



**BRIEF REMARKS**

*by*

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**MINISTER OF EDUCATION**

*on the occasion of the:*

**The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Geneva Rutherford Girls  
Basketball Championships -Closing Ceremony**

*at*

**Grand Bahama, The Bahamas  
6:00 p.m.**

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup>, February 2010**

***Salutations:***

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. Coaches/Parents/Students

7. Ladies & Gentlemen

**Good Evening!**

I thank you for inviting me to participate in this closing ceremony of your **13<sup>th</sup> Annual Geneva Rutherford Girls Basketball Championships**. Activities such as this one that promotes positive values and a healthy lifestyle in our youth will always have my unwavering support. Students, through friendly competition, you have demonstrated excellence in the sport of basketball and indeed you are perfect role models as you demonstrate discipline and team spirit on and off the court. A healthy body and a sound mind are goals that we should all strive for.

We, at the Ministry of Education encourage sports education and activities in and amongst our schools. We want students to see the value of acquiring academic skills, but not to forget that to be well rounded they must become involved in extra curricular activities as well such as sports, music and art that promote creativity, discipline and balance. Involvement in sports has the added benefit of opening doorways to tertiary level education, professional development and worldwide popularity.

This Geneva Rutherford Championship which is coordinated by Mr. Gladstone McPhee and his outstanding team is designed to nurture and development young female basketball players. Through this competition they are given a chance to display skills that include: running, dribbling, shooting, passing and jumping. I am happy to learn that in addition to Grand Bahama, other Family Island teams participated such a Abaco, Eleuthera, and New Providence. It is wonderful that we try to include the majority of our children, and I challenge the Hoytes organization to expand this effort, so that next year perhaps we will see Exuma, Long Island and Andros.

Your theme, *“Big Dreams Only”* encourages you to expand and enhance your horizons. If you are to do this successfully however, you will have to: prepare, work diligently, and remain focused on your goals. Students, you theme asks that you set meaningful and realistic goals and that you pursue a plan of action that would help you to reach your fullest potential. Always give your best effort never settle for less. Not only are you to give your best effort in the classroom, but in all aspects of your lives as well.

Students, we know that today, you will do your very best going forward, but as for today, let me say that you are all winners for having reached the level of excellence where you are able to compete in a tournament of this magnitude. Whether you receive an award today or not we appreciate every one of you and applaud your spirit. It was American Boxer and three time World Heavyweight Champion, Muhammad Ali who once said, ***“Champions aren’t made in the gyms. Champions are made from something they have deep inside them—a desire, a dream, a vision.”*** Participants, you are all *champions!*

Students, I encourage you to strive for excellence in your school life. This includes reaching and maintaining a certain level of *respect* and *responsibility* towards yourselves, others and towards property. Practice these values at home and at school and continue to be positive role models for your peers. Make a promise to yourselves to:

- remain drug free
- practice proper nutrition
- avoid violence of any kind
- obey your parents and teachers, and to
- pray

Athletes, you are the stars of this evening's event, but I wish to also acknowledge the hard work of all coaches and the support of administrators, teachers and parents. There are also many stakeholders who would have contributed to this event and to you we say thank you for supporting us in our vision to build the youth of our nation.

*Students, dream big, but work hard to accomplish them*

Thank you.