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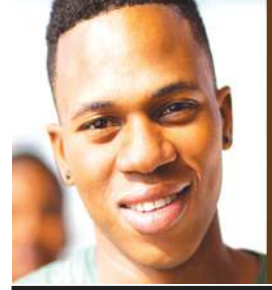
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GET YOUR ELECTION TALLY SHEETS IN THIS FRIDAY'S TRIBUNE

Ingraham says the treasury is broke

BIGGEST EVER ROUND OF PROMOTIONS FOR THE RBDF

By **RASHAD ROLLE**
Tribune Staff Reporter
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TELLIS Bethel has been named commodore of the Royal Bahamas Defence Force following a massive promotion exercise of 427 officers announced yesterday, described as the largest ever for the law enforcement agency.

The revelation came a day after Commissioner of Police Ellison Greenslade announced promotions in the Royal Bahamas Police Force for 851 officers and less than a week after Prime Minister Perry Christie said that, despite years of insisting the government won't make overtime payments to police officers, his administration has now decided to do so.

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OBSERVERS ON THEIR WAY AHEAD OF VOTING

By **AVA TURNQUEST**
Tribune Chief Reporter
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ELECTION observers are on their way to monitor the country's general election as the advanced poll begins today.

All four international organisations invited by the government have confirmed their attendance to observe the electoral process on May 10, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Invited groups include: the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the

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AGREEMENT SIGNED FOR NEW \$100M CRUISE PORT

By **DENISE MAYCOCK**
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THE government and Carnival Corporation signed heads of agreement yesterday for the construction of a new \$100m cruise port destination in East End, Grand Bahama.

"The port - described as "the largest ever cruise development project on Grand Bahama Island" - expects to create an exceptional destination experience to more than one million cruise guests annually.

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Former PM: The money's not there to pay police on May 29

By **TANEKA THOMPSON**
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FORMER Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham last night said no matter which party is elected to office on May 10, the government will be unable to give police officers overtime pay on May 29 as promised by Prime Minister Perry Christie because "the money ain' there" in the Public Treasury.

He also told supporters that if the Free National Movement (FNM) wins the election, one of the first things it will have to do is "borrow tens of millions of dollars to pay bills that the PLP government is now unable to pay" and thus will not be able to fulfil some of its campaign promises

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right away. Mr Ingraham also accused the Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) of trying to censor the FNM, by not allowing the opposition party to hold rallies on Clifford Park or broadcast these events on ZNS.

He also again raised the allegation that more than \$800,000 was recently stolen from the Ministry of Finance, suggesting that theft was widespread in the public sector.

"You know after years of fighting the Police (Staff) Association . . . and ignoring the court order, they finally agreed that they are going to pay overtime to the police," Mr Ingraham told supporters at a rally in South Abaco.



PRIME Minister and leader of the PLP Perry Christie making his way through the crowd at the rally on Golden Gates Park. See more rally pictures on page two. Photo: Terrel W. Carey/Tribune Staff

GIBSON SAYS HE SPENT \$125,000 ON GOLDEN GATES COMMUNITY

By **KHRISNA VIRGIL**
Deputy Chief Reporter
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WHILE accusing the Free National Movement of "plagiarising" a portion of Jamaica's People's National Party's manifesto, incumbent Golden Gates MP Shane Gibson sought to free himself from the perception of malfeasance explaining to supporters his spending of \$125,000 on various community initiatives including \$50,000 each year on scholarships to constituents.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Perry Christie pleaded with members of the armed forces voting in today's advanced poll to support the Progressive Liberal Party, remembering the people who fought for them to have the right to vote.

The early vote comes just days after hundreds of officers of the Royal Bahamas Police Force and Royal Bahamas Defence Force were promoted to higher ranks in their respective organisations.

The PLP's mega rally at the Golden Gates Park

took on a party atmosphere with not only local artists taking the stage, but a performance from Trinidadian soca artist Farmer Nappy. An elaborate fireworks show followed when Mr Gibson took the stage to dismiss allegations levelled at him recently.

While he did not mention his relationship with Canadian fashion mogul Peter Nygard, Mr Gibson explained his spending in Golden Gates.

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MINISTRY DENIES CLAIMS OF \$800,000 STOLEN FUNDS

By **AVA TURNQUEST**
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THE Ministry of Finance yesterday denied claims by former Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham that more than \$800,000 had been stolen from its coffers.

At a rally at Ingraham Park in Cooper's Town on Monday, Mr Ingraham told supporters that when the details on theft in the public sector comes to light after the next election, people will scratch

their heads. However, the Ministry of Finance insisted yesterday that there was no evidence of missing or stolen funds, and invited Mr Ingraham to produce evidence for a police investigation.

In a statement, the ministry pointed to an incident of vendor "overpayment" - in which disciplinary action had already been taken, but added that the sum did not come close to the amount alleged by Mr Ingraham.

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