



## **HAPPY TEACHERS' DAY**

May 14, 2014

The Belize National Teachers' Union (BNTU) salutes all teachers and keeps encouraging them to continue working hard and with much heart. Remember teachers, *you are the builders of this nation.*

BNTU is saddened by the Minister's comments on Channel 7 News on May 13, 2014. Honorable Patrick Faber implied that the National Teachers' Day Celebration was not happening because BNTU was spiting the Ministry of Education.

### **BNTU wants to set the record straight:**

1. At the first meeting of the National Teachers' Day Planning Committee, the Ministry of Education's (MoE) position was that maybe we should not celebrate Teachers' Day at the National level, since it was too expensive and the time for planning was limited.
2. BNTU representatives at that first meeting of the committee, being sensitive that there is some "rockiness" in the present relationship with MoE, expressed the feeling that it was important to join forces to celebrate National Teachers' Day, especially since in 2012 MoE, at the last minute, announced it was not prepared to join forces with BNTU to carry out the event.
3. Due to heavy spending on the many activities carried out by BNTU this year, our cash flow is currently low but BNTU was willing to pledge \$10,000 towards the celebration of National Teachers' Day.
4. At the initial meeting of the Planning Committee, members were led to believe that MoE had \$100,000 to spend on National Teachers' Day and at the last meeting BNTU pledged a \$10,000 contribution. This would bring the total available funds for National Teachers' Day to \$110,000.
5. The total budget developed was \$116,000 and at the fourth and last meeting the Planning Committee saw where there were some areas where the budget could have been cut. (e.g. Minister Contreras' pledged contribution of approximately \$4000).
6. Senior personnel of MoE however, did not seem willing to work with the limited budget and quickly cancelled the celebration at the National level, even though members of the Planning Committee were prepared to streamline the budget according to the available funds.

We thank all District Education Managers and BNTU Executives, at Branch Level, who took up the challenge, at the 99<sup>th</sup> hour, to plan activities in your respective districts. Teachers, May 16<sup>th</sup> is your day, go out and join your fellow educators and enjoy the events being carried out especially for you.

Teachers, our Minister says that there are "*some very wonderful and dedicated teachers.*" BNTU says there are **MANY** wonderful and dedicated teachers.

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