



# Professional Engineers Board

Commonwealth of The Bahamas

*Integrated Regulatory Controls for the Sustainable Design and Protection of our Environment*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS BOARD MEETS WITH IMMIGRATION MINISTER AND DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION**

The Professional Engineers Board (the “Board”) met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Immigration, the Hon. Fred A. Mitchell and the Acting Director of Immigration, Mr. William Pratt on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013. The purpose of the meeting was firstly to thank the Minister and Acting Director for the positive working relationship with the Board and secondly to discuss ways and means to further strengthen that working relationship.

The Board was established by an Act of Parliament in 2004 to regulate the practice of engineering in the Bahamas. Under the Act, only engineers registered by the Board are permitted to provide professional engineering services in the Bahamas. This is to safeguard life, property, economic interest, public welfare and the environment.

The principal item of discussion was the processing of work permits for non-Bahamians entering the Bahamas to perform engineering services. The Act allows for temporary registration however the individual must be entering the Bahamas to work on a specific project and the individual must be qualified in a specialist field of engineering not readily available in the Bahamas. Both the Board and the Immigration Department committed to a further review of the process to ensure timely review and feedback by the Board before a work permit is granted. Minister Mitchell highlighted that it was his Government’s position to put Bahamians first in all sectors of the economy and encouraged engineers to play an active role in policing the engineering sector.

The Board informed the Minister and the Acting Immigration Director that as part of its education mandate, the Board will be meeting with Government agencies and corporations and large private sector employers to remind them of their obligations under the Act with respect to international consultants and other Non-Bahamians engaged by them to provide engineering services. The Board also informed them that one of the principal goals of this Board’s term was to finalize and present to the Minister of Public Works, the draft Regulations required under the Act.

Minister Mitchell pledged his personal support and the support of the Immigration Department to the ongoing work of the Board and the Board's goals during this term. The Board in turn thanked the Minister and the Acting Director and pledged its continued commitment to providing a fair, transparent and professionally regulated engineering sector in the Bahamas.



Photo Caption – Left to Right: Board Secretary/Treasurer Wendell Grant II, Board Chairman Robert Deal Jr., Minister Mitchell, Acting Immigration Director William Pratt, Board Registrar Freeman Duncanson, Board Member Deidre Taylor and Board Assistant Secretary/Treasurer Darius Williams. Present but not shown was Board Member Anthony Dean.

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