



01 June 2019
Volume 1, Issue 3

Vanguard Newsletter

PSU 2K -
Powerful,
Stable and
Unified

97th Annual General Meeting

Three hundred and fifty-three (353) members along with around two hundred family members attended the Business Session of 97th Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in Dangriga Town on 1st June. The Theme for this year's AGM was '**PSU- Organized for Public Officers Empowerment, Employment Security and Increased Public Services**'. The Opening Ceremony was a beautiful cultural session held in the evening on Friday 31st May led by the newly elected Stann Creek Chairperson Sis Albertha Flowers and her team. Kudos to Sis Albertha and her team, they have certainly set the bar high for those hosting branches to follow. After the counting of the ballots for the vacant posts, Bro Gerald Henry was elected as President; Sis Jacqueline Willoughby as Second Vice President; Sis Trisha Perez as Secretary General; and Bro Phillip Tate & Bro Felipe Ramclam as Councilors. They join the Sitting Executives for the 2019-2020 term. The 98th AGM will be held 29th to 30th May in Peini, Punta Gorda.

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Meet the Candidates

In accordance with the PSU Constitution, Section 35 Election Rota System, the following five (5) posts will be vacant at the upcoming 97th Annual General Meeting:

1. President
2. Second Vice President
3. Secretary General
4. Councilor (2)



Devotional

Book of 2 Kings Chapter 17

Morning Brothers and Sisters, in the wake of the newly elected COM at the recent AGM the Lord takes us to the Book of 2 Kings. Note to self, there is no record of which prophet wrote 1 and 2 Kings. However, it documents the history of a divided kingdom in 853 BC when the nation of Assyria took captive the people of Israel. Judah was the only nation to have remained intact. Then the Babylonians took down the Assyrians Capital of Nineveh in 612 BC and by 586 BC Babylon dominated Judah. By the end of Kings, the people of God no longer inhabited their “Promised Land” and the place was destroyed by the Babylonian Army. The people became enslaved, scattered, and decimated by their enemies. Can you imagine, God’s people losing everything they had and becoming slaves to their captors. Is this our union today?

This is so relevant to what has happened to our PSU home. We seem to have lost what was promised to us, our beloved Hill Top. But let us look at what this book is teaching us, before we come to believe that all is lost. So the book of Kings teaches us that our actions have consequences, and in some cases our inaction as well have consequences. God was calling the people of Israel to repent. The people were worshiping false gods created by their kings. In Kings we read of all the list of false deities. God warns them however, Judah came to learn the hard way that God means what He says, “Repent! Sin incur judgement.”

Today let us ask ourselves, do we fear the Lord our God? Can we acknowledge our sin and turn back to God, our very creator? *Cont on pg 4*

PSU'S RELATIONSHIP WITH GOVERNMENT

The body in central government with which the Public Service Union of Belize (PSU) has the closest relation is the Ministry of the Public Service (MPS). Functioning under the leadership of the Minister for the Public Service and the management of a Chief Executive Officer (CEO), this Ministry has responsibility for the formulation and execution of the following policies of Government:

- ⇒ The recruitment and selection process of public servants
- ⇒ Human resources management and development
- ⇒ The classification of positions
- ⇒ Fixing of salary scales and privileges
- ⇒ General terms and conditions of employment
- ⇒ Transfer, promotion and disciplinary measures
- ⇒ Matters relating to the general management and control of the public service.

Taking into consideration that the MPS serves as Secretariat to the Public Services Commission (PSC), the Joint Staff Relations Council, the Administration and Accounts Posts Panel, the Human Resource Development Committee and the Council of Good Governance, the PSU's close involvement with the MPS can readily be appreciated. This is especially so when we consider their respective functions in relation to the main objectives of the PSU, which are:

- ⇒ **to ensure the complete organization in the Union of all persons employed by the Government of Belize or any of its Statutory bodies;**
- ⇒ **to promote and protect the interest and welfare of its members including obtaining and maintaining proper rates of salaries and other conditions of employment;**
- ⇒ **to uplift the status of the public service;**
- ⇒ **to regulate an effective bargaining body to negotiate on behalf of its members;**
- ⇒ **to regulate by amicable means the relations between Government/Management;**
- ⇒ **to promote mutual respect and goodwill, loyalty and cooperation in the best interest of the public servants and the public;**
- ⇒ **to provide Trade Union benefits for members;**
- ⇒ **to promote the general improvement of the public service;**
- ⇒ **to promote legislation in the interest of its members.**

Although the MPS appears to want to enhance good relations between the MPS and the PSU by taking steps aimed to 'modernize' the Public Service by embarking on initiatives to provide for long-term reform measures, the reality is that most of these have since been corrupted and used against public officers. The following are the "initiatives" and the reality (marked with * and in italics) of their application today. *Cont on pg 5*

Devotional

Cont from pg 2

What sins can we identify in our life, what gods have we created in our life and in the life of our union? When we come to think of it, if we are putting something else before God and His commands then we have created a new god in our life. Today there are many false gods that are being served and we will list some of them to give us an idea: money, politics/politicians, power, social media, beauty, science, self and worldly material just to name a few. Having any of them is not a sin, what makes it a sin is spending more time in acquiring as much of it instead of spending time to come to know God and having a relationship with Him. Remember that God gives us all these things, but his desire is not for us to become enslaved to them, but instead to use them as tools to go and carry the gospel as we have been commissioned in Mark 16: 15.

To our newly elected President, may the Lord be your teacher and helper in all you do. We pray for our Union, that we learn to stop serving little gods. Rather, that we come to the only true provider of this universe the one true God who can lead us all into a better future and to our promised land. In Jesus name Amen. May the Lord give you ears to hear and eyes to see the truth in the Living Word Amen.

Dear Editor: PSU's Pulse

Dear Editor,

On May 31, 2019 I received a copy of an ineffectual piece of literature branded with the name PSU membership pulse. Its horrendous design and layout coupled with a few absurd and incoherent articles suggested little time or effort was invested in its creation and more importantly highlighted the fact that its dismal fabrication was the work of bitter and desperate mischief makers. Despite the passive state some would suggest the Public Service Union (PSU) has fallen into over the years, the acronym PSU should always be respected and we should never allow anyone to disrespect our Union's name or associate it with such garbage. I therefore implore the new President to launch an investigation to ascertain who is behind the rubbish called PSU membership pulse and to take legal action where necessary for the unauthorized use of the name PSU. I further implore the new President, that if not done as yet, to ensure that the names PSU and Public Service Union in addition to its logo be duly and properly registered and protected under law as intellectual property rights and trademark of the Union. The Public Service Union cannot afford for anyone to think that our 97 years old institution is associated with such rubbish that was disseminated and in addition to distancing itself from it, must ensure that we put mechanisms in place to protect our good name.

Signed: The Aggrieved.

NOTE: Aggrieved, the Vanguard Committee also received a copy of vile publication and takes this opportunity along with Council of Management to distance itself from it. The PSU Membership Pulse is not associated in any way, shape or form with the Public Service Union (PSU) or with the PSU's official newsletter The Vanguard. The Council of Management takes this opportunity to distance itself from the publication and hereby request that the person or persons responsible for the creation of the PSU membership pulse cease and desist from using and associating the name PSU with its publication and disinformation.

PSU'S RELATIONSHIP WITH GOVERNMENT

Cont from pg 3

- ⇒ In its goal to have improved service delivery by means of highly motivated productive employees the Ministry, in partnership with the PSU, the Public Services Commission and the Public Sector Reform Council, formulated an **Employee Assistance Programme (EAP)** policy framework.
- ⇒ **Sadly, certain heads of departments twisted the EAP and now use it as a punitive measure in their personal attacks on certain officers.*
- ⇒ In 1997, a new output oriented **Performance Appraisal System** was introduced.
- ⇒ **This too has failed to meet the intended purpose as supervisors continue to give unjustified assessment reports on their subordinates without any oversight/intervention from the MPS.*
- ⇒ The **Public Service Regulations** governing public servants was updated in 2014.
- ⇒ **This is still a matter of concern because it has been enforced without being previously accepted by the PSU.*
- ⇒ To have greater efficiency in the day-to-day management of personnel issues **Operations Manuals**, in respect of appointments, promotions, transfers, recruitment and discipline, were produced.
- ⇒ **The MPS is itself not adhering to these Operation Manuals and only do so when it is convenient to them.*
- ⇒ To automate its personnel management system completely, the Ministry instituted a **Human Resource Management Information System (HRMIS)**, and produced a Staff List in 2014 as the first product of the new system.
- ⇒ **This is still a challenge for the Audit Department as CITO blocked most of the staff from accessing information that was previously available for them to conduct payroll related audits.*

It is therefore critical that MPS revisits these “initiatives” along with the PSU to ensure the intended purpose, that they benefit our public officers, is realized. It also brings to light the fact that the PSU needs to consistently monitor and bring to the attention of the MPS when these joint initiatives are used for sinister purposes against our public officers. The involvement of PSU must be from planning, through implementation and beyond, to ensure that all stakeholders respect fair play for the intended benefit of all public officers.



me: (texting boss) we still on for work today?
boss: yes. you dont have to text me this every morning. we're "on" for work every day mon-fri

NOTICE BOARD

What's Happening, PSU?

1st June— PSU Annual General Meeting, Ecumenical College, Dangriga Town





**Public Service
Union of Belize**

97TH Annual General Meeting

"PSU - Organized for Public Officers Empowerment, Employment Security and Increase Public Services"

Official Opening Ceremony : Friday, May 31st, 2019 - Dangriga Town Hall Conference Room , Dangriga Town, beginning at 7:00 P.M

Business Session: Saturday, June 1st, 2019 - Ecumenical Auditorium, Dangriga Town, beginning at 9:00 A.M

Transportation will be arranged by branches which will include Food & Drinks.

Please contact your Branch Chairperson for more information:

<i>O/WALK - Felipe Muñoz (631-6889)</i>	<i>COROZAL: Jasmin Zetina (604-5553)</i>
<i>BZE - Gale Garcia (633-5035)</i>	<i>BMP - Mandela Wade (677-1988)</i>
<i>TOL - Melania Cayetano (621-1562)</i>	<i>CAYO: Clifford Martinez (630-8016)</i>
<i>STANN CREEK - Alberta Flowers (610-6468)</i>	

**Come and participate in the affairs of your Union.
There will be elections for the following positions:**

President (2 years)	2nd Vice President (2 years)	General Secretary (2 years)
2 -councilors (2 years)		

**Lucky Winners will take home great prizes!!
See you there!!**

COME PARTICIPATE IN UNITY , FOR UNITY IS STRENGTH!!

16th June—Father's Day

23rd June—Public Service Day

President Gerald Henry Jr's Address

Greetings Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Public Service Union is on a new course after the mandate was given by General Membership that they were satisfied with the goals and objectives set out in my manifesto with the theme "PSU 2K - Powerful, Stable and Unified". I want to reassure all of you that I intend to stay the course to achieve as many, if not all, of those goals and objectives to significantly strengthen our Union as we approach our 100th Anniversary.



I would like to thank everyone who supported me in my successful bid for the presidency. I intend to prove that your confidence and trust in me to lead our Union are well-placed. I would also like to thank those who did not support me. You motivate me to ensure that success is achieved for the benefit of all our Members.

In closing, I would like to say that I do not consider it a victory for me because I do not intend to gain anything from being President of our Union. On the contrary, the Union will gain from me being the President because I am committed to ensuring that it will be powerful, stable and unified for us to celebrate our centennial milestone in the next few years. I ask all of you to join me and do your part by participating in the planned activities. It is my hope that you will consistently build our Union through continuous recruitment of new members. With more numbers we have more power, and with more power we can make more changes!

SOLIDARITY FOREVER!

Retrospect

THE VANGUARD this month features, Retrospect, a look back at the Union's participation in social Democracy and the vital role it plays in the framework of national governance.

Sunday, April 5, 1981

THE REPORTER

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STRIKE PARALYSES COUNTRY! SCHOOLS, BUSINESS HOUSES, BANKS, GOVT. DEPARTMENTS CLOSE DOWN!

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PLEDGES SOLIDARITY

Tuesday, March 31:

A WEEK-LONG STRIKE, called by the Public Service Union of Belize to reinforce its demand that the country should hold a referendum on the Heads of Agreement struck between the City and its five associated district capitals along with Belmopan today, bringing public and private business to a dramatic stand-still.

For the first time in recorded history, big and small businesses went along with the closure, so that not only was the close-down of government offices and departments complete, but all the commercial banks and all the major wholesale and retail outlets in the old city also closed.

It was a stunning demonstration of unity power - an unprecedented and unexpected coming together of the community to protest government arrogance and hard-headedness in trying to ram through the Heads of Agreement without consultation.

Speaking before a large throng of strikers and sym-

He went on to say: "Government has frightened and abused the people of Belize

Belize City. All shops and offices and government departments have been closed.

REPORTS from Corozal show that the Corozal Town Board, its mayor and all the workers including the Health Service Workers, led the move to strike. Government departments were closed and business places promptly followed suit. The Mayor of Corozal, Mr. Israel Alpucho told the REFUGEE over the telephone that the strike had been 90 per cent successful.

In Grange Walk, the union achieved total paralysis of government business. Business places had, for the first time, taken a lead, with most of them closing on Monday. The few remaining places open on

the public officers had responded, but this percentage improved as the day wore on and the people in the capital learned that Belize City had been shut-tered and sealed and that the districts were following close behind.

In Belize City the action began shortly before eight o'clock when it was seen at once that the civil servants had taken the strike call seriously. At the Post Office and the Registry no one made a move to enter or do any work. At the Customs, Income Tax, Social Development Department, Survey and Lands Department, Audit Department, Housing and Planning, Department of Credit Unions and Co-operatives, Forestry

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THE REPORTER

GOVERNMENT ON THE RUN GOVERNOR'S "EMERGENCY" DENIES DISSENT, P.S.U. STRIKE CONTINUES STRONG.

BELIZE'S GOVERNOR JAMES HENNESSY gave in to pressures from the Premier of Belize, Mr. George Price on Thursday by signing a proclamation declaring a state of emergency. The proclamation was signed shortly after 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, just two hours after giving an assurance to the Public Service Union that he would not try to prejudice their strike in this way.

Governor Hennessey decided to act after receiving reports of violence in Corozal Town, in which one well known member of the opposition was shot and killed, and the prospect of

Yesterday's proclamation was made under Section 62 of the British Honduras Constitution Ordinance No. 33 of 1963 which gives the Governor power to suspend any law he chooses to suspend and to substitute for these written regulations which appear to him to be necessary and expedient for the securing of public safety, maintenance of order, public order, suppression of mutiny, rebellion and riot and maintenance of supplies and services essential to the life of the community.

Under this last named maintenance of essential services the Electricity

to refrain from assembling in groups of more than five and to co-operate with the authorities if these decide to requisition any private property for the purpose of maintaining good public order.

Since Thursday two new regulations have been added. One prohibits the use of picket signs and the other prohibits the use of loudspeakers as a way of communicating with people. So far no regulations have been made prohibiting the printing or circulation of newspapers, but it might come to that before the emergency is over.

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Lease - Hilltop Facility- Belmopan

For some time, the Public Service Union has been trying to acquire its own office building in Belmopan.

To this end, members of the Executive of the Union have been in dialogue with various agencies and individuals culminating with a meeting with the Hon. Prime Minister and other Government Officials on the 26th January 2001. The end result of that meeting was that the Prime Minister agreed to the leasing of the Hilltop Complex to the Union for a period of 20 (twenty) years.

Following up on this agreement, a letter dated 8th February 2001, was issued to the Chairman of Reconstruction and Development Corporation, Hon. Agripino Cawich, by the office of the Cabinet Secretary. In that letter reference was made to the fact that as far back as May 1999, Cabinet had decided that "The Hilltop property and facilities should be taken over and managed by the Public Service Union and that a formal leasing of the property be effected". The letter further went on to exhort the Chairman to support the agreement reached and conclude an arrangement to enable the Public Service Union to be issued with the lease without further delay. This correspondence was copied to the Mayor of Belmopan requesting his support in lending his good office to the effort to facilitate the early conclusion of the matter.

Consequent to this development, the President of the Union met with the Mayor in February 2001 the result being the issuance of a Draft Lease agreement, which is now being actively pursued by the Union. This Draft agreement is being vetted by the Union's Attorney. In the meantime, the Union has prepared a ten (10) year development plan for submission to the Council to facilitate the finalization of the lease agreement.

The plan indicates that the development of the Hilltop complex will be undertaken in two phases as follows:

Proposal Phase I

- | | | |
|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| 1. | Painting of Front external walls - | year I |
| 2. | Complete drawing New Building- | year I |
| 3. | Upgrade Electrical Installations-
(Wires, distribution panels etc.) | year I |
| 4. | Repair of three unused classrooms- | year II |
| 5. | Repair termite infested ceiling & roof- | year I |
| 6. | Fumigation of facility- | year I |
| 7. | Landscaping of grounds- | year II |
| 8. | Construction of Recreational Facility- | year II |
| 9. | Renovation of Pool | years I |
| 10. | Development of Basketball and
Tennis Courts | year II |

Proposal Phase II

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| 1. | Construction of New Head-
quarters building adjacent to Hilltop | year III |
| 2. | Construction of Parking Lot | year IV |
| 3. | Fencing of Compound | year V |

You can see then brothers and sisters that the Union is on the move and that following closely on the heels of our acquiring our own building in Belize City. We are moving towards the acquisition of our headquarters in Belmopan. Programs and activities that will be conducted at the Hilltop complex will be made known to members as soon as these have been concretized. However, we can now say that these will include swimming lessons, games night, internet cafe for educational purposes and a youth program.

The journey so far, has been uphill but with continued patience, diligence and hard work, we will realize our ambitions.

PSU WORKING TO SECURE MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

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VANGUARD

Voice of the Public Service Union of Belize

Vol 6 No. 1 July, 2000 Non-Members - \$1.00

PSU AND SOCIAL SECURITY NUH SI EYE TO EYE

There are more questions than answers in my mind that will not be answered. There are more questions than answers and the more I find out the more I know."

Members of the Public Service Union have met with the General Manager, or Staff of Social Security and Mr. Mr. Hernando Perez Montas on day 22nd June, 2000 to get a first look of the Social Security payment and benefits package.

The fracas caused by NHI earlier this year, the proposed part of the latest offer from Social Security Board.

Members and indeed the entire working population of this country are alarmed at the proposed 'hike' of the monthly contributions from a maximum of \$6.50 to \$39.75 monthly.



years benefit payments to employed persons were minimal. Now that the scheme is nearing maturity stage and more pensioners and insured persons have begun to draw from the funds, the employed person is expected to bear the brunt of the increased contributions. In the meantime, the Union were being 'invested' in all sorts of 'business' deals, some of which contributed to the questioned by employed persons and the public. These concerns are general and cannot be ignored. If all we have is the public question or challenge these 'investments' the Union questioned the Board's credibility to properly manage and general charges of abuse and mismanagement. The Investment Committee determined that the Investment returns average about 9% projects. Investment returns acceptable. The Board finds this acceptable.

The Public Service Union has never been in a position to...

Dear Editor

Most of us use the Belize Bus System or National Public Transportation System. I am ONLY looking and referring to the system of moving Belizeans in this country from Corozal to Toledo and from Benque Viejo to Belize City.

The first issue is that the buses that are being used in Belize are used for moving children in the United States and not designed for moving adults. Also, some of the buses are too old to be on the road and it takes too long to get new and modern, fuel efficient and safer buses for all of us to use. The Government of Belize needs to fix this problem, but then again this might be asking too much. The routes for the entire transport system needs to be improved by making the process more transparent and the National Transport Board needs to come clean on how this system works for the country, given that the system is not working for us who use the Public Transport System here in Belize.

The Minister responsible for National Transport System needs to give up his Government issued vehicle that is provided for by the people of Belize and ride the Public Transport System for one (1) month. If he does use the Public Transport system for less than a month, he will not truly understand the issues that commuters face on a daily basis given the nature of the system and the inefficiencies that governs the entire system. He should also use the transport system to get from home to work; furthermore he also needs to be on time for all his meetings.

Being on time does not have any meaning in Belize given the way the terminals are being managed. Something needs to be done to fix the entire system given all these problems. Ticketing should be mandatory for all Bus Companies and they need to put one that works in place.

I do not want to make the Prime Minister ride the transport system because of his back problem because it will certainly affect his health. If only he can get a feel as to what we all go through for using the Public Transport System. Cabinet does not have a problem with this system because it does not affect them. I may also need to request the participation of all other members of Cabinet for them to use and experience this system to get around, meet their obligations and to be there on time. I would like to ask the Chairman of the National Transport Board if the system is working most efficiently and what are some of the fixes that are needed to vastly improve the current system.

I do remember listening to a radio show once where Mr. C. Jefferies and Mr. P. Schmidt from the Transport Department were disagreeing on the ways the system can be fixed. We all need to help in finding solutions to this problem.

It was suggested recently that the buses be improved over time about 10 Years. This is too long, and the Government of Belize needs to help in fixing this problem earlier given the importance to our society.

I also empathize with commuters that live in between the major urban towns where the buses commence their day. If you live in between and in these areas of the route; I pray for you daily for traveling mercies and for you having to rely on the bus system to get you to work on time. How many times have you been left on the side of the road waiting for a bus? The buses coming full will leave you on the road because standees are no longer tolerated. Something needs to be done on this issue and we all need to find ways of fixing this problem.

The National Transport Master Plan is available for all of us to review. The only problem is the size of the document but then again, if we want to fix this problem we have work to do.

We all need to find solutions to this problem now. Solidarity forever.

Signed Bus thing Mashup Life

PSU May Events



Dear Editor, Something Smells Fishy

KHMH, BRINTS SECURITY, AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH

On May 21st 2019 the Press Office issued a press release informing that the Office of the Prime Minister had directed that Minister of State in the Ministry of Health, Hon. Dr. Angel Campos be reassigned as Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Development, Social Transformation and Poverty Alleviation effective 21st May 2019. While no explanation was given in the press release for the sudden reassignment of Hon. Dr. Angel Campos, Public Officers and the General Public are left to wonder if it had anything to do with recent scathing allegations made by the principal of Brints Security who published the following on Brints Security facebook page: "However Brints Security made very clear for a third time that the minister of state in Health (transferred) and a director from KMH did bribed the company several times and welcomes them to court to prove they are corrupt."

While the International Anti-Corruption Day will not be celebrated until December 9th, the Public Service Union of Belize sees it fitting to remind Public Officers daily that corruption affects us all. It threatens sustainable economic development, ethical values and justice; it destabilizes our society and endangers the rule of law. It undermines the institutions and values of our democracy. But because public policies and public resources are largely beneficial to poor people, it is they who suffer the harmful effects of corruption most grievously. The Government of Belize (GOB) signed onto to the United Nation's Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) on Friday, December 9th, making Belize the 184th country to sign this convention.

SANTUARY BELIZE, US FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION, THE SENATOR AND ATLANTIC INTERNATIONAL BANK

On November 8, 2018 the United States Federal Trade Commission (FTC) announced that it had uncovered the largest international real estate fraud in its history. "Sanctuary Belize", the FTC says, is a \$100-million scheme that the commission has filed court papers in Maryland District Court to shut down. Sanctuary Belize has swindled US investors out of millions of dollars, the FTC has alleged. On May 20, 2019 while addressing the media the Hon Prime Minister stated: "I had indicated to the FTC, we want to settle the matter. It's not for the government or the Central Bank, because if the Central Bank tries to get involved in a commercial settlement, it would lose its immunity from suits and from attachment." Inter alia...."because we have an interest in seeing a settlement we will do whatever we can to encourage the liquidator". It is extremely important that Public Officers pay attention to this issue. In addition to already landing the Government Senator and Attorney for Atlantic International Bank Limited Aldo Salazar in hot water, the real estate fraud has already caused the Atlantic International Bank Limited to wound up operations in Belize because of the allegations levied against it by the US Federal Agency. With the FTC determined to ensure that its US investors in the scheme recover their money, Public Officers must remain vigilant to ensure that not a penny from taxpayer's dollars' in the consolidated fund is used to settle this private debt between the FTC and Sanctuary Belize. Let's not forget the Universal Health Services loan fiasco, for those who cannot learn from history are doomed to repeat it.

If da no soh da nayly soh

Signed Something Smells Fishy

The Social Contract

The Social Contract helped inspire political reforms or revolutions in Europe, especially in France. We refer to all of these countries as First World countries because of the level of their social development. If the Social Contract was so influential to their positive development, then Belize should consider adopting its principles for the benefit of its citizens. A powerful Public Service Union can play a major role in ensuring that the Government adheres to the contract.

Firstly, we must understand what the Social Contract is. Socrates is credited with coming up with the concept from as far back as the years before Christ. Jean-Jacques Rousseau made the theory modern in a book he wrote back in 1762. Not to bore anyone with too much history, we will discuss the basic principles of the theory.

The theory essentially states that there should be two divisions in a society: the majority of the society (called the sovereign because they should be “free”) and a few chosen as leaders (the government). The theory however rejects the idea of a government in which only those few individuals benefit from the work of the majority (the sovereign) in any society. It also states that the rulers of the country do not get their power from God, but from the majority of the society who elected them to be the leaders. Therefore, it is the majority of society that has the POWERFUL exclusive right to remove leaders from power whenever they decide change is needed. However, only if such a society is “free” can they truly exercise their right to remove their leaders at any time.

The word “free” is not meant in the physical sense of someone being able to move around, as he/she wants. It refers to all forms of freedom including the freedom to think, express an opinion and make decisions without the fear of victimization or threat of any kind. Sadly, today too many persons in society choose to become mental slaves because they allow themselves to get dependent on those in power (the government).

The sovereign (free society) forms when free and equal persons come together and agree to make themselves as a single body. Therefore, just as individual wills focus towards individual interests, the general will, once formed, concentrates on the unified common good, which is understood and agreed to collectively. Included in this version of the social contract is the idea of shared duties: the sovereign is committed to the good of the individuals who form it, and each individual is likewise committed to the good of the whole. Given this, individuals cannot be given freedom to decide whether it is in their own interests to fulfil their duties to the sovereign, while at the same time being allowed to reap the benefits of citizenship. They must obey the general will; they must be “forced to be free”. The general will depends on the entire democratic body coming together every so often; each citizen decides collectively, and with at least near unity, how to live together, i.e., what laws, rules and regulations to enact.

The basic problem that the contract theory tries to address is how can we be free and at the same time live together? *Cont on pg 14*

The Social Contract

Cont from pg 14

In other words, how can we live together without giving in to the power and pressures from others? According to Rousseau, we do so by letting go of our selfish wants and desires to join a group that wants everyone to benefit equally. This can only occur if we come to an agreement with other free and equal persons. Nature made all men to be equals, therefore no one has a natural right to govern others, and therefore the only justified authority is the authority generated out of agreements or contracts.

Rousseau's social contract theories together form a single, consistent view of our moral and political situation. We are blessed with freedom and equality by nature, but our human nature has been corrupted by our dependent social history on politicians to provide for us. We can overcome this corruption, however, by invoking our free will to reorganise ourselves politically, along strongly democratic principles, which is good for us, both individually and collectively.

The members of the Public Service Union should be “free” members of the society who are not afraid to express their opinions even if it goes contrary to the leaders (government). We are tasked with doing all in our power to make others in the society realize when government is breaking its part of the contract, which is to provide us with equality and protection. In order for the Union to accomplish this we MUST ourselves become “free” from the corrupting forces and UNIFIED in our interests and direct our efforts for the common good of the majority (the sovereign) and not the few (government). The PSU must lead the way in the reform process of our citizens – Power, Strength and Unity – PSU!

PSR 2014 Review

The Belmopan Branch took up the initiative to host two (2) Workshops to review the Public Service Regulations (PSR) 2014 on 22nd & 29th of May 2019. These workshops were set as an Open Discussion Session to review changes made between 2001 & 2014, benefits gained and lost and the way forward. The end result of the Workshops is to present amendments to the PSR 2014 along with a way forward in creating a new Public Service Regulations 2020. At the end of the first day of the two day workshop, it was noted that the Workshop will need at least 2 or 3 more sessions along with 2 more Administrative Officers who know the system and the regulations. These will be held sometime in late June or early July after the new Council of Management has settled in and a report has been given. Some of the takeaways from the Workshop include: a number of sections in the PSR were too ambiguous, Public Servants lost numerous benefits, the Regulations are not being upheld by many CEOs, HoDs & AOs, and the updated regulations opened Pandora’s Box in regards to hiring retired officers as Contract Officers.

PSU May Events



2019 Public Service Day, Awards & Week of Activities ‘Providing Service Daily, with Dignity, Pride and Dedication. WE SERVE BELIZE.’

By Geneva James

Corozal

June 18th Health walk
June 19th School visits and information talk & basket for elderly
June 20th Public Service Information Day
June 23rd Church service at Nazarene Church
June 29th Social Night

Orange Walk

June 7th- Information Day- Central Park 9am-3pm
June 17th- media day
June 18th- Health Walk.
June 19th- tea party for retirees
June 20th- pampering day
June 23- Mass at St Peter’s Anglican 8 AM
June 28- Social. At Family Corner-riverside from 5Pm-12midnight

San Pedro Town

June 11th Talk Show
June 18th- Information day/ Health Walk.
June 23- Church service
June 27- Social.

Belize City

June 7th- Information Day
June 15th Sports day (Rogers Stadium)
June 17th health fair
June 18th- Health Walk.
June 19th public officers give back to the community
June 20th Social Night
June 21- PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD CEREMONY & RECEPTION (by invitations only)
June 23rd Church service

Belmopan City

June 17th Bingo Night
June 18th Health walk
June 19th Wellness day
June 20th Information day/social

San Ignacio Town

June 18th Health walk
June 19th Wellness day
June 20th Pampering day
June 21st Open House at all Departments
June 22nd Social Night – Jalapeno’s Bar

Stann Creek

June 17th Motorcade
June 18th Health walk
June 19th radio show
June 20th information day/social
June 21st Church service

Toledo

June 16th Church Service
June 17th Recognition of former public officers
June 18th Health walk
June 19th Pampering day
June 20th community clean up
June 21st Information day/social night

PSU May Events

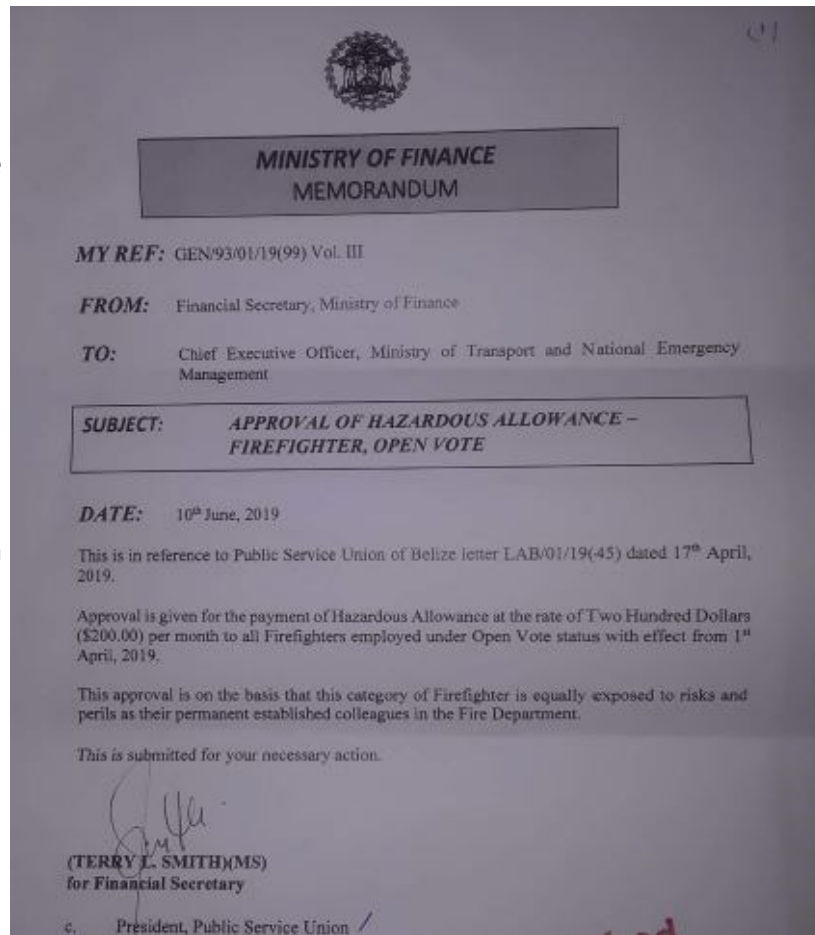


Open Vote Firefighters: Approval of Hazardous Allowance

On June 10th 2019, approval was given by the Financial Secretary in the Ministry of Finance for the payment of Hazardous Allowance at the rate of two hundred dollars (\$200.00) per month to all Firefighters employed under Open Vote status with effect from 1st April 2019.

The approval was given on the basis that this category of Firefighter is equally exposed to risks and perils as their permanent established colleagues in the Fire Department.

The union sees this as progress in the protection of the rights of not only its members, but also other public officers in the service.



Happy Birthday!

The Union wishes all those celebrating their birthdays in June a very Happy Birthday. May you be blessed with many prosperous years of health, strength, wealth and happiness.



PSU May Events



The Public Service Union of Belize takes this time to congratulate all Clerks who passes their Clerical Promotional Exams. This is yet another step in your upward mobility in the Public Service. We also wish all Public Officers a Happy week of celebrating Public Service Day. Public Service Day is observed internationally on June 23rd.

“Since 2005, Belize joined with countries around the world in commemorating PSD to celebrate the value and virtue of public service to the community; highlights the contribution of public service in the development process; recognizes the work of public servants, and encourages young people to pursue careers in the public sector.”

Articles/Pictures

Send your articles and/or pictures to be included in the monthly Vanguard by the 15th of each month to email: psuvanguard2019@gmail.com .

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Vanguard Newsletter
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