



BELIZE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

4792 Coney Drive, 2nd Floor Withfield Tower, P.O. Box 291 , Belize City, Belize, Central America

Wednesday, 13th March, 2024

THE BELIZE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY CALLS FOR IMMEDIATE CESSATION OF THE INDUSTRIAL ACTION AT THE PORT OF BELIZE

-For Immediate Release-

The Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry calls for an immediate end to the immobilization of the Port of Belize by Stevedores due to their ongoing negotiations with the Port of Belize Limited (PBL) and the Government of Belize. This industrial action taken by the Stevedores and by extension, members of the Christian Workers Union (CWU) effectively hold our country's local consumers hostage and adds unwelcome cost increases to the goods that pass through the Port of Belize.

These cost increases will be borne by every single consumer in the country, and due to the fact that ships carrying essential inputs for local production are unable to offload, we will also see product shortages directly attributable to this intermittent strike action.

Further, products for export are also unable to load, leading to delays in foreign exchange earnings and a high potential for canceled orders, further impacting businesses and their employees.

Finally, the Government of Belize's Price Control Unit should consider the adverse effects that this intermittent strike action will have on consumer pricing. Under the already flawed price control systems, business owners cannot be expected to incur fines for "price gouging" in scenarios where they are demonstrably disadvantaged by the added costs directly attributable to this intermittent strike action.

The BCCI advocates for the rights of our members and the private sector as a whole and calls upon all parties involved to work towards a swift resolution of this matter that ensures that the economy is not brought to a halt while negotiations continue.

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