

Save The Bays files to block bid for its financial records

By AVA TURNQUEST
Tribune Chief Reporter
aturnquest@tribunemedia.net

THE Coalition to Protect Clifton Bay, also known as Save The Bays, has filed an application in the Supreme Court to block a request for the registrar general for its financial records, a move it says was "driven by the government's animosity".

Acting Registrar General Diedre Clarke-Maycock issued a written notice to the group on March 27 that requires it to produce documents evidencing compliance with regulations governing non-profit companies within 21 days - which expires today.

In case documents filed on April 13, however, the group posits that the no-

notice is an attempt by the government to obtain "by lawful means" information that had previously been restrained by the courts in a bid to discredit the organisation.

The group has launched four sets of judicial review proceedings in relation to alleged unauthorised construction and Crown land reclamation activities of Lyford Cay fashion mogul Peter Nygard at Nygard Cay, and the failure of the government to take appropriate action, including the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, the Town Planning Committee, the Director of Physical Planning and others.

Records requested by the registrar general include: the organisation's purpose, objective, and activities; identity

of persons who control or direct the activities of the organisation, including senior officers, directors, and trustees; financial records that show and explain the transactions within and outside The Bahamas and that show that the funds of the organisation have been used in a manner consistent with its objective and activities; and the source of the gross annual income of the organisation.

The Coalition to Protect Clifton Bay was registered in 2013 as a non-profit company limited by guarantee, and the organisation is arguing that the 2014 regulations do not retroactively impact pre-existing non-profits nor were there any transitional provisions.

It further points out that the only circumstance provided that would empower

the registrar general to request the documents is to assess the extent, if any, to which the registered non-profit is being used to "assist terror financing".

"The notice is directed squarely at using the anti-terrorist regulations at regulation 13 of the regulations to obtain by lawful means - and therefore to deploy - the same or similar financial and other information and records that the government has been restrained from holding or deploying by the permanent injunction granted in the constitutional action," noted an affidavit filed by a Coalition Director, Joseph Darville.

"The various proceedings on foot between the coalition and the government have become politicised and acrimonious. The gov-

ernment has demonstrated that it has an interest in getting its hands on and being able to deploy information (in particular financial records) in the hope that they may embarrass or discredit the Coalition.

"The government's objective is manifestly to obtain a political advantage or an advantage in the litigation or to derail the litigation altogether by seeking to have the coalition removed from the Register of Companies, dissolve or struck off, thus killing its corporate existence so that it is no longer a legal entity that can maintain the court actions against the government and Mr (Peter) Nygard."

"The coalition has a real interest in protecting its confidential financial records from being deployed for

political purposes to silence the coalition and frustrate its legitimate public interest objects and purposes. That interest was successfully defended by the coalition in bringing the constitutional action. In refusing to comply with the notice and in seeking to bring this judicial review the coalition is also defending that interest."

The "constitutional action" refers to the ruling by Supreme Court Justice Indra Charles in August last year, which stated that Minister of Education Jerome Fitzgerald infringed on constitutional rights when he tabled the private emails of Save The Bays in Parliament, and therefore could not be protected by parliamentary privilege.

Mr Fitzgerald has appealed that ruling.

DNA WOMEN CANDIDATES CONDEMN SEX ATTACK SHARED ON SOCIAL MEDIA

THE Democratic National Alliance has condemned an alleged sexual assault of a woman that was taped and circulated on social media over the weekend.

In a statement from the DNA's women candidates, the party called for "immediate action" against the perpetrators and accomplices of the "malicious" attack.

"It is imperative that we reiterate the fact that violence against women is not a women's issue, but a human rights issue," the statement noted. "We in the DNA align ourselves to the fundamental principles and goals set forth by the United Nations (UN) and in particular UN Women to ensure that women and girls everywhere can live in safety, peace and dignity in their communities."

On Tuesday, *The Tribune* reported that police have one man in custody in connection with the alleged sexual assault.

Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police Stephen Dean told *The Tribune* police are also questioning "several persons of interest" after the victim filed a formal complaint with the Royal Bahamas Police Force.

Two videos of the disturbing incident were posted on Facebook and also shared on Whatsapp over the weekend.

In one 26-second video, a fully clothed man is seen on top of the victim who is also fully clothed and appeared unresponsive as she lay on the street near some parked cars, in broad daylight. The man was laughing and speaking to two men, one of whom was taping the incident. The faces of the

two men who were standing were never shown on camera.

In another video, about one minute and 30 seconds long, a man is seen performing a sexual act on the woman, who is now partially undressed, but still lying in the street appearing unresponsive.

"The actions reported in (Tuesday's) paper and described in the purported video that has been circulated via social media platforms are both disturbing and unacceptable and is contrary to our social, moral and spiritual foundation as a people and nation committed to living together in love, unity and service to each other," the DNA's statement noted.

"We call for swift and immediate justice on behalf of the victim and her family and call upon members of the government and civic society to render their knowledge and professional expertise to assist with the resolution of this matter."

"Further, in this age of technology and the growing incidence of cyber-crimes, we urge all Bahamians to discourage the practise of circulating obscene content or sexual assaults on women, men or children via social media with a view to respecting the dignity and privacy of victims and their family members. "The negative effects of rape are numerous and can result in emotional, psychological, and physical trauma with other damaging effects including victim shaming, bullying, the transfer of sexually transmitted diseases and unplanned pregnancies," the statement continued.



BAHAMIAN music legend Ronnie Butler joins KFC staff as they celebrate 50 years in The Bahamas.

KFC CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF SERVING BAHAMIAN CUSTOMERS

KFC NASSAU, the first quick-service restaurant in the Bahamas, is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

The company is trumpeting its achievement of five decades of growth and success - it currently operates eight locations in New Providence at Golden Gates, Mackey Street, Saunders Beach, South Beach, Robinson Road, Oakes Field, Prince Charles Drive and Marathon Road - and employs more than 350 Bahamians.

The first KFC store in The Bahamas opened in 1967 on Mackey Street, close to its current location. The brand grew over the next 20 years before the Myers Group of Companies purchased the franchise in 1985. Under the leadership of George Myers, the

veteran hotelier and businessman, the company has expanded the KFC brand in Nassau, covering some of the most highly trafficked areas of the city. Over the years, it has had stores in downtown, East Bay Shopping Centre, Charlotte Street, Village Road and Harbour Bay.

"We are thrilled that KFC has been a staple on the dinner tables of Bahamian families for 50 years", said Mr Myers, president, Restaurants (Bahamas) Ltd.

"Bahamians have grown up enjoying the great taste of KFC, and credit for the longevity of our brand goes to our customers and to our staff, some of whom have been with us for as long as 48 years. We're thankful for each and every person that walks through our doors, and we can't wait to see

what the next 50 years will bring."

Mr Myers, who came to The Bahamas in 1963 to work at the Nassau Beach Hotel, played a significant role in the growth of Paradise Island as executive vice president and COO of Resorts International (Bahamas) Ltd.

"The key resource of a well-run business remains its people," he said. Being hands-on doesn't mean you try to accomplish everything yourself."

Restaurant Bahamas Ltd can point to having 24 employees who have served the company for over 24 years, including Edith Sturt, who joined in 1969. Joseph Sturup and Essmae Markland have been with the company for more than 40 years while Sandra Miller, Rosemary Rahming

and Gregory Morley have served for over 35 years.

KFC's focus on quality prepared chicken and maintenance of standards is manifested through its Chicken Championship Competition, the 2017 winner of which is Donna Green. Alexious Coakley was second with Quetelle Deveaux and Michael Thompson as runners-up.

KFC Nassau says it will be celebrating its golden jubilee throughout 2017 with innovative food specials, and offers and deals for its customers, as well as heavy involvement in community events, most notably its sponsorship of the IAAF World Relays this weekend. KFC Nassau is part of the Yum! global group of brands and is operated by Restaurants (Bahamas) Ltd.

MSC COMMITS TO HIRING AND TRAINING 220 BAHAMIANS

THE Mediterranean Shipping Company, in conjunction with the government, has committed to invest in the local training and hiring of a total of 220 Bahamian crew members this year.

"Presently, there is a need for crew members on board MSC cruise ships, globally, in the areas of food and beverage, housekeeping, guest services, entertainment, crew cleaning and the Photo Shop," Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC) noted in a press release.

"Hence, the creation of the cruise ship employment initiative. Through col-

laboration with MSC, the government has fulfilled its promise to the Bahamian people to deepen partnerships with cruise lines, and thereby increase opportunities for Bahamians in the cruise business.

"Thus far, MSC expert trainers have already invited local representatives on board MSC cruise ships should undergo training as per MSC's standards. In turn, these select trainers from the National Training Agency will be equipped to conduct workplace preparation courses for potential candidates as well as further training in the areas of basic safety,

hospitality and pre-embarkation, which will all take place in MSC's training facility on Grand Bahama Island."

According to MSC's press release, Bahamians interested in employment opportunities on board MSC cruise ships should submit their cover letters and resumes to bahamian-careers@gmail.com on or before April 28.

Applicants must be at least 22 and possess a minimum of four years of experience in the hospitality industry and/or food and beverage. Potential candidates will be pre-screened and invited to a presenta-

tion and subsequent interview with MSC next month, the company said.

MSC Shipping Limited - current partner of the Hutchison Group of Companies in Freeport and sister-company of MSC Cruises - is the second largest container carrier in the world and biggest privately owned cruise line in the world.

With a total of twelve cruise ships in its fleet, in addition to 480 cargo vessels, a presence in 45 countries and with 16,000 current employees, MSC Cruises is the market leader in Europe, South America and South Africa, the com-

pany said.

"In conjunction with the government, MSC has already begun developments in the Bahamas, particularly in Grand Bahama. Notably, the expansion of the Freeport Container Port, one of MSC's most active hubs, is presently underway. MSC has committed to contribute to the financing of the phase five expansion, which will lead to an increase of capacity at the port, and ultimately provide further business, entrepreneurial and employment opportunities on the island of Grand Bahama.

"Additionally, this past

January, the government and MSC broke ground in Ocean Cay. The site is expected to undergo a \$200 million transformation into a cruise port, boutique hotel, marine park and Bahamian cultural and entertainment hub, providing jobs related to construction and cay operations.

"MSC's investments are expected to strengthen Bahamian entrepreneurial development through the offer of financing of construction and equipment in respect of restaurants, retail shops, water sports, entertainment and attractions; to be operated primarily by Bahamians," MSC said.