

**Launch of the Ten Year National Development Plan for the Turks and
Caicos Islands**
Welcome and Introductory Remarks
**By Hartley Coalbrooke, MBE, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of
Finance**
Providenciales, October 27, 2005

HE Mahala Wynns, Acting Governor, Other Members of Executive Council, Permanent Secretaries, Heads of Department, Members of the Ten Year Development Plan Committee, Members of the Press, Members of the Clergy, Ladies and Gentlemen, Boy and Girls

Good morning. I am honoured to Chair today's ceremony marking the formal launch of the Ten Year National Development Plan for the Turks and Caicos Islands. We are very happy that so many of you from within the public sector, the private sector and from throughout the entire country are present today. Your presence here today (at short notice in some instances) is indicative of the importance you place on the need to prepare a modern Plan to guide the future development of these Islands. I am therefore very pleased to extend a very warm welcome to each and everyone of you.

The purpose of today's formal launch of the Plan is further inform you of the planning methodology that will be implement to prepare the Plan, to provide information on the context in which the plan will be implement and to engender you support and participation during the planning process.

Planning a nation's future is an exciting time in any country's history. This is especially so in the Turks and Caicos Islands where over the past twenty

years the country has made tremendous progress, but serious imbalances persist between the various islands and social groups. By better coordinating and prioritising resources and activities in both the public and private sectors, planning enables us to work on these imbalances and to correct glaring problems so as to produce a better quality society providing greater opportunities and higher incomes in a cleaner, safer environment for the betterment of all.

This is the context in which we are embarking on the preparation of a Ten Year National Development Plan for the Turks and Caicos Islands. Notwithstanding the recent preparation of a number of plans to guide the development of various social and economic sectors, it goes without saying that the need for a comprehensive development plan for the Islands is overdue. The previous plan was useful in its time and has ably guided the physical development of the Islands. However, the need for a new Plan, which embraces widespread participation; is underpinned by modern legislation; and is linked to the Budget to ensure implementation is evident.

I am very pleased to have been closely associated with the conceptualisation of the planning process for the 'new' Plan. I can assure you that the planning methodology for the Plan will allow the input of all in the private and public sectors and in individual communities across this country to be taken into consideration, so that the Plan which emerges about a year from now will be truly reflective of the shared vision and aspirations we have agreed for our country.

The Plan will be prepared as a joint initiative of the Planning Department and the Department of Economic Planning and Statistics. The staff from these departments must be complemented for this collaborative approach, which will lessen duplication, be cost effective and will ensure internal consistency within the Plan. The Government is committing in excess of \$500,000 towards the planning process and have recruited very experienced consultants to act as technical advisers. This is indicative of the Government's commitment to a modern planning process. It is now incumbent about all of us to avail ourselves of this opportunity to shape our country's future.

In ending these introductory remarks, I implore all of us to become active participants in the planning process. On further reflection, I believe the collective formulation of a visionary plan to chart the course of development will be a fitting legacy we can leave we for future residents of these Islands. Once again, welcome and I hope that you will be better informed of the planning process as a result of your attendance of today's ceremony!