

BIS WEEKLY

NEWS RELEASES FROM BAHAMAS INFORMATION SERVICES

FEBRUARY 26 THRU MARCH 2, 2018



Bahamas Information Services

BAHAMAS' ADVANCE DELEGATION TO CARICOM ARRIVES IN HAITI

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti – The Bahamas' advance delegation to the 29th Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) arrived in the Republic of Haiti on Thursday afternoon February 22. The conclave was held Monday, February 26 and Tuesday, February 27. The Bahamas' delegation participated in a number of High Level and other meetings leading up to the Inter-Sessional assembly.



FEBRUARY 23RD, 2018

BAHAMAS' ADVANCE DELEGATION, EMBASSY OFFICIALS, HOLD BRIEFS AHEAD OF PM'S ANTICIPATED ARRIVAL

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti – Members of The Bahamas' advance delegation to the 29th Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CAR-



ICOM) met with officials from The Bahamas' Embassy in Haiti and those from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Friday, February 23, 2018. The event was held ahead of the arrival of Prime Minister, Dr. the Hon. Hubert A. Minnis.

FEBRUARY 24TH, 2018

PRESIDENT MOISE WELCOMES PM MINNIS TO HAITI; DELEGATION KICKS-OFF FULL WEEKEND SCHEDULE

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti – President of the Republic of Haiti, His Excellency Jovenel Moise, welcomed Bahamian Prime Minister, Dr. the Hon. Hubert A. Minnis to Port-au-Prince Saturday morning, continuing an acquaintance established almost one year ago. Prime Minister Minnis and President Moise both delivered their inaugural addresses as Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) at the 38th Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community held in St. George's, Grenada, July 4-6, 2017.



FEBRUARY 25TH, 2018

OVER-THE-HILL WEEKEND INSTITUTE'S LEGAL AID SEMINAR

NASSAU, The Bahamas -- As part of the Over-the-Hill Community Development Partnership Initiative, the Economic Development and Planning Unit (EDPU) of the Office of the Prime Minister is conducting a series of Saturday seminars for residents and businesses in the Bain and Grants Town and Centreville areas through the "Over-the-Hill Weekend Institute."



HIGH LEVEL MEETINGS/JOINT COMMUNIQUE

On Sunday, 25 February 2018, a High Level Meeting was held at the National Palace of the Republic of Haiti between the President of the Republic of Haiti, His Excellency Jovenel Moise and Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, Dr. the Hon. Hubert Minnis in the margins of the 29th Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of State of the Caribbean Community, being held in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, from 26 to 27 February 2018. A Joint Communique was issued by the two leaders at a press conference.



FEBRUARY 26TH, 2018

DPM AND MINISTER OF STATE VIEW PROGRESS OF WORKS BEING CARRIED OUT IN EAST GRAND BAHAMA

EAST END, Grand Bahama -- Deputy Prime Minister and Member of Parliament for East Grand Bahama, the Hon. K. Peter Turnquest and Minister of State for Grand Bahama, Senator Kwasi Thompson traded in their suits and ties, and bore the heat in order to get a closer view of the progress of works being carried out in East Grand Bahama.



PM MINNIS ATTENDS INAUGURATION OF CAP-HAITIEN/LABADEE ROAD

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti -- Prime Minister, Dr. the Hon. Hubert A. Minnis returned to Haiti's capital late Saturday afternoon after completing a busy morning schedule that took him outside of Port-au-Prince for most of the day.

The Prime Minister accompanied President of the Republic of Haiti, His Excellency Jovenel Moise, on

a number of planned events, including the official opening ceremony for the newly-built road between Cap-Haitien and Labadee, a major tourist area.



MAIN VALVE – Godfrey Waugh of Waugh Construction (left) shows Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, the Hon. K. Peter Turnquest, and Minister of State for Grand Bahama, Senator Kwasi Thompson how one of the pumps at the well field in East Grand Bahama operates, during a tour of the work taking place there by both Minister Turnquest and Minister Thompson on Friday, February 23, 2018.



MINISTER THOMPSON: 'GRAND BAHAMIANS MUST BE PREPARED TO CREATE OWN SUCCESSES'

FREEPORT, Grand Bahama -- Minister of State for Grand Bahama, Senator the Hon. Kwasi



Thompson says that a hopeful outlook for Grand Bahama is based not just on direct foreign investment, but on local investments by Grand Bahamians like Curtis and Glennett Fowler, owners and operators of FowlCo Ma-

rine and Logistics Management. The new Logistics Company, which is 100 percent Bahamian-owned, held its official opening on Saturday, February 24, 2018 at the facility on Grand Bahamian Way. The investment totals some \$1.6 million.



LABOUR ON THE BLOCKS, GOLDEN GATES PARK ON SATURDAY



NASSAU, The Bahamas --

The Ministry of Labour's 'Labour on the Blocks' employment initiative took place at Golden Gates Park, Carmichael Road, on Saturday afternoon, February 24, 2018.



CULTURE AND YOUTH IN THE PARK – CENTREVILLE



NASSAU, The Bahamas -- Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture, the Hon. Michael Pintard addressed the Centreville community at 'Culture and Youth in the Park' on Father Marshall Cooper Park, Saturday.



GHS MAGIC IVY MUSICIANS CALL ON ACTING PRIME MINISTER

NASSAU, The Bahamas – The Hon. Desmond Bannister, Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Works admonished members of Government High School’s (GHS) Magic Ivy band to utilize opportunities at their institution to prepare them for any situation that life throws their way. The students, representing grades 10, 11 and 12, along with Performing Arts educator, Yonell Justilien, called on Minister Bannister Monday, February 26, at the Ministry on JFK. Magic Ivy competed against 12 high schools in the Music Project competition held February 17 at Botanical Gardens.



Member of Parliament for Centreville, and Chairman of the Antiquities, Monuments and Museums Corporation, Reece Chipman brought remarks.



AT CARICOM - FIRST LADIES, MRS. MOISE AND MRS. MINNIS HAVE MEETING AND EXCHANGE GIFTS



PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti -- Wife of the President of the Republic of Haiti, Mrs. Martine Moise (right), and wife of the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, Mrs. Patricia Minnis held a formal meeting on Monday at the Marriott in Port-au-Prince. Following the meeting, the First Ladies exchanged gifts. Mrs. Minnis traveled to Haiti to accompany Prime Minister Hubert Minnis to the 29th Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), which began at the Marriott on Monday morning, February 26, 2018.



DPM TURNQUEST ATTENDS IDB GOVERNORS' ANNUAL CONSULTATION IN KINGSTON



NASSAU, The Bahamas – Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and IDB Governor, the Hon. K. Peter Turnquest led a Bahamas delegation to the Inter-American Development Bank’s (IDB) 7th Annual Consultation of the Governors of the Caribbean Country Department, February 26-27, 2018 in Kingston, Jamaica. DPM Turnquest anticipated discussions

today with President of the IDB, Luis Alberto Moreno, in bilateral meetings, on the IDB Country Strategy for The Bahamas and the status of existing and upcoming bank operations in the country.

FEBRUARY 27TH, 2018

BAHAMIANS COULD SEE BENEFITS FROM DISCUSSIONS ON AGRICULTURE AS EARLY AS DECEMBER 2018

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti -- Prime Minister, Dr. the Hon. Hubert A. Minnis said he “expects to see” certain fruits and vegetables from the Republic of Haiti being directly imported into The Bahamas by as early as December 2018, as a result of discussions with Haiti’s President, His Excellency Jovenel Moise. quantities of fruits and vegetables already being imported into the country (particularly mangoes) from second and sometimes third countries and/or entities that purchase the produce from Haiti in the first instance before exporting them to The Bahamas, a process which Bahamian officials say adds to costs for Bahamians.

The move is expected to impact the large

HENFIELD SAYS COMPETITIVE FORCES, NATURAL DISASTERS, ARE AMONG FACTORS IMPACTING CARIBBEAN TOURISM

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti – Competitive forces, under-funding, along with the ravages of destructive natural disasters such as hurricanes are two of the key factors impacting Caribbean Tourism, Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Hon. Darren Henfield told a Caribbean Community Plenary Session Tuesday.

CARICOM INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING DISCUSSIONS CONCLUDE ON HIGH NOTE

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti – Caribbean Community leaders discussed a number of topical issues ranging from disaster management, mitigation and recovery to mandatory evacuations for regional citizens during natural disasters during the two days of the 29th Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community that ended Tuesday afternoon.

DPM TURNQUEST, AS IDB GOVERNOR, TALKS TECHNOLOGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE AT IDB ENCLAVE

KINGSTON, Jamaica -- The Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Finance, K. Peter Turnquest, in his capacity as one of the Governors of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), attending the second day of the 7th Annual Consultation Meetings with Caribbean Governors of the Bank, participated in a panel discussion led by Sir Richard Branson



and IDB President Luis Alberto Moreno. A photograph of a panel discussion. Several people are seated at a long table, and various national flags are visible in the background.

HENFIELD: BAHAMAS TAKING ON MORE LEADERSHIP ROLE IN REGION



PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti – The Bahamas’ role in the region is rapidly moving towards one of “more leadership” because of the country’s ability to rapidly respond in times of natural disasters such as Hurricanes, Minister of Foreign Affairs the Hon. Darren Henfield said Tuesday. Minister Henfield introduced to the Conference the agenda item on Tourism and other issues discussed by Heads of Government on Day Two, which included Air Transportation Issues and Blacklisting and Derisking.

FEBRUARY 28TH, 2018

GB'S SMALL BUSINESS INCENTIVE PROGRAM PROVING TO BE SUCCESSFUL



FREEPORT, Grand Bahama - The success of the newly launched Grand Bahama Micro and Small Business Economic, Empowerment and Incentive Program was evident in the certification of a second group of potential entrepreneurs from the

program on Monday, February 26, 2018, in the Office of the Prime Minister. Senator Kwasi Thompson told the group of entrepreneurs that there are positive signs and good things happening in Freeport, if they chose to see those positive signs. "I want to encourage you to take advantage of the opportunities that are coming," said Minister Thompson.



BAIC GRAND BAHAMA HOSTS LIVESTOCK FARMING SEMINAR



The Ministry of Agriculture & Marine Resources in conjunction with The Bahamas Agricultural & Industrial Corporation (BAIC) partnered with The Inter-America Institute for Corporation on Agriculture (IICA) to host a livestock workshop at the Grand Bahama Arts & Craft Centre, Freeport Grand Bahama on Wednesday 21st February 2018. There was a total of forty participants from throughout Grand Bahama that attended the Livestock

Workshop, which was very successful as they were anxious and eager to learn new techniques.

7TH ANNUAL PUBLIC SOFTWARE REGIONAL WORKSHOP



The Bahamas hosted the 7th Annual Public Software Regional Workshop February 22 and 23, 2018 at SuperClubs Breezes. The workshop's main objective was to incorporate the countries of the Caribbean area into the Regional Collaborative Public Soft-

ware Mechanism that is being implemented by the e-Government Network of Latin America and the Caribbean (Red GEALC), with the support of the Regional Public Goods Initiative of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

NEMA SHELTER MANAGERS TRAINING



NASSAU, The Bahamas —The National Emergency Management Agency hosted Shelter Management training based on

the guidelines of the United States Agency for International Development Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA), February 26-28, 2018 at NEMA. The training provided those with responsibility for the operational management of emergency shelters the necessary knowledge and skills to perform the required duties.



DEFENCE FORCE SENDS CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF SIR DURWARD KNOWLES



Coral Harbour Base, 26 FEB. '18 (RBDF): The Commander Defence Force, Commodore Tellis Bethel, his Command Team, Officers and Marines of the Royal Bahamas Defence Force join the nation as we mourn the passing of Sir Durward Knowles on February 24, 2018. A



legendary Bahamian, Olympic sailing champion and Guinness World Record holder, Sir Durward's

legacy and numerous achievements in the interest of community and national development will forever be etched in the annals of Bahamian history.

WELLS: PUSH IS ON TO GROW COUNTRY'S FISHERIES/AGRICULTURAL SECTORS

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti —Minister of Agriculture and Marine Resources, the Hon. Renward Wells says he will take advantage of the knowledge-base of CARICOM Institutions such as the Caribbean Agricultural Research Development Institute (CAR-

DI) and the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) to re-assert The Bahamas as a major player in the region's agricultural sector, while simultaneously expanding marine exports from The Bahamas.

MARCH 1ST, 2018

EXTENSIVE ROAD WORKS UNDERWAY IN NEW PROVIDENCE

NASSAU, The Bahamas – The Ministry of Works through Bahamix has embarked on a Road Works Project in New Providence and the Family Islands. Melanie Roach, Director in the Ministry of Works, said the extensive list of roads includes West Bay Street from Blake Road to the roundabout at Old Fort Bay, Village and Soldier roads from Shirley Street to Baillou Hill Road, East Bay Street from the bridge to Montague, roads in Palmdale and Firetrail Road and Culberts Hill.

MARCH 2ND, 2018

SYMONETTE: IMPROVED SYSTEMS TO FURTHER EXPAND FINANCIAL SERVICES



NASSAU, The Bahamas – Minister of Financial Services, Trade & Industry and Immigration, the Hon. Brent Symonette,

says that steps are being taken to grow and sustain the financial services sector. The Minister delivered opening remarks during the 15th annual International Business and Finance Summit. The event was held at the Baha Mar Convention Centre on Thursday, 1st March under the theme, “Hit the Reset Button.”



MOORE’S ISLAND STUDENTS SHOWCASE THEIR TALENT IN NATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL



NASSAU, The Bahamas -- The 2018 E. Clement Bethel National Arts Festival (NAF) Adjudications started in a special way, on March 2, 2018, as students from the Moore’s Island Comprehensive School showcased their dancing and singing skills, during a performance of the school’s



“Class Act” Performing Arts Department of the play “A Raisin in the Sun”.



THE BAHAMAS RANKS HIGH AS A WELL-REGULATED JURISDICTION



NASSAU, Bahamas -- Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance the Hon. K. Peter Turnquest said that in respect to regulations and compliance, The Bahamas continues to be a very well regulated jurisdiction and continues to be highly ranked in this regard. In its efforts to keep up with international best practices, the country has signed onto the Multilateral Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters and the Framework on Base Erosion Profit Shifting (BEPS), DPM Turnquest said at the International Business Finance Summit presented by the Bahamas Financial Services Board and held at Baha Mar, March 1, 2018.

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Bahamas Information Services

MINISTER DAMES GIVES INSIGHT INTO THE PROCEEDS OF CRIME BILL



NASSAU, The Bahamas – While giving his Communication during the debate on the Financial Transactions Reporting Bill 2018 and the Proceeds of Crime Bill, 2018, Minister of National Security the Hon. Marvin Dames presented to the House of Assembly an in-depth look into the latter. Minister Dames noted that the Bill seeks to expose “all of those persons, organizations and companies involved in criminal activity and seek to support, cover-up and conspire with others to conceal their ill-gotten gains, by whatever means necessary”.

HURRICANE RELIEF - GRAND BAHAMA - 125 CHEQUES ISSUED TO RESIDENTS



HURRICANE RELIEF

– Some 125 cheques for hurricane repairs were issued on Friday, March 2, by the Ministry of Works and NEMA to those residents who had submitted the required paperwork proving ownership and damages done during Hurricane Matthew. People from each con-

stituency were given a maximum of \$4,000 to begin their repairs. Residents were advised that they could not issue the vouchers to anyone but the homeowners, and if they could not appear in person, personnel should go to them. Shown are: Dorie Cooper of NEMA and Adrianna Rolle of the Ministry of Works assisting a resident. Also present were Toni Hudson-Bannister, Officer in Charge of the Ministry of Public Works in Grand Bahama; and Stacey Roberts-Adams of the Ministry of Works.

