



Hon. Sir Clement T. Maynard

Born on September 11, 1928 , Sir Clement Maynard was educated in Nassau , the United States of America and the United Kingdom. He began his career as a Laboratory Technician in Princess Margaret Hospital, and later became a founding member and First President of The Bahamas Public Services Union. A political activist, he was appointed to the Senate and named a Minister of Senate in January, 1967, following the election victory of the Progressive Liberal Party which brought minority government in The Bahamas to an end. He attended the 1972 Constitutional Conference as a delegate.

Apart from Sir Lynden Pindling, Sir Clement is the only person to have been appointed to serve in every cabinet of The Bahamas between January 1967 and August 1992. Sir Clement held portfolio responsibility for key Ministries throughout his tenure in the Cabinet, serving as Ministers of Public Works, Tourism, Labour and Home Affairs, Health and Foreign Affairs. He was appointed and served as Deputy Prime Minister from 1985 to 1992.

He held the distinction of having been the longest serving Minister of Tourism and his name became synonymous with Bahamian tourism over the years. Under his direction as Minister, Bahamian tourism became a year round industry growing from one million annual visitors in the early 1980s to a three million annual visitor industry by 1986.

Sir Clement oversaw a number of innovative programmes designed to bring greater variety to the Bahamian tourism product and to strengthen the industry. Such initiatives included the introduction of the Goombay Summer Programme, the Bahamas Host programme and the People-to-People programme, the last of which has now been adapted as a regional model. Sir Clement also introduced Beach Wardens to popular tourism beaches and served at the helm of Tourism when the Government undertook the major infrastructural projects to expand the cruise ship facilities at the Prince George Dock. Under his direction, a Bahamas Hotel training school was established. Not surprisingly, Sir Clement oversaw the public relations contract which created the successful "It's Better In The Bahamas" tourism campaign.

Another significant achievement during Sir Clement's tenure of responsibility for Tourism was the establishment of the national flag carrier Bahamasair. As Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sir Clement was responsible for a resident diplomatic Mission in the Haitian capitol Port-Au-Prince. He also spearheaded Government's acquisitions of Chancery offices in London, Washington D.C. and New York as well as official residences in London and Ottawa.

He oversaw the development of more active participation by The Bahamas in international organizations considerably expanding the staff in the country's overseas Missions particularly in Washington, New York and London. He chaired the Meeting of the Standing Committee of Foreign Ministries of The Caribbean Community in Nassau in May, 1992 and also served as Chairman for the General Assembly of the Organization of American States, also held in Nassau in 1992. Always active in Commonwealth Parliamentary Association business, Sir Clement played important roles during the hosting of two Meetings of the Association in The Bahamas. During his tenure as Foreign Minister, the anti-drug OPBAT programme was expanded to include provisions for the ship-rider and hot pursuits programmes.

He was married to Lady Zoe Maynard, the daughter to the late Dr. and Mrs. Roland Cumberbatch. The union produced five children, the eldest Julian (deceased), Peter, Allyson, David and Clement III.

The country mourned the passing of a great Statesman on his passing in October 2, 2009.