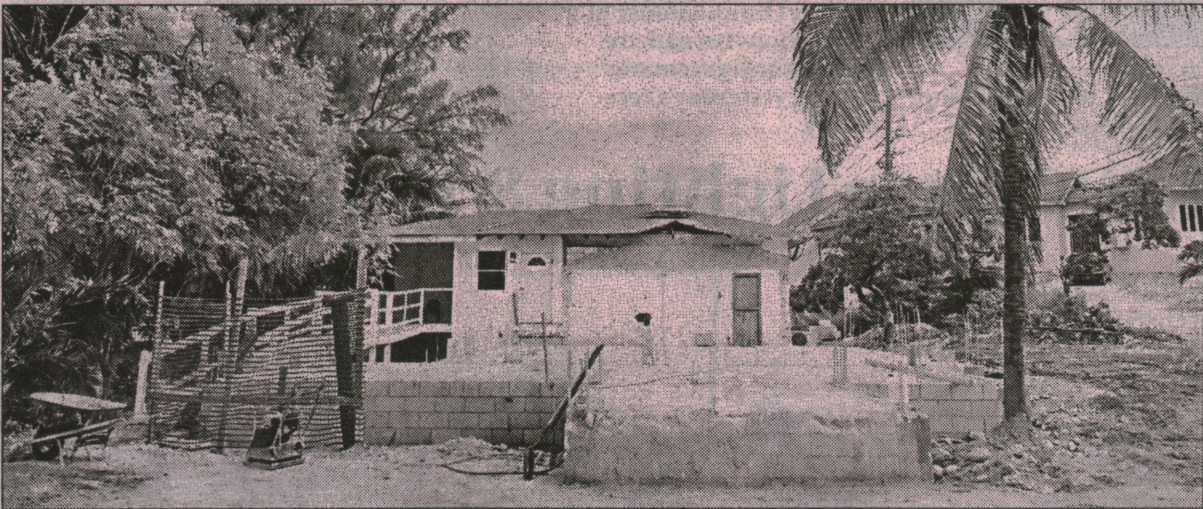


Work in progress at St. Luke's Clinic in Staniel Cay, Exuma.



\$250,000 donation helping to save lives by turning Exuma clinic into modern medical center

A \$1.5 million upgrade of St. Luke's Clinic in Staniel Cay, that would expand emergency traumatic care treatment to potentially save lives, got a major boost with a \$250,000 donation from local residents – and it comes with a plea for other donors to step up.

“Right now, we only offer basic services. Emergency care is limited,” said nurse Jadera Rolle. “The population here has increased. In terms of the amount of people we see and the type of cases we see, it has increased, and the facilities are not enough for these people.”

Rolle said that the need for effective traumatic care was essential. The clinic is close to the water in Staniel Cay – and with boating injuries a regular sight, it provides ease of access for treatment, as well as serving the wider Exuma area. “The whole process of getting an emergency flight can be five hours, and that is crucial time in increasing chances of survival. Having the capacity for traumatic care here will make a difference.”

So far, \$600,000 of the total has been raised, with the latest donation of \$250,000 having been provided by the Bob and Jeanne Coughlin Foundation.

“As a community member in the central Exuma area, I think having proper medical services is part of what is our responsibility to our guests, to our Bahamian employees and their families, and to the locals,” said Mr Coughlin. “Boating injuries are a major part of what they see at the clinic, and I think this upgrade is going to help tremendously to deal with that. Having something close to the water, visible, and properly staffed and equipped is very important.”

Established in the early 1960s, the clinic is one of the oldest Family Island clinics in The Bahamas – but

the expansion will see it transformed into a fully functional medical centre. However, any care beyond minor treatment presently requires patients to be flown 30 minutes to Nassau – often at significant cost and when every second counts.

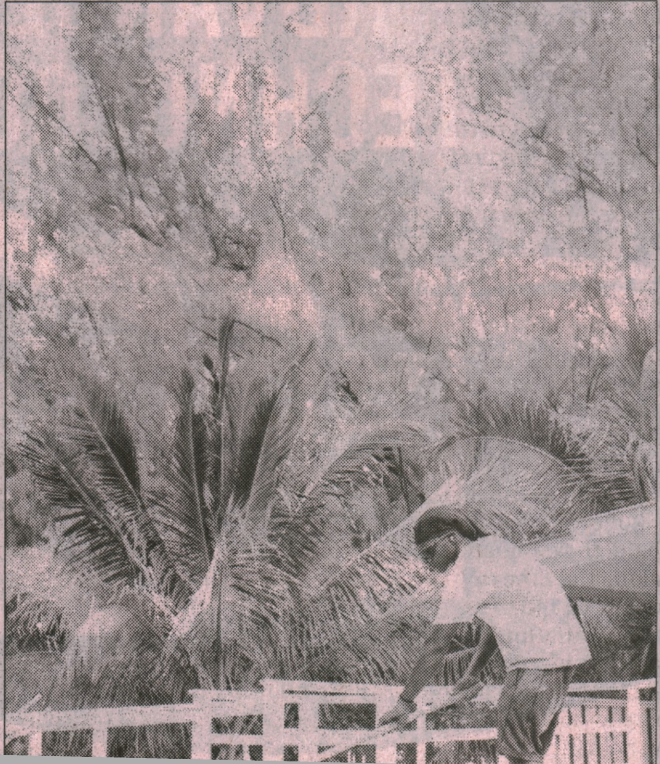
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Planned upgrades include updated treatment rooms, a new trauma centre, enhanced urgent-care capabilities, expanded pharmacy storage and strengthened infrastructure to withstand severe weather.

The first phase, completed at a cost of \$100,000, saw expansion of the existing east wing. The second phase, launched in October with an estimated cost of \$1m, is aimed to be complete by October 2026 and will include laying the foundation and first-floor structure, as well as the infrastructure for the second floor and roof. It would also add housing

• **Donation, page A7**





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Bob and Jeanne Coughlin examining the plans for the clinic.

• Continued from page A6

for visiting medical professionals as well as a back-up generator and improved water and pressure systems, as well as modern communications for telehealth services. The third phase, at a cost of \$400,000, would complete the project, with a target date of May 2027.

The donation by the foundation has funded critical construction phases, with the hope of encouraging further donations from the community.

"On behalf of the St. Luke's Clinic Steering Committee, I would like to thank the Coughlin Foundation for this truly transformative donation to the St. Luke's Clinic project," said committee founding member David Hoher. "These improvements to the only community medical facility on Staniel Cay are hugely important both for the full-time residents of Staniel Cay as well as the many visitors we receive each year. With a modern, well-equipped and properly staffed clinic, made possible in large part by this contribution, the clinic's ability to deliver both day-to-day and critical care is significantly enhanced."

Rolle said: "I want to thank the foundation for taking the time to take a look at us and to see this is an organisation we want to invest in. I want to say thank you. I would hope that persons looking can see the work being done and the community coming together and doing their best and say 'hey, you know what, we want to help as well'".

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Rosewood Exuma opponent challenges backing by Gov't

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor
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ONE of the leading opponents to the \$200m Rosewood Exuma project yesterday challenged why the Government appears so determined to defend and back its developer by hiring leading UK attorneys for tomorrow's Supreme Court injunction hearing.

Turtlegrass Resort & Island Club, and its principal, Bob Coughlin, in a statement argued that the legal fees being spent by the Davis administration would be better used paying the Grand Lucayan staff their due wages and

helping struggling Bahamian families in the run-up to Christmas.

They hit out after Tribune Business earlier this week revealed that both Turtlegrass and Rosewood's developer, Miami-based Yntegra Group, as well as the Government and its regulatory agencies, are preparing for Friday's Supreme Court hearing on the former's bid to obtain a Supreme Court injunction.

This, Turtlegrass is arguing, is necessary to preserve the so-called 'status quo' and prevent Yntegra Group undertaking any development work on East

HEARING - See Page B9

Turtlegrass chief queries UK lawyers, use of police

HEARING - from page B1

Sampson Cay until the merits of the full Judicial Review challenge are determined. Tribune Business sources have confirmed that, despite asserting that it is not opposed to the Judicial Review challenge proceeding and moving forward, the Government has hired several top UK legal names to represent it on Friday.

Besides Simons Muirhead Burton, the law firm that acted for the Government in the recent Grand Bahama Port Authority (GBPA) arbitration, the Davis administration is also thought to have hired Edward Fitzgerald KC. He led the defence of Samuel 'Ninety' Knowles against US attempts - which were ultimately successful - to extradite the latter more than two decades ago.

Asserting that hiring the UK attorneys has come "no doubt at a significant cost to the public," Turtlegrass added: "Such a display of expensive legal firepower begs the obvious question: Why is the Government so committed to defending this particular foreign developer? Why are the 'big guns' being deployed to help Yntegra?"

Mr Coughlin, in the same statement, asserted: "These are funds that could be helping Bahamian workers, families, and communities - especially at a time when we are hearing that some hotel workers in Grand Bahama are struggling to get paid. Many Bahamians in Exuma and across the county are in need of assistance, especially during the Christmas season."

Turtlegrass added that "at no point" has it "received anything resembling the level of protection or advocacy from the Government that is seemingly enjoyed by Yntegra."

And it made further allegations - subsequently rejected by Yntegra - that it has been subjected to further intimidation tactics after a Royal Bahamas Police Force officer was used to deliver a letter from the Miami-based developer's UK law firm, Schillings, to Mr Coughlin's Exuma residence and present it as a "summons."

"The document, however, was nothing of the sort," Turtlegrass countered. "It was merely a threatening letter from Yntegra's attorneys - an apparent attempt to silence responsible critics of their Sampson Cay development."

"Notably, the same letter had already been properly delivered to Mr Coughlin's legal counsel. There were - and remain - no legal proceedings against Mr Coughlin, no court filing and no summons of any kind. The involvement of a police officer to deliver a legal letter, presented as an official court matter, was unnecessary, misleading and deeply concerning."

"Using an officer of the law to create the impression of legal action against Mr Coughlin where none exists appears to be a clear attempt at intimidation, and raises questions about the misuse of government resources."

The Turtlegrass chief added: "When the police come to your door with what you're told is a summons, any reasonable person would believe they're facing legal action. To then discover it was simply a private letter from a developer's lawyers, especially when that same letter had already been sent to my attorneys, is alarming. Law enforcement should never be used to create fear or confusion."

Yntegra, though, hit back in a statement to Tribune Business. It said: "Delivery of a 'letter before action' by a police officer is neither unusual nor unlawful. It is standard practice to hire police officers to personally deliver demand letters or any document that requires proof of personal service."

"Further, Mr Coughlin acknowledged receipt of the document identified as a 'letter before action' and not a summons as claimed." The Rosewood Exuma developer then added: "As stated previously, we believe Bahamians deserve access to accurate information so they can engage in constructive conversations about development, economic opportunity and the long-term future of Exuma."

"We welcome fact-based, informed discussion and differing perspectives. We won't let myth and misinformation stand. The defamatory statements related to our project on Sampson Cay are a very serious matter. At this time, no legal proceedings have been issued; the purpose of the 'letter of action' was to put Mr Coughlin on notice that unless he agrees to desist..... Yntegra will have no option but to commence proceedings."

Felipe MacLean, Yntegra Group's chief executive, added: "Rosewood Exuma will be a landmark of responsible development in The Exumas, and we are proud of the transparent, lawful and rigorous process we have followed to bring this vision to life. We will continue to work together with the community to set a new standard of excellence and opportunities for Bahamians."





For immediate release, December 17, 2025.

— THE BOB & JEANNE —
COUGHLIN
FOUNDATION

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Captions:

Bob and Jeanne Coughlin examining the plans for the clinic.

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