



Remarks by

**The Minister of Education
The Honourable T. Desmond Bannister, M.P.**

At

**The Ninth National Teacher of the Year
2010- 2012 Courtesy Call**

At

**The Learning Resources Unit
Mackey Street**

Thursday, 22nd April, 2010

10:00 am

Salutations:

Mrs. Elma Garraway, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education;

Mr. Lionel K. Sands, Director of Education;

Mrs. Leanora Archer, Deputy Director of Education – Curriculum;

Mrs. Patricia Collins, Deputy Director of Education, Management;

Senior Officials of the Ministry of Education;

Members of the National Teacher of the Year Committee;

National Teacher of the Year Honourees;

Other distinguished guests.

Good evening.

It is my pleasure to welcome you on this courtesy call and to congratulate all of you on your achievement as 'Teacher of the Year 2010-2012' for your respective schools. I also wish to commend those who have earned the distinction of being District Finalists and will vie for the Ninth National Teacher of The Year Awards. I am delighted that this occasion, brings so many of our educators together from across The Bahamas in a spirit of camaraderie and excellence.

This awards programme is designed to put the teaching profession in the spotlight where every citizen of The Bahamas can see that we have quality teachers in our schools that are carrying out the national mission of transforming lives so that our students can actualize their potential.

It is always refreshing when I visit the various schools both in New Providence, Grand Bahama and the Family Islands to see the large billboards featuring the faces of the school's '**Teacher of Year**'. This is truly a symbol of welcome and it also demonstrates the pride that schools have in their winners. Please continue this trend as it uplifts the entire school and community.

The Ministry of Education knows the tremendous contribution you make to the delivery of education in The Bahamas. It will be our goal going forward to do more to highlight your success through the successes of your students and that of our educational system. The reality is that teachers are behind and in front of our students bringing out their talents.

We all know that the teaching profession is becoming more technology-driven so I implore you to take this into consideration and enhance your teaching by using of technology. We are pleased that so many teachers avail themselves of professional development opportunities to enhance their skills throughout their career. This should be the norm rather than the exception, because today's knowledge may not serve the needs of our students and our country in this rapidly changing world.

Finally, Ladies and gentlemen, I trust that you will enjoy the reminder of the activities staged in your honour during this time. I hope that you will continue to regard teaching as the profession of choice and the best way that we can ensure the future development of The Bahamas. Your rewards are the smiles and the success that our students realize at every level and knowing that you played a part in their discovery of their gifts.

Thank you.

