



REMARKS BY:

**The Hon. Diallo Rabain, JP MP
Minister of Education**

BUT 100th Anniversary Proclamation and Ceremony

1 February, 2019

Greetings,

When we reflect on that fateful graveside meeting between Rev. Rufus Stovall, Miss Adele Tucker, Miss Edith Crawford and Miss Matilda Crawford, it can be noted that the idea for an association to champion the need for organized educational offerings was confirmed. While that fateful meeting birthed the notion of the Bermuda Union of Teachers on February 1, 1919 we must pay homage to one of the main goals for doing so was to encourage teachers to “improve their selves” and ensure a standard for Education was established. This would be the main focus of the organization, leading up to the BUT becoming the first registered Trade Union in Bermuda in 1947.

From its origins, the BUT has always championed the advancement of teachers in Bermuda through professional development. I am pleased to be here today for the 100th anniversary of the BUT. This anniversary is a testament to the Union’s steadfast and unwavering desire to ensure all of Bermuda’s students have access to the best education. Teachers, I commend you for your commitment and staunch dedication to our country’s future through the education of our future generations.

I acknowledge that the relationship between the BUT and Governments past and present, hasn’t been smooth sailing at all times, *but* differences can be expected with such a high priority topic as Education. Despite our sometimes difference in philosophies, the fact undeniably remains that all of us together form a very important partnership, a partnership that is needed to move Bermuda forward.

Our children deserve nothing but our best and our 100% commitment to ensuring they have all the tools needed to facilitate their potential and take their rightful place within our society. As the Minister responsible, I take this charge very seriously and pledge, to continue to listen with an open mind, make suggestions when required and at all times lead with our children’s best interests in the forefront of my mind. The African proverb says, ‘It takes a village to raise a child’ and as such, as we work together to educate our children, I encourage all our stakeholders to take the same approach, as it will take all of us to move Education forward, not just the Government.

With that said, I offer my congratulations on the occasion of the BUT's 100th anniversary and I wish you all the best as the organization marches into its 2nd century. Thank you BUT Members for your steady commitment to our children's education and by extension, our country's future.

###