

## CARIBBEAN PUBLIC SERVICES ASSOCIATION

(A Federation of Public Services Organizations in the Caribbean)

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## Caribbean Public Services Association (CPSA) Solidarity Day Message

## October 4th 2024

This year as we commemorate Caribbean Public Services Association (CPSA) solidarity day we reflect on the theme "Public Sector Unions, the bridge to better quality lives for workers and their families" bringing focus to the many challenges confronting workers and our various public services across the region and the significant role our unions play in confronting these challenges

From the birth of the trade union movement workers came together and saw the importance of working in unionism to transform their working conditions and improve the quality-of-life of their families. Regardless of our diversity or our individual geographical location workers and unions have a common interest which means, we must stand united in our pursuits in building a more just, safe and inclusive society. While labour encompasses services provided in both private and public sectors, the CPSA wishes to highlight the significant contribution of public-sector workers who offer essential services that are critical to the survival of any society. During any major crises it is our public officers particularly those in emergency management, in health, the fire service and our security forces who are at the fore of any response. Sadly, these workers and others in the wider public sector are not always valued or respected but when we come together as public sector unions, we are able to build the strength and power to create the change for the majority. Public Sector Unions stands in the gap to give voice to the voiceless and to remind employers and Governments of our significance and worth.

This week as we observe teacher's week and international teachers' day, we salute those who have served and sacrificed and continue to shape the minds and character of our young stars. Your service as teachers is invaluable and deeply appreciated. For public sector workers to give of their best, we all must play our part. These include employees, employers, the community and Unions.

The Caribbean Public Services Association as the umbrella body of Public Sector Unions in the Caribbean celebrates the tremendous work of all our public sector workers, or all our workers in the region and pledges to be that glue that binds our nineteen affiliates to keep fighting for our members and their loved ones.

No matter what we do on October 4<sup>th</sup> 2024, to commemorate the day, let it be a day of solidarity and a reminder of our common struggle for social justice. Let it be a continuation of greater commitment on the part of everyone who is associated with their union in some form or shape to contribute in making lives better for all.

THOMAS LETANG

**GENERAL SECRETARY**