



National Trade Union Congress of Belize

P.O. Box 2359

Belize City

Belize, Central America

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

Over the past weeks, the NTUCB has been monitoring, mainly through the media, the unfolding of an apparent confrontation between the newly appointed Commissioner of Police and the head of the Police Association. This is a very unfortunate situation mainly for the members of the police department, who are members of the Association as well.

First, we are cognizant of the fact that our laws are archaic and are in dire need of an update to be able to meet the current demands of our modern society. This is especially pressing in those laws that have to do with the protection of our rights and freedoms. We are also aware that the structure and characteristics of the service provided by the Police Department do not really cater for many liberties. However, professionalism, respect, and above all integrity are also associated with the Police Department. For this reason, we cannot fathom the members of this department being in a situation where their freedom to associate is diminished to the point where the high command of the department can make rules, change the rules and technically run or even dissolve the Association if he/she pleases. This certainly is not in line with the modern society we live in and the freedoms and rights afforded to us in our Constitution thus the NTUCB can never support such heavy-handed powers. Many other Caribbean countries have already changed their laws to allow their Police Department more room to bargain, and to look out in the best interest of their members. The time has come for us as a country to make the necessary changes to afford our hard-working Officers similar bargaining rights on behalf of their colleagues.

The NTUCB stands in full solidarity with the Association and we hope that the proceedings at the court tomorrow will yield positive results in the right direction for the Association. Better working conditions yield employees that are more productive; this also applies for the hard-working people of the Police Department!

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