



## *NATIONAL CONGRESS OF TRADE UNION*

“UNITING WORKERS VISION FOR A BETTER BAHAMAS”

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## ***NCTU Press Statement Prison Officers Association***

### *For Immediate Release*

The National Congress of Trade Unions (NCTU) will like to express its disappointment at the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister with responsibility for National Security the Hon. Cynthia Pratt announcement to “punish” the Officers of the Bahamas Prison Officers Staff Association (BPOSA).

The BPOSA are affiliates of the NCTU and the Congress and we stand in solidarity with Bro. Clyde Rolle, Officers of the Association and the hard working staff of the prison.

We wish to remind the Government that in December 2006, Executives of the NCTU met with Prime Minister Christie, Deputy Prime Minister Pratt, Minister of Labour & Immigration Gibson and Minister for the Public Service Mitchell to discuss the outstanding issues regarding the Prison Officers. During the course of this meeting the Government committed to having all outstanding paid to the prison officers before Christmas as well as a committing to a time table for resolution of the other issues. None of these

commitments were met by the Government and no explanation was given as to why they were not met.

As a result of the numerous broken promises by the Government, the members of the BPOSA took collective action. The Government is claiming that the prison officers broke their contract and thus are to be punished. We contend that it was the Government who broke the contract of the prison officers.

We are of the view that any discipline taken against the officers of the BPOSA is victimization and would result in the NCTU and its affiliates bring pressure on the Government as we support of the BPOSA.

We call on Minister Pratt to review this decision in the light of the fact that it was her Government's failure to abide by the Contract of Employment of prison officers.

The NCTU would like to commend that brave Prison Officers, who put their lives on the line each day under poor working conditions. We hope that those who had an ear hear the voice of the people.

*February 15, 2007*

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John Pinder  
Acting President  
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