



REMARKS

BY:

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR, COMMUNITY AFFAIRS AND SPORTS

THE HON. LOVITTA FOGGO JP MP

Bermuda Union of Teachers - 100 YEARS

1ST FEBRUARY 2019

Good morning,

It's a pleasure to be here today, as the Minister responsible for Labour in Bermuda – and also as a former teacher myself – to join the Bermuda Union of Teachers (BUT) in celebrating their 100 years of service in Bermuda.

I want to thank them for all they have done in protecting the voices and rights of teachers and strengthening education in Bermuda...for exactly one century.

During the early 1900s, there was a systemic neglect of the educational needs of the Black population, along with the under-appreciation of both the role and struggle of teachers in that early 20th century society.

But February 1st 1919 marked the official beginning of a radical change – the BUT was born. This milestone provided the start of an organized effort for the much-needed institutionalization of education for the black population, which eventually helped break the obstacles that prevented proper public education for all Bermudian children, regardless of race.

In 1947 the BUT became the first registered trade union in Bermuda's history...paving the way for all subsequent Unions...leading the charge for Labour rights in Bermuda.

In 1937 the BUT had 42 members. Today the BUT has a membership of approximately 900. The BUT is a thriving organization well-recognized and respected internationally.

I would also like to mention today *The Women's Committee of the BUT* which was organized under the banner of the Status of Women's Committee of the Caribbean Union of Teachers...whose mandate it is to strengthen and empower women leaders in unions. The BUT's Women's Committee is an advocate for gender equality...as is this Government. Gender equality in the workplace and pay equity across the board is something I am truly passionate about.

Therefore I am thankful to the Women's Committee of the BUT for providing many BUT members (both male and female) the opportunity to attend workshops, conferences and programmes -

both in Bermuda and overseas - which allow these individuals to grow and develop, both personally and professionally.

In closing, I look forward to the BUT's weekend of activities planned to mark this special occasion.

Thank you.