



BRIEF REMARKS

by

**THE HONOURABLE T. DESMOND BANNISTER,
M.P.,**

MINISTER OF EDUCATION

on the occasion of:

***Retirement Luncheon of Superintendent
Hezekiah Dean***

at

Freeport, Grand Bahama

5th, November 2010

1:00 p.m.

Salutations:

1. Permanent Secretary – Mrs. Elma Garraway
2. Director of Education – Mr. Lionel Sands

3. Former District Superintendent – Mr. Hezekiah Dean & Family

4. Superintendents: Mrs. Sandra Edgecombe & Mr. Julian Anderson

6. Principals
7. Teachers
8. Ladies & Gentlemen

Good Afternoon!

“When you love people and have the desire to make a profound, positive impact upon the world, then will you have accomplished the meaning to live.” These are the words of American actress, Sasha Avedo.

There is no doubt in my mind that Mr. Hezekiah Dean’s love of people and the idea of providing them a service led him to enter the profession of education. Teaching, Mr. Dean is the noblest profession of them all, and we thank you for the valuable contributions that you have made in improving our educational system.

Mr. Dean began his service as a Monitor forty six (46) years ago, in Rose’s Long Island where he was born. After spending one year in this position he attended The Bahamas Teachers College where he spent two (2) years earning his certification.

Following this his career took him back to Long Island, and then on to San Salvador, Rock Sound, Abaco, New Providence and Grand Bahama where he held various positions which included: Teacher Trainee, Head Teacher, Vice-Principal, Principal and Superintendent. Always the

advocate of Higher Education and Lifelong Learning, Mr. Dean did not rest on his laurels while at the C.I. Gibson Senior High School for three years in the 1980's, but he instead used this opportunity to earn a Bachelor's degree in Education at the College of The Bahamas/University of the West Indies.

A man who has always believed that teachers should be totally committed to the cause of education, especially where the children are concerned, Mr. Dean's life can indeed serve as inspiration for others still in the profession. A true nation builder, he has often asked, "Where would teachers be if it were not for the children?" Because he desired to make an impact on the youth of our nation, Mr. Dean refused promising careers in the priesthood and police force, and says that he has no regrets when he looks back. The lives he has touched can be seen in the many responsible citizens who are daily making positive contributions at all levels of society.

I know sir, that you regard your contribution at the Jack Hayward High School where you were sent as Principal in 1995 as your greatest achievement. I say, how can you

choose when you have done so many outstanding things? I understand though, that the school was a new one, and you helped to build it from its academic programming to its extra curricular activities. Having spent seven (7) years there, you along with your wonderful team of fellow administrators and teachers can take full credit for all accomplishments during that time, including when in the 2000's Jack Hayward swept all the awards in Grand Bahama in the area of academics and sports.

It was this type of leadership ability, professionalism and the performance of his duties with excellence that led to Mr. Dean's promotion to Superintendent in 2002. I am certain that there is no one here who would disagree with me when I say that you are indeed a Bahamian hero and we should all pattern our lives by the way you lived yours.

"Life is no brief candle for me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for the moment and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations." George Bernard Shaw. Mr. Dean, you have accomplished this and so much more. I

thank you on behalf of the Government of The Bahamas,
and the teaching profession.

Thank you.