



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

CIRCULAR 2 OF 2021

March 7, 2021

Greetings to our fellow members of the Public Service Union of Belize.

The Public Service Union of Belize (PSU) takes this opportunity to inform its General Membership and fellow Public Officers that the Union is in receipt of a letter from the Financial Secretary, Ministry of Finance with reference C/GEN/1/01/ Vol II (50) dated March 5, 2021. The letter states the following:

"...we set forth below the particulars of Government's contemplation on its proposed wage bill adjustments with a view to achieve fiscal balance within the next three years:

- 1. Reduction in staffing salaries commencing in FY 2021/2022 and holding in place for years to FY 2023/2024 (estimated savings \$60m per year) It is expected that the unions will recommend the method by which such minimum savings will be achieved, for example, by way of a flat rate across-the-board adjustment or a progressive salary band-based adjustment.***
- 2. Continued freeze on increments and benefits, also for a three-year period (estimated savings \$20m per year)***
- 3. Notwithstanding such salary adjustments, it is proposed that on retirement of affected public officers, pension would be paid on the basis of a pensionable salary calculated as if salary adjustments had not occurred.***
- 4. Government would make good faith efforts to encourage the National Bank of Belize and the Development Finance Corporation to make available special facilities of in or about \$3mn to \$5mn per institution for public officer and teachers for residential mortgages at preferred rates.***
- 5. To the extent that economic and fiscal performance turns out favourably and primary balance targets as indicated in our February 26, 2021 letter to you with reference C/GEN/1/01/ Vol II (47) are achieved, the Government is prepared to review such salary adjustments within the three-year period.***

We look forward to continuing this dialogue... and to concluding this budget consultation process in earnest by March 15, 2021 with your agreement on the proposed adjustments with your recommended approach to achieving same."

The PSU has commenced consultations with its members and Public Officers commencing with a virtual Zoom meeting held on Saturday, March 6, 2021 at 10 a.m. Another meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at midday. After putting together suggestions from both meetings, a final meeting will be held at a date and time to be announced. We encourage all Public Officers to take part in these consultations. Please email your suggestions/questions to info@psubelize.org.

A survey is being conducted to garner feedback from members regarding the Government's proposed Wage Bill Adjustments.

UNITY IS STRENGTH, SOLIDARITY FOREVER!