



**Ministerial Statement
CARIFTA Games**

**The Honourable Dame Jennifer Smith, DBE, JP, DHumL, MP
Minister of Education**

Friday 3 February 2012

Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to inform Honourable Members that I have agreed that all public schools will be closed on 9 April 2012, Easter Monday.

This decision was taken so that the entire school system can support the final day of the CARIFTA Games.

Mr. Speaker, as Members will be aware, Carifta is a major international sporting event that will be hosted by Bermuda over the Easter weekend. The games will feature Bermuda's best student athletes, many of whom are from our public schools.

Mr. Speaker, Members are quite aware that all of our students deserve support and encouragement. Just as we support academic achievement and creative talent; so must we support those gifted athletes who - following their successful Carifta experience - may one day represent our country at the Olympics.

Our athletes are role models for their peers and I think that it is appropriate for us to recognise excellence in all spheres.

To that end, I also encourage the Members of this House and the general public to attend the Carifta Games.

It is no secret that events of this magnitude require a large number of volunteers and teachers, senior students and Department of Education administrators will be able to provide vital support to this event and to our athletes.

Mr. Speaker, I have made this announcement now to ensure that principals, parents and teachers have ample notice so that they can plan accordingly.

All public schools will be closed on Monday the 9th of April. Classes will resume on Tuesday the 10th of April 2012.

Thank you.