

Celebration loss 'gives impression Freeport is dead'

From pg B1

Mr Wilchcombe said, pointing out that the Grand Celebration's loss coincided with the tourism season's 'slow period' when many remaining resorts, such as Club Fortuna, often closed temporarily.

"We're not seeing any movement at the Grand Lucayan," the ex-minister added. "We're in a depressed situation in Grand Bahama, and something has to happen. People are anxiously awaiting a plan from the Government as to how we're going to get the hotel sector up and going."

"The Government will have to step in with partners to make that [the Grand

Lucayan's re-opening] happen. Through the Hotel Corporation, the Government has to find a way to get that hotel open.

"The Carnival [cruise port] project, the Government has to make that happen because that is job opportunities, that is businesses opening up. It's a new avenue for the people of Grand Bahama."

Virtually nothing has been heard from the Minnis administration about the Carnival cruise port project, apart from suggestions that it wants the development relocated closer to Freeport or to Williams Town.

The Prime Minister's press conference in Freeport last Friday offered nothing new

on the Grand Lucayan situation, other than to say the Government was still working and in negotiations with the relevant parties. Kwasi Thompson, minister of state for Grand Bahama, would only tell Tribune Business that talks were "progressing well".

Many in Freeport, though, believe the island has "hit rock bottom" with the Grand Celebration's withdrawal, some even describing it as 'another nail in the coffin' of the city's tourism sector.

Dionisio D'Aguilar, Mr Wilchcombe's successor as minister of tourism, last week told Tribune Business that he was relatively unconcerned about the Grand Celebration situation, pointing out that its departure was temporary and Freeport was already gaining extra cruise ship business as a result of the hurricane-related

devastation in the southern Caribbean.

Mr Wilchcombe, though, begged to differ. "We are concerned about the track we're on because it doesn't seem progressive," he told this newspaper.

"That's [the Grand Celebration] an impact player we're going to lose for a while. They bring in overnight visitors. That's the magic with it; two for the price of one. You have cruise passengers becoming overnight visitors. It's been carrying the island for a while."

The Grand Celebration brought around 1,700 passengers to Grand Bahama every two days, and the entire spectrum of tourism operators - from taxi drivers and retail/restaurant vendors to tour and excursion providers - will feel the loss of business.

David Wallace, one of the investors in the Pirate's Cove attraction, estimated to Tribune Business that the Grand Celebration generated between 15-20 per cent of its daily visitors when it was in port.

Mr Wilchcombe, meanwhile, said the Grand Celebration had been "one of the strategies we deployed" in reviving Freeport's tourism economy following the damage inflicted by Hurricane Matthew in October 2016.

While the hotels had complained about room rates and other issues, the ex-minister said overnighting passengers had generated essential business for the Grand Lucayan and its casino, plus Port Lucaya Marketplace vendors.

Mr Wilchcombe said the Grand Celebration's loss could impact the 200 rooms

that remain open at the Grand Lucayan's Lighthouse Pointe complex, given that its passengers accounted for a significant percentage of that business.

"It puts it almost to a stop. What else do we have going on in Grand Bahama?" he told Tribune Business of the tourism industry's condition following the Grand Celebration's departure.

"Pelican Bay has been a staple, thank God for that, but I foresee some difficulties in Grand Bahama; how it impacts jobs, how it impacts the economy, because it's giving the perception the island is dead."

CALL 502-2394 TO ADVERTISE IN THE TRIBUNE TODAY!



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

NOTICE

INVITATION TO BID

The Ministry of Health, Department of Public Health invites Tenders for the provision of monthly 24 hours per day seven (7) days per week Security Services at the Government Exuma Primary Health Care Centre, George Town, Exuma.

Interested persons can contact the Administrative Officer at the said facility for permission to inspect the premises. To obtain a copy of the Scopes of Work and additional information, please contact any of the following telephone numbers: 1(242) 336-2088/225-0258 or 502-502-4700 Ext. 6103/502-4818/4831.

All Tender documents are to be placed in a sealed envelope marked:

"To Tenders Board"

Monthly Security Services at The Exuma Primary Healthcare Centre, George Town

c/o Permanent Secretary

Ministry of Finance

Cable Beach

Nassau, Bahamas

Companies should submit bids no later than Friday, October 6, 2017. Only persons with a valid Business License, Tax Compliance letter, Registration Certificate and Letter from National Insurance (NIB) stating your company is in Good standing need apply.

DELTEC BANK & TRUST LIMITED

Invites applications for the position of

Accountant

The desired qualifications for the role are:

- Bachelor's degree in business administration with a concentration in accounting
- Minimum 3-5 years' experience with sound technical and practical experience in accountancy
- Series 7/ Series 6 a plus
- Accounting Firm or Audit experience
- Fund Accounting experience a plus
- Strong computer skills
- Possess solid functional computer skills with a thorough working knowledge of Microsoft office programs including word, excel and outlook
- Strong analytical skills
- Strong organizational skills
- Keen eye for details
- Ability to learn quickly
- Excellent communications and interpersonal skills
- The ability to manage multiple task and responsibilities simultaneously

We offer an excellent benefit package and salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications.

Interested persons may submit resumes to the Human Resources Department by email to humanresources@deltecbank.com.

Only applicants with the above qualifications will be contacted.



A Critical Thinker, Analytical, and a Passion for Problem-Solving

We are growing!

Fidelity Bank invites applications for the position of:

ASSOCIATE INTERNAL AUDITOR

Job Summary:

Fidelity Bank is currently recruiting for an Associate Internal Auditor to audit, conduct business process reviews and perform fraud investigations. With functional report to the Manager, Internal Audit, this role includes compliance responsibilities and support for various cross functional partners. This is a high visibility role on a small team, and provides the successful candidate with an opportunity to contribute to the organizations' control environment and exposure to many business areas.

Main Duties & Responsibilities:

- Conduct financial and operational audits.
- Conduct internal investigations of company violations and other legal matters.
- Diagnose operational risks and process improvement opportunities.
- Provide recommendations to improve financial and operational controls.
- Develop reports and presentations on audit findings, results and recommendations.

Key Qualifications & Experience:

- Bachelor's Degree in a business-related field
- Minimum 2 years' experience in the Financial Services Industry or Hospitality Industry
- Excellent communication skills (verbal and written)
- Ability to prioritize, meet tight deadlines and work well under pressure
- Limited travel may be required
- Ability to work flexible hours in a self-motivated environment
- Independent worker
- Ability to manage the administration of multiple tasks at one time
- Highly organized

PLEASE SUBMIT BEFORE
September 29th, 2017 to:

HUMAN RESOURCES
Re: Associate Internal Auditor
careers@fidelitybahamas.com

**ABSOLUTELY NO
PHONE CALLS**

A competitive compensation package will be commensurate with relevant experience and qualification.



VACANCY NOTICE SENIOR TRANSPORT ENGINEER

Cable Bahamas Limited is seeking to employ an experienced Senior Transport Engineer. The successful candidate must have Engineering and Telecom Network Experience and the ability to lead in a technical environment.

JOB SUMMARY

The Senior Transport Engineer is a highly technical position who supports multiple projects as both a contributor and a leader. In this position the engineer will review network architecture, hardware, and system designs. The engineer will also support the review and analysis of technical transmission documentation such as specifications, interface documentation, and system link budgets. Test witnessing/verification and data review of transmission hardware and systems is included as a function of the Senior Transport Engineer. The Engineer will demonstrate technical skills in Transport networks with a focus in fiber optic communications transport technologies and its applications. This position requires the engineer to interface with associate contractors, customers, and vendors as the project team's technical representative. Technical report generation is also included as functions of this position. Regular travel to off-site locations is required.

JOB DESCRIPTION

- Plan and implement network changes in a high availability environment
- Work with deployment teams and data center operations providing support during new capacity additions and changes on the optical network
- Review OTDR/CD/PMD test reports for inside plant and outside plant fiber acceptance
- Own optical network infrastructure documentation, responsible for updating and maintaining network drawings and plans for both operational purposes and new builds
- Create and maintain optical network designs for metro, regional and long-haul DWDM systems
- Work with engineering team to define optical standards and best practices for deployment
- Maximizing network performance by troubleshooting network problems and outages, scheduling upgrades and collaborating with network architects on network optimization

SKILLS, EXPERIENCE & QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED

- Minimum a four-year College Degree in Engineering
- At least fifteen (15) years Telecom Network Experience
- Proficiency in the MS Office suite of tools including MS Visio, CRM & Ticketing Systems
- Ability to correspond effectively with a variety of functional teams and strong interpersonal skills for supporting cross functional teams
- Familiarity with optical communication systems, linear and nonlinear impairments such as OSNR, CD, PMD and transients.
- In-depth knowledge transmission systems and similarly complex optical subsystems and protocols i.e. SONET, SDH, OTN, EDFA, ROADM, Raman Amplifiers and Gigabit Ethernet
- In-depth understanding of optical sub-sea systems, including wavelength selective switches, optical monitors and dispersion compensators
- Experience with a variety of test and measurement equipment including optical spectrum analyzers and Gigabit testers
- Experience with Fiber test procedures i.e. OTDR, Power Loss, Reflectance and Connector Inspection
- Proficient analytical, organizational, and time management skills, including the ability to effectively prioritize assignments and work unsupervised
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills are critical for document creation and vendor interaction. Strong organization skills and data analysis skills are required
- Proficiency with Microsoft's suite of software, database tools and equipment product life-cycle management systems
- Experience leading technical teams, mentoring junior engineers, and managing technical development projects is highly desired.

This position interacts with executives, department managers, and network operations center (NOC), and vendors on a daily basis, with regular interaction with the Outside Plant Team and Sales Engineering. Qualified applicants should submit Resumes on or before **Thursday, September 28, 2017**, to the Director of Human Resources, PO BOX CB-13050, Nassau, Bahamas or send electronically with **Ref: Senior Transport Engineer** to humanresources@cablebahamas.com.