

Press Statement  
by the Progressive Liberal Party

**Unacceptable Conditions at PMH Laboratory  
at Centerville & Rosetta Streets**

July 8th 2010

*For Immediate Release*

The Progressive Liberal Party is obliged to bring to the public's attention the conditions at the Princess Margaret Hospital's Laboratory at Centerville and Rosetta Streets where both employees and patients have been without air-conditioning since May and despite attempts to repair the system, the same was only recently partially repaired.

The Minister of Health, Dr. Hubert Minnis, is again asleep at the wheel as he must be fully aware that medical test conducted in unacceptable conditions runs a very high risk of being compromised and is not in conformity with PAHO guidelines we are advised and negatively impact the lives of patients. We ask the Minister Minnis if he can recall the last time he visited the Centerville Laboratory. A visit to this public facility will confirm that the morale of the staff there is low. We urged the Minister to be open and honest with Bahamians and to cease and desist from make excuses.

Standards for Medical Laboratories require that such facilities ensure the safety, comfort, and high hygienic standards of both personnel and patients. Standards also necessitate that special attention must be given to monitoring, controlling, and the recording of environmental conditions as required by relevant specifications or where they may influence the quality of the results of examinations.

Attention must be paid to sterility, dust, electromagnetic interference, radiation, humidity, electrical supply, temperature, sound, and vibration as appropriate to all technical activities concerned. We are informed that Laboratory Equipment malfunctions when exposed to high levels of heat, necessitating visits from maintenance technicians from equipment manufacturers; this results in additional costs.

A significant portion of the general population rely on the government for health services and the general public must have confidence in the quality of the diagnosis at these public facilities. Proper diagnosis is only possible when analytical equipment deliver accurate data. There is reason to suspect that equipment at this facility are not operating as per manufacturer specifications.

Additionally, will the Hon Minister explain to the Public as to when a training program for staff at the Medical Lab will be re-instated so as to attract Bahamian Nationals to the profession as the percentage of expatriate staff is very high?

We will continue to monitor this situation

**-- end --**