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REMEMBERING PATRICE

The Ministry of Social Services and Urban Development and the Department of Social Services joined family, friends and loved ones for a special memorial tribute in honour of the their, "Beloved Butterfly" Patrice Mack, a former chief welfare officer who passed away recently. The service took place at the Bishop Michael Eldon School Auditorium. Minister of Social Services and Urban Development Frankie Campbell was on hand for the ceremony.
(PHOTO: JENNEVA RUSSELL)

Price of conch to increase by \$1

BARBARA WALKIN
FN Night Editor
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Chairman and members of the newly formed Grand Bahama Fishing Association (GBFA) are proposing to increase the price of conch by \$1.00 by October 1, 2018.

According to Lewis Astwood, GBFA chairman the price (per conch) will climb from the now \$2.50 to \$3.50.

Astwood, in an interview with *this daily*, said after much discussions among the divers and fishermen here on Grand Bahama, "it is time for an increase in the price of conch and I am here to inform that public of the increase."

"We (GBFA) all agreed that it should go up \$1.00, so conch which was \$2.50 will now be

\$3.50," he reiterated. "That is due to VAT (value added tax) and the cost of everything going up and the distance you have to travel now to get adult conch.

"It is only fair and wise that the price should be increased," said the association chairman.

Noting that since he returned to Grand Bahama some 13 years ago the price (of conch) has not increased one penny, Astwood said, "for the time I've been back home the cost of living continues to rise and the price of conch did not ...that is the reason for forming the GBFA, so that we can come together and discuss our future moving forward.

"This is our first move ... a vote was taken, signatures were taken and so we arrived where we would like the public to know and we would like their

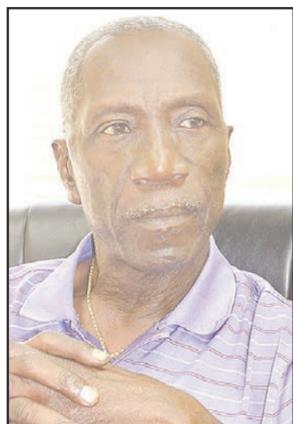
(Continued on Page 5)

"Only here on Grand Bahama it seems as if ... I don't know if there is some reluctance or fishermen are afraid they are going to lose clients, but we must do what is necessary. Everybody has to survive."

~
LEWIS ASTWOOD
GB Fishing Association, Chairman



CONCH PRICE INCREASE – The newly formed Grand Bahama Fishing Association (GBFA) is proposing to increase the price of conch from \$2.50 to \$3.50 October 1, 2018, said the organization's chairman Lewis Astwood.
(PHOTOS: TFN FILE)



"The thing that I have discovered is that the conch was \$2.00/\$2.50 since gas was \$3.50 a gallon ... gas is up to \$5.01 now and these fishermen have to maintain their boats, they have to buy gas, they have to buy oil, they have to pay VAT on everything and I think it is no more than fair."

~ **CLEMENT CAMPBELL**
Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources'
Assistant District Superintendent for Grand Bahama



"The average price per pound ranged between \$3.12 and \$3.79 per pound over the period 2013 - 2017." Pintard added that while the ministry has no price control procedure with the sale of conch, he advised consumers to

shop within their budgets at the best priced vendor."

~ **MICHAEL PINTARD**
Minister of Agriculture and Marine Resources

Turnquest: Fiscal Responsibility Bill ensures govt. fiscal discipline

STAFF WRITER
FN News Desk

Deputy Prime Minister K. Peter Turnquest, Minister of Finance said that putting the nation's fiscal house in order is a clear prerequisite to a more buoyant private sector and stronger job growth, as well as securing sustainable improvements in our standard of living.

Turnquest, who was making his contribution to the Fiscal Responsibility Bill 2018 in the House of Assembly yesterday – Thursday, September 27 – added that from the outset of its current mandate, the government has held firm to a commitment that it made to the Bahamian people to enshrine fiscal discipline as a core element of our transformative growth agenda.

"A sound, credible fiscal plan is also necessary to reassure the financial markets which lend to the government and to contain borrowing costs. Perennial fiscal deficits and an ever-ballooning burden of Government debt unquestionably pose a direct threat to a better life today and to prospects for future generations.



K. PETER TURNQUEST, DPM
Minister of Finance

"The stark reality is that governments in this country, regardless of political persuasion, have consistently talked about the critical need to curtail and eventually eliminate the deficit and reduce the debt burden to lower, more desirable levels. However, for varied reasons, these sought-after results have failed to materialize. And, consequently, the overall fiscal position has been in persistent deficit, leading to unsustainable levels of Government debt and

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EDITORIAL

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QUIET

on Oban Energies project worrisome

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