

# AMANDALA



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(36 PAGES)

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# Minor killed by "friend" in Griga

## Two Sandhill men riddled with bullets

Two men were shot and killed in rural Belize, marking the first murders of 2022



Justin Milligan



Raymond Dominguez

BELIZE CITY, Tues. Jan. 4, 2022

On Monday, January 3, around 7:30 p.m., an execution of two men, which, in terms of the amount of firepower used, was almost military in scale, took place on the Maskall Road in Sandhill Village, Belize District.

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## 20 KMH workers test positive for Covid-19

(See story on page 33)

Joshua Flores, 15, was reportedly shot once by someone with whom he had been walking last night.

DANGRIGA, Stann Creek District, Thurs. Jan. 6, 2022

Last night, around 7:30, a young man was killed in Dangriga Town by someone who is believed to have been a friend of his. Joshua Flores, 15, was walking on Isla Road in the Sabal Community of Dangriga Town when he was shot by a male person with whom he had been walking. Flores lay lifeless on the street before police arrived and transported him to the Southern Regional Hospital,



Joshua Flores – deceased

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## Waterloo appeals DOE's rejection of cruise terminal proposal

A release from Waterloo Investment Holdings states that the company considers the DOE decision to reject its proposal to be legally unsound and flawed.

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Jan. 5, 2022

Today, Waterloo Investment Holdings Limited released a statement informing the public that it has formally lodged an appeal against the Department of the Environment (DOE)'s decision to reject its proposal for the construction of a cruise terminal on the property on which the Port of Belize Limited is located. The Ashcroft company proposing the creation of a mega-cruise port and the expansion of a cargo bulking facility at that site received word mid-December 2021 that the National Environmental Appraisal Committee (NEAC) had decided to recommend the rejection of their project. Subsequent to the rejection of their proposed project, company representatives made the claim that the denial of approval for their project was an act of retaliation by some members of the NEAC who had requested



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## PUC blasts BEL for possible rate hike

BEL might be increasing the Mean Electricity Rate (M.E.R.) from 39.9 cents per kilowatt hour to 41.5 cents at a future date



BEL Headquarters

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Jan. 6, 2022

Consumers might at some point begin to see an increase in their electricity bills, since the Public Utilities Commission issued the Final Draft of the Belize Electricity Limited (BEL) Annual Review Proceeding (ARP) amendment yesterday, announcing a possible increase in the Mean Electricity Rate (M.E.R) from 39.9 cents to 41.5 cents per kilowatt hour — which the commission had assumed would be put into effect during the first six months of this year, from January to June. The PUC also

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## Sugar season off to a rocky start

The huge rock found on the dumping table could have caused serious mechanical damage to the milling equipment.

by Marco Lopez

ORANGE WALK, Mon. Jan. 3, 2022

The grinding season for this year's sugarcane crop has finally started after a two-week delay.

The company which mills the cane, ASR/BSI, and the Belize Sugar Cane Farmers Association (BSCFA) were at loggerheads over the terms of a new

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## New Covid-19 variant discovered in France

*French scientists are saying that the variant has been around for a while*

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Jan. 5, 2022

While a number of countries are still facing a surge in Covid-19 cases resulting from the emergence of the highly transmissible Omicron variant, news emerged from France of another new, highly mutated Covid-19 variant. On Tuesday, January 4, 2022, it was announced that the variant IHU, or B.1.640, which is reported to have 46 mutations, including some in the spike protein, has been found in France. However, French scientists claim that this variant isn't as new as might initially be thought, but has in fact been present in the country for several months. Public awareness of this variant surged following the circulation of a week-old study by researchers from Méditerranée Infection in Marseille, part of France's Instituts Hospitalo-Universitaires (IHU, or University Hospital Institutes).

According to a report on the findings of the study, the new variant was detected in November last year among 12 persons living in the same geographical area of southeastern France, the first of which had returned from a trip to Cameroon. The variant found in these persons was very

similar to the one they had found in January of 2021, which was named IHU. The one that the French researchers found among people in November has now been classified as a derivative of this variant, B.1.640.2.

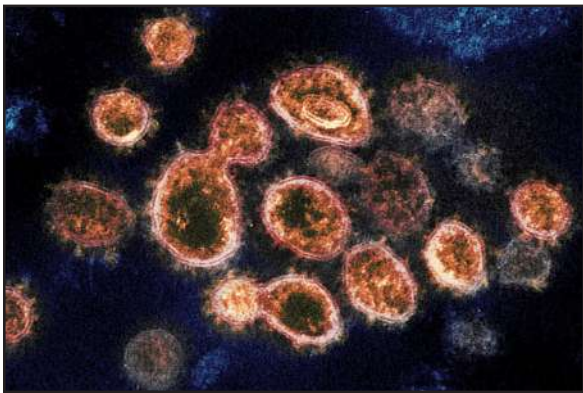
According to outbreak.info, a website that tracks the prevalence of different variants in genome sequencing databases, at least 400 infections with the B.1.640 variant have so far been identified. The variant has been detected in at least 19 countries.

The highest number of sequences of this variant has come from France, where 287 cases have so far been confirmed. There are 17 cases in Germany and 16 in the United Kingdom. But the country where this variant appears to be the most prevalent is the Congo, where 39 of the 454 genome sequences done so far belong to the B.1.640 lineage.

In November, the World Health Organization (WHO) had classified B.1.640 as a variant under monitoring (VUM) — the entry-level categorization of a variant that is considered worth keeping an eye on.

This variant was last detected on December 25. After that, no new case has been detected in the global databases.

"Nothing to panic or worry too much (about) at the moment, given the evidence. But clearly something that needs to be watched closely for the coming weeks," said Vinod Scaria, a scientist at the Delhi-based Institute of Genomic and Integrative Biology, in a tweet on Tuesday.



## Traffic wardens must issue at least 44 tickets monthly

by Khaila Gentle

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Jan. 5, 2022

A leaked memorandum, dated December 28, 2021, and signed by the Department of Transport's Operations Officer, Peter Williams, notified all traffic wardens of a monthly traffic violation ticket (TVT) quota. The memorandum, sent out to all senior transport officers and traffic wardens, states, "Senior Transport Officers are reminded that all Traffic Wardens under their supervision are required to issue a minimum of forty-four TVT each month."

The memorandum then goes on to state that failure to comply with those directives "will result in sanctions for insubordination" and requests

the full cooperation of the traffic wardens so that the process of prosecution for unpaid tickets can commence in 2022.

In an interview with 7News, Minister of Transport Hon. Rodwell Ferguson defended the implementation of the forty-four-ticket quota, stating that the end goal is to reduce traffic accidents and, ultimately, save lives.



## Maternal deaths increase due to Covid

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Jan. 5, 2022

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in Belize, a total of 600 expecting mothers have been infected with the COVID-19 virus at some point during their pregnancy. Of that number, a total of eight maternal deaths caused by COVID-19 were recorded. Dr. Natalia Beer, the technical advisor for Maternal and Child Health in Belize, says that a total of 17 maternal deaths were recorded for 2021.

At this time, the Ministry of Health and Wellness recommends that couples who want to avoid a pregnancy and the risks involved at this time should use the contraceptive methods available in the country. She said that there are many options available — some of which do not require any out-of-pocket payment.

"I think the worst-case scenario is the death of a woman not wanting to get pregnant, that got pregnant, got complicated, and dying. So, if we were to remove the COVID-19, we obviously would not have seen much change between 2020 and 2021, but COVID-19 again is a vaccine-preventable disease, but yet we are struggling to get pregnant women vaccinated," Dr. Beer said.

She explained that pregnant women are at triple risk of complications due to the pandemic.

"Pregnant women have a higher risk of presenting blood clots, a person undergoing a surgical procedure has a greater risk of presenting blood



clots, and then the COVID-19 illness comes with this high risk for the formation of blood clots also. So, it makes it difficult, and we still have a low number of pregnant women getting vaccinated," Dr. Beer said.

The Health Ministry has secured access to anticoagulants to give to pregnant women due to the triple risk of blood clot formation at this time.

Dr. Beer pointed to "more family planning, more access to pre-conception care, and adhering to the recommendations," as key measures in the prevention of maternal deaths at this time.

## Cause of death of youth punched by brother still inconclusive

*The results of a postmortem exam on Keenan Young's body indicated that acute respiratory failure was the cause of his death, but histological and toxicology reports are pending*



Keenan Young — deceased

suddenly at the Belize Medical Associates on Christmas Eve after experiencing a headache and stomach pains, as well as numbness in his limbs.

A little over two weeks before his death, he was punched in his face by his older brother, a boxer who is twice his age, since identified as 32-year-old Alex Neal. The blow was reportedly so forceful that Young had briefly lost consciousness after being hit, and the subsequent pain in his head and a swelling near his eye were attributed to that hit. No charges have been levied against Neal, since there is no evidence at this time that definitively links Young's death to the impact of the hit.

Last week it had been reported that Young's mother had indicated that she would not have wanted Neal to be imprisoned for his possible role in his brother's death, but said that she would support the state's decision. The results of a histological study and a microscopic analysis of the victim's tissues and cells, are currently

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Jan. 5, 2022

The Belize Police Department has revealed that the death of 16-year-old student Keenan Young, which initial media reports had indicated was the result of a punch in the face by his brother, was acute respiratory failure due to Acute Pulmonary Oedema, pending further studies. Last week, AMANDALA reported on the untimely death of the youth, who passed away

# Valley of Peace cane fields set on fire

Over 1,200 acres of sugarcane, with an estimated worth of \$2.3 million, were burnt, according to the general manager of Valley of Peace Farms Limited, Gilbert Canton, Jr.

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Jan. 5, 2022

Early in the morning on New Year's Day, while efforts were being made to ensure that a truce between stakeholders in the sugar industry in the northern districts would hold so that cane could be delivered to the mill in Orange Walk, a trio of arsonists on motorcycles reportedly went to the cane fields on Valley of Peace Farms, a large-scale agribusiness enterprise with American ownership, and started a fire that would ultimately burn 1,208 acres of sugarcane. Some might have speculated that perhaps the tensions in the industry in the north had somehow metastasized to the Cayo District in the west of the country, where Valley of Peace Farms Limited is located, but according to the General Manager of Valley of Peace Farms Limited, Gilbert Canton, Jr., although there are



parallel tensions between farmers and a foreign-owned enterprise in that area, the reasons for those tensions are different. He has speculated that it is a dispute, not about revenue-sharing or purchasing agreements, but about land ownership, that might have led some farmers in the area to set the blaze.

In an interview with 7News, Canton explained that there were 2 security guards on the farm and one in the area outside of the farm when the fire was set, and those guards chased the alleged arsonists on the motorbikes after the fire was started but were not able to apprehend them. According to Canton, he and other employees of the enterprise were

called from home to assist with extinguishing the fire, and it took about 5 hours for the flames to be brought under control. He estimated that about 1,208 acres of sugarcane, worth a total of 2.3 million Belize dollars, were burnt, and indicated that the company, through the assistance of the Santander mill, is currently engaged in a salvaging exercise to process some of the cane that has retained the necessary quality to be converted into sugar. He noted, though, that there was a small three-day window within which such attempts at processing could be done before there was a further decline in quality in cane that would make it impossible for them to process it for sale. A lab at the Santander mill was thus being used to gauge the quality of the cane. "If the cane could be processed, and they will process for us long as the cane is still good," commented Canton. He estimated that as much as half to three-fourths of the cane could be rendered useless — resulting in losses of at least \$1 million for the company.

Canton, while being interviewed by local reporters, pointed to the likely motive for the fire — a dispute between the enterprise, which reportedly owns 11,000 acres in the area, and a group of 50 Valley of Peace farmers who are claiming that they own several hundred acres of that land. He said that there were attempts at resolution, since it appears that there might have been some duplication of land leases at the Lands Department. He also noted that there had been two legal rulings in August last year that were in the company's favor and that the United Nations High Commission for Refugees had stepped in as a mediator to resolve the matter, and that a memorandum of understanding was being formulated through which a little over 400 acres would have been passed over to the farmers, and it was perhaps farmers who were dissatisfied with that arrangement that might have set the fire.

But that was just speculation, and Canton indicated that he was hesitant to arrive at any conclusion or to make any accusations, because it is a priority for the company to enjoy peaceful relations with those in the area. "I don't want to speculate on who did this, but that's the only argument that we have with anybody. So, the police are doing their investigation, and they will help us to try to identify who has done this, and what has happened here. I think it's too early to really go out and say, 'we think it's so and so', because the police have to do their investigation," he said.

This is not the first time the fields of the Valley of Peace Farms Limited have been set on fire. In early January of last year, about 20 acres of cane had been burnt.

## San Isidro resident found wounded on restaurant porch



Hilberto Romero, Senior Superintendent of Police

BELLA VISTA, Toledo District, Tues. Jan. 4, 2022

A resident of San Isidro is recovering in the hospital after he was found on a verandah of a restaurant around 3:00 a.m. on Christmas Day with cut wounds to the head. Jose Eleazar Pop, 22, was found unconscious on the verandah of Tropical Restaurant in Bella Vista village, Toledo District.

He was reportedly highly intoxicated and suffering from two cut wounds on his head. He was initially taken to the

Independence Polyclinic but later transferred to the Southern Regional Hospital and then to the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital for treatment.

According to Senior Superintendent of Police, Hilberto Romero, the police are still trying to determine the motive behind the attack on Pop. "Information is that he was seen in the area and found in the establishment with those injuries. Investigation into this matter is ongoing. We are trying to get information as to what happened to him," Romero told local reporters.

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# Omicron causes surge in Covid cases

*“In 10 days, 1 infected person could transmit the virus to 72 persons,” stated the Ministry of Health’s Dr. Natalia Beer in regard to the speed of transmission of the new Omicron variant*

by Marco Lopez

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Jan. 5, 2022

Last week the Minister of Health and Wellness announced that the new COVID-19 variant of concern, Omicron, was likely already in the country of Belize. Dr. Natalia Beer, a technical advisor within the Health Ministry, had told local media last week that the trends in the epidemiological data they were gathering were clearly pointing to a sudden acceleration in the number of cases, with no accompanying spike in hospitalizations — a pattern that strongly suggested that it was the highly transmissible Omicron variant at work. The data on positivity rate in the last epidemiological week shows a sharp upturn in the number of cases, with hikes in cases showing up in all districts — the highest of those increases occurring in Stann Creek.

To date, 57 countries have confirmed the presence of the new variant, which is showing itself to be much more transmissible than the Delta variant. In a presentation to media last week, Beer stated, “With the Omicron, the Omicron can transmit from five to eight persons from each person that is infected with Omicron. That means that in five days we can have five to eight persons infected and each one of these in the next five days can infect five to eight persons, so if we were to use the ‘eight’, then that means five days would have eight persons [infected] and ten days eight times eight, 64. So, 64 plus 8 would give us 72. 72 cases, so in ten days, one infected person can transmit the virus to 72 persons.”

At this time, a lower number of hospitalizations linked to the new Omicron variant are being recorded worldwide. According to the UK Health Security Agency, persons infected with the Omicron variant are between 31 and 45% less likely to need emergency care when compared to the Delta variant. They also know those persons are 50% to 70% less likely to require hospital admission.

“Our numbers are clear, the numbers are increasing by hundreds per day and yet the hospitalizations are similar like one week, two weeks before,” said Dr. Beer.

Data from a recent study still being peer-reviewed suggest that this version of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, with all else being equal, has the capacity to infect 70 times more persons than the Delta variant, but it is less likely to cause infection in the lungs than all its predecessors. This is the primary reason for the lower severity of cases and lower number of hospitalizations, as well as lower need for intensive care, despite the apparent spike in cases.

“In science, they say that they gain



**Dr. Natalia Beer,**  
**Technical Advisor, Ministry of**  
**Health and Wellness**

an aspect and they lose another aspect, and in the case of Omicron, while it is 70 times faster, infecting and multiplying at the level of the bronchus, in the lung it’s significantly lower, which explains the decrease in the severity of the cases. So, this is important for us to know that we will be seeing and we are already seeing entire families infected with SARS-CoV-2 now,” Dr. Beer said.

Although in general the symptoms caused by this variant are less severe, it is important to note that a person’s level of immune response and whether or not they are vaccinated will determine how they are affected by the virus. Dr. Beer thus emphasized that those persons with co-morbidities remain at a high risk of severe infection.

“Having underlying conditions will determine to increase the number of persons needing to be hospitalized or needing ICU services. In other countries, hospitalizations related to Omicron has been not really because of the COVID-19 disease but because of the complication or the underlying conditions that were not under control,” Beer said.

Currently, the Delta variant remains the dominant strain in Belize. In recent weeks, tests done on samples by the Central Medical Lab still have been pointing to Delta as the main strain, but the lab is actively working, through more recent tests, to detect the presence of the Omicron variant in Belize. Only cases that are reported are marked as positive, so it is still unclear exactly how many people across the country are infected.

More rigorous public measures are on the horizon as the Ministry of Health and Wellness moves to safeguard the population from the threat of yet another wave of infection. For now, the reopening of the land borders has been pushed back, and Dr. Beer said that Cabinet is reviewing various recommendations from the COVID-19 Task Force to curb the spread of the new Omicron variant.

# FDA: don’t trust results of Lyra Covid-19 test; Belize buying more

*According to Dr. Natalia Beer, technical advisor in the Ministry of Health and Wellness, the ministry does not foresee a shortage of COVID-19 tests. But there are now serious questions about whether the tests being procured by the ministry are yielding results that Belizeans can trust*

by Khaila Gentle

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Jan. 5, 2022

An invitation from the Ministry of Health & Wellness (MOHW) to bid for the procurement of Lyra COVID-19 PCR tests — a test that has been deemed faulty by the US Food Drug Administration and was recalled as a result — has been raising several eyebrows recently. In July of 2021 the US Food & Drug Administration (FDA) gave notice that all Lyra PCR testing kits were being recalled “due to a significant risk of false-negative results for patients with relatively high amounts of SARS CoV 2 virus.” The FDA gave the recall a classification of Class 1—the most serious of all, which indicates that the use of the tests may cause serious harm.

The FDA also said in their notice that “False-negative results may lead to delayed diagnosis or inappropriate treatment of SARS-CoV-2 that may cause patient harm, serious illness, and death. False-negative results can also lead to further spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus when presumed negative patients are introduced into groups within health care, long-term care, or other similar facilities. Actions to limit exposure based on false-negative results might not be taken, such as isolating infected individuals.”

In a recent interview with the media, the Health Ministry’s Technical Advisor for Maternal and Child Health, Dr. Natalia Beer, aimed to answer some of the pressing questions regarding the presence of the recalled Lyra PCR tests in Belize. When asked

whether using less sensitive tests, like Lyra, might be causing a large number of false-negative results, Dr. Beer had the following to say:

“I think, like any other country, the recommendation for the control of the outbreaks of the Covid-19 pandemic and now outbreaks in the country is to get tested. It is recommended to do the contact tracing, it is recommended to isolate, and it is recommended to provide support for these isolation and quarantine measures to be more effective. But we know that persons tested positive are given instruction to isolate and given instruction on what to do and we find them on the street. Even though we may have tests that are not the best quality, we have to get the population to do their part. And we can’t just say ‘the test is not sufficiently sensitive so why use it?’ No, we must use it. Because it is the only way we can find out who is positive and then work with them to get them off the street.”

Previously, Dr. Beer had also commented that due to the recent and rapid spread of the COVID-19 Omicron variant across the globe, the need for testing has increased worldwide. As a result, access to tests is now more difficult, and according to Beer, “we have to work with what we have.”

One possible reason for the Ministry’s lack of alarm in regards to using the recalled tests is the manner in which they were recalled. According to a biotechnology magazine, *Fierce BioTech*, rather than asking for all the Lyra tests to be

returned, as is usually the case when an item is recalled, Quidel—the makers of Lyra—issued updated instructions for interpreting test results and re-testing samples.

So far, Quidel has received five complaints about the Lyra PCR testing kits but have reported no injuries or deaths.



# Cause of death of youth punched by brother still inconclusive

Continued from Page 2

pending, along with the results of a toxicological study, to detect any possible chemicals in the victim’s body that could have led to his death.

At this point, however, the direct cause of Keenan Young’s sudden demise is still unknown. An Acute

Pulmonary Oedema is a medical condition that requires immediate medical attention. It is associated with fluid buildup in the lungs and is characterized by dyspnoea, or shortness of breath, and hypoxia, a dangerous fall in blood oxygen levels.

Young reportedly felt unwell for over a week before his sudden death.



## GOB helped break the sugar impasse, but it must do more

More than five decades after it became the number one export earner in Belize, the sugarcane industry maintains its importance in our economy. Tourism supplanted sugar as the top-earning industry over a decade ago, but during the pandemic it is sugar that has carried the bulk of the load. In 2019 sugar accounted for 6% of our foreign exchange earnings; over 5,000 independent farmers in the north produce the sugarcane that feeds the mill in Tower Hill in Orange Walk, and about 15% of Belizeans are directly impacted by the industry.

Because of the importance of the industry, the nation holds its breath whenever there is discord between the farmers and ASR/BSI (the owner of the factory). Delays in the start of the harvesting season have been frequent in recent years. In 2015 the season was delayed for around two months, an impasse during which the single farmers association, Belize Sugar Cane Farmers Association (BSCFA), splintered into three groups. This year also saw a delay, with the season getting underway two weeks late.

Sugar remains an important industry for Belize, but farmers aren't making much profit these days. For many years, since 1975, sugar produced in Belize (and other African, Caribbean, Pacific countries) was bought in Europe at a preferred price, but under challenge from other sugar producers, this very favorable arrangement ended, in 2017. A 2016 report from the IMF, "Can Belize Cope With The New World Sugar Market?" estimated that the industry would have to reduce production costs by 30% to remain viable. A number of Caribbean countries didn't see how they could compete in the new sugar regime and decided to close shop.

Belize persevered, and it has not been an easy road. Apart from being unsettled by the constant battles between the farmers and BSI/ASR, and losing the preferential market, Belize's sugarcane industry has been hit by droughts, by floods, and by high prices for fertilizers and pesticides, because of the pandemic. The Fairtrade Agreement, which brings in about \$3.5 million annually in support funds for the farmers, is one of few bright spots.

Back in 2011, when the Belize Sugar Industries (BSI) was in dire financial straits, owing over \$120 million to foreign bankers, the farmers made a bid to buy majority shares in the company. But the government at the time (UDP), with the industry up to its ears in debt, didn't see the feasibility of the farmers' gaining control of BSI.

With BSI under threat of closure because of its financial difficulties, the government first sought to introduce Banco Atlántida from Honduras. The bank reportedly wanted majority shares in the company, which was then 81% owned by factory workers, 10% owned by Tate & Lyle, and 9% owned by GOB, and there was talk that it was also exploring the potential in setting up a bulk storage

facility at Commerce Bight, Stann Creek.

The BSCFA was especially turned off by the bank's proposal to produce 50% of the sugarcane milled by the factory. By law the sugarcane milled at Tower Hill is almost exclusively produced by the farmers.

The IMF 2016 report on Belize's sugar industry states that the ASR Group (American Sugar Refining Inc.), the world's largest sugar refinery, "invested US\$100 million in 2012 to acquire 81 percent ownership of the single domestic sugar manufacturer, Belize Sugar Industries Limited (BSI)."

The UDP (2008-2020), under the leadership of Prime Minister Dean Barrow, was positive about the ASR Group taking control of BSI because it guaranteed a market for our sugar. In 2016, during another impasse between the farmers and BSI, after some farmers called on the government to compel the company to start milling, PM Barrow said such a move would be illegal, that if his government tried to accommodate the farmers, it could cause the management of the company "to immediately shutter their factory and leave Belize."

A number of issues divide the farmers and ASR/BSI. The farmers contend that ASR/BSI isn't presenting them accurate information about the costs of their operations. These costs directly relate to the share the farmers get from the industry's net earnings, so they want more transparency.

Another source of contention is the price farmers receive for the bagasse (cane trash) that is left behind after the sugarcane is milled. Bagasse is a fuel, and it is used by Belcogen, an ASR/BSI company, to provide 15% of the electricity needs of our country. Initially, ASR/BSI didn't want to pay a penny to the farmers for bagasse, but the company relented after then PM Barrow declared that the farmers deserved a share of the profits from the use of the product.

In 2014 the company offered the farmers 51 cents per ton, far from the \$4 to \$10 the farmers believed was a fair price. Presently the farmers are reportedly getting less than \$0.50 per ton.

ASR has argued that it has made tremendous investments in the industry since acquiring BSI in 2012 — upwards of US\$60 million to modernize its operations. As it relates to payment for bagasse, the company claims that farmers weren't interested when BSI decided to invest in Belcogen to utilize bagasse, then a waste to be disposed of. ASR/BSI also claims the price it gets for electricity it sells to BEL doesn't allow for it to pay farmers more.

With the present commercial agreement between the farmers and ASR/BSI set to expire on January 19, 2022, the BSCFA, which represents 67% of cane farmers in the north, is pushing for a higher price for bagasse and more scrutiny of the existing 65-35 profit-sharing agreement. The farmers prefer a three-year commercial agreement, while ASR/BSI is pushing for another seven-year agreement, like the one it was able to negotiate when the BSCFA splintered.

The impasses could be considered routine, the natural give and take of business, but they cannot be ignored, because the majority of farmers are hurting. For over a decade the farmers have been struggling, and a number have called it quits and moved on to other employ.

Past initiatives by GOB to help farmers includes subsidies to ease their fuel burden, support to diversify into other crops, soft loans to help improve their efficiency, and a small increase in the controlled price of white sugar that was granted in 2015. Those are not enough. Apart from assisting farmers in their negotiations with ASR/BSI, the GOB must invest in research that can help farmers improve their productivity.

The GOB must also help farmers better utilize their surplus cane after they have satisfied their commitments to ASR/BSI. There are niche markets out there waiting for confectioneries and other products made from the sugarcane in the fields of our farmers up north.



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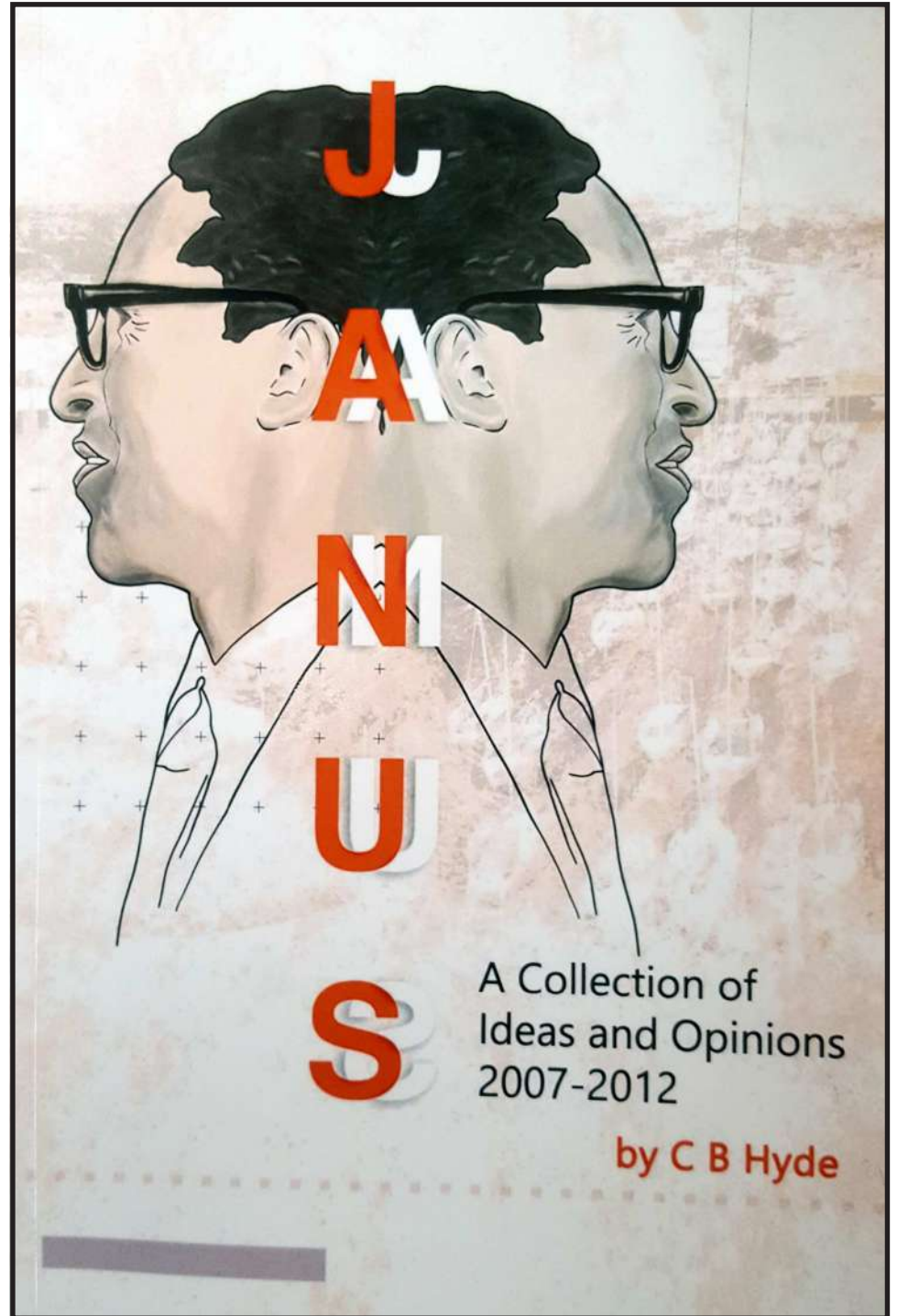
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Salary will be in accordance with the government pay scale 8 for Associate’s Degree and Payscale16 for a Bachelor’s Degree

Application packages must be addressed to: Secretary  
Board of Governors  
Julian Cho Technical High School  
P.O Box 171  
Toledo District  
Belize, Central America

**Deadline for applications is Wednesday, January12th 2022.**



**PUBLIC AUCTION SALE**  
**Belmopan City**

**BY ORDER of the Government of Belize, Licensed Auctioneer Mr.Fitzgerald A. Joseph will auction for sale the following unserviceable vehicles on site at the National Police Training Academy, located in Belmopan City, Cayo District, Belize on Saturday the 8th day of January, 2022, and will commence at 9:00 a.m. Please note that Social Distancing Protocol will be in full effect and the wearing of masks will be mandatory.**

Number	Year	Make	Model	Fuel
1.	1999	Toyota	Sienna	Gas
2.	2010	GreatWall	Wingle	Diesel
3.	2013	Ford	F-150	Gas
4.		Infiniti	G20	Gas
5.	2000	Nissan	Sentra	Gas
6.	2000	Dodge	Ram	Gas
7.		Nissan	Sentra	Gas
8.	2003	Toyota	LandCruiser	Gas
9.	2005	Kia	Rio	Gas
10.	2012	Ford	F-150	Gas
11.	2008	Mazda	BT-50	Diesel
12.		Nissan	Frontier	Diesel
13.	2013	Ford	F-150	Gas
14.	2005	Chevy	Equinox	Gas
15.	2012	Ford	F-150	Gas
16.	2013	Ford	F-150	Gas
17.	2013	Ford	F-150	Gas
18.	2013	Ford	F-150	Gas
19.	2013	Mahindra	Pick-Up	Diesel
20.	2005	Mitsubishi	Endeavor	Gas
21.	2015	GreatWall	Wingle	Gas
22.	2013	Ford	F-150	Gas
23.	2013	Ford	F-150	Gas
24.	2010	Isuzu	D-Max	Diesel
25.	2013	Ford	F-150	Gas
26.	2010	Isuzu	D-Max	Diesel
27.	2007	Toyota	Rav-4	Gas
28.	2010	Jeep	Cherokee	Gas
29.	2012	Ford	F-150	Gas
30.	2013	Ford	F-150	Gas
31.	2010	Isuzu	D-Max	Diesel
32.	2007	Dodge	Nitro	Gas
33.	2005	Ford	Focus	Gas
34.	2013	Ford	F-150	Gas
35.		Nissan	Frontier	Gas
36.	2017	Lincoln	Navigator	Gas
37.	2018	GreatWall	Wingle	Gas
38.	2013	Ford	F-150	Gas
39.	2013	Ford	F-150	Gas
40.	2013	Ford	F-150	Gas
41.	2013	Ford	F-150	Gas
42.	2013	Ford	F-150	Gas
43.	2013	Ford	F-150	Gas
44.	1993	Toyota	Tacoma	Gas
45.	2017	Mazda	BT-50	Diesel
46.	2013	Ford	F-150	Gas
47.	2010	Isuzu	D-Max	Diesel
48.	2017	Isuzu	D-Max	Diesel

**TERMS: STRICTLY CASH**  
**FITZGERALD A. JOSEPH**  
**TELEPHONE: 601-2039**  
**Email: [palas105@yahoo.com](mailto:palas105@yahoo.com)**

# The Queen honors "Dara"

*Joel "Dara" Robinson, well-known in the community for his feeding program that provides meals to needy schoolchildren, and who recently was honored by the Queen, says "IT'S TIME FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO STEP UP."*



**Joel "Dara" Robinson (M.B.E.)**

*by Charles Gladden*

BELIZE CITY, Tues. Jan. 4, 2022

As reported in Tuesday's edition, seven Belizeans received New Year's Eve honors from her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II for their work in the development of the nation. One of the recipients was well-known Belizean philanthropist, Joel "Dara" Robinson, who received the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (M.B.E.). Dara is known throughout the country, for the feeding program he spearheads to provide meals to needy schoolchildren, and the charitable

events he holds, including an annual concert on Bob Marley's birthday, to raise funds for the feeding program that he and his wife have been operating for more than a decade. The program provides lunchtime meals for underprivileged children at the primary school level. In an interview with KREM, Dara commented on receiving the award and said he doesn't want to be glorified.

"To me, even what I do, I don't look out for any reward from any man or anyone. To me, I do these things genuinely from my heart, and I know the Creator says when you give you shall receive, and I live by that. Thanks to all who recognize me. I don't do things for shoutouts, because that doesn't put food on the table. I believe in doing the work and getting the support, and that's it," he said.

Ever since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, physical classrooms have been closed, and students have either been attending classes online or receiving printed material from the schools they attend in lieu of face-to-face sessions, but in a few days, that's about to change, as schools begin to embark on a hybrid approach to instruction, which will involve a blend of both online and face-to-face lessons. But at this juncture, in the midst of the

pandemic, no government assistance is being provided to support Dara's feeding program. Dara has thus resorted to farming to produce the food needed for his program. Robinson is pleading with the government to pull their weight, and he said he would like to remind them that assisting feeding programs was one of their pre-election pledges.

"I'm raising ducks, chicken, turkey, sheep. My idea is that I want to raise 400 to 500 chicken and try to make it work for the program. We're planting our own veggies to bring in, and once it's successful I can maintain myself

and the program. I'm tired of the government talking about assisting feeding programs and so far, no one from the Ministry of Education has come to me and said, 'we want to talk about the kids'. If the kids go back to school for two days, the first day I could invite you and you'll see what's happening here. I can't turn my back on these kids. It's hard to do any fundraising, and I've gone to the community so many times, and I think it's time for the government step up."

The program feeds an estimated 50 children daily when classes are in session.

## Sagicor completes '180 acts of kindness'

*by Khaila Gentle*

BELMOPAN, Fri. Dec. 31, 2021

At the start of 2021, insurance provider, Sagicor, set out to celebrate its 180<sup>th</sup> anniversary by performing 180 "acts of kindness" across the Caribbean within a year. By the end of December, they had surpassed their goal, having carried out a total of 192 such acts. According to a press release, the organization, through team members from across its Southern Caribbean territories, acted with the intention of "bringing smiles to the faces of strangers, assisting in uplifting worthy causes, and donating to numerous charities across the region."

The acts carried out by those team members spanned a wide range of charitable deeds, including care-package distribution to frontline workers, monetary donations, and donations of time and effort. Sagicor's charitable endeavours were especially maximized during special occasions and on holidays such as Mother's Day, when mothers were gifted with flowers and other presents; Breast Cancer Awareness Month, during which the team issued gift certificates for complementary breast examinations; and World Kindness Day, when meals were distributed throughout several communities.

Three organizations that benefitted from the '180 acts of kindness' were the Belize Cancer Society, The Belize

Red Cross, and Autism Belize, all of which received donations to support their continued operations. Additionally, the country's frontline workers at the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital were thanked for their tireless work throughout the COVID-19 pandemic with a donation of turkey dinners. And, most recently, the institution gave back to community organizations, clients, and other members of the public through the donation of Christmas hampers and presents.

The president and CEO of Sagicor, Robert Trestrail, remarked that the year-long project was a symbol of gratitude and a show of appreciation to the Caribbean people who have trusted in the organization for almost two centuries.

"What better way to do so than to give back to the very communities that have helped us prosper, and so it was our honour to be able to serve and give back in this way," he stated.

Trestrail added, "The teams across the region thoroughly enjoyed fulfilling this initiative. At times, the pandemic presented some challenges, but we found creative and safe ways to drive the initiative forward. It truly was a labour of love for the team, and we look forward to even more opportunities to live our Vision, to be a great company, committed to improving the lives of the people in the communities in which we operate."



*In Loving Memory of*  
 a dear mother, grandmother, great grandmother,  
 mother-in-law, aunt, sister and friend  
**IANTHE ALISTER ADOLPHUS**  
*who passed away eighteen sad years ago,*  
*January 5, 2004.*

*Memories are treasures no one can steal,  
 Death leaves wounds no one can heal,  
 Precious are the moments silently kept,  
 Of one we love and will never forget.*



## El Gobierno ayudó a romper el punto muerto del azúcar, pero debe hacer más

Más de cinco décadas después de convertirse en la principal fuente de ingresos de exportación en Belize, la industria de la caña de azúcar mantiene su importancia en nuestra economía. El turismo reemplazó al azúcar como la industria con mayores ingresos hace una década, pero durante la pandemia es el azúcar el que ha llevado la mayor parte de la carga. En 2019, el azúcar representó el 6% de nuestras ganancias en divisas; más de 5,000 cañeros independientes en el norte producen la caña de azúcar que alimenta el ingenio en Tower Hill en Orange Walk, y alrededor del 15% de los beliceños se ven directamente afectados por la industria.

Debido a la importancia de la industria, la nación aguanta la respiración cuando hay discordia entre los agricultores y ASR/BSI (el dueño de la fábrica). Los retrasos en el inicio de la zafra han sido frecuentes en los últimos años. En 2015, la temporada se retrasó unos dos meses, un punto muerto durante el cual la única asociación de cañeros, la Asociación de Agricultores de Caña de Azúcar de Belize (BSCFA en inglés), se dividió en tres grupos. Este año también se retrasó, ya que la temporada comenzó con dos semanas de retraso.

El azúcar sigue siendo una industria importante para Belize, pero los agricultores no obtienen muchas ganancias en estos días. Durante muchos años, desde 1975, el azúcar producido en Belize (y otros países de África, el Caribe y el Pacífico) se compraba en Europa a un precio preferencial, pero ante el desafío de otros productores de azúcar, este acuerdo muy favorable terminó en 2017. Un informe de 2016 del FMI, "¿Puede Belize hacer frente al nuevo mercado mundial del azúcar?" estimó que la industria tendría que reducir los costos de producción en un 30% para seguir siendo viable. Varios países del Caribe no vieron cómo podían competir en el nuevo régimen del azúcar y decidieron cerrar.

Belize perseveró y no ha sido un camino fácil. Además de estar agitada por las constantes batallas entre los cañeros y BSI/ASR, y haber perdido el mercado preferencial, la industria de la caña de azúcar de Belize se ha visto afectada por sequías, inundaciones y altos precios de fertilizantes y pesticidas a causa de la pandemia. El Acuerdo de Comercio Justo Fairtrade, que genera alrededor de \$ 3,5 millones anuales en fondos de apoyo para los cañeros, es uno de los pocos puntos brillantes.

En 2011, cuando Belize Sugar Industries (BSI) se encontraba en una situación financiera desesperada, debiendo más de \$ 120 millones a banqueros extranjeros, los agricultores hicieron una oferta para comprar acciones mayoritarias de la empresa. Pero el gobierno en ese momento (UDP), con la industria hasta las orejas en deudas, no veía la viabilidad de que los cañeros obtuvieran el control de BSI.

Con BSI bajo amenaza de cierre debido a sus dificultades financieras, el gobierno primero trató de introducir el Banco Atlántida de Honduras. Según se informa, el banco quería acciones mayoritarias en la empresa, que en ese entonces era propiedad del 81% de los trabajadores de la fábrica, el 10% de Tate & Lyle y el 9% del Gobierno, y se habló de que también estaba explorando el potencial de establecer una instalación de almacenamiento a granel en Commerce Bight, Stann Creek.

La BSCFA se desanimó especialmente por la propuesta del banco de producir el 50% de la caña de azúcar molida por la fábrica. Por ley, la caña de azúcar molida en Tower Hill es producida casi exclusivamente por los agricultores.

El informe del FMI de 2016 sobre la industria azucarera de Belize establece que el Grupo ASR (American Sugar Refining Inc.), la refinería de azúcar más grande del mundo, "invirtió US \$ 100 millones en 2012 para adquirir el 81 por ciento de la propiedad del único fabricante nacional de azúcar, Belize Sugar Industries Limited (BSI)".

El UDP (2008-2020), bajo el liderazgo del primer ministro Dean Barrow, se mostró optimista acerca de que ASR Group tomara el control de BSI porque garantizaba un mercado para nuestro azúcar. En 2016, durante otro punto muerto entre los cañeros y BSI, después de que algunos cañeros pidieran al gobierno que obligara a la empresa a comenzar a moler, el primer ministro Barrow dijo que tal medida sería ilegal, que si su gobierno intentaba acomodar a los cañeros, podría causar que la dirección de la empresa "cerrara inmediatamente su fábrica y saliera de Belize".

Varias cuestiones dividen a los cañeros y ASR/BSI. Los cañeros sostienen que ASR/BSI no les presenta información precisa sobre los costos de sus operaciones. Estos costos se relacionan directamente con la parte que los agricultores obtienen de las ganancias netas de la industria, por lo que quieren más transparencia.

Otra fuente de controversia es el precio que reciben los cañeros por el bagazo (residuos de caña) que queda después de moler la caña de azúcar. El bagazo es un combustible, y es utilizado por Belcogen, una empresa ASR/BSI, para proveer el 15% de las necesidades eléctricas de nuestro país. Inicialmente, ASR/BSI no quería pagar un centavo a los cañeros por el bagazo, pero la empresa cedió después de que el primer ministro Barrow declarara que los agricultores merecían una parte de las ganancias del uso del producto.

En 2014, la compañía ofreció a los cañeros 51 centavos por tonelada, lejos de los \$ 4 a \$ 10 que los cañeros creían que eran un precio justo. En la actualidad, se informa que los cañeros obtienen menos de \$ 0,50 por tonelada.

ASR ha argumentado que ha realizado enormes inversiones en la industria desde que adquirió BSI en 2012, más de US \$ 60 millones para modernizar sus operaciones. En lo que respecta al pago del bagazo, la empresa afirma que los cañeros no estaban interesados ??cuando BSI decidió invertir en Belcogen para utilizar el bagazo, entonces solamente un residuo que debía eliminarse. ASR/BSI también afirma que el precio que obtiene por la electricidad que vende a BEL no le permite pagar más a los cañeros.

Con el actual acuerdo comercial entre los agricultores y ASR/BSI expirando el 19 de enero de 2022, la BSCFA, que representa el 67% de los cañeros en el norte, está presionando por un precio más alto para el bagazo y un mayor escrutinio del existente acuerdo de reparto de ganancias 65-35. Los cañeros prefieren un acuerdo comercial de tres años, mientras que ASR/BSI está presionando por otro acuerdo de siete años, como el que pudo negociar cuando se dividió la BSCFA.

Los puntos muertos podrían considerarse rutinarios, el toma y daca natural de los negocios, pero no pueden ignorarse, porque la mayoría de los cañeros están sufriendo. Durante más de una década, los cañeros han estado luchando, y algunos han renunciado y se han trasladado a otros empleos.

Iniciativas anteriores del Gobierno de Belize para ayudar a los cañeros incluyen subsidios para aliviar su carga de combustible, apoyo para diversificarse en otros cultivos, préstamos blandos para ayudar a mejorar su eficiencia y un pequeño aumento en el precio controlado del azúcar blanco que se otorgó en 2015. Esos no son suficientes. Además de ayudar a los cañeros en sus negociaciones con ASR/BSI, el Gobierno de Belize debe invertir en estudios que puedan ayudar a los cañeros a mejorar su productividad.

El Gobierno de Belize también debe ayudar a los cañeros a utilizar mejor su excedente de caña después de que hayan cumplido sus compromisos con ASR/BSI. Hay mercados especializados allá fuera esperando dulces y otros productos elaborados con la caña de azúcar en los campos de nuestros cañeros del norte.



# It's Your Call. It's Up To You!



by Rudolph A. Neal

back to school is your call, it's up to you!

Before we analyze the educational aspect of it, it is important to objectively discuss the Omicron variant and what it entails. Evidently, the Omicron variant is extremely contagious. Given its large number of mutations compared to the Delta variant, Omicron can spread very easily and has the potential to elude vaccination and reinfect persons who have recovered from the virus. But what makes it even more concerning in the face of resumption of in-class (face-to-face) learning is the fact that the Omicron variant is highly transmissible among children, and credible reports are suggesting a spike in pediatric cases as a result of this new variant.

Consequently, teachers, parents and other educational stakeholders are very much concerned about the reopening of schools amid this fourth wave of the virus and the nature of this Omicron variant. In speaking with some teachers, parents and a few stakeholders in education, by and large, the population I surveyed were for the most part ambivalent on the matter. And one could reasonably understand why. The children, who no doubt are the future of our country, have been out of the classroom for

almost 2 years now, and the need to immerse them back in a formal and structured learning environment is paramount, and some would argue is urgent.

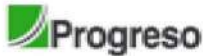
However, there must be a direct and a concerted balance between education and health. The need to get the children back into schools, which I do concur is important, cannot and must not outweigh the collective good health, safety and security of our teachers and our children. And this is where the situation becomes complex. What do we then do? Do we further delay the return of our children to in-class learning and further deepen the educational gap that has tossed the children in a sort of pedagogical chasm? Or do we ring the bell, call in school and expose our nation's future to a highly contagious and deadly virus that can ultimately lead to their demise?

Without a doubt, it is ultimately a tough call. And it's one that the parents will have to make in the next few days. By all best indications, the Ministry of Education will be proceeding with their green-lit plan to resume face-to-face learning, and schools have been preparing and are prepared to welcome the children back. Schools have touted that they have a formidable plan in place to create an environment that is as safe

and as conducive as possible to mitigating the likelihood of children getting sick. But can it ever be fool-proof? Absolutely not! The Omicron variant in its inherent nature and anatomy is moving through our communities like a wild brush fire, and the children are at an extreme risk for infection.

Trying to balance all that with the urgent need for students to return to classes, parents have a hard decision to make. Admittedly, I will agree that Covid-19 is a tenacious virus, and with news just breaking that a new variant "IHU" has been discovered, all indications are that Covid-19 is going to be with us for a while. So then, what do we do? Do we continue to keep the children out of school indefinitely? Do we play it by ear and ride out this fourth wave with the Omicron variant and delay the January 10th reopening of school? Or do we bite the bullet, grab the bull by the horn and proceed with the reopening of schools on January 10th, despite the exponential rise in cases amid a fourth wave? The parents will have the final say. And the decision whether or not to send your children back to school is your call, it's up to you!

Unchained Reflections Of A Liberal Pragmatist.



Career Opportunity

## Junior Sales Executive Belize

Carry out all Activities related to visits and information Control of the assigned territory with the aim of having timely information of the market situation and customers which allows establishing strategies to guarantee the scope of the sales objective and market share.

**Qualification and Experience:**

- Bachelor degree in Business Administration, Marketing & Advertising, Industrial or Civil Engineering.
- Two years' experience as Commercial Executive or Technical Advisor (Construction products, industrial or mass consumption of products).
- High intermediate Spanish level
- Proven exemplary job records
- Belizean residency required
- Computer Literate
- Available for travel locally.
- Applicants must have own transportation in good working condition.
- Able to commence work.

**Duties and Responsibilities**

- Execute commercial activities of support.
- Carry our active and potential customers visit.
- Identify location of competition
- Maintain Customer database
- Execute activities related to Trademark (image) at the point of sale (Customers).

**Compensation**

Compensation will be offered based on qualification and experience.

**Address:** Mile 34 George Price Highway Cayo District, Belize

To apply send your resume showing your education and experience to [belizecruitmentcr@cempro.com](mailto:belizecruitmentcr@cempro.com), as the email subject, place the name of the position you are applying to, before January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022.



Career Opportunity

## Maintenance Supervisor Belize

Manage and coordinate the execution of preventive and corrective work on the equipment to guarantee availability and maintenance costs.

**Qualification and Experience:**

- Associates Degree in Mechanical Engineering, Industrial Mechanics or Electrical Engineering
- Three years of experience in maintenance as Manager or supervisor in industrial area.
- High intermediate Spanish level
- Proven exemplary job records
- Belizean residency required
- Computer Literate

**Duties and Responsibilities**

- Coordinate resources for the execution of equipment maintenance
- Supervise preventive and corrective maintenance work according the manufacturers and maintenance procedures
- Manage assigned budget for preventive equipment maintenance
- Define and manage the preventive and corrective maintenance plan for equipment.
- Manage the supply of materials and spare parts and carry the respective controls in the System.

**Address:** Mile 34 George Price Highway Cayo District, Belize

To apply send your resume showing your education and experience to [belizecruitmentcr@cempro.com](mailto:belizecruitmentcr@cempro.com), as the email subject, place the name of the position you are applying to, before January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

## Anglican Diocese of Belize VACANCY

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to fill the permanent position of **Vice Principal of St. Peter's Anglican School in Orange Walk Town.**

### Core Responsibilities:

- As stipulated in Education rules in the "Handbook of Policies and Procedures for School Services."

Further requirements:

- Must be able to work with church to ensure that the students understand and embrace the teachings of the church and participate in activities and celebrations of the church/diocese based on the school/church calendar.
- Must be knowledgeable, updated and inclusive of the Special Education curriculum, the children, assessments, IEP and the referral process.

### Qualifications

Minimum qualification required is a Master's Degree in Education Leadership or equivalent

A minimum of six (6) years in teaching and/or administrative experience at the primary level,

Proven educational leadership skills and dedication to the achievement of academic excellence.

Strong inter-personal and communicative capabilities.

Knowledge of the Mission and Vision of the Anglican Management of Schools.

### Salary

Salary will be in accordance with Government pay scales for teachers.

### Application Package:

Submit letters of application with, two recommendations, resume, certified copies of diplomas/degrees and **valid teachers' license.**

All applications should be submitted by **Friday, January 21<sup>st</sup> 2022 to:**

General Manager  
P.O. Box 535  
Anglican Diocesan Office  
25 A Southern Foreshore, Belize City



## WESLEY COLLEGE VACANCY



The Board of Management of Wesley College invites applications for the post of a Full-time COMPUTER LAB TECHNICIAN

**JOB TITLE:** Computer Lab Technician

**REPORTS TO:** Principal

**BASIC FUNCTION:** Supervises the computer laboratories and provide assistance to the Teaching and Support staff and students, as required.

**CLASSIFICATION:** Managerial and Technical Personnel

### **DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Communicates and enforces computer laboratory policies to all laboratory users.
- Maintains security of the software and equipment in the labs.
- Maintains laboratory computer software and hardware according to an approved maintenance schedule.
- Installs software and hardware as directed in conformance with IMM #1-10.
- Assists Teachers in developing and installing teaching aids.
- Assists students in the use of the computers, peripherals, and installed software.
- Orders supplies necessary for the operation of the laboratory and classroom facilities.
- Obtain fixtures to software and hardware problems through contact with outside vendor support and/or Wesley College technical support personnel.
- Communicates laboratory problems to the Principal, Academic Vice Principal, I.T. HOD and other affected personnel.
- Maintains License in the use of all software and hardware products used in the laboratory.
- Performs other duties as assigned.

### **MINIMUM QUALIFICATION:**

**Associates Degree or higher in Information Technology or closely related field required. Degree must be from an accredited institution. Some experience in working with computers preferred.**

### **Application package of:**

- Cover letter
- Resume
- Original transcripts
- Valid police record
- Certified copy of a Valid social security card
- Certified copy of Birth certificate/Passport information page
- Medical certificate
- Certified copy of Covid-19 vaccine card
- Work permit (where applicable)

Along with two references, must be sent to Secretary of the Board, Wesley College, 34 Yarborough Road, Belize City, Belize no later than 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2022. Salary scale commensurate with Government pay scale based on qualifications.



## MINISTRY OF HEALTH & WELLNESS

### INVITATION TO BID

### PROCUREMENT NOTICE

The Ministry of Health & Wellness (MOHW) hereby invites eligible and qualified bidders to submit sealed bids for **COVID-19 LYRA PCR Test Kits.**

All interested bidders are asked to contact the secretary in the Office of the Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Health & Wellness, Third Floor, East Block Building, Belmopan (Tel. 822-2325) for the **Instruction to Bidders** and relevant documents. Eligible Bidders must be in accordance with Ministry of Health & Wellness requirements as indicated in the **Instruction to Bidders**. A fee of \$200.00 made payable to the **Government Treasury utilizing Fees for Bidding Documents - 18017/11617/130/24** is required for the acquisition of the Tender Package. The **receipt must be presented** to the secretary at the point of collecting the Package.

The Tender Package must be collected from the Chief Executive Officer's (CEO) Secretary – Ministry of Health & Wellness, East Block, Belmopan on **January 3<sup>rd</sup> – January 7<sup>th</sup> 2022** between the hours of **8AM to 3:30PM**. All tender submissions must be returned to the CEO Secretary - Ministry of Health & Wellness no later than **Monday January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 2AM**. Late bids will be rejected.

Please be prepared to submit relevant samples **immediately** upon request.

## Statutory Notice to Creditors

**IN THE ESTATE of ALEXIS GERARD DARIO FALQUIER, Deceased, of #16 Albert Hoy Avenue, Belize City, Belize.**

**NOTICE** is hereby given pursuant to Section 36 of the Administration of Estates Act, Chapter 197 of the Laws of Belize that all creditors and other persons including the beneficiaries and kin having any claims and demands upon or against the Estate of Alexis Gerard Dario Falquier, late of #16 Albert Hoy Avenue, Belize City, Belize, who died on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2020 and in whose estate a **Grant of Administration** has been granted to **Cornerstone Trust Corporation Limited** of #122 Eve Street, Belize City, Belize to lodge any claims or demands in writing to **Reyes Retreage LLP** of #122 Eve Street, Belize City, Belize, Lawful Attorneys for the Executrix of the Estate of Alexis Gerard Dario Falquier or before the expiration of three months from the first publication hereof and notice is also hereby given that the expiration of the said three months the said executors shall proceed to distribute assets of the said Alexis Gerard Dario Falquier, deceased amongst the beneficiaries entitled thereto, having regard only to claims and demands of which they shall then have had notice.

Dated the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of November 2021.

Aldo G. Reyes  
**REYES RETREAGE LLP**  
Attorneys for Cornerstone Trust Corporation Limited  
Administrator of the Estate of Alexis Gerard Dario Falquier

# BPM wants Henry to wipe his division off the map

by Colin Hyde

If we are to remain with 31 electoral divisions, then the proposed redistricting forwarded by the hired expert, if followed to the letter, will absorb Fort George, the constituency of the 1998 to 2008 prime minister, and Queen's Square, the constituency of the 2008 to 2020 prime minister.

I don't think Belize wants more electoral divisions. If we went to a referendum, we would likely find that Belizeans think there are too many electoral divisions already. The way it looks on this redistricting, Jerry Enriquez and the BPM will have their way. It looks like an idea whose time has come. A decade or so ago, I explained why I was not in favor of such a move, but today they have my vote.

Interestingly, in two of the world's more famous democracies, the USA and the UK, the electoral districts aren't divvied up efficiently to make all votes equal. Maybe it is not in those countries' constitutions, as it is in ours.

In the US state of California, there were 19.6 million registered voters in 2018, and in Mississippi in 2019 there were 1.9 million registered voters. California contributed 55 electoral votes toward the election of a new president of the country in 2020, and Mississippi contributed 6 electoral votes. The simple arithmetic shows that 356,363 Californians made up an electoral vote, while 316,666 Mississippians made up one electoral vote. A US candidate for president can win the seat with a minority vote, as President Trump (62,984,828 popular votes) did when he defeated

Hilary Clinton (65,853,514 votes) in 2016.

Once it has happened in Belize that the party that won the popular vote lost the general elections. In 1993 the PUP got 36,082 popular votes, 1,776 more than the UDP, who got 34,306, but the UDP won 16-13 in seats and formed the government. Don't ever feel sorry for the PUP. Ahem, it served them right. Back in the 1970s they stole an area rep from the UDP, and back in 1989 they stole another area rep from the UDP. And, to the incredulity of a nation, they attempted to steal two UDPs in 1993, so they could form the government. That last one, the attempt, isn't written in stone, like the first two raids, but they having already twice seduced UDP representatives to cross the floor, well, they clearly liked the crime.

The present area representative for Fort George, Henry Charles, is the minister responsible for the department in charge of redistricting, and that is a problem, because he has much work to do in the critical area of reform, and if he is consumed with saving his division, then his forces will be scattered, and his credibility might get shattered too. This redistricting, it's not the easiest of tasks before him, even if his division wasn't up for doing the big disappear; but if he does right, he could sail off a mighty hero.

Ahm, ehm, in a way George Price is on trial here. Everyone knows that whenever tough decisions come up, Henry Charles gets in front of a mirror and asks: What would Uncle George do?

I wish Henry well, and like the rest of the nation, I will be watching him.

## Can't let Julius off the hook

At the close of the year, my area rep, Julius Espot, sat down with Nuri Muhammad on Krem's WUB, and in response to the question, why blue comes in and does the same bad daam thing the red did, Julius said that happens because we don't have the laws in place, that things the people want to put an end to will continue until then. I mentioned Julius because he is the one who said it, but his twenty-five colleagues, who all took the Three Musketeers pledge, would have responded the same way. And the five on the other side, that's just how they will see it when fu dehn turn come again.

I said five on the other side, but physically it's only four. One of them is missing; her name is Sista B, and she is flubbing big time, because she has made not a yea or nay on the laws that have been passed in the House since November 2020. Making laws/revoking laws is where it's at, a big prize for getting elected to the H of R. Hmm, all kinds of people want to get there to make their difference.

In the democracies, most everyone who doesn't have a foul record has a chance to get in on the game, even rappers and boxers. Over in the Philippines, PacMan Pacquiao...wait, faysi Pacquiao is spending a fortune trying to get himself elected president. Pray, on what credentials, Sir?

I'll tell you about those credentials. The man's a boxer, won a lot of fights. But, he lost a lot of fights too, and the Filipinos, no pushovers, see clearly that if they vote for PacMan, then the Manifest Destiny crowd will say, our guy,

Mayweather, kicked your president's ass.

The Mexicans are a lot more humble than their northern neighbors, but how would they be able to stop themselves from gloating when their guy, Juan Manuel Marquez, humiliated PacMan. Floyd Mayweather danced around PacMan and jabbed him up in the face, but Juan Manuel clocked him, laid him out flat on the canvas.

I have a proposition for our Sista B, who is flirting with earning a place in the Guinness Book of World Records, for elected representative who made the least appearances in their country's national assembly. It is Dean Barrow that got Sista B elected, but I can see why she wouldn't want him to be writing any speeches for her. That man's a sham, sat at the head of the table for 13 years, and what did he do — he proved Rufus X right. Dean Barrow hurt a lot of us when he proved that radical knew what he was talking about when he said we fools had elected a prime minister who was cozy with Ashcroft. I bet as fast as Barrow writes a speech for her, wise Sista B puts them in the trash.

I really would like to write a speech for her, on behalf of all of us who will never make it to the big house, because we will never run, or because we belong to a third party. In my first sentence in the first paragraph I'd apologize for the rotten governments Barrow and Faber misled between 2008 and 2020. I learned that from Finnegan. The humble card is very big when you are out of power. After playing contrite I'll get into the meat of things, starting with why the UDP didn't want Faber.

In my second paragraph...wait, it doesn't matter what I write in the second paragraph because by the end of the first one the UDP leader will have gotten the drift, that nothing good will be coming his way, and he'll push past Patt, push down Shyne, beg for a pass from Tracy, and tell Sista B she is lucky he is doing so well at anger management school...but don't test him.

I really think people who have their own problems, like attention deficit for example, should make an effort to keep the focus. I was saying about this 26, YOU heard the people's cries, YOU echoed the people's cries, YOU promised to deal with the people's problems, so why the heck haven't you passed the laws to put an end to political leaders doing the people wrong?

There are two types of leaders, those who are there to play lords, and those who are there to serve. Bah, we've been electing a lot of lords in this country. Leaders who are lords lead countries to bloody revolutions. We need leaders who want to serve.

## NOTICE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

**THIS IS TO INFORM YOU THAT PURSUANT TO THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT – S.I. 110 OF 2002, THAT TURQUESA GROUP LIMITED OF FREEZONE, COROZAL DISTRICT HAS APPLIED TO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION FOR THE USE OF FM BROADCAST FREQUENCY(IES) TO OPERATE AN FM RADIO STATION -TURQUESA FM FOR SOUND BROADCAST TO PROVIDE COVERAGE THROUGHOUT THE BELIZE DISTRICT & SURROUNDING AREAS.**

# From the Publisher

Reproduced from page 9 of the Tuesday, January 4, 2022, #3519 issue of Amandala

My understanding is that Belmopan-based PLUS TV is supported by evangelical churches in the United States. So, I was somewhat surprised at the intensity with which PLUS pastors Louis Wade, Santie Valencia, and Kerm Thimbrel were recently questioning the wisdom of a Government of Belize announcement that immigration amnesty would be granted to “between forty and sixty thousand” people who are living and working in Belize.

I mean no disrespect to the three gentlemen, but it has been my impression for a long time that what the United States government visualizes for Belize is a kind of third, oligarchic Central American republic status in a triangle which would include Guatemala and Honduras. Since the presumption is that most of those who would be granted amnesty here are of Central American origin, then you get the sense of where I am going.

There was one caller on Louis’ show who declared categorically that these “forty to sixty thousand” were not presently resident in Belize, but would be introduced into The Jewel at the appropriate time.

Now where the American evangelicals enter the picture is where their national politics is concerned. Apart from their massive hostility to abortion and the LGBT agenda, American evangelicals want to keep America white, which is to say, they are outraged by these caravans of Central Americans who have been marching through Mexico with the intent of crossing the border into the United States. Dumping some of these Central American marchers in Belize would be just fine with American evangelicals.

When I was growing up in British Honduras, there used to be a semi-official publication called A BRIEF SKETCH OF BRITISH HONDURAS. I remember that where the matter of

immigration was concerned (and it was only briefly dealt with), the author (one A. H. Andersen, if I remember correctly) said that it was a challenge for the colonial authorities to decide how they would move on this, it being the case that the colony was underpopulated, so to speak. (That publication, incidentally, simply disappeared from Belize some decades now.)

Remember that Belize was a Central American anomaly. It was a beachhead inside the Spanish Main where predominantly British pirates had landed and then started importing African slaves to cut down logwood and mahogany trees for export. By the time the Spanish authorities in Mexican Yucatan tried to expel them, the “settlers” had become pretty much black in demographic majority.

There are a lot of Anglophiles here who glorify the 1798 Battle of St. George’s Caye as a decisive one in which their ancestors taught the invading Yucatan Spaniards a lesson, a lesson such that they never attempted another invasion. Well, those of us from the twentieth century knew that the threat from the Spanish element never really went away: it just moved from the north to the west, from Mexico to Guatemala.

But there is a complex history surrounding 1798 which is never taught in Belizean schools, because it involves Napoleon Bonaparte, who was the worst British nightmare in the late 1790s and early 1800s. Emerging as the French powerhouse in the years following the 1789 French Revolution, Napoleon led his men on the battlefield. He was warrior, general, and then emperor. Except for Albion, he controlled Europe, including Spain, in the early 1800s. This was an opportunity for the Mexican people, led by Miguel Hidalgo, to initiate a rebellion

against Spanish colonialism in 1810. No one in Mexico had time to pay attention to the settlement in Belize in the early nineteenth century.

Meanwhile, half a million African slaves in San Domingo (Haiti) had rebelled against their minority French slave masters, and the Haitian leader, Toussaint L’Ouverture, ruled both Haiti and what we now know as the Dominican Republic. The Haitian Revolution of 1791 terrified white slave masters in the United States, Cuba, Jamaica, and throughout the Caribbean.

In those days, cotton and cane were very, very lucrative cash crops in this region. (Belize was into mahogany) The more African slaves a European owned, the more cotton or sugar he could produce, and the more wealthy he would become. Many of these slaveowners became so wealthy they returned to their native European countries as aristocrats.

What the Haitian Revolution did was make stark the danger for minority population European slaveowners from indiscriminately increasing the slave majority working their fields and plantations. Belize experienced a post-slavery uprising in 1894, but did not get a full dose of playing with African majority fire until the 1919 Ex-Servicemen’s rebellion.

You know, beloved, there is history and there is power. In Africa before our people were conquered and enslaved, there was a human institution called the GRIOT. The GRIOT was an African man (and I suppose there were also women) whose mind was so exceptional he could memorize and recite history covering centuries. In Africa, then, there was no need for print history. Human institutions preserved history, orally.

In Belize today, because of power realities, it is indispensable that we natives preserve our stories in black and white. That is because the oligarchs own the media and control the schools. Let me give you an example. No one in the media or the education system has ever remarked on the fact that the National Kriol Council (NKC) and the UBAD Educational Foundation were organized in the same year -- 1996. That is because there is a black population in Honduras which is Kriol. When the Central American Black Organization (CABO) was being organized in 1996 by Garifuna leaders from Honduras and Belize, the Kriols in Honduras demanded that the Kriols in Belize be represented in the new CABO. And therein lies a story which the media owned by the oligarchs in Belize do not want to be told. Talk to me, Silvana. Tell me about Texas.

There were black people in Belize who boycotted the only black summit ever held in Belize, in September of 2003. Today, the question is: how many blacks remain in Belize? This is the question which, ultimately, becomes the crux of the matter when we talk about amnesty.

Power to the people.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

The University of Belize (UB) is inviting offers from the public for the following vehicles:

ZX AUTO- GRAND TIGER	PICK UP TRUCK	2011
NISSAN URVAN	VAN	2012
FORD	PICK UP TRUCK	2001
TOYOTA COASTER	BUS	2007
TOYOTA RAV 4	SUV	2011
MITSUBISHI MONTERO	SUV	2007
TOYOTA HILUX	PICK UP TRUCK	2008

Interested persons can view the vehicles at the University’s Belmopan Campus located at Hummingbird Avenue in the City of Belmopan, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday - Friday.

UB reserves the right to reject any offer and to suspend this call for offers at any time, and will not be responsible for any costs associated with the preparation of that candidate/s offer.

Offers are to be made in writing and addressed to:

The President  
University of Belize  
Administration Building  
Hummingbird Avenue  
City of Belize, Belize  
ATTN: Director of Finance

Closing Date is Friday, January 21, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.

Kindly note the vehicles are being sold “As Is” and accepted offers are final.



## Vacancy exist at *Pallotti High School* for the post of:

### 1 Full -Time Counselor & Life Skills Teacher

A professional background (with a minimum of a **Bachelor Degree**) in education in the related field and **updated pedagogy** in the subject area, experience in counselling, valid teacher’s license, as well as **moral soundness** (in keeping with Catholic teaching and tradition) would be an asset.

Please send cover letter and resume to:

Principal  
Pallotti High School  
P.O. Box 180  
Belize City, Belize

Deadline for Application: January 14, 2022



## Public Utilities Commission



### Public Notice

The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) hereby notifies the public that on December 10, 2021, BEL made a submission, reporting an increase in Cost of Power (COP) of \$3.82MN for the period ending 31 December 2021. BEL also forecasts an increase of \$4.14MN in COP between January to June 2022.

In accordance with applicable byelaws, the PUC determined that the sum to be recovered amounts to \$4.58MN. As a result, the Mean Electricity Rate (MER) for the period January to June 2022 should be adjusted from \$0.3999 to \$0.4158 per kilo-watthour

On January 5, 2022, the PUC issued the **Final Draft** for the amendment of Belize **Electricity Limited 2021 Annual Review Proceeding (ARP) Final Decision** dated June 23, 2021 to reflect this adjustment.

The PUC hereby invites comments on the **Final Draft**. The general public should submit written comments by email to [info@puc.bz](mailto:info@puc.bz) or to PO Box 300, Belize City, Belize

The deadline for submission is January 15, 2022.

The **Final Draft** may be viewed in its entirety at the offices of the PUC or on its website at [www.puc.bz](http://www.puc.bz).

### **Schedule** **Belize Electricity Limited (BEL)**

Approved Tariffs for the period 1 January 2022 to 30 June 2022		
Customer Class	Service Type/ Consumption Block	Rate/Tariff \$/Mth; \$/KVA; \$/KWhr
<b>Social</b>	0 - 60 KWhrs	0.22
	Minimum Charge	5.00
<b>Residential</b>	0 - 50 KWhrs	0.33
	51 - 200 KWhrs	0.39
	> 200 KWhrs	0.44
	Minimum Charge	10.00
<b>Commercial 1</b>	0 - 50 KWhrs	0.33
	51 - 200 KWhrs	0.39
	> 200 KWhrs	0.44
	Minimum Charge	10.00
<b>Commercial 2</b>	Service Charge	150.00
	0-10,000 KWhrs	0.42
	10,001-20,000 KWhrs	0.40
	> 20,000 KWhrs	0.39
<b>Industrial 1</b>	Service Charge	250.00
	Demand (KVA)	35.82
	Energy	0.30
<b>Industrial 2</b>	Service Charge	250.00
	Demand (KVA)	24.20
	Energy	0.26
<b>Street Lights</b>	Energy	0.45

*Issued by the Public Utilities Commission on 5 January 2022*

## Vladimir Putin's annual press conference— Part 2

It will take another century for the survivors of the Coronavirus to know or get reliable information on how, where and when this deadly virus began. Some countries, because of their leaders, had more fatalities, while others lacked the vaccine and the knowledge to deal with this new disease. Vladimir Putin, who is well-known as an excellent statesman, was able, with all the downfall of his country, to report a robust GDP. Permit me, our dear readers of this column, to present to you part 2 of his annual press conference:

There are also changes in terms of real disposable income. We had a 2 percent decline in 2020, but this year we expect this figure to rise. Of course, we will talk about inflation. We expect the inflation rate to be 8 percent. It is much higher than the forecast. But, even adjusted for inflation, real income has still increased by 4.1 percent. Our experts estimate that real income will show a 3.5-percent annual growth. Of course, this will not be true for all categories of citizens. Naturally, it is an average rate and I want to stress this once again. When people watch this and listen to this, they might say: it's an average again. But we have to talk in average numbers, since they serve as a certain benchmark. I think we will cover the topic of personal income in more detail today.

We set a goal of returning to the pre-pandemic unemployment rate – and it did go down. The unemployment rate before the pandemic was around 4.6-4.7 percent. The current rate is 4.3 percent. It may go up a little to 4.4 percent by the end of the year. This is a very good indicator for the performance of the economy in general, even though there are certain difficulties and challenges related to the labour market, such as, for example, the number of people working at the construction sites we have just mentioned. It is a serious

issue. Now, I would like to speak about the trade surplus. Last year, despite all the difficulties, Russia's trade surplus amounted to 94 billion [US\$]. This year, the figure has almost doubled, reaching 184 billion, which is also an excellent result. Russia's foreign debt has slightly decreased. It is the lowest level of foreign debt in the world, around four percent.

What other important indicators speak for the quality of governance and the performance of the entire state, the Government and the Central Bank, in particular? Our international reserves have grown from US\$595 to US\$625.5 billion. The National Welfare Fund is growing as well and currently amounts to US\$185.2 billion. All these figures are an indication of stability and good macroeconomic results. There are issues that cannot but cause concern, including life expectancy, which has slightly decreased from 71.5 to 70.1 years. We will most likely cover this topic today as well. It is one of the negative consequences of the coronavirus pandemic. Right. So, on the whole, I believe that both the government and the Central Bank deserve – let us be modest – an acceptable score. The results are positive.

Now, about the growth drivers. Your question was about the potential growth drivers, and about vaccination – if we need to have the entire population vaccinated or not. Look, we have already spoken many times about the growth drivers for our country based on the specific situation that has developed over a fairly extensive period. We can even consider the entire post-war period, since 1945. What are our challenges and what are the drivers, accordingly? I have just spoken about an unfortunate decrease in life expectancy, an increase in mortality in our country, and in this regard, one of the most important problems, one of the most

important challenges that we face is getting more acute – I am referring to demographics. It is a challenge both from a humanitarian point of view and from the geopolitical perspective as well, I mean the country's population – 146 million for such a vast territory is definitely not enough; economically too, we have a workforce shortage. As far as I know, the working age population is now just above 81 million. We must drastically increase this figure by 2024, by 2030. This is one of the factors of economic growth, let alone – I would like to emphasise this once again – the geopolitical and humanitarian components of this most important matter. Therefore, preserving the people that Solzhenitsyn wrote about is becoming one of our most important tasks and one of the drivers of growth.

Second. What other growth drivers? The next driver is infrastructure, infrastructure development. In this regard, I can say that we are making very strong efforts on this track. You know that we are channeling 500 billion rubles of federal funds directly towards the development of infrastructure. Then there are the National Projects; we started with 260 billion, I believe, then more than 400 billion, and next year, we will allocate 460 or so. We plan to allocate another 2.5 trillion rubles from the National Wealth Fund in the next few years – 2.5 trillion overall. Of course, the third growth driver is increasing labour efficiency, but this includes a whole set of programmes from education and digital transformation to healthcare, which we have already mentioned. This includes an entire set of programmes. Most of them are ready, so we know what to do. We have earmarked the resources needed to move in this direction, and we provide for regular allocations. The funds to this effect are available. All we need to do is set up this work properly and achieve



by Clinton Canul Luna

maximum returns on every ruble we invest in delivering on these objectives.

Finally, one of your questions was about vaccinating the entire country. Unfortunately, in Russia the vaccination rate is low, just like in many other countries – take, for example, some European countries where the low level of vaccination is also a matter of concern. This is the case for Germany with its developed healthcare, but even there the healthcare system, one of the most effective in Europe, faces a lot of criticism. What is the vaccination rate in Russia? As of today, or maybe yesterday, it was 59.4 percent. I had no doubt that this would be one of the main topics during today's news conference, so I talked to Ms. Popova and Ms. Golikova. The figure of 59.4 percent is where we are in terms of achieving herd immunity in Russia. This includes both those who have recovered from the coronavirus infection, as well as those who have received the jab. Some 70 million people have received the first dose, and a little over 70 have had both. This is not enough. We need about 80 percent of our population to be immune to achieve herd immunity. I hope that next year, at least by the end of the first quarter or in the second quarter, we will have reached this level. Some countries are already talking about the need for 90–95 percent to be immune in order to achieve herd immunity. This is how things stand, more or less.

Thank you.

*(To Be Continued)*

[fincasolan@gmail.com](mailto:fincasolan@gmail.com)

January 1, 2021

Finca Solana

Corozal Town

## What the World Would Be Like Without Human Beings

What would the world be like if there were no human beings? We would not have any wars, we would not have any diseases, we would not have so many differences among us, there would not be white or black like the rainbow. We would not have those who think that they are better than others, we would not have an educational system which is based on the ideology of foreigners.

We had a great civilization prior to the arrival of the Europeans. Our Maya had invented the zero before the Indians from the Valley of Indus. Our ancestors were already studying the universe, the movement of the stars, the planets, the moon and the sun. We had a rich diversity of food. Our ancestors knew

how and when to plant, they had the technology. The earth gave everything for the livelihood of our people. But with the arrival of the Europeans, everything changed. Today, they are the ones who dictate how we should live, what is good for us and what is not. Our ancestors knew the plants which were good for the different illnesses of the time that we suffered from before the arrival of the Europeans.

Today, I listen to so many things which cause the differences among us, our people, as Belizeans. They call us Spanish, when we are not; we are Spanish-speaking people, but we are not Spaniards. I listen to others who say that they are black, but they are not. There were, once upon a time,

black people in Belize, but not today. Many years ago, when I was a little boy, I used to visit my grandmother in Belize City. My cousin used to take me to a certain place they called Southside 70 years ago over the London bridges to know my black cousins. They were black.

After I went away, I came back sometime in the 60s and I didn't see many black people in Belize, only a few. Thereafter, I came back again sometime in the 90s, and what I saw were brown people of different shades. One of the problems that I think we have is that we like to copy the behaviour and the way of thinking of people from the United States. In the U.S., if you are not white you are black,

but we don't have that here in Belize. Why should we copy that? Many of you went to the U.S. and you were discriminated against as black people. There, black people could not enter where the white people are. They have special churches for black people. That experience that many of you went through while in the U.S., you brought it back here, believing that we have the same system down here too. A few weeks ago, a young man approximately in his 20s was at the market buying a pair of black shoes, but he spoke in Spanish. A few feet away from him, there was a person from Belize City who thought that this young man was

# PRESS PREDICTIONS

## The sports psychic speaks

### BOLEDO

**“Press” Predictions: 26-47-03**  
**BoleDO stats thru 7<sup>th</sup> to 14 Jan 2022**  
 In boleDO news, 26 played 3 times straight to start the first prize for 3 weeks in a row. These are my lucky numbers for this week: 47-26-13-15-86-03. These are my lucky Jackpots numbers: 2850-7622-9802. These are my lucky PICK-3 numbers: 741-902-363-505-808-672. Good luck to all buyers. 02 is still out for over 1 year 10 months and 1 day now. Then 50 refuses to play since the 15<sup>th</sup> July 2020, that’s over 1 year 5 months and 3 weeks exact on Sunday, 22 is still out for over 1 year and 4 months this Sunday. 55 is still out for over 1 year 2 months and 3 weeks. The eighties series will dominate this year, the thirties series won 3 straight years now. Get ready Belize, some dinero will be coming our way for the New Year 2022. Keep your eyes open for 22 and 50. Remember to read Psalms: 92-72-63. Next week more stats.

### CYCLING

**Brandon Cattouse won his first classic**  
**The 31<sup>st</sup> Krem New Year’s Cycling Classic Results**  
 In cycling action, the 31<sup>st</sup> Krem New

Year’s Cycling Classic had over 70 cyclists in the 3 different categories. In the juniors, Goran Gabourel beat out Renan Codd in the sprint finish. Then in the females, young Gabrielle Gabourel beat out Kaya Cattouse for her first big Classic win; brother and sister won the first 2 races. Then in the Elite, 51 cyclists participated. 501 Valvoline top cyclist Brandon Cattouse won his first ever classic after 18 years. His teammate young Derek Chavarria was second, but they told not sprint, they came in holding hands together. A lots of fans were at the finish line and did not like the finish. Cattouse won a couple of \$1,000.00 station prizes, Jyven Gonzalez, Sherwin Roca, Eric Trapp, and Angel Tzib all did well in the top 10 finish. Chavarria will be the cyclist to watch for Cross Country. Enuff respect to all the sponsors of the race, big up Money Mike once again, Big up Mose Hyde and Andrew Smiling alongside Fitzgerald “Palas” Joseph who did a splendid job of bringing race live and direct to the public. Next week more stats.

### NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

**Lebron James passes 36,000 points NBA Results and Predictions**  
 In NBA action, the East is very

competitive right now. The Chicago Bulls, the Washington Wizards and the Cleveland Cavaliers are all playing very well. The Brooklyn Nets still have the best record at 32-10, the defending champions, the Milwaukee Bucks, are rolling again; Giannis Antetokounmpo is at his MVP status. The Miami Heat have the deepest bench in the East, they will give a lot of trouble down the stretch. The Covid-19 NBA protocols have a lot of teams struggling a bit. In the West, the Golden State Warriors and the Phoenix Suns are rubbing very closely. The Los Angeles Lakers are in bad trouble right now. Lebron James passes 36,000 points, he needs 900 more points to catch up on Karl Malone’s 36,928 points; then next season he will catch up with Kareem’s 38,387 points half way through the season. He will end up with over 40,000 points 10,000 rebounds and 10,000 assists, the first and only player to accomplish that feat, next week more stats.

### NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

**The Green Bay packers will have the best record at 14-3**



**by Gilroy “Press” Cadogan**

#### **NFL Results and Predictions**

In NFL action week 16 games results, Aaron Rodgers, the MVP for last year’s regular season, and the Green Bay packers will have the best record at 14-3. The Tampa Bay Buccaneers, the defending champions, won their 1<sup>st</sup> division title since 2007. Tom Brady, the most decorated player in NFL history, is a bad dude; his teammates suffered a lot of injuries and he still won the division. There are 6 teams that clinched their division already, the Dallas Cowboys, the Cincinnati Bengals, the Kansas City Chiefs, and the Tennessee Titans alongside the Super Bowl champions and the Packers, they just beat the Minnesota Vikings - Rodgers threw 2 TD passes, they won 37 to 10. The buccaneers will end the season without Antonio Brown, one of their top players, he had some issues with his coach. Next week some playoffs predictions get started.

# What the World Would Be Like Without Human Beings

*Continued from* **Page 14**

insulting him, discriminating him, calling him Negro. The person from Belize City got upset and cursed the young man. The young man’s aunt had to enter to explain to him that he did not insult the person from Belize City, but that he was asking for a pair of black shoes. That is how far we have reached because of the lack of understanding, and on many occasions I have said that we need to learn to speak both languages, since we are surrounded by Spanish-speaking people, not Spaniards.

There are those of you who are upset because of the 60 thousand Central Americans who have entered this country because of different reasons, but that amnesty that is to be given by the government of this country is not being given just like that. You have to realise that the United States does not want to have more of what they call aliens or Hispanics, whatever name they want to give them, in their country, so... Belize has a lot of land to put these people. There are many Belizeans who don’t have a piece of land, but it’s not the fault of these people, it’s not the fault of any of us. Look back into your history and you

will see who are the ones that did not give you what you were supposed to have. Who are the ones who did not educate you and train you for the good development of this country and yourselves.

It would be very interesting if each and every one of us would get a DNA test to see who we are and the mixtures we have in us. These people are human beings just like us; these people have needs just like us. This land or this earth was not given to a certain people, it’s for everyone. It’s not we who made frontiers, it’s not we who separated people, it’s not we who made so many divisions among us. We are human beings and should be treated as such. We should love each other, we should have unity if you believe that there is a God, if you believe that there was a Jesus Christ. If you believe that we should love each other, then show it. Don’t use Christmas as a day of love, because love is every day, every year, until the end of time. What would the world be like if there were no human beings?

[fincasolan@gmail.com](mailto:fincasolan@gmail.com)  
 January 1, 2022  
 Finca Solana  
 Corozal Town




**VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) invites applicants for the functions of National Consultant in the area of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and Risk Factors.

**Duty station:** Belize City

**Qualifications:** *Essential:* A university degree in one of the health, social or management sciences from a recognized University with emphasis on nutrition related chronic diseases  
*Desirable:* Postgraduate studies in public health or related field.

**Experience:** *Essential:* At least 7 years’ experience in the related field.  
*Desirable:* working experience in health services project management.

**Skills:**

- Theoretical and practical expertise in all aspects related to surveillance, prevention and control of Noncommunicable diseases, and the promotion of health, as well as a thorough knowledge of epidemiology, prevention, and control methods.
- Ability to analyze factors, trends, and forecast scenarios based on current surveillance systems and possesses the capability to develop and plan innovative and appropriate solutions for their improvement.
- Strong public health and strategic thinking background showing resourcefulness, initiative, leadership qualities and skills to deal with difficult situations and sensitive areas.
- Ability to plan and carry out technical cooperation initiatives on NCDs with emphasis on nutrition related chronic diseases.
- Knowledge of Global Strategies for the prevention and control of NCDs as well as regional, subregional and national situation on NCDs.
- Knowledge of health services policies and administration within the framework of the model of family and community health.
- Knowledge and skills in the formulation of technical cooperation interventions and in the development of criteria and instruments for evaluating program interventions, including resource mobilization and grant management.
- Strong professional oral and writing skills, including the development of reports, oral presentations, and technical/persuasive documents for consideration at the highest levels of the Organization.
- Demonstrated ability to effectively use a computer and utilize software programs such as Microsoft Office Word, Excel, PowerPoint, SharePoint, and Outlook. Other IT skills and knowledge of other software programs for Statistical Analysis, Data Exploratory Analysis and Project Management would be an asset.

**Languages:** Very good knowledge of English and working knowledge of Spanish

**Deadline:** Letter of application, Curriculum Vitae, and two current letters of recommendation should be sent to [blzmail@paho.org](mailto:blzmail@paho.org) or to P.O. Box 1834, Belize City no later than **20 January 2022**.

For further details visit our website <https://www.paho.org/en/vacancies>. An interview will be held for this position and only candidates under serious consideration will be contacted.

PAHO/WHO has a smoke-free environment and does not recruit smokers or users of any form of tobacco.

# PUBLIC AUCTION SALE

LICENSED AND CERTIFIED AUCTIONEER, SHELDON N. C. ARNOLD  
WILL SELL THE FOLLOWING PROPERTIES WITH RESERVE PRICES.

**CAYO DISTRICT PROPERTIES - TO BE AUCTIONED AT HUMMINGBIRD FURNISHINGS COMPOUND  
BELMOPAN CITY ON TUESDAY JANUARY 18TH, 2022 AT 11:00AM.**



**Location:** Block - 24, Parcel - 3760 Being Registration Section - Society Hall, Cayo District  
**Description:** land containing 8730 sqft. Vacant Lot being the freehold property of Larry R Leslie.



**Location:** Block: 1, Lot No. 92 containing 1184.397 Sq. Yds. situate in St. Margaret's Village, Cayo District.  
**Description:** The property is a concrete bungalow occupied as a single family residence. It comprises of three bedroom, one bathroom and kitchen, living and dining area, and a laundry room being the Freehold Property of Rueben A. Parham.

**ORANGE WALK PROPERTIES- TO BE AUCTIONED AT HUMMINGBIRD FURNISHINGS COMPOUND  
BELMOPAN CITY ON TUESDAY JANUARY 18TH, 2022 AT 11:00AM.**



**Location:** Block 4, Parcel 625/1, Registration Section, Guinea Grass, Orange Walk District.  
**Description:** All that piece or parcel of land containing 1023.519 SQM. Includes 1 concrete family home with 4 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, living, dining, kitchen and laundry rooms, being the Leasehold property of David R. Perrera and Maria G. Magana.



**Location:** Block 1, Parcel 126, Registration Section, Douglas Village, Orange Walk District.  
**Description:** A concrete detached family home with 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, small front porch, fully fenced, with living, dining and kitchen being the freehold property of Roman F Nicholson.



**COROZAL PROPERTIES- - TO BE AUCTIONED AT HUMMINGBIRD FURNISHINGS COMPOUND  
BELMOPAN CITY ON TUESDAY JANUARY 18TH, 2022 AT 11:00AM.**



**Location:** Block 1, Parcel 715, Registration Section-Sarteneja Village, Corozal District.  
**Description:** A concrete detached family home with 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, back porch, living and kitchen rooms, fenced being the freehold property of Graciliano Rivero.



**Location:** Block - 3, Parcel - 820, Registration Section - Sarteneja Village, Corozal District.  
**Description:** All that piece or parcel of land containing 871.0 S.M. A concrete family home consisting of 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 2 entrance, living, dining, kitchen rooms being the freehold property of Hermina and Alejandro Gongora.



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**Terms - Cash 10% Deposit, Balance in 14 days**  
**Financing Available, Call Ahead For Details**





# SOCIETY'S INVISIBLE PEOPLE

There are those of us who are familiar with the parable of the fifth son. "A man has five sons. Four are at the table eating. But the fifth son is the one who is not at the table. The fifth son has gone wayward. Yet, his seat is still reserved for his return."

Perhaps you have seen him, with all of his belongings in plastic bags sitting on the hot pavement. I certainly have.

I have no idea how many days a week, he sits at that same spot staring at the world through deep, penetrating eyes, not uttering a single word, not even begging for food to strengthen his skeletal frame. I find myself baffled by this character who portrays such pride and dignity in his silence. Despite his obvious emaciated state.

This homeless person sitting on the hot pavement was different. I don't know why, but without saying a word, I could hear him speaking to me.

I wanted to know about him, so I questioned other passers-by who frequented the spot. Sadly, it seems that this homeless person was invisible to them, as they seemed not to know or care.

I thought, all this time, day in, day out, no one cared.

Then a deep sense of shame hit me.

Shame not for this homeless man's

situation, but for people not noticing; perhaps not even caring. He has sat there for weeks, and no one stopped to lend a helping hand. Some even walked away in scorn or turned back so as not to pass him..

I began thinking and putting myself in the shoes of the many passers-by. Secretly, I believe, some wish he would just go away and that they can say he never existed, so they have no need to feel guilty.

You see, my homeless enigma is one of society's invisible people – the poor, the downtrodden, victims of urban development and inner city decay, victims of circumstances, those who went wayward and are struggling to beg forgiveness. These struggles are common to the whole of humanity, common to our very way of life.

We forget that society's 'invisible people' are part of the human family. They are, like it or not, included in the very fibre of the tapestry of life – the fifth son who is not at the table. The fifth son, who unbeknown to himself, was forgiven long ago and whose space at the table is set, waiting for him.

Humanity, however, is only as strong as its weakest link. In order for us to hold our head up high, the man sitting on the hot pavement needs to be able to do so also.

I dread to think, if my world comes crashing down, if I could

muster any dignity or courage to pick myself up. I know of persons who shared how cruel society can be and how quickly one can join the ranks of society's invisible people when their world caves in.

I now find myself admiring the homeless man on the hot pavement with the deep, penetrating eyes watching the world pass by, bothering no one, asking for nothing, who seems to be battling his own inner turmoil. The dignity he emanates in his defiance by facing the world headlong for all to see. Indeed, his silence is deafening. I now realize I must do something. I find myself reaching out to this broken yet proud, defiant character, and I knew I did the right thing. For

lo and behold, I witnessed the transformation of a broken, beaten, washed out human specimen into a warm, teary-eyed individual who now seems to have a purpose. Somehow, he seems regal in stature and stronger in character than all the passers-by who simply quickly rush by. Is that what is meant by giving a helping hand?

Let us look deep within ourselves and recognize the homeless. We should affirm that society should have no invisible people – they are simply the fifth son who is not at the table, who simply has lost his way and needs that helping hand to find his way back home.

Teresita Rudon

## Sunday Review

### News Review Talk Show

On Krem TV & Krem Radio

Live-streaming on Krem Television Face Book Page

**Host:** YaYa Marin Coleman

**Date:** Sunday, January 9, 2022 **Time:** 10:30 a.m. to noon

**Guest:** Bredah Kofi Mawuli Klu/ Jurisconsult & Activist (Pan-Afrikan Reparations Coalition in Europe PARCOE)

Sunday Review will be repeated at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 9, 2022

## PUBLIC AUCTION SALE

**LICENSED AND CERTIFIED AUCTIONEER, SHELDON N. C. ARNOLD WILL SELL THE FOLLOWING PROPERTIES WITH RESERVE PRICES.**

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**STANN CREEK PROPERTIES-TO BE AUCTIONED AT HUMMINGBIRD FURNISHINGS COMPOUND BELMOPAN CITY ON TUESDAY JANUARY 18TH, 2022 AT 11:00AM.**



**Location:** Block 31 Parcel – 635 Registration Section, Valley Community/ Alta Vista, Stann Creek District.  
**Description:** Land containing 1.209 Acres, Vacant lot being the freehold property of Frans L. Faux.



**Location:** All that piece or parcel of land containing 729.20 S.M being 292 Nurse Ceferina Gomboa Street Dangriga Town.  
**Description:** A concrete bungalow structure with a gross floor area of 1,133 sft The same is occupied as a family home with 3 b rooms & 1 bathroom an complete with kitchen, dining, living and laundry room spaces. The structure is fully tiled, secured, plastered & painted being the freehold property of Joseph M Roaches.



**Location:** 242 Toucan Street, Mango Creek , Village, Stann Creek District.  
**Description:** Lot - 679.437 square meters with an elevated bungalow of mixed construction, containing 4 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, living, dining, kitchen and porch areas, being the property of Jeanne R. Longworth.



**Location:** Lot No. 80, containing 696.66 sq. m. situated in San Juan Village, Stann Creek District.  
**Description:** A concrete family home consisting of 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living, dining and kitchen room spaces, being the freehold property of Maria Maldonado.



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**Terms - Cash 10% Deposit, Balance in 14 days**  
**Financing Available, Call Ahead For Details**





# 2022 KREM RADIO'S 31<sup>st</sup> New Year's Day CYCLING CLASSIC WINNERS



## Corozal to Belize City Male

1st Prize	\$2,500.00 + Round trip ticket to USA + Trophy	Brandon Cattouse	501 Valvoline	4:19:44
2nd Prize	\$1,500.00 + Trophy	Derrick Chavarria	501 Valvoline	
3rd Prize	\$1,000.00 + Trophy	Jyven Gonzalez	G-Flow	
4th Prize	\$ 500.00	Sherwin Roca	FAL Cycling	
5th Prize	\$ 350.00	Eric Trapp	Westrac Alliance	
6th Prize	\$ 275.00	Angel Tzib	Westrac Alliance	
7th Prize	\$ 200.00	Giovanni Lovell	G-Flow	
8th Prize	\$ 175.00	Joshua Fuller	501 Valvoline	
9th Prize	\$ 150.00	Oscar Quiros Jr.	501 Valvoline	
10th Prize	\$ 100.00	Wasani Castro	Westrac Alliance	
11th Prize	\$ 75.00	Byron Pope	Westrac Alliance	
12th Prize	\$ 75.00	Gregory Lovell	Team Cycology	
13th Prize	\$ 50.00	Roque Matus	M&M Engineering	
14th Prize	\$ 50.00	Jafari Castro	Westrac Alliance	
15th Prize	\$ 50.00	Joslyn Chavarria Jr.	501 Valvoline	
16th Prize	\$ 25.00	Dwight Lopez	Team Cycology	
17th Prize	\$ 25.00	Sherwin Requeña	Unattached	
18th Prize	\$ 25.00	Shawn Codd	G-Flow	
19th Prize	\$ 25.00	Vallan Symns	Kulture	
20th Prize	\$ 25.00	Kevin Gentle	Team Cycology	

## Orange Walk to Belize City Junior Male

1st Prize	\$1,000.00 + Trophy	Goran Gabourel	C-Ray	3:02:18
2nd Prize	\$300.00 + Trophy	Renan Codd	G-Flow	
3rd Prize	\$200.00 + Trophy	Tyler Tejada	Chavarria/Western Spirits	

## Female

1st Prize	\$1,000.00 + Round trip ticket to USA + Trophy	Gabrielle Gabourel	C-Ray	3:04:58
2nd Prize	\$300.00 + Trophy	Kaya Cattouse	C-Ray	
3rd Prize	\$200.00 + Trophy	Paulita Chavarria	Chavarria/Western Spirits	

## Masters 35+

1st Prize	\$500.00 + Trophy	Brandon Cattouse	501 Valvoline
2nd Prize	\$200.00	Gregory Lovell	Team Cycology
3rd Prize	\$100.00	Roque Matus	M&M Engineering

## Masters 4 & 5

1st Prize	\$500.00 + Trophy	Roque Matus	M&M Engineering
2nd Prize	\$200.00	Vallan Symns	Kulture
3rd Prize	\$100.00	Ryan Willoughby	M&M Engineering



Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño & Jaime Briceño



Special thanks to the Belize Police Department, Traffic Department, Belize Olympic Association and National Anti-Doping Organization.

# 2022 KREM RADIO'S 31<sup>st</sup> New Year's Day CYCLING CLASSIC - STATION PRIZE WINNERS

## Elite Male

Location	Prize	Sponsor	Winner	Team
Corozal Town San Joaquin Village, Mile 79 3/4 San Roman Village, Mile 72 (Government House was located)	\$500.00 One night accommodation with lunch for two persons \$1,000.00	Unitex Spark Alcohol & Edam Cheese Cahal Pech Village Resort Freetown Drugstore	Brandon Cattouse Jyven Gonzalez Eric Trapp	501 Valvoline G-Flow Westrac
Sarteneja Junction Shell One Stop, O.W. Toll Bridge, O.W.	\$100.00 \$1,000.00 Horseback riding & access to swimming pool for six persons, value \$500.00	Paulino Lucio Guerrero & Sarteneja Village Council Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño & Jaime Briceño Banana Bank Lodge Resort	Angel Tzib Brandon Cattouse Angel Tzib	Westrac 501 Valvoline Westrac
Smart Tower, Mile 46 Mile 35 DIGI Tower, Mile 34 Crooked Tree Junction	\$1,000.00 \$200.00 \$1,000.00 \$200.00	SMART brothers Habet Ltd. DIGI Eustace Dawson Auto Sales	Jyven Gonzalez Eric Trapp Brandon Cattouse Sherwin Roca	G-Flow Westrac 501 Valvoline FAL
Biscayne Village	\$500.00 Papa Jeff smoked salt beef product, value \$50.00	Papa Jeff Meat Products Alpine Purified Water Papa Jeff Meat Products	Angel Tzib	Westrac
Mile 23 1/4	\$25.00, one pound seaweed, one overhaul treatment & two packs assorted natural herbal tea	Regies Herbal & Tea House	Eric Trapp	Westrac
Gardenia Village Mile 20 Hyde's Welding Service, Mile 19 1/4 Maskall Junction	\$100.00 \$100.00 \$100.00 \$100.00	Papa Jeff Meat Products Dario's Meat Pie Claude Hyde & Family Turneffe Atoll Sustainable Association (In honor of the Turneffe Atoll Marine Reserve)	Sherwin Roca Angel Tzib Jyven Gonzalez Sherwin Roca	FAL Westrac G-Flow FAL
Maxboro Junction Eagle JEM Estate, H.R.C.U. Community Burrell Boom Junction	\$500.00 \$100.00 \$100.00	Papa Jeff Meat Products Holy Redeemer Credit Union Elston Wade All Upholstery	Eric Trapp Brandon Cattouse Angel Tzib	Westrac 501 Valvoline Westrac
Mile 13 1/2 Los Lagos National Concrete Products Compound, Mile 11 Lords Bank Junction Airport Junction, Ladyville Mile 5 Haulover Bridge	\$150.00 Optical supply, value \$500.00 \$1,000.00 Day trip to St. George's Caye & Sand Bar for twelve persons, value \$1,000.00	Papa Jeff smoked salt beef product, value \$50.00 Sheep, value \$100.00 \$500.00 \$1,000.00	Eric Trapp Eric Trapp Brandon Cattouse Sherwin Roca Derrick Chavarria Derrick Chavarria Derrick Chavarria	Westrac Westrac 501 Valvoline FAL 501 Valvoline 501 Valvoline 501 Valvoline
Grace Kennedy Pedestrian Crossing BEL Corporate Headquarters Mile 2 1/2 Enrique Martinez & Sons Compound 1st Round-A-Bout	Food hamper Gift certificate to Ordonez Bike Shop & gift basket, value \$900.00 Gift certificate, value \$100.00 Gift certificate, value \$100.00 Four haircuts Two months weightlifting & toning	Grace Kennedy Belize Ltd. Belize Electricity Limited Gonher Batteries Belize Enrique Martinez & Sons Supercuts Barber Shop Neal & Gordon Gym	Derrick Chavarria Derrick Chavarria Derrick Chavarria Derrick Chavarria Derrick Chavarria	501 Valvoline 501 Valvoline 501 Valvoline 501 Valvoline 501 Valvoline
Entrance to City (Overpass)	\$100.00	Santos Diaz & Sons (In memory of Alpheus Williams)	Derrick Chavarria	501 Valvoline
Belcan Bridge	One case of assorted Marie Sharp products	Marie Sharp Fine Foods	Brandon Cattouse	501 Valvoline

## Elite Female

Location	Prize	Sponsor	Winner	Team
Toll Bridge, O.W. SMART Tower, Mile 46 Mile 40 Crooked Tree Junction Mile 20 Maskall Junction	One night accommodation for two persons, value \$600.00 \$250.00 One birthday t-shirt with glass Wash with style & eyebrows \$200.00 \$250.00	Dream Valley Resort SMART Mar's Collection Kim's Salon brothers Habet Ltd. Gina Edwards Contreras	Kaya Cattouse Kaya Cattouse Gabrielle Gabourel Kaya Cattouse Gabrielle Gabourel Kaya Cattouse	C-Ray C-Ray C-Ray C-Ray C-Ray C-Ray
Maxboro Junction Burrell Boom Cutoff Los Lagos	\$250.00 Gift Certificate, value \$50.00 \$100.00 & autograph book One night accommodation, access to swimming pool and kayaks \$500.00 \$250.00	Makee's Handcrafts Sea Moss Gel & Soap Marvyn Williams Black Orchid Resort Mayor Bernard Wagner & Family SMART	Kaya Cattouse Kaya Cattouse Kaya Cattouse	C-Ray C-Ray C-Ray
Lake Garden Estate Cutoff Usher Family Residence Haulover Bridge	Two dozen meat pies \$500.00 \$25.00, half gallon seaweed, one pint bitters, one overhaul treatment & two packs of assorted natural herbal teas	Dario's Meat Pie Holy Redeemer Credit Union Regies Herbal & Tea House	Kaya Cattouse Kaya Cattouse Kaya Cattouse	C-Ray C-Ray C-Ray
Grace Kennedy Pedestrian Crossing SMART Corporate Headquarters Mile 3 Entrance to City (Overpass)	Food hamper Gift card, value \$250.00 Gift certificate Two months weightlifting & toning Four haircuts	Grace Kennedy Belize Ltd. SMART Jadore Studio Boutique Neal & Gordon Gym Supercuts Barber Shop	Kaya Cattouse Kaya Cattouse Gabrielle Gabourel Kaya Cattouse	C-Ray C-Ray C-Ray C-Ray

## Junior Male

Location	Prize	Sponsor	Winner	Team
SMART Tower, Mile 46 Sandhill Junction Los Lagos Lake Garden Estate Cutoff Grace Kennedy Pedestrian Crossing SMART Corporate Headquarters 1st Round-A-Bout	\$250.00 \$250.00 \$250.00 Two dozen meat pies Food hamper Gift card, value \$250.00 Four haircuts Two months weightlifting & toning	SMART Heron Edwards Contreras SMART Dario's Meat Pie Grace Kennedy Belize Ltd. SMART Supercuts Barber Shop Neal & Gordon Gym	Renan Codd Renan Codd Renan Codd Renan Codd Renan Codd Renan Codd Goran Gabourel	G-Flow G-Flow G-Flow G-Flow G-Flow G-Flow C-Ray
Belcan Bridge	\$25.00, one pound seaweed, one overhaul treatment, two packs assorted natural herbal teas, and two pints tonic bitters	Regies Herbal & Tea House	Goran Gabourel	C-Ray
Entrance to City (Overpass)	\$100.00	brothers Habet Ltd.	Goran Gabourel	C-Ray



# Letters to the Editor

## Summary of "Surviving Military Revolution: The U.S. Civil War"

Dear Editor,

Please allow me to summarize the article with the above title, written by Mark Grimsley. His thesis is that the Civil War combined the mass politics and passions of the Wars of the French Revolution with the technology, productive capacity, and managerial style of the emerging Industrial Revolution. He explained his position with examples from the conduct of war by Union and Confederacy field armies. Grimsley strongly opposed any idea that the Civil War was a revolutionary conflict in terms of technology and tactics. The author also pointed out that the weapon distance for the rifle-muskets and breech-loading carbine was extended, thus increasing the range for their killing power. However, both weapons did not have that instantaneous impact on combat.

Grimsley provides numerous pieces of evidence to supplement his arguments. He argues that the North's prominent victory over the Confederacy was due to the rifled musket, breech-loading carbine, emergent industrial technologies, and destructive raids. Additionally, he points out that mass politics aided Grant with 165,000 troops. On the contrary, neither the Union nor Confederates were able to organize such a quantity until 1860. Grant's financial assistance was also mentioned when he relied on the Federal government's ability to pay for the ships and the cargo that were transported by water. Finance was a huge aspect of the war. The printing of additional notes occurred, which the Confederacy was unable to use because it was not legal tender. One of the reasons the Confederacy lost the war was because of insufficient funds and poor fiscal policies.

The author was persuasive and categorically stated that individuals or groups do not control military revolutions; they merely seek to survive them. He then clarifies this statement with several supporting arguments comparing the Union and the Confederates' ways of war. Despite many troops for the war, Grimsley purports that only mass political participation could create armies of such quantity. He also explains that the state and local governments were offering cash of one thousand dollars


for men who were willing to enlist. This idea was not promising, as it caused desertions, malingering, stealing, and productivity shortfalls. The author concludes with a statement that the Civil War was fundamentally like riding a whirlwind, whereby each side rode to the best of their abilities, suffering consequences while attempting to inflict them upon the enemy.

As a military officer, it is important to understand the significance of surviving military revolutions and to be cognizant of what transpired during the U.S Civil War. Some of the lessons from this chapter could be practical today. Lessons such as who has a mass number of troops, political support, unlimited finance, creative thinkers, exceptional leaders, the advancement of updated technology, and up-to- date weapon systems would be more likely to win a war against the adversary. What occurred in the U.S Civil War could be applicable for the modern-day. One must not ignore history and should be versed in the lessons learned which can shape views of conflict and assist in decision making. Especially history based on empirical evidence drawn from past wars.



About the Author  
Major Kenrick Lincoln Martinez, Sr., MSc.

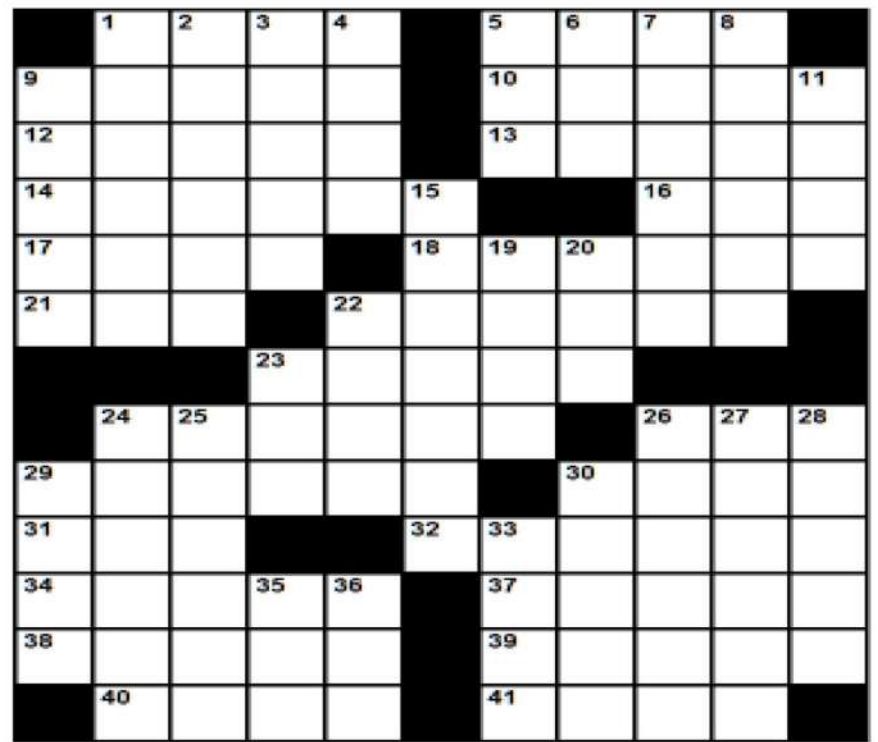
Major Kenrick Lincoln Martinez, Sr. is a Belize Defence Force (BDF) officer and is posted at BDF Headquarters. The views expressed are the author's alone and do not represent the official position of the BDF or the Ministry of Defence.



# CROSSWORD PUZZLE

NEW PUZZLE

## Daily Crossword Puzzle for January 6, 2022



**Across**

1. Hull bottom
5. G.I. ration
9. Land, to Ovid
10. Acrylic fiber
12. Fix venus
13. Sedan alternative
14. Pants feature
16. Cat's cry
17. Call for
18. Alters
21. Drop the ball
22. Aggravating trouble
23. Bumpy
24. Let up
26. Birler's footing
29. Set electrician
30. Dam's mate
31. Disconnected
32. Bostonian for one
34. Full of zeal
37. Carols
38. Offspring of a male tiger and a female lion
39. Edible red seaweed
40. Assents asea
41. Eyelid malady

**Down**

1. More acute
2. Art rubber
3. Fouled up
4. Asian monk
5. Assoc.
6. Anti anti
7. Kind of association
8. Motorbikes
9. Group of three
11. Crier's delivery
15. The craft of a bricklayer
19. Has no option
20. Anteceding
22. Aspen, for one
23. Claus aide
24. Feather palm of Africa
25. Representation of a person
26. Apt to happen
27. Threat ender
28. Birds that honk
29. Billy or nanny
30. Hog nose
33. Connecting words
35. Baby fish
36. Mil. rank

## Crossword answers for last edition

The answers below are for the puzzle appearing in the last edition of the Amandala. The answers for the above puzzle will appear in next issue of this newspaper.



Daily Interactive Crossword Puzzle - 12-28-2021 - Answers





by Wellington C. Ramos

## MOVE TO STRIKE OUT THE BPM'S REDISTRICTING CASE SHOWS GOB'S DISREGARD FOR BELIZE'S CONSTITUTION AND CITIZENS

general election.

In 2008 the general elections were held in Belize and the United Democratic Party (UDP) defeated the People's United Party in a landslide by a margin of 25 seats to 6 seats, making Dean Barrow the Prime Minister. Barrow and his United Democratic Party (UDP) were in office for three consecutive terms, from 2008 up until November of 2020 when his party was defeated by John Briceño and the People's United Party by a margin of 26 seats to 5 seats.

From the time Dean Barrow became the Prime Minister of Belize, no redistricting was carried out. When the People's United Party (PUP) was in the opposition, the indication was that they supported the Belize Peace Movement (BPM) in their legal efforts to get redistricting done. Now that they are the government of Belize, they are resisting all the efforts to conduct a redistricting exercise in accordance with our constitution of Belize.

They seem to be using the Election & Boundaries Commission to give the appearance that they will carry out the action and that there is no need for the Belize Peace Movement to go to court to resolve the matter. However, because both the PUP and the UDP have not complied with the constitutional mandate since 2003, the members of the Belize Peace Movement do not trust them and will continue their court action.

Knowing the Government of

Belize, they will engage them with all sorts of inducement gestures to withdraw their case. It is not only the responsibility of the Belize Peace Movement (BPM) to make sure that our Belize government complies with our constitution, but it is also the responsibility of all of our Belizean citizens to ensure that they do.

In fact, when a Representative is elected to the Belize House of Representatives or appointed to our Senate, he or she must swear to an oath to abide by the Constitution and the laws of Belize. Failure for him or her to comply with his or her oath, is justification for the citizens to request that they leave office for being in violation of our constitution and laws. History has proven that governments who violate constitutions and laws lead to totalitarian regimes — repressive and undemocratic governments who violate their citizens' rights.

I now call on the United Democratic Party, all the political parties in Belize, unions, stakeholders, religious institutions, our citizens living in Belize and abroad to join this movement to ensure that redistricting is done as is mandated by our constitution. From 2003 to 2022 is a total of 19 years of ongoing constitutional violation without any appeal or action coming from the citizens of Belize. We cannot expect our elected officials to take us seriously with this type of complacent behavior.

Today in Belize there is not even

one elected Garifuna person in the Belize House of Representatives. Also, the Stann Creek and Toledo Districts, where a majority of the Garifuna people have lived for centuries, even before they became a part of Belize in 1859, still only have two elected Representatives, each despite their significant growth in population. Plus, many immigrants have been brought into these districts, and granted citizenship and voting rights to make them the majority of people and future Representatives.

This is while some political districts in Belize City do not have enough voters to qualify their constituencies and all the other districts in Belize have had four or more seats since our country became independent in 1981. Yet, we boast of being a democratic nation and an upholder of basic fundamental human rights.

Another major infraction by the Belize government is its policy of denying natural-born Belizean Americans living in the United States who possess dual citizenship, their constitutional rights to vote in their country, to run for elected office and enjoy all their basic constitutional rights that are being granted to naturalized Guatemalans and other foreign citizens.

The time has now come to grant all the citizens of Belize justice by making sure that the populations of the political districts in Belize, reflect the same or similar amount of registered voters in all political constituencies nationwide.

The case that was brought by the Belize Peace Movement (BPM) against the Government of Belize, was brought because both the People's United Party (PUP) and the United Democratic Party (UDP) have been violating the Constitution of Belize, as it relates to Section 6 of the Representation of the Peoples Act Section 90(1) by failing to conduct a redistricting of the political constituencies after a specified period of years based on the changes in the constituencies' population.

The last time the Belize government conducted a redistricting exercise was in the year 2002. At that time the People's United Party was in government and the Prime Minister of Belize was Said Musa. He replaced George Price as the party leader in October of 1996 and won his first election by a landslide in the general elections of 1998 by a margin of 26 to 3 over the United Democratic Party (UDP) and their leader Manuel Esquivel. After that election, Manuel Esquivel resigned as leader of his party and he was replaced by Dean Barrow.

General elections were held in Belize in 2003, and the People's United Party (PUP) won 22 seats and the United Democratic Party won 7 seats. Musa then became the first Prime Minister of Belize to be elected for two consecutive terms after Belize became independent in 1981. In Musa's second term, which was to last from 2003-2008, there was a rebellion by seven members of his Cabinet known as the G-7.

This rebellion occurred on Thursday, August 12, 2007 in Belmopan when seven Cabinet Ministers called for a "restraining order" on the then Minister of Finance, Hon. Ralph Fonseca, for the way he was spending government funds. These Ministers were Deputy Prime Minister John Briceño, who is now the Prime Minister; Joe Coye; Mark Espot, who left the party; Eamon Courtenay, now Minister of Foreign Affairs (Senator); Cordel Hyde, now Minister of Lands; Godfrey Smith, and Servulo Baeza.

Prime Minister Said Musa refused to honor their request, and eventually they rejoined the Cabinet, but their wounds were not healed. Municipal elections were held in 2006, and the United Democratic Party won by a landslide in the entire country. In Belize, this election is an indicator of which party will win the upcoming

## CGA holds Annual General Meeting

CGA holds 45th AGM; Agriculture Minister Mai says the citrus industry will recover

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Jan. 5, 2022

The Citrus Growers Association (CGA) held its 45th Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, January 4, 2022, at its headquarters in Stann Creek Valley.

It is being reported that one of the primary items on the agenda at the meeting was the passing of a resolution for the buyout by the CGA

of the shares in Citrus Products of Belize Ltd. (CPBL) held by Banks Holdings Ltd., a Barbadian beverage company that has owned 46% of the shares in CPBL since 2006. The shares are reportedly being purchased at a discounted price — for "cents on the dollar", according to 7News, and the transaction is reportedly being financed by a company named Homeland Investments. 7News has reported that

Eugene Zabaneh is the principal of that company.

At this year's AGM, the guest speaker was Minister of Agriculture, Food Security, and Enterprise, Hon. Jose Abelardo Mai. Minister Mai stated during his address to the farmers that he wasn't going to "preach a picture of gloom and doom" but would rather "offer some hope and to help bring back some level of confidence in the ability of the citrus industry to rise again".

Hon. Mai acknowledged that the industry is at a low point, with low levels of production and falling revenue, but he expressed his conviction that it can bounce back and perform as it once did — peaking at almost 8 million boxes in 2005.

Minister Mai reminded the citrus growers that the robustness of the industry made it survive "the dreaded 2004 year, a year when orange concentrate prices were the lowest they had been since the 1960's". He further said that the CGA was the backbone of the citrus industry. Coupled with "a practical research



Photo by: Breaking Belize News

Citrus farmers at Annual General Meeting

# GoB reduces isolation time for Covid-19 cases

by *Khaila Gentle*

BELMOPAN, Wed. Jan. 5, 2022

In light of the recent detection of the presence of the Omicron variant of the Covid-19 virus in the country, the Ministry of Health & Wellness has updated its guidelines on isolation time for COVID-positive persons.

The ministry has stated that the isolation time for persons who test positive has been reduced from 14 days to 10 days. The isolation time for healthcare personnel and other essential workers, however, has been reduced to seven days. Isolation should begin on the day that a person tests positive.

These new guidelines apply only to asymptomatic persons, persons who have not exhibited/experienced any symptoms of the virus for three consecutive days, and persons who do not need to take special recovery medication such as anti-fever medication. The isolation time for those who still show moderate to severe

COVID-19 symptoms after their isolation period is to be extended based on the judgment of a qualified medical officer.

According to the ministry, these updated guidelines serve to “minimize essential time loss in those who are asymptomatic or experiencing a mild form of the disease.” The Health Ministry would also like to advise all employers and managers that “only a medical officer may determine isolation periods for individual positive cases.”

In the US, The Center for Disease Control (CDC), which has also updated its guidelines for isolation, has pointed out that the move to shorten the isolation time for persons infected with Covid-19 was made on the basis of scientific evidence showing that transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus is highest early in the course of infection (1-2 days before symptoms appear and 2-3 days after).

## CGA holds Annual General Meeting

*Continued from* ▶ Page 21

and extension program run by the Citrus Research and Education Institute (CREI), the constant modernization of Citrus Products of Belize Limited (CPBL)’s processing system and capacity” plus “the vertical diversification into other citrus products,” the citrus industry was transformed, he said.

Hon. Mai then told the growers that the current PUP administration had started planning the revival of the industry even before their victory in the 2020 general elections.

He cited the administration’s goals to “work with the Citrus Growers Association and Belize Citrus Mutual (BCM) in facilitating access to capital for the propagation of disease tolerant/resistant plants to distribute to the citrus growers, replanting citrus orchards with better genetic material, and diversifying with alternative and complementary cropping systems.”

Minister Mai also noted that while it has taken a bit longer than expected, his ministry is now working closely with the farmers and Citrus Products of Belize Limited (CPBL) in expanding “the processing of other local fruits into fruit concentrate for local use and exports: limes, pineapple, mango, soursop, passion fruit, etc.”

The Agriculture Minister said he appointed a high-level Citrus Working Group in April of 2021. The working group, he said, has relied on input from CGA and the technicians at CREI.

In August, Cabinet declared that “the citrus industry is critical to Belize’s economic development” and expressed “full support for the recommendations being made for interventions in the citrus industry”. Subsequently, the government allocated \$15 million in loan financing through the DFC over the next three years and gave the green light for the diversification of the citrus industry.

### NOTICE OF COMMENCED DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that **DOBROYD REAL ESTATE INC. (Belize IBC No. 35,415)**. commenced dissolution on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2021; and **MOORE BELIZE LLP** represented by **Reynaldo Magaña** whose registered office is at 3 ½ Miles Phillip SW Goldson Highway, New Horizon Building, Belize City, Belize is the Liquidator of the Company.

**MORGAN & MORGAN  
TRUST CORPORATION LIMITED**



## VACANCY

Exist for:

### MRI Trained RADIOGRAPHER

At Belize Medical Associates Hospital

Minimum Qualifications:

- ❖ Must be trained to operate MRI machine
- ❖ Diploma or certificate from a recognized school for Radiographers
- ❖ Ability to speak Spanish would be an asset.

Please send applications to:

General Manager  
Belize Medical Associates  
St. Thomas Street  
Belize City, Belize

Belize Medical Associates: *We Do Care*

# TENDER



## Transmission Vegetation Management

**BEL invites tenders for Transmission Vegetation Management in the following areas:**

**North Zone                      West Zone                      South Zone**

Included in this work is the clearing of right of way, pole heels, cribs, anchors, guy wires, access roads and cutting of danger trees as per line clearing standards.

Proposals should include a firm and fixed unit price for line clearing on the specified Transmission Lines (TML).

The bidding documents, which outline all the duties and responsibilities of the contract, are available on BEL’s website at [www.bel.com.bz/Tenders.aspx](http://www.bel.com.bz/Tenders.aspx)

All inquiries must be submitted via email to [bidboxrequest@bel.com.bz](mailto:bidboxrequest@bel.com.bz) no later than 3:00 p.m. on Monday, January 17, 2022.

An email submission must be received at [bidsubmittal@bel.com.bz](mailto:bidsubmittal@bel.com.bz) no later than 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 19, 2022.

Proposals will be accepted by email only and should include the subject **BID #2021-331 – Transmission Vegetation Management**.

**For more information or queries, send email to [bidboxrequest@bel.com.bz](mailto:bidboxrequest@bel.com.bz)**

Cost incurred for preparation of the tender document is the sole responsibility of the bidder. The lowest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.



**Request for Bids (RFB)  
Belize**

**Protective Works Package 3 – Caye Caulker Palapa Garden Beach Redevelopment  
Loan No. 4426/OC-BL  
RFB No. 1 of 2022**

- The Government of Belize has received a loan from the Inter-American Development Bank toward the cost of Climate Vulnerability Reduction Program and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the Contract for the **Caye Caulker Palapa Garden Beach Redevelopment**.
- The Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing, Government of Belize now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the **Caye Caulker Palapa Garden Beach Redevelopment**. The works include the following: Construction of a 32m long retaining groyne and installation of three sand dunes. The dunes are to be surrounded by picket fences with a flip-latched gate for service entry. Planting of local vegetation on the dune surface to aid its ability to withstand the erosive forces of both wind and waves. Planting of mangroves along the seaward crest of the Groyne to increase its ability to protect the shoreline as well as increase the biodiversity and protect other ecosystems. The construction period is **three** months.
- The RFB will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures specified in the Inter-American Development Bank’s Policies for the Procurement of Goods and Works financed by the Inter-American Development Bank GN-2349-15 approved by the Board of Executive Directors of the Bank on 2nd of July 2019 and effective 1st of January 2020 and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the bidding document.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Program Management Unit for the Climate Vulnerability Reduction Program – [cvrp.4426.3@gmail.com](mailto:cvrp.4426.3@gmail.com) AND [mow.project4426@gmail.com](mailto:mow.project4426@gmail.com) and inspect the bidding document at the address given below First Floor, Project Execution Unit Building, Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing, #1 Power Lane, Belmopan, Cayo District during working hours of Monday to Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm (Belize time).
- Qualifications requirements include: (a) Copies of original documents defining the constitution or incorporation, and principal place of business of the Bidder; certificate of Good Standing from the Belize Social Security Board, Belize Tax Services and Company’s Registry, written power of attorney of the signatory of the Bid to commit the Bidder, and historical contract non-performance.
  - (b) Total monetary value of construction works performed for **EACH** of the last five years shall be **BZ\$100,000 (cumulative BZ\$500,000)**.
  - (c) Experience in works of a similar nature and size for each of the last five years, and details of works underway or contractually committed; and clients who may be contacted for further information on those contracts.
  - (d) Listing of major construction equipment proposed to carry out the contract. Bidders must specify the conditions, numbers, type and availability, and ownership of the required equipment.
  - (e) Qualifications and experience of key site management and technical personnel proposed for the Contract.

Position	Minimum Qualifications and Experience
	- Registered Engineer with the Association of Professional Engineers in Belize
Survey Technician	Associate degree in Surveying and or/Land Information Technology or related field  - 5 years’ minimum experience in surveying of building and civil engineering works
Environmental Health and Safety Officer	Associate degree in Environmental Science or related field  - Three years’ experience in works of a similar nature related to Environmental, Health and Safety compliance
Foreman	- Diploma in Technical/Vocational Studies  - Ten years’ minimum experience in site supervision of building construction or any civil works which include but are not limited to dredging/excavation, piers, building construction, construction of seawalls, stone revetments and/or groynes

- (f) Independently audited financial statements for the last three years (2018 - 2020);
  - (g) Evidence of working capital for this Contract (access to line(s) of credit and availability of other financial resources): **BZ\$175,000** (of which BZ\$75,000 must be in cash from a financial institution)
  - (h) Authorization to seek references from the Bidder’s Bankers;
  - (i) Information regarding any litigation, current or during the last three years;
  - (j) Proposals for subcontracting components of the work amounting to more than ten percent of the contract price. A margin of preference for national contractors/JVCAs shall not be applied.
  - (k) And any other documents or information as stipulated in the Bidding Documents for Work Package 3.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be obtained by interested bidders on the submission of a written Application to the address below.
  - Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before **10:00 a.m.** (local Belize time) on **February 10, 2022**. Electronic bidding shall not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened physically in the presence of the bidders’ representatives who choose to attend in person or on-line at the address below at **10:30 a.m.** (local Belize time) on **February 10, 2022**.
  - All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security of twenty-five thousand Belize dollars (BZ \$25,000.00).
  - The address referred to above is:

Position	Minimum Qualifications and Experience
Project Manager/Site Engineer	BSc. Civil Engineering, Hydraulic Engineering or related field  - Five years’ minimum experience in providing technical and civil engineering services for programs which include but are not limited to dredging/excavation, pier construction, building construction, construction of seawalls, stone revetments and/or groynes.  - Five years’ minimum experience in Project Management of Construction Works.

**Attention:**  
Mr. Rolando Chan  
Program Coordinator  
Climate Vulnerability Reduction Program  
Program Management Unit  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Project Execution Unit Building  
Power Lane, Belmopan  
Cayo District, BELIZE  
Tel: 501-822-1942  
Email: [cvrp.4426.3@gmail.com](mailto:cvrp.4426.3@gmail.com) AND  
cc: [mow.project4426@gmail.com](mailto:mow.project4426@gmail.com)

# We are Hiring!



Salient Group LLP is seeking a highly qualified candidate to fill the position of Electrical Technician to support a growing company in Belize City.

The successful candidate should be able to work independently and solve problems as quickly and efficiently as possible. This position is required to make regular visits to customers, providing advice and technical guidance to meet their needs for pumping services.

The major responsibilities of the Electrical Technician include troubleshooting, diagnosing, performing preventative maintenance and installing electrical motors on-location as required. The incumbent will be required to use basic hand tools, testers, and an electrical multi-meter to maintain and repair electrical motors. In addition, the candidate will be expected to interpret technical drawings, electrical wire diagrams, and installation drawings to determine the scope of work and plan of action.

Potential candidates should have:

- At least 1 year progressively responsible work experience dealing with electrical motors and water pumps;
- An Associate/Technical Degree in Mechanical/Electrical Engineering;
- A valid wireman's license to operate in Belize;
- A valid Class "A" driver's license with the capacity to drive a manual transmission vehicle;
- Ability to interpret electrical wire diagrams/schematics, technical drawings/blueprints, plans, installation drawings of industrial electrical equipment, and manuals;
- Good working knowledge of the theoretical and practical aspects of electrical engineering;
- Good working knowledge of the Microsoft Office Suite (this will be tested);
- Excellent organizational, time management and communication skills;
- Ability to work in tight or closed-in spaces;
- Willingness and ability to drive long distances on short notice;
- A good working knowledge (speaking/reading/writing) of English & Spanish;

Kindly submit your application packages, complete with the names, and contact information of two (2) professional references, via our online job portal at <https://salient.bz/vacancies>.

Email [vacancies@salient.bz](mailto:vacancies@salient.bz) for more information.

Salary will be commensurate with your qualifications and experience. **This position comes with great benefits!**

NOTE: Only shortlisted and/or selected candidates will be contacted. Communication will be made within one week after the closing date of this vacancy.



**Deadline for applications is Friday, January 21, 2022**



# KREM Television Program Guide

**Shoa Wiself, Si Wiself, Bee Wiself!!!**

Questions or comments may be forwarded via email to **Phone: 202-5848** [kremtelevision@yahoo.com](mailto:kremtelevision@yahoo.com)

**Friday January 7, 2022 to Thursday January 13, 2022**

## FRIDAY

- 6:30 a.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (LIVE)**
- 9:00 a.m. **Morning Stew (LIVE)**
- 12:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**
- 1:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 2:00 p.m. Documentary: Vibrations Interview with Shahrazad Ali (1991)
- 3:30 p.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (repeat)**
- 6:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (LIVE)**
- 7:00 p.m. Jazz Session
- 7:30 p.m. **You and the Law (repeat)**
- 9:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**

## SATURDAY

- 9:00 a.m. Documentary: The Spanish Flu - How The World Recovered
- 9:49 a.m. Belizean Legend: Richard "Charo" Ramirez
- 10:22 a.m. Movie: The Good lie
- 12:11 p.m. Documentary: America's Great Divide
- 2:07 p.m. Belizean Legend: Johnny Lindo
- 2:38 p.m. Movie: A Time To Kill
- 6:08 p.m. Documentary: Stay Alive Science Meets Music in the Caribbean
- 6:47 p.m. Documentary: 2Pac - The Lost Interview
- 7:00 p.m. Music Videos

## SUNDAY

- 10:30 a.m. **Krem Sunday Review (LIVE)**
- 12:00 p.m. Movie: Simple Justice
- 2:12 p.m. Documentary: Reggae Britannia
- 15:21 p.m. Movie: Greater
- 5:30 p.m. **Krem Sunday Review (repeat)**
- 7:00 p.m. Music Videos

## MONDAY

- 6:30 a.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (LIVE)**
- 9:00 a.m. **Morning Stew (LIVE)**
- 12:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**
- 1:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 2:00 p.m. Movie: Gary Wills
- 3:30 p.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (repeat)**
- 6:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (LIVE)**
- 7:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 8:00 p.m. Ted Talks - The Price of Shame
- 9:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**

## TUESDAY

- 6:30 a.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (LIVE)**
- 9:00 a.m. **Morning Stew (LIVE)**
- 12:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**
- 1:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 2:00 p.m. Movie: Just An Old Sweet Song
- 3:30 p.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (repeat)**
- 6:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (LIVE)**
- 7:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 8:00 p.m. Documentary: Syrian Refugee and His Son
- 9:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**

## WEDNESDAY

- 6:30 a.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (LIVE)**
- 9:00 a.m. **Morning Stew (LIVE)**
- 12:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**
- 1:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 2:00 p.m. Documentary: The Social Dilemma
- 3:30 p.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (repeat)**
- 6:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (LIVE)**
- 7:00 p.m. Jazz Session
- 7:30 p.m. **You and the Law (LIVE)**
- 9:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**

## THURSDAY

- 6:30 a.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (LIVE)**
- 9:00 a.m. **Morning Stew (LIVE)**
- 12:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**
- 1:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 2:00 p.m. Movie: The Guardian
- 3:30 p.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (repeat)**
- 6:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (LIVE)**
- 7:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 8:00 p.m. Belizean Legend: Ras Indio
- 9:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**



## Vacancies at Julian Cho Technical High School



Julian Cho Technical High School invites suitably qualified persons to apply for the following posts:

- 1 Building and Furniture Technology/Electrical Teacher - Permanent**
- 1 Belizean Studies / Social Studies Teacher - Temporary**

### Qualifications for Teacher:

- (a) Bachelor's Degree in the subject area with pedagogical training preferred however, an associate degree in the subject area may be considered.
- (b) Teaching experience at the secondary level would be an asset.
- (c) Good communication skills and a willingness to uphold the mission of Julian Cho Technical High School.

### Application package must include:

- A letter of application and resume
- Certified copies of diplomas and certificates
- Original transcript sealed from all post-secondary institutions attended
- Certified copy Birth certificate or Passport
- Certified copy of Social Security Card
- Recent Medical certificate
- Recent Police Record
- **Valid** Teacher's License (Secondary level)
- Two **recent** letters of recommendation

**NOTE:** ALL copied documents must be certified by a Justice of the Peace or Notary Public. ALL documents in foreign languages must be accompanied by an official English translation.

### Salary:

Salary will be in accordance with the government pay scale 8 for Associates Degree and pay scale 16 for Bachelor's Degree

Application packages must be addressed to:

Dr. Kent Leo Arzu  
Secretary  
Board of Managers  
Julian Cho Technical High School  
P.O Box 171  
Toledo District  
Belize, Central America

**Deadline for applications is Monday January 24, 2022.**





infoSEGURA



## Request for Proposal – Individual Contract for Training in Virtualization of Crime Data and Information Services

### Background:

In Belize, the InfoSegura Project is being co-implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs & New Growth Industries, through the Belize Crime Observatory (BCO), in partnership with the UNDP. The BCO was established in October 2016 to “foster the development of public policies that address public safety and national security issues through the collection, analysis and dissemination of quality, timely and multidimensional data on crime and violence trends in the country.”

The Ministry of Home Affairs & New Growth Industries places very high priority on innovation and technology, particularly in the context of leveraging Information and Communications Technology (ICT) resources to achieve greater impact through its efforts to improve citizen security in Belize. The Government of Belize has been developing the Plan Belize - Medium Term Development Strategy (2021-2025), and the two priority thematic areas most relevant to this Consultancy are Citizen Security and Good Governance.

The training programme to be developed through this Consultancy will strengthen Belize’s technical capacity for virtualization of crime data and information services, contributing to the realization of Belize’s Crime Intelligence Architecture (CIA) by 2023, as set out in the Belize Crime Observatory’s Strategic Action Plan for the period 2020-2023. The activity will also strengthen the interagency sharing of crime data and information, through virtualization, providing more efficient service delivery across a wide arrange of network partners, thereby expediting the delivery of data and information to support faster interventions to improve public safety.

### Objectives, Duties and Responsibilities:

A Specialist in Computer Science and/or Information Technology, Data Science, Information Systems and/or other closely related field is needed to develop a long-term sustainable training program that would:

1. Support innovation and technology through the virtualization and digitalization of crime data and information services, for rapid evidence-based decision-making and public policies;
2. Identify workable solutions for the implementation of strategies for innovation, virtualization, user experience, and digital tools.

### The Consultant will:

- Attend a virtual inception meeting and submit a written plan for implementing this Consultancy.
- Perform specialized and generalized assessments for a well-rounded training program, to apply the ‘train the trainer’ approach to ensure long-term sustainability of the program while addressing existing gaps in skills and competencies.
- Design and implement an initial training series between March and August 2022 with modules that cover: (1) Virtualization, (2) Virtual school strategies (3) Virtual training from MOOC platforms and, (4) One-to-one capacity development.
- Integrate content that addresses the following thematic areas: (1) Data mining / Data discovery (2) Data-sharing (3) Evidence-based policies (4) Violence against women and girls (5) Measuring impact of policies and, (5) Measuring progress on SDG 16+.
- Deliver a final Consultancy Report.

### Expected Outputs and Deliverables

The following will be the expected outputs:

1. Brief inception report and final work plan with updated budget submitted and approved.
2. Report of Specialized Assessment to identify inter-agency trainees / trainers to participate in the program, as well as Generalized Training Needs Assessment for interagency partners.
3. Development of Focused Training Plan for March to August 2022 and development of Syllabus for Customized Training.
4. Preparation of Course Content (including translation of content into English, where needed, and preparation of modules).
5. Delivery of agreed Training Courses during March to August 2022 and final technical report. The sessions should span no more than twenty-five (25) days. However, they may be spread over the 6-month duration of the consultancy. The exact schedule will be informed by the assessments

### Qualification, Experience and Skills:

- A Master’s Degree in Computer Science and/or Information Technology, Data Science, Information Systems and/or other closely related field.
- Demonstrated knowledge and experience in conducting training needs assessments at individual and institutional levels.
- Demonstrated knowledge and experience in developing and delivering training programmes.
- A well-rounded knowledge of virtualization / digitalization, data innovation technologies and methodologies for knowledge transfer using a ‘train the trainer’ approach to develop a long-term sustainable programme, to strengthen capacity in virtualization of crime data and information services.
- At least 5 years’ experience working in these or a related field.

### Request for Proposal Package located:

Please download the RFP package at:

[https://procurement-notices.undp.org/view\\_notice.cfm?notice\\_id=87087](https://procurement-notices.undp.org/view_notice.cfm?notice_id=87087) or

<http://www.bz.undp.org/content/belize/en/home/operations/procurement.html/>

### Submission of Application Package:

Proposals are required to submit by email or in 1 sealed envelope clearly labeled *RFP: Training in Virtualization of Crime Data and Information Services*

United Nations Development Programme  
 Attn: Procurement Associate  
 3rd Floor, Lawrence Nicholas Building, Belmopan  
 Cayo District, Belize, C.A.  
 Tel: (501) 822-2688, 0467, 4228  
 Email: [procurement.bz@undp.org](mailto:procurement.bz@undp.org)

**Deadline for Application:** Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

*UNDP is committed to achieving workforce diversity in terms of gender, nationality and culture. Individuals from minority groups, indigenous groups and persons with disabilities are equally encouraged to apply. All submissions will be treated with the strictest of confidence.*

*UNDP does not tolerate sexual exploitation and abuse, any kind of harassment, including sexual harassment, and discrimination.*

**CLASSIFIED ADS**

## VACANCY

**VACANCY:** Spanish Lookout Clinic is looking for a full time female Pharmacist. Contact 615-0721.

**VACANCY:** Shop assistant needed at Variedades Esperanza in Caye Caulker; interested persons contact at 636-3097.

## LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE

### LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE:

Notice is hereby given that **Adette Tillet-Nolberto** is applying for a Publican Special License to be operated at Lerisi Garifunaduau Ltd., #4 Marine Parade, Belize, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

### LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE:

Notice is hereby given that **Catarina Ah** is applying for a Malt & Cider Liquor License to be operated at Catarina Grocery Shop, #93 Old Well Road Lords Bank, Belize District, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

### LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE:

Notice is hereby given that **Lillian Thimbriel** is applying for a Shop License to be operated at T Corner Snacks, Camalote Village, Cayo District, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

### LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE:

Notice is hereby given that **Wendell Humes** is applying for a Restaurant License to be operated at Mayan Sunrise Restaurant, Rock Stone Pond #1, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

### LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE:

Notice is hereby given that **Elvira Tillet and Denis Abarca** are applying for a Publican Special License to be operated at Denis Cool Spot, 1662 Market Square, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

### LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE:

Notice is hereby given that **John D’Silva** is applying for renewal of a Publican Special License to be operated at Bull Frog Inn, 23/25 Halfmoon Avenue, Belmopan, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

### LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE:

Notice is hereby given that **Benjamin Cruz** is applying for a Shop-Beer Liquor License to be operated at Tienda Elizabeth, Camalote, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

### LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE:

Notice is hereby given that **Eulalia Bolon** is applying for a Shop Liquor License to be operated at Anthony’s and Bolon’s Grocery Shop, Cotton Tree Village, Cayo District Belize C.A, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.



## Amandala 1975 football flashback – Christobal Mayen



BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Jan. 6, 2022

Ha! We think you will all like this one from the *Amandala* of Friday, January 13, 1975:

### Christobal's Miracle

M.C.C. Grounds, Sunday, January 5

The wonders of Christobal never cease. Second place Green Stripe knew that in order to defeat league leading Berger 404 this afternoon, they had to stop Berger captain, coach, and striker Christobal Mayen. Standing back Oliver Estell gripped 'Stobal like a leech except for two

split seconds in the second half. But in those two split seconds, Mayen scored two unbelievable goals to defeat the Stripe 3-1.

An overflow crowd turned out for this big game, the first of the New Year. Berger took the lead early in the first half through Jumping Jack Sutherland but Stripe equalized through Wayne Olivera on a nice pass from Stud Hendricks.

At the half it was 1-1. Stripe had been penetrating the Berger defence with surprising ease, but could not crack goalkeeper Carl Robateau who surely played a whale of a game for Berger today.

It was early in the second half that a ball came off Ramon Alvarez to Mike Hyde who headed back to Christobal who struck the ball before it could even drop, right corner pigeonhole and it was 2-1, before you could blink an eye.

Berger's third goal was a head from a leaping Christobal (perhaps the shortest man on the field) in crowd from a corner kick by Adderley. The ball had all kinds of sides on it and beat the Stripe keeper.

Stripe fought back gamely, but in vain, as once again little dynamite Christobal has come through under pressure for Berger.

In the first game this afternoon, steadily improving Islanders surprised the Army 2-1, on goals by Guillermo Cutkelvin and Charles Hyde.

(AMANDALA Sports Ed. Note: That "Adderley" mentioned above would be James Adderley who played left wing for Berger at the time. James is the elder brother of legendary Dangriga and later Berger 404 midfielder, Anthony "Garrincha" Adderley.)



infoSEGURA



### Request for Proposal – Individual Consultancy for Strategic Planning Expert

#### Background:

In Belize, the InfoSegura Project is being co-implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs & New Growth Industries, through the Belize Crime Observatory (BCO), in partnership with the UNDP. The BCO was established in October 2016 to "foster the development of public policies that address public safety and national security issues through the collection, analysis and dissemination of quality, timely and multidimensional data on crime and violence trends in the country."

The Belize Crime Observatory in the Ministry of Home Affairs & New Growth Industries, in partnership with UNDP Belize, has identified the need to map stakeholders along the continuum of justice in Belize and to create profiles for all relevant entities and/or agencies involved, detailing their roles and responsibilities. During this mapping exercise, the Ministry hopes to receive better clarity on where there are shared responsibilities and/or collaboration in place or opportunities for new collaborative efforts and partnerships. The output of this process will be a National Justice Sector Capacity Development Plan for Belize, which will serve to strengthen partners along the continuum of justice, based on the recommendations and findings of the InfoSegura Justice Survey 2020 for Central America and the Dominican Republic, as well as the 2020 UNDP assessment for the Caribbean – Caribbean Justice: a needs assessment of the judicial system in nine countries. Both these studies included Belize's justice / law enforcement agencies.

#### Objectives, Duties and Responsibilities:

A Strategic Planning Expert is needed to:

1. Map stakeholders along the continuum of justice in Belize and create profiles of all relevant entities and/or agencies involved, their roles, functions, and their responsibilities, as well as clarify where there are shared responsibilities and/or collaboration in place or opportunities for fostering and establishing new collaborative arrangements.
2. Develop a National Justice Sector Capacity Development Plan for Belize, to strengthen partners along the continuum of justice, based on recommendations and findings of the InfoSegura Justice Survey 2020 as well as the 2020 UNDP assessment for the Caribbean – Caribbean Justice: a needs assessment of the judicial system in nine countries.

The consultant is required to use the UNDP Guidance for drafting a national capacity development plan, available [here](https://tinyurl.com/UNDPcapacitydevplan): <https://tinyurl.com/UNDPcapacitydevplan>

The Consultant will:

- Attend a virtual inception meeting and submit a written plan for implementing the consultancy;
- Prepare a Capacity Assessment Report, based on the mapping of stakeholders and any engagement of stakeholders necessary to perform this exercise;
- Develop a National Justice Sector Capacity Development Plan for Belize; and
- File a final Consultancy Report.

#### Expected Outputs and Deliverables

The following will be the expected outputs:

1. Brief inception report and final work plan with updated budget submitted and approved,
2. Capacity Assessment Report
3. Capacity Development Plan; and
4. Final technical report.

#### Qualification, Experience and Skills:

- University-level (Master's Degree or higher) in planning, project management, development or social sciences with demonstrated experience in developing similar strategic action plans;
- At least three years professional experience in strategic planning and management, and/or monitoring & evaluation;
- Prior experience in work related to the Justice sector would be an asset;
- Knowledge of the participatory approaches in conducting assessments and facilitating strategic planning processes would also be an asset;
- Strong written and oral communications skills in English;
- Excellent research, analytical and communication skills, both oral and written;
- Rounded understanding of situational context as it relates to crime in Belize.

#### Request for Proposal Package located:

Please download the RFP package at:

[https://procurement-notices.undp.org/view\\_notice.cfm?notice\\_id=86979](https://procurement-notices.undp.org/view_notice.cfm?notice_id=86979) or

<http://www.bz.undp.org/content/belize/en/home/operations/procurement.html/>

#### Submission of Application Package:

Proposals are required to submit by email or in 1 sealed envelope clearly labeled RFP: *Strategic Planning Expert Consultancy*

#### United Nations Development Programme

Attn: Procurement Associate

3rd Floor, Lawrence Nicholas Building, Belmopan  
Cayo District, Belize, C.A.

Tel: (501) 822-2688, 0467, 4228

Email: [procurement.bz@undp.org](mailto:procurement.bz@undp.org)

**Deadline for Application:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

*UNDP is committed to achieving workforce diversity in terms of gender, nationality and culture. Individuals from minority groups, indigenous groups and persons with disabilities are equally encouraged to apply. All submissions will be treated with the strictest of confidence.*

*UNDP does not tolerate sexual exploitation and abuse, any kind of harassment, including sexual harassment, and discrimination.*



## Football community mourns tragic death of footballer/official Justin Milligan



BELIZE CITY, Wed. Jan. 5, 2022

A shocking double-murder on Monday evening on the old Maskall Road has resulted in an outpouring of affection and condolences for 21-year-old Justin Milligan, who was one of two men killed in the incident. The other, 36-year-old Raymond Dominguez, with whom Justin was reportedly playing video games inside the lower flat of a house, was apparently the main target of the over thirty shots reportedly fired by the assailant(s) who had entered through

an open doorway.

Our sincere condolences from the sports desk to the families of both young men; and a prayer for the soul(s) of the cold-blooded killer(s), who brazenly took away Jah gift of life, but continue to walk on Jah earth, breathe in Jah air, and bask in Jah sunshine. Peace and love is the best way, brethren, as we all fall short of the glory. Rest in peace, brothers Justin Milligan and Raymond Dominguez!

Though not a star player, Justin

was very active in the football community as a game official at amateur and youth games in the Belize District.

Below are some of the Facebook posts:

Ladyville Rising Stars

The Ladyville Rising Stars FC would like to extend our condolences to the Milligan family in the tragic loss of Justin Milligan. Justin would give of his time and referee our annual summer league tournament along with his brother Mark. Mark, you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. RIP, young brother.

Caesar Ridge FC

The Management of Caesar Ridge FC takes this time out to extend and express our deepest sympathies and condolences to the Milligan Family on the untimely and devastating passing of their beloved brother, referee and baller Justin Milligan who was tragically lost to gun violence. We hope and pray that our Creator sends his Angel of comfort to be with you all throughout this difficult time of bereavement.

We also take this time out to condemn gun violence and killings.

RIP & Rise in Glory, "Juss Buss".

Belize District Football Association

On behalf of the Belize District Football Association we would like to extend our deepest condolences to the Milligan family on the passing of our brother, our referee assistant, our teammate and our friend, Mr. Justin Milligan. We will definitely miss your jovial personality. We will keep your family in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

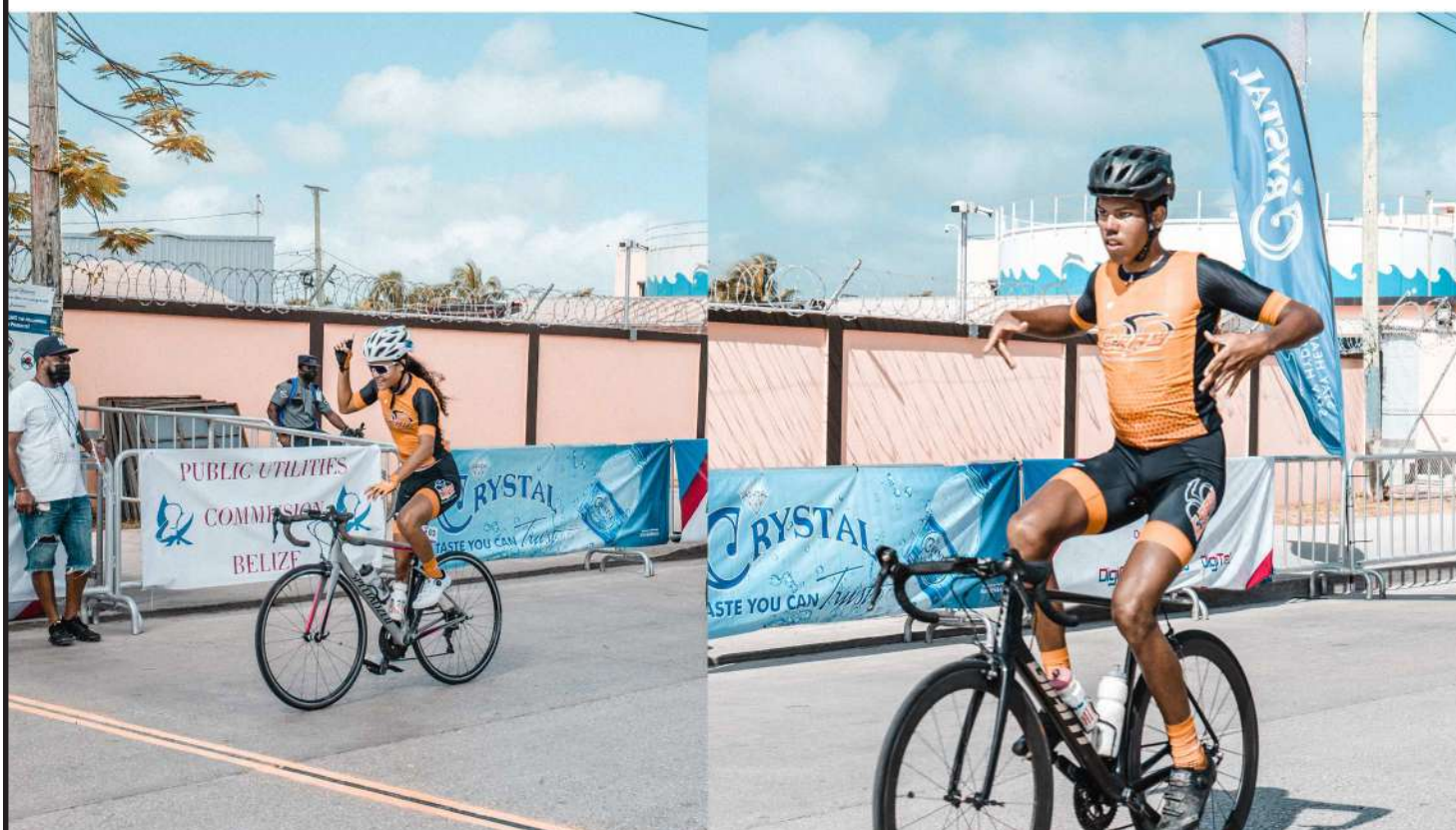
Football Federation of Belize

The Football Federation of Belize and the Referee Department take this opportunity to express our condolences to the Milligan family. Justin Milligan was a promising referee potential who unfortunately lost his life to gun violence yesterday. We also send condolences to the Dominguez family.

## Krem New Year's Classic winners crossing the finish line



*Elite Male Winner - 1st Brandon Cattouse and 2nd Derrick Chavarria*



*Female Winner - Gabrielle Gabourel*

*Junior Male Winner - Goran Gabourel*



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# Pedal by Pedal of Chief's Single Cien Boxing Day Classic - Dec 26, 2021

by Santino "The Chief" Castillo

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Dec. 29, 2021

Some 80 plus riders, the biggest cycling field in 2021, lined up for this event, most being Weekend Warriors and Gonz Riders. The race was called Single Cien because it was Cien Kilometers, or 62.5 miles. It boasted five (5) nice finishing prizes for both Category A & B, and three (3) for C, along with a beautiful 1st Place trophy for the winner in each respective category. It also had fourteen (14) \$50.00 station prizes on the road and three (3) \$100.00 station prizes entering the City, for a total of \$1,000.00 in station prizes.

The race commenced at 8:45 a.m. at Old Belize, and as the Commissaire blew the whistle, the first furious attack took place. Within 1 mile a small group formed; but the field was so large, it did not last long. At Mile 10 the sprint ensued for the first station prize, won by Dejon "Malantee" Longsworth; but as the riders free wheeled, Quinton "the Baddest" Hamilton attacked and made good his escape along with Dwight Lopez and

Santino's Isaiah Willacey. This break lasted for most of the race, as they swept up most of the station prizes before being caught by Hollister Baptist, Athlee Lozano and Hillermo Clark in the first lap thru the Boom Road.

As we entered the link road, the indomitable 55-year-old Palas Joseph made his move and took along Daniel Cano of Santino's for the ride. Dan gave him a hand but eventually succumbed to cramps, so Palas bridged the final mile to the front runners by himself with 15 miles of racing left.

As this front group of 7 were about to exit the Boom Road, the elements took care of Athlee Lozano and Hillermo Clark, leaving only 5 riders entering Lords Bank with 7 miles to go. Unfortunately, the only crash of the day occurred at this very moment when a careless service vehicle driver knocked down Quinton Hamilton after service was closed, breaking both his bike and his big toe, causing him to be hospitalized. Thankfully, it was not as serious as it looked, and I can report that Quinti is home recovering well.



**Weekend Warriors Category B, (l to r) – 4th Ryan Willoughby, 2nd Gilroy "Cable" Robinson, 1st Kenny "Kuchin" Gooding, 3rd Austin Castro, and 5th Rydell Reneau**

As they passed Sky Supermarket and the check point, Palas made his final move of the day, attacking the remaining 3 riders which were the youngster Hollister Baptist and veterans Dwight Lopez and Isaiah Willacey who were out in the break all day. Palas then rode off solo.

The peloton, now reduced to some 40 riders or about half of the field, then put the pedal to the metal and swallowed up all the escapees except Palas. As he entered Belize City proper, Palas collected the \$100.00 prize at Design Depot, the \$100.00 at Caribbean Tire, and the last \$100.00 at Benny's with the peloton hot on his tail. However, he was able to cross

the line at Mirab a mere 21 seconds before the chasers to secure his first place trophy and cash prize of \$400.00.

In the brutal sprint for the remaining positions, Kenny "Smokes" Gladden took 2nd, relegating speedster Roque Matus to 3rd. Meanwhile, big-up to Sherwin Roca who was the most aggressive rider of the day. However, since that prize was not given, he had to satisfy himself with 4th, while Claude Young took the final position for the "A" Category.

In the "B" Category, it was Kenny "Kuchin" Gooding taking the big W, Gilroy "Cable" Robinson 2nd, Austin Castro 3rd, Ryan Willoughby 4th, and Rydell Reneau 5th. The Chief missed the podium for the first time in 2021, coming in 7th today.

In the "C" Category, it was Mike Phillips taking the big W, Manuel Esquilliano 2nd, and Antonio Escarpeta 3rd.

Palas also took the First 50-59 prize, while the Chief salvaged the day by winning the First 60 Plus prize among the 5 senior citizens that competed today.

And thus ended Chief's Single Cien Boxing Day Classic, which will now be a yearly event. I thank the 80 riders who participated, as well as the traffic police and officials who kept us safe. Happy New Year, Belize...!!



**Weekend Warriors Category A, (l to r) – 4th Sherwin Roca, 2nd Gilroy "Smokes" Gladden, 1st Palas Joseph, 3rd Roque Matus, and 5th Claude Young**



**Weekend Warriors Category C, (l to r) – 2nd Manuel Esquilliano, 1st Mike Phillips, and 3rd Antonio Escarpeta**



**SADIE VERNON TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL**  
 (MINISTRY OF EDUCATION)  
 Cor. Morning Glory & Amandala Drive  
 P.O. Box 2044  
 Belize City, Belize  
 Phone: 222-5683  
 Email: [sadietech@yahoo.com](mailto:sadietech@yahoo.com)

**Vacancy for the following Post of:**

**Spanish Teacher (Full Time)**

Qualification: Applicants must possess a Bachelor Degree in Spanish Education and a valid Teaching License.

Applicants must submit a cover letter, a resumé, copies of degrees, certificates and transcripts, a Police Record, a copy of a valid teaching license, 2 reference letters, a copy of a valid Social Security Card and a medical certificate.

Salary will commensurate according to Government's Pay Scale.

Application along with relevant documents must be addressed to: Secretary, Board of Management, Sadie Vernon Technical High School, Cor. Morning Glory & Partridge Streets, Belize City no later than Friday, January 21, 2022.



**Chief Santino Castillo - 60 Plus Champ**

## **PUBLIC AUCTION SALE:** **AQUACULTURE HATCHERY**

BY ORDER of the Chargees, Messrs. Alpha Gamma Financial Services Limited, Licensed Auctioneer, Fernando Molina, will sell ONLINE via [beacon-auctions.com](http://beacon-auctions.com) the following properties: Block Nos. 212A, 214A, 217A and 221, situated north of the Dangriga Town Municipal Airstrip, approximately 0.17 miles north of San Jose Road, in the land formerly known as Carib Reserve, Stann Creek District, being the freehold property of Aquablue Farms Ltd., TOGETHER with all buildings and erections thereon in one lot by way of public auction.



Total Land Area: 127 acres

For full legal description of property please visit website.

Buildings & improvements: **a.** 12,750 sq ft. reinforced concrete structure w/ upper portion constructed with steel frame with aluminum sheeting walls. **b.** 12,750 sq ft. reinforced concrete structure w/ upper portion constructed with steel frame with aluminum sheeting walls. **c.** 2 storey, 1,600 sq ft. building containing office space on the Ground Floor and Second Floor containing an apartment with 1 living, dining, and kitchen area, 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom and a laundry.) suitable for aquaculture hatchery / commercial use.

### **TERMS: STRICTLY CASH**

**Bids are currently being accepted and sale will expire on 31 January, 2022 at time shown on the website**  
**For further particulars on the properties or to schedule a viewing, please contact:**

Email: [bids@beacon-auctions.com](mailto:bids@beacon-auctions.com)

Website: [beacon-auctions.com](http://beacon-auctions.com)

Tel: 610-0919

## **Min. Musa's Leadership Intervention Unit presents plans for 2022**

by *Charles Gladden*

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Jan. 6, 2022

A few weeks ago, one of the first actions of the Leadership Intervention Unit (LIU) established by the Ministry of Affairs to curb crime on the Southside was a retreat held at Camp D'Silva in Mountain Pine Ridge, where 50 at-risk youths from at least two communities participated in various activities. Minister of Home Affairs, Hon. Kareem Musa and his LIU team informed local reporters this week of other initiatives being planned in 2022 to steer at-risk youth away from crime and to enable them to live more productive lives.

He mentioned that the current work program that is in place will continue, but noted, "We want to see how we can now diversify the type of work these young men are doing to get them more in line with what their strengths are. If they have a particular passion to do construction or to do welding, to give them that type of training that they never had and definitely to get them on this very successful path."

Kevin Cadle, Acting Director of the Department of Youth Services, went on to list specific skills that the unit will be trying to help at-risk young men in these communities to acquire.

"Dr. Lorna McKay is charged with working directly with the young men within their neighborhoods to create

remedial opportunities in Math, English, Information Technology, as well as graphic designs. We will meet with the Taiwanese Embassy next week, our counterpart, to start mapping out the graphic designs and information technology component for the young men. In terms of their skills building, the Center for Employment Training that we're opening up at Mile 21, known as the Central Regional Youth Training Institute, will be participating in ensuring that electrical, plumbing, and all these different types of programs are given to the young men," he said.

According to the chairman of the Leadership Intervention Unit, William Dawson, the young men being targeted by the program have so far been very responsive to these efforts. "We have seen there is a willingness on the part of these young men to actually partake in mediation and intervention.... These young men have been reaching out to us, and I can tell you that it has come to a point where they are the ones who are calling mediation, and we are just facilitating," he said.

The next retreat will be held at the ending of January.



## **New COVID-19 testing sites opened**

by *Khaila Gentle*

BELMOPAN, Thurs. Jan. 6, 2022

Near the end of 2021, the Ministry of Health and Wellness announced the opening of several free COVID-19 testing sites, in addition to the already existing ones at the Civic Center parking lot in Belmopan and the Civic Center in Belize City. These included Central Park, Louisiana Government School, Banquitas, and People's Stadium in Orange Walk; the Civic Center, Chunox Health Center, and San Andres Community Center in Corozal; the Red Cross building in Punta Gorda, BTL Park in Dangriga, Falcon Field in San Ignacio, Sports Council in Santa Elena, and Marshalleck Cancha in Benque Viejo.

Of note, however, is a recent notice shared by the San Ignacio Community Hospital which informs the public that as of January 5, 2022, COVID-19 testing services in Santa Elena have

moved from the Santa Elena Sports Council to the Santa Elena Clinic. All other sites in Cayo remain unchanged.

The testing sites are open Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. and can be accessed by anyone except those planning to travel. Persons getting tested are reminded to bring along their social security card or hospital card.

The ministry also encourages the public to get tested and to continue practicing COVID-19 safety protocols.



# Education CEO says students and teachers can return to school safely

*“We’re going to have to adjust to another new normal,” states CEO Diane Maheia*

by *Khaila Gentle*

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Jan. 6, 2022

Students and teachers are set to begin returning to school for a mix of online and on-site learning come January 10, and according to the CEO of the Ministry of Education, Diane Maheia, they can do so safely. In an interview with the media, Maheia pointed out that although hybrid learning won’t be easy, it won’t be impossible either. She noted that the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health and Wellness have been—and will continue—working closely together to facilitate a safe return to school.

“We now have the structures in place across the country,” said Maheia, “with the Ministry of Education and with the Ministry of Health and Wellness, where because of vaccination, because of testing, and because of the things that we have learned, we should not in the future have to get to a place where we need to close every school in the country.”

The CEO then reiterated that the Ministry of Education believes a safe return to school is indeed possible. This confidence comes in part from the ministry’s close observation of the 96 schools that have already been open since October, which enabled them to discern that the impact of COVID-19 on those schools was not severe. The ministry found that between October and December, only 14% of teachers and 2% of students had contracted COVID-19. They also found that the COVID-19 cases did not originate within the school population.

In regards to how the ministry will ensure that schools are kept open safely, Maheia mentioned that there is a COVID-19 notification system set up within the schools. In the event that there is a possible COVID case in a school, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, and the school’s proprietor would all be notified, and the Ministry of Health would then give recommendations on what actions the school should take. She also stated that starting January, the MoECST website will have updates on the opening and closing of schools.

According to the CEO, getting schools ready for opening has been and continues to be a team effort. She commended the principals, teachers, parents, and communities for working together and for recognizing the importance of getting back to school.



## Request for Proposal – Individual Consultancy for Senior Data Analyst

### Background:

In Belize, the InfoSegura Project is being co-implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs & New Growth Industries, through the Belize Crime Observatory (BCO), in partnership with the UNDP. The BCO was established in October 2016 to “foster the development of public policies that address public safety and national security issues through the collection, analysis and dissemination of quality, timely and multidimensional data on crime and violence trends in the country.”

The Ministry of Home Affairs & New Growth Industries has identified the development of an interagency data and information platform as a critical priority for the work of the Belize Crime Observatory. Currently, a range of government ministries, statutory bodies and other agencies collect and report on citizen security related data. They include the Ministry of Health & Wellness (suicides, road traffic fatalities, homicides); the Ministry of Human Development, Families & Indigenous Peoples’ Affairs (gender-based violence); Ministry of Education, Culture, Science & Technology (e.g.: school-related incidents of violence); Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade & Immigration (migration-related data and information); and Ministry of Finance, Economic Development, and Investment (socio-economic data and information).

At the commencement of this interagency process in early 2019, there was no structured mechanism for entities to share critical crime-related data and information. Since then, the InfoSegura Project has supported the development of the Integrated Information Management Platform (IIMP), which has been made available initially to 5 pilot agencies:

1. The Belize Central Prison
2. The Belize Crime Observatory
3. The Belize Police Department
4. The National Forensic Science Service; and
5. The Epidemiology Unit in the Ministry of Health

The IIMP was deployed in June 2021, and further work needs to be done to strengthen the capacity of the above agencies, as well as other partner agencies, to leverage its capabilities. This interagency process also feeds into the medium-term establishment of Belize’s Crime Intelligence Architecture (CIA) by 2023.

### Objectives, Duties and Responsibilities:

A Senior Data Analyst with strong background in Information Management is needed to:

1. To provide an independent assessment of capacities of the Integrated Information Management Platform, to determine the extent to which it meets the core data-sharing needs of the beneficiary agencies, in line with the 2020 Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis of the Interagency Sharing of Crime Data and Information;
2. To recommend targeted measures that need to be taken to leverage the IIMP’s full potential for data sharing, analysis and report generation, with emphasis on multi-dimension and gender-sensitive information; and
3. To recommend policies and procedures that would support effective administration and management of the IIMP, considering any internal policies and procedures that pilot agencies (or other beneficiary agencies) may already have in place.

The Consultant is expected to:

- Attend a virtual inception meeting and submit a written plan for implementing the consultancy;
- Assess the capabilities of the IIMP, determine the extent to which it meets the core data-sharing needs of the beneficiary agencies;
- File a final Consultancy Report.

### Expected Outputs and Deliverables

The following will be the expected outputs:

1. Brief inception report and final work plan with updated budget submitted and approved;
2. Analysis Report produced on the use of the IIMP by Inter-Agency Partners with recommended measures that need to be taken to leverage its full potential for data sharing, analysis and the generation of information products (reports and dashboards), with emphasis on multi-dimension and gender-sensitive information.
3. Final technical report

### Qualification, Experience and Skills:

- A minimum of a Bachelor’s Degree in Computer Science, Data Science, Information Systems, Mathematics, Statistics, or other related field but a Master’s Degree is preferred
- A well-rounded knowledge of data innovation technologies and methodologies for the evaluation of information management systems and assessment of their effectiveness;
- At least 5 years’ experience working in these or a related field.
- Must be a driven professional who is result-oriented;
- Great interpersonal skills with a high level of discretion, tact and integrity;
- Skilled in engaging stakeholders and/or interagency partners.

### Request for Proposal Package located:

Please download the RFP package at:

[https://procurement-notice.undp.org/view\\_notice.cfm?notice\\_id=86980](https://procurement-notice.undp.org/view_notice.cfm?notice_id=86980) or

<http://www.bz.undp.org/content/belize/en/home/operations/procurement.html/>

### Submission of Application Package:

Proposals are required to submit by email or in 1 sealed envelope clearly labeled *RFP: Senior Data Analyst Consultancy*

United Nations Development Programme

Attn: Procurement Associate

3rd Floor, Lawrence Nicholas Building. Belmopan

Cayo District, Belize, C.A.

Tel: (501) 822-2688, 0467, 4228

Email: [procurement.bz@undp.org](mailto:procurement.bz@undp.org)

**Deadline for Application:** Friday, January 14, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

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# Year in Review 2021 – Part 1

Coincidentally, Christmas Eve 2020 AND 2021 saw the Belize Sugar Cane Farmers Association (BSCFA) fire off press releases, and, as expected, sugar industry differences persisted into and lasted through 2021. As a result, the 2021/2022 sugar crop was marred with a delay, an impasse, and even violence. The latter occurred when Vladimir Puc, the chairman of the Corozal Sugar Cane Producers Association (CSCPA) was beaten by cañeros who had been ejected from the association. Because those cañeros had not been able to join another sugarcane farmers association, the Sugar Cane Production Committee allowed them to deliver their sugarcane under the arrangements established by the mill for members of the CSCPA. The ruckus started when their names didn't appear on ASR/BSI's delivery list when they attempted to deliver cane to the mill's compound.



As to the start of the 2021/2022 sugar cane crop, for the first time the chairman of the Sugar Industry Control Board (SICB), the highest authority in the

sugar industry, refused to gazette the start date, as required. December 20, 2021 had originally been agreed by all parties as the date for the start of the season. The delay was attributed to an impasse between the BSCFA and the miller, BSI/ASR, over a new commercial agreement. Upon the BSCFA's request, Prime Minister John Briceño intervened. On Christmas Eve 2021, SICB chairman, Marcos Osorio, announced that the impasse was resolved and the crop would begin Monday, December 27, 2021. The parties were to sign an interim agreement in January with an expiration date of April 30, 2022. By then, the BSCFA and BSI should have signed a new commercial agreement. But then, there was that December 24<sup>th</sup> release by the BSCFA calling for an immediate signing of the interim agreement with an expiration date of August 1, 2022, given the crop's end in July.

On Monday, December 27, a holiday in lieu of Boxing Day, deliveries started, but on Tuesday, when it was the BSCFA's turn, the unaddressed request for an immediate signing of the interim agreement saw BSCFA block the mill with cane trucks. A breakthrough came Friday evening before 5:00 p.m. when, with the intervention of the Prime Minister, an interim agreement was signed with an expiration date of July

31, 2022. Deliveries were set to resume 24 hours later.



She passed away on January 1 in the U.S. and was laid to rest with full state honours at the entrance of Belize City.

Multiple lawmen were detained at the start, and toward the end of, 2021, showing just how susceptible they are to the ever dangerous narco trade. Friday, January 29, saw the landing of a drug plane in Lemonal Village in the Belize District. Nine people, including the driver of the Belize Defense Force Commander and two police officers, were detained and accused of involvement. They were caught trying to flee the area by boat. Inside that vessel were two bales of suspected cocaine. Another 23 were located near the location of the plane landing.



On the health front, Dr. Marvin Manzanero, who served as the country's Director of Health Services (DHS), entered the new year battling extended symptoms of a SARS-CoV-2 infection he contracted at the beginning of December 2020. He would not return to work until February 15, 2021. One week later, on February 22, it emerged that he had been accused of misconduct by Health CEO, Deysi Mendez. Her leaked letter contained the serious allegation that he contributed to the number of COVID-19 deaths because he had not accepted an offer from the Belize Agricultural Health Authority (BAHA) to assist with COVID testing in April 2020. (Then Prime Minister Dean Barrow could not recall such an offer being made to the bipartisan National COVID-19 Oversight Committee.)

What followed was a series of critical remarks about Dr. Manzanero by Prime Minister Briceño and the Minister of Health and Wellness, Hon. Michel Chebat.

When Manzanero refused to leave the DHS post, after Dr. Melisa Diaz-Musa was named acting director during his sick leave, he was relegated to the office of the pool of secretaries and was given no assignments to carry out. He was then told he needed to choose another position, and finally, the groundwork was laid for his ejection with the passing in the National Assembly of 12 amendment bills to

nullify any reference to the "Director of Health Services" wherever it appeared in the law. These were debated and passed at a House of Representatives sitting on October 26. The explanation was that the DHS position was being replaced by two new director posts and the Minister of Health and Wellness reported that one of the posts was offered to Dr. Manzanero but that he rejected the offer. The Public Service Union said no offer was ever put in writing. Finally, in mid-December 2021, Dr. Manzanero was given an internal letter about his expected departure, but since the termination had not been effected through the Public Service Commission, Dr. Manzanero didn't budge.

On the COVID-19 front, we started out the year with such things as an 8:00 p.m. curfew and an inter-district travel ban in Orange Walk and Corozal. The latter was lifted on February 1, 2021 and was not repeated elsewhere. It came into effect on December 20, 2020 when the number of active cases in the country was over 1,500. Another heavy-handed COVID-19 measure was a 2-week lockdown that was instituted on July 2, 2021 in the villages of Conejo, Midway and Barranco. That, too, was never repeated, as the government started to indicate that it was leaning more toward balancing the measures to enable more business activity in an effort to grow the economy.

Probably the question most asked of authorities during 2021 was "when will the curfew end?" We ended the year with an 11:00 p.m. weekday curfew and a midnight start to the curfew on weekends.

At the close of 2020, Belize had recorded 248 deaths. The total number of recorded deaths on December 31, 2021 was 602 — 354 of which occurred in 2021.

One major change at the *Amandala* editorial desk was the official transition from long-time editor Russell Velloso to the young Marco Lopez on January 4, 2021.

That same week, some changes were announced on a national level. Belize would see the introduction of two new holidays. On January 15, the first ever George Price Day would be observed, and on August 1, we would finally observe Emancipation Day. Pan American Day, observed on October 12, was removed from the list of 2021 holidays, but it was added back for 2022 as Indigenous Peoples' Resistance Day after a short snafu when it was being dubbed Dia de la Raza.

In our January 9<sup>th</sup> edition, we reported on the police raid at the Patchakan home of former Lands Commissioner, Wilber Vallejos, just days after he resigned from the post he held for almost 10 years. Reportedly found was BZ \$69,800, \$10,000 pesos and US \$1,170, though it was explained that the money was proceeds from the cane farming business of his mother, who lives at the house. Police also took



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# Year in Review 2021 – Part 1

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his computer. No other action was taken against Vallejos in 2021.

On January 7, 2021, the Commissioner of Police, Chester Williams, ordered an investigation into the hanging death of a mentally challenged detainee at the Queen Street Police Station. The 38-year-old, who had been detained for wounding, used his pants to hang himself. Williams said the diary at the station showed that officers did their hourly checks at the cell blocks as required.

In other news related to investigations, at a press conference on Wednesday, January 6, 2021, the Minister of Infrastructure Development, Hon. Julius Espot, made multiple allegations against former Minister of Works, Rene Montero, regarding use of public assets. The report was that several pieces of heavy equipment were found on land linked to Montero. As time progressed, charges were ordered against Montero, who denied all the allegations, calling them vindictive. However, the police could not locate Montero because he was abroad, and, to date, he remains at large, despite a wanted poster issued at the start of September 2021.

Another big announcement in January 2021 was the appointment of the first female Comptroller of Customs, Estelle Leslie. The appointment was challenged in court by Deputy Comptroller Ian Haylock, but the court ruled against him.



At the first working session of Parliament on January 8, area representatives arrived to a changed National Assembly that had been retrofitted with plastic cubicles for each member in order to prevent the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

At that meeting, Hon. Cordel Hyde, Minister of Natural Resources, revealed that they had uncovered land scams perpetrated through identity fraud. He pointed to instances where UDP operatives had obtained the Social Security numbers of unwitting persons, most of them of humble means, and applied for huge tracts of land in their name without their knowledge. Hyde shared, "Huge tracts of land have been gobbled up by a tiny few... Huge beautiful, valuable, tracts of land sold for paltry sums by the Government of Belize."

Such schemes reduced the available land but, based on the Plan Belize commitment to deliver land to first-time land owners, on January 14, 2021, the Hon. Hyde held the first of several mobile land clinics for deserving citizens to sign up for land and for others to get their longtime land issues resolved. That clinic took place in Dangriga. The Minister closed off the year with a full week on the ground, beginning December 13, in the constituencies of Corozal Bay and Corozal Southeast.

The Briceño administration, at the first House of Representatives meeting for the year, tabled a Good Governance Motion which was designed to set a standard for the ruling party, but it was criticized by the opposition as mere promises.

It has been reported that incidents of domestic violence have increased during the COVID-19 pandemic. One such violent incident that angered the population was the attack by Joel Baldarez, 34, on his common-law wife, 28, in Alta Vista Village. The incident occurred in December 2020 but did not come to light until mid-

January 2021. Baldarez was accused of using a hammer to hit his wife repeatedly in the head and face. She was left disfigured and required several stitches.

On January 26, the Prime Minister officially convened a Commission of Inquiry to investigate the sale of public assets prior to the November 2020 general elections. The first witnesses were former Prime Minister Dean Barrow and the Financial Secretary, Joseph Waight. Particular focus was placed on the sale of vehicles to Government ministers. The Commission is chaired by Senior Counsel Andrew Marshalleck and comprises PSU representative Luke Martinez and Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry representative, Marcello Blake.

The inquiry was famously interrupted on April 15, 2021 when Martinez read a prepared statement chastising the Briceño administration for engaging in the same kinds of irregularities the Commission had been set up to investigate. The Director of the Press Office, Mike Rudon, then had the plug pulled on the live Facebook stream.

The Commission has not yet concluded. It resumed sessions on



August 16, 2021. According to Marshalleck, the proceedings have revealed that officials are not following the rules of procurement or sale of public assets and at the conclusion of the inquiry, there should be recommendations that should lead to effective changes.

At the end of January 2021, there was a huge win in the courts for two of six police officers who faced disciplinary charges for wearing their hair in a dreadlocks style. It was deemed a violation of their human rights. Subsequently, in April, the two women were fined for a talk show appearance to discuss the case.

A violent home invasion started off the month of February in Belmopan. Three masked, armed Hispanic men forcibly entered the home of well-known Asian businesswoman, Nan Cheng, 32. They injured her father, threatened a young boy with a machete and, on leaving, one of the assailants scooped up a toddler and ran with him out of the house but changed his mind and brusquely dropped the baby onto the ground before scaling the fence.

February 1, 2021 saw the reopening of the Corozal Free Zone (CFZ) to Mexican visitors after stringent COVID-19 measures were put in place. Following a hiatus of 10 months, some 800 employees of the CFZ returned to work. Throughout the year, there were little reports of cases of Covid-19 surfacing in that area.

On February 3, it emerged that COVID-19 patients had to foot the bill for the purchase of PPE's at the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital. One patient's PPE bill amounted to a whopping \$1,800. The KHMH afterwards explained that the daily PPE cost per patient was \$200, as they had run out of donations. They did say the matter would be reviewed.

At a House of Representatives meeting on February 5, 2021, Infrastructure Development Minister, Hon. Julius Espot, famously said, "We need to kill BIL!" He affirmed that the GOB-owned private company, Belize Infrastructure Limited (BIL), dubbed a special purpose vehicle by former PM Dean Barrow, was "set up against the rules and regulations of how companies are supposed to be run." He later commented that "we spent over 100 million dollars without proper oversight" and committed to have contracts audited.

An increase in piracy at sea beginning in the second week of January and extending into February prompted the Belize Coast Guard to engage in more aggressive operations on the high seas to assist law-abiding fishermen in retaining their catch, and, in some cases, their boat engines. The incidents were occurring primarily in the south near Dangriga and Placencia. In one instance, 9 individuals were detained and handed over to Dangriga police. In March, six Belizeans were among 8 accused pirates arrested in Honduras.

From deprivation on the high seas, we turn to the deprivation of a portion

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# Year in Review 2021 – Part 1

Continued from Page 32

of the salary of public sector workers. In the second week of February, the government began “budget consultations” about a proposed 10% salary cut with the three unions that represent public sector workers. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the prospect of such a salary cut led to countrywide demonstrations by the unions, which included motorcades and even the momentary blockade of the Haulover Bridge on April 19. Though the BNTU engaged in its longest strike — spanning 5 weeks, the unions could not muster sufficient membership or public support to get the government to desist from enacting the salary cut. The motion for the salary cut was passed in June 2021 in Parliament and

was made retroactive to last for three years. In mid December 2021, the unions called for the Government to reinstate even a portion of their salaries, especially since it had boasted about an enhanced economic performance. Instead, all the public servants and teachers were given was a \$100 bonus in December.

On February 11, under pressure about nepotistic appointments in his administration, the Prime Minister made a statement that will haunt him, likely for life. He stated that Belize has “limited talent.” The backlash was swift and persists to date.

Returning to the health front, Belize received its first donation of 1,000 COVID-19 vaccines from the Government of Barbados on February 24.

The vaccination



campaign was rolled out on March 1. As of December 29, 2021, a total of 199,546 persons had been fully vaccinated, while 210,821 people had received a first dose.

March 1<sup>st</sup> also saw the murder of Gonzalo Rosado, 54. The former manager of the Western Border



Management Agency was killed on his return home in San Jose Succutz after picking up a woman in Benque Viejo. Witnesses report hearing three shots and then seeing a woman and two dark-complexioned men fleeing the scene. Three months later, a 17-year-old girl from Benque Viejo was charged for conspiracy and abetment to commit murder.

There was huge election news on March 3<sup>rd</sup> when voters in the 9 municipalities voted for a second time in the pandemic, while residents of the Corozal Bay Division voted again to elect a representative, as a result of the untimely passing of Hon. David “Dido” Vega in December 2020. The People’s United Party won another decisive victory, crushing the UDP by reducing the number of municipal seats they held to 2 out of 67 seats. They also retained the Corozal Bay seat with Hon. Elvia Vega.

Our headline story on March 17 was, “Belize on the brink, says IMF.” With Belize’s debt-to-GDP ratio at 127%, the Jewel was in sixth place for most indebted countries in the world behind Japan, Greece, Sudan, Venezuela and Lebanon. With the IMF pointing to a fine balancing act required to pull Belize off the brink, the prospect of devaluation entered the discourse. Fast forward to November 2021, and Belize had concluded some intense negotiations with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and holders of Belize’s 2034 U.S. dollar bond, the so called “Superbond” for a buyback of that debt. Negotiations started with The Nature Conservancy for the preservation of forests in the Maya Corridor under the Barrow Administration and an agreement was signed just before the November 2020 General Elections. However, the PUP had serious concerns about that agreement, even calling it a “nefarious” deal, in part, due to a 50-year tax break granted to TNC. One year later, the PUP vociferously celebrated the renegotiated agreement as a huge accomplishment that resulted in the replacement of the Superbond (that had grown to US \$553 million) with the Blue Bonds (US \$364 million) that provided Belize over BZ \$500 million in debt relief. Minister of State Chris Coye affirmed, “The Superbond noose no longer exists. That was canceled on Friday [November 5, 2021] when the Superbond holders were paid off at a 45% discount.” The Blue Bonds will be repaid over 19 years. The deal

gained Belize worldwide recognition for successfully employing an innovative way to restructure public debt (the debt-to-GDP ratio was dramatically reduced to around 115%) while at the same time ensuring the protection of our marine resources.

Money was at the center of another story in the same March 17, 2021 edition of the paper. The family of the gregarious Kenya Barona, 35, blamed BERT for contributing to her death due to a delayed response after being called while she was experiencing a hypertensive crisis on Supaul Street in Belize City on the night of Friday, March 12. Forty-five minutes later, they got help from police at a nearby checkpoint, but within minutes she passed away. The family says the first responder on the line requested that they confirm the payment of a \$20 fee. BERT later said in a release that service is not denied based on a person’s ability to pay.

A pair of Belize City men identified as Oliver Sutherland and his accomplice, Elvin Smith, 21, was charged on March 16 after a deeply disturbing social media livestream of a teenager being tortured. Both men were jointly charged with kidnapping and wounding. Sutherland was additionally charged with attempted murder and being the leader of a gang. The minor, 16, was further victimized by police, who mistreated him during questioning. The minor’s life was saved by a neighbor who called police and reported loud music overnight.

On the other hand, a father whose work companion was his son could not save him. Jevaughan Ramclam,



22, fell to his death while working on a 200-ft. SMART tower on the Benny’s compound in Belize City, something that should have been routine, as both were tower climbers.

In our Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup> edition, we featured a report of a police investigation into Tropical Vision’s 7News for an unverified report of a plane landing. The Police Commissioner said the report was false. He denied that the investigation was an attempt to censor the media. He insisted that media houses also have a responsibility, and as such, the investigation was to determine if the news station should be charged, just as a few individuals had been earlier in the year, under regulations put in place during the COVID-19 pandemic to prevent fear-mongering.

During a trip to Port Au Prince, Haiti, the Belize Jaguars National “A” Team experienced a frightening ordeal when they were held up on their way to their hotel by bandits in the country afflicted by political turmoil. Luckily, the heavily armed group never entered the team bus and they were allowed to go on their

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## 20 KHMH workers test positive for Covid-19

(From page 1)

At this time, the staff infection rate is one of the main concerns for the national referral hospital

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Jan. 5, 2022

With the global pandemic still ongoing and new variants being detected in the country, our country’s national referral hospital, the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital (KHMH), remains in a constant state of preparedness, says its CEO, Chandra Cansino. She told local media that the hospital has been undergoing structural adjustments and has carried out a deep cleaning of the COVID-19 unit and other areas, given the decrease of Covid-19 cases following the end of the second wave of infections, which had been driven by the Delta variant — a strain of the virus that caused a high number of severe cases (requiring medical care) that at certain points were at the brink of exceeding the KHMH’s maximum capacity. At this time, staff members at the hospital are being given much-needed time off, mandated by the government, but, approximately 40 of those personnel are out on sick leave, infected or suspected to have the COVID-19 virus.

CEO Cansino said that the rate of staff infection is currently the hospital’s greatest concern. “At this time we have probably around 40 staff members that are currently being tested, some of whom are positive, and so that is a great concern for us. We have been able...we are able so far up until the results that we’ve received, we have been able to manage with the staff that we have, but of course, we are now enforcing even stricter protocols in the staff areas of the hospital,” she said.



Chandra Cansino – CEO, KHMHA

She said that the cafeteria and other communal areas at the facility are the main locations where the spread of the virus has been taking place in the hospital. CEO Cansino said that the hospital is continuing to enforce strict protocols in those areas, including mask-wearing and social distancing.

She noted, however, “For now, most of the staff is contracting the variant, well, we assume it’s the variant, are contracting Covid, from outside of the hospital.”

The hospital, nonetheless, is preparing for the confirmation of the presence of the Omicron variant in Belize, Cansino said. Recently, the hospital received 5 new ventilators from the Ministry of Health and Wellness, but additional nurses are needed to manage the care of ventilated patients. At this time, 27 beds are in the COVID-19 unit of the hospital, but that number is augmented on a case-by-case basis.

In an interview with local media yesterday CEO Cansino clarified that 20 of those staff members has since been tested positive for COVID-19.

# PUC blasts BEL for possible rate hike

Continued from Page 1

released a statement yesterday, in which it chastised BEL — accusing them of “flouting the law” and intentionally ignoring requests made by the commission for information regarding the cost of power. BEL, however, has classified such statements as inaccurate and misleading.

The commission asserted that the company intentionally made decisions in regard to its purchase of power that were not in the best interests of consumers and that resulted in the cost of electricity being higher than it could have been, and it cited at least two instances of this — both occurring in the month of September. The PUC’s release stated, “From September 1, 2021 to September 24<sup>th</sup> 2021, there were excessive instances where BEL elected to purchase power from BECOL when the cost of power from CFE in Mexico was significantly lower. The PUC also identified contrary instances, in the last week of September 2021, where BEL elected to purchase power from CFE when the cost of purchasing power in the domestic market was significantly lower.”

The release went on to say, “The combined effect of the above, in the PUC’s estimation, was that the COP to consumers for the month of September 2021 would be \$2,000,000 more than it could have been had BEL dispatched using the lowest-cost mix of generation plants to meet the demand.”

In an interview today, however, Dawn Sampson-Nunez, BEL’s Head of Legal and Corporate Services, and Leon Westby, the company’s Business Innovation Manager, sought to explain the reasoning behind the company’s

purchasing decisions in September. They indicated that while the company would have saved around \$1.5 million if they had selected the cheaper source of power during that month, they would have incurred 2.3 million dollars in expenses due to spill charges that they would have had to pay to BELCOL. They reported that the reservoir at the independent power provider had increased at that time due to the significant rainfall during that period and was at risk of spilling.

This led BEL dispatchers to make the decision to utilize the power from the domestic plant to avoid the expense that would have resulted from the spill charge, says BEL. According to the company, these decisions are made on a day-to-day basis by the dispatchers, who take into consideration cost, reliability, levels of the water in the reservoirs, and how the power will be dispatched.

According to the PUC, at least two million dollars more was spent as a result of the decisions of BEL — costs that the commission said will likely result in higher monthly bills. The PUC has said that this could have been avoided. But today, the representatives from BEL asserted that the decision is not final, since they never requested an increase in the electricity rates.

During her remarks, Sampson-Nunez stated, “We want to make the point that BEL did not request an increase in rates to customers. What we provided to the PUC in our submission was information on the difference between what the cost of power actually was in the previous period, compared to the reference cost of power that the Public Utilities Commission approved. So, again, there was a difference in what it actually turned out to be, compared to what PUC had approved; there was a

difference. What we proposed in our submission to the PUC was, you see that difference, let us collect it at a future period when the economy has picked up a bit, because as it is right now there are a lot of hardships being experienced in the community; we recognized that, so it was not our proposal to increase the rates in this point in time. Given that this has happened against the background of BEL not requesting the increase, we will review the PUC decision and we will determine [what] our response is.”

The PUC, in its release, had also emphasized the need for BEL to provide a detailed outline of all its costs for review when making a submission for rate adjustments.

According to the PUC, the company paid an additional 3.82 million dollars up to the end of 2021 for the cost of power. The company projects an increase of 4.14 million dollars in the cost of power from January to June of this year.

The PUC, however, sought to receive details from the company of all the costs that have resulted in a possible request for a rate increase at a later date—information which was reportedly never received.

“The Commission states clearly that it takes exception to the way that BEL continues to flout the law and intentionally ignore reasonable requests for information such as supporting invoices for COP (cost of power) and for dispatch and production costings modeling, including details of assumptions and formulae,” the PUC release states.

BEL’s Leon Westby said, however, that the files in question were in fact sent to the PUC on December 17, 2021, the day it set as the deadline for such a submission. Those files, according to Westby, provided the

additional information needed by the regulator to make its decision and were in line with the requirement of the legislation.

In reference to the request made by the PUC to the Ministry of Public Utilities for additional time to carry out their deliberations, the BEL representatives said that at no point during their correspondence did the PUC indicate that any lack of submissions on the part of BEL was the reason behind the delay. When the regulator asked for the extra time, the company reportedly agreed without objection.

The PUC had additionally noted in its release that with bleak forecasts for rain on the horizon in the coming months, the water levels in the Chalillo Dam will fall even more, forcing the country to purchase more power from CFE Mexico and to rely on fossil fuels. This would result in the increased cost of power outlined by BEL.

## Year in Review 2021 – Part 1

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way moments later.

The founder of the world’s Best Little Zoo, Sharon Matola, passed away on Sunday, March 21, after being hospitalized in Belmopan.



For the most part, when we report on fatalities due to domestic violence, the victim is a woman. Well, on March 26, police responded to a report of the brutal stabbing of a man identified as Omar Kantun, who had been stabbed over 50 times in the village of Silk Grass. Subsequently arrested for the murder was his common-law wife, Lesbia Alvarez, 53. The relationship was plagued with violence, but no report was ever made to police.

Another case of intra-family violence that shocked the community on Easter Sunday was the killing of Venecia Staine, 24, by her brother’s common-law wife, Leanne Davis, in Gracie Rock Village. It was said there was always tension between Davis and her in laws.

To be continued

# Two Sandhill men riddled with bullets

Continued from Page 1

The victims were two Sandhill men who had been playing video games in the lower flat of a two-storey house — something that it was customary for the men in the neighborhood to do, according to the brother of one of the victims. Apparently, five of the men in the village had been participating in the video-gaming session, but three of them had left — leaving just two of the men, Raymond Dominguez, 36, and 21-year-old Justin Milligan, a well-known local football referee, immersed in the exercise. They were apparently so transfixed that they had left the door of the lower flat open, and it is through those doors that two gunmen entered and unleashed a blizzard of bullets. According to one media report, about thirty-three bullet shells would later be found on the ground, and were lying both inside and outside the house.

Currently, police are seeking the

general public’s assistance in solving this murder. Persons with information that could be of assistance to the investigation are asked to call the 922 Crime Stoppers line.

Justin Milligan’s older brother, Mark Milligan, who is also a well-known football referee, told local media that he did not hear the gunshots but was called by a friend’s wife shortly after the incident and informed that his younger brother was shot. While he was running towards the property, someone informed him that his brother had passed away.

Justin Milligan was a graduate of the University of Belize and an avid footballer. He also served as a football referee — an activity that, according to his brother, he had taken a brief break from but was about to resume. It has been reported that he officiated many BDFFA, CSSSA and FFB youth competitions.

“He went through university. He graduated from the UB with his

Associate [degree]. He attempted to join the police, but he didn’t make it all the way to the end. He loved football; always spoke about playing football. Refereeing, myself and him, in my eyes, he was my best assistant referee,” Mark Milligan told local reporters.

“I’m sure it touched a lot of people because he’s very known. He’s a very jovial young man,” he further said.

According to 7News, “the Belize Football Referees Association, the Belize District Football Association, and the Central Secondary Schools Sports Association all join the FFB and the wider football fraternity in mourning his death.”

Milligan’s family does not know the reason for the vicious attack but, according to reports, the intended target may have been 36-year-old Dominguez.

Milligan and Dominguez have become the first two murder victims for 2022 — just three days into the New Year.

## Sugar season off to a *rocky* start

Continued from Page 1

commercial agreement and the signing of an interim contract. After an intervention from Cabinet ministers who represent constituencies in the northern districts, including the Prime Minister, Hon. John Briceño, the interim agreement was signed before the end of 2021, a hopeful sign for the New Year. However, delivery of sugarcane to the mill had to once again be halted in order for the mill to carry out repairs on a malfunctioning industry boiler over the weekend, and while the farmers suspect that this further delay was an act of spite on the mill's part, workers from ASR/BSI have their own suspicions about possible attempts at sabotage by BFSCA members after a huge rock was found in a batch on cane on the dumping table headed for grinding. That rock could have caused considerable damage to the mill's equipment.

Due to the size of the rock, those at the mill find it hard to believe that the presence of the rock amidst the cane was accidental, and while an investigation into the matter is ongoing, the chairman of the Sugar Industry Control Board, Marcos Osorio, says it's too early to say if the presence of the rock was an accident or a deliberate act of sabotage. The focus at this current time, however, is on starting the milling of the cane that has been sitting in trucks for days now, losing its quality as each day passes.

An estimated 360 tonnes of sugarcane (about 16-18 tonnes in each truck) were packed in those approximately 20 trucks that formed a blockade outside the delivery gate

at the compound of ASR/BSI's Tower Hill factory for around three days. Industry experts say that the quality of that load of sugarcane will be significantly reduced, likely leading to lower earnings on that haul for both the farmers and the mill. Osorio hopes that all the sugarcane from those trucks can be milled within the coming days.

So, while the sugar crop is off to a not so smooth start, the milling has begun. The trucks were removed from the entrance of the mill since last week and today were allowed to enter those same gates to deliver the first batch of their sugar cane. According to Andrew Westby, chairman of the BSCFA, milling began around 10 o'clock today. He expressed thanks to the Prime Minister, Hon. John Briceño, and his team for their efforts to broker the agreement with the mill and ensure sugarcane delivery until the end of the crop.

Due to the legal challenges that may arise from the actions of the BSCFA, the Prime Minister has also delivered an indemnity agreement to the association that transfers legal responsibility to the government for any claims taken to court by those who incurred losses due to those actions.

After high levels of tension in the northern districts for the past weeks, the sugar crop, a bumper harvest, has begun to be processed by the mill. Still pending, however, is the signing of a new commercial agreement between ASR/BSI and the BSCFA, since this interim agreement that has made it possible for the sugar industry to remain intact, expires at the end of July of this year. By then, the parties hope to have reached a new agreement.



Rock found in sugarcane load going for grinding

## Waterloo appeals DOE's rejection of cruise terminal proposal

Continued from Page 1

bribes from them in return for their assistance in the process. The Minister of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management, Hon. Orlando Habet, and the CEO in the ministry, Dr. Kenrick Williams, who is currently acting as the NEAC chairman, responded by asking the company to be specific — to indicate which members of the 16-member committee had requested bribes and to indicate when and how such requests were made, but no such information has been forthcoming from Waterloo.

Nonetheless, the release from the company states, "Waterloo remains convinced that the reasons provided by the DOE for denying environmental clearance of its proposed project at Port Loyola are flawed, legally unsound, and unable to withstand judicial scrutiny."

In its last correspondence, the company had indicated that it would initiate legal proceedings by way of judicial review to challenge the decision handed down by the DOE. This appeal is likely to exhaust any possible remedy the company may have before it proceeds to engage in a legal battle. According to the company, the appeal sets out grounds challenging the decision handed down by the DOE. None of those grounds were mentioned within the release from Waterloo.

The company did state, however, that it looks forward to presenting its cases "at an early and fair hearing" to be scheduled by the Minister. The appeal is currently on the desk of the Minister of Sustainable Development, Climate Change, and Disaster Risk Management, Hon. Orlando Habet.

In the company's release, Steward Howard, CEO of Waterloo, states, "Our commitment to this project is manifest from the BZ\$10 million already invested in preparatory studies and unprecedented, scientific analysis. To have denied environmental clearance to this project on the basis of spurious allegations of incomplete information *rather than requiring any perceived deficiencies to be addressed* is unreasonable and against elementary principles of fairness."

While all the grounds for the NEAC's rejection of Waterloo's proposals were never released to the public, the DOE did mention that the information submitted by the company was incomplete. During public consultations preceding the NEAC's decision, however, several environmental groups had raised alarm about the impact that the dumping of millions of metric tons of dredged material from the project would have on Belize's marine environment. After submitting an addendum to its proposal, in which

the company suggested a near and onshore solution, the country's national water and sewerage company, BWS, wrote a letter to the Department of Environment to express concerns.

A previous issue of the *Amandala* had reported that "Belize Water Services Ltd., in response to the proposed dredging and disposal methods that were presented in the company's updated EIA addendum (in which the initial plan to dump millions of cubic meters of dredged waste material between English Caye and the Turneffe Atoll was scrapped and the company proposed instead to dump those waste products on nearshore and onshore designated areas), stepped forward to express its concerns and to make GoB and the public aware that if the project were to be given the green light, the dredged waste material would be dumped between its sewer ponds and on top of an important mangrove wetland used for wastewater treatment."

These sewers receive approximately 1.6 million gallons of wastewater for treatment each day, which is discharged through canals into the Caribbean Sea.

"BWS is greatly concerned by the developer's proposal to dredge and to place 7.5 million cubic meters of dredged material between the location of BWS's sewer ponds and the Caribbean Sea," the letter had stated.

## Minor killed by "friend" in Griga

Continued from Page 1

where he was pronounced dead.

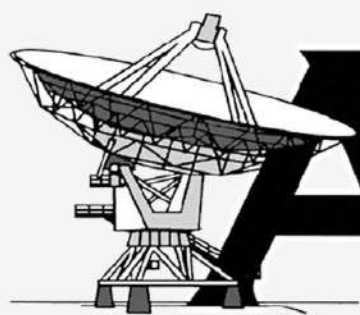
Flores, a Belizean student of Dangriga Town, was an avid basketball player who was set to play in the Ahmadiyya Basketball League Belize U15 tournament at the end of this month. Friends say that his skills on the court were impressive to all who saw him play and that he was an extremely versatile player.

Flores, or "Mundo" as he was called by friends, is the third person to be murdered this week, and also the third murder victim for the new year, 2022. Police have not yet determined the motive for the shooting of the teen, and at this time there has been no indication whether the persons he was with last night were detained.

As mentioned, he was killed by one of the three persons with whom he had been walking after reportedly playing basketball a little after 7:30 last night.

Our email address for business & advertising is  
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