



REMARKS

BY

**THE HON. T. DESMOND BANNISTER, M.P.
THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION**

AT

**OPENING CEREMONY OF THE SEVENTH
ANNUAL EDUCATORS INTERNSHIP
PROGRAMME**

MONDAY, 28th JUNE 2010

10:00 AM

AT

**CHOICES RESTAURANT
THE COLLEGE OF THE BAHAMAS
OAKES FIELD**

Mr. Frank Comito, Executive Director, Bahamas Hotel Association;

Educators from Independent and Public Schools

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning.

I wish to firstly thank our partners, The Ministry of Tourism & Aviation, The Bahamas Hotel Association and The College of The Bahamas for staging this ground breaking workshop for the seventh consecutive year. I classify this ground breaking because it has exposed over 600 educators from private and public schools to the many and varied career options, and core competencies required for success in the tourism/hospitality sectors.

When persons question the dedication to duty and quality of our teachers, to find the answers all they to do need to look in this room and see the professionals gathered who are desirous knowledge and want to enhance their skills so that they can provide the latest information to their students.

The myth that teachers during their Summer Break enjoy two months at their leisure must be dispelled, because the reality is that starting from today and throughout the summer months, many of them will be engaged in workshops in their respective fields. Additionally, there are teachers who will travel abroad to attend international workshops and acquire new pedagogies relative to their subject areas.

This little known fact must be shared so that all stakeholders can know that you are doing your part in the delivery of quality education throughout the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

Ladies and gentlemen, while you have demonstrated your commitment to the teaching profession it must now start to produce dividends in a major way or the link between your ability and our students' achievement will continuously be misrepresented by pundits.

It is even more critical for you as hospitality instructors to provide our students with the knowledge and the competencies necessary to take Tourism, our Number One Industry to the next level. Additionally, you must prepare them for leadership roles and assist in molding more Bahamian hoteliers like Robert 'Sandy' Sands, J. Barrie Farrington, Barbara Hanna-Cox, Nettica Symonette and Sammy Thurston who have achieved a large measure of success and established legacies for future generation to follow.

One aspect of the Tourism industry that we have achieved notable success in the Hospitality industry is in the culinary sector. Chefs such as Edwin Johnson, Don Ingraham, Tracey Sweeting, Tiffany Barton, Basil Dean and Charles Missick are products of the culinary programmes in our schools. Today our schools (both private and independent) schools are doing phenomenal jobs in their culinary curriculum. Students have been provided with knowledge and experience that they can enter the kitchens of our hotels and finest restaurants with impressive resumes which are recognized or they are sought after by some of the top culinary schools in the world.

This success must now extend to other areas in the hospitality sector so that quality service can be the hallmark throughout our Tourism industry.

Robert 'Sandy' Sands noted that for too long the nation's hospitality sector has been grabbing at the bottom of the pool for persons to be employed in our sector," he said. "That's [because] we've never had a pool or a cadre of persons who would have gone through some type of screening process or who would have been vetted to be even considered for possible employment.

It seems as if the industry leaders are taking the '**Only the Best**' approach for those who are interested in working in the industry. Educators, you therefore have a duty to tell your students that it is not business as usual, they will have to raise their standards if they want to be employed in the hospitality sector.

I commend you for taking time to be involved in this workshop to acquire insight into the current state and expectations of the industry, and finally pursuing certification in this subject area. These objectives are important at this time, as we seek innovative ways to re-capture our market share during the current global economic down turn.

Your success in this programme will bode well for you as individuals, our students and the future of our Tourism Product. When you apply the knowledge you obtain in this workshop you will be truly exemplifying the theme: **“SERVICE ABOVE SELF IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT: DELIVERING QUALITY SERVICE AT EVERY POINT”**

I wish to lastly commend all of the facilitators and the persons who work behind the scenes to ensure that this workshop will have a long and meaningful presence in our school’s curriculum.

Thank you.