



Public Service Union of Belize

P.O. Box 458, South End Governor General's Field
Belmopan City, Belize, C.A.

Internationally affiliated with PSI and CPSA

Council of Management Briefing to Membership 5 of 2021

October 14, 2021

The Public Service Union of Belize (PSU) held its monthly Council of Management meeting on October 9, 2021. Cognizant of the fact that timely and effective communication with members is important for the PSU's success and central to achieving the Union's goals and objectives, membership is hereby apprised of the following:

1. PSU will be doing two (2) presentations on Day 2 of this year's PSI Sub-regional Advisory Committee (SUBRAC) Meeting to be held virtually on Friday October 15, 2021. Day 1 was held on Tuesday September 28.
2. The Belize Agricultural Health Authority (BAHA) negotiation and discussions on their Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) is still ongoing.
3. The PSU had written to the Ministry of the Public Service, Constitutional and Political Reform (MPSCPR) at the beginning of the two (2) week change in curfew time for a change in working hours. Following this MPSCPR had sent out a Circular informing of the change in working hours from 9AM-5PM to 8AM-4PM. This remains the current working hours until further notice.
4. The Public Sector Workers Trust (PSWT) is once again asking PSU and its members to submit project proposals or ideas that will aid in the advancement and benefit of the PSWT and its beneficiaries. These can be both revenue generating and non-revenue generating.
5. The PSU is still in consultation and awaits written legal opinion on the following subject matters: 1) Super Annuity Benefits for Open Vote Workers, 2) Section 106 (3) - Belize Constitution (Fixing of Salaries), and 3) Regulations 206 (2) Free Medical Attention and Treatment for Public Officers in relation to SI 74. After a series of unanswered letters to the CEO in the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW), the PSU is happy to note that free testing is now available in Belize City and Belmopan. We hope that this is rolled out to the all Districts so that everyone can have access to free testing.
6. PSU had written to MPSCPR for clarification in addressing 'frontline workers' in Statutory Instrument (S.I.) 74 of 2021 as a result of a few Ministries demanding Covid-19 vaccine card or negative Covid-19 test from non-frontline workers. In accordance with legal opinion provided to MPSCPR from the Office of the Solicitor General Government cannot apply Regulation 11 of SI 74 of 2021 to non-frontline workers in its employ. SI 74 of 2021 and the Public Health (Prevention of the Spread of Infectious Disease) (COVID-19) (Amendment) (No. 6) Regulation, 2021 lists the "frontline workers". We must note that this is prior to the release of the SI 111 of 2021.
7. The monthly PSU/MPSCPR meeting scheduled for October 4, 2021 was postponed. A re-scheduled date is pending.
8. The National Executive along with the Trustees are to meet in the upcoming week to further discuss the construction of a fence for the Belize District Branch Office.
9. The Branch Audits are currently ongoing. To date two (2) Branch Audits remain, the Corozal & Belize Branch.



Public Service Union of Belize

P.O. Box 458, South End Governor General's Field
Belmopan City, Belize, C.A.

Internationally affiliated with PSI and CPSA

10. A service fee of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) was agreed on to be paid by non-union members who wish to access services, not benefits, of the union. The IRO Fee to be paid by non-union members to access the IRO services remains unchanged at one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150.00).
11. The Global Leadership Summit 2021 will be held on October 28 & 29. The Council has agreed to sponsor the participation of interested members from the Council of Management and Branch Executive Committee members who wish to participate.
12. Due to the increase in loan applications for urgent medical purposes, it was agreed that loan approvals for emergency medical purposes would be increased to a maximum of two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00) to better assist our members.
13. The Joint Unions Negotiating Team (JUNT) representatives for the ongoing wage bill adjustment discussions are to meet in the upcoming week in preparation for the upcoming October meeting with the Government.
14. Members are encouraged to submit investment proposals to the PSU. One such proposal has been mentioned and will be presented to the Council at or prior to the November meeting.
15. The Council is currently reviewing its Financial Guidelines and ways in which we can better assist our membership. Council approved a monthly Home Improvement Grant raffle of three hundred dollars (\$300.00). The raffle will be drawn on the last Wednesday of every month. Payment will be made to the businesses and not the individual member. Members can only win once per year.
16. A short update was given on the report and review of the Commission of Inquiry. A small internal committee has been put together to review the draft report submitted by the PSU Rep Bro Luis Luke Martinez. The focus will be on improving the internal controls for procurement and disposal of Government's assets.

....ENDS....