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BAHAMAS IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE

#15/21

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

9 FOREIGN NATIONALS CONVICTED IN MAGISTRATE'S COURT

On Thursday, 22nd April **Yonaidi Melendez Castillo (f)** of The Dominican Republic appeared before Magistrate Jeanine Weech-Gomez in the Magistrate's Court #7 and pled guilty to **Overstaying**. Subsequently, she was ordered to be turned over to the Department of Immigration for deportation at the expense of her employers.

On Friday, 23rd April **Celibon Cedic (m), Lens Petit (m), and Jeff Dutrevil (m)** of Haiti appeared before Magistrate Samuel McKinney in the Magistrates' Court #1 and they all pled guilty to **Overstaying**. Subsequently, Cedic was fined **\$1,500.00** or in default of payment serve **(3) three months** at Bahamas Department of Correctional Services (BDOCS); Petit and Dutrevil were fined **\$1,000.00** each or in default of payment serve **(3) three months** at BDOCS.

Meanwhile, **Idelene Victor (f), Brave Lovensky (m), Jean Louis (m), and Aleus Prrevelar (m)** of Haiti appeared before Magistrate Carolyn Vogt-Evans in the Magistrate's Court #6 and they all pled guilty to **Illegal Landing**. Subsequently, they were all sentenced to **(2) two months** at BDOCS.

Orlanda Standford Brown (m) of Clarendon, Jamaica pled guilty to **Possession of a Forged Immigration Stamp and Overstaying**. He was convicted on both counts and sentenced to serve **(6) six months** at BDOCS for count one and, fined **\$1,000.00** or in default of payment serve **(3) three months** at BDOCS for count two.

Upon payment of fines or completion of custodial sentences, they were ordered to be turned over to the Department of Immigration for deportation. These arrest were results of operations conducted on New Providence 16th - 21st April by the Bahamas Immigration Department, Enforcement Unit.

The public is reminded that overstaying is a punishable offense in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas. If a visitor wishes to remain in the country beyond the period granted, they can apply for a Visitor's Extension before the time granted expires and, is subject to the discretion of the Department of Immigration. We further wish to remind members of the public that we are committed to carrying out the mandate of our agency to combat illegal migration, by establishing effective border control management to ensure compliance with the Statute Laws of our country,

For more information please contact the Department of Immigration's Public Relations Unit or visit our website: www.immigration.gov.bs

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Mission Statement: *To regulate the movement of people across the borders of The Bahamas so as to ensure the security, facilitate economic advancement and promote the harmonious social development of The Bahamas through the collaborative efforts of responsible government and non-government agencies both nationally and internationally*