



PERMANENT SECRETARY

THE BAHAMAS MINISTRY OF TOURISM

LORRAINE SYMONETTE ARMBRISTER

Mrs. Lorraine Symonette Armbrister has served the Government of The Bahamas for more than 40 years. She joined the Public Service in September 1982 and has since built a career marked by strong leadership and effective administration across multiple ministries.

She began her career as a trainee executive officer in the Personnel section of the Ministry of Education. Since then, Mrs. Armbrister has served, most notably as Permanent Secretary, in the Ministries of Education, Housing, Transport and Aviation, Transport and Local Government, and Tourism and Aviation.

At the Ministry of Education, where she served three stints, Mrs. Armbrister worked under former Minister the Hon. Ivy Dumont with the former Industrial Training Centre, now the Bahamas Technical & Vocational Institute, to establish the Conch Shell Jewelry and Souvenir Manufacturing project, which equipped Bahamian entrepreneurs with practical skills and supported small business development. During her third stint, from 2018 to 2021, under former Minister the Hon. Jeffrey Lloyd, she helped establish the One Network Project, which advanced the digitisation of the educational sector and the Computerisation of Primary Schools. That period also saw the establishment of the Educational Management Information System and the Learning Management System.

Her tenure at the Ministry of Housing spanned three stints, under former Ministers the Hon. George Mackey, the Rt. Hon. Algernon Allen and the Hon. Kenneth Russell. This period saw the establishment of numerous government subdivisions for hundreds of Bahamian families. During her second stint, she was appointed The Bahamas' first female Chief Housing Officer in the Department of Housing.

As Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Transport and Aviation, under former Minister the Hon. Glenys Hanna Martin, Mrs. Armbrister was part of a team responsible for the modernisation of the Road Traffic, Port and Aviation departments, the procurement of solar lights for airports throughout The Bahamas, and the introduction of Doppler weather radars for detecting severe weather. She also helped negotiate an agreement with the United States' Federal Aviation Administration for the payment of overflight fees for the use of Bahamian airspace. She later served in the Ministry of Transport and Local Government, where, under the Hon. Frankie Campbell, she helped establish Junior Local Government Councils and Junior Road Safety Councils in public schools throughout the Family Islands.

From 2018 to July 2026, she served as Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education and Technical and Vocational Training. Achievements during this period included the testing and remediation of all students, the development of Special Education assessments, and the commissioning of a University of The Bahamas study on the factors affecting learning. Her tenure also saw the commissioning of the nation's first Bahamian history textbook and the reform of The Bahamas High School Diploma, undertaken in collaboration with the Royal Bahamas Police Force. She oversaw the introduction of the School Resource Officers programme in public schools to curb violence and supported the development of the Bahamas Polytechnic Training Institute.

In July 2026, Mrs. Armbrister was appointed Permanent Secretary of The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism.

She is the daughter of the late Baldwin and Vernice Symonette and is married to Mr. Cadwell Ron Armbrister. Mrs. Armbrister has one son, Medgar Symonette; a stepdaughter, Rhonda Armbrister-Cash; a stepson-in-law, Jarvin Cash; and three grandchildren, Jacob Symonette and Taraje and Tyesha Cash. She also has two brothers, Paul and Craig Symonette; a sister, Marie Symonette; and a nephew, Alvarez Symonette.

A life-long Roman Catholic, Mrs. Armbrister attends St. Francis Xavier Cathedral. She enjoys gardening, reading, travelling and singing in her church choir.

