



## From the President's Desk

Greetings PSU Members,

The news by the Minister of Health & Wellness that a COVID Variant has been detected in Belize is concerning and I therefore take this opportunity to encourage each of you to do your part in keeping yourself, your family, and your co-workers safe and free from Covid-19. On behalf of the Council of Management, I encourage each of you to get vaccinated today. As part of the Union's effort to support the Government in its vaccination campaign, the PSU has included a vaccination drive as part of its 99<sup>th</sup> Anniversary health fair to be held on July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The Union wrote to the CEO in the Ministry of Health and Wellness on June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021, and despite no response from the CEO to date, the feedback from some Branch Chairs who have liaised directly with local and regional health authorities has been encouraging. We therefore remain optimistic that PSU Members and other Public Officers will get vaccinated even before or at one of the Unions' countrywide health fair on July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Let's stay safe by continuing to practice physical distancing, wearing a mask, keeping rooms well ventilated, avoiding crowds, washing our hands, and coughing into a bent elbow or tissue.

### NOTES:

Whilst we were unable to get the support of the Ministry of Public Service to deduct the days officers were on strike from vacation leave or days earned as time-in-lieu, the Union is grateful that affected officers were able to enter into agreement with their respective department/ministry for deduction to be done in installments.

As it relates to the apprehension of the five (5) hours reduced work week whereby essential services and shift workers are concerned that they would be no compensation between the 35<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> hour, the Minister of Public Service has verbally informed the Union that this is not the case. While overtime, when applicable, will continue to apply on the basis of the statutory work week (40 hrs), compensation between the 35<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> hour will be paid at the regular "singular" rate and time and a half will kick in after 40 hrs. The Minister in the Ministry of Public Service has committed to have the Financial Secretary produce this reassurance in writing via a Circular.

In response to the Union's request on behalf of five (5) Officers in Charge, whose Departments stand to be negatively affected by a proposed relocation of the offices to another building less conducive to a good working environment, the CEO in the Ministry of Public Service has scheduled a visit to Dangriga along with PSU President to meet with the concerned Officers on Friday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021. The trip will also include a visit to the proposed building identified for the relocation of the offices.

Following meetings with the Chief Elections Officer and Staff Members of the Elections and Boundaries Department Headquarters in Belize City, with reference to the relocation of the Elections and Boundaries Headquarters from Belize City to Belmopan City, the PSU wrote to the CEO in the Ministry of Public Service on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 itemizing staff fears and concerns whilst providing various viable suggestions and solutions to mitigate the areas of concern. The Union is awaiting the Ministry's response.

Following consultation with the Union's representative on the Commission of inquiry to investigate the sale of government assets, the PSU has written the Chairman of the Commission informing him of the Union's desire for the meetings of the inquiry to investigate the sale of government assets be resumed at the commission earliest convenience.

The Public Relations Committee within the Public Service Union is working on communication information and would like to get an idea of what you would want so that the Public Service Union can better serve you. Please take a few minutes to complete this short survey. Your responses will be used to guide our public awareness and education campaign. All responses will be strictly confidential.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?>

[id=sJQUen26b0qYihDAujs65WblKawJqvVBt797vq2dfudUODBZNUYxSUNZSkZBU0dVNjA4SlkyV1kwUC4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=sJQUen26b0qYihDAujs65WblKawJqvVBt797vq2dfudUODBZNUYxSUNZSkZBU0dVNjA4SlkyV1kwUC4u)

### Mentions

- We encourage all members to participate in PSU Wellness Wednesdays every Wednesday at your branch level.
- The theme for the PSU 99th Anniversary celebration is **"PSU at 99: A call for CHANGE, A chance to UNITE, A stand for our RIGHTS"**
- We invite all members to participate in the PSU 99<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Week of Activities.

### Upcoming

- ⇒ Wednesdays—Wellness Wednesdays
- ⇒ July 1—Belmopan Branch General Membership Meeting
- ⇒ July 3—Council of Management Meeting
- ⇒ July 15—PSU 99<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration
- ⇒ July 11-17—PSU 99<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Week of Activities