



News Release

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Ministry of Education

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Educators told “one size fits all” education must end



Minister of Education speaking at the opening of the recent National Education Summit

Minister of Education, The Honourable Carl W. Bethel told delegates on opening day of the National Education Summit that the days of an unscientific ideology –driven by a “one size fits all” approach to high school education must end now. He further stated that a child’s high school education should not be randomly decided by the primary school he or she attended – such that students are streamed like automatons from one school to another purely as an accident of geography; but rather, should reflect and cater to the child’s educational inclination and individual learning needs.

Minister Bethel also told the educational stakeholders that there should be a strategic goal setting that aims for a child to be reading up to a particular grade level by the end of primary school and is equipped with sound moral and ethical appreciation, love for our Nation and knowledge of civic and political institutions.

At the Junior High Level, he expressed that stakeholders must seek to improve upon the “C-” average attained in last year’s BJC Examination and at the Senior High level, he noted there remains a critical need for structural reform.

“Far too many children do not attain a 2.0 GPA under the present system. Schools are unable to specialize in their institutional strategies and approaches; unable to focus on radically new methods of instruction for those students who are inclined towards vocational aspects of learning and who will seek to immediately transition into a world of work,” Minister Bethel added.

Minister Bethel also reminded the educational stakeholders that the quality of life which we enjoy in our Commonwealth of The Bahamas is largely dependent on the functionality and viability of the education system, and that Bahamian students needed the tools to function efficiently and effectively in a society that is rapidly changing.

“It is equally important that our education system function holistically and effectively within the context of an overarching Development Plan, which should inform every decision that all educational leaders take in the day-to day performance of their functions,” the Minister declared.

The education minister affirmed that through the Summit stakeholders would gain insight in the role that they all played in the improvement of the educational system. He further stated that the Summit had the potential to improve the literacy and numeracy skills of students and equip them for enhancing opportunities, productivity and improving their lifestyles and that of the nation.

The National Education Summit held 6th -7th July, 2009 under the theme, “Ensuring Equality of Access to Excellence in Education from Abaco to Inagua.” Two its main objectives were to examine and refine the Ten Year Education Plan, and to secondly launch the National Education Summit and Conference Programme including the establishment of three Education Advisory Committees namely; the Pre-School Primary, Secondary and Post-Secondary/ Tertiary Advisory Committees.

Delegates to the two-day Summit included Principals from both Public and Independent Schools in New Providence, Grand Bahama and the Family Islands, Senior Education Officers from the Ministry of Education, College of The Bahamas executives and lectures, and members of The Bahamas Christian Council.

