

EDITORIAL

SEE PAGE 4

MP Iram Lewis puts Hunters in spotlight



Sponsored by: **The Freeport News**

YOUR WEATHER



83°F

Variable cloudiness with a t-storm

SUNRISE: 6:28 a.m.
SUNSET: 7:54 p.m.
HIGH TIDE: 8:23 a.m. - 8:55 p.m.
LOW TIDE: 2:26 a.m. - 2:29 p.m.
WINDS: ESE at 10 mph

See Page 10 for full round-up

The Freeport News BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS & SERVICE GUIDE

Whatever you're looking for, these local businesses ask you to consider them first.

PAGE 6

GOVT. TARGETING GB's tourism sector

JAIMIE SMITH
FN Reporter
jaimie@nasguard.com

Thompson: A number of issues must be ironed out prior to Grand Lucayan's reopening

The government is working assiduously to revamp the tourism product, particularly in Grand Bahama, said Minister of State for Grand Bahama, Sen. Kwasi Thompson.

Noting that the government remains in continuous discussions to have the Grand Lucayan property reopened in short order, he maintained that the property, which is the largest hotel on the island, will foster a much needed economic boost for the island.

"As you know, one of the things that we have been very focused on is trying to increase the tourism product that we have on Grand Bahama.

"We have also been continuing negotiations for the Grand Lucayan; this is a significant project for Grand Bahama and it really is the signature project for Grand Bahama," said Sen. Thompson.

He added that significant progress has been made, even though the government "genuinely" had hoped that this would have been completed. "We have made progress on the deal. As we indicated, it is not just about purchasing a hotel, but it is really about creating a new and unique destination for Grand Bahama.

"For too long all we have been focused on is just bringing in a new hotel, believing that that will assist. We need to ensure that we have a destination and one that is unique from the



SEN. KWASI THOMPSON
Minister of State for Grand Bahama in the Office of the Prime Minister

rest of The Bahamas and that is what we have been focused on," noted Thompson.

He said that a number of issues must be ironed out prior to the resort's reopening, which the government is in the process of resolving.

"There are a number of issues that, in the process, were being resolved, which is the issue of employment and how many employees, how many Bahamian employees are going to be there, the entertainment, the concessions that might be granted, the subsidies that might be granted and the name brand that will be brought here.

"There were a number of issues that needed to be worked out. Again, we believe that we are in the final stages of that negotiation process and we believe shortly, we should have a signed deal and the renovations, we are hopeful, to begin shortly.

"Rest assured we are committed; all of the Members of Parliament (MPs) are committed to ensuring that that project moves forward and ensuring that we have significant employment levels at that project."

Sen. Thompson outlined other aspects of the tourism sector that have made progress in the Free National Movement's (FNM) first year in office.

"We were very pleased that we were able to negotiate a deal with Bahamas Paradise Cruises for the return of the *Grand Celebration*, but also for the additional vessel, the *Grand Classica*.

(Continued on Page 3)

LIS Interact Club donates to GBEWRE

SHARELL LOCKHART
FN Reporter
sharell@nasguard.com

Lucaya International School (LIS) Interact Club President Quincy Gordon Jr., this past Thursday, May 10 presented a donation to the Grand Bahama Emergency Water Relief Foundation (Rotary Water Plant) during the Rotary Club of Freeport weekly meeting at Ruby Swiss Restaurant.

Mike Stafford, Rotary Water Plant Manager happily accepted the funds, which Gordon revealed were derived from numerous fund-raising initiatives spearheaded by the LIS Interact Club.

"Certainly, we were elated to receive a communication from LIS Interact Club President Quincy, who had conducted several fund-raisers within his school with proceeds to aid the efforts of the Rotary Water Plant.

"The entire Grand Bahama community from east to west following a natural disaster

is allowed to get fresh, clean drinking water from the Rotary Water Plant and with the beginning of the Atlantic Hurricane Season less than three weeks away, it is important for us to ensure that the facility remains in optimal standard in the event of a catastrophe such as tropical storms and hurricanes.

"The mandate of Rotary International is to render service above self and definitely Quincy and the members of the LIS Interact Club knows how important the Rotary Water Plant is to the community.

"Of course everyone across the length and breadth of Grand Bahama and The Bahamas at large should ensure that they have begun executing their tropical storm and hurricane preparatory plans stocking up on non-perishable food items, water and other essential supplies.

"The Rotary Water Plant is up and ready to provide service to the community in the event, God forbid, we should be impacted by a tropical storm, tornado and/or hurricane," said Stafford,

(Continued on Page 3)



LIS DONATION – Lucaya International School (LIS) Interact Club President Quincy Gordon Jr., (center) this past Thursday, May 10 presented a donation to the Grand Bahama Emergency Water Relief Foundation (Rotary Water Plant) during the Rotary Club of Freeport weekly meeting. Also pictured are club's president, Elsie Knowles (left) and Mike Stafford (right), Rotary Water Plant Manager.

(PHOTO: JENNEVA RUSSELL)