

Consultation with local Co-operative Sector

A long and productive two-day session. This was the consensus of the Honourable Minister of Labour and Small Enterprise Development and the participants of the two-day consultation on the Credit Union Bill (2014) and the Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Bill (2014). This stakeholder consultation, which was hosted by the Ministry of Labour and Small Enterprise Development, was geared towards the development of a Draft National Policy on Co-operatives and a revised Co-operative Societies Act.

Over the duration of the two days, presentations were made on a Legal Review of both Bills and the impact of new and revised legislation on the Co-operative Movement. There was a heavy focus on aspects of these Bills, which this Sector believes Government should amend. In addition to a comprehensive review of the legislation and policies, a new way forward was also presented.

The three hundred participants were divided into working groups. These groups advanced suggestions on a wide range of topics to improve the operations and functions of their Sector. These topics included the right for minors in membership to vote, who should regulate the sector, reporting lines for the Board and Directors and grounds for dismissals.

The consultation culminated with a commitment from both Government and the stakeholders of the Credit Union and Co-operative Societies to advance the contributions made by the participants and continue in meaningful dialogue towards the end of amending the legislation, which impacts this sector.