



Office of
the Prime Minister

**REMARKS TO GRADUATES OF THE COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM
(CERT) TRAINING**

HON. PHILIP DAVIS, QC, MP

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

FRIDAY 26TH AUGUST 2022

Distinguished Guests...

Ladies and Gentlemen...

Good Morning!

Last week, The Bahamas hosted the first ever Caribbean regional conference, specifically focused 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.

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 this 'Community Emergency Response Team' Training is a critical component in our preparedness efforts.

In our 'Blueprint For Change', the platform on which we were elected, my administration pledged not only to improve the government's approach to disaster management, but also to empower the Bahamian people to be better able to help themselves.

This CERT programme is fully aligned with that promise.

Past experience of this programme has demonstrated that the basic skills you have developed will not only support your own physical and psychological needs, but also that of your communities.

I trust that your experience of the training has been similar to that of others who have already completed it.

Their experience has been that, by becoming better equipped to help themselves and others, 'Community Emergency Response Training' helps to build camaraderie, empowers residents, and engenders a sense of purpose and pride.

My Heartiest Congratulations to all of you for having completed the programme.

Our country needs you!

Thank you.

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