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CYCLISTS BATTLE IT OUT IN THE TOUR OF THE BAHAMAS

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BRINGING BAHAMIAN ART TO THE WORLD - SEE WOMAN ON PAGE 12B

Christie claims PM 'desperate'

PLP leader says Ingraham feels under pressure

By CELESTE NIXON
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THE pressure of the upcoming general election seems to be getting to Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham and showing him in a new light, his challenger claimed yesterday.

In an exclusive interview with *The Tribune*, PLP leader Perry Christie branded the Prime Minister's latest comments as desperate, and claimed his lack of civility has brought politics in the Bahamas to a new low.

Responding to Mr Ingraham's speech at the FNM's unveiling of its full slate of 38 candidates at the Wyndham Nassau Resort on Sunday, Mr Christie said: "For the first time I see desperation, where he is almost beseeching and begging people not to vote for the PLP - I have never seen that in him before."

"I thought the Prime Minister's speech was most regret-

table in so far that he resorted to language that had no boundaries when it comes down to the civility that should be in public life."

During his address Mr Ingraham labeled Mr Christie as a leader of talk and promises, "too weak and too scared" while in office to deal with members of his own administration who fell out of line.

While you expect criticism in politics, Mr Christie said, insults - particularly from a person in such a high office and that are intended to denigrate a person unfairly - are wrong.

"This standard that he seems to apply, does not apply to the FNM," he said. "It only applies to the PLP, it is incredibly wrong and is taking politics in this country in the wrong direction."

Regarding the PLP's choice of candidates to run in the coming elections, Mr Ingraham said: "From some of the

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POLICE HAVE THEIR EYE ON SPEEDERS



POLICE in the Bahamas have been testing out a new laser radar gun which can be used to catch speeding drivers. The new equipment can accurately measure the speed of a driver from miles away, meaning that by the time a driver notices a policeman, their speed has already been clocked. For more on the police testing, turn to page 2.

Photo: **Felipe Major/Tribune Staff**

TRIAL DATE FOR WOMAN IN \$40,000 FRAUD CASE

By LAMECH JOHNSON
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A SUPREME Court trial date has been set for a woman accused of defrauding a community development initiative of more than \$40,000.

Valderine Watkins, who once worked as a secretary in the Ministry of Housing under former Minister Shane Gibson, could stand trial before March 18, 2013, if space within the legal calendar becomes available to hear the matter.

Watkins along with co-defendant Stanley Nixon, are being tried before Justice Roy Jones on multiple charges of fraud, conspiracy to commit fraud by false pretenses, forgery and uttering forged documents and other charges.

The prosecution claims the pair, between 2006 and 2007, conspired to and committed fraud by forging contracts which were used to obtain funds that were expected to be used to the benefit of the Urban Renewal Programme.

It is claimed Watkins forged contracts to Nixon who received funds in excess of \$40,000 to start works for the Urban Renewal Programme that reportedly never commenced.

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PLP VETERAN: NO SURPRISE AT ACCUSATION

By LAMECH JOHNSON
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A FORMER PLP chairman expressed no surprise at Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham's statement on alleged corruption among some candidates chosen by opposition leader Perry Christie to run in the upcoming elections.

Raynard Rigby, who is now practicing law, said he was not surprised by the PM's statement about opposition leader Perry Christie's choice of running candidates who have allegations of corruption lingering around them.

He said: "That is an issue one can always anticipate the FNM to use in this debate near to election time and I anticipate the PLP has a response to that allegation."

During the Free National Movement's launch of its full slate of 38 candidates for the soon-to-be-called general

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VOLUNTEER BAHAMAS ISSUES ALERT

By SANCHESKA BROWN
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VOLUNTEER Bahamas officials yesterday warned the public to be vigilant after several churches and civic organisations were targeted by con artists.

Darron Turnquest, director of youth, said individuals have been pretending to be members of Volunteer Bahamas in order to accept money on their behalf.

Mr Turnquest said the

matter was brought to their attention last week, after the Royal Bahamas Police Force informed them that someone had been arrested and is expected to be charged in connection with fraud.

"We were told by the police that regrettably persons have made an attempt to defraud churches and civic organisations in the name of Volunteer Bahamas.

"These individuals have been soliciting funds while impersonating staff and mem-

bers of Volunteer Bahamas.

"We have been informed by the police that they are investigating the matter," he said.

Mr Turnquest urged the public to contact the police if they are approached by anyone purporting to be from Volunteer Bahamas requesting donations.

He said: "Please note the staff of Volunteer Bahamas will only call you regarding your application and partici-

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