

# Black Press called 'essential' to future

BY GEORGE E. CURRY  
NNPA EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

NASSAU, Bahamas – A top Bahamas official praised the Black Press the week of Jan. 25 as essential to truthfully and creditably chronicling African-American progress from one generation to the next.

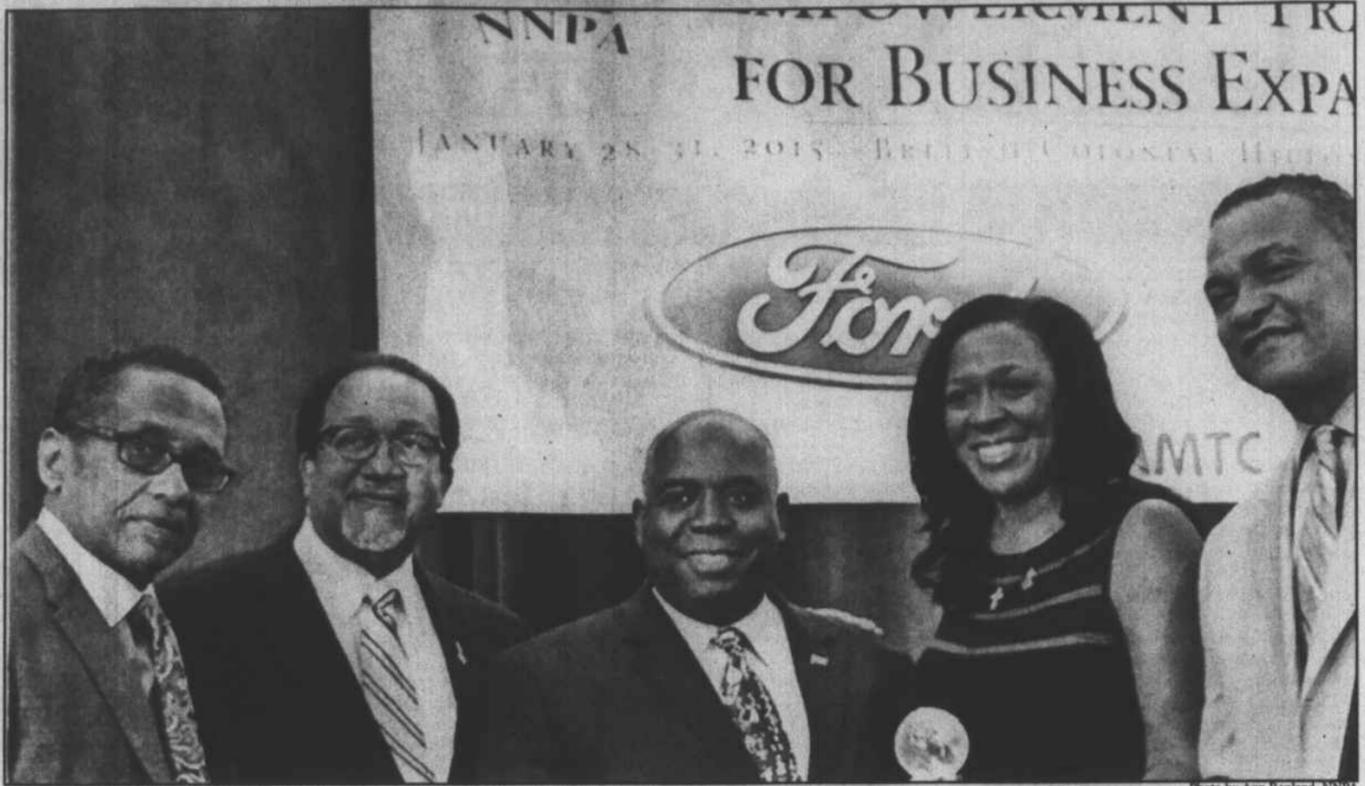
Philip E. Davis, deputy prime minister and minister of Works and Urban Development, commended the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) for 75 years of excellence.

"It goes without saying that your relevance, with time, is all the more important as the stories of struggle and sacrifice are passed on to each generation of Blacks," he said in a speech at the NNPA mid-winter convention here. "This is essential so that our youth and future generations understand and appreciate the price of what they enjoy today."

NNPA publishers were also greeted by Minister of Tourism Obediah H. Wilchcombe. A former journalist, Wilchcombe pledged to advertise in NNPA newspapers to help attract tourists, especially African-Americans, to the Bahamas.

In his speech, Davis said, "No one has the authority to tell your story like you can, so as to aptly illustrate in the words of an old African proverb: 'Until the lions have their own historians, tales of the hunt shall always glorify the hunters.' Davis urged publishers to continue providing robust coverage of their communities while embracing the technology favored by young people.

"As you move to celebrate Black History Month beginning early next



From left to right: NNPA Convention Co-Chair Terry Jones; NNPA President Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.; Bahamas Deputy Prime Minister Philip E. Davis; Convention Co-Chair Karen Carter Richards and NNPA Chairman Cloves C. Campbell

## "Today, history screams as loudly in Ferguson [Mo.] as it did in Mississippi during the 1960s,"

Benjamin F. Chavis

week, I encourage you to continue as responsible generational leaders, being the critical voice that gives the perspective that others are simply not equipped to give," he said. "I also entreat you to embrace the technology of youth. Arming yourselves in this way will allow you to exponentially contribute to

nurturing hearts and enlightening minds throughout the world."

Davis drew a direct link between the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s and recent unrest across the nation when unarmed African-Americans were killed by police officers who were never prosecuted.

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"Today, history screams as loudly in Ferguson [Mo.] as it did in Mississippi during the 1960s," he said. "We must, though, be careful that the ideologies which led to our bonded and disenfranchised forebears to unrest and uprising are not used to

rationalize the actions of those who resist the necessary casings of law and order.

"As journalists, your role as peacekeepers, therefore, can never be overstated. You must do all that you can to continue to be forthright and objective truth-tellers, calming the waters, while providing an accessi-

ble resource for young emerging leaders."

Like African-Americans, Davis said, the Bahamas has had its own struggles with racial tension. He said that history is "painfully punctuated with accounts of bloodshed and death, poverty and provocative policemen, incited cities and solemn cemeteries."

He explained, "much as that history derives from the abominable Jim Crow that survives today dressed in the fabled emperor's new clothes."

Chronicle Publisher Ernie Pitt presented a seminar on local advertising sales at the NNPA gathering.

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