



## SENATE SPEECH

**Sen. the Hon. Leslie Robinson, JP**

*Junior Minister of Economy and Labour and Public Works*

**November 18, 2022**

To her Excellency the Governor Rena Lalgie:

To our Premier, the Hon. E. David Burt, JP, MP:

To the members of the PLP Parliamentary Group and fellow Senate Colleagues:

And to all family and friends present here today:

I greet all of you in the precious name of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who is the author and finisher of my faith and my life. I want to thank Premier Burt for having the confidence in me, to choose me for this appointment, for such a time as this, in the history of Bermuda. I am deeply humbled and stand here with much gratitude as I join other esteemed women in what is now a majority female Senate, and I look forward to working with all Senators and members of the Parliamentary Caucus group. Many may ask, why choose me?

As I stand here at Government House I can easily think back to my early childhood, living right down the hill on North Shore, for I am the product of the iconic Clarke family of North Shore.

Like so many other families in Bermuda with roots tied to the West Indies, our Grandfather, the late Arthur Randal Clarke, left St. Kitts on a boat, in search of a new life in Bermuda. Our grandfather worked hard as a tailor, acquired property on the North Shore, and created our family dry cleaners, and tuxedo shop.

He worked hard with purpose, as he taught us the value of working together with family, and the wider community, to grow our family businesses, and to give back to others who were in need.

I have much admiration for my aunt, the late Dr. Faith Burgess Clarke – a widow for most of her adult life, but yet worked hard with purpose to ensure all of her 6 children received higher education.

I think of my own parents, the late Lawrence Lancelot Clarke and the late Jean Tucker Clarke who had to navigate through the many pressures of segregation and worked hard with purpose to have successful careers at the old Bank of Bermuda and BTC respectively.

And so that principle of working hard with clarity of purpose has been passed down to me. Whether it has been working hard as an insurance professional to service the needs of my clients, working as a regulator to help with protecting the reputation of Bermuda as a leading insurance center, working as part of my PLP Constituency 32 branch executive, listening to concerns of our people and helping to find solutions to address their needs, or working in my beloved A.M.E. Church, serving on many boards to assist with the running of my local church at Bethel in Shelly Bay, our Bermuda Conference and the Connectional levels of our church.

I have worked hard with clarity of purpose to ensure that whatever task has been put before me, I will do it with focused intent and to the best of my abilities, with the help of God.

As such, I stand ready to serve as Senator. I want to thank my immediate family members and close friends who have come out today to be with me on this auspicious occasion, and I want to again thank Premier Burt for this opportunity to serve.

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