



*6<sup>th</sup> September, 2017*

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT – HURRICANE IRMA**

Dear University Community,

As we brace ourselves for Hurricane Irma, which is projected to impact The Bahamas, and the islands of the Southeast Bahamas in particular, we ask for your prayers as the Government of The Bahamas and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) mobilize manpower and resources in preparation for this potentially catastrophic hurricane.

In an effort to ensure that the University community has sufficient time to prepare for the impending storm, please be advised that **all UB campuses in New Providence, Grand Bahama and San Salvador will close effective 10:00 p.m. today (Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2017) until further notice.**

Please use this time to secure your properties and take all necessary precautions to ride out the storm, like purchasing necessary supplies, including water, medicines, batteries, etc. Then, remain hunkered down until NEMA has issued the **All Clear**.

We urge the University community to monitor all announcements from NEMA and the Government of The Bahamas and to pay close attention to all official University communications. The telephone numbers for the University's Command Centre Helpdesk are: (242) 325-7391, (242) 325-6303, (242) 323-8972 and (242) 356-0241.

We are extremely grateful to all employees, especially our first-responders and all “essential services personnel”: namely, University Police and Security, Physical Plant and Information Technology units as well as Residential Life, Student Affairs personnel and all members of the University's Emergency Management Team who are instrumental in securing our campuses and resources, activating contingencies to mitigate potential losses and conducting assessments.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all students, faculty, staff, the people of The Bahamas and our neighbours in the Caribbean and the United States.

Last October, Hurricane Matthew blazed a trail of devastation, but thankfully, it left no casualties in The Bahamas. The kind of damage sustained to residential, commercial and government properties, as well as public infrastructure took psychological, as well as economic tolls on the people of The Bahamas. As the threat of Hurricane Irma looms, we remain encouraged by the indomitable spirit of the Bahamian people.

The road to national recovery and restoration in the aftermath of any hurricane is always a long one, but know that your University family will be here to help and support you. Please be safe. We pray for God's grace and continued mercies.

**Rodney D. Smith, Ed.D.**