

**CONTRIBUTION MADE BY SENATOR THE HONOUABLE RUEBEN RAHMING
DURING THE BAIL ACT AMENDMENT DEBATE
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2024**

MADAM PRESIDENT:

The Chair recognizes Senator The Honourable Rueben Rahming.

SENATOR THE HONOURABLE RUEBEN RAHMING

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I'm just looking at something from The Daily Mail that underscores something that is critical in our country which I have stated on many of times from this place under the next; that we all should be on one accord when it comes to the representation of our country and protecting our country's image.

If you would allow me in part, this dailymail.com I won't read the whole article to feed the garbage to the public has been indicating in their article, as said to me, that nearly 20 Americans have been killed in the Caribbean island, meaning Nassau, since January alone. That is a bunch of rubbish and that representation does violence to our country. I demand that they retract it in no small way; with the same bravado which they publish it, they need to retract it and do it repeatedly and right now I don't care if it's old because January ain't far. We don't need that and, quite frankly Madam President, I hold the same distain for it as when our then Leader of the Opposition erected billboards around the country along our touristic district and, at the same time, publicly promoting, with the power of governance as the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, to state that and to promote the violence that had happened in our country. I think, if I remember correctly, it was at the same time in which, out of the mouth of the then Deputy Leader of the

Opposition, that he himself stated, I don't know if he had repented of it I hope he would have, that that was a direct fault or a direct correlation with the with the government.

You know, we all need to know how to go so far. We all need to remember the cords that bind us. Even in our struggles in this place and in the other place, even our divisions aim is to bring up us closer together and to make us more productive. That is why democracy is so strong and hearing the voice of Opposition is so critical to ensure that we could properly represent all and sundry under our remit. But again we need to take these things very seriously and to know that the harm that we do and what we put out there don't come back so easily. It is in that spirit, Madam President me throughout my life and even throughout my life in the time in the Lower House and This House, speak with all gravity and diligence in my contribution. I speak what I know I speak what I believe and if in instances where I'm wrong my integrity compels me to self-correct.

These are really trying times our Bahamas and crime and the effects of crime we could look at the statistics and they will tell a story for themselves. That story could tell timeline, spikes, that story could tell who are the ones that have been perpetrating crime, that can tell the victim of crime the types of crime and having that information should never be hidden from the Bahamian people because that is critical for us to make the hard choices that we need to make to ensure that gravity is brought to bear on any grouping of crimes or any specific crime such as murder, such as rape.

We are debating this Bail Amendment Bill and I was hopeful that we would have stick to the content of it but instead we saw a lot of jeers and innuendos thrown around and I've always said in here there's a place called "there", I don't live there but if you go there I'll meet you there.

In this from the lead off presentation compelled me to totally abandon my even my own thoughts and to carefully listen to what is being presented to the Bahamian people. So this presentation Madam President will take the form of an exegesis... if you've been in church long enough, you would know that means. It means that you take out of the document what it is saying in you don't ... put into it something else. I thank the Attorney General for providing me with a copy of his presentation. I thank all of you for your contributions including Senator Barnett-Ellis for her academic contribution.

In the opening for the Attorney General, a number of things had been raised as the leading expert for this bail amendment that we are passing. From the get go, I find it strange that this document that not only can't have my support and notwithstanding that the Opposition has signalled that they will abstain, I outright will reject it. The thing about it is, in this trying time, we are fortunate enough to have as the Head of State, the Head of Government; a competent Kings Council with a reputation as one of our best criminal lawyers in the form of our Prime Minister. We happen to have, as Minister of National Security, another one of our top lawyers, Kings Council in the form of the Minister of National Security, the Honourable Wayne Munroe. Now in this matter, I don't necessarily fault the Attorney General because his speciality is not in criminal law.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER'S REMARK IS INAUDIBLE

SENATOR THE HONOURABLE RUEBEN RAHMNING

I was just thinking if I need to borrow my niece's pacifier to bring for Senator Pickstock.