

Meteorologist decries letter being used as political tool

Dear Editor,

I have developed a healthy passion for meteorology, the science that I have grown in over my entire professional career.

I graduated high school in June 1985 and started in meteorology in November 1985. It is the language I speak. It is obvious through this, that meteorology I understand; people, (especially politicians) I'm still failing miserably to understand.

I can say without hesitation, that I have a genuine concern for the safety and well-being of my Bahamaland, its people and visitors to its shores.

That is the true spirit with which I wrote my letter to the Prime Minister on March 22, 2010.

As we all know, a tornado took the lives of three men in Grand Bahama on March 29, 2010.

To have my letter now used as a political tool by any person or party to gain "brownie points" or for any other reason is truly disappointing.

I simply felt the need to defend my science: Its importance to ALL of us; its importance to the Grand Bahama community, the Freeport Weather Department's importance to the Bahamas Department of Meteorology. Defend it to our leaders for their understanding in a way that, in my view, others may not have felt compelled to do for one reason or the other.

While I have my opinions on how we can move forward from all of this, with that letter I simply wanted to hold fast to what I know - meteorology - the facts! Nothing at all political! No mention of who's responsible or which entity should do what was addressed in the letter.

It is tragic and saddening that lives were lost during the passage of a weather phenomenon. The irony of which only helped to bring home my message. Now all of us can, I hope, appreciate and understand the true workings of a properly functioning meteorological network within an archipelagic nation.

I am sorry that something that I wrote with all good intentions is apparently being used for overtly political purposes.

I wish to remind the public that we still have a group of highly certified professional meteorologists, resident in Grand Bahama, some of whom remain unemployed (myself included). I'm sure that the Government of The Bahamas will do its best to ensure that we all can use our experience and knowledge to provide the best warning system for our Commonwealth.

Yours, etc.,

LEEMARVIN JOHNSON

Monday April 12, 2010