

Response To Branville McCartney On Legalizing Gambling  
By Delroy Meadows  
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To the readers:

*I decided to resurface this article in response the statements made by the Independent MP for Bamboo Town and DNA leader Branville McCartney about his intentions to support the legalization of gambling in [The Bahamas](#) if his party were to win the next general elections.*

*I want to make it clear that my position has not changed on this matter and I doubt it ever will. In-fact since my commitment to run as an Independent in Fort Charlotte my resolve against this addictive and oppressive force against the poor has intensified. Being on the ground I am witnessing first hand of how this so-called "pastime" is destroying the lives of many Bahamians, their families and the community. I have estimated that four number houses withing one community block each harvest at least ten thousand dollars a day out of that area alone. That's over 1.2 million dollars per month out of an inner city community. Where is the money coming from in these hard times? The majority I've found comes from employed citizens (government and private). The rest comes from unemployed individuals who participate in or are the recipients of the proceeds of crimes.*

*Today it's not difficult at all the jump-start a number business. Because of the increased levels of poverty in our country persons are laying aside their good judgement for a quick fix. Swamped in desperation and rumors of attaining swift wealth, hard working citizens are now trying their hands at a chance of acquiring some relief to their hardship. Most are yet to find this. Whatever little is acquired by someone is simply the proceeds of what was lost by his neighbor. Nobody wins in this.*

*I am now seeing what use to be a tranquil, family driven community now being inflicted with house break-ins, robberies and other theft crimes. I am seeing an area where people once took pride in the upkeep of their homes and properties now many of those face dilapidation. The news of neglect of personal responsibilities to children, bills and self are an everyday story. The majority of persons that I have spoken with admitted that their gambling habit is the greatest factor to neglect in their personal lives. Because of the easy access and open facillitation of gambling withing communities many find it difficult to quit. Since I moved back into Fort Charlotte in January of this year, of the many who are in my presence daily I have convinced just one so far to stop even though I preach daily about the negative effects of gambling.*

*Leadership calls us to make the best decisions possible in the best interest of the people who follow us. This is not a popularity contest and those who are called to lead should have the vision to see beyond those who are led. It's cowardly to make wrong decisions because one believes that the masses will approve of it. Only weak people fear of losing support. Let us not cause ourselves to toss aside good judgement as leaders and continue to feed our people candy knowing full well that one day it will eventually make them sick. It would be hypocritical for any leader to say that they can solve the crime problem we have but yet support gambling.*

*I say to Branville McCartney as I said to his former leader that this is not solely a moral issue but one of common sense. In this case only the poor suffers. When men like Craig Flowers project themselves as wealthy and successful individuals just ask them how did they acquire it? Then one would see just how much of a lie they are living.*

*I have no love for people of intelligence who choose to gain their wealth of the backs of the weak and the poor. Oppressing your own for the love of money is the foundation of slavery and it's what keeps us in captivity today. I can assure you that their reward is coming.*

*- The bulk of this article was written back in 2008. I want you all to pay special attention to how conditions were back then versus how things are at present in The Bahamas.*

Pastime Paradise  
By  
Delroy Meadows

### The Test

It's without a doubt that our greatest tests comes when we are at our weakest point in life. During a time when our nation needs to carefully evaluate our future we are giving ear to the very things brought the world to where it stands now. Without a doubt it was Greed that created this global recession. Even now as the great nations of the world embrace protectionism as a vehicle to drive themselves out of this problem we seek to embrace gambling as our form of transport. In both cases only the poor will suffer.

### Religion and Politics

This is not an issue that calls for the injection of religious bodies or the clergy. Those who say that they carry the Spirit of Christ withing them should know better. Even a carnal man who's conscience isn't sensitive to the [Spirit of God](#) can clearly see the wrong in this. Because The Bible does not say it's wrong does not make it right. The no-mention of it should be viewed as a no-brainer. If your Boss had to write out every detail of an assignment in order for you to work properly then you don't deserve your position.

As much decisions as the Prime Minister have made without religious counsel makes one wonder why Mr. Ingraham would choose to even address the legalization of gambling with the Christian Council? I am not misguided to believe that this is solely a moral issue. Yet the very presence of the Counsel would lead many to believe it is and if they say yes then God is OK with it.

How much is there to gain from all of this? \$30 million is a tempting loaf of bread out here in the wilderness. Why don't we just eat and be filled?

I'm not a preacher, nor am I perfect but I understand fully that it's a greater wrong that if I myself seek to have another validate a sin that I have fallen victim to. Misery loves

company. There is a deception that if the world makes it right then we all will feel better about doing it. This is not so.

### Pastime Paradise

Today we are beginning to see the effects of crime on our country. It has become a wonder to many how things got this bad. There is no denying that everything comes into existence on the basis of cause and effect. Crime did not just happen. We have allowed many things to multiply and thrive thus the end result is what we are now witnessing —a nation that is in chaos. We are living in a Pastime Paradise where ignorance and complacency the order of the day. We pay attention to the issues and ignore the causes.

As we count the number of murders and as we look in awe at the level of brutality being carried out, one may ask: "Can it get any worst than this?" A good answer would be yes.

We have allowed ourselves to fall far into conditions that were previously foreign to us. Never in our history have we seen such crime numbers as those last year. It would be a shame for us to overlook this tragedy and say to ourselves that this is a new year and let's begin counting again. My question to this Government is this: What is one life worth? My questions to my people are these: What is your life worth? What does peace and security mean to you? Do you feel safe in your homes? Are your children safe? Are you willing to sacrifice your freedom and liberties to bring this nation back in order?

By no means will we survive if we are not willing to sacrifice our own desires for the sake of our nation.

There are many factors that contribute to crime. Drug and alcohol abuse are some of the greatest factors which have led to the destruction of our communities. This is no secret and many would agree to this fact that these two elements have and continue to destroy many lives (especially those of young people).

I believe however that our greatest threats are commonly unseen elements that secretly invade communities under the guise of entertainment. They promise wealth and prosperity but never mention the cost. They prey on the weak and the strong, the rich and the poor, the good and the bad. This growing threat to the stability of this nation boldly sits on every street corner, free and open to serve without any form of authoritative opposition.

Let's not be fooled - There are no winners in this so-called gaming industry.

There is a misconception that monies collected from gambling organizations can be used to improve communities, contribute to youth programs and sponsor various educational and charitable ventures. Again I say let's not be fooled. By no means will we ever benefit from gambling. The means will never justify the end. The true beneficiaries of this vicious cycle only seek to profit and preserve themselves at the expense of us all. We will all pay for this.

How can young people benefit from lottery sponsorship when studies show that children of [compulsive gamblers](#) are prone to suffer [abuse and neglect](#)? Studies have also shown that these same children are high risk for drug and alcohol addiction. In the United States alone it is said that 25-50 percent of spouses of chronic gamblers have been abused. It is no secret that domestic violence and child abuse are at an all time high in The Bahamas.

It would be hypocritical for us to believe that we will benefit in any way from gambling when

the cost is far greater than what can ever be given. The citizens of this country pay millions in taxes every year. A large majority of our tax dollar go towards ever increasing demands in departments such as Social Services, Health care and Education.

An interesting study on the economical effects of gambling was conducted by Professor John W. Kindt of the [University of Illinois](#). The results of the study showed that for every \$1 gained from gambling, taxpayers in tern paid a total of \$3 in social and economic cost. The awareness of the insanity in paying for our own social decay should be sufficient to remove ourselves from this plague.

There is much debate and reasoning as to what is and what is not gambling. I will not address them all but here is my plea to The Bahamian people. My view is not that of a religious one but of common sense and love for each other.

If a man is weak have compassion and do not contribute to his weakness.

Do not think because you are strong that others are in the same condition. Because one man is able to control himself doesn't mean that another has the same talent. What may be a game to you may be life and death to another. What may be your pocket change may be another's last.

When you play a number remember that you are contributing to a child going hungry. When you play a number think about the families that are being destroyed by [gambling addiction](#). It has been said over and over again that The Family is the most important institution in the world. If we lose the family we lose everything. Crime and everything else we face today begins at home. The laws we need are those that protect the family structure, not destroy it!

How much is it worth to you that you would sow these seeds into your life?

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