



Public Relations Unit

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BAHAMAS IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE 10/21

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Migrants Arraigned Before Two (2) Freeport Magistrates for Infractions of Immigration Laws

On the 13th April, 2021, six (6) Brazilian nationals and one (1) Haitian national were arraigned before Magistrate Charlton Smith to answer to the charge of Overstaying in The Bahamas. All migrants pled guilty and were ordered to remain in immigration custody for further processing.

Additionally, on 15th April, 2021, five (5) Haitian nationals were arraigned before Deputy Chief Magistrate Debbye Ferguson to answer to the charge of Illegal Landing. All migrants pled guilty to the offense and were subsequently fined three hundred dollars (\$300.00) each, or in default of payment serve eight (8) months at The Bahamas Department of Correctional Services (BDOCS). Further, one (1) female migrant from this grouping was also charged and convicted for Overstaying. She was fined fifteen hundred dollars (\$1,500.00), or in default of payment serve eight (8) months at BDOCS.

The public is reminded that the Department is committed to executing the mandates of our agency by effectively coordinating efforts with other Law Enforcement agencies to ensure compliance with the Statute Laws of our Country. We further wish to remind members of the public that it is a criminal offence punishable by law to harbor illegal migrants in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

For more information please contact the Department of Immigration's Public Relations Unit or visit our website: www.immigration.gov.bs or follow us on Facebook @immdept Bahamas Department of Immigration.

End.

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*