

Prime Minister urges growth of trade and business between Central Florida and Bahamas

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The opportunities for investment in the Bahamas are many, and the time for that investment is now, Prime Minister Perry G. Christie told a group of key Central Florida elected and business leaders at a recent GrayHarris Community Leader Forum.

“We want to take greater advantage of the relationships that exist and those that can be created – citizen to citizen, government to government and business to business.” – Perry G. Christie, Bahamian Prime Minister.

The prime minister and his 16-member cabinet were visiting Central Florida to encourage an exchange of ideas about how business relationships and trade between Florida and the island country can be enhanced.

"We are literally in the shadow of the United States," he said. "We want to take greater advantage of the relationships that exist and those that can be created - citizen to citizen, government to government and business to business."

"In a small country like ours, the impact of economic development is identifiable and measurable - you can feel it. Each of our islands provides multiple opportunities for investors. And our quality of life will be impacted by that investment," he added.

Christie expressed a commitment to nurture the budding relationship between the Central Florida business community and the Bahamas.

"I see more connection in the future. Ours is a constant challenge to present our country and the opportunities for businesses to invest there. Our 'twin pillar' industries - tourism and financial services - are dynamic and vibrant, and we expect them to continue to grow."

A Special Guest. Christie's visit was the result of an invitation extended by the firm and GrayHarris attorney Tony Giovanoli, a Bahamian citizen. In addition to the Community Leader Forum, Christie's itinerary included a tour of the Ginn Co.'s Reunion development in Osceola County and a meeting with Commissioner of Agriculture Charles Bronson.

Christie said he was filled with "expectation and hope" at the prospect of how economic development and investment in his country will benefit its citizens.

"We have the opportunity to demonstrate to the world that a small country can set standards that the rest of the region and the world can follow - black and white, rich and poor living and working together to create a quality of life that is second to none," he said.