



## Public Relations Unit

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**BAHAMAS IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE**

**#50/22**

**\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\***

### **68 FOREIGN NATIONALS CONVICTED BY MAGISTRATE'S COURT**

On Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2022, fifty-seven (57) Haitian nationals were arraigned in magistrate Court #10 before Magistrate Kendra Kelly charged with **Illegal Embarkation** after being intercepted at sea by United States Coast Guard (USCG) enroute to the United States.

All migrants pleaded guilty and were subsequently convicted. Forty-two (42) were fined **\$300.00** each or, in default of payment, ordered to serve two (2) months at the Bahamas Department of Correctional Services (BDOCS), thirteen (13) were fined **\$300.00** each and three (3) months at (BDOCS), one (1) was fined **\$300.00** and four (4) months at (BDOCS) and one (1) was fined **\$300.00** and one (1) year at (BDOCS). The magistrate's rulings are reflective of time spent in the country.

Additionally, eleven (11) migrants; ten (10) Haitian nationals and one (1) Jamaican national were also arraigned in the same court for various violations of the Immigration Act after an apprehension exercise thought-out the streets of New Providence.

All migrants pleaded guilty and were subsequently convicted. One (1) Jamaican male convicted of **Overstaying** and fined **\$2000.00** and five (5) months at (BDOCS), in default of payment, ordered to serve an additional eight (8) months. One (1) Haitian female convicted of **Overstaying** and fined **\$1500.00** and five (5) months at (BDOCS), in default of payment, ordered to serve an additional three (3) months. One (1) Haitian female convicted of **Overstaying** and fined **\$1500.00** and eight (8) months at (BDOCS), in default of payment, ordered to serve an additional three (3) months. One (1) Haitian male convicted of **Overstaying** and fined **\$1000.00** or three (3) months at (BDOCS). Two (2) Haitian females convicted of **Overstaying** and fined **\$1000.00** and two (2) months at (BDOCS), in default of payment, ordered to serve an additional five (5) months. One (1) Haitian female convicted on two (2) counts; **1. Illegal Landing** and **2. Knowingly attempting to mislead an Immigration Officer**. Count #1 she was fined **\$300.00** and five (5) months at (BDOCS), in default of payment, ordered to serve an additional month and count #2 fined **\$1500.00** and six (6) months at (BDOCS), in default of payment, ordered to serve an additional five (5) months. Two (2) Haitian females convicted of **Illegal Landing** and fined **\$300.00** and one (1) month at (BDOCS), in default of payment, ordered to serve an additional month. One (1) Haitian male convicted of **Illegal Landing** and fined **\$300.00** and six (6) months at (BDOCS), in default of payment, ordered to serve an additional month. One (1) Haitian male convicted of **Overstaying** and fined **\$2000.00** and eight (8) months at (BDOCS), in default of payment, ordered to serve an additional six (6) months.

Upon payment of fines and completion of sentences, all migrants were ordered to be turned over to the Department of Immigration for deportation.

The public is reminded that the Department is committed to executing our mandate to combat illegal migration by establishing effective border control management to ensure compliance with the Statute Laws of our country.

For more information, call New Providence's Public Relations Unit at **1-242-322-7530**, visit our website at **www.immigration.gov.bs**, or call our Investigation hotline anonymously at **1-242-604-0249**.

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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*