

## SPORTS



HON. LANISHA ROLLE  
Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture

# Philosophy ideal, dedication to sports scrutiny advocated

The philosophy that is to guide the Ministry of Sports, collectively, is transparency and an adherence to the conditions by which financial assistance is given, sports infrastructure is put in place and maintained, the Subvention Program is operated, and quasi-government sports entities and independent federations/associations are supported.

Somewhere along the way, the general doctrine by which the Ministry of Sports functioned, got blurred.

There is no wish here to point a finger at those who had responsibility for the Ministry of

Sports in the past. It is a fact that rather than subscribing to the template monitored by directors Winston Cooper, Martin Lundy, Interim director Kevin Colebrook and now Tim Munnings, the system often operated in a random fashion.

Sports leaders clamored for financial assistance and failed to provide annual plans. Upon receiving financial grants, they never saw the need, most of them anyhow, to provide financial reports verifying that the spending was done for exactly what was intended.

Yet the ministry continued, despite the abnormal culture, to provide funds.

Sports infrastructure deteriorated, throughout the country, with little or no accountability,



## Sports Scope

by Fred Sturup

whatsoever, in some cases.

The Subvention Program has not always been coordinated via the rules put in place to control the movement of money from the Treasury to personal accounts and to ensure at all times, such payments were deserved. The reality is that subvention payments have been made through the years to athletes who were not justifying the gesture by their performances.

Federations/associations take a steady path to the Ministry of Sports, requesting funds and even additional financial assistance, but hold strong to their independence and have been

accused and indeed been guilty of ostracizing the hand that fed them.

Put mildly, the Ministry of Sports has not had the kind of relationship with partners within the sports fraternity, that fostered maximum achievements of the Bahamas Sports Brand. I have always said that the buck stopped with the Ministry of Sports.

While, the ministry has absolutely no jurisdiction over the day-to-day business of federations, the leverage of being the financial supplier, should be used to enforce certain conditions. For instance, if a federation/association refuses to, or is unable to present a financial report that reconciles the previous grant, it should not be provided with another until there is full compliance.

Perhaps a new day has dawned. Last week, Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture Lanisha Rolle and associates conducted a series of meetings with administrative partners within the fraternity and the view here, is that she laid it on the line, respectfully so, but firmly nevertheless.

Does she have the mettle to change the culture and bring everybody in line with what is appropriate and best for the enhancement of the national sports brand?

She claims to be serious and set

on her course.

I came away with a good feeling.

For sure, there will be those, not accustomed to having to toe the line on methods that create a transparent culture. If they meet a formidable Minister Rolle at every turn, the system will change and revert to what it always ought to have been.

When the late Father of the Nation, Sir Lynden Pindling decided that sports would have its own ministry in 1977, he seemingly had a vision of how the brand would expand in the subsequent years.

The sports ministry is imperative and it has the appropriate structure. Nothing needs to be re-invented. The template is excellent.

What would be ideal is for there to be a sports minister who is prepared to bite the bullet and insist that the principles that guide the process are upheld.

Hopefully Minister Rolle will hold steady to the course of compliance and progress for the Ministry of Sports.

The old philosophy for the Ministry of Sports is still good. There just needs to be greater scrutiny.

• To respond to this column, kindly contact Fred Sturup at [sturup1504@gmail.com](mailto:sturup1504@gmail.com) or on WhatsApp at 717-6363.



**EVEN BETTER TEAMMATES** - Denali Nottage, second left, and Kofi Bowe, second right were crowned the boys' Under 18 doubles champions at this past weekend's FOCOL Junior National Tennis Tournament. They were also opponents in the boys' Under 16 championship, in which Bowe got the best of Nottage. Pictured with both players are GBTA President Natishkah Barrett, first left, and GBTA Councilor Richard Morely, first right. (PHOTOS COURTESY OF GBTA)

# FOCOL Jr. National Tennis Tournament champions crowned

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The 2018 FOCOL Junior National Tennis Tournament served up another weekend filled with competitive tennis from some of the nation's top junior tennis players.

Held this past October 25-30 at the YMCA, the tournament was utilized as a proving ground that the players out of Grand Bahama, New Providence and family islands have progressed in their craft. This past Sunday champions were crowned on that proving ground across the various age groups in the tournament.

In the girls' Under Eight division round-robin tournament, Kayla Fox was declared the winner by walk over (default), Peyton Anderson knocked off which made her the 2018 cham-

panion of that category. As for the Under Eight boys, Noah Russell topped Dionisio Hepburn to be named the Under Eight boys' national champion.

BreAnn Ferguson dominated her way to be named the girls' Under 10 national champion. She defeated Sarai Clarke in two matches, 4-1, 4-0. Jackson McTaggart overcame a tough test in the likes of Jerald Carroll but in the end was crowned the boys' Under 10 champion. McTaggart edged Carroll to the tune of 5-4, 7-5, and 4-0.

Ferguson secured her second national championship, this time in the girls' Under 12 division. She defeated Rachel Thompson 6-0, 6-1. In the boys' Under 12 championship tilt, Michael Major Jr. took care of McTaggart 6-1, 6-0.

In the girls' Under 14 division, Kayla Kanuka by a final score

of 6-2, 6-2. As for the Under 14 boys Major Jr. defeated Anthony Burrows Jr. 6-3, 6-3.

The girls' Under 16 division witnessed Anderson secure her second national championship. The dual champion took care of Donesha Gibson by a score of 6-4 and 7-5. Kofi Bowe later snagged the Under 16 boys' championship with his victory over Denali Nottage.

In the girls' Under 18 championship Sydney Clarke defeated Abigail Simms. She did so by a final score of 6-3, 6-3. In the boys' Under 18 championship Donte Armbrister defeated Bowe 6-1, 6-0.

In doubles competition the duo of Jalisa Clarke and BreAnn Ferguson defeated Shivani Yellapragada and Tatyana Madu in the girls' under 14 championship. They won that match 4-0, 4-0.

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**GIRLS UNDER 18 CHAMP** - Sydney Clarke, left, was crowned the girls' Under 18 national champion after she defeated Abigail Simms. Pictured presenting the award is GBTA president Natishkah Barrett.