



MILLENNIALS FOCUS ON MENTORING NEW TALENT

THE Bahamas Millennials Society (BMS) hosted a 'Mentor-Mentee Matching' event on Wednesday in a bid to create further networking opportunities for young financial services professionals.

The BMS was established by the Bahamas Financial Services Board (BFSB) in November 2014, with the objectives of creating opportunities for exposure, networking and mentorship for young professionals.

The first mentorship pro-

gramme was held in 2015 and, due to its success, it was determined to continue the initiative. Seasoned financial services professionals serve as mentors for new entrants to the sector.

At the 'Matching' event, mentees and mentors met for the first time. Attendees were given an overview of the BMS programme and its mentorship component by BFSB's chief executive, Tanya McCartney.

"The future of financial services is directly linked



to our ability to mentor millennials and develop talent within the sector," Ms McCartney said.

She explained what a BMS mentorship relationship should look like, and thanked mentees and mentors for their participation. Attendees engaged in "getting to know you" activities. Mentors will provide coaching to their mentee over a one-year period.

The launch of the 2017 mentorship programme was the first BMS event this

year. Other planned events include a distinguished lecture series, young professionals summit and career planning session.

BMS is a voluntary membership-based programme open to millennials (born between 1979 and 1993) who are employees of BFSB member firms and industry stakeholders, and to students studying full-time or part-time in a degree related to financial services, law, technology or real estate, either at the University of the Bahamas or abroad.

'Top tourist' supplier in GB pull-out blow

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2017 Summer Charter programme into Grand Bahama."

While not disclosing Vacation Express's stopover market share, or the number of room nights likely to have been lost, Mrs Churchill wrote: "While these series of events present another challenge to our tourism business, the Grand Bahama Island Tourism Board and the Ministry of Tourism's teams are in the process of finalising contingency plans to minimise the void that will be left by this programme.

"Please stand by for further updates on our next steps. We will have a plan to share by the end of this week."

Mrs Churchill then sought the wider private sector's support in mitigating the fall-out from Vacation Express's summer withdrawal, saying: "We would like to take this time to encourage each of you to consider what offers you can provide to us that will assist in providing compelling offers to encourage visitors that were previously booked to Grand Bahama to continue their plans, or to encourage new ones to consider Grand Bahama at this time.

"These offers will be compiled into a coupon booklet and will be distributed on Bahamas.com, GrandBahamaVacations.com and at local hotels. If you can submit your offers by Friday, February 24 by 3pm, we would appreciate it."

Neither Obie Wilch-

combe, minister of tourism, nor Dr Michael Darville, minister for Grand Bahama, could be reached for comment yesterday on the latest reversal for the island's tourism/hotel industry and wider economy.

The Vacation Express pull-out is the second 'abandonment' of Grand Bahama within one month by its immediate owner, the Sunwing Travel Group, which also controls the Blue Diamond Resorts brand that operated the Memories resort.

Vacation Express was Sunwing's tour operator arm, providing visitors with Grand Bahama vacation packages and flying them in on charter flights, including its owner's Sunwing Airlines.

The pull-out implies that Sunwing has reneged on the promise it made just over three weeks ago, in confirming the Memories closure on February 1, that it remained fully committed to supporting Grand Bahama's tourism economy through the continuation of airlift.

The Canadian-headquartered firm said then: "Sunwing intends to continue supporting Grand Bahama island and its tourism economy, including its hotels, through its tour operators, Sunwing Vacations and US-based Vacation Express, as well as by continuing its airlift programmes from Canada and from the United States in the summer, subject to conditions we are discussing with Government."

It is unclear whether the pull-out was prompted by the Government failing to

meet Sunwing's "conditions". Other unanswered questions include whether Vacation Express's pull-out applies just to the summer, and if services will resume for the winter 2017-2018 season; and whether Sunwing Vacations and Canadian airlift are unaffected.

However, the impact from Vacation Express's withdrawal, and the loss of Grand Bahama's greatest 'room night' source, will be felt throughout the island's hotel industry.

Pelican Bay, Castaways, Viva Wyndham Fortuna Beach and others will all potentially suffer a loss of business as a result.

One prominent Grand Bahama private sector source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said they were not surprised by the Vacation Express pull-out notwithstanding Sunwing's earlier promises.

"Remember when they said they were going to keep that?" the source said of Vacation Express. "That [pull-out] doesn't surprise me one iota. We're in a terrible way. The Government isn't doing anything; nobody is."

Mick Holding, the Grand Bahama Chamber of Commerce's president, yesterday confirmed to Tribune Business he had been among those informed of Vacation Express's withdrawal.

He described the island's tourism economy as being "in the doldrums", and said the closure of Memories and most of the Grand Lucayan following Hurricane Matthew had been "devastating" for numerous Bahamian-owned businesses.

"The tourist industry is still in the doldrums right now," Mr Holding told Tribune Business, "and only

earlier this week we had Vacation Express, the largest supplier of room nights to Freeport, cancelling their summer programme.

"That's another blow to the tourist industry and the overall economy. The tourism industry really right now is in the doldrums, and somehow we have got to work to getting it back to where we were 12 months ago as a starting point, and take it from there.

"The prospects for 2017 at the moment for that sector of our economy don't look good at all. We need to work together, the Government, the Port Authority and the Chamber of Commerce, to find new businesses to come on to the island and pick up where Memories left off."

Mr Holding said the Memories closure had delivered "devastating news for Freeport because of the loss of 400-500 jobs".

"The ripple effect goes down to tour operators, restaurants and bars and retail stores," he added. "The effect can be quite significant

and is very significant."

The Chamber president said Matthew, and the subsequent Memories and Grand Lucayan closures, had been especially ill-timed because "quite a lot" of tourism industry businesses had been "on the verge of expanding and offering new products to tourists".

"Tragically, their market has been significantly hit," Mr Holding said of budding tour and excursion providers. "I've always said that what we've got to do is not only attract tourists in the first place, but get them to come back. A lot of places offer sun and sand, and we've got to offer more than that."

He added that the Chamber "will do everything we can to support the drive to find new owners" for the Grand Lucayan. Hutchison Whampoa's property arm, Cheung Kong Property Holdings, last year initiated an auction sales process for the resort, but has yet to announce a buyer.

The Government appears to be backing a bid

led by the Wynn Group, a Canadian-based real estate developer, to acquire the Grand Lucayan. Sunwing/Memories and Hard Rock are also part of the Wynn bid, but little has been heard in recent days as to whether the offer - said to be around \$110 million - is making any progress.

The silence indicates that both the Wynn-led bid and the Government are having difficulty in getting any movement out of Hutchison Whampoa when it comes to either selling or re-opening the Grand Lucayan.

Mr Holding suggested the Grand Lucayan had "suffered somewhat" through not having "an internationally recognised brand" for its hotels and casino - something that would act as a key draw for tourists.

He added that the industrial sector's continued strong performance remained the major bright spot for Grand Bahama's economy, as it was largely insulated from domestic economic developments.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS SUPREME COURT 2016/CLE/gen/00796

IN THE SUPREME COURT

Common Law and Equity Division

BETWEEN

SUSIE CHAN Plaintiff

AND

DARREN ADLER Defendant

JUDGMENT IN DEFAULT OF APPEARANCE

No appearance having been served by the Defendant herein **IT IS THIS DAY ADJUDGED** that the Defendant do pay the Plaintiff the sum of \$11,307.33 and interest thereon from the date hereof and costs to be taxed if not agreed.

Dated the 20th day of February, A. D., 2017

Mckinney Bancroft & Hughes
MCKINNEY, BANCROFT & HUGHES
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Mareva House
4 George Street
Nassau, The Bahamas
Attorneys for the Plaintiff

COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS 2012

IN THE SUPREME COURT CLE/qui/01749

Common Law and Equity Division

IN THE MATTER of The Quieting Titles Act, 1959

AND

IN THE MATTER of ALL THAT piece parcel or Lot being Lot Number Eighteen (18), Block Number Forty-nine (49) of a Subdivision called and known as Englerston and bounded on the NORTH by land the property of one Williams and running thereon One Hundred and Twenty-seven Hundredths (100.27) feet on the WEST by land the property of one McKinney and running thereon Fifty and Sixteen Hundredths (50.16) feet on the SOUTH by land the property of one Outten and running thereon Ninety-eight and eighty-two Hundredths (98.82) feet and on the EAST by Ida Street and running thereon Forty-nine and Forty-five Hundredths (49.45) feet the lot being 50 x 100 in the Southern District of the Island of New Providence one of the Islands of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas

AND

IN THE MATTER of The Petition of MICHELLE GEORGINA JOHNSON (Administratrix of the Estate of Wilbur John Ferguson, deceased)

NOTICE

THE PETITION of MICHELLE GEORGINA JOHNSON (Administratrix of the Estate of Wilbur John Ferguson, deceased)

"ALL THAT piece parcel or Lot being Lot Number Eighteen (18), Block Number Forty-nine (49) of a Subdivision called and known as Englerston and bounded on the NORTH by Lot Number Nineteen (19) in the said Subdivision now said to be the property of one Williams and running thereon One Hundred and Sixty-six Hundredths (100.66) feet on the WEST by Lot Number Fifteen (15) in the said Subdivision now said to be the property of one McKinney and running thereon Fifty and Forty-four Hundredths (50.44) feet on the SOUTH by Lot Number Seventeen (17) in the said Subdivision now said to be the property of one Outten and running thereon Ninety-eight and Seventy-seven Hundredths (98.77) feet and on the EAST by Ida Street and running thereon Forty-nine and Forty-four Hundredths (49.44) feet and is more particularly described on PLAN 5771 NP filed at the Department of Lands & Surveys.

MICHELLE GEORGINA JOHNSON (Administratrix of the Estate of Wilbur John Ferguson, deceased) claims to be the owner of the unincumbered fee simple estate in possession of the said land and has made application to the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas under Section Three (3) of the Quieting Titles Act, 1959 to have his title to the said land investigated and the nature and extent thereof determined and declared in a Certificate of Title to be granted by the Court in accordance with the provisions of the said Act.

Copies of the Petition and the Plan of the said land may be inspected during normal office hours in the following places:

- The Registry of the Supreme Court, East Street North in the City of Nassau, Bahamas; and
- The Chambers of Norwood A. Rolle & Co., Suite #6 Gomez Building, Dowdeswell Street east of Christie Street, Nassau, Bahamas.

NOTICE is hereby given that any person having dower or right to dower or an Adverse Claim or a claim not recognized in the Petition shall on or before the expiration of Thirty (30) days after the final publication of these presents, file in the Supreme Court and serve on the Petitioner or the undersigned a Statement of his claim in the prescribed form verified by an affidavit to be filed therewith.

Failure of any such person to file and serve a Statement of his Claim on or before the expiration of Thirty (30) days after the final publication of these presents will operate as bar to such claim.

Dated the 12th day of December, A.D., 2016

NORWOOD A. ROLLE & CO.
Chambers
Suite #6, Gomez Building
Dowdeswell Street east of Christie Street
Nassau, Bahamas
Attorneys for the Petitioner