

The Governor General marks Emancipation Day at Fox Hill village



Governor General His Excellency, the Most Hon. Sir Cornelius Smith delivered remarks at the Emancipation Day Service in historic Fox Hill at the Fox Hill Parade Grounds, Monday, 7 August, 2023. The Hon. Fred Mitchell, MP, Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Public Service, also spoke on the occasion of Emancipation Day, and the Jubilee year of Bahamas Independence. Pictured are the Fox Hill Senior Citizens Choir and the Church of God of Prophecy Dancers, making it a memorable occasion.

Acklins Central High School Renamed the A. Loftus Roker High School



A native son of Acklins soil has been recognized for his contributions to nation building. His name will forever be etched in the landscape of his hometown of Acklins after the Acklins Central High School was renamed in his honour.

During an official ceremony held at the school campus in Pompey Bay, August 4, 2023, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance the Hon. Philip Davis, along with several cabinet ministers (including Minister of Education and Technical and Vocational Training, Hon. Glenys Hanna-Martin; Minister of National Security, Hon. Wayne Munroe; Minister of Agriculture, Marine Resources and Family Island Affairs, Hon. Clay Sweeting and Minister of State for the Environment and Natural Resources and MP for MICAL, Hon. Basil McIntosh) and officials from the Ministry of Education -- gathered to recognize former Parliamentarian and Cabinet Minister, the Hon. A. Loftus Roker at the renaming of the Acklins school in his honour, bestowed at the Golden Jubilee Anniversary of Bahamas Independence.

District Superintendent, Michelle Bowleg, served as moderator for the ceremonies.

Prime Minister Davis, said that it was an honour to recognize one of the most prominent figures in the country's history.

"God is good, and he sent our nation, leaders of vision and courage when we needed them. As all of us here today know, Loftus Roker played a critical role in one of the most important moments in our national history," he said. "In December of 1972, as one of only fifteen in a national delegation led by then Prime Minister Pindling, he travelled to London to negotiate the terms of our country's independence. He did this because, in his own words, he 'believed in freedom.' Mr. Davis said that today only four of the signatories of the independence agreement are still alive, therefore, the country is fortunate and grateful for the ability to be able to turn to them for first-hand accounts of critical moments in Bahamian history.

"What an incredible journey -- from a childhood in Acklins to participating in the events that altered the nation's course and delivered the country's national sovereignty," said Prime Minister Davis.

During his tenure in government, Mr. Roker served as Minister of National Security and Immigration. As a tribute to him, Minister of National Security, the Hon. Wayne Munroe delivered remarks commending Mr. Roker for his service. He said that the true scope of the sacrifice and dedication that people like Mr. Roker served under, could never be fully appreciated in today's context as the times have changed.

"We do a hero as Mr. Roker a disservice when we don't recognize the circumstances under which they carried out their duties because we cannot measure what they have done in the context of today. We can only appreciate what they have done when we understand the context of what they faced when carrying out their duties. So I wish to congratulate A. Loftus Roker for his service to this nation. Congratulations to you, Sir." said Mr. Munroe



Governments of The Bahamas, UK, and TCI Meet to Discuss the Maritime Boundary



The governments of The Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos as represented by the United Kingdom met to discuss the maritime boundary delimitation between The Bahamas and TCI on 9th August, 2023. During the course of the meetings, delegates undertake the technical exercise of delimiting an agreed boundary which is vital for the effective management of The Bahamas' maritime resources as well as its law enforcement activities in the region.

Parliamentarians visit churches in Fox Hill on Fox Hill Day



Parliamentarians led by Prime Minister and Minister of Finance the Hon. Philip Davis visited churches in Fox Hill on historic Fox Hill Day, August 8, 2023 which comprised parliamentarian combined choir performances, conducted by Ruby Ann Darling, and cheque presentations to each church visited: St. Paul's Baptist Church, Macedonia Baptist Church, Mt. Carey Baptist Church, and St. Mark's Native Baptist Church. Also leading was Member of Parliament for Fox Hill and Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Public Service, the Hon. Frederick Mitchell. Leader of the Opposition the Hon. Michael Pintard and members of the Opposition participated.



PHOTO OF THE WEEK

"Our young sailors represent our promise to the future; they are the custodians of our seafaring heritage. As they learn to navigate the waters, they will also learn resilience, teamwork, and respect for nature – all essential qualities for the leaders who will also help our country sail into the future."

– Prime Minister Philip Davis
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67th Cat Island Regatta

Emancipation Day Weekend: Homecomings, Regattas, Festivals



August 5, 2023

Remarks by Prime Minister and Minister of Finance The Hon. Philip Davis

At the 67th Cat Island Regatta, honouring Cat Island's first Prime Minister, while celebrating 50 Years of Independence

Good morning, members of the Cat Island Sailing Club, fellow sailors, fellow Cat Islanders, visiting friends and families. What a pleasure it is to be together for the 67th Annual Sloop Sailing Regatta in beautiful New Bight! I am really touched by the honour bestowed upon me by the Cat Island Sailing Club – thank you very much. The regatta in Cat Island has been so important – not only as a competition that has produced world-class sailors, but as an economic catalyst, and as the kind of tradition that brings us together in fellowship and community.

It's quite remarkable that this regatta is in its 67th year – we have been an independent nation for fifty years, but we have known our way around boats even longer.

In 1956, 48 boats competed – and they were all work boats from various Cat Island settlements – boats for fishing, or for carrying goods and people. In fact, these boats were frequently the only way to travel from one settlement to another. Before sailing was a competitive sport, it was a way of life, essential to our families and communities.

Today, sailing is still intertwined with local economies across our islands – our maritime skills and traditions and our beautiful waters have made Bahamian regattas second to none. And if as Prime Minister I might not want to name favorites, as MP from Cat Island I confess I feel much less constrained! So congratulations to all of our sailors – those who have passed down to us this vibrant tradition (Olympic competitors among them) – those who are sailing for glory now – and those who are up-and-coming, who will make us proud in the years to come.

It's hard to beat the pure adrenaline of sailing – and when you've finished navigating the dazzling waters, more excitement awaits – because in Cat Island we specialize in good people and good times, with local music and food that always remind me: "There's no place like home."

In truth, regattas are a proud tradition across many of our Family Islands, and in recognition of their important role, in our heritage, culture, and economy, this year, our government officially designated Sloop Sailing as our country's national sport.

The designation as our national sport is not just symbolic – we are determined to expand the reach of the sport, to make it as inclusive as possible. In sailing, it's all about "knowing the ropes" – and we want many more of our children to learn those ropes.

So it gives me immense joy that youth sailing is now taking off in Cat Island, introduced here and in other communities for the first time.

Our young sailors represent our promise to the future; they are the custodians of our seafaring heritage. As they learn to navigate the waters, they will also learn resilience, teamwork, and respect for nature – all essential qualities for the leaders who will also help our country sail into the future.

To all the sailors from across our beautiful islands who will compete in the A, B, C, and E class races – I wish you a fair wind and smooth seas. May your races be thrilling, your victories sweet, and your fellowship enduring.

And for all those here to cheer on the sailors, let's share laughter, create memories, and celebrate beautiful Cat Island.

Happy Sailing!



West End Homecoming and Boat Race held on August Monday Holiday



The West End Homecoming Committee held its Homecoming Weekend which began on Saturday, August 5, and climaxed with a Boat Race on the Emancipation Day Holiday, Monday, August 7, 2023. Residents travelled from near and far to take part in the festivities which included a Junkanoo Rush Out, conch cracking, coconut barking, watermelon competition and fashion show.

Homecomings, Regattas, Festivals on Emancipation Day Weekend...

The Opening Ceremony of Rolleville Homecoming and Regatta

August 4, 2023



High Rock residents host 17th Annual 'Seafest' on Emancipation Day Holiday



The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism, Investments and Aviation (BMOTIA) and the High Rock Seafest Committee pulled out all the stops for the 17th Annual Seafest in High Rock on Emancipation Day, August 7, 2023. The family-friendly festival was held at East End Primary School Park and featured a tantalizing array of seafood dishes much to the patrons' delight. Senator James Turner and Member of Parliament for East Grand Bahama Kwasi Thompson were also on hand to enjoy the festivities as guests cooled themselves down with the myriad Bahamian flavors while playing an assortment of games such as Hoopla and Bingo. They were also entertained by the sounds of Bahamian artists K.B., DMac and the Royal Bahamas Police Pop Band.

Full Military Funeral Service held for the late Commissioner of Police (Retired) Paul H. Farquharson



A Full Military Funeral Service was held for the late Commissioner of Police (Retired) and Former High Commissioner to the Court of St. James, Paul H. Farquharson, QPM, at Christ Church Cathedral, August 10, 2023. A Committal Service was then conducted with '21 Gun Salute' in Parliament Square. Thereafter, the National Flag was presented by Commissioner of Police Clayton Fernander to Mrs. Sharon Farquharson and the family.

Passport Office Opened in Bimini, today



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is proud to announce the official opening of the Bimini Passport Office. The office is in the George Weech Complex, Alice Town, Bimini, The Bahamas. The fully equipped passport office will relieve the residents of Bimini and surrounding cays. Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Public Service, the Hon. Frederick Mitchell (third left) and Minister of Social Services and Urban Development and MP for West Grand Bahama and Bimini, the Hon. Obie Wilchcombe (left) were among the officials at the landmark event.

Bahamas National Trust - Courtesy call at MOTIA



Bahamas National Trust (BNT) Executives paid a courtesy call on Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Tourism, Investments and Aviation the Hon. Chester Cooper, August 11, 2023 at the ministry's offices. In group photo from left: Geoffrey Andrews, BNT Council President; the Hon. Chester Cooper; Lakeshia Anderson-Rolle, Executive Director BNT; and Anna Bancroft, Director of Development & Communication, BNT.