



REMARKS

OF

SENATOR THE HON. ALLYSON MAYNARD GIBSON  
ATTORNEY GENERAL AND MINISTER OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

MADE AT

BAHAMAS FAITH MINISTRIES ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR  
ANNUAL LEGAL PROFESSION DAY

21<sup>ST</sup> APRIL, 2013

Greetings.

Good morning ladies and gentlemen.

Let me join you in congratulating today's honourees:

1. Dr. Peter Maynard
2. Justice Rubie Nottage (Retired)
3. Mr. Godfrey Kelly
4. The late Hon. Paul Adderley

Each of them understands and understood the honour and privilege of being a member of the Bar, an ancient and honourable profession.

It is an honour to represent the Prime Minister here today – Bahamas Faith Ministry's Annual Legal Profession Day.

It is always a JOY to attend this Church. Bahamas Faith Ministries and your Lead Pastor Dr. Myles Munroe continue to have tremendous impact in The Bahamas and all over the world. It makes me so proud to be Bahamian when I see people from Africa, South America, Australia, the USA – all over the world, proclaim that they fall under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Myles Munroe – Christian. Pastor. Bahamian.

Last week was a very good week for the Rule of Law in The Bahamas.

1. Supt. Clayton Fernander returned home, walking and proclaiming his love for the Lord. He quoted Psalm 27 v 1 “The Lord is my light and my salvation— whom shall I fear?” I stand on those words today as I remind all within the sound of my voice that in May 2012 the Prime Minister, through Operation Safe Bahamas indicated that anyone who attacks a police officer will be **tried** within 6 months. The DPP is a member of this Church. I want to assure you today that it is our intention to keep that promise.
2. My Team and I had the opportunity to demonstrate efficiency in the administration of justice. Steps that the Swift Justice Team is taking have led to a 60% conviction rate from January 1<sup>st</sup> to the end of March.
3. The Bar Association’s permanent office is now open. This is an important achievement of the dream of successive Presidents of the Bar. The Bar Association is permanently and easily accessible. This sends a clear message that the Bar Association acknowledges and is committed to lawyers’ key role in the administration of justice.

4. Those present, including the President of the Bar warmly welcomed the Prime Minister's 5 challenges:

- a. improvements in the disciplinary machinery of the bar need to be effected so that lawyers who fail to adhere to the standards of integrity required of members of the bar are dealt with severely;
- b. continuing legal education should become mandatory;
- c. lawyers of five years standing or more should undertake to do no less than 18 hours of pro bono – or free legal work – on an annual basis;
- d. Queen's Counsel should undertake to act as leading counsel in pro bono cases within their areas of specialization at least twice per year;
- e. the Bar Association should establish a public education arm dedicated to the education of the public in general and young Bahamians in particular about the Constitution and about civics generally.

As Attorney General and Leader of the Bar, I shall work assiduously with the Bar Association to bring into legislation all that is required to effect these agreed goals.

Tomorrow night the first Constitutional Commission Town Meeting will be held here at Bahamas Faith Ministries. Again, I thank and congratulate BFM and Pastor Myles. BFM has ample parking and seating. I encourage all Bahamians to come out and let your voices be heard. And I encourage all those who cannot make it out to listen, and watch on TV and on the internet.

Pastor Myles continues to be unrelenting in teaching the importance of THE RULE OF LAW. I thank him and BFM for their commitment to this cause and pledge my continuing support and the support of my office.

