

The Freeport News

GRAND BAHAMA'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

Published daily except Sundays and Holidays by The Nassau Guardian (1844) Limited Cedar Street

P.O. Box F-40007, Freeport, Grand Bahama Commonwealth of The Bahamas

EMANUEL M. ALEXIOU
President/Publisher

FREDERICK R. STURRUP J.P.
General Manager/Managing Editor

HOWARD GRANT
Production Manager

BARBARA WALKIN
Night Editor

WILFRID WILKINSON
Night Manager

RONNE THOMAS
Circulation Manager

Tel. 352-8321 thru 4

Fax 351-3449

Editorial Email: tfneditor@nasguard.com
Advertising Email: freeportads@nasguard.com
Website <http://freeport.nassauguardian.net>

Local Subscription Rates:

3 months \$58 • 6 months \$120 • 12 months \$217 + VAT 7.5%

Port Authority has strong focus on island sports

There is much more to the Grand Bahama Port Authority (GBPA) than being the prime engine that drives the investment/economic machinery in the island.

There is of course, the sports passion.

Over time, particularly through the late patriarchs Edward St. George and Sir Jack Hayward, the GBPA has been a strong advocate of sports development. Organizations and individuals have prospered and gone on to achieve greatness and provide Grand Bahamians many proud moments, as a direct result of gestures made by the GBPA with the consent of St. George and Sir Jack, and their personal attention.

The trend continues with Sarah St. George as the point executive for the GBPA. Case in point, is the sponsorship of the coverage of the CARIFTA Games that took place in Curacao this past Easter Weekend. The CARIFTA Games, the largest and most notable junior track and field event in the Caribbean, has long been one of the centerpieces of The Bahamas Association of Athletic Associations (BAAA) National Program.

The GBPA sponsored the travel of *Freeport News* sports reporter Shayne Stubbs to bring coverage for Grand Bahama.

As is traditional, a meaningful percentage of Grand Bahamian athletes made up the national team and corporate entities like the GBPA, are to be congratulated for recognizing the importance of contributing to the island-wide sports development initiative, directed by a variety of organizations and dedicated mentors.

It is at times like these, when the CARIFTA Games and the upcoming World Relays are major topics in the country, that it becomes clear to those who are not directly connected with sports development, just how essential the athletes, coaches, administrators and organizers of the island's sporting arena are to Grand Bahama life.

It must be pointed out though that through the years, the assistance in producing CARIFTA caliber young athletes has fallen off. There was a time, during the high-flying Errol Bodie CARIFTA era when Grand Bahama athletes rivaled their New Providence counterparts in producing gold medals.

The achievements of Lucy Russell, Elmer Smith, Rickey Moxey, Beryl Bethel and others will live on in Bahamian CARIFTA history. The glory of yesteryear can be recaptured indeed, we think.

Thus, the continued focus of Grand Bahama companies is imperative.

So, we applaud the GBPA in this instance for putting a high profile on the CARIFTA Games, and others within the island's corporate community who operate likewise.

We encourage them also to revisit budgets to see just how much more can be done.

Congratulations to the GB athletes who made the CARIFTA 2017 team and we extend best wishes to the ones who will be on the world stage later this month at the International Association of Athletic Federations (IAAF) Third World Relays, to take place in New Providence at the Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium, April 22-23.

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: barbara@nasguard.com & fred@nasguard.com.

THANK YOU

STATEMENT

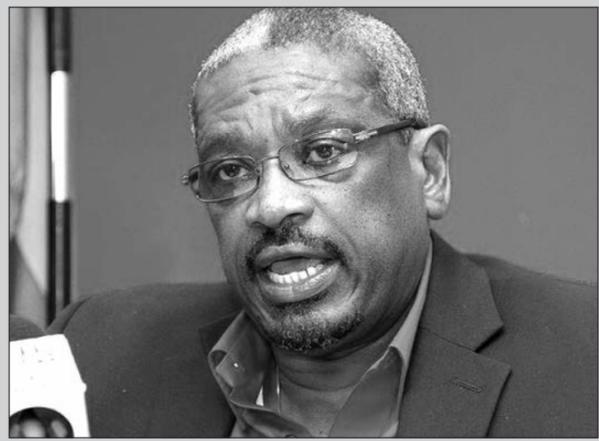
Dr. Minnis' comments on Easter homicides

Dr. Hubert Minnis, Free National Movement (FNM) Leader, issued the following statement regarding the homicides that took place in New Providence over the Easter weekend.

Following is Minnis' statement in its entirety.

"We were all shocked and saddened to learn the news of the three murders that took place over the Easter Holidays. My sincere condolences and prayers go out to the families of those whose lives were taken—one of whom was an off-duty police officer. During this sobering time, all Bahamians should take the time to acknowledge and thank our first responders, including our police, who display courage every day, when on the job and off-duty.

"I am hopeful that we as a nation will work harder than ever before, to address this dark cloud of crime that continues to linger over our communities. It has never been more important for our neighborhood leaders, educators, police and community activists to work together in restoring safety to our streets. I am proud of all who work toward this end now, and hope to offer them encouragement that we as a nation can and will overcome this tribulation."



DR. HUBERT MINNIS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Political parties challenged

Dear Editor,

It is very important that this election on May 10, 2017 that the political parties present to the Bahamian people the best ideas, solutions and visions to address the problems facing The Bahamas and the Bahamian people.

It is also very important that the politicians, all, must remember that

they are elected to Parliament to serve and represent the Bahamian people.

It is my sincere hope that a better future will be decided by the Bahamian people for themselves, kids and grandkids. The voice of the people will be heard on May 10, 2017. May God bless The Bahamas and the Bahamian people.

~ Pedro Smith

Democracy works both ways

Dear Editor,

In a country that brags about democracy and respecting people, I find it most interesting that the same people who celebrated the transition period when Hubert Ingraham rescued them from obscurity to prominence, either completely ignored that he was a PLP or they have a serious case of amnesia.

Since then, there were musical chairs being played on both sides. Never mind that the entire FNM was born from eight PLPs leaving the party. But had it not been for the PLP, the FNM would have never existed. But ingratitude must be a sin.

Today, in keeping with the same democracy that saw the birth, others have crossed the line, abandoning a house on fire at a very high speed to seek safe and secure surroundings.

I bolted!

The hypocritical FNM start literally hollering, labelling this writer for seeing the proverbial handwriting on the wall. But what was not said was that the exodus started long

before. What was not said was immediately after the last election and the selection of the present co-leader, many could not see themselves involved in the calculated deception.

Today, this art of deception has been perfected. Minnis would want us to believe that he is such a good boy, but his greed is why many are still waiting for his explanation as to how he gave himself a contract while a Minister. How come?

Minnis argued that he did nothing wrong. But the fact of the matter is, he really thinks it is ok to unethically cut that kind of deal for himself. He confirms that he believes he is right by rehiring Brent Symonette, even though Hubert Ingraham fired Symonette for being unethical, too.

The FNM has been questioning the PLP, but never stopped for one minute to ask for forgiveness for their own transgressions. Therefore, I suggest, while they are asking questions that concern them, it would be best if they were sincere and confessed their own sins, ask for forgiveness, then point fingers.

Oh, by the way, when there is a full expla-

nation for the half of a billion dollars spent on the incomplete roads, with the miscalculation being \$100,000,000 over runs, then we can have a genuine conversation. Simple addition must have been on an extended vacation.

I wonder who swallowed the canary? There is a pink feather in the corner of the former PM's mouth.

Stop acting all sanctimonious, there were many more questions during the last term of the FNM, so unless hands are not cleaned properly, then hush. Shhhhhhhhh.

Finally, thanks for the love I got from many FNMs who said they respect me for being courageous enough to follow my heart to where I am accepted and respected. Praise ye the Lord.

Oh, on another note, it would be a great measuring stick if Hubert Alexander Minnis stopped hiding and sat face to face with Perry Gladstone Christie and debated the issues, just the issues.

Laser focused.

~ Ivoine W. Ingraham

Upcoming elections

Dear Editor,

This is a strange election for me. It is the first time that I can remember being so unexcited about an upcoming election. It

seems that we as Bahamians basically have to choose either the PLP, FNM or DNA to govern us for the next five years.

It is difficult for me to be excited about supporting any of

these three parties, but for different reasons. The PLP and FNM seem quite smug in being members of the, "if it is not you, it is us club" and do not seem to focus much on things that are

priorities to me. Some of those things are: a) Getting our major cities clean and doing what it takes to keep them clean; b) Ensuring that virtually no students leave our school system without at least being able to read well and do basic math; c) Making The Bahamas as hurricane-resistant as possible; to be able to bounce back quickly if/when they occur; d) Putting away excuses for not recycling things like glass bottles, rubber tyres, metal cans, derelict vehicles and banning, or at least restricting, the importation of glass bottles that contribute to forest fires, litter, injuries to tourists and Bahamians and marine life; e) Realizing, using and developing whatever natural resources we do have and at least, on a small scale, having machinery to make things; f) Honoring God by finding a way to enforce capital punishment for murder. Away with the foolish reasoning that execution is wrong because God let Cain live.

The institution of executions was a long time after the time of Cain, and God never rescinded His order for murderers to in turn lose their lives.

The DNA seems more radical in what they promise to achieve, but I do not get the sense that their time is at hand to govern The Bahamas. They have not sold their message to large enough numbers of middle-aged Bahamians to be serious contenders at this time.

I think the FNM may well win, but if they do, the temptation will be for them to gloat how they defeated the PLP against the odds, even with a not especially gifted

(Continued on Page 5)

The Best of SIDEBURNS

