



# PERMANENT SECRETARY

## THE BAHAMAS MINISTRY OF TOURISM

### LORRAINE SYMONETTE ARMBRISTER

Mrs. Lorraine Symonette Armbrister is a highly accomplished senior public servant with more than 40 years of distinguished service to the Government of The Bahamas. Since joining the Public Service in September 1982 as a trainee executive officer in the Ministry of Education, she has built an exemplary career marked by strong leadership, effective administration, strategic policy implementation and an unwavering commitment to national development.

Mrs. Armbrister began her career in the Ministry of Education, serving in the Personnel Section and gaining extensive experience in human resource administration and public service management. She later served in the Ministry of Housing and National Insurance, broadening her expertise in government operations. Upon returning to the Ministry of Education, she assisted in establishing the Conch Shell Jewellery and Souvenir Manufacturing Project in collaboration with the Industrial Training College, now The Bahamas Technical and Vocational Institute. The initiative equipped participants with practical skills and supported small business development among Bahamians.

Mrs. Armbrister's career advanced when she returned to the Ministry of Housing, Social Development and National Insurance, where she was assigned to the Department of Housing. Following the retirement of Chief Housing Officer, Ivor Archer, she became The Bahamas' first female chief housing officer. In this role, she oversaw the development of government housing subdivisions across New Providence, Grand Bahama and the Family Islands, expanding homeownership opportunities for hundreds of Bahamian families.

In 1997, Mrs. Armbrister was appointed Under Secretary of the Ministry of Transport and Aviation, where she contributed to significant legislative and institutional developments. During this period, the Bahamas Maritime Cadet Corps was established, and groundwork was laid for key transportation reforms, including the introduction of vehicular seatbelt legislation. She later served in the Ministry of Tourism and Aviation, managing aviation-related responsibilities and supporting the sector's continued advancement.

Mrs. Armbrister was appointed permanent secretary in 2010 and served in the Ministry of Transport and Aviation, providing oversight for several critical national agencies, including the Road Traffic Department, Department of Civil Aviation, Post Office Department, Airport Authority, Department of Meteorology, Bahamas Maritime Authority and Nassau Flight Services. Her tenure coincided with major national progress in transportation, aviation, maritime administration and public sector modernisation.

Among her key accomplishments were the transformation of Nassau International Airport into Lynden Pindling International Airport, expanded Bahamian management in airport operations, modernisation of the Road Traffic Department, procurement of Doppler weather radar systems and negotiation of a landmark agreement with the United States Federal Aviation Administration for payment of overflight fees for the use of Bahamian airspace.

Following the transition from the Ministry of Transport and Aviation to the Ministry of Transport and Local Government in 2017, Mrs. Armbrister continued to provide leadership and administrative oversight, supporting initiatives that strengthened local government participation and youth engagement throughout the Family Islands.

In July 2018, Mrs. Armbrister returned to the Ministry of Education, where she helped to advance transformative reforms across the education sector. Her leadership contributed to the implementation of the One Network Project, the computerisation of primary schools, and the expansion of digital learning platforms and education management systems throughout The Bahamas.

As permanent secretary of the Ministry of Education and Technical and Vocational Training, Mrs. Armbrister continued to support national priorities focused on educational excellence, curriculum reform, teacher professional development, student support services, technical and vocational education, school safety, parental engagement and improved learning outcomes.

In July 2026, Mrs. Armbrister was appointed permanent secretary to the Bahamas Ministry of Tourism.

Her distinguished career reflects an unwavering dedication to public service, nation building and expanding opportunities for all Bahamians.

