The Freeport News

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GRAND BAHAMA’S FIRST NEWSPAPER

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SARAH ST GEORGE
GVBA Vice Chairman

GRAND BAHAMA 11TH HOMICIDE - Police are actively investigating a murder that occurred in the Hawkbill community. Morticians from Russell’s & Pinder’s Funeral Home are pictured placing the body of a young man in an awaiting hearse, while law enforcement officials continue to code the crime scene for evidence that would assist in bringing closure to this incident that has shaken the close-knit community.

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Government makes “offer of purchase” for Lycayan Hotel

SARAH ST GEORGE
GVBA Vice Chairman

Minister of State for Grand Bahama Senator J. Kwasi Thompson, during an interview with The Freeport News, provided some insight to the offer made by the Bahamas Government to purchase Whitsunday for the purpose of the Grand Lucayan Re- development.

While specific details surrounding the offer have not been disclosed, Senator Thompson emphasized that in the minds of the Government led by Prime Minis- ter Hubert Minnis to make a proactive step in the restoration, refurbishment and revitalization of resort properties along the Lucayan strip.

It is important for the public to note however, that presently the exact status of the nego- tiations is that there is an “offer of purchase” from the government on the table.

Cognizant of the fact that since the passage of Hurricane Mat- hurin last year, which caused ex- tensive damage to the property, many operations to significant “damage” and negotiations to fall through between Shoichin, Whitsunday and Paul Weyn, CEO of Four Seasons, regarding the Grand Lucayan, Senator Thompson empha- sized the offer made by the government is in keeping with the government’s desire to re- covered the real estate and open the resort should the project proceed with the hotel.

The government simply could not set on the sidelines and allow conditions to remain the way as they were for the Grand Lucayan Resort, which as you know is an integral part of our tourism for an extended period.

“Indeed Prime Minister Hubert Minnis remains commit- ted to the development of the economy of Grand Bahama and as such, this proactive and strategic approach made the decision to be the drivers of this process. Since, we have made our mark to purchase the Grand Lucayan Resort.

“The Government is not going to stand by the property for any long period of time and with the current economic climate, there is an increasing pressure from other coming to offer and in the interest of ensuring that this type of business venture, and to purchase.

“We are mindful of the employ- ees as well as those in that the Lucayan Marketplace and tourism industry. It is important that one of the matters that one must be emphasized to the fact that the government has also taken actions toward the immediate future of those jobs for persons present- ing.

“Thus far we are pleased that there will be no changes in the immediate future of those persons who are already working. So yes, we have made the offer of purchase and the completed resort will be re- opened, which also made it clear govern- ment is in the interest of ensuring that the hotel business industry on a much better footing.

“Furthermore, to reiterate the previous point and in regard to employment opportunities, Sen- ator Thompson, within the Caribbean (Ferry Reliability Services, LLC) will be offering services in Grand Bahama beginning Thursday October 26, 2017. He said the company’s expan- sion in the cruise market here served as one, as the Grand Bahama Celebration had to address to cruise passengers’ safety and the safe- ty of the island to help Hurri- cane Matthew’s economic recovery.

“Last week, Carnival Cruise Lines opened an office here to develop and configure their new brand—Ocean Medallion—a device into the size of a quarter, which will ask how a real personal digital companion to eliminate the need for room keys, and I am told even if you drink or you pre- vent you getting lost in your dress gown on the way to the restrooms, prevent you from being hovered, and prevent a tragic accident.”

Senator Thompson said it is the part of the offer that “Of course one aim is to resume ferry services to Grand Bahama as a result of the hurricane. The ferry company will be able to leave a void hence again the Grand Bahama Government. We have taken the active steps to have the ferry-Ca- ribbean vessel come in during the time.

“Hopefully we have a niche market here in Freeport, which if course, is not something I do not believe that there is an immediate market for those boats that can be used essentially.

“Of course the Grand Celebration

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YOUR WEATHER

51.00

85°F

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SUNSET: 6:41 p.m.

WINDS: 9-12 mph, 25°

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