

## EDITORIAL

### Govt. must address unsettling situation

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### YOUR WEATHER

**87°F**

Periods of clouds and sun with a t-storm

SUNRISE: 7:09 a.m.  
SUNSET: 6:56 p.m.  
HIGH TIDE: 8:50 a.m. - 9:09 p.m.  
LOW TIDE: 2:34 a.m. - 3:04 p.m.  
WINDS: ESE at 8 mph

See Page 10 for full round-up

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## IN THE RED

### Minister of Finance admits to underestimating the projected deficit at \$500m in his 2017/2018 Budget Communication

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Turnquest admitted that he underestimated his previous projection, due to the fact that, at the time, he and his budget team were oblivious to a number of outstanding bills that were in arrears, some of which continue to surface.

"Mr. Speaker, I am willing to admit that I was in fact wrong with my projection of \$500 million. I was wrong Mr. Speaker, in the sense that I actually underestimated the extent of the deficit. The problem is not all of the bills had been presented, not passed to me and my budget team at the time that I did

the budget. Bills are still coming, and I am not talking \$2 Mr. Speaker. I wouldn't mind if it were \$2; I'm talking big bills.

"The actual deficit projected as of yesterday (Wednesday, October 4) Mr. Speaker, is not \$500 million as I projected and I am afraid to say this number, but I committed to the Bahamian people and all those who rely upon the number that I give, to be as truthful as I possibly can.

"It is only in being truthful that we can fix the problems that you have. You cannot deny that the problems exist, you have to deal with it. As of yesterday, the



PETER TURNQUEST, DPM  
Minister of Finance

projected deficit for 2016/2017 is \$695,000,000.00 – that is \$595,000,000.00 more than the previous Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) Government projected in their 2016/2017 Budget.

"Absolutely incredible. I do want to apologize to them and to the Bahamian people, for underestimating the depth of their fiscal incompetence, Mr. Speaker, my words."

Additionally, he made note that some members, side opposite, questioned why there was such a difference by the year-to-date deficit reported by the Central

Bank in May, as opposed to his full year deficit projected during his Budget contribution.

"Mr. Speaker, side opposite, some of them, that I will not get into questions of law and honesty. My advice is not to get into questions of finance, considering the serious hemorrhage of red ink, under their watch, obviously they just do not understand it.

"The Central Bank reports actual expenditure paid out on a cash basis, up to the date that it gives the report; not for a full

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MEDICAL EVENT – GB Health Services officials announced plans for World Mental Health Day during a press conference on Thursday October 5 at the Rand Memorial Hospital. Pictured from left are Clarence Hield, Hospital Social Worker; Michelle Lundy, co-chair; Dr. Daphne Adderley-Sands, Acting Consultant Psychiatrist; Dr. Leroy Laing, Senior House Officer and Dr. Reddy, Diah Ward.  
(Photo: Jenneva Russell)

## World Mental Health Day to be observed on Oct. 10

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Grand Bahama community is encouraged to attend the event, which is promised to be very informative.

During a press conference at the Rand Memorial Hospital (RMH), Thursday (October 5) morning to announce the upcoming activity, Dr. Daphne Ad-

derley-Sands, Acting Consultant of Psychiatry said that the theme for this year's event is, 'Mental Health in the Workplace.'

"One out of four adults will experience mental health difficulties, yet prejudice and discrimination are significant barriers that deprive people of their

dignity," she said.

She added that untreated mental health disorders result in poor productivity and poor participation, increasing labor participation, increasing poor concentration and workplace accidents, high turnover and an increase in call-ins. Adderley-Sands noted that there is a need for everyone to be their brother's keeper and encourage colleagues, who are not mentally healthy to get the help that they need.

"We need to be our brothers' keepers, we need to watch out for each other and it'll be amazing how pleasant it is to return to work," she said.

She explained that the purpose of the workshop is to define best practices in promoting better mental health in the workplace.

This will be the 25th Anniversary of World Mental Health Day.

Michelle Lundy, Clinical Psychologist and Co-Chair of the Mental Health Day said that the team would be focusing on two major events this month, the first

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## Urgent help request for West GB and Bimini

BARBARA WALKIN  
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"All West Grand Bahama and Bimini is asking for, is that the most vulnerable receive help with urgency," said the Member of Parliament for that constituency, Pakeris Parker-Edgcombe.

Parker-Edgcombe, during her communication to the House of Assembly Wednesday (October 4) afternoon, noted that it does not take billions of dollars to fix roofs to protect homeowners from rain, or windows to keep the air out.

"I do not subscribe to the government having to build every single home back. It cannot. It is a harsh reality, but it is truth."

Parker-Edgcombe also appealed to those residents who may be able to help themselves in making repairs. "Mr. Deputy Speaker, I appeal to those persons in West Grand Bahama and Bimini, if you are in a position to help yourself, please do so. Do not wait on any government, for waiting sake.

"Governments are not gods and the sooner we all realize it, the better off we will all be."

She noted that the government has policies that can assist its



PAKERIS PARKER-EDGECOMBE  
West GB and Bimini, MP

citizens, "we must demand that once we meet the criteria to get that help, it is given.

"That's how we begin to empower ourselves. We cannot force a government to do what it is not legislated to do or demand the government to attend to our every want. Governments are here to assist with needs."

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## DPM to meet with island's small business owners

SHARELL LOCKHART  
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Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Peter Turnquest, during his contribution in the House of Assembly on Thursday, October 5, updated the Cabinet on the frustrations of the Grand Bahama small business owners, who held a demonstration at the International Bazaar airing their concerns on a recently implemented Task Force at Bahamas Customs responsible for Government

Revenue Collection. Cognizant of the challenges brought to the fore by the small business owners, led by D's Car Rental Proprietor Darren Cooper, DPM Turnquest shared, "Right now I take this minute to acknowledge that in Grand Bahama, yesterday (Wednesday, October 4) a protest, of sorts, was held by several small business owners particularly among the courier sector.

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