

From The Tribune Online
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Update 11:45am – Bahamas Communications and Public Officers Union President Bernard Evans informed The Tribune this morning that he has met with the staff at the Bahamas Telecommunications Corporation and informed them of Cable and Wireless' intent to purchase 51 per cent of the company on the grounds that 30 per cent of staffing levels must be cut.

Mr. Evans said that after speaking with the staff, the majority of whom have been with the corporation for over 26 years, many employees were receptive to the prospect of taking a package from the government - especially if it is anywhere comparable to what was given to the previous BTC employees laid off under the first Ingraham administration.

At that time, Mr. Evans said that employees on average received at least 2 years' salary in their severance packages.

The BCPOU's leadership will be meeting with Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham at 3pm today to get a further update on the privatization exercise and brief him on their membership's position and concerns.

A 51 PER CENT stake in the Bahamas Telecommunications Corporation (BTC) has reportedly been sold according to unconfirmed reports reaching the Tribune news desk late last night. In addition to acquiring a 51 per cent share holding in BTC, the new owner would also gain operational control of BTC, it was claimed.

Unconfirmed reports indicate that Cable and Wireless, which was reportedly the front runner to acquire a stake in BTC won the bid. Details were sketchy up to press time, however, The Tribune will continue to monitor this story. Minister of National Security Tommy Turnquest, who has ministerial responsibility for the state run telecommunications company, could not be reached for comment up to press time.

An unconfirmed report also says that a meeting was called for BTC staff at the company's headquarters on John F Kennedy Drive for 7 o'clock this morning.