

Looking for your Meeting Today



CHECK OUT THE COMMUNITY CORNER

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**YOUR WEATHER**

**86°F**

SUNRISE: 7:08 a.m.  
SUNSET: 6:59 p.m.  
HIGH TIDE: 6:36 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
LOW TIDE: 12:30 a.m. - 12:46 p.m.  
WINDS: ENE at 15 mph

Clouds and sun with a couple of showers

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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# Alleged smuggling operation foiled

## Brazilians, Dominicans, Haitians and Jamaican apprehended during busy weekend Immigration exercises

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An alleged human smuggling operation of Brazilians and Dominicans was foiled by local Immigration officers and a number of undocumented Haitian nationals and one Jamaican national were taken into custody in Freeport over the weekend. Naphthali Cooper Bahamas Immigration Department Grade One Officer shared details of the Immigration officers' busy weekend exercise with *this daily*, during an interview on Sunday, October 1. Cooper said that in the early

hours of Saturday (September 30), acting upon information received relative to a group of persons believed to be Brazilians and Dominicans about to be smuggled by boat into the United States, a team of Immigration officers positioned themselves to investigate with a view to intercept.

Subsequently, with the assistance of police officers from the Marine Division, a private vessel was intercepted in the Lucaya area with a total of six persons on-board – three Brazilians and three Dominicans, inclusive of one female.

The six, who are said to have entered The Bahamas legally, (Continued on Page 3)



CAUGHT – An alleged human smuggling operation of Brazilians and Dominicans was foiled by local Immigration officers and the six illegal migrants were taken into custody over the weekend. (Photo courtesy of BID)



PINERIDGE TOWN MEETING – Representatives from several government agencies that included NEMA, Ministry of Works and the Department of Social Services joined Member of Parliament for Pineridge, Rev. Frederick McAlpine for a Town Hall Meeting on Saturday, September 30 at Christ the King Church. (Photo: Jenneva Russell)

# MP REVEALS PLANS AT CANDID TOWN MEETING

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Reverend Frederick McAlpine, Member of Parliament (MP) for Pineridge assured constituents that he would do what it takes to assist them.

McAlpine made his intentions clear when he addressed constituency issues, during a meeting in the Foster B. Pestaina Centre at Christ the King Church on Saturday, September 30. McAlpine told residents that he was not here to pay their bills, but to ensure that the government creates the opportunities so they can support themselves. "I am not about paying your personal mortgage, I am not

about trying to build you a house, I am not about paying your personal rent, I am not about paying your light bill. I am even not about supplying you with groceries on a weekly basis," he said.

The MP revealed that he receives \$100,000 per year at \$25,000 a quarter as a constituency allowance.

That money cannot be used for individual needs, he stated.

"That money is for the community," declared McAlpine.

Noting that he understands that people need help sometimes, McAlpine said that on many occasions persons who do not need the help take advantage of the system, when there are people who really need assistance. "I'm disappointed because

some of us have made this politics thing a career in begging," he said.

He revealed that in Pineridge, alone, over \$600,000 was spent on vouchers and people receiving items to get their roofs fixed before the 2017 General Election.

The MP stated that some of these people who had already been given vouchers contacted him regarding their roof needing to be repaired, when unbeknownst to them he knew they had previously been assisted.

"I don't care if you got it from the PLP, the DNA, the FNM, it was the government money and you got it," he said.

McAlpine added that it is his responsibility to ensure that Pineridge constituents receive

every opportunity available to other constituencies.

"I'm here to tell you I will knock down every door, I will come through the window and if my people are paralyzed, like in the Bible, I'll tear the roof off to get in to get Pineridge what belongs to them," he said.

He expressed that the selfish attitudes of many Bahamians hinder The Bahamas.

The MP admitted that if he cannot help everyone, he will not help anyone.

For example during a recent Back-to-School Giveaway, he ensured that every child who attended was able to receive backpacks filled with school supplies.

McAlpine noted that when he does provide assistance it is not

necessary to question people's academic qualifications, political persuasion or social status.

The MP went on to discuss the various problems in Pineridge specifically leaking roofs and unemployment.

He asked the Bahamian Government and the Department of Social Services to treat his constituents with respect and dignity.

He furthered that it takes too long for the government to pay people.

"You shouldn't have to be running down anybody for any check, especially when it is the due date," he maintained.

With regards to assessments on the roofing project, McAlpine admitted that he is frustrated (Continued on Page 3)

## 'We must not be selfish,' says Minister of Foreign Affairs

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Darren Henfield, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Member of Parliament for North Abaco said that as a fellow CARICOM nation, "we cannot be selfish with our brothers and sisters in Dominica who have endured much following the passing of the Category 5 Hurricane Maria, which virtually flattened the entire island earlier this month."

Henfield speaking to colleagues in the House of Assembly, recently, publicly thanked Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis for displaying true leadership with the evacuation of thousands of Bahamians residing on islands in the Southern Bahamas and also for opening the borders to Dominican students that may wish to relocate to The Bahamas, temporarily, as they rebuild their homeland.

"Mr. Speaker I take this opportunity to congratulate the Honorable Member for Killarney, for his resolute and committed leadership of our nation, during the recent hurricanes. After 36 years, almost, on the Royal Bahamas Defence Force, I believe that I am eminently qualified to speak to the subject of leadership.

"I watched with tremendous admiration, and I must publicly admit pride, as the Honorable Prime Minister, literally albeit, as expected of leaders and individuals in his position, pragmatically pull together all of the many moving parts, and navigated his nation, by the grace of God, through a very challenging set of circumstances. (Continued on Page 2)