



**Office of the Prime Minister
Department of Lands & Local Government**

Local Government Junior Council Closing Programme

**“Forward, Upward and Onward
to an Improved Local Government”**

**Thursday, 21st July, 2011
@ 9.00 a.m.**

**Government House
Mt. Fitzwilliam
Nassau, Bahamas**

Message From The Governor General



GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
THE BAHAMAS.



I extend congratulations to the Local Government Junior Councillors from the Districts of the City of Freeport, Central Abaco, North Andros, Berry Islands and San Salvador for your participation and outstanding achievements during the Local Government Junior Council (LGJC) Pilot Project.

Under the theme; “Forward, Upward and Onward to an improved Local Government,” the Department of Lands and Local Government conducted a pilot Project as a forerunner to build capacity and to ensure that the future of our system of governance at the local and national levels are sustained. I am advised that no other country in the region has undertaken such a project.

I wish to encourage Local Government Junior Councillors to continue to strive for excellence and as you chart your journeys, that your country is grateful for the contributions you and those before you have made to the development of communities throughout The Bahamas.

As you move to positions of leadership in your communities and strengthen your capacity for higher office in our land, be reminded that you are the future of our country; we look to you to build on the foundations established by our forebears. It is my hope that you will use your time and talents wisely to continue the development of our nation.

Sir Arthur Foulkes

Governor General

Message From The Minister of State



Today marks an historic and momentous occasion in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, as we recognize the accomplishments of the first ever Junior Councils from the City of Freeport, Central Abaco, North Andros, Berry Islands and San Salvador. I commend you all for your participation in the Local Government Junior Council (LGJC) Pilot Project.

The LGJC pilot project was designed to enhance the skills and talents of young people for leadership within their local communities to increase the pool of candidates for future Local Government Elections.

Today, we paused to recognize fifty-four outstanding elected Junior Councillors who have been engaged with this project on a weekly basis in the functions of central and local government. These Junior Councillors have represented their peers, schools, communities and the Department of Lands and Local Government at a level that surpasses all expectations.

The theme for this closing ceremony, *“Forward, Upward and Onward to an Improved Local Government”*, heralds the future of the programme. I wish to congratulate and commend you, the first ever Junior Councillors of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, for your dedication and commitment to this project. Your participation under the guidance of the hardworking coordinators and the LGJC Secretariat allowed us to successfully achieve the goal and objectives of the project. This success has encouraged the implementation of the programme in the other Districts. I ask that you continue to support the LGJC and encourage your communities to remain involved in the programme.

Once again, I extend my sincere thanks and congratulations.

The Hon. Bryan S. Woodside, M.P.

**Minister of State for Lands and Local Government
Department of Lands and Local Government
Office of The Prime Minister**

Order of Ceremony

Mistress of Ceremony.....Mrs. Terrece Bootle-Bethel
Assistant Family Island Administrator, San Salvador

Musical Prelude.....The Royal Bahamas Police Pop Band

Entrance of Senior Officials

Entrance of Their Excellencies

National Anthem.....The Royal Bahamas Police Pop Band

Invocation.....The Rt. Reverend Laish Zane Boyd
Lord Bishop of Nassau, The Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands

Welcome Remarks.....Ms. Rena Glinton
Under Secretary, Department of Lands & Local Government

Remarks.....Mr. Malike Moultrie
Junior Councillor, Central Abaco

The Hon. Byran S. Woodside, M.P.
Minister of State for Lands and Local Government

Musical Selection.....The Royal Bahamas Police Force Pop Band

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES & AWARDS

RECOGNITION OF INSPECTOR JAMES MOSS

...The Hon. Byran S. Woodside, M.P.

JUNIOR COUNCILLORS AWARDS

...Her Excellency Lady Joan Foulkes

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DISTRICT WINNERS FOR THE YEAR 2010/2011

...His Excellency Sir Arthur Foulkes
Governor-General, Commonwealth of The Bahamas

Musical Tribute to Junior Councillors.....Berry Islands Junior Council Choir

Presentation of Bouquet to Her Excellency.....Luella Gardiner
Junior Councillor, North Andros High School

Vote of Thanks.....Dee-Borah Rolle
Junior Councillor, St. Georges High School

Musical Selections

Royal Bahamas Police Force Pop Band

Official Photographs

Reception

Message From The Family Island Administrator Grand Bahama District

Message From The Family Island Administrator Central Abaco District



Preparing the youth to fulfill their destiny is indeed a recipe for success and a benefit to all Bahamians. The Junior Council Pilot Programme embarked upon by the Ministry of Local Government signifies a serious and deliberate attempt by the government to train

and equip our future leaders and contributors.

The understanding of budgets, regulations and decision making at the council level allows our youth to appreciate all the hard work, time and finances that are utilized in making our Councils and communities efficient and worthwhile.

We will also see more youthful faces and with them, new ideas and opinions brought forth at the council level as younger people become less apprehensive about speaking to the issues and providing their insight.

Congratulations to all those who have participated in and facilitated this Pilot Programme. This is our Bahamas, today and forevermore, continue to get involved.

Mrs. Angela Rolle-Pratt

I am very pleased to extend greetings and best wishes on the occasion of the closing ceremony of the Local Government Junior Council (LGJC) Pilot Project.

I am convinced that the Pilot Project has positively benefited the Junior Councillors by exposing them to the intricate and dynamic functions of Local Government in the district.

They have gained invaluable experience and knowledge through interacting with the District Councils, Town Committees and other Agencies.

Through the Pilot Project, the Junior Councillors were able to demonstrate their abilities to clearly articulate their vision for a better school. And through aggressive campaigning, they got others to buy into their vision.

The wider student population also gained greatly from this experience by being exposed to the election process inclusive of Nomination Day, Election Day and actually working the "Polls."

I believe that the Civic component of the Project provide an excellent opportunity for the reinforcement of National Pride and Patriotism.

Undoubtedly, the LGJC Project has great potentials for the grooming of future leaders that will help sustain Local Government throughout the Family Islands.

The LGJC Project, I believe, has shown that our young people, one given leadership opportunities, can accomplish great things that will positively impact their lives and others.

I therefore wish to extend appreciation to Ms. Phillippa Farrington, Local Coordinator for her dedication and commitment to the Pilot Project.

Additionally, Dr. Lenora Black, District Superintendent of Education, other community stakeholders and partners must be commended for their unwavering support.

Finally, I wish to applaud each Junior Councillor and wish them much success in their future endeavours. I also urge them to be excellent role models and continue to bring honour to their schools and communities.

Well done!!

Mr. Cephas Cooper

Message From The Family Island Administrator North Andros & Berry Islands District

I extend thanks and appreciation to the Honourable Byran Woodside, Minister of State for Lands & Local Government, for his great vision in the establishment of our first ever Junior Local Government Council Project in the Commonwealth of the

Bahamas.

The project has worked extremely well in North Andros and the Berry Islands, respectively and I am particularly proud of the progress and success we have achieved to date. Our Junior Practitioners have been exposed to new knowledge about our Bahamas including: Citizenship, Civics, Bahamian Constitution, Economics and their role and responsibilities as citizens of this greatest little nation on the face of God's green earth.

All of our students demonstrated their resourcefulness and sense of industry through practical work in their schools and meaningful tasks performed in their various settlements. Our Junior Local Government Achievers have definitely become model young people for a more socially conscious and productive Bahamian society. And I must commend our coordinators: Brooks and Ramsey for the tasks they have performed in steering our young Practitioners in the right direction.

I must emphasize that the Junior Local Government Council Project is the best thing done by the Department of Lands & Local Government since its inception. We must expand this initiative throughout The Bahamas as we mould the character of our nation's youth to meet the demands of First World Status and competition. Our young people are the future of our country and we must guard our future well.

Dr. Huntley S. Christie

Message From The Family Island Administrator San Salvador & Rum Cay Districts

It is my pleasure to congratulate the participants of the Local Government Junior Council Project in all six pilot districts, particularly the students from the San Salvador District. There is no doubt that after being afforded the privilege of expanding your knowledge about issues such as, Government, the Bahamian Constitution, youth leadership and advocacy, volunteerism, rights and responsibilities of a good citizenry and public speaking, you are better equipped to adequately respond as empowered young people.



By participating in the country's first ever Local Government Junior Councils, you have remarkably positioned yourselves to be included in the annals of this country's progressive development, because since 1996, the introduction of Local Government in The Bahamas constituted one of the most pioneering and progressive legislation since Independence. Local Government has empowered Family Island Districts with wonderful opportunities to have oversight of key areas of responsibilities which have enabled Local Government Practitioners to make crucial decisions to improve their local communities.

On the heels of our recent Local Government Elections, the results revealed that many Family Islanders are appreciative of the importance of Local Government. In view of the same, the LGJC Project has placed you as young people in a unique position to increase the calibre of leadership offered during Local Government Elections. You are especially empowered to enhance youth, and women, participation in local governance, therefore you represent the future of youth leadership because you have demonstrated a keen sense of willingness to step forward as leaders in your schools to make positive changes.

Once again congratulations, and it is my prayer that all of you will continue to shine as beacons among your peers.

Mrs. Ferreze Bootle-Bethel

Message From The District Superintendent Central Abaco District



It is with a great sense of hope in the future of our nation that I extend congratulations and best wishes to the participants in the historic Local Government Junior Council Pilot Project.

For the duration of your participation in this programme, you have received quality instruction from a cadre of professionals who

engaged you in constructive discourse in respect to how our government is chosen and indeed functions; an experience that will accrue lifelong benefits.

In keeping with the Mission Statement of this programme, networks of civic minded young individuals have been established resulting in the emergence of great leadership skills. The latter, if appropriately nurtured, would serve to the benefit of communities throughout The Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

Further, given the support received from Local Government Practitioners, coupled with that of other community stakeholders, I am convinced that this programme is one which has garnered the public support necessary for nation building.

With the former in mind, you must now seek to ensure the continual advancement of the Core Values of the programme, believing that they would be advantageous as you seek to find success in all future endeavours.

Recognizing that the voice of the youth is vital for the sustainable growth and development of our nation, you are encouraged to find productive means to ensure the engagement of young persons in all national discourse.

Convinced that you have demonstrated the inclination for service to humanity, you are hereby advised to ensure that the merits of the programme are mutual shared and indeed serve to improve the quality of life of those around you; particularly the youth in our diverse communities.

I applaud all of you on the attainment of this milestone and further challenge you to pursue greatness; building the Commonwealth of The Bahamas one community at a time.

That you will succeed beyond my expectations, I have no doubt!

Lenora J. Black (Ph.D.)

Message From The District Superintendent North Andros & Berry Islands District



It is with enormous pride that I take this opportunity to congratulate the Junior Councillors of the North/Central Andros and The Berry Islands District. Councillors from the North Andros High School and the R.Gomez All-age School are proud

participants in this new initiative. Indeed, I am privileged to witness the historical occasion as students of The Berry Islands were the first to establish a Junior Council.

As a result of this programme the Junior Councillors lives have been enriched. These young people are now able to make and implement important decisions which will affect their local communities. We can truly say that these young people has made the first step in devising and shaping policies which will ultimately affect our nation. They have proven that they have a voice and they demand to be heard. Their involvement can be considered a spring-board or a prerequisite to front line politics.

I stand proud and join hands with hundreds in your community to celebrate your achievement and we look forward to your many contributions which will shape the lives of Bahamians in a positive way in the future.

Finally, I take this opportunity to thank the principals and administrators in the various districts. Without your vital support this programme would have only been a dream. You have encouraged our students to be a part of the solution which is so necessary in a changing Bahamas.

Mr. Harcourt Davis

**Message From The
District Superintendent
Cat Island, Rum Cay
& San Salvador District**

**Message From The Co-ordinator,
St. Georges High School
Grand Bahama
District**



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Congratulations on your tenure as junior councilors, you are definitely pacesetters, making history by becoming the first elected Junior Councilors for Grand Bahama. You have given our students a voice by speaking on their behalf, made the school environment more pleasant and attractive through your donations.



Chief Councilor Dee-Borah; under your leadership you have made it possible for the Junior Councilors to enjoy a distinguished, productive and happy term in office. Congratulations and best wishes!

Mrs. Melrose Bootle

**Message From The Co-ordinator,
Jack Hayward High School
Grand Bahama
District**

Congratulations to the Local Government Junior Council members of Jack Hayward High School for making history in the school, island and country.

Continue to be innovators and nation builders.

Mrs. Beverley Thacker

Mrs. Venolia Pears-Nelson

Message From The Co-ordinator, Abaco Central High School Central Abaco District

LGJC Coordinator
Abaco Central High

As the Local Government Junior Council Pilot Program comes to a close, it is with pride that I congratulate all Junior Councilors who have participated in this historic event.

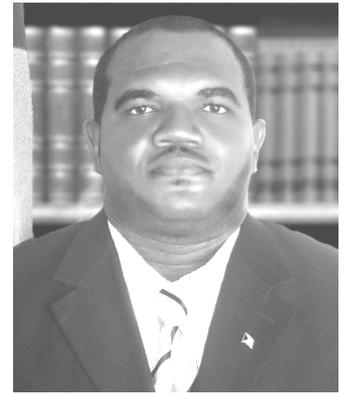
It was an honor to coordinate this program at the Abaco Central High School. I commend the Local Government Junior Councilors who performed exceptionally well in their elected posts.

In closing, it is my sincerest belief that the knowledge and experiences gained by the Junior Councilors in the procedures and operations of Local Government has ignited and/or intensified a passion for service to community and nation and ultimately a desire to serve in Local Government in their various communities in the immediate future.

Phillippa A. Farrington

Message From The Local Co-ordinator Berry Islands Junior Council

On behalf of the Berry Islands Community I wish to congratulate the Berry Islands Junior Council for the outstanding accomplishments as Junior Councilors. Your dedication, pride, and love for your community have ignited a patriotic fire in the hearts of the young and old in your community. You have demonstrated that with a little guidance, many young people are prepared to build this great nation with the spirit of volunteerism and community pride.



Thank you for giving over sixty hours of community service to your community in completing the following projects: patching the roads in your community, painting the stalls and benches on the community park, painting the public bathrooms on the park and at the dock in your community, painting the garbage holders in your community, purchasing ten large garbage bins for your community and donating them to your District Council, purchasing twelve small garbage bins for your school and donating them to your school, repairing the cracks on your basketball court and painting it, hosting a community forum on the park to reactivate the spirit of transparency and accountability, for hosting a career day to prepare your fellow classmates for the job market, for hosting a thanksgiving service and visiting the senior citizens in your community, and for assisting with the organization of your school's first basketball tournament and many other projects.

Your spirit of patriotism and community pride must be commended. I am extremely proud of you and the work that you have done in just a short period of time. Your community has been enhanced because you have lit a contagious spirit of pride within the youths of your community. Congratulations! "Let no man despise your youth".

Mr. Cleveland Ramsey

**Message From The
Local Co-ordinator
Nicholl's Town, North Andros
Junior Council**

Students of the Local Government Junior Council at North Andros High School were pleased and honoured to be involved in this national pilot programme during the school year 2010/2011. Without a doubt, all the participants benefitted immeasurably from the

wealth of knowledge and insights the programme afforded them. As a part of the Civics Curriculum, the election process proved to be very inspirational and exciting. Nine of the thirteen candidates were elected to the Local Government Junior Council. These Junior Councillors had the opportunity to interact with the Local Government Council of North Andros, and gain a valuable experience about the process of local governance in action.

A number of accomplishments of the Local Government Junior Councillors – North Andros High School members can be highlighted. The voice of North Andros youth was heard on the national stage as Valtio Cooper, LGJC Chief Councillor, debated his views on the use of technology in the education system. Both Baltio and Heidijo Meyer championed the expert mapping techniques of North Andros to receive national honours. Luella Gardiner began a research project with the elderly. Other projects are ongoing.

Overall, the personal Development and Mentorship component of the programme provided opportunities for individual, as well as collective growth among LGJC members. Their futures appear brighter because of the involvement of the Local Government Junior Council Programme.

Congratulations you have done well.

Mr. Michael Brooks

Menu

First Course

**Creamy Conch Chowder
in Puff Pastry**

Entrée

**Grilled Grouper Filet
with Mango Salsa,
Sweet Potato Mash,
Vegetable Medley
and
Lemon Butter Sauce**

Dessert

**Flour-less Chocolate Cake
with Caramelized
Banana Ice Cream**

Beverage Service

**Fruit Punch
Sodas
Red Wine
White Wine**

Special Recognition of Inspector James Ean Moss

On December 10, 1968, Mr. Clarence Moss, recently deceased and Ms. Alma Rolle, became the proud parents of a bouncing baby boy at the Princess Margaret Hospital in the nestling, quaint city of Nassau, on the sprawling, picturesque island of New Providence, the capital of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas. The young parents named him James Ean Moss.

As a very young child “Jimmy”, as he was affectionately called by his siblings, was fascinated by communities networking and the humble achievements of his now 98 year old grand mother who spearheaded the Church development programme by selling conch fritters and dinner sales during the Saturday fundraisers.

This influenced his passion for community and public service. He always knew that his ministry was in Law Enforcement, so to fulfill his dream, he became a Police Officer.

Upon completion of his formal education at A. F. Adderley High School in June 1986, “Jimmy” began his quest to become one of “the Bahamas’ finest.” On June 1, 1987, James enlisted into the Royal Bahamas Police Force. His first Family Island posting was on the Island of Bimini. He served there for a period of 7 years and was transferred, after having been promoted to the Rank of Corporal, in 1995. He was further promoted to the rank of Sergeant in 1999, then Inspector in 2006.

Upon his return to Bimini in 2003, James patrolled the streets where he saw and spoke with passionate young men and women who were concerned with their future and the direction the island was headed.

It was during these discussions that the concept of community service took root, subsequent to his transfer to Grand Bahama. Sgt Moss was invited to be the keynote speaker at the Holy Name Catholic School’s graduation.

It was here that he challenged the Island Administrator, Mrs. Brenda Bullard-Colebrooke, the Chief Councillor and members of the Bimini District Council, to embrace the young people and move swiftly to create a Junior Council programme with a view of the young people feeling a sense of involvement in the Government process and decision-making for their future.

A further in-depth discussion was held with Administrator Brenda Bullard-Colebrooke, Chief Councillor Tasha Bullard-Rolle and Sir Michael Checkley, a former Educator and Police Reservist.

They were challenged to permit out community young people to truly become stakeholders in the community and be that role model for their peers and bridge the gap between the young and the old, mentor the communities young and begin the process for succession planning as the Human Resource was the most vital of all resources.

It was not until April 2006, that the idea gave birth and nine (9) students formed the Bimini Junior Council in a special service held by the Honourable V. Alfred Gray, M.P.

Sgt Moss, not satisfied because the programme was limited only to Bimini, petitioned the then Minister with responsibility for Local Government to make the programme a national initiative.



Upon transferring to the Berry Islands District, Sgt Moss brought home the idea as seemingly young people did not feel the sense of community pride and lacked involvement in the affairs of the island and the concept of Local Governance.

Sgt Moss subsequently teamed up with Mr. Cleveland Ramsey, the Principal of the R. N. Gomez All-Age School, his faculty and staff and introduced the idea to the Berry Islands.

Mr. Doug McCaulley, Mr. Arnold Hope, Mrs. Keithorah Munroe.

In 2007, students offered themselves as candidates, campaigned and cast their ballots as was done in the General Elections for five (5) students who they felt was able to represent them with student issues and be that youth voice in the community.

In 2008, the Honourable Byran Woodside, M.P., a new Minister with responsibility for Local Government, visited the Berry Islands where he opened a Local Government workshop.

Sgt Moss, not satisfied that the Junior Council Programme was limited in Bimini, met and spoke with the Honourable Minister and discussed with him the concept of the formation of a Junior Council Programme as a National Programme of the Ministry of Local Government. He also petitioned the Minister to have the Junior Councillors who were elected from their student body, exposed to the Local Government workshop as a Mentoring programme.

The Honourable Minister immediately consented to the idea which was very rewarding. Minister Woodside gravitated towards the idea and said, "Berry Islands, you all will hear from me."

In October 2009, the Honourable Minister true to his word began the process for a full formalization of a Junior Local Government Council by unveiling the concept in grand style at the British Colonial Hilton Hotel in Nassau during the Family Island Administrators Conference.

In 2010, elections were held at the R. N. Gomez All-Age School and students went through the voting process. Five (5) students emerged victorious reflecting the current makeup of the Senior Council.

The Pilot Programme was launched at the R. N. Gomez All-Age School in Bullocks Harbour, the Berry Islands and the local residents organized an island-wide parade to mark this historical occasion.

The Junior Local Government programme was also offered in Grand Bahama, Andros, San Salvador and Abaco as a pilot scheme initiative of the Government of The Bahamas. To be introduced to the remaining islands upon review of the Pilot Scheme Programme at a later date, will be our golden moment.

During November, 2010, Inspector Moss organized a prayer breakfast and Ecumenical Church Service where the Rt. Reverend Laish Boyd, Bishop of the Anglican Church in The Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands spoke to the young people and challenged the Junior Councillors and wider community to let the change we need begin with them.

The Government of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas subsequently launched the Junior Council initiative in Whales, the United Kingdom, as a project of The Bahamas.

James E. Moss Esq.

Police Inspector

Officer in Charge, Berry Islands Sub-Division, Royal Bahamas Police Force

LOCAL GOVERNMENT JUNIOR COUNCILLORS 2010 - 2011

NAME	DISTRICT	SCHOOL	POSITION		
Wayde Swann	Berry Islands	R. N. Gomez All-Age	Junior Chief Councillor		
Henrylee Butler Jr.			Deputy Junior Chief Councillor		
Jerona Laing			Junior Councillor		
Karen Brown			Junior Councillor		
Nikieva Wallace			Junior Councillor		
Julian Dean			Junior Family Island Administrator		
Bethsheba Saunders			Asst. Family Island Administrator		
Olivia Swain			Chaplain		
Bernice Wright			Assistant Chaplain		
Brianna Bain			Sgt. of Arms		
Tramaine Grant			Assistant Sgt. of Arms		
Alovenell Greene	Central Abaco	Central Abaco High	Junior Chief Councillor		
Kendice Muray			Deputy Junior Chief Councillor		
Paytan Stubbs			Council Member		
Aisha Jones			Council Member		
Melik Mountrie			Council Member		
Brinique Bowleg			Council Member		
Rashae Burrows			Council Member		
Kadesha Stuart			Council Member		
Akeem Adderley			Junior Island Administrator		
Kenneth Miller			City of Freeport	Jack Hayward High	Chief Councillor
Mystique Saunders					Deputy Chief Councillor
Jordan Marshall	Junior Councillor				
Orville Jones	Junior Councillor				
Florissa Pennerman	Junior Councillor				
Stephanie Rolle	Junior Councillor				
Dorell Saunders	Junior Councillor				
Devinæ Williams	Secretary				
Akeem Adderley,	Junior Island Administrator				
Dee-Borah Rolle	City of Freeport	St. Georges High			Chief Councillor
Christine Cooper					Deputy Junior Chief Councillor
Tonesa Munnings			Secretary		
Shawndray Saunders			Treasurer		
Davinia Williams			Junior Councillor		
Kah-leah Carnegie			Junior Councillor		
Rayvonne Campbell			Junior Councillor		
Laron Burrows			Junior Councillor		
Esther Cenat			Junior Councillor		
Brandon Hall			North Andros	North Andros High	Junior Administrator
Valtio Cooper					Junior Chief Councillor
Luella Gardiner	Treasurer				
Heidijo Meyer	Secretary				
Skye Strachan	Chaplain				
Georgette Pratt	Junior Councillor				
Rinishka Rolle	Junior Councillor				
Linder Colebrooke	Junior Councillor				
Fredrick Russell	Deputy Chief Councillor				
Cordell Riley	Junior Councillor				
Korrey Storr	San Sal & Rum Cay	San Salvador High			Chief Councillor
Jonæ Knowles			Junior Councillor		
Shanteshia Black			Junior Councillor		
Helena Hepburn			Junior Councillor		
Meghan Goffe			Junior Councillor		
Eranisa Rolle	Junior Councillor				

Only as high as you reach can you grow,
only as far as you seek can you go,
only as deep as you look can you see,
only as much as you dream can you be.

- Karen Ravn