#### Press Release

### (For immediate release)

## **Global United Limited Responds to**

# The Tribune Article of April 5, 2008

### April 6, 2008

Global United Limited notes with interest the statement by Minister of State for Finance, Zhivargo Laing, appearing in the Tribune on April 5, 2008, that the Government is addressing a matter concerning duties and taxes that may be owed to the government by Global United.

Since the entry of Global United in the Nassau market, it has been paying the government on the same terms that had been established for years. Under this arrangement, a period of time was allowed for Global United to bill and collect duty and taxes and then pay the same to Customs. Such an arrangement is not unusual and there are similar arrangements with other companies. Since the issue arose, Global has been current with its payments.

Global acknowledges that there is an issue with respect to outstanding payments that are due. In an effort to resolve this issue, Global wrote to the Comptroller of Customs with a proposal to resolve this matter, which was rejected by the Ministry of Finance. The Company hopes that it will be able to resolve this issue in the not too distant future.

The statements attributed to Captain Rolle of the Nassau Harbour Pilots regarding the recent grounding of the tanker "Ficus" are untrue and has caused the Company's esteem to be lowered in the minds of the right-thinking public. As a result, the Company has turned over the file on this matter to its attorneys to advise the Company on its course of action in this regard.

It is extremely curious that of all the government's debtors, it has chosen to make a public statement on Global United. We see this as a just another example of the FNM's relentless efforts to totally destroy a 100% owned Bahamian Company which currently employs over 200 Bahamians . This attack started on Global United shortly after the Company's Chief Executive officer, Mr. Jackson Ritchie, was named as a candidate for the Progressive Liberal Party for the 2007 General Elections. Mr. Ritchie confirms that shortly after it was announced that he would run on the PLP's ticket, he received information that an attack would be launched on him by FNM operatives within the Ministry of Finance and in fact, on March 26, 2007, he received, a letter, not from the Comptroller of Customs with whose office he had been dealing for the past seventeen years, but from an employee of the Ministry of Finance. This attack from within the Ministry of Finance has continued relentlessly, particularly escalating after the general elections. It is unfortunate that a Bahamian owner and his business could be attacked so callously because of the principal's political affiliation.