

GOVERNMENT AND ATLANTIS IN MAJOR CLEAN-UP OPERATIONS

By AVA TURNQUEST
Tribune Chief Reporter
aturnquest@tribunemedia.net

THE government's National Cleanup Initiative has got underway with its first phase tackling the removal of abandoned appliances, furniture and derelict vehicles known as "white waste".

The cleanup will also identify abandoned and or dilapidated buildings with the objective of assessment by the Ministry of Works.

According to officials, rodent control activities will be integrated into the cleanup to reduce rodent populations.

The initiative is manned by the Ministry of Environment and Housing under the Department of Environmental Health Services (DEHS), and seeks to involve the community and stakeholders in cleanup and maintenance for the respective areas.

The cleanup in New Providence is to be conducted in five phases, with its First Phase targeting Bain Town, Centreville, Englerston, and St. Barnabas.



ABOVE AND ABOVE RIGHT: Residents through Old Boat Alley, off Market Street, gathered for two days to clean up their surroundings as part of the government's National Cleanup Initiative.



ATLANTIS TEAM'S HEROES DAY HOLIDAY CLEAN-UP



Education

Each community will be put on alert of the days for placement and pickup of waste. The other components of the initiative are inclusive of ongoing public education, enforcement and monitoring.

Meanwhile, Atlantis resort staff clad in rubber gloves and armed with garbage bags spent the National Heroes Day Holiday with rakes and shovels in a community clean-up on the mainland.

The Atlanteans, led by top resort executives, took to the streets just beyond the bridge targeting the Eastern Parade, Betty Cole Park, Retirement Park, the area known as 'The

Pond' and portions of Okra Hill.

The effort was also supported by the Paradise Island Tourism Development Association (PITDA), Bahamas Waste Management and businesses in the area, such as Bahamas Hand Prints, Craig Butler and Company and businessman Franklyn Butler.

Atlantis President & Managing Director Audrey Oswald says the effort and what it means for the island as a whole are very important to Atlantis.

"This clean-up effort is a part of our commitment to the community. Seeing the transformation in real time is

amazing and we are so very happy that we are able to contribute to the betterment and the uplifting of these areas in such a meaningful and tangible way."

Rewarding

She added that seeing residents of the areas targeted not only thanking and applauding the Atlantis team for the clean-up, but getting involved as well, was very rewarding.

Environment minister Romauld Ferreira also joined in the clean-up effort from start to finish, calling the volunteers from Atlantis and

Pond businesses and residents, "true heroes".

"This is the beginning of what we hope to be a groundswell of really taking pride in our country and our environment," Mr Ferreira said, "because I've said this many times - nobody can really do this for us... It's only through working together that we can achieve the goals that we want, which is a clean Bahamas and we've been saying this all along that the environment is the golden thread of our Bahamas.

Air

Mr Ferreira continued: "It's the one thing that connects us all; we breathe the same air, drink the same water.

"We all want to live in a clean environment and the Government cannot do it all.

"We have to embrace a spirit of volunteerism so I thank Atlantis and the partners from The Pond because this being National Heroes Day, the charge is to be a hero.

"Do your part. This is our Bahamas."

Ed Fields, Atlantis' Senior Vice-President of Public Affairs, said the resort planned to familiarize itself with every business owner and resident in the Pond area with a view to creating a community that everyone can view as the model of partnerships between business and residents.

"We wish to create an environment that everyone is proud to work and live in.

"It will take some time to accomplish, but we will not give up until we get there," Mr Fields said.

In addition to picking up and bagging garbage refuse in the area, the clean-up effort will also see the removal of larger debris, derelict vehicles and abandoned structures which have been serving as breeding grounds for rodents, mosquitos and other pests.



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