



MINISTRY OF YOUTH, SPORTS & CULTURE

**P. O. Box N-4891, University Drive
Nassau, New Providence, Bahamas**

Telephone: 1-242-502-0600/01

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Minister of Youth, Sports And Culture, Hon. Mario Bowleg
Extends Condolences On The Passing Of Former Deputy Director Of Sports,
The Late Mr. Kevin Colebrooke**



NASSAU, The Bahamas (21st September, 2022) – On behalf of administrative and technical staff of all Departments of this Ministry, mine is the remorseful task of confirming my Ministry's awesome gratitude for the tremendous contributions rendered to national sports development by our retired colleague and our fallen immediate past Deputy Director of Sports and the husband of our Permanent Secretary, Mrs. Cora Bain-Colebrooke, the late Kevin Colebrooke.

A graduate of St. Augustine's College in Raleigh, North Carolina, Kevin was an outstanding track and field athlete of the 1980's. He joined the Public Service as a member of staff of the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture on the 2nd of March, 1981, where he spent his entire career of 38 years contributing to the development of sports in The Bahamas.

For throughout his tenure in the Department of Sports of this Ministry, Mr. Colebrooke honestly pursued the profession to which he aspired, and when he faced challenges in realizing those aspirations, he painstakingly created the framework for achieving them in whatever the capacity of his service.

Mr. Colebrooke consistently exhibited such a constructive approach throughout his years of productive service, beginning from his entry in this Ministry as a youthful Sports Officer, in what was then the newly-minted Department of Sports, which was under the supervision of the founding Director of Sports, Winston "Gus" Cooper, a pioneer in this country's quest towards national sports development.

In such a regard, Kevin also proved himself to be another revolutionary figure in national development through sports. For in his extended tenure with my Ministry, he himself, serving as the liaison officer for a number of national Core Sport Associations and Federations, among which were Golf, Table Games, Rugby, Swimming and the Royal Life Guard Association. His ultimate focus centred on Swimming / Life Guarding however, no doubt a reflection of his keen interest in the propagation of that sport in a country two-thirds of which is comprised of water but as much two-thirds of its youth unable to swim.

Perhaps further reflection of Kevin's passion for growing the sport of swimming is reflected in his joyous acceptance of his assignment to dedicate himself to representing the interests of the Department of Sports by understudying all aspects of the construction of the Betty Kelly Kenning National Swim Complex at the Queen Elizabeth Sports Center in 2010. In assuming such a demanding task, he inhabited the construction site from start to finish, resulting in him becoming intensely familiar with all the many complexities of that facility's

computerized infrastructure, all its systems of operation and all best practices in an ordained maintenance programme.

Equally as nationally notable is that Kevin was more than supportive of the decision by the late Betty Kelly Kenning, a genuine nationalist who maintained her pledge to construct the National Swim Complex, undeterred by the escalation in the cost of completing the project, from the initial \$3.5 Million to \$5.0 Million and then to \$7.5 Million. No doubt such determination to complete the project emanated from her personal experiences and exploits as a member of this country's first national swim teams in the early days of the 1940's. Likewise was Kevin in Kelly-Kenning's confidence when she eschewed kinetic lobbying to instead construct the Swim Complex on a private school property some miles to the east, away from the densely population centers surrounding the Queen Elizabeth Sports Center.

Conclusively then, in the course of his superlative career, Kevin played a major role in the organization and execution of every Bahamas Games held in 1989, 1991, 1995, 1998, and in 2001, and was actively engaged with the planning of the Golden Jubilee Bahamas Games scheduled for 2023. Kevin also provided the impetus for the Bahamas to host the Junior Commonwealth Games in 2017. Also, he implemented a number of developmental programmes at the National Swim Complex and provided the framework for many others.

Among them were:

- **Learn-to-Swim programme for all Public School pupils.**
- **Learn-to-Swim programme for Sports Ministry staff,**
- **Learn-to-Swim programme for employees of the wider Public Service.**
- **Development of public programmes promoting water safety.**
- **Hosting of courses in Life Guarding and Water Safety.**
- **Hosting of Summer Learn to Swim Programmes for Adults.**
- **Development plans for an Annual Inter Community/Constituency Summer Swim Championships.**
- **Liaison Relations with the Royal Life Guard Society.**
- ~ **Relations with the Bahamas Red Cross.**
- **Study and proposals for the development of proper swim facilities in select Family Islands and,**
- **Liaison Relations with the national swim community and with both local Olympic Sailing Clubs.**

In closing then, my prayer is that the entire Ministry and the national sports community join with me in committing into the bosom of The Almighty, the soul of our brother and colleague, Mr. Kevin Colebrooke. Thank you in advance for your kindest consideration for his dear wife and our esteemed colleague, Mrs. Cora Bain-Colebrooke, his daughters, and members of their extended families. Thank you for your usual consideration and firm support.

May his soul rest in peace.

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