



# BahamasNews

## Ma Bey

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### PINDLING TOSSED THE MACE FOR THE PEOPLE



Here is why Pindling raised the weighty sceptre and hurled it through the open second-storey window, shouting, "Yes, the people are outside, and the Mace belongs outside too!" The Mace clattered to the pavement.



UNDER THE RUG

EDITION  
Page 3

## MINNIS FOOD BUDGET INCREASE FROM \$10,000 TO \$115,000+

SENATE FOOD BUDGET

WAS

\$4,800

\$20,000

NOW

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY FOOD

\$33,440

\$70,650

OFFICE OF PRIME MINISTER FOOD

\$10,400

\$115,330



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Tea

HURRICANE  
DORIAN  
Sends a curve  
ball

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BN AGENT, V

The old adage of "A belly full is a belly full" that once govern our attitude towards what we served and what we ate has been thrown right out the window like the Mace that was thrown out of the window of Parliament in 1965.

A LOOK and review at the Budget 2019 line item for the Office of the Prime Minister food exemplified the greatest and largest increase ever recorded for food items in our Country's Parliamentary history. With increases and allocated - Page 2

### BONGIE OF THE DAY

AWARD GOES TO DRO CAPONE NIKE CLOUT



BONGIE  
OF THE DAY



EDITION  
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DOCTORS  
MARCHED &  
GET ORDERED  
TO GO BACK TO  
WORK

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HURRICANE DORIAN SENDS A CURVE BALL

BN Agent, X

Just when you thought Dorian was on our run! Here comes a curveball! A blessing from God curveball. It was predicted days ago that Dorian would have probably been making landfall on southern Bahamas and Nassau by maybe Thursday or Saturday during the weekend at its latest.

But she had bigger and better plans in the atlantic ocean, not only is Dorian planning to swerve around us but also we may not be feeling any form of rainfall at all until Sunday/Monday and only in the northern district of the Bahamas. As much of you wanted days off from work and to stay home for a

week or two, The entire Bahamas actually couldn't take a full hurricane pass through on every island, that would set us even further back in time, because the majority of the family island would have gotten major damages and also the capital and yall think BPL was keeping the light off before, it would be 100 times worse they would have a reason to keep the lights off now, after feeling some dust in the wind. Oh and our Government dont look to get any real repairs

to anything that's in their control until the start of the new year. A hurricane touchdown would be detrimental to many of us in the nation, so let's pray if any does land fall, that it doesn't cripple or cause real damage to our people and land.



MINNIS FOOD BUDGET INCREASE FROM \$10K TO \$115K

BN Agent, V

The old adage of "A belly full is a belly full" that once govern our attitude towards what we served and what we ate has been thrown right out the window like the Mace that was thrown out of the window of Parliament in 1965. A LOOK and review at the Budget 2019 line item for the Office of the Prime Minister food exemplified the greatest and largest increase ever recorded for food items in our Country's Parliamentary history. With increases and allocated amounts well over 100% of the

previous amount is it any wonder why civil Servants are agitated at the Government's slothfulness to pay them monies owed. Nevermind the fact that fees owed were before this Government triumphant entry to governance. However the apparent blatant wastage of people's money leaves little room for understanding or patience. With such increase one can only image the fine wines and meats served on the Cabinet Ministers plate or perhaps each Minister's request is specific to their palate and prepared as ordered. Such service

would bring a clear understanding to the increase. BN urges the PM ensure your people can eat atleast a canned processed version of what your Cabinet Ministers are eating.

STRAIGHT OUTTA BUDGET 2019/20

While Bahamians are struggling to make ends meet, they INCREASED their food, ice and drinking water budget!

SENATE FOOD BUDGET		
WAS	\$4,800	NOW \$20,000
HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY FOOD		
	\$33,440	\$70,650
OFFICE OF PRIME MINISTER FOOD		
	\$10,400	\$115,330

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# PINDLING

## TOSSED THE MACE FOR THE PEOPLE

BN Agent, X

This event culminated in 1967 but started with the 1962 General Elections. The 1962 General Elections was the first elections where all Bahamians including women, were allowed vote: universal adult suffrage. Surprisingly, the United Bahamian Party won the elections over the PLP. The UBP had 21 seats and the PLP had 8. Roland Symonette became the country's first Premier. Historians have hypothesized as to why the PLP lost the elections despite overwhelming support from the majority of Bahamians. Firstly, the PLP complained of UBP job threats. Workers complained that they were threaten with being fired if they voted for the PLP. Also, the UBP campaigned on the grounds that they had done a good job of improving the Bahamian economy; and that change now would frighten the American tourists and investors who were just now coming back from the 1958 General Strike. The UBP suggested

that the PLP were not knowledgeable enough to run the country and if the PLP were to gain control of the government, the economy would be ruined. Additionally, the PLP complained that the UBP had arranged the constituency boundaries in such a way as to give themselves an unfair advantage. This "fixing" of the constituency boundaries is called Gerrymandering. The PLP felt that the number of seats on the Family Islands (then called Out Islands) should be reduced because there were less people on the Family Islands. They also felt that the number of seats on New Providence should be increased. These issues continued to be the topic of concern for the PLP until the debate reached a boiling point on April 27th 1965. After a well planned march and rally hundreds of supporters came from Windsor Park to downtown Bay Street. Lynden Pindling and Milo Butler threw the Speaker's Mace (which signified the authority of Speaker of House) and the two hour glasses (used to time

the member's speech in Parliament) out of a window that Sir Lynden had opened earlier. These actions were designed to show the PLP's disgust with UBP's institutionalized discrimination. Black Tuesday demonstrated the strength of will that the PLP had.

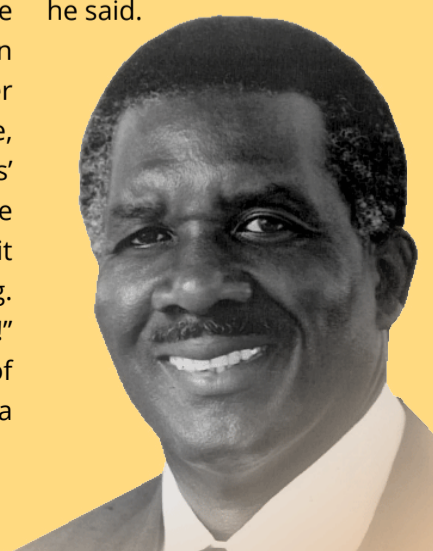
Pindling advocated a national registration of voters. "How else can we proceed when the Commission admits the figures are only guesses?" Outside, the crowd kept up a cry of "Amend! Amend!" and one placard bearer proclaimed "Shame and Scandal in the House", a paraphrase of a popular calypso song. On a light note that seems to characterize even the heaviest deliberations of the Bahamian Parliament, the Speaker complimented Pindling on his "nice" voice. "I intend to use it outside," was the Opposition leader's hard-headed retort. Milo Butler, commenting on the warmth of the air-conditioned, second-storey chamber, calmly rose and opened the two windows near the Opposition side of the room and surveyed the noisy crowd in the public square below. When the House voted, both amendments were defeated. Slowly, Lynden Pindling rose from his

seat, his face a study in suppressed indignation. "It is obvious," he charged, "that the Government did not intend to do anything about the amendments. We tried to lay all our cards on the table; we tried to get the Premier to indicate whether he would be prepared to amend the draft, but it appears that it is the intention of Government to push this matter through." Pindling looked around at the tense, unsmiling faces of the ruling party. "This only shows they mean to rule with an iron hand." Then, raising his voice, he said, "if this is the intention of the Government, I can have no part of it." As the astonished House members watched in disbelief, the forceful young Pindling walked over to the Speaker's table and lifted the 165-year-old Mace, symbol of the Speaker's authority. "This is the symbol of authority," he shouted in ringing tones, "and authority on this island belongs to the people, and the people are outside!" And Pindling raised the weighty sceptre and hurled it through the open second-storey window, shouting, "Yes, the people are outside, and the Mace belongs outside too!" The Mace clattered to the pavement in the square below. As if on cue, Milo Butler sprang up and flung out the two hour glasses

which were used to time speakers. Too astonished to make any sort of outcry, the UBP watched silence as Pindling led his contingent out of the House, followed by a jubilant crowd from the public gallery shouting "PLP! PLP!" Then, rousing himself, the Speaker tried to restore order and to continue business. "You cannot legally continue business without the Mace!" one Labour Party member, Randol Fawkes, reminded him. During the pandemonium that followed, two policemen appeared at the chamber door holding the top half of the Mace, the globe and crown, both badly dented. The dramatic action in the House, for which the PLP wrote the script, confounded the long-entrenched rulers of the Bahamas and caught the attention and fired the imagination of thousands all over the world. Students of history recalled an equally dramatic moment when Oliver Cromwell, fed to the teeth by the dishonesty and corruption of the Parliament of the day, also threw down the Mace. It no longer represented the people, but only the members' own selfish interests, he charged, and tumbled it onto the floor, shouting. "Away with this bauble!" Now a new champion of the people had shown a similar contempt.

Action outside of The House of Assembly

The scene shifted to the outside, where a large crowd of black Bahamians had gathered, wearing and carrying pro-PLP posters. "Bay Street Drunk with Power," "Blood, Sweat, and Tears," and "Boycott Bay Street", were some of the slogans. They had, in fact, arrived in Rawson Square before the members of the House themselves, except for PLP leader Pindling and Cecil Wallace Whitfield, who had led them down East Street to Bay. They had paraded up and down Bay Street between East and Parliament Streets since early morning. Now they greeted the exit of Pindling and his party from the House with wild shouts of joy. Mounting a Post Office van, Pindling told these supporters what had just happened and why he threw out the Mace. He no longer respected the authority of the House and would not return until it was ruled by the majority of the people, he said.





## BONGIE OF THE DAY IS AWARDED TO DRO CAPONE NIKE CLOUT



## FREE CLOUT FREE CLOUT. HOT BAHAMIAN RAPPER TRY PUT ONE ON US .

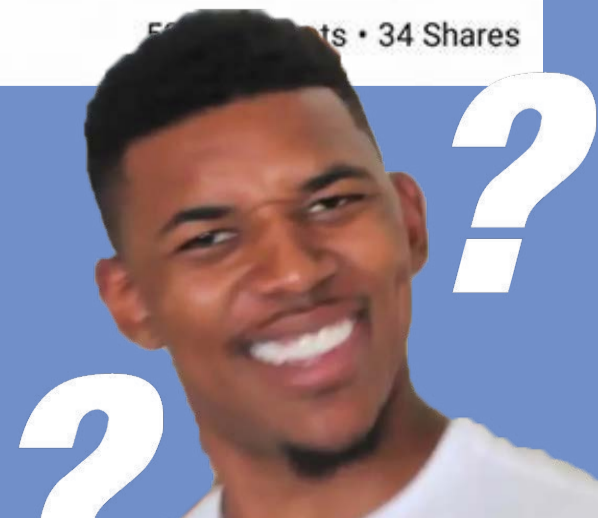
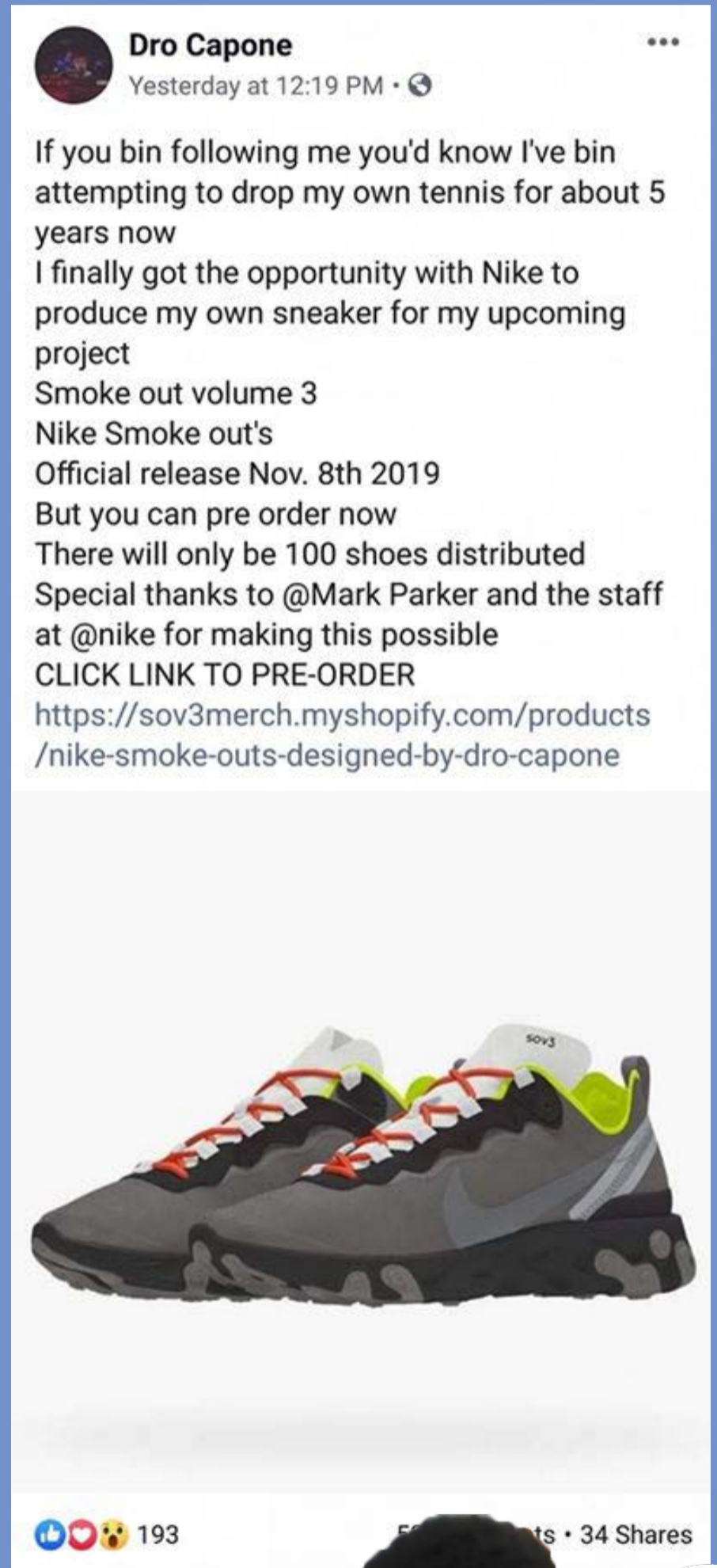
BN Agent, X

Bongie of the day goes to anyone who thought Bahamian rap artist Dro Capone really got some Nike deal to make his own tennis. A whole lot of finesse is in the rap lifestyle but this one is a huge red flag! We all know how extremely hard it is for normal star athletes to even get a personal shoe customized by Nike, let alone one that can be

resold for profit gain.

Dro didn't get a deal with Nike and he shouldn't be thanking Mark Parker because they two never spoke, who he need to be thanking is Google and Shopify for allowing him to get away with this illegal fraud act. Nike now allows anyone to design and customize their own shoe and have it sent to them from a selection

of over 100+ shoes to choose from color and customize on their site called Nike-By-You, any regular person can now apply, customize a tennis and add their initials, name or phrase to a Nike tennis and have it shipped to them. Nike does not permit people to resell their customized tennis, this is why it's a fraud act and it's still illegal. But hey it's the Bahamas anything goes.



# RUPERT CHARGING 25¢ A BAG COME 2020!

BN Agent X

From the words of Rupert Roberts himself "In January, it's mandated by law that we have to charge the customer 25 cents for these bags, for the plastic bags which we're giving them now," Roberts told reporters.

"Now, you know, there's going to be a big push back on that but it's the law. They're going to accept that the way they accepted VAT (value-added tax)." lets clarify one thing, before yall get the wrong perception of what's going on here. The law is no mandating that a fee be placed on the new canvas recyclable bags, of 25 cents. It only states that a store can no longer give persons single use plastic bags and must find another solution, however it also doesn't bash a company for selling the new bags. But that 25 cents that all Rupert, that's not written in law saying you must charge the customer 25 cents for each bag that is used.

Rupert also stated that his company has already purchased 750 cases of canvas recyclable bags. "We have about 75,000 of the reusable bags on the way," he said.

Roberts also said he has requested approval from the government on the introduction of corn-based plastic bags, noting "if they won't accept a corn-based

bag then they need to reject corn itself".

While Roberts' company is making headway on the elimination of plastic from the food stores, he expressed concerns about how the ban would impact the packaging of meat and other non-processed items at the stores.

"The meat trays and the produce trays, that's another problem," Roberts said.

When asked how, he said, "They're banned... We were foam, now we have to switch to paper."

The new law allows business establishments to sell compostable single-use plastic bags to a customer at the point of sale for a fee from 25 cents to \$1 per bag, excluding VAT. Fees collected from these sales would be retained by the business. The bill provides that the fee for the sale of a compostable bag must be separately stated on the receipt provided to the customer and identified on the receipt as "checkout bag fee".





**BN Agent, X**

Due to the life of Bahamians being on the line and it also some what being illegal to strike as a Doctor or any service person of critical value, a letter of injunction was placed on the young doctors for protesting against the current decision of the government regarding their long owed pay. Forcing them to have to go back to work the next day.

Union has been blocked from taking further industrial action against the government and ordered to return to work after an injunction was granted by Supreme Court Justice Ian Winder. According to Attorney General Carl Bethel, the injunction further ordered that BDU be restrained from contravening Sections 76, 77, and 83 of the Industrial Relations Act. It was also ordered that an ‘inter partes’ hearing be heard by Justice

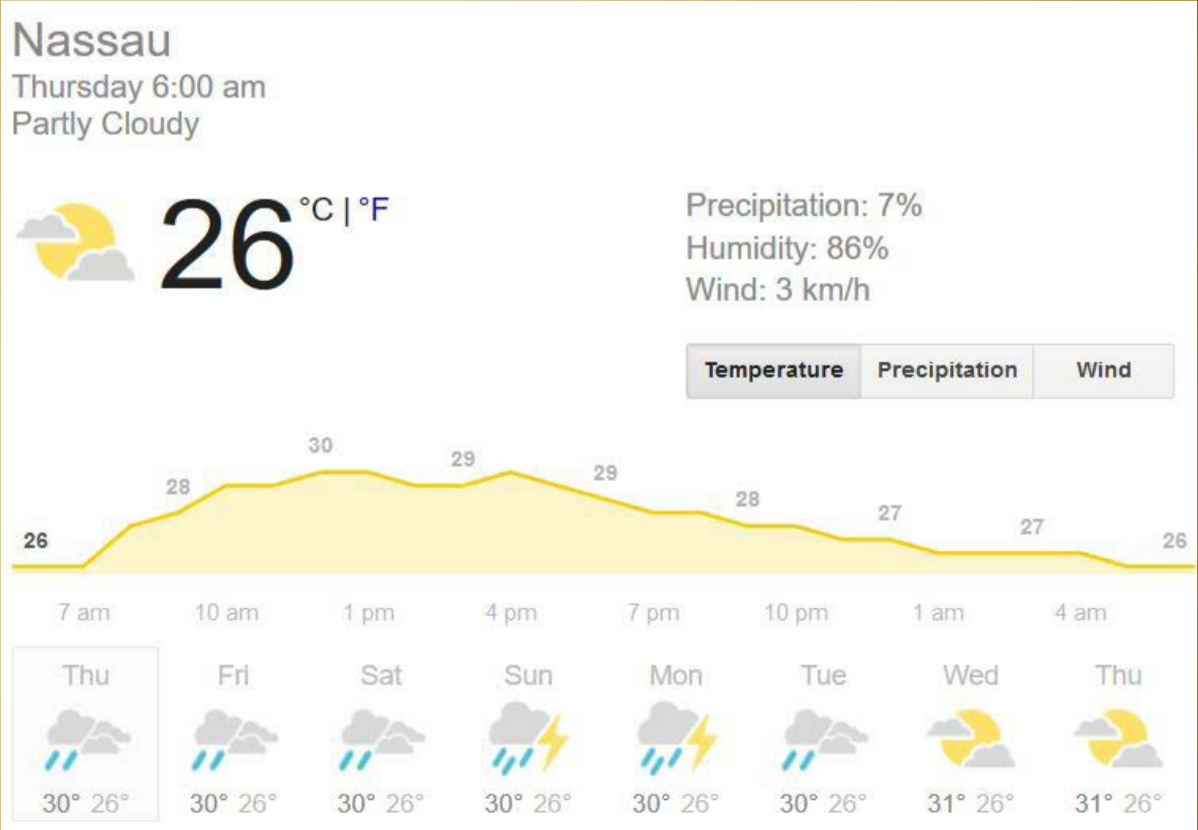
Winder. The injunction came several hours after BDU President Melisande Bassett revealed the union intended to use all legal means available to continue fighting the government including holding a strike vote on several matters where they have been denied due course. However, following the injunction, she sent a statement to members saying: “With the recent developments, we must

remember our senior physicians who have allowed us to fight for our constitutional right without endangering the public’s safety or well being.”We request that the on-call teams for the departments of surgery, medicine, obstetrics, paediatrics, accident and emergency take over admission to the hospital from 12am to 8am to allow our consultants much-needed rest.”

DOCTORS MARCHED & GET ORDERED TO GO BACK TO WORK

Bahamas Doctors be heard by Justice

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GOVERNMENT  
MUST NOW  
ANSWER ON  
CORRUPTION

BN Agent, X

Prime Minister

DNA LEADER SAY  
GOVERNMENT  
MUST NOW  
ANSWER ON CORRUPTION

\* Court of Appeal verdict shifts focus back to Government

\* Judicially condemned Cabinet Ministers must resign or be terminated

\* FNM found wanting on transparency and anti-corruption pledge

\* Government must account to taxpayers on legal and forensic costs

\* Scandal cannot be swept under the proverbial rug

\* DNA stands by call for Vote of No Confidence in

The Democratic National Alliance (DNA) has reviewed the recent ruling by the Court of Appeal in the Frank Smith matter. According to court documents, the appellate court dismissed the argument made by the prosecution that Chief Magistrate Joyanne Ferguson-Pratt erred in her ruling that Ms. Barbara Hanna was not a reliable witness and therefore, there was no case to answer. While the Court of Appeal acknowledged that the Chief Magistrate made some procedural

missteps, they concluded that there was an 'abundance of examples of doubtful testimony' from Ms. Hanna.

It is the DNA's position that we will not speak to the truth or falsity of the allegations made by Ms. Hanna against the former Public Health Authority (PHA) Chairman, Mr. Frank Smith, considering that based on her testimony during cross-examination she was considered by the Chief Magistrate to be an unreliable witness. This is also against the backdrop that the prosecution provided no further substantial evidence to make a determination for a case to answer.

In a previous release issued by our Spokesperson for Good Governance – Mr. Geoffrey Deleveaux on 3 February 2019, we highlighted the 'gross incompetence and clumsiness displayed

by the entities involved in making and arguing the case on behalf of the Crown'. The unethical conduct and political interference of the executive arm of government has cost taxpayers thousands of dollars in this case and other cases before the courts. While we in the DNA support the prosecution of public officials who appear to have abused their authority or broken the law, we do not support phishing expeditions and the wastage of taxpayers' funds. The government must now fully disclose how much this exercise, other legal matters involving external counsel and all forensic audits have cost taxpayers to date.

It was abundantly clear throughout the trial and recorded in transcripts that Ms. Hanna was an unwilling witness who

did not initiate these proceedings of her own will and was coerced to testify in this case. In her words, she was 'being used'. Furthermore, the subsequent granting of a contract to Ms. Hanna without Board and Cabinet approval as well as inconsistencies in phone records used, demand that answers be provided by the government.

Now that the Court of Appeal has ruled on this matter, we renew our demand for Prime Minister Minnis to have his Ministers, Marvin Dames and Dr. Duane Sands do the honorable thing and resign or be terminated for their participation and behavior in this matter. It is disheartening that an administration that postulates commitment to transparency and accountability with a promise to 'weed

out corruption' has been found wanting in an embarrassing predicament. This scandal must not be swept under the proverbial rug.

The DNA stands by its demand during our call for action and 10 days of activism that a vote of no confidence in the Prime Minister should be moved in the Parliament. We note that after much persuasion, the Leader of the Official Opposition has followed our lead and has finally committed to move this motion at the next sitting of Parliament. The Bahamian people deserve better governance.

- Arinthia S. Komolafe



BTC TO USD  
TODAY

1 BITCOIN  
=  
\$9,470.54 USD

# COURT APPROVES FORMER SENATOR'S ACQUITTAL ON CORRUPTION CLAIMS



BN Agent, X

The Court of Appeal Wednesday denied the prosecution's bid for a new trial for former Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) Senator Frank Smith following his acquittal on bribery and extortion charges. The tribunal rejected the prosecution's arguments that the February 1 decision of the magistrate was flawed and erroneous in law, saying "there was an abundance of examples of doubtful testimony, which impelled the chief magistrate to her eventual conclusion."

After the PLP's defeat in the 2017 general election, Smith, 53, was charged with abusing his position as chairman of the Public Health Authority by demanding and receiving bribes totaling \$60,000 from Barbara Hanna from April 2016 to 2017. Smith and his

supporters have said the prosecution was politically motivated. Hanna's company had been awarded a one-year contract to clean the critical care block of the Princess Margaret Hospital. Hanna said Smith demanded \$5,000 after she got her first cheque. Initially, she thought the money was a one-time payment, but said she was shocked to learn that Smith expected \$5,000 when she received her monthly cheque of \$43,350.89. She said that he should have told her beforehand, so that "I could put an additional \$5,000 on the contract." But she claimed he told her this wasn't possible because the contract had already been finalized.

A month before Hanna testified against Smith in November 2017, the governing Free National Movement (FNM) awarded her a \$1.9

million contract to clean the hospital. During her testimony, Hanna said she felt "pressured and used." Hanna insisted that she didn't initiate the complaint against Smith, but the police called her repeatedly. She also admitted to calling Smith and warning him, "be careful, because they are out to get you." Deputy Director Neil Brathwaite said the Crown intends to seek leave to appeal to the Privy Council. Outside court, Smith thanked God and his legal team, which was headed by Jamaican Queen's Counsel K D Knight.

## MURDER #67 ON ROSS CORNER

BN Agent, X

A young man was shot and killed over the weekend. The day before he was to have started a new job, 28-year-old Justin Davis was shot on Sunday night on Ross Corner. He was later pronounced dead at the hospital of PMH. Relatives mourned the loss of their "easy-going" loved one as they condemned the country's increasing violence.





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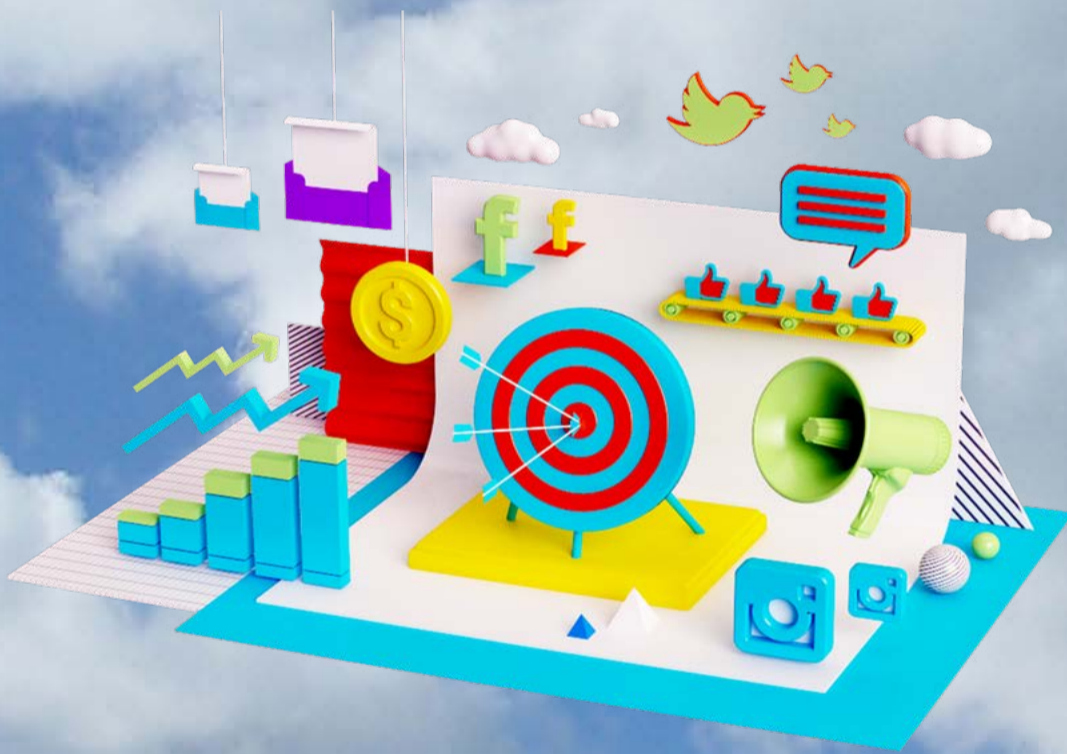
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