



**Remarks by**

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

**At  
Ninth National Teacher of the Year Gala  
Awards 2010 – 2012**

**At  
Rainforest Theatre  
Wyndham Nassau Resort, Cable Beach**

**Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2010**

**7: 30 pm**

**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;**

**Mrs. Belinda Wilson, President of The Bahamas Union of Teachers;**

**Mr. Vann Gaitor, Partner, Higgs & Johnson;**

**Members of the National Teacher of the Year Committee;**

**National Teacher of the Year Honourees;**

**Other distinguished guests.**

**Good evening.**

**In just a few short moments, a new National Teacher of the Year will be announced. While, we eagerly anticipate this let us pause to reflect on who these eleven honourees are and how they exemplify what the best of the teaching profession in The Bahamas.**

**Among our finalists for this prestigious title are:**

- A teacher who is a two- time consecutive national high school debate championship coach;**
- A teacher who is a linguist who was inspired to follow in the foot-steps of another teacher while a student at the S. C. McPherson Junior High School;**
- A teacher who is also a linguist, who discovered that her true passion was teaching while she was pursuing a course of study in French;**
- A teacher who loves poetry, and worked full-time at several jobs while attending College full-time to earn a degree in English Language and Literature;**

- **A teacher who devises academic and behavioural intervention plans for students with disabilities;**
- **A teacher who is proficient in Music and Art and whose philosophy of teaching is that we [teachers] are securing are own futures;**
- **A teacher who proclaimed that she wanted to be a teacher from the tender age of three and believes that there is no room for discrimination in the profession;**
- **A teacher whose students' achievements and smiles outweigh any monetary compensation;**
- **A teacher who demonstrates that a person's origin does not dictate his or her end; and who has been recognized for his commitment to educate the community- at-large and not just the school where it sits;**
- **A teacher whose desire to see her students excel has compelled her to always search for new and innovative teaching strategies.**

- **Finally, a teacher who believes that technology is a key attribute in today's profession and a means to meeting students at their level**

**I also find it compelling, at a glance, that all of the teachers speak in their biographies of a 'Divine Power' that has brought them to this profession, which sustains them and is the reason they have achieved success. Additionally, I have noticed that the honourees' passion for teaching lies at the doorsteps of other teachers and thirdly that they were also outstanding students from primary school to college.**

**The presence of these finalists and the other winners here this evening can be summarized in one statement: “Excellent teachers produce excellent students”. If this is the reality, then it is imperative that we seek only excellence to reap excellence.**

**Another reality is that excellence, like the sun will always shine through on cloudy days – excellent teachers will also be there to assist students in “transforming, their lives and actualizing their potential”.**

**Finally, I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate Ms. Marcia Musgrove, our outgoing National Teacher of the Year, who raised the bar on what the holder of this title should represent. During, her tenure Ms. Musgrove was articulate, professional and engaging and demonstrated that teachers are agents of possibility; teachers are agents of change and that teachers are the roots that holds all other professions in the ground.**

**Ladies and gentlemen, as Minister of Education I am extremely proud of all of our teachers who go beyond the call of duty to educate our students. We, in the Ministry of Education know that in most cases you do so at a tremendous personal and family sacrifice and for this we appreciate you.**

**You are all winners, because you make a difference in education. May we continue to benefit from your untiring and wavering efforts to education in the Commonwealth of this Great Bahamas.**

**Good evening.**