



## From the President's Desk

1. June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – Met with Public Service International Sub Regional Secretary, Sis. Sandra Massiah to discuss developments in Belize, ref: Trade Dispute between the Government of Belize and the Joint Unions. PSU welcomed PSI's initiative to offer training in the coming months to members of the PSU in areas such as union strengthening, trade dispute and capacity building.
2. June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – PSU wrote to the CEO in the Ministry of Health and Wellness in conjunction with PSU's 99<sup>th</sup> anniversary and celebration of Public Service Union Day which will include a Health Fair thus suggesting a joint PSU- MOHW Covid-19 Vaccine Drive for Public Officers at the various locations across the country on July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Awaiting response from CEO MOHW.
3. June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – PSU's Industrial Relations Officer and President met with the Chief Elections Officer to discuss Government's decision to relocate the Headquarters of the Elections and Boundaries Department to Market Square, Belmopan and the financial impact thereof.
4. June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – PSU's Industrial Relations Officer and President met with Staff Members of the Elections and Boundaries Department to discuss concerns and impacts of relocating to Belmopan and hear suggestions on how to alleviate or minimize the impacts and concerns. PSU to forward concerns and suggestions to the CEO in the Ministry of Public Service for addressing.
5. Public Service Union Members continue to be victims of punitive and economically foolish transfers by the CEO in the Ministry of Health and Wellness. Of great concern to the PSU, is the fact that the Ministry of Public Service is approving these unnecessary, punitive and costly transfers at the expense of the Belizean people during a time of austerity and much to the detriment of Public Officers.
6. Belize Celebrates World Public Service Day on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021.

## 2021 Public Service Day Message

Greeting fellow Public Officers!

Each year, on June 23 the world celebrates Public Service Day. This year in Belize, we are celebrating Public Service Day under the theme: **BELIZE PUBLIC SERVICE: MAKING HEROIC SACRIFICES, DISPLAYING EXTRAORDINARY HUMANNES, PROVIDING SERVICE BEFORE SELF.**

The theme chosen for this year in Belize is very fitting as it correlates with this year's message from Public Service International General Secretary Rosa Pavanelli, and I quote: **"it is public services and public sector workers who kept us safe during the pandemic and who will also play a crucial role in the post-Covid-19 recovery. With the pandemic, people have reconsidered what they value: family, health, education, stability and how much they rely on public services to provide these. But 'the applause' has not been translated into better salaries and working conditions – and we must keep on fighting for that to become a reality"**. As we reflect on the impact of the covid-19 pandemic over the last year and a half, one conclusion that can be drawn is that privatization and the private sector is not always better, as today public services has proven to be more essential than ever.

Providing quality public services requires public financing. For this reason, it is time for all Belizean laborers to join forces and fight for tax transparency and more tax justice. The recent consultations between the Government of Belize and the Joint Unions indicated clearly that Belize is losing more financial resources to businesses dodging and evading taxes than we receive in development aid. All tax that is not paid to government where it is owed is vital money lost to public services, such as health, education or public infrastructure. The erosion of tax bases through tax dodging and tax evasion impacts on the governments' ability to fund these public services out of domestic resources, and leaves them dependent on external finance, such as development aid or loans from the International Financial Institutions.

This year's theme calls on public officers to make heroic sacrifices, display extraordinary humanness, and provide service before self. If public officers are to effectively play these roles, then the Ministry of Public Service must ensure that they embark on a comprehensive capacity development of all public officers. Government must support the call for tax reform and politically driven spending must pause to ensure that government's limited financial resources are geared towards the sustainable development of responsible, responsive, accountable and people focused leadership in all public sector institutions.

**TO ALL PUBLIC OFFICERS: HAPPY PUBLIC SERVICE DAY!**

### Mentions

- We encourage all members to participate in PSU Wellness Wednesdays every Wednesday at your branch level.
- Sis Marika Zuniga won the PSU 99th Anniversary theme competition. The theme for the celebration is ***"PSU at 99: A call for CHANGE, A chance to UNITE, A stand for our RIGHTS"***
- We invite all new members to participate in the upcoming Membership Induction Training.

### Upcoming

- ⇒ Wednesdays—Wellness Wednesdays
- ⇒ June 26—PSU Membership Induction Training
- ⇒ July 15—PSU 99th Anniversary Celebration
- ⇒ July 11-17—PSU 99th Anniversary Week of Activities