

EDITORIAL

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GB Office of PM doing very well on job initiatives

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YOUR WEATHER



85°F
Mostly cloudy, a shower or t-storm around

SUNRISE: 6:21 a.m.
SUNSET: 8:08 p.m.
HIGH TIDE: 7:59 a.m. - 8:35 p.m.
LOW TIDE: 2:05 a.m. - 2:05 p.m.
WINDS: SE at 8 mph

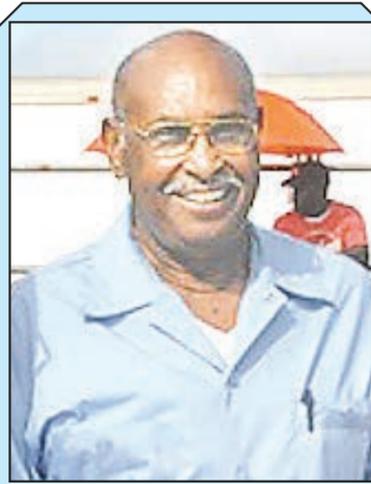
See Page 10 for full round-up

The Freeport News BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS & SERVICE GUIDE

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

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West GB MP answers the why?



MAURICE MOORE
FNM, FOUNDING MEMBER

Moore fully supports Government 2018/2019 Budget

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Founding member of the Free National Movement (FNM), Maurice Moore, stands behind the government's 2018/2019 Budget and its decision to increase value added tax (VAT).

Moore described the (Dr. Hubert) Minnis Administration's stance on the nation's finances as "sensible thing to do."

In an interview with *this daily* at the recent Town Hall Meeting at Calvary Temple Assemblies of God on the Budget, Moore stated his "full support" of the current Budget, and what it entails, inclusive of the 4.5 percent VAT increase.

Speaking specifically to Deputy Prime Minister K. Peter Turnquest, Minister of Finance, Moore said, "Minister, I want to thank you and the Financial Secretary (Marlon Johnson), for coming out. What it does is, it sets a new format for dealing with the national business of the country, particularly something like the Budget."

"I would like to say to all of you that for the past 25 years, this is the first Budget that is laid in a proper foundation on which The Bahamas can now move on, in a secure financial basis and to secure the economy."

"I am very pleased minister, for what you have done, and I hope that a lot of people will appreciate the bold step that you take. I have watched The Bahamas drift down a path of uncertainty in its budgeting, in its expenditure for the last (Continued on Page 3)

- Parker-Edgecombe supports VAT increase
- MP makes appeal to address challenges in her constituency

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Passionately stating her reason for supporting the 12 percent tax increase, announced in the 2018/2019 Budget Communication earlier this month by Minister of Finance K. Peter Turnquest; Member of Parliament for West Grand Bahama and Bimini Pakesia Parker-Edgecombe said, it is not a question of why the 12 percent increase, "the question is where do we go to take advantage of what the 12 percent brings."

Making her contribution to the 2018/2019 Budget Debate last evening – Tuesday, May 12 – Parker-Edgecombe not only encouraged Bahamians, particularly residents of West Grand Bahama and Bimini to remain steadfast, but appealed to relevant authorities to assist in West GB meeting its challenges.

"I want to answer all of those persons who continue to ask why 12 percent? Twelve percent, because one – to make sure we stop the

practice of under budgeting; two, to circumvent problems that some of our neighbors are now faced with, where they waited until there was a crisis and their currency lost value; to make sure that we don't continue to keep borrowing and borrowing, leaving the bill for our children to pay back; four, to make sure that we don't cause NIB to collapse by owing them over \$1 million in bills that should have already been settled.

"Why 12 percent, to make sure that this government pays its light bill and water bill on time and not years later causing BPL, Water and Sewage and other agencies not to have the monies to improve services."

"Why 12 percent, to make sure we don't have to suffer another rating downgrade, which will make our interest rates higher on new loans and cause even bigger tax increases in the future."

"The question is to why 12 percent, Mr. Deputy Speaker ... That is not what I am asking, I am asking where do we go to take advantage of what the 12 percent brings?"

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PASSIONATE CONTRIBUTION – Passionately stating her reason for supporting the 12 percent tax increase, announced in the 2018/2019 Budget Communication earlier this month by Minister of Finance K. Peter Turnquest; Member of Parliament for West Grand Bahama and Bimini Pakesia Parker-Edgecombe said, it is not a question of why the 12 percent increase, "the question is where do we go to take advantage of what the 12 percent brings." (PHOTO: TNG/TORRELL GLINTON)

Stubbs and Ms. Daisy set to MC Independence Cultural Show

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Representatives from various government entities provided details on the multitude of events for the 45th Annual Independence celebration, during a recent press conference at the Office of the Prime Minister in Grand Bahama.

Representatives from several government entities involved with the celebrations are on hand for the announcement. The celebrations are scheduled to begin with an Ecumenical Service on Sunday, June 24 at Ebenezer Baptist Church, Sweetings Cay at 3:00 p.m.

Then on Saturday, June 30 at 7:00 p.m., there will be a West Grand Baha-

ma reception at the Blue Marlin Cove.

The following day – Sunday, July 1 – an Ecumenical Service will take place at Zion Baptist Church, Eight Mile Rock at 4:00 p.m.

Another service will follow on July 2 at St. Cleveland Baptist Church in Freetown at 7:00 p.m.

On July 4 a gospel concert is slated for St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church at 7:00 p.m., then on July 5 there will be a Family Fun Day in Williams/Russell Town at 11:00 a.m. That same day a Gospel and Cultural Extravaganza is set for Sweetings Cay on the grounds of the All Age School.

Later on that day Goombay Summer Festival is expected to get underway at Taino Beach, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Then Friday, July 6 is National Pride/Flag Day and the West Grand (Continued on Page 2)



WILL STUBBS



MS. DAISY

Downpours, thunderstorms continue to dominate GB forecast

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Downpours of rain along with isolated thunderstorms dominated the weather forecast for Grand Bahama and the extreme Northwest Bahamas on Tuesday, June 12, according to the Freeport Meteorology Department.

Warnings of gale, low visibility and force winds along with a risk of strong thunderstorm cells in the area with the potential to produce waterspouts were announced by Sharez Williams, Duty (Continued on Page 3)

Forecaster.

Williams noted that in the general situation, deep moisture over the Northwest Bahamas enhanced by upper level troughs support convective activity in the area through Wednesday, June 13.

"Boaters should be alert for gusty winds, higher seas and reduced visibility in or near heavy showers or thunderstorms, with winds prevailing in the southeast at 10 knots or less through the afternoon becoming light and variable by night fall."

"Locally, seas are one to three feet over open waters (Continued on Page 3)



Wet Grand Bahama

70 young Grand Bahamians begin 7th NTA Cohort training

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The National Training Agency (NTA) Grand Bahama Chapter commenced its Seventh Cohort Session on Tuesday, June 12 under the theme, "The Road to Success... Self-Awareness," at Ruby Swiss Restaurant featuring keynote presenter Gadville McDonald, NTA Executive Director.

Seventy young Bahamians between 16 to 26 years old registered to participate in the NTA Mandatory Workforce Preparatory Instruction Soft Skills Training Sessions and were encouraged by McDonald to embrace every opportunity provided to grow in wisdom, stature and positive relationships to achieve success in the pursuit of well-rounded and professional development.

"Over 400 young persons have participated in the NTA Soft Skills Training Sessions and by all indications they are doing rather well as a matter of fact, more than 33 percent are currently employed and we are excited about it. (Continued on Page 3)