

Guyana Public Service Union

"RIGHTS AT WORK - ENDING POVERTY & INEQUALITY"

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IN REPLYING PLEASE QUOTE
DATE
HEREOF AND No. PSU: 135/5

DATE: 11th May, 2021

From: General Secretary (Ag)
Guyana Public Service Union

To: All Members
Guyana Public Service Union

Subject: Wages, Salaries and Allowances for the years 2020 and 2021

The Guyana Public Service Union (GPSU) and the Ministry of Public Service met on November 4th 2020 after repeated requests from the Union to discuss wages, salaries, allowances and other matters pertaining to the condition of service of Public Servants.

The Minister of Public Service Hon. Sonya Parag, led the Government's team while the President of the Union Mr. Patrick Yarde led the Union's team. At the commencement of the meeting Minister Parag stated that she will only listen to the issues since she had no mandate to make decisions. The Union was not happy with the Minister's comments since the matters to be discussed were submitted to the Ministry well in advance of the meeting and they were all pending matters that needed urgent attention. The matters remained outstanding because there were no other meetings for the year 2020 despite requests from the Union.

During the preparation of the National Budget for 2021 the GPSU submitted proposals to the Ministry of Finance, on a number of issues that could ease the plight of the Public Servants, but these proposals were not acted on by the Ministry.

During the 2021 National Budget Debate the Minister of Public Service Hon. Sonya Parag, stated that negotiations for wages, salaries and allowances for Public Servants will commence after the passage of the National Budget.

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The GPSU in a letter dated March 11th, 2021 addressed to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Service, requested an urgent meeting in keeping with a legally binding Memorandum of Agreement for the Avoidance and Settlement of Disputes between the Ministry and the Union to commence negotiations for wages, salaries and allowances for the years 2020 and 2021.

Clause seven (7) of the said Agreement states that *"on matters of general policy the Executive Council of the Union shall have the right to meet the Permanent Secretary of the Public Service Ministry within ten (10) days of receipt of a request in writing"*.

The Union after recognizing that there was no reply from the Ministry to its request within the stipulated time set out in the agreement sent a reminder by way of a letter dated March 30th 2021. Members, to date there has being no response/acknowledgement from the Ministry of Public Service, to our reminder.

The Union also, sought the intervention of the President by way of a correspondence dated March 16th, 2021. However to date there was neither acknowledgement nor communication from the President's Office.

The Union also brought this matter to the attention of the Attorney General informing him of the breach of the legally binding agreement between the Government and the Union. Having made every effort to bring this issue to all parties concerned, the Union is left with no alternatives, but to seek the support of International Organizations including the International Labour Organization, and all other International Organizations of the conduct of the Government in breaching existing Laws, ratified ILO Conventions that are in force and legally binding Agreements between the Government of Guyana and the GPSU.

The Union is therefore calling on its members to be committed, be focused and be prepared to stand up for their rights and merited treatment and benefits that are entitlements.


Dawn Gardener,
F/ General Secretary