In April this year, Prime Minister Hubert Minnis estimated that the Bahamian economy was going to be hit by a ‘malignant’ year to corruption.

There was no data to back up this assertion but the fact that corruption continues to be an ongoing threat to the Bahamian economy and society, primarily because so few wrongdoers are ever prosecuted elsewhere in the world. 

And in America, however you may feel about the decades old Israeli-Palestinian conflict, one thing you can say about Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s office, has been accused of using public funds to run up a food bill for meals ordered from private chefs and catering companies, even through a full-time chef is already employed at the Prime Minister’s residence.

The Netanyahu’s đầy high. Although Mr N is not named in the court, a trial of Mr N is at a time when he’s considering an early election isn’t likely to help his cause, especially lady’s behaviour has been an ongoing obsession since his appointment as Prime Minister (1996 to 1999).

Former employees have described her as another Marie Antoinette, throwing extravagant tea parties while having an unhealthy obsession with cleanliness.

Three years ago, a former chef caretaker at the PM’s residence successfully sued the couple for abusive treatment and won $43,735 in damages. The order stemming from allegations of abuse filled by a former cleaner is slated to begin later this month.

Hoping to avoid a public trial, Mr N’s Attorney General offered Mr N a plea deal if she agreed to repay all the money in question and admit wrongdoing. She reportedly rejected the offer, which prompted two of her lawyers to quit and has now led to a full-scale trial.

According to the indictment filed by the Israeli police, Mr N and her husband failed to declare documents so that food from outside companies and private chefs could be used. Investigators also found evidence that she had asked other employees to hide the fact that she had used outside chefs, and was aware that ordering meals from outside was a violation of the rules.

However, it’s not only Mrs N who has run afoul of the law. So it began this year that the police in February recommended that he too be indicted in two separate corruption cases.

In the first case, it is suspected he was involved in issuing food bills for gifts worth $200,000. In the second instance, it is alleged he accepted a deal with a newspaper publisher in exchange for favourable coverage.

Ironically, Sir Randol Pifer, author of the recently published ‘The Real Life and Times of Benjamin Netanyahu’, says that “the political atmosphere is charging and although this may be embarrassing, it could in fact bolster the Prime Minister among his right wing supporters, who say this trial is persecution by the legal system, the police and the left whichever they may be.”

SOUTH KOREA: Another country that has no slouch at hawking its political leader against the current. In 2018, the South Korean leader Park Geun-hye was convicted this year of charges of corruption and the South Korean president was arrested for corruption since the 1990s.

Former president Park Geun-hye, South Korea’s first female president, was later impeached and ousted on charges of corruption and abuse of power involving the solicitation of bribes from South Korean conglomerates, including the billionnaire heir to the Samsung Group. She was sentenced to 24 years in prison in July.

In 1996, Hutchison bought three Freeport hotels—the Lucaya Beach, Grand Bahama Beach and Atlantis Beach—with a view to keeping and remodelling the former and demolishing the latter to replace it with an entirely new fund project.

However, it was not until Dec. 1998 that Hutchison announced it had raised a $280 million loan from three Freeport banks to proceed with its plans. Hutchison conceded however that getting the loan wasn’t easy given the current state of world credit markets.

It should be noted that Freeport was in a slump at the time. But looking to put a positive spin on the situation, PM Tourism Minister C.A. Smith announced that Hutchison’s acquisition of the loan was significant because “it silences the doomsayers and those who continue to insist that because of the closure of these hotels, the bottom is falling out of the Grand Bahama economy.”

In the end and another FNMM government has been trying to convince us of just the opposite—that because two of the Grand Lucayan’s three hotels were closed, the bottom had indeed fallen out of Grand Lucayan’s property, which is why it had to buy the hotel from Hutchison to save Freeport.