



CIVIL SOCIETY BAHAMAS

CSOs DRAFT BILL WORKSHOP

13TH JULY 2018

Dr. Anthony Hamilton



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- Introduction, The CSOs Draft Bill

13TH July, 2018

DOCTORS HOSPITAL

New Providence, The Bahamas



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• OPENING STATEMENT:

- THERE IS A CRY, THERE IS A CALL
AND THERE IS A RESPONSE THAT
DEMANDS THE ACCOUNTABILITY
OF CIVIL SOCIETY
ORGANIZATIONS LEADERSHIP!



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• THE HISTORY OF THE CSO BILL

- The journey in partnership with The Office of the Attorney General began in 2012

- **The Cry** (NEED FOR A DRAFT CSO BILL)

- **The Call** (CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS)

- **The Response** (DRAFT BILL JUSTIFICATION)

- **Questions & Answers**



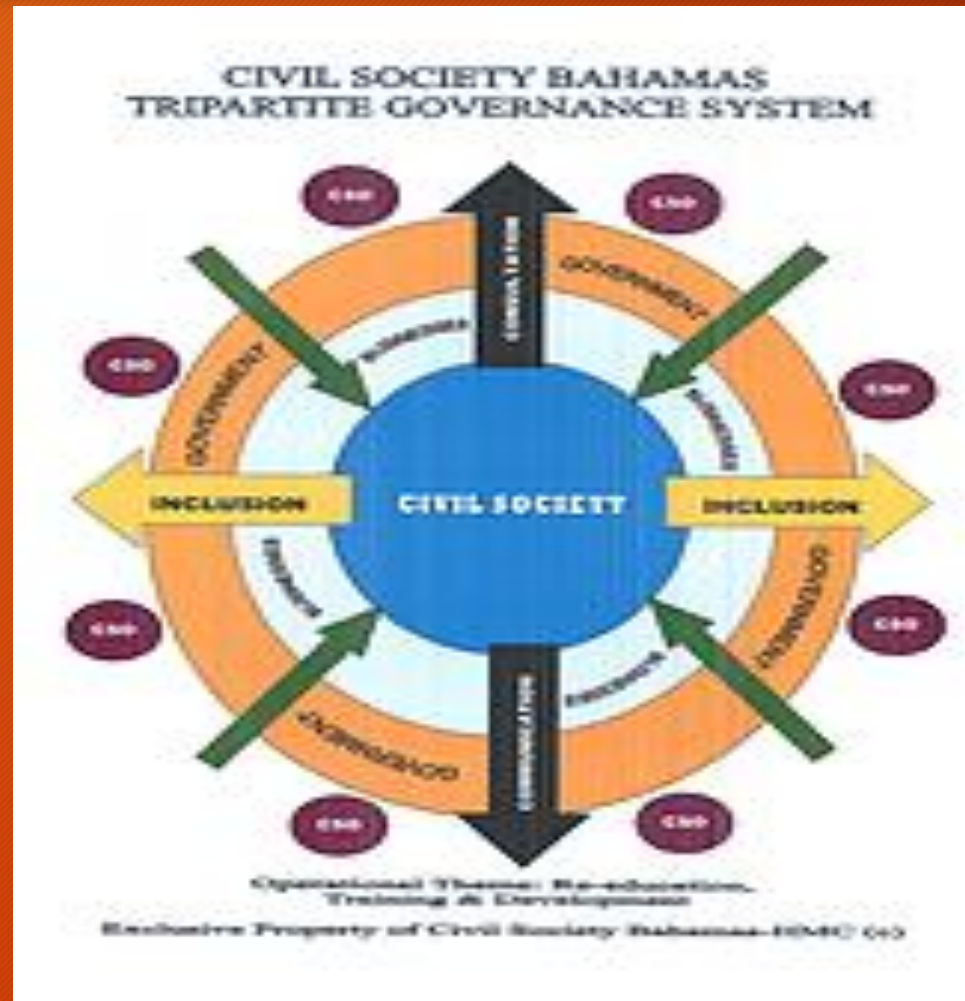
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• THE TRIPARTITE GOVERNANCE SYSTEM

- THE *RELATIONSHIP OF GOVERNMENT, BUSINESSES & CIVIL SOCIETY
- THE *NEED FOR INCLUSION & CONSULTATION WITH CSOs



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- **Civil Society Bahamas (CSB)** has been instrumental in ***drafting a Civil Society Organization (CSO) Bill, which will help to strengthen the non-profit sector.**



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- In **September 2013**, the Attorney General and Minister for Legal Affairs, *Senator Allyson Maynard-Gibson accepted a draft bill from CSB, to provide for the establishment and registration of CSOs.



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Executive Officers

*Anthony K. N. Hamilton
President*

*A. Leonard Archer
Vice President*

*Cynthia Gibson
Secretary*

*Sharmaine Adderley
Assistant Secretary*

*Milford Luckhart
Treasurer*

*Prudencia Moore
Assistant Treasurer*

Directors

*Wilfred Smith
Richard Johnson
Lavera West
Kevin Lightbourne
Leslie Moore*

7th April, 2015

Ms. Sheena A. Wilson
Assistant Director of Legal Affairs
Office of the Attorney General & Ministry of Legal Affairs
No. 18 Paul T. Adderley Building
John F. Kennedy Drive
P. O. Box N-3007
Nassau, The Bahamas

Dear Ms. Wilson,

Re: Civil Society Organizations Draft Bill Response

This correspondence is advanced firstly to convey thanks for the sacrificial contribution of both you and your team at The Office of The Attorney General.

Additionally, please find attached the documented response to the Civil Society Organizations Draft Bill 2015 (version 19th March 2015).

In a strategic effort for the fulfillment of the mandate of Civil Society Bahamas (CSB), the attached document is provided as a further contribution to the holistic national development of the Bahamas.

Thanks again on behalf of the Executive Officers and members of Civil Society Bahamas.

Sincerely,

Anthony Hamilton (Mr.)
President

CC: Board of Directors

Encl.

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- CSB spent three *****(3) years working closely with the AG's Office to *****draft this bill and it is hoped that when it is *****legislated into law, it will standardize, regularize and bring *****uniformity to the operations of CSOs operating in The Bahamas.



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- In **May 2018**, CSB was awarded a grant by the Caribbean Policy Development Center (CPDC) to advocate for the enactment of the draft Bill.



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- In **2018** we will be conducting several workshops to get feedback from civil society, *report that feedback to the Attorney General, and *identify a champion to help us steer the draft Bill through both houses of parliament.



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- We believe the CSO bill, when enacted, will bring the following ***FIVE (5) benefits** to our members.



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- **BENEFIT # 1**

- Provides registered CSOs with rights and privileges
- relief of taxes, duties and imposts
- relief from customs duty and stamp duty on imported goods for the benefit and development of its projects and programs



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- relief from work permit fees for foreign volunteers
- relief from customs duties on international grants and gifts
- refund of VAT on qualifying goods and services
- relief of tax on interest on funds used for the management and disbursement of monies on credit for projects approved by the Minister



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• **BENEFIT # 2 –**

- The Government through its Civil Society Secretariat will strengthen registered CSOs by providing technical and financial assistance in:
 - negotiating funding for CSB programs and programs of its members
 - collaborating with CSB on "request for proposals" that CSB members can bid on and execute



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- connecting CSB with international corporations planning to do business in the Bahamas
- discussing the provision of funding to CSB and its members for the continued development of civil society in The Bahamas
- discussing the availability of funding to CSB and its members
- identifying and recommending suitably qualified and experienced civil society organizations to formulate, evaluate and implement projects funded by the Government or foreign funding agencies



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- **BENEFIT 3**

- Recognizes civil society and the role it plays in the sustainable development of the Bahamian people, environment, culture and traditions



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- **BENEFIT 4**
- Creates a functioning tripartite partnership between the Government, Civil Society and the Private Sector



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- **BENEFIT # 5**
- **Provides public accountability and public participation by engaging civil society organizations in Government decision making processes**
- **provides for regular monthly meetings and consultation between CSB and the Minister**



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- **coordinates access and transfer of information to and from CSB**
- **provides access to information on matters likely to affect the sustainable development of The Bahamas.**



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• **QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**



CIVIL SOCIETY BAHAMAS

• THE FORWARD MOVEMENT OF THE CSOs BILL

- **The Cry** (NEED FOR A DRAFT CSO BILL ENACTMENT)
- **The Call** (CONTINUED CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS)
- **The Response** (DRAFT BILL JUSTIFICATION & BENEFITS)



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- LADIES & GENTLEMEN

- **THANK YOU !**