gone through 75 per cent, and I am happy that the government is working with us to get it together and hopefully, in a short order, it will be back perfect."



ACKLINS residents preparing to return home after being evacuated to Nassau because of Hurricane Irma.

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THE SCENE in Rosebud Street, Chippingham, where a man and young child were shot yesterday.

KILLED DOING HOMEWORK

from page one

"We have to find these killers," he said.

As they conducted their investigations yesterday, police took a man into custody. Snr ACP Dean suggested the man may not have been involved with the shooting, but "may be able to assist the police."

He was taken from the scene in handcuffs.

A police source said the adult victim is Dennis Moss while the dead child is said to be Eugene Woodside, however these names have not been officially released by police.

Residents in the area said

they called the adult victim "DJ." He was known to clean cars in the area.

"Everybody around here is basically family and friends," a female resident of the area, who wanted to be anonymous, said. "If anything happen, it has to be outsiders (who do it)."

She said she went to school with the adult victim and knew him all her life.

"It's a lot to take in," she said. "Not even friends, but like family, to hear something like that happen and you don't know why?"

She said the elder victim's brother had also been killed in an earlier, but separate incident.

As for the boy and his

family, one woman said they had "just moved into the area."

The boy's death comes more than a month after an eight-month-old boy was killed in his Bain and Grants Town home. His mother and father were also shot during that attack but survived the incident.

As the murder rate for this year continues to outpace last year's rate up to this point by a significant margin, Snr ACP Dean said yesterday's shooting was preceded by a "successful weekend" for police in which they arrested over 50 people.

"Police are all over the streets," he said.



ACP Clayton Fernander points to a bullet hole in the home where a young child was killed after a gunshot passed through the wall and struck him. Photos: **Shawn Hanna/Tribune Staff**

PAY US WHAT WE'RE OWED, AIR TRAFFIC UNION DEMANDS

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

BAHAMAS Air Traffic Controllers Union President Hinsey McKenzie yesterday implored Prime Minister Dr Hubert Minnis to follow through on promises he made while in opposition, and see to it that members of his union are paid what they are owed.

In a press statement on Monday, Mr McKenzie insisted many of the issues that existed under the Christie administration are unresolved, despite Dr Minnis' assurance to have them addressed once coming to office.

Another issue laid out by Mr McKenzie is the government's handling of the transition of air traffic services from the Department of Civil Aviation to the Bahamas Air Navigation Services Division (BANSD).

The union said BATCU officials and members were "completely dissatisfied" by the pace of the move and the lack of clarification surrounding it.

"The transition period will come to an end on Monday, October 2, 2017," the union's statement noted. "However, there are numerous management positions that have not been advertised and controllers have not been given, up to this point, an offer to remain in the authority."

It continued: "Those that have made written request

s to stay in the public service have not received a response or any notification of transfer.

"Nobody knows what is going to happen because nobody is ready as the chairman of the board, Mrs (Wendy) Craig had admitted.

"There seems to be no vision for the future and the same unproductive managers that have kept the Civil Aviation Department stagnant for two decades have been returned to manage BANSD to which ATC has been deployed. The whole process is lacking transparency."

The statement claimed controllers have been left in limbo for nearly a year with little to no information about BANSD, its organizational chart, the process for training to fill pertinent positions, salary and assessment.

BATCU also claimed attempts for meetings with management to commence contract negotiations have been futile.

"It is very interesting that the majority of middle managers have an average of almost 40 years in the service and don't know what the future holds for them as only two positions had been made available for them. Additionally, BANSD has failed to provide training to employees for any of the positions.

"We have controllers that are still waiting for promotions. They have completed the requisite training and

are working diligently and taking on responsibilities for which they are not being paid. Exuma officers who stay behind after their regular shift to accommodate late scheduled and medivac flights from the island have still not been paid their overtime.

"Majority of the approach controllers are eligible for retirement, we are already understaffed by about fifty per cent. Air Traffic Control in the next two years will be in a crisis if the training and the hiring of new employees are not addressed immediately.

"The government is talking about taking over the airspace but they have not hired anyone in the past two years. It is estimated that we would need about 150 more air traffic controllers for this operation. Training

is ridiculous at this time, I do not see how they are going to accomplish training that number of people in the next few years.

"We have security issues that are not being addressed and the balance of the outstanding holiday funds owed to us. These issues need to be settled prior to the end of the transition period."

BATCU also referred to comments made by Dr Minnis in April, a month before the general election, after air traffic controllers engaged in a "sick out" at LPIA.

"Today we were given another instance of failed PLP leadership," Dr Minnis said at the time. "This trend is unacceptable. We've learned that Air Traffic Control has had a work slowdown, forcing 40 planes

to a one hour ground hold. This is a direct result of the PLP government's failure to ensure that government employees are paid what they are owed, when they are owed it. The lack of leadership is highlighted every day.

"To have people working for you and then not to pay them is simply wrong. It follows the PLP's trending neglect and lack of care for the constituents they indebted to help. The members of the government get paid on time. Why do they not treat all Bahamians with the same integrity? Under the leadership of the FNM people will be paid what they are owed. No question asked, it doesn't matter if you are a customs employee, an immigration employee, an air traffic controller or any other

government employee. We will pay for the service provided," Dr Minnis said.

BATCU said it is still waiting on Dr Minnis to "make good on these words".

The April "sick-out" came amid ongoing labour disputes. At the time, Director of Labour Robert Farquharson told Tribune Business that a "lengthy" meeting between union representatives and the Department of Civil Aviation was held to "put to rest" many of the issues.

He said 19 outstanding issues were addressed, and added: "I can tell you that we addressed all of the long-standing issues. I am extremely confident that as a result of the meeting all industrial issues with the airport traffic controllers have been resolved."

COURT CASE CLARIFICATION

THE Tribune would like to clarify the particulars of a news story published on Friday, September 22 under the headline "Man Cleared In Blair Raid Case."

While the jury did in fact acquit Kevin Andrews of all of his charges, namely

murder, attempted armed robbery and burglary, this newspaper has been asked to point out that the acquittal was done on the instructions of the judge after hearing submissions from both the prosecution and lawyers for the accused.



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What US football can teach The Bahamas

ON Sunday, politics dominated the football field in America, displaying a deep divide that is not unlike a quiet storm we are facing in The Bahamas. In the US, what moved from the racially war-torn streets of Detroit onto the manicured fields of professional football had its roots in racism. There is nothing new about racism in football, historically one of the last bastions of white supremacy. The New York Times reminded us Monday that it wasn't until 1970, nearly seven years after the passage of the Civil Rights Act, that Paul "Bear" Bryant signed his first black player to the University of Alabama's Crimson Tide, and then only when he was being sued by civil rights attorneys.

By now, nearly everyone knows what sparked Sunday's overwhelming display. Even those who can't remember how it all started have an opinion. In brief, former San Francisco '49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick knelt during the National Anthem in protest. Black Lives Matter, he said in 2016. Then it was Seattle Seahawks Defensive Line-man Michael Bennett quietly protested after he was singled out by police, handcuffed with a gun pointed at his head as he and others fled what sounded like gunshots at a Las Vegas casino the night of the Mayweather-McGregor fight.

Their protests may have been viewed as singular expressions had it not been for President Divisive Trump calling them names like "sons of bitches", using language that a few years ago even an actor could not say on TV. Trump saw the actions as an affront to the American flag rather than the pleading of humans who had been harmed or who had witnessed police violence using a public platform to urge reform. In the midst of an unrelated speech, the president of the United States shocked the world, ordering NFL owners to "Fire them all". Trump kept up the rant, repeating his demand that NFL owners fire players who were, factually speaking, exercising their Constitutional right to non-violent freedom of speech.

The firestorm that followed united rich white team owners with players and audiences of every hue. In 14 games, post after post, tweet after tweet, the public sided with players. Unity grew as if on steroids. Teams knelt, locked arms and some even stayed in the locker room. Racism exists and who was this president who thought he could tell the NFL to tell their players "You're fired" for expressing their opinion?

What happened on those football fields across America on Sunday is a lesson The Bahamas needs to heed. Refusing to recognise racism in all its ugly forms does not make it vanish. It can only be stifled for so long. One day, the kindling is lit, the spark ignites and the fire spreads.

Here it will be in the distrust of the white man and it could impact local business and any hope of economic revitalisation. Bahamians' mixed feelings about "outsiders" will make economic residence policy a political football when it should be viewed for what it is, an important part of a broader economic growth plan.

Just like Americans once turned their backs on the value of the black man and were shown to be wrong, a largely black

Bahamas fears the white man born elsewhere. Understanding the issue is important.

Today someone seeking expedited consideration of residency in The Bahamas, even without right to work, may do so with a minimum investment of \$500,000. The investment usually takes the form of a purchase of a residence, though other options are permitted. That \$500,000 is comparable or higher than nearly every competitor jurisdiction in the world. In one document we saw, The Bahamas is already more expensive than 17 of 18 desirable countries or jurisdictions.

Yet, unbelievably, the government, or some part of the government, is considering increasing the amount of minimum investment for residency rights, not citizenship, just the right to live and spend money in The Bahamas.

Deputy Prime Minister Peter Turnquest, we suspect, would not want to discourage foreign investment. In fact, he addressed the subject at Eleuthera Business Outlook last week, declaring the need for "strategic" foreign investment. "In order to maintain and sustain living standards at the levels we have become accustomed, we need to not only attract a certain amount of foreign direct investment, we must do so on an annual basis and in competition with the rest of the Caribbean and Latin American region as well as with many states, municipalities, cities and towns within the United States," Mr Turnquest said.

The Bahamas' economy has been anaemic for far too long. With shallow growth and burdensome debt, foreign direct investment is a critical component in development. Foreign direct investment must be courted, encouraged and expedited, not as it has in the past for massive projects but in ways that broaden the overall economy. People who have created success abroad can bring ideas, innovation, expertise and dollars to boost local business and diversification.

Just as you do not revitalise a city without bringing in people who did not live there before, you do not revitalise a struggling economy without new blood.

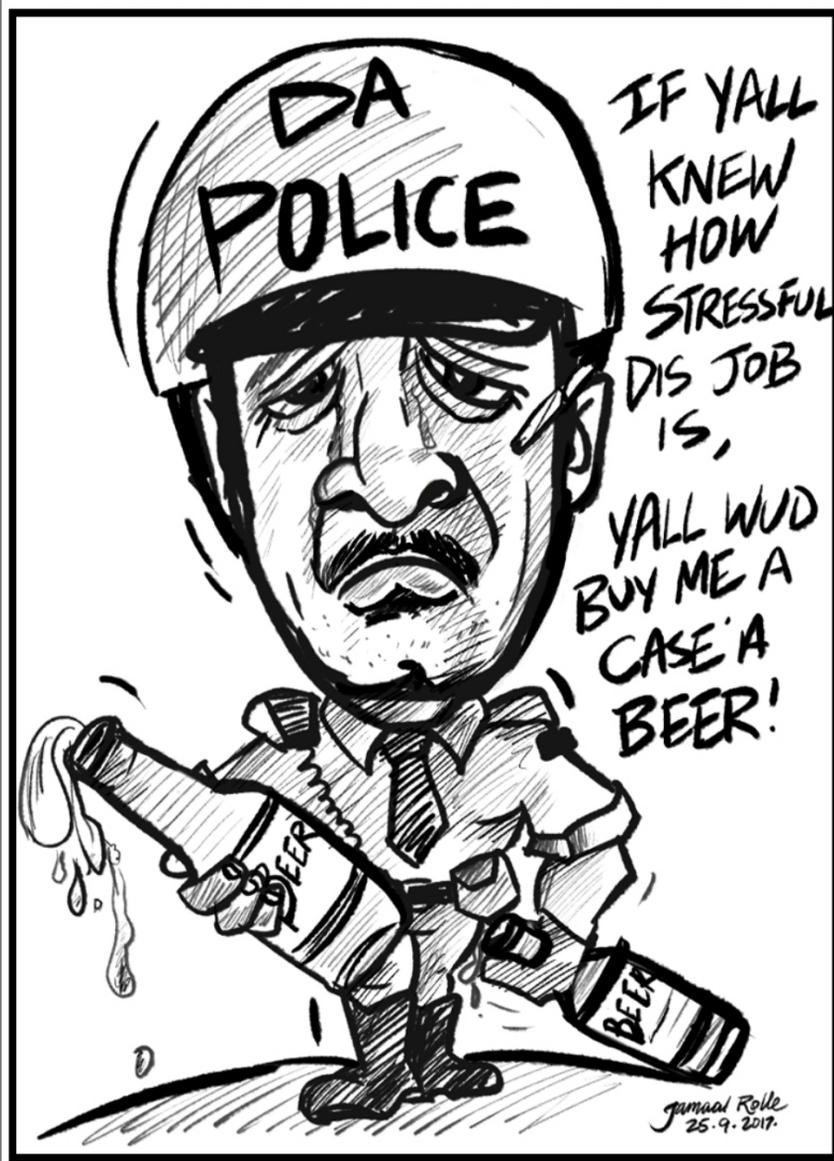
It is time to overcome the fear of foreign. It is time to welcome the right kind of direct investment, including migration residence, as the DPM suggested, strategically. There is no reason why an interested investor could not participate in a fund or a partnership. Even an offshore bank could manage a fund that provides financing that local banks are reluctant to provide, seeding Bahamian businesses with much-needed capital. In such cases, the investor's participation may be able to take that business farther than it would have been able to go on its own.

Our borders must not be walls pushing the world out, but gates letting the right investment in, and as Mr. Turnquest said, recognising that our competition for dollars looking for a safe place to land and a friendly place to live is the US, the Caribbean and beyond. It was not until Alabama welcomed the outsider that it began the journey to becoming the #1 team it is today, continuing to prove in game after game why it is just about unbeatable.

PUSHIN' DA ENVELOPE
 By Jamaal Rolle

jrolle@tribunemedia.net

POLICEMAN FILMED BUYING BEER



Competence in the legal profession

EDITOR, The Tribune.

LETTERS
 letters@tribunemedia.net

I WRITE to speak of a matter of immense concern to me. It is often said that the law is an honourable profession. That the attorney plays a leading role in our society. This is reflected in the donning of the wig and gown, the pomp and ceremony, the annual celebration of the commencement of the legal year where lawyers and judges take to the street, closing down the main thoroughfares of Bay and Shirley Streets accompanied by police escort, monopolise Christ Church Cathedral for a service attended by the Bishops and priests of all religions, which service is followed by an address by the Chief Justice upon completing his inspection of the Police Guard.

The purpose of all this is not to boast that lawyers are a privileged elitist bunch! It is to instil in lawyers the solemnness of the role they have been delegated in our society, to be servants of the Courts, to ensure that justice is available to all including the meek and downtrodden and that all citizens will have their rights protected before the courts.

Lawyers have a duty to ensure and maintain the profession, its dignity, its integrity and its competence. I write to address the last.

The public needs to have confidence that if someone is allowed to hold himself out as a counsel and attorney, that person understands the law and is able to give them good advice.

Yes, there will be differences between counsel, with some perhaps being better than others at some things or maybe even everything, that some will charge more than others. That is the position in all professions. However, the assurance they must have is that once

someone is allowed to hold themselves out as a counsel and attorney, member of our ancient and honourable Bar, that they are competent. The role in helping to ensure this is a burden assumed by the Government, the Bar Council and the Bar Association.

In recent years, I have come to realise that we are all failing. We have some competent lawyers and we have brilliant lawyers, however we also have lawyers of questionable competence. Yes, there is a right for the profession to be open to all and I have no objection.

However, there is a duty that is vested in the Bar Council and all members of the Bar to protect the public.

We have lawyers who do not understand basic concepts of the law. Who are allowed to carry on practices but do not know how to draft documents or even bring a proper case before the Court.

I have witnessed lawyers who appear unable to give their clients sound advice. Who bring or defend actions doomed to fail, not only because the clients have no case, but because the lawyer was not adequately representing them. Often, they cause their clients unnecessary loss of liberty or money.

I am sure that the judges see this almost every day but acknowledge, quite rightly, that the duty to prevent this rests with the Bar and not with them. Nevertheless, our judges perform the yeoman's task of trying to ensure as far as they can that the clients of these incompetent attorneys receive justice.

Many a judge, because a case has been inadequately argued by one or both

counsel, has to do his or her own research.

I have practiced for 38 years and over time I have noted a steady deterioration in the quality of attorneys before the Bar.

The time has long come for us to carry out our duty. Steps have to be taken to ensure that persons called to the Bar and admitted to practice have received proper training, a grounding in, and understanding of, the law, ethics, integrity and competence.

Most lawyers are painfully aware of this truth but fail to act because they fear being branded protectionist or elitist. Perhaps they also fear that if they criticise, they themselves may be criticised. Perhaps some are silent because it makes their work easier dealing with attorneys who cannot properly challenge them.

Steps have to be taken to ensure that lawyers are competent when they are admitted to the Bar and that they represent their clients with integrity, honesty and competence.

LUTHER H McDONALD
 Nassau,
 September 21, 2017.

Income tax

EDITOR, The Tribune.

Re: Income tax is NOT ruled out.
The Tribune, September 15, 2017.

APPARENTLY, our government may consider the IMF advice to be 'optional'. But why worry? Wouldn't payment of income tax, just like our other taxes, also be optional anyway -- except of course for the middle class?

KEN W KNOWLES, MD
 Nassau,
 September 17, 2017.

Avoid conflicts

EDITOR, The Tribune.

CLEARLY the new Government of Dr The Hon Hubert Minnis intends to flush out all misbehaviour and where appropriate ensure that all billings/accounts that might be over due are paid in full - kudos.

May I suggest that there has to be also a declaration as to whether a Board member is in a compromised position because either they have or their husband or they have

an investment Company that might hold shares in a provider to any Government Corporation - Agency or Authority.

This declaration must be publicly available at all times and updated.

We have to be exceptionally careful where Ministers in privileged positions throw around allegations against a private person or where a Corporate name is named as a party who was interested in certain business only to find that the person sitting

on the Government Board is a shareholder of that Company who sought to do business with the same entity.

Our islands are small - we almost know the inner thoughts of everyone anyway let's try to avoid these obvious conflicts of interest and compromise by disclosing fully and publicly. If you don't wish to then resign, your choice.

T J RAHMING
 Nassau,
 September 22, 2017.

DOMINICA AID PLAN 'NEEDS URGENT DETAIL'

from page one

The announcement has been met with fierce criticism from nationalists who believe the public school system is already over-burdened while others have praised the government for the humanitarian move.

"Just from the casual knowledge of what I know about the policy, what I heard on the radio and read in the news, it is the good Christian thing to

do," Bishop Fernander said. "We want the same in return so we have to be good brothers and sisters.

"The BCC will wait to see how this will be done; the details are crucial. We support the effort and we are cognisant to mention that we hope the government provides the same level of support to those in Ragged Island who will have to have their students moved to new locations and also if that is happening in Acklins. We need to treat

everyone the same."

Bishop Fernander said he hopes the same opportunities are also offered to Haitian parents, some of whom have recently complained that their children are being blocked from Bahamian schools due to a policy created in 2014 by the Christie administration.

"The Christian Council has spoken out on this issue in the past and it seems as though we treat some persons in the diaspora differently from others," Bishop

Fernander said.

"We need to be careful of the message we are sending there are no special groups of people and everyone should be treated the same. Education should be available to all. It would only be fair, anything otherwise would appear we favour one over the other."

On Sunday, Immigration Minister Brent Symonette said no child should be denied education because of their status. He implored all school administrators

to "admit" students and contact his office for any needed clarification.

Mr Symonette also said no government should prohibit any student from maintaining their education due to an "apparent immigration issue".

Last week, *The Tribune* reported about a Haitian mother who said she was considering placing her 11-year-old special needs son in the care of the state after he was allegedly denied access to school for

three consecutive years because of the country's immigration policy.

The 2014 policy mandates that every person living in The Bahamas has a passport of their nationality with proof to legally reside in this country, among other restrictions. In early 2015 it was widened with the requirement that every foreign person enrolled in schools, including children born in The Bahamas to immigrants, have a student permit.

Govt is working out plan for aid

By AVA TURNQUEST
Tribune Chief Reporter
aturnquest@tribunemedia.net

IMMIGRATION Minister Brent Symonette said yesterday the government was still working out the details concerning Prime Minister Dr Hubert Minnis' commitment to accommodate displaced students from Dominica.

Mr Symonette told *The Tribune* deliberations hinged on a needs assessment from Dominica, which would outline the number of affected students and their education level.

"We're working on the process," he said. "The prime minister of Dominica will have to make his recommendations, they will come up to us and they haven't come up yet, so we're in a state of limbo on that."

"We need to ascertain the numbers of persons involved, their level of education whether it's primary or secondary school, the length of time they need to be here, etc."

"Once we work out that then we'll be in a better position to advise the Bahamian people."

On Sunday, Dr Minnis announced that the country will immediately mobilise resources to accommodate as many of the country's students displaced by Hurricane Maria in the Bahamas.

Dr Minnis suggested the displaced students will be placed in both the public and private school systems, adding that it was the first step in a series of moves to provide aid to the devastated island nation.

He stressed that Dominica and other Caribbean nations were instrumental in the Bahamas' development

as a fledgling nation after gaining independence.

The move was met with scepticism on social media, with some taking to various platforms to give their opinion on the overcrowded education system, and existing immigration challenges while others appealed for empathy.

Meanwhile Senator Fred Mitchell, spokesman for the Progressive Liberal Party, said he could not rush to judgment as all the details on the plan are not known.

"The devil is in the details," the former minister of immigration and foreign affairs said on Monday. "The PLP was not consulted on national efforts to assist people in other nations on hurricane relief. The party is therefore not in a position to say anything about the prime minister's plans for relief for citizens of Dominica. It is likely that the PLP will raise the matter when Parliament next meets so that we and the nation might know what the government's full proposals are. Right now the country is in the dark on this matter."

Hurricane Maria made landfall in Dominica as a massive category five storm on September 18, completely destroying communications, infrastructure and critical facilities.

That night, Dominica's prime minister, in a Facebook post said even he had to be rescued from his official residence after the powerful storm ripped the roof off his home.

Less than two weeks before the storm's passage, Hurricane Irma hit Ragged Island on September 8, packing 185mph winds and rendering the tiny island unlivable in its wake.



ROOSEVELT SKERRIT, Prime Minister of Dominica, which was recently ravaged by Hurricane Maria, in Nassau on Sunday at Jet Aviation with Prime Minister Dr Hubert Minnis; Minister of Financial Services Trade & Industry and Immigration Brent Symonette and Minister of Transport and Local Government Frankie Campbell.
Photo: Peter Ramsay/BIS

DNA DEMANDS MORE INFORMATION ON DOMINICA HELP

By RASHAD ROLLE
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THE Democratic National Alliance wants the Minnis administration to articulate a more detailed plan for accepting Dominicans in the wake of that country's devastation from Hurricane Maria.

"...Any policy position taken on providing relief must be organised, well thought out and articulated to the Bahamian people to ensure the best possible outcome without further worsening socioeconomic conditions within our nation or negatively impacting persons that are meant to benefit from such a policy," Arinthia Komolafe, the DNA's former candidate for Killarney, said in a statement. "According to reports, the minister of education had not been initially briefed on the prime minister's commitment to the prime minister of Dominica, Mr Roosevelt Skerrit to determine in conjunction with the minister of immigration (who had been briefed) on the logistics or details of the prime

minister's commitment.

"In this regard, we propose that every effort to provide relief to our regional brothers and sisters is outlined in a detailed proposal including: the duration of the proposal, place/islands of accommodation and the schools under consideration to facilitate the administration's proposal. "Additionally, the DNA would like Prime Minister Minnis to include the number of individuals that will be accommodated, the timeline for delivery of the list of persons to be accommodated, the process for screening the persons on the list and provision of the requisite details to the public on the policy regarding the bypass of our nation's immigration laws and standing policies."

Mrs Komolafe noted the party wants to know if any monetary contribution will be made to accommodate this temporary policy and "which line item of the national budget will be impacted as a result."

Mrs Komolafe said the DNA would support any "reasonable and realistic proposal" the government

makes that aims to assist Caribbean neighbours devastated by natural disasters.

Prime Minister Dr Hubert Minnis' announcement Sunday that the country will accommodate students from Dominica who have been displaced by Hurricane Maria has garnered mixed reactions from Bahamians.

"There would have been a lot of children that were displaced and therefore we are opening our school system to accommodate them," Dr Minnis said. "Our immigration minister will deal with that matter so that they can be placed within our school system and, of course, I plead to Bahamians, especially with Dominican roots and Bahamians in general, to assist, and even accommodate these individuals in the private schools."

Dr Minnis added: "I am not sure, (but I think) we have a lot of individuals out there who will assist in accommodating these individuals, both financially and otherwise."

"After all, we are a caring nation and this is our time to display and show

that. Then there are a lot of Dominicans here who

would also have families there, and, therefore, we

will accommodate those individuals also."

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Christie 'amazed' by debt

from page one

As prime minister from 2012 to 2017, the former Centreville MP explained there were staff members who handled paying his utilities and they would at times query water usage because of leaking toilets. In these instances, Mr Christie suggested \$23,432.51 in water bills had not come up for discussion.

The former prime minister said during his time in office, he was required to disclose his debts, suggesting had he known, this would have been declared in his financial disclosures.

He questioned whether the bill in question was connected to Davis & Co, the law firm he once practised with but left in 2002. Progressive Liberal Party Leader Philip "Brave" Davis now heads the firm.

Both the firm and Mr Davis's Westridge home were included on WSC's "confidential list" with bills of \$22,603.33 as of March 31 and \$2,334.21 as of April 5 respectively.

Mr Christie tops this "confidential list" at WSC, which allowed politicians and elites to accumulate arrears and not be disconnected. There were two accounts in his name.

The document, dated June 13, shows that a payment of \$57 was made on July 25, 2014 on a West Bay Street account in Mr Christie's name, leaving a balance of \$23,432.51. It is unclear if other payments were made on the account after that. Another West Bay Street account in the former Centreville MP's name, which he shared with his wife Bernadette, had a balance of \$514.55 as of May 1.

"I was absolutely amazed," the retired politician said. "Initially I said it had something to do with the law firm that I left in 2002."

"As prime minister, the bills were paid by my staff. Utilities and all of that (was handled)."

"And from time to time you have queries for use of water through leaking toilets. But to have a bill of \$23,000 or whatever that amount is?"

"I called a gentleman who is involved in customer relations and he said he will move immediately and then I called Mr (Glen) Laville, the general manager of the corporation, to ask him how is it possible for me to owe that money (and) nobody write me about it (or) nobody talk to me about it."

"I'm required to disclose my debts. I have not disclosed any such debt because I know of no such debt. How do you put me in a position like that to find out in a newspaper that this is the situation that the water corporation is maintaining?"

"That is the sum total of my knowledge of it I must say."

He continued: "And so it is something obviously if I owe it I could pay it, it's not



FORMER Prime Minister Perry Christie.

Photo: Terrel W. Carey/Tribune Staff

a question of that. I have just never been told about it at all and so therefore during the course of the day I would be told what it's about."

Asked to respond to criticisms lists like this that give the perception that elites and politicians are exempt from paying their bills while the poor struggle, Mr Christie said: "I am out of it right now. Quite frankly, my job is to ensure separation from public life and I have

been trying to do that by staying out of sight, staying out of comments, with the view to ensure that things could go on normally. So to be confronted by this now requires a public explanation and I am in the process of trying to determine what it is really to the extent to which there is legitimacy to this claim.

"I don't know how you build up a water bill of \$23,000."

"If it's commercial, then

I knew I had an association with a law firm and if its ten (or) 20 years ago, however long it started. I have no idea. Therefore I'm liable. I have no idea, none whatsoever," Mr Christie said.

For its part, WSC noted the list obtained by *The Tribune* "was neither officially nor formally released by the corporation."

WSC said it "will not comment on the integrity of the information nor on their clients' accounts publicly."

WSC General Manager Glen Laville added: "We take very seriously the release of customers' information to the public. Those responsible for illegal disclosure of private records to the media will be dealt with severely once found. This action does not reflect the values of our organisation or our commitment to our clients. We sincerely apologise to our valued customers and assure them that this is

not a practice that WSC engages in.

"As a matter of courtesy, we employ a number of methods to contact our customers about outstanding balances. We do not have a 'no disconnect' list."

However last week, WSC Chairman Adrian Gibson confirmed the existence of a special list for the well-connected, saying it held 221 accounts, with a combined total of \$175,000 for the period ending June 2017.

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FORMER MPS 'DID NOT KNOW' THEY

By SANCHESKA DORSETT
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SEVERAL former Progressive Liberal Party members of Parliament yesterday denied knowledge of being on a "do not disconnect" list at the Water and Sewerage Corporation, with one former Cabinet minister telling *The Tribune* his high water bill was the result of "a broken pipe and a misunderstanding."

In an interview with *The Tribune*, former Minister of Agriculture and Marine Resources V Alfred Gray said he has not used "city water" in over 20 years and racked up a huge bill at WSC because he had a leaking pipe that the corporation refused to acknowledge.

According to the confidential list obtained by *The Tribune*, Mr Gray had a balance for a residence at

Culbert's Hill of \$7,051.43 as of June 7, after making a payment of \$100.

"I am not on city water and haven't been for 22 years," he said on Monday. "I have a meter that belongs to the government and a pipe burst."

"When the pipe got broken, I told Water and Sewerage and they told me I was still responsible even after I got a plumber to give them a report, they told me I have to still pay and I could not get a discount. So, I have been paying \$100 a month for the past five to seven years. I don't know anything about a list, never knew I was ever on a list. I am not on city water and I have never been on city water. So that is not a water bill that I used. The bill was a result of a broken pipe, so let's make that clear."

According to the list, South Andros MP Picewell Forbes owed \$3,270.51 after

making a \$500 payment in February.

Mr Forbes told *The Tribune* yesterday he did not know he was on the list but said he will "deal with the bill" when he returns to the capital from Exuma today.

Former National Security Minister in the first Christie administration Cynthia "Mother" Pratt was also on the list and owed just over \$1,800 as of April.

She contacted *The Tribune* yesterday to explain the circumstances by which her bill had reached more than \$1,000, placing the blame on a leak.

"I had a leak in my house for years and I did not know and the water bill was extremely high because of it," she told this newspaper. "Each month I go down and I pay on the payment plan and the bill is down. It was thousands of dollars because of the leak. That had nothing to do with the

water bill.

"I paid my water bill separately. The bill was very high and I had two separate leaks. They cut the bill because that's what they do in such circumstances, they give discounts. (The) plumber wrote them letting them know I had a leak. I wasn't aware until I discovered it cleaning my house that there was a leak under my house."

"Two different payment plans were made; one over my house and one over the apartment. I finished with the one by my house. Every month I go and pay down on that. They don't give a fixed amount to pay for it. Whatever my little money do, I do that."

"The fact that the bill was \$1,800, the bill was far bigger than that. They're looking for somebody to taint their name, always looking for everyone to be crooked except them and

DAVIS: I'M PAID UP - OFFICE BILL IS WRONG

from page one

Both accounts were a part of a "confidential list" at the corporation, obtained exclusively by *The Tribune*, which allowed politicians and elites to accumulate arrears and not be disconnected.

Former Prime Minister Perry Christie topped the list with one of two accounts in his name owing more than \$20,000 as of July 2014.

The balance attributed to Davis & Co was the second largest amount - as of March 31 of this year when a payment of \$5,000 was made.

"The facts are very simple and could have been verified by us or independently with the management of Water & Sewerage," Davis & Co said in a statement.

"There exists a genuine commercial dispute with regards to the exorbitant bills charged to Davis & Co. The firm has written several times to the corporation and its lawyers with regards to the matter and in fact there have been several meetings with all parties with the intent of agreeing what is rightfully owed.

"The letters are there and can be easily verified. The technocrats and professionals can confirm a long and continued attempt to get an accurate billing of the account. They can also confirm considerable amounts paid despite other queries over the past few years.

"The fact that the matter remains under dispute, has involved the corporation's attorneys and has still not yet been resolved is very clear evidence that no special treatment or consideration was ever given to Davis & Co," the firm also said.

"In fact, we assumed a significant portion of a bill even though we thought that particular bill was inaccurate. We have been waiting for Water & Sewerage to reply to our latest written request for a fair and proper adjustment for several months. It appears that some at the corporation are more interested in political stories than commercial resolution. Perhaps now they will take this opportunity to provide us with a reply to our request.

"Our almost 40 years relationship with Water and Sewerage Corporation demonstrates our satisfactory business relationship."

Davis & Co added: "In

fact, just several weeks ago we also received an inquiry with regards to a significant bill for a building on Victoria Avenue which the firm has not occupied since 2005, at which time all bills were paid in full. Since that time, it has been occupied by the family of a very senior former FNM politician."

For his part, Mr Davis insisted the exposure of his personal WSC account information was a part of a "dangerous and vexatious political exercise" by the government.

He said: "I categorically deny the statements published by *The Tribune* this morning that suggest that a water bill allegedly for my residence indicates there is an outstanding amount due.

"I know nothing of such a debt with the corporation.

"Indeed, this article is a nothing but a continuation of what has become a dangerous and vexatious political exercise by those opposite who fail to gather the true facts, while perpetuating a continued breach of confidentiality against citizens.

"I can produce a full payment for my residence that was made earlier this month," Mr Davis also said.

Members of the Free National Movement are also on the confidential list, however on average they did not have high balances.

For instance, former Deputy Prime Minister Frank Watson owed nearly \$900 as of April 18. Former Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham is also on the list, with a balance of \$576.63 in April for an address in Cooper's Town, Abaco.

Former Minister of Works Neko Grant had a negative balance of \$46.60 as of April, suggesting he was owed money by WSC. Minister of Immigration Brent Symonette did not owe any money, and Attorney General Carl Bethel owed less than \$200, among others.

In a statement released last night, WSC said it was "disappointed" to see *The Tribune's* report detailing the "alleged outstanding bills of its customers." The corporation said it takes client privacy seriously, adding those responsible for the "illegal" leak of private records to the media will be dealt with "severely" once found.

Last week, WSC Corporation Chairman Adrian Gibson confirmed the existence of a special list

WERE ON WATER LIST

I take grave exception to that. My monthly bill was different from the payment plan," Mrs Pratt said.

Her former Urban Renewal co-chair, Algonon Allen, also on the list, objected to the assertion that he received special treatment because he is a former politician. He said the WSC account in question is for his home that he shares with his wife, Dame Anita Allen, Court of Appeal president. The list showed his account had a balance of \$3,586.56 in April 10, 2014 after a payment of just over \$200.

He explained that as a result of benefits his wife receives as a senior judge, it is the government's obligation to pay her utility bills.

"That my dear is the home of the president of the Court of Appeal, my wife and I. That bill, by the statute law of The Bahamas, (under) the Judges

Remuneration and Pensions Act, is statutorily paid by the government of The Bahamas," Mr Allen said.

"That list has nothing to do with myself as a former MP. That list has to do with the legal obligation of the government to pay the utilities in accordance with the statute law of The Bahamas for the president of the Court of Appeal.

"I am responsible for about nine properties for which utilities and other taxes (are) attached and I try and genuinely succeed in meeting the commitment in relation to all of them. There may be an oversight here or there but I often make up for that in the next payment," Mr Allen said.

His comments about the payments of Dame Anita's utility bills were corroborated by Ingrid Brooks, an official in the Court of Appeal.



PHILIP DAVIS, leader of the PLP, in the House of Assembly
Photo: Shawn Hanna/
Tribune Staff

populated by scores of elites at the government owned utility provider as he pledged to initiate a crackdown on delinquent accounts.

At the time, Mr Gibson told *The Tribune* the "confidential list" held 221 accounts, with a combined total of \$175,000 for the period ending June 2017.

The Tribune understands WSC has written to persons holding these delinquent accounts giving them 14 days to pay their debts or arrange a suitable payment plan or face disconnection.

This revelation comes after *The Tribune* reported last week about a similar list at Bahamas Power and Light. Persons in this category owed the cash-strapped electricity provider thousands of dollars, with many owing more than \$10,000.

Prime Minister Dr Hubert Minnis has ordered officials to end the list and stop giving special treatment.

"What happens is the government of The Bahamas pays the utility bills as part of Dame Anita's contract, given by the Judges Remuneration and Pensions Act, Chapter 45. That's mandated by the act that her utility allowances are paid by the government. Up to 2014, end of 2014-2015 the Court of Appeal was responsible for making those payments, after that point the Ministry of Finance took it on for payment of all utility bills for the government across the board.

"The bill may be in arrears but it's not a bill that they pay personally," Ms Brooks said.

Former Labour Minister Shane Gibson, who was on the list as owing \$1,046.50 after making a payment in December 2015, told *The Tribune* on Monday he currently owes WSC only \$200.



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FROM left, Heather Bain, general manager of The Installers Limited; Joe Sipos, technical inspecting officer at The Installers Limited; Gregory Curtis, president of The Commonwealth War Graves Commission; Peter Young, Former British High Commissioner; David Kettle, Secretary General of The Commonwealth War Graves Commission and Peter Bates.

Inspection team delighted with care for war cemetery

By RICARDO WELLS
Tribune Staff Reporter
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THE Commonwealth War Graves Commission on Friday toured and commended the state of the much-improved Nassau War Cemetery following a multi-year restoration effort at the site.

CWGC secretary general, retired Brigadier General David Kettle, who led a group from the CWGC's Canadian agency, in an interview with *The Tribune* said he was "abundantly pleased" by the state of the property, formerly known as the Royal Air Force Cemetery.

The property, which contains the graves of 46 British and five Canadian airmen and the Nassau Memorial, a monument that commemorates the lives of seven British and two Canadian servicemen, has been under the care and maintenance of the CWGC since 1973 following a post-independence agreement between the Bahamian and British governments.

Ret Brigadier Kettle told *The Tribune* that efforts by regional extensions of the CWGC and local stakeholders were critical in improving the



THE NASSAU War Cemetery.

state of the "significant" site.

The Nassau War Cemetery, located between Farrington Road and Maxwell Lane, is the only Commonwealth War Grave site in the Americas operated exclusively by the CWGC.

According to the organisation's records, there are 2,100 veteran grave plots across North, Central and South America. Those plots are located in either public or private cemeteries; meaning all maintenance is handled by private companies or public operators.

"The site here in Nassau is completely the responsibility of the CWGC," Ret Brigadier Kettle said. "We've invested maybe \$30,000 on improving the property here."

Ret Brigadier Kettle, a second-generation veteran, also revealed a sentimental connection to the New Providence gravesite.

"My dad during the Second World War flew out of Nassau and many of his friends are buried in Nassau War Cemetery," he added. "So for me, there is an added level of responsibility. I want to ensure that

the best we have to offer is on display here because it is such an important site, personally and for the organisation."

The cemetery has been under the care and maintenance of the CWGC since 1973 following a post-independence agreement between The Bahamas and British governments.

Despite the agreement, however, the cemetery had been neglected in recent years and had fallen into disrepair. However, with new funding from the CWGC, a major renovation project was

completed in 2014. A local firm, the Installers Company, co-owned by Peter Bates and Greg Curtis, has the maintenance contract.

Responsibility for the Nassau War Cemetery was transferred from the CWGC head office in Maidenhead, near London, to its Canadian agency in Ottawa five years ago.

The CWGC on Friday, in addition to meeting with the Antiquities, Monuments and Museums Corporation (AMMC) met with the Minister of Works Desmond Bannister and Ministry of Works Permanent Secretary Colin Higgs.

The group also met with representatives of the Royal Bahamas Defence Force and British Legion respectively.

Ret Brigadier Kettle added: "So our connection to The Bahamas isn't new. Our work here is ongoing and continuous, and is inclusive of countless ministries and departments. So when I say it's not just us, I mean exactly that. It's the (Ministry) of Works who has helped us with trees and garbage on the outside of the cemetery. We need the AMMC for its approval of our portico repair at this very moment."

"The important thing for me today (Friday), was to

lay the groundwork for a progressive partnership. We don't have funding issues, but in the event of a natural disaster or some catastrophic event, we would need the government to aid us in repairs. Based on what we heard today, it is safe to say the Bahamian government is more than willing to aid where necessary and that's great.

"We're still waiting on the approval from AMMC, but I am confident that we're going to come to an agreement and have the portico repaired. So it is all about building stronger and lasting relationships," Ret Brigadier Kettle said.

Honorary supervisor for the CWGC and former British High Commissioner to The Bahamas Peter Young joined the group on Friday.

In May 2016, Mr Young reached out to the Christie administration in hopes of having the Nassau War Cemetery officially preserved as a heritage site.

Mr Young, at the time of his recommendation, said any move by the government to declare the cemetery a heritage site would likely have "implications" on the financing for the site's maintenance, as well as obligatory implications on the CWGC.

Photos: Shawn Hanna/Tribune Staff



ABOVE and below, the Nassau War Cemetery.





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Jury hears final arguments in Blair home raid case

By NICO SCAVELLA
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SUPREME Court jurors yesterday heard submissions from both Crown prosecutors and defense counsel as to why Tiano D'Haiti should or should not be convicted and sentenced for the October 2014 murder of Blair Estates resident Andre Cartwright.

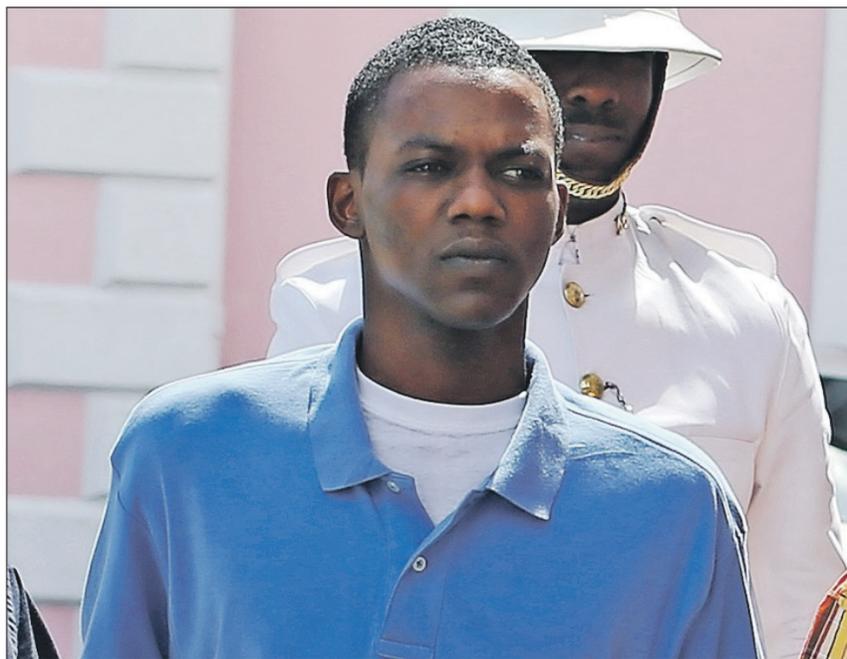
Jairam Mangra, attorney for the accused, submitted to jurors in week five of the murder trial that the Crown had failed to establish any definitive link between D'Haiti and the incident in question, much less the murder and attempted armed robbery with which he is charged.

Mr Mangra submitted that as D'Haiti had "nothing to prove" in the matter, the onus was on the Crown to prove his guilt beyond a reasonable doubt, something which he noted is a "particularly high standard" to attain.

Mr Mangra further submitted that despite there being forensic and scientific analyses conducted into Cartwright's murder, there was nothing present, and the Crown had not produced anything to establish a nexus between D'Haiti suffering a gunshot wound to the left chest and the incident in question.

Mr Mangra said the jury was thus left to assume D'Haiti was shot whilst in the Cartwright's residence on the morning in question, and that the Crown was asking the jury to defy "reason, common sense, and logic" by guessing how D'Haiti would have received the injury in question.

Mr Mangra further



TIANO D'HAITI, of Thompson Lane, who is accused of murder and attempted armed robbery.

Photo: Terrel W. Carey/Tribune Staff

questioned the circumstances surrounding the oral statements D'Haiti allegedly made to Detective Sergeant Sherwin Braynen on October 31, 2014 while in the Princess Margaret Hospital suffering from a gunshot wound.

Previously, Sgt Braynen told the court how D'Haiti allegedly told him from his hospital bed that while he was one of five men who visited Cartwright's home on the night in question, he stayed in the car while the other four forced their way into the home.

According to Sgt Braynen, D'Haiti allegedly said he only went into the house after he heard the sound of gunshots. And, upon entering and noticing his former co-accused Kevin Andrews, he heard

another shot ring out, consequently he fled with the others, and later realised he had been shot.

Another officer, Corporal Santino Maycock, offered a similar testimony that day.

However, Mr Mangra submitted yesterday that all of the aforementioned officers gave conflicting evidence about D'Haiti's alleged confession, and that they allegedly "colluded" to concoct the story.

At best, Mr Mangra charged, D'Haiti's alleged statements to Sgt Braynen only place him at the scene of the crime, and after the fact at that.

Ultimately, Mr Mangra submitted to the jury that the Crown provided the court with a "plethora of evidence" that is not at the level needed to prove his

client's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

However, Crown prosecutor Kendra Kelly, aided by Destiny McKinney, charged that the Crown had provided enough circumstantial evidence throughout the five-week long trial, and that the jury can make reasonable inferences about D'Haiti's guilt from the evidence led.

Ms Kelly said examples of circumstantial evidence relevant to the matter include, but are not limited to the gunshot wound he suffered to his left lateral chest, allegedly as a result of the home invasion, as well as the period of time between the shooting and D'Haiti's arrival at Accident and Emergency (A&E).

Noting that circumstantial evidence can also

include a person's alleged behaviour following a crime, however, Ms Kelly further submitted that D'Haiti's decision to lie on multiple occasions after the incident in question is enough circumstantial evidence of his guilt.

She pointed to when D'Haiti allegedly instructed Shecoya Davis, the woman who took him to the hospital after suffering the injury, to say she picked him up from Carmichael Road if questioned by police. She also noted how D'Haiti allegedly told a police officer present at the hospital shortly afterwards that he was stabbed.

Ms Kelly also referred to what she said was D'Haiti's attempt to "minimise" his involvement in the matter by allegedly confessing to Sgt Braynen that he only served as a driver for the four suspects the day the incident occurred.

Ms Kelly also highlighted D'Haiti's decision to remain silent when called upon to answer the Crown's case against him. She noted that while it was his right to remain silent, it also meant there was nothing on his behalf to contradict the Crown's case against him.

She further submitted that his decision to remain silent suggests he does not have an alibi, charging that if he had a reasonable explanation about the circumstances surrounding his injury, he was "at liberty to do so" from as far back as November 2014, when both he and Mr Mangra were allegedly present at a police interview at the Central Detective Unit (CDU).

Regarding D'Haiti's injury specifically, and in line with her previous

submissions about his decision to remain silent, Ms Kelly questioned the lack of evidence to show that D'Haiti was shot elsewhere.

Ms Kelly further pointed out the significance of the circumstances behind D'Haiti's attempted armed robbery charge, charging that Cartwright shooting his gun in defense and wounding D'Haiti likely foiled what could have been an armed robbery.

"If he had not been shot, he might have gotten away with it," she said.

After hearing submissions from both parties, Justice Renae McKay adjourned the matter to 11am today, at which time she will summarise the matter and put D'Haiti in the jury's charge.

Kevin Andrews, D'Haiti's former co-accused, was acquitted by the jury on Justice McKay's instructions last week.

According to initial reports from police, Cartwright, 44, was at his Blair Estates home around 1.40am with his mother, Emma Cartwright, his father, Glenn Cartwright on the morning in question, when men kicked in the door of the house.

When he heard the noise, the deceased got his licensed shotgun and went to investigate, police reported. He encountered the suspects, one of whom was armed with a handgun, police said.

There was a brief exchange of gunfire, which resulted in the victim being shot multiple times. He died at the scene. One of the suspects was also shot, however, initial reports from police said he and the other men escaped in a silver Honda Accord.

CABINET TO DISCUSS IMMIGRATION EDUCATION POLICY TODAY

By AVA TURNQUEST
Tribune Chief Reporter
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STUDENTS blocked from school registration due to their parent's legal status could be back in school by the end of the week, according to officials.

Immigration Minister Brent Symonette told *The Tribune* that Cabinet is expected to address the matter today.

Education director Lionel Sands said he has

not yet received a new mandate but requirements are expected to revert to a previous policy that only required an immunisation card and birth certificate for student registration.

"Those who are not in school, based on the previous policy, when the Cabinet circular goes out to the schools, once the new policy is changed then principals and administrators can start. It could take shape today," Mr Sands said.

"As soon as we have the policy from the Cabinet Office or from the office of Immigration minister then the policy will be put into force. We take children in school everyday so we don't have to wait until next term," Mr Sands said.

It is unclear how many children were being affected by the policy due to the lack of computerised systems in the Department of Immigration.

Last Thursday, Education Minister Jeff Lloyd pointed

to a "decided drop" in school enrolment over the last three years.

Mr Lloyd stressed that the impact of the country's immigration policy had the potential of creating "fatal" consequences, and a serious threat to the country's national security.

He was speaking as a guest on Guardian radio talk show Real Talk Live with host Carlton Smith.

The November 2014 policy mandates that every person living in The

Bahamas have a passport of their nationality with proof to legally reside in this country, among other restrictions. In early 2015 it was widened to include the requirement for every foreign person enrolled in schools, including children born in The Bahamas to immigrants, to have a student permit.

The student restrictions did not come into effect until the Fall 2015 school semester.

Then Immigration

Minister Fred Mitchell explained the policy would help the government keep track of who works and lives in The Bahamas and who attends schools here.

On Sunday, Mr Symonette said the Minnis administration was working to address several key aspects of the policy behind the scenes.

However, he indicated that in the interim, no child should be forced outside of the system.



SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday, 4th October 2017

Time: 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Hosted by the University of The Bahamas in collaboration with the Inter-American Development Bank

Our Prisoners: A Symposium
Based on a 2016 study of sentenced inmates at the Department of Correctional Services, Fox Hill

Performing Arts Centre,
Oakes Field Campus
University Drive
For more information,
contact 302-4311.

To R.S.V.P. contact: 302-4311 or email: ourprisoners2017@ub.edu.bs

AML aids hurricane relief

BAHAMIANS impacted by Hurricane Irma will benefit from a recent donation by AML Foods Limited to the Bahamas Red Cross.

The company gave \$10,000 to assist with continued relief efforts in the southern Bahamas.

In early September, Hurricane Irma made landfall in the MICAL constituency and on Ragged Island as a category five storm causing catastrophic damage on some of those islands and forcing many residents to evacuate. As the islands rebuild, organisations like the Bahamas Red Cross continue to provide vital support throughout the country.

AML President and CEO Gavin Watchorn said the donation to the Bahamas Red Cross will help residents on the long road to recovery in the aftermath of

Hurricane Irma.

“As the islands continue to recover, we want to commend the Bahamas Red Cross for leading the restoration efforts after this devastating storm. We know that rebuilding will require tremendous support and as a company, we are committed to backing their initiatives to serve the people of The Bahamas,” Mr Watchorn said.

For more than 50 years, the Bahamas Red Cross Society has worked to improve communities through its humanitarian goals including the collection and distribution of supplies after natural disasters. Brenda Lee Rolle, deputy director general at the Bahamas Red Cross, thanked AML for its generous donation. The financial boost

will be used to mobilise critical supplies to areas impacted by Hurricane Irma.

This is the third consecutive year that AML Foods Limited has partnered with the Bahamas Red Cross to support hurricane relief efforts. In addition to monetary donations and food and water supplies in the aftermath of Hurricane Joaquin and Hurricane Matthew, the company also used its storefronts in Grand Bahama and New Providence as collection points for Bahamians seeking to donate to the Bahamas Red Cross.

For more information on ongoing hurricane relief efforts, visit the Bahamas Red Cross on www.bahamasredcross.com, find them on Facebook or call 242-323-7370.



BRENDALEE ROLLE, deputy director general at the Bahamas Red Cross, accepts a hurricane relief donation from Gavin Watchorn, president and CEO of AML Foods Limited. Photo: **BML Photography**.

TRIBUTES PAID TO JUNKANOO LEADER FERGUSON

By **DENISE MAYCOCK**
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

THE Junkanoo community in Grand Bahama is saddened over the death of Junkanoo leader Kenneth “Motorboat” Ferguson, who died last Wednesday following an illness.

Mr Ferguson was the leader of the New Life Classic Dancers Junkanoo group.

The Grand Bahama Junkanoo Committee and the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture have planned events to celebrate Ferguson’s life, who has been described as a “Junkanoo legend and icon,” and sports enthusiast.

Peter Adderley, a member of the GBJC, said a memorial service, unity rush out and homegoing celebration will be held on Grand Bahama.

The memorial will be held at the New Life Worship Centre off Coral Road at 7pm on Thursday; the rush out will occur in

downtown Freeport from 7pm to 11pm on Friday; and the funeral service will be held at 11am at Church of God on Coral Road, near Walter Parker School field.

“We are grieving, we are mourning, and we are celebrating the joy of his contributions,” said Mr Adderley. “We are so excited that those leaders out of New Providence and around The Bahamas have been calling and say they will here to celebrate his life.”

Ferguson was also deputy director of Road Traffic Department in Freeport and a minister of the gospel.

“He is a teacher, mentor, and counsellor, and his mark on Junkanoo will live forever,” said Mr Adderley.

Attorney Kevin Russell said: “We are saddened by the death of Ken ‘Motorboat’ Ferguson, an icon in this community... I know he was a Junkanoo icon and a man who always spoke his mind. He was always

particular about his craft.”

Veteran educator and former Ministry of Education director Cecil Thompson said: “He certainly has been an inspiration to Junior Junkanoo which first started at the International Bazaar with two schools, and now Junior Junkanoo has grown. During that period, Ken had been very effective as a mentor and had given significant support and encouragement to young junkanooers.”

Mr Thompson extended condolences to the family on behalf of school administrators, principals, students and teachers.

Mr Adderley said that his widow Emma Dawkins Ferguson had received an outpouring of love and support from Junkanoo leaders. He thanked Marco City MP Michael Pintard, where Ferguson, a PLP member, has resided for the past 20 years, and Monique Leary, who heads the ministry, for their support.

UNIVERSITY OF THE BAHAMAS

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FRIDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER 2017

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The Bahamas Maritime Authority is once again offering a scholarship to a young Bahamian, who is keen to train for an exciting and challenging career in the Maritime Industry.

The scholarship is inclusive of tuition, course materials, accommodation and travel. Commencing September 2018, the successful candidate will follow a 4-year degree programme at the State University New York Maritime College, New York, USA. Upon completion of the degree, the qualified officer will be expected to serve on board a Bahamian flagged vessel for at least 2 years.



Further information and application forms can be obtained from:

Mrs. Katie Clarke, Assistant Director,
Bahamas Maritime Authority,
Shirlaw House,
#226 Shirley Street,
P. O. Box N-4679,
Nassau, Bahamas;

Website: www.bahamasmaritime.com
OR
Email: scholarship@bahamasmaritime.com

Tel: +1-(242)-356-5772
Fax: +1-(242)-356-5889

Completed applications must be submitted in person or by post, with copies of academic certificates/transcripts and proof of Bahamian citizenship, no later than Friday, 29th September 2017. Qualified applicants will be contacted for interviews.

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EXTERNAL VACANCY NOTICE

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ACCOUNTING OFFICER – FIXED ASSETS ACCOUNTING, BUDGET & MANAGEMENT REPORTS FINANCE DIVISION

A vacancy exists in the Company for an **Accounting Officer – Fixed Assets** in the Accounting, Budget & Management Report Department, **Finance Division**.

Responsibilities of the position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Prepares performance reports for division, department and sections;
- Assists with the coordination of the corporate capital budget;
- Reviews and reconciles general ledger accounts to the subsidiary ledger. This includes the fixed asset and work in progress accounts;
- Maintains the Fixed Asset Register;
- Ensures that capital work orders are accurately reflected in the general ledger and closed out on a timely basis;
- Provides project cost analysis as requested;
- Prepares reports for yearend audit.

Job requirements include but not limited to:

- Bachelors’ Degree in Accounting or equivalent qualifications;
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- Sound knowledge of cost and managerial accounting and statistics;
- Sound knowledge of project management and related job costing system;
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Interested persons should apply by completing and returning an Application Form to: **Manager – Human Resources, Bahamas Power and Light Company Ltd.**, Blue Hill & Tucker, P. O. Box N-7509 Nassau Bahamas on or before: **October 6, 2017**.

Only candidates meeting the criteria will be contacted.

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102 years strong



MRS Lillian Humes celebrated a landmark yesterday - her 102nd birthday. She marked the occasion with a visit from Governor General Dame Marguerite Pindling as well as birthday cake and the company of her family and friends.

Photos: Shawn Hanna/
Tribune Staff



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