

# 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

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Local Subscription Rates:  
3 months \$58 • 6 months \$120 • 12 months \$217 + VAT 7.5%

## STATEMENT

# Minnis critical of govt's economic mismanagement

Dr. Hubert Minnis, Free National Movement (FNM) Leader, yesterday, issued the following statement on what he termed, the government's mismanagement of the Bahamian economy.

Following is Minnis' statement in its entirety.

"Five years ago, the Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) made one lofty promise after another in their campaign run. At every turn, they promised Bahamians a better life. But during their five years, they have delivered a growing crime epidemic.

They have delivered our country double-digit unemployment, increased poverty, a failed educational system, and unsustainable debt.

While the Bahamian people suffer under their watch, the embattled Prime Minister (Perry Christie) and his team continue to live lavishly at the peoples' expense, flying around in private jets, and seemingly acting indifferent to Bahamians concerns. While the country hovers on the brink of economic disaster, they are once again coming with empty promises.

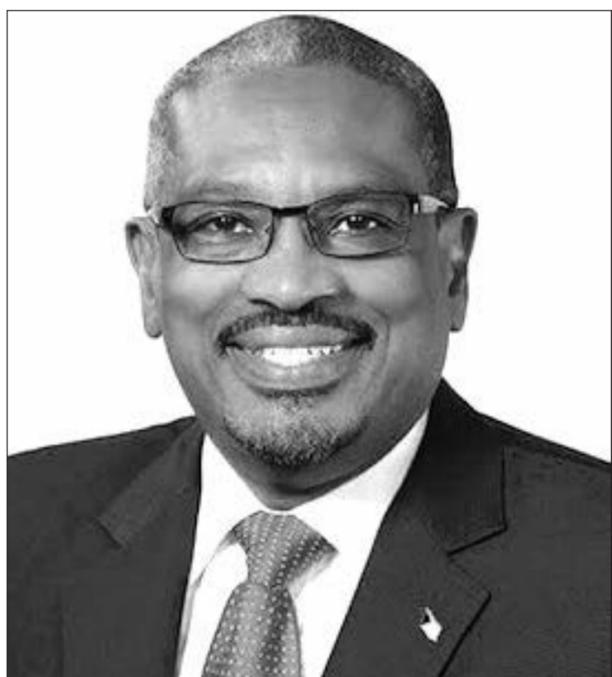
"The PLP turns a blind eye to the people's struggle, and even though they were warned by global and regional authorities

on economic affairs (IDB, IMF and World Bank) massive government mismanagement has crippled our country. Their reports send clear warnings that spell out, in no uncertain terms, that this government has spent our economy into oblivion, continues irresponsible lending practices and fails, at every turn, to enact a real plan for sustainable growth.

Time-and-time again these international authorities have called out the lack of government accountability and transparency. But these warnings have apparently fallen on deaf ears.

"Be reminded throughout the PLP's election-season rhetoric, that this government jokes about wasting your tax dollars, hides their expenditures, fails to address unemployment and piles up more and more debt – all while Bahamian families continue to endure hardship. Our country deserves better. Our children deserve a future that doesn't entail living from paycheck-to-paycheck. They deserve a country with opportunity for all.

"The FNM is the only party with a serious plan to stimulate job creation and deliver sustainable growth through fiscal re-



**DR. HUBERT MINNIS**  
Free National Movement, Leader

ponsible policies and innovated investments. We need your help to change the downward path established by the PLP and to put our country on a path to reach a brighter future.

On May 10, you have the op-

portunity to change our direction. Another five years of this government's failed promises cannot be risked. Vote for the FNM and together we will build a strong and prosperous future for generations to come."

## Decaying society

Our society is decaying. We are, in fact, deteriorating as a people, well beyond the pace that many would agree to. The nation is festering, and at the risk of being accused of prophesying "fire and brimstone," we present the view that at this rate, our nation is in danger of perishing.

An incident that went viral recently, sent a message to the world of what is allowable in this, our Bahamian society. Social media was captivated by a video (with audio) of a woman in dire distress, being molested and treated as if she was a mere hunk of meat. The scene unfolded in broad daylight on a public roadway.

It was most degrading, this woman on the ground, helpless, and based on the video which vividly displayed what was happening to her, unable to give any resistance whatsoever.

A more appalling scene, we venture to submit, was never before associated with The Bahamas. The act itself was dreadful, rotten and unbecoming of Bahamians. However, even more distressing was the fact that there were witnesses who did not go to the rescue of the woman. Sadly, this is what our society has evolved to.

Where is the moral fortitude this nation was noted for? We were once a people, generally, with the strength of character that compelled us, all, to act in a moral way. There was the time, when even those men who allowed themselves to become inebriated, sobered up quickly when the moment arrived to be chivalrous.

Yes, we once lived in a nation of chivalry. Of course, there were always the odd balls, but for the most part women were respected and held up in an honorable manner. We were not a people who sat around or stood idly by, while a woman was being physically abused in the most disgraceful of ways.

One needed to be careful, once ago, about speaking ill of a woman in public. Now, for the world to see, in The Bahamas what went viral, is now a part of the character of our beloved nation.

Where is the outrage?  
Where are the ministers of the gospel who are so up to the task when it comes to planning, arranging and carrying out major protests against gaming, etc.? Why have they not publicly decried the act of a daughter of the soil being molested in full view of onlookers?

What about the politicians?  
Who has come forward to speak out against such a heinous, barbarous, degenerate act?  
Those who lead in this society, and others who aspire to do so, have an obligation to rise up against all that is outrageous. There has been alarming silence.

Is it that what happened to the woman in question, has become kind of acceptable in our society?  
Is that why there is no outrage?  
Well, we say to all: Beware the Wrath of God!  
The Bahamas is a decaying society indeed.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# Questions asked of voters

Dear Editor,

What has the present government done for the continuation of governing the country?

What are their specific, definite and precise ideas or goals to change the present conditions of the Bahamian economy?

Precisely what is the present status of the debt of the country?

Is VAT presently benefiting the economy, whereby we would not have an increase in taxes?

Have they honestly and personally not benefited from the finances of the Bahamian economy?

Is the present Official Opposition considering is present status of internal conflict?

Have you considered whether the other opposition parties need stronger leadership ability and guts to make a strong government.

Bahamians, I do not hate anybody in this country. I love God the Creator and Maker of the Universe. Every Government of the Bahamas, whether PLP or FNM, I have prayed for, that the leaders may make decisions that

are profitable and beneficial for the Bahamian people, whether black or white, male or female, inclusive of whether they fear God or not according to I Timothy 2:1 & 2. Therefore, I ask all Bahamians to seek God personally and ask him to allow a government or candidates that would help the poor and the lowly.

For a very long time we have spontaneously without consideration elected persons who are either not qualified, or are opportunist, selfish or greedy with no substance or platform to represent us. They either are not good decision makers, don't know how to adapt, so as not to appear serving personal interest, or not sound enough to not get drunk with popularity and power. If you decide to look out for yourselves, see to it that you own everything business wise and not help the helpless; you have failed the Bahamian people. Persons out there who have the potentials, need to motivate, energize and cultivate a stamina that would make them individuals who can help the system, come forth and break this cycle.

Running any country is a delicate thing and the persons doing so should be God-faring, honest and upright and of integrity; those who would deny themselves to the point of honestly not looking out for their own gain. Certainly, you need to ensure that you are taken care of, but not to the point whereby your gain is your highest priority, no matter what you have to do. That type of attitude should not be at the forefront of leaders' intentions.

The future economy's growth, strength and welfare of our country will affect our future genera-

tions, our children, 'our little darlings' as former MP Mr. Algenon Allen used to quote. Really we have to look out for successive generations and set precedent for their welfare. It's not only for us making the decisions to vote now, but we need to remember the generations to follow.

There has been progress and successes in all the parties that have served in the Bahamas. However, the country needs individuals who are not self-centered, and avoid making decisions that have no lasting effect. The individuals must be persons who are concerned from the heart when making decisions and from the head when it comes to dealing with persons that are not genuinely true to the cause. If you need to re-vamp, do not be afraid to do so. We can't allow persons in leadership to not look out for the interest of the Bahamian people. It is high time that we look at the future of the present generation and the generations to follow.

Please voters, do not allow the wooing of persuasive promises and illegal funding or buying of votes by anyone, regardless of who it might be. Listen carefully to their plan, and strategies. Weigh them cautiously and fall on your knees before God and ask him to grant the Bahamian people the right leader for this time in history. Someone who has keen interest in the well-being of our country and its future should be selected. A person with economic background, knowledge of the word of God and is versed in the international and national background of politics and sciences (should be selected). These are really hard

times, even though there are many citizens who have and are getting by. Still, there is a need for someone who is intellectually sound and knows how to put this country in position to sustain itself and make things happen in these times of economic hardship.

Consider the tourism product of this nation. Something has to be done to strengthen the economic ties internationally. We need new ideas for implementation into the tourism product. Freeport in particular, has suffered tremendously from the hardship of the tourism product. Perhaps we need some more industry partners and new products to nourish the present yield that we now benefit from. The hotel industry is starving and we are not checking for ways and means to maintain its' continued growth and development. The present condition of the International Bazaar and the Princess Towers and Bahama Princess Hotels, inclusive of the Casino and the road of East and West Sunrise highway (which needs to be opened up) in order to bring about the trafficking of vehicles taxi and buses so that the memories of what use to be would become reality, must be addressed in order to create a better site and business enhancement for the Freeport community.

Again I say to the Bahamian public: Don't be so hasty to vote. These are crucial times and we need to make the right decision, the right choice and support the right persons to represent in the house of assembly. Our young people are looking on and they are wondering what to do. We have to pray and ask for guidance.  
(Continued on Page 7)

## The Best of SIDEBURNS



## I am a PLP for good reason

Dear Editor,

Exaggerated expectations come with winning an election and the formation of a new government.

When the Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) won in 2012, I knew things were bad, but not as bad as the facts showed. Former Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Hubert Ingraham and the Free National Movement (FNM) left the country in a mess.

As a PLP, I have openly complained about my government's performance these past four years, but as a General Election approaches, I have to weigh my

options. FNM Leader, Dr. Hubert Minnis has failed to convince me that he is fit to be a competent prime minister.

FNM supporters continue to attack the compassionate leadership of Urban Renewal Deputy Director, Michelle Reckley. Her record and performance far exceeds what we got from Urban Renewal under the FNM. Reckley has been impressively hands on.

PLP Ministers, Obie Wilchcombe and Dr. Michael Darville, have delivered on the national floor.

Tourism numbers speak for Wilchcombe and Grand Bahama

took local, national and international spotlight because its historic minister, Darville, is talented and caring.

Both Wilchcombe and Darville represent Grand Bahama constituencies. I am proud we sent them to Parliament. Now comes decision time 2017.

Minnis and the FNM have not messaged themselves as a viable alternative. For history and our future, I am PLP and proud. My PLP has not been perfect, but worthy of the opportunity to take us to greater heights over the next five years.

~ S. Rodgers - FORWARD