



**MESSAGE OF THE HONOURABLE DARREN A. HENFIELD, MP,
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS**

The 45th Anniversary of our independence is a significant milestone in our life as a country. We, as a small nation, however, have had big accomplishments at home and abroad.

We have over these forty-five years as an independent nation made our mark on the modern world. We have been able to do so through the goodness of God who has granted us the opportunity to govern ourselves as a nation and advance our objectives of improving the quality of life for our people in all spheres – economic, health, social, environmental and political.

Our friends and our Sister-Nations in the international community have supported us along the way and we, in turn, support them in the same manner as we all strive to make our world the best place we all want it to be.

As our theme encourages us to do, “**Celebrate BAHAMAS: We’ve Come this Far by Faith**”, we recognise that it is our faith that motivates us to do what we can for our country. Our Bahamian leaders, all by that conviction, have moved our country forward, step by step. That faith, of seeing the vision for our country and making it a reality, remains the driving force and, today, we need that faith to take us even farther along.

Despite the many obstacles faced in the past, we persevere, arming ourselves with the tools we need to improve the economic plight of our people and protect our borders. In doing so, we seek to trust God as we move forward. We call on Bahamians at home and those in the Diaspora to commit to advancing the ideals of our country, including that of economic empowerment and the promotion of our national security.

To achieve these ideals, we build on the legacies left by our forebears to bring about a nation where there is respect for basic human rights, where opportunities exist for all to excel, and where we, as a small member of a larger community, can contribute to the overall well-being of all Bahamians and to the world at large.

On this forty-fifth Anniversary of our nation, we believe that, with God’s help, we can move our country forward in dignity, respect, thankfulness, and the common belief that we are here to serve each other. Let’s celebrate together and keep that faith as we create a more meaningful future for our people.

I also take this opportunity, on behalf of the Government and people of our nation, to thank those who represent us abroad in the international community for their unselfish service to our country. To our family members in the Diaspora, as we celebrate this faith, we are mindful that this faith has also taken you to great heights and keeps us connected to each other, whether at home in The Bahamas or abroad.

May God bless the Commonwealth of The Bahamas on this day and always!