

The Freeport News

GRAND BAHAMA'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

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GB Carnival 2017 a sub-par event

The fabulous Taino Beach Junkanoo Carnival experience that residents and visitors of Grand Bahama had become accustomed to was considerably diluted this time around. This past Friday and Saturday, collectively, the event was a huge disappointment.

We can report that while the crowd participation on Saturday night was not terrible, the combined first and second night's turnout was sub-par at best.

At some point, we expect to know the facts surrounding the decision that enabled an entity from New Providence to get the Bahamas National Festival Commission's (BNFC) endorsement rather than local entertainment/management professionals, who did such a terrific job of organizing and coordinating this island's Junkanoo Carnival product at Taino Beach in 2015 and 2016.

Reports allege that the lead organization, named Titus Entertainment Group, is connected to a relative, or relatives of a noted political figure. Upon hearing that Grand Bahamians had been left out of the loop regarding the lead role in this year's version of the National Junkanoo Carnival, we asked questions. We approached the BNFC and pointed out that such a development would not sit right with Grand Bahamians.

We were told that bids went out and the decision had been made.

Why was it necessary to open the bidding for an event in Grand Bahama, outside of the island?

Isn't it the desire of Prime Minister Perry Christie and Minister for Grand Bahama Dr. Michael Darville to afford the island and its residents, opportunities to boost the economy of Grand Bahama?

With Grand Bahamians leading the way, Junkanoo Carnival at Taino Beach exceeded expectations and was fashioned into a signature island event. Indeed, the organizing and management of our Junkanoo Carnival version was superior to what went on in New Providence.

Yet, the powers that be, amazingly did not recognize that nothing was broken. There was no need to fix our concept for Junkanoo Carnival. There was just a need for the BNFC to appreciate professionalism, dedication, and spirit of togetherness that the GB organizers of Junkanoo Carnival in 2015 and 2016 inspired.

The 2017 effort gets a failing grade because either the lead organizers overlooked or didn't have the wherewithal to address important aspects. Advertisements were very limited. Many residents knew nothing of the event. All of the intangibles which connect Grand Bahamians, the lead organizers missed. An excellent template was in place.

This time around, something different was tried.

It didn't work.

Tickets were priced at \$20.00 rather than \$10.00, as was the cost in 2015 and 2016. On top of that, *The Freeport News* was told of patrons being informed that if they left the Junkanoo Carnival ground, upon returning another fee would be necessary.

On Friday night vendors' hopes were dashed. The handwriting was on the wall when at 7 p.m., attendance was sparse. By 10 p.m., nothing much had changed. It was a dismal night for the vendors.

We know there will be attempts to deflect the ineptitude of the lead organizers and the BNFC and point the finger of blame at Grand Bahamians. There are those who don't really want Grand Bahama in the Junkanoo Carnival mix.

The truth is, that the 2017 event was poorly planned and organized.

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.com and barbara@nasguard.com

THANK YOU

STATEMENT

Dr. Minnis paints bright future under FNM Govt.

(This past Saturday, the Free National Movement (FNM) machinery was in South

Eleuthera. Following is the address in full, given by FNM Leader Dr. Hubert Minnis).

"I thank the Almighty God for all His blessings on our country and acknowledge His influence on my life. I encourage everyone to pray and work for a peaceful election.

Brothers and Sisters, Central and South Eleuthera;

Yesterday, we visited SPANISH WELLS, and I can report that we are taking two in ELEUTHERA!!! We are delivering twins in Eleuthera!! Eleuthera is all red!!!

Central and South Eleuthera,

I want you to be a part of this RED TSUNAMI moving all across our nation. As I travel our beautiful Bahamaland, New Providence is RED; Grand Bahama is RED; Bimini and Abaco are RED; Exuma, Cat Island, MICAL, and YES, Eleuthera are all RED!!! RED!!! RED!!!!

Let me tell you, we now have the results from the formal report on the state of the general election. The report is based on information from every constituency with specific numbers. I formally report to you that the FREE NATIONAL MOVEMENT will form the next government of The Bahamas.

FNMS, Bahamians everywhere;

The PLP followed us to RM Bailey Park this week and I am told that their rally couldn't even fill the park. We had a rally on Arawak Cay, they had a rally at Arawak Cay. We had a rally on RM Bailey, they had a rally on RM Bailey.

Months ago we promised the police that we would honour the court ruling and pay them their overtime payment. Now the PLP is making a promise to pay on May 29...after election. Another promise!! They are followers not leaders. For certain they cannot follow us in Parliament after the election.

I wish to reassure our law enforcement agencies that under my administration their health insurance is safe. You cannot have an Acting Commodore for almost three years in the Defence Force. Your FNM Government will immediately fix this. We will also ensure timely promotions on the Defence Force and review the retirement age for enlisted personnel.

I am reminded of the story in 2 Kings. Elisha's servant saw an army and asked What should they do. Elisha answered, "Do

not fear.....He told him do not fear..... for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." And Elisha prayed, and said, "Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

FNMS, I pray you could see what I see. I see an army of Bahamians in a sea of red. I see an army of Bahamians, who want what we want. they want change.

I see a host of people all across this island and all across this nation who are ready for change. FNMS, I see a victory...I see a victory!!!

Do not be fooled by the PLP. We must not allow the PLP to get their hands on another dollar of our VAT Money!! Perry Gladstone Christie has presided over the most incompetent and the most out of control government since independence. Christie's season is finished!! We need a prime minister who can actually stay awake. Christie is literally falling asleep on the job.

Fellow Bahamians:

Unlike the PLP, I am not going to promise things my government cannot deliver. Unlike Christie, I will hold my ministers responsible. Jerome Fitzgerald should have been fired. If they win he will put Jerome right back in the cabinet.

FNMS, Bahamians everywhere!!!

In the FNM we are different. We are the party of good governance and public service. YES, SERVICE, this is what TRUE leadership is all about. Serving the people will be priority. Come may 10th finally it will be the peoples time!!!!

My Brothers and Sisters,

All Family Islands can be assured that the FNM believes in empowering the people. We have committed to reforming and modernizing local government. We will also amend existing legislation and policies to enhance and increase the authority of Family Island Local Government. It is crucial that you have the ability to make decisions for your own economic growth. Who better to make decisions for Eleuthera than Eleutherians?

My brothers and sisters,

When we talk about empowering our family islands, we will do more than just lip service. The PLP are talkers but we are doers!! A proportionate amount of resources collected from your island should remain here for



DR. HUBERT MINNIS

your island's development. And each island will be encouraged to form its own economic council to guide and drive your own economic future.

My brother and sisters;

A new FNM government will work hard to bring investment, jobs and more economic opportunity. I want, and I know you want, more opportunities that will encourage your young people to remain home and allow those who have left to return home.

Central and South Eleuthera;

We are building a new Bahamas. Many of you are deeply concerned about health care on your island. Rest assured that our plans include the refurbishment of your clinic. Issues regarding proper equipment, adequate staff, and fulfilling pharmaceutical needs will all be addressed. As a doctor, and as the former Minister of Health, your health care needs will be front and center in my government.

BECAUSE IT'S THE PEOPLE'S TIME NOW!!!

In Education,

All of your students who qualify will be allowed to attend the University of The Bahamas free of charge. They will also be assisted with accommodations and provided with a monthly stipend to assist with living costs.

IT'S THE PEOPLE'S TIME NOW!!!

All over Central and South Eleuthera, the roads, docks, and other pieces of government infrastructure have either not been completed or have fallen into a state of complete disrepair. You deserve your recreational center and a new dock in Governor's harbor.

Young People of South

Eleuthera, one of my key initiatives will be a program for young Bahamians, like young people in Eleuthera who want to become entrepreneurs and business people. Christie and the PLP have spent millions on the Trinidad-like Carnival. I want to take those millions spent on Carnival in Nassau, and invest those funds to empower a new generation of young entrepreneurs.

We will launch a major youth entrepreneurship program that will help to develop the skills of thousands of young entrepreneurs.

Let me make this clear for all to hear, we will bring relief directly to the people!!!!

FNMs!!!

We not only have a good team we have the best change team to lead our Bahamas. Central and South Eleuthera, you nominated Stephen Hank Johnson. Hank is an accomplished community leader with 19 years of experience in Local Government. He was Chairman for South and Central Eleuthera. He's a motivator and inspires other people to action. Hank is committed to preserving and showcasing the cultural heritage of Eleuthera.

He helped to acquire the community's first fire truck. Hank was Chief Counsellor for Eleuthera from 1998 to 2017. A man of faith and good works, Hank has performed considerable community service.

Brothers and Sisters:

Change is coming to The Bahamas. On behalf of the FNM and our candidates I ask for your support. The long national nightmare is coming to an end.

Thank you and God bless you and God Bless the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Best of SIDEBURNS

DIS AIN' NO TIME FER EENIE MEENIE MINEE MO... Emph @ 5-1-17

MAY

M	1	8	15	22	29
T	2	9	16	23	30
W	3	10	17	24	31
T	4	11	18	25	
F	5	12	19	26	
S	6	13	20	27	
S	7	14	21	28	

SHACK RAT

...YER BETTER KNOW WHO YER VOTIN' FOR!!!

EIGHT DAYS TO ELECTION DAY

The most high

Dear Editor,

Daniel 4:17 says, "The Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever He will, and setteth up over it the basest of men." God did that in the time of King Saul and chose the young boy David as the new king of Israel (1 Samuel 16:1-13). God did it again during the fall of Babylon and the rise of the Medes and Persians (Daniel 5:25-30). And now God is about to do it again.

On June 7, 2016, the handwriting appeared on the wall for the PLP government and the verdict was given: "Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting." Daniel 5:27. That verdict will be carried out on May 10, 2017.

For all of you who are on God's side, and may have some uncertainty, James 1:5 says, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God." Jesus also said, "Ask and it shall be given you." Matthew 7:7.

So Bahamians, pray, pray, pray and allow God to direct you in selecting the new government of The Bahamas.

"God has spoken, let the church say, amen."

~ Pastor Jeremiah Duncombe