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Borders reopen on Feb 7, ONLY for fully vaxxed

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Feb. 3, 2022

After several postponements of the reopening of the country's land borders, which was first set to take place in the first week of January, before being postponed to February 1, the Government has now set February 7, next Monday, as the tentative date for the reopening. Today, the Minister of Health and Wellness, Hon. Kevin Bernard, gave the media details on the reopening and announced that only fully vaccinated persons will be allowed to cross the land borders into Mexico and Guatemala.

"Certain things are being added to the SI: one, that the border will open from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. daily. Belizeans exiting the border must be



Hon. Kevin Bernard, Minister of Health and Wellness and Ambassador H.E. Oscar Arnold

fully vaccinated. It will be open for only fully vaccinated persons at this point in time. Upon re-entry to Belize, once you are less than 24 hours, there will be no need for you to test, but

there will be information provided to those persons by the health personnel in case there are any

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CCJ rules on Belize v T&T brown sugar case

The CCJ judgment highlighted a "severe shortcoming in evidence" presented by Belize in this case



BELIZE CITY, Tues. Feb. 1, 2022

Today, the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) delivered its ruling on the case brought by Belize against Trinidad and Tobago over that country's alleged importation of brown sugar from Guatemala and Honduras between November 2018 and June 2020 without the imposition of a 40% Common External Tariff (CET) that the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas (RTC) requires members of the Caribbean Single Market Economy (CSME) to impose on goods bought from countries which are not part of that arrangement.

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Travel insurance push back

Major hotels protest travel insurance; Minister Mahler says it's not all about the big guys



BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Feb. 3, 2022

In less than two weeks the Ministry of Tourism is set to implement mandatory travel insurance on overnight visitors entering the country. In early January, 13 major hotels and one airline wrote to the Minister of Tourism, Hon. Anthony Mahler, to protest the proposed mandatory travel insurance. In their

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Low carbon public transport system launched



BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Feb. 3, 2022

The official launch event was held for the "Towards Low Carbon Transport: Piloting E-Mobility Within Belize's Public Transport System" project on February 3rd, 2022 at the Best Western Belize Biltmore Plaza.

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CCJ rules that men can be raped (See story on page 23)

Xaibe man hacked to death

A motionless body was found on the outskirts of Xaibe Village in the Corozal District

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Feb. 3, 2022

A lifeless body was found on a farm in the outskirts of Xaibe Village in the Corozal District a little before 9 o'clock this morning. Police officers responding to the scene at around 8:55 a.m. searched the insides

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Tracy eyes Party leader, Shyne takes LOO

Moses "Shyne" Barrow was sworn-in as Leader of the Opposition for the second time in just months; Tracy Taegar-Panton has placed her focus on garnering the support of party delegates



Tracy Taegar-Panton

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Feb. 2, 2022

Yesterday, the area representative for the Mesopotamia constituency, Hon. Moses "Shyne" Barrow, was

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CCJ sends back BLDC v AG case

The CCJ says the Belmopan Land Development Corporation v the Attorney General of Belize case has been sent back due to lack of evidence

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Feb. 2, 2022

The Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ), in a judgment issued at a virtual hearing on January 31, 2022, ruled that the Belmopan Land Development Corporation (BLDC) v the Attorney General case is to be remitted to the Supreme Court of Belize, where further evidence must be made available. The ruling mirrors the conclusions of Belize’s Appeal Court, which had heard the government’s appeal on July 21 of a Supreme Court order to pay BLDC a total of 16 million dollars, and had indicated, after reviewing the evidence of both parties, that more evidence was needed. At the heart of the case is an effort by the company, which owns 2,647 acres of land near Belmopan (in the vicinity of Cotton Tree village) to seek a higher per-acre payment from government for 1394 acres of that land which government had expropriated and, to some extent, distributed.

The company had not objected to this move by the then Barrow administrations, which had been distributing parcels of that land since 2013, but had insisted on receiving payment that reflected fair market values. The core issue on which the ultimate outcome of the case will hinge is whether what GoB has paid to BLDC for the expropriated land is fair or whether the company should receive the additional 11 million dollars that it is seeking.

That amount is based on an assessment by BLDC’s expert witness who, when the case was taken to the Supreme Court, assigned a value of \$11,000-per-acre to the land, which the judge presiding over the case, current Acting Chief Justice Michelle Arana, had accepted as the basis for calculating the compensation that GoB was ordered to pay. The government (which had found its own land valuation expert, who provided much lower estimates of the value of the land) later appealed the ruling in the Court of Appeal, and finally the case was taken to the CCJ, which upheld the Appeal Court order that further evidence from the government’s expert witness be taken back to the Supreme Court.

The legal dispute can be traced back to a breakdown in negotiations between Belmopan Land Development Corporation (BLDC) and the government during their efforts to reach an agreement on the fair market value of the 1,394 acres of private property that had been acquired by GoB for distribution. BLDC then filed a constitutional action claiming damages.

The huge gap between what the GoB considered to be fair value and the much larger amount being demanded by the company can be attributed to the difference in the way the two parties have classified the property. BLDC’s land appraiser valued the property as ‘city



expansion’ land that is sold at a much higher price than plots of land designated as being rural or well outside city limits. He thus estimated that a fair price for the land would be \$11,549 per acre, which would require a total payment of \$16,099,306.00 BZD to the company. The trial judge presiding over the matter in the Supreme Court, Justice Michelle Arana, had accepted the expert opinion. However, GoB, in the face of that \$16 million price tag, had appealed the ruling. The Court of Appeal, and later the CCJ, would both reach the conclusion that the methodology and assumptions used by the BLDC’s valuer to estimate the price of the land was flawed and the case should be remitted to the Supreme Court for further evidence to be put forward.

President Saunders and Justices Wit and Jamadar all asserted in their judgment that the BLDC valuer’s evidence was tainted because the value that he assigned to the lands was premised on his belief that the land was acquired by GoB for the

purpose of “city expansion” —an assumption that they considered unjustified. He thus assigned prices to the expropriated land that were equivalent to what was being paid for the purchase of commercial land in the City of Belmopan, and the justices objected to this system of valuation.

It is to be noted that although the majority of the CCJ judges were of the view that the evidence was tainted, the Court’s minority (Justices Anderson and Burgess) concluded that there was no basis for rejecting the expert evidence that had been accepted by the Supreme Court judge, since the expert had not relied on unacceptable hearsay evidence.

As previously mentioned, the Court remitted the case to the Supreme Court for further review. The Court has ordered GoB to pay an interim payment to BLDC in the sum of \$6 million BZD with interest on that sum at 6% per annum from 1 January 2014, less any payments that GoB has already made to the company. It was also ruled that the government should

make all efforts, at its own expense, to survey and delineate the land it acquired from BLDC within a reasonable time so that the land can be transferred by the company to GoB. Costs were awarded to BLDC.

The Court was presided over by the Hon. Justice Saunders (CCJ president) and the Hon. Justices Wit, Anderson, Burgess, and Jamadar. BLDC was represented by Naima Barrow of Barrow and Co. LLP and the government by Assistant Solicitor General Samantha Matute-Tucker and attorney Briana Williams.

Interestingly, the property in question was seen by grassroots activist Nigel Petillo as ideal for distribution to landless Belizeans. Petillo, who played a key role years ago in the establishment of Harmonyville, had organized a number of gatherings of Belizeans in need of land at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, and at those meetings he had insisted that the property was idle land formerly owned by an Asian national who had presumably left the country. After a huge number of persons converged on the land, a representative of the BLDC, Glen Ysaguirre, former Governor of the Central Bank, took to the media and stated, “Belmopan Land Development Corporation and its shareholders from mid to early 90s. So it’s been with that company for over twenty-five years or more and it’s titled property. They actually held titles for about two thousand, six hundred acres ... My objective and intent was to establish publicly, for all those concerned and seem to have their eyes on that property, that that’s a property with active ownership and that we will protect and defend our ownership and rights in that property”.

BAS: PM Briceño not maintaining investor confidence

The Belize Agro-Productive Sector (BAS) Group has issued a letter urging the Government to rebuild the trust and confidence of local and foreign investors or face major economic losses

by *Khaila Gentle*

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Feb. 2, 2022

The Belize Agro-Productive Sector (BAS) Group has cautioned the Government of Belize via a recent

letter addressed to Hon. John Briceño and copied to other members of the Administration that GoB has not been maintaining the level of “investor confidence” that has brought significant investments to Belize.

The letter, dated January 26, 2022, and signed by group chairman Dr. Henry Canton, details several concerns of the BAS Group—a group that reportedly represents over one billion Belize dollars of local and foreign investments in the country. It comes just a few months after the impasse in negotiations between the Belize Sugar Cane Farmers Association (BSCFA) and the Belize Sugar Industry Limited (BSI/ASR) and mere weeks after a portion of the cane fields belonging to Valley of Peace

BELIZE AGRO-PRODUCTIVE SECTOR GROUP

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26th January 2022

Hon. John Briceño
Prime Minister and Minister of Finance,
Economic Development and Investment
Sir Edney Cain Building
Belmopan,
Cayo District
Belize

Dear Prime Minister Briceño:

The Belize Agro-productive Sector Group (BASGroup) has established a concerned group that represents over one billion Belize dollars of investments (local and foreign) in Belize. The group’s sentiment is that the Government of Belize (GOB) is not acting in a manner to maintain the investor

Letter issued by the Belize Agro-Productive Sector Group

Minister Espat: Full salary for public workers a priority

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Feb. 3, 2022

When questioned by a local reporter about the upcoming national budget for the year 2022, Minister of Infrastructural Development and Housing, Hon. Julius Espat stated that the first thing he would clamor for is a reinstatement of the 10% portion of the salaries of public servants that was deducted as part of a GoB cost-reduction effort.

“The first thing I would clamor for is that the salaries are given back to the people from whom the ten percent was taken. So, you’re asking me, I would strongly, strongly ask for that to be returned before we do anything else. So if we have to do any kind of negotiation for that to happen, that’s a priority in my point of view. I work with public servants that are working extremely hard, over time, not collecting the overtime, and working with ten percent less, and they have given the Ministry of Infrastructure Development their all in 2021, and so it is our responsibility to fight for them to at least get back to the norm

and then fight for them to get more. To me, that’s the priority.” Espat said.

Espat has long been an advocate for the proper funding of the oversight bodies across the government spectrum, and has been particularly vocal about the need for proper funding of the Integrity Commission, Public Accounts Committee, and the Office of the Auditor General and Contractor General. He told local reporters that the Attorney General is currently carrying out a review of draft legislation from the former Auditor General, which includes suggestions to make the office of the Auditor General independent.

“The Auditor General made an incredible report to us about two Cabinet [meetings] ago. She came and gave a detailed analysis of what she found when she was there, and she gave us a draft proposed legislation on how to make sure that the Office of the Auditor General is independent. Cabinet received it extremely well, and we have forwarded it to the Attorney General, so she will go

through the legal parameters to see if what they are proposing are in line with the Constitution,” he explained.

“... at that meeting and in public I have been quite vocal that I believe that the Judiciary, which we know should be independent, but also the oversight bodies. That is why I fought for PAC (Public Accounts Commission) to be able to—you see to be independent you do it in various ways. One is financial independence, which is what I believe the Auditor General needs so that she can be able to not have to go beg a minister to do

something, and also have the ability to hire her own staff. That, I believe, is critical. That is part of the proposed legislation, and I support that. Then you have the PAC, another issue to deal with oversight. That one was not a financial aspect initially, but it will become also, so have managed to have PAC reconstituted where it’s a bi-cameral (assembly). It is also to hold the hearings in public and then the next step will be to give PAC similar to what the Auditor General is requesting,” Espat further commented.



Media not consulted on new Defamation law

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Feb. 3, 2022

A draft of new a Defamation legislation is scheduled to soon go through a first reading at the next sitting of the House of Representatives. The new law is aimed at repealing the Libel and Defamation Act, and will also abolish the



distinction between the torts of libel and slander, and make defamation proceedings actionable without proof of special damage, among other things. While the Attorney General, Hon. Magali Marin Young, has said this law is being introduced to increase the culpability of rogue social media pages and fringe media operations, the new law will directly affect the work of professional media houses across the country. Of note, as highlighted by the news director of 7News, Jules Vasquez, no consultation was done with the media on this new law.

When asked yesterday by 7News about the lack of consultation, Hon. Espat acknowledged that those consultations with the media should have taken place, but he expects those talks to occur following the first reading, which is supposedly scheduled for this Friday.

“Definitely you should be consulted. That’s why it’s only the first

reading in the House, so that has to go to committee and if you all have any objections, if you all have any issues with it, this is the time. But I believe you should have been consulted before, and if it wasn’t done, then let’s make sure that it’s done, but it’s not a legislation that we passed through in 3 readings. There is ample time. Let’s look at which committee it goes to. I could give you that information if you don’t have it, and then you all have to do your part. I remember when we were in PAC, the media was asking all kinds of questions as to why they couldn’t come into the meetings and stuff like that, so let’s be proactive on both sides.” Espat said.

Cabinet has stated that the purpose of the new legislation is to modernize the libel and slander tort law and strike a balance between freedom of speech and the protection, through possible prosecution, of those who might be subject to unjustified injury to their reputation.

Tropical Park, Belize
Mile 14.5 George Price Highway -

About this Property

This stunning fenced home has two living rooms, a dining room, three bedrooms, three baths, a study with built in book shelves, spacious storage, screen in verandah, a 600 gallon water vat with pump and filter piping into the kitchen, 130 x 60 ft lot with small basketball court, twenty mature fruit bearing trees, and two vehicle carport

For more info: Aria Lightfoot / 813-486-8220 WhatsApp
www.arialightfoot.com
realtoralightfoot@gmail.com

Features		
3	3	1947
Beds	Baths	SF

USD \$220,000




“Elderly man” assaulted in video is 47 years old

by *Khaila Gentle*

BELMOPAN, Wed. Feb. 2, 2022

Almost everyone who saw a video that surfaced last weekend of a frail man being assaulted with a bat in Belmopan, had believed that the victim of the attack was a senior citizen, and the perceived assault of an elderly person had stirred widespread public outrage. The Police Department had even sought public assistance in their efforts to locate the injured man. However, police have revealed that they located the victim in question but have discovered that he is, in fact, not elderly. According to police reports, the man—who has refused to make a formal report—is 47-years-old.

In the video footage, seen by a number of Belizeans, the man is seen being hit in the head and body with a

metal bat until he lost consciousness. It drew so much attention that Commissioner of Police, Chester Williams, spoke out against it, calling the act disgusting. The National Council on Ageing also responded to the video, issuing a press release condemning all acts of violence against the elderly and urging the public to take a stand against it. Shortly after, the police urged the public to report any information they might have had regarding the victim or the perpetrators.

Even though the victim was not in fact a senior citizen, however, what has not changed is the fact that a heinous act of violence was committed. Earlier in the week, Crime Stoppers Belize reached out to the public, asking for any information regarding the assailant in the video. The police continue to investigate.

Belmopan busito drivers angry about random checkpoint



Selvin Romero, Secretary for the Western Mini Bus Cooperative

by *Charles Gladden*

BELIZE CITY, Tues. Feb. 1, 2022

On Tuesday morning, February 1, busitos (minibuses that are a mode of transportation for many who commute to Belmopan) were brought to a half-an-hour halt by an unannounced checkpoint at the entrance to Belmopan near the Agriculture and Trade Show Grounds—causing a disruption in the schedules of a number of commuters. Drivers of the minibuses were caught off guard, and have since noted that they usually receive a notification from the Transport Department about any scheduled checkpoints.

Selvin Romero, Secretary of the Western Mini Bus Cooperative, told local reporters that he believes that the checkpoint was put in place at an inappropriate time, when commuters were trying to get to work. “It was a very unfortunate event in which we were not informed of this checkpoint where each unit from the Western

Mini Bus would have been inspected. I believe it’s unfortunate due to the fact that of the time and the place. It’s the time where commuters are in urgency of reaching work, they have their bosses and that the precise moment, you unload them and they would take about twenty to thirty minutes to inspect the vehicle. Some commuters were very upset. They even asked our warden, ‘What’s happening with the busitos?’” he said.

He further commented, “It wasn’t our fault; we were just pulled over. We were just inspected with prior notification. Nobody was prepared, nobody was informed, any member, any driver. So indeed it was a very unfortunate event for us as [the] Western Mini Bus Cooperative.”

According to Romero, this is the first time he has encountered a checkpoint that has been randomly set up at a time of day that is a critical point in the schedule of commuters. In the past, such inspections which were done at the checkpoint would have been carried out while buses are stationary, he said. “The last time they did [the check-up], but they did here in the parking [lot]. The vehicles were not moving, and it’s not like they’re going to check brakes light; they just checked the interior, the seats, fire extinguishers and that’s about it,” he pointed out.

Romero said they’re scheduling a meeting with the Department of Transport in an effort to resolve the issue prior to any future checks.

We reached out for a comment from the Ministry of Transport, but have so far we have not received any response.

Worker at Trial Farm bakery shot in the head



Cal's Bakery in Orange Walk

by *Khaila Gentle*

ORANGE WALK, Tues. Feb. 1, 2022

An employee of an Orange Walk bakery is currently in the hospital with a bullet lodged in his head after a gunman outside the bakery aimed several shots at him as he worked inside. On the night of Monday, January 31, twenty-one-year-old Hernan Arturo Godoy was packing bread at Cal’s bakery in Trial Farm when a lone gunman opened fire. The barrage of bullets penetrated the windows of the bakery, and one of them hit Godoy in the head.

Godoy’s employer, who was nearby at the time, said that she heard five shots but initially thought that they were “palomitas” or firecrackers. Upon investigating, however, she found Godoy covered in blood. He was taken to the Northern Regional Hospital by the police and a CT scan revealed that the bullet was still lodged in the right side of his forehead.

According to his employer, Godoy had been working at the bakery for about two years. He is not known to be a confrontational person, she said, and he had no known enemies.

BAS: PM Briceño not maintaining investor confidence

Continued from Page 2

Farms Limited was set ablaze in early January of this year.

The first cause for concern mentioned by the BAS Group was that events over the past two months have shown that the government has not been enforcing the law when criminal acts are committed against investors and their investments. As a result, a mounting lack of confidence in law enforcement and judicial processes on the part of investors has led some of them to the decision to “fend for themselves”.

“It is recommended that government become more proactive in the application of the law in defense of these investments and denounce any criminal act perpetrated against investors,” stated the letter.

It then went on to detail the group’s second issue, regarding “Antiquated Regulation that Hinder Industry Growth and Modernization.” According to the BAS Group, current regulations in the agricultural processing fields are burdensome and are restricting growth of most of Belize’s traditional agricultural industries. The group recommended that the government implement full or partial deregulation of several Acts after consultation with stakeholders and producers. Those Acts include the Citrus (Processing and Production) Act, the Sugar Cane Industry (Control) Act, the Banana Industry Act, the Pesticides Control Act, and the Grain Act.

Lastly, the letter brought up the issue of “Clear and Consistent Application of Tax Laws and Incentivized Tax

Systems for Exports”, noting the inconsistencies in the application of tax laws across the agro-productive sector. The letter cited General Sales Tax (GST) refunds as an example, pointing out that the investors represented by the letter are owed several million dollars in tax refunds.

“The current investment climate has had the effect of slowing or stopping future investment in Belize. The slowdown and/or halt in investment will have significant effects on the local economy and employment. We respectfully ask that the GoB considers quick action to protect our investments and rebuild the trust and confidence that first brought these investments to Belize,” said the letter.

The BAS Group also expressed its willingness to work with GoB and to advise the government how to resolve all the issues raised.

When asked about the letter during an interview last week, Deputy Prime Minister Hon. Cordel Hyde said that he was surprised, in light of the fact that the government has constantly been engaged with investors and agro-producers.

“As a government, we have been in communication constantly with the business community, with the agro-producers. We have not thrown them by the wayside. We have been very committed to trying to make the environment as conducive to their investment as possible,” said Hyde. The Deputy PM also said that he is certain the government will be very responsive to whatever concerns the group has been voicing.



Too many roads lead to Big Creek

Panama Disease devastated Belize's banana industry in the 1920s, and it was not until the 1970s, with the introduction of Grand Nain, a variety of banana that has resistance to the disease, that farmers, with tremendous support from the Government of Belize, got the courage to start planting bananas commercially again. This was the age of Belize's Green Revolution, a period when much of our government's investments were going into agriculture, a period when farmers' cooperatives were on the rise.

A United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization report says the Banana Growers' Association was set up in 1971, and "in 1972 a plan was put forward to rehabilitate existing banana farms to ship to the U.K." The Banana Control Board received a loan from the Caribbean Development Bank in 1973, and "farm units of 30-60 acres were given to tenant farmers making a total of 1,326 acres by 1974."

The fledgling banana industry had its share of teething pains, and it didn't help that it was hit by a couple hurricanes. In the early 1980s the industry was struggling, and when a UDP government came to power in 1984, it found the industry several millions of dollars in debt. The UDP's solution was to sell it. Thus, under a UDP government in 1985, the entire banana industry fell into the control of a few large farmers.

In explaining the UDP government's decision, the big farmers said they had greater vision than the smaller ones. But the fact is that the UDP 1984-89 did not favor collectivism. The UDP's big sponsor was USAID; the UDP put much emphasis on sales of passports to rich Chinese citizens who were supposed to come to Belize

and make major investments; and the UDP increased private ownership of the nation's only telecommunications company, BTL, to 49%. By the time the UDP was booted from office in 1989, farmers' cooperatives were on life support. The PUP government which took over came not to revive collectivism, but to finish it off.

Since taking full control of the banana industry, the large farmers have had great success. Banana plantations owned by the big boys now cover 6,500 acres in South Stann Creek and North Toledo, and they have a share of, or full control of, all associated businesses, including the port at Big Creek.

Initially, the port in Big Creek was limited to handling exports of bananas, and supplies of fertilizers and pesticides from Guatemala and Honduras for the plantations, but ever since a minister (or ministers) in a PUP government during the Musa administrations gave them the green light to get involved in other businesses, growth at the port has been rapid. Massive investments have flowed in to deepen the channel, expand storage

capacity, and purchase modern equipment to increase efficiency.

Presently, at the Port of Big Creek – Toledo Enterprises Ltd. (PBCTEL) in South Stann Creek/North Toledo, are the old tanks that were used to store fuel from Venezuela that came in under the Petro Caribe Program; tanks that store crude oil for BNE; tanks that store butane, after a government gave monopoly control of imports of that product to an associated group; warehouses that store sugar and molasses produced by Santander, a new sugar company in the Cayo District; and facilities for the storage of sugar coming all the way from ASR/BSI in Orange Walk, after the sugar producers in the north made the incredible decision to truck their products across country all the way down south, instead of by sea to the port in Belize City, Port of Belize Ltd. (PBL), which it had been doing for many decades.

Business might be slow in other parts of Belize, but it is booming in Big Creek. The listed major shareholders of PBCTEL are Belizeans, so its success should be a plus all around for the country. Unfortunately, not all of its businesses make sense for Belize. In regard to its role as the nation's number one handler of crude petroleum exports and butane imports, the port in Big Creek is perfectly suited, being set in a lagoon. If there should be a spill, the impact would be far less than it would be if the port was set by the sea. In regard to the handling of sugar, however, there are concerns.

This year PBCTEL will handle an estimated 75,000 tons of sugar and 30,000 tons of molasses produced by Santander. PBCTEL will also handle most of the sugar and molasses produced by ASR/BSI. In 2017, ASR/BSI produced over 140,000 tons of sugar and 40,000 tons of molasses.

The wear and tear on Belize's highways that will be caused by transporting over 200,000 tons of sugar and molasses can't be ignored, because it costs Belize almost \$2 million to rehabilitate a mile on the George Price Highway, and it is costing almost \$4 million to deliver a mile on the Manuel Esquivel Coastal Road. Sugar and molasses from Santander are being transported over 100 miles, to the port in Big Creek, when the distance to PBL in Belize City is about 45 miles. Sugar and molasses from ASR/BSI, which used to be transported by barge, will be transported over 150 miles, to the port in Big Creek, when the route by road to PBL in Belize City is about a third of that distance.

Why are sugar and molasses from Santander and ASR/BSI pounding holes on Belize's highways and roads? This is a story as disturbing as the BTL saga, which saw Belize sell its most prized asset for a song, and buy it back for the entire orchestra. What is the reason for bypassing PBL? Is it because the receiver at PBL must have a cruise port in Belize City, even if our environmentalists say dredging to berth giant cruise ships is unsound and our tourism experts say the increased visitors brought in by a new cruise port will damage our product? Is it to deal a final blow to end unionized labor in Belize?

If sugar producers insist on bypassing PBL, there is a port in Commerce Bight, Stann Creek, which is almost 50 miles closer for their products than the port in Big Creek. At this time, Commerce Bight, our country's only natural deep water port, languishes; its pier, which handled shipments of citrus products up to the turn of the last century, in a state of disrepair, and its ownership in confusion. Our country would realize considerable savings if this port was refurbished and sugar and molasses were shipped through it.

Belize is dependent on agricultural exports, but there are many other contributors to our economy. There is crushing poverty in our country, and we are wasting millions transporting sugar and molasses by road, all the way to Big Creek.



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PUBLICAUCTIONS SALES: PROPERTIES & VEHICLES

Countrywide

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the below described properties and vehicles. Sale currently running and will expire on Monday 7th & Tuesday 8th February 2022 at the times listed on the website:

N.B. Properties and vehicles will remain on sale on this website on a bi-weekly basis until conclusion.

1. 17 + Acres of developed land situate along the Punta Gorda/San Antonio Road, Toledo District:



ALL THAT piece or parcel of land being 17 acres 2 rods 14 poles of land situate on the left ascending the Punta Gorda/ San Antonio Road, Toledo District Belize. Freehold properties of Mr. Derrick D. Williams and Mr. Roy Williams.

2. Parcel No. 2891 first subdivision south of Airstrip, western side of Placencia Road, Placencia Village, Stann Creek District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Placencia North	36	2891
The freehold property of Ms. Dawn Anderson & Mr. Hector Tut.		

3. Parcel No. 2871 first subdivision south of Airstrip, western side of Placencia Road, Placencia Village, Stann Creek District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Placencia North	36	2871
The freehold property of Mr. Sidney Lopez & Ms. Valarie Godoy.		

4. 147.228 Acres, San Marcos Agricultural Area, Toledo District:



ALL THAT piece or parcel of land being 147.228 acres situate in the San Marcos Agricultural Area, Toledo District. Freehold properties of Mr. Marcial Mess.

5. No. 9 Cayo Street, Belmopan, Cayo District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Belmopan	20	149
The freehold property of Ms. Patricia S. Bradley & Mr. Leon F. Lopez		

6. Parcel No. 2911 Cedar Street, Santiago Juan Layout, San Ignacio, Cayo District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
San Ignacio North	23	2911
The freehold property of Ms. Adelita Zaiden.		

7. Parcel No. 788 "Little Orange Walk" formerly Melhado Estate, Mount Pleasant, Cayo District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Mount Pleasant	20	788
The freehold property of Mr. Leopold Suarez.		

8. Parcel No. 418 Corner 3rd Avenue & 5th Street North, Corozal Town, Corozal District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Corozal Central	4	418
The freehold property of Mrs. Guadalupe & Mr. Edmund Longworth.		

9. Parcel No. 461 George Price Highway, Unitedville, Cayo District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Society Hall	24	461
The freehold property of Mr. Ulric L. Willoughby.		

10. Lot No. 59A Pomona Village Extension, Stann Creek District:



Lot No. 59A, comprising 696.567 square metres situate in Pomona Village Extension, Stann Creek District, Belize. Freehold property of Mr. Thurman Williams.

11. Parcel No. 410 Seine Bight Village, Placencia Peninsula, Stann Creek District:



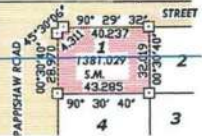
REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Placencia North	36	410
The freehold property of Mr. Kent Roland Francis and Ms. Silvana Andrea Garcia.		

12. Parcel No. 1710 Mahogany Street, Punta Gorda Town, Toledo District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Punta Gorda	4	1710
The freehold property of Ms. Elizabeth Borland.		

13. Lot No. 1 along Pappishaw Road, Eldridgeville Village, Toledo District:



ALL THAT piece or parcel of land being Lot No. 1 containing 1,381.029 square meters situate along Pappishaw Road, Eldridgeville Village, Toledo District, the freehold property of Mr. Ronald Lee Baker.

14. Lot No. 2 West of Punta Gorda Town, Toledo District:



ALL THAT piece or parcel of land being Lot No. 2 containing 841.073 square meters situate west of Punta Gorda Town, Toledo District TOGETHER with all buildings and erections, the freehold property of Mr. Cardinal Smith (Deceased).

15. No. 315 San Estevan Village, Orange Walk District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
San Estevan	1	315
The freehold property of Mr. Augusto Angel Blanco.		

16. Parcel No. 1523 Seine Bight Village, Placencia Peninsula, Stann Creek District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Placencia North	36	1523
The freehold property of Ms. Sherlette Augustine.		

17. Parcel No. 4111 Blue Bird Street, Alta Mira, Corozal District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Corozal North	4	4111
The freehold property of Mr. Raleigh Rivas and Ms. Olga Rivas		

18. Parcel No. 1142 Phillip Goldson Highway, San Jose Palmar, Orange Walk District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
San Jose Palmar	4	1142
The freehold property of Ms. Marisa Perera & Mr. Carlos Perera		

19. Parcel No. 2708 Phillip Goldson Highway, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Orange Walk Town	4	2708
The freehold property of Mr. Gustavo Gongora & Ms. Rubicela Mai		

20. Parcel No. 2492 Oak Street, Halls Layout, Corozal Town, Corozal District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Corozal North	1	2492
The freehold property of Mr. Yasin Shoman & Ms. Ruth Shoman		

21. Parcel No. 158 Sunset Park, 8 1/2 Miles George Price Hwy, Western Paradise, Belize District:



ALL THAT piece or parcel of land being Lot No. 158 containing 1,013.39 S.M. situate at Mile 8.5 Northern Side of Hector Creek Road, Western Highway, Belize District of Belize, the freehold property of Mr. Lawrence Ellis and Mrs. Kimberly Ellis)

22. Parcel No. 2842 first subdivision south of Placencia Airstrip, Placencia Village, Stann Creek District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Placencia North	36	2842
The freehold property of Mr. Ajinder Singh Garcha		

23. Parcel No. 1726 Guinea Grass Village, Orange Walk District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Tower Hill	4	1726
The freehold property of Ms. Gloriceida Camara		

24. Parcels Nos. 639 & 640 San Estevan, Orange Walk District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
San Estevan	1	639 & 640
The freehold property of Mr. Manuel Jesus Blanco and Mr. Agosto Blanco)		

25. Parcel No. 853 San Jose Drive, San Jose Palmar, Orange Walk District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
San Jose Palmar	4	853
The freehold property of Mr. Freddy Orlando Tun		

26. Parcel No. 12333 North Ambergris Caye, Belize District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
San Pedro	7	12333
The freehold property of Mr. Nestor Adriano Vasquez		

27. Parcel No. 16/1 San Estevan Village, Orange Walk District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
San Estevan	4	16/1
The leasehold property of Ms. Irma Olivera		

28. Parcel No. 244 Caledonia Village, Corozal District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Caledonia Village	1	244
The freehold property of Messrs. Chico's Company Limited		

29. Parcels Nos. 21, 42 & 280 Libertad Registration Section, Corozal District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Libertad	1	21, 42 & 280
The freehold properties of Mr. Leonard Folgarait		

30. 200.35 Acres Eastern Side Southern Lagoon, Manatee Area, Belize District:



ALL THAT piece or parcel of land containing 200.35 acres situate along the eastern side of Southern Lagoon and 3 1/4 miles north of Gales Point, Manatee Village, Belize District, Belize, the freehold property of Mr. Arnaldo Pena.

31. Lot No. 13 Santa Cruz Village, Stann Creek District:



All that piece of land containing 836.013 square meters being Lot No. 13 situate in Santa Cruz Village, Stann Creek District TOGETHER with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon. The freehold property of Mr. Jose O. Raudales & Ms. Rixy G. Ramirez.

32. Parcels 1682, 1683 and 1684 Linda Vista Estate, off George Price Highway, Belize City, Belize:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
St. Martin de Porres West	45	1682, 1683 & 1684
The freehold property of Mrs. Marissa Sosa & Mr. Godfrey Sosa.		

33. No. 1 Cor. Talawalla & Edwin Park Streets, Lord's Bank Village, Belize District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Ladyville/Lords Bank	16	3806
The freehold property of Mr. Kevin Enriquez & Mrs. Andrea Enriquez.		

VEHICLES:



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PM tests positive again for COVID-19

by *Khaila Gentle*

BELMOPAN, Tues. Feb. 1, 2022

Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño has tested positive for COVID-19 following his visit to Honduras, where he attended the inauguration of that country's first female president. According to a press

release from the Office of the Prime Minister, the PM was tested over the weekend and was immediately put into isolation. This is the second time that he has been found to be infected with the virus, with his first Covid-19 infection being detected in November 2020, shortly after the general elections.

While the PM had to isolate for two weeks during his first bout of COVID-19, it is expected that he will only have to quarantine for seven days this time around, following the new isolation timeline implemented by the Ministry of Health and Wellness. The new quarantine guidelines have reduced the isolation period for healthcare workers and other essential workers from ten days to seven days, as long as those individuals are asymptomatic, have had no symptoms of the illness for three consecutive days, and are not required to take any specific



Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño

medication to treat the illness.

Interestingly, in an interview with 7News, the Prime Minister, who said that he received the test results last week after he returned to the country after attending the Honduran president's inauguration, expressed his belief that he did not contract the virus during his Honduras visit, but that he likely became infected while in the company of his brother, Jaime.

"...Last week Saturday we were traveling in the vehicle together; we had a meeting in Belize City, and so we were in the vehicle, and both of us took off our mask, and then on Sunday morning he called that his throat is very raspy and his eyes were itchy and I still went to see him, although we were at a distance and kept our mask and this was outside. But I suspect that probably that happened on Saturday, but I repeat, I have no symptoms and I am very grateful for that," he said.

He also noted, in regard to the delegation which accompanied him on his trip to Honduras and the caution he exercised during that trip: "...both the foreign minister and CEO Mai, they are negative, so they did not get sick, and Mr. Richard who is the honorary consul for Belize, he was along with me through most of the meetings and he took a test yesterday and sent me the results that he is negative. I tried to be as careful as I can, because in the work that I do, I meet a lot of people."

In the press release, the Office of the Prime Minister also encouraged eligible persons to get vaccinated and to receive their booster shots if they have already been vaccinated. The public is also reminded to continue to follow the Ministry of Health's public health regulations, which include wearing face masks properly, washing and sanitizing hands, avoiding crowded places, and maintaining social distance.

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, February 6, 2022 **Time:** 10:30 a.m. to noon
Guest: Bredah Kofi Mawuli Klu/ Jurisconsult & Activist (Pan-Afrikan Reparations Coalition in Europe PARCOE)
Sunday Review will be repeated at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, February 6, 2022




GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND INVESTMENT

INVITATION TO QUOTE
No CABEI-DI-22/2021

The **Ministry of Finance, Economic Development, and Investment** funded by the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) has allocated funds towards the cost of supply and delivery of vehicles.

The Ministry now extends an invitation to Suppliers to tender for the below listed items:

GOODS	QUANTITY
12 seater Van	1

Interested bidders may submit a complete set of bidding documents inclusive of Specifications through written request to the below physical address or via electronic mail (email) to finance.officer@med.gov.bz.

Specification information along with the invitation to quote can be found on the CARICOM Community Public Procurement Notice Board at <https://blz-cppnb.caricom.org> and also on our Ministry's website: <https://med.gov.bz/invitation-to-quote-no-cabei-di-22-2021/> OR on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=239676935017583&set=pcb.239676951684248>

Deadline for submission of sealed bids is Friday **February 4th, 2022 at 3:30pm**, via direct mail or hand delivered to the address indicated below.

Note that late submissions will be rejected.

Bids can also be mailed to:
Chief Executive Officer
Ministry of Economic Development
Sir Edney Cain Building
Ground Floor, Right Wing
Belmopan City, Belize C.A.
Ref: INVITATION TO QUOTE (No CABEI-DI-22/2021)

Ministry of Finance, **Economic Development** & Investment, Sir Edney Cain Building, Belmopan
 Tel - 880-2526/2527

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Demasiados caminos conducen a Big Creek

El Mal de Panamá devastó la industria bananera de Belize en la década de 1920, y no fue sino hasta la década de 1970, con la introducción de Grand Nain, una variedad de banano resistente a la enfermedad, que los agricultores, con el tremendo apoyo del Gobierno de Belize, tuvieron el coraje de empezar a plantar bananos comercialmente de nuevo. Esta fue la era de la Revolución Verde de Belize, un período en el que gran parte de las inversiones de nuestro gobierno se destinaron a la agricultura, un período en el que las cooperativas de agricultores estaban en auge.

Un informe de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación dice que la Asociación de Cultivadores de Banano se estableció en 1971, y "en 1972 se presentó un plan para rehabilitar las existentes fincas de banano para enviarlas al Reino Unido". La Junta de Control del Banano recibió un préstamo del Banco de Desarrollo del Caribe en 1973, y "se entregaron unidades agrícolas de 30 a 60 acres a agricultores arrendatarios, lo que hizo un total de 1,326 acres en 1974".

La incipiente industria bananera tuvo su parte de dolores de dentición, y no ayudó que fuera golpeada por un par de huracanes. A principios de la década de 1980, la industria estaba en dificultades, y cuando un gobierno UDP llegó al poder en 1984, encontró que la industria tenía una deuda de varios millones de dólares. La solución del UDP fue venderla. Así, bajo un gobierno UDP en 1985, toda la industria bananera cayó bajo el control de unos pocos grandes agricultores.

Al explicar la decisión del gobierno UDP, los grandes agricultores dijeron que tenían una mayor visión que los pequeños. Pero el hecho es que el UDP de 1984-89 no favoreció el colectivismo. El gran patrocinador del UDP fue USAID; el UDP puso mucho énfasis en la venta de pasaportes a ricos ciudadanos chinos que se suponía iban a venir a Belize y hacer grandes inversiones; y el UDP aumentó la propiedad privada de la única empresa de telecomunicaciones del país, BTL, al 49 %. Cuando el UDP fue expulsado de su cargo en 1989, las cooperativas de agricultores estaban en soporte vital. El gobierno PUP que asumió el poder no vino a revivir el colectivismo, sino a acabar con él.

Desde que tomaron el control total de la industria bananera, los grandes agricultores han tenido un gran éxito. Las plantaciones de banano propiedad de los grandes empresarios ahora cubren 6,500 acres en el sur de Stann Creek y el norte de Toledo, y tienen una parte o control total de todos los negocios asociados, incluido el puerto de Big Creek.

Inicialmente, el puerto en Big Creek se limitaba a manejar exportaciones de banano y suministros de fertilizantes y pesticidas de Guatemala y Honduras para las plantaciones, pero desde que un ministro (o ministros) en un gobierno PUP durante las administraciones de Musa les dio el visto bueno para involucrarse en otros negocios, el crecimiento en el puerto ha sido rápido. Se han realizado inversiones masivas para profundizar el canal, ampliar la capacidad de almacenamiento y comprar equipos modernos para aumentar la eficiencia.

Actualmente, en el puerto de Big Creek – Toledo Enterprises Ltd. (PBCTEL) en el sur de Stann Creek/norte de Toledo, se encuentran los viejos tanques que se usaban para almacenar combustible de Venezuela que entraba bajo el Programa Petro Caribe; tanques que almacenan crudo para BNE; tanques que almacenan butano, luego de que un gobierno le diera el control monopólico de las importaciones de ese producto a un grupo asociado; bodegas que almacenan azúcar y melaza producida por Santander, una nueva empresa

azucarera en el Distrito de Cayo; e instalaciones para el almacenamiento de azúcar procedente de ASR/BSI en Orange Walk, después de que los productores de azúcar del norte tomaran la increíble decisión de transportar sus productos en camiones a través del país hasta el sur, en lugar de hacerlo por mar hasta el puerto de la Ciudad de Belize, Port of Belize Ltd. (PBL), cosa que había estado haciendo durante muchas décadas.

Los negocios pueden estar lentos en otras partes de Belize, pero están en auge en Big Creek. Los principales declarados accionistas de PBCTEL son beliceños, por lo que su éxito debería ser una ventaja para el país. Desafortunadamente, no todos sus negocios tienen sentido para Belize. Con respecto a su papel como el principal operador de exportaciones de petróleo crudo e importaciones de butano del país, el puerto de Big Creek se adapta perfectamente, ya que se encuentra en una laguna. Si hubiera un derrame, el impacto sería mucho menor que si el puerto estuviera ubicado por el mar. Sin embargo, en cuanto al manejo del azúcar, existen preocupaciones.

Este año PBCTEL manejará un estimado de 75.000 toneladas de azúcar y 30.000 toneladas de melaza producidas por Santander. PBCTEL también manejará la mayor parte del azúcar y la melaza producidos por ASR/BSI. En 2017, ASR/BSI produjo más de 140 000 toneladas de azúcar y 40 000 toneladas de melaza.

No se puede ignorar el desgaste de las carreteras de Belize que provocará el transporte de más de 200 000 toneladas de azúcar y melaza, porque a Belize le cuesta casi \$2 millones rehabilitar una milla en la carretera George Price, y está costando casi \$4 millones para entregar una milla en la Carretera Costera Manuel Esquivel. El azúcar y la melaza de Santander se transportan a través de más de 100 millas, hasta el puerto de Big Creek, cuando la distancia a PBL en la Ciudad de Belize es de unas 45 millas. El azúcar y la melaza de ASR/BSI, que solía transportarse en barcazas, se transportarán más de 150 millas hasta el puerto de Big Creek, cuando la ruta por carretera hasta PBL en la Ciudad de Belize es aproximadamente un tercio de esa distancia.

¿Por qué el azúcar y la melaza de Santander y ASR/BSI están haciendo agujeros en las carreteras y caminos de Belize? Esta es una historia tan inquietante como la saga BTL, en la que Belize vendió su activo máspreciado por una canción y lo volvió a comprar por toda la orquesta. ¿Cuál es la razón para pasar por alto a PBL? ¿Es porque la receptoría en PBL debe tener un puerto de cruceros en la Ciudad de Belize, incluso si nuestros ambientalistas dicen que el dragado para atracar cruceros gigantes no es sólido y nuestros expertos en turismo dicen que el aumento de visitantes traído por un nuevo puerto de cruceros dañará nuestro producto? ¿Es para asestar un golpe final a la mano de obra sindicalizada en Belize?

Si los productores de azúcar insisten en pasar por alto a PBL, hay un puerto en Commerce Bight, Stann Creek, que está casi 50 millas más cerca para sus productos que el puerto en Big Creek. En este momento, Commerce Bight, el único puerto natural de aguas profundas de nuestro país, languidece; su muelle, que manejaba envíos de productos cítricos hasta principios del siglo pasado, está en mal estado y su propiedad en confusión. Nuestro país obtendría ahorros considerables si se remodelara este puerto y se transportara azúcar y melaza a través de él.

Belize depende de las exportaciones agrícolas, pero hay muchos otros contribuyentes a nuestra economía. Hay una aplastante pobreza en nuestro país, y estamos desperdiciando millones transportando azúcar y melaza por carretera, hasta Big Creek.

William and Kate to visit Belize

Prince William and Kate Middleton are reportedly scheduled to travel to Belize and other Caribbean nations as part of a tour to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Feb. 2, 2022

According to reports from *The Mail* on Sunday, representatives of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge were in Belize last week planning a royal visit for the couple. Prince William, 39, and Kate Middleton, 40, are reportedly headed to Belize and other Caribbean islands to mark the Queen's 70th year on



Prince William and Kate Middleton
(Photo by Danny Lawson via Getty Images)

the throne. Unconfirmed reports are that they will be in Belize for a four-day visit sometime in March as a part of their tour in this part of the world, with reports that they just may visit Ambergris Caye and also go to mainland Belize.

Reports are that there will be a focus during the royals' tour on ecological issues facing the world. With the recent strides made by Belize in conservation, and our efforts to continue being a leader in the area of marine conservation, it is appropriate that our country be the first stop on a trip focused on

championing ecological issues. The inaugural awards of Prince William's *Earthshot Prize* were held last October to promote impactful approaches to environmental issues across the world.

The Queen, 95, serves as the head of state of Belize. Prince William reportedly trained in the country in 2000 with the Welsh Guards regiment. Back in 2012, Prince Harry visited Belize to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, when the famous scene of him dancing at a block party on the Queen Elizabeth II Boulevard was shot.

Gas prices still on the rise



February 3, 2022, the pump price of premium gasoline will increase from \$12.30 to \$12.73 per gallon—an increase of 43 cents. Regular gasoline is set to increase by 18 cents, going from \$12.10 to \$12.28 per gallon. The prices of kerosene and diesel, however, will remain unchanged at \$8.79 and \$11.56

by *Khaila Gentle*

BELMOPAN, Wed. Feb. 2, 2022

The Ministry of Finance, through the Government of Belize Press Office, has informed the public of upcoming changes in fuel pump prices, with both premium and regular gasoline prices set to increase. Effective Thursday,

per gallon, respectively.

The announcement comes just one week after a previous price increase and less than a week after the United Democratic Party (UDP) called out the Briceño administration on the steadily rising fuel prices, urging the government to commit to keeping gas prices below \$10 and to reduce the taxes imposed on fuel.

The couple's last royal tours were in March 2020 before the COVID-19 pandemic, when they visited Ireland, and in December of that same year, when they took a three-day royal train tour across the UK. In May 2021, they spent a week engaged in conversation across Scotland.

In a few days, on February 10, Prince William will visit Dubai for his first official visit to the UAE.

According to the Government's press release, they plan to work with the fuel industry to stabilize the pump prices paid by Belizean consumers. The release stated that the increase in gas prices is a reflection of the current demand and supply conditions in the crude oil sector within the international petroleum market as well as fluctuation in acquisition prices in countries from which Belize obtains its fuel supplies.

blue ventures beyond conservation

JOIN A GLOBAL GROUP OF CONSERVATION PROFESSIONALS

We are in search of a dynamic and competent **Country Director** to lead our Belize Team!

BV's office in Sarteneja and a co-working space in Belize City are accessible to staff, who also have the option to work remotely from their homes across Belize. We anticipate that this role will revert to a hybrid remote-in person working pattern as is possible due to the Covid pandemic.

Blue Ventures develops locally led approaches to marine management that benefit people and nature alike. By listening and responding to community needs, we design our models to catalyse and sustain marine conservation, unlocking the potential of coastal communities to manage their resources. We work in places where the ocean is vital to local cultures and economies, and are committed to advancing the rights of small-scale fishers throughout the coastal tropics.

Our Belize team is also optimally placed to expand our work in the wider Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) region. Building on our experience in Asia and Africa, Blue Ventures is now scoping opportunities to identify and support values-aligned partners on fisheries management and governance across the wider region with a view to developing a thriving regional programme.

Summary job description

- BV's Belize Country Director has two overarching responsibilities: leading our programme in Belize, and driving expansion of our work in the wider LAC region. We envisage a roughly 50:50 split between these two main aims for the successful postholder.
- The Belize Country Director leads our thinking and approach on marine conservation in Belize and the wider LAC region. With a natural flair for cross-sector working, particularly with Government, the Country Director is accountable for our work to develop and accelerate community-based approaches for natural resource management in Belize.

Responsibilities

Leadership and management

- Leading by example to set and maintain a creative, supportive and **thriving environment** for Blue Ventures' Belize team, ensuring BV

values are upheld and culture is maintained

- Promoting a **shared vision** for Blue Ventures in Belize, and ensuring all staff understand their contribution to that vision and Blue Ventures' overall strategy

Programme management

- Maintaining a strong **shared understanding** of across the team of programme delivery, goals, and challenges via regular check-ins with senior staff and technical programme leads
- Overseeing **project management and donor reporting** with Belize and global teams

Communications, knowledge sharing/management and advocacy

- Cultivating effective proactive **internal communication** to ensure all staff are well informed of our core mission and kept up to date with ongoing activities, as well as new developments, policies and procedures
- Promoting and supporting Blue Ventures' commitment to **documenting learning and sharing knowledge**, and to incorporating lessons from the wider BV team and beyond

Operations

- Overseeing the **programme budget, site funds, and bank account** efficiently and accurately
- Supporting the development and maintenance of budget, finance, recruitment and project management **systems**

Skills and experience

Required

- Degree in relevant field and/or proven experience in fisheries management, marine conservation or international development, particularly in the Latin American and Caribbean region
- A proven ability to develop strong working relationships in new environments.
- Experience in financial planning and control, and budget preparation and management

Desired

- Previous human resources, operations support or administrative support experience
- Previous international organization/NGO experience
- Fundraising

For more information or to apply to any of these positions, please visit: <https://careers.blueventures.org/>

Kindly submit applications online. Only applications submitted through our online system will be considered. **Deadline for submission: Sunday 13th February 2022, 4pm local time.**

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Some Mayan leaders a little too American

by Colin Hyde

When the leaders of Mayan Belizeans in Toledo first brought their case for communal ownership rights to the land they lived on, I supported, with gusto. For years our Mayan brothers and sisters had seen developments that threatened their traditional way of life, and the final straw was when a GOB decided to issue logging rights over thousands of acres in the district. For a time villagers watched helplessly as the loggers destroyed the forest, and then they decided to go to court.

I cheered the ruling by Chief Justice Conteh back in 2007 (2008?), that Santa Cruz and Conejo had established customary land tenure. A couple years later, the decision was extended to most of the other villages where the Maya were the dominant tribe.

In one of my columns, I wrote that had the Maya of Toledo been pastoral, they wouldn't have needed to go to court. The easiest way to control the land is to fall the bush, put barbed wire around it, and put in livestock. In the old Maya system, they fell the forest, burned it, planted a crop, and then they let the land rest for some years before repeating the cycle. It is not the best way to farm, and our brothers and sisters are gradually shifting to more progressive systems, such as utilizing cover crops, alley cropping, and terracing to conserve the soil and make it yield more sustainably.

We have to wonder if any Chief Justice other than Dr. Abdulai Conteh would have forced the government to come to the table. The UDP had installed a new Chief Justice, Mr. Manuel Sosa, just before the 1998

general elections, and when the PUP won, one of their first acts was to get our country a new Chief Justice. To get their man, they went all the way to Sierra Leone.

A Wikipedia page states that Dr. Conteh was once vice president of Sierra Leone, and he was ousted following a military junta in 1992. He was our Chief Justice from 2000 to 2010, when the UDP did not rehire him. It took an extraordinary man to hand down that judgment. No one has asked Justice Sosa, at least not publicly, what his thoughts were about the ruling.

We know how the red and the blue felt. Said Musa had said about the communal land rights claim that he wouldn't preside over the Balkanization of Belize. And when the UDP came to power, their lawyers questioned the authenticity of the Maya of Toledo, if they were really from the area, and they had to get a message from the CCJ to get them to respect the ruling. The UDP lost every big case at the CCJ, against the rich man, Ashcroft, and against the cash-poor people of Toledo.

There has been some trouble in implementing the ruling, and to my mind that is because some Mayan leaders are going too far over in favor of an American solution. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights was big in the case brought by the Mayan leaders, and I have a sense that some of the lead activists from that group were from the USA. Whether yes or no to that, my sense is that the stumbling block in the process has been the leaders who like the idea of near total autonomy, akin to what's the rule on reservations in the US. On the rez,

all is good to go as long as they respect the basic civil rights and liberties established in the US.

We are so, so different from the US. In that country north of us, the Europeans came like conquistadores and massacred the Native Americans, slaughtered their main food source, the buffalo, took all their best lands, and confined them to land that couldn't sustain crops. The power structure in the US remains European; all their presidents have been/are Europeans, save for one who is a fifty percenter.

I won't get into kwaaril here with a few Mestizos/Maya in the north side of our country who try to daub Belize with the same brush. I've learned well enough that some people in Belize like to take bullet points and run, so keeping on course, I just want to point out here that the lands in Toledo are some of the most fertile in our country, and beginning with our first native leader, George Price, it has been a parade of Mayan lineage in the big seat in the National Assembly. Looking at our present leader, he could assimilate in Crique Sarco and San Pedro Columbia, no problem.

I know that the person who could make the implementation of the Conteh ruling a completely smooth process doesn't exist. That's the way it is with negotiations. I will say to the parties that are not in agreement with the present FPIC that has been settled on that they not forget to keep Belize at heart. In all your deliberations, remember to ask yourselves: Is it good for Belize? We might no longer be the tranquil haven of democracy, thanks to our group of lawyers who don't prize justice, but we have a rich history,

and across the country our love is still strong.

We have a special thing here. I do not like for Belizeans to flat out say that the Conteh ruling was a bad decision. No matter what your views are on the world, you should be able to find some good in turning back the krayzinis of 1492.

I also don't congratulate Belizeans who throw the baby out with the bath water when they think of the colonizers. There were bad things, for sure, but we cannot completely turn back the time. We have to approach the implementation of the FPIC with an abrazo, not a cold stare. Yes, in negotiations we have to be tough, so we aren't driven too far off from our position, but if we always keep in mind the greater good for Belize, we will do the right thing. We are not the USA.

A criminal leak

Last week a distraught woman went to the police station and made a statement that her spouse had abused her. Some police officer or officers, or some person who works at the Police Department released the statement the lady made so all the world could see. I haven't read the statement, and I don't want to. I don't want to, because the statement made by the distraught lady wasn't intended for me.

I'm not questioning either of the parties that were affected by the leak, but there's a reason why we say there are three sides to a story. It's not that one side isn't the flat-out truth. I won't go on here, because we could go down many roads. I just say, give it a thought, and be sincere.

Leaking information has become common in the government, because government after government has violated the rights of Belizeans to know how their money is being spent. There are times leaders have to be careful or strategic with the release of information. There are sensitive matters. But when it comes to our money and other assets, we should know.

What happened at the Police Department was no common leak. It's possible the person(s) who leaked that document doesn't know that they committed a serious violation, if not a criminal act. In releasing a private statement, they were savage, and if there is any excuse for them, it is that in this case the one offended, Patrick, well, he has messed up many times already.

Belize is slipping down, and it is important that we do something about it. I wouldn't ask for whoever released that statement to be nailed to the stake, because they might be ignorant, but at the least it should be made clear that if it happens again, somebody is going to jail.

NOTICE

BELIZE CITY

Estate of **KALIM HABET**, 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 **KALIM HABET**, late of No.15 Burns Avenue, San Ignacio Town, Cayo District, Belize are required to send particulars in writing of their claims or demands to the Administrator of the said estate, **KALIM ANTONIO HABET** of No.1223 Turtle Crescent East, Vista Del Mar, Ladyville, Belize District, Belize, and to send such particulars not later than the 27th day of April 2022, AND NOTICE IS HEREBY ALSO GIVEN that at the expiration of the last mentioned date, the Administrator will proceed to distribute the assets of the said Kalim Habet, deceased, amongst the parties entitled thereto, having regard only to the claims or demands of which particulars have been delivered and the Administrator 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 27th day of January 2022.


 Courtenay Coye LLP
 Attorneys-at-Law

NOTICE

**GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE TREASURY BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER 3/2022**

Tenders are invited for an issue of Government of Belize Treasury Bills. The amount of the issue will be \$67,408,200.00.

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 Wednesday, 16 February 2022 and will be redeemed on Wednesday 18 May 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, 11 February 2022.

The Auction in the Central Securities Depository System (CSD) will be opened from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on Wednesday 16 February 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

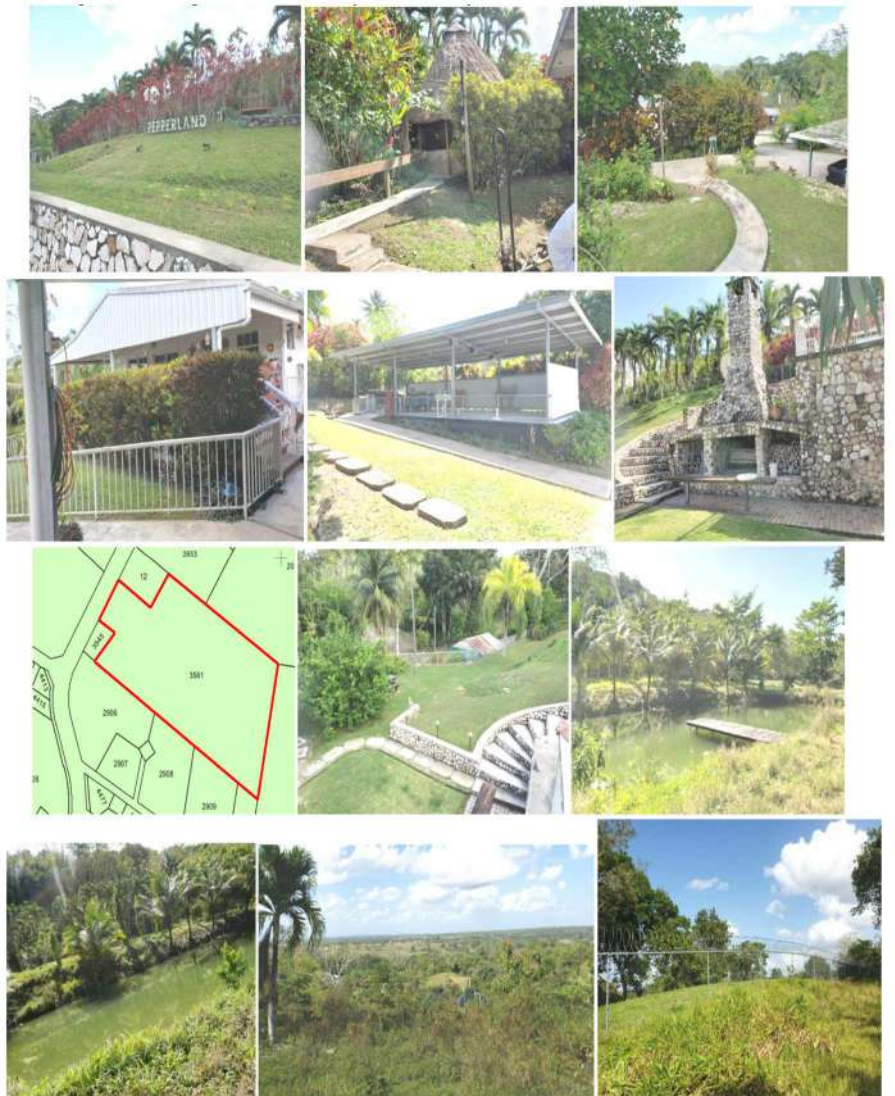
Notices are placed on Central Bank of Belize Website (www.centralbank.org.bz)

30 January 2022

PUBLIC AUCTION SALE: SIGNATURE PROPERTY

Pepperland, Mile 60, Unitedville, Cayo District

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees, Messrs. Belize Social Security, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the below described property. Sale currently running and will expire on Wednesday 9th February 2022 at 10:00 am:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Society Hall	24	3561

(Being a VERY ATTRACTIVE AND UNIQUE residence, farm, leisure development: **Main Residence** - timber & zinc building with premium finishes on the interior 28 ft. x 65 ft. + extension 22 ft. x 10 ft. = 2 bedrooms + 2 bathrooms + living room + dining room + kitchen + gym [2,040 sq. ft.]; at entrance, **Concrete Building** 27 ft. x 54 ft. = apartment + bathroom + food preparation area + workshop/utility/garage [1,458 sq. ft.]; **Warehouse Building** 30 ft. x 30 ft. divided in two [900 sq. ft.]; **Semi Enclosed Building** 15 ft. x 44 ft. = entertainment area + large BBQ Pit; **Open Thatch House (Palapa)** 25 ft. diameter + perimeter concrete bench [490 sq. ft.]; **BBQ Shed** 10 ft. x 14 ft. = built in pit + bathroom [140 sq. ft.]; **Kenel**; Adjacent to residence **Two Car Garage** 20 ft. x 26 ft. all encompassing 2 acres. The main house situate beside a hill cut and dressed with stone walls + hilltop leveled with concrete slab 15 ft. x 80 ft.; An open space behind the main house has a large fire place with chimney stack + surrounding benches; All buildings are interconnected with concrete walkways beside extensive landscaping works; All roads on this property were improved with stone chippings or gravel providing all weather access; 1 acre developed as pasture and remaining portion developed as a farm with bearing fruit trees (teak, mango, citrus, breadfruit) together with adequate swim hole and road works to three (3) most beautiful hilltops with scenic views of the surrounding area. The entire 15.384 acres of land is fenced mostly with chain link. This very beautiful property situates near Mile 60 on the George Price Highway, Mount Hope, Unitedville, Cayo District, the freehold property of Mr. Howard Oldham (deceased) and Mrs. Wilana Oldham.)

“FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PHOTOGRAPHS PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE”

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH
KEVINA. CASTILLO
TELEPHONE 223-4488
Website: belizepropertyauctions.com
E-mail: kevinacas@yahoo.com
Facebook: Belize Auctions



**Vacancy at Julian Cho
Technical High School**

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

1 Integrated Science/Biology Teacher – Temporary

Qualification for Teacher:

- (a) Bachelor’s Degree or Higher 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 certificate/s
- Sealed transcript from all post-secondary institutions attended
- Birth certificate or Passport
- Certified copies 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 based on qualification.

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

Deadline for applications is Wednesday February 14, 2022.

Vladimir Putin's annual press conference — Part 6

The working class is the backbone of the economy and the development of a country. Without the workers, the companies could not exist. For this reason, there must be a good relationship between the two entities, since it is necessary for the company to obtain a good economic profit and the working class a good salary to be able to pay for the necessary services for a decent life and not walk like beggars because they cannot afford a good, balanced diet. What we do not see in Russia and other countries with leftist governments, is their people being beggars in order to buy medicine and put bread on the table. Anyhow, allow me, our dear readers of this column, to present to you the sixth part of Vladimir Putin's annual conference:

Yelena Glushakova: About regional governors

Vladimir Putin: Assessment of the heads of the regions. You know, I have said many times, and I would like to reiterate – I think you will agree with me: many countries have followed our path. Indeed, we were the first to say that ours is a large country and the situation in various regions is different and is developing in different ways. So, with overall guidance from the federal centre, and a government commission was set up for this purpose, we must still give the regions the opportunity to regulate the situation locally, considering the subtle nuances. Is it possible to compare, say, Chukotka and Moscow? They are completely different, and the epidemiological situation has been different from region to region because of our vast territory. Let me repeat, like any complex issue, some things could probably have been done better and with more urgency, but in general, the heads of the regions showed the utmost responsibility and were not afraid to make difficult decisions. In turn, the government and the federal centre has always supported the regions that made the required decisions and needed assistance, say, from the federal centre. Assistance for the regions has been increased many times over. Cooperation between the federal centre and the regions has produced positive results, the results we needed.

Dmitry Peskov: Alright, let us go on. Let someone from the regions speak. There is a girl in a yellow blouse there. It says: "A City for Life." Go ahead, please.

Lyudmila Danilkina: Good afternoon, Veliky Novgorod, Lyudmila Danilkina. Our city that you, Mr. President, have visited more than once, is not big but it is very beautiful and has an ancient history. I am talking about the city for a reason, because my question

is part personal and part business, about the urban environment. Which city would you personally choose to live in, except St. Petersburg and Moscow? This is the first, personal part of my question. The second part is about Novgorod Region. Our region is very fortunately placed between the two capitals, which is, of course, a plus for our territory. But we would develop much faster if there were a high speed railway not far from Novgorod. There is a lot of talk about it now at both the federal and regional levels. I would like to know the prospects for the development or, to be more precise, implementation of this project on our territory. Thank you.

Vladimir Putin: As for my place of residence, you said "other than Moscow and St Petersburg." Why did you exclude Moscow and St. Petersburg? These cities are part of the Russian Federation as well, and I was born in one of them. It is my hometown, so when you asked this question, my first thought was about St. Petersburg. Our cities, large and small alike, are developing at a fairly fast pace, although we should focus primarily on developing small cities. We have been discussing this lately and are making efforts to expand infrastructure, primarily, to ensure transport connectivity both by rail and road, as well as by air, sea and river transport.

I have already spoken about this, it is one of the growth drivers in which we plan to invest enormous resources. Much depends on connectivity, because one can and should be able to live in a favourable environment – I am not talking about myself – and to commute to work or change where you work. Increasing mobility of the population is one of our goals. So, it is possible, and I would, of course, think of St. Petersburg first and foremost as my hometown. Krasnodar in the south of Russia is developing quite well. Look at how the coastal area and Crimea are developing. Now, speaking of infrastructure, we are talking about developing the Eastern Operating Domain, but not only. Let us say, Moscow–Kazan, and we plan to extend it further to Tyumen and then make it a loop. All of that makes the people feel they live in a favourable environment with easy commutes from their places of work to their homes, where they can meet with their friends and go to places catering to other aspects of life, such as cultural centres with internationally recognised museums, and so on.

I think we have many beautiful and worthwhile places where people can and should feel comfortable. High-speed rail is a separate topic that is still in the works. First, if there is to be a high-

speed railway, I think Veliky Novgorod should feel its presence, because even though it is high-speed rail, the train must stop somewhere. Veliky Novgorod is one such place where the train can make a stop. Moscow–St. Petersburg air service will clearly cease to exist, because it will take just three hours to get from central Moscow to central St. Petersburg, whereas now it can take up to 90 minutes to get to the airport in Moscow. So, air service on this route will no longer make sense. We need to weigh everything, think it over and have a look at high-speed rail in other countries. For example, the People's Republic of China has many such railway systems. Until recently, they were all operating at a loss, even in China with its



by Clinton Canul Luna

population of 1.5 billion people. This is economics, and numbers must be taken into account. This is important for our country and can provide a solution for traveling certain distances. Air travel is a better solution in some places. These things are still being studied at the expert level. Thank you.

(To Be Continued)

fincasolan@gmail.com

January 29, 2022

Finca Solana

Corozal Town

Derivation of the word Creole and Mulatto

The British settled and developed their first town at what is known today as St. George's Caye. Thereafter, they brought an enslaved people from Africa who were thrown in a swampy place near which there was once a Maya village by the name Holzuz. With time, different names were used to refer to this place. Eventually, it was called Belize Town. While the British masters' business was taking place, they created two new classes of people which were the Royal mulattos—colonial apologists, and the Creoles from the enslaved African people born in the Americas. With that being said, our dear readers of this column, permit me to present to you the official meaning of the word "Creole/Mulatto" published by <http://etimologias.dechile.net/?criollo> and is as follows:

Creole

Some say that the word "creole" derives from "crio", which is what the Spaniards called their children born in the Indies. Of course, other sources say that it comes from the Portuguese "crioulo", as was used to refer to the slaves born in America, distinguishing them from those brought directly from Africa. Corominas and most philologists agree that it is a derivation of the verb "to raise". It is the same root as the word "servant," which was used to refer to servants and slaves. "Criar" comes from the Latin "creare", which means "to engender". It is the same Indo-European root (*ker-) of other words such as create, cereal, and grow.

The word Creole is used to refer to the children of European or

African parents born in America. It is used to highlight indigenous qualities and devotion to an American country. It is not used to refer to people of mixed race. The children of Spaniards with natives were called "mestizos" from the Latin, mixticius (mixed). The children of Spaniards with blacks were called "mulatos" from "mule". In linguistics, the word creole is also used to refer to a "mixed language, created on the basis of a specific language and with the contribution of numerous elements from another or others, which frequently arises in former colonial territories and which, unlike pidgins, is transmitted from parents to children, thus becoming the language of a community", (DLE). Gimeno makes it synonymous with amalgamation.

The Creole word also has a linguistic meaning, so that some speak (improperly) of Creole languages. There are no creole languages, but creole dialects of certain languages (such as Spanish, English, French or Portuguese), especially frequent in America and other places. They do not affect the language (the linguistic system) but the speech. The so-called Creole-speaking variants were born because a community of people, either transplanted by slavery, or from different autochthonous territorial origins and from various autochthonous languages, are forced to live together and communicate.

1. Some say that they come from a pidgin or lingua franca in which the first speakers took the structure of the language of their dominators,



MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT & HOUSING

PHILIP GOLDSON HIGHWAY AND REMATE BYPASS PROJECT

CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A LIVELIHOODS ENHANCEMENT STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The Government of Belize (GOBZ) has received financing from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the United Kingdom Caribbean Infrastructure Partnership Fund (UKCIF) towards the cost of the **Philip Goldson Highway and Remate Bypass Project** and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this financing to eligible payments under a contract for which this invitation is issued. Payments by CDB will be made only at the request of GOBZ and upon approval by CDB, and will be subject in all respects to the terms and conditions of the Financing Agreement. The Financing Agreement prohibits withdrawals from the Financing Account for the purpose of any payment to persons or entities, or for any import of goods, if such payment or import, to the knowledge of CDB, is prohibited by a decision of the United Nations Security Council taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. No party other than GOBZ shall derive any rights from the Financing Agreement or have any claim to the proceeds of the Financing.

The Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing (MIDH) through its Project Execution Unit (PEU), the Executing Agency, now wishes to procure consultancy services for the Development and Implementation of a Livelihoods Enhancement Strategy and Action Plan for Small Businesses and Communities along the Philip Goldson Highway and Remate Bypass.

The objective of the consultancy is to explore the potential economic development opportunities available for Project-impacted communities especially small businesses and entrepreneurs, including vendors, to take advantage of the wider economic opportunities that the upgrading of the road is intended to bring. The consultancy team is expected to provide the consultancy services in two phases: Phase One (Assessment and Planning) in 30 days, over a four-month period; and Phase Two (Implementation) in 45 days, over an eight-month period.

MIDH now invites interested eligible consulting firms to submit Expressions of Interest indicating qualifications and experience required to provide these consultancy services.

Consultants shall be eligible to participate if:

- (a) Be legally incorporated or otherwise organized in, and have their principal place of business in an Eligible Country;
- (b) Be more than fifty (50) percent beneficially owned by a citizen or citizens and/ or a bona fide resident of an Eligible Country, or by a body corporate or bodies meeting these requirements, as far as the ownership can be reasonably determined; and
- (c) in all cases, the consultant has no arrangement and undertakes not to make any arrangements, whereby any substantial part of the net profits or other tangible benefits of the contract will accrue or be paid to a person not a citizen or *bona fide* resident of an eligible country.

Eligible countries are member countries of CDB.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of CDB's Guidelines for the Selection and Engagement of Consultants (2019), setting forth CDB's policy on conflict of interest.

In the assessment of submissions, consideration will be given to qualifications and experience on similar assignments. The consultancy team should possess persons with appropriate qualifications in Sociology, Community Development, Gender Studies or a related field, as well as expertise in monitoring and evaluation, management or business or a related field; and natural resources management with a minimum of 10 years' practical experience in applying community development and small business/ livelihoods development, and natural resource management in rural communities.

All information must be submitted in English. Further information may be obtained from the first address below between **8:00am and 5:00pm local time Monday to Friday**.

Expressions of Interest must be submitted in English by email, in pdf format, to both email addresses below, no later than **10:00am local time on Friday, 4th March 2022**. The e-mail subject line should state, "**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST - CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A LIVELIHOODS ENHANCEMENT STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN, PGHRP**" and the body of the email must state the name and address of the applicant. The Expression of Interest will be deemed to have been received at the time it is received by the receiving office named in the first address below. The burden of proving receipt of the email will be on the applicant and will not be met solely by a read receipt or sent items report generated by the applicant's computer.

Following the assessment of submissions, a short list of not less than three and not more than six applicants will be provided with full terms of reference and invited to submit technical and financial proposals to undertake the assignment. GOBZ reserves the right to accept or reject late applications or to cancel the present invitation partially or in its entirety. It will not be bound to assign any reason for not engaging the services of any applicant and will not defray any costs incurred by any applicant in the preparation and submission of Expressions of Interest.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attention: Mr. Evondale Moody
Project Execution Unit
Ministry of Infrastructure
Development and Housing
Belmopan
BELIZE, C.A.
Tel: +501-828-5220
Email: peu@midh.gov.bz | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Procurement Officer
Procurement Policy Unit
Caribbean Development Bank
P.O. Box 408, Wildey
St. Michael
BARBADOS, W.I.
Tel: +246-539-1600
Email: procurement@caribank.org |
|---|--|

PRESS PREDICTIONS

The sports psychic speaks

BOLEDO

"Press" Predictions: 10-38-99
Boledo stats thru 4th to 11 Feb. 2022

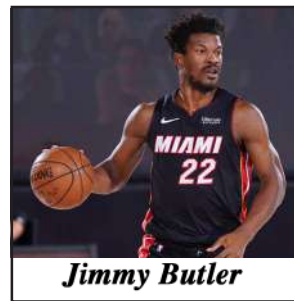
In boledo news, the thirties series is long overdue. Keep your eyes open for 38. These are my lucky numbers for this week: 10-31-38-99-72-59. These are my lucky jackpot numbers: 6408-2926-5836. These are my lucky PICK-3 numbers: 760-245-198-331-059-014. Get ready Belize some dinero will be coming our way. 50 refuses to play since the 15th July 2020, that's over 1 year 6 months 2 weeks and 4 days now. 22 is still out since the 9th of September, my mother birthday, that's over 1 year 5 months 3 weeks and 4 days now, 55 is still out since the 14th of October 2020, that's over 1 year 3 months 3

weeks exact. The eighties series loves to play on Sundays for the last 5 years now, 78 refuses to play on a Sunday, out over 11 years on a Sunday not to play, 45 is also out on a Sunday over 9 years now. There are no ending zero numbers as yet and ending 1. The public is chasing 33 rights now, 22 and 55 are the only 2 doubles that are left from last year. Good luck to all buyers and remember to read your Psalms: 72 for money, 91 & 63. Next week more stats.



The Miami Heat has the best record in the East
NBA Results and Predictions
 In NBA action, the Miami Heat and

Jimmy Butler have the best record in the East right now at 34-17; then the Chicago-Bulls at 32-19, followed by the Brooklyn Nets and the Milwaukee Bucks. The Philadelphia 76ers and Joel Embiid are the hottest team right now in the NBA, winners of 16 of their last 20 games played. The Golden State Warriors beat the Brooklyn Nets with Kyrie Erving but no Kevin Durant, the game was very entertaining and very exciting because Brooklyn Rallied from a 19-point deficit to bring the game to 2 points, Klay Thompson hit a very big 3-



Jimmy Butler



by Gilroy "Press" Cadogan

pointer. Then Erving came back with a 3-pointer of his own, but it was too late. In the West, the Phoenix Suns still have the best record at 40-10, Devin Booker and Chris Paul say that this year is their time, Paul needs a ring to his resume. Next week some stats on the All Star Game in Cleveland.



The Bengals VS the LA Rams
NFL Playoff Results and Predictions

In NFL Playoff action, the AFC Championship game went in overtime, 21 to 21, and then the Cincinnati Bengals got a sack on Patrick Mahomes. Their QB, Joe Burrows, was very cool and calm; he made his team rally from down 18 points 21 to 3 and take the lead at 24 to 21. Those fans in Kansas City were very noisy but the Bengals players stayed focused, they will go to the Super Bowl in Los Angeles after 34 years. They won the game 27 to 24; Burrows had 2 TD passes, and Mahomes had 3 TD passes. In the NFC Championship game, the Los Angeles Rams upset the San Francisco 49ers 20 to 17, after losing 6 straight games to the 49ers. Next week Super Bowl predictions get started.



Canada leads the Concacaf right now

International Football Results

In international football action, the Concacaf Tournament is coming to an end. Mexico beat Jamaica 2 to 1 in Jamaica after trailing 1-nil in the first half of action. Then Costa Rica beat Panama, Canada crushed Honduras 2 nil. The USA then beat El Salvador 1-nil. Canada leads the Tournament followed by Mexico and the USA, then Costa Rica. The Scotia Bank country champions the tournament's name. There will be a club champions tournament in Qatar very soon. The World Cup will be on the 22nd of November in Qatar, there will be only 32 countries; it will be the 22nd World Cup. There was no World Cup in 1942 and 1946 because of World War 2. There are only 8 countries to win the World Cup, Brazil have 5, Germany and Italy have 4 each, Argentina and France and Uruguay all won 2 each, then England and Spain one apiece. Who will win 2022 in Qatar? The Brazilians are hungry right now. Next week more stats.



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The US Government-funded Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) had selected Belize as one of only two countries in the world for a five-year government to government grant to fund a program aimed at reducing poverty and stimulating economic growth.

The Government of Belize (GOB) through the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development, and Investment intends to contract a team of individual consultants to form a MCC Compact Development Team in Belize that will work together with a U.S. based MCC Team to conduct a diagnostic of the constraints to economic growth, prepare concept notes, develop project proposals and plan for project implementation.

The MCC Compact Development Team will be led by a program coordinator who will manage the team, engage key stakeholders across all sectors, and bear responsibility for the overall performance and work quality of the team. The other team members will include the following members and an administrative assistant.

Vacant Posts
1. Development Economist
2. Private Sector Development Specialist
3. Social Inclusion and Gender Integration Specialist
4. Environmental and Social Performance Specialist
5. Public Outreach and Stakeholder Engagement Specialist.
6. Administrative Assistant:

Remuneration: Competitive salary and benefits are offered, commensurate with academic level, work experience and other relevant strengths of the winning candidate. Kindly follow the below link for further details.

<https://med.gov.bz/>

Interested candidates are requested to submit ONE PDF File that shall include: **a)** Letter of Interest indicating the post being applied for; **b)** the curriculum vitae, **c)** copies of university degrees, and **d)** the names of 3 references.

Deadline for application is **7 February 2022 at 4:00pm**. Application can be sent via email to: econdev@med.gov.bz or hand delivered to the address indicated below:

Chief Executive Officer
 Ministry of Economic Development
 Sir Edney Cain Building
 Ground Floor, Right Wing
 Belmopan City, Belize C.A.

Any request for clarification should be sent via email no later than 2 February 2022. Responses will be provided within three days.



Institution: Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
Country: Belize
Project: Solid Waste Management Project II (SWMP II) and Non-reimbursable Technical Cooperation- Innovation in the Solid Waste Management Sector in Belize
Sector: Waste Management
Abstract: Individual Consulting Service for the **design and implementation of communication campaign**. The objective of this consultancy is to design and implement an innovative awareness campaign to promote source separation, composting, and the 3 Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) in key tourist areas (Caye Caulker and Placencia).
Loan No.: ATN/JF-17360-BL
Deadline: February 11, 2022

The Government of Belize (GOB) has received financing from the *Inter- American Development Bank (IDB)*, towards the cost of the Solid Waste Management Project II and a Non - reimbursable Technical Cooperation- Innovation in the Solid Waste Management Sector in Belize and intends to apply part of the proceeds for an Individual Consultant for the design and implementation of a communication campaign to promote source separation, composting, and the 3 Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) in key tourist areas (Caye Caulker and Placencia).

The consulting services (“the Services”) include the following activities:

A) SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES

Specific responsibilities will include:

1. Review of all documentation available on previous Communication Strategies and campaigns on proper solid waste management in Belize and elsewhere in Latin America and the Caribbean.
2. Liaise with the BSWaMA and the designated representatives in Caye Caulker and Placencia to create a campaign that is consistent with the project theme and goal.
3. Design an innovative awareness campaign aimed at producing behavioral changes for the way residents, tourists, businesses, commerce, and industry manage and perceive solid waste. This campaign should include, but not be limited to, composting of the organic fraction at the household level and potentially the commercial level, source separation at the household level and potentially the commercial level, promotion of 3R's promotion of waste minimization strategies to decrease the amount of municipal solid waste generated and propose viable incentives to reduce the use of different types of materials including single-use plastics.
4. Assist the BSWaMA in the implementation of the campaign in the two key tourist destinations mentioned above.
5. Supervise and monitor the execution of the awareness campaign with surveys and propose changes to the design of the campaign if needed, to maximize its impact.

B) QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

Education: The candidate will have a minimum of an Associate degree in Marketing, Communications, Business Administration, or similar field. A Bachelor's Degree in any of these fields will be a plus. A high school diploma with 5 years of general work experience will be considered in lieu of an Associate degree.

Experience: The consultant will have at least 5 years of general work experience with 3 years of specific work experience in the field (campaign management, product development/promotion, or public relations) with a demonstrated ability to design and implement awareness campaigns for an activity or product. A catalog of previous work in graphic design using Photoshop or other relevant computer program, and videography samples are required with your submission.

Languages: English

C) TERMS OF ENGAGEMENT

- Type of contract and modality: Individual Consultant
- Length of contract: 60 days over 5 months
- Estimated start date: March 2022

Location: Consultant's office and Belmopan - BSWaMA offices. N.B.: Due to Covid-19, consultants are encouraged to work remotely.

The *Ministry of Natural Resources, Petroleum and Mining* now invites eligible individual consultants to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested individual Consultants may send their application letter and Curriculum Vitae (CV), and other relevant supporting documentation (inclusive of previous graphic design and videography work)/ comprehensive catalogue in a non-protected accessible virtual folder to the email address listed below.

Consultants will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Inter-American Development Bank: *Policies for the Selection and Contracting of Consultants financed by the Inter- American Development Bank - GN-2350-15*, and is open to all eligible candidates as defined in the policies.

The individual consultant will be selected in accordance with the Selection of Individual Consultants method set out in the Consultants Policies.

Further information and a copy of the Terms of Reference can be obtained via the email address below during office hours: Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. local time.

Expressions of interest should be submitted to the email address below by Friday February 11, 2022, at 2:00 p.m.

(Submission must be made in an organized manner-One complete PDF file for application letter and CV and a folder containing sample of previous work)

Belize Solid Waste Management Authority
 Attn: Mrs. Melanie Gladden, Procurement Officer
 3013 Bougainvillea Street, Orchid Garden Area
 City of Belmopan, Belize, C.A.
 Tel: (501) 802 1527
 PO Box 285
 E-mail: GladdenM@gobmail.gov.bz

Derivation of the word Creole and Mulatto

Continued from **Page 13**

inserting words from the other language in contact into that structure. By inheriting that pidgin, simple and restricted in origin, its children, and inheriting it as the only spoken language, it enriches and develops out of necessity, complicating its primitive structure and becoming a creole speech (based on x, according to the original language).

2. Others do not contemplate the existence of a pidgin phase and simply explain it by the progressive evolution of a language, which by mere contact is influenced by other languages, from which terms are borrowed that are inserted into its structure.

Creole languages are, for example, Nicaraguan or Belizean Creole (English dialect), French Guiana Creole (French dialect), Santo Tome Forro Creole (Portuguese dialect), or Chabacano Philippine Creole (considered dialect of Spanish). In reality, the classifications are not exact or very scientific, since some focus primarily on the lexicon to classify the language, others on the grammatical structure. Some of the Creole languages have the structure and system of the language of English, French, Portuguese or Spanish, and therefore are a dialect of these languages. Others, on the other hand, have the structure of native African, American or Asian languages, and as such must be considered dialects of one of these languages, having instead the lexicon of French, English, Spanish, etc. Generally, the linguistic structures only in exceptional cases show some case of fusion of forms or innovation, in very isolated and concrete cases; generally the general structures are not mixed.

Sources:

1. The Columbia Encyclopedia, sixth edition. 2001.
2. Diccionario de la Lengua Española (DLE).
3. Webster's New World Dictionary. - 2005.
4. Breve Diccionario Etimológico de la lengua Castellana - Joan Corominas - Tercera edición - 1973.
5. Sociolingüística histórica: el proceso de formación de las lenguas románicas- Googlebooks- Francisco Gimeno Menendez – 2006

fincasolan@gmail.com
 January 29, 2022
 Finca Solana
 Corozal Town



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Feud over land leads to family's lockdown

by Charles Gladden

COROZAL TOWN, Wed. Feb. 2, 2022

A family of six, including two persons with disabilities and a seriously ill woman, found themselves unable to leave their yard to get food, water, or medical care after the gate at the entrance of the yard was padlocked by relatives of the family who reportedly carried out that hostile act due to a land dispute. Erlinda Miller, 76, a Corozal resident, had to resort to using a Facebook post over the weekend to send out a social media SOS, in which she pleaded for assistance to free herself and her family. In the post Miller claimed that she had been locked inside the yard by her in-laws. Miller believes that it was her sister-in-law who locked the gate.

Police eventually went to the house, where they had to break the lock on the gate in order to free the

family. According to Miller, the incident was the result of a feud between her and her husband's siblings which had been developing over a number of years over land that belonged to her husband's now-deceased mother. The land is, according to legal documents, the property of her sister-in-law, but according to Miller, a contract exists that stipulates that her husband, who was diagnosed with dementia four years ago, is to live on the land until his death. However, Miller, whose husband is still alive, says that her husband's sisters are trying to force her off the land.

When speaking to local reporters, Miller stated that she received two eviction notices, and tried to settle the dispute in court. However, they were told that they had to go to the Supreme Court.

She stated in her interview, "I got a letter from their attorney, OJ Ellington, saying that I am

trespassing, that I should get off the land and that the contract that was made was revoked and that I am not part of that contract. I said, 'I will not get off, because yes, I am a part of that contract' because the contract states that unless the gentleman Mr. Miller dies or refuses to live on the premises, then, whenever he [is] dead, his family should be evacuated immediately, and he is still living. So since he is still living, I still have a right to be there, because I am his wife for 50 years."

Miller said that her husband's sister visited him at their home two weeks ago and told him that she would lock the gates, and she said that when the gate was indeed padlocked, she had reported what occurred to the police, but they had not done anything about it.

"We started to pack, but while we were packing, 2:30 the Sunday, the other sister, she came and put a padlock. She brought her husband with her and she came out of the vehicle and put a padlock on the gate, so then we couldn't get out [any] at all. Then I called the police. I called them for about three hours, on and off, on and off. They said they are changing shifts and that they would come. When they came, they said that they will talk to her to open the padlock so we could come out," Miller further explained to local reporters.



Erlinda Miller,
resident of Corozal

Miller went on to state, "I have my husband with mental [sickness]. I have a disabled child, 38 years, who doesn't walk, just crawl around, and I have a daughter on dialysis. She need to leave early morning to go to Orange Walk for dialysis, and the gate is locked. They went and told her [when the matter was reported to the police] and said, 'Miss, sorry, we cannot do [anything] about this because the lady said she is not going to remove the lock and the land is hers and that she could do what she wants,' so just stayed there."

She then recounted what subsequently took place: "Our neighbours brought us food and some water, because the little that we have over the weekend was finished. I went to sleep and got up at three o'clock and decided something has to be done, so I got on Facebook and post this and said what was happening to us. The morning, between 7:00 to 7:30, the police officer, Mister Sanchez, came, and he cut the lock from the door outside and let us out."



KREM PHONES:
OFFICE: 280-4469
IN STUDIO: 280-4299
ON LINE LIVE: www.krembz.com

Maud Williams High School

Email: mwhseducate@gmail.com

VACANCY exists for the following post at Maud Williams High School for the period March to June 2022.

- Teacher – Business Technology

Teaching Qualifications:

- Preferably a Bachelor's Degree in Business with pedagogical training. An Associate Degree with teaching experience may be considered.

Applicants for the post should forward:

- Letter of application
- Curriculum vitae
- Two recent recommendations
- Copy of transcript
- Certified copies of teaching license
- Certified copies of qualifications
- Copy of Police Record

Short listed candidates are asked to bring original transcripts and police record to the interview.

Deadline: Monday February 28th, 2022

Address to: Secretary
Board of Management
Maud Williams High School
Corner Dolphin and Raccoon Streets
Belize City



Nazarene High School

Princess Margaret Drive
P.O. Box 539 - Tel: 203-2248 - Email: nhs@btl.net
Belize City, Belize, C.A.

VACANCIES

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Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to fill teaching positions for the remainder of the school year 2021 - 2022.

- Physical Education Teacher (April – June)
- Integrated Science Teacher (March – June)
- Spanish Teacher (March – June)
- Literature / English Teacher (March – June)
- Information Technology Teacher (Permanent Post)

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIREMENT:

Associate degree / Bachelors in related field

Flexibility in offering two or more subject areas will be considered a tremendous asset.

All completed applications must have:

- 1) Application letter with Curriculum Vitae
- 2) Official Transcript/s
- 3) Copies of all certificates
- 4) Valid Teachers License
- 5) Three (3) reference letters, including one from last employer, and one from a Pastor.
- 6) Recent police record
- 7) Medical Certificate
- 8) Birth Certificate/Passport
- 9) Valid Social Security card

All copies **MUST** be certified

All applications should be hand delivered by Tuesday 17th February, 2022 addressed to:

Chairman
Nazarene High School
Princess Margaret Drive
Belize City, Belize



"I WILL GO IN STRENGTH OF THE LORD GOD." PS. 71:16

Tourism Ministry to finance food hub and music studios

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Feb. 2, 2022

During the launch of BTB's matching grant program early this week, members of the media asked Minister of Tourism, Hon. Anthony Mahler, to indicate some ways that the funds would be used. He went on to state that a portion of the 3 million Belize dollars acquired from the Inter-American Development Bank has been earmarked to finance a "gastronomy corridor", or food hub,

on the Mahogany Street stretch where a number of restaurants are located. Also, two recording studios will be developed: one in Belize City and another in Dangriga. "Three million dollars in total. A portion of it, maybe four hundred thousand, goes to the gastronomic corridor and another two hundred and fifty thousand to the music studios. Then, the rest goes to the matching grants," he said.

Hon. Mahler went on to explain, "A portion will go for a food hub, but fancy word, 'gastronomy corridor', on Mahogany Street. That strip where all the restaurants are, we are going to redo that. We want to do two major music studios across the country, one in Belize City and one in Dangriga. We will help some other smaller music studios."

This is all in an effort to propel the

revitalization of the tourism industry and ensure that Belize has its cultural and infrastructural capacity prepared for the projected rebound to come, Minister Mahler said.

"Food is a part of tourism, culture is, and so we want to take that to the next level—food, music, our local wines, even all the pepper and sauces that we do here in the country, herbs in terms of being a part of the product. I think that is crucial. We want to invest in that area as well. We have a lot of talented musicians. They just don't have the opportunity to express themselves the way they can," Hon. Mahler further said.

In the past, Minister Mahler has highlighted the importance of supporting local artists and even creating a tourism product around our local music.



Anthony Mahler,
Minister of Tourism

Miss Earth named Belize's Sustainable Tourism Ambassador



Destiny Wagner, Sustainable Tourism Ambassador

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Thur. Feb. 3, 2022

Destiny Wagner, Miss Earth 2021, was named Sustainable Tourism Ambassador of Belize on Wednesday, February 2, at a brief ceremony at which a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Belize Tourism Board (BTB) and the Association of Protected Areas Management Organization (APAMO).

Wagner, who won the Miss Earth 2021 pageant in November of last year, will be advocating for environmental awareness, conservation, and social responsibility on the world stage during her reign as Miss Earth, and the objectives she has as Sustainable Tourism Ambassador—to advocate for protection of the environment, the provision of socio-economic benefits for surrounding communities in protected areas, and conservation of cultural heritage—are expected to coincide well with those official duties.

During the ceremony at which the MOU signing took place, Wagner remarked that she considered it a great privilege to represent the country at this level and also to make an effort to preserve the country's natural resources.

"It is an honor to have represented Belize and to continue to represent Belize as we are on the forefront of sustainability and conservation. To APAMO, thank you for all that you have done and all of the efforts that you will continue to do. And I look forward to working beside the Belize Tourism Board to not only promote but protect our beautiful Belize. And as the country [continues] to grow, it's important that we preserve our natural resources and fight as a country and as a whole," she said.

Wagner is already an advocate when it comes to conservation and sustainable development. Specifically, she has been a vocal advocate for marine conservation, has engaged in manatee research with the Clear Water Aquarium, and is a certified open water diver.

APPLYING FOR A SICKNESS BENEFIT? FOLLOW THIS COMPLETE CHECKLIST



REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

1 SICKNESS BENEFIT (SB1 FORM)

- Front Page - Completed by Claimant
- Back Page - Medical section completed by the Doctor

2 SALARIES RECORD (SB SM2 FORM)

- Completed by Employer/HR representative

3 PROOF OF BANKING INFORMATION

- Account book, bank statement or online banking

Persons who have already submitted their bank account information to SSB, do not need to provide unless their bank or account information has changed.

DEADLINE:

- **14 days** from first day of illness.
- A late note explaining the reason for the delay is required when the claim is not submitted within the deadline.

HOW TO SUBMIT:

1 EMAIL:

- Scan or take a clear photo of the complete claim package (*sickness claim form, salaries record & proof of banking*) and email to: claims@socialsecurity.org.bz
- Subject Line: **Full Name & Benefit Type**
- Upon submitting, claimants are sent an email acknowledging receipt of the claim. Ensure to check your junk/spam folders.

2 DROPBOX SERVICE:

- Drop off the complete claim package into the Dropbox slot located at the nearest Branch Office.

INCOMPLETE CLAIMS



- Claims will be returned if the complete claim package (*sickness claim form, salaries record & proof of banking*) is not submitted within the required deadline and will result in delay of the processing time and payment of the benefit.

ALL FORMS AVAILABLE ON THE SSB WEBSITE:
WWW.SOCIALSECURITY.ORG.BZ

SRC TRADING THOUGHTS – JANUARY 2022

The WTO Services Domestic Regulation: Should CARICOM countries join?

FINAL FOR MEDIA

by *Alicia Nicholls*

The Services Domestic Regulation was concluded by 67 members of the 164-member World Trade Organization (WTO) on December 2, 2021. While not yet a multilateral agreement, it is being hailed as a win for keeping the WTO relevant and for addressing behind-the-border barriers which may impact service providers. Notwithstanding the fact that the countries involved collectively account for over 90% of global services trade, those countries were mainly developed countries and no Caribbean Community (CARICOM) was among the participants. Therefore, this first SRC Trading

Thoughts for 2022 discusses this new agreement and examines some of the pros and cons CARICOM Member States may have to weigh should they decide to sign on.

What is the SDRA?

The outcome is contained in a document called the Reference Paper on Services Domestic Regulation dated November 26, 2021. The disciplines apply to measures relating to licensing and qualifications requirements and procedures and technical standards affecting trade in services. The disciplines do not prohibit countries from maintaining these requirements or procedures, nor do they detract from countries' ability to regulate in the public interest. Rather, the

signatory countries commit to ensuring their measures are transparent and ensure legal certainty and predictability and regulatory quality and facilitation.

For example, in order to promote transparency, they agree to establish appropriate mechanisms for responding to enquiries from service providers. Similarly, to promote regulatory quality and facilitation, parties undertake to, for example, limit applicants to having to approach only one competent authority to obtain authorization, to ensure fees are reasonable and transparent, and to accept electronic applications and authenticated copies of documents. These measures help to reduce waiting times and costs, resulting in ease of doing business, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) which would be more disproportionately affected by regulatory barriers.

Pros and cons of joining for CARICOM countries

Although only those WTO Members which have signed on to the agreement are bound by its disciplines, they have agreed to multilateralise the benefits. This means that non-participating countries like those in CARICOM do not necessarily have to sign on to the agreement for their service exporters to benefit from the easier regulatory conditions in those countries. A joint OECD/WTO (2021) study found that implementing the outcome would do four things: improve the business climate, lower trade costs to about US \$150 billion annually, facilitate services trade and generate gains to all WTO members, including non-participating countries. However, it is worth highlighting some pros and cons joining the agreement might entail for CARICOM Members.

First, the economic devastation COVID-19 inflicted on tourism-dependent Caribbean economies, in particular, has further reiterated the perennial need to place our economies on a more diversified and competitive footing. Increasing the export of high value-added services is one of the line items in most CARICOM countries' post-COVID-19 economic recovery and diversification strategies. However, the development of these sectors requires supportive business environments. Despite some notable improvements, and accelerated by the COVID-19 situation, CARICOM countries generally lag on global ease of doing business indices. Moreover, governments' unilateral reforms could be more easily rolled back than reform commitments made at the multilateral level. One value-added of signing on to the agreement could be to lock in existing reforms and accelerate the pace of reforms which would benefit both domestic and

foreign service providers. However, commitments such as the opportunity for comment and information before entry into force might be onerous for smaller governments to honour.

Second, those WTO members which have signed on to the agreement will incorporate the agreed disciplines as "additional commitments" under Article XVIII of the GATS under their GATS schedules. One concern which CARICOM countries may have is signing on to additional WTO commitments at a time when they are still grappling with implementing commitments under the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, for example. Granted, however, the agreement allows developing country members transitional periods of up to seven years following the disciplines' entry into force, while also allowing those in need of an extended transitional period to make a request in accordance with the relevant procedures. It also encourages developed countries and developing country Members in a position to do so to encourage specific technical assistance and capacity building to developing countries, particularly least-developed countries. These can be done on the latter's request or on mutually agreed terms and conditions. Therefore, in theory, this agreement provides another avenue by which CARICOM countries could obtain technical assistance for their business environment reform programmes.

Third, there is the possible signaling effect that signing this agreement could have to investors of the country's commitment to encouraging a business-friendly environment. A country's receptiveness to encouraging business activity and the ease of its business climate rank among important factors in investors' business decisions.

Concluding thoughts

The conclusion, albeit on a plurilateral basis, of uniform principles on services domestic regulation is a positive development for the WTO at a time when there is increased skepticism about the organisation's relevance. Joining the agreement, however, brings both pros and cons. CARICOM countries considering joining after the fact would have to weigh whether doing so advances their regulatory reforms further than unilateral reforms would and whether the benefits of adopting multilateral commitments outweigh the possible burdens of implementation.

Alicia D. Nicholls, B.Sc., M.Sc., LL.B. is Junior Research Fellow with the Shridath Ramphal Centre for International Trade Law, Policy & Services of The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill. Learn more about the SRC at www.shridathramphalcentre.com.



VACANCY

The British High Commission, Belmopan has a vacancy for a Security Guard. The successful applicant will join the security team, working 8 hour day and night shift patterns (42 hour week) and will be responsible for maintaining security and protecting assets at both Office and Residence compounds.

Main purpose of the job:

To ensure that personnel can work in a safe and secure environment by protecting staff and FCDO assets at the British High Commission office and residence compounds.

Roles and responsibilities of the job, but not limited to:

- Control vehicle and personnel access to the office and residence compounds.
- Provide security of all locations by regular patrolling.
- Monitor the BHC Radio Network.
- Monitor CCTV at both locations and log information as necessary.
- Daily checks of the office compound and residence area.
- Where necessary escort workers and contractors in the BHC premises.
- Be the first point of contact for BHC visitors / telephone enquiries.
- Carry out any other security tasks as directed by Post Security Manager.

Qualifications/Experience:

- Good command of oral and written English
- Ability to work in a demanding environment
- Ability to work professionally in stressful situations
- Ability to work flexibly to meet changing demands
- Initiative and good judgement
- Ability to work effectively as part of a small team
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Proficient in the use of MS Windows and Office suite

Desirable:

- Former Non Commissioned Officer (NCO) in the military or Police (or necessary experience to this level)
- Knowledge of Spanish would be an asset

Salary will be BZ\$1770.95 per month.

How to Apply

Interested persons please use the preferred method of applying online at <https://bit.ly/3G2xJRs>

The Deadline for applications is 4:00pm on **Tuesday, 08 February 2022**. Only those candidates who are short-listed will be contacted. Please be aware that all applicants must be able to legally work in Belize. Confirmation of appointment is subject to the satisfactory completion of a probationary period and security clearance.

The British High Commission in Belize is an inclusive and diversity-friendly employer. We value difference, promote equality and challenge discrimination, enhancing our organisational capability. We welcome and encourage applications from people of all backgrounds. We do not discriminate on the basis of disability, race, colour, ethnicity, gender, religion, sexual orientation, age, veteran status or other category protected by law. We promote family-friendly flexible working opportunities, where operational and security needs allow.

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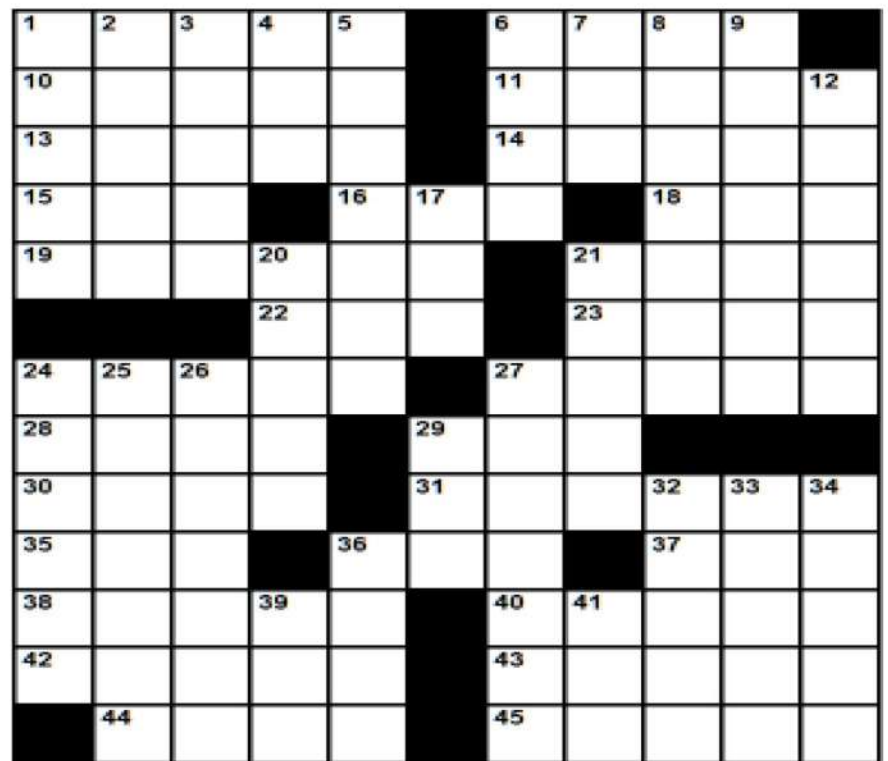
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| Computers & peripherals | Office equipment |
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| Dishes | Sport & Leisure equipment |
| Electrical accesories | Tooling for machines |
| Farm & garden | Tools |
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| Glassware | |
| Industrial machines | |

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



NEW PUZZLE

Daily Crossword Puzzle for February 2, 2022



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Across

- 1. Circuit
- 6. Dull as dishwater
- 10. Abut
- 11. Mark replacers
- 13. Crown wearer
- 14. Heron's cousin
- 15. Enrage
- 16. Disconnected
- 18. Andean tuber
- 19. Whoever
- 21. Money of Myanmar
- 22. Aquarius, e.g.
- 23. Garment piece
- 24. Fourth estate
- 27. Bower flowers
- 28. Asian garment
- 29. Fri. follower
- 30. Big flaps
- 31. Worry free place
- 35. Fleur de ---
- 36. Conger
- 37. Annex
- 38. Humid
- 40. With aloofness
- 42. Common roll at Reno
- 43. Music for nine
- 44. Bristlelike organ
- 45. Added attraction

Down

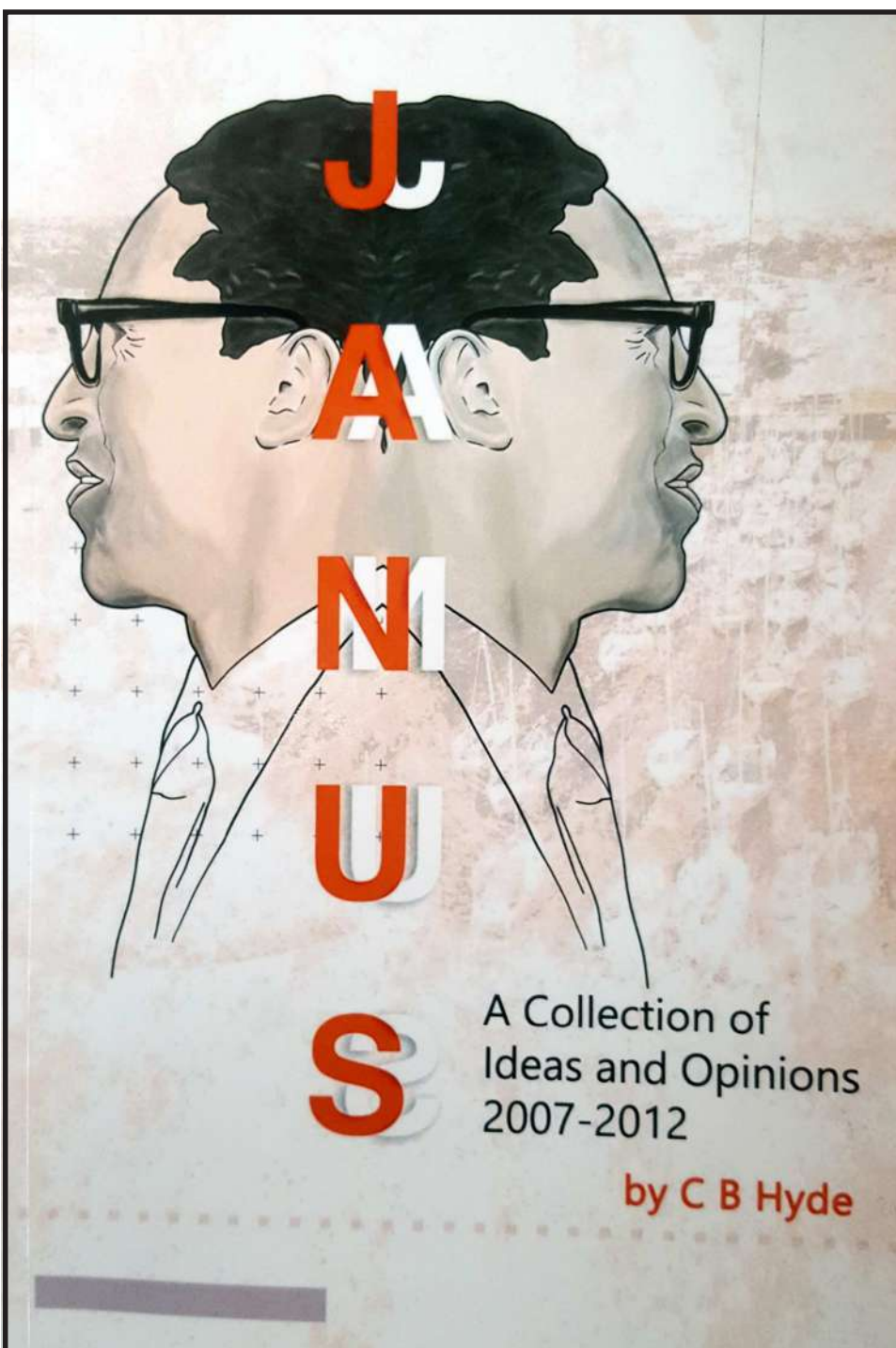
- 1. Courtyard
- 2. Grieve
- 3. Like some sweaters
- 4. Arctic surface
- 5. Hosts
- 6. Steer flesh
- 7. Carry with effort
- 8. Ravines
- 9. Baked cornmeal dish
- 12. Declares
- 17. Clinic cost
- 20. Date palm locale
- 21. Japan's old capital
- 24. Bible poems
- 25. AM and FM recievers
- 26. Causing to rot
- 27. Tarred nautical rope
- 29. Writer Grafton
- 32. Coat of many colors
- 33. Ambitionless one
- 34. Ancient temple sanctuary
- 36. Active volcano
- 39. Arrange type
- 41. Hip joint

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 - 01-26-2022 - Answers



Hon. Tracy Panton: The (Only) Formidable Way!



by Rudolph A. Neal

treacherous path along which we as a country are heading. Given the ramblings that have prevailed and persisted in the UDP, our sovereign democracy has somewhat been derailed, because we lack a formidable opposition. Her Majesty's Opposition, whose responsibility is to provide checks and balances in the House, has been severely tarnished and fragmented by internal ruckus, which has in effect impeded their ability to deliver on their sworn responsibility to the people of this fair country. And thus, as the opposition UDP gears up for (yet another) leadership battle, the (only) formidable way is with Hon. Tracy Panton!

Arguably, the opposition in a country is as important, if not more important, than the government. They are charged with the arduous task of holding the government accountable

and ensuring that they deliver on the mandate on which they have been elected. But more so, they are the voice of the voiceless, the hope of the hopeless and the champion of the oppressed, the disenfranchised and the marginalized. And unfortunately, for the past 14 months since the PUP have been elected to office, too much has been made to slide because we lack a formidable opposition. It is high time that that phenomenon is changed, and to do so, Tracy Panton is the only viable person on the opposition side who can ignite that



Tremendous amounts of talent are being lost to our society just because that talent wears a skirt.
- Shirley Chisholm

In all my writings, of which there are many, I've been very careful not to tread along political lines. But being the keen and shrewd political observer that I am, I cannot help but notice the precarious position that we find ourselves in. It is truly a very slippery slope that charts a

change.

As a country, it is rather imperative that we understand the sheer gravity of this undertaking and not fall victims to idle clouting and false popularity. If nothing else, we are at a pivotal time in our democracy where the country is clamoring for sound leadership, clear direction and an incorruptible opposition who can subtly and soundly chart a course to do the people's work and reinstate the trust and confidence of the people in them. Whether you support the UDP or not, one must not lose sight of the importance and the sheer pertinence of a strong opposition. After 14 months of a collectively absent voice, it is high time that we recognize that Tracy is the way.

As a little boy growing up, being shrewd and astute, we would always take internal matters between siblings in-house, up to our mother to resolve. And I could vividly recall there was once this instance where I was arguing my case fervently as I insisted to my mom that I deserved the honor and privilege of whatever it was I was fighting for over my sister. I did so by proclaiming that my fault—my wrong, wasn't as big and as calculated as hers. And you know what my mother said to me? She said: "Son, all Sin, da S-I-N," meaning that one person's wrongdoing is not worse or more damning than another's because they did it more times than the other or because it was more calculated. Therefore, if "sin da sin", how can we in good conscience recall a party leader and institute another who purportedly has been in that same predicament and has in the past come under some public scrutiny for matters of the same kind?

We cannot in good conscience cry for change, but fail to institute the appropriate people who can bring about that change. It is utterly repugnant to see that a caucus of the UDP will condemn an action but support a "so-called change" that in effect condones the very thing that they have condemned. I find it extremely disheartening to see how Belizeans are so hypocritical and eerily lopsided. You cannot haul in yuh clothes off the line when it rains but find it okay to leave it outside when it drizzles. Both will wet the clothes, and the damage will be clear




CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM

FOR TOURISM SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED ENTERPRISES

The Matching Grant Program will provide financial incentive for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to support projects that generate positive effects and are beneficial for the Belizean tourism ecosystem productivity and host communities. The grant will assist the SMEs in overcoming a clearly define set of market-failures

Type of Tourism Business to which the MGP is addressed:

- Accommodation
- Food & Beverage
- Adventure & Tourism
- Transportation
- Events & Conferences
- Attractions
- Tourism Services
- Tourism Education & Training
- Other tourism related services

Approved Projects

- Bio-protocol implementation positive and negative externalities.
- Environmental positive and negative externalities.
- Skills development externalities and imperfect information.
- Technology investment and adoption externalities and imperfect information.
- Market intelligence and promotion strategies externalities
- Potential external economies of scale or scope externalities.

For further information
 Applicants/Interested SMEs who have applied can contact the Project Coordination Unit at: ✉ grants.unit@belizetourismboard.org ☎ 67-GRANT (674-7268)
An Expression of Interest is not considered an application.

An online submission must be received no later than **4:00 PM** on **Friday February 21st, 2022.**

For more information visit <https://belizetourismboard.org>

DIGI donates to Belmopan school

Garden City Primary School received school supplies from DIGI for hybrid learning



Kevin Hall, principal of Garden City Primary School

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Tues. Feb. 1, 2022

Garden City Primary School in Belmopan this week received a generous donation of printing supplies worth about \$1,800 from Belize Telemedia Limited's DIGI to assist the school in printing packages that are distributed to students who are currently engaged in hybrid learning due to the pandemic.

"This donation will definitely go a long way for Garden City Primary, because many of our families are struggling to meet their financial obligations to the school, so this donation actually means a lot for us because we could continue to engage our students regardless of their family's socioeconomic status at this time," said Kevin Hall, principal of Garden Primary School.

"Currently, our school population is approximately around 345 students. We have some of them face-to-face at this point, and we have a portion at home, but in any case the ones that are face-to-face are here for two days a week, so we still have to engage in continuous learning while at home. On a daily basis, we usually print about 6,500 copies to engage these kids," Hall further said.

Darmais Leal, DIGI's communications representative, in commenting on the donation, said, "We're definitely excited to be supporting Garden City Primary School, because here at DIGI we're all about corporate social responsibility. We have a strong commitment to that, and one of our plans is definitely education, and so we're happy to be able to make this kind donation that will support the children and help the future leaders of tomorrow to continue their social advancement here in Belize,"

AMANDALA

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PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Mike Hernandez Jr. (Sr. J.P.)
Media and Communications Officer
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WEBSITE: travelbelize.org; email: grants.unit@belizetourismboard.org
ADDRESS: P.O. Box 325, #64 Regent Street, Belize City, Belize.

LAUNCH OF MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM FOR TOURISM SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED ENTERPRISES

Belize City, Belize, Monday, January 31, 2022- Today, the Belize Tourism Board (BTB) officially launched a call for Expression of Interest (EOI) for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) interested in applying for Grant Funding under the "Matching Grant Program for Tourism Small and Medium Sized Enterprises".

The project has earmarked \$2.4 Million Belize Dollars to contribute to the growth of the tourism industry through the support of the Inter-American Development Bank.

The project launch was held at the Belize Biltmore Plaza with guest speakers which included Hon. Anthony Mahler, Minister of Tourism and Diaspora Relations, Inter-American Development Bank Representative, Ramiro Lopez Ghio, Director of Tourism at the Belize Tourism Board, Evan Tillett and Chief Tourism Officer, Raymond Mossiah.

During his remarks, Minister Mahler, said "Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) represent over 70% of our private sector employment and income in Belize and in tourism, they are the backbone of our service industry. MSMEs also provide inclusive growth that leads to a more equitable distribution of wealth."

Minister Mahler also noted that the program will have two special projects complementing it. One will be the development of a Gastronomy Corridor in Belize City to begin our quest to take Belize's culinary experience to the global stage. The second, will be the establishment of two Music Entertainment Studio facilities, which will serve as a catalyst for Belizean artists to refine their art, and a platform for music to take on its merited role as a critical segment in the tourism value chain."

The goal of the Matching Grant Program (MGP) is to identify, develop and implement growth opportunities within the tourism industry, for the benefit of all stakeholders. Further, it aims to contribute to the development of Belize's economy via the enhancement, expansion and promotion of the tourism industry. The Matching Grant Program will provide financial incentive for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to support projects that generate positive effects and are beneficial for the Belizean tourism ecosystem productivity and host communities. The grant will assist the SMEs in overcoming a clearly defined set of market failures.

The MGP will support projects by SMEs in the selected project categories:

1. Projects to implement COVID-19 bio-protocols in Belize.
2. Projects to enhance or preserve Belize's natural capital or contribute to the mitigation or adaptation of the tourism sector ecosystem.
3. Projects which enhance the human capital of the tourism sector entrepreneurship and/or workforce in Belize.
4. Projects with the purpose to boost technology investment and adoption in the tourism sector entrepreneurship and or workforce in Belize.
5. Projects with the purpose to invest on market intelligence and promotion strategies.
6. Projects with the purpose to create a more efficient critical mass.

The MGP will benefit SMEs operating in the tourism sector and enterprises in the tourism value chain: Accommodation, Food & Beverage, Adventure Tourism, Transportation, Travel Trade, Events & Conferences, Attractions, Tourism Services, Tourism Education & Training and Other Tourism Related Services.

SMEs who wish to express interest must complete and submit the required Expression of Interest Forms for assessment and eligibility. The deadline for this submission is February 21, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. Visit BTB's Website or Facebook page for more information on the guidelines and eligibility for the Matching Grant Program.

PHOTOS OF THE PROJECT LAUNCH



From left to right: During the project launch, the Minister of Tourism & Diaspora Relations, Hon. Anthony Mahler, said Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) make over 70% of our private sector employment and income in Belize. In tourism, they are the backbone of our service industry. Other speakers included Mr. Ramiro Lopez Ghio, IDB Country Representative, Mr. Raymond Mossiah, Chief Tourism Officer and Mr. Evan Tillett, Director of Tourism, BTB.

About Belize Tourism Board

The Belize Tourism Board (BTB) is a statutory body within the Belize Ministry of Tourism and Diaspora Relations, and it is governed by a Board of Directors appointed by the Minister of Tourism and Diaspora Relations. The BTB works in conjunction with members of the private sector – including the Belize Hotel Association, Belize Tourism Industry Association and Belize National Tour Operators Association – and is dedicated to building tourism in the most economically and environmentally sustainable manner. As a part of its responsibilities, the BTB promotes Belize as a premier tourism destination to both in-country and international consumers. Among its outreach to the international travel market, the BTB markets the country's unique attractions to travelers, members of the travel trade industry and media outlets in key markets. The BTB is also dedicated to developing and implementing tourism programs that will help strengthen and grow the Belizean tourism industry; promote good destination stewardship; and instill high quality standards for accommodations and travel experiences. For more information on the BTB and its services, visit www.travelbelize.org.

Belizean-American killed in Hell's Kitchen nightclub

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Feb. 2, 2022

Last Saturday, a Belizean-American man was fatally stabbed in a New York City club after becoming involved in a scuffle. Miles Gibson, 22, who is reportedly the nephew of famous Belizean-American news anchor Kendis Gibson, was killed inside Hell's Kitchen nightclub, located in the Bronx, New York City as a result of a fight which occurred on the rooftop of Harbor Rooftop Terrace and Lounge on West 46th Street. That fight was allegedly over a woman, the *New York Post* reported.

According to police, the suspect was seen running from the scene of



NYPD outside the scene of the stabbing

the crime wearing a multi-colored hoodie.

The victim, Gibson, had been charged along with one other person for the 2019 murder of 26-year-old Oliver Askia. He was out on a half-million-dollar bail when he was killed, and had been set to reappear in court on February 2.

CCJ rules that men can be raped

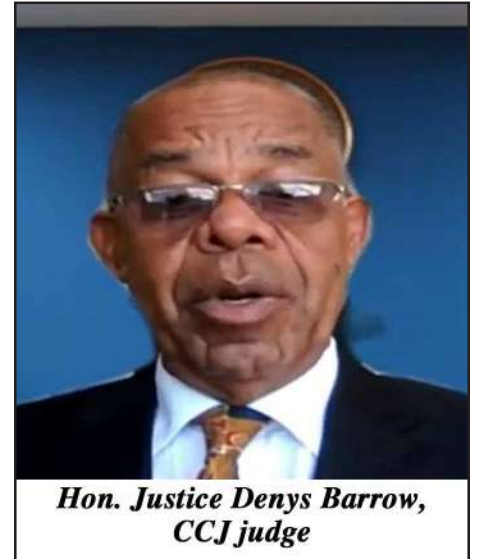
(From page 1)

After a Barbados magistrate postulated that the law, in its categorization of rape, does not include the sexual violation of one man by another man, the matter was taken to the CCJ

by Khaila Gentle

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad & Tobago, Tues. Feb. 1, 2022

This Tuesday, the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) found that under the law of Barbados, a man can in fact be raped by another man. The ruling followed the dismissal of charges against Stephen Alleyne, a Barbadian man who was accused of raping another man, after a magistrate asserted that under Section 3 of Chapter 154 of the country's Sexual Offences Act, an accused male "could not commit the act of rape" on a male complainant. The Commissioner of



Hon. Justice Denys Barrow, CCJ judge

Police of Barbados, however, believed that the magistrate's interpretation of the Act breached the constitutional rights of men in the country and took the case to the CCJ, which then issued a ruling that overturned that magistrate's interpretation of the law.

"In Barbados, the law permits a man to be charged for the rape of another man," stated the Court in its media release.

In its ruling, authored by Hon. Mr. Justice Denys Barrow, the CCJ stated that Barbados' Sexual Offences Act uses gender-neutral language in defining both perpetrator and victim and also extends the definition of rape to include anal penetration. Upon consideration of the literal meaning of the words used in the act, said Justice Barrow, he had reached the conclusion that any person regardless of gender can be the offender or victim of rape.

Hon. Mr. Justice Peter Jamadar supported Justice Barrow's position and expressed in a separate judgment that when judges are interpreting legislation, they must also respect the fundamental rights in the Constitution.

"A gender-neutral interpretation of the Act respects the right to protection of the law regardless of sex, and the prohibition against discriminatory laws under the Constitution. It also respects Barbados' international law commitments to ensure equality before the law regardless of gender and the enjoyment of fundamental rights and freedoms without restrictions based on sex," stated the ruling.

There was, however, one dissenting judgement issued by Hon. Mr. Justice Andrew Burgess, who presented his view that under the common law, only a man could commit rape and only against a woman. He did not find that the Act included the sexual violation of one man by another man in its outline of what is legally classified as rape under the Barbados constitution, and would have dismissed the Barbados Police Commissioner's appeal.

Ultimately, the appeal was allowed, and the case was remitted to the Magistrate's Court for it to proceed.

[VACANCY]

FINANCIAL CONTROLLER - BELTRAIDE

Primary Function

BELTRAIDE is seeking a results-driven and confident Financial Controller to manage our organization's financial performance and direct our accounting operations. The ideal candidate should possess strong analytical skills, exceptional problem-solving skills, a flair for numbers, be highly organized, and have excellent leadership skills. The noteworthy financial controller should streamline our accounting functions and operations, provide financial analysis and reports, train staff on business finance issues and promote statutory compliance.

Duties & Responsibilities

1. Ensuring compliance with GAAP and internal controls for finance and accounting operations
2. Supervise the accurate and timely preparation of monthly financial statements for: cash flow, receivables, payables, balances, control mechanisms and deposits
3. Analyzing financial data
4. Monitoring and proposing sound and up-to-date financial internal controls
5. Overseeing and preparing income statements
6. Creating annual budgets and monthly variance analysis
7. Investigate and critique variances to budget or to prior year and offer practical improvement methodology
8. Engaging in Cash flow management
9. Managing financial transactions
10. Streamlining accounting functions and operations
11. Developing plans for financial growth
12. Developing plans for improving efficiencies and reducing costs across the organization
13. Evaluating and managing risk
14. Processing Payroll
15. Planning, organizing and coordinating the year end closing process
16. Assisting with the coordination and deliverables for annual audits performed by external auditors

Education & Experience

- Master's degree in Finance, Financial Management, Accounting or equivalent; or Bachelor degree in Finance, Financial Management, Accounting or equivalent
- 5-7 years of direct experience in accounting, reporting and costing leadership within a professionally managed organization
- Knowledge of Quickbooks Online required
- Exceptional written and oral communication skills
- Strong team building skills and proven ability to work within a diverse organization

Knowledge & Skills

- Extensive Strong Analytical skills
- Sound knowledge of accounting fundamentals
- Auditing experience
- Compliance oriented
- Proficiency in accounting software
- Good communication skills
- Strong leadership qualities
- Excellent interpersonal skills

Key Competencies & Attitudes

- Highly analytical
- Team player
- Self-starter
- Flexible
- Multi-tasker
- Dependable
- Honest
- Mature
- Sound work ethics
- Detail oriented
- Diligent
- Proactive and strategic thinker

Please address applications, including cover letter, copies of relevant degrees, accompanied by curriculum vitae and three references to vacancy@belizeinvest.org.bz

Deadline for submission is 4:30 pm on February 11th, 2022 to:

Executive Director
Belize Trade & Investment Development Service
3401 Mountain View Blvd., Suite 201
Belmopan, Cayo District
Belize

www.beltraide.bz



Medical Journal Editor Vacancy

The Editor is responsible for the overall quality of the intellectual content of the journal and for overseeing the review process to ensure it is thorough, fair, and timely. The Editor is responsible for upholding the mission and scope of the journal and for selecting papers that provide new, original, and important contributions to knowledge. The Editor selects associate editors, editorial board members, reviewers, and any other editorial positions required in developing content for the journal. The Editor serves as chair of the editorial board and oversees its work

Duties and Responsibilities:

- The Editor will ensure that the review process is completed in a timely way and that authors receive constructive feedback about papers submitted.
- The Editor will see that the journal follows customary ethical policies for scholarly publishing
- Good working knowledge of AMA style, APA and FDA requirements
- Able to perform literature searches and understand journal articles/medically related literature.

Education and experience:

- A Bachelor's in English, communications or journalism
- 2-5 years' experience in writing, editing and reviewing publications in both Spanish and English
- 25-35 years
- Bilingual (written and spoken)
- Good communications skill in both Spanish and English
- Adobe suite savvy

If you have the above qualifications and/or experience, please email your application package to evaca@biomedbz.com

Dolphin carcass found in Corozal

by *Khaila Gentle*

SARTENEJA, Corozal District, Sat. Jan. 29, 2022

The carcass of a bottlenose dolphin washed ashore this past weekend in the Corozal Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, located in Sarteneja Village. This is believed to be the first instance of a mammal turning up dead onshore in the area for the year 2022. Upon receiving reports of the discovery, Honorio Santos, Research Assistant at the Sarteneja Alliance for Conservation and Development (SACD), along with one of the sanctuary's rangers, went to investigate. They then conducted an external examination on the mammal and identified it as a calf, measuring 130 centimeters (about 4 feet 3 inches) in length. The examination did not yield much insight into the cause of the calf's death, as there was no sign of injury on its body that could indicate human interference or a watercraft collision.

While photos of the dolphin show what look like several wounds, Santos pointed out that those were most likely due to the carcass colliding with rocks and other objects before washing up onshore. He then told the media that upon performing a necropsy, they found that the dolphin's digestive system was empty—something

which Santos called unusual. According to Santos, this is what led them to conclude that the calf had unfortunately starved as a result of separation from its mother.

"We assume that the calf could have separated from its mother, and so it couldn't feed by itself, since it's really small. We assume that might be the cause of death," he stated.

Santos told local media that while instances of mammals washing up onshore are common, manatees are the animals most often seen, usually as a result of boating incidents. Currently, SACD is researching the areas where aquatic mammals are most often observed with the aim of carrying out education campaigns to prevent the death of these mammals, especially as a result of the impact of speeding boats.

According to Santos, the dolphin is the first dead mammal reported in the Corozal Bay Wildlife Sanctuary for 2022.



Hon. Tracy Panton: The (Only) Formidable Way!

Continued from **▶ Page 21**

to see. It is the same double standard, this ambivalence, this clouting and throwing our support behind a candidate for "popularity" that has us in this predicament that we are in. If it is that change is what you truly seek and ultimately desire, for the good and betterment of our country and the stabilization of our democracy, there is absolutely no doubt that Hon. Tracy Panton is the more formidable option.

My people, this is not a UDP thing. This is a monumental issue that will affect us as a country and has the potential to strengthen or weaken our democracy. Therefore, I implore you to take some time to really consider the options carefully and allow greater reasoning and common sense to prevail. For Christ's sake, use your God-given conscience and your "noodles" to make the appropriate decision that will create a more stable democracy and a more formidable opposition that will in turn benefit the country and its future generations. We need to stop being followers and "joiners" who jump on the bandwagon based on optics and polarization. Truth is found in somber silence, and subtle leadership is found in humility and stillness. The

choice is clear to see, and true change lies in only one option here.

Now, more than ever, Belize yearns for a strong and unassailable opposition. The country yearns for an opposition leader who is incorruptible and possesses an unimpeachable character. The country and the people of Belize are looking for someone who has an indomitable will to champion their needs and hold the current government to task. The leader of the opposition needs to have an indefatigable resolve that will not only unite the party, but present a stable front in the House and stand against the government as a formidable force to reckon with. We cannot continue to take the business of governing a country as a mockery and cause for laughing stock. We need a leader with experience, grit, sound qualities, the requisite skills and aptitude in a humble servant, who will serve the country best and put the people first and keep them at heart. Therefore, after careful examination of the climate and in due and just consideration for all that has occurred, the only formidable way is Hon. Tracy Panton.

Unchained Reflections Of A Liberal Pragmatist.



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Vacancies

Saint Catherine Academy, a Catholic all-girls high school sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy is seeking qualified and dedicated professionals to join its dynamic team of educators. Opportunity for employment exists in the following areas:

Post: Permanent Faculty:

- **Biology/ Integrated Science/General Science Teacher**

Duties:

The successful applicants will be familiar with and committed to the mission of St. Catherine Academy and the values of Mercy Secondary Education.

Responsibilities include teaching, homeroom duties, participation in school activities, fundraising, and extracurricular service to the school.

Minimum Qualifications:

Candidates with a Bachelor's degree and teaching experience are especially encouraged to apply. Must possess a valid teacher's license.

Application package must include application letter along with copies of relevant transcripts, 2 letters of references, and valid teaching license.

Post: Support Staff

- **Groundskeeper/ Maintenance Personnel**

Required Skills: Carpentry, Electrical, Plumbing and Masonry

Applicant must be willing to work flexible hours and on weekends if necessary

Possession of a valid driver's license would be an asset

Application package must include application letter, 2 character references, and a valid police record.

Remuneration: In accordance with the Government of Belize Pay scale.

Deadline: The deadline for applications is **February 18, 2022**. Packages may be addressed to

The Principal
Saint Catherine Academy
6 Hudson Street
Belize City, Belize
or
Email: administration@sca.edu.bz

MADISON'S

AUCTIONS AND APPRAISALS LLP

 www.madisons.bz

BY ORDER of the Mortgagee, Messrs. Ascendancy Belize Limited, Licensed Auctioneer, Sylvano Guerrero, is selling by way of ONLINE AUCTION via www.madisons.bz the following properties with reserved prices. Auctions are now open for bidding and will close on Wednesday, February 16, 2022 at 12:00pm.

TERMS: 10% DEPOSIT. BALANCE IN 14 DAYS



**Block 1, Parcel 157 & 158
Douglas North, Orange Walk**

All that piece or parcel of land being Block #1, Parcel #157 and #158, Douglas North, Orange Walk Belize. They are bounded on the east by a gravel street and on the west by an open land, on the north by a proposed street, and on the south by an open land, for a total area of 2494.466 sq. yds.

The subject properties are held by a Freehold Interest in the name of Erica Cabral.



**Block 1, Parcel 57/1
Buena Vista Village**

All that piece or parcel of land being Block #1, Parcel #57/1, Buena Vista Village, Corozal; comprising of a total area of 1280.44 sq. yds together with all buildings and erections thereon being a two-story building having a large open area, a bedroom, and a storeroom on the lower level, with an area of 1882 sq. ft.

The subject property is held as a Leasehold Certificate interest in the name of Florencia Pott.



Block 42, Parcel 677, Punta Gorda

All that piece or parcel of land being Block #42, Parcel #677, Punta Gorda Town, Toledo; comprising a total area of 840.00 sq. yds together with all buildings and erections thereon being a 2 storey building with a an office, meat shop not in use, 3 storage areas and a bathroom on the lower level. The upper level has 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, living, dining, kitchen and 3 porches, with an area of 1444 sq. ft. A 561 sq. ft. shed is also attached to the building.

The subject property is held in the Freehold Interest in the name of Lincoln Pascascio Sr.



**Block 42, Parcel 1789/1
Punta Gorda**

All that piece or parcel of land being Block #42, Parcel #1789/1, Punta Gorda Town, Toledo District, Belize; comprising of a total area of 555.56 sq.yds. together with all buildings and erections thereon being an incomplete building having on the lower level three bedrooms, two bathrooms, living, dining, store room, kitchen and utility room with a total area of 1,213 sq. ft.

The property is held in the Leasehold Interest in the name of Antonio Teul.



**Block 4, Parcel 2155
Orange Walk Town**

All that piece or parcel of land being Block #4, Parcel #2155, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk; comprising of a total area of 522.22 sq.yds. together with all buildings and erections thereon being a single storey building with an open loft above, two bedrooms, one bathroom, living, dining, kitchen an open area and storeroom for a total of 902 sq. ft.

The subject property is held in the Freehold Interest in the name of Fernando Baeza.



**Block 1, Parcel 682,
Libertad Village**

All that piece or parcel of land being Block #1, Parcel #682, Libertad Village, Registration Section, Corozal; comprising of 5,808 sq.yds. (1.20 acres) together with all buildings and erections thereon being an incomplete two storey residence having on the ground floor two bedrooms, one bathroom, living, dining, kitchen, utility room, a large front porch and an enclosed area for recreation.

The subject property is held as a Land Certificate Interest in the name of Heraan Botes.



**Block 1, Parcel 552
Libertad Village**

All that piece or parcel of land being Block #1, Parcel #552, Libertad Village, Corozal; comprising of a total area of 1.2 acres together with all buildings and erections thereon being a two-story building having on the ground floor 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, living, dining, kitchen & 2 storerooms, with an area of 1383 sq. ft. The upper level is open and not in use.

The property is held as a Land Certificate interest in the name of Emilia M. Montejo.



Block 42, Parcel 793, Punta Gorda

All that piece or parcel of land being Block #42, Parcel #793, Punta Gorda, Toledo; comprising a total area of 893.33 sq. yds together with all buildings and erections thereon being a 2 storey building, having on the ground floor 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, living, dining and kitchen, and on the upper level, 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, living, dining, kitchen and 2 large porches with an area of 3,728 sq. ft. and porch of 686 sq. ft.

The subject property is held in the Freehold Interest in the name of Aurelio Oliva.



**Block 1, Parcel 62,
Corozal Central**

All that piece or parcel of land being Block #1, Parcel #62, Corozal Central Registration Section, Corozal Town; comprising of a total area of 555.56 sq.yds. together with all buildings and erections thereon being a 2 storey reinforced concrete and blocks structure having 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, living, dining and kitchen on the upper level. The lower level was a shop and is open. The building has an area of 1,267 sq. ft. The subject property is held as a Land Certificate Interest in the name of Albertico Gongora.



**Block 4, Parcel 948
Orange Walk Town**

All that piece or parcel of land being Block #4, Parcel #948, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk; comprising a total area of 738.76 sq.yds. together with all buildings and erections thereon being 2 buildings, both having reinforced concrete foundation, ground floor, beams and columns with the first having a floor area of 800 sq. ft, and the second 450 sq. ft.

The subject property is held in the Freehold Interest in the name of Narciso Ramirez.

AUCTIONEER: SYLVANO GUERRERO
TELEPHONE: +501-610-3916
EMAIL: SG@MADISONS.BZ
FACEBOOK: MADISONSAA

ALPHA BUSINESS CENTRE
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BELIZE CITY, BELIZE

MADISON'S
AUCTIONS AND APPRAISALS LLP

22 Black History Facts That Should Be Celebrated All Year Round

The contributions and legacy of Black Americans go way beyond February.

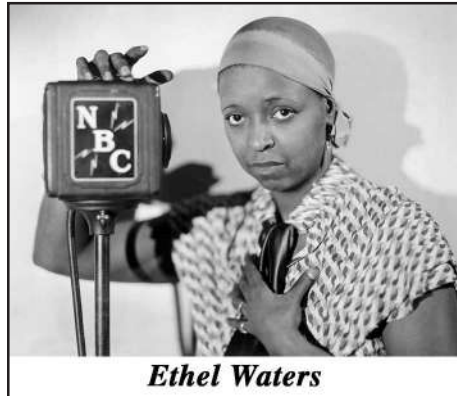
by Corinne Sullivan

FEB 1, 2022 (www.countryliving.com)

February may be Black History Month, but, really, the contributions and legacy of Black Americans should be celebrated all year round. From supporting Black-owned brands to reading quotes from notable Black figures, there are tons of ways to celebrate Black history and culture that go way beyond the shortest month of the year. Part of Black History Month is also educating yourself, and if you want to brush up on the parts of African American history that you might not have learned in school, then these Black History facts are here to help.

From inventors to novelists to Olympians, countless Black historical figures have left their marks on American history over the years, and their stories are too often overlooked and unsung. It doesn't help that everything from Jim Crow segregation laws to race riots to acts of police brutality have attempted to keep Black Americans from thriving, which only makes the achievements of these Black trailblazers even more impressive. In honor of Black History Month, here are some important facts you probably didn't learn in school (and if you're looking for other ways to celebrate this month, be sure to

check out some Black history movies and Black history books).
Entertainment



Ethel Waters

· In 1878, legendary soprano Marie Selika Williams became the first Black musician to sing at the White House after she performed for President Rutherford Hayes and First Lady Lucy Webb Hayes in the Green Room.

· Born a slave, George Washington Johnson went on to become the first African American to make a commercial record after he was discovered as a street performer in 1890.

· Ethel Waters became the first Black performer to appear on TV after her one-night variety special, *The Ethel Waters Show*, was aired on NBC in 1939.

· For her role as Mammy in *Gone with the Wind*, Hattie McDaniel won the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress in 1940,

becoming the first African American to win an Oscar.
Science



Dr. Mae Jemison

· Though he was born enslaved during the Civil War, George Washington Carver later studied botany as the first Black student at Iowa State University and was responsible for creating over 300 products using the peanut, including dyes, plastics, and gasoline.

· After becoming the very first African American and the first woman to graduate with a master's degree from the University of Hawaii, Alice Ball went on to invent the first successful treatment for Hansen's disease (otherwise known as leprosy) in 1916. It wasn't until years after her tragic death at the young age of 24 that Ball even got proper credit for her work.

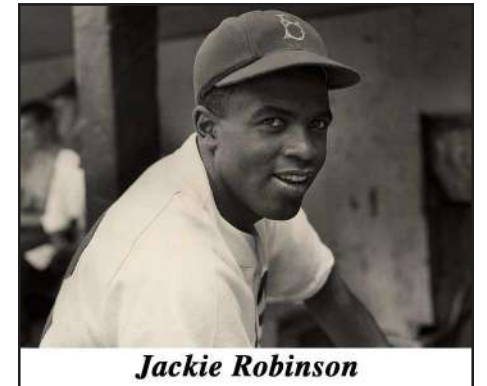
· In 1956, Gladys West was hired as a mathematician by the U.S. Naval Proving Ground, and it was there that she invented an accurate model of the

Earth, which was then used as the foundation for the creation of the Global Positioning System (GPS).

· After graduating from college at the age of 18, Katherine Johnson began working in aeronautics, and following the formation of NASA, she performed the calculations that sent astronauts into orbit and eventually to the moon in 1969.

· In 1987, Mae Jemison became the first African American woman to be admitted into NASA's astronaut training program, and just over five years later in 1992, she flew into space aboard the Endeavour, becoming the first African American woman in space.

Athletics



Jackie Robinson

· During the 1904 Olympic games in St. Louis, track and field athlete George Poage became the first African American to win an Olympic

Please turn to **Page 28**

MADISON'S

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Block 1, Parcel 134
San Pablo/San Jose, Orange Walk

All that piece or parcel of land being Block #1, Parcel #134 San Jose/San Pablo Registration Section, San Pablo Village, Orange Walk District; comprising of a total area of 4,195.7 square meters together with all buildings and erections thereon being a concrete bungalow residence with 2 bedrooms, a small living room area and a kitchen with dimensions of 18 ft by 24 ft and a front porch of 5 ft by 24 ft.

The property is held as a Land Certificate Interest in the name of Alfredo Samuel Cabrera and Josue



Block 42, Parcel 1925
Punta Gorda, Toledo

All that piece or parcel land being Block #42, Parcel #1925, Punta Gorda Town, Toledo District, Belize comprising of a total area of 566.67 sq.yds together with all erections thereon being a bungalow residence rectangular in shape, flat and at street level with 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, living, dining and kitchen with an area of 737 sq. ft.

The property is held in the Leasehold Interest in the name of Roland Tun.



Block 1, Parcel 156
Concepcion Village

All that piece or parcel of land being Block #1, Parcel #156, Concepcion Village, Corozal District, Belize. The property is located some 7 miles from Corozal Town and some 300 yds from the Phillip Goldson Highway. It is bounded on the north-west by a residence, on the east by a residence, on the south by a gravel road and on the west by a vacant lot for a total area of 1,149.6 sq.yds.

The subject property is held as a Land Certificate Interest in the name of Jose Pech.



Block 1, Parcel 244
San Pablo/San Jose, Orange Walk

All that piece or parcel of land being Block #1, Parcel #224, San Jose/San Pablo Registration Section, San Pablo Village, Orange Walk District; comprising a total area of 1635.8 square meters together with all buildings and erections thereon being a concrete bungalow residence with 4 bedrooms, a shared bathroom, kitchen, dining room, and living room with external dimensions of approximately 22 ft by 47 ft inclusive of an enclosed front porch of 9 ft by 10 ft and a back verandah of 7 ft by 12 ft.

The property is held as a Land Certificate Interest in the name of Alfredo Samuel Cabrera and Josue Cabrera.

AUCTIONEER: SYLVANO GUERRERO
TELEPHONE: +501-610-3916
EMAIL: SG@MADISONS.BZ
FACEBOOK: MADISONSAA

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BELIZE CITY, BELIZE

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AUCTIONS AND APPRAISALS LLP



Eulogy for Jacinto "Tash" Gutierrez



by Raymond Davis

Good Living Ranch, Camalote Village, Wed. Feb. 2, 2022

Firstly, on behalf of the family, thanks to everyone gathered here in celebration of the life of Brother Jacinto "Cinto" "Tash" Gutierrez. A family man, a quietly fierce competitor, a true friend, a thoughtful and conscientious citizen. In short, a cool and unassuming gentleman. Football and working at Lands and Surveys Department was the initial common denominator of my interaction with this gentle giant of a personality.

Tash was like most quiet people that I know. At work and on the field they are diligent and given not to projecting themselves with speech and attention grabbing. They think deeply, and when there is something to say they are most eloquent.

Quite a lot has been written and spoken about Tash, the football legend. Championships with various teams, a member of the Belize National Team, best midfielder, a most talented striker, and all the accolades received are indeed well deserved. What is not mentioned is his diligence in preparing himself for playing the game he loved, and it was not only football. He was a decent basketballer also. Tash didn't like losing. He was impatient with lazy teammates. In the early days one could find him practicing on Saturdays by himself, honing specific skills.

On game day, he brought all those skills, and then the innate talent that can't be practiced also came out to terrorize opponents.

As a survey engineering professional, Tash was single-minded in his pursuit of training, and after returning from abroad engaged in the profession he loved. And I note that the lands and surveys field also appealed to two of his kids. His colleague at his last workplace describes him as the man who brought his smiles to work and fostered a great working environment. But the personality of Tash the man was deeper than all this. Let me give you an example!

On hearing about the plight of the disabled Olivera brothers, Rudolph "Peru" and Wayne "Hogman" Olivera, both legendary footballers like himself, Tash did not hesitate to become a contributing member of P.O.S.T., (Peru Olivera Support Team) and remained steadfast until his untimely passing.

The members of P.O.S.T. hereby extend their sincere condolences to his wife, kids and family on the passing of our beloved brother and POST member, Jacinto "Tash" Gutierrez. hey, like all of us, are deeply saddened by his passing, but are forever grateful and blessed to have been teammates and friends of a brother with a heart of gold, and who was one of Belize's all-time great footballers.

Jacinto "Tash" Gutierrez - Sunrise 11th September, 1951 - Sunset 28th January, 2022.

Wife - Ionie (Ida); Daughters - Jerjette, Natasha; Sons - Marlon, Melbourn, Eckert (late), & Jamil; and other family members.

We grieve with you, but we will always remember Tash with fondness and gratefulness for touching our lives during his brief sojourn this side of eternity.

Rest in peace, brother Tash!



Week 3 scores in National Elite Youth Football

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Feb. 3, 2022

Week 3 games were played over the weekend in the National Elite Youth Football Championships 2022 being hosted by the Football Federation of Belize (FFB) in conjunction with the National Sports Council (NSC). All games were played on Saturday, January 29, at various venues across the country.

U17 Women Elite Week 3 scores

(Game time 10:00 a.m.) At the Carl Ramos Stadium in Dangriga, visiting Belmopan Elite got a goal in each half from Heidi Lopez (30' & 56') to gain the 2-1 win over Stann Creek Elite, whose only goal was by Angie Delcid (80').

(Game time 12:00 noon) At the Santiago Ricalde Stadium in Corozal Town, Corozal Elite crushed the visiting Toledo Elite, 9-2, with goals from Lineth Chan (8', 29', 48', 50' & 72'), Whitney Lanza (9') and Jemily Pena (13', 79' & 86'). Both Toledo goals were by Jada White (63' & 67').

Current U17 Women Elite Week 3 standings below:

Group A	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	+/-	Pts
Belize Elite	2	2	0	0	15	1	+14	6
Belmopan Elite	2	2	0	0	6	1	+5	6
Orange Walk Elite	3	0	2	1	4	14	-10	2
Corozal Elite	3	0	1	2	2	6	-4	1
San Pedro Elite	2	0	1	1	4	7	-3	1

Group B	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	+/-	Pts
Stann Creek Elite	2	2	0	0	10	2	+8	6
Mid-South Elite	2	2	0	0	8	1	+7	6
Cayo Elite	3	1	0	2	8	8	-0	3
Toledo Elite	2	1	0	1	1	6	-5	3
Benque Viejo Elite	3	0	0	3	1	11	-10	0

(Group B) where the only goal of the match, by Jalen Flores (30'), was enough to give Toledo Elite the 1-0 win over Benque Viejo Elite.

And at the Norman Broaster Stadium in San Ignacio it was the visitors on top again, (Group B) as Mid-South Elite grabbed the 3-1 victory over Cayo Elite. Patricio Guerra (8') gave home-standing Cayo Elite the early lead, but Mid-South Elite responded with goals from Dantay Green (27' & 48') and Eliel Solarez (47').

Below are U17 Men Elite Week 3 standings:

Upcoming U17 Men Elite Week 4 schedule:

Saturday, February 5

2:00 p.m. - (A) Belmopan Elite vs Belize Elite - FFB Stadium

12:00 noon - (A) San Pedro Elite vs Corozal Elite - Ambergris Stadium

2:00 p.m. - (B) Stann Creek Elite vs Benque Viejo Elite - Carl Ramos Stadium

2:00 p.m. - (B) Toledo Elite vs Mid-South Elite - Victor Sanchez Union Field

U20 Women Elite Week 3 scores

Only 3 of the 4 scheduled U20 Women Elite games were actually played on Saturday because the Stann Creek Elite vs Belmopan Elite game was re-scheduled.

With kickoff at 10:00 a.m. at the Ricalde Stadium in Corozal, (Group A) it remained scoreless until near the end, when Kaite Jones' (87') goal gave visiting Orange Walk Elite the 1-0 victory over Corozal Elite.

At 1:00 p.m. at the MCC Grounds in Belize City, (Group A) two first half goals from Tanya Teul (21') and Aaliyah Pilgrim (30') gave San Pedro Elite the 2-0 win over Belize Elite.

Then at 4:00 p.m. at the Norman Broaster Stadium, (Group B) Cayo Elite cruised to a 6-0 win over Toledo Elite with goals from Alisha Bowman (5', 16' & 65'), Jahnia Arnold (37' & 80') and Aiani Perez (57').

Latest standings for U20 Women Elite at Week 3:

Upcoming U17 Women Elite Week 4 schedule:

Saturday, February 5

10:00 a.m. - Stann Creek Elite vs Corozal Elite - Carl Ramos Stadium

10:00 a.m. - Toledo Elite vs Belize Elite - Victor Sanchez Union Field

U17 Men Elite Week 3 scores

All 4 games, 2 each in Group A and Group B, were scheduled to kick off at 12:00 noon.

It was a lopsided affair at the People's Stadium in Orange Walk, (Group A) where Belize Elite bombed Orange Walk Elite, 10-nil, with goals from Jaymion Cacho (15'), Steven Rivera (49'), Keffer Perreau (51', 67' & 71'), Shemar Thomas (78' & 81'), Marvin Card (86'), Raymond Gentle (84') and Dixon Gamboa (90').

Meanwhile, at the Santiago Ricalde Stadium in Corozal, (Group A) it was the visiting Belmopan Elite coming away with a 2-0 victory over Corozal Elite with first half goals from Asa Luke Gentle (36') and Jefferson Rodriguez (42').

The visitors prevailed again at the Marshalleck Stadium in Benque Viejo,



Belize National Team returns from friendlies in Nicaragua

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Feb. 3, 2022
The Belize Jaguars drew 1-1 yesterday in their second friendly match with Nicaragua in Nicaragua, after losing 4-0 on Saturday to their Nicaraguan hosts. Deon McCaulay struck the equalizer for Belize in the 75th minute.

It is perhaps the first time that our National Senior Men's Football Team has embarked on such a serious journey towards preparing for international competition, namely the Concacaf Nation's League tournament scheduled to take place in June of this year. There have been many disappointing outcomes in qualifying tournaments for our Belize team, and the cry from fans and players alike has long been that more practice matches against formidable international

opponents are needed to fine tune our team for international competition.

When there were reports that the FFB had arranged not one, but two international friendlies this past weekend in Nicaragua, with more such friendlies planned for March, Belizean fans began to take notice with a little glimmer of hope. The 4-nil drubbing that our boys took in the opener against Nicaragua on Saturday was following a journey that included two legs by bus due to flight difficulties. The second outing was very encouraging; although it ended in a 1-1 draw, the Belize national team gained some attention and respect from Nicaraguan sportscasters and fans.

The team is expected back in the Jewel sometime today. Respect, guys! The work is under way.

Week 3 scores in National Elite Youth Football

Continued from Page 27

5-0 win over Corozal Elite with goals

Group A	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	+/-	Pts
San Pedro Elite	3	2	1	0	6	2	+4	7
Orange Walk Elite	3	2	0	1	6	5	+1	6
Belize Elite	3	1	0	2	5	7	-2	3
Corozal Elite	3	0	1	2	4	6	-2	1

Group B	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	+/-	Pts
Stann Creek Elite	2	2	0	0	4	0	+4	6
Belmopan Elite	2	1	1	0	4	0	+4	4
Cayo Elite	3	1	1	1	6	2	+4	4
Toledo Elite	3	0	0	3	2	18	-16	0

from Kerdell Diaz (30' & 51'), Jeison Medrano (65') and Wilfredo Galvez (73' & 80').

At 4:00 p.m. at the Marshalleck Stadium in Benque Viejo, (Group B) it was scoreless in first half, before

Benque Viejo Elite got 3 goals in a 19-minute span to grab the 3-1 win over Toledo Elite. Shaking the net for Benque were Elias Iglesias (61'), Jared Requeña (73') and Jalen Lennon (80'), while Toledo's only goal was by Eugene Benguche (66').

Meanwhile, at the Norman Broaster Stadium, (Group B) it was Cayo Elite, 4-2, over Mid-South Elite. Cayo's goals came from Ahdanye Lewis (19') and Israel Cruz (34' & 85') along with an own goal by Mid-South's Karel Cabral (24' OG); while Mid-South got a goal each from Kleron Cacho (62') and Anwar Cabral ((79')

U20 Men Elite standings at Week 3:

Group A	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	+/-	Pts
Belmopan Elite	2	2	0	0	10	0	+10	6
Belize Elite	2	2	0	0	7	1	+6	6
Orange Walk Elite	3	2	0	1	9	3	+6	6
San Pedro Elite	2	0	0	2	1	8	-7	0
Corozal Elite	3	0	0	3	0	15	-15	0

Group B	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	+/-	Pts
Stann Creek Elite	2	2	0	0	4	0	+4	6
Benque Viejo Elite	3	2	0	1	4	5	-1	6
Mid-South Elite	2	1	0	1	6	4	+2	3
Cayo Elite	3	1	0	2	4	5	-1	3
Toledo Elite	2	0	0	2	4	5	-1	0

Upcoming Week 4 schedule for U20 Women Elite:

Saturday, February 5

10:00 a.m. – (A) San Pedro Elite vs (B) Cayo Elite – Ambergris Stadium

12:00 noon – (B) Toledo Elite vs (A) Belize Elite – Victor Sanchez Field

12:00 noon – (B) Stann Creek Elite vs (A) Corozal Elite

12:00 noon – (B) Belmopan Elite vs (A) Orange Walk Elite

U20 Men Elite Week 3 scores

With a 2:00 p.m. start at People's Stadium in Orange Walk, (Group A) visiting Belize Elite pulled out a 2-1 win over Orange Walk Elite, courtesy of goals from Adrian Usher (17') and Brandon Smith (75'), while Orange Walk's only goal was by Allen Castillo (76').

Meanwhile at the Santiago Ricardo Stadium in Corozal, (Group A) it was Belmopan Elite coming away with the

22 Black History Facts That Should Be Celebrated All Year Round

The contributions and legacy of Black Americans go way beyond February.

Continued from Page 26

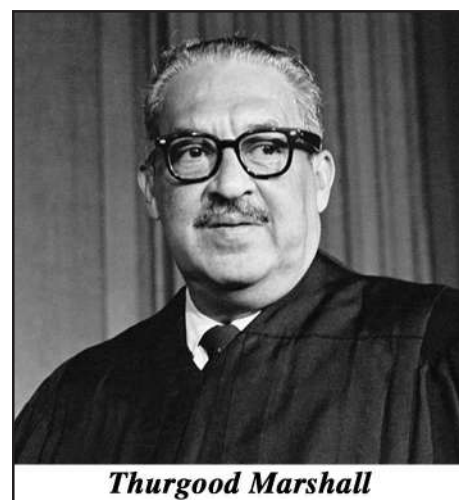
medal after earning a bronze medal in both the 220-yard and 440-yard hurdles.

When Jackie Robinson made his debut with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947, it marked the first African American to play Major League Baseball since Moses Fleetwood Walker in 1884, marking the end of racial segregation in professional baseball.

In 1950, Althea Gibson became the first Black tennis player to compete at the U.S. National Championships, and just six years later, she made history again as the first Black athlete to win a tennis grand slam tournament after winning the 1956 French Open.

Though he only ended up playing 45 games during his career, Willie O'Ree will always be remembered as the National Hockey League's first Black player, and he continues to fight for more diversity in the sport.

Politics



Thurgood Marshall

African Americans held their first large-scale convention in Philadelphia in 1830, and the gathering (which marked the start of the National Negro Conventions Movement) led to the formation of the American Society of Free Persons of Color. Bishop Richard Allen, who founded the African Methodist Episcopal Church, was made president of the society, and he worked to coordinate civil rights efforts locally.

The final convention movement in 1864—presided over by Black abolitionist Frederick Douglass—led to the founding of the National Equal Rights League, an organization that pushed for full political rights for Black

Upcoming U20 Men Elite Week 4 schedule:

Saturday, February 5

2:00 p.m. – (A) San Pedro Elite vs Corozal Elite – Ambergris Stadium

4:00 p.m. – (A) Belmopan Elite vs Belize Elite – FFB Stadium

2:00 p.m. – (B) Toledo Elite vs Mid-South Elite – Victor Sanchez Union Field

4:00 p.m. – (B) Stann Creek Elite vs Benque Viejo Elite – Carl Ramos Stadium

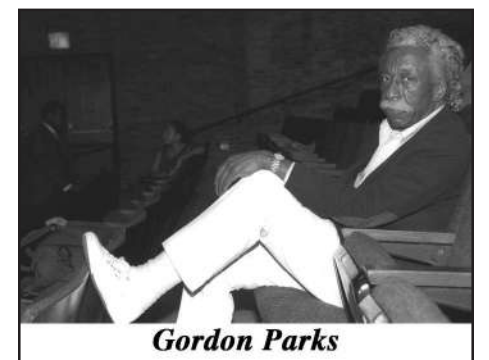
Americans as compensation for military service in the Revolutionary and Civil Wars.

In 1870, the Mississippi state legislature sent Hiram Revels to fill a vacancy in the U.S. Senate during Reconstruction, making him the first African American senator. Though Revels's term in the Senate only lasted a year, he became an outspoken opponent of racial segregation and broke new ground for African Americans in Congress.

After working several years as a civil rights lawyer, Thurgood Marshall became the first African American to serve in the U.S. Supreme Court. He was officially nominated by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1967, and he served as a justice until 1991.

In 1968, Shirley Chisholm became the first African American woman to win a seat in Congress. Four years later, she became the first Black candidate for a major-party nomination for President of the United States.

Arts and Literature



Gordon Parks

Back in 1859, Harriet Wilson published the autobiographical novel *Our Nig: Sketches from the Life of a Free Black*, making her the first African American author to publish a novel. The novel was later lost for over 100 years until it was reprinted with a critical essay by Henry Louis Gates, Jr., in 1983.

Known as the first African American professional photographer, Gordon Parks was hired by *Life* magazine as their first Black staff photographer in 1948 after publishing a photo essay on the life of a Harlem gang leader. He remained at the magazine for two decades, where he took photos of everyone from Muhammad Ali to Malcolm X.

Gwendolyn Brooks became the first Black person to win a Pulitzer Prize in 1950 for her book *Annie Allen*, which chronicles the evolution of a young Black girl into womanhood through poetry.

In addition to designing one of the most famous wedding dresses in history (the gown worn by Jacqueline Bouvier when she married John F. Kennedy in 1953), Ann Lowe created a number of designs for high-society women, earning a reputation as the first renowned African American fashion designer. Today her work is exhibited at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

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PUBLIC AUCTION SALE

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

CAYO DISTRICT PROPERTIES - TO BE AUCTIONED AT HUMMINGBIRD FURNISHINGS COMPOUND BELMOPAN CITY ON TUESDAY FEBRUARY 15TH, 2022 AT 11:00AM.



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



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

ORANGE WALK PROPERTIES- TO BE AUCTIONED AT HUMMINGBIRD FURNISHINGS COMPOUND BELMOPAN CITY ON TUESDAY FEBRUARY 15TH, 2022 AT 11:00AM.



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



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



COROZAL PROPERTIES- - TO BE AUCTIONED AT HUMMINGBIRD FURNISHINGS COMPOUND BELMOPAN CITY ON TUESDAY FEBRUARY 15TH, 2022 AT 11:00AM.



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



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



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Belize and Mexico discuss trade agreement

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Feb. 3, 2022

At a virtual meeting between government representatives of Belize and Mexico on Wednesday, February 2, the two countries discussed the potential signing of a high-level trade agreement. The Belize delegation was led by Hon. Eamon Courtenay, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, and Immigration, while the Mexican delegation was led by Señora Tatiana Clouthier Carrillo, Mexico's Secretary of the Economy.

A press release from the Government of Belize Press Office stated that formal trade with Mexico is a high priority, and that a trade agreement would substantially boost the economic development of Belize, particularly through

increased exports to Mexico.

After the discussion, the meeting concluded with both countries reaffirming their commitment to agreements made by Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño and Mexican president Andrés Manuel López Obrador during their meeting in Mexico. Those agreements were centered on the improvement of economic cooperation between Belize and Mexico; technical exchanges on legal and technical hurdles that the parties can resolve through cooperation; the completion and signing of a possible MOU on trade and investment cooperation; and a commitment by Mexico to explore possibilities for facilitating the exportation of Belizean goods.

Minister Courtenay was accompanied by Ambassador Amalia Mai, CEO of the Ministry



Hon. Eamon Courtenay, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Immigration; and H.E. Amalia Mai, CEO in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Immigration

of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade; Andy Sutherland, the Director-General for Foreign Trade; and other senior trade officials in the ministry.

PUBLIC AUCTION SALE

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

STANN CREEK PROPERTIES-TO BE AUCTIONED AT HUMMINGBIRD FURNISHINGS COMPOUND BELMOPAN CITY ON TUESDAY FEBRUARY 15TH, 2022 AT 11:00AM.



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



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



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



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

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BTB and APAMO sign MOU

BTB and APAMO signed an MOU to promote sustainable development of protected areas



(L-R) Jose Perez - Executive Director of APAMO, Destiny Wagner - Sustainable Tourism Ambassador, and Hon. Anthony Mahler - Minister of Tourism and Diaspora Relations

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Feb. 2, 2022

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed on Wednesday, February 2, between the Belize Tourism Board (BTB) and the Association of Protected Areas Management Organization (APAMO) as part of a coordinated effort to strengthen cooperation in the sustainable development of the country's protected

areas. The MOU has created a new partnership between the environmental NGOs and the tourism sector that will further this effort.

APAMO is an association consisting of several non-governmental protected areas management organizations that advocate for and contribute to the sustainability and proper management of Belize's protected areas.

The MOU was signed at BTB's Belize City headquarters on Regent Street. As part of the agreement, the BTB has committed to providing APAMO with \$75,000 of funding, which will be used to support the association's marketing, destination planning, training and certification, and data sharing activities. Also, the BTB will develop a pilot project alongside APAMO to further develop areas for sustainability certification/accreditation and growth.

"It's a celebration, because this is historic. This is unprecedented. Our natural resources [are] the bloodline of the tourism product, and we'll see it over and over. Sometimes you take someone from outside, they come and remind us that is what we have," said Jose Perez, Executive Director of APAMO. "We can no longer be those tree huggers, we have to embrace the industry but exploit our natural resources in a sustainable manner," he further said.

"The partnership, I think, is viable; it's happening quicker than I thought, which is excellent, so we're excited, we're encouraged. I see this as a first step," Perez continued.

Minister of Tourism and Diaspora Relations, Hon. Anthony Mahler, remarked, "When we got into the Minister of Tourism and Diaspora Relations under the BTB we said, 'we need to engage the NGO community; we need to have sustainability for our resources as we move forward in developing a vital tourism product', and so we reached out and today is a combination of the road that we want to go hand-in-hand down."

Chairman of the BTB's board of directors, Evan Tillett, commented at the signing that development and growth of the industry are the end goals.

"The vision of fostering [the] growth of the dynamic Belize tourism product for everyone to enjoy, the BTB is actively engaging its partners and stakeholders via execution of innovative strategies, partnerships to market, develop and enhance the tourism sector. There is a need to incorporate eco-tourism for economic well-being with our many communities by supporting the growth of our environmental NGOs," noted Tillett.



PUBLIC AUCTION

By order of the Municipal Court, certified and licensed Auctioneer Troy Gabb will sell the following property:
Thursday, February 10, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. ON SITE
(MAINTAINING SOCIAL DISTANCING AND WEARING OF A MASK IS A MUST)

Property in Belize City
Parcel #361 Faber's Road Extension
Comprising of 50 feet x 300 feet
Situated in Port Loyolaville
Registration Section Block #45, Belize City

Licensed Auctioneer
Troy Gabb Sr.
#21 Los Lagos | Belize District | Tel: 610-2725
Email: troy.gabb@yahoo.com

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PUBLIC AUCTION

By order of the Municipal Court, certified and licensed Auctioneer Troy Gabb will sell the following property:
Thursday, February 10, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. ON SITE
(MAINTAINING SOCIAL DISTANCING AND WEARING OF A MASK IS A MUST)

Property in Belize City
Parcel #363 Faber's Road Extension
Comprising of 100 feet x 395 feet
Situated in Port Loyolaville
Registration Section Block #45, Belize City

Licensed Auctioneer
Troy Gabb Sr.
#21 Los Lagos | Belize District | Tel: 610-2725
Email: troy.gabb@yahoo.com

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Students who wish to apply to Canadian universities should contact Aplicar Belize to schedule an admissions appointment and be prepared to provide official (sealed) 5th and 6th form transcripts as well as the applicable university or college application fee.

Representatives from the Aplicar Study Abroad Platform will visit Belize from February 21-25 to assist students who may wish to study in Canada.



Tony Adey

Assistant Director,
Institutional
Partnerships

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- Cape Breton University (Nova Scotia)
- University of Fraser Valley (British Columbia)
- Columbia College (British Columbia)
- Capilano University (British Columbia)
- Memorial University of Newfoundland, Grenfell Campus (Newfoundland and Labrador)
- University of Regina (Saskatchewan)

And many more...

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Phone: +501-223-6766
Email belizeoffice@aplicar.io

10 Taiwan Street, formerly North Park Street,
Lower Flat BTIA Building, Belize City, Belize

BSI/ASR installs air emission system

The company has invested an estimated 6 million dollars in a new air emission system

by **Khaila Gentle**

ORANGE WALK, Thurs. Feb. 3, 2022

Belize Sugar Industries Limited

(ASR/BSI) has installed a new air emission control system in an effort to mitigate the environmental impact of the company's sugar factory—particularly the amount of ash emitted



BSI's new air emission system at work

Terms of Reference to Develop a Strategic Plan, Medium Term Implementation Plan, and Result & Resources Framework for the Period 2022-2030

1. Objective of the Consultancy

The NCA requires a revised and revitalised strategic plan that will guide the Council's work for the next eight years. In addition to the strategic plan, the NCA needs a medium term work plan for the period July 2022 - June 2025, with a focus on the first twelve months in particular. Alongside both of these documents, the NCA requires a monitoring framework to measure the success of the work plan, and to monitor the long term objectives of the strategic plan.

2. Opportunity and Scope of Work

The NCA is advertising for the services of a consultant to deliver these three outputs, through a participatory process of consultation with stakeholders and a review of national, regional and international best practises.

The three deliverables are:

- Strategic Plan for the NCA for 2022 - 2030
- Work plan for the NCA for 2022 - 2025 with specific focus on activities in the first year
- A two tier monitoring framework
 - Monitor implementation of the work plan
 - Monitor long term objectives and targets of the NCA, including the relevant SDG indicators

The consultant is expected to:

- Review the existing mandate, vision and mission statements of the NCA
- Conduct an exercise to review and analyse the existing strategic plan (2015-2019) in terms of goals/objectives that were either achieved or not achieved
- Undertake a stakeholder mapping and analysis
- Consult with key stakeholders, including the development partners, donor agencies, service providers (public and private), civil society, and groups of older persons in at least 3 districts, to gather their input into the strategic direction of the NCA
- Engage the NCA board and staff, in the process to review and adjust (if necessary) the mission, vision, values, objectives, and priorities of the organisation
- Review the legal framework, institutional capacity, organisational set-up, financial and administrative arrangements of the NCA, and make recommendations to improve its operational capacity and efficiency
- Recommend a tool/application that will enable the NCA Secretariat to easily monitor the monitoring framework (deliverable #3)
- Present the first and final drafts of the Strategic Plan and Work Plan to the NCA Board
- Within the work plan, include a series of accessible capacity building activities for the Secretariat and other key stakeholders
- Review the social sector environment, to identify key linkages, overlaps and opportunities for close collaboration with other agencies, especially the National Women's Commission, the National Commission for Families and Children, and the National Aids Commission.

3. Timeframe

The duration of the assignment is thirty (30) working days spread over a three (3) month period from the 1st of March to the 31st of May 2022.

4. Requirements

a. Education / Experience

A university degree (*Masters or higher*) in organisational development, social sciences, strategic planning, or other related fields, along with at least 5 years work experience in the field of strategic planning and/or organisational development and management.

Or,

A university degree (*Bachelor's or higher*) in organisational development, social sciences, strategic planning, or other related fields, along with at least 10 years work experience in the field of strategic planning and/or organisational development and management.

b. Subject Matter Experience

At least 3 year experience of working with older persons and social services organisations.

c. Competencies

- Current knowledge and understanding of the women's rights movement and wider gender issues, including gender based violence, and violence against the elderly
- Experience with participatory approaches to conducting assessments and facilitating strategic planning processes
- Demonstrate excellent interpersonal and professional skills in interacting with government and development partners
- Excellent organisational and communication skills, ability to prioritise and work with minimum supervision
- Excellent knowledge, and commitment to, the modern human rights agenda and equality for all

5. Application Process

To apply for this opportunity, please send the following documents to ncabze@yahoo.com by the 18th of February, 2022:

a. Current CV / Resume

b. Proposed methodology (maximum 4 pages) including an activity schedule

c. Financial proposal inclusive of all associated costs to conduct this work

Your email subject should be "Development of a National Council on Ageing Strategic Plan", and must reach the NCA before midnight local time on the 25th of February 2022. Alternatively, documents may be delivered in hard copy to the following address:

The Executive Director
National Council on Ageing
Unit 17, Garden City Plaza
Belmopan
Belize

Send an email request to ncabze@yahoo.com for a complete copy of the terms of reference.

during its operations, which have affected nearby communities. As a result of the installation of this new system, plumes of white smoke can now be seen leaving one of the factory's chimneys, an indication that the air coming out of it is clean. Since the project is only 50% completed, however, the smoke being emitted from the other chimney is still dark grey.

According to ASR/BSI Director of Finance Shawn Chavarria, 6 million dollars (out of a total of \$11 million) was invested to install the new system. Chavarria also stated that the implementation was a team effort between ASR/BSI and the Department of Environment (DOE).

"It took years of planning to get to this day, and also the support of the Department of Environment—they were very instrumental in reviewing with us and coming back quickly in terms of feedback and in terms of design and engineering," he said.

The Director of Finance also told local media that he looks forward to phase two of the project, which will be done during the upcoming off-crop season and will involve the replacement of the second chimney's air emission system.

Seidy Lienez, the E.H.S. Regional Manager at ASR/BSI, told local media that the project is a part of the company's effort to work towards sustainability. According to Lienez, sustainability is currently one of their major areas of focus. She said that the company is dedicated to reusing as much waste material as possible and reducing its overall environmental impact. Studies have found that sugar production is a significant contributor to greenhouse gas production, and the combustion of bagasse, specifically, produces particle and air emissions that enter

the environment and can affect air quality.

In terms of how much this new system has improved the emissions coming from the chimney, Lienez says that will be determined in their annual stalk test, which is set for later this year. BSI/ASR has also been monitoring the air quality in the immediate area and nearby communities like Tower Hill and Chan Pine Ridge.

The company's new focus on sustainability comes after several instances in which residents of the nearby communities have voiced complaints that BSI has been polluting the surrounding environment. In June of 2019, residents of Chan Pine Ridge took to local media to complain that the company's factory had been polluting the air with ash and smoke. Since then, the villagers have constantly urged both BSI/ASR and the Department of Environment to take action. Also in 2019, BSI/ASR was accused of polluting the New River. The company, however, denied those claims, stating that it treated all its effluent discharge before sending it into the river.

When asked whether BSI will have to work hard to change the public's perception of the company after facing several controversies, Director Shawn Chavarria said that he is hopeful.

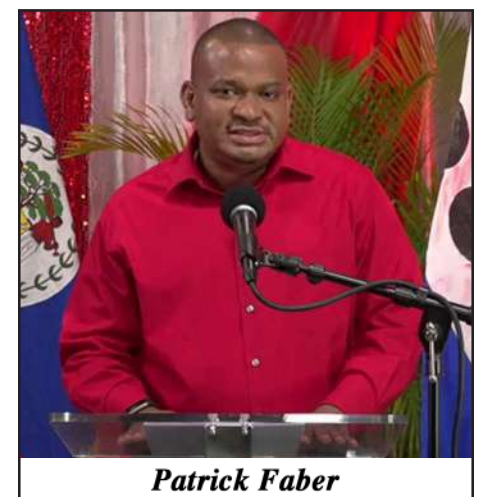
"We are hopeful that the community will see this as a positive step in the right direction, and that when we do the second phase—really, that it's a culmination of commitment we made to the community, including the Chan Pine Ridge Committee, who we've invited here before. We committed to them that by this year we will get it done, and so we're living up to that commitment," he stated.

Faber given until Friday to resign

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Feb. 3, 2022

An official resignation letter to finalize the end of Hon. Patrick Faber's leadership of the UDP has still not been submitted, and according to recent reports, a faction of the party is trying to resist his resignation. It is even being suggested in some quarters that a letter might be penned to ask Faber to stay on. By all indications, however, Faber has been given until Friday, February 4, to submit his official letter of resignation. This was reportedly agreed upon by the party's Central Executive, who met on Tuesday night, according to local reports.

The opposition party is trying to regain its footing following its most recent leadership fallout, which has again destabilized that party. UDP



Patrick Faber

Chairman, Michael Peyrefitte had announced that a press conference would be held so that UDP officials could speak on the way forward for the party, but that event was cancelled until further notice.

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Send Resume to: belizecityvacancy@yahoo.com or call 660-8831



Headquarters
British Army Training Support Unit Belize
Price Barracks, British Forces Post Office 12

Telephone 00 501 225 2209
Fax 00 501 225 2362
E-mail david.hannan347@mod.gov.uk



Our Reference: RC/001/22

Notice to General Public

Date: 3 Feb 22

Dear Sir/Madam

Prior warning is to be given to the general public for training exercise taking place, by the British Army, in the following Training Areas:

- 1963 Line
- Chiquibul

The training will take place during the period 08 Feb 22 – 12 Mar 22 with Live ammunition being used, along with military vehicles.

- **Note LIVE Firing will be conducted at 1963 Line Training Estate – Sun 20 Feb until Tues 8 Mar Nov 22.**

The general public should avoid the areas listed above and be aware of the presence of high numbers of British soldiers on the ground carrying weapons. At times loud explosions may be heard along with gunfire, this is normal in respect to the training being conducted.

Should any member of the general public wish to enter the areas listed above they are to be advised all roads are safe unless marked with a red lamp at night or a red flag during the day light hours. British troops will also operate checkpoints along the roads entering danger areas and can give advice to areas of training activity.

All enquires relating to British Forces training in Belize should be directed to RANGE CONTROL, BATSUB on 225 2209.

Your continued support to BATSUB is vital to the British Army and its success in operations around the world.

Yours faithfully

D Hannan
Maj
Training Safety Officer
for Commander BATSUB

CLASSIFIED ADS

VACANCY

VACANCY: Exists for a Sale Representative at Belize Ship Handlers (BSH). Qualified person will be responsible for selling the services offered at BSH, which is shipping of cargo to and from Belize. Knowledge in shipping is an asset. Letter of application along with resumé can be emailed to info@belizeshiphandlers.bz.com or mail to 6480 Mahogany Street, Belize City. For further information please call 222-4075.

NOTICE

NOTICE: We, Frederick Bahador Jr. / Wilfred Sabal hereby declare the registration title for M/V: Lindzy SC-1026 has been lost.

NOTICE: We, Christopher Usher/ Eva Jo Auld hereby declare the registration title for M/V: Sittee Slicker SC-0938 has been lost

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Jonathan Blitz** is applying for a Restaurant License to be operated at Viro Solutions Belize Ltd., trading as Paradiso Grill, Scipio Caye, Lark Caye Range, Placencia, Stann Creek, Belize, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Shane Leon Young** is applying for a Shop License to be operated at Triple S Mini Mart, #94 Old Well Road, Ladyville, Lords Bank, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Kenny Hegar** is applying for a Restaurant License to be operated at Buccan Grill Restaurant, #27 Joyce Blaire St., Benque Viejo, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Bahadir Yamanel** is applying for a Publican Special License to be operated at Princess International Belize Ltd. (Casino), 129 Newtown Barracks, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Bert Avila** is applying for a Convenience Store License to be operated at Iguana Boys Services Ltd., Iguana Creek Road, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Jerardo Samayoa** is applying for a Restaurant Liquor License to be operated at Las Palapas Restaurant, Hummingbird Highway, Mile 46, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.



STAKE BANK ENTERPRISE LIMITED

Job Vacancy for Boat/Barge Captain

Stake bank Enterprise Limited is looking for dedicated Licensed Boat Captains to join our dynamic team in the capacity of **Boat/Barge Captain**. These positions are freelance contractors, full-time, part-time and temporary in nature which will require the successful applicants to operate all marine equipment (boats, tenders, catamarans, barge, etc) from our Mile 5 Marina on a day to day basis.

Requirements

- Applicants must have vast experience in operating boats, tenders, catamarans, barges, etc.
- Must be able to do basic maintenance
- Work under pressure
- Pay attention to details with a view to improve operational efficiencies.
- Must be flexible to work afterhours and weekends
- Must be able to provide timely recommendations and request for supplies needed.

Remuneration will be based on qualifications and experience and will be discussed with shortlisted candidates during interview. Successful applicants will be required to provide a bank account information, social security card, Covid-19 Vaccination card, valid boat license to operate marine equipment and a valid police record.

Please send electronic letter, application, resume via email to: admin@stakebank.bz or hard copies can be dropped off at Stake Bank Enterprise, Mile 5 George Price Highway, Belize City, Belize. For more information or inquiries, please call 501-223-3662/3/4.



STAKE BANK ENTERPRISE LIMITED

Job Vacancy for Heavy Equipment Operators

Stake bank Enterprise Limited is looking for dedicated Operators to join our dynamic team in the capacity of **Heavy Equipment Operators**. These positions are freelance contractors, full-time, part-time and temporary in nature which will require the successful applicants to operate backhoes, bulldozers, excavator and front end loaders at our Mile 5 Marina and Stake Bank Island on a day to day basis.

Requirements

- Applicants must have experience in operating heavy equipment.
- Must be able to do basic maintenance
- Work under pressure
- Pay attention to details with a view to improve operational efficiencies.
- Must be flexible to work afterhours and weekends
- Must be able to provide timely recommendations and request for supplies needed.

Remuneration will be based on qualifications and experience and will be discussed with shortlisted candidates during interview. Successful applicants will be required to provide a bank account information, social security card, Covid-19 Vaccination card, valid drivers license to operate heavy equipment and a valid police record.

Please send electronic letter, application, resume via email to: admin@stakebank.bz or hard copies can be dropped off at Stake Bank Enterprise, Mile 5 George Price Highway, Belize City, Belize. For more information or inquiries, please call 501-223-3662/3/4.



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 February 4, 2022 to Thursday February 10, 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. Movie: White Water
 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: Lost Kingdoms of Africa (Nubia, Ethiopia, Great Zimbabwe and West Africa)
 12:37 p.m. Movie: Yesterday
 2:33 p.m. Documentary: 8 Centuries of Muslim
 4:14 p.m. Movie: Revenge of the Bridesmaids
 5:41 p.m. Documentary: Whales
 6:38 p.m. Movie: Fences
 8:00 p.m. Music Videos

SUNDAY

10:30 a.m. **Sunday Review (LIVE)**
 12:00 p.m. Movie: The Great Debaters
 2:06 p.m. Documentary: Best Ocean Life
 2:57 p.m. Movie: Nappily Ever After
 4:36 p.m. Documentary: Diving with the Dinosaur Fish
 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: Riverbend
 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: Bredda David
 9:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**

TUESDAY

6:30 a.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (LIVE)**
 9:00 a.m. **Morning Stew (LIVE)**
 12:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**
 1:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
 2:00 p.m. Movie: Black Panther
 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: Muslism Journal
 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: Yesterday
 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: 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. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
 8:00 p.m. Belizean Legend: Harry Shaw
 9:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**

PUBLIC AUCTION SALES: PROPERTIES

Orange Walk District: Orange Walk Town/ San Jose Palmar Village/ Douglas Village; Belize District: Maskall Village/ San Pedro, Ambergris Caye/ Belize City; Cayo District: Ontario Village; Stann Creek District: Dangriga; Toledo District: San Miguel Village/ Punta Gorda Town

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees, Messrs. Ascendancy Belize Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the below described properties. Sales currently running and will expire Wednesday 16th February 2022 at the times shown on the website.

A: Orange Walk District: East Orange Walk Estate; Orange Walk Town; San Jose Palmar; Douglas Village

1. **Parcels 514, 515 & 516 East Orange Walk Estate, One Mile from Town Center, Orange Walk District:**



REGISTRATION SECTION BLOCK PARCELS
Indian Hill East 4 514, 515 & 516

(Being three (3) vacant lots [514 – 334.79 S.Y. or (279.926 S.M.); 515 – 832.86 S.Y. or (696.372 S.M.); 516 – 888.29 S.Y. or (742.715 S.M.)] situate in East Orange Walk Estate, one mile from Orange Walk Town Center, Orange Walk District, the freehold properties of Mr. Ishwar Mahbubani)

2. **Parcel No. 3091/1 Savannah Street, Orange Walk Town:**



REGISTRATION SECTION BLOCK PARCEL
Orange Walk Town 4 3091/1

(Being a concrete bungalow dwelling house [727 sq. ft.] containing 2 Bedrooms + 1 Bathroom + Living/Dining/Kitchen TOGETHER with Lot [555.56 sq. yds.] situate at Parcel No. 3091 Savannah Street, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District, the leasehold property of Mr. Kenis Garcia)

3. **Parcel No. 1236 Stadium Street, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District:**



REGISTRATION SECTION BLOCK PARCEL
Orange Walk Town 4 1236

(Being an incomplete concrete & block structure [369 sq. ft.] + prefabricated structure [1,600 sq. ft.] TOGETHER with Lot [462 sq. yds.] situate at Parcel No. 1236 Stadium Street, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District, the freehold property of Mr. Richard Vellos)

4. **Parcel No. 808 San Jose Palmar Village, Orange Walk District:**



REGISTRATION SECTION BLOCK PARCEL
San Jose Palmar 4 808

(Being a vacant corner lot [1,250 sq. yds.] situate in San Jose Palmar Village, Orange Walk Town, the freehold property of Mr. Danny Duran.)

5. **28.91 Acres of land on the Douglas/San Pablo Road, 1.6 kilometers west of the Douglas Road/Phillip Goldson Highway, Orange Walk District:**



REGISTRATION SECTION BLOCK PARCEL
Douglas Rural 4 118

(Being 28.91 acres of ruined cane fields and grassy patches situate 1.6 kilometers northwest of the intersection of the Douglas Road and the Phillip Goldson Highway and approximately 700 meters southeast of Nuevo San Juan Village, Orange Walk District, the freehold property of Messrs. Alfredo Samuel Cabrera and Josue Cabrera)

B: Belize District: Maskall Village; San Pedro, Ambergris Caye; Belize City

6. **Parcel No. 246/1 Maskall Village, Belize District:**



REGISTRATION SECTION BLOCK PARCEL
Belize Rural North 1 11 246/1

(Being a concrete bungalow dwelling house [30 ft. X 45 ft.] and lot [676.302 S.M.] situate in the Village of Maskall in the Belize District, the leasehold property of Mr. Aamon Alex Brackett, surety for Ms. Sherett S. Brackett)

7. **2 Acres San Pedro, Ambergris Caye, Belize:**



REGISTRATION SECTION BLOCK PARCELS
North San Pedro 7 5434 & 5435

(Being 2 Acres of vacant Caribbean Sea front land, situate west side of Ambergris Caye 3 miles north of the center of San Pedro Town, District, the freehold properties of Mr. Daniel Guerrero.)

8. **Parcel No. 2112 DFC Area, San Pedro, Ambergris Caye, Belize District:**



REGISTRATION SECTION BLOCK PARCEL
San Pedro 7 2112

(Being a 3-storey concrete structure with [6120 sq. ft.] – Ground Floor – Store + two – 1 Bedroom Apartments; First Floor – Three – 1 Bedroom Apartments; Second Floor – 2 Bedroom Apartment + Large Terrace and lot [533.33 sq. yds.] situated in D.F.C Housing Site, San Pedro, Ambergris Caye, the freehold property of Mr. Thomas Santos)

9. **Parcel No. 1406 Neal Pen Road, Belize City, Belize District:**



REGISTRATION SECTION BLOCK PARCEL
Queen Square 45 1406

(Being a two-storey concrete/timber dwelling house [1568 sq. ft.] containing 3 Bedrooms + 1 Bathroom on each floor TOGETHER with Lot [340 sq. yds.] situate at Parcel No. 1406 Neal Pen Road, Belize City, the freehold property of Ms. Sharon Burgess)

D: Cayo District: Ontario Village

10. **Parcel No. 1323/1 Ontario Village, Cayo District:**



REGISTRATION SECTION BLOCK PARCEL
Society Hall 24 1323

(Being two buildings - Building 'A' two-storey concrete/timber dwelling house [1969 sq. ft.] containing Ground Floor: bedroom + bathroom + Living/Dining/Kitchen + Storeroom; First Floor: 3 bedrooms [280 sq. ft.]; Building 'B' Laundry house [257 sq. ft.] TOGETHER with lot [1,165.67 sq. yds.] situate in Ontario Village, Cayo District, the leasehold property of Mr. Gilbert Rhaburn).

11. **Parcel No. 2427/1 Ontario Village, Cayo District:**



REGISTRATION SECTION BLOCK PARCEL
Society Hall 24 2427/1

(Being two buildings - Building 'A' concrete bungalow dwelling house [1083 sq. ft.] containing 3 bedrooms + bathroom + Living/Dining/Kitchen + porch; Building 'B' shop [222 sq. ft.] and lot [555.56 sq. yds.] situate at Ontario Village, Cayo District, the leasehold property of Mr. Humberto Patt).

E: Stann Creek District: Dangriga

12. **Parcel No. 1294 Canal Street, Dangriga, Stann Creek District**



REGISTRATION SECTION BLOCK PARCEL
Dangriga South 31 1294

(Being two storey concrete dwelling house [3,185 sq. ft.] containing Ground Floor - 3 Bedrooms Apartment; First Floor - 2 Bedrooms + 1 Bathroom Apartment TOGETHER with Lot [512 sq. yds.] situate at Parcel No. 1294 Canal Street, Dangriga, Stann Creek District, the freehold property of Ms. Gretel Mariano)

F: Toledo District: Big Falls/Golden Stream; Punta Gorda Town

13. **Parcel No. 577 San Miguel Village, Big Falls/Golden Stream Area, Toledo District**



REGISTRATION SECTION BLOCK PARCEL
Big Fall/Golden Stream 42 577

(Being a two-storey concrete dwelling house [1743 sq. ft.] containing Ground Floor: 3 Open Areas + Kitchen; First Floor: 3 bedrooms + 1 bathroom + living/dining/kitchen + porch [421 sq. ft.] + covered shed [280 sq. ft.] and lot 2,642.62 S.Y. or 0.546 acres) situate in San Miguel Village in the Big Falls/Golden Stream Area, Toledo District, the freehold property of Mr. Mariano Kus).

14. **Parcel No. 907 Punta Gorda Town, Toledo District**



REGISTRATION SECTION BLOCK PARCEL
Punta Gorda 42 907

(Being an incomplete two-storey concrete dwelling house containing Ground Floor: 3 bedrooms + 1 bathroom + living/dining/kitchen; First Floor: incomplete foundation and land situate in Punta Gorda Town, Toledo District, the freehold property of Ms. Phillipa G. Williams.)

“FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PHOTOGRAPHS PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE”

TERMS: STRICTLYCASH
KEVIN A. CASTILLO
TELEPHONE 223-4488

Website: belizepropertyauctions.com

E-mail: kevinacas@yahoo.com

Facebook: [Belize Auctions](https://www.facebook.com/BelizeAuctions)

Destiny Wagner stands up against racism and hair discrimination

*“My hair symbolizes strength, spirituality, and resilience, just like my ancestors,”
said Miss Earth 2021, Destiny Wagner*

by *Khaila Gentle*

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Feb. 3, 2022

Despite a slew of accomplishments, including being the first-ever Belizean to hold the prestigious title of Miss Earth, Destiny Wagner—like countless other black women—has often faced discrimination and racism. Most notably, on January 28, 2022, Wagner took to her social media platforms to speak out against a pageantry fan page that had attempted to ridicule her by comparing her locked hair to cow feces.

In response to the attack, Wagner wrote, “As the first queen with locs

to EVER win an international crown, I knew I would be subject to ridicule and criticism. People are often intimidated by things they do not understand. Many do not associate natural hair (dreadlocks/locs) with the word ‘beautiful’.”

Hair discrimination is one of the many ways that a history of colonization and racism still impacts communities, and it is, unsurprisingly, still a common occurrence. Two years ago, a group of Belizean police officers turned to the Supreme Court after facing disciplinary charges for refusing to remove their dreadlocks. And while the Court ruled in favor of the officers, there have been many other

instances, both in Belize and across other Afro-Caribbean nations, where schools, workplaces, hair salons, and other establishments have discriminated against the natural texture of Afro-descendants’ hair. Just recently, in January of 2021, the Belmopan City Council was accused of discrimination after a receptionist was told by her superiors to “do something” about her hair.

There are many other unreported instances, however, of black women (and men) being subject to



Destiny Evelyn Wagner – Miss Earth 2021

the policing and criticism of their hair due to prevailing Eurocentric beauty standards and Eurocentric ideals that have greatly influenced what is deemed “acceptable” in the public eye.

Destiny Evelyn Wagner is the first of many things. Not only is she the first Belizean to hold the title of Miss Earth, but she is also the first black woman and the first woman with locs to do so.

“I think I’ve faced discrimination a lot, especially as a woman—a black woman—with natural hair. It’s not every day that you see a beauty queen with locs. In fact, I’m the first international queen to ever win a crown with locs. And a lot of cultures, they don’t understand the significance or the importance of the hair, so for them it’s unusual, and people are often intimidated by things that they do not understand, and that’s exactly what it is,” said Wagner to local media.

According to the beauty queen and entrepreneur, however, she has not been fazed by the attempts to bully her. Instead, she has been motivated to continue to use her platform to educate and inspire young women and men around the world to embrace who they are.

In her post regarding the recent attack, Wagner commented, “to many, ‘hair is just hair’, but to many others, including myself, hair is identity! My hair symbolizes strength, spirituality, and resilience, just like my ancestors.”

She then shared several photos depicting other Belizean women sporting—and embracing—their natural hair, and representing what she called “Black Girl Magic”.

CCJ rules on Belize v T&T brown sugar case

Continued from Page 1

Initially, Belize was seeking damages, based on the local sugar industry’s loss of opportunities to generate revenue through the sale of sugar, as a result of Trinidad and Tobago’s decision, but at the trial hearing, the country’s legal representative, E. Andrew Marshalleck SC, indicated Belize’s willingness to accept a mere judicial statement on the importance of implementing the CET on extra-regional brown sugar.

In the CCJ ruling, it was noted that “At the hearing, Belize indicated its willingness to accept in substitution of the relief claimed appropriately worded judicial statements of the importance of implementation and maintaining of the CET on extra-regional brown sugar.”

Such a statement was indeed provided by the court. The president of the CCJ, Justice Adrian Saunders, stated the following in the court’s judgment: “The court emphasizes the importance of maintaining the CET, especially in respect to the importation of an extra-regional production such as brown sugar which is of demonstrable importance to a member state such as Belize that manufactures it. The court found that the CET does not guarantee regional brown sugar producers an assured market but that those producers are entitled to the production of the

market that the CET is intended to provide”.

Belize had claimed that Trinidad and Tobago’s importation of sugar from our Latin American neighbors resulted in a decline in the prices, and sales, of brown sugar produced by Belize Sugar Industry Limited (BSI). The case was brought by Belize on behalf of BSI, which was the first entity to claim damages. They claimed that from November 2018 to June 2020, extra-regional brown sugar was imported to T&T without the CET being imposed. In the court’s ruling, however, it noted that Belize failed to provide the court with sufficient evidence of its claims.

“The court found that there were severe shortcomings in the evidence offered by Belize in respect of the alleged failure of Trinidad and Tobago to apply the CET and that these failures were not cured by reference to circumstantial evidence,” Justice Saunders stated.

In its defense, Trinidad and Tobago had denied that it permitted the importation of brown sugar in a manner inconsistent with the RTC, specifically denying that they imported extra-regional sugar without imposing the 40% CET.

Trinidad and Tobago also claimed that the country could not bring a claim on behalf of BSI, since that company is not a state-owned entity in Belize, and that Belize could not present a claim for the benefit of BSI



*Hon. Mr. Justice
Adrian Saunders*

nor claim damages on behalf of BSI.

In the CCJ ruling, however, Saunders stated, “The court commented on the fact Belize presenting this claim for its benefit and for the benefit of BSI, the court found that there was no doubt that under the RTC Belize was entitled to espouse its claim on behalf of BSI.”

According to counsel representing Belize, E. Andrew Marshalleck S.C., the case puts positive pressure on countries which are members of the CSME to meet the treaty obligations, which would ensure that BSI does not face any unfair competition in the export of its product to the CSME countries. He said that Belize would have five years to appeal the ruling in the event that new evidence emerges which shows that the relief originally sought should be granted.

Each country was ordered to bear its own costs.

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BIL nears its end

Minister of Infrastructural Development, Hon. Julius Espot shared in an interview that the private company is currently in maintenance mode, and the former BIL general manager, Christy Mastry, has been “terminated amicably”



Hon. Julius Espot – Minister of Infrastructural Development

we did, her contract was terminated amicably; we transferred the management to the CEO as to the ministry. The role of BIL has changed since we got over it. BIL will no longer build buildings. What BIL is doing presently is just maintaining 2 structures [that] were left under its mandate, which is the finishing of the Finance building, which is, I think DFC moved in last week,

National Bank will move in next week, the Ministry of Finance probably by the end of February. We are in the final negotiations with the government of Belize if BIL will continue maintaining those buildings. It is that building and the Civic. That’s the only responsibility that BIL is doing.”

He explained that at this time, BIL has just a small number of persons on what he referred to as a skeletal staff. That small group of employees includes a building manager, and a maintenance crew, which is carrying out the upkeep of the newly constructed Finance building and the Civic Center. He went on to note that by the time the PUP became the new government of the country, the APEX contract for maintenance of the Civic Center had already expired.

Hon. Espot said that the government is still analyzing the contracts given to that company and

that his Ministry has committed to ensuring that projects be carried out as public service works.

“We have been analyzing their past contracts. That’s an ongoing process; that takes quite a bit, and so when we have more information on that, we will be able to follow up with you. BIL will no longer be functioning as before. We made it a point that all the projects that will be done under the Ministry of Infrastructure Development will be done as regular public service type work, meaning we will go to the Contractor General; we will go to the Ministry of Finance, we will follow all the oversight regulatory bodies. We believe that’s the best way. It takes a little bit longer, but I think that’s the way to be accountable to how you spend the people’s money,” the Infrastructural Development Minister said.

He also mentioned that the government is in the process of hiring an on-call maintenance crew for the new Finance building.

“The CEO of the Ministry now takes over the little that BIL is doing, but we have managers, so there will be a manager for the Finance building that will be strictly responsible for the day-to-day maintenance. We have a crew there that does the security; we have hired the Police Department to assist us with security, because we believe that they are a part of the public service and they should be given that opportunity. We have cleaners, we have gardeners, we are contracting,

it’s like on a consultant basis, one of the engineers that came off the building who has very good knowledge of how the building operates,” he said.

As for the recently constructed Civic Center, he called it a “poster boy for white elephants.”

The remark was made during an exchange between Espot and a local reporter. Espot had stated, “With the Civic we have, similar, it’s mostly gardening. It’s a sad situation that we have to be mopping and cleaning empty seats and putting on air condition for nobody to use, that’s a ...”

At that point the reporter said, “An effect of the pandemic ...,” to which Espot replied, “No, that’s your poster boy for a white elephant project.”

When asked by the reporter why he had made such a statement about the Civic Center, Espot went on to say, “Because [it] was designed for not facing the reality of our needs in this country. You have a building that is designed to be only used if it’s fully air-conditioned, and so any time you put on that AC you do run a \$10,000 bill and we are not at that level. So buildings in developing countries have to be designed with a green architectural approach, where you can enjoy the cross ventilations that we have free of cost, where you can position your building in such a way that the sun does not create too much heat, but no, we go to the opposite extreme: we’re designing buildings as if we’re in Europe and now facing the consequences of that.”

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Feb. 3, 2022

During an interview yesterday, the Minister of Infrastructural Development and Housing, Hon. Julius Espot, was asked to provide an update on the status of Belize Infrastructural Limited (BIL), the private company incorporated under the Barrow administration to carry out infrastructural development projects on behalf of the government. In early 2021, Espot alleged that BIL was created as a vehicle to carry out the “misappropriation of public monies without public scrutiny.”

At the time he famously expressed his intention to “Kill BIL”, and now, the company is but a shell of what it was, and is carrying out only maintenance duties, under the headship of the Ministry’s CEO, Mr. Victor Espot.

Minister Espot explained, “The director is no longer with us. What

MIDH gives residents of Belize City, Belmopan new homes

Under its Modular House Pilot Program, the Ministry of Infrastructure Development & Housing has given a number of homes to families in need

by *Khaila Gentle*

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Feb. 3, 2022

A Belize City woman and two Belmopan families became new homeowners this week after the Ministry of Infrastructure Development & Housing presented them with the keys to new concrete houses as part of the Ministry’s Modular House Pilot Program. At a handing-over ceremony, held on

Wednesday, Belize City resident Margaret McDougall received one of the homes. At the ceremony, which took place in Ms. McDougall’s yard in Belisle Alley, president of the Senate and member of the Belize Association of Planners, Carolyn Trench-Sandiford, gave a welcome address.

Back in August 2021, sixty-one-year-old McDougall and her family of five reached out to the public for

assistance after their home, then made of pycem and wood, had collapsed. According to Minister Espot, who also delivered remarks at the ceremony, upon visiting the home, they found it to be structurally unsound and realized that they would have to consolidate the soil—an extensive undertaking—before they could start rebuilding. Six months later, the family was able to enter their new home on that plot of land.

“What we’re doing, ladies and gentlemen, is changing lives one at a time. That is what is special about this project—changing of individual lives,” Hon. Espot said. He added that as long as the budget is approved, the ministry will continue building homes. Miss McDougall gave the vote of thanks, though the emotional homeowner kept her speech short, stating that the donation had touched her heart.

On Thursday, February 3, two more houses were handed over in Salvapan. There, Minister Espot spoke a bit on the occasional criticism that the Ministry has received regarding the housing program. According to Espot, the

people who have been criticizing the program, particularly the size of the homes, are those who are already fortunate enough to have all their needs met—those who might not appreciate just how important it is to have a roof over one’s head.

“I have been listening quite keenly to people saying that ‘the house tu small’ or ‘yuh shudda mi build wa four-bedroom, wa three-bedroom,’ but those people that are criticizing don’t understand or refuse to understand what poverty is, what struggle is, and how important it is to somebody to have a reinforced structure of this type,” he said.

One of the new homeowners expressed deep gratitude to the Ministry, stating, “My little family has been struggling in our old house for some years now, so this is a true blessing to us. God has answered our prayers. It can rain now while we sleep, warm.”

Also present at the handing-over ceremony was Belmopan area representative, Hon. Oscar Mira, who stated at the ceremony that so far they have given homes to five families in need in Belmopan.



New house handed over in Salvapan

Title Option 1: Belize City Accelerator Program Ceremony Held for Cohorts 3 and 4 Title Option 2: Belize City Accelerator Program Continues to Support Local Entrepreneurs

On Thursday, February 3rd, 2022, the Belize City Council welcomed members of the third and fourth cohorts of the Belize City Accelerator Program (BCAP), along with representatives from partnering organizations Axiory Global Limited and BELTRAIDE for a certificate and handing over ceremony.

Through the BCAP program, entrepreneurs receive assistance with tools for their trade and complete a training program focused on the basics of financial accounting, entry level business model and introduction to marketing.

BCAP was initially launched in the summer of 2020 with the first set of recipients. According to Mayor Bernard Wagner, 82% of businesses assisted in 2020 are still functioning and the program has assisted more than 40 micro enterprises to date. In his address, Mayor Wagner expressed that a key component of this program is sustainability for the businesses they aid. He said, "Our vision for this program was to help ensure that this new entrepreneurship isn't just temporary, and that our small business owners get the professional and financial support that they need so that they can continue growing their businesses; so

they can continue providing for their families; so they could continue bringing top-notch products and services to their communities."

In addition to Mayor Bernard Wagner, speakers present at the ceremony included Councillor Edmund Kwan, who holds responsibility for local economic development, small businesses and new businesses; Youth Shadow Mayor, Steve Good; Director and Chief Financial Officer of Axiory Global Limited, Ms. Sheree Holland; and Training Development Officer of BELTRAIDE, Ms. Monique Usher. Included were also testimonials from two BCAP recipients, Mr. Kaleem Matthews of the third cohort and Ms. Marsha Gillett of the first cohort. In her short address, Ms. Gillett shared with the newer members that her small business, "For U By Me" has shown significant growth following



her induction into the Belize City Accelerator Program, and the lessons she has learnt through the trainings have proven to be useful to her.

Both representatives from Axiory Global Limited, who funded these cohorts, and BELTRAIDE, whose members conducted the recipients' training, expressed well wishes for the BCAP program members as they

work to strengthen the local economy through the establishment and formalization of these 17 micro enterprises.

Mayor Wagner and the Belize City Council plan to continue the Belize City Accelerator Program in order to nurture more small business ideas and establish more businesses in Belize City.

Ahmadiyya 7th basketball season is set to start on Sunday

The Ahmadiyya Basketball League returns for its 7th season after a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19



Naveed Mangla, National President of Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at Belize

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Feb. 2, 2022

The longing to play competitive sports in the country has now ended, for Belizean basketball fanatics at least, as the Ahmadiyya Basketball League is set to return for its 7th season on Sunday, February 6. Back in 2020, the last time the season was operational, games were abruptly put on pause due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the season was never completed.

The Ahmadiyya Basket League is a tournament conducted annually under the umbrella of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at Belize, an organization that spreads humanitarian services throughout the

community.

For the inaugural season, in 2014, the league started with eight teams, and now, eight years later, the league is seeing its highest registration to date, with forty-seven teams. "We were struggling with eight teams, and then it got a little bit better in the third year when we moved to a new venue, and in the fourth year we moved to SJC which accommodates three different games simultaneously. This is the first time we will be having all of our games at the new facility at Mexico Center, and with the grace of God, we have forty-seven teams registered, the biggest we've ever had...this is something huge," Naveed Mangla, National President of Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at Belize shared in an exclusive interview with *Amandala*.

Two years since the cancellation of the 2020 season, we're still in the midst of the pandemic, however, the organization has adjusted to the new norm, and now they are opening areas previously closed due to the pandemic. For the upcoming season, mandatory precautions have been put in place to prevent the spread of the virus during the tournament.

"We will be extra careful; the last thing you want is a clutter here at our league and this becomes a spot where everybody catches it from. Keeping that in consideration, we're just allowing the teams alone, 12 members, and they're allowed to bring 8 extra people in the gym. There'll be two teams playing and two waiting, so only four teams in the gym. The capacity the government allows is much more but we are doing it this way so everybody is safe, to safeguard the youth from this COVID. As soon as two teams are done playing they exit, and we allow two more to come in the gym...so that kids are not gathering there. We're also trying to get a live stream going this year so that youth that are interested in watching don't have to be in the gym to watch; they can do so at home, access it on Facebook," Mangla explained.

Mangla said the rule is that all the teams, everybody playing has to be fully vaccinated. "One exception that was given to us by the Ministry of Sports is that a person who recently had COVID, they're allowed to play, but they have to show a letter from the government when they had the COVID the last time. And also, they have to at least have had one vaccination; people with zero vaccinations are not allowed and the same rule applies for the extra people that they're bringing. We will have people that will be checking

their vaccination card, and we'll also have the temperature guns to check for people who might have a fever. We will not jeopardize their health...or the health of the other people that are in the gym by allowing them [people who might be sick] in," Mangla explained.

Earlier this year, 15-year-old Joshua Flores, a student of Dangriga Town who was an avid basketball player, was gunned down while walking on Isla Road in the Sabal Community of Dangriga Town by someone who is believed to have been a friend of his. According to Naveed, this would have been his first time participating in the season. "It was the U15 that this individual would be playing in. He has never played for us before; he was just preparing to come this year. I never met him, he has never played. We haven't thought about doing any remembrance for him but if the team feels that something needs to be done, we're all for it and definitely, we will do something about it."

At the end of the season, awards such as Most Valuable Player (MVP) and the Sportsmanship Award will be given out to individuals with the most outstanding performance for the season. Also, the winner for each division will get a trophy.

The first games start at 9 a.m., with Falcons vs Young Ballers and Conquerors vs Los Lagos Defenders in the U15 division.

Tracy eyes Party leader, Shyne takes LOO

Continued from Page 1

sworn in as the Leader of the Opposition (LOO), one day after the January 31 date on which the erstwhile Opposition leader, Hon. Patrick Faber, was scheduled to resign. It is a bit of déjà vu, and marks the third time since June that there has been a change in the Opposition leadership as a result of a submission by UDP parliamentarians of a letter to the Governor General in which the majority of the UDP members of the House requested that the person occupying that seat in Parliament be replaced. It was a parliamentary maneuver that enabled Shyne to first claim the Opposition leadership seat in June of last year in the midst of calls for Hon. Faber to be recalled as UDP leader, and was used by Faber three months later to reclaim his seat in September. And now, less than five months later, Hon. Barrow is once again Leader of the Opposition, and he is seeking to also be selected as the leader of the UDP at a party convention on March 27. Delegates at that convention will determine whether he secures that party leadership, or the other contender for the post, area representative for the Albert division, Tracy Taegar-Panton, ascends to the top spot in the UDP. At this time, there has still been no indication that Hon. Patrick Faber has submitted an official letter of resignation, but according to Barrow, the UDP party chairman, Michael Peyrefitte is currently acting as interim party leader.

In an interview following his swearing-in yesterday, Hon. Barrow said that he believes that he will be the next leader of the UDP.

"I have the majority of support in the House of Representatives on the Opposition benches. I have the majority of support within the 31 constituencies as we've [seen] with the massive endorsement from the Caucus for Change, and we had 53% of delegates that voted to recall in July of 2021," Barrow asserted.

He claimed that he had led the charge for the recall of Patrick Faber. Those who remember that recall effort that started in June 2021 might note, however, that the sequence of events which led to a recall convention at which Faber secured enough votes to hold on to his leadership was a bit more than a one-man effort. It was somewhat complex — full of intrigue and a number of key players. The recall petition which triggered the recall convention in July was, in fact, submitted by Tony Herrera, a former PUP supporter, and Philip Willoughby, UDP standard bearer for the Port Loyola division, on behalf of the UDP faction, Caucus for Change, who, Herrera had indicated, was led by former UDP Minister of National Security, John Saldivar (former Belmopan area rep), who himself had been Faber's rival in a previous quest for UDP leadership in 2020.

The quest for leadership by Panton and Barrow in fact appears to be a sequel to a power struggle which started in June of 2021 after the

circulation online of a video that seemed to show Faber behaving aggressively toward the mother of his 2-year-old daughter. That triggered the UDP Caucus for Change's recall petition as well as calls by Hon. Shyne Barrow for Faber to be replaced. What ensued thenceforth, however, was a series of moves on the public stage that showed a distinct contrast between the approaches being taken by Panton and Barrow toward the crisis in leadership — a contrast that will likely continue to be displayed in the two leaders' efforts to secure the UDP leader post.

The *Amandala* had reported last year that on June 9, 2021, Hon. Moses "Shyne" Barrow "publicly stated in a Facebook post that the UDP leader [had] lost the confidence of the majority of the members of the Opposition in the House of Representatives... and then proceeded to suggest that the role of leader be assumed by Hon. Tracy Taegar Panton, whom he deem[ed] to be the most influential member of the Opposition."

The newspaper went on to note, however, that "Hon. Panton... appeared to shy away from the apparent endorsement. She responded to Barrow's Facebook post by issuing a public statement in which she asserted that the Mesopotamia area representative... was 'selective in which of [their] private conversations and messages he had chosen to place in the public domain.'" According to that *AMANDALA* article, Panton had further remarked that she remained "firm that any changes in the party's structure must be properly ventilated, and she further stated that she had formally requested that an urgent meeting be held to address the ongoing issue."

Hon. Shyne Barrow, however, would later claim for himself the Opposition leader seat in the House of Representatives through the submission of a letter to the Governor General on June 20 that bore the signatures of Hon. Hugo Patt and Hon. Denise Barrow and indicated loss of confidence in Faber's leadership. After Faber survived a recall petition within the UDP in July, and had secured the support of Hon. Patt to regain his position as Opposition leader

in September, however, Panton reportedly hesitated prior to offering her signature in support of Faber's return to his Opposition Leader role and called for the holding of a National Party Council before she pledged her support for Faber.

Now that Barrow is claiming that he has the support of the majority of the representatives within the UDP, however, Panton is focused on garnering the support of the majority of the party's 570 delegates, who in fact will select the new leader of the party on March 27.

In a recent Facebook post, Panton stated, "As I begin my campaign to become the next Party Leader of the United Democratic Party, I look forward to meeting with you, talking to you, listening to you, and giving you the opportunity to get to know me better.

My candidacy represents the change our great United Democratic Party needs at this time. It is absolutely important that we choose a leader that will help us re-establish our credibility as a mass political party; regain the trust and confidence of the Belizean People, and inspire independent voters to give us an opportunity to govern Belize."

On the matter of domestic violence and allegations of domestic abuse made against Barrow by his wife, Panton said, "We must hold our leaders to the highest standards of behavior and as leaders, our character must be beyond reproach. We can not have different standards for those who aspire for the highest office in the land. Domestic violence is a critical issue of national importance. Two persons have been publicly accused of domestic violence. One has been forced to resign."

In response to this, Barrow remarked, "History will record, that when she had the opportunity to stand up for all GBV victims, when she had the opportunity to stand up for women, when she had the opportunity to stand up for the United Democratic Party, when she had the opportunity to stand up for the country of Belize, who desperately needs a viable opposition, she refused. She stood up for the accused, she made a deal with the accused who, unlike me, that was not the first instance, that was the third instance that we knew of, and she chose to be an apologist, she chose to be a sympathizer, rather than stand up, so she should be the last one to talk about those issues, and it is really shameful to use such a serious issue as a political tool."

It is to be noted that at the time, after the video of Faber's domestic incident had surfaced, Hon. Panton had, in fact, issued a statement condemning all forms of gender-based violence, but had opposed the manner in which Hon. Barrow and two other UDP area reps had attempted to oust him — citing instead the need to comply with the protocols outlined in the party's constitution. She had said that it was important to ascertain the will of the majority of the party's delegates.

"We did not seek to hear the consensus of the people of the party, the delegates and those decision-makers of the party, and therefore I was unprepared to sign a letter unilaterally that did not reflect what the party's decision-makers thought was the best way forward. I wrote to the Chairman requesting a National Party Council, which is the highest decision-making body of the party, and I wasn't told that we needed to agitate for a National Party Council and I also my colleagues at the time, up to them agitate for the National Party Council, and I was told the time for talking was done," Panton later explained to local reporters.

A national convention is tentatively



Shyne Barrow at swearing-in

set for March 27 of this year. Both candidates are seeking the support of the majority of the 570 national delegates who make up the base of the party. Barrow is already confident that he has the majority of these key votes on his side. Panton, for her part, has said that she is putting her faith in them to make the right decision.

"The ultimate authority of the United Democratic Party is the national convention, which are the delegates that vote and the National Party Council. The central executive acts as a recommender; they can suggest, as some people would say they could "*halla Rome and Jerome*," but ultimately the National Party Council makes the decision, and with the endorsement of 20 of the constituencies, certainly I have the majority support in the National Party Council, so we have already decided that I will be the Leader of the Opposition. We have already decided that we are ready for a convention to allow the people, the delegates, to make the ultimate decision," she said.

When interviewed yesterday about a meeting with representatives of the UDP Caucus of Change which supposedly led to the decision of the majority of the UDP representatives of the country's 31 constituencies to support Hon. Barrow's leadership bid, Panton said that there were not as many people in attendance at that meeting she attended as is being reported by Barrow. She also said that some "representatives" of constituencies within the UDP Caucus for Change were new within the group and were not, in fact, official standard bearers. She counted 11 caretakers in attendance, while Shyne indicated the support of 20 of these purportedly key persons.

"Maybe I should clarify that endorsement that comes from colleagues. I attended that meeting as well on Saturday. Most candidates were invited to meet with colleagues to share their views on the way forward for the party. At the meeting I attended, there were 11 persons present, 7 of whom were caretakers of the party, 4 coming from other constituencies but not as caretakers. So their claim that there were 19 participants attending that meeting, is really not consistent with the meeting I attended. I don't know if there were 19 people at a meeting my colleague was at but certainly not at the meeting that I attended with this group of colleagues," Panton has said.

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Low carbon public transport system launched

Continued from Page 1

This European Union funded project is being administered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Belize Country Office. The project supports Belize's commitment to the Nationally Determined Contributions to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Low Emission Development Strategy (LEDS). This project promotes electric mobility with a view to support Belize's transition away from the contemporary carbon alternatives currently utilized by Belize's transportation sector.

Among those present at the project launch were UNDP Programme Analyst, Ms. Diane Wade; Minister for Public Utilities, Energy and

Logistics, Hon. Michel Chebat; Minister of State for the Ministry of Public Utilities, Energy and Logistics, Hon. Gilroy Usher; His Worship Mayor Bernard Wagner; Head of Cooperation for the Delegation of the European Union to Belize, His Excellency Aniceto Rodriguez-Ruiz; and the UNDP Deputy Resident Representative, Ian King.

Ms. Diane Wade gave an overview of the e-mobility initiative by outlining its three outcomes: (1) e-mobility institutionalization-creating an ecosystem for e-mobility, (2) demonstration of e-mobility application in the public transport sector and (3) enabling investments in e-mobility and the upscaling of the system.

Hon. Gilroy Usher spoke on the transition from gas vehicles to

electric vehicles and the benefits it will bring to Belize.

Mayor Bernard Wagner, who represented the Belize City Council as a project partner, brought attention to the very real dangers of climate change and the impacts it can have on Belize City if steps are not taken to reduce emissions and implement best practices. As a stakeholder in this project, the Belize City Council is currently awaiting the arrival of the first electric buses in Belize City that will be integrated in the public transport system.

Mayor Wagner said, "For us, it fits into our local mandate to transform Belize City into a smart and healthy city; one that embraces green

technology, social development and innovative solutions to our transportation, health and economic concerns."

Project partners include the Government of Belize, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), European Union, Belize City Council, United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCC), UN Environment's Electric Mobility Programme, Belize Electricity Limited (BEL) and South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTrC).

The total budget for the project is 4.5 million euros and it is expected to be completed in 39 months.



H.E Aniceto Rodriguez-Ruiz, Head of Cooperation, Delegation of the European Union to Belize, His Worship Mayor Bernard Wagner, Mayor of Belize City and President of the Belize Mayors' Association, Hon. Michel Chebat, Minister of Public Utilities, Energy and Logistics, Hon. Gilroy Usher, Minister of State in the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Transport, Mr. Ian King, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Belize

Xaibe man hacked to death

Continued from Page 1

of an unpainted cement bungalow house where they discovered the motionless body of Fermin Rivera, 67, the caretaker of the farm. Police observed the body with multiple apparent chop wounds. Rivera, a naturalized Belizean, is a resident of Xaibe Village.

Initial investigations reveal that earlier that same morning, at around 5 a.m., Rivera was attacked, tied up, and chopped multiple times.

This evening a news team from CTV3 visited the area and police, who were still on the scene, asked them to leave as canvassing and investigations were still being done.

The last murder that occurred in the Orange Walk District was on Christmas Day when Steve Gilbert Patten, 57, was ambushed and stabbed multiple times by an unknown assailant.

We will have more on this latest murder in Tuesday's edition.



Scene of murder

Tracy eyes Party leader, Shyne takes LOO

Continued from Page 41

She said that she did not attend a first meeting held by the caucus, at which there may well have been 19 representatives in attendance and reiterated that only 11 reps were at the meeting she attended.

The United Democratic Party has seemingly been in a state of flux since the ascension of Patrick Faber to leadership. The reputed leader of the UDP Caucus for change, John Saldivar, had initially secured that leadership spot at a UDP convention in 2020 prior to the retirement of Rt. Hon. Dean Barrow, but a short time later, after testimony in a Utah court indicated a financial link between him and convicted US fraudster Lev Dermen, another convention was held at which Patrick seized the top spot.

The UDP, following two domestic violence incidents in which Hon. Faber was allegedly involved over the last few months, is once again scrambling to reorganize itself following the stability that existed within the party during the 20 years that Rt. Hon. Dean Barrow was at the helm — particularly during the 13-year-period that spanned three consecutive administrations during which he was the country's prime minister. The new Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Moses "Shyne" Barrow, the eldest son of Rt. Hon. Dean Barrow, when pressed on whether his father's departure is the reason for the UDP's current woes, said that the writing was on the wall for some time.

"If you recall in 2019- 2020 for the first convention, again, an overwhelming majority of standard-bearers....there were members of Cabinet that said they would resign if the former leader of the party were to become leader. All of them supported Mr. Saldivar to be leader; the former leader of the party lost handily. Whatever happened to Mr. Saldivar happened, and there were members of Cabinet that said 'if anyone ah unu put in unu name we wah resign from the Cabinet'. The point is, regardless of

what happened to Mr. Saldivar, nobody wanted Mr. Faber to lead the party," Barrow said.

In regard to his earlier endorsement of Pantan as the right person to lead the UDP a few months ago and his own vision for the party, Hon. Shyne Barrow stated during a recent interview, "I begged the Hon. Pantan to be the Leader of the Opposition. We begged her to take up the position so that we can show the country this is who the UDP is and let us move on and start that rebuilding process around her. I would have been her party whip, all of us would have come around her, but she chose Patrick over principle. So, there is no hunger, there is no greed on my part, but there is a necessity." Barrow said.

In response to those comments, Pantan told local media, "I certainly felt that we should have followed the guidelines outlined in the constitution properly, and I was not prepared, outside of that, at that time given the environment, given all the agendas that were at play, I really did not feel that it was the right time for me, because I was not prepared to abandon the constitution of the party."

While Hon. Barrow said that his aim is to unite the party and ensure that the UDP is "the opposition that the country of Belize needs," Pantan, in outlining her leadership vision, stated in a Facebook post, "We are at a critical crossroads in our organization's political history. There is an urgent need for us to re-establish the party's credibility as a mass political party. There is an urgent need for us to regain the trust and confidence of the Belizean people if we are to remain a viable alternative to govern. We need to inspire hope among those who look to us for leadership. My bid to lead the United Democratic Party will achieve these objectives: credibility, trust, confidence."

As mentioned, no official letter of resignation from Patrick Faber has been made public, but a national UDP leadership convention is tentatively set for March 27.

Borders reopen on Feb 7, ONLY for fully vaxxed

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symptoms. Thereafter they will then be required to go and do their test. But once you are overnight, or more than 24 hours, then you must be required to test at the border points," Minister Bernard outlined.

The cost of each test will be \$100, and these will be administered by the private entities in place at the border crossing. The high price of the Antigen Rapid tests, however, may rub Belizean travelers the wrong way. When asked about the possibility of public disapproval of this requirement, Minister Bernard said that the reopening of the borders will require that these restrictions be put in place.

"We are saying to you, if you want to go travel over to Mexico or Guatemala or wherever you choose to go, that's your choice, your personal choice. This issue, though, when you come back, you have to pay that fee. I think that's far from the point, the point is that we are opening our border but we have to have certain restrictions," Minister Bernard said.

The Ministry is hoping for a smooth transition, and Minister Bernard does not think the number of locals who will cross the northern border will be as high as was seen on past occasions prior to the pandemic. Notably, all regulations, COVID-19 and otherwise, remain in place at the customs and immigration section of the border crossing.

At this time, various self-testing solutions are available worldwide. In Belize, a way has not yet been found to properly implement self-testing as a part of our monitoring of the spread of the disease while ensuring surveillance is not affected. Minister Bernard said that they will continue to have that conversation next week, but for now, those going across the border will have to use the testing facilities available at the border crossings.

In contrast, persons entering the country through the Philip Goldson International Airport are allowed to bring a recent COVID-19 test from their home country for clearance. In the case of the land borders, all persons, Belizean and tourists, will have to be administered the test on the Belize side of the border, and pay the \$100 fee.

"We want to ensure the safety of our citizens, people that are coming are free from COVID-19 and if you are a tourist and you tested positive then you need to return to the country where you came from," explained Bernard.

Dr. Melissa Diaz-Musa, the Deputy Manager of the Central Health Region, explained the reasoning for testing after the 24-hour window:

"If you are obviously ill, we would like you to say to us that I have a fever, I feel unwell, because the whole entire purpose is for us to detect early and isolate persons early and get treatment early if you are unwell. With regards to the 24 hours, remember that in Health we do surveillance, so the incubation period of this virus is anywhere from 1 to 14 days, right, so you can be exposed and on day 13 you start with symptoms, most commonly it is before 5 days. And the reason we've done the 24 hours is it's a true surveillance, trying to pick up cases. We are not saying that you got it from Mexico. We are not saying, 'ohh its what you did over there', but we want to pick it up, isolate you early so that we can contain the spread in the country," Dr. Diaz-Musa said.

Belizean nationals who test positive at the border and are not in private transportation will have to hire a gold standard vehicle to take them home,

where they will need to isolate for up to 10 days.

During an interview, this week Tourism Minister Anthony Mahler outlined the importance of the reopening of the land borders to the tourism sector.

"The land borders, or traffic through the borders, is important for us. It represents almost 20% of the overnight arrivals, and so it is long-awaited. We have opened like kinda- kinda, we say we're partially opened for tourists, but even though we're opened, the borders are closed on 12 o'clock on the weekends, when a lot of people travel, so it is important that we open up. We have to continue to work with the Ministry of Health to ensure that we do so with the necessary protocols so that our people can be safe," Minister Mahler said.

Today, in an exclusive interview with AMANDALA, Belize's Ambassador to Mexico, H.E. Oscar Arnold, noted that Mexico has been one of the countries with very limited restrictions as it relates to presenting proof of vaccination and negative COVID-19 tests. He informed us, however, that a strong emphasis is being placed on prevention measures.

"Mexico was one of the countries that did not close down its port of entry, and so their land borders, as well as their airports, remained open throughout the pandemic, so they don't have any restrictions. For example, you can fly to Mexico, you can cross the border and you don't need to present any PCR or rapid test. They do, however, observe social distancing, wearing of masks, sanitizing, as well as taking an individual's temperature before they enter any building or business establishment, so those basically are what Belizeans will see or will have to look out for," Ambassador Arnold said.

He outlined that a four-color monitoring system is in place in Mexico, with each tier determining the level of activity that is allowed. At this time, he said that the state of Quintana Roo is currently in the yellow stage, which means activities have resumed under strict precautions.

"They have a color system. Depending on the color system that they are under, for example, red is high contagious, then there is orange, and then there is yellow, and then there is green. Depending on the color that the state or the municipality might be under at that time, that will tell you the percentage of people that will be allowed to be inside businesses at any given time, for example a restaurant. So you may have 30%, then 50%, then 60%, and that sort of thing. I believe Quintana Roo right now should be yellow," he said.

He shared that the COVID-19 numbers in the various states are monitored weekly and changes are made to their classification under the color system if needs be. He also noted that typically persons are not required to present proof of vaccination or a negative PCR test in order to enter public buildings, but there have been some instances where he was asked to be swabbed when entering specific buildings on specific occasions.

"I've been to some meetings here in Mexico City in certain private buildings, and for certain meetings, you would take a rapid test while entering or while going into the meeting and just wait for your result. But that is not something that is widespread, that was more in individual cases depending on the type of meeting that I was going to so, no mandates, no requirement to present your vaccination card... However, we will be monitoring on the ground the traffic through the

border points or the border entries, and we believe if there are any changes, they will advise us, and we will then advise the authorities back home," he further explained.

It's been almost two years since the closure of the land borders, with a partial reopening for tourists occurring last year. Businesses and individuals on both sides have experienced severe economic impacts as a result of the closure, with some businesses on the Mexican side closing their doors, due to the lack of business from Belizean patrons. Ambassador Arnold said Quintana Roo has been waiting and is ready for the reopening.

"Especially the border towns, like Quintana Roo, they are ready. They've been wanting this for some time, because obviously, the economic activity has severely impacted with the border closure. I think prior to COVID in 2019, some statistics showed that we have about 30,000 Belizeans who cross the border to go into Mexico for either leisure, for vacation, for medical treatment for school, all sorts of stuff, and that stop. I believe in the bordering cities in Quintana Roo, some business had actually shuttered their windows and their doors because they just

could not simply keep up. And so the economic activity that they are expecting will be well received, obviously back home depending on whom you speak to, they will say 'you know what, it's bad, because we will be losing business that will take flight and go across the border, but it goes both ways, because there are some Mexicans and some tourists who would want to come and experience and see what we have here to offer,' Ambassador Arnold further said.

While much interest is being placed on the northern crossing, the western land border that is shared with Guatemala will also be reopened for those of the general public who are vaccinated.

"At the end of the day, especially, for now, I tell Belizeans, I tell my family and friends, it's a personal choice. Not because the borders are opened means that you want to come and see what's going on over on the other side. But you have to put your own personal health and family health and decide what you want to do. I would advise anyone to wear their mask, to sanitize to do social distancing and try to limit the amount of contact that they have if they do want to cross the border," Ambassador Arnold said.

Travel insurance push back

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letter, they called the travel insurance another tax for the government and said it was untenable, given the struggling tourism industry.

Those protesting the insurance said it would create more hassle for travellers who plan to come to Belize, and it will lead them to go to competing destinations. The letter states, "It places our industry at a disadvantage with our international competitors and may present a drop in reservations. This may also lead to a further reduction in jobs and indeed GoB foreign currency and tax dollar income from our viable export product."

These major hotels, 15 in total reported by local media, are clamoring for the government to revisit its position. "In short," their letter states, "we would like GOB to retract this proposal and allow incoming guests to choose their insurance vendors as they have been doing successfully up to now, with local insurance options. Backed up by data, we know that hospitalization has decreased dramatically for the vaccinated, which means they ought to have the option of visiting Belize without an insurance policy."

In an interview this week with Tourism Minister, Anthony Mahler, he outlined that the policy seeks to protect travellers, and the smaller hotels which make up the majority of the accommodations landscape in Belize.

"We have looked at this thing for some time; we were in a position where Omicron was raging all over the place, there were a lot of cancellations, and so we are trying to help to protect the industry. We have almost 900 hotels throughout this country and most of them are under 10 rooms. Most of them, after two years of being devastated by COVID are on the brink, and so we have to ensure that not only the big players survive, but also the small players. We are in constant communication with the Ministry of Health. There are many countries across

the world that require insurance; that is the reality. I've spoken to ministers abroad who have that requirement as a part of the protocols for entering their country," Minister Mahler said.

Travel insurance has been imposed in various Caribbean islands since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. In Aruba, all travellers are required to purchase COVID-19 travel insurance from the Government. The Bahamas also has included in the cost of their travel health visa, the cost to cover mandatory insurance from that country; and Jamaica has implemented the "Jamaica Cares" mandatory travel vaccine for all visitors entering the country.

The Belize Tourism Industry Association has come out in support of the travel insurance which is set to be implemented by February 15. Minister Mahler shared that the portal to purchase travel insurance will be up as early as next week, and reports of cancellations due to lack of accessibility would be looked into and addressed.

Recently, COVID-19 clusters were identified in cruise ships allowed to dock in Belize, and the group of concerned business persons in the tourism industry questioned why the travel insurance is not being imposed on them.

"We know that the previous three hospitalizations of covid patients came from cruise ships and yet when we posed the question to BTB and the Ministry, we were told that cruise tourism was not included in the immediate scheme and would be phased in later.

Why?" the letter from those protesting the mandatory travel insurance asked Minister Mahler.

Minister Mahler told media that the entities namely, The Lodge at Chaa Creek, Tropic Air, Victoria, House Resort, Blancaneaux Lodge, Turtle Inn, Hidden Valley Inn, El Pescador, Copal Tree, Chabil Mar Villas, San Ignacio Hotel, Blu Zen, Alaia Belize, Hamanasi resort and, Ramon's village resort have already been responded to by his Ministry.

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