

## **Message from** **the Governor-General**

On the occasion of the 38<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Nation's Independence, I am indeed happy to extend greetings and best wishes to Bahamians, residents and visitors throughout The Bahamas.

The theme "38 year - United in Love and Service" speaks to the need for all Bahamians to embrace, strengthen and continue to build our country through cooperation, love, partnership and service to our fellowmen.

As we celebrate let us remember that there is only One Bahamas and the wonderful diversity in race, ethnic origin and creed must be cherished and respected. We remember that we are One People, unified and strong, forging ahead, in search of a brighter tomorrow. We proudly salute our flag, sing our songs, tell our stories, glory in our rituals and celebrate our nationhood.

In celebrating this momentous occasion than, we pause to remember a loving God who, over the years, has blessed us with caring and visionary leaders who gave unconditionally of their time, talent and gifts to shape and mould a proud stable country with a rich heritage. Even though some are only part of our memory their loyalty and dedication and excellent service resonates even now.

Let us therefore aim for excellence in all we do and demonstrate love and portray unity at all times in order to make our country a better place for all, and an example to other nations of the world.

The attainment of excellence can only materialize through the love we have for God, our country and our fellowmen. With this abiding affection we can have that common unity of mind and spirit, which would strengthen us to be loyal, patriotic and law abiding citizens.

May the Almighty God continue to guide and bless our beloved country.

**Sir Arthur Foulkes**  
**Governor-General**