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## **Costa Rica: Public Sector Employees On Strike**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

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On July 24, most of Costa Rica's 170,000 public employees joined a nationwide four-hour work stoppage to protest the government's economic austerity program. The Workers' Permanent Council (CPT) said the protest action was a great success. Meanwhile, the Presidency Ministry announced that civil servants who participated in the strike would be subject to sanctions. Hospital workers shut down all services, excepting emergency assistance. Schools were open and students in attendance, but teachers refrained from instruction. Bank employees participated in the work stoppage by engaging in work slow-downs, and public service employees refused to carry out normal functions. Notimex pointed out that university staff and faculty, dock workers and peasant organizations joined the work stoppage. (Basic data from Notimex, 07/24/90)

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