



# BIOGRAPHY

**Richard Johnson**



**Director of Civil Society Bahamas**

**Richard Johnson is a man on a mission. This mission began almost forty years ago upon his return from College. While working as a marketing manager for Texaco Bahamas, Mr. Johnson met the late Richard Moss, who at the time was the President of the Bahamas Taxi-Cab Union. Mr. Moss approached the Oil Company on behalf of his Union to get support in opening a service station.**

**As marketing manager, Mr. Johnson was tasked with the helping Mr. Moss with his project. Soon after meeting Mr. Moss, Mr. Johnson learned about the taxi drivers and the role they played in the early struggle for political independence. This brought about a change in Mr. Johnson's life.**

**After leaving Texaco, he joined the Bahamas Taxi-Cab Union and became involved in the Trade Union Movement. Over the last twenty years Mr. Johnson has worked tirelessly to sensitize the political directorate in the Bahamas to recognize the contributions the taxi drivers, straw vendors, hotel workers and longshoremen have made to National Development.**

**The men and women who make up this group of small business people that Mr. Johnson calls "The Primary Producers" have yet to be given a return on the investment they made when they started the "Quiet Revolution".**

**Mr. Johnson decided to make it his life's work to get a return on the investment made by the primary producers. That is why he joined Civil Society Bahamas.**

**Mr. Johnson has served as President of the Public Service Drivers Union (PSDU) since 2002. As President, he has spent his time lobbying to have the Government do three things for the ground transportation sector, namely; 1/ create a public private partnership on the taxi franchise, 2/ determine the valuation placed on the taxicab franchise, and 3/ broker an agreement with Government to allow the three unions to manage the business from the docks, airports and hotels.**

**He campaigns for transparency in the industry and has called for a forensic audit of the Road Traffic Department to determine the holders of the more than 2,500 taxicab licenses in the Bahamas. He continues to advocate for Government lending support to small businesses beginning with taxi drivers, straw vendors and hotel workers, and against the antitrust practices of the cruise lines.**

**Mr. Johnson has been a Board Member of the Trade Union Congress since 1995 and is also a Director of the non profit Bahamas Loving Care Association.**

**Mr. Johnson attended St Gregory's College, Shawnee, Oklahoma where he read Communications with a minor in Marketing & Finance.**

**Mr. Johnson has been married since 1973 to Mary Johnson, a retired teacher of 30 years, and the union has been blessed with three children.**