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**PM Dr. Minnis patronizing over Cabinet shuffle**

It's one great big stretch for Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis to say that "my Cabinet Ministers have performed exceptionally well."



**EDITORIAL**  
SEE PAGE 4

Prime Minister  
Dr. Hubert Minnis

"CELEBRATE BAHAMAS: We've Come this far by Faith"

**45<sup>TH</sup> INDEPENDENCE** Countdown to Independence

Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.  
**WEST GRAND BAHAMA GOSPEL CONCERT**  
St. Vincent de Paul Church, Hunters

Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.  
**WEST GRAND BAHAMA FAMILY FUN DAY**  
Williams - Russell Town

6 days left

# 'Ready for the job at hand'

## Don Cornish takes post as City of Freeport Island Administrator

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Officially taking office as Island Administrator for the City of Freeport on June 27, Don Cornish in an exclusive interview with *this daily*, admitted that while just a week in his new office there has already been a lot of work.

However, Cornish noted, his is ready for the job at hand.

"It has been busy, so far. As expected most of it is Independence related, because I am still supporting the west. The new administrator there, Administrator Palacios has never worked Independence in this capacity and then we have East End Administrator Bowe as well, who is also new. So I have been guiding them, supporting what they are doing.

"In the case of the west, I was a part of the planning. So I am continuing to give the committee my support. I spent a lot of time with them; we spent a lot of time putting things together. I was a bit of an abrupt change, and that is always difficult.

"I have always liked the west; I do not dislike Freeport, but there was a pace happening with getting some things done there. That was important for me, because it is more Family Island; it is typically what an administrator is expected to do, and people depend on you to really be effective, and provide them with that level of service that they wouldn't get anywhere. That part of the work is probably the most gratifying,"



READY FOR THE JOB – Newly posted City of Freeport Island Administrator, Don Cornish said that he is ready for the job at hand. (PHOTO: JAIMIE SMITH)

said Cornish.

Noting that he intends to continue the work in West Grand Bahama that he began, Cornish said, "I have spoken to my

colleague and told her that I am free to assist her whenever."

Expressing his passion and commitment to serve The Bahamas within Lo-

cal Government, something he shared has always been his mantra upon entering the arena, the new Island Administrator.

(Continued on Page 3)



DAVE STANFORD COAKLEY

## Man, 51, pleads guilty to list of charges

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New Providence resident, Dave Stanford Coakley, 51, had his day in a Freeport Magistrate Court yesterday – Tuesday, July 3 – answering to a laundry list of charges.

Coakley, who was arraigned before Deputy Chief Magistrate Debbie Ferguson in Court #1 was charged with six counts of Housebreaking and Stealing from a dwelling house.

The accused elected for the matter to be heard in Magistrate Court. He pleaded guilty to all counts and was sentenced to five years on all counts.

Coakley also appeared before Deputy Chief Magistrate Rengin Johnson in Court #3.

During that hearing he was arraigned on seven counts of Shop Breaking and Stealing from a shop.

Again, he elected for the matter to be heard in the Magistrate Court.

Coakley pleaded guilty to all counts and was sentenced to five years at the Bahamas Department of Correctional Services (BDCS).

Meanwhile, police continue to appeal to anyone with information regarding any crime, no matter how small or insignificant (the tip) may seem, to anonymously call police at 919 or crime stoppers at 328-tips (8477) (New Providence) or 1-242-300-8477 (Family Islands.)

Officers also remind residents to be vigilant, through safety summer tips. During the summer months there is usually an increase in reports of stolen or lost passports.

Members are advised to consider the following – ensure that your passport is in a secured safe place after use; do not store passports in vehicles and handbags, during daily commutes. Obtain copies of your passport in the event it is lost or stolen. Information contained in the passport, such as the serial number will be required by the police for tracing purposes. Never pass your passport to a friend or colleague to conduct business on your behalf and when travelling, locate the safety deposit box in your hotel room and use it.

# Grand Bahama customs chief addresses VAT concerns

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Clarifying concerns that may arise as a result of the value added tax (VAT) increase, which came into effect July 1, as it relates to custom duty payment, Customs/Revenue Superintendent and Officer-in-Charge of the Bahamas Customs Department Grand Bahama and Walker's Cay District, Gregory Jones said, "sale items in June will be charged at the 7.5 percent rate, even if it is paid to customs in July."

In an interview with *this daily* on Wednesday, June 27, Jones noted that delinquent submissions of sales report may result in the application of late payment fees pursuant to the provisions set in Section 233A of the Customs Management (Amendment) Bill 2015. "233A. Fee for late payment. If any sum of money due and payable under this Act is not paid for 30 days or more, there shall be added thereto, from the day on which the sum of money became due

and payable until the day on which payment is made, as a surcharge a sum equal to ten per centum per annum of the annual sum due."

He disclosed that the concerns arose from certain business licensees in relation to the submission of dutiable sales, which has to be submitted into customs by the 15th of the following month in a manner prescribed by Customs Laws and Regulations.

"One of the salient points being raised is dutiable sales that were transacted during the month of May and had to be submitted into customs by the 15th of June. The question is what VAT rate will be applicable," he said.

He added that barring this in mind the department sought clarification from the Controller of Customs, who then made official contact with the Ministry of Finance, particularly the Financial Secretary, Marlon Johnson.

"He has since conveyed his decision to the Controller, who consequently directed it to us so that we could be guided

accordingly," said Jones.

He noted that as a part of the Major Revenue Agency and as a public officer, he thought that it was important to act as servants of the people.

"To be very simple the members of the public pay our salary and therefore, we deem it our sacred duty and responsibility to ensure that members of the public are fully aware with updates pertaining to new legislation, new rates of duty under the Tariff Act," he said.

Jones added that collectively, the customs senior management brainstormed and decided to release a public notice.

He said that members of the business community have already submitted their respective import and export documents to customs for processing.

"Therefore, we decided to invoke the provisions of Section 8 of the Customs Management Act of 2011," he said.

Jones noted that the department wants to assist the members of the public and facilitate legitimate trade.



GREGORY JONES  
Customs/Revenue Superintendent,  
Officer-in-Charge of GB

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