



**Remarks**

**by**

**Senator The Hon. Dion A. Foulkes**

**Minister of Labour**

**at**

**The Opening of the**

**Public Employment Services Unit (PES) - One  
Stop Service Center**

**on**

**July 2, 2018**

- Prime Minister, Dr. the Hon. Hubert Minnis
- Permanent Secretaries and Senior Government officials
- Mr. John Pinder, Director of Labour (Acting)
- Mr. Obie Ferguson, President of the Trade Union Congress
- Mr. Bernard Evans, President of the National Congress of Trade Unions of The Bahamas
- Mr. Edison Sumner, CEO, The Bahamas Chamber of Commerce and Employers' Confederation
- Participating Employers
- Management and staff of the Ministry and the Department of Labour
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning,

Today is certainly a red letter day for the Government, the Ministry of Labour and the Department of Labour as we gather here to celebrate the launch of the much anticipated state-of-the-art Public Employment Services, One Stop Service Center, which is a part of component two of the Inter-American Development Bank sponsored– Citizen Security and Justice Programme.

This programme has been months in planning and will bring much needed relief to hundreds of young job seekers who are seeking employment in The Bahamas. With the use of modern day technology we will be able to connect employers with job seekers.

I strongly believe that this launch here today is a testimony of our Government's commitment to assisting Bahamians to find jobs and hence better their lives.

Job creation continues to be the number one priority of the Government and we are committed more than ever to reducing unemployment and to achieving our employment goals.

We wish to extend a special thank you to the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for their assistance in sponsoring this programme. Over the years the IDB has been a tremendous help to the people of The Bahamas.

Additionally, today's success would not have been possible without our various social partners - the National Congress of Trade Unions Bahamas; the Commonwealth of The Bahamas Trade Union Congress and The Bahamas Chamber of Commerce and Employers' Confederation. We wish to also thank The Bahamas Technical and Vocational Institute (BTVI) along with all of

the participating employers from the private sector many of whom are represented here today.

Ladies and gentlemen, I have been given the easy task of introducing our official guest speaker today. He is someone whom I greatly admire and respect due to his leadership capability and vision for our nation.

So without any further ado I wish to introduce our country's innovative, caring and compassionate Prime Minister, Dr. the Honourable Hubert Alexander Minnis.