



## Public Relations Unit

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BAHAMAS IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE 14/21

**\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\***

### **Bahamian Female Charged with Two Counts of Entering into a Fraudulent Marriage**

On 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2021, the Department's Prosecution Unit, Grand Bahama District brought three (3) migrants and one (1) Bahamian national before Magistrate Debbye Ferguson to answer to various charges for infractions of the Immigration Laws.

Among those charged was 41 year old Bahamian mother of eight (8), Nadacate Outten. Ms. Outten was formally charged with two (2) counts of "Entering into a Fraudulent Marriage" and pled guilty with an explanation. She stated that she was 'down on her luck' and needed the funds offered in exchange for both marriages and subsequent grant of legal status to care for her children.

Taking into consideration that she is the primary caregiver for her children with no assistance, the prosecution requested no custodial sentence. Magistrate Ferguson ruled that the defendant pay a fine of \$1500.00 for each count or in default of payment, serve one (1) year for each count at the Bahamas Department of Correctional Services to run consecutively. Ms. Outten was released and given until 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2021 to pay the fine.

The defendant's two co-accused, Jamaican national Oral Anthony White, and Haitian national Moseles Monneus, both stated that they were unaware of Ms. Outten's marriage to the other; however, pled guilty to the charge of "Entering into a Fraudulent Marriage" as the arrangement was made to ensure they received legal status to only live and work in The Bahamas. The duo were ordered deported forthwith.

Haitian national Monique Pierre was also arraigned on charges of Overstaying under section 28 (1) and (3), and punishable under section 49 (1) Chapter 191 of the Immigration Act. Defendant pled guilty to the charge and was ordered to pay a fine of \$2,000.00 or in default of payment serve two (2) years at the Bahamas Department of Correctional Services.

The Department of Immigration is committed to carrying out the mandates of our agency to combat illegal migration by establishing effective border control management to ensure compliance with the Statute Laws of our country.

For further information, you may visit our website at [www.immigration.gov.bs](http://www.immigration.gov.bs) or contact our call center at 1-242-225-5337.

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*