



**COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS**

**STATEMENT BY MINISTER ON 2020 FISCAL  
STRATEGY REPORT DECEMBER RELEASE**

**Presented to the Honourable House of  
Assembly**

**By  
The Most Honorable Dr Hubert A Minnis  
Prime Minister**

**Wednesday, November 18, 2020**

Good Morning to this Honorable House.

Mr. Speaker,

As Members would be aware, this Honorable House approved the Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2018 which sets out parameters for the development and presentation of an annual Fiscal Strategy Report (FSR).

The FSR provides the medium-term macro-fiscal framework, that underpins and informs the preparation of the

government's annual budgets. It sets out the government's strategic priorities with respect to revenue collection, spending, and financing over the medium-term horizon.

Since the release of the inaugural FSR in 2018, the Government has continued to make good on its statutory commitment to fiscal transparency and accountability. We initiated quarterly budget performance reporting and have never missed a cycle since inception.

In keeping with our commitment and obligations, I rise to share the status of the 2020 Fiscal Strategy Report, which the government is required to present to the House of Assembly by the third Wednesday in November.

Mr. Speaker:

Given the fluid nature of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and its economic impact, my Cabinet and I have agreed that the prudent thing to do is to defer final

deliberations and release of the FSR to December.

Mr. Speaker:

The duration and intensity of this health crisis remains uncertain, although there have been recent positive developments on the medical front.

The sharp and ongoing revisions to the macroeconomic forecasts produced by various international agencies, including the International Monetary Fund, confirm

the difficulties in developing firm macroeconomic forecasts.

As Members would be aware, the important and necessary policy measures implemented to effectively manage the public health emergency exerted significant pressure on the country's fiscal position.

While we expect the reopening of tourism on November 1 to have a growing positive impact on near-term macroeconomic

conditions, the Government is seeking to make use of the most current information to the extent possible to inform critical policy deliberations.

Mr. Speaker:

Let me reiterate that the Government of The Bahamas is committed to the highest standards of fiscal transparency and accountability and is taking extra diligence in crafting our strategies for revenue and expenditure.

Even amid these unusually volatile times, we will seek to ensure that our forecasts are aligned as closely as possible to our overarching fiscal sustainability goals.

Thank you.