

Press Statement

by

Fr. Dr. James Moultrie

Chairman of the National Insurance Board

On announcing the Launch of NIB Registrants Self-Service Facility

Monday, March 17, 2014

Boardroom, Clifford Darling Complex

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen; I add my welcome and thanks to that of the Minister's.

This is a banner year for the National Insurance Board and it is, indeed, a banner day for customers of the National Insurance Board. The customer is why National Insurance exists. In 1974, when the organization opened its doors, it did so with the declared mandate to provide partial income-replacement to insured workers during those specified times when they could not work. There are, of course, many other things that the organization has to be involved with in order to fulfill that mission, but the primary focus is and will always be our customers. We are committed to ensuring that for workers of The Bahamas, NIB continues to be that safety net when they most need it; we are committed to conducting our business in such a way that it is a pleasure to do business with us.

Undoubtedly, anything we can do to make doing business with the organization simpler and easier helps the cause and makes life better for our contributors and claimants and registrants, and is a step in the right direction. This self-service facility is a step in the right direction.

NIB leaders held a conference back in January of this year; the theme of the conference was “A transformed NIB: Doing Business Smarter and Better.” I believe this is but a foretaste of what they meant.

This self-service optimization facility will save our customers precious time and money. If you have a computer, no longer will you have to get into your car and use up your gas to go to the Marsh Harbor Local Office or the Rock Sound Local Office. No longer will you have to call a taxi or get on a jitney to come to Jumbey Village or Wulff Road or Fox Hill in New Providence to check on your contribution status. Starting today, you’ll be able to do that right from home or work or church or wherever you have your computer.

In a minute, Ms. Williams-Bethel, NIB’s Sr. Deputy Director for Operations, will explain just what you have to do to be part of this exciting new development when she walks us through the demonstration. I encourage everyone to take advantage of this because this is the way of the future. So, in addition to using your computers to FaceBook friends and surf the web, and whatever else we do on the computer, use it to ensure that your contributions are correct and consequently your benefits are assured.

As I said, this is but a foretaste of what is to come and of what NIB is going with the aid of technology to advance social security and its applications into the 21st Century. I fully expect that we will enjoy many more such days and occasions in the coming weeks and months as we continue the count down to the 40th anniversary of our social security programme in October.

Thank you.