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COVID-19 TRACKER - Page 5

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THE AG SAYS THE LAWS ON CITIZENSHIP HAVE NOT CHANGED

The Senate was hot yesterday when Opposition Senator Fred Mitchell tried to derail the Attorney General Carl Bethel, but Bethel defended the laws of The Bahamas and set him straight.

UNDER THE BUG
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SUNCASH LAUNCHES NEW PAYMENTS CARD \$SMARTPAY!

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MOH FOOD HANDLERS DEPARTMENT,
RUDE, RING OR ROGUE.

Page 2

BN AGENT, M

With banks transitioning to cashless environments or exiting The Bahamas altogether, business owners now have an alternative, secure and transparent option to pay their employees via the new SunCash Payroll and \$martPayCard. This Card is versatile and many business - **Page 2**

BONGIE OF THE DAY
AWARD GOES TO TWO PEEPING TOMS

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PLANS TO PLACE 'MORE CARE INTO THE WORD, HEALTHCARE'

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MINISTRY OF HEALTH FOOD HANDLERS DEPARTMENT, RUDE, RING OR ROGUE.

BN Agent, M

The healthcare sector should be one that exudes care, concern and consideration. It is selfless and thinks of the well-being of those being served, given priority to their needs. Unfortunately this is not often the case at home in the Bahamas.

Many of the public healthcare workers are often rude and inconsiderate. They do not allow you to forget that you need them at that moment far more than they need you. Scores of complaints have come into BN concerning the lack of professionalism, tack and diplomacy

shown to our citizenry when having to get a Food Handlers certificate.

For starters upon calling to make an appointment to attend a food handlers course, you are told that there is no available space until two months later from the day you are calling. Those desperate enough will show up at 6am until a line with other hopeful stand buyers hoping someone does not show up for their appointed class time. To your surprise upon arrival at the food handlers department on Meeting Street there are others there whom you have met many having already arrived from shortly after 5:00 a.m. seated in their cars.

Those who have appointments when arrive ushered in and although the class booking is not full those on the outside are made to wait perhaps an additional 20 to 30 minutes outside standing before they begin calling for the standbys to be registered.

Perhaps the wait time is for your punishment for showing up without an appointment or perhaps it is to allow in persons who are friends or relatives of those in charge of the session who arrives late who likewise do not have appointments.

Much to your amazement and disbelief once standbys are called you

can expect up to 10 to standbys to be called in to make up a class that you were told were already filled. It is the same with all remaining classes.

Upon your initial arrival to the building on Meeting Street you are told to park in the adjacent parking lot and wait. Once you go into class a plate is presented and you are instructed to pay a \$2 parking fee for parking. Without any prior warning or information of a parking fee associated with parking, collected by a Ministry of Health employee.

How is it that the government of the Bahamas is allowing their employees to collect payments for a parking

lot that is not owned by the government? There are no receipts given and the person has no way of honestly knowing how many cars have parked.

It is amazing that even with an overwhelming need for more persons in the food and beverage industry to have the food handler certificate that the course can only be obtained from the Ministry of Health office on Meeting Street.

With only 20 persons allowed in each of the three classes ensuring that social distancing is adhered to, it now necessary for a new cashless method to be enforced.

Just a few suggestions



perhaps persons can physically attend the building to be inspected by the doctor and receive their certificate after either signing into a virtual course and completing a test.

Another suggestion would be to use a bigger space. Perhaps the church across the street has a fellowship hall can be used inclusive of the parking lot.

SUNCASH LAUNCHES NEW PAYMENTS CARD SMARTPAY!

BN Agent, M
(Continue of Page 1)

With banks transitioning to cashless environments or exiting The Bahamas altogether, business owners now have an alternative, secure and transparent option to pay their employees via the new SunCash Payroll and \$martPayCard.

This Card is versatile and many business account holders will benefit from it. SunCash gives power to Business Owners by allowing them to utilize the Payroll Feature to transfer funds from their Account to an employee's mobile wallet account. This transfer simultaneously

updates the employee's \$martPayCard that is linked to a SunCash account. Aside from linking the \$martPay Card with the SunCash Mobile wallet, other high-tech \$martPay Card features include mobile notifications, tap, swipe or scan to pay, Sand Dollar ready, offline capabilities, multiple wallets, accepted nationwide, multiple rewards systems, lost/stolen and disable features, track spending and clear transaction labeling.

The Card can also be used to pay at over 850+ SunCash registered businesses and stores which is quickly growing

daily. "What makes you fall in love with the \$martPay Card is that it's super attractive with no annual, over-the-limit or late fees," says SunCash. "The \$martPay Card is designed to make sure you're the only one who can use it. We kept you in mind by including all the advanced security technologies like Face ID, Touch ID and onetime passwords (OTP) which are built in for your extra protection." \$martPay is an ideal solution for businesses that are cash intensive, managing employee payroll and other payments that would otherwise be done by cash. For Family Island workers, whose banking access may have been reduced or eliminated by exit of commercial banks,



the \$martPay Card is a solution. The Card is also reliable during times of disaster or emergency because it has offline capabilities and doesn't require Internet or a network to work. "As an Authorized Financial Institution (AFI) SunCash is creating a healthy, vibrant and competitive cashless environment in The Bahamas, especially on the Family Islands. SunCash

retail merchants and stores are equipped and prepared to accommodate salary withdrawal via the new \$martPay Card through the Merchant Account payroll feature," SunCash explained. Get it today! Application for a \$martPay Card can be completed through the new SunCash App, online or in person at a store. Cards are available immediately at all SunCash Stores

nationwide. Almost 50,000 users have downloaded the SunCash app and holders are eligible for the \$martPay Cards immediately. SunCash has over 90,000 cards available now for distribution at all SunCash stores in The Bahamas.

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UNDER THE RUG

THE AG SAYS THE LAWS ON CITIZENSHIP HAVE NOT CHANGED

BN Agent, M

The Senate was hot yesterday when Opposition Senator Fred Mitchell tried to derail the Attorney General Carl Bethel, but Bethel defended the laws of The Bahamas and set him straight.

At the beginning of the morning session of the Senate yesterday, Attorney General, Carl Bethel, told his colleagues that the law has not changed in regards to citizenship even though the Court of Appeal has ruled so.

The back story is that the Court of Appeal upheld a historic Supreme Court ruling that children born out of wedlock to foreign women and Bahamian men are automatically citizens, regardless of the nationality of the mother.

And before that, the government had sought to appeal a ruling by Supreme Court Justice Ian Winder handed down in May 2020 over the true interpretation of Article 6 of the Constitution.

The Court of Appeal ruling, which came in a three to two decision, has dismissed the government's appeal and awarded costs to the respondents.

The judges of the Appeal Court are — Sir

Michael Barnett, Justice Jon Isaacs, Justice Maureen Crane-Scott, Justice Roy Jones and Justice Milton Evans. They gave written judgments on the matter.

Senators Bethel and Mitchell had it out in the Senate as usual but Senator Bethel stuck to his point that even though the Court of Appeal made its ruling one cannot prove paternity for the purpose of claiming citizenship based on the status of Children's Act because of the status of Children's Act specifically states that it is not to be used in determining any question of citizenship. He said that is the law of The Bahamas and it has not changed

He advised that people who fall under the subject matter to be patient and also that government agencies understand what is going on.

AG's office will now seek to achieve a Stay on the Court of Appeals ruling and that became a contentious bone in the Senate as Senator Mitchell felt if there was no Stay then the Court of Appeal's ruling should be upheld now.

Long story short in this case. BN says the Attorney General is the Attorney General. If he says that the law has to continue as it is, then so be it.





BONGIE OF THE DAY IS AWARDED TO TWO PEEPING TOMS

BN Agent, V

After admitting to voyeurism, two peeping Toms have been imprisoned.

Ancella Evans, Jeantil and Charles admitted to voyeurism and trespassing.

As a couple had sex, Robin Jeantil, 21, and Richard Charles, 22, of Hope Town, Abaco, watched through a window.

On the voyeurism accusation, they were sentenced to six months in prison and fined \$50 or 14 days in jail.

When the prowlers broke the window screen, the couple recognized they were being followed.

At their arraignment in front of Magistrate



PLANS TO PLACE 'MORE CARE INTO THE WORD, HEALTHCARE'

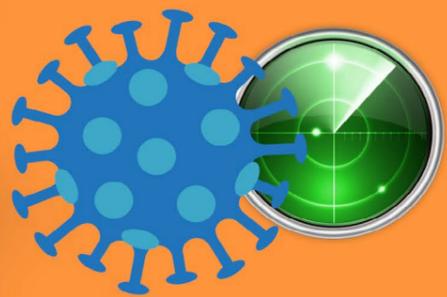
BN AGENT, M

Recovery is precisely what this budget is all about, it is the economic elixir for what ails the nation, we will recover," said the Hon. Renward Wills, Minister of Health during his contribution to the 2021/2022 budget debate. The road to recovery is not an easy one. Minister Wells said, however, with the Seven-Pillared Accelerate Bahamas Recovery plan, we chart our steps to rapidly return to a sense of normalcy. The Ministry of Health looks to participate in the rollout of that

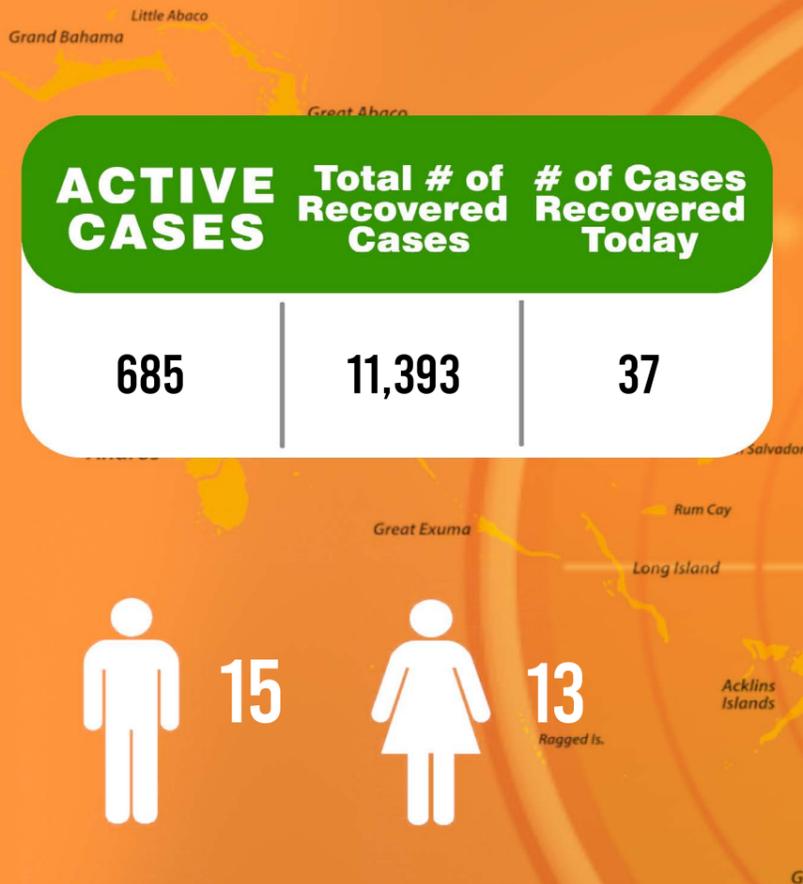
plan. Health care and vaccinations form the third pillar. Accordingly, the Ministry of Health has been allocated \$297,081,014 for the fiscal year to support the objectives. \$223,455,825 for the PHA \$45,000,000 for the National Health Insurance Authority and \$47,474,124 for the Department of Public Health. These appropriations will facilitate four areas of the healthcare sector, substantial investment expansion of telemedicine to improve access to healthcare; expansion of universal health coverage via National Health

Insurance and enhancement of supports to mitigate COVID-19, including vaccinations.

We are a government, committed with our whole heart to the enhancement of our healthcare system. The focus is on saving lives, improving health outcomes and placing much more care into the word "healthcare." From the beginning, he said, the government has been busy with the Bahamian people's business building a more resilient and economically prosperous society through food security, food sovereignty, education and energy security.



COVID-19 TRACKER



ISLAND	TOTAL CASES	NEW CASES
NEW PROVIDENCE	9172	23
GRAND BAHAMA	1850	1
ABACO	372	0
BIMINI & CAT CAY	145	2
ELEUTHERA	238	2
BERRY ISLANDS	90	0
EXUMA	160	0
INAGUA	25	1
ANDROS	170	0
LONG ISLAND	25	0
CAT ISLAND	71	0
ACKLINS	7	0
CROOKED ISLAND	7	0
MAYAGUANA	3	0
SAN SALVADOR	12	0
LOCATIONS PENDING	54	0
TOTAL	12,407	28



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CALL: 434-8001



Chevy Equinox 2016 - \$23,000

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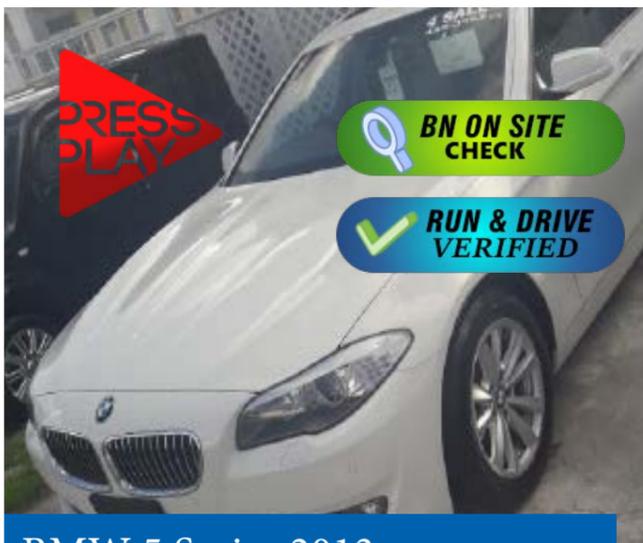
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Hyundai Sonata 2015- \$15,000

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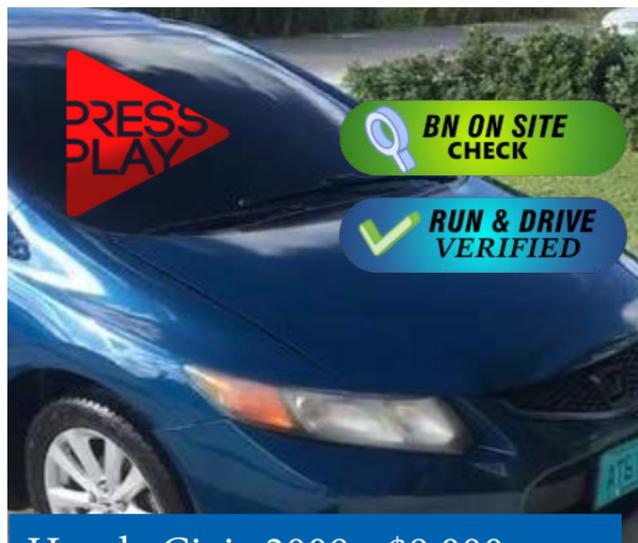
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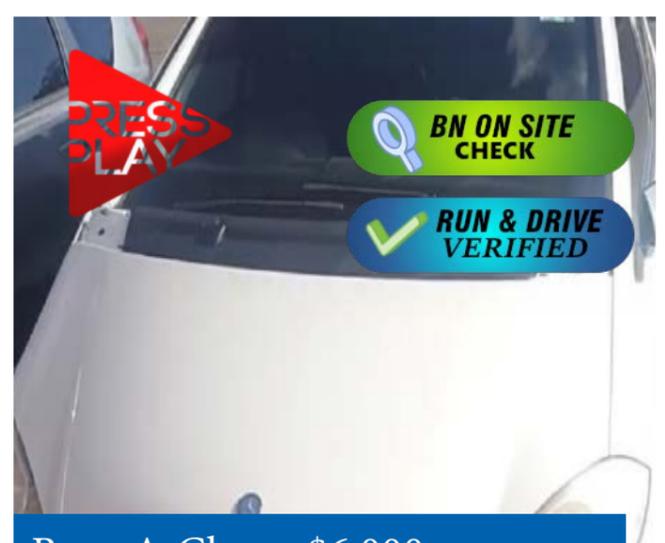
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TWO WOMEN WILL SPEND MORE THAN 25 YEARS IN PRISON AFTER BEING CONVICTED OF STABBING THEIR FORMER BUDDY

BN AGENT, M

In a trivial fight about a damaged phone, Breanna Mackey was kicked, stomped, bombarded with rocks and bottles, and stabbed. 25th of January, 2018. The phone's owner, Jolika Dumosle, made a plea agreement and served two years in prison. Both Zaria Burrows and Dervinique Edwards were sentenced to 28 years in prison today for their part in the murder of the 19-year-old mother.



Justice Cheryl Grant-Thompson, on the other hand, gave the convicts credit for the time they spent on remand. Burrows will spend 26 years and three months after those deductions, while Edwards will serve 25 years and two months. Burrows, who was pregnant at the time, drove her automobile

to block off Mackey as she and her sister walked along Key West Street. During the incident that resulted in Mackey's death, she remained in the car. Thea Williams, Matia Sylverain, Davonya Lawes, Dumosle, and Edwards, among her

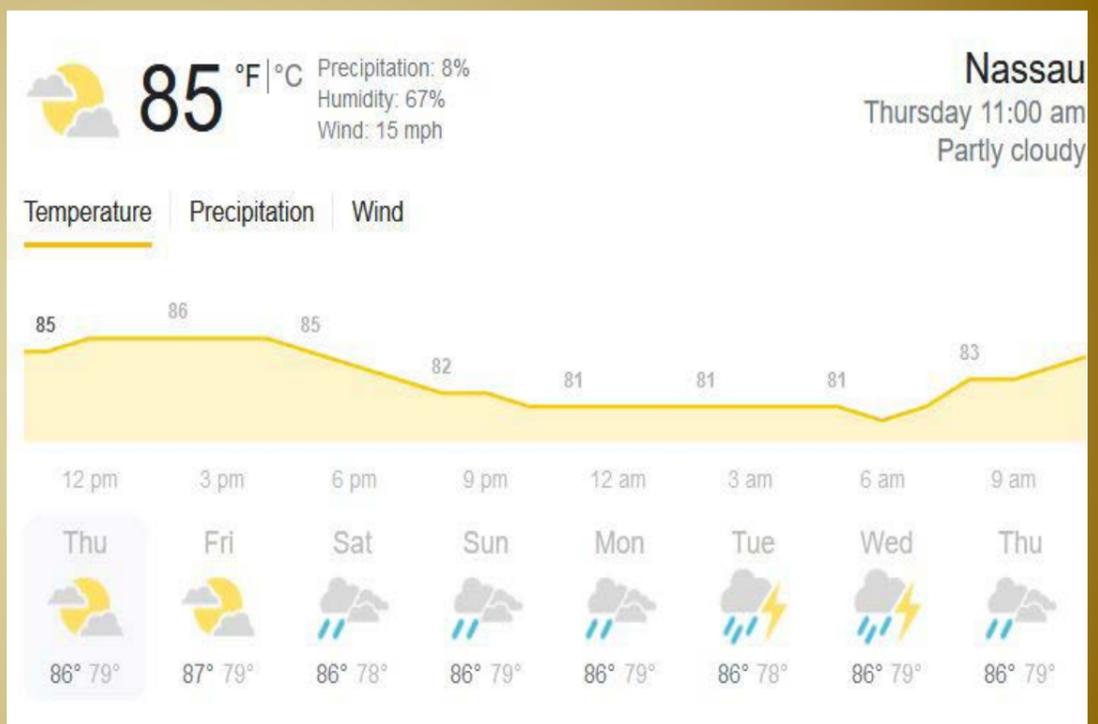
passengers, sprang out of the car and attacked Mackey. Williams pulled out a knife and stabbed Mackey in the back many times. They drove away in Burrows' car and went out for drinks after the incident.

At a motel, police arrested Williams, Sylverain, Lawes, and Edwards. They were discovered huddled in a bathtub in the bathroom by the officers. The next day, Burrows surrendered to authorities. Burrows and Edwards turned

down plea bargains and went to trial instead. For stabbing Mackey, Williams, 22, pled guilty to manslaughter and was sentenced to 25 years in prison. Sylverain, who trampled Mackey, was sentenced to 12 years in prison after pleading guilty to manslaughter.

After pleading guilty to causing hurt, Davonya Lawes, 19, and Dumosle, 18, who admitted throwing rocks and bottles at Mackey were sentenced to two years in prison.

WEATHER REPORT



What you need to know about the COVID-19 vaccines



Now that there are multiple authorized and recommended vaccines to prevent COVID-19 in the United States, it may not be easy to separate true information from false information. Below are important facts and true information about COVID-19 vaccines.

Facts about COVID-19 vaccines:

- They will not give you COVID-19.
- They will not cause you to test positive on a COVID-19 test.
- Getting vaccinated will help keep you from getting sick with COVID-19.
- They will not alter your DNA.
- The vaccine itself will be free.
- They have not been linked to infertility or miscarriage.

- They do not have dangerous ingredients, fetal cells, eggs or preservatives.
- Immigration status will not be asked or considered.
- Everyone is, and will be, getting the *same, available, real* vaccines.
- You will still need to wear a mask after receiving the vaccine to protect those who aren't vaccinated yet.
- After COVID-19 vaccination, you may have some flu-like side effects. This is normal as your body builds protection against the real virus.

Benefits of getting a COVID-19 vaccine:

- It will help keep you from getting sick with COVID-19.
- Getting the COVID-19 vaccine is 100% effective in preventing you from hospitalization or death.
- It will be a safer way to build protection in our communities.
- People who have gotten sick with COVID-19 may still benefit from getting vaccinated.

The safety of COVID-19 vaccines is a top priority. The U.S. vaccine safety system ensures that all vaccines are as safe as possible. The CDC has developed a new tool, v-safe, as an additional layer of safety monitoring to increase our ability to rapidly detect any safety issues with COVID-19 vaccines. V-safe is a new smartphone-based, after-vaccination health checker for people who receive COVID-19 vaccines.

Got your vaccine? Tell your family, friends, and neighbors it's safe and effective! **Still not sure?** Talk to your primary care provider about the vaccine and if it's right for you.



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BUSINESS *UNCUT!*

SUNCASH #1 IN MOBILE WALLET 50,000+ USERS

BN Agent, V

Sun Cash's mobile wallet now has over 50,000 active users, a milestone that indicates the digital payment provider is getting its platform's services right, according to the company's Head of Business Development Raymond Smith, who spoke to Guardian Business yesterday.

can be done from the phone and you can send Western Union payments around the world," said Smith. While Sun Cash's Western Union service is the mobile wallet's second most popular feature, Smith claims that many more people have used the app to send vouchers across the country as a form of digital payment.

"It's like sending digital cash across the country, and people are using it to buy groceries and fill up their gas tanks." Sun Cash, according to Smith, has over 675 merchants who accept it as a form of payment.

According to him, the company's next big digital payment upgrade will be the launch of its new Sun Cash card, which will be linked to customers' mobile wallets and allow them to make payments by swiping, tapping, or scanning a QR code. 75,000 cards will be distributed starting this week, according to Smith.

He also stated that the company plans to release Visa-branded debit cards that can be linked to mobile wallets by August. Smith claims that the company's mobile point-of-sale device will allow small business

owners and even roadside vendors to accept digital forms of payment.

The Central Bank of The Bahamas' digital currency, Sand Dollar, is now fully integrated into the mobile wallet and can be used anywhere Sun Cash is accepted, according to him.

To allow transfers to and from the wallet, the mobile wallet can be linked to a bank account.

"We are the only persons right now who can use the Sand Dollar integrated into the mobile wallet," said Smith.

In addition, the company

recently retooled and relaunched its mobile app, making it more aesthetically pleasing and user-friendly.

Smith claims that the company's more than 80 kiosks, which complement its 675 merchants, have enabled financial inclusion on the Family Islands and increased the number of Bahamians who use the company's mobile wallet.

"The more persons see the benefit behind the ecosystem that we have created, the more they want to be a part of it," he said..



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FISHERMEN MIGHT TAKE ARGUMENT TO PRIVY COUNCIL

BN Agent, M

BN says the National Fisheries Association has previously fully endorsed a Fisheries Act that “represents the will of the majority of law-abiding Bahamian fishermen”, and “puts Bahamians first as the stewards and managers of the fisheries sector”. However, the Amended Act, and its bar on foreign fishermen working on Bahamian-owned vessels, has caused a split in the industry.

The FNM should rethink this Amendment and remember it’s also affecting its major supporters like Percy Roberts owner of Geneva Brass Seafood in Chip-pingham. No need to sing Roberts’ praises and most FNMs know who he is and how much he has done for that party since the time of his youth.

The FNM should also note how many times BN has sent the message that the frontline soldiers need to be taken care of. Even though Percy Roberts is feeling the pinch on his business due to the Amended Act, he is clearly still assisting in the Fort Charlotte constituency as outgoing MP Mark Humes gave him high

praises recently during his contribution to the Budget Debate.

Fishermen in favour of the Fisheries Act’s bar on foreign workers said they were bracing for legal challenges to the reforms to go all the way to the London-based Privy Council.

Paul Maillis, the National Fisheries Association (NFA) director, said the group’s members will “live with whatever the courts decide” as he predicted that those opposed to the recent ban will be sufficiently determined to eventually reach out to the highest court in the Bahamian judicial system.

He said the Association and its members were focused on efforts to develop the regulations that will accompany the Act, and which are being led by the Department of Marine Resources in conjunction with the National Fisheries Stakeholder Forum.

The Coalition For Responsible Fishing (CFRF), a group representing major fisheries wholesalers, processors and exporters, some of whom are involved in the legal challenge to the Act, earlier warned that up to \$8m would be lost, and some 1,000 persons hurt, if the reforms went through, but still the Amendment

took place.

The group argued that preventing foreigners working on locally-owned boats “in any capacity” would result in “the unemployment of hundreds of Bahamians” at a time when this government cannot afford that.

The Coalition’s October 25, 2020, position paper warned that more fisheries businesses will fail without “significant amounts of experienced skilled labour” that are presently not available in The Bahamas.

Further arguing that trained potters and divers, in particular, were in short supply, the Coalition warned that the ban on expatriate labour proposed under the Fisheries Bill 2020 was counter-productive and could result in the loss of millions of dollars of export-driven foreign currency earnings just when The Bahamas needed every cent it could get following COVID-19’s devastation.

All this said but Justice Charles, in her recent ruling, said granting the group’s request for an injunction to halt the Act’s enforcement would “cripple” Parliament and the government’s ability to make and pass laws for “the ‘peace, order and good government



of the country”.

Justice Charles’ verdict gave the go-ahead for the implementation of an Act that bars foreigners from working in the Bahamian fisheries sector. However, she said the way remains clear for the exporters, boat owners and others behind the action to challenge the new law on constitutional grounds now it has been enforced.

Percy Roberts’, Geneva Brass Seafood, Paradise Fisheries, Fish Farmers and Audley’s Seafood had teamed with boat-owning corporate entities and two Dominican fishermen working

legally in this nation, together with their Bahamian wives, to challenge the Fisheries Act and accompanying Immigration reforms on the basis that they are unconstitutional and discriminatory.

Seems like Paradise Fisheries has been removed as a plaintiff, the remaining members of the alliance and their attorney, Alfred Sears QC, the former attorney general, had sought a “permanent injunction” from the Supreme Court to prevent the government from implementing provisions in the new Acts that they deem offensive.

This case, in particular, focused on sections 31 and 32 of the Fisheries Act, which bar foreign fishermen - even those in The Bahamas legally with work and spousal permits, or permanent residency - from working on Bahamian-owned fishing vessels.



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AYTON WINNING DUNK

BN Agent, D

Deandre Ayton called game with the alley-oop. He finished with 24 points and 14 rebounds in the Suns' 104 - 103 win over the Clippers. Phoenix heads to LA with a 2 - 0 series lead.



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