



MESSAGE

BY

HER EXCELLENCY DAME MARGUERITE PINDLING, GCMG

GOVERNOR GENERAL

ON THE OCCASION OF

CHRISTMAS 2016

My fellow Bahamians and residents,

As we celebrate this joyous time of the year, I am delighted to extend warm greetings to all our citizens, those who live within our shores, and all who are visiting The Bahamas at this special time of the year.

This beautiful season again affords us the opportunity to reflect upon what is important in our lives and what we can individually and collectively do to make our Bahamaland an even better place – not just at Christmas, but all year round.

Above all, I believe that we must be mindful and show our gratitude to Almighty God for the good gifts which he has bless us with and for allowing us to live and reside in this beautiful country where freedoms abound, and where we are able to exercise hearts and minds for the greater good of all our people.

It is therefore my fervent hope that while we engage in the traditional trappings of this festive season, important though they may

be, we will take time to remember the reason for the celebration of Christmas.

The coming into this world of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ is the principal reason which compels us to be mindful of our duty to God, and after that our duty to our families, our fellow citizens and to all who come among us.

May we also take time during this season to show love and compassion to those among us who have endured the loss of loved ones or suffered some form of misfortune during the course of this year by sharing whatever we can with those whose circumstances prevent the enjoyment which should abound at this time. And so, I urge all of us to do whatever we can wherever we find need, and so bring the spirit of Christmas joy to others.

I sincerely hope that as we celebrate, we will all be mindful of the need to spread peace and joy wherever we are. The unity of our nation depends on each one of us doing their part, and I pray that you will join in the effort to continue building our nation through your full commitment to these virtues.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with the richest blessings of joy and peace.

May God bless our Commonwealth of The Bahamas.