



Message from Hon. Vaden Delroy Williams, Minister of Home Affairs, Telecommunications and Transportation to mark the first anniversary of the passage of Hurricane Irma - September 7th, 2018

My fellow residents of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

As you hear or read this message, many of you are no doubt casting your minds back to what you were doing around this time last year when Hurricane Irma was approaching the Turks and Caicos Islands.

As the country battered down and prepared for what turned out to be the worst, the atmosphere and environment then, was certainly no where as calm and tranquil as it is today as we mark the first anniversary of the first of two powerful hurricanes that left a trail of destruction on this Beautiful By Nature country.

It was undoubtedly a rather testing time for all of us, and the unforgettable memories are still deep in our minds.

One year later, although the country still bears some scars from that fierce battle with Mother Nature, I can safely say that we have much to be thankful for.

Our country rebounded and recovered at a rate that has made us the envy of the Caribbean. While our faith, our resolve, our building codes, our disaster preparedness and management were put to some very stern tests, we in the Turks and Caicos Islands can take pride in knowing that through it all, we demonstrated that we have the capacity and ability to withstand whatever challenges come our way.

Be that as it may, my fellow residents, we must never let our guard down. None of us is more powerful than Mother Nature. Indeed, she must be respected and not taken for granted, and we must learn from the very instructive lessons she continues to teach us.

It is my belief that the better prepared we are, we will be in a better position to reduce the impact of hurricanes. This is precisely why this Government my Ministry and the DDME have taken a very serious approach to disaster management.

I wish to remind residents that the official shelter assessments and tours have concluded, the shelter list for the 2018 hurricane season has been published, and despite the fact that about 80% of buildings were destroyed last year, the DDME through the Ministry of Home Affairs has identified shelters in each island and some islands we have more shelter capacity than what is required for the population.

And so, as we mark this first anniversary of Hurricane Irma, let me end this message by encouraging residents of the Turks and Caicos Islands to pay close attention to local and international weather bulletins and, like I keep saying, preparation is better than cure.

May God continue to bless us all.

