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(See story and pictures on pages 5 and 6).

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HON. BRENSIL ROLLE

HOA breaks until Sept. 13

JAIMIE SMITH
FN Reporter
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In a brief sitting on Wednesday morning, Members of Parliament had the opportunity to relay any statements, prior to being informed by the leader of government business in Parliament and Minister of Agriculture and Marine Resources, Hon. Renward Wells, that the business of the House would resume on September 13.

Member of Parliament for Englerston, Hon. Glenys Hanna-Martin, used the opportunity to

gain insight from the government, with respect to reports that she had been made aware of, possible termination of employees with the National Insurance Board (NIB).

She stated, "I am advised that the National Insurance Board is about to terminate 21 people and I am wondering whether they are able to verify that and if so, they can tell us the circumstances. The concern is that there is a lot of apprehension about what will happen with the change of government, and we are now hearing that 21 people will be let go from National Insurance Board. I am wondering if we can get clarity on that because everyone has a family that mushrooms out into the wider community.

In response MP for Garden Hills, and Minister of State for the Public Service and National Insurance in the Office of the Prime Minister Hon. Brensil Rolle stated, "The Member should be fully aware that persons presently at NIB were issued contracts that have expired. As a consequence of the contracts issued by the former government, the NIB, was abiding by the contracts issued by them."

Requesting further clarification, Member of Parliament for Cat Island, Rum Cay and San Salvador, Hon. Phillip 'Brave' Davis followed to his feet and asked, "A follow up to what the Member said Mr. Speaker, do I understand him to say that the contracts have expired and they are not being renewed, and if that is the case, I am wondering whether other persons are going to be replaced by 21 new persons?"

Rolle responded by stating that the government does not operate in such a fashion and also made statement that erupted in a back and forth debate across the House floor.

"Mr. Speaker, the FNM, this government does not operate in that fashion. We are fully aware of the fact that many families are hurting and we have a commitment to the Bahamian people that we will not victimize them, neither will we replace 21 PLP's, like they did, with 21 FNM's.

Hanna-Martin then questioned his remarks and noting that she was appalled that he would make such an accusation.

"I am quite shocked with what the Member said, and I am wondering whether he ascertained the political antecedents of these Bahamians and he is concluded that we put in place 21 PLP's. I hope the Bahamian people are listening. I want them to listen Mr. Speaker, that he has considered them political antecedents."

As the back and forth debate continued, the discussion was put to rest when Davis again rose to his feet and informed the Honourable House, "The question that was asked has nothing to do with the politics of the matter, but rather, because I am aware, for example, that the previous government approved the renewal of contracts, of persons that they have not been honoured that they were renewed Mr. Speaker, the

question is whether or not they have been honouring those, because they have not been honouring some contracts that were renewed."

In addition to the question of the status of some NIB employees, House Speaker Moultrie also informed the Honourable House that in respect to a matter that made headlines last year, as well as earlier this year, with respect to the court of appeals hearing between the Coalition to Protect Clifton Bay and Zacaray Hampton Bacon III, and respondents Hon. Fred Mitchell and Hon. Jerome Fitzgerald through the Office of the Attorney General.

He said, "I wish to mention that the Hon. Member for Cat Island (Davis) had raised an issue with respect to the withdrawal of the respect to the matter of the Coalition to Protect Clifton and Zacaray Hampton Bacon III, and Hon. Frederick A. Mitchell, as the respondents and the Hon. Attorney General of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas. We have made an inquiry at the Court of Appeal, and the Court of Appeal has supplied us with a transcript of the ruling. It also appears, from this that the appeal

(Continued on Page 3)

FNM Govt. counts on investment entities to propel Grand Bahama

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A newly established arm of the government will be put in place for the expressed purpose of encouraging investments in Grand Bahama at both the domestic and foreign levels.

So said Minister of State for Grand Bahama in the Office of the prime Minister during his Senate Budget Debate contribution earlier this week.

Thompson said coming on stream of the Grand Bahama Investment Promotions Board (GBIPB) would be quite beneficial for the island and make a positive difference.

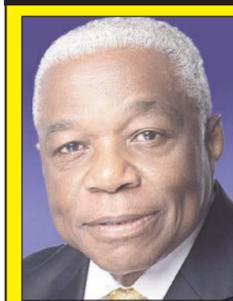
According to Thompson, the previous administration used funding within the Ministry for Grand Bahama for the Ministry's public relations, rather than that of promotion of the island of Grand Bahama, which should

(Continued on Page 3)



HON. KWASI THOMPSON

BREAKING NEWS...



Former Minister of National Security in the Progressive Liberal Party government just past, Dr. Bernard J. Nottage, died at 6:21 p.m. on Wednesday evening, in a hospital in Florida.



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