



**Bahamas Society of Engineers**  
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**PRESIDENTS REPORT**

**BAHAMAS SOCIETY OF ENGINEERS**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**21<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER, 2015**

**2014/2015 BOARD MEMBERS**

President	DeCosta Bethel
Vice President	Karen Myers-Rolle
Treasurer	LaToya Johnson
Secretary	Antoine Sands
Directors	Henderson Cash, Carlos Palacious, Remington Wilchombe, Andrew Darville, Antonne Taylor, Zanda Bonamy
Immediate Past President	Melanie Roach

I believe that the BSE has achieved yet another successful year and my gratitude is extended to the Board of Directors who once again spearheaded and supported this organization which I believe is making a very real and positive difference in our community. Again, special mention MUST be made of our Treasurer/Administrator without whose invaluable contribution and support, activities of this year would have been woefully lacking. Secretary Eng. Antoine Sands continues with valuable support despite having relocated to a new and demanding position in Freeport with BORCO. Eng. Melanie Roach continues her stellar performance in her supporting role with constructive critique without which I would go astray. She keeps us on track and in focus. Thank you!

## SUMMARY

Salient activities of the Bahamas Society of Engineers for the 2014/2015 operational period include:

1. **Regional Engineering Involvement:** Enhanced regional collaboration depicted by:
  - a. Joint conference with the Jamaican Institute of Engineers and the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers in Jamaica in September 2015. Director Eng. Carlos Palacios, P.E., represented the BSE and presented a conference paper.
  - b. Initiation of the process to join the Caribbean Council of Engineering Organizations (C.C.E.O.)
2. **Continuing Professional Development:** Initiated talks with CCEO, the Professional Engineers Board and the College of The Bahamas toward the institution of a system of Continuing Professional Development Units.
3. **Foreign Direct Investment:** Collaboration along with Eng. Sonia Brown toward the enhanced exposure and increased visibility of Bahamian Engineers to Foreign Direct Investors (FDI).
4. **Engineering Students and their presentation:** Collaboration along with Eng. Sonia Brown and the College of The Bahamas to prepare engineering students to be able to better present themselves to potential employers and clients.
5. **S.T.E.M. programmes and initiatives:**
  - a. **Bahamas Engineering and Technology Advancement (B.E.T.A.)** - a summer camp programme designed by Engineers Trenicka Rolle and D'Andre Wilson-Ihejirika exposed high school students to six engineering disciplines including: Aerospace/Mechanical, Biomedical, Chemical, Civil/Environmental, Computer Science/Web Development and Electrical.

This highly successful camp accommodated seventy-seven students including fifteen from Freeport.

- b. **Bahamas LEGO Challenge:** A highly competitive global challenge utilizing the custom design and programming of autonomous robots to score points on a themed playing field. Themes are real world situations such as: nanotechnology, climate, quality of life for the handicapped population, and transportation.

Participants are exposed to potential career paths within a chosen Challenge topic in addition to solidifying the S.T.E.M. principles that naturally come from participating in the program.

- c. **GEOFORCE:** – This programme hosted by the University of Texas at Austin included 26 students from Grand Bahama, New Providence and Long Island informs and engages students into the world of geosciences by taking them into the field. This summer, the programme focused on coastal processes and sedimentary environments. Bahamian presenters were Carlos Palacios in Nassau and Kristel Bethel in Austin, Texas.
  - d. **National Society of Black Engineers (N.S.B.E.):** The BSE continues to support this group and during the year various members made several presentations during their monthly meetings.
  - e. **C.O.B. Scholarship:** BSE continues to support the engineering students at the College of The Bahamas with a scholarship programme and presentation of an award for outstanding engineering student.
6. **Extraordinary General Meeting:** Held to approve the adoption and replacement of the ‘Articles of Association.’
  7. **BSE Northern Branch:** BSE supported the Northern Branch’s Annual Workshop and President Bethel gave the keynote address on the second conference day.
  8. **CARICOM:** BSE participated in stakeholder consultations for a regional strategic plan for services in the CARICOM Single Market economy.
  9. **Bahamas Chamber of Commerce and Employers Confederation (BCCEC):** BSE continued its support of the Bahamas Chamber of Commerce and Employers Confederation with support for its ‘Responsible Taxation’ initiative launched to address the introduction of Value Added Tax (V.A.T.)
  10. **National Development Plan and Increased Industry:** BSE made representation to the Hon. Khaalis Rolle Minister of State for Investments for the BSE to be a part of the National Development Plan and the inclusion of initiatives for increased industrial development and manufacturing in The Bahamas.
  11. **‘National Energy Policy’:** The BSE, through its involvement with the BCCEC’s Energy & Environment Committee has submitted to the government its follow-up comments regarding the ‘National Energy Policy’.

12. **National Disaster Risk Management (DRM):** The BSE in collaboration with the IDB contributed toward an assessment of the National Disaster Risk Management (DRM) in national public investment.

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>
January	Value Added Tax, ‘Implications for the engineering sector.’
February	Mr. Leon Williams CEO BTC, ‘Telecommunications Industry in The Bahamas.’
March	Site tour ‘Nassau Container Port’.
April	Mr. Gerhard Beukes, CEO, Renew Bahamas.
May	Mr. Michael Diggis P.M.H. Critical Care Block. ‘Key Lessons Learned’.
June	Site tour ‘Renew Bahamas’.
July	Mrs. Caryl Lashley Director, ‘Alternative Dispute Resolution’.
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tour of RBDF vessel ‘HMBS A.D. Hanna’</li> <li>• BSE Northern Branch Annual Workshop</li> </ul>
October	Annual General Membership Meeting

### **Professional Engineers Board**

Our representatives are: Robert Deal and Darius Williams.

### **Immediate Actionable Items**

1. Work with Eng. Sonia Brown to enhance the exposure and visibility of Bahamian Engineers to Foreign Direct Investors.
2. Continue efforts for the BSE to become more involved with the process of granting of work permits in the field of engineering.
3. Enhance the efforts of BSE toward encouraging and supporting S.T.E.M. projects.
4. Increase our regional presence and visibility through participation in conferences.