



## *NATIONAL CONGRESS OF TRADE UNION*

"UNITING WORKERS VISION FOR A BETTER BAHAMAS"

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### *NCTU Press Statement AAAWU*

#### *For Immediate Release*

The National Congress of Trade Unions (NCTU) will like to set the record straight concerning the recent press statements made by Brother Anthony Bain and the internal dispute in the Airport, Airline & Allied Workers Union (AAAWU).

The NCTU, as an umbrella organization, has a policy of not involving itself in the internal operations of any of their affiliates unless an invitation is extended to the Executive Board of the Congress. In early January, the President and Executive Officers of the AAAWU requested assistance from the Executive Board of the NCTU to intervene in an internal dispute relating to a number of issues in the Union. President John Pinder appointed a Special Committee of experience Presidents and Officers of the NCTU to meet with the entire Executive Team of the AAAWU with the view to resolving the issues. After hours of meetings, it was determined many of the issues were as a result of the inexperience of Executives, their knowledge of standard operating procedures in an Independent Trade Union and the Constitution of the AAAWU had a number of deficiencies that were, in some cases, inconsistent with the provisions of the Industrial Relations Act (IRA).

The Special Committee would have made a number of recommendations to the Executives of the AAAWU regarding adopting new procedures on operational issues as well as amendments of the Constitution of the Union to bring it in line with the IRA. NCTU officials received a commitment from all officers of the AAAWU to work together with President Harding in peace and harmony and to carry out the vision of the organization to improve the standard of living and quality of life for all members of the Union.

Brother Bain, who is the sitting Assistant General Secretary of the NCTU, at an NCTU Executive Board meeting held in February expressed his commitment to work with President Harding on behalf of members of the AAAWU. Sometime between March 2007 and May 2007 the dispute evolved to the point where members of the AAAWU requested that President Harding summon a Special Call Meeting to determine if **ALL** Executives of the AAAWU were following the provisions of the Union's Constitution and fulfilling their mandate as officers in carrying out the fundamental objectives of the AAAWU.

This Special Call Meeting began an internal process in the AAAWU that could lead to the general membership of the AAAWU determining whether some of the elected officers of the AAAWU would be recalled as outlined in Section 20 of the IRA.

The NCTU regards this matter as internal to the AAAWU and acted in an advisory, consultative role and will continue to act in an independent manner to parties. After consultation with the Registrar of Trade Unions and the Office of the Attorney General, that the procedures taken by the AAAWU is consistent with the Union's Constitution and the provisions of the Industrial Relations Act. The NCTU then advised the AAAWU that they are thereby mandated to abide by the wishes of its members.

We view the statement made by Brother Bain concerning his alignment with the Commonwealth of the Bahamas Trade Union Congress (CBTUC) as of a personal nature and is not in keeping with the objectives and or goals of the AAAWU. Brother Bain has the right to align himself with whom ever he chooses however as a sitting member of the Executive Board of the NCTU his statement is inconsistent with the philosophy of the NCTU and he may wish to consider doing the honorable thing.

*August 1, 2007*

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Robert Farquharson  
General Secretary  
National Congress of Trade Unions