

Commission of Inquiry

AFFIDAVIT OF VERNON BURGESS

I, **Vernon Burgess**, of 13 Winton Hill Lane, Hamilton Parish, in the Islands of Bermuda do hereby solemnly and sincerely swear as follows:

1. Insofar as the matters deposed to herein are within my personal knowledge, they are true and insofar as they are not within my personal knowledge, they are true to the best of my knowledge information and belief.
2. I swear this affidavit in response to the subpoena issued by the Commission of Inquiry.
3. I have worked in construction for over a very long time and have run Concorde Construction for over 30 years. (Concorde is not a limited company.) I don't work anymore for health reasons and will be shutting down Concorde because Government has not renewed work permits for my workers.
4. Concorde built the laboratory in Southside. We had built large projects before this. We have built dozens of massive houses, many much larger than the laboratory. We have a reputation for providing really good work. We have also subcontracted on commercial projects, such as on the new hospital, but had not done any large commercial projects as main contractor.
5. I have often noticed and complained that Government contracts are awarded to the same companies, the big companies, even when they are small projects which could go to the

smaller companies like Concorde. In relation to the laboratory project at Southside, I recall talking to a Government architect and he was the one who told me about the laboratory project. I told him that I was looking for work and he showed me the drawings for the projects which the Government was looking to tender. The simplest one was the laboratory so I decided to tender for that contract. Since it was a large contract, I used a quantity surveyor to price it. I would do this myself for contracts under \$750,000 but for projects over this amount I would normally use a quantity surveyor to help.

6. I don't recall whether my tender was in relation to the Paget location or Southside. I believe it was for the Southside location. I went a few times to the site in Southside before I was awarded the contract to understand the project and to price my tender.
7. I had no discussions or communications with the Minister of Work & Engineering or the Permanent Secretary in relation to the tender or the contract. They were present at one of the site visits but I did not speak to them about the contract. I only discussed the project with the technical officers.
8. I remember a discussion with a representative of BLDC, who was also on the site visit since BLDC owned the property. I don't recall his name but he was often on the site. The BLDC representative told me that air conditioning did not need to be including in the price as BLDC would be responsible for it.
9. I have been asked about my relationship with the Minister, Minister Burgess. The Minister was and is my MP but that is all. He is no family relation. I know him as I know most people in Hamilton parish. He has been to my house and I consider him a friend but he is not a close friend.
10. I have been asked whether I have ever made any political contributions. I never have.
11. In terms of bank statements, I don't have any in my possession as I don't have my old computer anymore. If the Commission wants to get my old statements from the Bank, I

would have no difficulty with that. The Commission can help itself to statements or anything else.

12. The Southside project went over budget because of mistakes by the architects, which led to increased electrical work. I recall having to pay the electrical subcontractors a great deal. All the overruns were due to the subcontractors. I was spot on in respect of my work.

SWORN by the above named)
Vernon Burgess)
In the City of Hamilton)
In the Islands of Bermuda)
on this *9th* day of September 2016)



BEFORE ME



COMMISSIONER FOR OATHS/NOTARY PUBLIC

Orlando A Smith
Commissioner for Oaths