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 NASSAU  
 BAHAMAS



## Majority Rule 10<sup>th</sup> January 1967

Please supply me with the following

VALUE	QUANTITY REQUIRED	MINT OR USED	COST
15c			
50c			
65c			
70c			
Plate and/or Traffic Light Blocks comprising 4 sets @ \$8.00			
First Day Cover with stamps @ \$2.75			
<b>TOTAL</b>			

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

### TECHNICAL DETAILS

Design: Bee Design  
 Printer: Cartor Security Printers  
 Process: Stochastic lithography  
 Perforation: 13 ¼ x 13 per 2cms  
 Stamp size: 38 x 30.6mm  
 Sheet layout: 20 (2 x 10)  
 Release date: 10 January, 2023  
 Production Co-ordination: Creative Direction (Worldwide) Ltd

#### A Standing Order Account

To obtain regular stamp issues from The BAHAMAS, it is easy to arrange to have a Standing Order Account with The BAHAMAS Philatelic Bureau, who will be pleased to regularly dispatch your requirements of mint sets, C.T.O.s, and/or First Day Covers, saving you the trouble of having to write.

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THE ISLANDS OF THE BAHAMAS  
 "IT JUST KEEPS GETTING BETTER"

# BAHAMAS

## MAJORITY RULE 10TH JANUARY 1967



## Majority Rule 10<sup>th</sup> January 1967

This singular event in Bahamian history played a significant role in shaping the modern Bahamas that we experience today. The events that led to Majority Rule define us as a people and serve as a constant reminder of our vision and values.

Many historians believe that The Burma Road Riots on 1 June, 1942 marked the beginning of the modern political history of Bahamas. The Riots came as the result of agitation by labourers for equal pay for equal work regardless of colour or nationality when local workers heard that Americans were being paid more for the same work at an American Armed Forces Airfield construction site. Today that is the site of Lynden Pindling Airport. This unrest became interwoven with the overall movement for freedom and social justice.

Although the first stirrings of political activity in Bahamas involved labour, other movements were equally significant. In 1949 a conversation between Mary Ingraham and her husband, following his defeat in the general elections, concluded that the election results would have been very different if women had voted. In 1957 Mary Ingraham was elected President of the Suffrage Movement and formed alliances from across the political divide, gaining considerable support that culminated in members of the movement visiting London in 1960 to present a petition to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. In January 1961 a Select Committee of the House of Assembly gave a report in favour of the right to vote for women, but with effect from January 1963. The Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) and the Independents opposed the report and an appeal to the House of Commons in London resulted in women being able to vote from 30 June, 1962.

The PLP was born out of a movement that embodied the hopes and aspirations of a generation of Bahamians who were demanding equal work, majority rule and



the freedom to pursue whatever dreams they may have had. William Cartwright is generally credited with creating the PLP. In August 1953 they held their first meeting and from the outset their path was clear. They would represent all that was opposed to unfair privilege.

In January of 1958 a 16-day General Strike brought Nassau to a halt. Just about every worker participated in this peaceful strike that led to the Trade Union and Industrial Conciliation Act and the setting up of a Labor Department. Later the same year Allan Lennox Boyd, Secretary of State for the Colonies, ordered that the first constitutional steps be taken towards Majority Rule. The voting franchise was extended to all males (whether they were land-owners or not), the once ubiquitous plural vote was reduced to two and the abolition of the company vote ordered.

These changes coincided with the new women's right to vote in the 26 November, 1962 elections. To this day, the effect of women exercising their right to vote has impacted all aspects of national life as women from all sides of the political divide have made their contributions to the Country.

In 1965 the governing Bahamian Party sought the approval for a Boundaries Draft Order, which established the boundaries for constituencies in new Providence and the Family Islands. During a sitting of the House of Assembly the PLP proposed two amendments designed to get a fairer idea of the number of voters and their distribution, but both were rejected. At this point Sir Lynden Pindling walked to the Speaker's table and lifted the 165-year-old mace that symbolised the Speaker's authority and said "This is the symbol of authority, and authority on this island belongs to the people and the people are outside.". With that he hurled the mace through the open window. This act of deviance on Tuesday 27 April 1965, in pursuit of liberty and fairness was destined to go down in Bahamian history as Black Tuesday.

Majority Rule finally came on 10 January, 1967. After years of struggle by many freedom and justice loving people, Majority Rule allowed real democracy to come to the Bahamas, underpinned by equality, tolerance, and economic and social justice. It is a day that belongs to all Bahamians, a defining moment in our evolution as a people. It was the point of transition from minority government to Majority Rule and the birth of a modern democracy.

In the hard fought and competitive 1967 election the PLP delivered 18 members to a 38 member House of Assembly. However, Randol Fawkes (Labour) and Sir Alvin Braynen (Independent) threw their support behind the PLP. These two tipped the proverbial scale in favour of the PLP and the first Majority Rule cabinet was formed.

This distinguished group (15c stamp) together with the Governor, Sir Ralph Grey, comprised (from the left) Arthur Hanna, Cecil Wallace Whitfield, Milo Butler, Clement T. Maynard, Clarence Bain, Randol Fawkes, Lynden Pindling, Sir Ralph Grey, Jeffrey Thompson, Curtis Macmillan, Warren Levarity and Carlton Francis.