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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PILOT LAUNCH OF YOUNG INNOVATORS CLUB

The Government of The Bahamas has officially announced the pilot launch of the Young Innovators Club, a transformative youth platform forged through a strategic partnership between the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and the Ministry for Grand Bahama. Building upon the foundational innovation work advanced through the Ministry for Grand Bahama and the broader Innovate242 agenda, this inaugural pilot programme invites young Bahamians to imagine, design, and execute practical solutions for the future of the nation.

The Young Innovators Club is structured around five core pillars:

1. Technology
2. Environment
3. Entrepreneurship
4. Arts & Heritage
5. Maritime

Through hands-on problem solving, expert mentorship, and practical project prototyping, pilot cohorts will be challenged to identify real-world community issues and turn creative concepts into viable, high-impact solutions.

Emphasizing how this pilot aligns directly with national educational priorities, Acting Prime Minister the Minister of Education, Science and Technology, the Hon. I. Chester Cooper highlighted the importance of equipping students not merely to enter the future economy, but to actively shape it.

“Education can no longer simply be about preparing our students to fit into the world as it exists today, but must instead empower them with the critical thinking, technical mastery, and creative audacity required to actively design the world of tomorrow,” stated Minister Cooper. “By grounding our young people in practical problem-solving and entrepreneurial experience through the Young Innovators Club pilot, we are equipping a

new generation of Bahamians to transform national challenges into economic opportunities and lead our archipelagic nation into a prosperous, sustainable future.”

Reinforcing this vision and highlighting the geographic reach of the initiative, the Minister for Grand Bahama, the Hon. Ginger Moxey, noted that innovation can never be confined to a single island.

“Grand Bahama has been advancing a vision of innovation, but innovation belongs to every young Bahamian who looks at a challenge and believes there must be a better way,” added Minister Moxey. “The pilot launch of the Young Innovators Club gives our youth the encouragement, tools, and platforms required to transform that belief into decisive action.”

The initial pilot rollout establishes an operational footprint across four islands; New Providence, Grand Bahama, Exuma, and Abaco. Each cohort will include two public schools, two private/independent schools and one community group; each with a maximum number of 20 students. The following are the participating schools on each island and their assigned pillar:

Grand Bahama

St. George's High School - Arts & Heritage
Eight Mile Rock High - Maritime
Bishop Michael Eldon School - Environment
Tabernacle Baptist Academy - Entrepreneurship
BTVI - Technology

New Providence

C.R. Walker Senior High School - Environment
Government High School - Arts & Heritage
Windsor Upper School - Technology
Aquinas College - Maritime
BTVI – Entrepreneurship

Exuma

L. N. Coakley High - Arts & Heritage and Maritime
Exuma Christian Academy - Entrepreneurship
St. Andrews Anglican School - Maritime
BTVI – Technology

Abaco

Patrick Bethel – Arts & Heritage
Sherlin C. Bootle – Technology
Long Bay School – Entrepreneurship
Forest Heights Academy – Maritime
BUT Abaco Trailblazers - Environment

Designed as an inaugural model to test and refine national delivery, the pilot framework will run three 8-week cohorts annually, targeting up to 100 participants per island in each cohort. The pilot will engage 1,200 young innovators per year. The initiative operates on a simple yet profound premise that the future of The Bahamas is not something to passively anticipate, but something we must actively build together.

Orientation for the first cohort is set for Saturday, 3 October 2026, with official sessions commencing on Monday, 5 October 2026. Official application guidelines and eligibility criteria for the pilot programme are available through the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and the Ministry for Grand Bahama.

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