Email from NWDA sent to CNS 13 Feb, 2015

The NWDA worked collaboratively with CITA to deliver the second Cayman Tourism Employment Drive (CayTED) in late 2014. The role of the NWDA in this exercise was to:  
1. Attend planning meetings and actively participate in those meetings.  
2. Identify a list of Caymanian job seekers and invite them to participate in the event.  
3. Register persons interested in participating in the employment drive who had not previously registered with the NWDA.  
4. Call job seekers who registered for the event and schedule an interview time for them on one of the two days that the event was held.  
5. Be on hand at the event and provide support as needed.  
  
The jobs available, as part of the employment drive, were posted on a website developed by CITA. To date the NWDA has not undergone an exercise to compare the jobs available through the employment drive with those posted on the NWDA portal. As such the NWDA is not able to state whether the jobs available for the employment drive were or were not posted on the NWDA online portal.  
  
The NWDA has not received a formal list of all jobs available through the employment drive. However, this is not in response to a refusal on the part of CITA to provide this information to the NWDA.  On the day of the event an NWDA representative did request a copy of the list. The NWDA will follow-up with CITA to obtain the list.  
  
The NWDA has received CITA’s working spreadsheet that contains the list of participants and referrals made. As such, the NWDA is aware of some of the participating companies and the available posts. It is the understanding of the NWDA that CITA is preparing their final report.  
  
Councillor Suckoo reached out the NWDA in an effort to gather information on CayTED initiative. Based on the statements presented in the CNS article it is clear that there was a miscommunication on the part of the NWDA as we shared information with Councillor Suckoo and this has resulted in some erroneous information being shared through the CNS article. The NWDA apologizes for the role it played in this miscommunication.  
  
The role of the NWDA and CITA in this exercise is as an intermediary, bringing together job seekers and employers. The NWDA supported the efforts by identifying job seekers and CITA identified employers. The employment drive provides a venue to bring these two groups together. It also facilitates the opportunity for job seekers to gather valuable information regarding the hospitality industry and to network with industry professionals. At the close of the event employers are provided with a list of persons referred for the jobs posted with the employment drive. Responsibility for providing Caymanians with a fair and equitable opportunity during the subsequent recruitment process lies with employers. It is the hope of the NWDA that Caymanian job seekers referred to employers as a result of this exercise will be given a fair and equitable opportunity to be considered for available employment opportunities.  
  
The NWDA will be engaging CITA to formalize the relationship between the two entities and to strengthen information sharing between CITA, the NWDA and the public.  
  
Brian Holland  
Director, National Workforce Development Agency