

EDITORIAL

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YOUR WEATHER

90°F
Partly sunny with a passing shower

SUNRISE: 6:57 a.m.
SUNSET: 7:28 p.m.
HIGH TIDE: 9:14 a.m. - 9:36 p.m.
LOW TIDE: 3:06 a.m. - 3:24 p.m.
WINDS: E at 6 mph

See Page 18 for full round-up

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Thompson emphasizes danger of powerful Hurricane Irma Storm expected to hit GB on Friday

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NO TIME TO PANIC – Minister of State for Grand Bahama, Sen. Kwasi Thompson held a press conference with members of the Grand Bahama Disaster Committee to update the public on its plan for the island, as Hurricane Irma approaches. (Photo: Jenneva Russell)

Senator Kwasi Thompson advised a mindset totally towards preparation and pray as a major natural disaster.

Minister of State for Grand Bahama within the Office of the Prime Minister, Hon. J. Kwasi Thompson held a press briefing on Wednesday afternoon advising residents of Grand Bahama that “now is not a time to panic, but instead time to prepare and pray as the monstrous Hurricane Irma is forecasted to directly impact the entire Bahamas.

With relevant members of the Emergency Management Team also in place at the OPM conference room Thompson expressed, “We have just completed a meeting with all of the relevant government heads of departments as well as the relevant non-governmental agencies (NGO’s) in reference to the major Hurricane Irma. According to the latest projection, the hurricane will significantly, and

I stress significantly impact Grand Bahama. I urge all residents to prepare themselves, now, and to secure all property

as soon as possible. “We are informed that the weather will go down hill sometime late Friday, and will affect

us until Monday. The worst of the weather being on Sunday. However, while this is the projected forecast, I advise all

residents to continue to closely monitor this storm and closely monitor the local meteorological (MET) office as these forecasts may change; it may get better as well as it may get worse. All residents who are in flood zones should begin to prepare themselves now, to evacuate those areas. If you live near the coastlines, anywhere in Grand Bahama, you should begin to prepare to move further inland as significant flooding and significant storm surge are predicted.

To the residents in West End, Hunters, Pinder’s Point and surrounding areas, Thompson adamantly stated, “You should begin now to prepare yourself to evacuate those areas. We

ask that you make contact with family and friends, to house you during the storm. We also have made accommodations at shelters.

“We are encouraging residents that if you are going to evacuate, your evacuations should be completed by Friday afternoon. We believe that the weather is going to go downhill from Friday evening so your evacuations should be completed well before that time. We have also asked that all of the shelters, to be ready by Friday afternoon.

Residents should be aware that the Royal Bahamas Police Force (RBPF) will be out in full force, enforcing all laws and ensuring (Continued on Page 6)

GB Emergency Management Team holds Irma press briefing at the OPM

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Grand Bahama Emergency Management Team members held a press briefing in the Office of the Prime Minister Conference Room on Wednesday afternoon to share pertinent information ahead of Cat 5 Hurricane Irma’s arrival to the islands.

Paula Marshall, Department of Social Services Assistant Director, shared an update on the shelters that will be made available to residents, if needed, come Friday afternoon. This year, the number of shelters have increased to accommodate persons who may be in need of seeking refuge, during the storm.

“It is unfortunate, I must say, that the people of Grand Bahama have to face the onslaught of another major hurricane 11 months after dealing with the devastation of Hurricane Matthew, in October 2016.

However we know that people who live in Grand Bahama are resilient and will be able to draw down and pull up the endurance that you need in order to get through this particular situation.

“We ask that as you prepare for the hurricane, that you consider the following things. You must secure important documents, in a sealed plastic bag. It is very important that you secure your important documents. When you are making your arrangements to come to the shelters that are going to be opened, think about what your children are going to be wearing, make sure that you pack a change of clothing for yourself and your family. Please bring, with you, some of the following things – a blanket, your toiletries, some basic food supplies, medications and please, ensure (Continued on Page 6)

GB Airport to close Friday, September 8



Grand Bahama International Airport

FRED STURRUP
FN General Manager/
Managing Editor

The controlling entity for the major ports in Grand Bahama has established closure time lines due to the approaching Hurricane Irma.

Hutchison Ports Bahamas, on Wednesday issued closure dates and times for the Grand Bahama International Airport, the Freeport Harbour and the Freeport Container Port. Of extreme importance to the general public regarding airplane movements to and from Grand Bahama through the airport is the decision to close that essential island facility at noon on Friday, September 8.

The closure of the Grand Bahama (Continued on Page 5)



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