

The Freeport News

GRAND BAHAMA'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

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An awakening for FNMs in GB

The massive Progressive Liberal Party connection with island voters, through the captivating rally last Friday, should serve as an awakening for the Free National Movement (FNM) family in Grand Bahama and indeed the organization in general.

There are denials from the FNM camp, but it would be true to say that finally, it seems that the PLP, as a prominent political entity in Grand Bahama, has come alive.

A clear and strong message has been sent to FNMs in Grand Bahama. There is a lot of work to be done. *The Freeport News* has done a good bit of canvassing of views since the huge 'gold wave' descended on FNM Country and it is, in fact, an upbeat PLP environment in Grand Bahama that is countering early advantages the FNM had on the ground.

The FNMs would be minded to recognize the need to consolidate efforts to rise up against the PLP surge.

The battle is on indeed, with "vote day" less than a month away, May 10. The truth be told though, the same level of leadership complacency the PLP suffered from on Grand Bahama prior to the Friday explosion of support, seems to have crept into the FNM fold.

It is our view that the FNM leadership in Grand Bahama had been taking the PLP for granted. Individually, Michael Pintard, Rev. Frederick McAlpine and Iram Lewis have been very much on the ball in their respective constituencies, Marco City, Pineridge and Central Grand Bahama.

In Grand Bahama though, there is Peter Turnquest. He is the FNM Deputy Leader and outgoing Member of Parliament for East Grand Bahama. Party folks have questioned his general leadership. In truth it has appeared as if he has been operating, as though secured in his status with the voters of East Grand Bahama, with no outward concern for projecting the FNM in the island as a whole, and assisting the movements of other candidates.

In observing Turnquest, he has appeared to be a bit of a premadonna, with an inflated perspective of his personal political value. Maybe, he is not actually in that mold, but we are speaking to a particular perception. While other leading FNM candidates in GB have been marketing and advertising themselves, and accordingly generally carrying the FNM message, Turnquest has been quite low-key in that regard.

On the other hand, Pintard has been a giant of a presence for the FNM in Grand Bahama, a man of the people, all of them, FNMs, PLPs and all else. Rev. McAlpine and Lewis have been touting the FNM message in the media as well.

Turnquest has not, based on what we have observed, been leading the FNM charge in Grand Bahama and if he does not "get with it" he might indeed live to have regrets. Whether he and others wish to recognize the reality of the PLP's grand event last Friday, let it be known that it was the sort of happening that could end up being the game-changer.

Turnquest has the good fortune of being well positioned in what is considered a safe FNM constituency. He will likely win East End, but just how much will he contribute to successes in other constituencies is questionable.

His ability to be a vibrant leader of FNMs in Grand Bahama will be severely tested going forward. Indeed, the PLP in Grand Bahama, is on the move!

LETTERS & COLUMNS GUIDE

Because of the many unsigned letters and those with doubtful names, *The Freeport News* requests that letters submitted for consideration must be accompanied by the full name, address and telephone number of the sender so that they can be verified. Letters without these details will not be accepted. However, these details will be omitted on request.

• All LETTERS & COLUMNS must be emailed to: fred@nasguard and barbara@nasguard.com

THANK YOU

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

By the rivers of Babylon

Dear Editor,

The upcoming general election will be the most important one ever in our wonderful nation, make no mistake about this. I call it as I see it. Yes, many are 'fatigued' of governance by my party, the Progressive Liberal Party, but when you closely examine the alternative stark choices that are available, the FNM and the DNA, despite the 'concerns' of reasonable Bahamians and independent thinkers, the PLP must and will prevail.

Bahamians, by and large, are a fickle people politically speaking. They can 'love' you today and 'hate' you later that same day if they perceive that a politician or a party did not come through for them. It has been well said that politics is a brutal sport. This is no time, however, for the siren songs of Dr. Hubert Minnis and the reincarnation of an elitist class that once held the majority in troll. We have arrived, fellow Bahamians, at the very shores of

Babylon. Indeed, political mongrels are at the gates.

The PLP came back to office in 2012 after being mauled in 2007. The party met our economy in shambles due to the massive cost overruns for the road project that was badly executed by the foreign contractors.

The majority of the voters in New Providence will decide the fate of the PLP and they, almost alone, will determine the way forward for the nation. It is not that the voters in the Family Islands do not count but it is a given that the bulk of registered voters live right here in New Providence, creased right up like flies. With less than six weeks to go before the general election, the gold rush administration must retool its core message and demonstrate political sincerity on the ground.

At the earliest opportunity after we are returned to office, there must be a new Cabinet. Too many of the current ministers have proven to be political burdens to the party. They are

inept and have made a total mess of their portfolios. If the PM was not as 'compassionate' as he is many of them would have been reassigned to other portfolios or removed totally from Cabinet. We have enough 'new' blood to bring this about.

I am persuaded that we will literally 'snatch' victory from the jaws of defeat but it will not be a cake walk. Our biggest weapon is the PM, despite his recent gaffes. His speech writers and handlers need to be replaced by genuine PLPs and not newly minted PLPs who have been jettisoned into our leadership ranks. I fear that many of these individuals are actually Trojan horses and political cutthroats of the highest order.

We Bahamians are like the Israelites of old. We have been on a long trek in the wilderness for almost forty years. It is time for us to cross over the Jordan. We know Prime Minister Perry Christie's mettle and worthiness to hold high office, based on his qualifications. Not that the others are not 'qualified' in their

own way but governance is not an experiment. Rocking with Doctor Minnis makes absolutely no sense. Yes, he's assisted in the delivery of over 5,000 babies but The Bahamas is not akin to a pregnant woman.

Collectively, we as Bahamians now find ourselves by the rivers of Babylon. Babel or political confusion will reign supreme. We can continue to work it all out for the better of the majority of Bahamians or regress back to the old days of the United Bahamian Party (UBP), which was dominated by white, elite Bahamians.

They may have 'disappeared' around the corner some years ago, to further strengthen their financial foundations but they are now back, with a vengeance. Will we, as a people, cry by the rivers of Babylon or rouse ourselves and cross over into The Promised Land? To God then, in all things, be the glory.

~ Orland H. Bodie Jr.

GOD'S CHOICE

Dear Editor,

"Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people" – Proverbs 14:34

Just for the record, I am writing on Tuesday, April 11, from Santo Domingo, where I am retreating for one week, until Monday, April 17, 2017. I would have repeatedly affirmed that it was God's choice, not mine, that Branville McCartney become the next prime minister of The Bahamas, following the general election. Like many of you, he was not my choice, but "the Lord seeth not as man seeth, for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart" – 1 Samuel 16:7.

Following my public endorsement of Mr. McCartney, I received so much pushback from

almost every quarter, that I had to ask God if He made a mistake, or perhaps I misread what He was saying. Then I said to God, "You must clarify this matter to me, because I have put myself on the line". I was then reminded that the Bible says, "In the mouth of two or three witnesses, every word shall be established" – Matthew 18:16.

I went into serious prayer to God and said to Him, "Make this matter clear to me." The following day I met with a gentleman who had called and wanted to meet with me urgently. Prior to this, I had never met or heard of this gentleman. In fact, I was reluctant to meet with him, but I did. What he said shocked me. He told me that over one year ago, he had a dream that Mr. McCartney would become prime minister, but that he had not revealed his dream to any-

one. He then proceeded to pull some papers out of a sealed envelope, where he had recorded the details of his dreams, and dated then, but was afraid to share such information, because the chances of that happening appeared too unlikely; but after he heard me go public, he decided to speak with me. That was confirmation enough for me. One day, in the providence of God, prior to the general election, I hope to appear on some talk show with that gentleman, and together share and verify the truths of these matters.

Now that I have dispensed with those details, once again I affirm that Mr. McCartney for prime minister of The Bahamas was God's choice and not mine. I simply endorsed what God has revealed to me, and made it public. Since that time, Mr. McCartney has had my full,

prayerful support. The suggestions to follow are my personal opinions, as one who has been hearing from God and is gravely concerned for this country. I hereby recommend:

1. Janet J. Bostwick, as the new governor general;
2. Dame Joan Sawyer, as the new attorney general.

Needless to say we need a strong and capable minister of finance (for which I have no recommendation at the present time).

Following Nomination Day, I anticipate making a full list of endorsements, on behalf of The Gatekeepers, and would encourage all Gatekeepers and Bahamians in general to prayerfully consider giving them your support.

~ Pastor Jeremiah Duncombe

The ghetto is not a penthouse

Dear Editor,

The Progressive Liberal Party's election slogan of "Forward Together Bahamians" conjures up ominous images in my mind.

What I have is a vision of a herd, following the alpha male, galloping at full speed towards a precipice to certain doom.

This country has been forced to accompany the governing party

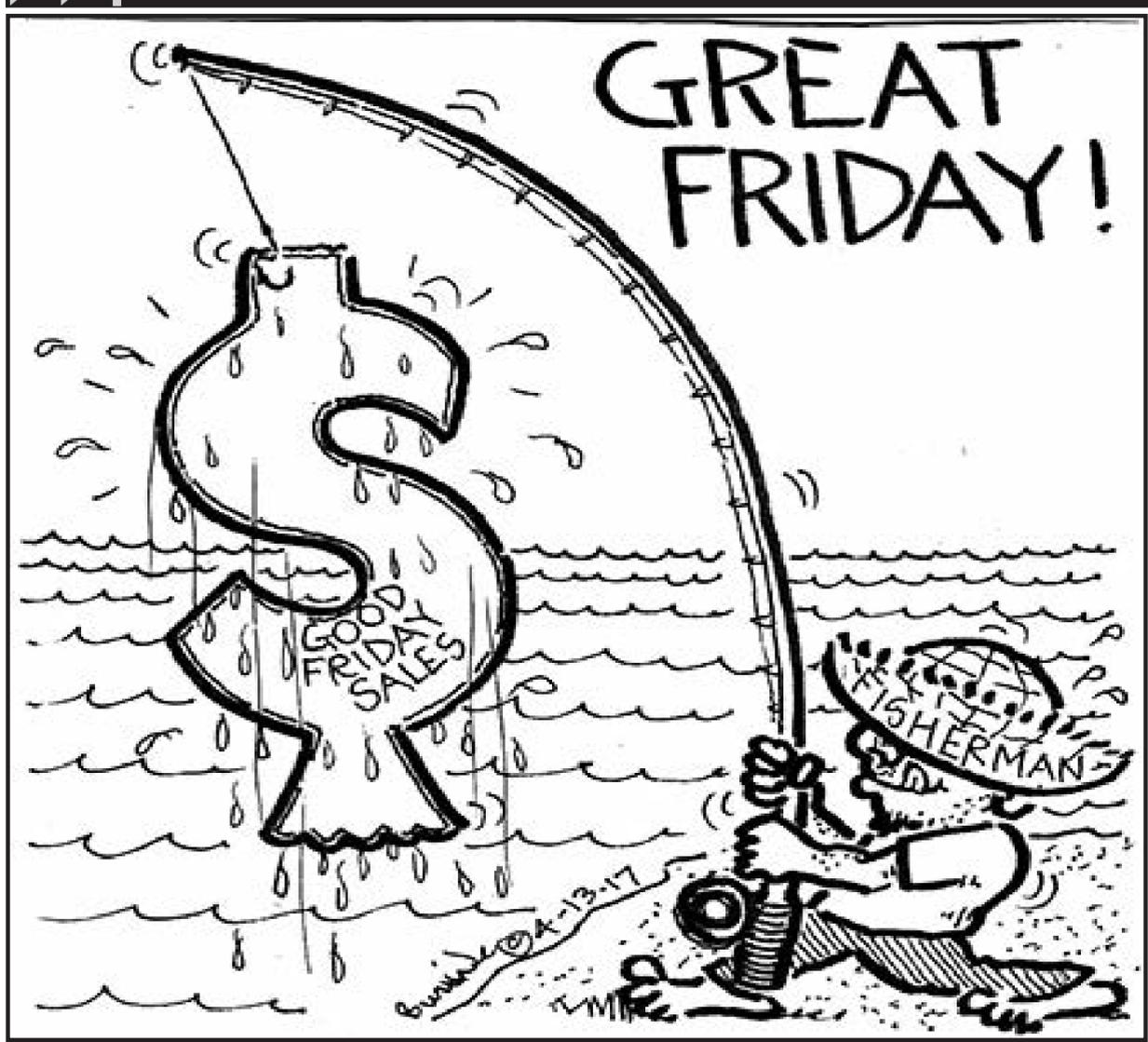
on its vision of a better Bahamas and the destination has been disappointing indeed. No amount of spin can convince me the ghetto is a penthouse. The gravel I have been forced to eat is not gravy, I

still have bits of stone in my teeth!

It's time for this country to go forward indeed, but it can't with the PLP.

~ JB

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THANK YOU