



**PRESS RELEASE: February 29, 2012**

## **Let's Not Forget That Public Sector Workers Are People Too!**

The Bermuda Public Services Union (BPSU) will remain on the forefront of defending public service employees and the services they provide. There have been large calls from the private sector to reduce the current size of the civil service and now there are calls to privatize public services.

It is uncertain if those who are calling for privatization want to control a larger piece of the pie or if they just have a desire to see a balanced government. Whatever their motivation, the BPSU will not stand for or allow privatization of public services. We understand that privatization of public services will have negative effects on our community. Examples of privatization have shown that quality of services decline and workers' wages and benefits are reduced as private employers look for low-wage contracts to provide services.

In the midst of an economic recession and high levels of unemployment, it is sad that some members of our community are still looking to disadvantage public sector workers. Public sector workers have just recently agreed to a pay decrease. Are they not playing their part to aid the Government and help turn the economy around? Let us not forget that public sector workers have been providing excellent services to Bermuda and its citizens for years.

Public sector workers did not cause the economic downturn or a decrease in Government's revenues. It seems as if everyone wants to put public service workers on the chopping block like they are used computers or machinery. They are our nurses, police officers, fireman, customs officers, postal workers and teachers. Public sector workers have children, mortgages, rent, school fees and bills to pay like everyone else. Let's remember that!

The two services that individuals are quick to suggest should be privatized are public transportation and the postal service. Have any of the individuals calling for privatization seen models where this has worked. In New Zealand they privatized their rail and ferry services only to buy them back years later regretting their initial decision to privatize those services. In Britain an independent report commissioned by ministers found that the postal privatization scheme failed.

Bermuda is facing real problems and we need real solutions not individuals throwing loose suggestions out that have serious negative effects on peoples' lives.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KSG', written over a horizontal line.

Kevin S. Grant  
PRESIDENT