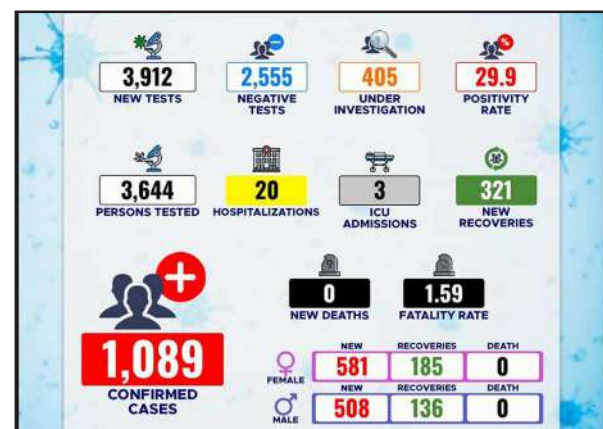


Belize's leading newspaper

Full lockdown at Kolbe!

Over 1,000 COVID-19 cases reported in one day

Record-breaking stats show Belize is experiencing an unprecedented surge of COVID-19 cases



by *Khaila Gentle*

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Jan. 12, 2022

The daily COVID-19 report issued by the Ministry of Health and Wellness for Tuesday, January 11, indicated that a record number of new infections—a whopping 1,089

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Hon. Peyrefitte: "Again, who got the money, PM?"

UDP Senator Hon. Michael Peyrefitte says the 15-million-dollar supplementary allocation was requested after funds were borrowed to cover closing costs for bond negotiations



Hon. Michael Peyrefitte

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Jan. 12, 2022

On Tuesday, AMANDALA reported that a letter had been sent by the chairman of the

[Please turn to](#)

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Twin-Town's Councilors clash with Mayor

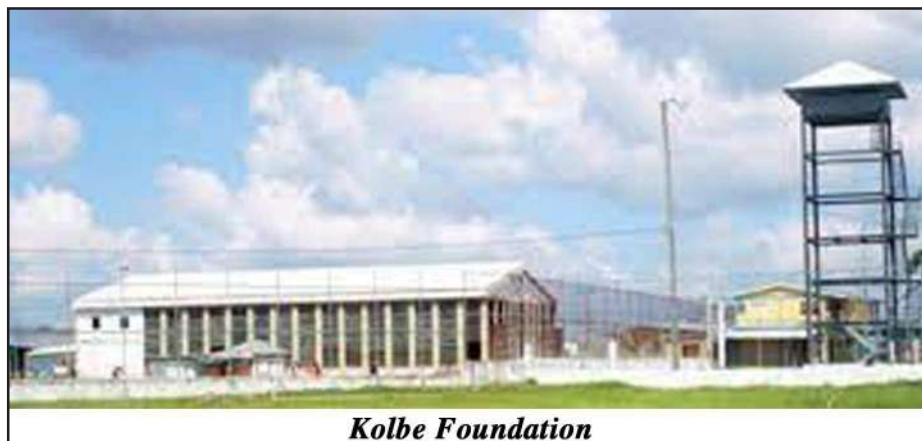
(See story on page 3)

The Belize Central Prison has been placed under full lockdown for 2 weeks following a COVID-19 outbreak at the facility that is believed to have been brought on by the Omicron variant

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Jan. 13, 2022

This evening, the Kolbe Foundation issued a release informing the public that the Belize Central Prison will be placed under a two-week lockdown following the detection of multiple cases of Covid-19 among staff and inmates of the facility. The

[Please turn to Page 34](#)



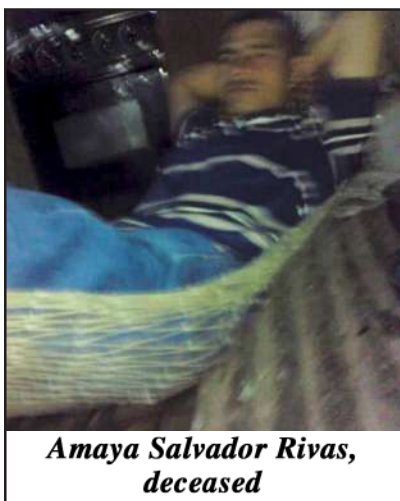
Kolbe Foundation

Abusive dad killed by son

An estranged father was hacked to death by his son in San Roman

SAN ROMAN, Stann Creek District, Wed. Jan. 12, 2022

On Tuesday night, what appears to be years of abuse inflicted on a 46-year-old woman and her 5 children led to the most tragic of outcomes: the death of a father at the hands of his eldest son, who



Amaya Salvador Rivas, deceased

[Please turn to Page 35](#)

Challenges arise after reopening of schools

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Jan. 13, 2022

When interviewed yesterday, the CEO in the Education Ministry, Dian Maheia, stated that in the first three days since the reopening of schools, those institutions have been working closely with the Ministry of Health and Wellness to assess and respond to COVID-19 outbreaks in schools which are reporting cases. At this time, according to a press release from the Education Ministry, 343

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Commission of Inquiry recommends criminal investigation

The report recommends a criminal investigation into Zhourong Li's and Hon. Hugo Patt's dealings, and a redetermination of Hon. Patt's and Hon. Michael Peyrefitte's eligibility to sit in the National Assembly



Hon. Hugo Patt and Zhourong Li

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Jan. 13, 2022

The Commission of Inquiry established by Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño on January 19, 2021 to investigate the apparent fire sale of government assets in the months prior to the 2020 general elections, delivered its report to Cabinet yesterday. The Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Sale of Government Assets presents the conclusions that the commission has reached after

[Please turn to Page 33](#)

1% property tax increase long overdue - Mayor Wagner

(See story on page 33)

Lucky Strike villager dies in freak felling accident

by *Khaila Gentle*

LUCKY STRIKE, Belize District, Tues. Jan. 11, 2022

Tragedy struck in Lucky Strike Village on Tuesday morning at around 10:30 a.m. when a tree that had been cut fell on one of the men involved in the felling operation — crushing him to death. The man, 48-year-old Victor Hugo Corado Lima, known as “Hugo” by the other villagers, had been cutting trees along with another villager, Marcello Santiago, 27, to secure a supply of wood for constructing a verandah when the accident occurred. It is being reported by some sources that Lima had started cutting one tree,

but halfway through that process had begun to cut another tree, which fell so forcefully that it caused Lima to be thrown onto the ground a few yards away. While he was lying there, the tree that he had partially cut fell onto him.

According to police reports, Santiago, after hearing a loud crash, rushed to Lima’s aid. Santiago then began cutting apart and removing the tree before rushing to get help. But by the time he returned, Lima had already stopped breathing. Lima was then taken to the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Victor Lima was a husband and a father of three children.

COMPOL comments on 2 police brutality cases in 2 weeks

by *Khaila Gentle*

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Jan. 12, 2022

In a mere two weeks, acts of police brutality have been captured twice on camera, and Commissioner of Police Chester Williams says it seems that some police officers have not been grasping the message that he has been conveying repeatedly: that such conduct is unacceptable. The words “police brutality” have shown up countless times in the media—and that accounts only for instances that are reported or caught on camera. The year 2022 has started no differently.

On Wednesday, January 12, video footage surfaced of a police officer, accompanied by two others, approaching two male civilians and subsequently assaulting one of them. The victim in the footage had exhibited no kind of aggression toward the officer before being attacked.

And previously, on January 5, Norman Mackenzie took his story of police brutality to the media, explaining that he was unjustly beaten by officers who stormed into his home in the middle of the night. Mackenzie, who was with his daughter and his common-law wife at the time, said the officers told him that they had been given a “special order to beat him.”



COMPOL Chester Williams

While Mackenzie filed a report of the incident, Commissioner Chester Williams says the victims of the most recent act of police brutality, which was captured on video, refuse to cooperate with investigators. In a recent interview with 7News, the Commissioner stated, “It’s outrageous,” and he noted that police officers are being dismissed almost every day for misconduct.

“I will have to ask the Prime Minister for another recruit squad, because, from the recruit squad that went in and came out in November, we have lost so many police officers to dismissals,” Commissioner Williams further said.

Williams referred to the officers’ behavior as criminal and stated that those in question would be dealt with.

Honduran woman missing in Belizean waters

The life jacket of a missing woman was found, but she remains missing



Angie Peña

by *Charles Gladden*

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Jan. 12, 2022

A Honduran national, 21-year-old Angie Peña, who was last seen jet skiing off the coast of Roatan, has been missing for over 10 days, and the Belize Coast Guard is currently engaged in a search in the country’s waters in an effort to locate her.

According to numerous reports, Peña was on a jet ski in the West Bay area of Roatan, Honduras, on New Year’s Day when she disappeared. Her family told a Belizean media

outlet that they believe she drifted into Belizean waters and that they remain hopeful that she will be found.

As a result, the Honduran authorities sought the assistance of the Belize Coast Guard. So far, the Coast Guard, with the help of Fisheries officers at Glovers Reef, has recovered several items that are believed to be the property of the victim. The items include a “kill switch” for the jet ski that Peña had been riding and a life jacket that is suspected to be hers. These were handed over to the Honduran authorities.

The Belize Coast Guard, in conjunction with the Honduran authorities, continues to search for Peña.



Officers from Belize Coast Guard and Fisheries Department with Honduran authorities

Man loses leg in road collision

A Red Bank resident’s leg was severed when his motorcycle crashed into a signpost in San Juan village

by *Charles Gladden*

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Jan. 12, 2022

A resident of Red Bank Village, Stann Creek District, lost his leg when the motorcycle he was riding crashed into a post in San Juan village in Stann Creek. According to reports, 22-year-old Belizean laborer Ortencio Sho was riding a motorcycle from San Juan to Red Bank when he lost control of the motorbike.

The collision resulted in his right leg below his knee being instantly sheared off. It is suspected that Sho was under the influence of alcohol at the time of the accident.

“When police arrived on the scene, they saw him with his right leg completely amputated. They also saw a motorbike in that area. They are saying that the initial report is that he was driving his motorbike under the influence of alcohol when he collided into the San Juan plantation sign – a post – and they are saying that that is where he received his injuries. They are saying the bus on that scene slowed down because they saw him on the side of the highway when they arrived on that scene. So, the police are saying that the injuries were not caused by the bus,” stated



ASP Fitzroy Yearwood, Director of Communications

the Police Department’s communications director, ASP Fitzroy Yearwood. (There had initially been speculation that the bus had hit Sho and caused his injury.)

Following the accident, gory footage posted on social media showed Sho’s amputated leg in a field several yards away from where he was seen, sitting upright on the road with a missing lower right leg. Sho was transported to the Southern Regional Hospital, where he was listed as being in a stable condition. One local television news station had reported that Sho subsequently passed away as a result of his injury, but this has not been confirmed.

Twin-Town's Councilors clash with Mayor

(From page 1)

The PUP councilors on the San Ignacio/Santa Elena Town Council are recommending that Horace Grant be appointed as the new Town Administrator, but Mayor Trapp says he is not qualified. Minister Henry Usher said, "Mayor Trapp has an issue with democracy."

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Jan. 12, 2022

What has turned out to be a face-off within the San Ignacio/Santa Elena Town Council between UDP Mayor Earl Trapp and five PUP councilors appears to be intensifying due to Mayor Trapp's objection to the councilors' recommendation that Horace Grant, a long-time PUP supporter, be appointed to the post of Town Administrator. Mayor Trapp is asserting that Grant, who recently served as the PUP Cayo Central campaign chairman, is not qualified to hold the post of Town Administrator, since he does not have a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration.

"They knew about the prerequisites when the post was placed on social media and that we do need someone with a Bachelor's degree in administration. I can tell you that since we had Dr. Flowers as my former administrator, before that we had Ms. Karen Fernandez and since then the prerequisite was placed, and that was the minimum—a Bachelor's degree, because we had brought the town to a certain level and we wanted to ensure that it remained there and better. They are now insisting on hiring someone with a high school diploma. The town administrator is the highest office at the town hall or the municipality level," stated Mayor Trapp at a press conference held earlier this week.

Attorney-at-law and UDP senator, Darrell Bradley, stated at the press conference that all the municipalities signed on to the Municipal Town Council Regulations back in 2014, and he addressed certain regulations related to the appointment of staff within the city and town administrations.

"This is not an issue of politics but an issue of accountability and

transparency. The law specifically said 'the town council shall employ a suitably qualified person to act as town administrator'. The regulations under the Town Council Act specify the roles and responsibilities of town admin, including to supervise staff, to be the accounting officer and to be the custodian of council funds, so it behooves any person and any council to ensure that the person who fills that office has the basic qualifications in accounting and management," Bradley pointed out at the conference.

He went on to state, "They released this advertisement in December of last year, and when one releases an advertisement and invites applicants to fill a certain post, they have an obligation on them to stick to that requirement. If you set the minimum requirement as a Bachelor's degree, people will take notice of that. It would be unlawful, discriminatory, and [ultra vires] for the municipality to consider somebody who did not meet that minimum requirement."

At a press conference held by the PUP to address the same issue the day before, however, Minister of Local Government, Hon. Henry Charles Usher had stated, "I think the Mayor has an issue with democracy."

"Why is he afraid of Horace Grant?" asked Minister Usher, who believes that Mayor Trapp has been resisting the appointment of Grant because he has allegedly been hiring family members and friends of his to fill vacant posts at the council.

During the PUP press conference, the Deputy Mayor, Matthew Preston, said, "You have the son, a procurement officer, niece as a cashier, the nephew—we told, we explained to the Mayor that we want to hire an operations manager. He

says he will appoint his nephew as a temporary operations manager, and like we said, they submitted a budget for 2022 to 2023 without us knowing. We wanted to put a position for operations manager, so now you control procurement, you control finances and receivables. So you see what we're saying: nepotism. Where's the transparency in that?"

Mayor Trapp responded to those allegations by stating,

"We have so many people that work out here, and, you know what, when you employ people and give people an opportunity to work on weekends, those are the people that give their all. You don't want to employ people to come and do overtime and when they come, they work one hour, two hours and talk about wanting to sit



Earl Trapp, Mayor of San Ignacio/Santa Elena

down or go home. You employ or invite people to come that want to give their all; that's one of the reasons why I said to my council, why do you believe San Ignacio and Santa Elena look the way it looks today?"

Earl Trapp has been mayor of San Ignacio and Santa Elena since 2015.

Suspected drug plane lands in Toledo



by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Jan. 13, 2022

An illegal landing was reported in the Toledo District around 2:00 on Wednesday morning, January 12, 2022. While numerous local media outlets have stated that the aircraft was a suspected narco-plane, Commissioner of Police, Chester Williams told the media that he could not provide much information on the landing, because investigations are still being conducted.

"I cannot say at this time that it is a drug plane, but yes, we did have information that a plane landed this morning around 2:00 a.m. in the Graham Creek area, near the Belize/Guatemala border," stated Williams.

He further explained, "The area, again, is heavily vegetated and our troops, up to this moment, have not been able to reach that location and are trying their utmost best to get there. As soon as we have confirmed information from our troops on the ground that the plane is there, we will give the media an update and I will leave it at that, because we still do have operations going on in the area."

We will be following this story with further updates.

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Deluxe Apartment – 3,000 sq. ft., West Landivar, 3rd Storey, 1 Master Bedroom, 2 Regular Bedrooms, 4 Bathrooms, 1 Utility Room, Stainless Steel Appliances, Quartz Kitchen and Vanity Counter Tops, Air Conditioned, Burglar Barred, Hurricane Shutters, Standby Electrical Generator, Private Parking, Security Cameras.

House – 2,600 sq. ft., Bally Garden, Mile 4, Philip Goldson Highway, Belize City, Upstairs and Downstairs, 1 Master Bedroom, 3 Regular Bedrooms, 1 Office, 1 Utility Room, 3 Bathrooms, Hard Wood Cabinets, Air Conditioned, Burglar Barred, Fenced, Hurricane Shutters, 3-Car Driveway, Landscaped, Large Property, Sea View.

House – 3,600 sq. ft., Orchid Garden, Belmopan City, Upstairs and Downstairs, 1 Master Bedroom, 3 Regular Bedrooms, 3 Bathrooms, 1 Office, 1 Utility Room, Appliances, Air Conditioned, Burglar Barred, 2-Car Garage, Fenced, Landscaped, Large Property.

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Year in Review 2021 – Part 3

Continued from page 13 of the Tuesday January 11, 2022 issue #3521 of the Amandala

One week after stripping Hon. Patrick Faber of his position as Leader of the Opposition and being sworn in as Opposition Leader himself, Hon. Moses “Shyne” Barrow had to debate an 11th Amendment to the Constitution that seemed to have been drafted specifically to render him ineligible to hold a seat in Parliament. The proposed amendment was tabled on July 2nd. It was aimed at, among other things, disqualifying convicts and persons who have served more than 12 months in prison from being elected to parliament. Barrow called it classist and inhumane since it goes against the prospect of rehabilitation. Notably, the Social Partner senators were opposed to a piecemeal approach to reform. Instead, they called for a comprehensive review of the Constitution. On Independence Day, the Prime Minister announced that a Constitutional Reform Commission would be formed by October 1.

At the same House of Representatives meeting, Prime Minister John Briceño introduced a slew of tax revenue recovery bills to enable the government to aggressively go after taxpayers who he said owed about \$645 million. Of that figure, 80% would soon be unrecoverable due to the statute of limitation.

On July 6th, the Christian Workers Union (CWU), still embroiled in a labour dispute with Port of Belize Ltd., made public a 2006 MOU between the Government and principals of Big Creek Port. It emphasized that only banana exports and goods related to that industry would be handled there so as not to cause losses to PBL. The hope was that the disclosure would prompt GOB honour the 2006 agreement so that stevedores would not lose income due to a shift in sugar-loading operations by ASR/BSI from PBL to the Big Creek port. When PBL refused to engage them in dialogue about a redundancy package, the stevedores launched a go-slow and issued notice of industrial action on July 13. That secured them a meeting on July 21. At that virtual session, the CWU learned, not directly from GOB, but from PBL that BSI/ASR would be allowed to export out of Big Creek. A sugar ship in port at PBL headed south that same morning.

On August 14, the CWU would disclose yet another document, this one dating back to 2005 and signed by GOB and PBL agreeing that PBL would be “entitled to a payout if the Big Creek’s operations encroached on PBL’s business.” That disclosure changed nothing.



**Evan “Mose” Hyde,
CWU, president**

Our headline on July 10th was, “Bill to ‘legalize it’ introduced.” The historic bill was drafted to allow for the establishment of provisions for the licensing and registration of enterprises operating in the cannabis industry for adult consumers. It was also meant to correct what Minister Kareem Musa described as a “contradictory marijuana policy.” He was referring to the 2017 law change that decriminalized the use of up to 10 grams of marijuana but didn’t remove penalties against those who sell the product.



July 4 saw the Government introduce mandatory bimonthly testing for unvaccinated frontline workers via SI 74 of 2021, with effect from August 1st. Weeks later, the Belize Rights and Justice Movement (BRJM) filed a legal challenge to the SI.

After 16 months of inactivity, cruise tourism resumed with the arrival of the *Carnival Vista* in Belize City on July 7 with reduced passenger capacity and with most of its passengers and crew having been vaccinated.

On Sunday, July 11, there was excitement at Bird’s Isle, where the United Democratic Party was holding a leadership recall convention initiated by Mesopotamia area rep, Hon. Moses “Shyne” Barrow. At the day’s end, Hon. Patrick Faber managed to retain the leadership. He received 226 delegate votes – 64 more than the minimum 162 required.



Laddie Gillett, deceased

One of our most gripping headlines drew attention to the police killing of promising Laddie Gillett, 14, in Placencia on July 14. He had been eating cake on the beach with friends and was running back to his hotel in an attempt to arrive there before the start of the curfew when he was shot in the back by police corporal Kareem Martinez. In October 2021, Martinez was dismissed from the police force. He is appealing the Police Commissioner’s decision.

On July 19 we reported that a criminal investigation had been launched into the embezzlement of just over \$60,000 of

COVID-19 Unemployment Relief funds by employees of the Labour Department. An audit found they approved funds for relatives and friends.

On that same day, the Supreme Court agreed that picture-taking by police of persons not charged after searches was unlawful profiling. The suit was brought by Bryton Codd and Greg Nunez.

On the morning of July 22, Belizeans were shocked to learn of the shooting death of 19-year-old Ashton Samuels during a robbery at Jacky’s Fast Food & Supermarket in the Mile 8 Community. Chinese businessman, Chu Rong Zhang shot at Samuels and two others as they were scaling the fence. Tyler Ramclan, 20, was grazed in the left calf.

Our featured headline on July 24 was that CEOs had escaped the 10% salary cut, much to the chagrin of the Public Service Union. Despite stiff objection and even agreement by a couple Government ministers, the CEOs’ salaries remained untouched.

On the weekend of July 23 there was a tense confrontation between Belize Defence Force (BDF) soldiers and Guatemalan armed forces that fortunately did not escalate when BDF soldiers, police and Forest Department officials went to remove the farms of Guatemalans in Rio Blanco in the Chiquibul National Park. Guatemalan soldiers who were notified by some of the Guatemalan civilians, entered Belize territory and a Guatemalan military plane flew overhead.

On July 25 Gary Young, 24, was killed at the corner of Kraal Road and Haynes Street in Belize City. On leaving the scene, the gunman, Matthew Guy, was killed by someone in Young’s group.

Near the end of July, a nurse was caught selling vaccine cards stolen from her workplace for \$300 apiece.

On Sunday, August 1 another gunman, Shamar Nicolas, 16, met swift death after firing at Matthew Gutierrez, 24, who died while receiving treatment for his injuries. Nicolas was shot on Kraal Road while escaping from the scene. Police say he opened fire on them and he was injured when they returned fire. He died shortly after.

August 5th saw the opening at the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital (KMH) of a new Oncology Unit that had been in the making since 2018. The KMH provides medical care to between three and four hundred cancer patients yearly.

Lifelong supporter of KREMANDALA and enthusiastic Raiders fan, Patrick “Beans” Lewis, passed away on August 5.

On August 9 the PSU in a public statement called out the Briceño administration for switching dozens of government-funded mobile accounts in several ministries from BTL to SMART, which is partially owned by Briceño’s relatives. The PM defended the switch as a cost-saving effort. Subsequently, it emerged that the Government had given SMART a \$3.3 million contract for the procurement of Microsoft licenses. The Government’s defense was that it had been put to tender and SMART came

out on top over BTL and a regional provider.

In the second week of August, Ministry of Education officials announced that part of a comprehensive overhaul of the primary school curriculum would include the elimination of the annual PSE. They expressed preference for more “creative” models of testing.

On Wednesday, August 11, some were concerned that the Government allowed the visit of the *Carnival Vista* despite 27 persons being COVID-positive on the ship. Tourism Minister Anthony Mahler said there was no threat to Belizeans, since the persons were isolated and no more cases were identified.

In Billy White, 28-year-old David Klassen drowned while trying to save a girl who was drifting in the river on August 12. He was celebrating his birthday that day.



David Klassen, deceased

Medardo Canelo, 46, and Lawrence Canelo, 33, an uncle and nephew, were shot and killed at their family-owned bar by two armed, masked men on August 12 in Punta Gorda.

Based on advice from the Ministry of Health and Wellness, classes for pre-primary, primary and secondary schools continued in distance learning mode.

Just about 4 months after he signed a 5-year contract with GoB, the Government parted ways with Central Bank governor Gustavo Vasquez, who, it is reported, wrote staff to say he “tried to restore the integrity and operational autonomy of the Central Bank.” His base salary was \$200,000, and reports indicated that his settlement was over half a million dollars. Vasquez was replaced by deputy governor of the bank, Kareem Michael, whose family members are said to be staunch UDP supporters, at the start of December. The Prime Minister said they looked at his qualifications and willingness to “work in tandem with the government.”

A shipment of 111,150 Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines arrived in the country on August 18 and was almost immediately put into rotation in the vaccination campaign solely for minors 12 to 17 years of age. Then, on August 26, we received a donation of 132,000 doses of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine.

On August 19, a one-month State of Emergency was declared in Southside Belize City in response to an alarming increase in the number of gang-related shootings in the previous weeks. The detainees were housed at the Belize Central Prison, where they underwent the first of a series of intervention exercises



A reshuffling of portfolios

On January 10 the Prime Minister, Hon. John Briceño, switched the portfolios of some members of his Cabinet, and to the glee of many, the Ministry of Health & Wellness (MOHW) was taken away from the Hon. Michel Chebat, the ministry's head since the PUP took control of government after the November 11, 2020 general elections. A government press release announcing the changes said the PM had conducted a comprehensive review of Cabinet portfolio performances and leadership effectiveness over the last several weeks, and after consultations with senior colleagues he had arrived at the portfolio adjustments.

It's always headline news, ministers switching portfolios, or being back-benched, ditched from Cabinet. It's hard to find a person in Belize who isn't in on the speculation about why changes are made, about which minister might be in ascendancy, and who had suffered the ignominy of demotion. The reasons published for portfolio changes are almost always in the same vein as the ones given for the realignment on January 10 but behind the scenes they run the gamut, all the way to vicious power plays.

Since the 2003-2008 PUP government, we've seen ministers shuffled out: Mark Espat and Cordel Hyde, for bucking the Cabinet; Elvin Penner, for alleged improper issuance of passports; Gaspar Vega and Edmund Castro, for suspect management of public properties; and for suspect associations, John Saldivar. In our system, no minister is immune from being reshuffled. In 2007 the present PM stepped down as Deputy Prime Minister after he fell out of step with Cabinet, and then Prime Minister Said Musa moved to take away his portfolio of Natural Resources.

Indeed, over the years there have been some high-profile firings, so to speak, in both PUP and UDP governments. In comparison, the recent moves by the Briceño government, though headline news for this week, could be considered lukewarm. There is the suggestion that the Chebat camp should be smarting, though, and it does appear so.

Governments, like businesses, will make changes in the managerial ranks occasionally. After a year in government, the leader and his advisors will have had enough time to assess the strengths and weaknesses of their team members, and it is rare that all the ministers are perfect fits in the portfolios over which they preside. Sometimes the needs for change are obvious, even to casual observers.

Governments, unlike businesses, have to face the electorate every five years, and general elections are largely popularity contests. For this reason, political parties in power are sometimes more concerned about the optics than the substance of their decisions. On the part of an individual minister, a portfolio switch which seems like a demotion can be harmful, if the government is popular,

while one that looks like a reward for excellence can be a boon, if the government is popular.

Five ministers were affected by the recent reshuffle, but only three of them, Hon. Michel Chebat, Hon. Rodwell Ferguson, and Hon. Kevin Bernard, saw a substantial change in their portfolios. The most high-profile ministry in the reshuffle was the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW), held by Chebat. That ministry has been under more scrutiny than any other ministry because of the pandemic which has gripped our nation and the world, and because of the minister's brusque style.

From day one of Chebat's reign over the MOHW, the temperature has been fever high in that ministry. Chebat and the Prime Minister were not impressed by the way the Director of Health Services (DHS), Dr. Marvin Manzanero (and the UDP), had handled the pandemic, and immediately on taking office they went for his head. They wanted him to step down, and they were not nice about it. Many regular Belizeans disliked the attacks on the DHS, who had become very popular after his almost daily television reports on the pandemic, and the Public Services Union challenged the way the government went about removing him.

Chebat lost a few friends, mostly among persons who rejected being vaccinated against Covid-19, when an SI was introduced that called for government workers and all visitors to government offices to provide proof of immunization or a vaccination card before entering a government building, and again when he tried to make vaccination mandatory.

He crossed a number of top brass in the ministry when he went outside of their ranks to bring a long retired veterinarian to serve as the CEO at the nation's number one public hospital, the KMH. The resistance was too strong, and that appointment was rescinded. He riled up the board of governors at the KMH when he suggested they were responsible for a shortage of supplies at the hospital, his comments prompting one of the board's members, the very vocal Dr. Fernando Cuellar, to resign.

Hon. Michel Chebat takes over the Ministry of Public Utilities and Logistics (MPUL) from Hon. Rodwell Ferguson, who maintains control of Transport and takes on Sports. If the importance of a ministry is determined by its budget allocation, then it's a big demotion for Chebat to move from the MOHW to the MPUL, but in his new post he'll have plenty of opportunities to show that the good people of Cayo North were not mistaken when they thought him worthy of their vote, and that if he was really a bust at MOHW, his party's error was in his placement, not an overestimation of his talent.

Chebat's new portfolio includes some high-profile organizations, such as the PUC, BEL, BTL, and Ports and Harbours. If his mission is to serve the people, he'll be negotiating on our behalf with a few aggressive private sector individuals, one of whom most won't mind if he rubs the wrong way.

Hon. Kevin Bernard, an accountant, is now the new minister at the MOHW, and it's no easy job before him. Due to no fault of the last minister, Covid-19 cases have exploded recently, but there is cautious optimism that the virus is just about to burn itself out.

At a press conference this week, the UDP condemned Bernard's placement at the head of MOHW and called for a person with a medical background to head the ministry, because we are living in a "time of crisis." It must be noted that the UDP had a person with no medical training as Minister of Health during the almost 13 years they were in office, from 2008 to 2020, but there must have been no need to get us the best fit at that ministry then, because those were not "crisis" times.

The theater around a reshuffling of portfolios is always exciting, but the curtain goes down quickly, and then Belizeans start checking on how the changes play out in regard to the real issues. For our sakes we have to hope that we will benefit from these changes made on January 10.



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infoSEGURA



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 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

Deadline for Application: Friday, January 14, 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.

Doctor scammed by “car dealer”

Ladyville doctor electronically transferred money to an apparent car dealer, but never received the vehicle



Jordan Morey

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY. Thurs. Jan. 13, 2022

A Ladyville doctor claims to have electronically transferred money to a purported car dealer for the purchase of a vehicle that she never received. 34-year-old Shanna Shejari Pott, of Ladyville Village, reported to police that on November 19, 2021, she electronically transferred an undisclosed amount of money to the bank account of one Jordan Gerald Morey to cover the cost of a vehicle that Morey, who had claimed to be a car dealer, was purportedly selling. A month later, Pott again electronically transferred an undisclosed amount of money to Morey for him to purchase tires for the vehicle. However, to date, Morey has not delivered the vehicle.

Morey was once charged back in 2017 after he offered to sell a car to a woman for \$2,000, but the woman never received the vehicle. The incident occurred in 2016. Morey had introduced himself to the woman as a car dealer and was going under the name, Jason Saldivar. Morey later appeared in court before Magistrate Carlon Mendoza and claimed that the incident never happened; however, Magistrate Mendoza did not believe his testimony and he was found guilty. Morey had been fined \$2,000 for that offense.

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#3304 Partridge Street,
Belize City.
Telephones: 280-4703/
202-4477

www.belizemall.com/amandala

Belize City receives laptop donation from sister city, Kaohsiung

The City of Kaohsiung, Taiwan donated 15 laptops, valued at BZD \$20,000, to assist students who need such devices for virtual learning

by *Khaila Gentle*

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Jan. 12, 2022

In a handing-over ceremony that took place this Wednesday, the Belize City Council received a donation of 15 laptops from its sister city of Kaohsiung, Taiwan. The donation, which was facilitated by the Embassy of China (Taiwan) here in Belize, was made after the Government of Kaohsiung reached out to the council asking how it could assist the city's schoolchildren. Those laptops have been gifted at a key juncture, when many schools are beginning to reopen, with plans to implement a hybrid in-class and virtual learning model.

Twelve deserving students from across various levels of learning and

three institutions were given the laptop packages, which contain an Acer laptop, its accessories, and a

carrying case.

"Today, playtime is different, research is different, final exams,



shopping, traveling...So much is different today," said Mayor Bernard Wagner in his opening address at the ceremony. "But in spite of the very many things that have changed, our adaptive, talented young minds still have their eyes on their prize!" he said.

One of the many things that have changed, stated the Mayor, is the fact that now, technology is often a necessity rather than just a privilege. As a result, a digital divide has been created—one where many are not fortunate enough to have access to the devices needed for learning and communication. Kaohsiung City's timely donation will help the council in further chipping away at that digital divide.

Mayor Wagner expressed his gratitude to Taiwanese Ambassador David Kuan-Chou Chien, Kaohsiung Mayor Chen Chi-Mai, and the Embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan) in Belize.

In addition to Mayor Wagner, both Mayor Chen (via virtual message) and the Taiwanese Ambassador spoke at the ceremony.

"The COVID-19 pandemic knows no boundaries and has changed the way we educate our young generation," stated the Taiwanese Ambassador. "The access to digital appliance is pivotal when physical classes have transformed into online learning."

The three educational institutions that received a laptop were James Garbutt Primary School, Anglican Cathedral College, and Lloyd Coffin Preschool. Of the twelve students to receive a laptop, the youngest was an 8-year-old student from Saint Martin de Porres School.

Belize City and Kaohsiung established a sister city relationship in 2005 and have continued to maintain a strong and cordial relationship since then, especially in recent years.




VACANCY: JOB OPPORTUNITY

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to fill the following post in the IT Department. In the Port's continued effort to promote diversity, both females/males, are encouraged to apply for the available post.

IT SUPPORT TECHNICIAN

Reports to: IT Supervisor

Summary of Responsibilities: The IT Service Desk is the central point of contact for all IT related incidents and service requests. The role of the IT Support Technician is to provide second line support for all team members Port of Belize Limited. An IT Support Technician is responsible for resolving complex support requests with computer hardware, software, and network systems, as well as meeting customer satisfaction and continuous service delivery demands. Provides research and support for new technologies to be used within our environment. IT Support staff work in a dynamic, fast-paced environment which provides services over the phone, through e-mail, phone, and in person.

Job Responsibilities:

1. Diagnose and resolve software and hardware incidents, including operating system and across a range of software applications.
2. Assist all users with any logged IT related incident when called upon.
3. Manage IT Department Inventory and Provide Monthly report.
4. Upgrade Windows Operating systems and Microsoft office applications.
5. Active Directory Management - Create and Manage Domain User accounts.
6. Adminstrate TOS (Terminal Operating System) OCTOPI and CMMS.
7. Coordinate with Software Vendors regarding application issues and new features, roll outs, etc.
8. Supervised daily backups and test weekly/monthly backup integrity.
9. Manage and control the implementation of new IT systems, and the ongoing refinement of existing systems.
10. Ensuring that systems and applications are optimized and effective, and that necessary support skills are in place.
11. Able to manage and troubleshoot VLANS Networking issues (Local Network, Surveillance Network, and VOIP network)
12. Able to run and create queries in SQL and produce reports when needed undertaking other duties not specially stated which from time to time are necessary without altering the nature or level of responsibility.
13. You are required to assist the IT support functions at other Waterloo Investment Holdings Ltd. entities from time to time any other duties that may be assigned of a related nature.

Job qualifications/Requirements:

- Associates Degree or equivalent Technical Certificates
- Minimum 3-5 years' experience in (VOIP, VLANS, Network, Protocols, Virtual Environment-SQL/VB, MS Server environment, Windows Operating System)
- Knowledgeable in SQL/VB or equivalent (3-5 years) database/application development & manipulation

Skills/Competencies:

- Ability to work independently
- Able to work flexible hours
- Strong analytical skills
- Critical Thinker

Compensation Package: Will be commensurate (in accordance with the Company's Salary Structure).

To apply: Provide updated resume, cover letter (addressed to Human Resource Manager), copy of valid social security card, Valid police record, name and phone number of two (2) previous employers.

Applications should be emailed to:
jobapplications@portofbelize.com
 Closing date for receipt of applications is Monday, January 31st, 2022.

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Una reorganización de carteras

El 10 de enero, el Primer Ministro, el Honorable John Briceño, cambió las carteras de algunos miembros de su gabinete y, para regocijo de muchos, el Ministerio de Salud y Bienestar (MOHW por sus siglas en inglés) le fue arrebatado al Honorable Michel Chebat, jefe del ministerio desde que el PUP tomó el control del gobierno después de las elecciones generales del 11 de noviembre de 2020. Un comunicado de prensa del gobierno que anunciaba los cambios decía que el primer ministro durante las últimas semanas había realizado una revisión exhaustiva del desempeño de las carteras del Gabinete y la eficacia del liderazgo, y después de consultas con colegas de alto nivel, había llegado a los ajustes de las carteras.

Siempre son noticias de primera plana, ministros cambiando de cartera o siendo relegados a la banca, abandonados del Gabinete. Es difícil encontrar una persona en Belize que no esté involucrada en la especulación sobre por qué se hacen los cambios, sobre qué ministro podría estar en ascenso y quién sufrió la ignominia de la degradación. Las razones publicadas para los cambios de cartera son casi siempre a lo largo de la misma línea que las que fueron proporcionadas para la realineación del 10 de enero, pero detrás de escena abarcan toda la gama, hasta los viciosos juegos de poder.

Desde el gobierno del PUP de 2003-2008, hemos visto ministros despedidos: Mark Epat y Cordel Hyde, por desafiar al Gabinete; Elvin Penner, por supuesta emisión indebida de pasaportes; Gaspar Vega y Edmund Castro, por manejo sospechoso de bienes públicos; y por asociaciones sospechosas, John Saldivar. En nuestro sistema, ningún ministro es inmune a ser reorganizado. En 2007, el actual primer ministro renunció como viceprimer ministro después de perder el paso con el Gabinete, y luego el primer ministro, Said Musa, tomó medidas para quitarle su cartera de recursos naturales.

De hecho, a lo largo de los años ha habido algunos despidos de alto perfil, por así decirlo, tanto en los gobiernos del PUP como del UDP. En comparación, los movimientos recientes del gobierno de Briceño, aunque fueron noticia de primera plana de esta semana, podrían considerarse tibios. Sin embargo, existe la sugerencia de que el campo de Chebat debería estar dolido, y parece que sí.

Los gobiernos, como las empresas, ocasionalmente harán cambios en los rangos gerenciales. Después de un año en el gobierno, el líder y sus asesores habrán tenido suficiente tiempo para evaluar las fortalezas y debilidades de los miembros de su equipo, y es raro que todos los ministros encajen perfectamente en las carteras que presiden. A veces, las necesidades de cambio son obvias, incluso para los observadores casuales.

Los gobiernos, a diferencia de las empresas, tienen que enfrentarse al electorado cada cinco años, y las elecciones generales son en gran medida concursos de popularidad. Por esta razón, los partidos políticos en el poder a veces se preocupan más por la óptica que por la sustancia de sus decisiones. Por parte de un ministro individual, un cambio de cartera que parece una degradación puede ser perjudicial, si el gobierno es popular, mientras que uno que parece una recompensa por la excelencia puede ser una bendición, si el gobierno es popular.

Cinco ministros se vieron afectados por la reciente reorganización, pero solo tres de ellos, el Honorable Michel Chebat, el Honorable Rodwell Ferguson y el Honorable Kevin Bernard, vieron un cambio sustancial en sus carteras. El ministerio de más alto perfil en la reorganización fue el Ministerio de Salud y Bienestar (MOHW por sus siglas en inglés), en manos de Chebat. Ese ministerio ha estado bajo más escrutinio que cualquier otro ministerio debido a la pandemia que se ha apoderado de nuestra nación y del

mundo, y debido al estilo brusco del ministro.

Desde el primer día del reinado de Chebat sobre el MOHW, la temperatura ha sido febril en ese ministerio. Chebat y el Primer Ministro no quedaron impresionados por la forma en que el Director de Servicios de Salud (DSS), el Dr. Marvin Manzanero (y el UDP), había manejado la pandemia, e inmediatamente después de asumir el cargo fueron por su cabeza. Querían que renunciara, y no fueron amables al respecto. A muchos beliceños regulares no les gustaron los ataques contra el DSS, que se había vuelto muy popular después de sus informes televisivos casi diarios sobre la pandemia, y el Sindicato de Servicios Públicos cuestionó la forma en que el gobierno actuó al removerlo.

Chebat perdió algunos amigos, en su mayoría entre personas que rechazaron vacunarse contra el covid-19, cuando se introdujo un IL que pedía a los trabajadores del gobierno y a todos los visitantes de las oficinas de gobierno que presentaran un comprobante de inmunización o una tarjeta de vacunación antes de ingresar a un edificio del gobierno, y nuevamente cuando trató de hacer obligatoria la vacunación.

Se cruzó con varios altos mandos en el ministerio cuando salió de sus filas para traer a un veterinario jubilado hace mucho tiempo para que se desempeñara como director ejecutivo en el hospital público número uno de la nación, el KMHM (por sus siglas en inglés). La resistencia fue demasiado fuerte y ese nombramiento fue rescindido. Irritó a la junta de gobernadores del KMHM cuando sugirió que ellos eran responsables de la escasez de suministros en el hospital, y sus comentarios provocaron la renuncia de uno de los miembros de la junta, el Dr. Fernando Cuellar.

El Honorable Michel Chebat asume el Ministerio de Utilidades Públicas y Logística (MPUL por sus siglas en inglés) del Hon. Rodwell Ferguson, quien mantiene el control de Transporte y se hace cargo de Deportes. Si la importancia de un ministerio está determinada por su asignación presupuestaria, entonces es una gran degradación para Chebat pasar del MOHW al MPUL, pero en su nuevo puesto tendrá muchas oportunidades para demostrar que la buena gente de Cayo Norte no se equivocaron cuando lo consideraron digno de su voto, y que si realmente fue un fracaso en MOHW, el error de su partido estuvo en su ubicación, no en una sobreestimación de su talento.

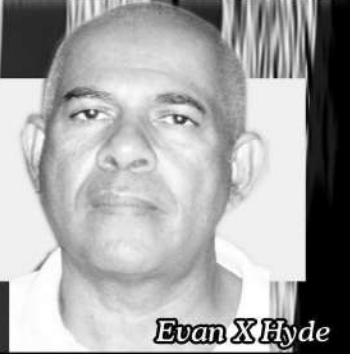
La nueva cartera de Chebat incluye algunas organizaciones de alto perfil, como la Comisión de Utilidades Públicas, Belize Electricity Limited, Belize Telemedia Limited y puertos. Si su misión es servir a la gente, negociará en nuestro nombre con algunas personas agresivas del sector privado, a una de las cuales a la mayoría no le importará si lo hace enojar.

El Honorable Kevin Bernard, un contador, es ahora el nuevo ministro del MOHW, y no es un trabajo fácil para él. Debido a causas ajenas al último ministro, los casos de covid-19 se han disparado recientemente, pero existe un optimismo cauteloso de que el virus está a punto de desaparecer.

En una conferencia de prensa esta semana, el UDP condenó la colocación de Bernard al frente del MOHW y pidió que una persona con formación médica dirija el ministerio, porque estamos viviendo en un "tiempo de crisis". Cabe señalar que el UDP tuvo una persona sin formación médica como Ministro de Salud durante los casi 13 años que estuvo en el cargo, de 2008 a 2020, pero no debió haber necesidad de conseguirnos el mejor candidato en ese ministerio entonces, porque esos no eran tiempos de "crisis".

El teatro en torno a una reorganización de carteras siempre es emocionante, pero el telón baja rápidamente y luego los beliceños comienzan a verificar cómo se desarrollan los cambios con respecto a los problemas reales. Por nuestro bien, tenemos que esperar que nos beneficiemos de estos cambios realizados el 10 de enero.

From the Publisher



Evan X Hyde

A few months ago, I discussed the incredibly sensational case of a wealthy, prominent Belizean who in some respects was a he-man in behavior, but also had these powerful urges to pursue young men for homosexual activity. His life was “incredibly sensational” because he himself shot a young male neighbor to death in 1975, a young man stabbed his eldest son to death in 1985, and then he himself was shot to death around Mile 12 on the Western Highway, presumably by a young male lover, in the mid-1990s.

I explained to you that I felt myself

forced to come to the conclusion that he must have been molested by a pedophile in his childhood/youth, and that that molestation had twisted his psyche out of shape to the point that tragedy became repeated in his life.

This Sunday afternoon, I visited More Tomorrow, where I located the grave of Ismail Shabazz, a close friend of mine who had been tried alongside me for seditious conspiracy in the British Honduras Supreme Court in 1970.

One day in casual conversation, when we were probably already in

our fifties, I would say, Ismail told me that when he was 14 years old and trying to gain entry to a Palace Theater movie, he had been propositioned by a homosexual after a brief conversation which had nothing to do with sex.

My late maternal uncle, Buck Belisle, after he had been basically confined to home residence, briefly mentioned that while a young man, he was on a Methodist church trip to a Belize District village when a Methodist cleric made indecent proposals to him. My uncle did not dwell on the subject, and I did not

pursue it.

A couple months ago, I had told you that when I attended piano lessons in the mid-1950s at Miss Helen Craig's on Regent Street (near its corner with King Street), a gentleman would often be at her home on weekends whom I found out decades later was a ranking homosexual.

After Miss Helen went away to America to live, my mom sent me to Miss Floss Casasola to continue piano studies. Miss Floss lived on East Collet Canal almost directly across from the old slaughterhouse.

One day returning home from Miss Floss, I was on Euphrates Avenue approaching Cemetery Road when I saw a grown man looking at me in a way I considered suspicious. I did not dig his vibes.

Belize is such a small place. The gentleman was an employee of an early co-op store where I think my father was on the board. This co-op store was near where The Vogue was located at the corner of North Front Street and Queen Street. (A long time ago.) I think this guy delivered groceries.

Many years later, relatives of his were strong supporters of the early UBAD, a family I held in esteem. I never mentioned him or the incident to them, because it wasn't that important, and it is possible there was nothing to it.

In any case, all that I have written so far today is by way of speculating as to whether this extended absence from regular school classes occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic has increased the danger for our children from older people who are homosexuals or have pedophile tendencies.

Belize is a place where homosexuals are very powerful. For me, the initiative led by Caleb to remove the law from Belize's books which criminalized homosexuality was opposed by people I believed were themselves gay, because the older gays felt there was no need for the controversy. The gay community was already so powerful that the law would not be enforced anyway. This was my personal perspective.

You have to understand this, that the major Christian churches in Belize are super-powerful institutions where homosexuals often find haven. Since the major Christian churches control the major Christian schools, one who indicts publicly any of the culprits runs the risk of having one's children or grandchildren victimized. This is why Belize is Belize.

In the United States, this issue of the aggressiveness of the LGBT



VACANCY: JOB OPPORTUNITY

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to fill the following post in the Marine Department. In the Port's continued effort to promote diversity both males/females, able/ differently abled are encouraged to apply for the available post.

BOAT CAPTAIN

Reports to: Marine Manager

Summary of Responsibilities: The primary duty of the Boat Captain is to safely navigate the vessel of which he has in command. The captain has absolute authority relating to the safe conduct of his voyage and he alone shall make determinations regarding the safety of his vessel, crew and passengers, including when put to the sea. This post is fun and challenging, come prepared for a new venture.

Job Responsibilities:

- Operate and navigate all Port of Belize Limited vessels under command in a safe and efficient manner.
- Ensure that the Pilots Launches are always in a state of readiness to perform its function. Be thoroughly familiar with the duties of a Captain/Engineer as contained in Belize Port Authority Mariner's Handbook.
- Provide proper accounting for all fuel and lubricants and for spare parts used in repairs and maintenance including a log Book for each vessel.
- Ensure the safe handling of hazardous material in compliance with current safety precautions and environmental protection laws and regulations in the procurement, stowage and disposal of such materials.
- Ensure that the Pilots & Stevedores embarking and disembarking from ship are done in a safe and efficient manner.
- Follow proper and comprehensive preventative maintenance program for the Pilot Launches as provided and assist to effect repairs to engines of the Pilot Launch.
- In time of emergency or danger, when in command, give proper and clear instructions.
- Inspect Vessels, check fuel levels, major shipboard systems, navigational lights and sound devices.
- Ensure all safety devices are onboard and in good working order.
- Complete Pre & Post voyage check list.
- Any other duties of a related nature assigned from time to time.

Job Qualifications/Requirement:

- Minimum High School Diploma.
- 5 years' boat handling experience preferred (minimum Class B).
- Possess a valid Boat Captain License Class C.
- Knowledge of maritime laws and regulations

Required Skills, Knowledge and Characteristics: To be selected applicants must possess the following important characteristics:

- Firm Knowledge of marine craft communication and problem-solving skills.
- Must have the ability to adapt to changing conditions and respond to emergency situations.
- Able to easily multi-task and work independently.
- Team Oriented, Punctual, and Ethical

Compensation Package: Will be commensurate (in accordance with the Company's Salary Structure).

To apply: Provide updated resume, cover letter (addressed to Human Resource Manager), copy of valid social security card, valid police report, name and phone number of two(2) previous employers.

Email to:

jobapplications@portofbelize.com

Closing date for receipt of applications is Monday, January 31st, 2022.

NOTICE**GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE TREASURY BILLS**
ISSUE NUMBER 2/2022

Tenders are invited for an issue of Government of Belize Treasury Bills. The amount of the issue will be \$64,391,800.00.

The Bills will be issued in electronic form only evidenced by an electronic book entry in the Central Securities Depository of the Central Bank of Belize in multiples of \$200 and will be repayable at par 91 days after issue. They will be issued on Tuesday, 25 January 2022 and will be redeemed on Tuesday, 26 April 2022.

Each tender must be for \$200 or a multiple of \$200 and must specify to five decimal places the amount, which is offered for each one hundred dollars face value of the Bills sought.

Members of the public who wish to participate in the auction must submit their bid to the Central Bank of Belize electronically or at the designated drop off box no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, 21 January 2022.

The Auction in the Central Securities Depository System (CSD) will be opened from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on Tuesday, 25 January 2022.

Successful bidders should arrange to settle via the Automated Payment & Securities Settlement System of Belize (APSSS).

Bank: Central Bank of Belize
Account: GLICORP0402627

The Government of Belize reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all tenders in whole or in part.

CENTRAL BANK OF BELIZE

Notices are placed on Central Bank of Belize Website (www.centralbank.org.bz)

6 January 2022



Vacancy Announcement

United States Peace Corps in Belize

Short-term vacancies exist with Peace Corps Belize for **Language and Cultural Facilitators (LCFs)** for the Spanish and Kriol Languages.

Duration of Contract: March 28th to July 29th, 2022, with a possible extension to August 8th, 2022 based on need.

Basic Function of the Position

The Language and Cultural Facilitator (LCF) is an integral part of Peace Corps Belize's Pre-Service Training (PST) team, responsible for language and cross-cultural instruction to new Peace Corps Trainees. The LCF plans and delivers daily language lessons, provides cross-cultural and health technical instruction to Trainees, and documents each Trainees' progress on language acquisition. The LCF is required to reside in the training community of Belmopan for the duration of the work week (Monday to Friday). If the LCF lives more than an hour away, then the LCF may be considered for a housing allowance to defray the cost of accommodations.

With the COVID-19 pandemic that is currently affecting Belize and the world, the start date is subject to change and successful candidates will be duly informed.

Minimum Requirements:

- Associate's Degree in a field related to the position: Primary Education, English, General Studies, Biology, Mathematics or Science (must indicate in the cover letter);
- A minimum of one (1) year of teaching experience (must indicate in the cover letter);
- Advanced level skills in speaking, reading and writing Spanish (must indicate language proficiency in the cover letter); or Native fluency in Kriol (must indicate language proficiency in the cover letter);
- Available to work, based on the entire contract dates of March 28th, start date to July 29th, end date (must indicate in the cover letter); and
- If not from the training community, willing to be on duty in training community from May 31st – July 22nd (must indicate in the cover letter);
- Basic computer proficiency in Microsoft Office (must indicate in the cover letter).

Position Salary: Commensurate with educational background and work experience.

Application Process/Deadline:

- Overseas Contracting Officers may give preference to personal services contract (PSC) candidates residing in Belize or who are Belizean citizens at the time of application.
- Ensure that the cover letter refers to the **specific language position** for which you would like to apply (Spanish or Kriol) and includes how you qualify according to each minimum requirement.
- For a complete scope of work, send a request to bz-vacancies@peacecorps.gov.
- Review of applications shall commence on January 28th and applications will be accepted until position is filled.
- Email cover letter, resume and contact information of three references to bz-vacancies@peacecorps.gov.

Important to Note: Cover letters that do not include the minimum requirements highlighted above in the "Minimum Requirements" section of this ad will not be considered for the position. Additionally, all submissions must include a cover letter and resume or it will not be considered.

Additional Information: For additional general information regarding the Peace Corps, please visit our website at: www.peacecorps.gov.

The United States Government does not discriminate in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, political affiliation, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, age, membership in an employee organization, or other non-merit factor.

The United States Peace Corps is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



wishes everyone a safe & happy

George Price Day

Please be advised that all Atlantic Bank branches and drive thrus will be closed for business on Saturday, January 15, 2022 in celebration of George Price Day.

For your shopping convenience, use your Atlantic Bank Visa Debit Card or Visa/Mastercard Credit Cards.

For quick cash, use any of our 22 ATMs located countrywide.

www.atlabank.com

Black dilution hastened in 1956

by Colin Hyde

GOB's decision to grant amnesty to over 40,000 persons will impact our country in many ways, not least of which, in no specific order, are our electoral politics, the color scheme of the nation, our economics, and our culture. The impact won't exactly be a sea change, for the persons who we understand are being welcomed fully into the national fabric aren't strangers, most of them having lived here for some years.

They, the 40 to 60 thousand, have been under the radar, quietly going about the business of meeting the basic needs of themselves and their families. As full citizens, they'll become more involved in the day to day of our lives, thus their impact on our existence will be greater.

For today, we'll put aside the economics, the electoral politics, and the culture, all big issues, and devote ourselves some to the color story. You can color this piece my preamble.

Since 1492, after the white race with their superior weaponry took control of the earth, it has been a world in which the nearer you are to white, the better your chances are. And the farther you are from white, the worse your chances are. It's not just the color of the skin. White people generally come with straight hair and narrow facial features, and both those characteristics also number among the prized.

All that seems so silly, to judge a person by the color of their skin and the texture of their hair, but six thousand years out of the caves, human beings haven't much separated themselves from the stealth and deception of their animal nature. There have been scientific advances, quite stunning,

really, but man's development ends there. Sadly, the Europeans, having got on top because of their weaponry, have used every devilish tool that could be found to paint themselves as an innately superior being.

Most of these new Belizeans are on the lighter side, and the darker shades of Belize recognize that by the stroke of a pen, just because of the color of their skin and the texture of their hair, they will have greater status in our society. It's not the fault of people with light skin that they were born in a time when white supremacy is still robust. What we have is a fraud that we have to make maximum effort to fix.

In this world there is always a color question hovering, it's always volatile in other countries and sometimes here too, and that's where I choose to begin hibbing my comments on this amnesty. I already told you in a previous piece that I support it, and what I expect the requirements should be to qualify.

Briefly, the modern Belize was founded by predominantly white pirates who brought enslaved people from the African continent to do much of their work. In time, the mingling of these two breeds would produce the tribe called Kriols. The Maya, who were here long before 1492, in time they became part of the new fabric. The Caste War brought Mestizos and more Maya. Indentured servants came from India and China, and people looking for peace came from the Middle East, and from Russia via Mexico.

In 1949 a group of roots Belizeans got together at Pickstock Street, and the group would soon become the PUP. In 1956 the PUP split over the suggestion by the British colonial government that we join the proposed West Indian Federation. After WWII

a number of former colonies of the British sought to become independent, among them many islands in the Caribbean, and the British thought that if little Belize with its strong Caribbean flavor joined the others, it would be good for them all.

The most prominent pro-federation PUPs were Leigh Richardson and Philip Goldson, both black, and the most prominent say-no-to-federation PUP leaders were George Price and Nick Pollard, both Mestizos. More regarded writers can expand on this story, but I just choose to point out that many black Belizeans supported the victorious Price and Pollard.

Belize is on the main, and it is a Central American country with strong Caribbean flavor because of being a colony of the British and because the people from the African continent who came here came via the Caribbean islands. If Belize had chosen federation, and that organization hadn't foundered, and if Belizeans, most of them black, hadn't fallen in love with the USA and emigrated there, the black color in Belize would have been diluted more slowly than it has. But dilute it will because of our geography.

In closing today, I say that, especially on a matter like this one, we have to be patient and kind. We'll all be exposing ourselves here, those who love Belize enough to opine on the amnesty. You can trust that I won't pounce on anyone. Don't run on incomplete stories about your friends, or enemies; don't run with snippets, because that's malicious, predatory, or ignorant. Let those not be our categories. The color scheme and all the other areas where the nation will be affected by an amnesty are sensitive subjects, so we must have tolerance.

Aha, here we are, in 2022, about to regularize 40,000 or more persons who have been living here as non-nationals for some time. There will be an economic impact, there will be an electoral impact, there will be a cultural impact, and the percentage of our citizens who can trace their ancestry to Africa will be reduced even further. Until I hib words on this again, I'll just say we are the greatest melting pot in the world, so we have all the knowledge and love to make this work.

Big PUP move to cure its worst fault

We've all heard the saying, *Physician, heal thy self*, and *clear the log from your own eye before you call out your neighbor for their faults* (Biblical stuff), so the PUP deserves maximum applause for facing their terrible truth, that more than anyone it is they who are *in need of prayer*, it is they who have *most need of blessing*.

It's a master stroke by the Briceño gang to tab Henry Charles as Minister of Religious Studies, or Affairs. The smart Henry Charles says it's about liaising with the church leaders, but you know better than that. Liaise my blank! This is about fixing their innards. This is a party known for burning candles, and the séance, to help them in elections. My, it's just wonderful that it is undertaking the task of curing what it has most of—sins.

Bah, hogwash about bridging the PUP and the churches when there's no chance of that because they can't agree about weed. We don't need that baloney. It's about introspection, and that is a good thing. I will be among those applauding when we see all those PUPs across the length and breadth, in the pews of Holy Redeemer wailing out how glad they are the Almighty saves wretches like them.

Pere bringing big heat on Barrow

Barrow must feel he got away with not giving Pere one of the safe seats, instead sending him into uncertain Port Loyola where *ih geh dang* by Willoughby, Faber, and Saldivar. This politics, it's a story of strange bedfellows and their cold revenge game spilling over with intrigue and bad mind. It's from their world we got the coinage "*the enemy of my enemy is my friend*", and other strange sayings.

Aha, Pere is riding in like the grand champion to investigate the spending on the Blue Bond, but that will provoke the call for the publishing of a report on all the Barrow family got for their being chosen the best qualified people to do the BTL jobs. Don't bet that Pere didn't know that.

VACANCY

CRYSTAL AUTO RENTAL LTD

Vacancy exist for a Garage Shop Foreman and a top Electrician Mechanic. Good pay with benefits.

APPLY AT: Crystal Auto Rental Ltd
Mile 5 Phillip Goldson Highway

Imported onions hurting local farmers' sales

by *Khaila Gentle*

CRISTO REY, Cayo District, Wed. Jan. 12, 2022

A local farmer took to Facebook this week to express his anger at the Ministry of Agriculture and the Belize Marketing and Development Corporation (BMDC) for facilitating the importation of too many onions in the face of a bountiful local harvest. In a post dated January 8, Santiago Che of Cristo Rey Village stated that he is currently unable to sell any of his produce because of a surplus of imported white onions.

"The minister of agriculture, Jose Abelardo Mai, despite knowing that onions will be harvested he decided to import and has affected the price

for us to sell. Are they really helping us the farmers?" Che questioned.

In response to Che's concerns, Minister of Agriculture, Food Security, and Enterprise, Hon. Jose Abelardo Mai, who has in the past been very vocal about supporting local farmers, visited Che at his home in Cristo Rey. Hon. Mai was accompanied by representatives of the BMDC and claims to have had a "good chat" with the farmer and his son. He noted that Mr. Che had a harvest of around 60-70 fifty-pound bags of white onions, but that the onions still needed to be dried and cured, which Che is currently in the process of doing. Minister Mai pointed out that if left uncured, white onions typically have a very short shelf life.

"Many times, farmers are in a rush to market their product due to outstanding loans to the various financing institutions. BMDC's sales inventory shows that the largest wholesaler of onions at this time only has 100 fifty-pound bags of onions in storage. Which means that the s m a l l e r

wholesalers should have little or no onions," stated Minister Mai in a Facebook post on January 9.

According to Mai, by the time he had left Cristo Rey, BMDC's Marketing Director had facilitated the purchase of all of Mr. Che's onions. Hon. Mai, however, acknowledged that Che had experienced a great loss in 2009-2010 due to mass importation by BMDC and reassured Mr. Che that as long as farmers are producing sufficient quantities of local vegetables, they would not import any produce.

This isn't the first time that the importation of produce has affected local farmers. In February of 2017 and 2019, potato farmers struggled to sell their produce due to the market being saturated with potatoes imported from Mexico.

It also isn't the first time that farmers have had to turn to the media to make the public aware of their plight. Just recently, in October of 2021, farmers being blamed for selling expensive but low-quality carrots came forward to explain that the middlemen—who purchase the carrots from farmers and transport them to local markets—were the ones to blame for poor storage and price-gouging. Since that incident, however, farmers have seen a surplus of carrots. And in November of last year, the government issued a press release encouraging the public to continue to support local producers.

From the Publisher

Continued from Page 9

community is a very big one, and it is one of the reasons that America has moved closer to civil war than at any time since the 1960s and early 1970s. Some of the people who support Donald Trump so fanatically believe that they are protecting their children from the LGBT element which is powerful in the Democratic Party.

When I was a young man, I could have been described as homophobic, but age has mellowed me. I am not homophobic, although I believe the big boys in the gay community consider me their enemy. I take the words of Jesus Christ literally, that children must be protected from predatory adults at all costs.

This is a topic we don't discuss in Belize. That is because the predators are powerful here, and the less the subject is discussed, the better for their lifestyle. The fact of the matter is that the United States was pushing the LGBT agenda in Belize during the Barack Obama administrations.

Sex is a critical subject. But we're afraid to talk about it in public. There are some institutions here where gays are dominant. This troubles me. I make no apology for this.



White and red onions grown by Santiago Che

VACANCY

KREM Television is seeking applications from suitable candidates for the post of REPORTER to be stationed in Belize City.

Requirements:

- Minimum of an Associate Degree in English; a Bachelor's Degree would be a plus
- Excellent command of the English language
- Interested in the news
- Strong interpersonal communication skills
- Disciplined, inquisitive, go-getter and enjoys research
- Willing to work long hours
- Willing to learn
- Works well under pressure and can multitask
- Is a team player

Send your resume with two letters of recommendation to:

Human Resource Manager
KREM Television
3304 Partridge Street
Belize City
Or e-mail to: innadynamics@gmail.com

Deadline for applications is Monday, February 1, 2022.

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 20th 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 23rd 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

Africa the Cradle of Mankind

Charles Darwin's theory revolutionized what those in the scientific world believed about where human beings came from. So much so that they wanted to show that we descended from the apes. On the other hand, the intellectual world assures us that Africa is the cradle of humanity, and to close with a gold brush, it turns out that finally they have found the Garden of Eden, but it seems that they have not yet agreed, because while some allege that it is in West Africa, others say it is in South Africa. So which is it?

Charles Darwin was a British naturalist who came up with the theory of evolution through natural selection. Natural selection is a process in which animals evolve over generations, changing their physical or behavioural traits in order to adapt to certain environments, which is then passed on to their offspring. Natural selection can alter a species in small ways, causing a population to change color or size for them to survive. "Survival of the fittest," he called it. When he said "fittest", he didn't mean the strongest animal, but was instead referring to the species that were able to evolve and adapt to their

environment. So whichever group of animals were able to adapt and change characteristics were able to survive and reproduce.

His proof of this were fossils found of ancient animals which were extinct but had similar yet different traits from the ones we have today. So, he concluded that those fossilized animals were the ancestors of the ones we have today. With the passing of time, he gathered more information and later on made the deduction that humans and animals have similar traits. To be specific, he saw similarities between chimpanzees, gorillas and the human specie. This caused an uproar within the religious organizations. On the other hand, other scientists searched for evidence to verify his theory. Nevertheless, today it continues to be a mystery.

On another note, information has surfaced about the location of the Garden of Eden. The Garden of Eden, also referred to as Paradise, is the Biblical garden of God described in the Book of Genesis, which contains an account of the creation of man. The narrative is centered on the apparent first man and woman – Adam and Eve – who were placed in the garden to

guard the 'Tree of Life', before being tempted by a serpent to eat from a forbidden tree, a decision that had them both banned from entering the garden again. In that scripture, it gives the exact location of the garden. The Bible states that the garden had a river which flowed from Eden, and that 4 rivers branched from it: Pishin, Gihon, Tigris and Euphrates. Now, researchers believe that the Garden of Eden was located somewhere in Mesopotamia, in the Middle East. The reason was simply because of the Euphrates and the Tigris rivers found in the area. But this idea is contrary to the explanation of the positions of the rivers in the



by Clinton Canul Luna

Bible. Later on, after much studies, scientists discovered through DNA that the garden is located in the African nation of Botswana. However, researchers seem not to be quite certain.

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January 9, 2022
Finca Solana
Corozal Town

Vladimir Putin's annual press conference — Part 3

It seems that the social ideology, based on religious principles, that the Father of the Nation, Rt. Hon. George Cadle Price, acquired and tried to implement for the good development of this country and its inhabitants, has been forgotten or is dormant, since the Revolution for social welfare, after 40 years of an independent Belize, has only been enjoyed by a minority who are the privileged. The rest of us do not even have the right to adequate medications for our chronic diseases. Meanwhile, they tell us to be patient because everything will come in due course. As the grass grows, the cattle starve. Permit me, our dear readers of this column, to present to you Part 3 of Vladimir Putin's annual press conference:

Dmitry Peskov: Thank you. Moving on, I suggest that we go through Russia's major news agencies. TASS news agency, please, go ahead.

Veronika Ichetkina: Good afternoon. Veronika Ichetkina, TASS News Agency. In a way, I would like to follow up on social spending by the state and the budget. The state has recently increased its social spending. Judging by the budget for the next three years, as adopted recently, the state will continue doing so. It is curious that there was a lot of talk some time ago about social spending cuts next year. Can you comment on these allegations? Overall, how would you describe the new budget? Can it be called a development budget or a budget with a social focus? If you will allow me, I would like to finish my question. May I? Are any further increases in social spending possible during the pandemic? If this does happen, have you assessed the risk of inflation spiralling out of control, considering that it is already quite jumpy. Thank you.

Vladimir Putin: First, about the characteristics of the budget. Of course,

it is a socially-oriented budget. Naturally. I extensively discussed this matter with my colleagues from the government yesterday. If you look at healthcare and social spending, the healthcare expenses, for example, are, obviously, growing. The federal budget expenditures, the compulsory healthcare insurance budget and the regional budgets amount to 1.5–1.7 trillion in total. Moreover, I think we planned to allocate around 3.6 trillion for healthcare from two sources, the federal budget and the compulsory healthcare insurance system. This year we are about to reach 3.9 or 4 trillion in spending. Next year the plan is 4 trillion, and, obviously, the actual amount will be higher. These are completely objective figures. And I did not include regional expenses, which vary from region to region and from year to year. They currently amount to 1.6–1.7 trillion, which is quite significant.

If we speak about the social sphere, there has been an apparent increase in spending. Even during the pandemic, when we were developing support measures for the most severely affected sectors of the economy (and the numbers were huge, 4.5 percent of the GDP last year and another percent of the GDP this year, which makes 5.5 percent in total), we did not just give away money randomly. Our support for the hardest hit industries focused on preserving jobs and supporting people with low incomes who are particularly vulnerable in these circumstances. Who are these people? First of all, young families with children. I think I do not have to list all the measures, but I will mention some that are widely known. We added more categories of families to those receiving state support – for example, all families



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.

PRESS PREDICTIONS

The sports psychic speaks

BOLEDO

Press Predictions: 13-49-38
Boledo stats thru 14th to 21st Jan, 2022

In boledo news, a lot of high numbers start the New Year; some low numbers will be out this week. 03-13-22-49-86-38. These are my lucky jackpot numbers: 1724-5636-8402; these are my lucky PICK-3 numbers: 505-147-326-989-629. Get ready Belize, some dinero will be coming our way. For the New Year 2022, these are 4 numbers that refuse to play in 2021, but all will be out before the Easter Break. 02 is still out over 1 year, 10 months 1 week and 2 days now, then 50 is also out over 1 year 6 months exact this Sunday if not played, 22 is out for over 1 year 4 months and 5 days now, 55 just joined the crowd on the 14th of October last year, that's 1 year and 3 months exact. These were the 9 hottest numbers last year: 95 played some 9 times, 3 times on a Sunday - done played already last Friday. 36 played some 8 times, then 65 and 34 played some 7 times each, 56 played some 6 times, 31-58-94-86 played 5 times each. Next week more lucky numbers, remember to read your Psalms: 91-72-63. Always remember to pray.

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

The Chicago Bulls lead the East right now

NBA Results & Predictions

In NBA action, the Chicago Bulls and the Phoenix Suns are both on top of their Conference with the best record. Demar DeRozan and Alex Caruso are jelling well together. The Milwaukee Bucks, the defending champions, had some COVID 19 problems, their star player MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo had to miss some games because of the NBA Covid-19 protocols. A lot of teams had the same problems around the league; the Los Angeles Lakers have won 5 games in a row, they are now 22-19 at the moment. LeBron James will be at the All-Star Game on the 13th of February. Kevin Durant's Brooklyn Nets are at the second spot right now down by some 2 games. Kyrie Erving is playing only on the road because of not being vaccinated yet. The Golden State Warriors and Steph Curry will have Klay Thompson in the lineup any time now. They will be very dangerous with those other new players. Next week more stats.

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

There will be lots of upsets this year

NFL Playoffs predictions and updates

In NFL action, the Playoffs will get started with 2 games on Saturday and 2 games on Sunday. The New England Patriots will face off against the Cincinnati Bengals, Coach Bill Belichick's team will be very dangerous in the Playoffs. There will be a lot of upsets in the first round of the Playoffs. The Green Bay Packers will have home field throughout the Playoffs, Aaron Rodgers' team had the best record at 14-3. The defending Super Bowl Champions will have a hard time to repeat because of Antonio Brown's suspension from the team. Tom Brady will miss him a lot. The Kansas City Chiefs and Patrick Mahomes will create some problems in the Playoffs, there are more teams in the Playoff than from the previous times. Next week some results and more predictions.

INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL



by Gilroy "Press" Cadogan

Real Madrid still leads the La Liga, International Football results and predictions

In international football action, in the EPL, the most competitive and the most exciting league in the world, Manchester City and Chelsea are on top. Liverpool and West Ham are in the top 5 also. Mohamed Salah leads the EPL with 18 goals; Jamie Vardy is still scoring for Leicester City that are struggling right now. Arsenal is playing very well, Manchester United is at the sixth spot, Cristiano Ronaldo needs Paul Pogba, his top midfielder, he will be back very soon. In the La Liga, Real Madrid leads by some 7 points, Real Sociedad and Atletico Madrid alongside Villarreal are all in the top 5 at the moment. In the UEFA Champion of Champions League, which will resume in early February with the knockout stage games, Real Madrid will beat PSG and Lionel Messi; there are some monster matchups. Next week more stats.



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:

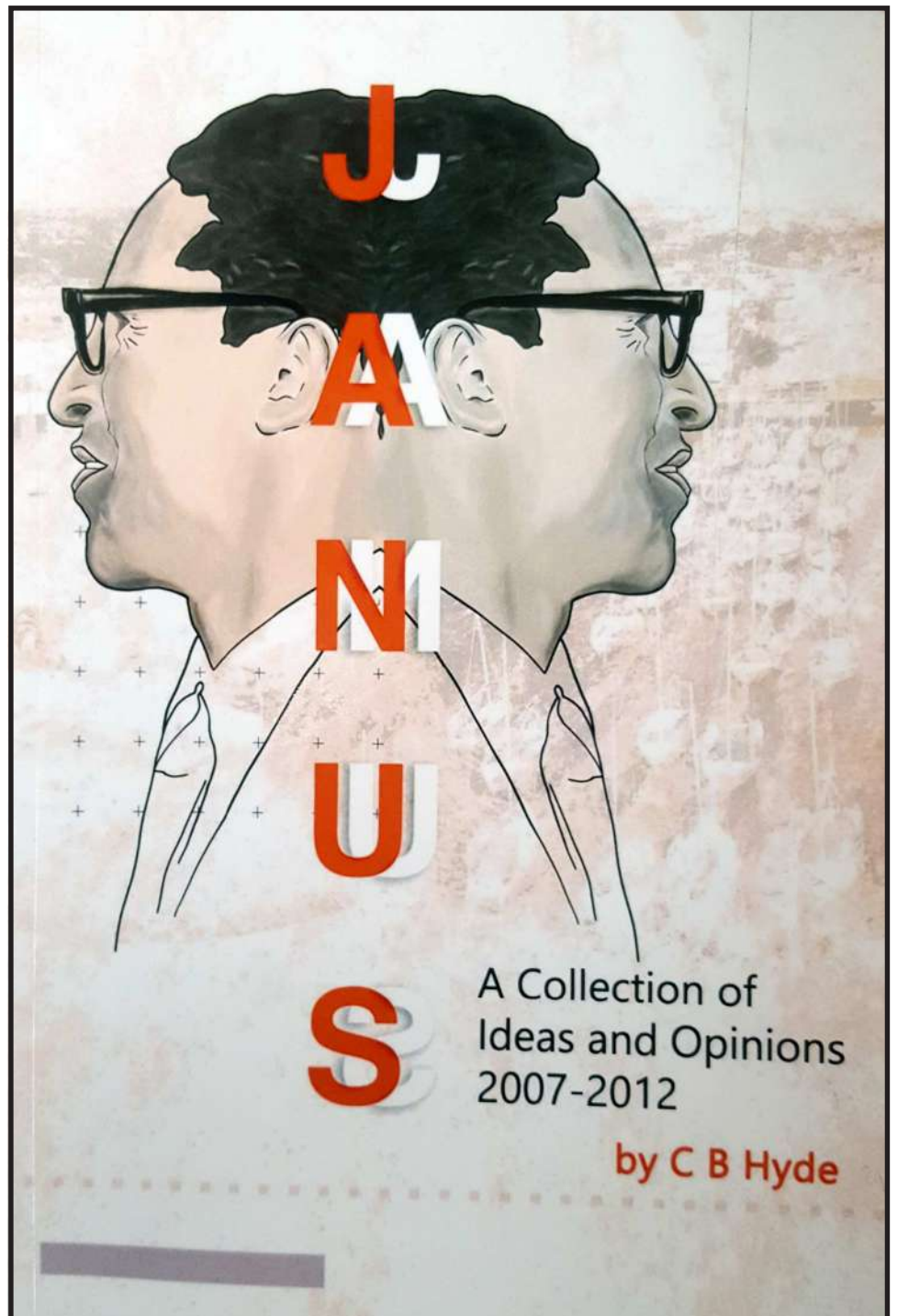
- Theoretical and practical expertise in all aspects related to surveillance, prevention and control of Noncommunicable diseases, and the promotion of health, as well as a thorough knowledge of epidemiology, prevention, and control methods.
- Ability to analyze factors, trends, and forecast scenarios 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 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.



Poitier corrigendum

In discussing the late Sidney Poitier in his Tuesday column this week, the Publisher said that he believed that Poitier was born in the Bahamas.

A friend in the U.S. subsequently informed him that Sidney Poitier was actually born in Miami, Florida, during a visit there from the Bahamas by his parents, who were in Florida to sell tomatoes. Sidney Poitier lived in the Bahamas until he was 15, then migrated to the United States.

Vladimir Putin's annual press conference — Part 3

Continued from **▶ Page 13**

with children aged three and younger. We started paying maternity capital for the first child. Then, we began paying benefits to pregnant women who are experiencing hardship. We paid additional benefits for children aged three to seven. We paid one-time benefits of 5,000 and 10,000 rubles to different categories – primarily people facing financial difficulties. It is an entire toolkit of measures – worth 4.5 trillion rubles last year, and we continued this kind of support into 2021.

Again, we did it all to either directly support people, or support them through businesses. We provided financial support to companies that kept people on board and maintained a certain level of wages. Among other things, as you know, we have recently increased the minimum wage and subsistence level. At first glance, this might not be a significant increase, but the idea is to have social benefits indexed immediately, and this affects millions of people. All social benefits are calculated on the basis of the minimum wage or subsistence level, and by the way, this also leads to indexation of certain pensions. Therefore, without a doubt, this budget can be described as socially focused. Answering your colleague's question about growth drivers, I have mentioned some of our absolutely unprecedented, grandiose infrastructure development plans. Look at the massive resources to be invested: we plan to allocate 2.5 trillion from the NWF alone; 500 billion has already been allocated; and 460 [billion] will be additionally allocated next year. We will also invest hugely in labour productivity and digitalisation in all industries, practically from top to bottom. Therefore, as I am saying, this budget is socially focused, but it is also focused on development. This much is absolutely obvious if you look at the figures.

(To Be Continued)
fincasolan@gmail.com
January 9, 2022
Finca Solana
Corozal Town



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 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

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.

From the Publisher

Reproduced from page 9 of the Tuesday, January 11, 2022, #3521 issue of Amandala

“Like the Freemasons, the Confederacy of the Humbled is a close-knit brotherhood whose members travel with no outward markings, but who know each other at a glance. For having fallen suddenly from grace, those in the Confederacy share a certain perspective. Knowing beauty, influence, fame, and privilege to be borrowed rather than bestowed, they are not easily impressed. They are not quick to envy or take offense. They certainly do not scour the papers in search of their own names. They remain committed to living among their peers, but they greet adulation with caution, ambition with sympathy, and condescension with an inward smile.”

- pg. 196, A GENTLEMAN IN MOSCOW, by Amor Towles, Viking, 2016.

In my younger, more militant days, there were a couple occasions on which I criticized my dad to the late Leroy Taegar. On those occasions, Taegar basically said the same thing to me: our parents' generation had done what they could under the colonial circumstances for the upliftment of their families and our people. Respect was due.

Looking back, I would say some of my problems in life may have begun because I took “education” (the word) literally. I believe the English word “educate” comes from a Latin verb called “educare,” which means, literally, to “lead out.” So that, education is supposed to be a process wherein one is led out of ignorance into enlightenment.

But there are power realities in

colonized societies, such as British Honduras was. Our education was not pure, so to speak: it was structured so as to praise and glorify the British, and condemn or ignore other peoples, especially the Roman Catholic Spaniards. (Long story.) Attending primary and high schools in British Honduras in the 1950s and 1960s, we were taught almost nothing about the French and absolutely nothing about the Russians.

This week a friend of mine sent an article to some of us which, I would say, considered the “accommodationism” of the late, great Sidney Poitier, a famous African-American movie actor who died this week at the age of 94. (I believe Poitier was born in the Bahamas.)

In response to that article and to my friend, I would say what Taegar said about my dad: Poitier and his generation did what they could under the “Jim Crow” circumstances for himself and his people.

But, Poitier was amply rewarded: with fame, with money, and with awards. There was an African American a few decades before Poitier, however, who was more talented than he, not only a superb actor, but a world class athlete and singer: his name was Paul Robeson. But you wouldn't know anything about him, because he went against the capitalist power structure in the United States, and for that they “disappeared” his career. Real.

In Belize, mainly because of the fabulously talented Sandra Coye, we sometimes speak of the French Revolution, a very important

revolution which occurred in 1789 and then precipitated the Haitian Revolution in 1791. But, we never speak of the Russian Revolution of 1917, which substantially affected the Mexican Revolution, which had begun in 1910, and precipitated the Chinese Revolution, which culminated with communist success in 1949.

Many of you know of Marcus Garvey, but what many of you don't realize is that what was happening intellectually in Harlem (New York City) in Garvey's time after World War I (1914-18) was seriously affected by what happened in Russia in 1917, which is to say, the working people had violently overthrown their tsarist monarchy and established communist rule.

The success of the working class revolution in Russia inspired courageous African Americans like Paul Robeson to dream of a change in the socio-economic realities of the United States of America. Robeson visited Russia and became an honored friend of the Russian Revolution, and a prominent acquaintance of the various working classes in Eastern Europe. He broadened his revolutionary horizons.

Garvey, for his part, rejected communism out of hand. He built an incredibly powerful black organization, not only in the United States, but all over the world. If you think about it, Marcus Garvey's most lasting legacy to the world may be Rastafarianism, which may be described as a religion. His organization, the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA), was not able to withstand the onslaughts of the American power

structure, and it was taken over by charlatans while Garvey was framed and incarcerated in Atlanta State Penitentiary in the late 1920s.

Sidney Poitier, I would say, basically made us feel good about ourselves as black people, but my friend's article focused on how Poitier's movie roles were “controlled” by the white power structure in America. There is a lot to analyze here. But these are the days of the internet, so you can do the research and find information and analytical pieces on Sidney Poitier for yourselves.

As black people in Belize, in our lifetime we have shrunk from being a clear majority of the population to being a clear minority. I have said to you that the Hon. Philip Goldson had to be sacrificed in order for this demographic change to be effected.

We live in a strange place, where we just experienced twelve and a half years of black Cabinet rule, from February of 2008 to November of 2020. Yet, we have incredible difficulty in finding any significant area where we, the descendants of slavery and colonialism, made any manifest progress as a people.

Yes, some of us became multi-millionaires. Just a few of us, mind you, and mostly attorneys. These were those of our people who “cut deals” with the real rulers. This is what Sidney Poitier did. He was a nice guy, beloved. Paul Robeson was the real warrior, and the real rulers in America kicked him all over the place. Such is life in the reality of the oppressed black people of planet earth.

Power to the people.

PUBLIC AUCTION SALE Belize City

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees, **Messrs. Atlantic Bank Limited**, Licensed Auctioneer **Fitzgerald A. Joseph** will sell the following property ON SITE on Wednesday the **26th January, 2022** starting at **10:00 a.m.**

Please note that Social Distancing Protocol will be in full effect and the wearing of mask will be mandatory.

Registration Section
Albert/Mesop

Block
45

Parcel
1907



Being a two storey timber/cement hotel known as “Caribbean Palm Inn”, situated in a prime downtown area of Belize City situated at the corner of Regent & King Streets, Belize City having a total area of 3,079 square feet on the lower flat and 2,411 square feet on the upper flat together with a land containing 446.14 square yards with a fully fenced yard the freehold property of Albert Dawson & Margrit Steiger at **10:00 a.m.**

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH
FITZGERALD A. JOSEPH
TELEPHONE: 601-2039

Email: palas105@yahoo.com

PM moves Chebat from Health to Public Utilities

Hon. Kevin Bernard is now heading the Health Ministry following Prime Minister Briceno's cabinet reshuffle

(Reproduced and updated from page 1 of the Tuesday January 11, 2022, issue #3521 of the Amandala)

BELMOPAN. Thurs. Jan. 13, 2022

On Monday, the Government of Belize issued a press release announcing a significant restructuring of Cabinet portfolios, which included the removal of Hon. Michel Chebat from the Ministry of Health and Wellness, which will now be headed by Hon. Kevin Bernard, a newly elected area representative and minister, and three-time mayor of Orange Walk Town. In the release, Prime Minister Hon. John Briceno notes that a comprehensive review was carried out of each Cabinet minister's portfolio, their performance, and the effectiveness of their leadership over the past year. The PM feels that these changes will enhance the work of the Cabinet and move the administration towards achieving key governance goals.

The GoB release states, "Hon. Kevin Bernard will now serve as Minister of Health and Wellness; Hon. Michel Chebat will now serve as Minister of Public Utilities and Logistics; and Hon. Rodwell Ferguson will now serve as Minister of Transport, Youth, and Sports."

The release also states that the Prime Minister's office will now take over coordination of the National Security Council. According to the release, the PM has already advised Governor General Froyla Tzalam that the portfolio reassignments are to take immediate effect.



(l-r) Kevin Bernard -- Minister of Health and Wellness, Michel Chebat -- Minister of Public Utilities and Logistics and Rodwell Ferguson -- Minister of Transport, Youth and Sports

In addition to these changes, Hon. Francis Fonseca and Hon. Henry Charles Usher will have additional responsibilities attached to their current portfolios. Fonseca will now also serve as Minister of E-Governance, while Hon. Henry Charles will serve additionally as Minister of Religious Affairs.

When interviewed earlier this week after the announcement, Hon. Usher said, "For some time now I've been advocating for a liaison between the government and the Council of Churches. I keep asking the Prime Minister month after month, can we get a liaison officer between Cabinet and the Council of Churches, so I guess this was a way of getting me off of his back in this request. But certainly, I welcome the challenge, I welcome the opportunity of merging the public service with the Christian fundamental principles upon which our country is based."

While these major changes could be


seen as being a response to public outcry for the removal of Michel Chebat from the head of the Health Ministry, and for the appointment of a medical professional or someone with a background in public health to head the ministry, the decision still falls short, since Kevin Bernard studied Business Administration. The release from Cabinet states, however, that Bernard, "has considerable experience in a broad spectrum of public sector and stakeholder management." At this time, there is no indication whether the person selected to be the CEO in the Health Ministry, Dr. Lesbia Guerra, has assumed the post. In addition, the post of the Director of Health Services has been made redundant, and there is no indication that anyone has been selected to fill the new director posts (Director of Hospital Services and Director of Public Health and Wellness) that have been created to replace the DHS post

within the ministry.

Hon. Kevin Bernard, when interviewed, expressed confidence in what he will be able to accomplish, despite taking on the reins of the most important ministry at this time. The global pandemic is continuing to take a toll on all healthcare workers, and morale within hospitals and among public servants is at an all-time low following Hon. Chebat's brief tenure. This week, following the announcement of his appointment as Minister of Health and Wellness, Hon. Bernard told local media that he will focus his energy on seeing things differently — from the perspective of the medical professionals. He acknowledged that he has no medical background, but said that he intends to use his leadership skills to listen to the right advice.

Bernard further indicated that he is

Please turn to ▶ Page 19



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

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 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



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

1. 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**.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Program Management Unit for the Climate Vulnerability Reduction Program – cvrp.4426.3@gmail.com AND 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).
5. 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.

6. 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.
7. 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**.
8. All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security of twenty-five thousand Belize dollars (BZ \$25,000.00).
9. 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
 1st Floor, Project Execution Unit Building
 Power Lane, Belmopan
 Cayo District, BELIZE
 Tel: 501-822-1942
 Email: cvrp.4426.3@gmail.com AND
 cc: mow.project4426@gmail.com

PM moves Chebat from Health to Public Utilities

Continued from Page 17

prepared for the task ahead and compared the low morale currently plaguing the Health Ministry to the culture he found when he entered the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

“You should ask them today; it’s totally different. I plan to do the very same,” Hon. Bernard said in his sit-down with the media. He went on to mention that, although he is anticipating ups and downs as he takes on his new role, his end goal is to “end COVID in Belize.” He further indicated that he will be aiming to reestablish strong relationships with the professionals currently within the ministry, and will be noting strengths and weaknesses within various sections of the ministry, on the basis of which he will be making the necessary adjustments. He further told reporters that the new chief executive officer of the Ministry will be selected following consultations with the Prime Minister. He could not

name any candidates that are being considered for the post at this time, but he reassured the public that no “witch-hunting” will take place during his tenure.

During the UDP’s press conference on Tuesday, the Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Patrick Faber, scoffed at the new appointment — stating flatly that Hon. Bernard is not the right man for the job. He went on to state that a senator or professional would have been a better fit and went on to refer to Hon. Bernard as nothing more than a puppet for the Prime Minister, even claiming that he did a “very mediocre” job in managing his previous ministerial portfolio.

Faber then went on to marvel at the fact that the man who held the post that has now been assigned to Bernard, Hon. Michel Chebat, has not been thrown out of Cabinet entirely — claiming 607 COVID-19 deaths occurred under his watch compared to the 75 deaths that occurred while Dr. Marvin Manzanero was at the helm of the national response

to the pandemic.

“Mr. Prime Minister and new Minister of Health and Wellness, the same conditions will prevail in terms of our health system if you don’t get a chief executive officer that can work and function in a professional manner with the minister and other ministry officials. If you don’t properly secure those areas that come under or what came under the Director of Health Services, if you don’t have a proper epidemiology unit, if you don’t properly procure medical supplies, and if you don’t allow regional medical institutions to operate in a proper manner, and we must end this mafia-type monopoly of Covid-19 testing,” Faber then stated.

He remarked that only a few persons are reaping profits from the procurement of these tests.

In regard to the awarding of contracts, Hon. Bernard pledged while being interviewed by reporters that he will “make sure that there is utmost

transparency and accountability to the people.” While he could not answer the question posed to him on the issue of transparency in the issuance of contracts while Minister Chebat was at the helm of the Health Ministry, he referred to the role played by the Contractor General in reviewing contracts and the specific procedures and protocols in place at the ministry.

In the Prime Minister’s press release, the PM said that all Cabinet ministers, including those whose portfolios were reassigned, have his full confidence. He added, however, “My constitutional obligation as a steward of the Executive requires the fine-tuning of ministerial designations from time to time, and in view of the current circumstances, I am convinced that the new assignments will further the national interest.”

He also remarked that Minister Chebat, “is particularly suited to tackle the complexities of public utilities and logistics.”



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 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

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.

NOTICE TO SUPPLY FEED FOR SHEEP & GOAT

Sheep and Goat Project, Central Farm, Cayo

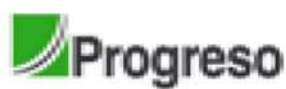
The Sheep and Goat Project is seeking to procure a year supply of sheep & goat feed for the National Sheep and Goat Breeding Center in Central Farm.

Suppliers are invited to submit a price quotation that includes all fees for 1,500 bags of Sheep Lactation and 1,500 bags of Sheep Weaner. Each Bag must weigh 50 pounds and meet the Crude Protein Percentage indicated below. Both Items are to be delivered to the National Sheep and Goat Breeding Center at the Livestock Section in Central Farm **monthly** or **bimonthly** depending on the delivery schedule that is agreed upon.

Item	Sheep Ration	CP Content (%)	Total amount required
1.	Lactation	23%	1,500 bags
2.	Weaner	21%	1,500 bags

Other requirements and information on the CP Content for each item are as follows:

A tendering letter by interested suppliers including quotation in Belize Dollars is to be emailed to h.y.huang@icdf.org.tw before 4:00 p.m. Friday January 28th, 2022. Late bids will not be accepted. Bids received on time will be opened on Friday January 28th, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. for evaluation and selection. The bidder whose offer has been determined to be the lowest evaluated quotation and is qualify to satisfy the contract shall be awarded the purchase order. For further details on the tendering process please contact Sheep & Goat Project via telephone number 832-8187 or email at h.y.huang@icdf.org.tw.



Career Opportunity

Recovery Sales Executive
Belize

Carry out commercial activities related with customer's recovery and product demonstration to advise customer and ensure compliance of the objective of the assigned territory.

Qualification and Experience:

- Technical degree in Construction or Industrial
- Two years' experience as Commercial Executive in Construction or Industrial Sector.
- 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 recovery activities to maintain market share.
- Carry our demonstration activities and advise clients.
- Execute training processes to master builders

Compensation

Compensation will be offered based on qualification and experience.

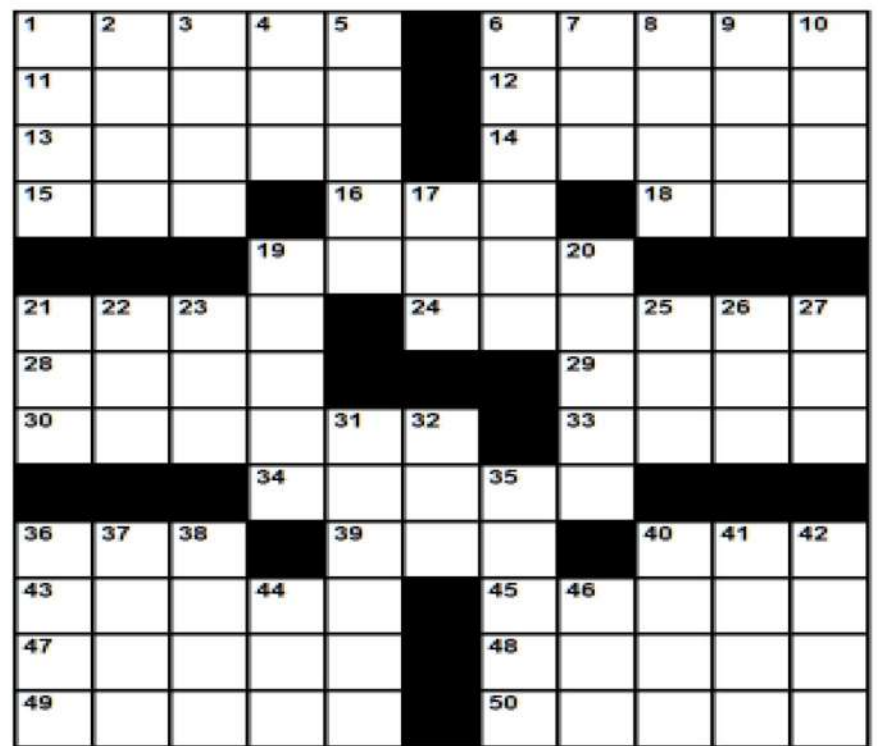
Address: Mile 34 George Price Highway Cayo District, Belize

To apply send your resume showing your education and experience to belizecruitmentcr@cempro.com, as the email subject, place the name of the position you are applying to, before January 21st, 2022.



NEW PUZZLE

Daily Crossword Puzzle for January 12, 2022



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Across

1. Dismal, to Keats
6. Jolly pirate
11. Wild dog of the outback
12. Boredom
13. Did arithmetic
14. Dreads
15. Affirmative reply
16. Cassowary cousin
18. Bearing pivot
19. Stardust composer Carmichael
21. Perform again
24. Minor mystery
28. Berserk
29. Actress Joan
30. Fake
33. Argonauts' patron
34. Had in mind
36. Caught ya!
39. Do slaloms
40. Writer Grafton
43. 1000 kilograms
45. Burglar's crime
47. Closer to reality
48. Bring about
49. Initial stages
50. Imprison

Down

1. 6/6/1944
2. Amusement park attraction
3. Brings to a close

4. Aquarius, e.g.
5. Copland ballet
6. Haven
7. Undivided
8. Biting bug
9. 100 cents overseas
10. Extend upward
17. A welcome sight
19. Bunk
20. America's cup contender
21. Break-dance music
22. Font widths
23. Anonymous Jane
25. Common pronoun
26. Always, in verse
27. Code letters
31. Arid area
32. Acorn bearer
35. A family tree apple
36. Anne Frank's father
37. A unicorn has one
38. Encumbrance
40. Bump one's toe
41. Bear of stars
42. Inspector
44. Born as
46. 60's war zone, casually

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 - 01-06-2022 - Answers





Queen strips Prince Andrew of military roles and royal patronages

Move comes after more than 150 veterans request removal amid US sexual assault civil lawsuit



Prince Andrew

Ben Quinn

Thu 13 Jan 2022 17.22 (// www.theguardian.com)

The Queen has removed a range of military affiliations and royal patronages held by Prince Andrew, Buckingham Palace has said. The move, which includes the prince losing the use of “His Royal Highness”, comes after a US judge gave the green light for her second son to face a sexual assault civil lawsuit.

Buckingham Palace said in a statement on Thursday: “With the Queen’s approval and agreement, the Duke of York’s military affiliations and royal patronages have been returned to the Queen. The Duke of York will continue not to undertake any public duties and is defending this case as a private citizen.”

A royal source said the prince would no longer use the style “His Royal Highness” in any official capacity.

The dramatic move comes hours after more than 150 military veterans wrote to the Queen to ask her to strip Andrew of his honorary military roles amid what they described as their “upset and anger”. The palace had said earlier on Thursday that it had no comment on their open letter.

Writing to her in her capacity as head of state and commander-in-chief of the army, navy and air force, an open letter from former members of each of the services said that it was “untenable” for the Duke of York to retain his position.

Full article can be viewed at: <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/jan/13/veterans-ask-queen-to-strip-prince-andrew-of-honorary-military-titles>

First published by The Guardian

SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE RRB.CS.48 – ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Project country:	Belize
Financing institution:	International Fund for Agricultural Development
Client:	Ministry of Finance, Economic Development, and Investment
Project name:	Resilient Rural Belize Programme
Title:	Specific Procurement Notice (SPN)
Procurement type:	Individual Consulting Services
Procurement Post:	Administrative Assistant
Loan/Credit/Grant Financing No.:	2000002301

Background: The Government of Belize (GOB), with financing from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF), has embarked on a six-year Programme, Resilient Rural Belize (RRB), which aims to minimize the impacts of climatic and economic events on smallholder farmers while supporting sustainable market access for their produce. The programme will help farmers employ climate resilient agricultural practices and technologies; integrate profitable smallholder participation into the development of select vegetable, fruit, and honey value chains; and support smallholder production capacity through investments in public and private climate resilient infrastructure and in the strengthening of smallholder farmer Producers Organizations and relevant GOB Departments.

Scope of Service: The Administrative Assistant will provide support to the Programme Manager and the RRB Programme Management Unit Staff to ensure the efficient and effective execution of all required Programme implementation tasks.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Be responsible for day-to-day project correspondence, information sharing and filing ensuring that appropriate follow-up actions are taken.
- Maintain a record and filing system as repository of all pertinent Project documents at the RRB Office both in hard and electronic copy files.
- Assist in the encoding of Project documents and reports (e.g. minutes, agreements, MOUS, and presentation), as necessary;
- Prepare minutes of meetings as necessary.
- Assist with the procurement of and manage all office supplies and consumables.
- Maintain records of stock inventory.
- Assist the Procurement Officer in the bidding process, as necessary.
- Assist the Procurement Officer with the maintenance of the Contract Monitoring database.
- Maintain and Update the Supplier/Vendor Listing in par with the Procurement Officer
- Organize all workshop/trainings, programme oversight committee meetings and both mission and staff meetings.
- Prepare Minutes of Meetings as necessary.
- Plan all events including publicizing of events, assisting with creation of flyers and promotional material, following up with guests and attendees, logistics coordination, venue preparation and communication with relevant suppliers.
- Organizing travel arrangements for programme staff, consultants and IFAD mission members (including procurement of tickets, airport transport and hotel reservations);
- Liaise with project counterparts on day-to-day implementation of project activities.
- Support the Programme Manager and PMU Officers/Specialists as needed and undertake any other activity that may be assigned by the Programme Manager.

Academic Qualification and General Experience: The Administrative Assistant must possess.

- Minimum of an associate degree in Business Administration, Management, Economics, Agribusiness and/or related field.
- Minimum of three (3) years’ experience providing administrative assistant services. Experience working with IFI funded projects will be considered an asset.

Reporting: The Administrative Assistant will work closely with all the RRB PMU Officers especially the Procurement Officer but will report directly to the Programme Manager. The duty station for the position will be at the Programme Management Unit in Belmopan City.

Clarifications: Any request for clarification should be sent via e-mail to the address below no later than January 19, 2022, at 3:00pm. The client will provide responses to all clarification requests by January 26, 2022 at 3:00pm.

Resilient Rural Belize Programme

Attn: Nadia Vernon
Procurement Officer
National Agriculture Showgrounds
Hummingbird Highway, Belmopan City
Email: Nvernon.rrb@med.gov.bz

Application Submission:

Interested candidates are requested to submit ONE PDF FILE that shall include a Letter of Interest, Curriculum Vitae, and two (2) recommendation letters along with a copy of the highest degree. The deadline to submit applications is February 4, 2022, at 3:00p.m. via the following File Request Link: <https://bit.ly/3ITaBHS>

(Note: No application submitted via email will be accepted)

A consultant will be selected in accordance with the individual consultant selection (ICS) method set out in IFAD’ Project Procurement Handbook that can be accessed via the IFAD website at www.ifad.org/project-procurement. Interviews will be conducted as part of the selection process.

GoB commences upgrade of Haulover Bridge



by *Charles Gladden*

BELIZE CITY, Tues. Jan. 11, 2022

Back in 2017, the Government of Belize under the Barrow administration had secured a loan of BZD \$24 million from the OPEC Fund for International Development which was to be used to partially cover the BZ\$30 million budgeted cost of the replacement of the Haulover Bridge in the Belize District.

That Haulover Bridge Replacement Project is now underway. According to the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and

Housing, the design for the new Haulover Bridge is based on modern standards and features a single-span, structural steel arch, supported on bored piles.

Since the bridge will be undergoing an upgrade, the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing (MIDH) along with the company contracted to carry out the construction work under the Haulover Bridge Replacement Project, M&M Engineering Consultants Ltd., has informed the public that two permanent mid-river foundation piers will be constructed in the Belize River at a location just

downstream of the existing bridge.

While construction of the bridge is underway, multiple heavy lifting barges will be used as platforms for heavy equipment that will be used in the driving of piles and the construction of the reinforced concrete piers.

As a safety precaution, a “No wake” sign will be constructed to notify boaters to go slow when approaching the Haulover Bridge from both sides.

“Boaters using the river in that area in the coming weeks are asked to exercise care as foundation piles will be driven and reinforced concrete piers will be built. It’s a big move for the MIDH and a bigger benefit for the people of Belize,” stated the MIDH.

According to the MIDH, the new structure is designed to have two approach spans of 43.025 meters and a center span of 42.5 meters, totaling 128.55 meters. Seven Florida Type

72 Bulb Tee girders support each span, resulting in an overall bridge deck width of 14.9 meters. The new structure accommodates two lanes of traffic, including 1.5-meter-wide shoulders and dedicated pedestrian sidewalks on both sides. A rigid AASHTO Type 732 concrete barrier will separate vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

The Infrastructural Development and Housing Ministry has noted that the deck will be placed on reinforced concrete center piers and abutments and driven piles and that two elevated, reinforced concrete approaches of five 30-meter spans, each incorporating seven pre-cast/pre-stressed AASHTO Type 4 beams, will create a gradual approach from ground level to the bridge deck, which is 6.5 meters above mean sea level, providing 4.5 meters of freeboard and making the entire bridge a climate-resilient structure. Additional improvements include the addition of modern safety features including high-visibility signs, lighting, painted lane markings, and safety rails as needed.

The contract for the Haulover Bridge Replacement Project with M&M Engineering Consultants Ltd. has an estimated value of BZ\$30,990,991.49. The project is scheduled to commence on Saturday, January 15, and is scheduled to be completed in 2024.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY FOR THE POST OF CORPORATE OFFICER

CAPITAL CORPORATE SERVICES LIMITED invites qualified candidates for a career opportunity of Corporate Officer.

EDUCATION:

Candidate must have an Associate’s Degree and at least 2-3 years’ experience in corporate field.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS:

- Broad knowledge and experience in corporate transactions, such as transfer of shares, resolutions, notices, annual renewal processes both in Belize and Anguilla, land transactions such as transfer of land, first registration, cautions, withdrawal of caution, discharge of charge, declarations and any other relatable documents.
- Excellent writing, communication, organizational and problem-solving skills
- Demonstrated ability to be flexible, team player, make suggestion and adopt to change
- Creatively helping in seeking and finding solutions to make the system and procedures flow smoothly
- General knowledge of accounting
- Experience in all the fields listed herein.
- Excellent Interpersonal Skills
- Must have professional demeanor, flexible, dependable, have a sound work ethic and mature attitude to work and be a good communicator and collaborator.

Send application along with resume and photograph no later than 26th January 2022 to:

Human Resources
Coney Drive, Matalon Business Center
Suite 403 | 4th Floor
Belize City, Belize
Email: eloyso@grandbelizeanestates.com

CAREER OPPORTUNITY FOR THE POST OF COMPLIANCE OFFICER

CAPITAL CORPORATE SERVICES LIMITED invites qualified candidates for a career opportunity of Compliance Officer.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENT:

Minimum Bachelor’s Degree in Management or related field with a minimum of two (2) years compliance related experience

COMPLIANCE RESPONSIBILITIES

- Develops, initiates and maintains and revises policies and procedures for the general operation of the Company’s Corporate Governance Framework and its related activities to prevent illegal, unethical or improper conduct.
- Monitors and provides monthly reports to management levels of customer compliance and ensure internal compliance targets are met.
- Collaborate with other departments to direct compliance issues to appropriate existing channels for investigation and resolution and/or to obtain accurate and complete information for onward submission to Management
- Be knowledgeable of FATCA and other regulatory requirements and laws relating to compliance governing industry.

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

- Excellent Interpersonal Skills
- Excellent Communication skills both written and verbal format
- Must have professional demeanor, like reading and research, flexible, dependable, have a sound work ethic and mature attitude to work and be a good communicator and collaborator.

Send application along with resume and photograph no later than 26th January 2022 to:

Human Resources
Coney Drive, Matalon Business Center
Suite 403 | 4th Floor
Belize City, Belize
Email: eloyso@grandbelizeanestates.com

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

S A L E S S U P E R V I S O R



Apply Now:

Send your resume and all supporting documents to hr@brodies.bz. Deadline for submitting application is Jan 28, 2022.

Job Summary

We are seeking a detail-oriented, thorough, and organized sales supervisor to join our company. In this position, you will play a key role in providing excellent customer service and growing company revenue. You will supervise and coordinate the schedules of the sales representatives to meet and exceed sales quotas.

Duties & Responsibilities

- Understand customer needs and offer solutions and support
- Organize and coordinate sales representative schedules
- Recruit, hire, and train new sales representatives
- Receive and report on all sales lead and work closely with Brand Managers
- Supervise sales representatives and assistants
- Answer potential customers questions and follow-up call questions
- Track weekly, monthly, and quarterly performances and prepare reports accordingly
- Assist sales representatives and team to meet and exceed goals

Requirements & Qualifications

- Associate degree in business administration or related fields
- Two (2) years' experience in customer support, client services, sales
- Demonstrated and proven sales results
- Basic computer skills and experience with tracking and recording call informations, filing documents, or updating customer profiles/accounts
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Persuasive and goal-oriented
- In-depth understanding of company services and its position in the market
- Excellent customer care and focus
- Ability to multitask, prioritize, and manage time effectively



COVID-19 outbreak at Corozal Free Zone

172 COVID-19 cases were detected during testing at the Corozal Free Zone today



Neri Ramirez – CEO, Corozal Free Zone

COROZAL, Wed. Jan. 12, 2022

Today, the CEO of the Corozal Free Zone (CFZ), Neri Ramirez, informed the country of a surge in COVID-19 cases among business owners and employers within the CFZ. At the start of this year, around 6 positive cases were recorded. This prompted the management of the CFZ to organize a testing campaign in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Wellness for its staff. As of 4:45 p.m. today, at least 967 tests had been processed, and 172 persons who work on the CFZ premises were marked as positive and sent into isolation. At this time, according to CEO Ramirez, all the persons tested are asymptomatic—which he attributes to the 100% vaccination rate at the CFZ.

the boosters and the vaccines are working for us so far here,” CEO Ramirez said.

The team from the Ministry of Health and Wellness was still conducting testing at the time of the interview, and a large number of persons inside the free zone, including all CFZ management and staff, were set to be swabbed. Ramirez said that they will wait for three days before conducting another round of testing.

“The Corozal Free Zone is 100% vaccinated. Some of them have already started with the boosters; secondly, we have not brought down our guard, our protocols in the Corozal Free Zone, and the good thing to this is that this 172 persons that have tested positive at the Corozal Free Zone are asymptomatic. So what I mean is that

At this time, there is no indication that a lockdown or stricter measures will be implemented at the Corozal Free Zone, since the CEO says that they are still satisfied with the protocols currently in place. He encourages the entire district of Corozal and the nation to get vaccinated to reduce the impact of this most recent COVID-19 outbreak.

Belize and Russia abolish visa requirement for entry



Belize's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Eamon Courtenay, and Russia's Foreign Minister, Sergey Lavrov

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY. Thurs. Jan. 13, 2022

Citizens of Belize will no longer need to get a visa to enter Russia. Neither will Russian citizens be required to get a visa to visit Belize. The governments of these countries have decided to remove those visa requirements that were in place, and thus Belizeans with a valid passport can enter Russia and stay for up to 90 days within any 180-day period and Russian citizens with valid passports can do the same when they enter Belize. However, citizens of either country who intend to reside in the other country for more than 90 days, or to work for remuneration or undergo training on its territory, still need to obtain a visa.

that country's Ambassador to Belize. The Ambassador of Belize to Russia (with a residence in Brussels) was accredited for the first time in the history of the countries' bilateral relations in 2020.

Last year, 2021, marked 30 years of established diplomatic relations between Russia and Belize.

The agreement to remove the visa requirement came into force on Wednesday, January 12, 2022, and was signed between Belize's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Immigration, Hon. Eamon Courtenay, and Russia's Foreign Minister, Sergey Lavrov, in New York on September 23, 2021, when both representatives were attending the United Nations General Assembly.

Russia's Ambassador to Mexico is also



MARKETING SUPERVISOR

DUTIES

- Develop and execute yearly marketing plans to attain specific objectives
- Follow up on marketing results to ensure marketing objectives are met
- Develop graphics for product launches and marketing campaigns
- Enhance, monitor and manage all local activities relating to Digital Marketing
- Assist and coordinate participation in Trade Shows and Expos
- Submit a monthly report of the activities of the Marketing Department

QUALIFICATION

- Minimum of Associate Degree in Marketing or Business Management or related field
- Minimum of two (2) years experience in Marketing
- Experience in Digital Marketing and Social Media Strategy
- Ability to work with Design software is an asset

Interested individuals are asked to submit the following:

- Application Letter
- Two (2) current references
- Copy of recent police record

Deadline for submission: Jan 28, 2022

All documents must be submitted to hr@brodies.bz

FROM THE PUBLISHER en Español

Hace unos meses, discutí el caso increíblemente sensacional de un beliceño rico y prominente que en algunos aspectos era un hombre hecho y derecho en comportamiento, pero también tenía estos poderosos impulsos de perseguir a los jóvenes para la actividad homosexual. Su vida fue "increíblemente sensacional" porque él mismo le disparó a un vecino joven en 1975, un joven apuñaló a su hijo mayor hasta matarlo en 1985, y luego él mismo fue asesinado a tiros alrededor de la milla 12 en la Carretera Oeste, presumiblemente por un joven amante masculino, a mediados de la década de 1990.

Les expliqué que me sentí forzado a llegar a la conclusión de que debió haber sido abusado por un pedófilo en su infancia/juventud, y que ese abuso había torcido su psique hasta el punto de que la tragedia se repetía en su vida. Este domingo por la tarde visité More Tomorrow, donde localicé la tumba de Ismail Shabazz, un amigo cercano que había sido juzgado junto a mí por conspiración sediciosa en la Corte Suprema de Honduras Británica en 1970.

Un día, en una conversación informal, cuando probablemente ya pasábamos los cincuenta, diría yo, Ismail me dijo que cuando tenía 14 años y estaba tratando de entrar a una película en el Palace Theatre, un homosexual le había hecho una proposición después de una breve conversación que no tenía nada que ver con el sexo.

Mi finado tío materno, Buck Belisle, después de haber estado básicamente confinado a su hogar, mencionó brevemente que cuando era joven, iba en un viaje de la iglesia metodista a una aldea del distrito de Belize cuando un clérigo metodista le hizo propuestas indecentes. Mi tío no insistió en el tema, y yo no proseguí.

Hace un par de meses, les dije que cuando asistí a clases de piano a mediados de la década de 1950 con la Señorita Helen Craig en la Calle Regent Street (cerca de la esquina con la Calle King), un caballero a menudo estaba en su casa los fines de semana a quien descubrí décadas más tarde era un homosexual de rango.

Después de que la Señorita Helen se fuera a vivir a Estados Unidos, mi mamá me envió a la Señorita Floss Casasola para continuar con los estudios de piano. La Señorita Floss vivía en East Collet Canal, casi directamente enfrente del viejo matadero.

Un día, al regresar a casa de la Señorita Floss, estaba en la Avenida Euphrates acercándome a la Calle Cemetery cuando vi a un hombre adulto mirándome de una manera que consideré sospechosa. No me gustaron sus vibras.

Belize es un lugar tan pequeño. El caballero era un empleado de una de las primeras tiendas cooperativas donde creo que mi padre estaba en la junta. Esta tienda cooperativa estaba cerca de donde estaba The Vogue en la esquina de la Calle North Front y la

Calle Queen. (Hace mucho tiempo.) Creo que este tipo entregaba comestibles.

Muchos años después, familiares suyos fueron firmes defensores de la incipiente UBAD, una familia que yo tenía en estima. Nunca les mencioné sobre él o el incidente, porque no era tan importante, y es posible que no era nada.

En cualquier caso, todo lo que he escrito hasta ahora hoy es para especular sobre si esta ausencia prolongada de las clases escolares regulares ocasionada por la pandemia de COVID-19 ha aumentado el peligro para nuestros hijos de personas mayores que son homosexuales o tienen tendencias de pedofilia.

Belize es un lugar donde los homosexuales son muy poderosos. Para mí, la iniciativa liderada por Caleb para eliminar la ley de los libros de Belize que criminalizaba la homosexualidad fue rechazada por personas que yo creía que eran homosexuales, porque los homosexuales mayores sentían que no había necesidad de la controversia. La comunidad gay ya era tan poderosa que la ley no se aplicaría de todos modos. Esta fue mi perspectiva personal.

Tienen que entender esto, que las principales iglesias cristianas en Belize son instituciones súper poderosas donde los homosexuales a menudo encuentran refugio. Dado que las principales iglesias cristianas controlan las principales escuelas cristianas, quien acusa públicamente a cualquiera de los culpables corre el riesgo de que sus hijos o nietos sean victimizados. Es por eso que Belize es Belize.

En los Estados Unidos, este problema de la agresividad de la comunidad LGBT es muy grande y es una de las razones por las que Estados Unidos se ha acercado más a la guerra civil que en cualquier otro momento desde la década de 1960 y principios de la de 1970. Algunas de las personas que apoyan a Donald Trump tan fanáticamente creen que están protegiendo a sus hijos del elemento LGBT que es poderoso en el Partido Demócrata.

Cuando era joven, podría haber sido descrito como homofóbico, pero la edad me ha suavizado. No soy homofóbico, aunque creo que los grandes de la comunidad gay me consideran su enemigo. Tomo las palabras de Jesucristo literalmente, que los niños deben ser protegidos de los adultos depredadores a toda costa.

Este es un tema que no discutimos en Belize. Esto se debe a que los depredadores son poderosos aquí, y cuanto menos se discuta el tema, mejor para su estilo de vida. El hecho es que Estados Unidos estaba impulsando la agenda LGBT en Belize durante las administraciones de Barack Obama.

El sexo es un tema crítico. Pero tenemos miedo de hablar de ello en público. Hay algunas instituciones aquí donde los homosexuales son dominantes. Esto me preocupa. No me disculpo por esto.



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

Friday January 14, 2022 to Thursday January 20, 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: No Way Out - 1950 Richard Widmark, Sidney Poitier
- 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 Africans - A Triple Heritage, Program 3
- 9:57 a.m. Movie: Black or White
- 12:00 a.m. Documentary: America's Great Divide
- 2:54 a.m. Movie: Riverbend
- 3:30 p.m. Documentary: Belize SocioPolitical Challenge
- 4:28 p.m. Movie: Separados Mas Iguais
- 7:00 p.m. Music Videos

SUNDAY

- 10:30 a.m. **Sunday Review (LIVE)**
- 12:00 p.m. Documentary: Money, Happiness and Eternal Life
- 1:31 p.m. Movie: Black Panther
- 3:45 p.m. Documentary: Thornell
- 5:14 p.m. Documentary: Are You Taking Steam Daily
- 5:19 p.m. Documentary: Muslim Journal
- 5:30 p.m. **Sunday Review (repeat)**
- 7:00 p.m. Sunday Jazz
- 8:00 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: 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. 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. Documentary: The Men - 1950 Marlon Brando Teresa Wright
- 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. Movie: A Time To Kill
- 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: Keep The Faith Baby
- 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)**

A ROSE IN PORT LOYOLA! SISTA SARITA!

MUSLIM PATRIOT OF THE ISLAMIC MISSION OF BELIZE (IMB)

by *Bilal Morris*

(A tribute to one of the most dedicated Muslim women of Belize)



Sista Sarita

Sista Sarita, as she was known in the Muslim community of Belize, was one of the pioneering members of the Nation of Islam in Belize during the 1960s and 70s. When the news came to me of her passing a week ago, there was a deep sense of sadness that engulfed me for a long time. She was a rose, and a beloved Muslim woman who had always treated me kindly, backed up by the friendly smile you can see on her face in this historic photo during her days as a Muslim who made a considerable contribution to Islam's development in Belize.

Her name was mentioned constantly to me by the late

Ismail Omar Shabazz during the days of the Los Angeles Muslims of Belize (LAMBs) of Los Angeles, California. My eyes were privileged to see Shabazz's photo albums of the brothers and sisters who embraced Islam in the 60s and 70s. But the image of Sista Sarita stayed with me until my journey back to Belize in the 80s and 90s when I visited the Islamic community of Belize and met her for the first time.

Her warm, humble and pleasant nature stood out and reflected the modesty of Muslim women across the world. The Muslim community of Belize had departed its Nation of Islam experience and had come into a more orthodox Islamic doctrine of practicing the teachings of the Quran and the ways and teachings of the

prophet Muhammad (Peace and blessings be with him). It was Imam Nuri Muhammad who led the Muslim community through its transitional period, since he led the Nation of Islam in Belize in the 70s. He later guided the community through its growth, during which it transitioned from being the Islamic Mission of Belize (IMB) on Racecourse Street in the 70s to being the Islamic center on Central American Boulevard that is now headed by Imam Kaleem El-Amin.

To understand how these Belizean Muslim female pioneers like Sista Sarita stood the test of time and persevered with patience despite the odds, one has to know the history of the Muslim community that she came from. When I met her for the first time, the discipline and the spiritual values that she embodied as a Muslim in the Belizean "Nation" permeated her character deeply and reflected a hard work ethic. She was one of the Muslim women who cooked the food and worked in the kitchens for many of the Islamic festivities that had shone bright like a diamond across the Belizean culture in the 60s and 70s in Belize City, Belize, where the Muslims of Belize had established a proud and dynamic presence.

She was deeply involved in the Nation of Islam's breakfast programs in the 60s and 70s that Brother Nuri Muhammad had established as one of Belize's most prominent Islamic social workers and activists of the time. Brother Nuri also had shared the breakfast program with the United Black Association for Development (UBAD) prior to becoming the leader of the Nation of Islam. It was through an extension of the breakfast program at the Islamic Mission of Belize's primary school, known as Muhammad School, that my work with Sista Sarita began.

When I returned to live in Belize City, Belize in 1999 and my two youngest children started attending Muhammad School, the work of Sista Sarita amazed and impressed me, as I saw her working in the kitchen upstairs of the school with less than the bare essentials. She was making breakfast and lunches for the poor children of the Port Loyola area who were coming to the school hungry and not having proper nutrition at home.

Being moved and touched by how she labored charitably for the cause of the school's development and gave of herself in the service of children and her Muslim community, and filled with admiration for her resolve, I immediately asked her to allow me to contribute. My work with her began after I spoke with the principal of the school and later the Islamic "Shura" (management) and asked for assistance in supplying the staple food items along with a deep freezer to store and preserve the food for the



CAREER OPPORTUNITY



Belize Sugar Industries Ltd.
Invites qualified and self-motivated individuals
to submit applications for the post of:
Shift Sampler (Temporary)
at Tower Hill, Orange Walk

The **Shift Sampler** will work hand in hand with the Microbiology Technician and be responsible for maintenance in the Laboratory department within the Factory.

Qualifications and Experience:

- Associates' Degree in Chemistry or related field
- Minimum of 2+ years' work experience in laboratory/ quality/ processing or related field

Skills and Competencies:

- Excellent verbal/written communication skills
- Self-motivated with exceptional work ethic
- Proactive, organized and dependable
- Strong analytical skills
- Good interpersonal skills, team oriented
- Attention to detail and excellent record keeping
- Willing to work shift hours, flexible
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite

Roles and Responsibilities:

- Prepare weekly reports
- Prepare retention and sugar samples
- Assist in cleaning and maintenance of the lab equipment
- Assist in collecting samples

Letter of application accompanied by a résumé, police record, recent transcript and two letters of reference should be submitted to:



Human Resources Manager
P.O. Box 29, Tower Hill, Orange Walk
Or
email
HR.Belize@asr-group.com



Deadline for submission is January 21, 2022

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spearheaded by the new Leadership Intervention Unit, which aims to introduce alternatives to crime.

Over the weekend of August 21st, Dr. Fernando Cuellar, internist, was hospitalized for COVID-19. He got to go home days later and said that he would have fared off worse had it not been for the vaccine.



Dr. Fernando Cuellar

That same weekend, lab technicians at the Central Medical Lab absented themselves from work to express frustration about multiple unresolved concerns, including sub-standard working conditions, reduced overtime pay and a postponement of their scheduled vacation leave.

Services at the San Ignacio Community Hospital had to be temporarily suspended due to a COVID-19 cluster among staff.

Early in the morning on August 21, a mother and her daughter, 37-year-old PC Arilee Young and 17-year-old Shania Cardenes, were killed in King's Park by Young's partner, a security guard identified as Glenford Perriott, 26.



WPC Arilee Young and Shania Cardenes, both deceased

Fifty-nine-year-old Mercedes Pais handed himself in to police after bludgeoning his common-law wife Alejandra Garcia, 27, and injuring her mother and sister in San Ignacio on Monday, August 23. The mother, Angelica Rodriguez, 64, died while receiving treatment. Notably, Pais had gone to broadcast personality, Kent Pandy, to have a statement recorded in explanation of his future actions. Pandy said he tried to dissuade him and then attempted to call Garcia, but it was too late.

On August 28 we headlined the death of yet two more Belizean men in Mexico. The report is that Norman Haulze, 21, and Ozmond Melendez had moved to Cancun to look for work. Haulze was killed reportedly in a shootout between Mexican

authorities and a criminal group. Melendez of San Andres Village, is said to have died in a separate shooting.



Ozmond Melendez and Norman Haulze

A landmark judgment was handed down by Justice Westmin James in a defamation suit brought by Karen Bevans, former Director of the Belize Tourism Board, against the Prime Minister, Hon. John Briceno, and RSV Limited. Bevans was awarded close to \$90,000 in damages for defamatory comments that the Prime Minister made in an interview aired on Love FM/TV in December 2020.

On August 31 Guatemalan truckers who frequent Belize began protesting the COVID-19 measures at the Western Border, including mandatory testing at their expense.

The Government on Friday, September 3, introduced a bill to increase the penalty for the dissemination of misinformation from \$300 to \$3,000.

There was great indignation on Sunday, September 5 in Santa Familia when off-duty, unarmed BDF soldier, Jessie Escobar, 29, was killed by a fellow soldier, Raheem Valencio, on patrol with police. It occurred at a store as Escobar tried to intervene on behalf of persons in a group he was with. The killing was witnessed by his wife and daughter. It was found that the police officer lied about the way the incident unfolded. The claim was that

Escobar tried to take away their firearms, but surveillance footage showed otherwise. Valencio, 32, was charged with murder while the other two lawmen on duty were charged with perverting the course of justice.

On Thursday, September 2 the police received a report of sexual assault within the Belize Defence Force made by a female soldier against a non-commissioned officer.

On Monday, September 6, the Christian Workers Union revealed that the Ministry of Labour declined to mediate the negotiations of PBL and CWU on compensation for stevedores who lost a chunk of their earnings due to the transfer of sugar-loading operations from PBL to the Big Creek port.

The Minister of Health and Wellness, Hon. Michel Chebat, announced on September 9 that as of October 1st,

anyone wishing to enter a public building would have to be vaccinated or present a negative rapid test. This was later restricted to just government-owned buildings, and while initially, the visitors would have borne the cost of testing, the Government later opened 15 free testing sites across the country, starting with Belize City and Belmopan.

Alfonso Bulux Vicente, believed to be a fugitive from Guatemala for his role in the Dos Erres massacre of December 1982 was picked up by Belizean authorities after he applied to regularize his status in Belize.

By mid-September, when we were in our 3rd COVID-19 wave, and our hospitals were filled to capacity due to an increasing number of infections, the U.S. South Command donated a field hospital with a 40-bed capacity valued at US \$1.1 million.

In more U.S.-related news, a report surfaced in mid-September that Reynaldo Verde, former Deputy Tax Director, had taken a plea deal and would face 20 years maximum imprisonment in connection with extortion charges. He was arrested in 2019 at a U.S. airport following a report made by a U.S. resort developer living in Corozal.

On September 18, Zenaida Moya of the BRJM was charged for organizing an illegal demonstration against SI 74 in Belize City. Mennonites from Spanish Lookout who were on their way to participate in a demonstration of their own were stopped by police at La Democracia.

The appointment of Chandra Nisbet-Cansino as CEO of the KHMHA was announced near the end of September. The institution had been operating with an acting CEO since the departure of Michelle Cox-Hoare in June after her contract was not renewed.

On September 25, 15-year-old Dwayne



Dwayne Gabourel, deceased

Gabourel became the 8th minor in 2021 to die at the hands of a gunman. The 3rd form SJC student with dreams of becoming a basketballer was innocently shot while entering a Pickstock neighbourhood store to make a purchase for his mother. The shooting was caught on camera and became one of the violent incidents that most moved the community.

Ninety-six schools started hybrid learning — a combination of distance and face-to-face learning— on October 1. At year's end it was reported that 14.7% of staff had become infected, mostly from outside the school setting, while 2.1% of students had registered a SARS-CoV-2 infection. With that record, and even in the face of a more infectious Omicron variant, authorities called for all schools to start hybrid learning on January 10, 2022.

After an almost 20-year struggle, on October 6, the Christian Workers Union and Port of Belize Ltd. signed a new Collective Bargaining Agreement for PBL staff. The previous CBA was signed in December 2002.

The Ministry of Health and Wellness' page was hacked on Friday, October 8 and was taken over by a business in



Vietnam.

On October 10, a 12-year-old in San Roman Village was administered the Johnson and Johnson vaccine instead of the Pfizer jab. The former is not yet approved for minors.

Two healthcare professionals were terrorized and one was robbed of several thousand dollars on Tuesday, October 12, in Belize City. The victims were Dr. Maria Reyes, 53, and nurse Melinda Guerra, the former Director of the Central Health Region. Their home on Chancellor Avenue in West Landivar was broken into by a group of masked robbers between 3:00 and 4:00 a.m.

Also on October 12, Cabinet approved a trade licensing system for villages.

PC Wayne Dawson was shot by another police officer on the afternoon of October 14 after he drove past a checkpoint in Orange Walk which police say had been set up to apprehend Dawson, who fled the scene of an accident in Corozal. From his hospital bed, Dawson explained that he did so because he felt that the woman who crashed into his vehicle and the responding officer were conspiring to have him bear the blame for the collision.

Churches vociferously objected to SI 119, which required that churchgoers be vaccinated. The National Evangelical Association of Belize remarked that such a mandate went against the spirit of Christianity, as they should not turn

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anyone away from church. They wrote the PM a letter on October 15.

On October 20th, Seine Bight residents protested the location of a gas station being erected in the village.



On October 24, off-duty police officer Royni Cobb was stabbed while socializing in a yard in Corozal. An eyewitness said the officer stopped by with others after his shift and while hanging out with the group, he got into a confrontation with another man, who stabbed him.

Another doctor who had a close call due to COVID-19 was paediatrician Dr. Cecilio Eck. He was hospitalized at the KHMH over the weekend of October 23rd and later transferred to BHPL. He remained hospitalized for about 3 weeks.

At an October 25th House of Representatives meeting, the Briceño administration tabled a historic reparations motion to pursue reparations from Britain for the enslavement of blacks. It was presented by Deputy Prime Minister Hon. Cordel Hyde.

At the same House meeting, Prime Minister John Briceño announced that they had renegotiated their loans with Taiwan and had secured almost \$70 million in cash flow relief for three years.

San Ignacio residents, 25-year-old Jeffery Perez and 51-year-old Petrona Inez Montejo were given maximum sentences for human trafficking offences. On Thursday, October 28, Justice Antoinette Moore sentenced Perez to 12 years for child prostitution. Montejo received 10 years for procuring a child for sexual exploitation.



Jeffery Perez and Petrona Inez Montejo

Also on Thursday, October 28, a Cabinet brief disclosed that booster shots were approved for adults 18 and older.

November 1st saw the signing of an MOU among the Football Federation of Belize, the Minister of Youth and Sports

and Pickstock area representative, Anthony Mahler for the upgrade of the historic Berger Field. All three committed to provide funds for the initiative.

On November 3rd, St. John's College, a Jesuit educational institution, announced that beginning January 1,

2022, it would offer Bachelor's and Master's degree programs.

On November 4, for a second time in a decade, a narco plane landed in the same location in Bladen on the Southern Highway. Three police officers, including two from ACP Marco Vidal's strike team known as COST, were detained following a shootout with four Independence policemen. One was the assigned driver for Vidal's wife, the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP), Cheryl-Lynn Vidal, though she noted that since November 2020, she had asked for Corporal Delwin Casimiro not to participate in the team's operations due to COVID concerns. The next day, November 5, police at a checkpoint busted Vidal's nephew, Elmer Nah, his wife, Epifania Caliz and her brother PC Manuel Caliz in a vehicle in the south. Inside, police found over 100 rounds of ammunition assigned to Vidal's operations office and firearms that had been stolen from Succotz in November 20, 2020. At the plane landing, two vehicles assigned to Vidal's Operation Unit were found. Police also detained 7 civilians and recovered 25 bales of cocaine. The men were all granted bail of \$40,000 each on November 21.

Vidal was initially transferred to a desk job, but based on a subsequent investigation, he was placed on paid 60-day suspension on December 15 after it was determined that there had been administrative irregularities at his office.

On November 28, another officer who had previously served under Vidal while he was commander of the GSU was detained after the crash-landing of a plane in Hidden Valley in the Mountain

Pine Ridge on November 28. The men claimed they were hunting.

During a media briefing after the November 4th Bladen drug plane landing, ComPol Chester Williams reported that since the start of the year, some 40 officers had been dismissed from the

force for engaging in some type of inappropriate behaviour.

A case brought by Belize against Trinidad and Tobago at the Caribbean Court of Justice over trade-related policy breaches concluded in the first week of November. Though originally, damages had been sought, in the end, the Belize government was satisfied with the Court using strong language in its order to confirm that Trinidad and Tobago imported brown sugar from non-CARICOM states without imposing the required 40% Common External Tariff.

On November 10, one of our stories featured the shortage of a vital anaesthetic in the KHMH COVID-19 Unit due to procurement delays through the Ministry of Health and Wellness. Additionally, the hospital's work was made more cumbersome due to 15 faulty patient monitors received from the Ministry. The Minister's response to the concerns of KHMHA officials was that they needed to "step up" to their responsibilities. On the heels of that comment, board member, Dr. Fernando Cuellar, quit. The following week, it was disclosed that Ministry of Health CEO, Dr. Deysi Mendez, was also leaving. The Prime Minister said her departure was due to "personality differences."

A leaked memo on November 11 indicated the departure of Chief Environmental Officer Martin Alegria, who went on pre-retirement leave 3 months early. It came amidst the environmental community questioning approval of the Port Coral causeways.

There was a double homicide on November 11 in the village of Burrell Boom, where handyman Dennis Brown and cashier, Kendra Miguel, were fatally shot inside Matilda's Mini Mart. Robbery was ruled out. The target was believed to be Brown.



Kendra Miguel and Dennis Brown, shooting victims

Meanwhile, after 9 years, Jared Ranguy, who was accused of the triple murder of his mother, sister and step-father in November 2012, was granted \$30,000 bail and released into the custody of a human rights activist.

On November 15, the government issued a one-month notice that all public officers must be vaccinated since COVID-19 tests would no longer be accepted. After opposition from the Public Service Union, authorities backtracked on the mandate.

In order to begin addressing the shortage of nurses, the Ministry of Education granted 45 nursing scholarships on November 18.

On Sunday, November 21, police went on a manhunt for Brian Castillo, 28, who killed his common-law wife, Jennifer Archila, 33, and her daughter, Nitzia Catzim, 12, at their apartment in San Ignacio. He was located by Guatemalan authorities while moving inland after he

left his son with his ex in Melchor.

Traffic accidents are one of Belize's biggest killers. On November 22, two lives were taken on the George Price Highway when a Geo Prism car was hit from behind and was sent careening into the path of an oncoming 18-wheeler truck. The victims were identified as 10-month-old Abdur Smith and his godmother, Tifara Samuels Hall, 40. The baby's mother, who was driving the car, survived with minor injuries.

Drastic price hikes were a constant for consumers across the country since the start of the pandemic, and Cabinet, in its release of November 24, once again committed to have the matter looked into.

That same week, KREM Radio shared the exciting news that its annual New Year's Day Cycling Classic had been green-lighted to resume in 2022 after a one-year break.

On November 25, Indian businessman Anil Asnaney and his wife, Manisha Asnaney, were shot by two gunmen on bicycles as the couple made a routine stop at Sumathi Restaurant. Anil did not survive.

Well-loved chef, Reuben Cano, 33, was gunned down on Pitter Street in Belize City on Saturday, November 27, while socializing inside a yard.

At the stroke of midnight on November 29, Barbados became a republic, replacing the Queen as head of state with a president to usher in its 55th anniversary of independence on November 30.

Amid online teaching, the rant of a frustrated teacher against her disengaged students in San Pedro went viral, with some criticizing her outburst and others being more sympathetic.

After a decade in the post of Auditor General, Dorothy Bradley departed the

Public Service at the beginning of December. With no forward planning, the post remains vacant.

At a special meeting of the Senate on December 6th, Immigration Minister Eamon Courtenay announced the Government's plan to grant amnesty to between 40,000 and 60,000 undocumented migrants already living in Belize who meet specific criteria. The program is set to begin in April 2022.

That same day, a Sugar Act amendment that would have empowered the Minister of Agriculture to resolve disputes and complaints arising from within sugar associations stalled in the Senate when all Opposition and social partner senators objected.

The body of Canadian retiree, Richard Lewis Jeffery, 60, was found inside his house along the Melinda Road in Dangriga on December 7. Foul play



Belize National Senior Men's Team called to camp

BELMOPAN, Wed. Jan. 12, 2022

The Belize National Senior Men's team is starting its training preparations for the CONCACAF Nations League which is scheduled to start in June 2022. In preparation for their upcoming tournament, the Senior Men's Team will be playing two friendly matches against Nicaragua on the 26th & 29th January 2022 in Managua at the Estadio Nacional de Futbol de Managua. The Senior Men's Team is scheduled to travel to Nicaragua on January 24 and return to Belize on January 30.

The Football Federation of Belize (FFB) wishes the National Senior Men's team all the best as they report to camp on January 18 at 8:00 a.m.

Players called to camp (and their parent club) are: goalkeepers – Woodrow West (Verdes FC), Kenroy Tillett (Verdes FC), and Isaac Castillo (Garden City); defenders – Evral Trapp (Verdes FC), Collin Westby (Altitude FC), Deshawon Nembhard (Stumptown FC, USA), Allence Ayala (Verdes FC), Donnell Arzu (Wagiya

SC), Jordan Casanova (Garden City), and Norman Anderson (Verdes FC); midfielders – Denmark Casey (Garden City), Jordy Polanco (Verdes FC), Darrel Myvett (Verdes FC), Warren Moss (Wagiya FC), Eldon Reneau (Verdes FC), Angello Capello (Sheffield U., UK), Nana Yaw Mensah (NY Greek American AA), and Rene Leslie (Altitude FC); and forwards – Deon McCaulay (Georgia Revolution, USA), Krisean Lopez (Verdes FC), Jesse August (Verdes FC), Michael

Salazar (Memphis 901 FC, USA), and Carlos Bernardez (Real Espana, HON).

Technical Staff: Head Coach - David Perez Asensio; Assistant Coach - Manuel Poot Can; Goalkeeper Coach - Stanley Reneau; Fitness Coach - Dennis Serano; Physical Therapist - Thomas Rivars; Doctor - Dr. Carlos Crespo; Equipment Manager - Herbert Trapp, Jr.; Manager - Ian Jones.

- press release -

(AMANDALA Sports Ed. Note: Once more to the breach! Let us pray that 2022 brings good tidings for disenchanting Belizean football fans. It appears we have a new national team coach, and he may be a foreigner, as the name does not sound familiar. If he is, welcome to Belize, Senor David Perez Asensio, and, regardless to your origin, it is our fervent wish, for all our sakes, that you enjoy great success during your stay with us here in the Jewel. Le's go, Belize!)

A ROSE IN PORT LOYOLA! SISTA SARITA!

MUSLIM PATRIOT OF THE ISLAMIC MISSION OF BELIZE (IMB)

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breakfast and food program.

It was such a rewarding endeavor that made me so overjoyed to be working alongside Sista Sarita and in one of the most peopled-centered and

charitable Islamic programs that have contributed to the growth of Islamic communities worldwide. Islam was

spread through trade and charity since the days of the prophet Muhammad (PBUH). And everywhere in the

Muslim world one goes, charity is deeply imbedded in Islamic programs which provide for the poor and the needy. The Port Loyola area of Belize is one of the most poverty-stricken areas of Belize. But Muhammad School, since its inception on Kraal Road and Racecourse Street in the 60s and 70s and later Central American Boulevard in the 80s and 90s, has been providing education and charitable programs to the needy of



Sista Sarita and Sista Regina

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was suspected.

Kaya Cattouse became Belize's first female cyclist to go pro when she signed a one-year contract with LA Sweat. The announcement was made on Tuesday, December 7.

MS-13 gang members who live in the Krooman area of Belize City brought terror to a family of 5 who own a store in the area. It all started when the matriarch asked two fighting, intoxicated men to leave the premises on Saturday, December 11. They turned on her and clubbed her with a stick. When her husband tried to intervene, the men attacked him, then her brother-in-law and even her mother-in-law.

While family members were being treated at the hospital, their house was burned down.

In San Antonio, Orange Walk, two brothers, Enrique and Shamir Teyul, took the life of their uncle, Eugenio Teyul, on Sunday, December 12. They then fled across the border.

Michelle Kwan, decorated figure



Michelle Kwan

skater, was named as the United States' ambassador nominee to Belize on December 15.

On December 15, Cabinet announced that the land borders would be reopened on January 1, 2022, only to postpone it days later until February.

Waterloo's Port of Belize expansion and cruise port project was denied environmental approval by the National Environmental Appraisal Committee. Waterloo subsequently expressed dissatisfaction with the decision-making process and promised to challenge it.

On December 21, Kriol cultural icon, Myrna Manzanaras, 75, passed away. As the National Kriol Council (of which she was a founding member) put it, she was

sent off just the way she would have wanted, with drumming and dancing, and was laid to rest in her home village of Gales Point Manatee.

On the morning of December 22, Chinese baker, Zi Hui He of Western Paradise was found with a

gunshot wound in the head along the John Smith Road, where he usually jogged in the morning.

A woman's ex, Jorge Triminio, killed her new boyfriend, Namid Mesh, on the night of December 23 in Seine Bight. The two men had worked at the same Placencia resort.

Unfortunately, there was a Christmas day murder in Orange Walk Town. Steve Patten, 57, was killed while on his way home after socializing with friends.

On December 29, Kanye West, whom we described in our article as "one of the most prolific musicians in modern history," touched down in Belize for a two-day trip.

We closed out the year with the Ministry of Health and Wellness reporting that Omicron was likely already in the country based on the increasing number of infections.

Belize City.

Without the dedication of these Belizean women like Sista Sarita who gave of themselves unselfishly for the sake of spreading the goodwill of God the Most-High on this earth, there would have never been an Islamic foundation that maintained its presence in Belize. She was Um (mother) and a willing worker to many Muslims and for the spreading of Islam's light (Nur) among the poor masses of the Belizean people in the Belizean community in which she also lived.

May God the Most High forgive her faults and make her grave a spacious place of rest. May He reward her abundantly in the next life and place her among the ranks of the noble and blessed women of Islam.

(Photo through the courtesy of Imam Nuri Muhammad)



FFB calls Senior Women's National Team to Camp

BELMOPAN, Wed. Jan. 12, 2022

The Belize National Senior Women's team is continuing its training preparations for the CONCACAF Senior Women's Qualifiers. The tournament that was originally scheduled to commence in November is now being played from the 16th to 22nd February, and 6th to 12th April 2022. The team will play two matches at home and two matches away, with the first match being on February 16 against El Salvador. Belize has been drawn in Group D with Panama, El Salvador, Barbados and Aruba.

The Football Federation of Belize (FFB) is calling the National Senior Women's Team to camp on January 22nd at 8:00 a.m. and takes this opportunity to wish the team the best as they begin their preparations.

Players called to camp (and their clubs of origin) are: goalkeepers – Sharyn Enriquez (Rumberas FC), Idania Ramirez (Jewel Fury FC), and Jasmine Armstrong (Verdes Rebels FC); defenders – Mikhaila Bowden (FC Golden State, USA), Vaylene Lambert (Jewel Fury FC), Ana Ortega (Jewel Fury FC), Cleopatra Martinez (Rumberas FC), Kursha Pollard (Jewel Fury FC), Carlene Tillett (Rumberas FC), Beatrice Alfaro (Verdes Rebels FC), Saady Rivera

(Rumberas FC), and Shante Chacon (Jewel Fury FC); midfielders – Sabrina Eiley (Sagitun Girlz FC), Jennisha Scott (Jewel Fury FC), Anijay Quiroz (Jewel Fury FC), Ashley Rodriguez (Rumberas FC), Gisel Baeza (Jewel Fury FC), Roshany Narvaez (Rumberas FC), Kelsey Polanco (Rumberas FC), Reah Burgess (Sagitun Girlz FC), and Jisselle Conorque (Jewel Fury FC); and forwards – Jayda Brown (Jewel Fury FC), Kaite Jones (Rumberas FC), and Tamara Baptist (San Pedro).

Technical Staff: Head Coach - Wayne Casimiro; Assistant Coach - Joseph Waight, Sr.; Goalkeeper Coach - Miriam Villamil; Physical Trainer - Dennis Serano; Physical Therapist - Thomas Rivas; Equipment Manager - Herbert Trapp, Jr.; Team Doctor - Dr. David Pacheco; Team Manager - Corlan Galvez.

- press release -

(AMANDALA Sports Ed. Note: There is a lot of "women power" in this Belize National Women's Team, and we dare say it gives us fans courage to "ride". With hard work and dedication, chances are that coach Wayne Casimiro may guide this team to great things in 2022. Le's go, Belize!)

FFB announces new Director of Competitions

BELMOPAN, Mon. Jan. 10, 2022

As the Football Federation of Belize (FFB) prepares to start its football tournaments for the year 2022, we are pleased to welcome Mr. Martin Vasquez as our acting Competitions Director.

Mr. Vasquez comes with a wealth of experience in football and has served as the Corozal Football Association's Administrative Officer since 2018 and General Secretary for the association since 2021. He is also the co-founder of the Football Academy of Corozal and has attended various FIFA, Concacaf and FFB trainings. Mr. Vasquez additionally holds a Concacaf D License and most recently completed the PANAM High Performance Coach Certificate 1.

We welcome Mr. Vasquez as the newest addition to the FFB team and look forward to working with him for the development of the sport.



The Football Federation of Belize also takes this opportunity to thank Mr. Rafael Avila for his contribution at the federation and wishes him the best in all his future endeavors.

For FFB competitions matters, feel free to contact Mr. Martin Vasquez at martin_vasquez@footballfederati.onbelize.bz.

- press release -

Belize District F.A. 1st Division football returns to the MCC

by *Leaton St. Clair* – Secretary, BDFa

BELIZE CITY, Tues. Jan. 11, 2022

It felt really great to be back and able to see football rolling again after 3 weeks pause for the Christmas break. Four (4) games were played on Saturday at the MCC Grounds in Week 5 of the Belize District Football Association (BDFa) 1st Division Amateur 2021-22 Opening Tournament.

In Game 1, the #1 ranked Caesar Ridge FC kept their winning streak alive, crushing Hattieville United Youth SC, 3-0. Jalen Babb scored 2 goals, a penalty at minute 14 and a shot in the 58'; while Carlos Lino scored the 3rd goal in the 72nd minute.

Game 2 saw Young Stars Academy edging out Ladyville Rising Stars, 2-1. Tyreek Muschamp and Keffer Perteau scored for Stars Academy in the 31' and 40', respectively, while Steven Rivera scored Ladyville Rising Stars' only goal in the 90th minute.

Game 3 was a very tight match between Kelly Street Bombers and Lake-IFC. That game ended in a 4-4 draw. Scoring for Kelly Street were Steven Baizar (22'), Francis Andrews (30' & 59') and Quince

Briceño in the 73rd. Traveyon Martinez was the man of the match for this game, scoring a hat trick for his team, Lake-IFC, a goal in the 16' and 2 penalties in the 70' and 84'. Floyd Jones scored the other goal for Lake-I in the 40th minute.

The last game of the day saw Eagles SC crushing Village Boys, 9-2. For Eagles, Keron Sutherland scored 4 goals (12', 24', 41' & 66'), Keon Badillo scored a hat trick (43', 63' & 83'), Fede Estervene scored in the 60th, and Brandon Myers scored in the 76th. Adrian Usher scored both goals for Village Boys in the 36' and 51'.

BDFa 1st Division Amateur 2021-22 Opening Season Standings at Week 4, Saturday, January 8, 2022							
TEAM	W	D	L	GF	GA	Diff	Pts
Caesar Ridge FC	3	1	0	9	2	7	10
Stars Academy	2	2	0	11	4	7	8
Lake-IFC	2	2	0	10	6	4	8
Eagles SC	2	0	2	13	11	2	6
Kelly Street Bombers FC	1	1	2	12	12	0	4
Ladyville Rising Stars FC	1	1	2	8	8	0	4
Hattieville United Youth FC	1	1	2	7	8	-1	4
Village Boys FC	0	0	4	4	23	-19	0

Upcoming Week 5 schedule at the MCC:

- Saturday, January 15
- 10:00 a.m. – Kelly Street FC vs Village Boys FC
- 12:00 noon – Caesar Ridge FC vs Ladyville Rising Stars FC
- 2:00 p.m. – Hattieville United Youths FC vs Lake-IFC
- 4:00 p.m. – Stars Academy vs Eagles SC

Orange Walk F.A. 1st Division semifinals on Sunday

by *Ben Ramos, Jr.* – Administrator, OW Regional Office

ORANGE WALK TOWN, Tues. Jan. 11, 2022

The Orange Walk Football Association (OWFA) 1st Division Amateur 2021-22 Opening Tournament regular season ended on December 19, and the top two teams from Group A and Group B are now set to clash in the semifinals this weekend.

OWFA Opening Season 2021-2022 Semifinal games schedule: Sunday, January 16, Louisiana Field

- Match 1
- 1:30 p.m. – (A1) Caribbean Rum Boyz vs (B2) Yo Creek La Ceiba FC
- Match 2
- 4:00 p.m. – (B1) Guinea Grass FC vs (A2) Progresso FC

It's all happening inside the Louisiana Football Field this Sunday, January 16, 2022.



by Rudolph A. Neal

Education Cannot Trump Health. Sorry!

bloody hell! We took precautions and called for stringent measures to be enacted to seek to quell and mitigate the spread of the virus. Fast forward to today, we are no longer reporting 50 or 75 cases daily. We are recording and averaging a whopping almost 1,000 cases daily. Jesu-willikins, people! This is a tiny country with a little over 400,000 plus people. So the fact that we have reached a precipitous point of almost 1,000 cases daily in a very short time, is no doubt alarming and should be cause for grave concern.

I am utterly appalled and sorely disappointed how we have arrived at this juncture with seemingly, absolutely no care in this world! How?? Like, how?? Covid-19 is an extremely deadly and serious virus and mustn't ever be taken lightly. The

Omicron variant is extremely contagious and highly transmissible, as is evident, and we are just lax—totally unfazed and unbothered! Hmm... just imagine, we are now averaging almost 1,000 cases daily and we just move about comfortably and we simply lap our tails and bite in our lips and shirk it off like the Marvelous Miss Maisel? Something is seriously wrong with us, I swear! 1,000 cases, yes, let me reiterate, 1,000 cases is a whole lot, and these numbers are very, very alarming.

Then to further compound this rather fluid and seemingly sisyphian issue is the fact that schools just reopened a week ago. For the first time, in a long time, schools welcomed back children into the classroom for in-class learning, but it comes at a crucial time. I am sorry,

but recording almost 1,000 new infections daily, due to a variant that is highly transmissible and extremely contagious among children, we are really playing cat and mouse with the collective health and safety of our students and teachers. It's not merely 37 or 59 cases daily. It's a whole 1,000 new cases reported almost on a daily basis this week. I mean, what are we waiting for? Enact some stringent measures to contain and mitigate this fourth wave.

See, it's not just an increase in cases, it's a new wave that is fueled by a new and highly transmissible variant. And pay keen attention. Since this week, we are averaging almost 1,000 cases daily and we haven't even gotten a mere peep out of the government. They have remained extremely mum and silent on the matter —no press conference, no public health update, nothing consequential or of value except the scripted daily report that only further adds credence to the point that the numbers are alarming, further fueling greater public concern.

Let me tell you something: the silence on the part of the officials is not only deafening; but rather disheartening! We need to hear from our policy makers. We need some sort of elucidation and clarification. We need information to go on and quite frankly some reassurance that they are doing their best to control and mitigate the widespread proliferation of this virus. Listen, people's anxieties are getting to them, and they need some form of updates, reassurance and explanation. It's unfair to the masses that we are now recording and averaging almost 1,000 cases of new Covid-19 infections daily and we are expected to skip along smartly like some sort of happy-go-lucky folks? No, Sah, with these numbers, that won't work!

The people of this nation are at an increased risk! Now, some teachers are becoming more and more concerned, and quite frankly are extremely anxious with each passing day that they have to report to schools with these increasing numbers. Some parents are concerned, and the children are at risk; and as a country, we have got to do better than this. I implore that we batten down the hatches and implement some form of measures to seek to bring the numbers down. These numbers are alarming, and if we don't act swiftly and decisively, there will soon be hell to pay for our inaction and sheer ignorance to a deadly virus which has proven time and time again that it respects no one or no boundaries. Nicolee Muhammad, a seasoned and career educator, asserts, and I quote, "it's never too late to learn, but it can very well be too late to live". Therefore let us act conscientiously before it's too late, because education cannot trump health—sorry!

Unchained Reflections Of A Liberal Pragmatist.

NOTICE


BELIZE CITY

Estate and Will of John Lewis Charles Crump, deceased.

STATUTORY NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Pursuant to Section 36 of the Administration of Estates Act, Chapter 197 of the Laws of Belize, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all creditors and other persons having any claims or demands upon or against the Estate of **John Lewis Charles Crump of 19 Albert Street, Belize City, Belize** are required to send particulars in writing of their claims or demands to the Executrix of the said estate, Ann Elizabeth Crump, c/o of Law Office of José M Alpuche, Suite 19 Northern Shops, 1.5 Mls. Philip Goldson Highway, Belize City, Belize and to send such particulars not later than 14th April, 2022 AND NOTICE IS HEREBY ALSO GIVEN that at the expiration of the last mentioned date, the Executrix will proceed to distribute the assets of the said **John Lewis Charles Crump, DECEASED**, amongst the parties entitled thereto, having regard only to the claims or demands of which particulars have been delivered and the Executrix will not be liable for the assets or any part thereof so distributed to any person or persons of whose claims or demands it shall not then have had notice.

DATED the 14th day of January 2022.


José M. Alpuche
Attorney-at-law

VACANCY

Belize City

Accountant / Reservations Agent (Tourism Industry)

Resume: vacancyapplybze@gmail.com

Ministry of Tourism and Diaspora Relations Hands Over Medical Supplies to Ministry of Health and Wellness

Wednesday, January 12, 2022 - The Minister of Tourism & Diaspora Relations, the Hon. Anthony Mahler, handed over medical supplies to the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW) today, valued at over \$50,000. The donation included hygiene kits, surgical masks, bedpans, beds, bed sheets, chart holders, trauma packs, nasal gastric tubes, cystoscopy irrigation sets, among others.

The donation was made possible through the support of several international organizations and members of the Belizean diaspora: No Child Hungry, My Neighbor's Children, Community Connections and Hygiene for the World (organized by Mr. William Lowry, President) and Nationwide Group (organized by Mr. Steve Mahler). No Child Hungry pledged their continued support for Belize, with the assistance of the MTDR.

Dr. Melissa Diaz Musa, Deputy Director of the Central Health Region, received the donation on behalf of the MOHW. Other members from the Ministry of Tourism & Diaspora Relations (MTDR) were also present for the handing over.

The objective of the Diaspora Relations Unit within the MTDR is to raise Belize's profile on the international stage, grow the economy by increasing exports and attracting inward investments; promote trade; provide information and support to Belizeans abroad; encourage expertise exchange; and identify opportunities for philanthropy.

This is one of several initiatives currently being coordinated by the MTDR.



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 16, 2022 Time: 10:30 a.m. to noon

Guest: Dr. Jessica Paddock/ Principal Investigator for the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) in the food, land, and climate justice partnership within the Greater Caribbean, led from the bottom up

Sunday Review will be repeated at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 16, 2022

Customer Survey

SAGICOR LIFE INC

JANUARY 12TH TO FEBRUARY 4TH, 2022

Dear Valued Client,

As part of our continued efforts to ensure service excellence, Sagicor will be conducting a customer satisfaction survey during the period of **January 12, 2022** to **February 4, 2022**. Customers will be randomly selected and contacted via telephone or email by a representative from our external vendor, Professional Training and Occupational Services (PTOS).

Please note that this survey will not require you to provide any detailed financial information.

Your feedback is important to us and **Sagicor Life Inc** thanks you for participating.

For more information or if you have any questions, please feel free to email us at **SFC_Research@Sagicor.com** or call us at **1-800-744-7707**.



SCAN TO COMPLETE SURVEY



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The U.S. Embassy Belmopan is seeking eligible and qualified applicants for the following position:

Position Name: Maintenance Mechanic (Generator Mechanic)
 Vacancy number: Belmopan-2022-02
 Closing date: January 28, 2022

Interested applicants must submit their application via the Electronic Recruitment Application (ERA) system, a web-based system. To view and apply for this vacancy, visit the ERA site at: <https://erajobs.state.gov/dos-era/blz/vacancysearch/searchVacancies.hms>

Please visit the Embassy's website for instructions on how to apply via the ERA system: <https://bz.usembassy.gov/embassy/jobs/>

Note 1: Resumes **will not** be considered. Candidates must note all work experience when completing the ERA application. Insufficient or incomplete information will result in an ineligible application.

Note 2: Candidates **must** submit applicable required documentation by the closing date of this announcement. Failure to provide the required documentation will result in an ineligible application.

Visit us at www.amandala.com.bz



CLASSIFIED ADS

VACANCY

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

VACANCY: evanSales.com is seeking English-speaking reps to work from home, part or full time. evanSales is the fastest growing firm in the U.S. specializing in 'virtual assistants' and tele calling. Salary + Bonus are paid. Please email your resume to patevans@evanSales.com.

VACANCY: Farm worker needed to work and maintain a mid-sized farm. Knowledge of animal husbandry and best regenerative agricultural practices is required. Also advanced knowledge of small engine repair maintenance is desired. Interested persons can contact me thru email at 'neonpltd@btl.net' or Tel. 223-3243.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE:

NOTICE: is hereby given that **Adette Tillett-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.

NOTICE: is hereby given that **Isaias Orellano** is applying for a Restaurant Special License to be operated at Nayeli's Family Restaurant, Belen Street, Maya Mopan, Belmopan, Belize, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

NOTICE: is hereby given that **Mr. Saber AA. Ataya** is applying for a Convenience Store License for Friends Gas Station to be operated at Hopkins Village/Entrance, Stann Creek District, Belize under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

NOTICE: is hereby given that **Ian Reid** is applying for a Restaurant Liquor License to be operated at Belmopan Beach Adventure Park, More Tomorrow Village, Cayo District, Belize, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

NOTICE: is hereby given that **Wayne Salazar** is applying for a Grocery Store Liquor License to be operated at Trejo's Investment Limited, Neal Street, Roaring Creek Village, Cayo District, Belize, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

NOTICE: is hereby given that **Belize Brewing Company Limited** is applying for a Malt and Cider Liquor License to be operated at The Belikin Store, International Airport Road, Philip Goldson International Airport, Ladyville, Belize, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance

Revised Edition 2000.

NOTICE: is hereby given that **Belize Brewing Company Limited** is applying for a Shop Liquor License to be operated at Sand Fly, International Airport Road, Philip Goldson International Airport, Ladyville, Belize, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

NOTICE: is hereby given that **Elston Thomas Ovado** is applying for a Shop Liquor License to be operated at Garinagus Riverside Mini Mart Store, 538 Chatuye Street, Dangriga Town, Stann Creek District, Belize, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

NOTICE: is hereby given that **John Roberson** is applying for a Restaurant Liquor License to be operated at Trey's Bar and Grill, Mile 54 George Price Highway, Ontario Village, Cayo District, Belize, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

NOTICE: is hereby given that **Belcove Hotel** is applying for a Malt & Cider Liquor License to be operated at Belcove Hotel, #9 Regent Street West, Belize City, Belize, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

NOTICE: is hereby given that **Elder Paredes** is applying for a Restaurant Liquor License to be operated at La Chamba Restaurant,

1541 Constitution Drive, Belmopan, Cayo District, Belize, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

NOTICE: is hereby given that **Elder Paredes** is applying for a Restaurant Liquor License to be operated at Chinos Restaurant, 3375 Industrial Site, Belmopan, Cayo District, Belize, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

NOTICE: is hereby given that **Elder Paredes** is applying for a Restaurant Liquor License to be operated at La Consina Restaurant, 413 Constitution Drive, Belmopan, Cayo District, Belize, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that Belize Island Holdings Limited is applying for a Publican Special License for year 2022 for Cocktails On Top to be operated at Harvest Caye under the Intoxicating liquor License Ordinance Revised edition 2000.

NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that Belize Island Holdings Limited is applying for a Publican Special License for year 2022 for Laughing Bird Bar & Grill to be operated at Harvest Caye under the Intoxicating liquor License Ordinance Revised edition 2000.

NOTICE: Notice is hereby given

that Belize Island Holdings Limited is applying for a Publican Special License for year 2022 for Horse Eye Jack's Bar & Grill to be operated at Harvest Caye under the Intoxicating liquor License Ordinance Revised edition 2000.

NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that Belize Island Holdings Limited is applying for a Publican Special License for year 2022 for Harvest Caye Bar & Grill to be operated at Harvest Caye under the Intoxicating liquor License Ordinance Revised edition 2000.

NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that Belize Island Holdings Limited is applying for a Publican Special License for year 2022 for Absolute Bar to be operated at Harvest Caye under the Intoxicating liquor License Ordinance Revised edition 2000.

NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that Belize Island Holdings Limited is applying for a Publican Special License for year 2022 for Bacardi Bar to be operated at Harvest Caye under the Intoxicating liquor License Ordinance Revised edition 2000.

NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that Belize Island Holdings Limited is applying for a Publican Special License for year 2022 for Manatee Bar & Grill to be operated at Harvest Caye under the Intoxicating liquor License Ordinance Revised edition 2000.

Belize's economy set to grow in 2022 — ECLAC report

Despite an expected slowdown in economic growth for Latin America, Belize's economy is projected to grow by 6.2%.

by *Khaila Gentle*

MEXICO CITY, Mexico. Wed. Jan. 12, 2022

In its annual report issued on Wednesday, The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) stated that some parts of the region are expected to see a slowdown in economic growth in 2022. The report, titled "Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean 2021", was issued by

ECLAC Executive Secretary Alicia Bárcena. But despite the prediction that 2022 will be a challenging year for some parts of Latin America, the economy in Belize is expected to undergo an accelerated pace of growth — jumping from last year's growth rate of 2.7% to 6.2%. And the same can be said for almost all the Caribbean nations.

"The Caribbean will bounce back in 2022," noted Bárcena. The growth rate for Central America, on the other hand, is expected to fall from 6.7% to 4.5%.

When it comes to the Latin American and Caribbean region overall, ECLAC has predicted that the growth rate will fall from the 6.2% achieved in 2021 to 2.1% in 2022. The organization attributes this decrease to the differences between developed, emerging, and

developing economies across the region and the variations in their capacity to sustainably recover from the crisis caused by COVID-19. A striking example of this is the large variations among vaccination rates in the region. While countries such as Chile, Argentina, and Uruguay reported vaccination rates of over 70%, the vaccination rates in countries such as Jamaica, Haiti, and Guatemala remain below 25%, with Haiti's vaccination rate being only 0.66%. Belize, Barbados, and Mexico lie somewhere in the middle of this range, with rates of 50% or more.

"The expected slowdown in the region in 2022, combined with the problems of low investment and productivity, poverty, and inequality, calls for growth and employment creation to be central elements of public policymaking," said Bárcena.

When asked whether Latin America and the Caribbean would see full economic recovery anytime soon, Bárcena pointed out that while advanced economies might achieve it by the end of 2022, most emerging economies are not expected to reach full recovery until 2025.



ECLAC Executive Secretary, Alicia Bárcena



AMANDALA

the newspaper with the greatest circulation in Belize!

1% property tax increase long overdue - Mayor Wagner

(From page 1)

Collection of the \$21 million owed to the council in taxes will provide funding for massive infrastructure works set for 2022

by Khaila Gentle

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Jan. 13, 2022

The Belize City Council is offering discounts to all those who pay their property taxes early this year, but many feel that the recent 1% hike in property taxes negates those discounts completely. In an interview with the media this week, Mayor Bernard Wagner clarified the property tax issue and also spoke on several other City Council matters, including his plans for the council in 2022.

In his interview, Mayor Wagner noted that property taxes should have been increased about 5 years ago in 2017, but the council at the time did not proceed with that increase. And when the current council came into office, they also did not pursue an increase. Then, in 2020 and 2021, given the dire financial circumstances in which most Belize City residents found themselves after the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, the council did not see it fit to increase the taxes at that time.

“Given the circumstances, especially after 2020 and 2021, we didn’t see how we could look to increase property taxes,” said the

Mayor. “But for 2022 it is only 1%. And if you were paying 100 dollars in property taxes, right, say for last year, a 1% increase on that will give you one dollar that you’ll be paying extra now. But we are giving a 15% discount, so it really nullifies. It cancels out everything.”

When asked how the council can increase *any fees or charges* currently, especially considering the pandemic, the Mayor had the following to say:

“Well, the people are asking for services, each and every day. The streets are breaking up. The city owes 21 million dollars. Each of you sees the state of the streets. You expect us to fix the streets, isn’t that so? But we can’t fix it if we don’t get our revenues.”

The 1% increase in property tax is a part of the council’s effort to collect the money owed in back taxes. Collection of those millions, says Mayor Wagner, would contribute greatly to the plans that are in store for the city in 2022. That includes massive infrastructure works on a number of the streets and finding a sustainable solution to the cost of garbage collection. Currently, the council pays about \$3.8 million in

collection fees annually, but Wagner says that they are looking for a solution.

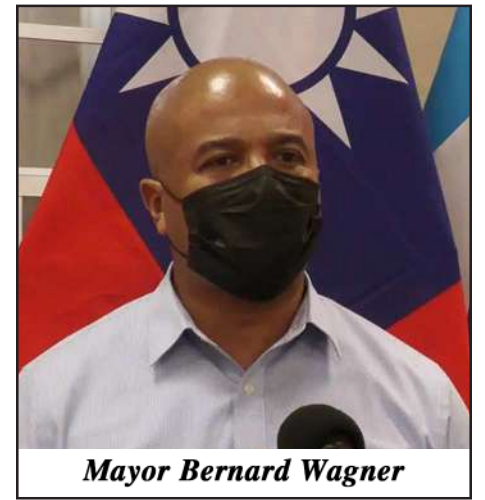
Also in the Mayor’s plans for 2022, is the installation of parking meters. The Mayor indicated, however, that the council is currently receiving a bit of pushback when it comes to the meters.

“Whenever you are implementing any activity or initiative that involves a fee, you will have pushback. We face that currently,” he said.

The Mayor noted pushback from the area representatives especially, but stated that he remains optimistic. The meters are already programmed and ready for installation, but CitCo is currently awaiting approval from Cabinet.

Mayor Wagner also briefly spoke on the recent upset created after a leaked memorandum revealed that traffic wardens must meet a monthly quota of 44 traffic violation tickets. He noted that, while traffic quotas have always existed, officers are not sanctioned for not meeting them. The City does, however, expect a certain level of performance from wardens and also a certain level of compliance by citizens when it comes to following traffic laws.

On the issue of health and COVID-19, the Mayor shared a bit on the current battle against the pandemic—a battle that the City Council, like



Mayor Bernard Wagner

many other organizations, continues to fight. According to the mayor, several employees across various departments at City Hall are currently out due to COVID-19.

“Omicron is very contagious, and the City is not immune to it,” he stated. He then added, “but the point of the matter is that we can’t go back to not doing business. We’ve seen the effects of not doing business in the city, when there was total lockdown.”

The Mayor spoke on the importance of vaccination, combined with implementing necessary safety measures, in the battle against COVID-19. But he also stressed the importance of continuity and succession planning in the workplace to ensure the continuation of business at City Hall.

Commission of Inquiry recommends criminal investigation

Continued from Page 1

interviewing 22 witnesses during five public sessions, held between February 22 and August 16. Included among these is a recommendation that transactions between Hon. Hugo Patt and Zhourong Li be investigated, followed by prosecution of those two persons if such an investigation uncovers illegal actions on their part. Additionally, the report recommends that the government assess the eligibility of Hon. Patt and Hon. Michael Peyrefitte to sit in the National Assembly at this time, given their involvement in the purchase of government assets while they were members of the Cabinet during the Barrow administration. Peyrefitte has called the release of the report at this time a red herring, due to his recent queries concerning the payment of fees for negotiations leading to the buyback of the Superbond. Hon. Hugo Patt, for his part, has retained the legal services of former Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Dean Barrow, since he plans to bring a lawsuit against those who made the allegations against him.

According to the report, drafted by the members of the commission, E. Andrew Marshalleck, Luke Martinez, and Marcello Blake, neither the former Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Rt. Hon. Dean Barrow, nor the Financial Secretary, Joe Waight, made reference during the process preceding the sales to the relevant laws governing the sale of government assets. These laws are laid out in the Finance and Audit Reform Act and the

Financial and Stores Orders — the contents of which are thoroughly known by both these persons. The report states, however, that they attempted to instead offer a rationalization for an informal process used by the Ministry of Finance in handling the sales of assets.

According to local reports, Rt. Hon. Barrow believes that the claims in the report were manufactured by Marshalleck (the commission’s chairman) and are biased. He told 7News that he is certain that the report will not “pass judicial muster.” While Hugo Patt has lawyered up, the Government of Belize, in a Cabinet release issued today, also indicated that they have “instructed that the report be submitted to the Office of the Attorney General”.

The report states, in reference to the responses given by former PM Barrow and Mr. Joe Waight when they were questioned during the inquiry, “It was clear to the Commission that the explanation sought to obscure what was a completely unbridled exercise of power by the former Prime Minister and Minister of Finance. The ignorance of applicable regulations demonstrated by the public officers at the very top of the Government’s organization structure easily led to the conclusion that the execution of government assets during the relevant period were ALL in breach of applicable regulations and well-known tendering procedures.”

The report goes on to note that, in addition to the absence of any effort to follow the applicable regulations, almost all the sales in question resulted from

single bids, and no competitive bidding ever took place. In fact, the report states, “most purchasers were simply handpicked by the Minister of Finance after, in many instances, approaching the Minister to ask for favorable consideration.”

Another key finding of the report is that most of the vehicles which were listed as unserviceable prior to their being sold for negligible amounts, were actually fully functional. The commissioners further stated that Customs officers had noted that the prices were fixed ahead of time and no valuation was done to assess the accuracy of the estimated value. The report further points out that various persons with political connections to the government bought vehicles in the name of others in an attempt to mask their involvement in the transactions.

The report states, “This may possibly have facilitated the use of the sale of a motor vehicle to former Deputy Prime Minister Hon. Hugo Patt to launder the proceeds of a bribe arising from the sale of Government lands authorized and executed by him in favor of Zhourong (Kelvin) Li.”

As mentioned, one of the report’s recommendations is that criminal investigations be launched into relations between Hon. Hugo Patt and Zhourong Li — specifically Li’s role in financing the purchase of a Toyota Tacoma on behalf of Patt, and the land documents allegedly signed over to Li, which could appear to be compensation for his purchase of the vehicle.

“The Commission further

recommends that any connection between, on the one hand, the sale of the motor vehicle to Hon. Hugo Patt and, on the other hand, the sales to Zhourong Li be further investigated with a view of prosecution (if necessary in court),” the report goes on to say.

The report states that issues surrounding the purchases of government assets by Hon.

Hugo Patt and Hon. Michael Peyrefitte require particular scrutiny, since those purchases were made while the two were members of the House of Representatives/Cabinet. Provisions in our law mandate that members of the National Assembly who enter into any contract with the government vacate their seats upon the dissolution of the House. What remains in question is whether these laws apply to Hon. Hugo Patt, a current area representative, and Hon. Michael Peyrefitte, the current Lead Government Senator. It must be noted that the former National Assembly was dissolved and these contracts in question were both executed before this current National Assembly was formed.

Nonetheless, this report will be sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Office of the Attorney General for advice on what the next steps should be.

The report additionally recommends an amendment to the Finance and Audit Reform Act to expand the laws regarding the handling of government assets, mandate the keeping of an assets register, and expand the role of the Auditor General in appraising government assets.

Hon. Peyrefitte: “Again, who got the money, PM?”

Continued from **Page 1**

UDP, Senator Michael Peyrefitte, to the Prime Minister, Hon. John Briceño, to request information about an allocation of \$15 million approved in October of last year for the payment of legal and advisory fees for the closing of the Superbond and the financial and legal maneuvers that led to the Blue Bond loan agreement.

On Tuesday of this week, a response to Hon. Peyrefitte’s request was issued by the Prime Minister, and in the initial part of that response, the Prime Minister referred to a key portion of Hon. Peyrefitte’s query: who received the legal and advisory fees paid by the government for the handling of the Superbond/Blue Bond negotiations. The letter stated the following: “You... know well, Mr. Peyrefitte, the identities of the ‘lawyers and advisors who were paid’ to facilitate that process, because they are the very individuals and entities who worked on the process during the Barrow administration, of which you were a part. And the public also knows who those entities are, because multiple press releases and media reports cited these advisors and their respective roles. What unease can you reasonably harbor about the competence and integrity of the legal and financial advisory team that negotiated the Superbond on the country’s behalf when every single firm my Administration retained had previously been contracted by the UDP administration? Thus, unless you are feigning ignorance, you are well aware of these entities. In essence, you are requesting to find out what you already know.”

In a subsequent portion of the letter, Prime Minister Briceño lists the firms and advisors who worked on Superbond negotiations over the last decade for both the Barrow and Briceño administrations and who were compensated for their work: “Citi Capital Markets, HallMark Advisory, Sullivan & Cromwell, Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP, David Polk Wardwell LLP, The Bank of New York Mellon, Carter Ledyard, and Milburn LLP, Equip Global Restructuring LLC and Global Bondholders Services Corporation”. His letter then asserted that, other than these well-known professionals who have been working on those negotiations under both UDP and PUP governments of Belize, “there are no other firms or individuals that have received compensation from the Government of Belize in these transactions.”

The letter further outlines how the total amount that was paid was obtained—indicating that funds were secured via three steps: partially by means of “USD \$6m in the Fiscal Year 2021/22 Budget for debt restructuring costs”, after which “USD \$10 m was secured to a component of the Blue Bond financing itself” (which was likely funds borrowed from TNC to partially cover fees of at least some advisors or firms at the closing of the

bond), subsequent to which there was a supplementary allocation of BZD \$15 million, which he said was a “non-issue”. This piecemeal approach to securing funds to cover fees ultimately resulted, according to Briceño, in total funds of about USD \$16 million, along with the BZD \$15 million.

The Prime Minister appeared to assert that regardless of how the total amount was pieced together—a portion with US funds, another with Belizean dollars, with some advisors being paid with a subsequent allocation while others were paid with the TNC loan, the list of advisors who received the funds is unchanged. There was an underlying insistence in the letter that regardless of the timing of each advisory firm’s payment, every dollar allocated went only to the advisors on the list presented by GOB—the same professionals employed by the previous Barrow administration—and that no one other than those persons who worked on the complex Superbond-Blue Bond transition received such funds. He also indicated a key factor that further determined the amount paid: the fact that some compensation was tied directly to these advisors’ performance—that is, the amount of savings they secured.

He then provided a breakdown of those transaction costs and fees—stating that transaction costs for the Superbond buyout were USD \$10,226,039 and transaction costs for the Blue Bond were USD \$4,342,785—resulting in total costs of USD \$14,568,824. He then noted that “60% of the fees paid were success and incentive-based financial, structuring and conservation advisory fees... while 34% covered legal costs and 6% were for operational expenses.”

The figures presented would appear to indicate that the amount disbursed for the buyback of the Superbond and for the arrangement of the Blue Bond financing transactions was roughly consistent with what was being paid for Superbond negotiations under the previous Barrow administration (which, according to PM Briceño’s letter, “incurred Superbond restructuring expenses totaling USD 19,080,111” —almost BZ \$40 million— in 2013 and 2017) with additional amounts being calculated based on the incentive portion of the payment arrangement— as a percentage of the hundreds of millions saved during the most recent transactions. *7News* thus noted in its newscast on Tuesday, “The total costs for the Blue Bond... is on par with the Superbond restructurings — but with far greater savings.”

There appears to be no indication as yet that any additional entities, other than the listed firms and advisors who worked on the negotiations, had been paid. But Peyrefitte is insisting that documentation must be shown to prove that no other person or firm other than the advisors and companies who worked on the Superbond and Blue Bond negotiations received payment. As mentioned by *AMANDALA* in the mid-week issue, “a helpful reference

[point] would be the typical remuneration structures outlined by these [international advisory] companies for transactions of such magnitude. These are an international standard that provide insights into what an advisor involved in orchestrating such a complex deal, would receive...”

Peyrefitte responded to the Prime Minister’s letter at a UDP press conference this week, however, by insisting that the Prime Minister did not provide documents corroborating his claims and he further said that the sums paid to the various advisors were not included in the information provided.

Peyrefitte went on to classify the 3-page breakdown of transaction costs as “fluff” and “distractions”. He also made reference to the manner in which the funds were secured to cover the various fees—since those funds came from various sources—with the Briceño administration, at the closing of the Superbond, opting to borrow an additional 20 million US dollars from the TNC to cover the closing cost of the agreement, in addition to 12 million Belize dollars that was allocated in March of 2021 to cover such expenses. And he went on to estimate that at closing the government likely had almost 32 million dollars to cover legal and advisory expenses, and then questioned how the 15 million dollars requested in the October supplementary allocation was used, and to whom it was paid.

Over 1,000 COVID-19 cases reported in one day

Continued from **Page 1**

additional cases—had been confirmed within one day. This new record high brought the country’s total number of active cases to 6,088.

But while the number of infected persons keeps rising, Tuesday’s report showed no additional COVID-19 related deaths. There were, however, three admissions to the Covid-19 Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital.

The districts with the most COVID-19 infections are the Belize District, with 428 new cases, Cayo, with 241 cases, Orange Walk with 125 cases, and Stann Creek with 122 cases.

According to statistics obtained through Reuters COVID-19 Tracker, an average of 423 new infections are now being reported in Belize per day. On December 24, 2021 (Christmas Eve), only 54 positive cases were reported by the MOHW. Since December 28—just a few days after the Christmas holiday—the country has been seeing a spike in the number of daily cases, which (up until Tuesday) had primarily been in the hundreds. The last time Belize saw such a large surge in daily cases was back in December of 2020, the first year of the pandemic.

“After you borrowed extra money to pay for the transactions cost of the Blue Bond, you went and you asked the National Assembly for an additional 15 million dollars, for what? For who? Who got paid out of that? Who got that extra 15 million dollars? The question I ask you is this: after you borrowed 20 million dollars to close the cost, you went afterward and ask for an additional 15 million that you cannot explain why you wanted it,” Peyrefitte said in his remarks.

Since the figures listed in Hon. Briceño’s letter would place the amount disbursed to the Superbond advisors in the range of typical disbursements for such international transactions, especially when the incentive-based portion, calculated as a percentage of the hundreds of millions in savings secured, is factored into the tabulations, it is possible that Hon. Peyrefitte’s concerns/suspicious are based on the timing of the payments related to the Superbond transaction, since Peyrefitte prefaced his question with the words, “If all of these people have been paid at the closing time of the transaction and the closing time of the restructuring”. The Prime Minister, however, had not indicated whether some fees were disbursed subsequent to closing time. It is to be noted that a delay in payment to some advisors in itself would not indicate that funds were given to any entity other than the advisors who worked on this deal.

Nonetheless, Hon. Peyrefitte insisted, “I will write every week if I have to, because he has not answered my question. Who got paid out of that 15 million and how much did each person get paid out of that 15 million.”

Full lockdown at Kolbe!

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release states that “a sudden and unusually” high number of persons have tested positive for “what is believed to be the COVID-19 Omicron variant.”

The public will be barred from entering the facility for the duration of the lockdown to avoid any further importation of the virus into the facility.

The release states, “The public is hereby advised that during the lockdown, absolutely no visits, cash deposits for inmates, or business transactions with customers of the prison will be conducted.”

The Kolbe Foundation is also advising attorneys not to visit their clients during this lockdown period. Any request coming from the courts will be coordinated and facilitated by the prison and the Judiciary virtually, the release notes.

The release states that the institution wants to “promote the healing of its inmates currently infected and mitigate the spread by those who may be asymptomatic.”

Challenges arise after reopening of schools

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(or 60.3%) of the 569 schools approved for the transition to hybrid learning have resumed at least some in-person classes as part of a hybrid learning operation, and the Ministry has already begun receiving some COVID-19 notifications from some of these institutions. The press release from the Education Ministry stated that between January 10 and January 13, the ministry had received confirmation, via its COVID-19 Reporting System, “of 108 cases of COVID-19 affecting teachers and 125 cases of COVID-19 affecting students, nationwide.” The release from the ministry notes, however, that “of the 108 cases affecting teachers, only 17 were recorded among teachers who were actively engaging in hybrid learning. When compared to cases among students, out of the 125 cases confirmed, 43 were confirmed among students who were actively engaging in hybrid learning.”

Maheia is thus calling on teachers and parents to take steps to ensure that the spread of the virus is curbed in the classroom. Earlier this week, during a press conference held by the United Democratic Party (UDP), the leader of the UDP, Hon. Patrick Faber, who was the Minister of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture during the previous Barrow administration, remarked that the current Ministry of Education, headed by Hon. Francis Fonseca, has opted to reopen schools with very few protocols in place.

Faber went on to say that it is time that the Ministry of Health and Wellness becomes a part of the decision-making being carried out in the Education and Tourism Ministries in order to ensure that the country has a fully coordinated response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

CEO Maheia indicated when she was interviewed, however, that the Health and Education ministries are working hand in hand to ensure a safe reopening, and that their aim is to have all schools opened by the end of January. However, some schools have been asking for more time due to a lack of supplies, which would make it difficult for them to safely resume classroom instruction, with all the materials needed to ensure adequate learning for students amidst the pandemic.

Further comments on the recent resumption of in-person classes in the country’s schools were made at the UDP press conference by Secretary-General of the UDP and former Chief Education Officer, Dr. Carol Babb, who asserted that the Ministry of Education, instead of trying to implement new protocols over the three weeks leading up to the reopening of schools, used the same protocols that were in place under the UDP administration in the early stages of the pandemic. She also pointed to a dire need for supplies in

the country’s schools, and said that this was a central issue that was highlighted in the responses she received when she conducted a poll of school principals.

“It is unclear what help, if any, will be forthcoming to struggling schools. One principal told me, he said they called him for supplies; he has about eight hundred students. He got a mop, a broom, a gallon of Chlorox, and a gallon of Flash or something else. He said he didn’t go for it. It cost him more in gas to go and pick up the few supplies,” Babb said.

According to her, the Ministry of Education has provided a web portal to principals through which they are to submit requests for supplies they need. The principals, however, have gotten no response from the Ministry to their requests, according to Babb.

In reference to the need for supplies that Babb highlighted, CEO Maheia noted that supplies are currently being packaged and that deliveries of these supplies to schools is expected to start as early as next week. She also mentioned that the Ministry is receiving a donation of approximately \$200,000 in supplies, so material will be in stock.

During her interview she stated, “We have supplies that are being packed and prepared to go with, schools all had as part of their learning continuity plans, as part of their plans to return, they all were expected to have a certain measure of supplies for them to get started. It’s been two days. We have a supply request form that is in place where we have been tracking requests, so we know what schools need supplies, and by next week we are going to be starting the delivery of supplies for the schools that need the supplies where the request has come in.”

It is also to be noted that the press release from the Education Ministry stated that “the responses to [the] confirmed cases affecting teachers and students actively engaging in hybrid learning were prompt, and all sanitisation and cleaning protocols were applied as per our Guidelines on School Operation.”

At this time, students between the ages of 5 and 11 years remain unvaccinated, since the specially formulated version of the Pfizer jab that has been approved for that age group is not yet in Belize. Locally and internationally, an increasing number of children are reportedly being infected with, and exhibiting symptoms of, the most recent variant of the Covid-19 to emerge globally — the Omicron variant. The UDP is thus calling for school-age children in the country to be vaccinated.

While the COVID-19 pandemic continues to batter the globe, schools across the world are trying to find the right balancing act to ensure a safe reopening. It must be noted that as a result of the closure of schools, young students have been negatively impacted by social isolation, interrupted learning, a rise in the dropout rate, and increased exposure



CEO Dian Maheia and Dr. Carol Babb – Secretary General, UDP

to violence and exploitation within the home.

CEO Maheia shared that although the challenges and trials being faced during the reopening process seem endless, teachers, parents and the ministry are committed to ensuring a safe reopening.

An observation that was made in the Education Ministry’s press release is that between January 10 and 13, when a number of Covid-19 cases were reported among students and teachers, “626 teachers and 17,198 students were actively engaging in hybrid learning. Therefore, the cases recorded among teachers affected 1.04% of teachers actively engaging in hybrid learning and among students, the rate was even lower, with cases affecting only 0.25% of all students actively

engaging in hybrid learning.” The release also pointed out that “for the most part, these cases are appearing in persons who have recently attended social functions or are close contacts of individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19.”

“Furthermore”, stated the release, “considering the time when schools have been open and the usual incubation period for the COVID-19 virus, we can safely say that all cases being recorded are not a result of any school activity.”

While some schools have requested that their reopening dates be pushed back, as mentioned, the January 31 date for reopening of all schools countywide is still in place at this time, but the ministry is acting on the basis of recommendations received, says the CEO.

Abusive dad killed by son

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seemingly could take no more. The incident occurred in the yard of a tiny thatched home in San Roman village in Stann Creek — to which Santa Ical, 46, who previously resided in Georgetown, had fled about a year ago along with five of her children to escape the violent acts of the children’s father, Amaya Salvador Rivas, 52. But sometime on Monday night, Rivas found the home in which the family was seeking refuge, and was allowed to sleep in the kitchen area, which is separated from the rest of the home.

It has been reported, however, that around 4:00 o’clock the following morning, on Tuesday, January 11, he forced his way into the home of the family, and entered the portion of the house where Ical and her five sons were sleeping in hammocks. Unconfirmed reports are indicating that he then proceeded to assault Ical, then he pounced on their 18-year-old son, and reportedly started to choke him while he was sleeping in a hammock. According to some reports, he then started an argument about a cellphone. Upon seeing the attack on his younger brother, the couple’s eldest son, identified as Olvin Rivas, 23, then grabbed a machete and chased his father into the yard, and it is there that he inflicted several chop wounds

to the elder Rivas — bringing years of domestic abuse to a bloody end.

At least four chop wounds were seen at the back of the victim’s head by the village chairman, Augustine Choc, when he arrived on the scene later in the morning. Olvin Rivas had reportedly gone to Choc at about 5:45 a.m. to inform him that he had killed his father, and Choc, still unsure that indeed Rivas was dead, had gone to see the body.

Choc told reporters that Ical told him that she had been in an abusive relationship with Rivas for years, and that he had placed a knife at her chest. Choc called the police, who transported the motionless body of Amaya Rivas to the Southern Regional Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

One of Ical’s sons told local media that the abuse was daily, and said that his older brother wanted to avoid hurting his father by moving to San Roman with the family. Chairman of San Roman village, Augustine Choc, told 7News that Olvin Rivas told him, after the murder, “I’m not afraid. I kill my own father because I’m tired of his problems.”

On Wednesday police arrested and charged 23-year-old Olvin Rivas for the murder of his father. He was in police custody since Tuesday morning following the incident and reportedly confessed to the village chairman.

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