



**A ROYAL HONOUR** – Bishop Patterson Williams, president of the Grand Bahama Community Builders, greets His Majesty De Wheno Aholu Menu-Toyi during a recent trip to Nigeria, Africa, as an invited guest of the Apostolic Church (Lagoa and Western/Northern Areas) for consultative purposes.

# GBCBC president shares successes of local programs during two-week visit to Africa

Grand Bahama Community Builders' Club (GBCBC) President Bishop Patterson Williams recently travelled to Africa with members of the organization's Florida-based company to share the successes of a number of its local programs.

The two-week visit, from March 21 to April 2, was initiated by Dr. Deryl Hunt, CEO of the International Community Builders' Club, the parent company.

"Dr. John Brown, who serves as the president in Nigeria, recently made a trip to Florida and The Bahamas, where he learned of the many programs being offered here by the local Community Builders Club and wanted to have those programs and ideas introduced in his country," Williams explained.

"The purpose of the trip was to see what community projects we could develop together over there with a view of having future collaborations."

On arrival at the Lagos, Nigeria International Airport, Williams, Hunt and their colleague, DaVina Hoyt, were warmly greeted by a delegation of Executives of the Apostolic Church LAWNA Territory, including Pastor G.A Oyetunji, LAWNA Territorial Administrative Secretary.

During the trip, the party was able to visit a number of key sites throughout the country, where they consulted with several community members and local organizations, exchanged project ideas and shared success stories.

Williams was able to lend his expertise in entrepreneurship, inclusive of community building, conflict resolution, management training and development and poverty alleviation in order to assist people in those communities.

Williams was honoured by the King Michael Gbadebo as a Badagery Pilgrim, and received the Award during a visit with the King himself.

He was also honoured with three invitations to visit the celestial palaces of royals from various Kingdoms in Nigeria.

Williams is expected to return to Nigeria this year in order to continue with international ministry and his work to build stronger alliances between Nigeria and The Bahamas.

The Grand Bahama Community Builders' Club was

formed in 1997 and began by assisting Bahamians who were attending the Florida International University (FIU) and who were falling short financially. The club worked in conjunction with the office of multicultural services and programs at FIU.

Since then, the club has been a part of ongoing projects in the community, hosting seminars on many diverse issues such as conflict resolution, marriage and family, and building sustainable communities after disaster. The club also partners with the Margaret McDonald

Centre of Nassau for seminars and conferences.

The club's goal is to unify and build communities socially, economically and spiritually by demonstrating values such as caring, sharing, loving, mentoring, inclusion and empowerment from within.