

Press Release  
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72 Hour Follow-up questions on the Tornado strike in Grand Bahama  
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For Immediate Release

The PLP notes that 72 hours has passed since Grand Bahama suffered the onslaught of several major tornados, and in the public interest, the following questions must be put to the relevant authority, the FNM Government.

- Has any internationally qualified Tornado Trackers, and assessors been engaged by The Ministry of The Environment, NEMA, and/or the Nassau Meteorology Office with a view to conducting a scientific analysis on various important factual characteristics with regards to the tornados?
- Based on justifiable assessments, can the Government place a dollar value on all of the damages incurred throughout the island as a result of the tornados?
- Based on justifiable assessments, can the Government provide an account of the actual number of displaced individuals as a result of the tornados (temporary or long term)?
- What mandatory risk mitigation plans and policies will the government seek to implement or have the companies' implement to safeguard life and property in industrial park area in Grand Bahama? After all it is the largest such park in the region.
- Since three individuals were killed and several others injured, has the police or any other agency been called upon to conduct an extensive investigation (other than the Prime Minister and his colleagues) at the Freeport Container Port (FCP)? At least to rule out or established any form of negligence!
- Has the Government done all in its powers to ensure that the integrity of the affected area at the FCP remains preserved to ensure the integrity of any assessment or investigation; or has the FCP been given the green light to move forward with their personal plans without regards of the aforementioned?
- Knowing that such potential weather phenomena do exist, and are somehow more frequent in the industrial park area, how is the Government moving forward in causing the alert system (media as well as mechanical sirens and alarms) to be more contemporary for that entire area.

- Has NEMA completed all of its local assessment or any at all?
- Has the Ministry of Tourism conducted a Damage Assessment Needs Analysis (DANA) exercise to determine what impact if any the storm had on the island's tourism industry? Also, have they considered assisting the hotel community with designing a proper comprehensive plan to deal with the likelihood of a tornado? The international community is watching!
- What is the Government's Standard Method of Classifying the State of Emergency for an island, or community following a disaster? This would determine how human, financial, and material resources are disbursed or requested locally as well in internationally.
- If the government's post emergency response has comprehensively addressed the issues raised in the above mentioned questions, when will a debriefing be conducted and when will the answers or tentative decisions be made available to the public?

The PLP awaits the response of the government on this critical issue of public safety and stands prepared to move forward in a proactive and bipartisan manner, all in the public interest.

**END**