



Public Relations Unit

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BAHAMAS IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE

#16/23

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1 BAHAMIAN CITIZEN & 58 FOREIGN NATIONALS CONVICTED IN THE MAGISTRATE'S COURT

On Wednesday, 13th April, 2023, one (1) Bahamian citizen and fifty-eight (58) foreign nationals were arraigned before Chief Magistrate Joyann Ferguson-Pratt in court #9 and Magistrate Shaka Serville in court #4 respectively, for various immigration offenses.

Yves Simplicie a Bahamian citizen pled guilty and was convicted on seven (7) counts of **Employment of Prohibited Persons** and was fined **\$1,000.00** on each count or, in default of payment, serve **nine months** at the Bahamas Department of Correctional Services (**BDOCS**). One (1) Dominican national pled guilty to the charge of **Illegal Embarkation** and was fined **\$300.00** or, in default of payment, serve **one month** at (**BDOCS**).

On the charge of **Overstaying**, four (4) Chinese nationals pled guilty and were convicted and fined **\$500.00** or, in default of payment, serve **one month** at (**BDOCS**). One (1) Colombian national pled guilty and was convicted and fined **\$750.00** or, in default of payment, serve **one month** at (**BDOCS**), he was also charged with **Illegal Embarkation** and fined **\$300.00** or, in default of payment, serve **one month** at (**BDOCS**). Four (4) Haitian nationals pled guilty and were convicted and fined **\$3,000.00** or, in default of payment, serve **one year** at (**BDOCS**), **\$2,000.00** or, in default of payment, serve **one year** at (**BDOCS**), **\$1,000.00** or, in default of payment, serve **six months** at (**BDOCS**) and **\$500.00** or, in default of payment, serve **two months** at (**BDOCS**), respectively; they were also charged with **Engaging in gainful occupation** and fined **\$500.00** or, in default of payment, serve **one month** at (**BDOCS**).

On the charge of **Illegal Landing**, six (6) Cuban nationals were convicted and fined **\$300.00** or, in default of payment, serve **one month** at (**BDOCS**). Forty-one (41) Haitian nationals were fined **\$300.00** or, in default of payment, serve **one month** at (**BDOCS**), one (1) Haitian national received a conditional discharged. Eight (8) of the Haitian nationals also pled guilty to the charge of **Attempting to Knowingly Mislead an Immigration Officer** and were convicted and fined **\$1,000.00** or, in default of payment, serve **two months** at (**BDOCS**). Three (3) of the Haitian nationals also pled guilty to the charge of **Engaging in Gainful Occupation without a valid Permit** and were convicted and fined **\$500.00** or, in default of payment, serve **one month** at (**BDOCS**).

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

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*