



Additional Remarks on Resolution

The Most Hon. Dr. Hubert Minnis

Prime Minister

Wednesday, 8 July 2020

Mr. Speaker:

The PLP would have been a disaster during the COVID-19.

In fact they are a disaster during this pandemic even while in opposition.

As reported in *The Tribune* yesterday, the Leader of the Opposition seemed to suggest that the decision to close certain beaches this holiday weekend appeared arbitrary and devoid of a scientific basis.

He is wrong on both fronts.

The decision was carefully and strategically taken based on medical science and based on what we have seen in other jurisdictions and the potential for the super-spreading of COVID-19 during this upcoming holiday weekend.

This leads me to believe that were he in the position to do so, he would allow these beaches and parks to remain open, possibly endangering the

health and lives of the Bahamian people.

Sadly, tragically, the Leader of the Opposition continues to demonstrate an arbitrary, reckless, irresponsible, unscientific and immature posture to the threat of COVID-19.

He can't seem to make up his mind whether the country is opening too quickly or not quickly enough.

His pronouncements and posture seem to be based on putting his finger in the wind and trying to determine which way a temporary wind may be blowing.

As for me and my Government, our decisions are based on medical science and the need to balance the health, social and economic needs of the Bahamian people.

This is a time for responsible, strong and steady leadership, not pandering and posturing like the Leader of the Opposition.

I say again, he and his party would have been a disaster during this time, an absolute, unmitigated disaster!

Mr. Speaker:

We must remain a cautious and disciplined people.

We must maintain physical distancing.

We must keep wearing our masks.

We must wash and sanitize our hands.

We should stay away from crowds.

We must stay ahead of the virus.

We must protect the more vulnerable.

Mr. Speaker:

The Bahamas will Press Onward, so that we can continue to move into: A

Time of: Hope, Triumph and Transformation, which is the theme for this year's independence celebration.

I invite the Bahamian people to watch the virtual independence celebration, which begins at 8 p.m. tomorrow night, July 9th, on ZNS.

Mr. Speaker:

In response to the unprecedented last ten months following Hurricane Dorian and the COVID-19 pandemic,

we have taken unprecedented action
as a nation.

Because of our actions and our
Bahamian Spirit, we will rise!

We will rise!

The world continues to mark the
manner of our bearing.

But we must continue to do what is
right, so that the world can continue to
see and to respect, “our bright banners
waving high”!

We are a resilient people.

The essence of resilience is discipline, fortitude and determination.

We cannot slack off; we cannot rest; we cannot go weak – because this virus is as aggressive and as deadly as ever.

Let us not put our shared sacrifices and the sacrifices of our health care professionals at risk.

Let us remain alert, vigilant and strong.

May God bless our Bahamas as we celebrate 47 years as a sovereign, proud, free and resilient people.

I wish the members of the House and the Bahamian people, a Happy and Safe Independence.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.