

## EDITORIAL SEE PAGE 4

### Satpal Dhunna still an Oban Energies mystery

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### YOUR WEATHER

**71°F**  
Low clouds, then perhaps some sun

SUNRISE: 7:26 a.m.  
SUNSET: 7:22 p.m.  
HIGH TIDE: 5:55 a.m. - 6:09 p.m.  
LOW TIDE: 12:12 p.m. - 12:17 a.m.  
WINDS: N at 8 mph

See Page 10 for full round-up

**GRAND BAHAMA PORT AUTHORITY**  
**DOG DAYS 24**  
**HALF MARATHON MARCH 2018**  
10K, 5K AND A ONE MILER!!  
REGISTER TODAY AT  
[WWW.GRANDBAHAMADOGDAYSHALFMARATHON.COM](http://WWW.GRANDBAHAMADOGDAYSHALFMARATHON.COM)  
LOCATION: **TAINO BEACH**  
RACE START TIMES:  
HALF MARATHON | 6:30AM  
10K | 7:00AM; 5K | 8:00AM  
ONE MILER | 8:30AM

# 6,000 roof damage complaints recorded

## Lewis: Fix your homes, make sure that they're code compliant and by all means insure your homes

**ABRIA COOPER**  
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Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Public Works Iram Lewis, Member of Parliament for Central Grand Bahama revealed that the Ministry of Works has received some 6,000 complaints regarding roof damages.

Updating media during a press conference in the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) Conference Room, National Insurance Board (NIB) Building on the Post-Hurricane Government Assistance Program Monday (March 12) morning, Lewis said, "We were able to assess just over a 1,000 homes to date," he said.

Lewis added that out of that number they have received, in terms of full compliance, about 550 applicants. Prior to that, up to November 2017, only 125 applicants gave their full compliance.

The program was designed to assist persons whose roofs were damaged as a result of the last few hurricanes to hit the island. Hurricane Matthew struck The Bahamas in October 2016, leaving significant damage in its wake throughout the Northwest Bahamas. Islands, mostly impacted by Matthew's passage included New Providence, Grand Bahama, Andros, Abaco, Eleuthera, Bimini and the Berry Islands.

Hurricane Irma which came in September 2017, was the last hurricane to affect the island.

"The NRRU (National Recovery and Reconstruction Unit) is fully located, now, at the Ministry of Works and Utilities," he disclosed.

"We've been begging the residents to submit their paper-



**RESIDENTS URGED TO FIX THEIR ROOF** – Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Public Works Iram Lewis, Member of Parliament for Central Grand Bahama urged residents to fix their roofs when they are given the assistance from the government. (PHOTO: TFN FILES)

work to ensure that we have full accountability, to ensure that we do not experience fraud. To ensure that the person owns the house that we are giving money to repair we've asked those homeowners to bring in their conveyance, in the absence of their conveyance we've asked them to bring in a sworn affidavit, just so we can verify and we've asked them to bring their passports, which is an official government ID," he explained.

Toni Hudson-Bannister, Officer in Charge of the Ministry of Public Works in Grand Bahama, spoke about the required paperwork applicants need to submit.

(Continued on Page 3)



**ASSISTANCE UPDATE** – Parliamentary Secretary for the Ministry of Work Iram Lewis, MP, held a press conference on Monday, March 12 to share updated details of the Hurricane Repair Assistance Program for residents. Pictured from left are Preston Cunningham, City of Freeport Administrator; Iram Lewis, MP and Toni Hudson-Bannister, Ministry of Works. (PHOTO: JENNEVA RUSSELL)



**LATOYA CARTWRIGHT**  
BPSU Youth Arm Chairperson

## BPSU to host first Youth Forum

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The Bahamas Public Service Union (BPSU) Northern Region is set to host its First Youth Forum on Wednesday, March 14 at the BPSU Hall under the theme, 'Empowering Our Young Workers with Knowledge Today for a Stronger Tomorrow.'

Members of the union's youth arm shared details about the upcoming event, during a press conference Monday (March 12) at the BPSU Hall.

Latoya Cartwright, BPSU Youth Arm Chairperson said that the forum will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

She explained that the forum was coordinated to target young public service workers between the ages of 18 and 35.

"We aim to impart the knowledge and benefits of our union, the purpose of the Tribunal Court, the importance of savings and financial budgeting, uplifting and motivational speeches," she said.

Cartwright added that plans are also being made for the upcoming Caribbean Public Service Association (CPSA) event scheduled for July 2018 in Antigua. The CPSA hosts the annual meeting every year, with all Caribbean Public Service Unions to discuss issues in the public service sector.

Cartwright noted that a representative from each department will be present at the forum and speakers will include Helen Jones, Vice President of the Tribunal Court; BPSU president Kingsley Ferguson; O'Neal Thurston, Joyce Waldron, Dr. Nicholas Saint and Dwayne Swann.

Cartwright added that she wants all of the young public service employees to participate in the forum and bring their ideas to the forefront.

"A front of the times we feel left out, so now it's our turn to bring ideas to the table and discuss among each other," she said.

Cartwright shared that she had recently attended a three-day conference in Kingston, Jamaica where pertinent public service issues in the Caribbean were discussed.

"We elaborated on a lot of challenges facing not only The Bahamas, but most of the Caribbean countries now, especially as it relates to water shortages, electricity, the privacy ownership of water and light salaries, new forums for young workers," she said.

She added that about seven resolutions were developed during the forum. (Continued on Page 3)



**NEW RIDE** – 'GetMe Ride' is Grand Bahama's newest transportation service that comes equipped with Wi-Fi for their customers' convenience. Driver Willie Outten is pictured next to one of the vehicles that is currently ready to serve the public. (PHOTOS: JENNEVA RUSSELL)

## Technology transforming the transportation industry

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Thanks to the power of technology, residents and guests to the Island of Grand Bahama and elsewhere throughout the Commonwealth, can now look forward to the latest in safe, reliable transportation services using the 'GetMe Ride' application.

The 'GetMe Ride' application, which is available on both iPhone and Android devices, once downloaded, will allow persons in need of a ride, with just one simple click, hire a certified 'GetMe Ride' taxi driver to pick them up and take them to their desired destination.

The 'GetMe Ride' app is downloaded free.

'GetMe Ride' is similar to the Uber and Lyft applications, which are widely used across North America; however, 'GetMe Ride' drivers are all independent taxi drivers, licensed by Local Government and subject to a background check, prior to being certified.

According to Michael Broome, founder and Chief Technology Officer (CTO) of 'GetMe Ride,' "We want anyone who uses 'GetMe Ride' to enjoy arriving to their destination safely."

"Back in 2017, we had started the process and found we had some bugs that we wanted to work out. We also wanted to ensure that we followed the rules and standards of agencies, such as the Road Traffic Department and the Taxi Union, prior to the launch." (Continued on Page 2)