



MESSAGE

BY

HER EXCELLENCY DAME MARGUERITE PINDLING, GCMG

GOVERNOR GENERAL

ON THE OCCASION OF

THE 43RD ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

My Fellow Bahamians,

As we observe the 43rd Anniversary of our Independence, we are provided with yet another opportunity to demonstrate our commitment to being a united people dedicated to the work of building a Country where freedom, dignity and peace are the predominant virtues which bind us together.

Our theme this year "*Honouring Our People's Excellence*" serves as an encouragement to all of us to strive for excellence, and to be the ideal citizens whose lives and actions demonstrate purposeful commitment as a people who accept the challenges which confront us, and who strive to overcome them through our unity.

This 43rd Anniversary also provides an excellent opportunity for every one of us to reflect, take stock and imagine the bright future which is ours to claim if we are determined to be true to our calling. In that context we can use our God-given talents to give back to our Bahamas something that expresses our belief in a fair and just society for each and every person who calls these Islands home.

In order to continue to build our Nation, all of us must have the positive determination to move ahead, the will to be an effective part of Nation-building, and a sense of shared initiatives. Every one of us has a vital role to play in our continuation as a Sovereign Nation, and there can be no better way to start than by demonstrating unity of purpose and a firm commitment to excellence in all we do.

There are many challenges and difficulties which confront us, and it will take the full determination of each one of us to maintain the peace and good order of our society. Let us therefore as one united people celebrate our Nation, and seize the opportunity to be part of the answer rather than part of the problem.

I wish you all a very Happy Independence Anniversary and may Almighty God continue to bless and preserve us.