

Belize's leading newspaper

Garifuna Nation joins Maya in FPIC debate

“We — the Garifuna Nation — take umbrage, and are very alarmed and concerned about the Government of Belize through its Cabinet pretense of actually engaging in discussions with the Maya about a Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) protocol without including us Garifuna,” a release from the Garifuna Nation states.



Egbert Higinio – President of Garifuna Nation and Joseph Guerrero – Lands Minister of Garifuna Nation

by Marco Lopez

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Feb. 16, 2022

The Garinagu people—who are one of the two indigenous groups within the country of Belize, and who have been declared “Masterpieces of Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity” by UNESCO—comprise a nation of approximately 800,000 persons, without borders, and international in its scope. It’s thus

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Police riddle disturbed man with rubber bullets

Norman Rodriguez, the lawyer assisting the victim’s family, believes the incident could have been avoided if the police officers had exercised more discretion.

Long lines at PGIA on 1st day of travel insurance requirement



by Khaila Gentle

LADYVILLE, Belize District, Tues. Feb. 15, 2022

The Belize Travel Health Insurance

plan, mandatory for most non-residents visiting the country, was implemented on Tuesday and resulted

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Unannounced fuel-price increase!

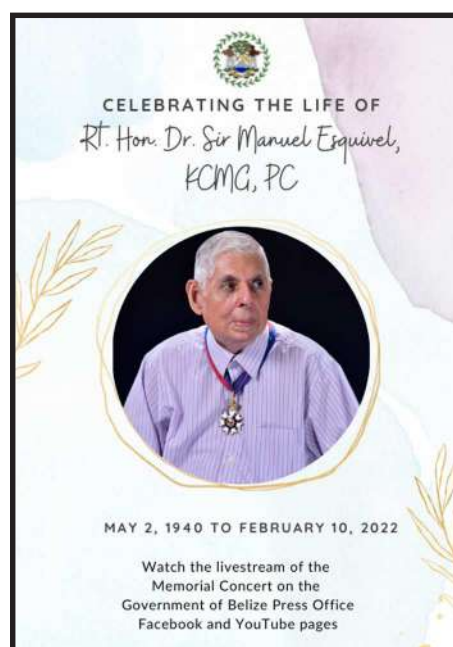
BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Feb. 17, 2022

Fuel prices have been on a constant upward trajectory for over a year, with a number of increases taking place since the new PUP administration took office in November 2020—and



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Sir Manuel Esquivel honoured with memorial concert



by Khaila Gentle

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Feb. 16, 2022

This week, the life of the Rt. Hon. Dr. Sir Manuel Esquivel was celebrated with a State Memorial which included a procession by means of which his ashes were escorted from the Esquivel family home on Daly Street to the House of Culture this Tuesday and a memorial

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Joshua Smith

by Khaila Gentle

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Feb. 16, 2022

In yet another incident involving excessive use of force by police officers, 26-year-old Belize City resident, Joshua Smith was hospitalized after officers responding to a call by Smith’s mother riddled his face and body with rubber bullets. On Friday, February 12, Joshua’s mother, Lara Smith, arrived home to find her son wielding a knife and a hammer, with blood on his hands and acting unlike himself. Unsure of what was wrong, Smith called the police,

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Curfew might end soon

(See story on page 3)

CCJ accepted into ICCE



by *Khaila Gentle*

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad & Tobago, Tues. Feb. 15, 2022

The Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) has been accepted into the International Consortium for Court Excellence (ICCE) and is the first court in the region to receive such an honor. Those accepted into the ICCE, an international network of courts and other organizations with expertise in court/judicial administration, are entities that have demonstrated a commitment to excellence using an International Framework for Court Excellence (IFCE). Other current members of the ICCE include the Supreme Court of Singapore, the Supreme Federal Court of Brazil, the High Court of Namibia, the National Centre for States Courts of the United States, and the Dubai International Financial Centre Courts.

The ICCE, which was introduced to the CCJ by its former president, the Rt. Hon. Sir Dennis Byron, in 2016, was designed to help courts improve their performance in the areas of court management and leadership, court policies, court proceedings, public trust and confidence, user satisfaction, court resources, and affordable and accessible court resources—a total of seven core areas. According to a press release from the CCJ, this then led to an objective self-assessment by the Court and the subsequent initiation of several projects to address all the limitations that were

identified during the assessment. Since then, the ICCE has influenced all of the CCJ's projects, initiatives, and organizational processes, including the implementation of an online E-filing

system which reduces the time and funds that individuals have to spend on filing; the implementation of a Human Resources Information System, and the introduction of Enterprise Risk Management to help the Court identify and manage risks—all of which have helped the Court to transform the way it operates.

In receiving the prestigious honor on behalf of the Court, the current president of the CCJ, the Hon. Mr. Justice Adrian Saunders, thanked employees of the Court for contributing to its achievement and noted that the journey is far from finished.

"While we can proudly state that we are living our strategic vision of being a model of judicial excellence, excellence is not a static achievement. It is a non-stop cycle that requires continuous improvement," he stated.

The CCJ president also pledged that the Court will continue in its efforts to serve the region to the best of its ability and to fulfill its mission of providing "accessible, fair, and efficient justice for the people and states of the Caribbean Community."

Under the leadership of Justice Saunders, the ICCE system has now been fully incorporated into the CCJ's administrative practices.

The Caribbean Court of Justice, inaugurated in Port of Spain, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on 16 April 2005, joins the ICCE just a few months before its 17th anniversary.

PM issues strong response to Chamber of Commerce

by *Khaila Gentle*

BELMOPAN, Mon. Feb. 14, 2022

Three weeks after the Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) sent out a letter to the Government of Belize that urged it to "preserve rule of law" for the sake of investors and referenced the blockades staged by cañeros at ASR/BSI's Towerhill compound and the recent industrial actions taken by the stevedores of the Christian Workers Union, the Office of the Prime Minister has issued a response.

"It is indeed unfortunate that your organization would pen a letter to my office with such false allegations," stated the Prime Minister, who further noted, "The entire country knows that on both occasions, the government intervened, and the outcomes were negotiated in the best interest of all stakeholders."

The Prime Minister went on to state in the letter that on both occasions referenced by the B.C.C.I., security forces were present to maintain peace and protect private property. Hon. Briceño then noted, however, that those security forces were not there to infringe on anyone's constitutional rights or to harm any citizen, "as has been the case before".

The B.C.C.I. letter referenced by the Prime Minister had reprimanded the Government of Belize, as well as Belizean law enforcement, for lack of action in deterring what the Chamber called civil disobedience that has, in their view, led to a decline in investor confidence.

"As you may already be aware, over time there have been certain actors who have infringed on private property by squatting or, worse yet, physically damaging said property or illegally blockading access to businesses through threat of violence," stated the letter. Additionally, it made reference to the existence of a number of mechanisms for resolving conflict, and asserted

especially for essential items, as it continues to closely monitor price movements," the release from Cabinet states.

While the global shipping crisis has caused an increase in the prices of imported goods across the world, what has been noted by some consumers is a drastic elevation in prices that has in several instances far exceeded the increases necessitated by shipping costs etc. Along with the ever-rising cost of fuel and butane, the increased cost of basic goods will continue to negatively impact Belizean households.



PM Hon. John Briceño

that, due to the presence of such mechanisms, different points of view should not result in violence or illegal acts. The B.C.C.I. then urged the Government of Belize to "unequivocally communicate to local and foreign investors alike that Belize steadfastly upholds the rule of law and is a country that is serious about doing business."

In the Prime Minister's response, he reminded the Chamber of an instance when upholding rule of law, in the manner that the Chamber seemed to have desired, resulted in the death of a citizen. Atanacio Gutierrez was killed in Orange Walk in 2009 when law enforcement used excessive force in responding to a protest by cañeros near the Tower Hill sugar factory. And, while not mentioned in the letter, many recall the chilling moment in July 2020, when eleven stevedores were fired upon with rubber bullets and tear-gassed by GSU officers during a peaceful protest—which reportedly left one stevedore with physical limitations that make him unable to carry out his tasks at the Port of Belize without the assistance of fellow stevedores.

In reference to such instances of excessive, in fact brutal, use of force against unarmed workers, the Prime Minister made a poignant point in his letter to the Chamber: "We would hope and expect that such actions and deadly results are not the method of upholding the rule of law your organization contemplates, but rather, the civilized approach taken by this administration in the two instances you cited in your letter,"

In his letter, Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño also reminded the B.C.C.I. that while its responsibility lies only with the group of businesses and commercial interests that it represents, the government is responsible, both socially and economically, for all its citizens.

"We do not intend to abdicate this responsibility, and this government will always seek to intervene in the best interest of the country," the Prime Minister's letter stated at its conclusion.

GOB going after price gougers

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Feb. 17, 2022

Today, the Government of Belize announced in a Cabinet release that it will be cracking down on those grocery stores and businesses currently engaged in price-gouging across the country. Since late last year and in the early part of this year, Belizeans have been seeing a steady increase, and in some instances, precipitous spikes, in the prices of goods sold countrywide. Belizean consumers have been severely impacted by these price increases, which have been widely reported but had hitherto prompted no substantial efforts on the part of the government or the wider business community to rein in retailers engaged in the unethical practice.

Today, however, GOB indicated in its release that it is on a fast track to

implement new legislation and enforcement measures to punish these offenders.

"With a view to address the rising cost of living and in the interest of protection of consumers, legislative and enforcement measures shall be taken on a prompt basis to punish price gouging offenders ...," the Cabinet release that was issued today states.

One of these measures will be a new ticketing system, under which violators will be slapped with "strict fines per violation," stated the release. The government will also set up a reporting system for the public.

"A public reporting system will also be established for the reporting of overpricing of controlled items. Cabinet will also consider other protection and relief mechanisms,

Curfew might end soon

(From page 1)

Minister of Health and Wellness, Hon. Kevin Bernard, will meet with Cabinet to discuss possibly ending the curfew and reducing Covid-19 testing at the country's land borders

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Feb. 17, 2022

Earlier this week, Minister of Health and Wellness, Hon. Kevin Bernard, mentioned to a local media house that in a few weeks the curfew—which has been in effect in varying forms since April 2020 when Covid-19 was first detected in Belize—might be removed.

The latest version of the curfew came into effect on Monday, February 7, and is to end on March 6. Currently, the curfew period starts at 11:00 p.m. and ends at 4:00 a.m. from Sunday to Thursday and lasts from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

When interviewed this week by CTV3, however, Minister Bernard, who took over the oversight of the Health Ministry just a few weeks ago after PM Briceño's reshuffling of Cabinet portfolios, stated that he is over 95 percent confident that the curfew will cease sometime next month. Minister Bernard said that, following discussions with the COVID-19 Medical Response Team, he has reached the conclusion that it might be time to lift the curfew.

"While I know the curfew has had its own advantages, at the same time, people have been frustrated that being locked out, being locked out has been too long and constantly you know, the request has been coming in. When I met a few weeks ago with the COVID Medical Response Team, they also

feel that it is time for us to look at it. So the curfew is one, the top priority, in trying to get that out of the way pretty soon. I'm more than 95% sure that that will happen," he said.

Another adjustment that is reportedly being mulled within the Ministry of Health and Wellness is a reduction in the cost of COVID-19 testing at the border. While Hon. Michel Chebat was at the helm of the Health Ministry, the Belize Diagnostic Center was granted the contract to administer COVID-19 testing at the country's land borders. Belizeans crossing the land border and spending over twenty-four hours in a neighboring country must pay \$100 to receive a COVID-19 test upon returning to Belize—a price that many Belizeans have viewed as too high. According to the Health Minister, those in the ministry are currently engaged in talks aimed at possibly reducing the price of such testing.

"We are in discussion with the providers to see the price range to make it a little bit more affordable to the Belizean people. We are also cognizant of the fact, there may be a point down the road that may not be needed at all. We are in discussion with this provider to see where we can work some adjustments, and they're leaning to that, and so hopefully we can have a proper response within the time when we make those announcements. At the same time, The Belize Diagnostic is

creating employment; you have people employed. They have to have the PPEs. They have to have the equipment. These things cost, so you can't expect somebody to provide, and again if it cost them, it will also cost the government if we were to go and do it," Hon. Bernard noted.

Minister Bernard further stated that the Health Ministry is also considering removing the testing requirement for all those who re-enter the country after spending less than three nights across the border.

"We look at the border, we look at the numbers coming, and we look at the effects of the border opening. So our numbers are showing that is steady, it is manageable, and so if this trend continues over the next week or two, we are going to make that recommendation once the positivity rate remains between 10 to 15 percent, then we move away from the overnight and take it up after a three-night stay," he said.

In reference to the suggestion that the government itself should carry out the testing at the border instead of a private company, Minister Bernard said that the ministry does not have sufficient human resources to be operating testing services at the borders and throughout the country.



**Hon. Kevin Bernard,
Minister of Health and Wellness**

"Because of COVID, we have taken these officers out of their normal responsibility such as making sure dengue, malaria, and all these other illness. You know, the food handlers training and all these things that constantly going on and monitoring across the country, they have a task. And so, what we need to remember is that because of COVID, we would have to utilize also these public health officers to be out there assisting with the swabbing, assisting with contact tracing, and now that the border is open, they are also stretched very thin. So I believe, it was in that wisdom that the decision was made. The Ministry itself does not have the human capacity or the numbers to be able to manage both of these," he said.

Minister Bernard has noted that comprehensive documents will be presented to Cabinet sometime next week in support of the curfew removal and the reduction of the price of COVID-19 testing at the land borders.

Pilot, 21, charged for hit-and-run

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Feb. 16, 2022

A 21-year-old pilot who resides in Corozal Town was arrested and charged in connection with a hit-and-run accident, which occurred last Wednesday, February 9, at about 5:40 p.m. The victim of the accident, 20-year-old Odriel Tzul, had been exiting the Corozal Free Zone (CFZ) compound and was walking on the right side of the road, toward the Belize Northern Border when, about 300 yards from the entrance of the CFZ, he was hit from behind by an SUV driven by Brandon Acosta, 21.

Acosta reportedly kept driving without offering aid to the injured man, and it appeared that his intention was to flee the scene, but moments later, his car reportedly collided with a van that was heading in the opposite direction. He was then He was then apprehended by police, but reportedly refused to let them obtain a blood/urine sample from him.

Tzul was transported to the Corozal Community Hospital for medical treat-



Brandon Acosta

ment and later to the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital due to the head and body injuries he had sustained. It was reported today, Wednesday, February 16, that he passed away due to those injuries at approximately 3:02 p.m.

Acosta is facing three charges – one count each of failing to keep as possible to the right side of the road, driving without due care and attention, and failing to provide a blood specimen. He will also likely face manslaughter charges, in light of the death of Tzul today.

Ahmadiyya Muslim community inaugurate new mosque

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Feb. 17, 2022

The Ahmadiyya Muslim community is preparing to inaugurate their new Masjid Noor Mosque, located outside of Belize City on the George Price Highway, on Friday, February 17. Heads of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community met with local media the day before the inaugural ceremony to discuss the significance of their mosque and their humanitarian works.

Prior to the construction of the mosque, the community had been using various buildings as their place of worship, while doing their humanitarian works throughout the country.

According to the president of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at Canada, Lakhan Sahib, the newly built mosque will be used for others to gain a closer connection to God and to grow in love for other human beings.



Lakhan Sahib, Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at

"We believe the building has two parts—the rights of god, and the other part is the rights of our fellow human being, and if we have belief in God, he will be pleased only if we take care of one another. So a person who believes in God is going to be conscious of the rights of our fellow human beings. So we believe

GoB “planning ahead” through \$20 mil injection in Central Bank—Hon. Coye

The capitalization of the Central Bank of Belize via a 20-million dollar investment is a proactive move by the Government to protect the country’s financial system, says Senator Christopher Coye



**Senator Christopher Coye,
Minister of State**

by *Khaila Gentle*

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Feb. 14, 2022

The approval of the 70-million-dollar supplementary appropriation by the Senate during last Wednesday’s meeting has paved the way for the Government to make an investment of 20 million dollars in the capitalization of the Central Bank of Belize—the largest investment made in the Bank in its entire history. According to Minister of State in the Finance Ministry, Senator Christopher Coye, this investment is being made in an effort to fortify the bank and prevent any potential weakening of its financial position, as well as to enable it to “catch up” with the rest of the central banks in the Caribbean region in regard to its level of reserves in proportion to its GDP.

“Currently, the percentage of total capital and reserves relative to GDP for Central Bank is around 1.3%. Once we capitalize with this additional 20 million we will be around a little over 1.8% of GDP. The regional average in the Caribbean is closer to 2% of GDP, so we’re basically just—from a comparative standpoint—really just

catching up with the rest of the Caribbean in terms of the strength or the capitalization of the Central Bank,” said Coye when interviewed by local media.

Coye then went on to explain how the financial relief provided by the government (via the Central Bank) to private businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly the lockdown in 2020, could pose a risk to the country’s financial system, and he noted that the capitalization of the Central Bank will ultimately help to mitigate some of that risk.

“To provide some relief to businesses, including tourism businesses in particular, the Central Bank established certain forbearance measures and other guidances to provide a level of relief—cash flow relief through debt-servicing relief. That was adopted from way back then [in 2020] and extended for a period of over a year and a half. And that meant that a lot of businesses (this is all about private sector, this isn’t about Government or anything like that) took advantage of those forbearance measures, and so they didn’t have to pay or they restructured their debt and capitalized interest,” he stated.

“But a number of businesses were not making any payments for maybe a year or more. And that period where they don’t have to make any payments at all ended in December of last year—December 2021. So now that means that they will have to start paying, and some will be able to; some will not be able to. And so that’s obviously a risk, and the larger the number of businesses or number of overall debts that cannot be serviced, that has an impact on the financial system. It has an impact on the banks. Typically, those would become non-performing loans and you would have to do provisioning.

The banks or financial institutions have to do provisioning for non-performing loans and that can come out of their capital,” he further explained.

One of the key justifications for fortifying the Central Bank, said Coye, is that the Central Bank needs to be in a position that enables it to provide support to institutions that might be affected by those unserviceable debts.

“A prudent financial institution will ensure that they have security and is well capitalized to back up any losses, but you have to think of the different scenarios. In looking at those scenarios, to the extent that the Central Bank can leverage up in terms of lending, but it can also suffer losses. And so if it does suffer losses, those losses effectively come out of its capital reserves. And so it’s important to fortify the capital of the Central Bank to make sure that it is able to withstand losses not only just—it’s not just about lending, it’s about withstanding losses as well.”

Coye calls the investment in the bank a proactive approach, motivated by the government’s desire to ensure that there is absolute confidence in Belize’s financial systems, its banks, and its credit unions. He also noted that it also serves as a public affirmation of GoB’s confidence in the Central Bank and how it operates.

During the debate in the Senate over the appropriation bill last week, Lead Opposition Senator Michael Peyrefitte had pointed out that, at present, there is no financial institution in Belize that’s in danger of failing, and he thus questioned why it is currently necessary to invest 20 million dollars in the Central Bank. In response, Senator Coye explained that, when it comes to financial matters, a proactive approach—as opposed to a reactive one—is always necessary, and stated that the government is simply planning ahead.

“That’s not how you manage anything that has financial

implications. You have to prepare. You can’t be reactive. Look at where we were with the pandemic because we weren’t prepared—no money, borrowing a million dollars a day, there’s no contingency whatsoever. That’s what contingency is about, setting up a contingency fund so you can prepare for unforeseen events,” said Coye, who also referred to Senator Peyrefitte’s comments as irresponsible and unfortunate.

“We have to make sure that we do not create havoc in our financial system without basis. You look at the US and their Federal Reserve and how the choice of every word is so important that it impacts the financial and stock market throughout every day. It all ties back into the psychology of the consumer, the psychology of the investor, and how their confidence is affected. You can’t send the wrong message. You have to send the correct message—the true message—so that there are no missed or mixed messages put out there,” Hon. Coye further pointed out.

The Central Bank estimates of revenues and expenditures were tabled at a meeting of the House of Representatives last Friday and at the Senate meeting on Wednesday. “If the Senator had read his papers, he would have seen the financial position of the Central Bank,” noted Coye.

In its 2020 annual report and statement of accounts, the Central Bank itself expressed the importance of assessing the stability of the financial system and ensuring that that stability is maintained, noting that the importance has grown even more now due to the adverse impact of COVID-19, which has caused an increase in financial vulnerabilities.

“The Central Bank is faced with the difficult task of balancing the appropriate amount of support to provide to the financial system in the near term against containing the potential rise of medium-term macro-financial stability risks,” it stated.

Ahmadiyya Muslim community inaugurate new mosque

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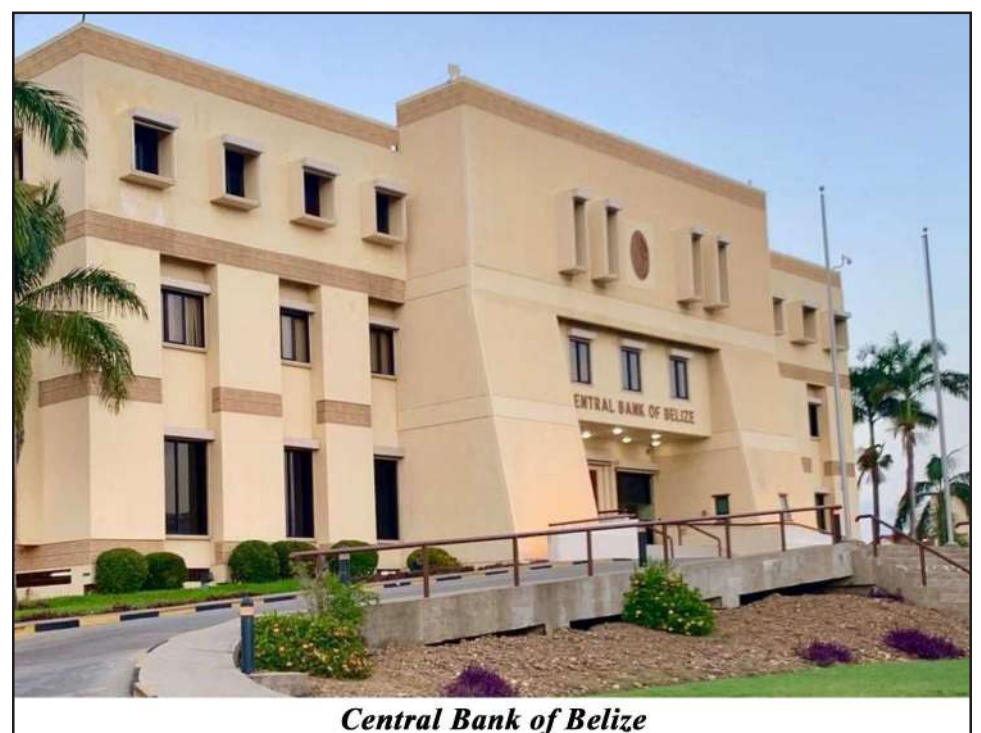
when the mosque is built and the people that come here for worship of God, it follows that they will have love for fellow human beings in their heart and the activities to take care of the less fortunate of the society would take place in the mosque and around the mosque. This is believed [to be] the basis on which humanitarian services are centered in the mosque.”

The first event scheduled to take place at the Masjid Noor Mosque is the Annual Jalsa Salana Convention, which is set for February 19. The convention, which has been held

annually since 1891, when it was first held by Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, founder of the community, is a formal gathering which takes place over the course of three days.

“The purpose of the convention is twofold. One is to enable the members of the community to come together and refresh their friendship and brotherhood/sisterhood and also let the members of the extended community who are not members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama’at, they also come and know what good work is being done by this community,” noted Shaib.

The Masjid Noor Mosque can hold an estimated 200 worshippers.



Central Bank of Belize



Sir Manuel Esquivel, two-term Prime Minister of Belize

Belize's flag flew at half-mast most of this week as the nation mourned the passing of Sir Manuel Esquivel, our second prime minister. The tributes were many, especially from members of the United Democratic Party (UDP), which he led to victory at the polls twice, first in 1984, and again in 1993.

The UDP has claimed that both Esquivel governments (1984-1989, 1993-1998) saved Belize's economy, after the People's United Party (PUP) had run it into the ground. By way of explaining why both his governments ended after one term, they say under his leadership the UDP didn't "spend the money". The UDP faithful so believe not "spending the money" cost them at the polls that when they next came to power, in 2008, under different leadership, they declared that it was "their turn", and they spent the money, to put it mildly.

Belizeans believe that Sir Manuel Esquivel was an honest man. No political leader can get a one-hundred-percent-clean report, but it is the consensus that Sir Manuel was not a crook, and that he did not allow any of his ministers to claim the people's properties as their own.

Most say Sir Manuel was miscast as a politician, and many say that greatness was thrust upon him. He was a career teacher, taught Physics at St. John's College, and when he entered the political arena in the early 1970s it was with the tiny Liberal Party, which was formed by a group of businessmen. In 1973 Philip Goldson's National Independence Party, Dean Lindo's People's Development Movement, and the Liberal Party came together to form the UDP. In 1983 Sir Manuel took over the leadership of the UDP, and one year later, in 1984, the party defeated the PUP in the general elections and he became prime minister.

Sir Manuel's UDP took over a country that was assets-rich, but financially broke. Shortly after Belize gained its independence, on September 21, 1981, the world was beset by a recession; in 1982 the bottom fell out of the price of sugar, and by 1983 Belize's financial reserves were way down, and we were forced into a standby arrangement with the International Monetary Fund.

This is the country that Manuel Esquivel took over when his party came to power in 1984. His answer to our woes was to ditch the PUP's "mixed economy" for a more capitalist-type model. Belize has always been on good terms with the US, and he moved us into a closer embrace.

Millions of dollars poured into the country from the United States during the first Esquivel government. The website countrystudies.us, under the heading "*Belize - Relations with the United States - Country Studies*," says that the "Esquivel government was eager to implement free-market policies to attract United States investment", that

"Belize was a beneficiary of the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI)", and in 1985 alone we received US\$25.7 million in assistance.

To curry favor with the US, Esquivel's first government unleashed paraquat, from the air, on everything that looked like a marijuana field in the south and the north. No serious research has been done to find out the full impact of spraying paraquat aerially, but bee farmers blamed it for a massive fall in the production of honey that would last for years, and some observers said the resulting shortage of local marijuana led users of the herb to turn to the far more potent and addictive crack cocaine.

Manuel Esquivel's first government oversaw the gobbling up of small banana growers by the big ones in the industry. No research has been done to find out if this decision was necessary, but it is a fact that from then, the banana industry, under the ownership of the big growers, has grown exponentially, to the point where its owners have emerged as one of the most powerful business groups in the country.

Manuel Esquivel's first UDP government was the first to introduce sales of passports to rich folk in the Orient. Rich Chinese citizens were supposed to come to Belize with their talent and finances, to establish factories that produced radios, televisions and other electronic devices. Some of the funds derived from passport sales were used to build sports facilities in different parts of the country, but the factories never materialized. Instead, the new Belizeans from the Orient invested in the construction of large warehouse-type buildings and took control of commerce in the country.

The standout decision of Esquivel's first government was the privatization of Belize Telecommunications Authority. In 1987 Esquivel's government formed Belize Telecommunications Ltd., sold 25% of the shares to British Telecom and reserved 24% of the shares for Belizeans who wished to participate in the new company. It was the intention of Manuel Esquivel's government that the Belizean people remain the majority shareholder in the company, forever.

Among other initiatives, the first Esquivel government increased emphasis on the tourism industry, invested to expand electricity supply and water services in rural areas, and opened the Coastal Road.

This newspaper fully expected that it would get a license to operate a radio station if the UDP won in 1984, but the UDP took over the PUP's propaganda organ, Radio Belize, and cynically declared that any attempt by the *Amandala* to operate a radio station, would be met with force. The UDP has never come close to endorsing the teaching of African and Mayan history in our schools.

While in opposition, between 1989 and 1993, Sir Manuel Esquivel and his deputy, Dean Barrow, supported the Maritime Areas Bill, which caused a split in the party in 1992, but the factions reunited when the PUP called a snap general election in 1993, 15 months early. An unprepared UDP, under the leadership of Sir Manuel, rode a wild campaign promise of "free education, free land" to victory. The party doesn't have much to show for its second term. Their response to a failing economy was to increase austerity, and when the tough measures they took failed, they retrenched around 800 public officers just before Christmas Day in 1997. In the 1998 general elections, the UDP suffered a massive defeat.

Manuel Esquivel wasn't colorful, and at least once he was painfully cold with his management of our economy, but there isn't anything in his legacy that says he exposed us to greedy foreigners or allowed ministers of government to raid our assets. Sir Manuel had his flaws, but he had a number of strong points, and for those we are grateful. It's no easy job to be prime minister.

At the time of his passing, Sir Manuel Esquivel was 81 years old. Rest in peace and rise in glory, Sir Manuel. *Amandala* sends heartfelt condolences to his family, his party, and the people of this country.



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MINISTRY OF HEALTH & WELLNESS VACANCY NOTICE

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to fill the post of **Health Economist, Policy and Planning Unit**, Ministry of Health & Wellness.

Principal Duties: The Health Economist is expected to provide expert advice in the areas of resource utilization, value for money and alternative health financing strategies. The officer is expected to monitor expenditure patterns and trends in public and private capital and recurrent health expenditure for preventative, primary Health Care, ambulatory care and hospital care; pharmaceuticals and medical equipment procurement and usage. The officer is also expected to provide advice on the implications of expenditure patterns on access, efficiency and equity in the health system.

Salary Pay Scale: 23 of \$34,428 x \$1,392.00 = \$60,876.00

Qualification: Master's Degree in Health Economics or related field and experience in policy analysis, planning, research or teaching.

Deadline: Deadline is March 1st, 2022
Application with two (2) references on professional experience and copies of qualifications and a Curriculum Vita are to be submitted to: -

Chief Executive Officer
Ministry of Health & Wellness
Belmopan
ceosecretary@health.gov.bz

Note: Please visit health.gov.bz to view the copy of the Terms of Reference for this vacant post.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH & WELLNESS VACANCY NOTICE

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to fill the post of **Health Planner, Policy and Planning Unit**, Ministry of Health & Wellness.

Principal Duties: Policy analysis and development. Human Resources planning and management; data management information system; technical assistance to health regions, monitoring Service Level Agreements; Assessment and improvement of NHI Health Care Package; improving Primary Health Care Activities; and Provide technical assistance to all four (4) Health Regions which includes all public and private institutions. Compile and develop annual national and regional reports. Assist in development of working budgets and financing for health activities.

Salary Pay Scale: 23 of \$34,428 x \$1,392.00 = \$60,876.00

Qualification: Master's Degree in a Public Health or related Social Science field is preferred.

Deadline: Deadline is March 1st, 2022
Application with two (2) references on professional experience and copies of qualifications and a Curriculum Vita are to be submitted to: -

Chief Executive Officer
Ministry of Health & Wellness
Belmopan
ceosecretary@health.gov.bz

Note: Please visit www.health.gov.bz to view the copy of the Terms of Reference for this vacant post.



Toledo Community College

Vacancies exist for the following posts at Toledo Community College.

- 1 Technical Drawing Teacher (Permanent)**
- 1 Mathematics / Geography Teacher (Permanent)**
- 1 Vice-Principal Academics (Permanent)**
- 1 English Teacher (Temporary)**

Qualifications:

For Vice Principal

- Master's Degree in Education with a Certificate in School Leadership with 3-5 years' experience. But persons with a Bachelor's Degree with a Certificate in School Leadership may also apply.

For Teachers

- Bachelor's Degree in Education in the subject area preferred, but persons with an Associate Degree in the specified area may also apply.
- Experience teaching at the CSEC level will be an asset.

Salary:

In accordance with government pay scales.

Applicants should submit: Letter of Application, Curriculum Vitae, Two (2) Letters of Recommendation, **Certified Copies** of Certificates, Transcript, Social Security Card, Recent Police Records, Birth Paper/ Passport, Medical Report, and a Valid Teacher's License to the address below:

Secretary
T.C.C. Board of Governors
P.O. Box 41
Punta Gorda Town
Belize

Deadline for application is Friday, March 4th, 2022

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

OW taxi man fights off two attackers

by Khaila Gentle

ORANGE WALK TOWN, Sun. Feb. 13, 2022

This past Saturday night, an Orange Walk cab driver was attacked by two men but was able to break free and shoot his assailants. According to

police reports, 44-year-old Cain Cansino was operating his taxi when he was approached by two men who requested to be taken to an area near Enramada Restaurant in Orange Walk Town. The duo got into the vehicle, and at some point during the drive to their destination, one of them grabbed

him from behind while the other began to stab him. Despite receiving several stab wounds, Cansino managed to break free from his attackers, and pulled out his licensed .38 revolver, with which he fired a total of six shots at them. Both men, identified as 21-year-old Wilhelm Nunez and 21-year-old Joel Arzu, were injured in the process, with Nunez being shot in his right rib cage, arm, cheek, and lower back while Arzu was shot in his throat, abdomen, and buttocks.

Police went to the area shortly after receiving reports of the incident, and all three men were taken to the Northern Regional Hospital.



Cain Cansino, Cab driver

Cansino, who has since been discharged, spoke with local media, and recounted the harrowing ordeal.

"Well, actually I work beside the Post Office, and a Hispanic male and dark complexion male came towards me. I was parked, and they said that they wanted a taxi. So they came, and before they entered the vehicle I told them 'where to' and they told me back of Pasadita area. And that was when I drove them, and they were diverting me to the place where they wanted to go. And they took me to the last street, and they told me 'how much is the cost of the taxi' and I told them ten. And when I told them ten, he told me 'stop here,'" Cansino said.

"When I stopped, that's when I just started to feel the blows that they were hitting me with, I didn't know what it was, I just felt pain and something warm dropping on my shirt. And I just— thanks to the good Lord—I just reacted a fast reaction and I don't know how I opened my door. As I came out, well the first thing I did, I was so frightened that I saw blood all dripping on me and really didn't feel or know at that time what was happening. And I took my firearm and I started to fire," he continued.

Cansino said that he was very much fearful for his life. Apart from asking him how much the ride would cost, the men said nothing to him before stabbing him in his face, his arms, and his shoulder, leaving him uncertain as to whether or not they intended to rob him.

"They just started to knock me, and attack me out of nowhere. That's all," he said. Cansino noted that this was the first time he had ever seen the men. Tearful, Cansino expressed how thankful he is to be alive, stating after the attack, that he is far too afraid to operate his cab at night.

Commissioner of Police, Chester Williams, referred to Cansino's actions as heroic and stated that, thanks to him, the investigation will be wrapped up fairly easily.

"I must say that Mr. Cansino's actions were very heroic in terms of him being able to fight off these two attackers, and despite having been stabbed several times, he was still able to draw his weapon to defend himself properly and hit them. That caused the police to be able to locate these individuals as well," said Williams.

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 20, 2022 Time: 10:30 a.m. to noon

Guest: Penelope Casasola/Labour Support and Breastfeeding Consultant

Sunday Review will be repeated at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, February 20, 2022



Belize Water Services

Public Notice

Belize Water Services Limited (BWSL) hereby serves notice that in accordance with the Water Industry Act, Chapter 222, Revised Edition 2000, Section 15(3), the company has made an application to the PUC for modification to its Authorized Service Areas under the existing license granted to BWSL by the PUC on March 22, 2001.

Modification to Authorized Service Areas

BWS has applied to the PUC to modify the Authorized Service Areas as follows:

1. Orange Walk District Service Areas:

To include: Chan Pine Ridge Village

Reasons for modification:

- The Government of Belize requested that BWSL take over the Chan Pine Ridge Village water system.
- BWS performed infrastructure works including installation of mains to connect to the Orange Walk Town system. This was completed in 2014.

2. Belize District Service Areas:

To include: Gardenia and Biscayne Villages

Reasons for modification:

- With the support of the Government of Belize, the Social Investment Fund (SIF) and BWSL entered into an agreement for the expansion of its water distribution network to the villages of Gardenia and Biscayne along the Philip Goldson Highway in the Belize District.
- The agreement specifies that the systems and expansions constructed will be owned and operated by BWS upon completion of the project. The project was completed in 2015.

3. Stann Creek District Service Areas:

To include: Sarawee Village

Reasons for modification:

- With the support of the Government of Belize, the Social Investment Fund (SIF) and BWSL entered into an agreement for the expansion of its water distribution network to the village of Sarawee in the Stann Creek District.
- The agreement specifies that the systems and expansions constructed will be owned and operated by BWS upon completion of the project. The project was completed in 2020.

License Availability:

The full text of the license granted to Belize Water Services Limited is available for viewing at the Belize Water Services Limited's website <https://bws.bz/media/BWS-License-Authorized-Service-Areas.pdf>

For more information regarding this or any other BWS

Release, please contact:

Corporate Communications at Tel: 222-4757 Ext. 1405 or 1408

or via e-mail at pr@bws.com.bz

BWS: Delivering Water and More...



Sir Manuel Esquivel, Primer Ministro de Belize por dos mandatos

La bandera de Belize ondeó a media asta la mayor parte de esta semana mientras la nación lamentaba el fallecimiento de Sir Manuel Esquivel, nuestro segundo primer ministro. Hubo muchos homenajes, especialmente de miembros del Partido Demócrata Unido (UDP por sus siglas en inglés), que él llevó a la victoria en las urnas dos veces, primero en 1984 y nuevamente en 1993.

El UDP ha afirmado que los dos gobiernos de Esquivel (1984-1989, 1993-1998) salvaron la economía de Belize, después de que el Partido Unido del Pueblo (PUP) la hundiera. Para explicar por qué sus dos gobiernos terminaron después de un período, dicen que bajo su liderazgo, el UDP no "gastó el dinero". Los fieles del UDP creen tanto que no "gastar el dinero" les costó en las urnas que cuando llegaron al poder, en 2008, bajo un liderazgo diferente, declararon que era "su turno", y gastaron el dinero, para decirlo levemente.

Los beliceños creen que Sir Manuel Esquivel era un hombre honesto. Ningún líder político puede obtener un informe cien por ciento limpio, pero el consenso es que Sir Manuel no era un ladrón y que no permitió que ninguno de sus ministros reclamara las propiedades del pueblo como propias.

La mayoría dice que a Sir Manuel se le dio un papel poco apropiado como político, y muchos dicen que se le impuso la grandeza. Era profesor de carrera, enseñaba física en el Colegio San Juan, y cuando ingresó a la arena política a principios de la década de 1970 fue con el diminuto Partido Liberal, formado por un grupo de empresarios. En 1973, el Partido de la Independencia Nacional de Philip Goldson, el Movimiento de Desarrollo Popular de Dean Lindo y el Partido Liberal se unieron para formar el UDP. En 1983, Sir Manuel se hizo cargo del liderazgo del UDP, y un año más tarde, en 1984, el partido derrotó al PUP en las elecciones generales y se convirtió en primer ministro.

El UDP de Sir Manuel tomó cargo de un país rico en activos, pero en quiebra financiera. Poco después de que Belize obtuviera su independencia, el 21 de septiembre de 1981, el mundo se vio acosado por una recesión; en 1982 el precio del azúcar se derrumbó, y para 1983 las reservas financieras de Belize estaban muy bajas, y nos vimos obligados a un acuerdo de reserva con el Fondo Monetario Internacional.

Este es el país que Manuel Esquivel asumió cuando su partido llegó al poder en 1984. Su respuesta a nuestros problemas fue deshacerse de la "economía mixta" del PUP por un modelo de tipo más capitalista. Belize siempre ha estado en buenos términos con los EE. UU., y él nos acercó a un abrazo más cercano.

Millones de dólares ingresaron al país desde los Estados Unidos durante el primer gobierno de Esquivel. El sitio web countrystudies.us, bajo el título "Belize - Relaciones con los Estados Unidos - Estudios de países", dice que el "gobierno de Esquivel estaba ansioso por implementar las políticas de libre mercado para atraer inversiones de los Estados Unidos", que "Belize era beneficiario de la Iniciativa de la Cuenca del Caribe (ICC)", y sólo en 1985 recibimos US\$25,7 millones en asistencia.

Para ganarse el favor de EE.UU., el primer gobierno de Esquivel lanzó paraquat, desde el aire, sobre todo lo que parecía un campo de marihuana en el sur y el norte. No se han realizado investigaciones serias para averiguar el impacto total de rociar paraquat por vía aérea, pero los apicultores lo culparon de una caída masiva en la producción de miel que duraría años, y algunos observadores dijeron que la resultante escasez de la marihuana llevó a consumidores locales de la hierba a pasar a la mucho más

potente y adictiva cocaína crack.

El primer gobierno de Manuel Esquivel supervisó el engullimiento de los pequeños bananeros por parte de los grandes de la industria. No se ha investigado si esta decisión era necesaria, pero es un hecho que desde entonces, la industria bananera, bajo la propiedad de los grandes productores, ha crecido exponencialmente, al punto que sus dueños se han perfilado como uno de los grupos empresariales más poderosos del país.

El primer gobierno UDP de Manuel Esquivel fue el primero en introducir la venta de pasaportes a los ricos de Oriente. Se suponía que los ricos ciudadanos chinos vendrían a Belize con su talento y sus finanzas para establecer fábricas que produjeran radios, televisores y otros dispositivos electrónicos. Parte de los fondos derivados de la venta de pasaportes se utilizó para construir instalaciones deportivas en diferentes partes del país, pero las fábricas nunca se materializaron. En cambio, los nuevos beliceños del Oriente invirtieron en la construcción de grandes edificios tipo almacén y tomaron el control del comercio en el país.

La decisión más destacada del primer gobierno de Esquivel fue la privatización de la Autoridad de Telecomunicaciones de Belize. En 1987, el gobierno de Esquivel formó Belize Telecommunications Ltd., vendió el 25% de las acciones a British Telecom y reservó el 24% de las acciones para los beliceños que deseaban participar en la nueva empresa. Era la intención del gobierno de Manuel Esquivel que el pueblo beliceño siguiera siendo el accionista mayoritario de la empresa, para siempre.

Entre otras iniciativas, el primer gobierno de Esquivel aumentó el énfasis en la industria del turismo, invirtió para ampliar el suministro de electricidad y los servicios de agua en las zonas rurales y abrió la Carretera Costera.

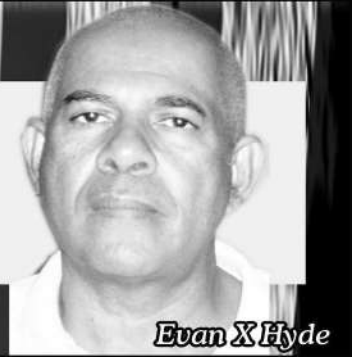
Este periódico esperaba obtener una licencia para operar una estación de radio si el UDP ganaba en 1984, pero el UDP se hizo cargo del órgano de propaganda del PUP, Radio Belize, y cínicamente declaró que cualquier intento por parte de Amandala de operar una estación de radio sería rechazado con fuerza. El UDP nunca se ha acercado a respaldar la enseñanza de la historia africana y maya en nuestras escuelas.

Mientras estaba en la oposición, entre 1989 y 1993, Sir Manuel Esquivel y su vice primer ministro, Dean Barrow, apoyaron el Proyecto de Ley de Áreas Marítimas, que provocó una división en el partido en 1992, pero las facciones se reunieron cuando el PUP convocó elecciones generales anticipadas en 1993, 15 meses temprano. Un UDP no preparado, bajo el liderazgo de Sir Manuel, lideró hasta la victoria una alocada promesa de campaña de "educación gratuita, tierra gratuita". El partido no tiene mucho que mostrar para su segundo mandato. Su respuesta a una economía en crisis fue aumentar la austeridad, y cuando las duras medidas que tomaron fracasaron, despidieron a unos 800 funcionarios públicos justo antes del día de Navidad de 1997. En las elecciones generales de 1998, el UDP sufrió una derrota masiva.

Manuel Esquivel no era colorido, y al menos una vez fue dolorosamente frío con su manejo de nuestra economía, pero no hay nada en su legado que diga que nos expuso a extranjeros codiciosos o permitió que los ministros del gobierno saquearan nuestros activos. Sir Manuel tenía sus defectos, pero tenía varios puntos fuertes, y por eso estamos agradecidos. No es un trabajo fácil ser primer ministro.

Al momento de su fallecimiento, Sir Manuel Esquivel tenía 81 años. Descanse en paz y levántese en gloria, Sir Manuel. Amandala envía sus más sentidas condolencias a su familia, a su partido y al pueblo de este país.

From the Publisher



Evan X Hyde

When the University of Belize (UB) was formally opened in August of 2000, yours truly was the chairman of the board. The university was/is an amalgamation of five different institutions—the University College of Belize (UCB), the Belize Teachers College, the Bliss School of Nursing, the Belize Technical College, and the Belize School of Agriculture.

The UB board was comprised of perhaps 12 to 14 individuals who represented the five institutions and other relevant bodies, such as the University of the West Indies (UWI), the Belize Chamber of Commerce, St. John's College, and so on. (I believe I was replaced as UB chairman in the earlier part of 2004.)

Almost twenty-two years later, I am disappointed at how invisible UB is where high-level public discourse

on critical issues is concerned. Because I was chairman of the UB board for those years to which I referred earlier, I know why the situation is the way it is, or I believe I do. The academics at UB are repressed by the Government of Belize, whether UDP or PUP, because GOB does most of the UB's funding, and the piper, whether red or blue, calls the tune.

I dare to suggest, at this point, that Sandra Coye and Ya Ya Marin Coleman do more high-level academic work, all on their own, without any funding, than all the academics and students at UB.

All over so-called Latin America, universities are cauldrons of intellectual debate and dissent, and I know that the Belizean government during my time as chairman, a

People's United Party (PUP) government, was determined that UB should not spawn any such activist turmoil.

I am reminded of the early 1980s when the Government of Belize, a PUP one, had decided to "Belizeanize" the command of the Belize Defence Force, which had been established in 1978. For those of you younger readers, it is important to mention that for its first few years, the BDF command was in the hands of Englishmen.

I was living on First Street (King's Park) in the early 1980s when the BDF's Charles Good, a Captain if I remember correctly, came to see me. He lived just a few blocks away from me. Captain Good was in an agitated state, because the PUP government had decided to recruit Tom Greenwood from the Belize Volunteer Guard section of the BDF and send him to Sandhurst for special training in order for him to assume command of the BDF as our army's first Belizean leader.

It was clear to all and sundry that the logical choice for Belizean command at the time would have been Captain Good, but I was sure that Belize's political leaders had been warned by the British to be very careful of any Belizean commandant who was too respected by, and popular with, the BDF's rank-and-file. Such was my personal perspective. So I told Charlie that the PUP government was afraid of him, which was why they were jumping Greenwood over him.

So then, politicians are afraid of armies, and they are afraid of

universities. Straight up. This is my thesis.

As a result of Belizean politicians' fear of their universities, some very important research is "outsourced." It is practically ridiculous. One classic example was the Jamaican anthropologist, Dr. Herbert Gayle, Ph. D., being hired by Belize to do research on Belize's gangs and gang neighborhoods. For sure, Dr. Gayle is something special, but, all things being equal, this should have been a job for a Belizean.

I have said to you before that I felt I was mis-educated in Belizean schools, which I attended from 1952 to 1965. I was never taught about the Caste War in Yucatan. I was never taught about the 1919 uprising in Belize Town. I resented my mis-education deeply, and I therefore rebelled. For this rebellion, I have been severely disciplined by Belize's power structure.

Well now, the same thing is being done, has been done, all over again over the last half-century to the students of Belize. No research has been done on an event which I believe is critical to understanding Belize's history since self-government.

For a period of roughly two years, between 1971 and 1972, something extraordinary had taken place. A fusion across party political lines had taken place amongst young people in the old capital/population center—Belize City. Looking back now, I can see that such a fusion was, almost by definition, quite fragile, because the basis of Belize's socio-politics is a two-party system, where the Belizean people are divided by the emotionalism of party personality politics.

The reason 1971 and 1972 are important to research is because the young people in that same old capital/population center have been slaughtering each other for more than three decades now, and no one can really figure it out, or let's put it another way, no one can offer a solution which comes anywhere near to working.

If it is that some people somewhere wish for such a suicidal/genocidal process to exist and to continue, then this deal is so big it is mindboggling.

I have come to the conclusion that any solution to this disaster has to come from the Belizean diaspora, come hell or high water. For now, I will say again, the academics of Belize have refused to acknowledge that something important happened on May 29, 1972. They have done the same thing their colonial predecessors did to the events of July 22 and 23, 1919. Those events just didn't happen. They were figments of someone's imagination. Today, ignorance is blood.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

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

Position Name: Maintenance Mechanic (Generator Mechanic)
Vacancy number: Belmopan-2022-03-R
Closing date: February 25, 2022

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

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

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

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

Seeking Distributors in Belize!!

KALEIDOSCOPE PAINTS LIMITED, a leading Paint Manufacturing Company established over Fifty (50) years in Trinidad and Tobago is looking for dynamic and reputable distributors for;

- **DECORATIVE AND ARCHITECTURAL PAINTS BRANDED KALEIDOSCOPE**
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Interested parties please respond to

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Phone: 1-868-638-2213/6

Whatsapp: 1-868-478-8778

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 23rd February 2022 at 10:30 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.]; **Kennel**; 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.)

SITE VISITS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

“FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PHOTOGRAPHS PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE”

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH
KEVIN A. CASTILLO
TELEPHONE 223-4488

Website: belizepropertyauctions.com
E-mail: kevinacas@yahoo.com
Facebook: [Belize Auctions](https://www.facebook.com/BelizeAuctions)

**CONSULTANCY NOTICE**

**Development of a Stakeholder
 Engagement Plan for Environmental Impact
 Assessments in Belize**

BACKGROUND

The Department of the Environment (DOE) is committed to meaningful and effective stakeholder engagement in the preparation and evaluation of Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA). This will contribute to a successful project, eliminate conflicts with local communities and other stakeholders, and provide for a transparent and systematic process that is beneficial to all parties. Failing to carry out a meaningful consultation in development of the EIA report and in the evaluation process may result in timeline delays, failure of the project, and a significant cost to the community, executing agency, and beneficiaries.

Public Consultations and Hearings were carried out in-person since the inception of the EIA Regulations. However, the safeguard measures now in place to prevent, control, contain and suppress the spread of the infectious disease COVID-19 has required that the DOE identify and implement new measures for the continued and enhancement of public involvement in the EIA process. Hence, the stakeholder plan shall take into consideration such new measures and the need for their standardization and formalization, taking into consideration existing policies and programs to engage stakeholders.

OBJECTIVES

The Department of the Environment is looking for a consultant/firm that will be able to develop a Stakeholder Engagement Plan, taking into consideration the safeguard measures now in place to prevent, control, contain and suppress the spread of the infectious disease COVID-19. The consultant will be expected to develop and submit the following to the Department for implementation.

- I. A Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) to be used during the EIA Screening Process when conducting public consultations/hearings to further strengthen the Environmental Clearance Process. Such a plan will outline actions/activities/processes to be set in motion at the time confirmation is received that the developer will proceed with the EIA study, to the final stage of the EIA process, that is, the decision-making stage.
- II. A procedure that is the most effective/efficient means of communication to standardize the public consultation and engagement, considering the background of all stakeholders.
- III. Developed an information commercial showcasing the means and way of effective participation for the EIA process.

QUALIFICATIONS

- (i) Minimum of Bachelor's degree in Social Science, Communication, Psychology, Sociology or related field, Master's degree preferred.
- (ii) Minimum of 5 years working experience in the field of Social Science with a broad understanding of human behavior, communication, as well as issues of environment and society, and with practical experience in the development of action plans.
- (iii) Familiarity and work experience in the field for an extended period in Belize are essential.
- (iv) Ability to engage stakeholders in an effective and efficient manner.
- (v) Excellent writing and communication skills and ability to work in a multidisciplinary and multicultural team and excellent command of English is required.

SUBMISSION PROCESS

The Department of the Environment is inviting consultant/firm who possess the requisite qualifications to submit an application to include a cover letter, a proposed work plan, methodologies, and copy of C.V along with a proposed budget to the Chief Environmental Officer, Department of The Environment, Second Floor, The Green Building, 7552 Hummingbird Highway, City of Belmopan. The DOE will not bear any cost associated with the preparation of this proposal. Digital Copies of the application can be emailed to doe.ceo@environment.gov.bz.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION

The deadline for the submissions of packages is 4:00 pm on February 24th, 2022.

Interested persons can get a copy of the Terms of Reference (ToR) from the DOE website: www.doe.gov.bz or contact the Department of the Environment via email gordonkd@gobmail.gov.bz or eiaunit@environment.gov.bz

Toledo facts; and a solid block would be bad for Belize

by Colin Hyde

Back in the first decade of the 21st century, when an initiative in Toledo to establish communal land rights for the Maya gathered force, Belize's 3rd prime minister, Said Musa, said he would not preside over the Balkanization of Belize. Last week the present prime minister, John Briceño, said the same thing, and between them, our 4th prime minister, Dean Barrow, sent his lawyers to say that the leaders of the Maya of Toledo had greatly overstepped.

The leaders of the Maya in Toledo were pushed to demand their rights after half a million acres of land in the district had been given out to loggers, the largest concession to a group from Malaysia. Visionary leadership in the district also saw the improved Southern Highway bringing new people to the district, and favored friends of governments getting large acreages to speculate on, so the Maya took their cause to court and won.

It's important for Belizeans who aren't familiar with the Toledo District to understand what it's like on the ground. It's not nearly as uniform a mix as we find in the north. In a rough sketch, Punta Gorda (PG) Town, the capital, was mainly occupied by Garinagu, with some Kriol, but now it also has a strong mix of Maya and Mestizo, and of course there are Mennonites and Chinese and people with roots in Lebanon and Palestine too. The populations in the closest villages to Punta Gorda Town are East Indian, with some Kriol; the only Garifuna village is Barranco; and there are over 30 Mayan villages, mostly in the western part of the district.

There is much privately owned land in the Mayan villages within 12 miles of PG, some owned by other tribes,

many parcels owned by Maya. Mayan villages that are far from PG have not shifted toward private ownership of land.

Mayan villages have two forms of leadership — the village council, and the alcalde system. On paper, village councils have a lot of powers, and the main one is the issuance of lots. A recent development for village councils is that they can pursue collections from business establishments in the village. Village councils have a direct line to the Ministry of Local Government in respect to any concern.

A country profile of Belize found at the website <http://www.clgf.org.uk> says that village councils in Belize began in the 1950s, they are formed by ministerial decree, and you can be recognized as a village if you have 200 voters.

The country profile says the Alcalde, who is assisted by a deputy and voluntary police, is empowered as a local magistrate. He has the power to deal with petty crimes in the village, he decides who can live in the village, and he has the power to call a fajina. (When the Alcalde calls fajina, all the village men have to come out with their machetes and rakes for a village cleanup.)

Our Mayan brothers and sisters in villages that practice the communal land ownership system must wince when they hear of individuals in other parts of the country getting windfalls when private land is expropriated or utilized for a public purpose.

Recently, there was the massive million-dollar award that was made to a family for cay land they bought for a few thousand dollars a couple weeks before a general election. Because a subsequent government thought poorly of the transaction and took back the land, the favored family went to court and

was awarded millions.

Recently communal Maya got in on the game. All Belizeans were driven backward when millions of dollars was awarded after a Belize government built a road through an area that had been farmed by villagers in Jalacte. That did not go down well with most Belizeans, neither did the case with the cay land, but the fault is in our laws. Fantastically, our GOB sells land cheap, as rural land, and if our GOB needs to reacquire it, it pays urban prices.

In the Jalacte case, the fact is that, had the Maya of Toledo been followers of the system employed across the country, private ownership, an individual or family would have "owned" the land, and as per law they would have derived as fat a payment as any other Belizean for the government utilizing their land for a public purpose.

If it came down to a vote, I would support the Toledo villages getting compensated for use of their land at the same rate private owners get, but something really has to be done countrywide about these fantastic awards!

I want for our Toledo Maya to have everything they need to preserve their culture and increase their standard of living. I think all the villages should have sacred communal land with full share of mineral rights, but as I said from the get go, from way back when I first gave my opinion on the matter, it should not be contiguous. The story here is in the demarcation. For the good of the beautiful fabric of Belize, the villages shouldn't form a solid block.

Bitcoins 2

I'm looking at a \$50 bill. It has the face of our Queen, the Swing Bridge,

a sailboat, tapir, toucan, the Coat of Arms, some important signatures, the name "Belize", the inscription "legal tender", and a number of other features on it. Money is just paper, but this piece of paper with all those features AND \$50 inscribed on it can be, by government decree/guarantee, used to purchase goods (flour, chicken, jam, fish) or services (someone to cut your yard, bus fare, telephone) that in total are not priced over \$50.

We all know why people all over the world, in Belize too, prefer US bucks. That's because their government has the biggest bomb and the biggest economy. Their paper money comes with a far more powerful guarantee than paper money issued by our government.

Bitcoin is different from paper money, because it doesn't come with any government guarantee. Bitcoin was created by an anonymous group, and only 21 million of them are allowed to be made. In contrast, governments can print any amount of money they want. All the government's paper money comes with its guarantee.

Bitcoin is digital currency, made in a computer, and it is safeguarded by numerous security features. The simple game in this complicated digital currency "mined" on a computer is to bypass the people who make money when it changes hands.

In the story "El Salvador becomes first country to use bitcoin as legal tender", which I found at the website livemint.com, one of President Bukele's main reasons for going Bitcoin was to "give more people access to banking services and shave millions off commission fees for crucial remittances sent home from abroad."

There's a story (I think on Bloomberg) with the absorbing title, "Banks Tried to Kill Crypto and Failed. Now They're Embracing It (Slowly)." The story is by a lady named Emily Flitter and in it she said that in 2014 Wall Street executives were fretting because "regulators in New York were exploring ways to control Bitcoin", the danger there being that "regulating cryptocurrencies would also legitimize them — and that could threaten the finance industry. So they tried to sow doubt."

From the *livemint* story, El Salvador's digital wallet (aha, our banks are now into digital wallets too) is called "Chivo" (cool); it is law in El Salvador that "any economic agent must accept bitcoin as a form of payment when it is offered by the person who acquires a good or service". The Chivo wallet can handle both dollar and bitcoin transactions; all across El Salvador you can draw cash from Chivo automatic teller machines.

Don't waste any brain cells on this last bit, but there is a special "brass coin" bitcoin with super special security features too. But there are some legitimacy issues around its use.



MINISTRY OF FINANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND INVESTMENT

GAMING CONTROL BOARD NOTICE

The Gaming Control Board of Belize would like to remind all gaming machine licensees that their licenses will expire on 31st March 2022. Licensees wishing to renew their licenses are asked to submit their original application forms to the Ministry of Investment, situated at No.46 Nanche Street in Belmopan on or before Monday, February 28th, 2022. Application forms are available at the Ministry.

We can be contacted via:

Telephone: (501) 828-6704/ 828-9046

Email: belizeinvestment@invest.gov.bz

Facebook: Investment, Policy & Compliance Unit

Everything is a farce, a myth

As long as Belize continues in a monarchical system, justice will never be achieved for the working class. As long as Belize continues with its neoliberal capitalist system, there will never be justice for the less fortunate ones. Many comment, many complain about the situation in which we live, but they never try to talk about other systems where the people come first, where the people are the ones who decide the destiny of their country. Here in Belize they don't want to talk about that. They simply want to talk about gossip, or of such

political party which is not doing or has not done what they should do for the good of the community.

Belizean intellectuals are afraid to talk about communism, afraid to talk about socialism, afraid to tell the difference between the neoliberal capitalist system and the other methods mentioned above. I'm not saying we must adopt one of those systems, but that we should study the good part it has for the benefit of the community as a whole. It is a shame to see that after 1964 until today's date, justice has not been

accomplished for Belizeans on a whole. And when I say Belizeans, I mean those whose roots are from here, those who built this country, not just those who were brought here enslaved, no; also our Maya people, the Mestizos for the reason that the Mestizaje started here in Chactemal of the Mayan World. The Garinagu also arrived after a war in which they were expelled from their homeland.

It is necessary to explain very well that the African descendants who are referred to as Creole here in Belize are a mixture of races, so the international official concept of such a term, is not a race, but it has become a custom and a culture to recognize this afro-indo-european mixture as Creole. It seems that it is also in law that the Creoles are an indigenous people here in Belize, even though they are a mixture of races, just like the Garinagu, who are mixed with the indigenous people of the Caribbean (Arawaks and Caribs), but that is not my point.

My point is that there is so much fear of talking about other systems that we fail to note that in Cuba, although they are under an economic, financial, commercial blockade for over 60 years and have been sanctioned by the United States and



by Clinton Canul Luna

its allies, 95% of its inhabitants are well-prepared academically, technologically and scientifically. The system is set up in such a way whereby health and educational services do not cost the community a penny; the strategy that is employed is already paid for by the people themselves. Let's not fool ourselves, the money that goes into the consolidated funds comes from the people. Let's not make fools of ourselves: all that money from loans has to be paid by the people and gifts that are made to the government, are for the Belizean people. But they are spent on other things.

Lately, I've noticed that they are even afraid to mention the letters PUDP, why? Could it be because it was invented by a so-called "Spanish"? We all know that the two political parties have been one and the same; we all know that they work

Please turn to Page 16

In The Matter of the International Business Companies Act (Chapter 270) of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000 and In voluntary liquidation, members' winding up and dissolution

TAKE NOTICE that the following company is in dissolution:


NAME	REG. NO.
WEB MEDIA INC.	114,036

The date of commencement of the dissolution is the 16th day of April, 2021, and the liquidator is Alpha Services Limited of No. 84 Albert Street, Belize City, Belize. Any claims against the Company should be forwarded to the liquidator's above-mentioned address or e-mailed to attorneys@barrowandwilliams.com within 30 days of the date of this notice.

Dated the 14th day of February, 2022.

ALPHA SERVICES LIMITED

Liquidator



Sacred Heart College

P.O. Box 163, San Ignacio, Cayo,
Phone: (501) - 824 - 2102, 824 - 2758, Fax: 824 - 3759
Office of the President

Vacancies exist at Sacred Heart College for the post of:

- One Temporary IT Developer (February - December) Three months probationary
 - Have knowledge and skills in the following:
 - Javascript
 - Git
 - NodeJS
 - ReactJS
 - Typescript
 - Hasura
 - GraphQL
- One Temporary Belizean Studies teacher (February - April 2022)
- Two Temporary English Teachers (April - June, 2022)
- One Temporary Physics Teacher (April - June 2022)
- One Temporary EDPM Teacher (April - June 2022)

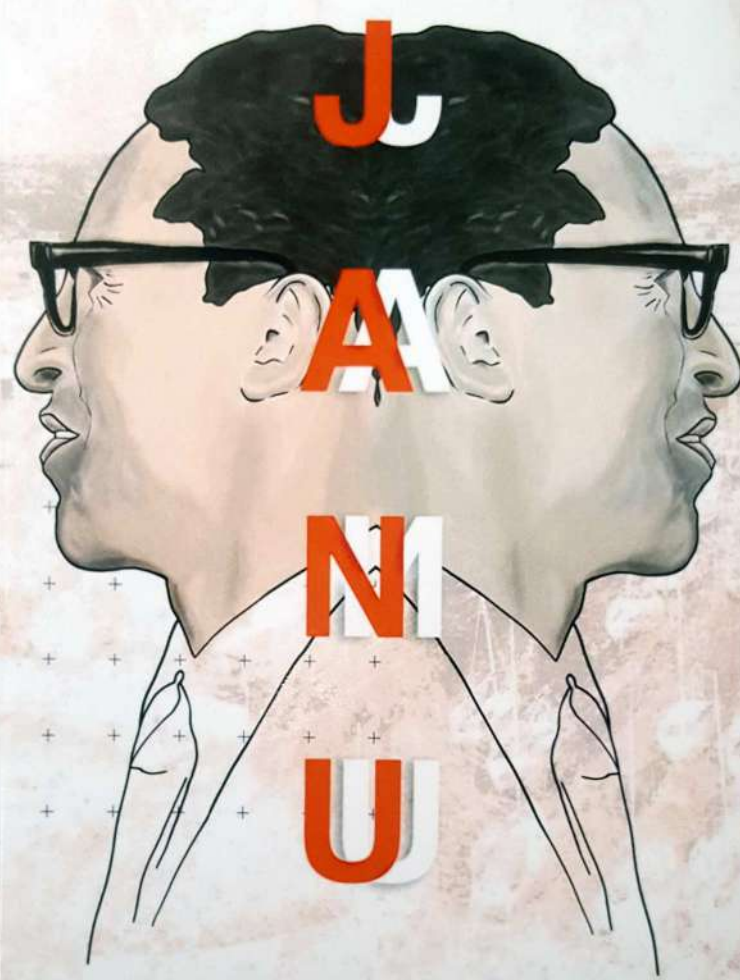
Applicants must have a B.Sc. in the teaching subject area with a Diploma in Education, or B.Ed. in the teaching subject area, or experience having taught or teaching the subject will be an asset.
Remuneration is commensurate with MOE approved salary scales. Successful applicants should have a valid Teacher's License.

Application packages should include the following: a signed letter of application, a copy of a university diploma showing the highest earned degree, official university transcript(s), two named referees, and a copy of a valid Teacher's License.

Completed application packages can be dropped off at the College, emailed to president@shc.edu.bz. Or mail to:

Secretary
Board of Governors
P.O. Box 163
San Ignacio Town
Cayo District

Deadline for Application: February 25th, 2022



A Collection of
Ideas and Opinions
2007-2012
by C B Hyde

PUBLICAUCTIONS SALES: PROPERTIES & VEHICLES

Countrywide

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees, The Belize Bank Limited, 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 21st & Tuesday 22nd 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. 2871 1st subdivision south of Airstrip, west side, Placencia Road, Placencia Village, Stann Creek District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Placencia North	36	2871
The freehold property of Ms. Dawn Anderson & Mr. Hector Tut.		

3. Pcl. No. 2891 1st subdivision south of Airstrip, west side, Placencia Road, Placencia Village, Stann Creek District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Placencia North	36	2891
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. 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.		

6. 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.		

7. 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.		

8. 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.		

9. 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.

10. 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.		

11. Parcel No. 2275 Seine Bight Village, Placencia Peninsula, Stann Creek District:



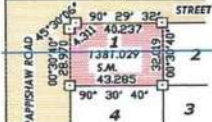
REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Placencia North	36	2275
The freehold property of Mr. Lammey Alvarez.		

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. Augusto 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. 16/1 San Estevan Village, Orange Walk District:



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

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



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

28. 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		

29. 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.

30. 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.

31. 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.		

32. 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:

2019 Geat Wall Wingle 5 2016 Volkswagen Amarok 1999 MCI 1 Door Bus 1999 Blue Bird Bus



"FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PHOTOGRAPHS PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE"

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH

KEVIN A. CASTILLO

TELEPHONE 223-4488

Website: belizepropertyauctions.com

E-mail: kevinacas@yahoo.com

Facebook: Belize Auctions

From the Publisher

Reproduced from page 9 of the Tuesday, February 15, 2022, #3531 issue of Amandala

As one ages, one is better able to accept one's flaws and inadequacies. Personally, I have a problem with NORTH AMERIKKAN BLUES, which I wrote in early 1971, because I know I was trying to "show myself," as we say in the streets.

The street/military leader of UBAD, Charles X "Justice" Eagan, had been sentenced to five years in jail in January of 1971, and Norman Fairweather, who returned from New York around the same time, had not yet re-established himself as a street force. I knew I was puffing out my chest in BLUES, but I was just 23, 24, so perhaps history will

forgive me.

A lot of things have changed since 1971, and they have changed drastically and dramatically. In 1971, the weed business in the capital city was small and confined to "cross the Yabra bridge." One of the reasons the weed industry was still small was because a lot of city youth were still accepting the propaganda that weed made you "get crazy."

As an export industry, my sense is that weed became an item in British Honduras in the early 1960s, and it involved Americans, in the first instance. I remember the name of Vic Stadter. The most prominent

Belizean who was involved with the Americans was a stud named Dickie Gardiner, who had been a big Panama lottery man in the streets. with Nacho Coye, after their return from Panama. Late 1940s, early 1950s, I guess. (Gardiner served two different prison terms in the United States.)

Around 1975 or so, when the Melting Pot disco was beginning to kick up a lot of dust in Belize City, it was being run by two African Americans — an attorney named Ben Darden and his sidekick, Willie Trapp. Darden was in an affair with a Belizean lady by the name of Gail Dunn, whose father was Kenneth Dunn, the Commissioner of Labor at the time, if I remember correctly.

Darden and Trapp ran afoul of Deputy Premier, C. L. B. Rogers, who was the Minister of Police, and Rogers deported them after they were accused of exporting cocaine to America inside frozen lobsters.

The likelihood is that cocaine, for all intents and purposes, began becoming an item in Belize through the Melting Pot disco, of which Roy "Bullet" Craig became the owner after Darden. Craig had made millions selling stuff in New York City with his 123rd group of Belizeans. Precisely when they were busted by the American feds I can't say, although the late Patrick "Beans" Lawrence was always giving me stats on 123rd.

Anyway, around 1978 a Colombian by the name of Carlos Lehder Russell was looking for a safe haven from which to export cocaine into the United States. He was talking to people in the Belize government, it seemed to me, but he ended up buying an island in the Bahamas, where he set up his cocaine export business before the feds got ahold of him.

The bottomline of everything that has happened in Belize is that there was this exponentially growing demand in the United States, then clearly the richest country in the world, for marijuana in the 1960s, and then cocaine in the 1970s and 1980s. The Americans had made these substances illegal in the 1930s, so in a manner similar to how the American government's declaring alcohol illegal in 1919 (Prohibition) had spawned the growth of a deadly Italian Mafia in the 1920s, the "illegalization" of marijuana and cocaine has led our region to where we are today, from South America through Central America and the Caribbean, and, ultimately, Mexico. Life "south of the border" is cheap. As Sergio Leone wrote in one of his Western movies, "Where life has no value, death sometimes has its price."

Around 1975, I was running the streets, unemployed as such, when

a friend kept urging me to buy some Orange Walk weed from him. My thinking was that I needed to do research on what the profit margin was in the business, for my personal understanding. I bought a pound of weed from him. The price back then was \$70. The weed was good. How the weed got from Sugar City to Belize City was somewhat of an adventure in itself, but once a friend rolled off the weed for me, I quickly found out something very basic: you had to be a tough guy in this business, because people would "games" you. I am definitely not a tough guy, so when that pound was done, I got the hell out of there.

Here's the point I want to make in this column: cocaine, amphetamines, and marijuana are in demand on the American market. Let's focus on the cocaine trade, where the biggest profits and the most incredible violence take place. Consider our youth in the old capital -- unemployed, uneducated, broke, hungry, and desperate. They become mules and cannon fodder for Belize's cocaine dons. But, the root cause of the problem is in the sanctimonious United States, where so many Americans are so hungry for a high.

I will end by saying this to those of you Belizeans who are innocent. The tourists who come to Belize want drugs. So, apart from the export market, there is a domestic market for drugs in Belize, in every tourist destination in The Jewel. When our youth are murdering each other, they are doing so in the war for control of the market.

Sometimes, the general consensus is that the late, great Rt. Hon. George Price was a saint. Personally, I don't believe this, but I believe he would have fought to save young Belizeans from themselves where this drug violence is concerned.

Perhaps I am wrong, but in Belize City I know that the gangs and drug violence became bad after the Americans sprayed our weed fields with paraquat in 1985. Sandra Coye has claimed that there was a period (presumably in the late 1970s, early 1980s) when drugs, presumably marijuana, had become so big in Orange Walk that everybody did business in U.S. currency. Can you dig it?

This column is saying that most of our Belizean problem begins in the United States of America. Don't condemn our Belizean youth. Blame the Americans who are desperate for the high.

Yes, I know a lot of youth have died because of the high-grade Mexican weed market in Belize. But, you must ask yourself this question, at least yours truly does: would this have been the case if the paraquat had not been sprayed here? Food for thought, beloved, food for thought.



TRADEWINDS

Captain and First Mate required...

TradeWinds is a global yacht chartering company that offers high-end 7-day consecutive charters (2 or 3 weeks contiguous sailing) to its guests with the result of: "Best Vacation Ever." We're looking for an experienced Captain and First Mate (crew couple) that are willing to commit for a minimum of one year on one of our sailing vessels based in Placencia.

You both will be expected to demonstrate first class boat handling skills. Captains should have the RYA (commercially endorsed) Sailing Skipper's license or its practical equivalent. The First Mate must hold the level 2, Basic Food Hygiene qualification. Both of you will have a valid STCW qualification and one of you should be a qualified Dive Master (or quickly become one). **Captains** should demonstrate sound leadership and hosting skills, have solid charter delivery experience, together with a good grasp of boat maintenance. They are expected to Assist the First Mate, and split the cleaning chores, such as dishes, cabins, and midweek turnaround. **First Mates** need to go the extra mile in food delivery, taste, presentation and being a well-rounded hostess, are their passion while able to assist the Captain where needed and with boat handling.

Interested crew couples should send an up-to-date CV containing reference contacts, together with a covering email stating why they should be considered for the positions to:

geoff@trade-winds.com

Occasionally we have need of Relief Captains or First Mates, if the above criteria fit your experience and flexible personality, kindly send your Resume & References with availability.

PRESS PREDICTIONS

The sports psychic speaks

BOLEDO

“Press” Predictions: 50-31-23 Boledo stats thru 18th to 25th Feb. 2022

In boledo news, 22 played twice in a day’s span after 1 year 5 months 3 weeks and 5 days. These are my lucky numbers for this week: 50-31-75-23-94-65. These are my lucky jackpot numbers: 8276-5917-3630. These are my PICK-3 numbers: 983-175-462-060-256. Get ready Belize, some money will be coming our way. 50 is still out over 1 year 7 months and 2 days now, 55 is still out over 1 year 5 months and 3 days now. The thirties series finally played. Last year 36 played some 8 times, 34 played some 7 times alongside 65. 95 played the most at 9 times, the hottest ending ball right now is the 2 ball - played some 8 times already. Keep your eyes open for 55, some doubles are long overdue, the public wants 33 to play. Remember to read your Psalms: 75-63-91. Good luck to all buyers. Next week more stats.

LOCAL FOOTBALL

Verdes FC beat Garden City easily 4-0

Local football Results and Predictions

In local football action week-2 games results, Verdes FC crushed Garden City 4 goals to nil. Verdes FC, the defending champion, has the National Team coach from Spain. He has improved all of the National Teams at all levels. He is just 39 years old, he has a European style of football system in his chemistry, which is one of the strongest systems in the world of football today. The San Pedro Pirates and Altitude FC are the only 2 teams that stand a very slim chance to beat Verdes FC, the champions, a game in this second round tournament. Next week some results from last week’s games.

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

Team Lebron will beat team Durant’s All-Stars

NBA Results and Predictions

In NBA action, the Brooklyn Nets have lost 11 straight games now. James Harden has been traded to the Philadelphia 76ers for Ben Simmons and Seth Curry. The Boston Celtics

beat the Atlanta Hawks 105 to 95; Jason Tatum had 38 points and 10 rebounds.



Jason Tatum

Lakers have lost 5 straight close games, they will be in the play-in before the playoffs get started. This weekend the All-Star game is in Cleveland, the action gets started this Friday night with a celebrity game, then the 3-point shootout followed by the slam dunk contest with 5 different players. There will be some new champions in those 2 events. Then on Sunday, team Lebron vs. Team Durant in the 75th All-Star game, Durant will not play. Next week the results.

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

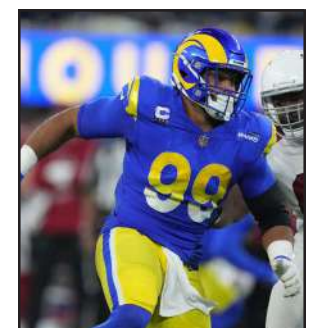
The LA Rams are champions for the first time



by Gilroy “Press” Cadogan

NFL Super Bowl 56 Results

In NFL Super Bowl 56 action, the Los Angeles Rams edged the Cincinnati-Bengals 23 to 20. Aaron Donald was very big on the defensive end for the first Super Bowl championship in their



Aaron Donald

Franchise history. Matthew Stafford was very outstanding with 2 passing touchdowns. The Bengals and Joe Burrow

played their hearts out, the game was very exciting and very entertaining with the 2 youngest coaches in a

Please turn to Page 16



The New Zealand High Commission Fund

The New Zealand High Commission in Bridgetown is inviting applications from community groups, NGOs and similar organisations to the New Zealand High Commission Fund. The Fund supports small scale, short-term community projects that contribute to wider community well-being.

The High Commission welcomes proposals in the following areas:

- Agriculture
- Climate change and the environment (including recycling)

The maximum amount for a single project is **NZ\$25,000** (approximately USD\$16,500).

Please visit www.mfat.govt.nz/barbados to download application forms under the **New Zealand High Commission Fund - Bridgetown** tab. Applications should be received by **28 February 2022**. For further information contact:

New Zealand High Commission
Bridgetown, Barbados
Tel: +1-246-622-7800
Email: nzhcbarbados@mfat.govt.nz



OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE R.C. HIGH SCHOOL VACANCIES

Vacancies exist at Our Lady of Guadalupe R.C. High School, Belmopan, for the following post for the school year 2021-2022:

- Teacher of Principles of Business, Information Technology & EDP & M (Temporary) April to June
- Teacher of Physics and Mathematics (Temporary) April to June

Teaching position may include extracurricular responsibilities (supervising athletic programmes, moderating student houses and clubs, mass preparation, etc.)

QUALIFICATIONS

- First Degree in the relevant field(s) preferred
- Associate Degree may be considered
- Ability to work and communicate effectively with students, staff and administration
- Knowledge, competence and expertise in using technology in teaching
- High motivation and commitment to teaching
- Must be in possession of a **valid Teacher’s license**

SALARY

Based on qualifications and in accordance with the Government Payscale.

The deadline for submission of applications is February 28th, 2022. **Application letters along with a current curriculum vitae, valid teachers License, original transcript, certified copies of degrees, police record, medical report, vaccination card certified, copy of social security card, marriage/divorce certificate, and two recent letters of reference should be sent to:**

Email: hrc@ologh.edu.bz
Principal
Our Lady of Guadalupe R.C. High School
P.O. Box 479
CITY OF BELMOPAN

Everything is a farce, a myth

Continued from Page 12

under the same boss, and we all know that after 40 years of independence, absolutely nothing has been done for the welfare of the Belizean people. It is a shame. They give goodwill speeches, what is called “lip service” here. They give what the people want to hear, but behind that there is nothing. They said they were bankrupt, that there was no money; whenever a political party enters they say the same—that the other left the boxes empty. However, there is so much money to make trips, to buy cars, to incur so many unnecessary expenses while the people they are hungry, hungry for food, not only for education, not only spiritual or moral hunger, they need to fill their

stomachs.

How do you want a people to learn or be educated when they are hungry, when the belly is empty? Could it be that these thinkers who are called think tanks don't know? Or they make a fool of themselves? How the hell do you want a country to rise up when the nation is down, impoverished, without work, sick, in a modern slavery where they care very little if they die, since there are more, there are others that can do the job. It is a shame for those Belizean intellectuals who make fools of themselves and do not try to help their own sisters and brothers who are in disgrace. I feel sorry for them! As a human being, I feel very sorry. Dear readers of this column, I have mentioned it many times; we need a

new constitution, we need a new form of government, we need to leave that monarchy. I had to laugh when I read the Constitution on how the Queen of England, Queen of Belize, is supposed to choose the person who is going to represent her in this country when all that is a lie, a vile lie. The organization chart of the government system needs to be changed. We don't have transparency, we don't have democracy, we don't have freedom. We are enslaved. Nothing has changed. That supposed independence was useless. Everything is a farce, a myth.

fincasolan@gmail.com

February 12, 2022

Finca Solana

Corozal Town

Press Predictions

Continued from Page 15

Super Bowl. The Bengals and Joe Burrow will be back in 3 years' time. The home team has won 5 straight Super Bowls; that was the 8th Super Bowl in Los Angeles. The LA Rams finished the season on a 7-game winning streak. Enough respect to Matthew Stafford who spent 12 years in Detroit with the Lions and is now a champion. The new season will get started the first week in August.



Matthew Stafford

AMANDALA is cream!

CREDIT OFFICER

JOB SUMMARY

A Credit Officer is responsible for developing new business, evaluating and recommending approval of loan applications, as well as maintaining an existing portfolio. A Credit Officer represents the DFC in the local community through active participation in community affairs and participates in marketing the Corporation's products and services.

The duty station is in **Dangriga Town**, however, the position is transferrable to any of the Corporation's branch offices.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

1. A Bachelor's Degree in Economics, Agriculture or Agricultural Economics
2. At least three (3) years of experience in the appraisal, implementation and management of developmental loans.

REQUIRED SKILLS AND ABILITIES

1. Superior communication skills – written, verbal, and inter-personal. The incumbent must display a positive attitude and the ability to interact professionally and effectively with customers and employees at all levels.
2. Ability to interpret and analyze financial data to originate sound loans as well as to maintain a performing portfolio.
3. Proficient in MS Word, Excel and Outlook; and familiar with new channels used for mass communication.
4. Ability to focus on the details and apply critical thinking techniques.
5. Ability and willingness to travel frequently, as required. This requires the possession of a privately owned motor vehicle and valid driver's license.
6. Understanding DFC's role as a development bank and its mandate to shape Belize's economic and social landscape.
7. High ethical standards and uncompromising sense of integrity.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES

1. To provide efficient and timely loan delivery services.
2. To appraise, implement and manage developmental loans in accordance with the Corporation's policies and procedures.
3. To conduct property appraisals for properties offered as loan collateral.
4. To assist applicants in developing sound business plans within DFC's guidelines.
5. Actively promote the financial services available through the Corporation.
6. Attend meetings, workshops and seminars on subject matters related to, and relevant to sectors of the economy of Belize for which DFC provides credit facilities for.

ACT NOW!

Submit your:

1. Letter of Application
2. Curriculum Vitae
3. Copy of most recent qualification
4. Copy of Social Security Card
5. Three (3) Letters of References (*no older than six months*) – two of which must be professional references and
6. Police Record (no older than 6 months)

Manager

Human Resources and General Affairs

Development Finance Corporation
P. O. Box 40 | Belmopan | Belize, C.A.

**RE: APPLICATION FOR VACANCY
(Credit Officer, Dangriga)**

via e-mail to: vacancies@dfcbelize.org
followed by the original copy via mail.

DEADLINE: February 23, 2022

VACANCY
Join our exciting team!



No more single-use plastics

In just over a month, the possession of styrofoam products and single-use plastics will be prohibited under the DOE's amended Pollution from Plastics Regulations



by *Khaila Gentle*

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Feb. 16, 2022

The amended Environmental Protection (Pollution from Plastics) Regulations, first put into effect by the Department of the Environment (DOE) in January 2022, has extended the phase-out timelines for the sale and possession of single-use plastics—thus shifting the dates on which all such sales and possession of such plastics must end to February 28 and March 31, 2022, respectively. The sale of prohibited single-use plastics was supposed to have ceased on April 15, 2021, while the possession of those plastics should

have been outlawed on July 14, 2021. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however, those deadlines, along with the deadline by which the manufacturing of prohibited products was to have come to an end, were extended.

Since April 2020, the importation of single-use plastics and styrofoam products has been prohibited, and a prohibition on the manufacturing of those products came into effect on January 31, 2022. And come March 31, all persons, businesses, and establishments will be banned from possessing single-use plastics. According to the Pollution from Plastics Regulations, any person found in violation, whether by importing, manufacturing, selling, or possessing these prohibited items, will be committing an offence and will be liable to summary conviction.

The Environmental Protection Regulations' list of prohibited items includes styrofoam containers like clamshells, plates, cups and lids, and soup containers; styrofoam and plastic plates; plastic shopping bags and/or T-shirt bags; plastic cutlery and eating utensils such as forks, knives, spoons, and sporks; and disposable drinking straws, as well as plastic plates, bowls, and cups. According to the Regulations, however, the products listed should not include products used for medical or pharmaceutical purposes or health and safety purposes unless a reasonable alternative already exists on the local market. The DOE has stated that it plans to continue working alongside the Belize Bureau of Standards in monitoring and enforcing these regulations.

In the past few years, countries across the globe have begun to implement plans for banning single-use plastics and styrofoam in the hopes of bringing an end to plastic pollution. In fact, according to the World Economic Forum, a total of 170 nations have pledged to reduce the use of plastics by the year 2030. Just recently, on February 13, the country of Chile implemented a law banning single-use plastics and is now requiring businesses to switch to biodegradable alternatives within the next 3 years—a move which will hopefully prevent the dumping of a yearly total of over 20,000 metric tons of plastic.

Anyone seeking more information regarding Belize's ban on single-use plastics can contact the Department of the Environment at 822-2548 or 822-2819, email the Department at envirodept@bt.net or envirodept@environment.gov.bz, or visit their website at www.doe.gov.bz

PUBLIC AUCTION

By order of the Municipal Court, certified and licensed Auctioneer Troy Gabb will sell the following property:
 Thursday, February 24, 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

Belize City Council
[belize_city_council](https://www.instagram.com/belize_city_council)

BELIZE CITY COUNCIL
 Always 'bout The People

TERMS - CASH
 10% Deposit - Balance in 14 days

PUBLIC AUCTION

By order of the Municipal Court, certified and licensed Auctioneer Troy Gabb will sell the following property:
 Thursday, February 24, 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

Belize City Council
[belize_city_council](https://www.instagram.com/belize_city_council)

BELIZE CITY COUNCIL
 Always 'bout The People

TERMS - CASH
 10% Deposit - Balance in 14 days

Visit us at

www.amandala.com.bz



CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

UPDATE OF THE NATIONAL CRUISE TOURISM POLICY

The Belize Tourism Board (BTB) is inviting Expressions of Interest (EOI) for a consultant to update the National Cruise Tourism Policy of Belize.

1. Minimum Qualification and Experience of Consultant:

- At least 5 years' experience in public policy development, public governance, tourism policy development, tourism development, cruise tourism, port destination management, economic, business management, or related fields.
- Proof of experience in similar or related projects locally and/or internationally, in countries of similar governance and development ecosystems.
- Proof of Experience in facilitating and carrying out national public consultations is a requirement, as well as proven experience in developing technical reports, studies, drafting policy, and policy-related documents.
- Minimum Academic Qualifications: Bachelor's Degree in Public Policy, Policy Development, Tourism Development, Sustainable Development, Economic, Business Development, Governance or related fields.



2. Application:

Interested persons should submit a proposal based on the terms of reference (accessible via contact below), complete with:

1. Full Curriculum Vitae (with two professional references);
2. Proposed work schedule and description of approach/ methodology for performing the assignment.
3. Demonstrated knowledge of skills in similar activities, and stakeholder participation techniques; as well as strong communication, documentation and presentation skills
4. A technical proposal should be submitted to include at minimum the proposed approach to be taken to execute the consultancy, evidence of stakeholder participation, indicative timeline and budget for completion.
5. Proposals should not exceed 10 pages in length (exclusive of CV and references).

SUBMIT ELECTRONICALLY TO:

- Mrs. Romy Rancharan
- romy.rancharan@belizetourismboard.org
- **Deadline: February 25th, 2022 at 5:00pm**
- Any questions please submit to romy.rancharan@belizetourismboard.org
- Labeled **Re: Consultancy to Update National Cruise Tourism Policy**

Valentine's Day marathon held to honor deceased BDF soldier

The late Staff Sergeant Victor Martin was honored in a 15k marathon that was held on his birthday

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Feb. 14, 2022

In late July 2021, 45-year-old Victor Martin, Staff Sergeant, Special Force operator, and a physical instructor for the Belize Defence Force (BDF), lost his life in a tragic road traffic accident on the George Price Highway. To keep his memory and his love of fitness alive, the family of Sergeant Victor Martin and the Freetown Reserve organized a 15k marathon that was held on Valentine's Day, which would have been Sergeant Victor Martin's 46th birthday. The race started at Price Barracks and concluded on Freetown Road near Atlantic Bank.

Rodvern Lino, race organizer for Freetown Reserve, explained, "We

decided to do a Valentine Day race last year when we were lifting restrictions in terms of non-contact sports. So we did it last year, and we did another race on the 15th of January, which is the George Price Day Race. At that point, we decided we will do again the Valentine Day race, but this time we would dedicate it to Victor Martin, who was a runner himself, and he was a friend of ours as well."

"That's the hope—to keep his memory alive, and what you will remember about him was that he was a physical man. He was a PTI, so that's what we're trying to promote here, remembering him and remembering the person he was," Limo further said.

Present at the marathon was Anna Bennett, the sister of the deceased

soldier, who told reporters that, because running was one of her late brother's life's passions, they decided to keep the memory of him alive through such a race. "When my mom came up with the idea, in late January, we decided that my younger sister and I, Ella, that we'll put it together. Ella started the administrative work, then I got involved thereafter and finished up and making sure that the race was a success," she said.

"When asked to help in planning, I had zero reservation, not only as a friend of the family but a councilor with responsibilities for sports in the city.



Victor Martin, BDF sergeant

I wholeheartedly support initiatives such as these that encourage residents to participate in physical activities and promote a healthy lifestyle," stated Kaya Cattouse, Councilor in the Belize City Council for Youth, Sports & Wellness.

A total of 39 persons participated in the race.

The accident which claimed Sergeant Martin's life occurred on Tuesday evening, July 27, last year after Martin left the Ladyville Price Barracks and headed westward. When he neared Cotton Tree Village, his motorbike collided with the pickup of Arlie Ayala, who was making a left turn into a gas station. Martin's motorcycle crashed into the pickup head-on, and he was flung from his motorbike before it burst into flames. He was found motionless in the nearby bushes.

VACANCY NOTICE

Operations Manager

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

Reports to: Chief Executive Officer

Summary of Responsibilities: Lead the Operations Department to achieve the best possible level of service to our Customers, at the lowest possible cost, whilst ensuring zero harm. Inspire and motivate all Supervisors, Clerks and Operators and other Operations Staff to continuously improve safety standards and productivity, through the application of lean processes, complimented by the relevant application of technology. Lead change initiatives to achieve these macro-level goals. Establish and maintain excellent working relationships with all other heads of department, collaborating within the leadership team to ensure the optimal holistic contribution to the continued success of the company.

Job Responsibilities:

- Attract, develop, grow and retain the best talents and fill the leadership pipeline.
- Organize, balance and schedule workloads within the department.
- Prioritize, delegate, and set performance objective, and develop visual management systems.
- Follow-up on performance, provide quality feedback, and objectively appraise differentiated performance levels.
- Empower and inspire to achieve high levels of motivation and employee engagement.
- Ensure zero harm, improve safe working processes within the full Operational area of the facility.
- Provide timely reports for all accidents and disciplinary incidents.
- Understand Customer requirements and drive the department to achieve these on a consistent basis.
- Track and manage variable expenditure to avoid all cost waste and reduce costs to the bare minimum.
- Continuously lean, streamline, and improve processes.
- Leverage relevant technology to automate processes.
- Collaborate with the Technical department to ensure that the optimal quantity of equipment is available for deployment.
- Work closely with the Accounting department to ensure that all services are precisely and expeditiously billed to the Customers.
- Coordinate just-in-time berthing of all vessels with the Marine department.
- Maintain high levels of data quality for Operational information and reports provided to other functions.
- Represent the company towards Unions, Customers, Regulators and Authorities.
- Provide inputs into budgetary processes.
- Take ownership in ambiguous situations.

Job Qualifications/Requirement:

- Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Supply Chain Management, Port Management or other related field (Master's degree would be an asset)
- 3-5 years' exemplary leadership experience of diverse teams
- Minimum 3-5 years' experience in supervising or managing logistics operations or other similar fields

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

- Emotional intelligence
- Innovative and creative
- Complex problem-solving
- Critical and analytical thinking
- High cognitive ability
- Technology cognizance
- Persistence, resilience, stress tolerance, flexibility and adaptability
- Assertive and decisive
- Visionary and inspiring
- Coaching and mentoring
- High integrity

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

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

Email to:

jobapplications@portofbelize.com

Closing date for receipt of applications is Friday, March 04, 2022.



Boom to the City Canoe Race this Sunday

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Feb. 16, 2022

The Belize Canoe Association today announced the holding of a "Boom to the City Canoe Race" this Sunday, February 20.

Registration for the race will be at 9:00 a.m., for the race to start at 10:00 a.m. sharp.

The race will begin at the Riverside Park in Burrell Boom, and end at the River Side Tavern in Belize City.

Race registration fee is \$100.00 per team.

Awards and cash prizes will be given to Male, Female, Mixed, Masters, Juniors, C2 and Intramural teams.

Sponsors for the race include B&B, Guinness, Coca-Cola, Belikin, Crystal, Landshark, and Heineken.

Missing man found dead in Steadfast

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Feb. 17, 2022

The body of Filberto Ramirez, 32, a resident of the Steadfast Community in the Stann Creek District who had been missing since Saturday, was found by a search group in a shallow stream, covered with mud and leaves. There were reportedly chop wounds on his remains.

Ramirez, 32, a Belizean construction worker, was allegedly in the company of five other male individuals at a residence in Steadfast Village on Saturday, February 12,

when he was last seen alive. Ramirez, a relatively new member of the community, had reportedly gone to that location with a young relative, who, according to unconfirmed reports, had had a misunderstanding with him. The following day, when a family member visited Ramirez's home, he was informed that he (Ramirez) had not returned since the previous night.

As a result, a search was conducted in the village, and approximately 150 yards from a pasture, a search group found Ramirez' body with chop wounds.

On Monday morning, police detained his nephew and other persons who were said to be at the house and were allegedly the last to see Ramirez alive. Yesterday, they arrested and charged a 16-year-old minor, and a 20-year-old man, Oncell Lopez, Jr., for the crime of murder. Reports from the family are that Lopez was beaten by Dangriga police and refused any medical attention.

Ramirez's body was transported to the Southern Regional Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Police are investigating.



Filberto Ramirez, deceased

belize bank

Our Country. Your Bank

PRESS RELEASE

Migration of Belize Bank Corporation Limited (BBCL) to Belize Bank Limited (BBL)

February 15, 2022, Belize City, Belize: The Belize Bank Limited (BBL) is proud to officially announce that the migration of the former Belize Bank Corporation Limited (BBCL) will be finalized on February 28th, 2022. As a bank, we value customer experience and we assure you that this migration will result in significant enhancements specifically designed to benefit you, our valued customers and the communities in which we serve.

The combined entity will be more sensitive and responsive to the needs of its customers and offer a broader range of modern financial products and services with increased accessibility.

As BBL finalizes the migration of BBCL products and services, starting February 26th, 2022 through to February 28th, 2022 we hereby advise our BBCL customers that they will not have access to **online banking, debit card and in-branch services. The BBCL ATM network services will also be unavailable starting the morning of February 25th, 2022.** We kindly request that you make the necessary preparations prior to this time to ensure you have cash or E-kyash funds in your wallet.

We also advise customers to:

- Inform your employer of your new BBL account number in order for your payroll to be processed to that account after March 1st, 2022. **(Government of Belize employees, please note that your employer has been provided with your new account number.)**
- Inform persons/businesses transferring funds to you to use your new BBL account number effective March 1, 2022.

As of March 1st, 2022, former BBCL customers can look forward to the following:

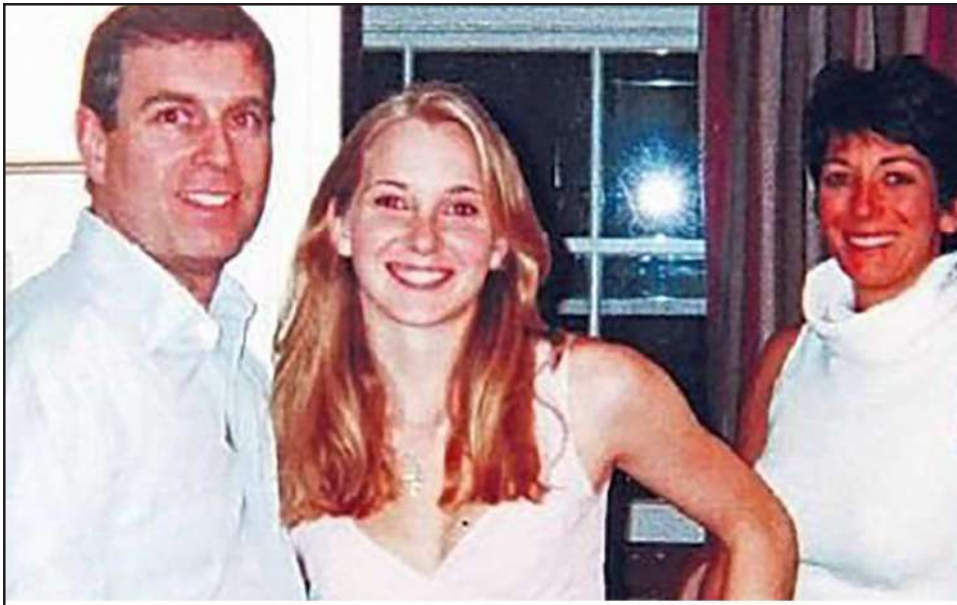
- Being able to start using your new contactless BBL MasterCard debit card at merchants countrywide and access a wider network of offsite ATMs to meet our clients' needs.
- Being able to log in to BBL's mobile and online banking and use all the great features Belize Bank online has to offer.
- Access to E-smart accounts with overdraft protection and a wide range of modern financial products and services.

For more information, please contact us at 227-7132 or message us via WhatsApp at 613-0257 or visit our website www.belizebank.com to review our migration guide which was prepared especially for you.

As we continue to make every effort to ensure a smooth and successful transition, and embrace the opportunities that lie ahead, we thank all our customers that continue to make us the financial services provider of choice. To all our new and future customers, welcome to the Belize Bank Family! Please enjoy our lower fees and excellent customer service.

Prince Andrew settles in sexual assault lawsuit

The disgraced prince, while never admitting guilt during the case, has agreed to pay an undisclosed sum of money to his accuser



(l-r) Prince Andrew, Virginia Giuffre, and convicted child sex trafficker, Ghislaine Maxwell

by Khaila Gentle

MANHATTAN, New York, Wed. Feb. 16, 2022

Prince Andrew, the Duke of York and the second son of Queen Elizabeth II, has settled the US civil sexual assault case filed against him by Virginia Giuffre, the woman who accused him of raping her. The 61-year-old Andrew, who is known to have been friends with convicted—and now deceased—sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, was accused of sexually assaulting Giuffre while she was a teenager at Epstein’s mansion in Manhattan as well as on his private island in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Andrew was also reported to have been friends with Ghislaine

Maxwell, who procured underage girls for Epstein and was found guilty of child sex trafficking in 2021. The lawsuit also claimed that Maxwell, Epstein, and Andrew had forced Giuffre to have sex with the now-disgraced prince at Maxwell’s London residence.

While accusations surrounding Andrew’s alleged sexual assault first surfaced in 2019, when Virginia Giuffre claimed that Jeffrey Epstein had trafficked her to the prince, the lawsuit against him was filed in August 2021, despite attempts by Andrew’s lawyers to have the case dismissed. And on February 15, 2022, just weeks before he was set to be questioned, under oath, by Giuffre’s lawyers, the prince settled the lawsuit for an undisclosed amount of money while still not admitting that the accusations were true. In addition to agreeing to pay Virginia Giuffre, he has also agreed to make a “substantial donation” to a charity in support of victims’ rights, reported the *New York Times*. The settlement comes just months after Andrew and his lawyers accused Giuffre of simply trying to gain financially from the royal family.

According to *CNN*, Giuffre was able to bring the civil sex abuse case against the Duke of York under the Child Victim’s Law—a law in the State of New York that allows the extension of the statute of limitations in child sex abuse cases to allow victims more time to seek justice.

In November 2019, shortly after an interview with BBC in which Prince Andrew attempted, but failed, to end speculation about the nature of his association with convicted child sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, the prince announced that he would be stepping away from public life. Following the airing of the interview, a number of critics noted Andrew’s lack of sympathy towards Epstein’s many victims, and shortly after, several organizations cut ties with the prince. In January of this year, Andrew was stripped of all his military and royal titles, including the title of His Royal Highness.

Lisa Bloom, a lawyer for eight of Jeffrey Epstein’s victims, saluted Giuffre in a recent tweet, noting her “stunning courage.”

“We hail Virginia’s victory today. She has accomplished what no one else could: getting Prince Andrew to stop his nonsense and side with sexual abuse victims,” wrote Bloom.



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



1 Part-Time Music Teacher

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

Please send cover letter and resume to:

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

Deadline for Application: February 28, 2022

PUBLIC AUCTION SALE: AIRCRAFTS

British Aerospace BAE 125 800 A SN 25806; Piper Chyenne Turbo Prop

BY ORDER of the Asset & Utilities Unit, Ministry of Finance, Government of Belize, Licensed Auctioneer Kevin A. Castillo is selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the below described aircrafts. Sales currently running and will expire Monday 28th February 2022 at the times shown on the website.

1. **British Aerospace BAE 125 800 A SN 258061:**



2. **Piper Chyenne Turbo Prop**



Terms of Sale:

1. Terms are for Cash
2. Aircrafts are being sold ‘As Is’
3. Viewing by appointments only
4. Aircrafts are **NOT LICENSED** and **UNABLE** to fly
5. To participate in these sales, bidders’ **MUST** submit their valid identification to be vetted by **The Commissioner of Police** prior to the sale.
6. Conditions of Sales for the aircrafts are available on request.

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH

KEVIN A. CASTILLO

TELEPHONE 223-4488

Website: belizepropertyauctions.com

E-mail: belizeauctionsales@gmail.com

Face Book: [Belize Auctions](#)

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FROM THE PUBLISHER en Español

Cuando se inauguró formalmente la Universidad de Belize (UB) en agosto de 2000, su servidor era el presidente de la junta. La universidad fue/es una fusión de cinco instituciones diferentes: el Colegio Universitario de Belize (UCB por sus siglas en inglés), el Colegio de Maestros de Belize, la Escuela de Enfermería Bliss, el Colegio Técnico de Belize y la Escuela de Agricultura de Belize.

La junta de la UB estaba compuesta por entre 12 y 14 personas que representaban a las cinco instituciones y otros organismos relevantes, como la Universidad de las Indias Occidentales (UWI por sus siglas en

inglés), la Cámara de Comercio de Belize, El Colegio San Juan, etc. (Creo que fui reemplazado como presidente de la UB a principios de 2004).

Casi veintidós años después, estoy decepcionado de lo invisible que es la UB en lo que respecta al discurso público de alto nivel sobre temas críticos. Porque fui presidente del consejo de la UB durante esos años a los que me he referido antes, sé por qué la situación es como es, o creo que sé. Los académicos de la UB son reprimidos por el Gobierno de Belize, ya sea UDP o PUP, porque el Gobierno provee la mayor parte de los fondos de la UB, y el flautista, ya sea rojo o azul,

lleva la voz cantante.

Me atrevo a sugerir, llegados a este punto, que Sandra Coye y Ya Ya Marin Coleman hacen más trabajo académico de alto nivel, por su cuenta, sin financiación alguna, que todos los académicos y estudiantes de la UB.

En toda la llamada América Latina, las universidades son calderos de debate intelectual y disidencia, y sé que el gobierno de Belize durante mi tiempo como presidente, un gobierno del Partido Unido del Pueblo (PUP), estaba decidido a que UB no debería generar tal agitación activista.

Me acuerdo de principios de la década de 1980 cuando el Gobierno de Belize, uno PUP, decidió "belizeanizar" el comando de las Fuerzas de Defensa de Belize (BDF por sus siglas en inglés), que se había establecido en 1978. Para aquellos de ustedes lectores más jóvenes, es importante mencionar que durante sus primeros años, el mando de la BDF estuvo en manos de ingleses.

Yo vivía en First Street (King's Park) a principios de la década de 1980 cuando Charles Good, un capitán de la BDF, si no recuerdo mal, vino a verme. Vivía a pocas cuadras de mí. El Capitán Good estaba en un estado de agitación, porque el gobierno del PUP había decidido reclutar a Tom Greenwood de la sección de la Guardia de Voluntarios de Belize de la BDF y enviarlo a Sandhurst para recibir un entrenamiento especial a fin de que asumiera el mando de la BDF como el primer líder beliceño de nuestro ejército.

Estaba claro para todos que la elección lógica para el mando beliceño en ese momento habría sido el Capitán Good, pero estaba seguro de que los líderes políticos de Belize habían sido advertidos por los británicos para que tuvieran mucho cuidado con cualquier comandante beliceño que fuera demasiado respetado por, y popular entre las bases de la BDF. Esa era mi perspectiva personal. Así que le dije a Charlie que el gobierno del PUP le tenía miedo, por eso estaban saltando Greenwood sobre él.

Entonces, los políticos tienen miedo de los ejércitos y tienen miedo de las universidades. Directo así. Esta es mi tesis.

Como resultado del temor de los políticos beliceños a sus universidades, se "terceriza" investigación muy importante. Es prácticamente ridículo. Un ejemplo clásico fue el del antropólogo jamaicano, Dr. Herbert Gayle, Ph. D., que fue contratado por Belize para realizar una investigación

sobre las pandillas y las vecindades de pandillas de Belize. Sin duda, el Dr. Gayle es algo especial, pero, en igualdad de condiciones, este debería haber sido un trabajo para un beliceño.

Les he dicho antes que sentí que fui mal educado en las escuelas de Belize, a las que asistí de 1952 a 1965. Nunca me enseñaron sobre la Guerra de Castas en Yucatán. Nunca me enseñaron sobre el levantamiento de 1919 en la Ciudad de Belize. Yo resentí profundamente mi mal educación, y por lo tanto me rebelé. Por esta rebelión, he sido severamente disciplinado por la estructura de poder de Belize.

Bueno, ahora, lo mismo se está haciendo, se ha hecho, de nuevo durante el último medio siglo con los estudiantes de Belize. No se ha realizado ninguna investigación sobre un evento que creo que es fundamental para comprender la historia de Belize desde el autogobierno.

Durante un período de aproximadamente dos años, entre 1971 y 1972, había ocurrido algo extraordinario. Entre los jóvenes de la antigua capital/centro poblacional, la Ciudad de Belize, se había producido una fusión entre las líneas políticas partidarias. Mirando hacia atrás ahora, puedo ver que tal fusión fue, casi por definición, bastante frágil, porque la base de la sociopolítica de Belize es un sistema bipartidista, donde el pueblo beliceño está dividido por el emocionalismo de la política de personalidad partidaria.

La razón por la que es importante que se estudie 1971 y 1972 es porque los jóvenes en ese mismo antiguo centro poblacional/capital se han estado matando entre sí durante más de tres décadas, y nadie puede entenderlo realmente, o digámoslo de otra manera, nadie puede ofrecer una solución que se acerque a funcionar.

Si es que algunas personas en algún lugar desean que exista y continúe un proceso suicida/genocida de este tipo, entonces este asunto es tan grande que es asombroso.

He llegado a la conclusión de que cualquier solución a este desastre tiene que venir de la diáspora beliceña, contra viento y marea. Por ahora, repito, los académicos de Belize se han negado a reconocer que algo importante sucedió el 29 de mayo de 1972. Han hecho lo mismo que hicieron sus predecesores coloniales con los eventos del 22 y 23 de julio de 1919. Esos eventos simplemente no sucedieron. Fueron producto de la imaginación de alguien. Hoy, la ignorancia es sangre.



OBREGON COCONUT COMPANY LTD.

Main Office Located in Bella Vista Village - Local Tel: 501.780.2626
hr.obregoncoconutcompany@gmail.com

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Obregon Coconut Company Limited one of Belize's largest coconut farms located in Bella Vista Village, Toledo District, via the Southern Highway is seeking to recruit a **Fruit Estimate & Harvest Supervisor** to join our dynamic team. Interested parties should send Resume addressed to HR Manager via e-mail to hr.obregoncoconutcompany@gmail.com by 28, February 2022.

The successful candidate should be able to perform and have qualifications according to the following:

GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

Responsible for all harvesting process. Work involves responsibility for planning, coordinating, and directing all cyclical activities (daily, weekly, monthly, etc.) in coconut and soursop farm.

SPECIFIC TASKS:

PLANNING

- Use and maintain a harvest projection model for estimating volume of fruit to be harvested weekly, monthly and annually, this model includes age of fruit, recovery and field losses.
- Weekly planning of stem identification and fruit harvest work by the areas of coconut and soursop
- Participate in weekly, monthly meetings on planning and results of the Farm focusing on improving the crop.

DIRECTING

- Supervise coconut stem identification and soursop fruit bagging, and harvest process of both coconut and soursop in the field assuring quality of fruit and specifications.
- Optimize the use of the resources available in your work area: labor and materials.
- Schedule and distribute personnel and materials in the farm according to the programs and according to the weekly planning of identification, bagging and harvest work.
- Prepare the daily payroll of the personnel under your supervision.

CONTROLLING

- Evaluate the performance of the personnel under your supervision.
- Effectively control expenses according to the approved budget.
- Approve weekly payroll for accounting and payment

TRAINING

- Train and ensure compliance with the programs established in the farm for the harvest of coconuts and soursop.
- Train in theory and in practice all workers under your supervision 2 times a year
- Identify training needs and define actions and activities to implement.
- Secure the Socio-Environmental Certifications (Global gap, Rain Forest, SA-8000,) of your area.

HUMAN RELATIONS

- Promote an optimal work environment that allows mutual respect in worker-employer relations.
- Ensure that working conditions are safe and adequate for workers.
- Maintain communication with the Human Resources and Administration Departments to optimize their support.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Bachelors Degree in Agricultural Science, or Agric Economics; and/or working experience in fruit production. (Preferably Coconut & Soursop)
- Associates Degree in Agricultural Science, or Agric Economics; Two years working experience in fruit production. (Preferably Coconut & Soursop)
- Experience in agricultural estimating and harvesting production processes. (Preferably Coconuts & Soursop)
- Experience supervising farm workers
- Strong written and verbal communication skills
- Ability to prepare statistics and forecasts
- Familiar and comfortable using Microsoft Office Programs
- Spanish Speaking would be an asset

AMANDALA is cream!



CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Belize Electricity Limited (BEL) is the primary distributor and the only licensed public provider of electricity in Belize. Our Mission is to deliver safe, reliable and sustainable energy solutions to enhance the quality of life and the productivity of enterprise and to support national development.

We are looking for a highly motivated, goal oriented, responsible and committed person to join our Company in the role of GIS Technician II in the Distribution System Planning & Engineering Department of our Distribution Services Division in Belize City.

Duties:

- Implement GIS System using present Company acquired software, Microsoft Office, AutoCAD, ESRI ArcGIS Desktop, SQL server and ArcFM.
- Capture GPS data for the GIS System using GIS equipment and train other technicians in the use of the equipment.
- Implement "add on" geographic features to the Company's base system.
- Customize GIS Database for deployment to the various Divisions/Departments within the Company and develop, deploy and maintain GIS Database throughout the Company.
- Make recommendations for additional resources or for resource changes as seen relevant to support the implementation of the GIS System.
- Report on the status of the GIS System as required.
- Prepare progress reports on the use of equipment, material and labor for assigned projects as required.
- Support the Company's safety and environmental initiatives and ensure compliance with national safety and environmental regulations applicable to the area of responsibility.
- Perform on-call duties on a rotational basis.

Education and Experience:

- Associate Degree in Geosciences, Mapping/Surveying or related field
- Three years' working experience as a GIS technician or in related field

Required Skills and Abilities:

- Understanding of Integrated GPS and GIS principles
- Basic computer programming and data analysis skills
- Working knowledge of ArcGIS suite software
- Working knowledge of Microsoft Office with an emphasis in Microsoft Project Management
- Basic knowledge of database management
- Good written and verbal communication skills (reports and presentations)
- Action and results oriented with excellent collaborative skills for pursuing shared goals
- Ability to take initiative, exercise sound judgement while maintaining high work quality
- Ability to meet deadlines in a fast paced and changing environment
- Valid driver's license

Salary: in accordance with Company Salary Structure.

Submit application letter along with resume, copy of degrees and certificates and two recent professional letters of recommendation via email to:

Manager, Talent Acquisition & Development
Email: career.opportunity@bel.com.bz

In the email subject, please indicate the position:
GIS Technician II

Only electronic applications are being accepted at this time.
For more information or queries, call 227-0954 Ext. 2901 or 2902

Deadline: Friday, March 4, 2022

Police use gang affiliation law to jail 6



Chester Williams,
Commissioner of Police

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Feb. 16, 2022

In the past few weeks, there have been a number of fatal shooting incidents (particularly in the Antelope Street Extension area) that police are currently attributing to the Jerusalem Bone Yard Crips (JBYC).

In response to that spike in gang-related murders, Commissioner of Police, Chester Williams, while addressing the media at a briefing on Monday, February 14, informed reporters that the Police Department has arrested several individuals who are suspected of being gang affiliates.

"We have utilized the law again as it relates to being the member of a gang, and so the GI3 investigation/intelligence section has been busy in terms of investigating these gang members with a view to bringing charges against them, and last week they were prepared to charge, I think, seven of these individuals for being the member of a gang, some of whom were caught. They were taken to court. They pled guilty, and from what I am told, two persons were sentenced to prison. Some were remanded because they pled not guilty, and I think that we're still looking for a few," he said.

"The gang, the GI3 investigation unit is currently compiling files on other gangs within Belize City, and we're hoping that very shortly, we should be bringing charges against another set of gang members. We are hopeful that it will help to reduce the tensions and the crime problems in Belize City where these gangs are concerned," he went on to say.

When asked if the police will be carrying out a similar initiative in other gang-ridden areas throughout the city, Commissioner Williams said, "Certainly yes, we are doing that. While, yes, we do have the programme that is being run in Belize City with the gang members, we are working with those who want to make that change and are not involved in the violence. But those who we believe are still involved in the violence and creating havoc, then we have to go after them and charge them under the gang law and see if we can put them away."

Guatemala hit by 6.2 magnitude earthquake



Landslides caused by earthquake in Guatemala

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Feb. 17, 2022

On Wednesday, February 16, at around 1:12 a.m., an earthquake measuring 6.2 on the Richter scale and that was recorded at a depth of 96 km (60 miles), shook a portion of the southwestern part of Guatemala—with the epicenter of the earthquake being located 10 miles east of Tiquisate, Guatemala.

Tiquisate is a region on the Central American nation's coastal planes that lies approximately 80 miles below Guatemala City and is primarily inhabited by low-income Guatemalans. It is surrounded by large banana and palm oil plantations that generate produce that is exported to the United States.

Guatemala's disaster agency, the National Coordinator for Disaster

Reduction (CONRED), indicated that the earthquake's tremors were 6.8 in magnitude, following which there were several aftershocks of 4.8 magnitude on the Richter scale.

Local Guatemalan authorities had confirmed two fatalities, a woman from Mixco, a western suburb of the capital, and a man in the highland city of Quetzaltenango. Both died of heart attacks, authorities said.

The initial earthquake caused landslides on roads, some slight damage to houses, and power outages, but no casualties had been reported, according to rescue services.

The tremor was felt as far as El Salvador.

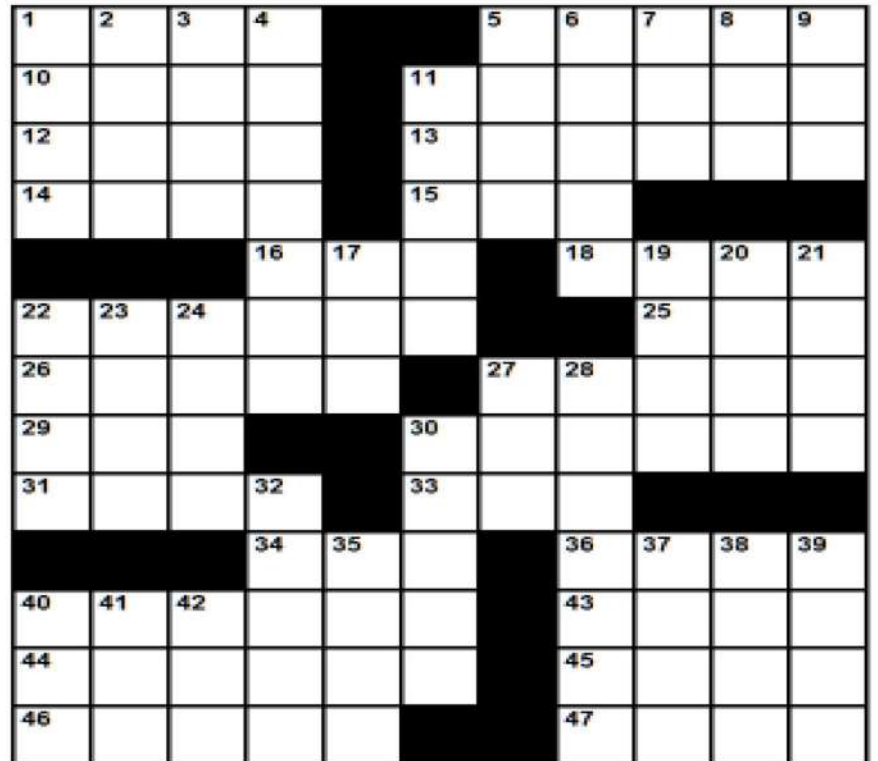
Last year, more than 125 earthquakes were recorded in Guatemala, none of which caused any deaths or significant damage.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



NEW PUZZLE

Daily Crossword Puzzle for February 17, 2022



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Across

- 1. Bask
- 5. Digression
- 10. A Met score
- 11. Bar garnishes
- 12. Erte's genre
- 13. Shiny plastics
- 14. Wine served warm
- 15. Did lunch
- 16. Formal address
- 18. Bulb rating
- 22. Foot, in slang
- 25. Canine category
- 26. Discrimination against the elderly
- 27. Put one's foot down
- 29. Afflicted
- 30. With hands on hips
- 31. Decreasingly
- 33. Buy at auction
- 34. Crime cartel
- 36. Blue flag, for one
- 40. Dundee of boxing
- 43. Hands up time
- 44. Stay calm
- 45. Be present at
- 46. Keat's muse
- 47. Caesar's wound

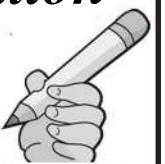
Down

- 1. Gum amounts
- 2. 2-D measure

- 3. Ilsa's flame
- 4. Certain communists
- 5. Came to earth
- 6. Tendon
- 7. College growth
- 8. Small st.
- 9. Feminine suffix
- 11. Egg producing organ
- 17. Belief, in brief
- 19. Bit for Fermi
- 20. Sepulcher
- 21. Key blunder
- 22. Animal appendage
- 23. Eye at the beach
- 24. Cruet liquids
- 27. Aspen gear
- 28. Info
- 30. Costello's partner
- 32. Great Lakes fish
- 35. Musical medley
- 37. Act like a fan
- 38. Greek letter
- 39. Haughty person
- 40. Air hero
- 41. And also not
- 42. Asian gazelle


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 - 02-10-2022 - Answers






ENHANCE YOUR FUTURE
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We are inviting applications from suitable and qualified professionals who fit this profile and who are nationals of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Member States and Associate Members of the Caribbean Community to fill the undermentioned positions:

DUTY STATION - GUYANA 


- (i) Director, Corporate Services
- (ii) Director, Strategic Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation
- (iii) Director, Information and Communication
- (iv) Deputy Programme Manager, Human Resource Management
- (v) Deputy Programme Manager, Health Sector Development
- (vi) Deputy Programme Manager, Agricultural Development
- (vii) Senior Statistician, Census Coordination, Population and Social Statistics

Full details of these positions may be obtained by accessing the following websites - www.caricom.org; www.oecs.org and www.caribbeanjobsonline.com

Interested candidates are required to apply using the **CARICOM Secretariat's Recruitment Portal** which can be accessed at https://caricom.org/opportunities_category/caricom-secretariat-vacancies/

The deadline for the submission of applications is **28 February 2022**.

***ONLY SHORTLISTED CANDIDATES WILL BE CONTACTED AND ADVANCED TO THE NEXT STAGE OF THE SELECTION PROCESS.**





CAREER OPPORTUNITY

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We are looking for a highly motivated, goal oriented, responsible and committed person to join our Company in the role of **Manager, Marketing & Product Innovation** in the **Marketing & Product Innovation Department** of our **Commercial & Retail Services Division** at our Corporate Headquarters in Belize City.

Duties:

- Responsible for the process and the underlying techniques of leading the development, promotion and distribution of BEL's products and services. Paramount is the go-to-market strategy and successful implementation of new energy services solutions such as EV-Charging Systems, Smart Energy Solutions, Solar, Smart Home and Pre-Paid products.
- Responsible for market analyses, brand development, product development and pricing strategy.
- Responsible for positioning the brand, creating market awareness, deepening customer engagement and increasing customer conversion and retention.
- Manage and develop marketing programs and materials such as advertising, event support and online promotions.
- Provide marketing training and training of new product lines for relevant staff.
- Responsible to lead research into BEL's strategic future business opportunities.
- Manage processes and monitor the progress of the various ongoing initiatives related to product development.
- Responsible for building innovative capabilities and transferring them into the corporate culture to affect the broader organization.
- Responsible for allocating resources, setting up teams and shaping long-term capability.

Qualification Requirements:

- Master's Degree in Strategic Marketing and/or Innovation or a Master's Degree with a focus in Innovation with at least two years of experience working in a cutting edge area; OR
- Bachelor's Degree in Marketing and/or Innovation with at least five years of experience working in a cutting edge area such as telecommunications or tourism
- CSME Skilled Certificate or willing to acquire the same

Required Skills and Abilities:

- Proven experience as head of marketing developing client-focused, differentiated and achievable solutions
- Excellent management and organizational skills, drive to make a difference, self-starting, innovative and results oriented
- Charismatic, energetic, passionate and proactive
- Proven ability to articulate the distinct aspects of products and services
- Excellent listening, negotiation and presentation skills
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Creative and resourceful

Salary: in accordance with Company Salary Structure.

Submit application letter along with resume, copy of degrees and certificates and three recent professional letters of recommendation via email to:

Manager, Talent Acquisition & Development
Email: career.opportunity@bel.com.bz

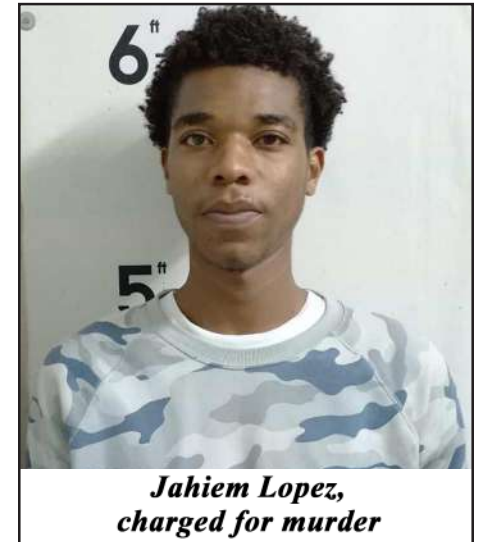
In the email subject, please indicate the position:
Manager, Marketing & Product Innovation

Only electronic applications are being accepted at this time.
For more information or queries, call 227-0954 Ext. 2901 or 2902

Deadline: Friday, March 18, 2022

Teenager charged for Karina Andrews' murder

A Roaring Creek resident was arrested and charged for murder in connection with the death of 20-year-old Karina Andrews



Jahiem Lopez,
charged for murder

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Feb. 16, 2022

A teenage resident of Roaring Creek was arrested and charged with murder on Tuesday, February 15, in connection with a shooting in Belmopan on Saturday night that claimed the life of 20-year-old Karina Andrews, who died while being treated at the Western Regional Hospital shortly after the shooting.

On Tuesday, February 15, police arrested and charged 19-year-old Jahiem Lopez, a resident of Roaring Creek village, who they believe is the alleged gunman who unleashed a torrent of bullets at a white van in which Andrews and seven others had been traveling after they left the Star Restaurant/Bar at which they had been socializing on Saturday night. One of the more than twenty bullets that were fired, fatally wounded Andrews in the head, while three other occupants of the vehicle, 23-year-old Joshua Jones, 28-year-old Devon Vasquez, and 26-year-old Emerson Rhaburn—were injured but are reportedly in a stable condition.

Andrews and the other occupants of the vehicle had been socializing at Stars Restaurant in Belmopan, when they reportedly noticed a suspicious individual making multiple trips in and out of the establishment. The group, reportedly unnerved by that person's movements, decided to leave the establishment and were heading to their homes in a white van when an SUV overtook them at a speed bump near Blue Moon Restaurant, at the entrance to Belmopan at about 11:15 p.m. It is believed that Lopez was in that SUV, from which approximately 25 shots were fired, and that he was the triggerman who fired those shots.

Commissioner of Police, Chester Williams, told local media in a police press briefing on Monday that this murder is believed to be connected to an ongoing gang feud

Stephan Bowen pleads guilty to manslaughter



Stephan Bowen

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Feb. 16, 2022

Stephan Bowen, a Belize City man charged with murder for the 2018 death of Elroy “Scrub Board” Saldano, 49, pleaded guilty to a lesser charge of manslaughter in the Supreme Court yesterday on the advice of his attorney.

Bowen, 22, who appeared before Justice Ricardo Sandcroft, a newly appointed Justice of the Supreme Court, has been on remand since October 2018.

The then 19-year-old Bowen was accused of shooting Saldano twice while he was riding his bicycle on Peter Seco Street in Belize City. Saldano died eight days after the shooting at the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital due to organ failure that resulted from the gunshot injuries he received.

The prosecution had secured video evidence from a surveillance camera located in the area of the shooting, and in that footage Bowen could be seen shooting Saldano and then running away.

Bowen will return to court for his sentence hearing on March 30.

Teenager charged for Karina Andrews' murder

Continued from **Page 25**

in Roaring Creek and that mitigation efforts in the area will be undertaken by the police to avert any possible retaliation and further loss of life. According to local reports, Andrews, who was the mother of a 1-year-old boy, was simply in the wrong place at the wrong time, since she was to have been picked up by her common-law-husband, but had opted instead to get a ride home in the van.

There are also unconfirmed reports, according to 7News, that one of the other occupants of the vehicle—who had “given, and then retracted her statement in a murder investigation”—might have been the target of the gunman.



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We are looking for a highly motivated, goal oriented, responsible and committed person to join our Company in the role of **Marketing & Product Innovation Officer** in the **Marketing & Product Innovation Department** of our **Commercial & Retail Services Division** in Belize City.

Duties:

- Initiate research to identify consumer needs by leading studies related to marketing developments, provide leadership and support for the design, development, refinement and implementation of products, develop and translate strategy to marketing objectives/marketing plan and present to the leadership team.
- Lead the marketing of new products and services including events like trade shows and town halls.
- Stimulate the development of digital marketing and identify potential strategic channel partners in product development.
- Manage the process and monitor the progress of the various ongoing product development projects.
- Supervise the work and complete appraisals/performance reviews of the staff and contractors and provide training related to new products to relevant staff.
- Prepare work plans and schedules, including the timing of outsourced work tendering, evaluation of bids, negotiation and contracting, delivery of equipment and materials, schedules and testing and commissioning of project components.
- Oversee the preparation of bidding documents for procurement of materials and equipment and coordinate activities for the project team.
- Prepare project implementation progress reports and oversee the preparation of project interim financial reports.
- Collaborate cross-functionally to drive the customer to concept process to bring new products to market.
- Represent BEL on relevant symposia and industry meetings.
- Develop technical literature where needed.

Education and Experience:

- Bachelor's Degree in Marketing, Business Management, Innovation or related field with a concentration in Project Management
- Two years' working experience in a cutting-edge area such as telecommunications or tourism
- Five years' professional experience in Project Management working in a cutting-edge area is desired
- Experience as head of marketing developing client-focused, differentiated and achievable solutions

Required Skills and Abilities:

- Possess strong creative and innovative thinking skills
- Excellent critical thinking and data analytics abilities
- Ability to structure complex information and problem solve
- Proven ability to articulate the distinct aspects of products and services
- Proven ability to position products against competitors
- Strong understanding of customers' needs
- Resourceful, charismatic, energetic, with excellent negotiation skills
- Self-starter with excellent management and organizational skills
- Strong verbal and written communications skills (reports, presentations, proposals)
- Strong interpersonal skills (charismatic, energetic, self-starter)
- Ability to exercise sound judgement while maintaining high work quality
- Ability to work in a fast paced and dynamic environment, focus on deliverables and meet deadlines
- Ability to prioritize tasks and delegate when appropriate
- Action and results oriented with excellent collaborative skills for pursuing shared goals
- General technological proficiency including working knowledge of Microsoft Office and other relevant applications
- Intermediate proficiency in Microsoft Excel (managing spreadsheets with large sets of data, creating charts and using advanced formulas)

Salary: in accordance with Company Salary Structure.

Submit application letter along with resume, copy of degrees and certificates and three recent professional letters of recommendation via email to:

Manager, Talent Acquisition & Development
Email: career.opportunity@bel.com.bz

In the email subject, please indicate the position:
Marketing & Product Innovation Officer

Only electronic applications are being accepted at this time.
For more information or queries, call 227-0954 Ext. 2901 or 2902

Deadline: Friday, March 4, 2022



Ahmadiyya Basketball League Week 2 results

Info courtesy Rodvern Lino – ABL Commissioner

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Feb. 16, 2022

The 7th season of the Ahmadiyya Basketball League (ABL) continued with Week 2 games on Sunday, February 13 at the Mexico Center basketball courts at the Marion Jones Sports Complex.

Below are the scores from Week 2 games in the different categories:

U15

Los Lagos Defenders over PG, 47 – 11. Los Lagos – Campbell 14pts, Wagner 14pts. PG – Garbutt 6pts.

Savage Storm over ABS Hard Rock, 21 – 19. Savage Storm - Wade 9pts; Palacio 8pts. ABS – Garcia and Marshall 7pts each.

Savage Storm over PG, 44 – 18. Savage Storm – Wade 18pts; Pipersburg 6pts. PG – Westby 11pts; Guzman 6pts.

U18

All Star Ballers vs Riverside Bombers, 28 – 26. All Star – Smith 13pts; Lainfiesta 6pts. Riverside – August 15pts; Baltazar 5pts.

Future Shock over Falcons, 53 – 22. Future Shock – Pratt 17pts; Perriot 13pts. Falcons – Guitierrez 8pts; Hamilton 7pts.

ABS Hard Rock over We Got Game, 37 – 34. ABS - Moody 10pts; Rowland 9pts. WGG – Heusner 10pts; Usher 7pts.

U22

501 Gators over Cayo Black Rose, 27 – 26. Gators – Bradley 10pts; Garbutt 7pts. CBR – Usher 11pts; Avila 6pts.

Kings Park Raiders over Cayo Black Rose, 31 – 30. Kings Park – Hemmans 9pts; Bermudez 8pts. Cayo Black Rose - ???

Shiesty Ballers over Boom Ballers, 43 – 39. Shiesty – Menzies 15pts; Vernon 12pts. Boom – Westby 15pts; Patnett 11pts.

Orange Walk Rebels over Tropic Air Defenders, ??? Rebels – Shaw 16pts; Hendy 6pts. TA Defenders – Goff 10pts; Saunders 8pts.

Open

Westland over Caye Caulker Stingrayz, 46 – 38. Westland - Ellis A 9pts; Swift 10pts. Caye Caulker - Arana 7pts; Chimilio 6pts.

Complex Titans over San Pedro Palapa Boys, 27 – 21. Complex - Baptist, Gongora and Arana 5pts each. San Pedro - Alvarez 8pts; Burgess 5pts.

Orange Walk Dynapros over BDF Ballers, 47 – 18. Dynapros – Velasquez 14pts; Dawson 13pts. BDF – Hamilton and Ifield 4pts each.

Truckers Posse over Orange Court Generals, 33 – 29. Truckers – Rowley 8pts; Cooper 5pts. OCG – Lopez G 8pts; Casimiro 5pts.

501 Falcons over Eagles, 44 – 20. Falcons – Vasquez 10pts; Hamilton 9pts. Eagles – Longsworth 6pts.

ABL 2022 Week 3 schedule

Some 16 games are scheduled to be played this coming Sunday in Week 3 of the Ahmadiyya Basketball League 2022 season, all at the Mexico Centre

(Marion Jones Stadium Compound). Two games are played simultaneously on Court #1 and Court #2.

Teams are asked to please be on time for scheduled games:

Sunday, February 20

9:00 a.m. – (#1 U15) Lords Bank Conquerors vs Falcons; (#2 U22) Gorilla Cutz vs Suga City Boyz.

10:00 a.m. – (U18) Vipers vs We Got Game; (U22) Young Legend Flames vs One Shot.

11:00 a.m. – (U15) Young Ballers vs ABS Hard Rock; (Open) BDF Ballers vs Caye Caulker Sting Rayz.

12:00 noon – (U22) Tropic Air Defenders vs Suga City Boyz; (U18) 501 Gators vs Hard Rock Defenders.

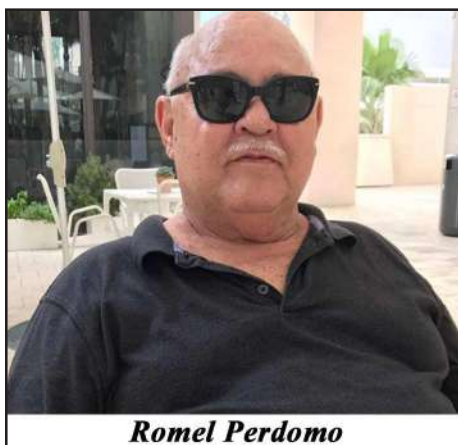
1:00 p.m. - (U22) Young Legend Flames vs Shiesty Ballers; (Open) Milpa Boyz vs San Pedro Palapa Boys.

2:00 p.m. – (U18) 501 Grizzlies vs Ladyville Big Dreams; (Open) Flight “822” vs Trucker’s Posse.

3:00 p.m. – (U18) Riverside Bombers vs Falcons; (Open) Chiefs vs 501 Falcons.

4:00 p.m. – (Open) Flight “822” vs Belama Gators; (Open) Complex Titans vs Westland

Condolences to Maito on passing of brother, Romel



Romel Perdomo

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Feb. 17, 2022

The Perdomo family has been a presence in the sporting community especially in Belize City for decades, but never so evident as in football in the nineteen eighties, when their sponsored First Division club Duurly’s won many championships and often represented Belize in the Concacaf club champions and sub-champions tournament along with arch-rivals Coke Milpros.

Maito (Omario Perdomo, Jr.) also served a few stints as chairman of the Belize District Football Association, while elder brother Romel spent more time directing operations in the family’s Travellers business.

A classmate of yours truly in the SJC class of 1970, Romel was always a very down-to-earth personality who was honest and sincere with his feelings. A fierce

competitor who had no problem expressing his emotions, from what we can gather Romel was always supportive of the sporting endeavors of younger brother Maito.

Like his father, Omario, Sr. before him, Romel suffered from kidney problems and was the recipient of a kidney donated by his daughter, Magali, some sixteen years ago. About three years ago, that kidney finally failed, and Romel was forced to begin undergoing dialysis treatment. For greater convenience with dialysis, he moved shortly afterwards to live in Miami, Florida; but he kept abreast of happenings on the Belizean scene, and often shared his views on a wide range of subjects on Facebook.

Despite the prominence of their business, the Perdomo brothers Romel and Maito, and other family members we have encountered, have always exhibited an affinity toward Belizean “roots” people, and the love has been reciprocated.

From the sports desk and all of Kremandala, we extend our sincere condolences to his brother Maito, his wife and children and the rest of the Perdomo family on the passing of a heart and soul Belizean, Romel Tiburcio Perdomo.

The funeral service is to be held next Wednesday, February 23, at which his daughter Magali is expected to deliver the eulogy. Rest in peace, brother Romel!



Aero Dispatch Services Limited

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to fill the position of **Assistant Accountant**

Responsibilities and duties

The primary responsibilities and duties of the post would be to provide support to Accounts Comptroller such duties and responsibilities would include (see below) but are not limited to:

- Monthly reconciliation and revision of all bank accounts including operational, merchant and credit card.
- Revision of all internal reports prepared by other accounting staff members relating to cash receipts and cash disbursements.
- Revision of all customer credit invoices to ensure accuracy and completeness in data entry.
- Preparation of accurate monthly billings to all commercial customers.
- Preparation and maintenance of various accounting schedules including: prepayments, accruals, insurance, property plant and equipment, other receivable, other payables etc.
- Reconciliation of general ledger accounts.
- Preparation and submittal of monthly statute reports (BT, GST and CWT).
- Assist in the preparation & analysis of monthly and annual sales and financial reports.
- Perform any additional relevant duties as requested by the Accounts Comptroller.

Qualifications and experience

- Bachelor Degree in Accounting.
- Minimum of 3+ years’ experience in similar or equivalent role.
- Recent experience in the external auditing field would be considered a plus.
- Proficient in all functions with Quick Books and MS Office Suite.
- Excellent communication skills both written and oral.
- Excellent time management, organization and analytical skills
- Ability to work efficiently and effectively under pressure.
- Ability to work independently as well as part of a team.
- Must possess the following attributes: honest, responsible, ethical, and respectful
- Must be able to keep any and all information privy to strictly confidential

Should you fulfill the above-mentioned requirements and interested in the position please submit application to:

Human Resource Department
Aero Dispatch Services Limited
41 Albert Street, Belize City
+501 227 7185
cmiralda@belizeglobal.com
clopez@belizeglobal.com

Deadline for submission of application: 28th February 2022

*All applications must include: application cover letter, resume, curriculum vitae, two letters of reference, copies of any degree/certificate and recent police record.

CLASSIFIED ADS

VACANCY

VACANCY: Live-in caregiver - must be 35 years or older with experience in caring for the elderly. Call 600-1085.

NOTICE

NOTICE: I, Daren Dunker, hereby acknowledge that I have lost my Registration Certificate Bearing #SC810 for M/V Southern Gyal.

NOTICE: I, Michael Medvedkov, misplaced certificate for Reef Water Sports CC-0076, and registration certificate for Aquahauliq CC-0055

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 **Neidy Nuri Rodriguez** is applying for a Publican Special License to be operated at The Land of the Lazy Lizard Ltd., 14 Front Street, Caye Caulker Village, Belize, under the Intoxicating Liquor License

Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Neidy Nuri Rodriguez** is applying for a Restaurant Liquor License to be operated at The Land of the Lazy Lizard Ltd., 14 Front Street, Caye Caulker Village, Belize, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Neidy Nuri Rodriguez** is applying for a Publican Special License to be operated at El Portal Island Lounge & Tapas Bar, Caye Caulker Village, Belize, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Neidy Nuri Rodriguez** is applying for a Restaurant Liquor License to be operated at El Portal Island Lounge & Tapas Bar, Caye Caulker Village, Belize, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Magdalena Gutierrez** is applying for a Restaurant Liquor License to be operated at La Rumba, St. Margaret, Hummingbird Hwy., Cayo District, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Bernard Adolphus** is applying for a Publican Special Liquor License to be operated at Belize Ex-Services League, #158 Newtown Barracks, Belize City, Belize, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.



Belize Women take 6 from El Salvador, face Panama on Sunday

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Feb. 17, 2022
Yesterday at the Estadio Cuscatlan, San Salvador, in El Salvador, the Belize National Senior Women's Team lost, 6-0, to El Salvador National Women's Team in our first of four matches to be played in Group D of the "Concacaf W Qualifiers."

According to an August 2021 Concacaf release:

"The 30 Concacaf Member Associations participating, all ranked 3 and below in the FIFA Women's Ranking as of July 2021, have been divided into six groups of five teams each..."

And it listed: "Group D: Panama, El Salvador, Barbados, Belize and Aruba"

The new competition format is designed to give weaker teams a chance to play at least a few games before being eliminated from

competition, so Belize will get to play three more matches. Having lost our first match by a big margin, winning the group is obviously not a realistic possibility; but our girls will still be taking advantage of the experience to chart the way forward in preparing for their next opportunity at the international level.

The six group winners of the Concacaf W Qualifiers will advance to join the USA and Canada in the "2022 Concacaf W Championship" which "is scheduled for the summer and will serve as the final round of qualifying to the FIFA Women's World Cup Australia and New Zealand 2023 and the 2024 Paris Summer Olympic Games."

Belize has two more matches to be played in April. For now, the same



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 18, 2022 to Thursday February 24, 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: Mahognany
 - 3:30 p.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (repeat)**
 - 6:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (LIVE)**
 - 7:00 p.m. Jazz Sesion
 - 7:30 p.m. **You and The Law (repeat)**
 - 9:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**
- Saturday
- 9:00 a.m. Documentary: Biography Lewis Latimer
 - 9:04 a.m. Movie: Harriet Tubman
 - 10:40 a.m. Documentary: Ida B. Wells - Her Great Passion for Justice
 - 11:34 a.m. Movie: Separados mas iguais - Separate but Equal
 - 2:47 p.m. Documentary: 1804 - The Hidden History of Haiti
 - 5:23 p.m. Movie: The Rosa Parks Story
 - 6:52 p.m. Documentary: Homicide - Life on the Street
 - 8:20 p.m. Movie: The Jackie Robinson Story
 - 10:00 p.m. Music Videos

SUNDAY

- 10:30 a.m. **Sunday Review (LIVE)**
- 12:00 p.m. Documentary: Booker T. Washington - The Life and The Legacy
- 12:31 p.m. Movie: Keep the Faith Baby
- 2:17 p.m. Documentary: Muhammad Ali
- 4:08 p.m. Documentary: Black History: Elijah McCoy - inventor
- 4:12 p.m. Documentary: The Zionist Story
- 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: Just an Old Sweet Song
- 3:30 p.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (repeat)**
- 6:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (LIVE)**
- 7:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 8:00 p.m. Documentary: Ronan Farrow: Who Were the Rioters on Jan. 6th?
- 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: The Jackie Robinson Story
- 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: Dr. Ivan Van Sertima - African
- 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: Thornwell
- 3:30 p.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (repeat)**
- 6:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (LIVE)**
- 7:00 p.m. Jazz Sesion
- 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: 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. Documentary: Ma Jemison: First Female African-American Astronaut
- 9:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**

Unannounced fuel-price increase!

Continued from Page 1

public discontent has been growing with each announcement of an additional price hike. This week, however, the prices of two fuel products were once again increased, but not one printed word about it was issued by the government in any formal release before that increase took place. It caught Belizeans, who are used to being informed of an upcoming price increase via a Government Press Office release, by surprise. The increases—a 17-cent jump in the price of premium fuel and a 93-cent-a-gallon surge in the price of kerosene—came into effect at midnight on Wednesday morning. As a result, the price of premium fuel is now set at \$12.90 a gallon, while kerosene now costs \$9.72 per gallon—almost passing the \$10 mark.

The president of the Public Service Union (PSU), Dean Flowers, in an interview today expressed his views on the matter. “I think that Belizeans need to understand that they have a duty and a responsibility and push back when things aren’t going their way. They have a right to push back. It cannot be that the government will continue to rack in these large amounts of taxes on the price of fuel at the expense of the Belizean people,” he said.

He also speculated that the government has more than likely surpassed their budgeted projected revenue from fuel taxes, and is now in a position to absorb some of the costs related to the acquisition of fuel instead of passing it on as an additional burden to consumers.

“I am pretty quite sure that they have surpassed their budget numbers for fuel, right, so there is absolutely, in my humble opinion, no excuse or reason, for the government to not reconsider absorbing some of the cost associated with the shipping of that fuel. I say that because, as the Prime Minister himself said, the percentage per commodity is fixed, so clearly the higher the cost, the larger the stake for the government. So, the

government, I believe, has surpassed their revenue projected where fuel taxes or taxes on fuel is concerned, and I will repeat, there should be no excuse or reason why they cannot now absorb some of that cost,” Flowers went on to assert.

The Prime Minister, Hon. John Briceño, has publicly said that the economy is rebounding much faster than expected, and has touted a 6.2 % GDP growth estimate for 2022. He mentioned those economic advancements when hinting at a possible GoB decision to end the 10% salary cut endured by teachers and public servants. When interviewed today, however, the PSU president said that fuel revenue appears to be the main driver behind the so-called economic rebound.

“The sad reality is that while we’ve been told that while we’ve been, that they, well, the economy is performing and rebounding, we now know exactly where that excess revenue over what was budgeted is coming from. The bulk of it appears to be coming from fuel, and it’s a shame that this

administration, and the Barrow administration, and perhaps all previous administrations before this current one, has not seen it fit to do the correct thing, which is to subsidize the cost of fuel when it goes beyond 10 or 11 dollars.” Flowers expressed.

He said that he thinks it is something that can be done, especially if each citizen who suffers from the high fuel prices begins to protest the exorbitant prices. Flowers said that they have encouraged their public officials to use private transportation less in order to reduce their expenses. While Flowers agrees that external factors, including international supply and demand, have led to a rise in acquisition costs which have increased the price of fuel, he pointed out that it is the government’s responsibility to “spread the burden” and offer some relief at the pumps.

“Any responsible government will spread the burden rather than continuing to inflict pain on its productive citizens. Similar to how the IMF makes a lot of its

recommendations that they want to ‘spread the GST’ or expand it and abolish the zero-rated items so that everybody could eat similarly, I’m saying that when the price of fuel reaches these unbearable and unsustainable limits, then perhaps time for the government to say, ‘I will absorb that’ so that it eases that burden across every single citizen rather than your most productive citizens who are already responsible—most of the taxes being collected based on the goods and services that we consume on a daily basis.”

Notably, it was announced yesterday that the price of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (butane) would also be increased—by 33 cents per gallon.

The increase came into effect at midnight, and the retail price for a 100-pound cylinder is now \$136 in urban areas, while the price of a 100-pound cylinder is \$138—\$2 higher—in rural areas. The Controller of Supplies, Lennox Gibson has said that the increase was the result of higher acquisition prices for “both propane and butane”.



Biden warns Russia could attack Ukraine within days

Joe Biden says there was ‘every indication’ Russia was prepared to attack Ukraine as NATO warns Moscow may be trying to ‘stage a pretext’ for an invasion.

US President Joe Biden has warned there is every indication Russia is planning to invade Ukraine, including signs Moscow is carrying out a false flag operation to justify it, after Ukrainian forces and pro-Moscow rebels traded fire.

Moscow, for its part, on Thursday ejected the number two official from the US embassy and released a strongly worded letter accusing Washington of ignoring its security demands. It threatened unspecified

“military-technical measures”.

Early morning exchanges of fire between Ukraine and pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine raised alarm, with Western officials who have long warned that Moscow could try to create a pretext for an invasion saying they believed such a scenario was now unfolding.

“We have reason to believe they are engaged in a false flag operation to have an excuse to go in. Every indication we have is they’re

prepared to go into Ukraine and attack Ukraine,” Biden said at the White House. “My sense is it will happen in the next several days.”

Biden ordered Secretary of State Antony Blinken to change his travel plans at the last minute to speak at a United Nations Security Council meeting on Ukraine.

Addressing the council, Blinken sketched out in graphic detail how Washington contends any Russian attack would begin and unfold.

“Missiles and bombs drop across Ukraine, communications will be jammed, cyberattacks will shut down Ukrainian institutions,” Blinken told the UNSC.

“After that, Russian tanks and soldiers will advance on key targets that have already been identified and mapped out in detailed plans.”

The US has declined to share the evidence underlying its claims.

Russia denies planning to invade its neighbour and said this week it was pulling back some of the more than 100,000 soldiers it has massed near the frontier. Washington says Russia is not withdrawing, but in fact sending more forces.

Full article can be viewed at: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/2/17/us-says-war-appears-imminent-after-shelling-on-ukraine-front-line>

First published by Al Jazeera News



B DFA 1st Division Championship this Sunday at the MCC

by *Leaton St. Clair – B DFA General Secretary*

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Feb. 17, 2022

The Belize District Football Association (B DFA) 1st Division Tournament comes to a close this Sunday, February 20, at the MCC Stadium with the 3rd place game followed by the championship final.

Entrance: \$3.00 entrance fee and you must present your vaccination card.

3rd Place Game

Belize Women take 6 from El Salvador, face Panama on Sunday

Continued from Page 28

Estadio Cuscatlan in San Salvador will be the venue for Belize vs Panama this Sunday afternoon. Panama and El Salvador are the “big dogs” in our Group D, but having gotten over opening day jitters, Belize

1:00 p.m. - Stars Academy vs Caesar Ridge FC

Championship Game

3:00 p.m. – Lake-I vs Kelly Street Bombers

is looking forward for a better result on Sunday. Let’s go, Belize!!

“The 2022 Concacaf W Qualifiers will be broadcast live through the Confederation’s partner networks, including CBS | Paramount + (USA), One Soccer (CAN), and multiple partners in Mexico, the Caribbean, Central America, and the world. Matches will also be available on the Concacaf Official App (subject to territory restrictions). The free mobile app is available in the Apple and Google Play stores.”

Garifuna Nation joins Maya in FPIC debate

Continued from Page 1

notable that an entity which represents this transnational group and which carries the global clout of Garifuna people worldwide—the Garifuna Nation—in a scathing press release, officially stepped into the debate between the GoB and the Maya about the implementation of communal land rights and asserted their right, as an indigenous group occupying the south, to be involved in this discussion. In the release, the Garifuna Nation rejected the Free, Prior, Informed Consent (FPIC) protocol submitted by the government to the Caribbean Court of Justice and railed against this PUP administration for its lack of consultation of its people in the drafting of the proposed protocol.

“We—Garifuna people – are recognized through a major holiday celebrated in Belize. The Government of Belize and all its members of parliament are aware of our indigenous status. How is it, then, that they can draft FPIC protocols without our input as Garifuna or consulting us about policy that will affect us?” the release from the Garifuna Nation states.

In an exclusive interview with AMANDALA today, the president of the Garifuna Nation, Egbert Higinio, and representatives from the governing body of the organization registered their “umbrage” at the government’s apparent disregard of the Garinagu’s status as indigenous people of southern Belize; and they emphasized the fact that both the Maya and the Garinagu people were living in communities still occupied in Belize today before Guatemala gained its independence from the Spanish and Belize gained its independence from the British.

“The Garifuna don’t exist, as far as I’m concerned, with this PUP, but we are saying the nation was here before 1700; the nation, Garifuna Nation, we are like the Irish, we want our land, we will not call it reserve. We declare the Stann Creek District belongs to the Garifuna people; we respect the Maya land in Toledo belongs to the Maya,” Higinio stated.

In reference to what is taking place in the Garifuna community of Seine Bight, where residents have and are continuing to protest the sale of land and the granting of approval for the construction of a gas station near an area used by the indigenous people as a ceremonial site, Higinio noted, “We were not consulted. It violates every human law on the planet. We want to see the environmental impact assessment, we want to see the building codes, we want to know if it’s an insult to our religion ... this PUP never insulted the Mennonites with their religion, they don’t insult the Mormons, they don’t insult the Catholic Church ... I take umbrage to the fact that we have not been consulted on anything!”

It is worth noting as well that a number of news outlets have reported on protests that began around 4:00 p.m. yesterday, in the Garifuna village of Barranco, after villagers became aware of a logging concession that was granted to a reportedly politically connected person without any consultation with, or attempt to seek

the consent of, the villagers. This community action coincides with this call from the Garifuna nation for a seat at the table in the drafting of the FPIC protocol—a protocol which they say applies to them as indigenous people despite their not being named explicitly in the CCJ consent order.

“We reject this FPIC supposedly being proposed, based on the simple concept that it violates our own right to be consulted about any policy that will affect us ... simple logic will teach all of us that you cannot go to court and say we will violate Garifuna’s rights to follow the order of the court for Maya. There is a term for that, discrimination. We refuse to sit quietly and watch such utter lack of respect for our Garifuna rights continues unabated,” the release from the Garifuna Nation states.

The ruling from the CCJ upholds the customary land rights of the indigenous Maya communities and indicates that those rights are protected under the Constitution just as other property interests in Belize. The ruling focuses especially on the Maya, since it is bodies such as the Maya Leaders Alliance that brought the case on behalf of the Maya communities; however, Garifuna Nation representative Joseph Guerrero says this government cannot continue to ignore the indigenous status of the Garifuna people, and as such, their right to the traditional use of lands occupied by them for centuries. This is the case in the village of Barranco, where riled residents engaged in protest yesterday following the granting of the logging concession to an outsider, while villagers have been denied permission to carry out logging in that area for years.

“There may be some misinformation going to the Barranco residents. Garifuna own Barranco; they own the area where the government gave license for logging to third parties, so they are taking out resources without telling us, without informing us, without getting our consent. The people from Barranco, from what I heard, believe that it is an issue of them going to the government for a license to use their own resources; that is not the legal standard. They own the area, so they have a right to take it at will. Garifuna and Maya in that area, for millennia, had used the area, and they had managed it, and they sustained families; now the government come along and all that forestry is gone, so indigenous people were doing a better job at managing the resources than the government or the British,” Guerrero outlined.

He said it is high time for the government to stop administrating Garifuna lands without the consent of the Garifuna people traditionally living in those communities.

“As we speak, the government of Belize is willfully violating the rights of the entire Garifuna nation by pretending that we are not indigenous people; they are pretending, they think the world is buying this nonsense that Garifuna are not indigenous because we are black people, and nobody have ever seen black people who are indigenous in this area. Well, hello, here we are! In living color. Now what the government has been doing is just

simply at will going into Garifuna land, giving it away to third parties, taking money, selling out the land, the government benefits, and its own land ... So anything that they do with the Maya, the Garifuna currently have the right by the Constitution. The government, however, and Minister Dolores Balderamos gave us a clue in Seine Bight when she said that the consent decree Garifuna do not benefit from the consent decree; that’s what she said ... What she is saying is that because the court did not say ‘Garifuna’, there has to be a presumption that they think they can violate our rights because the court didn’t say so, even though it’s in the Constitution. So if the judge interpreted the Constitution that the human right extends to a group of people, the Maya, it has to also extend to the group of indigenous people, the Garifuna. It has to. You cannot separate it; otherwise, it’s discrimination,” Guerrero argued.

The Garifuna nation is thus demanding to be a part of any consultation carried out as part of the process of formulating an FPIC protocol in southern Belize and calls the current unilateral approach of GoB—even in regard to the Maya people—disrespectful.

Wellington Ramos, an *Amandala* columnist, has commented that both mass parties when in government show no true intention to allow indigenous people the control and use of their traditional lands.

“The government is doing what we call deflection, because they have no intention to abide by the judgment made by the Supreme Court and the CCJ, because all the judgment says is for them to go into the National Assembly and demarcate the land that belongs to the Maya people, and the indigenous people which is us (the Garifuna people, stop using their police power to use our land, grant leases and issue titles to their people, that all the judgment is saying, and instead of them abiding by the judgment they are playing these ring-around-the-roses not to abide by the judgment and interestingly, both the parties, PUP, and UDP, are in agreement with each other that they are not going to grant the indigenous people of Belize their rights, they are going to keep stalling, they’re going to try everything in the book. Because, this nuh mek no sense ... even if they were to say that the Garifuna people are not indigenous, they do admit that they Maya are indigenous, yet they still don’t want to grant them their rights, so what is really their point, they don’t want to grant no rights ...” Ramos said.

The history of the Garifuna as indigenous people in the Caribbean and Central America is widely known and taught in Belize. The Garinagu people are the only surviving speakers of an indigenous language native to the Caribbean that predates the arrival of Europeans.

An article published by Hubert Devonish of UWI Mona and Enita Castilo of Gwen Lizarraga High School that was presented to the 14th Biennial Conference, Society for Caribbean Linguistics, St. Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago, August 2002 states, “The language they speak, Garifuna, is an

Arawakan language. Its closest relative is Arawak (Lokono) spoken in Guyana and Suriname. Important items of its vocabulary, however, come from Carib (Karinya), also spoken in Guyana and Suriname but belonging to the Cariban language family. This Karinya influence comes as a result of interaction between original speakers of an Arawakan language living in the Lesser Antilles and incoming Karina from South America.”

In an article published by Garifuna scholar, Joseph Palacio, entitled “How did the Garifuna become indigenous people?” published in 2007, he explores how the Garifuna people became indigenous people and in his introduction states, “The short answer to the question, ‘how did the Garifuna become indigenous’ is that they added the label ‘indigenous’ onto themselves when they and other bio-cultural groups of Native American descent within the Circum-Caribbean acquired the generic term in the late 1980s. Beforehand, these people, also called Amerindians, had used their own traditional names, such as Maya, Kekchi, and Garifuna. The acceptance of ‘indigenous’ came through the influence of indigenous activists in the political movement originating in North and Central America. One regional indicator was the formation in 1989 of the Caribbean Organization of Indigenous Peoples (COIP) by peoples in the former British colonies from Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, St. Vincent, Dominica, and Belize.”

The United Nations and the Organization of America States both recognized the Garifuna as an indigenous people.

“Although the banishment to Central America took place in 1797, it has not been until the past fifty years that their ethnic identity has been subjected to rigorous anthropological study. The people themselves have shifted in their identity from being mere appendages in often unwelcoming national societies to reclaiming an indigenous identity, which had always been theirs prior to their exile.” Palacio states in his article.

Ultimately, the status of Garifuna people as an indigenous people and nation, not tied to any single geographical area, was a point the Garifuna Nation desired to drive home. Cynthia Ellis, Ambassador of the Garifuna Nation in Belize, said that despite the systematic discrimination, the cultural fidelity of the Garifuna people has persevered. She said she has no doubt that they are an indigenous people and calls on this administration to respect that status and include the Garifuna people in their consultations regarding this FPIC protocol that affects their people directly.

“If the ministers of government have no knowledge of their role as servants to the people, and they continuously breach the social contract by not ensuring the right to prosperity, property, and justice, we the people must assert our power and it being with us indigenous people, who have a justified right to our lands ... because the lands were stolen,” said Garifuna Nation president Higinio.

Police riddle disturbed man with rubber bullets

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hoping that they could render assistance. According to Smith, however, the officers, who she said arrived in four trucks, opened fire on the 26-year-old, injuring him with countless rubber bullets in a failed attempt to subdue him after he refused to disarm himself. The bullets hit Smith in his neck, chest, abdomen, and even his face—causing injuries to his eye that his family fears might leave him visually impaired.

“... the team came that was in camouflage uniform. I think it’s the MIT. And you have Inspector Eck, who I think was the one on duty in khaki. He said to please only shoot him with rubber bullets, and please aim below the knee. Everything got crazy after that. They start aiming for his face at close range, and they keep shooting. I think he received over 200 different shots, and there were some more police that said he’s not normal. A normal human wouldn’t be able to sustain so many injuries. So, they wanted to use that barricade on this,

because it would probably kill him. He would not put down the knife and hammer. He was not in his right mind, so they use a big piece of wood, like a wooden door that I had outside. They put it in front of them, apprehended him, and put the handcuff on. At this time, the MIT was still shooting him in the face. I told him about that,” recounted Lara Smith to 7News.

Norman Rodriguez, the family’s attorney, spoke to AMANDALA and noted that, even though Joshua Smith refused to put the knife and hammer down, he was more a danger to himself than to police officers or his family, and the police should have been aware of that.

“I believe that he may have caused some harm to himself. As it relates to being a threat to anyone, where he stood between the home where his sister was in her room and the police out front, you can say that it could represent a threat. But from my instruction, he made no move to advance towards the police, and he made no move to step back to cause

any harm to his sister who was in the house,” Rodriguez stated.

Rodriguez said that the situation is a sad one, since Smith was harmed by police officers who should have been there to assist those in need of their help. He also expressed the belief that the police could have used more discretion.

“Even without discretion being used, the police officers who fired the shots, I am instructed, were told to shoot the young man below his knees,” said the lawyer. But despite those instructions, Rodriguez said he counted five wounds on Smith’s face and more than twenty-five across his neck and upper abdomen. The 26-year-old also has one pellet still stuck in his lip and several more lodged in his skull. Rodriguez told AMANDALA that Smith had been bleeding so profusely that he had feared that he would have eventually died from loss of blood.

“If you are the police and you are called to de-escalate a situation, you are supposed to disable the person, not to attempt to kill the person. And the only thing we can see from this is that young man could have died if, as the mother had said, attempts were not made to stop them and to approach him in a different manner,” Rodriguez said.

The incident has drawn the attention of many members of the public and prompted Commissioner of Police, Chester Williams, to go on record to state that the police officers who did not follow protocol are being investigated. A recent press release from the Human Rights Commission of Belize, however, has urged the Belize Police Department

to go even further than simply investigating and to take serious action through effective training of officers in the use of force and in de-escalating situations that involve mentally ill persons.

“The Police protocol calls for officers to ‘only’ exercise objectively reasonable, necessary, and proportional use of force ‘to ensure the safety of a member or third person, stop an attack, make an arrest, CONTROL A SUBJECT, or prevent escape’,” stated the release. The Commission further stated that, while it does not oppose the use of rubber bullets, it believes that the amount of force used to de-escalate the situation was unnecessary. Norman Rodriguez shared similar sentiments in his interview with AMANDALA.

“It is really a sad situation that the police has to come under this kind of scrutiny, but had they used proper discretion, we would not be in this position today,” he said. Rodriguez hopes that the Police Department will seek to assist the family in whatever way possible.

The Human Rights Commission also proposed that, in addition to police officers, mental health care providers be present when there are attempts to restrain a violent or uncontrollable person who is suspected of mental illness so that the trained mental health care provider can monitor the situation and give guidance. Smith’s mother had told local media that, while her son does not have a history of mental illness, he was acting in a manner that caused her to become concerned about his mental state.

Sir Manuel Esquivel honoured with memorial concert

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concert and wreath-laying ceremony on Wednesday. At the concert, which lasted just over 2 hours, the former Prime Minister was honoured with a musical celebration that featured a mix of performances, which ranged in genre from classical music to paranda and brukdown.

This type of celebratory send-off, so different from typical state funerals, was requested by Sir Esquivel himself, who, throughout his career and even in death, could be described as unconventional. Over the course of the three-day period of mourning, several members of government and the Opposition, as well as past national leaders and many others who were close to him, paid their respects. On Tuesday, while the urn containing the former Prime Minister’s ashes lay in state at the House of Culture, Michael Finnegan, former Mesopotamia area representative and UDP Cabinet minister, bid his close friend a tearful goodbye, saluting him as he did so.

“On behalf of my family and the people I love closely, I want to say that we love the earth you walked on. Goodbye, my friend,” he stated. Other invited guests stopped by to pay their respects as well.

Wednesday’s ceremony saw musical performances by the likes of Tremett Perriott, the Garifuna Collective, Nelita Castillo, and many others, alongside words of remembrance. David Esquivel, the son of the two-time leader, delivered a memorial speech on behalf of his family.

“Throughout his life, his calm, thoughtful, and honest nature earned

him respect and gained him many loyal friends and colleagues. A man of unquestionable integrity, he always made decisions on what he thought was right. And because he was such a genuinely good-natured man, his personality remained gentle and calm, even to the end,” he said.

“Elizabeth Barrett Browning wrote the famous sonnet, ‘How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.’ These few days since his passing, an outpouring of sentiment has seen Belizeans from all walks of life counting the ways in which this nation loved Sir Manuel. Of course, it was not always thus. He was two times Prime Minister of this country and, by any reckoning, that was high political success. But there was a feeling that Manuel reached the summit, more because people respected him than because they loved him. It is perhaps a measure of the man that Manuel was no doubt comfortable with that. There are few that would seriously argue with the virtue of love. I always had the feeling, though, that Manuel did regard the prize in politics to be respect rather than love,” said former Prime Minister, the Rt. Honourable Dean Barrow.

In addition to the official State Memorial ceremony, there has also been an outpouring of praise and words of admiration for the former Prime Minister of Belize from persons near and far. Many have hailed the Rt. Hon. Dr. Sir Manuel Esquivel as a phenomenal leader and a man as dedicated to his country as he was to his family. His legacy as an honest politician, a virtuous man, and an icon in Belizean history will certainly live on.

Long lines at PGIA on 1st day of travel insurance requirement

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in long lines and several delays at the Philip Goldson International Airport (PGIA) due to the failure of many passengers to purchase the insurance coverage prior to their arrival. While many of the travelers expressed frustration at the lengthy process for entering the country, made even lengthier by the COVID-19 screening process and immigration lines, they also acknowledged the travel insurance’s importance when it comes to protecting visitors and locals alike during the pandemic. Since Tuesday, reports have been emerging that the process is undergoing swift improvements and each new set of travelers arriving in the country are encountering a process that is a bit more efficient. It remains to be seen, however, how well those improvements will hold up in the face of almost twenty international flights scheduled to arrive in the country this weekend as well as throughout the remainder of the high season.

The insurance package, which can be purchased online at [http://](http://www.belize-travel-insurance.com/)

www.belize-travel-insurance.com/ as well as at any official entry point in the country, is priced at \$18 US (\$36 BZ) and provides up to \$50,000 US in financial coverage for a total of 21 days to visitors in the event that any emergency might arise during their trip. It includes any possible COVID-19-related medical expenses as well as an additional \$2,000 to pay for accommodations during any required quarantine. By all indications, the policy is being provided by the Insurance Corporation of (ICB), and while it is mandatory for most visitors, Belizeans, permanent residents, qualified retired persons, foreign homeowners, long-stay non-nationals, military personnel, members of the Peace Corps, airline crew, and those staying in Belize for less than 24 hours, are exempt from the requirement.

The Belize Travel Health Insurance plan was first announced back in January and was met with some resistance from many stakeholders in the tourism industry. Despite those objections, however, GoB proceeded with the implementation of the plan.



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