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BAHAMAS IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

62 FOREIGN NATIONALS CONVICTED IN THE MAGISTRATE'S COURT

In Magistrate's Court #1 and #8, sixty-two (62) foreign nationals were arraigned before Magistrates Algernon Allen Jr. and Samuel McKinney respectively, for various immigration offenses.

On Friday, 10th March, 2023 in Magistrate's Court #1 eighteen (18) Haitian nationals all of whom pled guilty, were convicted of **Illegal Landing**. Seven (7) were fined **\$300.00** or, in default of payment, serve a prison term ranging from **two to twelve months** at the Bahamas Department of Correctional Services and ten (10) were conditionally discharged and released to the Department to be deported. In addition to the charge of **Illegal Landing**, one (1) Haitian male was also convicted of **Knowingly Attempting to Mislead an Immigration Officer** and was fined **\$2,000.00** or, in default of payment, serve **six months** at BDOCS. The sentences are to run concurrently.

Additionally, one (1) Haitian male pled guilty to the charge of **Harbouring illegal persons** and was fined **\$3,000.00** or, in default of payment, serve **twelve months** at BDOCS. On the charge of **Overstaying** all of whom pled guilty; three (3) Dominicans were fined **\$500.00** and one **\$1,500.00** or, in default of payment, serve **six** and **eight months** at BDOCS respectively. Two (2) Ecuadoreans were fined **\$300.00** or in default of payment, serve **three months** at BDOCS and one (1) Haitian national who was conditionally discharged. On the charge of **Illegal Embarkation**, one (1) Ecuadorean, one (1) Dominican and one (1) Haitian national pled guilty and was conditionally discharged.

On Wednesday, 8th March, 2023 in Magistrate's Court #8 twenty-two (22) Haitians, one (1) Cuban and one (1) Jamaican national all of whom pled guilty, were convicted of **Illegal Landing** and were fined **\$300.00** or, in default of payment, serve **one months** at BDOCS. In addition to the charge of **Illegal Landing**, six (6) Haitians and one (1) Jamaican national were also convicted of **Knowingly Attempting to Mislead an Immigration Officer** and was fined **\$500.00** or, in default of payment, serve **three months** at BDOCS and **\$1,000.00** or, in default of payment, serve **three months** at BDOCS respectively. The sentences are to run concurrently.

Additionally, seven (7) Haitians, two (2) Cubans and one (1) Bangladeshi national all of whom pled guilty, were convicted of **Overstaying** and fined **\$300.00** or, in default of payment, serve **one month** at BDOCS, **\$500.00** or, in default of payment, serve **three months** at BDCOS and **\$1500.00** or, in default of payment, serve **three months** at BDOCS respectively. In addition to the charge of **Overstaying**, one (1) Bangladeshi male was also convicted of **Engaging in Gainful Occupation** and was fined **\$1,000.00** or, in default of payment, serve **three months** at BDOCS. The sentences are to run concurrently.

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

The public is reminded that the Department is committed to executing our mandate to ensure compliance with 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 hotlines (anonymously) at **1-242-604-0249**, **1-242-604-0171-2** or **1-242-604-0196**.

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*