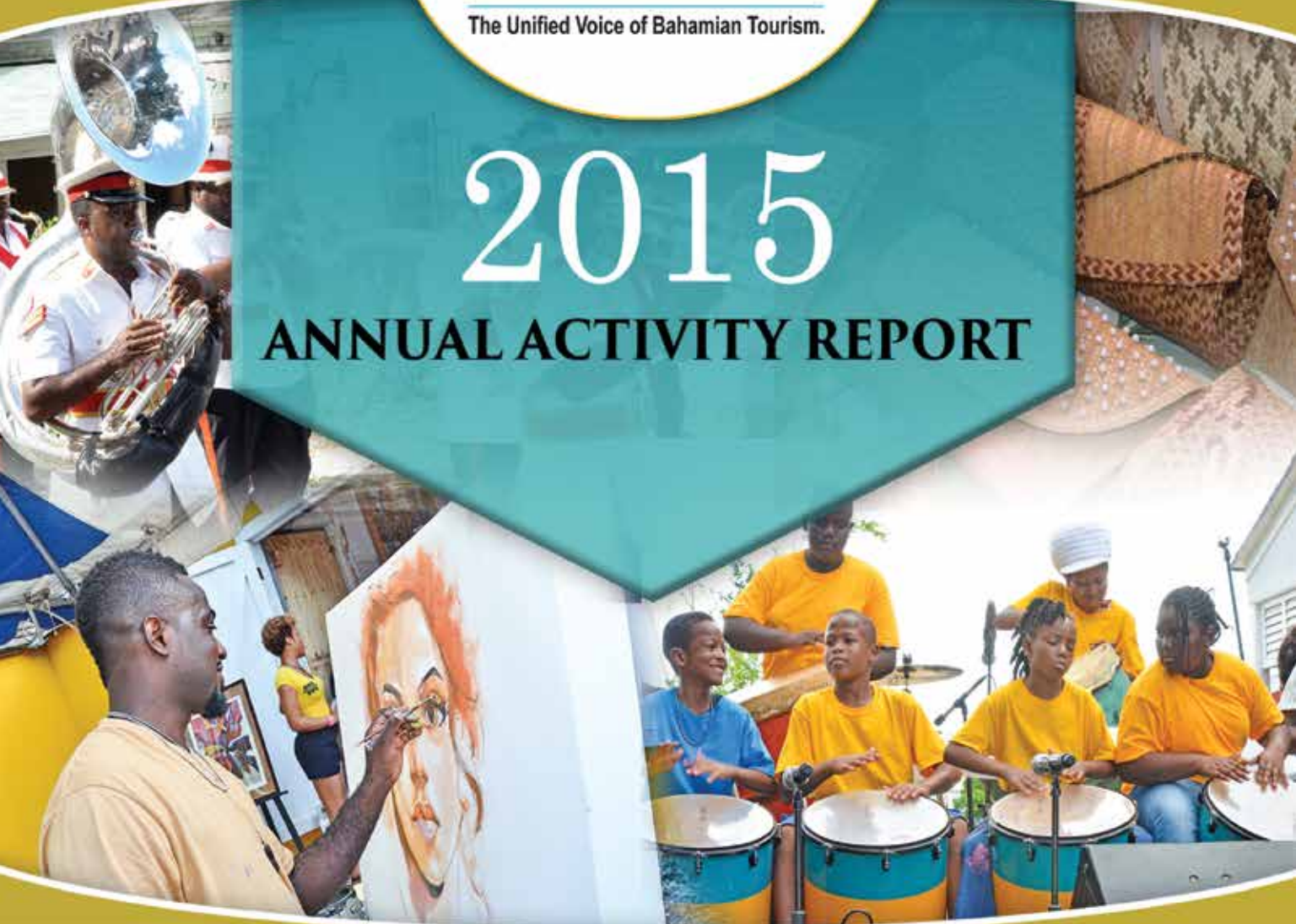




**BAHAMAS**  
**HOTEL & TOURISM ASSOCIATION**  
The Unified Voice of Bahamian Tourism.

# 2015

## ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT



Facilitating the Profitability, Quality and Sustainability  
of Tourism for The Bahamas



# President Message

## STUART BOWE



### **“Change is inevitable, progress is optional”**

*Tony Robbins*

2015 was the kind of year that constantly forced all of us out of our comfort zone and into what seemed like uncertain and uncharted territory, an environment of unprecedented change. While we began the year with expectations of growth and expansion, the possibilities of increased and varied opportunities, there was also the atmosphere of indeterminate apprehension looming over the economy and by extension the tourism industry. We were all tested to transform challenges into opportunities with emphasis on modifying the present to alter and reshape the future. Transformational leadership and adaptability was and still is a requirement.

Through focused advocacy, preparation, planning and support for the implementation of VAT BHTA assisted our members and partners to withstand the impact and come through this first year successfully. VAT has certainly transformed how we do business and as we continue to observe what the long term effects will be, we must remain diligent, focused and steady on our path. Affordable health care should be a priority in a progressive society. A healthier population equals a more productive workforce. However, in an environment of already sluggish economic recovery, and the introduction of National Health Insurance plan, is yet another challenge that must be viewed as an opportunity to take bold, innovative and revolutionary initiatives to negate the impact on operating costs. BHTA continues to engage the Government and the private sector in discussions to obtain a full understanding on the plan and the expected timelines and outcomes. At the same time we must pay attention to the developments in the energy sector. The high cost of energy continues to be a priority for our industry and country. BHTA, through initiatives like the CHENACT project and direct engagement with the government, continues to advocate for expeditious and decisive resolution of this significant obstacle. To date the CHENACT project is yielding positive results. We await the new business plan for the way forward in the energy sector. Striking a balance between controlling rising operating costs and sustainable energy initiatives is mission-critical to remaining competitive as a destination.

The devastation left in the wake of Hurricane Joaquin was immeasurable. The aftermath demonstrated the indomitable human spirits of compassion and empathy. BHTA members, along with local and international industry partners rolled up our

sleeves and got to work getting supplies to the affected area and into the hands of persons in need. Our members that have been affected have begun to rebuild and repair. The road to recovery is a long one, our collective and continued support is required. Thank you to all who participated in our relief effort.

As we look forward to the tangible resolution to the events surrounding the Baha Mar development in the shortest period of time possible, the industry is continuing improvements through product upgrades with other developments such as Warwick, Holiday Inn and Le Point, all of which are expected to come online in the near future. The Cuba dynamic emphasizes the importance of taking the lead in heightening excellent customer service and enhancing and augmenting unique authentic experiences with focus on culture. A proud industry watched as the Bahamas' Taste Team stepped up to the plate and demonstrated the exceptional and distinctive culinary flavours and skill that exist here as they decisively won the Taste of The Caribbean competition earlier this summer. Through a phenomenal alliance with traditional partners and the engagement of new partners, the BHTA created and executed the first annual TRU TRU BAHAMIAN FESTIVAL, heralded by Minister of Tourism, Obediah Wilchombe, as a perfect combination and example of public and private sector collaboration. The event was staged in the picturesque City of Charles Towne on the historic 1789 Buena Vista Estate, home of John Watling's Distillery. We successfully merged the experience of down home interaction embracing the warmth of our culture, the kaleidoscope of flavor and flare of our cuisine, the history of our heritage and the uniqueness of our traditions through music, song and dance, crafts and visual arts. Stay tuned to the growth and expansion of the TRU TRU MOVEMENT.

The Bahamas', in particular the tourism industry, overarching objectives must be continued growth, and unmatched customer service. 2016 will bring many new and unanticipated changes, we must choose to make progress mandatory.



# BHTA 2015 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



**STUART BOWE**  
Sr. Vice President  
Atlantis Paradise Island



**ROBERT 'SANDY' SANDS**  
Sr. Vice President, Government &  
External  
Affairs, Baha Mar Ltd.



**CARLTON RUSSELL**  
Vice President of Operations  
Atlantis Paradise Island



**EARLE R. BETHELL**  
General Manager  
Hope Town Harbour Lodge



**SUZANNE PATTUSCH**  
Executive Vice President  
Corporate Secretary



**RIU DOMINGUES**  
Vice President Nassau-Paradise Island  
General Manager  
British Colonial Hilton



**MAGNUS ALNEBECK**  
Vice President – Grand Bahama  
General Manager  
Pelican Bay @ Lucaya



**DEAN SPYCHALLA**  
Vice President – Out Islands  
Managing Director  
Valentine's Residences Resort & Marina



**VERNICE WALKINE**  
Vice President - Allied Members  
President & CEO  
Nassau Airport Development Co.



**NINA MAYNARD**  
Chairperson – Small Hotels  
Owner/Operator  
The Corner Hotel



**BEVERLY SAUNDERS**  
Chairperson – Workforce Development  
President & Managing Director  
The Learning Connection

# ADVOCACY AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

## 2014 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & LUNCHEON



# ADVOCACY AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS



# ADVOCACY AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

## TOURISM SECTION HURRICANE RESPONSE RECOVERY EFFORT



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Tourism holds Cacique Awards in Golden Celebration**

NASSAU, The Bahamas – The best in service, arts and entertainment was showcased during the 16th Cacique Awards ceremony held at the Meliá Nassau Resort on Saturday, January 24, 2015.

The script read like a who's who in Tourism as noted local and international stakeholders were honoured for their outstanding contribution to the country's premier industry.

In his written message, the Minister of Tourism the Hon. Obie Wilchcome said, "On this occasion of the 16th Cacique Awards, we celebrate our commitment to excellence and recognize those who have successfully delivered the highest standards in quality and innovation in the tourism industry."

The awards ceremony capped off the Ministry of Tourism's 50th anniversary celebrations under the theme: "Tourism – 50 Golden Years, The Best is Yet To Come".

Sales Executive of the Year: Shantilya Sands, Director of Sales at Comfort Suites Paradise Island.

Handicraft: Ellamae Brennen of The Berry Islands.

Transportation: Albury's Ferry Service, Abaco.

Local Airlines and Tour Operators: Cherokee Aviation.

Chef of the Year: Chef Rosemary Sinclair Hepburn, Atlantis Paradise Island.

Creative Arts: Jessica Colebrooke, The Berry Islands.

Supervisor of the Year: Sharaca Frazier- McDonald, British Colonial Hilton.

Sustainable Tourism: Bimini Sands Activities Centre.

Employee of the Year: Lavardo Knowles, British Colonial Hilton.

Manager of the Year: Glenroy Pratt of Atlantis Paradise Island.

Human Resources Development: Sonia Cox-Hamilton.

Winner of Cecil Rose Sports and Leisure: Ebenezer "Bonefish Ebbie" David of Bimini.

Special Events: The National Family Island Regatta Planning Committee.

Minister's Award for Hospitality: The Late Dr. Myles Munroe.

Hotelier of the Year: Gordon 'Butch' Stewart of Sandals Resorts.

Clement T. Maynard's Lifetime Achievement Award: Nathaniel "Piccolo Pete" Saunders of Bimini.

People's Choice Award Gospel: Nehemiah Hield.

People's Choice Award Secular: Dillon 'D-Mac' McKenzie.



# CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE

## 16TH ANNUAL WINNERS FOR THE CACIQUE AWARDS



# CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE

## NATIONAL CULINARY TEAM 2011



# CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE

CALADINE



National Culinary Team Captures Gold & The Coveted Title of Caribbean National Team of the Year at Taste of the Caribbean 2015

**WINNER – CARIBBEAN NATIONAL TEAM OF THE YEAR**  
Bahamas

**GOLD MEDALS**  
Bahamas – National Culinary Team  
Chef of the Year

**SILVER MEDAL**  
Bahamas – Richmond Fowler II  
**WINNER – Bartender of the Year**  
Bahamas - Marv Cunningham

**GOLD MEDAL**  
Bahamas – Marv Cunningham

## HALL OF FAME

Bartender – Bahamas Marv Cunningham Pastry – Bahamas Chef Tracey Sweeting While the landslide medal and title wins speaks to the amazing talent of the Bahamian Team, it is the voices of the esteemed Chef Judges at The Taste of the Caribbean competition that may have encapsulated their culinary prowess best, as they said of the Team's competition lunch:

"This is one of the best representations that we have ever seen, or tasted, in the history of the Taste of the Caribbean".

The Teams participation at the Taste of the Caribbean was made possible through the support of the Bahamas Hotel and Tourism Association and its partners; The Ministry of Tourism and our corporate sponsors; Cable Bahamas (Rev On), RBC Royal Bank - Key Platinum Sponsors of the team; and Bahamian Brewery (Sands Beer), John Watlings, Atlantis, One and Only Ocean Club, Albany Private Club, Lyford Cay Club, Bahamas Food Services (BFS), Bahamasair, Betty K Shipping, Savory Arts, Le Sprouts Private Catering and College of the Bahamas.

**WINNER - Pastry Chef of the Year**  
Bahamas - Sheldon Tracey Sweeting

**GOLD MEDAL**  
Bahamas – Sheldon Tracey Sweeting  
Junior Chef of the Year **GOLD MEDAL**  
Bahamas – Crystal Morley

**BEEF/SEAFOOD COMPETITION BRONZE MEDAL**  
Bahamas – Charon McKenzie

**CHEESECAKE COMPETITION SILVER MEDAL**  
Bahamas – Sheldon Tracey Sweeting **BEST RUM DRINK**  
Bahamas – Marv Cunningham

# CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE

## GALA DINE



# WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT

JUNIOR HOTELIER PROGRAM 2015 NEW PROVIDENCE



## GRAND BAHAMA JUNIOR HOTELIER PROGRAM JANUARY - MARCH 2015



# WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT

BOOT CAMP - JANUARY 29TH - 30TH, 2015



# WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT

17TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT OCTOBER 4TH, 2015



TRU TRU BAHAMIAN MOVEMENT 2015 & BEYOND





# EVENTS



# EVENTS

## 2015 TRU TRU FEST



# COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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## **Vice President – Grand Bahama**

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## **Vice President - Allied Members**

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## **Chairperson – Workforce Development**

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President & Managing Director  
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### **DIRECTORS, NASSAU-PARADISE ISLAND:**

George Markantonis	Atlantis Paradise Island
Hiltrud Augustin	Bay View Best Western Plus
J. Patrick Drake	Sandals Royal Bahamian
Judith Thompson	Atlantis Paradise Island
Paul J. Burke	Atlantis Paradise Island
Stephen Sawyer	Atlantis Paradise Island
Everet Maks	Paradise Harbour Club & Marina
Lorenzo TC Symonette	Paradise Island Harbour Resort
Sue Pohlhammer	Sunrise Beach Club & Villas
Terry Adderley	Atlantis Paradise Island
William F. Naughton	Comfort Suites
Earle R. Bethell	Comfort Suites
Enrico Garzaroli	Graycliff
John Conway	One and Only Ocean Club
Cristian Sariego	The Cove and The Reef, Atlantis
Anthony Knowles	Paradise Island Beach Club
Andrew Tilley	Melia Resort
Karen B. Carey	Atlantis Paradise Island
Ed Fields	Atlantis Paradise Island
Jeremy MacVean	Bay View Best Western Plus

### **MIDDLE MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR FOR NASSAU –PARADISE ISLAND:**

Jamal Glover	Comfort Suites PI
Karen Cargill	Atlantis Paradise Island
Jermaine Wright	British Colonial Hilton

### **DIRECTORS FOR GRAND BAHAMA ISLAND:**

Russell Miller	Modalena Company Ltd.
Claudio Natella	Viva Wyndham Fortuna Beach
Kor Dormans	Ocean Reef Resort
Benjamin Davis	Grand Lucayan
Gabriel Varela	Memories
Jacqueline Carroll	Old Bahama Bay

### **MIDDLE MANAGEMENT DIRECTORS FOR GRAND BAHAMA ISLAND:**

Debi Gomez	Grand Lucayan
Della Bridgewater	Pelican Bay

### **LIFETIME DIRECTORS:**

George Myers	Nettica R. Symonette
J. Barrie Farrington	William Saunders

### **DIRECTORS FOR OUT ISLANDS:**

Jeff Birch	Small Hope Bay
Molly McIntosh	Green Turtle Cay
Tony Armbrister	Fernandez Bay Villas
Emmanuel Alexiou	Abaco Beach Resort
Paul Soutter	Unique Vacations
Aubynette Rolle	Sammy T's Beach Resort
Shavonne Darville	Gems of Paradise
David Black	Resort World Bimini
Leslie Kennedy	Pigeon Cay Beach Club
Dafna Ronis	Bimini Big Game
Pamela Brochier	Coral Sands
Robert Meister	Treasure Cay Hotel Resort
Jill Smith	Stella Maris
Cheryl Bastian	Swains Cay Lodge
Christopher Pollock	Pink Sands Resort
Eugene Martin	The Abaco Club RC Ltd.

### **MIDDLE MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR FOR OUT ISLANDS:**

Tyrone Anderson    Valentine's Resort

### **DIRECTORS FOR CASINO OPERATORS:**

### **DIRECTOR FOR HOTEL SUPPLIERS, BAHAMAS:**

Charles Kemp    Clear Solutions

### **DIRECTOR FOR HOTEL SUPPLIERS ABROAD:**

Stan Smith    Smith, Orloff and Associates

### **DIRECTOR FOR AIRLINES:**

Alan Sweeting    Jet Blue

### **DIRECTOR FOR ADVERTISING, PUBLIC RELATIONS, PRINTERS & PUBLISHERS – BAHAMAS:**

Serena Williams    Serena Williams Media & Public Relations

### **DIRECTOR FOR ADVERTISING, PUBLIC RELATIONS, PRINTERS & PUBLISHERS - ABROAD:**

Fred Lounsberry    NPIPB

### **DIRECTOR FOR GROUND TOUR OPERATORS, TOURIST ATTRACTIONS, & TRAVEL CONSULTANTS:**

Michael Symonette Bahamas Experience  
AJ Saunders    Majestic Tours

3 Connect Bahamas Ltd.  
 A.L. Cleaning Company  
 Abaco Community Tourism Foundation  
 Airtran Airways / Southwest Airlines  
 American Eagle/Airlines  
 American Express  
 American Hotel Register  
 American Tex-Chem Corporation  
 Aquamarine Water Sport Activities Company  
 Arawak Imports Ltd.  
 Arawak Port Development Limited (ADPL)  
 Ardastra Gardens  
 Avis Rent-A-Car  
 Azure Contempo Events  
 Bahama Divers Co. Ltd.  
 Bahama Fantasies Limited  
 Bahama Islands Resorts & Casinos Co-operative Credit Union  
 BahamaGo  
 Bahamas A Sus Ordenes  
 Bahamas Elevator Systems Ltd.  
 Bahamas Experience  
 Bahamas Food Adventures  
 Bahamas Food Services  
 Bahamas Hotel Employers Association  
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 Bahamas Speed Week Revival 2011 Ltd.  
 Bahamas Tours En Espanol  
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 Bahamasair  
 Bahamia Rental  
 Bahamian Brewery & Beverage Co.  
 Bank of the Bahamas International  
 Basden Elevators  
 Bedford Baker  
 Benelda.com  
 Best Island Travel  
 Blue Illusions Limited  
 Bahamas Out Island Promotion Board  
 Brady Linen Ltd.  
 British Airways PLC  
 Burns House - Commonwealth Brewery  
 Business Personnel Services Limited (BPSL)  
 Cable Beach Manor  
 Cable Beach Resort Association  
 Cacique International  
 Cambridge Group of Companies Limited  
 Caribbean Bottling Co.  
 Carter Marketing  
 Clear Solution Plus  
 Cole Ins. Agents & Brokers Limited  
 Commonwealth Building Supply  
 Creative Wealth Bahamas  
 D'Albenas Agency Ltd.  
 Dan Knowles Tour  
 Deloitte & Touche  
 DMC Bahamas Ltd.  
 Dolphin Encounters  
 Downtown Nassau Partnership Limited  
 Dupuch Publications  
 Elektra Technologies  
 FedEx  
 Fidelity Bank (Bahamas) Limited  
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 G E Water & Process Tech. Capabilities  
 Grand Bahama Island Tourism Board  
 Ginton Sweeting  
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 Great Events and Programs Bahamas Ltd.  
 Gunita Pools  
 H. Forbes Charter Co. Ltd.  
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 Hospitality Marketing & Management  
 Hotel Restaurant Supply  
 Immerse Bahamas Co. Ltd.  
 Island Destination Services Ltd.  
 Island Sun Tours Ltd.  
 Island Wholesale Ltd.  
 J.S. Johnson & Co. Ltd.  
 Jet Blue  
 John Watling's Distillery  
 Kaplan University  
 KPMG  
 Leisure Travel & Tours  
 Luciano's of Chicago Restaurant Ltd.  
 Majestic Tours  
 Mandara Spa  
 Mike's Chinese Custom Tailoring  
 Milo B. Butler  
 Ministry of Tourism  
 Montagu Gardens  
 Nassau Airport Development Company  
 Nassau Paradise Island Promotion Board  
 Nassau Tourism Development Board  
 National Art Gallery of The Bahamas  
 New York Times  
 Old Fort Bay  
 OMG Bahamas Ltd.  
 Palm Cay  
 Paradise Island Tourism Development Association  
 Poop Deck  
 Prestige Foods & Specialties Ltd.  
 PricewaterhouseCoopers  
 Providence Technology  
 Pure Salt Design  
 Purity Bakery  
 Q-Tech Communications  
 Quencom  
 RCI, LLC  
 Red Carpet Inn  
 Ridge Enterprises Ltd.  
 Royal Bank of Canada/RBC FINCO  
 Sandypoint Development Company Limited  
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 Senor Frogs (Bahamas) Ltd.  
 Serena Williams Media & Public Relations  
 SIDDA Communications  
 Sigmatex Lanier Textiles  
 Sky Bahamas Airlines Limited  
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