

EDITORIAL

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Leniency being afforded Haitians not documented

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YOUR WEATHER

80°F
Partly sunny

SUNRISE: 7:25 a.m.
SUNSET: 6:31 p.m.
HIGH TIDE: 7:40 a.m. - 7:58 p.m.
LOW TIDE: 1:20 a.m. - 1:57 p.m.
WINDS: N at 9 mph

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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PM STANDS BY DEADLINE

ILLEGAL MIGRANTS TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY

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Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis stands by the government's decision for all illegal migrants to voluntarily leave the country by December 31.

After making the announcement, during his communication in the House of Assembly last month yesterday – Thursday, November 2 – Dr. Minnis reiterated the admonishment.

"Mr. Speaker, I found some of the recent discussions on immigration very curious following my communication to the HOA on various immigration matters. Let me state again, that a government must be guided by balance and prudent policies. This government will continue, from now until the end of the year, to interdict and repatriate individuals here illegally. This being individuals from all countries, be it black or white. We will continue to enforce the rule of law, in our repatriation efforts; we will be humane and just," said the nation's leader.

"It is disturbing Mr. Speaker, that some who claim to be concerned about human rights and the Rule of Law, seem to want to

suspend the Rule of Law when it pertains to certain immigration matters. But let me say here that this government will not back down. All illegals are urged to leave voluntarily, because after December 31 we will aggressively pursue all illegals.

"We must Mr. Speaker, be a nation of laws not of personal fancies and extreme positions. I agree with those activists who have spoken and written of the need for The Bahamas to act in accordance with our Constitution and the demands of human dignity and justice, in the grant of residency and citizenship for eligible individuals.

"To help advance this goal, my government will create an Independent Body Commission (IBC) to approve applications for citizenship, in accordance with the Constitution of The Bahamas," advised the PM.

"Mr. Speaker, I can say that this Commission will be headed by a renowned, prominent and distinguished retired justice of the Court. Except for cases of nation security, we will remove the approval of applications for citizenship from the Cabinet. We will continue to make the people's government, more transparent, more accountable and free from corruption," he



Dr. HUBERT MINNIS
Prime Minister of The Bahamas

disclosed.

"A mature and effective democracy requires such balance. It is good that there is ongoing public debate about the role, the purpose and functions of government. We welcome honest and open debate from all quarters, including from those concerned about civil society, citizen safety and human rights. The best debates are those free of scare tactics and extreme positions which do not take into account the necessary and multiple roles of government, which always require balance and prudence."

The prime minister noted that a little over two weeks ago he not only had the privilege of welcoming to The Bahamas, the Commonwealth Law of Ministers and senior officials for their 2017 meeting, but shared with them that an important component of the Rule of Law is that all people, institutions and entities, public and private, should be accountable to laws, which are equally enforced and adjudicated by the courts.

"I advised the participants that their noble task is to promote the Rule of Law and to come up with solutions and legal challenges to facilitate a more effective transparent and efficient functioning (Continued on Page 2)



EVENTS PLANNED – The Ministry of Youth Sports and Culture along with its partners from various organizations announced plans to mark the end of Youth Month with a march and rally, and other activities set for this weekend. (PHOTO: JENNEVA RUSSELL)

Illegal migrants continue to make their way across 'high seas'

ABRIA COOPER
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Less than a week after seven illegal Haitian nationals were apprehended, during an immigration exercise throughout the island, three Cuban males were handed over to Bahamas Immigration on Tuesday, October 31.

In an interview with this daily, Naphthali Cooper, Bahamas Immigration Department Grade One Officer, said that sometime around 8:00 a.m. United States Coast Guard (USCG) cutter *Bernard Webber* called into the Lucayan Harbour and handed over to Bahamas Immigration officers, three Cuban male migrants.

The three men were initially a group of five Cubans, who claimed to have departed Caribbean, Cuba destined for the United States in a rustic vessel some 18 days ago and eventually landed on Anguilla Cay.

However, two members of the group were removed from the cay last week Wednesday and have since been turned over to Bahamas Immigration Freeport and flown into New Providence.

After taking custody of the migrants, Immigration officers transported the men to their headquarters, where they were examined by the medical team from the Disease Surveillance Unit of the PHA.

According to Cooper, the men were expected to be flown to the capital sometime on Wednesday, November 1 to be detained at the Detention Centre until repatriated to Cuba.

Youth Month climaxes with Annual Parade and Pep Rally

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National Youth Month celebrations will culminate with several activities this weekend, featuring various youth organizations on the island on Sunday, November 5.

The Ministry of Youth Sports and Culture in collaboration with those groups held a press conference at the ministry, sharing details of the upcoming event on Wednesday (November 1).

Carla Brown-Roker, Youth Coordinator for the Ministry of Youth Sports and Culture, said that the Ministry of Youth will culminate its Youth Month celebrations this weekend with the following events – Save Our Youth Basketball Tournament and Fun Day in partnership with Reach Out Ministries on Friday evening and Saturday.

"You don't want to miss the highlight game between our pastors and politicians. Please meet us at Jack Hayward Gym," she added excitedly, adding that on Sunday, November 5 is the Annual Youth March and Rally. "We invite all youth groups, organizations, ministries, teams to assemble at Christ the King Parking Lot at 2:00 p.m., as we

take to the streets at 2:30 p.m. in a grand parade to showcase all that is positive regarding our youth," she said.

"Our youth honorees and Youth Parliamentarians will lead the way. Our new Miss Grand Bahama and other reigning queens will be there, our Youth Month Speech champion, Skylar Symonette, will use her voice to stir us, our winning teams in all the various sporting disciplines will be there. So come on Grand Bahama, let's lift up our young people, let's encourage, support and cheer them on," she said. After the march persons can head to Independence Park for a high powered Pep Rally, (Continued on Page 2)

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#3 Mulligan's Meats and Spices IS NOW OPEN DOWNTOWN

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HUNT'S KETCHUP 24 oz.....\$2.39	ARIZONA ASST. ICED TEAS.....2/\$3.00
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BADIA MOJO MARINADE 10 oz.....\$1.59	8X8 10 ct CARRYOUT PLATES.....\$1.59
CELO NAPKINS 60 ct.....2/\$1.00	PRIME ASST. DISH LIQUID.....\$1.99
D-FENCE BAR SOAP.....89¢	DIAMOND FOIL 25 ft.....\$2.09
SIMPLY SOFT SINGLE TISSUE.....79¢	

MEAT SPECIALS

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BEEF RIBS \$2.39 lb	PORK CHOP ENDS \$1.99 lb	FRESH PORK \$1.89 lb
WHOLE TURKEY \$1.79 lb	WHOLE CHICKEN \$1.79 lb	CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS 99¢

VAT INCLUSIVE ITEMS

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SEABEST TUNA 99¢	BUTANE FUEL 4 PACK \$8.99
SUNNY ISLES DRINK GALLON 2/\$4.99	

BUSINESS HOURS: Mon. - Sat. 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Sun. 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.
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