



Ministry of Education and Technical and Vocational Training

Communications Section

P. O. Box N-3913/14

Nassau, The Bahamas

Press Release

Wednesday, June 21st, 2023

Re: The Ministry of Education and Technical and Vocational Training Announces the Appointment of New UNESCO Ambassador



NASSAU, NP –The Minister of Education and Technical and Vocational Training, the Hon. Glenys Hanna Martin, is pleased to announce the appointment of celebrity artist Jamaal Rolle to the post of Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of The Bahamas to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) effective 1st May 2023.

UNESCO works to ensure that every child and every citizen has access to quality education. Serving as The Bahamas' representative to this global body will allow the new ambassador to work toward fulfilling that mission, ensuring that "Every Child Counts," while at the same time promoting cultural heritage.

Ambassador Rolle joins an active team, succeeding CV Hope Strachan. Over the past year, The Bahamas has participated in UNESCO meetings focusing on a new guide for policymakers on "Addressing Hate Speech through Education", capacity building and strengthening of policymakers and planners on gender responsive TVET institutions and programmes in the Caribbean and UNESCO's survey on the governmental use of AI as a public good for education among other matters.

Ambassador Rolle has a solid foundation as a cultural contributor: in 2022, he became the first Bahamian to be appointed Ambassador-at-Large for Cultural Affairs. In 2019, he represented The Bahamas at the UNESCO International Youth Forum on Creativity and Heritage in China and attended the Forum virtually in 2021.

A graduate of R.M. Bailey Senior High School where he received the Margaret Berry Award, Ambassador Rolle's creativity led him into art as a profession. Known as The Celebrity Artist, Ambassador Rolle is an award-winning, widely travelled, multidisciplinary artist famous for portraits of world figures, government officials, Grammy and Oscar winners and A-list celebrities including U.S. President Barack Obama, Oprah Winfrey, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, Pope Francis, The Prince of Saudi Arabia and Sir Sidney Poitier.

He is the recipient of the 2012 People's Choice Visual Artist of the Year, 2016 Bahamian ICON for achievement in Fine Art, 2018 Elevation Award Visual Artist of the Year and 2020 The Black Man Can Extraordinary Black Man Award, among others. Ambassador Rolle is also a recipient of the Rotarian-Paul Harris Award and a visionary Ted Talk Speaker. He has been featured and documented in international media outlets such as The Washington Post, BBC News, People Magazine, the Huffington Post, BET, TIME and CBS News.

One of The Bahamas' most prolific artists, his work is exhibited at the entrance to the Queen Elizabeth Sports Centre, the foyer at the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture and in the homes of many of our country's leaders. The 50th Anniversary of Majority Rule Exhibition is one of his most notable projects.

His column "Pushin' Da Envelope" ran for 12 years in The Tribune, one of the country's leading newspapers. Ambassador Rolle made history with the column's debut in 2010, becoming the country's youngest editorial cartoon satirist. His passions include cultural history, Bahamian history and the Orange Economy. He is married to Ashlee Rolle and has two daughters, Hazel and Haylee Rolle.

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