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the 'sanctity of life'

TO assist in fighting the social ills facing the Bahamas after a crime record breaking year, Gems 105.9 FM will be airing a series of programmes geared toward helping the country as a whole "appreciate the sanctity of life".

Designating the series as the first step on "A familiar walk" towards "rekindling the spirit of community through love", programme host Mario Newry said it was his belief that every citizen has a role to play in cultivating moral standards throughout the country - especially among the youth of the

nation.

"My first thoughts in constructing a programme that will reach all spheres of society were to select a mentor that is loved by many. My mind went directly to Dame Ivy Dumont, first female governor general of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas.

"It is with this thought that I asked Dame Ivy Dumont to be my special guest as we focus our attention to several important factors within our society today.

"This first programme is in memory of the 79 homicide loved ones of the Bahamas who

lost their lives in the year 2007. My brother, Mardio, was the 43rd homicide victim of 2007 and I decided that I will develop programmes that will positively influence our country as a whole to appreciate the sanctity of life.

"I would also like to encourage those families who are experiencing a loss of a loved one through senseless acts of violence," Mr Newry said.

Thanking Dame Ivy for consenting to his request to be the first special guest of the programme, Mr Newry also thanked the CEOs of Gems 105.9 FM, Cyprianna McWeeney and Debbie Bartlett, for allowing him to produce the programme which he hoped would be a "beacon of light" in the community.

"I would also like to thank Mrs Sonia Hamilton, human resources director, Ms Shena Carroll, programme director, and our sponsors for partnering with me on this timely topic.

"I would also like to thank all of our media friends, and production team for participating with us today and the entire Gems family for assisting me in this timely topic. I trust that this would be the beginning of a positive trend to assist in the eradicating of the social ills within our society today," he said.