

Remarks made by Bishop Neil C. Ellis

At joint Press Conference with The Ministry of Tourism
Announcing the Premier of Tyler Perry's latest Movie "Why Did I Get Married Too?"
Held in the Governor's Ballroom 'A' British Colonial Hilton
Sunday, March 7, at 3:30 p.m.

Salutations.....

It gives me great sense of pleasure and a deep satisfaction to partner with the Ministry of Tourism this afternoon as we prepare to bring a taste of Hollywood to the Bahamas.

Ever since Tyler Perry and I meet several years ago, there was a mutual sense of respect and admiration for what God was doing in each of our lives. This God ordained connection, has brought us here today and I am delighted to call him my friend. It's amazing what God can do with a seed.

When I approached the Minister of Tourism early last year and requested that he and other government officials arrange to have an audience with Tyler because of the work that he was currently doing in the Bahamas, it was already evident to me that Tyler was enthralled with the beauty and people of our country. Not only has he expressed this in various ways but he continues to demonstrate it. In recent times, Tyler has been a major investor in the Bahamian economy and certainly the people of Eleuthera can attest to that where a significant portion of his latest movie "Why Did I Get Married Too?" was filmed. This movie is scheduled to hit screens throughout the United States on April 2nd

We are aware that the Bahamian people have come to know and love Tyler through his Madea character and I am happy once again to have the privilege to afford our people the opportunity to meet him up-close and personal. The Minister of Tourism, Sen. Hon. Vincent Vanderpool-Wallace will provide you with the details.

I have come to the conclusion, that in Tyler Perry, The Islands of The Bahamas have found a great and valuable friend. Recently he acquired a stake in our country and in that same spirit of generosity, Tyler has once again opened his arms to one of our native sons but we shall address that further during a press conference on Wednesday, March 10th at 10:00 a.m. right here at the Hilton.

Mr. Perry is a devout Christian with a well developed social conscience. For those of you who may be unfamiliar with his story, his fame and fortune did not come overnight. In fact at one point he was homeless and living out of his car but he never gave up on his dream and continued to use his talents to bring laughter to a world that we all know desperately needs it.

As one who has worked his way up, the Tyler Perry story serves to inspire a generation of Bahamians and remind us that given focused attention and through consistent effort; dreams do come true. He has never forgotten his roots, which he often alludes to and is internationally recognized for his charitable work and community involvement. Just recently he appeared on the **ABC hit program Extreme Makeover Home Edition** where he along with the cast and local volunteers built a new home for a deserving family of five..

As the Minister will explain, we will soon have an opportunity to welcome him to The Bahamas once again and it is my sincere prayer that this will further solidify the wonderful relationship that we have already established with him. I am proud of the gracious and cordial reception that he was given on his last visit and I encourage each of us to take it to the next level. Thank you.