

**HON. KENRED DORSETT M.P.
MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND HOUSING
(THE BAHAMAS)**

Address To

*The Joint High Level Segment
Of The Conference Of The Parties (COP-19) and
The Meeting Of The Parties To The Kyoto Protocol
(CMP-9)*

Warsaw, Poland

NOVEMBER 21 2013

SALUTATION

MR. PRESIDENT

EXCELLENCIES

COLLEAGUES

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

GOOD MORNING.

PERMIT ME TO EXTEND MY GRATITUDE AND THANKS TO THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF POLAND FOR THEIR WARM WELCOME AND FOR THE COURTESIES EXTENDED TO THE BAHAMIAN DELEGATION DURING THIS COP.

WE STAND IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF THE PHILIPPINES, THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA AND PALAU IN THE WAKE OF SUPER TYPHOON HAIYAN. EVENTS LIKE THIS REMIND US OF OUR NEED TO LIVE IN HARMONY WITH THE PHYSICAL UNIVERSE. THEY REAFFIRM THAT WE MUST CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR ALL NATIONS, DEVELOPING AND DEVELOPED TO MEET THEIR COMMITMENTS UNDER THIS CONVENTION AND THEIR INITIAL COMMITMENTS UNDER THE KYOTO PROTOCOL. THIS IS NOT A TIME FOR BACKSLIDING, BUT A TIME FOR RAMPING UP AND ENHANCING COMMITMENT TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE AND INCREASE FUNDING TO DEAL WITH CLIMATE CHANGE RELATED EVENTS.

MR. PRESIDENT

WE ARE A SMALL ARCHIPELAGIC NATION OF 350,000 PEOPLE. THE NEED TO REPLICATE AND REPAIR CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

THROUGHOUT OUR ISLANDS, IS PARAMOUNT TO MY NATION'S ABILITY TO ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE. WE MUST OPERATIONALISE AND CAPITALISE THE GREEN CLIMATE FUND.... NOW! MORE IMPORTANTLY, VULNERABLE STATES LIKE THE BAHAMAS MUST BE GIVEN ACCESS TO SUCH FUNDING MECHANISMS. PER CAPITA INCOME CANNOT BE THE PRIMARY CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY FOR FUNDING, AS IT DOES NOT REFLECT THE REAL ECONOMIC AND FISCAL CHALLENGES OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THE BAHAMAS NEEDS YOUR HELP!

MR. PRESIDENT

WE ARE NOT FULLY ABLE TO ADAPT TO OR MITIGATE THE LOSS AND DAMAGES ASSOCIATED WITH CLIMATE CHANGE INDUCED PROCESSES. WE ARE LOSING TERRITORY, LIVELIHOOD AND LIVES, AND WE CALL UPON THIS COP, TO MAKE A DECISION TO IMPLEMENT AN ADEQUATE MECHANISM TO ADDRESS LOSS AND DAMAGE.

MR. PRESIDENT

WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO MANAGE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN A WAY THAT IS COMPATIBLE WITH NATURE. TO THAT END WE HAVE TAKEN CERTAIN LEGISLATIVE MEASURES:

1. THE BAHAMAS HAS AMENDED ITS FORESTRY ACT TO PROVIDE A LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE LONG TERM CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF FORESTS.

2. LIMITING THE EMISSIONS OF GREENHOUSE GASES IS BEING ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH TAX MEASURES WHICH ENABLE HYBRID AND ELECTRIC VEHICLES TO BE IMPORTED AT A LOWER TARIFF.

IN ADDITION TO THESE LEGISLATIVE MEASURES, WE HAVE GIVEN FOCUS TO PROMOTING RENEWABLE ENERGY USE WITHIN THE COUNTRY. ALL TARIFFS ON INVERTERS FOR SOLAR PANELS, PANELS AND LED APPLIANCES AND BULBS HAVE BEEN ELIMINATED TO MAKE THEM MORE ACCESSIBLE TO THE AVERAGE BAHAMIAN

MR. PRESIDENT

THE GOVERNMENT'S IS FACILITAING CLIMATE ACTION IN THE HOUSING SECTOR. WE ARE PURSUING THE DEVELOPMENT OF GREEN SUBDIVISIONS WHICH WILL BE SOLAR POWERED.

MR. PRESIDENT

WE NEED ADEQUATE AND PREDICTABLE SOURCES OF FUNDING TO MAKE THESE PROJECTS A REALITY.

WE HAVE A NEW ENERGY STRATEGY THAT FOCUSES ON THE AWARENESS OF ENERGY CONSERVATION. ALSO, ENERGY GENERATION WILL BE 30% POWERED BY RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES BY 2030 AND IN 2014 THE GOVERNMENT WILL INTRODUCE A FRAMEWORK FOR 10% OF THE EXISTING GENERATING CAPACITY TO COME FROM SOLAR RESIDENTIAL ENERGY SELF GENERATION. THROUGH OUR ENERGY SECTOR REFORMS-OUR GOAL IS TO REDUCE THE COST OF ELECTRICITY AND OUR RELIANCE ON FOSSIL FUELS BY USING CLEANER FUELS LIKE NATURAL GAS.

MR. PRESIDENT

CLIMATE CHANGE CONTINUES TO IMPACT THE BAHAMAS IN A REAL AND PRESENT WAY. JUST HOURS AGO, THE COASTLINES OF THE BAHAMAS WERE BOMBARDED BY HEAVY SEA SWELLS, CAUSED BY TROPICAL STORM MELISSA. AGAIN, THERE HAS BEEN SIGNIFICANT LOSS AND DAMAGE TO OUR COASTAL INFRASTRUCTURE.

AS THE EVENTUALITY OF SEA LEVEL RISE LOOMS, OUR LOW LYING COASTAL MARINE SYSTEM AND GROUND WATER WOULD BE SO GREATLY IMPACTED THAT WE COULD LOOSE ALL OUR FARMS AND THE FOOD THAT WE ARE ABLE TO PRODUCE.

MR. PRESIDENT

THE BAHAMAS IS READY TO WORK. WE HAVE INCREASED OUR POLITICAL WILL TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE AND TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, AS WE WILL NOT ACCEPT A WORLD

WHERE CLIMATE CHANGE INDUCED EVENTS LIKE HAIYAN AND SANDY ARE THE NORM.

WE WILL NOT ACCEPT A WORLD OF CLIMATE MIGRANTS.

THE TIME IS NOW! THE BAHAMAS WOULD LIKE TO LEAVE WARSAW WITH CONCRETE DECISIONS BEING MADE TO ADVANCE OUR CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION EFFORTS.

IT IS TIME TO DO MORE, AND IT IS TIME TO DO IT FASTER THAN WE HAVE EVER DONE BEFORE.

I THANK YOU.