

New NCTU Executive Team Maps Goals Moving Ahead

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In a press release announcing the union's new executive team, now officially headed by Bahamas Public Services Union (BPSU) President John Pinder, the NCTU said it is expected to adopt a strategic plan that would include initiatives aimed at positively impacting working Bahamians.

"Our first focus will be going after those workers in our country who need union representation and who have not been given the opportunity to be organized," Mr. Pinder said during an interview with the Bahama Journal Friday.

"The second thing we want to focus on is networking. I believe if our union members can network wherever one of our members show up, there should be some sort of privilege of being a member of the NCTU or a member of a trade union under the NCTU umbrella."

Joining Mr. Pinder on the new executive team are 1st Vice President Dennis Williams; 2nd Vice President, Roy Colebrook; 3rd Vice President Theresa Mortimer; 4th Vice President, Sean Bowe; General Secretary Robert Farquharson; Assistant General Secretary, Jennifer Isaacs – Dotson and trustees Ida Poitier-Turnquest, Carmen Munnings-Kemp and Stephano Greene.

The new executive team was elected during the NCTU's 4th annual general meeting held under the theme "Committed to Excellence."

The meeting brought together delegates from the 18 affiliated trade unions within the NCTU to discuss the way forward for the Congress.

Among the invited guests Lincoln Lewis and George DePeana, General Secretary and Past General Secretary of the Caribbean Congress of Labour respectively.

Mr. Pinder assumed the acting leadership of the NCTU following the death of union's longtime president Patrick Bain.

As acting president, Mr. Pinder has pushed the idea of the country having one umbrella trade union, stressing that the time has come for union members to decide whether they prefer the NCTU of the Trade Union Congress.

He has also pushed to secure a seat for a labour representative in the Senate.

The NCTU President said he will continue to advance both recommendations.

"Certainly, we recognized the importance of having a voice in the Senate. We see the business sector and the church although they are affiliated to a particular political party. What the NCTU has asked for is recognition in the upper chamber on our recommendation. We do not wish to be affiliated with any political party," Mr. Pinder said.

Mr. Pinder added that generally the way forward for the union is for all workers to speak with one voice.