



Remarks by

The Minister of Education

The Honourable T. Desmond Bannister, M.P.

At

**New Providence Primary School's Sports
Association Awards Luncheon**

On

Friday, 14th May, 2010

Sheraton Cable Beach Resort

Cable Beach

11:00 am

Salutations:

**Minister of Education, The Honourable, Charles
Maynard;**

**Mr. T. Milton Lewis, President, Primary
Principals Association;**

**Mrs. Dawn Knowles, SEO, Primary Schools'
Sports;**

Principals;

Students;

Ladies and gentlemen.

It is always a pleasure when I am in a room with champions; particularly those who have just started to run their race – Primary School Athletes.

It is a fact, that the earlier children get involve in sports the greater benefits they will derive for themselves athletically as well as for The Bahamas at large. These benefits include:

- **Our children being physically fit and in better health;**
- **Our children being disciplined through taking instruction from coaches;**
- **Our children being able to establish friendships with team mates or students with similar interests;**
- **Reduction in the time our children spend in front of the television or online;**
- **A focus on role models wanting to emulate their successes and experiences;**

- **Sports spark an interest in different places because it is far-reaching. A student who is interested in soccer will want to know more about Brazil or one who follows the NBA play-offs will learn about the various cities where these games are being held;**
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- **Most importantly, students who are engaged in sports are less likely to be afflicted with obesity and other health issues related to this condition.**

Ladies and gentlemen, I wish to advise you that the Government appreciates and respects the need for Physical Education in our schools because of these and other benefits. We will continue to invest in our students' education inclusive of their academic, health and emotional empowerment.

Today, we are here to celebrate the successes of our primary school athletes. It is always good when we can demonstrate to students that hard work and commitment brings rewards. Congratulations to all you and to your schools and parents who have supported you in your quest to become a champion.

The awards that you receive today, should serve as an inspiration to go after bigger prizes. Many of our national athletes started off where you are now; and today many are competing on the world stage. I admonish you to keep on track and set your sights for gold. Do not allow anyone to distract you or to lure you into negative behaviours. There are many athletes who had the potential for greatest but were side-tracked by drugs; crime and other anti-social behaviours – their dreams and their lives were left unfilled.

Through Sports you can gain fame and fortune and an education. There are many athletes in The Bahamas and across the world that would not likely have gone to college were it not for their athletic ability. I encourage you to work hard to be the best that you can be in the sport/s of your choice. Do well in your school work because today's athletes must make the grade in order to compete.

**Boys and girls, one day soon we hope to see you on the
victory platform representing The Great Commonwealth
of The Bahamas.**

Thank you.