



## Public Relations Unit

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### BAHAMAS IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE

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**\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\***

#### **66 HAITIAN MIGRANTS INTERDICTED NEAR ANGUILLA CAY**

On Friday, December 31, the Department's Enforcement Unit, Grand Bahama District, received sixty-six (66), Haitian migrants, from the United States Coast Guard (USCG) cutter, Bernard C. Webber at Lucayan Harbour, Freeport. The group consisting of forty-four (44) males, fifteen (15) females, and seven (7) minors, were originally sighted by USCG cutter, Charles Sexton, aboard a vessel near Anguilla Cay, surrounding the southeast extremity of Cay Sal Bank; there, the group was interdicted and later handed over to USCG cutter, Bernard C. Webber in Freeport.

COVID-19 testing was conducted after migrants were taken into custody by Immigration; all migrants tested negative. Additionally, once at Immigration headquarters, the group was assessed by the Ministry of Health and Wellness' Disease and Surveillance Unit; no major health issues were found.

They appeared in the Magistrate's Court, charged with Illegal Landing, and were subsequently transported to the Carmichael Road Detention Centre, where they await deportation.

#### **36 CUBAN NATIONALS REPATRIATED TO HAVANA, CUBA**

At approximately 12:59pm today, twenty-five (25) males, nine (9) females and two (2) minors were repatriated from New Providence to Havana, Cuba. The group was escorted by a joint law enforcement team comprised of Immigration Officers and Royal Bahamas Defence Force Marines.

The Department's deportation team led this escort onboard a Bahamasair charter flight, with all COVID-19 protocols strictly observed as the health, welfare, and safety of our officers, law enforcement counterparts, and migrants remain the highest priority in this COVID-19 environment.

The Department of Immigration expresses gratitude to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, and Health & Wellness, as well as the Cuban Embassy for their usual and full cooperation.

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

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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*