



## Public Relations Unit

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### BAHAMAS IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE

#01/23

**\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\***

## 159 FOREIGN NATIONALS CONVICTED IN THE MAGISTRATE'S COURT

On Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023, one hundred fifty-nine (**159**) persons were arraigned in Magistrate's Court #10 before magistrate Kendra Kelly. They were charged with various immigration offences.

The first group consisted of one hundred sixteen (**116**) Cuban Nationals charged with Illegal Landing after they were apprehended by (RBDF) on Thursday, 29th December 2022 near Anguilla Cay. The group pleaded guilty and were all fined **\$300.00**, in default of payment prison time ranging from one (**1**) month to six (**6**) months at the Bahamas Department of Correctional Services (BDOCS); five (**5**) of the migrants received both fines and prison time.

A second group consisted of forty-one (**41**) Haitian Nationals, sixteen (**16**) of whom pleaded guilty to the charge of Illegal Landing and were conditionally discharged. Seven (**7**) persons also pleaded guilty to the charge of Illegal Landing and were fined \$300.00 and prison time ranging from two (**2**) to three (**3**) months at (BDOCS). Two (**2**) persons pleaded guilty to the charge of Overstaying and were fined **\$3,000.00** and eight (**8**) months at (BDOCS). To the charges of 1. Overstaying and 2. Illegal Embarkation sixteen (**16**) persons pleaded guilty to both counts and received fines ranging from **\$300.00** to **\$2000.00**, in default of payment prison time ranging from one (**1**) month to six (**6**) months at (BDOCS).

A third group, which consisted of one (**1**) Dominican and one (**1**) Venezuelan national, pleaded guilty to charges of 1. Overstaying and 2. Illegal Embarkation. On count #1 both were fined **\$1,000.00** or one (**1**) month and (**4**) months at (BDOCS) respectively; on count #2 **\$300.00** or one (**1**) month at (BDOCS).

The magistrate's rulings are reflective of time spent in the country and in some instances repeat offenders. Upon payment of fines, completion of sentences, and discharge, all persons were ordered to be turned over to the Department of Immigration for deportation.

The Department remains committed to executing our mandate to ensure compliance with the Statue Laws of our country.

For more information, call the 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**.

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*