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WHERE THE MONEY GONE? **\$14 MILLION? ON WHAT ROAD REPAIR?**



BAHAMAS IN CRISIS: PMH SHORT ON SUPPLIES – HEALTH **MINISTER CAUGHT FLYING** FIRST CLASS TO MIAMI HEALTH **CONFERENCE**

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A storm of outrage is

Providence as residents question how \$14 million in taxpayer funds allegedly spent on road repairs has left their communities still looking like war zones.





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Bahamas News Ma Bey



BAHAMAS IN CRISIS: PMH SHORT ON SUPPLIES – HEALTH MINISTER CAUGHT Flying first class to miami health conference

BN Agent, X

he nation's largest public hospital is facing severe shortages of essential medical supplies, even as the Minister of Health attended a high-profile conference in Miami traveling first class on a taxpayer-funded trip.

Internal reports from Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH) confirm that supplies of gloves, masks, and saline have reached critically low levels. Healthcare staff have been instructed to ration items, delay procedures, and in some cases, reuse gloves due to what hospital administrators have described as "ongoing stock delays."

Photographs and internal memos circulating among hospital staff show empty sup-

ply rooms, restricted access notices posted near storage units, and improvised signage warning employees about strict conservation protocols.

At the same time, footage and images obtained by members of the public — and later shown to BN News agents — depict the Health Minister flying in first-class seating on a commercial flight to Miami. The trip, confirmed by the Ministry, was for a regional health summit said to focus on regional preparedness and international cooperation.

The Ministry of Health has defended the travel, describing it as "an essential engagement in health diplomacy." Officials insist that the Minister's participation is intended to foster

partnerships that will benefit the country's long-term healthcare planning.

Still, the contrast between strained conditions at home and high-level travel abroad has sparked concern from hospital employees, patients, and civil society observers. PMH, already grappling with aging infrastructure, has reportedly experienced weeklong delays in restocking basic medical tools, creating bottlenecks in care.

Some patients have been asked to bring in their own gloves or purchase medications externally due to low inventory. in-house Non-urgent procedures are said to have been postponed in certain departments.

This growing gap between public sector

austerity and government-level spending has led to renewed calls for transparency and accountability in the Ministry's budget. Advocacy groups are pressing for a full audit of procurement processes, while healthcare unions remain on alert.

With no immediate timeline given for the resolution of supply issues, frontline workers continue to operate under mounting pressure — managing patient needs with limited tools, all while public confidence in the healthcare system declines.



WHERE THE MONEY GONE? \$14 MILLION? ON WHAT ROAD REPAIR?

GOV'T SAYS \$14M SPENT ON ROAD REPAIRS - RESIDENTS SAY "WE STILL DODGING POTHOLES LIKE MINES!"

BN Agent, X

(Continue of Page 1)

A storm of outrage is sweeping across New Providence as residents question how \$14 million in taxpayer funds allegedly spent on road repairs has left their communities still looking like war zones.

When BN News toured the very neighborhoods cited in the report, we were met not with signs of progress—but with potholes, crumbling asphalt, broken sidewalks, and flood-prone intersections. In some areas, stagnant water pooled in open craters so deep they could easily pass for moon craters.

her home that's been in disrepair for over five years. She says residents were promised resurfacing in November 2024 — "but not a single truck or worker ever showed up."

with silence. Multiple calls and emails sent by BN News to the Ministry of Works went unanswered. The Auditor General's Office, responsible for tracking public expenditure, has yet to issue a formal statement or audit on the matter.

cy has only fueled sus- on the horizon and road picions that funds may conditions becoming they don't forget. And have been misman- a daily frustration for they certainly don't foraged—or worse, never voters, political analysts spent on roadworks at warn that this contro-

all.

"We don't want no more press conferences or empty promises," said Travis Knowles, a resident of East Street South. "Show us receipts. Show us work. Show us where our money gone!"

The lack of transparen- With general elections

versy could have longterm consequences for the current administration.

"Roads are one of the most visible markers of government effectiveness," said Dr. Kelman Forbes, a political science lecturer. "When people are dodging potholes on their way to work, school, or church, give."

According to a Ministry of Works report released last week, the government poured \$14 million into "infrastructure upgrades and critical road maintenance" over the past fiscal year. The Ministry listed areas such as Pinewood Gardens, East Street South, and Carmichael Road as priority zones for rehabilitation works.

But residents are not lor showed our team buying it.

"I mash up three rims since January and they talking 'bout upgrade?" fumed Darren Rolle, a taxi driver who lives in Pinewood. "Every week is a new suspension problem. If they spend \$14 million, where it gone?"

In Carmichael, the story is the same. Local resident Marsha Tay-

a stretch of road near

"After every rain, this whole road turns into a river," she said. "And when the water finally dries up, you better know how to drive in a zig-zag."

Other communities shared similar concerns, with some alleging that the roads were patched briefly, only for the repairs to deteriorate in less than a month.

Despite mounting public frustration, attempts to get clarity from officials have been met



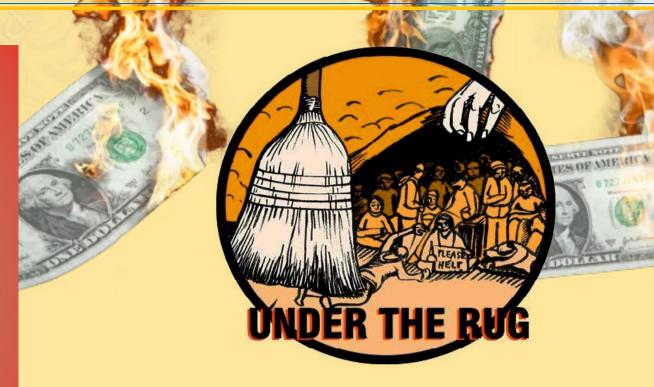


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WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE \$5M 'DIGITAL BAHAMAS' APP? PROMISED SERVICES STILL OFFLINE, PUBLIC LEFT IN THE DARK

BN Agent, X

t was pitched as a game-changer: sleek, all-in-one mobile app that would revolutionize how Bahamians accessed government services. From passport renewals and driver's license payments to NIB contributions and bill tracking, the "Digital Bahamas" app promised to bring public service into the 21st century.

Two years and \$5 million later, Bahamians are still waiting.

BN News has spent months trying to track down answers. Despite the hefty investment, there's been no public audit, no post-mortem, and no accountability for the app's failure. Attempts to get a breakdown of costs have been met with silence. Repeated requests for interviews with the Ministry responsible for digital transformation have gone unanswered.

What known. is however, raises serious questions. Sources inside the Ministry say the project was plagued by poor planning, rushed deadlines, and minimal technical oversight. One civil servant described it as "a political showpiece that was never ready for launch." Another noted that internal warnings about functionality issues were ignored in the rush to deliver "something" ahead of the 2023 budget debates.

ment was reportedly outsourced to a foreign tech consultancy, but no contract details have been released to the public. To this day, it remains unclear how much of the \$5 million went to actual software development versus administrative and consulting fees.

A local tech expert who reviewed early ver-

sions of the app told BN News it lacked basic security protocols, and the user interface "looked like it was copied and pasted from a free template site."

Meanwhile, Bahamians are still forced to navigate long lines, paper forms, and outdated websites for government services — the very problems the app was supposed to solve.

Transparency advocates are now calling for a full investigation into how the Digital Bahamas project was handled, including who got paid and what deliverables — if any — were met. Without public scrutiny, they warn, the same mistakes could happen again under future tech initiatives. As of now, the Digital Bahamas app remains in limbo — a \$5 million ghost project that launched, failed, and vanished with little more than a press release and a trail of taxpayer dollars.

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officially The app launched to fanfare in mid-2023, but almost immediately fell apart. Users reported repeated crashes, login errors, missing personal data, and broken links. For many, the app wouldn't even load the home page. After a few chaotic weeks, it quietly disappeared — taken offline for "maintenance." It hasn't returned since.

So, what happened? The app's develop-

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BONGIE OF THE DAY AWARD

NEWS



BN Agent, X

May 19, 2025

f you've ever been to Chat N Chill, you've probably witnessed the magic for yourself — but if not, let us introduce you to today's BN Bongie of the Day: The Conch Salad Fruit Ninja.

We're talking about raw, Bahamian talent. This man is so fast at making a fresh conch salad, you'd think you hit the fast-forward button on real life. No joke — he whips up a full, colorful, mouth-watering conch salad in one minute flat. From slicing the sweet peppers to dicing the onions and tomatoes, he moves with precision, speed, and style that would make even a Michelin-star chef pause and take notes.

— Fruit Ninja style. That's right, you're not just getting a salad, you're getting a show.

Crowds gather. Phones come out. Tourists gasp. Locals nod in respect. This isn't just about conch — it's about turning a Bahamian staple into performance art. And for that, we salute you, Fruit Ninja of Chat N Chill. You've diced, sliced, and high-flied your way into our hearts (and bellies).

BN Bongie of the Day, you earned it.



But where things go from impressive to absolutely legendary is when it's time to finish off the salad with a squeeze of lime or orange. Now, most people would just slice the fruit and call it a day. Not this guy. He throws the lime and orange in the air and slices them midair in one clean slash

May 19, 2025 NEWS www.bahamasnewsmabey.com **Bahamas News Ma Bey TRANSPARENCY IN GRAND LUCAYAN DEAL**

BN Agent, X

he Free National Movement welcomes any credible progress toward the redevelopment of the Grand Lucayan and the economic revitalization of Grand Bahama. We recognize that this repmovement resents on the long-standing effort to revitalize Grand Bahama's an obeconomy, jective we all share.

The Free National Movement has long supported responsible investment that tangible delivers benefits to the Bahamian people, meaningcreating ful opportunities, strengthening local businesses, and contributing to sustainable national growth. We believe the successful redevelopment of the Grand Lucayan has the potential to do just that. Where such development We

is pursued transparently and in the public interest, we stand ready to collaborate in moving it forward.

In that spirit, we have formally written to both the Prime Minister and the developer, Waters Bahamas Ltd., to request briefings on the agreement's details, timeline, and anticipated impact. While the public has been made aware of broad project ambitions, there remain important of the transaction that have yet to be clarified. We believe the Bahamian people have a right to be informed on the specifics of a development this particularly as it concerns the sale of a major public asset and the future of portunity, and a dea critical economic velopment с е nter.

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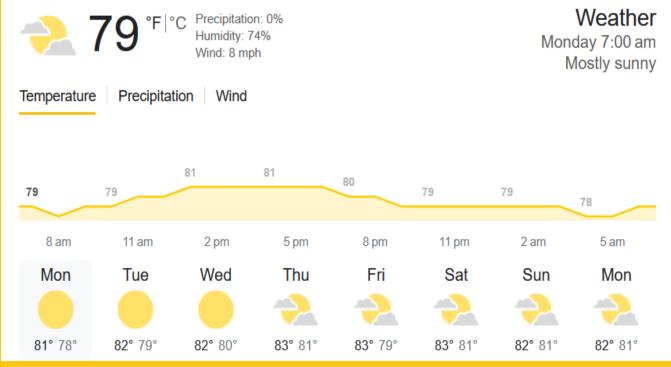
aged by the inter- as we welcome the opportunity to enconstructively gage with both government and private sector stakeholders as the project advanc-Ancient es. Our objective is to ensure that transparency, accountability, and public benefit remain central throughout the development process.

The people of Grand Bahama have waited for far too long aspects for real progress. We must now move beyond symbolic gestures toward tangible delivery. Our vision is for a Grand Bahama that thrives, anchored by of a modernized airmagnitude, port, a diversified economy built on tourism, innovation, and maritime opmodel that includes Bahamians not just as encour- employees, but

and ture, we must work ised is delivered and partners est being shown in stakeholders. together to ensure that all Bahamians Grand Bahama, and At this critical junc- that what is prom- share in the benefit."









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