

BUSINESS NEWS



BAHAMAS PROFESSIONAL MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION SOCIAL: The Bahamas Professional Management Association (BPMA) was created by a group of Certified Professional Managers (CPM's). BPMA obtained our certification at the College of The Bahamas via The James Madison University. BPMA is a team of action oriented individuals who opt not to complain, but to take the necessary actions required to bring solutions to issues that have plagued businesses and economy for far too long. This event was designed to bring together the best and brightest minds throughout the business community in an effort to move the country forward. BPMA believe that persons progress together when they work together. BPMA president Dominique Roache delivered a very moving keynote address after Dillon Knowles of the GBCC gave the invocation. Roache highlighted various areas in which we as business professionals can empower other individuals by simply dedicating as little of 20 minutes of their time each day to someone else. The goal of the BPMA is to develop and adhere to best business practices throughout the country and more so, to develop responsible leaders. Members will learn management strategies, leadership skills and sharpen existing skills via technology based programs. The most intriguing aspect of the BPMA is the ability to create opportunities through a wide network of business professionals locally and internationally. Several business professionals came out to what was deemed a very successful event. For further information on the Bahamas Professional Management Association, email them at empowerment.bpma@gmail.com. Pictured from left are Tanya Forbes, officer; Sonia Knowles, secretary; Leterah Munnings, head of Public Relations; Pamela Stuart-Bullard, treasurer; Rougedell Garlard, officer; Angela Gibson, advisor to BPMA and Dominique Roache, BPMA president.

Christie: We do not apologize for immigration policy

BAHAMAS SPENDS HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS TO STOP MIGRATION 'ASSAULT'

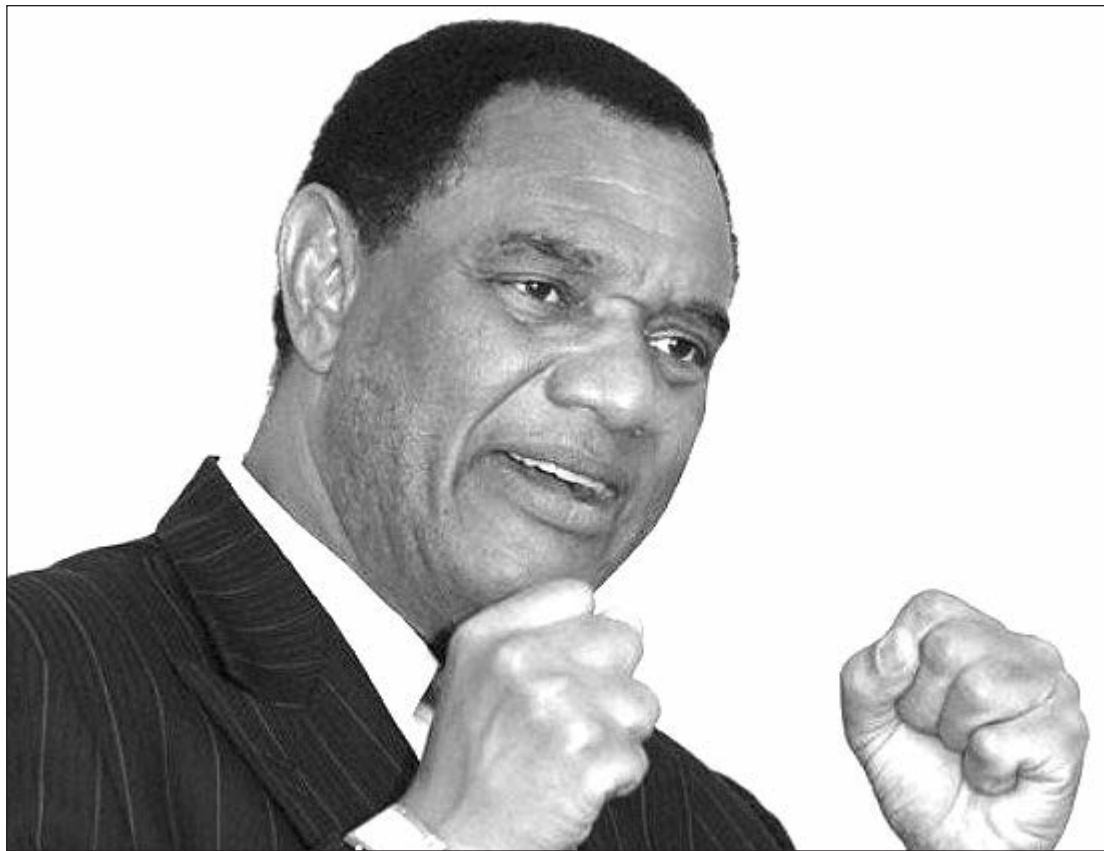
K. QUINCY PARKER
Guardian Business Editor
quincy@nasguard.com

Prime Minister Perry Christie told heads of state from around the hemisphere at the Seventh Summit of The Americas in Panama that "an international, sophisticated criminal enterprise" is driving illegal immigration through The Bahamas, and the jurisdiction will be "calling upon all states adjacent to us and in the hemisphere to help to stop this smuggling and trafficking."

And while he acknowledged that human rights are a consideration in the matter, Christie also suggested that states that border The Bahamas have a responsibility to stop the illegal migration through The Bahamas.

Christie's administration has been criticized repeatedly from without – and to a lesser degree from within – over a new focus on strict enforcement of immigration laws and a new set of requirements collectively referred to by the administration as "the new immigration policy." The policy was implemented on November 1, 2014, months ahead of the passage of legislation deemed necessary to give the policy legal foundation.

In addition to staunch opposition on human rights grounds from local objectors, the Organization of American States (OAS), the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights and an irate Florida politician have all commented on the policy. The administration has defended it on a number of occasions in various forums, and



HON. PERRY CHRISTIE
Prime Minister and Minister of Finance

Christie stressed in Panama that The Bahamas is "dedicated to managing these issues by stopping the breaching of our borders, preventing our territory from being used as a conduit for smugglers and traffickers and ensuring a safe and humane return for all who come to us by breaching our borders without documentation."

"We do not apologize for the actions we take to manage this problem and return these migrants home," Christie said.

"Irregular migration is an existential threat to The Bahamas. Right now, we commit hundreds of millions of dollars to stop this assault on our country. Yet only one side of the story is being told. There must be a balanced approach on this issue that does not admit to the fact that there is an international, sophisticated criminal enterprise that is driving these irregular migration efforts through The Bahamas," he asserted.

"The Bahamas is dedicated to stopping this criminal enterprise before it stops us. I want it to be clear at this forum how strong we are on this matter. We will be calling upon all states adjacent to

us and in the hemisphere to help to stop this smuggling and trafficking."

THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE

Christie and the other staunch defenders of the policy – including Minister of Foreign Affairs and Immigration Fred Mitchell – habitually refer to the policy as a national security tool, while those who object to it do so on humanitarian grounds. In fact, one such group – the Grand Bahama Human Rights Association – was part of a coalition that requested a hearing last month from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR).

That coalition included the Caribbean Institute for Human Rights and the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights. Together the petitioners requested that the IACHR assist The Bahamas in designing and implementing a training protocol on human rights for state agents, including the role of human rights defenders and their protection.

Diego Alcalá, deputy director of the Caribbean Institute for Human Rights, testified during the hearing that "human rights defenders in The Bahamas are confronting a hostile environment that puts their security and

work at risk. Members of our delegation have been threatened for expressing their opinions against recent changes in migration policies. Also, high-level government officials have made expressions against them, minimizing their work or even depicting it as 'alarmist and inflammatory'."

In Panama over the weekend, Christie said that while the human rights of migrants must always be protected, "we draw attention to the responsibility of bordering states to The Bahamas to stop this illegal migration."

"The present trend in illegal migration to and through The Bahamas cannot persist," he said. "It is unsustainable. We therefore see a unique opportunity for the region and hemisphere to cooperate on the issue of irregular migration and to facilitate burden sharing on solutions to the challenge."

"We see dialogue as a necessary first step, particularly through the development of regional consultative mechanisms, and welcome the support of the OAS, the International Organization for Migration and other interested institutions to support such efforts."

Christie also reiterated his recent assertions on climate change, development financing and youth delinquency.

ANNOUNCING

Dr. L. Barry Russell
Will be available for Consultation and Treatment
(Braces for Adults and Children)

April 15, 16 & 17, 2015
Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
and Friday from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
HYGIENIST IN OFFICE



BAHAMAS ORTHODONTIC CENTER
The Insurance Management Bldg., Suite #3
All patients needing an appointment please call
Tel: 242-352-5756 • Fax: 242-351-6636
W:www.bahamasorthodonticscenter.com
Email: bahortho@coralwave.com

EXPERIENCED DAMON SYSTEM
(advanced passive self-ligating brackets) user. The Damon technique uses high tech, light-force archwire resulting in dramatically reduced treatment times, exceptional results and significantly improved patient comfort.

Damon braces are designed to be discreet comfortable and easy to keep clean. Without the elastic ties which attract and collect plaque, Damon braces make dental hygiene easy during treatment.



DAMON SYSTEM
More than straight teeth

All Major Credit Cards Accepted



If You See News In The Making Contact The Freeport News at 352-8321-4