



Office of  
the Prime Minister

## **REMARKS AT THE OPENING OF THE ABACO WEATHER SYMPOSIUM ABACO**

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**HON. PHILIP DAVIS, QC, MP**

**PRIME MINISTER & MINISTER OF FINANCE OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF  
THE BAHAMAS**

**26<sup>ND</sup> AUGUST 2022**

Distinguished Guests...

Ladies and Gentlemen...

Good Afternoon!

Last week, The Bahamas hosted the first ever Caribbean regional conference, specifically focussed on building a consensus for the United Nations negotiations on climate change.

This was historic for many reasons, not least because our country has now firmly stepped

up to take on an influential role in the global response to climate change.

While issues of funding, carbon credits and so on grab many of the headlines, for us here at home, climate change is already affecting our way of life.

More so than ever before, we need to be prepared.

Last July was the hottest on record worldwide.

Overall, last summer tied for the second-hottest on record.

The data isn't in as yet, but this summer must also be among the hottest.

Even so, it is a serious possibility that from now on, we may look back on these past two summers as the coolest.

It is a sobering thought.

But the mention of the name 'Dorian' gives us even greater pause for thought.

The people of Abaco and Grand Bahama know far better than I do, the trauma and destruction of a Category 5 hurricane.

Apart from the extreme heat, the threat of annual hurricanes, along with rising sea levels, means we have to make vigorous efforts to prepare ourselves more effectively to deal with natural disasters.

And so I welcome this initiative by Bishop Mills, to convene this Symposium.

In ancient times, symposia were characterised by the intellectual quality of the discussions.

I pray that your conversations are conducted with the same rigour, passion and urgency of ancient times.

A special welcome to Bryan Norcross and Director Max Mayfield, who will add an international dimension to the conversation.

We are grateful for their many years of unpaid service to our island nation.

I'll hand over now to Bishop Mills, to whom I say again, congratulations on convening this symposium.

Bishop Mills...

END

[CHECK WHEN PM SHOULD SAY:

"I declare this Symposium official 'open'."