



MEMORANDUM

BELIZE NATIONAL TEACHERS' UNION

TO: ALL TEACHERS COUNTRYWIDE

FROM: BNTU SECRETARIAT

DATE: July 28, 2020

RE: August 10th Reopening of Schools

The Belize National Teachers' Union's secretariat wishes to inform our membership of the decisions made today in a meeting of its Council of Management. Many concerns were shared and discussed, inclusive, but not limited to, the recent spike in the positive cases of COVID 19 due to repatriates and border jumpers, the impending opening of the Phillip Goldson International airport on August 15th, the lack of adequate infrastructural upgrades to most of the schools' compounds, the unsustainability of resources needed to keep schools and students properly sanitized, the absence of consultations with both teachers and parents even at this 99th hour.

You are all expected to return to school next Monday, August 3rd, 2020, and therefore during this upcoming week we ask that you provide us with whatever information you can, especially in the form of photos and videos, to substantiate the abovementioned concerns and any other you may have at this time. The Union's Executive will seek to engage in discussions with top officials at the Ministry of Education in order to get responses to a list of the most critical concerns brought thus far by our membership.

We are very much aware of the uncertainty, fear and anxiety which exists among our teaching population and contrary to popular belief, we know that you want to return to your classrooms as soon as possible. However, we must ensure that you do not do so prematurely and to the detriment of your students and yourselves. We therefore look forward to you gathering the information, previously mentioned, to aid in our deliberations on the Union's final position on the proposed August 10th reopening of schools, which has been set by the Ministry of Education.

We look forward to your usual cooperation.

Solidarity Forever!