



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**10 MAY 2018**

**DNA ISSUES REPORT CARD ON FNM ADMINISTRATION FIRST YEAR IN GOVERNANCE**

<b>Name</b>	<b>FNM Administration</b>	
<b>Assessor</b>	<b>The People of The Bahamas</b>	
<b>Review Period</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2017/18</b>	
<b>General Comments</b>	<p>The FNM was ushered into office based on the negative sentiments towards the PLP. The overwhelming majority of 35-4 has weakened the voice of the official opposition. The same tactics of emotionalism, grandiose promises and manipulation were employed during the 2017 elections.</p> <p>Many have argued that the standard had been lowered so much by the PLP that the FNM didn't have to do much to impress the electorate. Public Domain polls showed that people didn't vote for the FNM because they believed in their policies or leadership but rather in a bid to get rid of the PLP.</p> <p>The FNM was dismal in opposition and clearly unprepared for governance. The FNM did not win based on an articulated plan or vision; this has been reflected during their first year in office.</p>	
<b>Performance Indicators</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Overall Governance</b>	<b>D</b>	
<b>Prioritization</b>	<b>F</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10-week vacation upon assuming office</li> <li>Initial budget provided tax incentives for rich</li> <li>Rushed Commercial Enterprise Bill</li> <li>Established Office of the Spouse</li> <li>Dominica and Ragged Island Contradiction</li> <li>Request for MP salary increase</li> </ul>
<b>Transparency</b>	<b>D</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Failure to disclose cost of forensic audits</li> <li>Non-disclosure of reason for firing AMMC Chairman</li> <li>Quiet removal of BAIC Board Chair</li> <li>Non-disclosure of FS compensation package</li> </ul>
<b>Accountability</b>	<b>D</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Antagonizing the media and electorate</li> <li>Dismissive of constructive criticisms</li> <li>Failure to appoint Chief Justice</li> </ul>
<b>Economic Development</b>	<b>F</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of Economic Plan</li> <li>Lack of foreign or domestic investments</li> <li>Austerity without incentives for private sector</li> </ul>
<b>Fiscal Responsibility</b>	<b>D</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fiscal Responsibility Act not passed</li> <li>Establishment of new government units</li> <li>Creation of new high-level government jobs</li> <li>Selective and premature accrual basis accounting</li> <li>\$1.8B in borrowing without tangible benefits</li> </ul>

		Expansion of the Office of the PM to Family Islands
<b>Public Healthcare</b>	<b>D</b>	Minimal changes in healthcare infrastructure Inadequate HIV and other medication Consultants, doctors, and nurses challenged Highlighting of problems without solutions
<b>National Security</b>	<b>C</b>	Reduction in violent crime Lack of robust strategy for crime fighting Appointment of Commissioner fiasco Inappropriate conduct allegations Public disrespect to Commodore
<b>Immigration</b>	<b>C</b>	Lack of comprehensive immigration policy December 31, 2017 deadline political-not effective Magistrate and hearing in family islands Prompt deportations after due process welcomed Shanty initiative welcomed development
<b>Financial Services</b>	<b>F</b>	EU Blacklisting Continuous attrition in industry Lack of industry growth action plan Multiple legislation and increased compliance cost Execution of CRS and BEPS agreements.
<b>Tourism</b>	<b>C</b>	No “real” sale of Baha Mar executed Baha Mar has spurred some economic activity
<b>Sound Judgment</b>	<b>F</b>	Commitment to purchase Grand Lucayan Signing and announcement of OBAN deal Responses to Chief Justice appointment Removal of portfolio of Minister of Environment
<b>Communication Skills</b>	<b>F</b>	Ineffective Office of the Press Secretary Failure of PM to face media for questioning Poor articulation of policies and objectives Uncoordinated responses across ministries Rude and dismissive of public concerns
<b>Empathy &amp; Compassion</b>	<b>F</b>	Government ministers lack people skills Interpersonal skills are highly deficient Government does not have finger on people’s pulse Disconnect with the plight of the masses Perception that focus is on the rich and elite Ill-advised comments on firing of civil servants
<b>Public Sector</b>	<b>F</b>	Lack of public sector reform plan Key performance indicators not implemented Haphazard terminations of government employees Ease of doing business remains challenged
<b>Meritocracy</b>	<b>F</b>	Government boards populated by FNM supporters Diplomatic appointment of party faithful Special positions created for loyal FNMs Lack of bi-partisan approach to nation building No effort to unify country for greater good Political color remains criteria for employment
<b>Anti-Cronyism and Nepotism</b>	<b>D</b>	Contracts issued without public tender Party supporters exclusively benefitting Alleged issuance of contracts to family & friends

<b>Anti-Corruption</b>	<b>D</b>	FOIA not fully implemented Whistleblower Act not enacted Government tainted by OBAN saga Messaging and platform for crusade questionable
<b>Pension Reform</b>	<b>F</b>	No plan for public or private pension reform The pension time bomb continues to tick
<b>Energy Reform</b>	<b>D</b>	BPL remains challenged Blackouts continue Shell LNG offers some hope in long term Questions surround bidding process for LNG
<b>Tax Reform</b>	<b>F</b>	No comprehensive plan for tax reform WTO accession will drive some changes No articulated national plan to guide tax reform No vision to shed tax haven label for The Bahamas
<b>Public Procurement</b>	<b>C</b>	Ongoing project expected to improve process No details on transparency in selection process Existing practices not transparent or fair
<b>SME Development</b>	<b>D</b>	Lack of comprehensive plan for SME development No clarity on the fate of SMEDA No plan for BOB, BDB, VCF, BAIC SBDC will provide some assistance
<b>Closing Comments</b>		<p>The FNM has had a rocky start to governance. Its performance in the first year can be described as dismal.</p> <p>Having asserted that the VAT money was embezzled, the Government has since backtracked and admitted that the monies were in the Consolidated Fund. The vow to curtail government travel and large entourages has proven to be an empty promise as the Government has adopted the same approach.</p> <p>The hypocrisy is glaring as the Spy Bill criticized by the FNM in opposition has been re-presented as necessary and important.</p> <p>It is now clear that Baha Mar will not be resold as the Government has embraced the resort as the savior of the economy. The hope that VAT will be removed from healthcare, breadbasket items and insurance is now dwindling.</p> <p>Our young people are hardly encouraged that there will be free tuition at the University of The Bahamas.</p> <p>While Grand Bahamians await the sale of the Grand Lucayan, the Government of The Bahamas appears to have skillfully backtracked from the PM's televised announcement that the Government will be purchasing the resort.</p> <p>It is now clear that appointments by the FNM Government is</p>

	<p>based on family, friends, lovers, and party supporters rather than meritocracy. It is yet to be seen whether term limits for Prime Ministers, recall system for MPs and removal of Crown land from the Office of the Prime Minister will be implemented as promised.</p> <p>Sadly after one year of governance, the Bahamian people are experiencing buyer's remorse leaving them to ask the question; is it truly the people's time?</p>
--	--

**Signed**

**Democratic National Alliance**

**On behalf of The Bahamian People**