



## *Public Service Union of Belize*

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**Internationally affiliated with PSI and CPSA**

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### **PRESS RELEASE**

The Public Service Union (PSU) of Belize wishes to announce its strongest detestation towards Write-Off (No. 2) Motion, 2019 which seeks to write off in excess of \$40,000.00 of unpaid debt for study leave granted to the Cabinet Secretary son, Joshua Perdomo. Despite objections by the public, including the Deputy Prime Minister, the motion was tabled on Tuesday August 27, 2019 and shamelessly approved by the four Ministers of Government who sit on the Finance and Economic Development Committee. These continuous acts of nepotism by Government officials is counter-productive, not in the best interest of the public, a flagrant abuse of process, unconscionable and outright scandalous. The Ministry of Finance has once again failed the Belizean people by not being able to demonstrate that it went above and beyond to recover the funds from Mr. Joshua Perdomo or his co-signor Ms. Sylvia Perdomo.

On an annual basis public officers are bonded when awarded scholarships and study leave to ensure they return and serve the government and people of Belize. The Public Service Union salutes those officers who have kept their part of the agreement and encourages others to do the same. The Belizean people deserve no less. In light of this latest willful neglect of moral and fiduciary duty by certain Ministers of Government and including the Ministry of Finance, the Public Service Union calls on the members of House of Representatives and the Senate to reject this motion whenever it is presented for passage in the House and Senate. It is indeed another sad day for Public Officers to grapple with the fact that no other than the Minister charged with the duty and responsibility to uphold the rule of law chaired and presided over this dishonorable act. The Public Service Union further calls on the Prime Minister to recall this motion and to hold those responsible within his Ministry for failing to carry out their duty and responsibility.

\$40,000.00 may very well be deemed insignificant to an Administration that continues to burden the Belizean people with loans in the billions of dollars; but to us at PSU, \$40,000.00 is a matter of life and death to many public officers who are subjected to unsafe, insanitary, and even inhumane working conditions on a daily basis as they lack basic safety and health equipment to safeguard against injury and health risks.

The PSU concludes by recognizing the Deputy Prime Minister and the sole member of the Opposition who has spoken out publicly against Write-Off (No. 2) Motion, 2019 and calls on other elected representatives and the general public to stand up and to do the same.

Solidarity Forever!

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