

40 INDEPENDENCE MOMENTS

1. In December 1972 The Government headed by Prime Minister the Rt. Hon. Lynden Pindling and the Opposition headed by Sir Kendal Isaacs led a delegation to London to discuss the Independence Constitution.
2. The surviving framers of the Constitution of the Bahamas' constitution are: Sir Arthur Foulkes, The Honourable Arthur D. Hanna, Sir Orville Turnquest, The Honourable A. Loftus Roker, George A. Smith and The Honourable Philip M. Bethel. Deceased signatories included Sir Lynden Pindling, Sir Milo Butler, The Honourable Paul L. Adderley Sir Clement Maynard, The Honourable Carlton E. Francis, Sir Kendal Isaacs, The Honourable Cadwell C. Armbrister, The Honourable Henry J. Bowen and The Honourable Norman S. Solomon.
3. On April 2, 1973, the Minister of Home Affairs, the Hon. R.F. Anthony Roberts, announced in the House of Assembly that the Bahamas had a new flag.
4. March On, Bahamaland is the national anthem of the Bahamas. It was composed by Timothy Gibson and adopted in 1973.
5. The Police Band's album titled "March on Bahamaland" contains the first recording ever of the Bahamas National Anthem. This album was produced in 1973 at the Ace recording Studios in Miami, Florida.
6. The Pledge of Allegiance was written by Rev Dr. Phillip Rahming.
7. There was a national competition to produce the motto for the coat of arms, and the competition was won by two 11-year-old schoolchildren – Vivian F. Moultrie of Inagua Public School and Melvern B. Bowe of the Government High School in Nassau. Bahamian artist Hervis Bain prepared the preliminary design of the coat of arms.
8. God Bless Our Sunny Clime is the national song of the Bahamas. It was written by Rev. Dr. Phillip Rahming and composed by the late Timothy Gibson and the late Clement Bethel.
9. The Bahamas sent its first delegation to the Carifta games in May 1973.
10. The new Bahamian Museum at Jumbey Village, which was funded by the students and teachers of the Bahamas, was dedicated to the Nation on May 6, 1973.

11. Bahamasair began operations on June 7, 1973.
12. On June 20, 1973 the Hon. Carlton E. Francis Minister of Development, signed an order establishing the Industrial Park.
13. The Bahamas Independence Secretariat was responsible for the Independence celebrations of 1973. The chairman was The Honourable George Smith, who was the Parliamentary Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister. He was assisted by Harold A. Munnings who was the Co-ordinator.
14. The Independence celebrations also had an Advisory Council. The Rt. Honourable Lynden Pindling was the Chairman.
15. Many talented Bahamians were given the chance to head committees for the Independence Celebrations. These included Clement Bethel for Folklore and Music, Hervis Bain, Patrick Rahming and James Rolle for Arts and Crafts, Bishop Michael Eldon for Poetry, Essay and Drama, Horace Wright for the Float Parade and Gus Cooper for Track and Field.
16. The government of The Bahamas spent some \$2,000,000 on independence celebrations.
17. South Andros was the first Island visited by The Rt. Honourable Lynden Pindling on his Island hopping Independence Tour.
18. There was an Independence Basketball tournament June 29-July 5 held at C I Gibson Gym.
19. From July 8 to 14 a National Arts and Crafts Exhibition was held at Jumbey Village. James Rolle served as the Chairman and Hervis Bain was the Co-Chairman of this event. Following this "Jumbey 73", a National Festival of arts was also held at the Village.
20. The theme of the Independence Regatta was either scenes from Bahamian History or a scene depicting the spirit of Independence. Horace Wright served as the chairman of this event. The Independence Regatta was held July 5-7 in New Providence.
21. Dignitaries from 52 countries attended a formal reception at Government House on July 8, 1973. This dinner was hosted by Prince Charles.

22. The United States President's Special Representatives at the Independence Celebrations were Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Scott.
23. The Rev Dr. R.E. Cooper delivered the sermon at the Independence National Day of Prayer and Ecumenical Service on July 8, 1973.
24. Prince Charles laid the cornerstone of the Central Bank on July 9, 1973.
25. On the evening of July 9, 1973, a musical and cultural display entitled "Pages from Bahamian History" was held at Clifford Park. It portrayed Bahamian Heritage through dance and music. The show was co-ordinated and directed by Winston Saunders and Clement Bethel was its artistic and musical director.
26. The Police Force held a display and Flag raising ceremony on the evening of July 9 at Clifford Park. Members of the Force marched and did routines enhanced by music. The musical Director of was Supt. Dennis Morgan.
27. One minute to midnight on July 9 the Union Jack was lowered for the last time as the official flag of The Bahamas. One minute after midnight on 10 July a crowd of 50,000 saw the black, turquoise and gold flag of the Bahamas being raised instead of the Union Jack.
28. All Civic, Cultural and Labour organizations within the Bahamas marched in a parade on July 10. The chairman of this event was Rudolph Moultrie.
29. As the Queen's representative, Prince Charles read a personal message from Her Majesty on Independence Day, July 10, 1973.
30. The Valley Boys were the winners of the \$1,000 top prize in the Independence Day Junkanoo Parade. This was one of the highest ever first prize purses given for this traditional Bahamian event. The theme of their costume was "Beautiful Things of the Bahamas". Their banner read "A Nation is born."
31. The Independence Fashion Show held on July 14, 1973 was the first evening function of the Independence celebrations.
32. Delta Airlines presented a monument as a gift to the Bahamas. The Monument was placed at the entrance to the newly opened Nassau Botanical Gardens. It is constructed of granite, weighs 4,300 pounds and bears the Bahamas Coat of Arms and Motto.

33. Salathiel Thompson was appointed the first Bahamian Commissioner of Police in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas on June 1, 1973. He succeeded Mr. John H. Hinmarsh of Britain.
34. Sir Milo B. Butler became the first Bahamian Governor General on August 1, 1973.
35. Sir Leonard Knowles became the first Bahamian Chief Justice in 1973.
36. The late Dame Dr. Doris Johnson was the first woman to be elected President of the Senate.
37. In July, 1973 the Bahamas applied for membership in the United Nations and in September of that year was admitted as the 138th member.
38. Livingston B. Johnson was appointed as the first Ambassador of The Bahamas to the United States and to the United Nations.
39. A political party named The Abaco Independence Movement (AIM) was formed in August 1973. Its goal was to seek self-determination for Abaco within a federal Bahamas.
40. The Bahamas Hotel Training College (BHTC) was established in 1973, it commenced student enrolment in 1974 for diploma programmes.