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PRESS BRIEF

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Subject: BALS Announces Renewed Mandate, Strategic Initiatives, and Official Affiliation with TUC

NASSAU, THE BAHAMAS – At a press conference called by the Trade Union Congress (TUC) today, Mr. Rodrick Wood, President of The Bahamas Association of Land Surveyors (BALS), outlined a comprehensive agenda signaling a new era of proactive governance and public service for the profession.

The updates underscore BALS's commitment to collaboration, integrity, and national development.

Key Announcements Include:

1. **Official TUC Affiliation:** BALS has officially joined the Trade Union Congress, strengthening its advocacy for members and aligning with the broader labor movement in The Bahamas.
2. **Successful Geospatial Week 2025:** BALS, with partners, successfully hosted the nation's first-ever Geospatial Week (October 16-18, 2025), a landmark event for the sector. Follow-up initiatives are now in planning.
3. **Governance and Collaboration:**
 - The BALS Council has held a productive courtesy call with the Director of Lands and Surveys.
 - The Association is still awaiting the formal appointment of the Surveyor-General's representative **since October 28, 2025** to the BALS Council to ensure fully integrated governance.
4. **Groundbreaking Committees Established:** At a General Meeting at Akhepran International Academy, members ratified the creation of four (4) pivotal committees:
 - **Truth and Reconciliation Committee (TRC)**
 - **Budget and Finance Committee**
 - **Geodetic Committee**
 - **Membership and Standards Committee**
5. **Land Surveyors Board Nominations:** The BALS Council has submitted its nominations for the Land Surveyors Board, which were ratified by the general membership.
6. **Expanded Public Engagement:** BALS is planning immediate public functions in Abaco and Grand Bahama, part of a broader national tour to serve all islands.
7. **Engagement with Financial Sector:** Plans are underway to meet with banks and lending institutions to streamline processes related to land development and ownership.
8. **Media Challenge & Future Projects:** BALS challenged the media to help inspire youth, empower communities, and support its transformation. Upcoming projects include erecting monuments on every island and launching the association's first website and podcast in early 2026.

Quote from President Rodrick Wood:

"The Bahamas Association of Land Surveyors is awake, active, and organized. Our affiliation with the TUC and the establishment of these transformative committees reflect our unwavering commitment to good governance, professional excellence, and service to the people of The Bahamas. We are building an association that is fit for purpose and ready to meet the challenges of the future. We call on the media to be our partners in this journey, helping us to engage the next generation and serve every community across our islands."

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About The Bahamas Association of Land Surveyors (BALS):

The Bahamas Association of Land Surveyors is the premier professional body representing land surveyors in The Commonwealth of The Bahamas. BALS is dedicated to upholding the highest standards of professional practice, promoting the critical role of surveying in national development, and serving its members and the public.

Attachments:

Full Press Conference Statement

Coming soon: www.balsbahamas.org

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FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 12, 2025 – BALS COUNCIL ELECTIONS



1. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2025 – BALS COUNCIL ELECTIONS

A new chapter for the profession begins. Under the independent scrutiny of the Department of Labour, and independent observers from Civil Society Bahamas and the Taxi Union, members of the Bahamas Association of Land Surveyors democratically elect a new Executive Council on September 12, 2025. This landmark election, conducted in full compliance with the Lands Surveyors Act, marks a pivotal moment of renewal and a return to member-led governance.

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 26, 2025 – BALS COUNCIL 1ST PRESS CONFERENCE WITH TUC



2. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2025 – BALS COUNCIL 1ST PRESS CONFERENCE WITH TUC

Forging a strategic alliance. Immediately following their election, the new BALS Council stands with the Trade Union Congress (TUC) during its first press conference on September 26, 2025. This event signaled a new era of advocacy and solidarity, underscoring BALS's commitment to fighting for the rights and standards of all land surveyors in The Bahamas.

MONDAY NOVEMBER 17, 2025 – YOUTH ENGAGEMENT – GEOSPATIAL SENIORS
(GREEN) AKHEPRAN INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY



3. MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2025 – YOUTH ENGAGEMENT – GEOSPATIAL SENIORS & JUNIORS AT AKHEPRAN INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY

Investing in the next generation. BALS President Rodrick Wood engages with the Geospatial Seniors (Green) and Geospatial Juniors (Yellow) at Akhepran International Academy on November 17, 2025. This youth initiative is a core part of BALS's renewed mandate to inspire future surveyors through training, certification, and international exchange opportunities.

MONDAY NOVEMBER 17, 2025 – YOUTH ENGAGEMENT GEOSPATIAL JUNIORS
(YELLOW) AKHEPRAN INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY



SUNDAY NOVEMBER 9, 2025 BALS VISIT THE BALS MONUMENT IN RAWSON SQUARE



4. SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2025 – BALS VISITS THE BALS MONUMENT IN RAWSON SQUARE

Honoring our legacy to inspire our future. Members of the BALS Council gather at the association's monument in Rawson Square on November 9, 2025. This visit reaffirms the Council's commitment to the historic role of land surveyors in shaping The Bahamas and previews a national project to erect new monuments on islands across the archipelago.



SUNDAY NOVEMBER 9, 2025 BALS CHURCH SERVICE AT ZION BAPTIST



5. SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2025 – BALS CHURCH SERVICE AT ZION BAPTIST

Grounded in faith and community. BALS President Rodrick Wood presents a "love gift" to Pastor Terrance Morrison of Zion Baptist Church on behalf of the association's members and Council, November 9, 2025. This service underscored the ethical foundation and community spirit that guides the new Council's mission.



SATURDAY NOVEMBER 8, 2025 BALS GENERAL MEETING



6. SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2025 – BALS GENERAL MEETING AT AKHEPRAN INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY

Setting a bold new strategic direction. The newly elected BALS Council hosts a pivotal General Meeting at Akhepran International Academy on November 8, 2025, featuring a special presentation by Dr. Anthony Hamilton of Civil Society Bahamas. During this meeting, members ratified the creation of groundbreaking committees, including the Truth and Reconciliation Committee (TRC), charting a course for transparency and progress.

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 7, 2025 BALS COUCIL COURTESY CALL WITH DIRECTOR OF LANDS AND SURVEYS



7. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2025 – BALS COUNCIL COURTESY CALL WITH DIRECTOR OF LANDS AND SURVEYS

Building bridges for progress. BALS President Rodrick Wood and members of the Council meet with Mr. Alexander Flowers, Director of Lands and Surveys, during a productive courtesy call on November 7, 2025. This meeting initiated a new era of collaboration between BALS and the government to modernize and strengthen the land surveying sector.

OCTOBER 16-18, 2025 - GEOSPATIAL WEEK 2020 AT THE UNIVERSITY OF THE BAHAMAS



8. OCTOBER 16-18, 2025 - GEOSPATIAL WEEK 2025 AT THE UNIVERSITY OF THE BAHAMAS

A landmark collaboration for national development. BALS, alongside key partners from the University of The Bahamas, Civil Society Bahamas, and STEM institutes, successfully hosts the nation's first-ever Geospatial Week from October 16-18, 2025. The event, attended by dignitaries including OAS Country Representatives and Senators, showcased the critical role of geospatial science in The Bahamas' future.





WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 15, 2025 ZNS PRESS CONFERENCE "GEOSPATIAL WEEK"



9. WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2025 – ZNS PRESS CONFERENCE "GEOSPATIAL WEEK"

Announcing a national first. BALS and its partners address the media at a ZNS press conference on October 15, 2025, to officially launch Geospatial Week 2025. This briefing highlighted the event's hybrid format and its significance for professionals, students, and the public, setting the stage for a groundbreaking series of discussions and workshops.

WEDNSDAY OCTOBER 15, 2025 & THURSDAY OCTOBER 9, 2025 RADIO TALK SHOW
"IMMEDIATE RESPONSE" WITH SPENCE FINLAYSON



10. MEDIA ENGAGEMENT: RADIO TALK SHOWS (OCTOBER 9, 14, 15, 2025)

Taking our message directly to the people. In the lead-up to Geospatial Week, the BALS Council engaged in a comprehensive media tour, appearing on popular radio programs like "Immediate Response" with Spence Finlayson and "Issues of the Day" on Love 97 with Khristian Jones. These appearances were crucial for generating public awareness and demystifying the vital work of land surveyors for all Bahamians.

TUESDAY OCTOBER 14, 2025 RADIO TALK SHOW - LOVE 97 "ISSUES OF THE DAY"
WITH KHRISTIAN JONES

