

Dear Editor,

Bahamas immigration's, 'gainful employment' laws are on the books for the single, most important, purpose of protecting jobs and opportunities - created in The Bahamas, for Bahamians. This is their sacred mandate. When Bahamian Nationals cannot (truthfully) be found, qualified sufficiently, to fill job vacancies in this country, then those laws are permitted to be relaxed to allow foreign qualified workers to be admitted, for specific periods of time. I repeat; for specific periods of time and not to remain here long enough to qualify for citizenship.

I read a newspaper headline story recently alleging that the Chinese Embassy in The Bahamas, made application via letter, to the Immigration Department for permission to import almost 5000 Chinese workers to fill various job positions (to be determined) allegedly, at the new BahaMar Cable Beach proposed re-development project. If there is even a semblance of truth to this announcement, then I hope that Mr. Jack Thompson would have had the guts to return the letter to the Chinese Embassy - postage unpaid - marked "intended recipient unknown".

The pre-application process (as I understand it) before even approaching the immigration department with a request for a migrant worker's permit to engage in "gainful employment" in The Bahamas, is not as simple as simply writing a letter to the department and expecting approvals to be sent in the mail, willy-nilly. As a pre-requisite, the process involves a thorough search of the entire country, using the daily newspapers and the assistance of the labour department, in a concerted effort to determine, first and foremost, the local qualified pool of human resources available, before the immigration department would, usually, entertain any applications for foreigners. Besides, aren't each of the applicants obliged to submit along with all the other required supporting documents, a police record and a health certificate issued by the relevant institutions in their various countries of residence to ensure that those individuals we admit are fit and proper, healthy law-abiding persons?

For all we know, the people who are scheduled to be sent here by the Chinese authorities could very well be prisoners who they intend to let out on work detail. This may not be so farfetched a suggestion, by me, as what you are thinking, it is, right now because - lest we forget - it has happened in the

United States of America, when Mr. Castro pulled that same dirty trick on President Jimmy Carter who, when he was president, ordered the Florida borders opened to allow all the Cubans who wanted to leave Cuba, at the time, to be admitted into the United States. I'll tell you, the good President lived to regret that flotilla ever materialized, because Fidel Castro took the liberty of emptying Cuba's jails and sent the American President all those thieves and murderers, disguised as Cuban refugees.

The procedure for submitting "gainful employment" applications to the department of immigration, as outlined above, is required to be strictly adhered to, by all of us, but in the case of the Chinese (and when we take into consideration the close relationship Ingraham appears to have with them) Ingraham may have authorized a streamlining of that process, in their favour.

As I have opined in other writings, in the past; Ingraham, for some strange, and I submit, sinister reason, seems to have an unusually cozy relationship with these people from the east. His attitude toward matters involving them has prompted me to ask, on a number of other occasions in the past, and I ask again; is Ingraham benefiting, personally, from his cozy relationship with these Orientals and if he is; what is he getting from them?

There are at least 1000 working on the sports stadium in Nassau, at the moment, half of whom will probably not return to China when the sports stadium is completed. BahaMar now wishes to import 5000; 3000 of whom will, in all probability, not return to China as well. And, lest we forget, the Chinese are in the process of hoodwinking Ingraham into allowing them to establish a farm in his constituency of North Abaco and have already quantified their Chinese manpower needs, for this proposed project, at 5000 as well. Can you visualize the many Chinatowns popping up all over this country in the next 15 years? Our culture has taken a pounding already with the influx, and grafting in of so many other foreign Nationals, over the years, and it seems now that Ingraham is fully prepared to facilitate our complete metamorphosis with the admission of all these Orientals.

The brakes must be applied before it is absolutely too late to save our traditional way of life. Ingraham doesn't seem to give a damn, one way or the other, for I guess he feels that since he doesn't have much longer on God's green earth, to live, why give a damn about who inherits The Bahamas after him? Nonetheless, family, if not national pride, should dictate that he, at

the very least, should care about what happens to his own posterity. He (Ingraham) seems to have a very nonchalant attitude toward nation building, the preservation of our culture and of our traditional way of life. Wouldn't he want to, at least, care about the legacy he leaves behind after he is kicked out of office?

The Bahamian culture cannot withstand the influx of another 5000 foreigners (possibly 10,000 if the farm proposal for Abaco is finally approved by this Ingraham-led FNM government) invading the country's workforce. I wish to note here that while provisions are being made for the imminent employment of these thousands of Chinese in our country, I don't hear of any plans on the FNM government's drawing board for the employment of the accumulated thousands of unemployed high school graduates, throughout The Bahamas, who left the classrooms during the past three years, in addition to those we anticipate will be graduating this year. There are no plans, which I am aware of, that would spark hope in these school leavers and that would motivate them to remain positive and focused; only hopelessness abounds everywhere.

With a population approaching 320,000 (100,000 of whom are estimated to be of foreign ethnicity), our culture is on a doomsday march. Many years ago, Sir Lynden Oscar Pindling refused a request from a prominent Chinese restaurateur who wanted to develop a Chinese village on the grounds of the site of the old (now demolished) Shalimar Hotel here in Freeport. Sir Lynden feared then, what we should fear much more today as well - a massacre of our culture.

I inquired once of Sir Lynden Pindling - when I admittedly was very naïve about the antics of this race of investors - why we were not getting any of the rich potential investors, who were fleeing Hong Kong prior to that British Dependency reverting to China several years ago. Sir Lynden responded; "who do you see behind the cash register when you go into a business establishment owned and operated by Chinese", he asked me? I immediately grasped the implications of the message he was sending, by the question he asked. Sir Lynden explained further: if 4000 Chinese were planted in a city within the state of Florida, a change of culture would not readily be seen, but plant those same 4000 Orientals on any Island in this archipelago and the negative culture shock would be instant. He concluded his sentiments, "my government (the PLP) would never permit such a thing to happen to the Bahamian people, not while am here as prime minister". Hubert Ingraham,

obviously, has no such concerns for the future interest and welfare of the Bahamian people, in this regard.

Ingraham has now sent a government delegation to China to beg for more of them to come here to do business. Don't you understand, Hubert Ingraham, that enough is enough? We don't need any more Chinese government capital, or any other Chinese money for that matter, invested in our country; the cost to our sovereignty would be too high a price to pay. Their citizens may visit all they want, as any other tourists do, but when the visit time is over then please, return home.

As I've said repeatedly in the past, benefits from investments by China's imperial government and or Chinese businessmen, at large, accrue only to them and theirs. They trade only among themselves and would only deviate from that pattern when and if what they need, of goods and services, cannot possibly be accessed from amongst themselves, and we know that they produce everything in the world so there would be little chance of that happening. I've seen a very prominent Chinese who sent all the way to China for a 20' container of ordinary construction steel and was prepared to wait 4-6 weeks for the container, to arrive, rather than order it from a supplier in Florida and have it delivered within 3-4 days, or better still purchase and have it delivered the same day, from a supplier right here in Freeport. They don't mind, at all, putting up with the hassle or even paying more for procurement, at the end of the day, so long as they trade among themselves. Other ethnic nationalities living among us are observed practicing the same bad habit yet all of them expect, when called upon, Bahamians to support their businesses and to contribute to their national disasters. This cannot be the right way for these foreign groupings to conduct their business affairs, generally, but especially when they are guests in another man's country; this, actually, amounts to boycotting.

I have taken due note of Ingraham and his government's silence in this matter of BahaMar and their overtures to the Bahamian people about their proposal to deploy 7000 Chinese, to work on that PLP-initiated Cable Beach re-development project. It's a hot potato that Hubert would obviously rather not have to handle right now because he knows, very well, that we do have the capacity and the ability, in this country, at this particular time to pool our resources and come up with the manpower and skills to get that job done. The problem Ingraham has is that, as I've stated before, he seems to have

gotten himself in such a fix with China's Imperial government that he just cannot say "No" to anything they ask of him; he just simply cannot tell them "No."

I've had enough and I am hoping that Ingraham comes to his senses very soon and put a stop to this China madness.

Forrester J Carroll J.P
Freeport, Grand Bahama
9th May 2010