



tions within the Labor movement.

It is against this background that the CCCU President issued his call to CARICOM and other regional governments, whether of nations or dependent territories, to give much more attention to a sector that they may have overlooked or underestimated for too long. In a direct appeal to CARICOM, Moses said, “We urge the region’s governments to revisit their relationship with and roles of credit unions and give them a greater role in national development.”

And, directly appealing to Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, who is currently the longest-serving leader of the regional grouping, who was present as the invited guest speaker, the CCCU President added: “and we definitely hope our senior CARICOM Prime

Minister can pass the message on.”

Moses’ message to the government leaders was clear: “We want to lobby for a continuous role of regional and national credit unions in sustainable growth, as it is foundational and pivotal.” But,” he added in a moment of collective self-criticism, “too many (credit unions) are still too slow to become cognizant of our potential and relevance — and this is partly our fault.”

Hinting at some of the areas the regional credit union movement can be both helpful and proactive, Moses noted: “Financing is needed in agriculture, community tourism, and all businesses to ensure value-added productivity. The time is now, the opportunity exists, environment is appropriate — and what is needed is aggressive action.”

The CCCU President therefore called on the

hundreds of Caribbean delegates at the Cuba conference to take a page from the chronicled history of a great African and world leader, saying, “We need to be reminded of Mandela’s vision when he said ‘vision and action by themselves will not work, but vision and action can change the world.’”

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AARON MOSES
PRESIDENT OF THE CARIBBEAN CONFEDERATION
OF CREDIT UNIONS

