



DRAFT REMARKS

for

**HONOURABLE T. DESMOND BANNISTER, M.P.,
MINISTER OF EDUCATION**

*Annual Nassau College Fair- 2010
Cocktail Reception*

17th, November 2010

**Wyndham Nassau Resort Crystal Palace Casino
Nassau, The Bahamas**

7:30 p.m.

Guests:

1. **Mrs. Thelma Grimes** –President of the Nassau College Fair Association & Mr. Grimes

2. **Committee Members:**

- Mrs. Judy Reiach
- Mrs. Zoe Powell
- Mrs. Anne Burrows-Smith

3. **Representatives** -College of The Bahamas & Non-Bahamian Colleges & Universities

4. **Stakeholders**

5. **Ladies & Gentlemen**

Good Evening!

I am delighted to join you this evening as you prepare for the **Annual Nassau College Fair** for the year **2010**. I

congratulate the Association for the success of the College Fair, which can be measured by the thirty (30) plus years that it has been in existence.

We, at the Ministry of Education are always pleased when we see stakeholders coming together to help our youth rise to their fullest potential through education. It tells me that there are other citizens out there who realize that education is everyone's business, and that if we want a better tomorrow for our children and ourselves, we must provide training opportunities and exposure to ensure that their futures remain bright. So, to Mrs. Grimes and her wonderful team, and to the sixty (60) plus colleges and universities represented, I express my heartfelt thanks for your commitment to a most worthy cause –our children.

I am happy to learn that students from the 11th and 12th grades from both the Public and Private schools in New Providence and on the Family Islands will be participating in this career fair. Ladies and gentlemen, there can never be too many opportunities for our students. We who are in the positions of leadership today will one day move off of the scene and will rely heavily on our young men and women to:

- (1) Improve the level of services and products our country offers;
- (2) Keep our country abreast of changing technologies;
- (3) Help us to overcome the challenges in sustaining the growth of our industries;
- (4) Ensure that our people become critical and creative thinkers who are lifelong learners;
- (5) Foster partnerships in the furtherance of our national development.

There is no doubt in my mind that this fair will help to alleviate some of the difficulties our students face upon graduation. Visiting and dialoguing with you will indeed give them a smart start. I am certain that each of us here would agree that in these difficult economic times, we must all try to continuously invent and re-invent ourselves, which can only be done through the vehicle of education.

I extend a wonderful welcome to each of you who I am told have come from as far away as the United Kingdom, Canada, the United States, and a little closer to home, the Caribbean, and of course our very own, College of The Bahamas. Let me also say how pleased I am that there are

technical and vocational colleges represented. We are finding more and more that the majority of our students are choosing to enter careers related to this area. Therefore, having you here will not only ensure that they have more choices, but that we getting one step closer towards meeting our country's greatest need as far as the work force is concerned.

Once again, welcome and we thank you for your partnership in helping to give our students wings with which they may fly.

Thank you.