

REMARKS AT THE SIGNING OF AN AGREEMENT TO SUPPORT THE
STRENGTHENING OF THE HEALTH SYSTEM OF THE BAHAMAS

Minister Michael Halkitis
Minister of Economic Development

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Ms. Daniela Carerra, Senior Public Officers and staff from the IDB, Good afternoon.

Along with IDB, I will sign, in a few minutes, an agreement to establish a non-reimbursable technical cooperation or grant funded initiative, to support an ongoing IDB investment project that is currently being executed by the Ministry of Health and Wellness.

The Technical Cooperation support is granted by the European Union Caribbean Investment Facility (EU-CIF) in the amount of approximately five million, six hundred thousand dollars (\$5,600,000.00). More specifically, the resources from this facility will be channeled towards reinforcement of infrastructure and the procurement of equipment for primary health care in the country.

It is worth noting that the ongoing health sector investment project with the IDB, encapsulates, three pillars,

- Improvements to the delivery of the healthcare model
- Enhancement of the capacity for provision of primary care, and
- Modernization of the health information system

I reiterate, that resources from this grant initiative will be applied to construction, rehabilitation and retrofitting of clinics in family islands. In addition, consideration will also be given to purchasing ambulance for selected islands.

On behalf of the Government and people of The Bahamas, the receipt of grant funds from the EU-CIF, through the IDB, adds value to existing plans aimed at improving, the delivery of health care throughout the country, hence it is in this view, that I express much gratitude for the support. I would be remiss, if I fail to intimate, that both institutions, the IDB and the EU have assumed instrumental roles in assisting the Government in improving key sectors of The Bahamas.

I am told that the existing IDB investment operation is progressing well in its execution is aligned with achieving project objectives. I have no doubt that this new injection of resources will enhance ongoing undertakings in a project that is deemed critical to the well-being of the socio-economic growth of The Bahamas.

I thank you and wish all stakeholders well in their effective execution of the IDB funded Health Sector Investment project.