

Address by
RT. HON. PERRY G. CHRISTIE
44TH ANNIVERSARY OF MAJORITY RULE DAY PRAYER
BREAKFAST

Wyndham Crystal Palace Hotel and Casino NASSAU, BAHAMAS

9th JANUARY 2011

Party Officers, Parliamentarians, Minister Tonya Colebrooke, Bishop Ellis Farrington, Overseer Helen McPhee, Rev Robert Colebrooke, Stalwart Councilors, Party Supporters, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to acknowledge the presence of Mr. Edmond Moxey former Member of Parliament and strong supporter of Majority Rule.

Majority Rule Day is the culmination of what historians will likely recall this period to be The Golden Age of idealism in Bahamian politics.

It was an era marked by an extraordinary spirit of selfless struggle and sacrifice.

An age that was marked by a collective desire to be a part of what was clearly understood to be the most consequential struggle for freedom since emancipation some 140 years before.

It is perhaps for that reason we looked back to 1967 with no hesitation. Those were the good old days of Bahamian politics because it was all about uplifting our people and uplifting our country rather than seeing what one could get for oneself.

We look back with nostalgia because we painfully recognize how little in evidence that spirit of idealism is in Bahamian politics today. We therefore need to recapture the spirit of 1967. We need do so more than ever.

We need idealism to fuel the apparatus and machinery of governance in our country today. We need to set before us once again the high ideals that guided and inspired the generations of men and women who made the triumph of 1967 possible.

And so we cannot allow this to be a time of idle conversation. We cannot allow this to be an occasion for simple minded remembrance and instead we have to seize this moment- this 44th anniversary as a reminder of the urgent need to embrace afresh the ideals that guided our party in an earlier time.

This is what this 44th anniversary of Majority Rule is calling us to do. Just as the front line warriors of the PLP took on the great challenges of their time and overcame them, we too are now summoned by history to meet the major challenges that confront our society today.

1967 was not the end of the struggle; it was simply the end of one phase of the struggle. But every day we are reminded that the struggle continues and that just as the hearts and minds of the great majority of the Bahamian people were turned in hope towards the PLP 44 years ago so too we must work towards ensuring that the majority of our people look to us still as the only political organization deserving of this trust and confidence.

We cannot let them down. We must rise to the challenge and continue the struggle with the mighty spirit of 1967 beating in our breast.

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