



TODAY Show correspondent Kerry Sanders with the swimming pigs at Pig Beach in Exuma last year.

TWO BAHAMIAN BEACHES AMONG BEST IN THE WORLD

By **MORGAN ADDERLEY**

TWO Bahamian beaches have been listed among the 50 best beaches in the world. Pink Sands Beach, Harbour Island is ranked 4th best, and Pig Beach, Exuma, is 12th.

The listings were published recently in "The World's 50 Best Beaches," an article compiled by FlightNetwork, the largest Canadian-based online travel company. Decisions were made after FlightNetwork "consulted 600+ of

world's best travel journalists, editors, bloggers and agencies — the people who do this for a living — to gain insight from their opinions and expertise."

"The World's 50 Best Beaches" asserts that it is "the most definitive list of beaches ever assembled." There are beaches from every continent, ranging from Australia to Greece, Fiji to Madagascar.

Coming in fourth place, Pink Sands Beach is described as follows: "Pink Sands Beach has a fairytale-like name, and you'll

understand why when you set foot on the beautifully coloured sands. The nearly-five kilometres of stunning coastline, saturated in golden sun and pink plush ground, will plant itself in your memory forever.

"Harbour Island in The Bahamas is home to inviting stretches of coastline and mellow waters protected by an offshore coral reef. This portion of the island is an especially dreamy part, known for its pale pink sand made from the bright red and pink shells of the microscopic Foraminifera insects.

The colour contrasts and meshes with the turquoise waterline, creating sunrise and sunset colours that are unlike anything else you'll see in your lifetime."

At number 12, the description for Pig Beach reads: "Pig Beach sits in amongst the Exumas: a chain of 300, mostly uninhabited islands renowned for their euphoric beaches, world-class diving, and luxurious resorts. As you reach its picture-perfect shores by speed or sailboat, you'll be greeted by swaying palms, pristine sugary-white sands,

and some very cute locals.

"Pig Beach really does live up to its name as it is the only place on the planet where you can take a dip in crystal-clear turquoise ocean alongside pink-and-brown-spotted wild pigs. These friendly and very camera-confident animals will be your only company as you walk, swim, and relax in what feels like a deserted Caribbean paradise."

The article also provides suggestions on how to get to these beautiful destinations, after flying into Nassau. For Pink Sands Beach, it

is recommended to fly to North Eleuthera Airport, before taking a water taxi to Harbour Island. For Pig Beach, the site recommends flying to Staniel Cay or Great Exuma before taking a chartered boat or organised day trip to Pig Beach.

In "The World's 50 Best Beaches," the only beaches listed above The Bahamas' are Grace Cay, Turks & Caicos; Whitehaven Beach, Australia; and Anse Lazio, Seychelles. The Bahamas is one of only nine countries to have multiple beaches make the list.

HELPING JOBLESS TO GET ON THE PATH TO WORK

By **KHRISNA RUSSELL**
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AFTER nearly ten years of being unemployed, Leneah Davis-Woodside says she is excited to register for the employability component of a \$20m initiative funded by the Inter-American Development Bank, which targets inner-city youth and aims to prevent crime.

Describing it as a "push to do more" in furthering her education, the 27-year-old expressed confidence that once the initiative begins and all parts are complete, she will put an end to her lengthy bout of joblessness.

For Antonio Simmons, this is a chance to learn new skills outside of those he learned as a security officer and customer service representative.

Unemployed since August, the 23-year-old said landing a job is his top priority.

The programme also targets those who have not finished high school, as was the case with 16-year-old Christna Gilbert. Ms Gilbert said this would likely give her the boost she needs to find employment in the hotel industry.

They were among a group of young people who yesterday morning turned out for a registration drive to launch the Citizen Security and Justice Programme (CSJP).

This is the second component of a public awareness campaign geared towards at-risk youth by providing skills training. Under this component, which focuses on increasing the employability and employment of at-risk youth, the Department of Labour has

joined with the Ministry of National Security for the training of 1,000 at-risk youth in soft skills and 1,600 at-risk youth in both soft skills and technical skills, Minister of Labour Dion Foulkes said yesterday.

He said those individuals who successfully complete the technical training will then have an opportunity for placement in internships and on the job training where they will have the opportunity to receive experience and stipends.

This area targets the demographic of young persons — Bahamian or permanent residents between 16 to 29-years-old — who are currently unemployed and have not completed high school. This is a prime grouping for those most at-risk of leading a life of crime and criminal activity, if they are not properly engaged and given skills to succeed.

"As far as doing the programme, it's good for young ladies and gentlemen," Ms Davis-Woodside told reporters yesterday following the official launch at the Department of Labour's headquarters on Rosetta Street. "It (pushes) you to do more and further your education, like learning different stuff is easy. But you got to put your best into it no matter what and go on doing what you must do."

"I could train in [an] office or hotel," she said when asked what her preferred area of skills learning and placement was.

She continued: "It's very important because you learn different trading and different stuff like typing, cleaning (and) going out there helping other people to move forward."



MINISTER of Labour Senator Dion Foulkes launches the Citizen Security and Justice Programme on Monday. From left, Cecelia Strachan, permanent secretary in the Ministry of Labour; Senator Foulkes; Chet Pratt, IDB project consultant; Althea Albury, acting director of labour in the Department of Labour. Photo: **BIS**

For his part, Mr Simmons said: "You know I'm out of a job. I was working from I came out of school, but August of this year I was unemployed so I am going to give this a try and hopefully get successful in a job."

"It's a good opportunity. I see it as it could work if they just plan it out right and I feel as if they have it

planned right so it's a good opportunity.

"I could continue doing security, but I could do anything if I technically learn from this programme if they put me in any different field I would be willing to learn any different field right now. I just need a job," he added.

Mr Foulkes said the CSJP

is designed to do several things, including to improve behaviours for non-violent conflict resolutions, increase employability and the employment of the at-risk youth population, strengthen institutional capabilities of justice services and reducing the recidivism rate among persons within the juvenile

system.

The registration drive yesterday was a means of information collection in anticipation of the start of training during the first quarter of next year. Organisers said yesterday the exercise will help speed up the process as they contact those who signed up to begin training.

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