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(36 PAGES)

\$1.50

Stevedores get \$1.5mil from GOB

PBL initiated a second legal action against the CWU in an attempt to block a \$1.5 million payment promised by GoB to the stevedores. Payment was nonetheless made to the CWU account.



Godfrey Smith – attorney for PBL, John Briceno – Prime Minister and Evan “Mose” Hyde – president, CWU

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Feb. 24, 2022
The Christian Workers Union is currently in the process of finalizing

the disbursement of a \$1.5 million dollar ex-gratia relief payment to its stevedores. This was confirmed by the

president of the union, Evan “Mose” Hyde, today during a press conference. According to Hyde, the deposit was made to the union’s account yesterday afternoon, and stevedores have agreed to give a portion of the funds to cover some of the legal fees in the lawsuit brought against them by the employer, PBL, who is seeking a payout of over \$1 million from the CWU. This Tuesday, Marine Parade Chambers filed an application for an injunction on behalf of Port of Belize and its receiver, Arturo “Tux” Vasquez, to stop the payment from GoB, interestingly protesting a

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Two drug planes in two days



COMPOL Chester Williams

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Feb. 23, 2022
Personnel from the Belize Police Department are currently en route to the Graham Creek area of Toledo, where they believe a drug plane landed last night in the heavily vegetated terrain. On the previous night, Monday, February 21, another drug plane landed near Carmelita Village in Orange Walk. The team of police stationed to intercept that landing were impeded by

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Redistricting: BPM back in court; EBC task force begins exercise



Josephine Tamai – chairperson, Redistricting Task Force

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Feb. 23, 2022
On Monday, the Government of Belize announced that the Elections and Boundaries Commission (EBC) had established a Redistricting Task Force. Tomorrow, the case brought

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Russia invades Ukraine

Mounting tensions between the European nations over the past few months have resulted in a three-pronged attack from Russia, which is in the process of invading Ukraine by land, air and sea.

by Khaila Gentle

KYIV, Ukraine, Thurs. Feb. 24, 2022

Russia has begun its attack on Ukraine, and is currently targeting military infrastructure in the first phase of its offensive, as part of what Vladimir Putin has called an effort to “demilitarize” certain sections of the country. The full-blown invasion—the largest show of force seen in Europe since World War II— included the storming of over 150,000 troops along with Russian tanks, across Ukrainian borders from the east, north and south along with the launching of airstrikes near major



A wounded woman stands outside her apartment that was bombed during Russia's first assault. (Source: Wolfgang Schwan/Getty Images)

cities, including the capital of Kyiv, at dawn on Thursday. According to

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IMF Article 4 consultations release

(See story on page 33)

Indigenous People's Affairs Commissioner writes to CCJ



Greg Ch'oc – Commissioner, Indigenous People's Affairs

(See story on page 32)

IMF praises Belize; salary cuts remain in place

PM John Briceño and his financial advisors received praise from the IMF for turning around Belize's economy in just twelve months. Reinstatement of salaries, however, is still being discussed.

by Khaila Gentle

BELIZE CITY, Tues. Feb. 22, 2022

The Prime Minister of Belize and a team of financial advisors met with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) this week and received positive feedback on the improvement of the country's economy over the past year. But even in the face of those glowing reviews, there is still some uncertainty as to when and how the government will effect a restitution of the full salaries of the public officers in the country, who are still enduring a 10% wage cut and increment freeze. According to Prime Minister Briceño, Belize's public officers had a large role to play in what was accomplished in the past twelve months, and he indicated that discussions regarding the 10% salary cuts, which currently remain

in place, are underway.

"Nobody expected our government to be able to accomplish what we did in one year. And as I told them [The IMF], it is not only our work ... but it also included our public officers. They went through tremendous sacrifices to help us to get to where

we are. Now, when it comes to the ten percent, today as we speak, the DPM and Minister of Education, I think also Minister Usher, is meeting with the unions to discuss the ten percent," the Prime Minister told local reporters.

"How will we give them the full

unfreezing increments) and has instead recommended gradual restitution of those salaries. This Thursday, however, the Joint Unions Negotiating Team met with government representatives at the House of Culture in Belize City to discuss the possibility of a salary reinstatement.

The PSU president told local reporters that, while he cannot say much at present, the meeting—which focused on government finances and Belize's fiscal position—was "informed and detailed". The team plans to speak with the members of the unions and inform them of the Government's decision coming out of the meeting, after which they will be able to speak more on the matter to the media. Flowers did point out, however, that the current administration—as well as the previous one—has never quite felt obligated to follow the IMF's recommendations. He also noted that the discussions with the government are ongoing, and it is unlikely that this Thursday's meeting will be the last.

"I believe it is fair to say that this is a process that will continue throughout the term of this administration, because this is not a one-time issue whereby you can fix the many issues that brought us here. What we are appreciative of is that the government also conceded to that—that there is not another meeting or two meetings that we need to have; we need to continue the dialogue about partnership, cooperation, and more importantly, us continuing to be watchdogs over the government in terms of ensuring that they commit and carry out the policies and decisions that they have committed to undertake," Flowers said.



Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño and PSU president Dean Flowers

Police Department gets Crime Cyber Center

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Feb. 23, 2022

Earlier this week in Belmopan, a new Police Crime Cyber Center, known as a P3, was inaugurated in Belmopan. Present at the inauguration were members of the Belize Police Department, along with the Minister of Home Affairs, Hon. Kareem Musa, and representatives of the United Nations Office on Drugs & Crime (UNODC).

A key component of the new center is a digital forensic lab, where trained personnel will be able to retrieve information related to cyber offenses from electronic devices and garner other forms of digital evidence, in line with the Cyber Crime Act of 2020.

At the inauguration, Minister of Home Affairs, Hon. Kareem Musa, spoke on the importance of Belize obtaining these types of equipment to help fight cybercrime in the country.

"A lot of the equipment that we're receiving is the latest advanced technology that will help us to open cell phones, open computers, different types of electronic devices, which could be a huge add in terms of detecting and preventing cybercrime. As you know, cybercrime, over the last few years, has become a huge deal, especially internationally, because of all the cyber-attacks that are now taking place—the hacking of people's accounts, the invasion of privacy, and all of these things. And so, a pivot into the new era and it is, in my opinion, a revolutionary step for us as a small country to take and to claim our stake in this new world of attacks," Hon. Musa said.

"We have several legislations that do require us to have the capability of searching the internet, searching computer devices and these types of



Hon. Kareem Musa

things. And so we're grateful to the UNODC for this very generous donation today of computers and software that is going to enable us to be able to properly investigate cybercrime, child pornography, fraud, and other internet-related crimes," Minister Musa further stated.

Commissioner of Police Chester Williams mentioned at the inauguration that a number of persons are using the social media platform, Facebook, as a means to defame persons online using fake accounts.

"We're seeing a trend now that a number of persons are using Facebook in particular, creating fake accounts and defaming the character of people. With what we have received today, we'll be able to unmask those fake accounts. We're collaborating more closely with Facebook to be able to get information on these fake accounts and other accounts that may be used to defame a person's character," he said.

"I want to say to those persons who believe they can hide behind a Facebook account and create mischief, that now we will have the capability to be able to unmask them and then, we're going to deal with them," stated Williams.

ten percent? We don't know. That's what we're discussing with them, and we feel that we'll be able to come up with a compromise that everybody can live with," he added.

The PM noted proudly that the IMF team leader expressed to him that he had never seen any country accomplish what the current administration has in turning an economy around in such a short period. But despite what the numbers have been saying, Hon. Briceño said he told the IMF that the Government also has a social responsibility to its people and that responsibility includes finding a way forward in regards to the salary cuts. Earlier in the week, Public Service Union president Dean Flowers told local media that currently the IMF is not in favor of the reinstatement of full salaries for public workers (or

Decomposing body found behind Port

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Feb. 24, 2022

The body of an unidentified man, which was in an initial stage of decomposition, was found partially submerged in the sea in a bushy area near the shore behind the Port of Belize Limited compound in Belize City on Wednesday, February 23. Just before noon on that day, police officers were informed by a passing fisherman that he had spotted a body floating at that particular location.

Upon arrival, police found the body of a dark-skinned man dressed in a dark green, sleeveless shirt and grey pants, with a grey sweater around his neck, lying face-downward in a bushy area near the seaside, located about Mile 3 off the George Price Highway.

There were apparent gunshot wounds on the body.

So far, the only distinguishing

REPORT WHAT YOU KNOW

VICTIM:
DECOMPOSING BODY FOUND
Kindly help to identify the person

On the 23 Feb. 2022 at about 10:30am, Belize City Police discovered the decomposing body of a dark complexion male person partially submerged in the sea in an isolated area behind the Belize Port Authority area in Belize City. The body had on a green sleeveless shirt, long grey pants, a grey sweater around the neck, and an apparent gunshot wound.

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feature on the body is a tattoo of the name "DESIREE" on the deceased man's arm.

Officers are seeking assistance to identify the deceased man, who is currently being referred to as "John Doe".

2021 inflation rate was 3.2%. Food and gas prices continue to rise.

While Belize's economy grew by 14.8% in the fourth quarter of 2021, the country also saw an inflation rate of 3.2% for the year, reported the SIB

by *Khaila Gentle*

BELMOPAN, Wed. Feb. 23, 2022

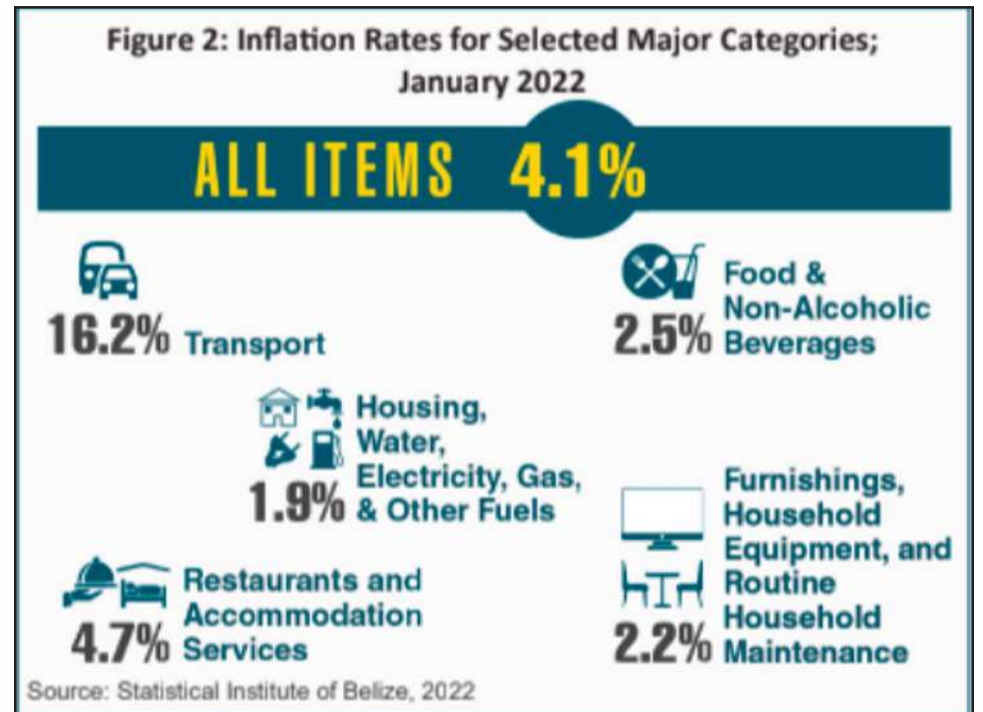
This week, the Statistical Institute of Belize (SIB) held its first press conference of 2022, at which it presented recently compiled data on economic trends within the country over the previous year, including the 2021 inflation rate, which stood at 3.2% when prices in the past year were compared to those in 2020. In addition to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for last year, External Trade Statistics and the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the fourth quarter of 2021 were also shared with the public at the briefing.

According to the SIB, Belize's GDP grew by 14.8% between October and December of 2021, with an estimated \$657.9 million worth of goods and services being produced in the country during that period, compared to production totaling \$573.3 million that was recorded for that same period in 2020—a total increase of \$84.6 million. This is the third consecutive

quarter in which there's been an increase in production in the country. The SIB estimates that, in total, the country's annual GDP growth rate for 2021 was 9.8%. According to statistician Christopher Hulse, the 14.8% increase seen in the fourth quarter is due mainly to increased production in the Primary Sector, which includes agriculture and fisheries products, and in the Tertiary Sector, which includes services such as those in the tourism industry.

The SIB also provided data regarding Belize's consumer price index, or CPI, which indicates changes in the prices consumers pay for a specific basket of goods and services over time. That CPI is used to calculate the inflation rate—the percentage change in CPI between two specific periods.

Statistician Melvin Perez, who presented the Consumer Price Index for 2021, stated that the 3.2% inflation rate seen last year points to an accelerated rise in the prices of goods and services that occurred



throughout the year. That rise in prices peaked in November and was primarily driven by changes in the cost of fuel, food, and butane. In the Transport category, prices increased by 9.6%, mainly due to the increased cost of gas. Also, there was a 4.8% increase in prices in the Food and Alcoholic Beverages category due to an increase in the cost of fresh produce, meats, and cereal products. The third-largest increase in prices was seen in the Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas, and Other Fuel category, with a 1.8% overall uptick due to higher LPG prices.

“These increases were, however, partially balanced by a decrease of 3.6% in prices in the Restaurants and Accommodation Services, as lower prices for hotel accommodation rates were reported for the year of 2021 when compared to the year of 2020,” said Perez.

As for the first month of 2022, the overall cost of goods and services increased by 4.1%, when compared to January 2021. The main categories in which there were steep price increases included Transport, with prices increasing by 16.2%, mostly due to a rise in the cost of fuels and lubricants as well as higher international airfare prices. Gas prices especially saw a major increase this January, with fuel pump prices rising from \$9.29 per gallon last January to \$12.18 per gallon for premium gas, \$9.33 to \$11.82 for regular gas, and \$8.91 to \$10.71 for diesel. Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverage costs increased by 2.5%, with the price of several food items, including pigtail, vegetable oil, limes, Irish potatoes, and most significantly, chicken wings, all rising by more than 10%. The prices of some items, such as red kidney beans, sweet peppers, and cabbage did see a decrease.

Of all the areas in the country that were studied, reported Perez, Orange Walk Town saw the highest level of inflation, with a rate of 5.9% for January, followed by Belize City,

with a rate of 4.2%. This was attributed mainly to increased rent and higher costs of food products, household items, and clothing. Punta Gorda Town saw the lowest increase—2.2%, and Benque Viejo Del Carmen saw the second lowest rate: 2.8%.

In the report on External Trade, it was revealed that Belize imported goods worth \$2.1 billion for the year 2021—34.7% more than the previous year—with the highest increase in imports being in the Manufactured Goods and Mineral Fuels & Lubricants category. When it comes to domestic exports, the country traded \$438 million worth of goods, an increase of 19.2% or \$70.7 million from the amount exported in 2020. The SIB reported an increase in sugar earnings (due to greater sugar export volumes) as well as an increase in exports and prices for animal feed, marine exports like lobster and conch, and molasses. There was also a significant decrease in the export of black-eyed peas as well as citrus. Total imports for January 2022 also increased in comparison to January 2021, with the most substantial increase seen in purchasing of goods for the commercial free zones. Domestic exports for the month saw an increase of 23.8%, totaling \$20 million.

During the SIB's presentation, changes in the National Consumer Price Index over the past five years were also highlighted, revealing a steady increase in prices beginning in November of 2020 and continuing upward until January 2022. While consumer prices have fluctuated over the past few years, they have undergone a significant increase since 2021. But despite Belize's National Inflation Rate standing at 4.1% in January, other countries saw even higher rates, with Jamaica having one of the highest rates in the region, at 9.7% along with Nicaragua and the United States, with 7.7% and 7.5% respectively. Panama had the lowest inflation rate—2.6%.

Belize and EU proceed with Multi-Annual Indicative Program



H.E. Marianne Van Steen, Ambassador of the European Union (EU) to Belize and Prime Minister of Belize, Hon. John Briceño

by *Charles Gladden*

BELIZE CITY, Tues. Feb. 22, 2022

An initial portion of a EUR 17 million (BZ\$38.6 million) allotment that has been designated for the Belize Multi-Annual Indicative Programme was given to the Government of Belize yesterday during a meeting at which the program between Belize and the European Union was officially set in motion.

The purpose of the funds being channeled through the program—which promotes green growth, sustainable socio-economic development and trade and integration—is to assist the government in reducing rural poverty in Belize.

Prime Minister Briceño indicated

that the decision is a signal of the EU's confidence in the Government of Belize's commitment to its development agenda.

A GoB press release states, “The green growth program will promote sustainable economic development among the southern districts of Belize through sustainable management of natural resources that coherently link environmental preservation, rural transformation, income generation, and inclusion of indigenous communities into the social fabric.” There will also be a focus, through the program, on efficient border management, and border security control along Belize's southern and western borders.

Additional funds are likely to be released after a mid-term review in 2024.

MOHW still using Ivermectin

While the controversial drug Ivermectin is still being used to treat COVID patients, the Health Ministry might soon be making an effort to purchase medication of a higher quality.



by Khaila Gentle

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Feb. 23, 2022

The Ministry of Health and Wellness has been continuing its use of the anti-parasitic drug Ivermectin in the treatment of COVID-19 patients. Over the past two years, there have been conflicting reports on whether or not the drug should be used to treat the virus, but back in December of 2020, the Ministry approved its use after a number of studies showed that it was effective at reducing viral replication. The Ministry also cited the availability and affordable cost of the drug in comparison to others. In an interview with local media this Monday, Minister of Health and Wellness, Hon. Kevin Bernard, reiterated those sentiments, stating that what matters most is ensuring that treatment options are affordable and accessible at public clinics, especially in the face of limited access to certain medications.

“While we may have been limited with some of these medications, we at the Ministry now want to ensure that we can provide these medications across the facilities. A lot of these patients used to go and get them at private facilities at some very costly rates. We are saying, let us look at what we can do to provide, especially those who have to go into the ICU, with these medications,” he stated.

The controversy surrounding the drug Ivermectin arose in 2020 when a number of persons, mainly those in the U.S wishing to avoid getting vaccinated, began self-medicating, some of them using the form of the drug meant for animals, and several others overdosing from using much more than what is normally prescribed. Notable divisions arose at that time, among health officials, scientists, celebrities, and members of the general public about the use of the drug, and there has still not been

any real consensus on the complex issue. In recent months, however, several countries, including Brazil and much of Latin America and the Caribbean, have approved the use of the drug for COVID-19 treatment.

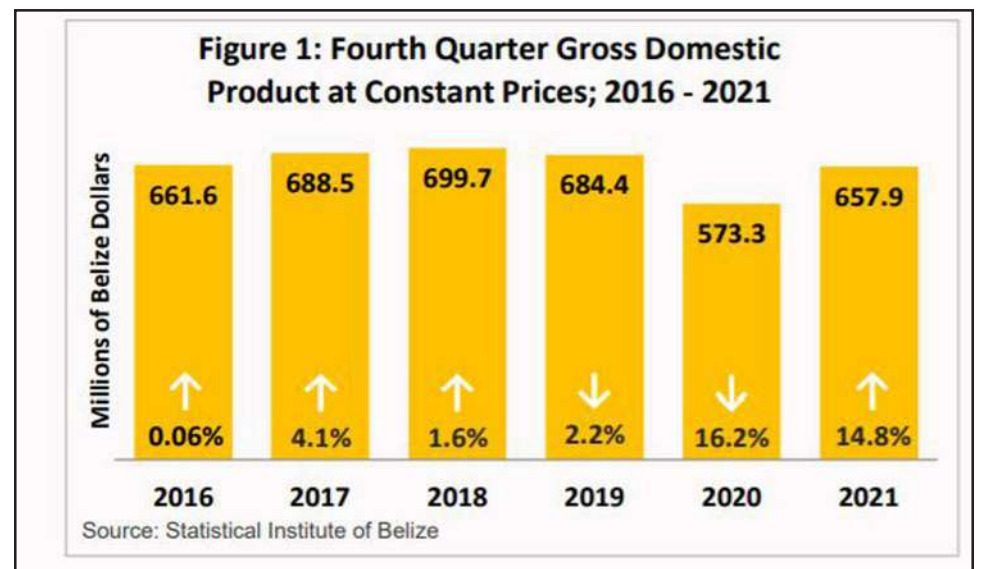
Last year, Dr. Andre Sosa, the chairman of the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital, told *KREM News* that the hope was to eventually move away from the use of the anti-parasitic drug in favor of newer and more advanced medication. According to Hon. Kevin Bernard, the Health Ministry might have finally reached that point and is now looking at bringing medication into the country that is of “higher value”. Earlier this year, both the World Health Organization (WHO) and the FDA approved the use of monoclonal antibodies for COVID-19 treatment.

“I do understand that Ivermectin is still being used, maybe to a lesser extent, because I think there is a monoclonal antibody that is another option being used. I understand the price is a bit costly, but we are trying as the Ministry to look at options where we can bring in these medications at lesser prices and be able to allow these to be then distributed within our public facilities,” said the Health Minister, who also stated that the Ministry is continuously looking at all angles in regard to the treatment of patients.

“I know the COVID medical response team and my team at the Ministry are constantly reviewing processes, constantly reviewing what it is. And Omicron has proved that while, yes, there is less hospitalization, basic medication helped, but at the same time those who had to go into the ICU required those more higher value medication. So we have to look at bringing those in and having an available supply,” he added.

Along with Ivermectin, Vitamin D, Ibuprofen and Tylenol are also being provided to patients for relief of COVID-19 symptoms.

Annual GDP grew by 9.8% — SIB



by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Feb. 23, 2022

In the Statistical Institute of Belize’s (SIB) report on the country’s economic activity in the last quarter of 2021, the preliminary estimates from the SIB showed that the country’s annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP), which is the total value of goods and services produced or provided in the country, increased by 9.8%. The SIB noted that the country’s fourth-quarter GDP was \$84.6 million higher than Belize’s GDP in the fourth quarter of 2020—a 14.8% increase. The increase is particularly notable in light of the steep decline of GDP at the end of 2020. And thus, Christopher Hulse, Statistician II at the SIB, stated, “We’re still approaching back to pre-pandemic production. So looking at 2019 GDP, we’re at -4.2%, in terms of production.”

The SIB further reported that the primary sector, which mainly involves the generation of revenue through sales of agricultural produce, grew in the fourth quarter of 2021 by 2.9 percent or by \$1.7 million in comparison to the same period in 2020. Citrus fruit deliveries were up by 70.1 percent—increasing from 3.1 thousand metric tons in 2020 to 5.4 thousand metric tons. Banana production remained relatively constant, while there was a notable plunge in sugarcane deliveries in the last quarter. The SIB reported that no sugarcane was delivered in the last quarter of 2021, in contrast to 2020, when 16,700 metric tons of sugarcane were delivered. This was caused by the protest at the BSI mill, where cane farmers of the BSCFA staged a blockade at the entrance of the factory and as a result brought a temporary halt to cane deliveries. Production of livestock grew by 7.9 percent compared to the fourth quarter of 2020. Cattle production rose by 23 percent, from 10.4 thousand heads of cattle to 12.8 thousand heads of cattle, due largely to a 25 percent increase in cattle exports. Pig production rose by almost 15 percent, from 9.7 thousand heads to 11.1 thousand heads, due to heightened local demand. Poultry production was relatively stable—with the faintest

uptick in production of 0.3%: increasing from 11 million pounds in the last quarter of 2020, to 11.03 million pounds at the end of 2021.

Output in the secondary sector, on the other hand, decreased by 19%, from \$90 million in the fourth quarter of 2020 to \$72.9 million. Local electricity generation decreased by 58.7%, primarily due to decreased rainfall, but water provision increased slightly by 5.3%.

The SIB’s report says, “construction activities grew by 2.1 percent from \$20.6 million to \$21 million, as reflected in increased loans for building and construction”. Also, there was increase of 14.6% in the ‘Manufacturing and Mining’ category.

Beverage production increased 21.6% due to a rise in demand following an easing of restrictions on restaurants and bars and a marked increase in tourist arrivals, stated the SIB. Beer production increased significantly by 35%, while soft drink production grew by 4.3%. Rum production, however, dipped by 7%. There was a large surge in citrus concentrate production, which rose by 78.6%—from 51 thousand gallons in the fourth quarter of 2020 to 92 thousand gallons for the last quarter of last year, while crude petroleum slipped further downwards by 2.3%.

Output in the tertiary sector totaled \$418 million for the end of the fourth quarter—an increase of 22.1 percent or \$75.6 million compared to \$342.5 million in the same period in 2020. There was also a leap of \$38.4 million or 31.8 percent in the Wholesale and Retail Trade category—in which economic activity rose from \$120.7 million to \$159 million.

The resumption of cruise ship arrivals to Belize and the significant increase in the arrival of overnight tourists quadrupled the earnings in the ‘Hotel and Restaurants’ industry—which rose from \$4.5 million dollars to \$19.4 million. There was also a 42.3 percent increase in the Transportation and Communication category—with a recorded \$45.5 million in 2020 rising to \$64.7 million in 2021. Also, government services increased by 1.9 percent.





That compassionate capitalism ship didn't stop here

Plus Television's Louis Wade, a pastor, stated on his morning show recently that he was not a socialist, and that he believes in compassionate capitalism. Pastor Wade has quoted the Apostle Paul, who said a man who doesn't work has no right to eat — a statement which, in a capitalist state, clearly ignores the fact that, of necessity, there must be a certain level of unemployment, or the system sputters.

As Art Perlo graphically put it in the *People's World* story "Capitalism and Unemployment", "*the misery of the unemployed and underemployed fuels the profits, which keep the capitalist economy going.*" We aren't strangers to the workings of the capitalist system in Belize. Cheap labor, gotten from the ranks of the unemployed, some of them foreigners, have been of great service, especially to the banana, sugar and citrus industries. Unemployed Mexicans, Belizeans too, have moved seasonally to pick fruits on US farms.

Unemployed workers and their families, like all human beings, have to take care of their basic needs, and when the unemployed breadwinner is living in an urban area, life is a whole lot more difficult. Businesses that have done well off the backs of labor and the resources of a country should have consideration for unemployed workers, but many businesses don't, and it's left up to government of, by, and for the people to step in and take care of those who are in need.

Classic capitalism, a tough system, is about making profits, not job creation. Jobs are created by businesses when they have certain needs, not because business folk see unemployed people about and want to get them off the streets. Capitalists

say it's wise for governments to favor them over all others because the masses benefit when riches generated by successful businesses trickle down.

"Compassionate capitalism" is actually an established term. *Management Study Guide*, in the story "What is Compassionate Capitalism and Why We Need it in These Times of Planetary Crisis?" says that it's about the development of an economic model "wherein corporations ensure that communitarian and people-oriented business models are embraced so that profit is not the only criterion or reason why they are in business." In short, the talk is about kinder, gentler business folk, and corporations that are concerned about their environmental footprint, and account to their employees and the people in the communities where they operate.

Prior to the Briceño government coming into office in November 2020, our economy had underperformed for four consecutive quarters, so our country was not doing well when we were hit by the pandemic, which has gripped us going on two years. Worldwide costs are rising, and the unemployed and

underemployed are feeling the pinch. Many businesses have been hit too, but a number of them are doing well, with some benefiting from the rising prices around the globe. Some businesses are in a good position to be compassionate capitalists in Belize, at this time when we are in such need.

Unfortunately, that ship hasn't stopped here. The Belize Agro-Productive Sector (BAS), a group which features a number of persons who were tagged by the new Briceño government to help lead us out of the economic quagmire we were/are in, recently fired off a letter to the government, calling on it to become "more proactive in the application of the law in defense of these investments (the investments of its members) and denounce any criminal act perpetuated against investors."

The BAS had to express concern when a portion of the cane fields of one of its members was burned, but it wasn't compassionate capitalism when it appeared to lump the legitimate fight of cane farmers and stevedores with vandalism.

Major operatives of the BAS are members of the Port of Big Creek-Toledo Enterprises Ltd., which recently took over the Port of Belize's (PBL) contract for the loading/shipping of sugar from ASR/BSI. This move, which is a very difficult sell from a business or environmental standpoint, and which looks even more suspect now that the price of fuel is increasing, took bread out of the mouths of over a hundred stevedores, to give it to machines and a few workers. Maybe the BAS member, Banana Growers Association, thinks it did enough when it shared fruits with those most in need at the beginning of the pandemic.

Some members of the Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) are battling to survive, but that did not give the group license, and was far from compassionate capitalism, when it chastised the government for its failure to "preserve the rule of law" after small cane farmers, in their fight to get better terms in a new commercial agreement, blocked the delivery of cane to the mill at Tower Hill for several days, and the stevedores at PBL went on strike for eight days to, among other things, prevent PBL from massively cutting its workforce.

The PM, Hon. John Briceño, called the BCCI letter "unfortunate." The PM said his government intervened in the standoffs "in the best interest of all stakeholders", and while the government used our country's security forces to keep the peace, the BCCI seemed to suggest that it should have been a lot more aggressive.

ASR/BSI has claimed that its subsidiary, Belize Cogeneration Energy Ltd. (Belcogen), isn't making much profits, but it has brought a lawsuit against the Belize Sugar Cane Farmers Association (BSCFA) for more than half a million dollars, losses which it says it suffered when the cane farmers blocked the delivery of cane for four or five days. The BSCFA has noted the amount Belcogen is asking for in this lawsuit and will probably be looking for some compassionate capitalism when next they sit with ASR/BSI at the negotiating table.

In another exhibit of uncompassionate capitalism in Belize, the workers at PBL are also facing a lawsuit. PBL is claiming over a million dollars from the Christian Workers Union (the representative of stevedores) and its leaders for the eight days the workers went on strike to defend their interests. In what can only be described as a savage move, further to its lawsuit the management of PBL tried, unsuccessfully, to delay a promised payment by GOB to stevedores, a small compensation for economic hardships those workers have experienced since the port was privatized.

Mahatma Ghandi, in response to the question, "What do you think of Western civilization?" said he thought "it would be a good idea." This compassionate capitalism, it is indeed a good idea. There are some small businesses in Belize that have a heart, but in their mad rush to the top, the big boys in Belize don't seem to care about anything besides their profits. That compassionate capitalism ship definitely didn't stop here.



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Director, PANCAP Coordinating Unit

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 **11 March 2022**.

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

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 27, 2022 Time: 10:30 a.m. to noon

Guest: Miguel Ico/Resident of the Valley of Peace Community

Sunday Review will be repeated at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, February 27, 2022

CLASSIFIED ADS

VACANCY

VACANCY: Looking for babysitter/ Maid in Belize City. Age 25 or over contact number 604-5316.

VACANCY: Pragma Imports is currently seeking a sales manager to work in Belize City. For more

information contact: 629-7119.

NOTICE

NOTICE: I, Vincent Paul Mark, hereby declare the registration title for M/V: Look to the East BZ 2394 has been lost.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Ingrid Lobos** is applying for Malt and Cider License to be operated at Sol Fast Food, 52 Barrack Road, Belize, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

Man dies in Spanish Lookout collision



Hernan William Guillen

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Feb. 21, 2022

A man in his early fifties lost his life in a traffic accident that occurred in Spanish Lookout on Friday, February 18.

Just before 7:30 that evening, Spanish Lookout police went to the scene of a traffic accident on Bee Lane, where Hernan William Guillen, 53, a self-employed resident of Santa Teresita Village, who was driving from San Ignacio Town, reportedly lost control of his green Chevy pickup truck and collided into a concrete culvert.

He was transported to the Western Regional Hospital, where he reportedly succumbed to his injuries.



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

Institution: *Belize Water Services Limited*

Country: *Belize*

Project: *Seine Bight 500,000 US gallon Water Reservoir and site development*

Sector: *Plant*

Abstract: *The general objective of this publication* is to engage eligible construction companies to build a two chamber 500,000 gallon reinforced concrete reservoir in the Seine Bight Village (Stann Creek District) as per design.

Project Number: *285511191974/ BW-55-1858*

Deadline: *March 15, 2022*

The construction services ("the Services") include, but are not limited to, construction of a 76ft x 76ft above ground reinforced concrete potable water reservoir:

- supply all construction materials and construct and commission new reinforced concrete ground water reservoir (500,000 US-gallon capacity), including installation of all pipework and fixtures and
- Construct Chemical, Dosing, and Pump rooms above reservoir including Plumbing and Electrical, Site fill, internal road, parking, site lights, drainage and perimeter fencing.

Belize Water Services Limited now invites eligible construction companies ("Bidders") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Companies should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

Companies must qualify on three (3) major work categories:

- **Civil and ancillary works** including, but not limited to, construction and refurbishment of buildings, construction and refurbishment of roads and streets, major and minor roads chip and seal works, earthworks, fencing, concrete works, facility maintenance, retaining walls, drainage, security huts, shelters and canopies, railings, bins, signage, plastering, painting, etc.
- **Water Supply Systems** including new and renewals of transmission, distribution mains and service connections; installation of pump stations; installation of headworks; water treatment plant works (including mechanical/electrical and civil); and construction and/or restoration of reservoirs.
- **Commercial mechanical and electrical** works including electrical and mechanical installation for buildings and compounds

Financial category of the project:

- **Large** contract estimated more than \$1,000,000.

Financial resources of the company shall be BZ\$200,000 monthly.

Shortlisting of contractors will be based on the [Application pack – Expression of Interest for Seine Bight 500,000 US gallon Water Reservoir and site Development Tendering process](#) and is open to all eligible contractors as defined in the document.

The short list shall comprise of minimum of three (3) and maximum of eight (8) companies.

Companies may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub-consultancy to enhance their qualifications.

Interested parties should contact the Engineering procurement representative, via email to obtain Application Package and other information.

Expressions of interest and application package must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by e-mail) by **March 15, 2022**, no later than 3:00 P.M.

Belize Water Services Limited
Attn: *Engineering Procurement*
7 *Central American Boulevard*
Belize City, Belize, C.A.
Tel: *+(501) 222-4757, Ext. 1713*
E-mail: engineeringprocurement@bws.com.bz

Medical Journal Editor Vacancy

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

Duties and Responsibilities:

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

Education and experience:

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

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



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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**.

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Ese barco del capitalismo compasivo no paró aquí

Louis Wade, pastor de Plus Television, declaró recientemente en su programa matutino que no era socialista y que cree en el capitalismo compasivo. El pastor Wade ha citado al apóstol Pablo, quien dijo que un hombre que no trabaja no tiene derecho a comer, una declaración que, en un estado capitalista, ignora claramente el hecho de que, necesariamente, debe haber un cierto nivel de desempleo o el sistema chisporrotea.

Como Art Perlo expresó gráficamente en la historia de *People's World* "Capitalismo y desempleo", "la miseria de los desempleados y subempleados alimenta las ganancias, que mantienen en marcha la economía capitalista". No somos ajenos al funcionamiento del sistema capitalista en Belize. La mano de obra barata, obtenida de las filas de los desempleados, algunos de ellos extranjeros, ha sido de gran utilidad, especialmente para las industrias bananera, azucarera y cítrica. Los mexicanos desempleados, y también beliceños, se han mudado estacionalmente para recoger frutas en las fincas estadounidenses.

Los trabajadores desempleados y sus familias, como todos los seres humanos, tienen que hacerse cargo de sus necesidades básicas, y cuando el proveedor desempleado de la familia vive en un área urbana, la vida es mucho más difícil. Las empresas a las que les ha ido bien gracias a la mano de obra y los recursos de un país deberían tener consideración por los trabajadores desempleados, pero muchas empresas no piensan de esa manera, y el gobierno de, por y para la gente debe intervenir y cuidar de los que están en necesidad.

El capitalismo clásico, un sistema duro, se trata de obtener ganancias, no de crear empleo. Los empleos los crean las empresas cuando tienen ciertas necesidades, no porque los empresarios vean desempleados por doquier y quieran sacarlos de las calles. Los capitalistas dicen que es prudente que los gobiernos los favorezcan sobre todos los demás porque las masas se benefician cuando las riquezas generadas por negocios exitosos se filtran.

"Capitalismo compasivo" es en realidad un término establecido. *Management Study Guide* (Guía de estudio de gestión), en la historia "¿Qué es el capitalismo compasivo y por qué lo necesitamos en estos tiempos de crisis planetaria?" dice que se trata del desarrollo de un modelo económico "en el que las corporaciones se aseguren de que se adopten modelos comerciales comunitarios y orientados a las personas para que las ganancias no sean el único criterio o razón por la cual están en negocios". En resumen, la charla es sobre empresarios más amables y gentiles y corporaciones que se preocupan por su huella ambiental y rinden cuentas a sus empleados y a las personas en las comunidades donde operan.

Antes de que el gobierno de Briceño asumiera el cargo en noviembre de 2020, nuestra economía había tenido un desempeño inferior durante cuatro trimestres consecutivos, por lo que a nuestro país no le iba bien cuando nos golpeó la pandemia, que nos ha afectado durante dos años. Los costos en todo el mundo están aumentando y los desempleados y subempleados están sintiendo la presión. Muchos negocios también se han visto afectados, pero a varios les está yendo bien, y algunos se benefician del aumento de los precios en todo el mundo. Algunas empresas están en una buena posición para ser capitalistas compasivos en Belize, en este momento en que tenemos tanta necesidad.

Desafortunadamente, ese barco no se ha detenido aquí. El Sector Agroproductivo de Belize (BAS por sus siglas en inglés), un grupo que cuenta con una serie de personas que fueron etiquetadas por el nuevo gobierno de Briceño para ayudarnos a salir del atolladero económico en el que estábamos/estamos, envió recientemente una carta al gobierno, instándolo a ser "más proactivo en la aplicación de la ley en defensa de estas inversiones (las inversiones de sus miembros) y denunciar

cualquier acto delictivo perpetrado contra los inversionistas".

El BAS tuvo que expresar su preocupación cuando se quemó una parte de los cañaverales de uno de sus miembros, pero no fue capitalismo compasivo cuando pareció empatar la lucha legítima de los cañeros y estibadores con el vandalismo.

Principales agentes de BAS son miembros del Puerto de Big Creek-Toledo Enterprises Ltd., que recientemente se hizo cargo del contrato de Port of Belize (PBL) para la carga/embarque de azúcar de ASR/BSI. Esta jugada, muy difícil de vender desde el punto de vista empresarial o medioambiental, y que parece aún más sospechoso ahora que sube el precio de los carburantes, ha quitado el pan de la boca a más de un centenar de estibadores, para dárselo a máquinas y unos pocos trabajadores. Tal vez el miembro de BAS, la Asociación de Cultivadores de Banano, piensa que hizo suficiente cuando compartió frutas con los más necesitados al comienzo de la pandemia.

Algunos miembros de la Cámara de Comercio e Industria de Belize (BCCI por sus siglas en inglés) luchan por sobrevivir, pero eso no le dio licencia al grupo, y estaba lejos de ser capitalismo compasivo, cuando reprendió al gobierno por no "preservar el estado de derecho" después de que los pequeños cañeros, en su lucha por obtener mejores condiciones en un nuevo acuerdo comercial, bloquearon la entrega de caña al ingenio de Tower Hill durante varios días, y los estibadores de PBL se declararon en huelga durante ocho días para, entre otras cosas, evitar que PBL reduzca masivamente su fuerza laboral.

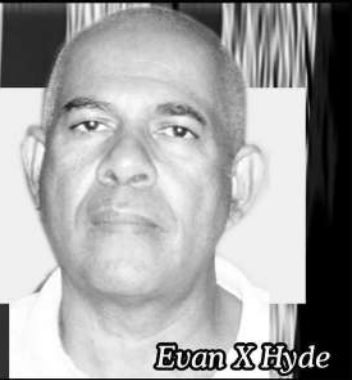
El Primer Ministro, el Honorable John Briceño, calificó la carta de la BCCI de "desafortunada". El Primer Ministro dijo que su gobierno intervino en los enfrentamientos "en el mejor interés de todas las partes interesadas", y aunque el gobierno usó las fuerzas de seguridad de nuestro país para mantener la paz, la BCCI pareció sugerir que debería haber sido mucho más agresivo.

ASR/BSI ha afirmado que su subsidiaria, Belize Cogeneration Energy Ltd. (Belcogen), no está obteniendo muchas ganancias, pero ha presentado una demanda contra la Asociación de Agricultores de Caña de Azúcar de Belize (BSCFA) por más de medio millón de dólares, pérdidas que dice haber sufrido cuando los cañeros bloquearon la entrega de caña durante cuatro o cinco días. La BSCFA ha tomado nota de la cantidad que Belcogen está pidiendo en esta demanda y probablemente buscará un capitalismo compasivo la próxima vez que se siente con ASR/BSI en la mesa de negociaciones.

En otra exhibición de capitalismo despiadado en Belize, los trabajadores de PBL también enfrentan una demanda. PBL reclama más de un millón de dólares al Sindicato de Trabajadores Cristianos (el representante de los estibadores) y sus líderes por los ocho días que los trabajadores se declararon en huelga para defender sus intereses. En lo que solo puede describirse como una acción salvaje, además de su demanda, la gerencia de PBL intentó, sin éxito, retrasar un pago prometido por el Gobierno de Belize a los estibadores, una pequeña compensación por las dificultades económicas que esos trabajadores han experimentado desde que se privatizó el puerto.

Mahatma Ghandi, en respuesta a la pregunta, "¿Qué piensa de la civilización occidental?" dijo que pensaba que "sería una buena idea". Este capitalismo compasivo, es de hecho una buena idea. Hay algunas pequeñas empresas en Belize que tienen corazón, pero en su loca carrera por llegar a la cima, a los grandes chicos de Belize no parece importarles nada más que sus ganancias. Ese barco del capitalismo compasivo definitivamente no paró aquí.

From the Publisher



Evan X Hyde

One of the most interesting things Charlie Good told me was that he had been on the payroll of the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) in 1984 when Commissioner of Police, Max Samuels, contracted him to hit me. The CIA chief in Belize at the time was one Bob Trencher, whom I think I had been introduced to by a businessman friend of mine. Good said Trencher's response to the revelation of Samuels' contract was: "Just don't get us involved."

Another interesting thing Good

said was that Samuels had told him that a senior police officer (now deceased) would "take care of everything" once he did the X assignment.

As I said in the previous column, after I heard the 12:30 p.m. news on that fateful day, I went looking for Rufus X, who was working on the floating foundation of the home where I have lived since 1987 on Seashore Drive in Buttonwood Bay. (The piece of land is on the seafront, and it was granted to me by Rt. Hon. George

Price and the Lands Minister, Hon. Florencio Marin, Sr., because Mr. Price felt that I had been of assistance to his party's success in the 1979 general election campaign.)

Anyway, Rufus was typically unruffled and unhurried; then he drove me to his home, where he tried to show me how to use a weapon. The exercise quickly frustrated him, I would say, so he said to me that I should drive, and he would do the "weaponizing." We then went looking for Mr. Good, and while we were

searching the city, we got word about maybe 1:45 or so that he had been picked up by the police at the shop owned by the late Ernest Meighan, Sr., near the Cinderella Town Public Library. No details were given. (Around the time of the Heads of Agreement, Meighan used to write a column in this newspaper entitled, "Belize-U.S.A.: The Only Way.")

A few days later, I was in my bed early one night, when a neighbor by the name of Erica Moses, who was doing some ironing for my wife, came to ask me if I wanted to see Charlie Good. Good was outside my ground floor home on First Street. I was, of course, scared, and told her no. I have always felt that if Erica had not been there, things might have gone differently.

I then decided to go underground, which I did in a room at the old Bliss Hotel on Water Lane. The 1984 general election was about a week away, and I felt that if I survived until the election, whether the PUP won or lost, the danger to me would be greatly reduced.

The Panamanian strongman, Manuel Noriega, had been on the CIA's payroll before he went rogue, so to speak, and U.S. president George Bush, Sr., decided to invade Noriega-led Panama in 1989. My personal belief is that Max Samuels had also been a CIA asset who went rogue, and the United States government had revoked his American visa in the early 2000s when he was PUP Minister of Immigration. I suspect Max was a CIA asset in 1984, when this Good/X drama was taking place.

Samuels' personal beef with me was probably the result of the headline article in the Friday, August 24, 1984 issue of AMANDALA, for which the ComPol demanded an apology. I was young and macho at the time, and refused his demand.

The headline story of August 24, 1984, was directly related to the headline article in the Friday, May 4, 1984 issue of AMANDALA. The May 4 headline had discussed the indictment of three prominent Belizeans in Dade County (Florida) on the charge of moving \$2.2 billion (U.S.) worth of cocaine into the United States from Colombia through the Belize International Airport. At the time of the indictment, Samuels told the Belizean public that he would take care of the case personally.

On August 24, 1984, our headline story had reported: "Questioning eyes were also cast his (Samuels') way after a Los Angeles-based American lawyer (married to a Belizean lady) threw a \$12,000 party

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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



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Belize Water Services Limited invites applicants to fill the vacant post of **Customer Service Manager** in the Customer Service Department.

SUMMARY:

Manages, plans, organizes, integrates and evaluates the service activities and operations of assigned branch; ensures that at the branch level customer expectations are being met and exceeded by team, and performs related duties as assigned. Implement policies and procedures and the company mission, vision and core values is carried out effectively.

DEPARTMENT DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Administer a comprehensive complaint policy and procedures system guided by the Codes of Practice and Water Industry Act.
- Improve our efficiency - Reduce customer waiting time wherever possible and manage all customers' queries and complaints professionally.
- Build and maintain an excellent Customer experience whilst focusing on the company's mission, vision, and core values.
- Improve our customer base – whilst ensuring continuous reduction in the company's Account Receivable and at the same time retain and increase our customer base
- Empower our workforce – Provides coaching, guidance, and feedback that works to develop and retain a highly competent, team of customer-service oriented staff through selection, training and day-to-day management practices which support the Company's mission, vision and values
- Address and solve complaints and queries received in a way that is a win-win for both the customer and the company and provide the necessary follow-up to customers.
- Quality assurance through monitoring of policies and procedures and providing feedback to staff members.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES - The incumbent may not perform all of the listed duties and/or may be required to perform additional or different duties from those set forth below to address business needs and changing business practices.

- Plans, manages, controls, evaluates and administrative assistance to the Customer Service area at the branch offices countrywide.
- Assist the manager with the day-to-day management and reporting.
- Recommend and assist in the implementation of goals and objectives; establish schedules and methods for customer service; implement policies and procedures.
- Evaluate operations and activities of assigned responsibilities; recommend improvements and modifications; prepare various reports on operations and activities.
- Coordinate, analyze and implement strategies to ensure that all key accounts countrywide are properly monitored.
- Review and analyze meter reading, field service, and collections activities in relation to billing reports to assess unit production at the district level.
- Make adjustments as necessary with regard to billing problems; and communicate directly with customers to resolve difficult or complex service/billing issues for the district offices.
- Participate in the selection of staff; provide or coordinate staff training; work with employees to correct deficiencies; implement discipline procedures.
- Answer questions and provide information to the public; investigate complaints and recommend corrective action as necessary to resolve complaints.
- Conduct monthly district visit to branch offices to ensure that they are adhering to policies and processes.
- Build and maintain positive working relationships with co-workers and the public using the principles of good customer service.

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL REQUIREMENTS:

Candidates will need to show evidence of the following:

- written and spoken communication skills that allow you to inform, help and advice customers, and liaise with other professionals;
- listening skills, to understand exactly what customers require; problem-solving skills;
- confidence, patience, politeness, tact and diplomacy, when dealing with difficult situations;

- motivational skills and an ability to supervise and lead a team of customer service assistants;
- creative thinking, to be able to come up with new ideas to improve customer service standards;
- an ability to work well under pressure;
- organizational and planning skills to develop customer services policies;
- good personal presentation, especially when working with customers face to face

COMPETENCIES TO BE EVALUATED ON:

1. Technical and Functional Skills
2. Understanding of the Business
3. Ability to achieving Results
4. Serving the Customer
5. Teamwork
6. Interpersonal and Communication Skills
7. Leadership and Personal Effectiveness

EXPECTATIONS:

- Prepare, maintain, and submit monthly reports on operational and personnel matters.
- Maintain a schedule of month end reports outlining the date received and errors identified on the reports.
- Make recommendations to management concerning staff matters and improvement to procedures and policies.
- Communicates with other departments and management to resolve problems and expedite work.
- Train and instruct staff members, assist with hiring of staff members and make recommendation to discharge staff members whenever necessary.
- Required to have an excellent knowledge of the company's mission, vision, core values, Codes of Practice and the Water Industry Act and possess the ability to communicate such to employees and customers verbally and in writing whenever necessary.
- Ensures that adjustments are prepared for (over-estimated customers, wrong reading, high bill or others).
- Ensures that jobs in JTS are closed one day after work in completed in the field and all jobs are moved from created to pending status and pass to Operations Department.
- Keep record of the time refund of security deposit request is received from the district to process the payment.
- Ensure that DISN and Inactive meters are dealt with monthly.
- Ensure that all accounts are billed timely and efficiently conduct random (25%) check of all cycles to identify inconsistencies.

EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS:

- Master's degree in Accounting or Business Management with at least 5 years' experience or Bachelor's degree with at least 10 years' experience in customer service activities or accounting duties and managerial responsibilities will be an asset.

Interested persons can send your application letter with your detailed resume **March 4, 2022** to:

Human Resources Manager
Belize Water Services Limited,
 P.O. Box 150, Central American Boulevard, Belize City, Belize
 Email : hr@bws.com.bz

BWS: Delivering water and more...

Three keys, even if yu "donsi"

by Colin Hyde

In 1492 Columbus crossed the Atlantic, and the confidence that this gave the Europeans, coupled with their weaponry and their belief that their God was superior, catapulted them from financial glory to financial glory. If you have a head on your shoulders, you will not have wondered why white dominance came AFTER 1492, not BEFORE. Boy, did they build themselves up off the sweat and land of our non-white ancestors.

Two European men who were born after 1492 are considered to be the greatest geniuses ever. One of them, despite him being long dead and gone, they keep measuring the size of his head. The guy with the big fat head, he looked at the banks one day, his mouth fell open, gaping, and dehn seh hihn seh that compound interest da the 8th wonder of the world. His name is Einstein, and celebritynetwork.net says his net worth at his death in 1955 was \$65,000. He wasn't starving, that's no loot to sneeze at, but in light of all his brilliance, don't you think if smartness was the key to wealth that he would have been rubbing shoulders with the Rothschild family?

The other European-labeled genius of geniuses was Nikola Tesla. They

say he died near penniless, but along the way he threw away rights that could have made him mega rich. Clearly, you have to have the DESIRE to be rolling in dough.

Whoa there, patience. I'm getting to the other two keys. Those of you who are already on the path to financial glory might just want to stick around to see if I'm going to miss the mark.

Aha, one would-be mentor once told me that a man must kiss behind before he can kick it. Hmm, I said to him that I thought James Brown sang...wait, we'll not go into the Brown thing, not now. A man who is considered very brilliant, and who did pretty well for himself, a heck of a lot better than me, told me that the two donsiest boys that he knew grew up to be millionaires. How did they do it? Those donsi boys found a niche, and they didn't get distracted; they stuck to it. Stick-to-itednis! They grabbed on like that bulldog that sank his teeth into White Fang's jowls, and wouldn't let go.

There, you have it, if your game is to be money wealthy. First, there's desire; second, is to be a nice guy — see no evil and hear no evil. The other part of the story is the stick-to-itednis.

Ms. Cristina wasn't

all right on Jules' show

It's 7:00 in the morning on Thursday, February 24, 2022, and I've decided to push back a piece I had in my column, which has to be at the editor's desk around 8:00 this morning, to share these points that were in my mind when I woke up this morning, after listening to Channel 7's *Uncut* show last night, with host Jules Vasquez and his special guests, Ms. Cristina Coc and Dr. Filiberto Penados. Let me preface this piece by restating that I support communal lands, but not in a solid block.

On Jules' show, Ms. Cristina cited the Barry Bowen lands, his family's thousands of acres, as an example of how our governments take care of other Belizeans. Those lands are a European creation, not of self-governing/independent Belize. Price became a hero because his government acquired pieces of these relics, and subdivided it, then distributed parcels to Belizean farmers. More of these relics are about, and their owners are around extorting money from the Belizean people.

Spanish Lookout is also a European creation, not of self-governing/independent Belize. The Mennonite groups are buying up huge tracts across the country, and that could be a concern; however, those parcels are subject to being taxed, and if government feels their acquisitions or actions are out of line, there is progressive taxation to bring them into line.

Going back to Spanish Lookout, it is not contiguous with any other Mennonite village in the country. There are many miles of land and many farms owned by persons who are not Mennonites, as well as Blackman Eddy between Spanish Lookout and the little Barton Creek to the south.

I'll end this short piece with an excerpt from "The Hoover Mennonites in Belize: A History of Expansion in the Shadow of Separation", an abstract which can be found at the website <https://kb.osu.edu/>.

"The first migration wave of Mennonites in 1958 received a set of agreement conditions that would not be available to the Mennonites who migrated to British Honduras in 1966. This change of government policy was based on the concern that Mennonite enclaves like Spanish Lookout, Blue Creek, and Shipyard would become too self-sufficient and the consequence could be a more separated position towards the Belizean society," it states.

Note that in 1958 Belize was a colony, but in 1966 Belize was self-governing. We shouldn't call out the present government for their fear of what the foreign-guided Mayan leaders in Toledo West are after. George Price would flat out not have

supported communal lands, not the way it is being presented by the leaders who are questioning Brother Greg Ch'oc.

Defiant TCM

To this day I find it incredible that my younger brother, Ron, and my cousin, Dave di Dude, were on the side of the Indians. I was absolutely fascinated with the discernment by Jerry Enriquez's dad that his boy should stay away from matinee, because it was bad for his development to see cowboys murdering Indians. I am never so ashamed of my failures that I'll cover them up. If you don't bare your pain and ignorance, you won't grow. Yaa, I got suckered by the Children's Corner song, "My Brave Little Cowboy"...

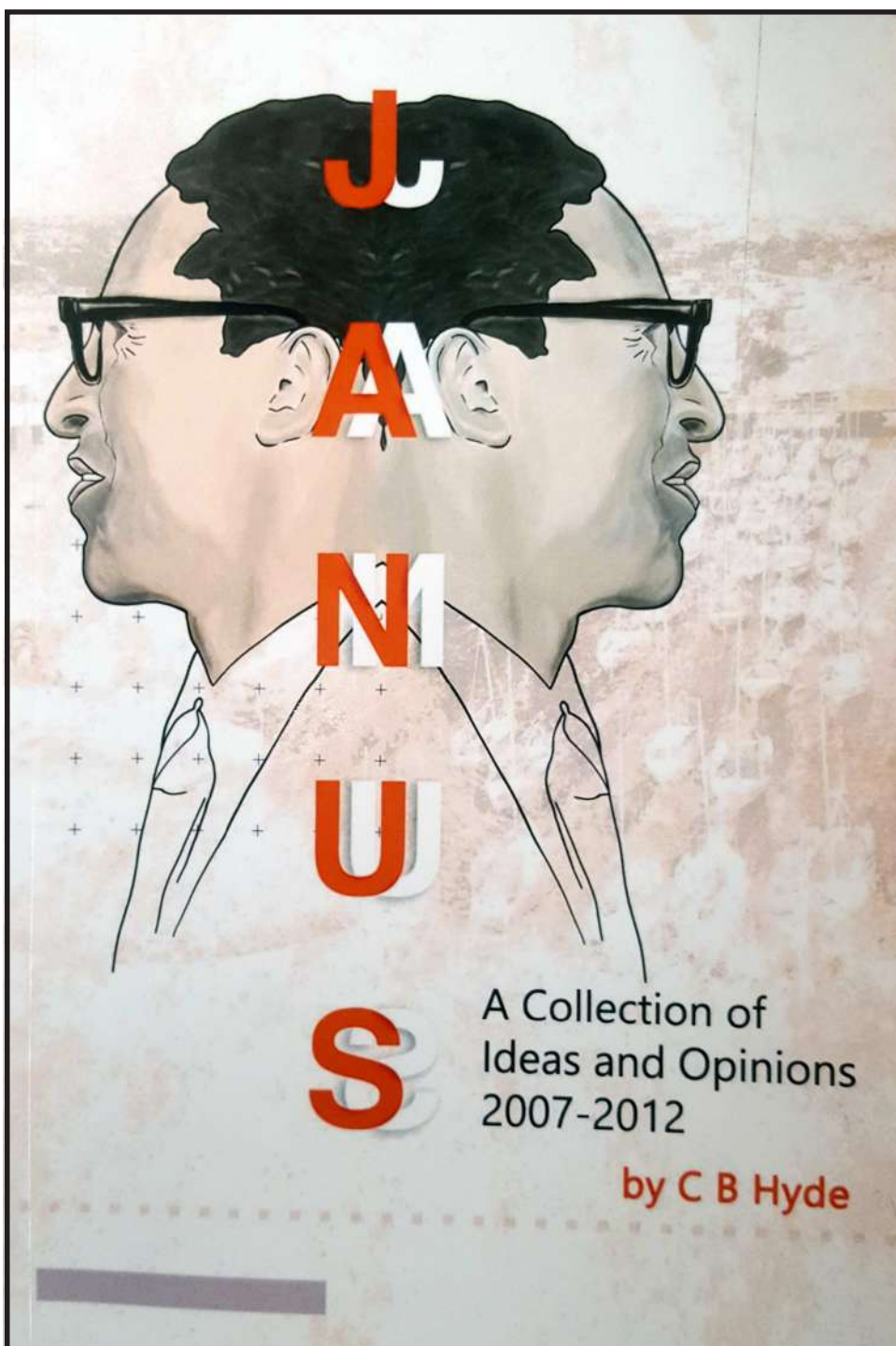
I seldom went to matinee. Ron and Dude spent their 10 cents every week at the cinema. I saved up my centavos until I had 35 cents, then I went to Augusto Quan and bought a rubber ball, which lasted a day, a week, a month, until somebody kicked it into my grandmother's governor plum tree.

Turner Classic Movies (TCM) explained that if they followed the new standard, I think they call it "woke", many bodies of work would have to be mothballed, some of them the greatest movies ever made. TCM said the movies are important historical pieces, that people who see them come face to face with what was.

You know it's not black and white, the position on these mostly black and white flicks of the yester world. Before the "sensitive" shows, TCM usually presents an extended discussion, and recently they have brought on a few non-white people of the movie world to prepare audiences for what they'll be watching.

There's a heck of a lot of putting down/killing black people and Indians, and roughing up women in the old movies. It's tricky turf, but I'm with the TCM take. About a month ago, they showed a documentary on the Civil Rights years in the US that you won't see anywhere else. There's a quote in the documentary that I wanted to get word for word; it's not all that easy following speech, and I wanted to get the full story on the guy who said them too, and do you believe the mighty Google, as hard as I searched, couldn't/wouldn't spit it?

When the white students were coming to Selma, I think it was Selma, to help the registration of black voters, this guy, the mayor I think, got on a bullhorn, and to whip up his white audience he hollered, "You know what those Niggers are after! They're after our women!" Now an incredible statement like that, I don't think that should be erased. I think that is something to talk about, beyond where the statement emanated from. But there are too many threads there, so we'll have to leave off, fu now.



From the Publisher

Continued from Page 9

for Commissioner Samuels at the Fort George Hotel. The whispering was that the lawyer's clients were all narcotics connected gangsters and that he had ulterior motives for throwing the Samuels party."

It was not until the 1990s that an American reporter named Gary Webb began breaking a monumental story in a California newspaper —THE SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS. Webb died mysteriously, but not before he published DARK ALLIANCE in 1998. Here are a couple paragraphs from the foreword to Webb's book written by the well-known Los Angeles congresswoman, Hon. Maxine Waters:

"The night that I read the 'Dark Alliance' series, I was so alarmed, that I literally sat straight up in bed, poring over every word. I reflected on the many meetings I attended throughout South Central Los Angeles during the 1980s, when I constantly asked, 'Where are all the drugs coming from?'"

"The time I spent investigating the allegations of the 'Dark Alliance' series led me to the undeniable conclusion that the CIA, DEA, DIA, and FBI knew about drug trafficking in South Central Los Angeles."

Let's try to cut a long story shorter. Otherwise, we would have to write another column on this subject, something unprecedented in our history. Charlie Good, a very highly trained military officer, became the chief of security at AMANDALA in the mid-1990s. When I became chairman of the board at the University College of Belize in 1999 (and then the University of Belize in 2000), I hired him as our chief of security at the university campus in Belize City.

Our wives became friends, and I visited his home several times, sometimes with the late Odinga Lumumba, who had been a highly ranked security operative and consultant in Ghana under the late Jerry Rawlings. Lumumba's story itself is an incredible one, but I want to end with the fact that a couple times I caught Charlie and Odinga "making pappyshow" of me. I was not angry, because I was a fragile intellectual compared to these warrior brothers.

When my generation of university students in this region was being radicalized in the 1960s, we hero-worshipped Che Guevara and Fidel Castro because they had been university students who successfully fought against professional soldiers in the Cuban Revolution. In Africa, students idolized South Africa's Nelson Mandela, an attorney who had given up the law to train in guerrilla warfare. In my case, when I had to face Charlie Good, I had no chance to survive. If what appeared to happen was the real deal, then the one Rufus X saved my life. Straight up.



BELIZE SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND TENDER NOTICE

Country: Belize Project: Caribbean Development Bank Loan No: 25/SFR-OR-BZE Project ID: 1509/8/E1
Contract Number: E/SL3-01/2022 National Competitive Bidding (NCB) Deadline: **March 14, 2022**

1. The Government of Belize has received funding through the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) towards the cost of Eligible Sub-projects and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the contract for **Completion of the Corazon Creek Technical High School Building, Corazon Creek Village, Toledo District, Belize.**

2. The Social Investment Fund, a Statutory Corporation, established under the Social Investment Fund Act No. 3 of 1996 and located at Constitution Drive, Belmopan, Cayo District, hereby invites tenders from suitably qualified contractors for the construction of the following:

The contract proposes to:

The contract proposes to complete the construction of an incomplete single storey reinforced concrete structure measuring 164'-11" long by 42'-2" wide complete with a proposed four (4) classrooms, office spaces, two (2) male and female students' bathrooms, two (2) male and female teachers' lavatories, storage spaces, and an access ramp to accommodate users with disabilities.

Works shall include but not be limited to the following activities: construction of a reinforced concrete floor slab; construction of masonry walls; construction of reinforced concrete columns and beams; construction of a reinforced concrete roof; application of concrete rendering; construction of ceilings; installation of windows and doors; installation of electrical, plumbing, water supply and wastewater systems; application of surface finishes; and the undertaking of landscaping activities. Adherence to the contract's environmental and safety protocols during construction is of paramount importance.

3. **Final (Project Site) Destination as specified in BDS:** Corazon Creek Village, Toledo District, Belize

4. Social Investment Fund now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the construction works in the aforementioned areas.

5. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures specified in the CDB's Guidelines for Procurement (January 2006), and are open to all countries eligible for procurement under European Investment Bank funded projects which includes CDB member countries.

6. Qualification requirements include (a) The bidder shall furnish unaudited or audited financial statements (balance sheets with corresponding notes, income statement, and statements of cash flow) of the firm for years 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 to demonstrate the current soundness of the bidder's financial position (b) Bidders should have general experience under contracts in the role of contractor, JV member, subcontractor, or management contractor for the years 2017, 2018 and 2019 with activity of at least five (5) months in each year starting 1st January, 2017 (c) Bidders should have specific experience as a prime contractor, joint venture member, management contractor, or subcontractor, between 1st January 2010 and the bid submission deadline and should have less than or equal to four (4) contracts, each of a minimum value of BZ\$175,000.00, but with a total value of all contracts equal or more than BZ\$700,000.00 (d) demonstrate cash flow requirement: capacity to have a cash flow amount of BZ\$150,000.00 of which not more than BZ\$75,000.00 can be credit for materials (e) an average annual turnover of BZ\$700,000.00 (e) other provided in the respective Bid Documents.

7. A secured "sample" electronic Bid document can be shared with interested Bidders at the address below, starting **February 14, 2022**, on week days between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. for viewing purpose only (has a time restriction for viewing). A complete set of Bidding documents (hard-copy or electronic version) can be purchased by interested bidder upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **BZ\$150.00**. Requests may be made by personal application or in writing to the address below. Written applications must be clearly marked: **"Completion of the Corazon Creek Technical High School Building, Corazon Creek Village, Toledo District, Belize"**. The method of payment will be by cash deposited to, or Bank transfer to BSIF's Bank Account only. Banking details can be requested at the address below. Cash payment will not be accepted at the BSIF Office.

8. **Deadline** for bids is **at or before 10:00 a.m., March 14, 2022** at the address below. **Bids will be opened virtually at 10:15 a.m., March 14, 2022** at the Social Investment Fund, 3rd Floor, #1902 Constitution Drive, Belmopan, Cayo District in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to participate. The link is <https://bit.ly/31ACuQU>. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids **will be rejected**. All bids must be accompanied by a "Bid Security" of BZ\$ 8,000.00 or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency or Bank Guarantee. The bid validity period is 90 days.

9. A Virtual Pre-bid meeting with interested eligible bidders will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 22nd, 2022. The link is <https://bit.ly/31ACuQU>. Bidders can participate in the meeting to address any queries about the bidding document or the scope of works. Persons who purchase packages are urged to attend.

10. The address referred to above is:

Contact: Ms. Ruby Pascascio
Senior Procurement Officer Social Investment Fund
3rd Floor, #1902 Constitution Drive
Belmopan Cayo District Tel: 822-0239/822-0508
E-mail: ruby.pascascio@sifbelize.org
cc: colin.escalante@sifbelize.org
therese.arzu@sifbelize.org

We want peace and justice!

This pen has been trying its best not to interfere in the affairs of the country of Belize. However, I find it so difficult, since it's not possible that those who sit there, do see, but do not care. It was said that it is a win-win for all, and that was what we expected, but when we started to listen and found out through the news of the disadvantages brought against the working class, it left a bad taste in the mouth. How is it possible that those of you are only going to leave or see that a working class be destroyed — like Pontius Pilate who washed his hands when Jesus Christ was crucified? Is it a game or a strategy to use an arm of the governmental structure to do as they please against the people who have been gaining their bread through hard work and who are now being viewed as criminals?

In what kind of mind could it be that a government is going to permit a certain organization to do as it pleases against a small group of persons? How are you going to permit the powerful capitalist elite people to take advantage of a few persons who have justly defended themselves against a corporation? Is defending one's rights so bad? Is that against the law in Belize? Then what kind of democracy does this country speak about? What kind of independence did this place achieve? I cannot perceive an independence of a country exclusively for an elite imperialist class. It is assumed that it was for all the people of this country. Therefore, we have a right to defend ourselves against

injustices.

We all know what took place, and it is a shame to see that you only sit there and observe as if it was a game, as if it was just a show. The perception I get from it is that the arm of the system is working in a way to destroy the most needy people of this country. Shame on them for allowing such a thing. It is true that this is what the courts are for, it's true that there are laws for that, it's true that everything is there to settle any disagreement, but to impose an injustice against a justice, I don't see the joke. And the truth is that I feel ashamed to say that I am a Belizean. Shame on them, for allowing such a thing. It is time that Belizeans should rise up, but we know perfectly well that it is not possible because of the divisions that exist between us.

Unfortunately, we have been taught by a colonialist system which has embedded in our minds a way of behaving, so then, to ask our people to rise up, is something that will not happen. That is why we voted and elected a people who we believed would implement justice equitably, as it should be. How the hell do you expect a small group of workers to be able to defend themselves against corporations in a case that is going to be aired in a court of law? The country of Belize couldn't beat the billionaire in every case that took place in several courts of justice; now how do you propose that a few employees, workers can do it? It's not possible.

In other places, like where I grew up, it would be a bloody revolution. This is how Mexico was able, the Mexicans were able, to get rid of the imperial class. We don't want something like that in Belize, we want peace, we want justice, not a bloody revolution. In a bloody revolution you have a lot to lose; not us, we are already poor, we have nothing; you have, and wherever you go you cannot hide, not even under a rock, because it can be removed. Do not forget that you are not alone, you have family, we have family, this place is small, the world is small; wherever you go, we can also be there. We are in a different time, a time where technology is quite advanced. Technology itself is a weapon. With this type of communication that we have, everything is known, everything is found; we look wherever and we find; there is nothing that can be hidden. Do not provoke something that you will not be able to endure later.

We are all made of flesh and blood; we are all human beings, and as such we should behave, not as machines. The machine has no feeling; human beings do feel. Our hearts bleed every time we hear that they killed so and so (Mary, Joseph and John). So much bloodshed that has been taking place in our country, hurts us and yet a bigger one, such as a bloody revolution? Do not provoke, do not provoke, because you cannot know where the hare is going to jump from.



by Clinton Canul Luna

Watch out. Let's try to live in peace, let's try to do things as the same Bible that you use says, written in Deuteronomy 24:14-15, "You shall not oppress a hired servant who is poor and needy, whether he is one of your countrymen or one of your aliens who is in your land in your towns. You shall give him his wages on his day before the sun sets, for he is poor and sets his heart on it; so that he will not cry against you to the LORD and it become sin in you". That is if you are a Christian. Now, if you are not, then do not forget what Franklin Roosevelt said to Winston Churchill: in my words, you have to free the colonies, let the people work and we are going to buy their products at good prices because they also have the right to live a happy life. We want peace and justice, ladies and gentlemen of the elite class, of the imperial class of Belize. Do not forget, we want peace and justice.

fincasolan@gmail.com
February 19, 2022
Finca Solana
Corozal Town

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.

From the Publisher

Reproduced from page 9 of the Tuesday, February 22, 2022, #3533 issue of Amandala

There are many, many extraordinary stories of cruelty, greed, barbarism, megalomania and heroism in the history of Latin American politics. One such story is the historical novel entitled *THE FEAST OF THE GOAT*, by the Peruvian Nobel Prize in Literature laureate, Mario Vargas Llosa. You should read it.

The novel tells the story of the assassination of Rafael Trujillo, the absolute dictator of the Dominican Republic, in 1961. Trujillo had ruled his country, which adjoins Haiti to the east on the island of Hispaniola, for decades. He preached and practised anti-communism, and for this reason was always supported by the State Department of Washington, despite his domestic excesses and crimes.

After Trujillo's assassination, there was a period of instability in the Dominican Republic, and the U.S. government sent in Rangers in 1965. Among these Rangers was one Charles Good, who was in the army of the republic of Honduras. He saw active action in Santo Domingo, then, before he migrated to British Honduras, where he became a prominent member of the new Special Forces, known in the streets of Belize as "the paramilitary."

The paramilitary, under the leadership of the late Fred Gill, was formed by the People's United Party (PUP) government in 1968 after the street uprisings in Belize City earlier that year in protest against the Seventeen (Webster) Proposals.

A senior football team, called the "Invaders," was soon formed, and the face of that basically paramilitary team was Charlie Good, who was the goalkeeper. He was also the face of the paramilitary itself, as a public institution, because of his classic physique and flamboyant personality. It was said in the streets that he kept a bayonet in the back of his goal during football games in case anyone became too aggressive.

Good also boxed professionally in Belize, his most famous bout being against Edward "Thor" Middleton at Bird's Isle. Middleton, himself a man of incredible physique, had been a paramilitary soldier under Good's command, and it was said that he had a personal rivalry with Charlie: Thor, a native of Ontario village, wanted to prove something to Good. It was a brutal fight. Thor floored Charlie, but Good ended up winning.

In any case, Charlie Good's career in the paramilitary was practically

spectacular, and then in 1978 the Belize Defence Force (BDF) was formed, with the paramilitary as the core of the new Belize army. The Belize Volunteer Guard (BVG) was incorporated into the BDF.

When Charlie Good came to see me on First Street, and we will say in 1982, for argument's sake, because it had to be after Belize's independence in 1981, I explained to you in last week's newspaper that he was agitated because Tom Greenwood of the Volunteer Guard was being jumped over him for first Belizean command of the BDF.

So now, how was it that this same Charles Good had reached the stage in late 1984 where he was being offered a contract by Maxwell Samuels, then the Commissioner of Police, to "murder or maim" Evan X Hyde? No member of the Belizean media has ever touched this story, and Sir Manuel Esquivel, when he became Prime Minister just weeks afterwards, refused to investigate the incident.

Well, to a certain extent Good's life had fallen apart between 1982 and 1984, because his common-law wife, Olive, mother of four of his children, was harassing him in Magistrate's Court for maintenance, and she was receiving highly favorable judgments from the Magistrate, a Guyanese by the name of Yakub Gaznabbi. Over a period of time, under the crushing weight of these judgments, the great Charlie Good had become financially desperate.

Before I proceed, let me say that the reason this story has to be told, almost four decades afterwards, is because a man named Rufus X risked his life in 1984 in order to save mine. This same Rufus X, a foundation member and loyalist of the United Democratic Party (UDP) in 1973, in 1987 was denied the right by the Sir Manuel-led UDP to contest the leadership of the UDP's Belize Rural North constituency, then represented by Sam Rhaburn, who had been one of Net Vasquez's accounting employees.

I first met Maxwell Samuels in 1970 after the late Ismail Shabazz and I had been acquitted one July night of seditious conspiracy in the Supreme Court. Samuels was the police photographer that night, and he later did me the favor of giving me a couple of the photos he had taken of the jubilant crowd which swarmed the court, and grabbed and hoisted Shabazz and myself and the successful defence attorneys — Assad Shoman and Said Musa.

I guess during the 1970s, Samuels had risen through the ranks of the Belize Police Force. And when Ronald Reagan's United States government began running cocaine operations through Belize in the early 1980s in order to raise funding to support the so-called contras in their

civil war against the Sandinista government which had come to power in Nicaragua in 1979, Samuels was Commissioner of Police in Belize.

The longtime PUP Minister of Police, Hon. C. L. B. Rogers, had been replaced as Home Affairs Minister in January of 1984. His replacement, Hon. V. H. Courtenay, fell ill around April of that year, so the question of who was Samuels' Minister in late October/early November of 1984, when he gave Good the Evan X assignment, is a most intriguing one.

At the September National Day celebrations in 1984, such had been the family and financial pressure (to which we previously referred) on Charlie Good that he collapsed in the sun. For such a macho man, this was a huge humiliation, and only this newspaper reported the story.

Perhaps the powers-that-be felt that such a story in this newspaper would infuriate Good to the point where he could be contracted for a hit. In these types of situations, the hitman himself is often eliminated afterwards in order to prevent any evidence from being provided by him.

I suppose I will have to continue this story in another column. Charles Good took out his pistol in the Magistrate's Court one morning and fired at Magistrate Gaznabbi and his common-law, Olive. I think Olive was hit in the hip. Dr. Leroy Taegar always insisted that Good could not have intended to kill any of them, because he was a trained marksman.

In any case, Good then left the Magistrate's Court in the old Paslow Building and came to this newspaper's office looking for me. My printer, Noel Ferguson, called me at home and said Good had a gun and had blood on him. It was after 11:00 that morning.

In the Radio Belize 12:30 p.m. news that day, they reported that Charles Good was still at large, and that's when I went looking for help. (A week or two before, I had been indirectly warned at Mike's Club by a friend named Arthur "Tureto" Neal.) I went to Rufus X.

Charlie Good was sentenced to twelve years in Her Majesty's Prison for the Magistrate's Court shootings. The then Governor-General, Dame Minita Gordon, reduced the sentence to two years. Charlie opened a business in Cayo after the prison time, but life became harder and harder as time went by, and no one up top was looking out for him. At some point, he began talking to Rufus X, and then he began talking to me. (To be continued.)

NOTE: Charles Good, Maxwell Samuels, C. L. B. Rogers, V. H. Courtenay, Dame Minita Gordon, Dr. Leroy Taegar, and Noel Ferguson are all deceased.



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

PRESS PREDICTIONS

The sports psychic speaks

BOLEDO

**"Press" Predictions; 38-26-71
Boledo stats thru 25th Feb. to 4th
Mar., 2022**

In boledo news, the teens is the hottest series right now. These are my lucky numbers for this week: 38-26-71-12-55-86. These are my lucky jackpot numbers: 6920-8703-5642. These are my lucky PICK-3 numbers: 912-340-589-676-059-213. Good luck to all buyers. Keep your eyes open for 12 and 66. 50 is still out since the 15th of July 2020, that's over 1 year 7 months 1 week and 2 days now. Then 55 refuses to play since the 14th of October 2020, that's over 1 year 5 months 1 week and 3 days now, 03 will complete 1

year very soon. 42 is long overdue now. The hottest ending ball right now is the 2 ball, played some 8 times already. The thirties series will start to play in March for the third month, doubles played 3 times in a row on Thursdays. Remember to read your Psalms: 92-72-62. Next week more stats. Enuff respect to driver Jason Barrera and Mayor Bernard Wagner - was on open eyes and was very impressive.

LOCAL FOOTBALL

Verdes FC still unbeaten from last season

Local Football Results and Predictions

In local football action week-3 games results and week-2 stats, Verdes FC crushed Garden City 4-0 last week at the FFB Stadium, then Altitude beat Caesar Ridge 2-nil at the MCC Grounds. This season will combine with the last season with points added together. Verdes now have 37 points, Altitude FC from Mango Creek trails them by some 8 points but have 2 games with them pending. Verdes FC beat Caesar Ridge 5 goals to 1, Elroy Smith converted a penalty. Krisean Lopez scored 2 goals, then Giovanni Ramos got the other 2 goals, Woodrow West got a rest in goal for his backup, Charles Tillett. Wagiya FC and San Pedro Pirates will give Altitude FC a very good game. Next week more stats.



by Gilroy "Press" Cadogan

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

Team LeBron edged out Team Durant just by 3 pts.

NBA All-Star Weekend Results

In NBA action over the weekend, the All Star game was in Cleveland, Ohio. There was the celebrity game on the Friday. In the Kia slam dunk with 8 participants, New York Knicks' Obi Toppin won with some spectacular windmill dunks. He enlightened the crowd with his athleticism and ability. Then in the Taco Bell Skills Challenge, Team Cavs won, they were the home team with 3 players. The format has changed this year. Then in the 3-Point Shootout Challenge, Karl-Anthony Towns from the Minnesota Timberwolves proved that he is the best 3-pointer big man, he hit 29 points and broke the Final Record of 28 points. Then in the All-Star Game on Sunday, Team LeBron edged out Team Durant by just 3 points, James had the game winner at the buzzer, but Steph Curry with 16 three-pointers and 50 points, won the MVP hardware. Next week more stats.

INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL

PSG will have to beat those EPL Teams

International Football Results

In international football action, the UEFA Champion of Champions Knockout got started with PSG beating Real Madrid 1-nil, a late goal by Kylian Mbappé, their top striker with Neymar Jr. Lionel Messi missed a penalty in the game. Real Madrid goalkeeper Courtois stopped the penalty. PSG had mad possession throughout the entire game. In the other 3 games, Bayern Munich drew with RB Salzburg 1-1, then Liverpool beat Inter Milan 2-nil, Manchester City crushed Sporting Gijon 5-Nil. There are 4 EPL Teams in the round of 16, they are the strongest League and most entertaining league in the world. One of my friends, Steven Castillo, loves football, he predicted that Chelsea will beat Lille 2-nil, then Juventus will beat Villarreal 3 to 1, then Atletico Madrid will beat Manchester United 2 to 1 and Ajax will beat Benfica 3 to 1. Next week the results from those games and we will see if he is right on the money.



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...



Request for Bids (RFB)

Belize

Lot 2D - Raising of the existing pavement on the Western Approach of the Roaring Creek Bridge – GPHW

Loan # 4616/OC-BL

RFB No. 1 of 2022

1. The Government of Belize has received a loan from the Inter-American Development Bank toward the cost of **Additional Financing for the George Price Highway Rehabilitation Project** and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the Contract for Construction of **Lot 2D - Raising of the existing pavement on the Western Approach of the Roaring Creek Bridge – GPHW**
2. The Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing, Government of Belize now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the Construction of **Lot 2D - Raising of the existing pavement on the Western Approach of the Roaring Creek Bridge – GPHW** the works are *scarification of existing pavement, demolition of sidewalk, kerbs and concrete plinths, raising of U drains, sidewalks and retaining walls, lifting of road base, construction of reinforced concrete pavement, relocation of existing road signs and reinstallation of guard rails and pedestrian railings*
3. The RFB will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures specified in the Inter-American Development Bank's Policies for the Procurement of Goods and Works financed by the Inter-American Development Bank GN-2349-15 approved by the Board of Executive Directors of the Bank on 2nd of July 2019 and effective 1st of January 2020 and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the bidding document.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Program Management Unit for the **Additional Financing for the George Price Highway Rehabilitation Project** pmupcmow@gmail.com AND mow.project4426@gmail.com and inspect the bidding document at the address given below First Floor, Project Execution Unit Building, Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing, #1 Power Lane, Belmopan, Cayo District during working hours of Monday to Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm (Belize time).
5. Qualifications requirements include:
 - (a) Copies of original documents defining the constitution or incorporation, and principal place of business of the Bidder; certificate of Good Standing from the Belize Social Security Board, Belize Tax Services and Company's Registry, written power of attorney of the signatory of the Bid to commit the Bidder, and historical contract non-performance.
 - (b) Total monetary value of construction works performed for **EACH** of the last three years shall be **BZ \$200,000 (cumulative BZ \$600,000)**.
 - (c) Experience in works of a similar nature and size for each of the last five years, and details of works underway or contractually committed; and clients who may be contacted for further information on those contracts.
 - (d) Listing of major construction equipment proposed to carry out the contract. Bidders must specify the conditions, numbers, type and availability, and ownership of the required equipment.
 - (e) Qualifications and experience of key site management and technical personnel proposed for the Contract.

Position	Minimum Qualifications and Experience
Survey Technician	Associate degree in Building Construction, Civil Engineering, or related field - Five years' minimum experience in surveying and civil engineering works
Environmental Health and Safety Officer	Associate degree in Environmental Science or related field - Three years' minimum experience in works of a similar nature related to Environmental, Health and Safety compliance
Foreman	Associate degree in Building Construction, Civil Engineering or related field - Three years' minimum experience in site supervision of reinforced concrete pavements, double coat chip & seal pavements and/or construction of retaining walls including guard rails.

- (f) Independently audited financial statements for the last three years (2018 - 2020);
 - (g) Evidence of working capital for this Contract (access to line(s) of credit and availability of other financial resources): **BZ \$200,000** (of which BZ \$75,000 must be in cash from a financial institution)
 - (h) Authorization to seek references from the Bidder's Bankers;
 - (i) Information regarding any litigation, current or during the last three years;
 - (j) Proposals for subcontracting components of the work amounting to more than twenty percent of the contract price. A margin of preference for national contractors/JVCAs shall not be applied.
 - (k) And any other documents or information as stipulated in the Bidding Documents
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be requested by interested bidders on the submission of a written Application to the address below.
 7. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 10:00 am (local Belize time) on **April 5, 2022**. Electronic bidding shall not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened physically in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person or on-line at the address below at 10:30 am (local Belize time) on **April 5, 2022**.
 8. All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security of forty thousand Belize dollars (BZ \$40,000.00).
 9. The address referred to above is:

Position	Minimum Qualifications and Experience
Project Manager/Site Engineer	B. Sc. Civil Engineering, Hydraulic Engineering, or related field - Five years' minimum experience in Project Management of Construction Works. - 5 years' minimum experience in providing technical and civil engineering services for programs which include but are not limited to construction of reinforced concrete pavements, double coat chip & seal pavements and/or construction of retaining walls including guard rails. - Registered Engineer with the Association of Professional Engineers in Belize

Attention:
 Mr. Rolando Chan
 Project Manager
 Program Management Unit
 1st Floor, Project Execution Unit Building
 Power Lane, Belmopan
 Cayo District, BELIZE
 Tel: 501-822-1942
 Email: pmupcmow@gmail.com AND
 cc: mow.project4426@gmail.com

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 Thursday 10th March 2022 at 1:30 pm:



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



Ministry of Education, Culture, Science & Technology
Examinations Unit – National and International
University Drive, West Landivar, Belize City
Tel: (501) 203-4977 Cell : (501) 613-0586 Fax: (501) 223-0673

CXC EXAMINATIONS MAY-JUNE 2022

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to be employed as Supervisors and Invigilators for the May-June 2022 Examinations.

Applicants must:

1. be at least 20 years of age
2. be persons of integrity
3. be in good health
4. be at least a secondary school graduate
5. have good writing and oral communication skills
6. have clear leadership skills

Retired educators are especially encouraged to apply.

Application forms may be completed electronically via the following URL:

<https://www.moecst.gov.bz/online-services/supervisors-and-invigilators-application-form/>

The URL is also available through the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science & Technology's:

- Website Online Services Section - www.moecst.gov.bz
- Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/BelizeMOECST/>

Completed application forms must be submitted no later than **March 11, 2022**.

Statutory Notice to Creditors

IN THE ESTATE of WALTER CHARLES BRADLEY, Deceased, of #1 H Street, King's Park Area, Belize City, Belize.

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 36 of the Administration of Estates Act, Chapter 197 of the Laws of Belize that all creditors and other persons including the beneficiaries and kin having any claims and demands upon or against the Estate of Walter Charles Bradley, late of #1 H Street, King's Park Area, Belize City, Belize who died on the 23rd day of May, 2021 in whose Estate a Grant of Probate has been granted to Roger Bradley of #140 Vista Del Mar, Belize District, Belize, and Trevor Bradley of #1816 Henderson Avenue, Buttonwood Bay, Belize City, Belize to lodge any claims or demands in writing to Reyes Retreage LLP of #122 Eve Street, Belize City, Belize, Attorneys-at-Law for the Executors of the Estate of Walter Charles Bradley on or before the expiration of three months from the date hereof; and notice is also hereby given that upon the expiration of the said three months the said Executors shall proceed to distribute assets of the said Walter Charles Bradley (deceased) amongst the beneficiaries entitled thereto, having regard only to claims and demands of which they shall then have had notice.

Dated the 25 day of February, 2022.


REYES RETREAGE LLP
 Attorneys for Roger Bradley & Trevor Bradley
 Executors of the Estate of
 Walter Charles Bradley

Two men charged with murder walk free



Sherman Rodney



Joel Choco

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Feb. 23, 2022

Yesterday, in the court of newly appointed Supreme Court judge Ricardo Sandcroft, *nolle prosequi* rulings led to the dismissal of murder charges against two men accused of being involved in separate incidents of homicide.

One of the two men, 25-year-old Joel Choco, was charged in 2017 for the murder of 27-year-old Windell Gibson and attempted murder of Karron Santos. Both Gibson and Santos were at the Conch Shell Bay Fish Market when shots were fired at them by two men who rode up on a motorcycle. Gibson died as a result. Choco had been on remand at the Belize Central Prison for four years for charges related to that incident prior to being released yesterday, while the charges against the man accused of being his accomplice, Orlando Salazar, had been withdrawn in 2019.

The other man who was freed after a Supreme Court hearing yesterday is Sherman Rodney, who was accused of beating 35-year-old Lloyd Augustine to death back in 2014 at a house on Doris Brooks Street in Belize City. Augustine died several days later from the injuries he received. Rodney had reportedly made previous attempts to get the case thrown out last year but was unsuccessful.

No reasons were given in the oral judgment presented by Justice Sandcroft for the dismissal of charges against the two men.

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



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

Institution: *Belize Water Services Limited*

Country: *Belize*

Project: *Independence to Seine Bight Transmission line*

Sector: *Water*

Abstract: *The general objective of this publication* is to engage eligible construction companies to install a new potable water transmission pipeline from Independence Village to Seine Bight Village (Stann Creek District) as per design.

Project Number: *225511171739/ BWS-55-1618*

Deadline: *March 14, 2022*

The construction services ("the Services") include, but are not limited to, installation and commissioning of 3 miles of 10" PVC transmission line in the mainland and 3 miles of 10" HDPE transmission line through the lagoon:

- a) Identification of established Benchmarks and Setting out of new works;
- b) Excavation of trenches along the route, placement and compaction of embedment, backfill, and road base, and reinstatement of works
- c) Installation of pipeline and various assemblies, concrete anchors, and other components and
- d) Commissioning, including final connections, pressure (hydrostatic) testing, flushing, and disinfecting.

Belize Water Services Limited now invites eligible construction companies ("Bidders") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Companies should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

Companies must qualify on two major work categories:

- **Civil and ancillary works** including, but not limited to, construction and refurbishment of buildings, construction and refurbishment of roads and streets, major and minor roads chip and seal works, earthworks, fencing, concrete works, facility maintenance, retaining walls, drainage, security huts, shelters and canopies, railings, bins, signage, plastering, painting, etc.
- **Water Supply Systems** including new and renewals of transmission, distribution mains and service connections; installation of pump stations; installation of headworks; water treatment plant works (including mechanical/electrical and civil); and construction and/or restoration of reservoirs.

Financial category of the project:

- **Large** contract estimated more than \$1,000,000.

Financial resources of the company shall be BZ\$300,000 monthly.

Shortlisting of contractors will be based on the [Application pack – Expression of Interest for Independence to Seine Bight Transmission Line Tendering process](#) and is open to all eligible contractors as defined in the document.

The short list shall comprise of minimum of three (3) and maximum of eight (8) companies.

Companies may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub-consultancy to enhance their qualifications.

Interested parties should contact the Engineering procurement representative, via email to obtain Application Package and other information.

Expressions of interest and application package must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by e-mail) by **March 14, 2022**, no later than 3:00 P.M.

Belize Water Services Limited

Attn: *Engineering procurement*

7 Central American Boulevard

Belize City, Belize, C.A.

Tel: *+(501) 222-4757, Ext. 1713*

E-mail: engineeringprocurement@bws.com.bz

Hon. Maxine Waters' foreword to Gary Webb's DARK ALLIANCE (1998)

The night I read the "Dark Alliance" series, I was so alarmed, that I literally sat straight up in bed, poring over every word. I reflected on the many meetings I attended throughout South Central Los Angeles during the 1990s, when I constantly asked, "Where are all the drugs coming from?" I asked myself that night whether it was possible for such a vast amount of drugs to be smuggled into any district under the noses of the community leaders, police, sheriff's department, FBI, DEA and other law enforcement agencies.

I decided to investigate the allegations. I met with Ricky Ross, Alan Fenster, Mike Ruppert, Celerino Castillo, Jerry Guzzetta, and visited the L.A. Sheriff's Department. My investigation took me to Nicaragua, where I interviewed Enrique Miranda Jaime in prison, and I met with the head of Sandinista intelligence Tomas Borge. I had the opportunity to question Contra leaders Adolfo Calero and Eden Pastora on a Senate investigative hearing, which was meant to be perfunctory, until I arrived to ask questions based on the vast knowledge I had gathered in my investigation. I forced Calero to admit he had a relationship with the CIA through the United States Embassy, where he directed USAID funds to community groups and organizations.

The time I spent investigating the allegations of the "Dark Alliance" series led me to the undeniable conclusion that the CIA, DEA, DIA, and FBI knew about drug trafficking in South Central Los Angeles. They were either part of the trafficking or turned a blind eye to it, in an effort to fund the Contra war. I am convinced that drug money played an important role in the Contra war and that drug money was used by both sides.

The saddest part of these revelations is the wrecked lives and lost possibilities of so many people who got caught up in selling drugs,

went to prison, ended up addicted, dead, or walking zombies from drugs.

It may take time, but I am convinced that history is going to record that Gary Webb wrote the truth. The establishment refused to give Gary Webb the credit that he deserved. They teamed up in an effort to destroy the story -- and very nearly succeeded.

There are a few of us who congratulate Gary for his honesty and courage. We will not let this story end until the naysayers and opponents are forced to apologize for their reckless and irresponsible attacks on Gary Webb.

The editors of the SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS did not have the strength to withstand the attacks, so they abandoned Gary Webb, despite their knowledge that Gary was working on further documentation to substantiate the allegations of the series.

This book completely and absolutely confirms Gary Webb's devastating series. This book is the final chapter on this sordid tale and brings to light one of the worst official abuses in our nation's history. We all owe Gary Webb a debt of gratitude for his brave work.

Online gambling sites operating without a license

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Feb. 21, 2022

The Ministry of Finance, Economic Development, and Investment is reportedly cracking down on online gaming websites which are claiming to have an online gaming license from Belize.

"All other entities that claim to have an online gaming license from Belize must immediately cease and desist since their operations are clandestine and illegal," said a press release issued by the Ministry.

Online gambling in Belize was first officially legalized and codified in 1995, through the Computer Wagering Licensing Act, which was last

modified in 2000.

The Belize Computing Wagering Licensing Board regulates any and all online gambling and betting licensing in the country. However, setting up a gambling institution is not an easy process, since the board does not have a website or readily available contact information.


By law, licensed online gambling and betting companies may not offer their services to residents of Belize. Applicants are vetted, and only a "fit and proper person" will be considered eligible for a license.

Licensed companies are required to maintain a separate bank account, which is only used to process wagers, and may charge a processing fee up to

5%, or USD 20, whichever is greater. Operators also face a 15% withholding tax on payments of winnings or prizes. Licenses are valid for a year, from April 1 to March 31.

The press release issued by the Finance, Economic Development and Investment Ministry stated that all online gaming companies in Belize require licensing under the Gaming Control Act and its Online Gaming Regulations. Online Gaming Licenses are issued by the Gaming Control Board of Belize to companies of reputable standing and with a proven track record in gaming.

The only online gaming company with a license to operate from Belize is Mum Casino Ltd.



CENTRAL BANK
of **BELIZE**

www.centralbank.org.bz

PUBLIC NOTICE

22 February 2022

**Belize Bank Corporation Limited Transitions to Belize Bank Limited
in the National Payment System**

The Central Bank of Belize notifies the public that effective 1 March 2022, the Belize Bank Corporation Limited (BBCL) will cease to exist and will no longer operate as a participant bank in the national payment system. Therefore, no BBCL transaction, except for cheques written by individual and business customers prior to 1 March 2022 and drawn on BBCL, will be processed through the Automated Payment Security Settlement System (APSSS). The Belize Bank Limited (BBL) will honour the cheques drawn on BBCL for a period of six months to end on 29 August 2022.


The management of Belize Bank Limited continues to assure the Central Bank that it has been working collaboratively with BBCL and other APSSS participants to ensure that customers, staff, and the public are informed of the changes associated with this transition. Further, BBL has confirmed that it has taken all necessary steps to minimize the inconvenience to former BBCL individual and business customers during the final stages of the technical and data transition process, which is scheduled to start on Friday, 25 February and end on Monday, 28 February 2022.

The Central Bank, as industry regulator, reiterates its continued effective oversight of the Belize financial system and will continue to collaborate with all stakeholders to optimize banking options and services available to the Belizean public and the business community.

- ENDS -

Issued by:
THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR, CENTRAL BANK OF BELIZE

1 Gabourel Lane
Belize City, BELIZE
T: +501 223 6194
E: communications@centralbank.org.bz



GENERAL REGISTRY
FILED

SUPREME COURT OF BELIZE, A.D. 2021

CLAIM NO. 158 of 2021

BETWEEN:

(AMERICAN REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT LLC	CLAIMANT
(
(AND	
(
(EDDIE USHER	DEFENDANT

ORDER


The 22nd day of November 2021
BEFORE THE HONORABLE MADAM JUSTICE LISA SHOMAN
 UPON the Application for Default Judgment & Terms of Judgment to be Determined coming up for hearing;
AND UPON HEARING Mr. Rene A. Montero, Counsel for the Claimant;
AND UPON READING the Application for Default Judgment & Terms of Judgment to be Determined filed by the Claimant and the following affidavits in support: Affidavit of Andrea Gallaty, First and Second Affidavit of James Wine, and First Affidavit of Anthony Smith and First Affidavit of Eulogio Coc;

IT IS HEREBY DECLARED THAT:

- 1) The Hemp Crude Distillation, Isolation and Extractor System is the property of the Claimant and was in possession of the Defendant who has refused to deliver up the same to the Claimant;
- 2) The Defendant is to pay the Claimant the value of the Hemp Crude Distillation, Isolation and Extractor System being the sum of **US\$2,550,000.00 (or BZ\$5,100,000.00 equivalent)** as damages;
- 3) The Defendant is to pay to the Claimant interest at the rate of 6% per annum from the date of the judgment until paid in full;
- 4) The Defendant is to pay costs of \$1,500.00 BZE for this application; and
- 5) The Defendant is to pay 45% of the prescribed costs, that is, the sum of \$63,225.00 BZE as costs in this matter.

DATED the 3rd day of December 2021

BY ORDER



DEPUTY REGISTRAR



Letters to the Editor

Correcting our past to improve our future

Dear citizens of Belize,

I am presently writing to address a resurfacing issue. While I am only fourteen years old, I have realized there needs to be a change amongst Belizean citizens. In the past several years, there has been a repetition of misjudgement and fallibility, which has resulted in the selection of representatives who have been unproductive. We have become caged within our generational perspectives and thus are unable to prosper with new, innovative and distinctive solutions. Influenced by multiple opinions of society, we have developed a habit of choosing corruption, whether through ourselves or our leaders. There needs to be a change in our representatives and in our people. As Aristotle once said, "Dignity does not consist in possessing honours, but in the consciousness that we deserve them."

If we want to improve our future generations, we must begin by correcting our past mistakes. There needs to be an establishment of morals and virtues amongst the Belizean people, so that we are able to evolve into wiser beings. People are so easily swayed by money and power that they are willing to accept bribes for voting or bribes for manipulating the law. There is no culprit; we are all equally at fault—representatives for their corruption and dishonesty and the Belizean people for blatantly ignoring such corruption and remaining in silence. We need to develop a stricter standard for those we let run for office; they need a high level of education, a record of contribution to society, no history of illegal activities, and they need to be honourable, law-respecting citizens. We need to remove the privileges and immunity given to those with power, and give adequate punishment to all citizens who commit offences, as stated in our Constitution. By changing our rules and standards, we may eliminate inadequate politicians and improve our line-up of candidates. If we are to stop this corruption, we must first work with ourselves, with our morals and with our perspectives.

Belizean culture is very traditional, and most generations are moulded entirely by their ancestors. Our personalities are imitations of the past. There might have been some parties which contributed in the past and were of service to many families; because of this, the families remain

with these thoughts engraved in their traditions and refuse to change or evolve. We are unable to progress because of our flock mentality; some even make decisions entirely based on the personal ties and influence they might have within a party, rather than considering a progressive future. Most politicians do not enter with the mentality to improve their country and contribute to society, but instead with the idea of benefitting themselves and their family. As citizens, we must consider their character, humility, integrity, honesty and leading example before we choose them to be the face of our people. They need to be compassionate, caring of their people and devoted to serving God. We need to open our mind to change and participate in our elections.

During elections, many Belizeans are reluctant to participate and thus abstain from voicing their opinions. If we don't all come to an agreement together, there can be no progress. We do not converse on politics enough, nor do all of us practice our right to vote. We are unable to identify a problem and work together to fix it; instead, we go against each other with nonsensical political disputes, which is why nothing gets resolved. There is no unity amongst our people. This causes division between citizens and families because of their obsession with their party. Decisions aren't being made productively or consciously, but based on tradition, fanaticism and personal benefit. For us to move forward, we need to learn from the experience of successful nations; there needs to be a higher level of education and morals amongst our people. We need foreign authorities to audit our politicians and hold them accountable.

As Belizeans we should make our country proud; we should fight to improve and thrive, both as citizens and politicians. We need wisdom from higher levels of education, in order to be analytical and calculating so we can make the best decisions. We must evolve our traditions and no longer be biased or egoistic with our opinions. There is so much to improve, like our health system, defence and military force, education system, agricultural system, tourism and our infrastructure. If we unite as Belizeans, willing to take a step towards the future, we might still be able to save our little country.

Sincerely yours,
Sofia De Paz



Daily Crossword Puzzle for February 23, 2022

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10
11						12				
13						14				
15				16	17			18		
19				20				21		
22			23			24	25			
			26	27		28				
29	30	31					32	33	34	35
36				37	38	39		40		
41				42				43		
44			45			46	47			
48						49				
50						51				

Across

1. Drive out
6. Given to chatter
11. Tank fillers
12. Remus or Sam
13. Airborne biters
14. Glacial grooves
15. Arrest
16. Font widths
18. Badges
19. Adorer's poetry
20. Aye opponent
21. Put on the line
22. Big gap
24. Cable subscribers
26. -- sorry!
28. Letter before rho
29. Action setting
32. Dark purple
36. Boxer Baer
37. Boxing punch
40. Eggy quaff
41. Ancient Tokyo
42. Aussie bird
43. Animal coat
44. Amusement park thrills
46. Colossal
48. Bar setting
49. Ewe said it
50. Class paper
51. Crystal ball user

Down

1. Creamy quaff
2. Kubla Khan site
3. Actress Sanford
4. Allow
5. Ancient Hebrew
6. Put on special clothes
7. Aardvark fodder
8. Essayist
9. Baseball pitch
10. Leavening agents
17. A Kettle
23. 50's car feature
25. Drink cognac
27. Grandeur
29. Punish by fine
30. Ham needs
31. Mass departure
33. Imprisoned
34. Puma
35. Certain herons
38. Be
39. Future tulips
45. Historic time
47. A Canadian export

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 - 02-17-2022 - Answers

W	A	R	M			A	S	I	D	E			
A	R	I	A			O	L	I	V	E	S		
D	E	C	O			V	I	N	Y	L	S		
S	A	K	I			A	T	E					
			S	I	R			W	A	T	T		
T	O	O	T	S	Y			T	O	Y			
A	G	I	S	M				S	T	O	M	P	
I	L	L						A	K	I	M	B	O
L	E	S	S					B	I	D			
				M	O	B			I	R	I	S	
A	N	G	E	L	O				N	O	O	N	
C	O	O	L	I	T				G	O	T	O	
E	R	A	T	O					S	T	A	B	

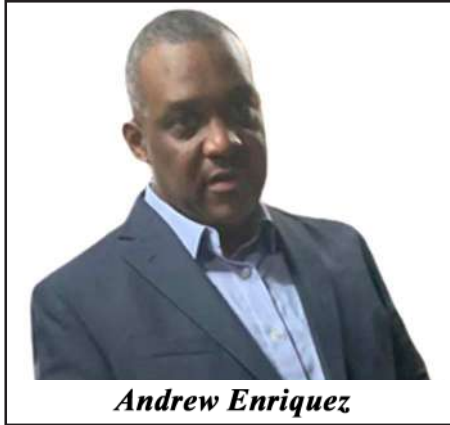


by *Thérèse Belisle-Nweke*

ANDREW ENRIQUEZ TRANSITS TO ANOTHER REALM

son of Elias Enriquez, Esq., a New York-based lawyer, and Carol Gabourel Enriquez, an accountant. He grew up in Punta Gorda in the Toledo District, where from an early age he became immersed in his father's Garifuna history and culture, as well as that of the Mopan and Q'eqchi Maya, on whose causes he later expended much of his time, considerable expertise and money.

While still in his teens, he was admitted to Columbia University, where he acquired a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics and Physics, and a Master's in Finance and



Andrew Enriquez

Computer Science. He rejected a scholarship to acquire a Ph.D degree, as he had little interest in an academic career. He was, however, offered an appointment to teach at Medgar Evers College, a senior college of the City University of New York. And, after a lecturing stint there, he went to work for Bear Stearns, a global investment bank, headquartered in New York, where he rose to the position of Vice President of Multi Media. Andrew was also at various stages in his career a financial analyst dealing in hedge funds, real estate investments, and he served as a consultant to the government of

South Africa.

Outside of these professional preoccupations, he had an online radio programme dedicated to research on Belize, and through his "Belize Abroad" and "Bel itza" media platforms, he generously shared his monumental collection of historical photographs of Belize, in addition to providing a public forum for news, articles and information affecting Belize and its future.

Andrew Enriquez came from an exceptionally diverse family background, which included the Leslie and Gabourel families on his mother's side and the Ramclan and Enriquez families through his father. At times, he expressed his impatience to me on being bombarded with stories about his Scottish ancestor, William Gentle, Sr., or some fifth-generation-removed, aristocratic Creole progenitor, and instead preferred to highlight his Garifuna heritage, which he felt contributed most to who he was as a person. Still, this did not make him insensitive to the various issues confronting a number of his Maya friends whom he had grown up with in Toledo. For instance, eight years ago, he and his Harvard University lawyer friend, Dr. R. Morris, prepared a detailed document for the Maya and Garifuna communities of the Toledo District on "The Maya Land Rights Claim No-394-of-2013". Moreover, he was extremely proud of his great-grandmother, Emma Mongrief Belisle Leslie, and named his holding company after her.

Andrew was indeed a rare Belizean who had many constructive ideas on Belize. Some years ago, he wanted to donate a system to the Government of Belize that would allow the police to check license plates and drivers' license information using WhatsApp, etc. This similar technique could also be applied to conduct searches for information on land. I remember my skepticism of the government at the time and commented that some people "up there" would want to make a lot of money out of it for themselves, and his good-humored retort was: "Yeah! Pay to donate". Just recently, when we discussed Belize's tourism dependency syndrome and COVID's impact, he suggested that Belize ought to set up seaweed farms of the asparagopsis taxiformis species. This, he enthused, could become a new industry geared towards exporting to Argentina and Texas, which logistically would be ideal markets for Belize. He mentioned an Australian company producing seaweed supplements for cows, and directed me to studies, on how seaweed feed helps cows to slow methane emissions, which contribute hugely to climate change.

Anyone exposed to Andrew for just a few minutes had much to learn from this widely travelled, incessantly curious, avid researcher and

We Are Hiring!

ADMINISTRATOR

NURSING DEPARTMENT

The Administrator has responsibility for all administrative functions within the Nursing Department.

This is a high-pressure job, where multi-tasking is a way of life, and meeting all targets is essential.

This is an important role for an experienced Administrator, or someone with an equivalent skill and aptitude level. A medical background is not required.

Requirements

- The Administrator will have as a minimum, an associate degree
- Will have excellent written and spoken English, with a reasonable proficiency in spoken Spanish
- This person has excellent inter-personal and communication skills
- Is very proficient in writing reports using MS Word, and uses MS-Excel to a reasonable level of competency (not advanced).

The Administrator will play a leading role in ensuring effective cross departmental communications, as well as working with members of the Nursing and Other Departments to continuously improve processes, and then document and communicate changes.

Responsibilities

- Performed by self or by others, the Administrator will ensure that all administrative and reporting processes and activities are completed
- Reconciliations are performed
- Work and patient schedules are kept up to date, with staffing requirements identified
- Stocks of supplies are always maintained to the prescribed levels
- Records are kept up to date; together with a range of other activities.

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Belize:**February 2022**

INSURANCE ACT

Chapter 251

LICENSING UNDER PARTS II, III, AND IV

In accordance with Section 175 of the Insurance Act, Chapter 251, Laws of Belize, RE 2011, the General Public is hereby notified that **only the following persons have been provided with an Insurance Licence to carry on insurance business in Belize during the year 2022.** All licensees mentioned herein have been provided with an **Insurance License Certificate.** In addition to the licence certificate, individual insurance intermediaries were issued an Insurance Intermediary Card, which must be produced upon simple demand by any member of the public.

Only Licence Certificates for the Year 2022 are valid. Persons conducting insurance business without a valid insurance license are in contravention of the Insurance Act and should be reported immediately to the Office of the Supervisor of Insurance and Private Pensions at #2 Toucan Avenue, Belmopan, Belize or at osipp@mof.gov.bz

A. Insurance Companies licensed under Part II

1. Atlantic Insurance Company Limited
2. Guardian General Insurance Limited
3. Home Protector Insurance Company Limited
4. Holy Redeemer Credit Union (Conditional)
5. Insurance Corporation of Belize
6. RF&G Insurance Company Limited
7. RF&G Life Insurance Company Limited
8. Sagicor Life Incorporated
9. Scotia Insurance Caribbean Limited
10. Massy United Insurance Company Limited

B. Association of Underwriters under Part III

1. Lloyds

C. Corporate Insurance Agents licensed under Part IV

1. Atlantic Bank Limited
2. Belize Bank Limited
3. Belize Bank Corporation Limited
4. Belize Credit Union League
5. Belize Estate Company Limited
6. Belize Insurance Center (Insurance Agent) Ltd.
7. La Inmaculada Credit Union Limited
8. Santiago Castillo Limited
9. Simpson's Insurance Agency Limited
10. Westrac Limited

D. Individual Insurance Agents and Sub-agents licensed under Part IV**ATLANTIC INSURANCE COMPANY**

Anna Dyck	Esteban Cano	Westrac Limited
Marisa Azueta	Guadalupe Matus	Atlantic Bank Limited
Phillip Gallaty Jr.	Santiago Castillo Limited	Belize Estate Company Limited

GUARDIAN GENERAL INSURANCE

Amy Forte	Candice Meighan	Carol Panton
Dawn Henry	Derick Perera	Iris Sosa
Karen Gill	Olga Herrera	Saira Manzanero
Tessa Usher	Vikky Murga	Simpson's Insurance Agency Ltd

HOME PROTECTOR INSURANCE

Aeesha Bradley	Amareli	Guillermo Medina	Harry	Melonie Woodye	Miriam
Patt		Moreno		Hoy	
Dean Dennis	Flowers	Ian Chi		Raul Gilharry	
Jose Izaguirre		Julio Blanco		Rianna Bush	
Ariel Aguilar	Blanca	Kayla Bryant	Lecimarco	Rosalyn Tzib	
Flowers	Florence	Luna		Sheena Rodriguez	
Williams	Joyce	Lilia Marin	Lorena Guzman	Steven Cal	
Longsworth				Thalia Avilez	

INSURANCE CORPORATION OF BELIZE

Abdel Cowo	Maretha McCulloch	Nestor Hernandez	Hiram Ochaeta
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RF&G INSURANCE COMPANY

April Smith Echeverria	Clara Noble	Claudio Azueta
Ena Martinez	Farrah Marchand	Gigi Godfrey
Isabell Bardalez	Jairo Vasquez	John Friessen
Julien Ferguson	Kira Pinelo	Marlena Ramclam
Neville Forrester	Richard Coye	Roselia Zabaneh
Sandra Johnson	Sylvia Kuylen	St Martin's Credit Union
Blue Creek Credit Union	Belize Bank Limited	Belize Credit Union League
Belize Bank Corporation Ltd	Mirror Enterprises Ltd (Jorge Espejo Sr.)	
La Inmaculada Credit Union	L3G's & Associates (Yadira & Fatima Chi)	

RF&G LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

Christiani Vargas	Daphne McFadzean	Deon Robinson
Dishon Smith	Ena Martinez	George Nicholson
Immanuel Westby	Jorge Rosalez	Kaitilin Nicholas
Kevin Peralta	Magdalene Okondo	Maria Coyi
Maria Riverol	Marsha White	Maslin Howler
Mayeli Hoy	Melissa Skeen	Ricardo Magana
Richard Coye	Shantel Lofter	

SAGICOR LIFE INC.

Alfred Jesse	Amy Forte	Bernadine Villagran
Candice Meighan	Carol Panton	Dawn Henry
Derick Perera	Farrah Marchand	Florence Williams
Karen Gill	Lerone Ayuso	Marlene Forrester
Marsha Gill	Mirna Paul-Greenidge	Myrna Martinez
Nikita Smith	Olga Herera	Paul Schmidt III
Phyllicia Bonell	Richard Coye	Rodney Card
Ryan Simpson	Saira Manzanero	Samuel Brown
Shakera Young-Forrester	Simiona Nicholas	Tessa Usher
Vikky Murga	Yaennis Escolona	Yazmin Urbina
Zeidie Thompson	Belize Insurance Center (Insurance Agent) Ltd.	
Simpson's Insurance Agency Limited		

SCOTIA INSURANCE CARIBBEAN LIMITED

Belize Bank Corporation Limited
Belize Bank Limited

MASSY UNITED INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

Marsha Gill	Sadira Gonzalez	Marta Martinez
Belize Insurance Center (Insurance Agent) Ltd		

BELIZE INSURANCE CENTRE (Insurance Agent) Limited

Andrea Corredor
Martha Castillo

SIMPSON'S INSURANCE AGENCY LIMITED

Jennifer Arzu Williams	Jose Urbina	Linda Caldera
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D. Brokers licensed under Part IV**BROKER**

1. Diversified Life Solutions Brokers Limited
2. McLean Insurance & Risk Solutions Limited

Special Notice on Banks and other Financial Institutions acting as agents of Insurance Companies

No Bank or Bank Official shall exercise any undue pressure or influence in any manner whatsoever upon a borrower to place insurance in any particular insurance company for the security of the Bank. All clients of Financial Institutions have a choice of insurer and should not be obligated to insure with a particular insurer only because the financial institution is providing such person with insurance premium financing or a loan. Clients of a financial institution feeling coerced in placing insurance with a company against his/her will should notify the Supervisor of Insurance immediately.

Any notification to the Supervisor can be made via email to osipp@mof.gov.bz, or by post at #2 Toucan Avenue, Belmopan.

Update on Licensing information on Insurers and Intermediaries can be found on <https://osipp.gov.bz>

(Alma D. Gomez)
Supervisor of Insurance



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We are inviting applications from suitable and qualified professionals who fit this profile and who are nationals of the CARIFORUM States to fill the undermentioned position:

DUTY STATION - GUYANA 

Senior Legal Officer, Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) Implementation Unit

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 **11 March 2022**.

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



ANDREW ENRIQUEZ TRANSITS TO ANOTHER REALM

Continued from **Page 21**

archivist, and highly knowledgeable Belizean. His research interests were as varied as they were instructive; and he once showed me a map from the 1800s with the labeled location of an area in Belize City that was called "Ebo Town", which proved that among the African ancestors of the Creoles were the Igbo of southeast Nigeria. He also acquired solid evidence that in 1972, when Idi Amin had ordered the expulsion of South Asian Indians from Uganda, what was indeed not well-known, was that the British actually considered settling them in Belize.

Andrew had astute and independent views on most of the pertinent issues affecting his beloved

Belize. These were as diverse as Guatemala's occupation of the Sarstoon, Belize's Maritime Act and the controversial 7th Amendment of Belize's Constitution on dual nationality. This vexatious provision prohibits born Belizean dual nationals from being able to serve in all levels of government, yet a Chinese born in Taiwan, or a mestizo born in Guatemala — a nation which does not recognize Belize's territorial integrity — can run for electoral office in Belize! Andrew's views on the role of Belize's Central Bank were particularly cogent, and those on issues like de-risking and superbonds for Belize were pragmatic and borne from his professional experience. To all who came in contact with him, his understanding of Belizean concerns and his unstinting devotion to the country of his birth were permanent features of his short but useful life.

One rare aspect of Andrew was his dual persona. He was at once an intensely private individual and yet a committed and caring family man who hosted regular family gatherings in his beautiful New York, brownstone home. He used to drive his daughters to school, and with his wife, Coretta, whom he was particularly close to, take them on holidays to Ghana to visit her relatives there. He bore his declining health in stoical silence, and therefore his transition came as a cruel blow to his many relatives and friends. Yet, Andrew was also a man of the people, with a very public presence, always ready to listen and assist those who came to unburden their problems to him.

His last communication to me, was: **"Please take care of your health. Been trying to recalibrate my plans. Trying to see if I can travel again"**. Yes — my brilliant, innovative kinsman and friend, Andrew Warren Enriquez, has indeed exited from this plane to travel, but specifically to another realm, where he has now joined his illustrious ancestors. Left to mourn him are his parents; his wife, Coretta, and daughters -- Olivia, Isabella and Lily; his aunt, Jeanette Ramclam; siblings -- Michael, Elicia, David and Michael, as well as nieces, nephews, cousins, and his in-laws in Ghana.

Thérèse Belisle-Nweke
Lagos,
NIGERIA



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



1 Part-Time Integrated Science/Physical Education 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: March 4, 2022

VACANCY

A Vacancy exists for a RECEPTIONIST/SECRETARY with a law firm located in Belize City

The successful Applicant must have the following:

- Minimum of 2 years working experience with a Law Firm
- Analytical skills and ability to monitor and cope with large amounts of information
- Keen Attention to detail
- Excellent Oral and Written Communication Skills
- Proficiency in Excel, Word and basic QuickBooks

Please email curriculum vitae and references to informationservicesbz@gmail.com

Deadline for submission is **Thursday, the 31st March, 2022**

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Letters to the Editor

What are you doing with your right to vote?

Dear Editor:

Please allow me a space in your newspaper so that I can write to the people of Belize about what to consider when making the important decision of choosing candidates for any elections.

To the people of Belize: One of the fundamental rights of all Belizeans is the right to vote. What this means, is that absolutely no one can stop us from casting our vote or force us to vote for a particular candidate. When we reach our eighteenth birthday, the laws of Belize grant us the right to choose our leaders. Along with this right comes the responsibility to register to become a voter, and when the day comes, to cast our vote.

I am still not old enough to vote, but I am familiar with the crowd of red and blue shirts that fill the streets of Belmopan on election day. Passing by the Belmopan Comprehensive School, I often wonder what goes on in people's heads as I see people entering and exiting the compound. I wonder if they realize that on this day they have all the power—the power to show the candidates that if they are not serious and do not show that they have your backs then you will not be on their side ... the power to make a good decision that will benefit not only you, but Belmopan and the whole country, and that will later affect even your children and grandchildren many years after.

The most important thing to remember when voting is that voting gives you the opportunity to have a say in what you want for the future of Belize, so it is important to vote for the right reasons. You should do your research, learn about, and question each candidate's plans for Belize, and then decide on the individuals who have your same thinking to address the issues that concern you, as well as the people of Belize. You should also analyze what the parties have done in the past when in power; have they improved the

country? Did they just destroy Belize even more? Are they telling you the truth or are they deceiving you? Choose the people who you strongly believe you can count on and who show that they really care for the people to bring a positive change for Belize.

As a resident of Belmopan, you should consider someone who is serious about developing our little city, not only with better roads or nicer parks, but a good library that both kids and adults can enjoy; more opportunities for activities and clubs (like camping clubs, a movie theater or a bowling place) that me and my friends can enjoy; a nice children's home for the less fortunate kids; assistance for the homeless people around our city, including a safe place for them to sleep, take a shower or get a nice hot meal; and a safe Belmopan where as a teen I don't have to be afraid of walking on the sidewalks or riding my bike through the streets.

Voting goes beyond just that single moment that you take to cast a vote on election day. Voting is choosing who will be responsible for running Belize for the next five years. If we choose for the wrong reasons, we can have five years of suffering, but if we choose for the right reasons, five years can bring about lots of good things for us. So you should not vote because the corrupted parties bribe you to do so. Be smart and let your voice be heard the way you want it and not the way a candidate forces you.

So do the right thing for those of us who cannot yet vote so we can have a better Belize by the time we are able to cast a vote and make a difference ourselves to continue to better the lives of the people of Belmopan and our country.

Thank you! Sincerely,
Ka'im Guerra
Second Form Student
Our Lady of Guadalupe High School,
Belmopan



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 25, 2022 to Thursday March 3, 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. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 8:00 p.m. Documentary: Diplomats for Sale
- 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. The Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan - The Swan Song
- 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 Session
- 7:30 p.m. **You And The Law (LIVE)**
- 9:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**

THURSDAY

- 6:30 a.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (LIVE)**
- 9:00 a.m. **Morning Stew (LIVE)**
- 12:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**
- 1:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 2:00 p.m. Movie: 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)**

PUBLIC AUCTION SALE: PROPERTY

La Milpa Area, Ladyville, Belize District

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees, Messrs. St. John's Credit Union Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the below described property. Sale currently running and will expire on Wednesday 9th March 2022 at 10:00 am: Lot No. 88 La Milpa Area, Ladyville Village, Belize District:



REGISTRATION SECTION
Ladyville/Lord's Bank

BLOCK
16

PARCEL
5981

(Being a concrete bungalow dwelling house [735 sq. ft.] containing 3 bedrooms + 2 bathrooms + living/dining/kitchen situate in La Milpa Area, Ladyville, Belize District, the freehold property of Ms. Lorna Oyerinde)

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)



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 

Procurement Specialist, 11th European Development Fund (EDF)

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 **11 March 2022**.

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




Cricket Corner – The Harrison Parks 2022 Cricket Competition kicks off this weekend



by Peter Young

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Feb. 24, 2022

A very pleasant time of the day to all players, fans, spectators

and cricket enthusiasts!

After a spectacular Marathon and a

week break, the much anticipated starting of the Harrison Parks Cricket Competition for 2022 kicks off this weekend. Thanks to our ever supportive sponsor BOWEN AND BOWEN!

During the pandemic break, we have lost some of our well-loved supporters and fans. May their souls rest in peace! No names will be mentioned in order to avoid much ambiguities.

This year's Marathon to my knowledge was very spectacular and successful. There were the regular teams and some new ones. At the end of the two-day Marathon, which was well organized by the Belize National Cricket Association headed by Dr. Roy Young, prizes were won by the following: First prize went to Belize Defence Force Team, receiving \$1,000.00 donated by the Belize Sports Council; followed by second place winner, Wicked Eleven of Flowers Bank with \$500.00 donated by Belize Rural North Area Representative, Hon. Marconi Leal. A special prize of \$200.00 went to a newly formed team, Brave Eleven Reload of Willows Bank, captained by a very experienced lover of cricket, Mr. Garrett Joseph. This donation was presented to him and his team for the Most Disciplined Team in the Marathon. Special recognition goes to SPIEZ INTERNATIONAL for supporting the spirit of cricket in kind. Spiez International have assisted 10 out of the 16 teams with uniforms plus. Thanks, Spiez!

The following games are scheduled for this weekend:

Saturday, February 26

LEVEL ONE – BDF vs Excellence at Double Head Cabbage; Brilliant vs Wicked Eleven at Flowers Bank; Rural Mix vs Sunrise at Lords Bank.

LEVEL TWO – Rising Star vs Brave Eleven Reload at Willows Bank; Brave Union Boys vs St. Paul's Strikers at St. Paul's Bank; Surprise vs Western Eagles at Rancho Dolores; Progressive vs Long Journey at Sandhill.

Sunday, February 27

LEVEL ONE – Berlan vs Summer Fever at Bermudian Landing.

Best of luck to all teams! Play the game in the spirit of the sport, allowing spectators, families and friends to enjoy the game we so love. Respect each other so that you may be respected in return.

Have a fun filled cricket weekend, folks! Blessings!



Sagicor is pleased to inform our clients and members of the public of our new in-branch opening hours, effective **March 1st, 2022**.

8:00 AM TO 3:00 PM

THE FOLLOWING PROTOCOLS WILL BE OBSERVED FOR EVERYONE'S SAFETY:

PRIOR TO ENTRY


-  Temperature Taken
-  Sanitize Hands
-  Do not proceed if unwell

WHILE INSIDE

-  Maintain a 6ft distance from others
-  Face Masks Required

Our virtual hours remain the same and our online options and mobile app remain available for your convenience.

Our Call Centre remains open from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday, at **(501) 223-3147/3157**



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Ahmadiyya Basketball League Week 3 results

Info courtesy Rodvern Lino – ABL Commissioner

BELIZE CITY, Tues. Feb. 22, 2022

The 7th season of the Ahmadiyya Basketball League (ABL) continued with Week 3 of the tournament on Sunday, February 20, featuring 16 games at the Mexico Center basketball courts inside the Marion Jones Sports Complex.

Below are the results in the different categories:

U15

Falcons over Lords Bank Conquerors, 57 – 22. Falcon's – Jason Orosco 22pts; Wilburn Forbes 12pts. Conquerors – Kingston Nicolas 12pts.

ABS Hard Rock over Young Ballers, 65 – 7. ABS – Augustine Pitterson 16pts; Thomas Garcia 14pts. Young Ballers – Maleeque McDonald 3pts.

U18

Hard Rock Defenders over 501 Gators, 40 – 44. Defenders – Devin Moody 15pts; Malique Middleton 8pts. Gators – Jameer Young 11pts; Luis Sosa 10pts.

We got Game over Vipers, 21-18. We got Game - Anthony Usher 9pts; Kameron Heusner 4pts. Vipers – Harlem Noralez 7pts; David Maheia 5pts.

501 Grizzlies over Ladyville Big Dreams, 51 - 42. Grizzlies – Lebron Broaster and Tayjawn Gallego 14 pts each. Ladyville Big Dreams – Marque Ortiz and Rushard Armstrong 12pts each.

Riverside Bombers over Falcons, 37 – 34. Riverside – Sanjay Baltazar 8pts; Antwan Bermudez 7pts. Falcons – Alston Guterrez and Louis Matthews 8pts each.

U22

Gorilla Cutz over Suga City Boyz, 40 – 18. Gorilla Cutz – Phillip Parks 11pts; I. Luna 8pts. Suga City – K.

Clarke 5pts; I. Pascual 4pts.

Young Legends Flames over One Shot, 43 – 40. Young Legends - Jaheim Ciego 15pts; Cylon Wade 8pts. One Shot – U. Meighan 14pts; J. Lopez 8pts.

Tropic Air Defenders over Suga City Boyz, 50 – 31. T.A. Defenders – Michael Goff 10pts; Shaheim Valario 8pts. Shuga City Boys – Kendale Clare 10pts; Joshua Franklin 5pts.

Young Legend Flames over Shiesty Ballers, 56 – 36. Flames – Jahiem Ciego 14pts; Kevon Laurie 13pts. Shiesty Ballers – Shawn Menzies, Evon Vernon and Alfonso Audinette 9pts each.

Open

Westland over Complex Titans, 54 – 44. Westland - Raheem Zuniga 14pts; Ryan Michael 12pts. Complex – Raymond Gongora 17pts; Andrew Ortiz 8pts.

San Pedro Palapa Boys over Milpa Boyz, 42 – 32. Palapa Boyz – Steven Lopez 11pts; Andre Almendarez 10pts. Milpa Boyz – A. Martinez 17pts.

Caye Caulker Stingrayz over BDF Ballers, 28 – 24. Stingrayz – Osmin Arana 7pts; Harrison Cadle and Danny Reynolds 6pts each. BDF – Lansden Blease 12pts; Calvin Tench 4pts.

Truckers Posse over Flight'822', 41 – 39. Truckers – Justin Bailey 11pts; Gregory Rudon 10pts. '822' – Steven Williams 15pts; I. Montejo 7pts.

Chiefs over 501 Falcons, 42 – 33. Chiefs – Alejandro Baptist 9pts; Leon Humes and Shaquille Crawford 8pts each. Falcons – Matildo Gordon 11pts; Kevin Hamilton 8pts.

Flight '822' over Belama Gators, 57 – 18. '822' - Brandon Rogers 16pts; Karl Williams 11pts. Belama Gators – Oliver Solis 10pts; Rondre Lewis 6pts.

Verdes and San Pedro undefeated at Week 3 of FFB Top League 2021-22 Closing Season

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Feb. 23, 2022

At Week 3 of the Football Federation of Belize (FFB) Top League 2021-22 Closing Season, Opening Season champions Verdes are again at the top of the standings, with San Pedro Pirates

the only other undefeated team

so far in the tournament. Goals have been scarce for San Pedro, who have nevertheless recorded three 1-nil victories so far; while Verdes is on a rampage, tallying 14 goals in their 3 games, while conceding only 1. Interestingly, rookie Michael Palacio's first goal of the tournament was also the first goal recorded for his Caesar Ridge squad, and even more significantly, it was also the first goal conceded by Verdes. This Palacio kid has been a star striker from primary school right through various youth tournaments in Belize City.

All 6 Top League teams were busy over the weekend, with one game on Saturday and two on Sunday, all at the FFB Stadium in Belmopan.

On Saturday evening, kickoff time 6:00 p.m. at the FFB Stadium, defending champions Verdes FC cruised to a 5-1 win over winless Caesar Ridge FC. Sharing the scoring for Verdes were Krisean Lopez (27' & 41'), Juan Lopez (31'), Jovaunn Ramos (64') and Elroy Smith (90'); while Michael Palacio (87') got the only goal for Caesar Ridge.

In the opener at the FFB Stadium on Sunday, starting at 4:00 p.m., it was scoreless in first half between San Pedro Pirates FC and Altitude FC, until Alejandro Carillo's (72') second half goal clinched the 1-0 victory for San Pedro.

And in the nightcap, Garden City FC

and Wagiya SC played to a 1-1 draw. Garden City took an early 1-nil lead through Aloisio Teixeira (13'), but Wagiya got the equalizer from Julio Tirando (50') shortly after resumption of play in second half.

TEAM	PLAYER	Goals
Verdes FC	Krisean Lopez	4
Verdes FC	Jovaunn Ramos	3
Verdes FC	Juan Carlos Lopez	2
(Fifteen players have 1 goal apiece.)		

TEAM	W	D	L	GF	GA	Diff	Pts
Verdes FC	3	0	0	14	1	13	9
San Pedro FC	3	0	0	3	0	3	9
Altitude FC	2	0	1	4	1	3	6
Garden City FC	0	1	2	1	7	-6	1
Wagiya SC	0	1	2	1	7	-6	1
Caesar Ridge FC	0	0	3	1	8	-7	0

There are some interesting matchups in Week 4 this weekend, as both undefeated Verdes and San Pedro clash on the latter's home turf, while Caesar Ridge will be home at the MCC searching for their first point of the season against Garden City. Wagiya has been flirting with the cellar, and will try to move up in the standings when they clash with their Stann Creek rivals, Altitude from Independence.

Upcoming Top League Week 4 schedule:

Saturday, February 26

6:30 p.m. – San Pedro Pirates FC vs Verdes FC – Ambergris Stadium

Sunday, February 27

3:30 p.m. – Caesar Ridge FC vs Garden City FC – MCC Grounds

3:30 p.m. – Wagiya SC vs Altitude FC – Carl Ramos Stadium

PUBLIC AUCTION SALE: PROPERTY

Punta Gorda, Toledo District

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees, Messrs. Ascendancy Belize Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the below described property. Sale currently running and will expire Tuesday 8th March 2022 at 10:30 am.

Parcel No. 907 Main Street, Punta Gorda Town, Toledo District



REGISTRATION SECTION
Punta Gorda

BLOCK
42

PARCEL
907

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

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

Website: belizepropertyauctions.com
Email: belizeauctionsales@gmail.com
Facebook: Belize-Auctions

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

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

Position Name: Engineering Technician (Building Automated System)

Vacancy number: Belmopan-2022-04

Closing date: March 18, 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.



Week 5 games end reg. season for National Elite Youth Championships 2022

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Feb. 16, 2022

Week 5 games held this past Saturday, February 12, marked the end of regular season for the National Elite Youth Football Championships 2022 being hosted by the Football Federation of Belize (FFB) in conjunction with the National Sports Council (NSC).

Semifinals to start February 26

According to an FFB release on Monday of this week, all participating Elite selections will rest this coming weekend, February 19; and the semifinals will start the following Saturday, February 26, for all four categories – Women U17, Men U17, Women U20 and Men U20.

The semifinals will be home-and-away series; while the Finals will be one game knock-out.

Women U17 Elite Week 5 results

At the MCC Grounds in Belize City, with kickoff time at 10:00 a.m., Stann Creek Elite came back from a 2-1 deficit to score 3 goals in the last 15 minutes and register the 4-2 victory over Belize Elite. Shaking the net for Stann Creek were Shamika Lambey (15' & 90+') and Ceneia Apolonio (75' & 80'), while Belize Elite got a goal each from Samryn Rancharan (39') and Premilie Hope (58').

Then beginning at noon at the Isidoro Beaton Stadium in Belmopan, it was Belmopan Elite with the 2-0 win over Corozal Elite, with Marjorie Sanchez (10') and Bianca Hoare (19') scoring for Belmopan.

First leg of Semifinals for Women U17 Elite:

Nat'l Women U17 Elite Championship 2022								
Final Standings at Week 5, Sat., Feb. 12, 2022								
CLUBS	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	+/-	Pts
Belmopan Elite	4	4	0	0	16	2	14	12
Stann Creek Elite	4	3	0	1	22	9	13	9
Corozal Elite	4	2	0	2	17	15	2	6
Belize Elite	4	1	0	3	7	10	-3	3
Toledo Elite	4	0	0	4	3	29	-26	0

U17 Elite Women Top Goal Scorers		
TEAM	PLAYER	Goals
Stann Creek Elite	Khalydia Velasquez	11
Corozal Elite	Lineth Chan	9
Belmopan Elite	Marjorie Sanchez	8
Stann Creek Elite	Ceneia Apolonio	5
Corozal Elite	Jemily Pena	4
Toledo Elite	Jada White	3
Belmopan Elite	Heidy Lopez	3
Stann Creek Elite	Angie Delcid	3

Saturday, February 26

2:00 p.m. – Belize Elite vs Belmopan Elite – MCC Grounds

2:00 p.m. – Corozal Elite vs Stann Creek Elite – Ricalde Stadium

Men U17 Elite Week 5 results

At 12:00 noon at the MCC Grounds, (Group A) Belize Elite prevailed, 3-

1, over San Pedro Elite with goals from Keffer Perteau (22'), Flayden Carter (34') and Calvin Thurton (41'); while San Pedro's only goal was by Anecky Palacio (45').

Meanwhile, at the Victor Sanchez Union Field in Toledo, (Group B) it was a 1-1 draw between Toledo Elite and Cayo Elite. Jamie Velasquez (32') gave Cayo the first half lead, but Sharlon Martinez (88') equalized for the home team.

With a 2:00 p.m. kickoff time at the Isidoro Beaton Stadium, (Group A) Belmopan Elite crushed Orange Walk Elite, 5-nil, with goals from Dylon Gongora (5' & 32'), Tyrese Moody (38' & 74') and Jahlique Lopez (57').

Meanwhile, at the M.A. Stadium in Independence, (Group B) all the scoring was in first half, as Mid-South Elite clipped Stann Creek Elite, 2-1, with a goal apiece from Santiago Makin (25') and Dominique Palacio (30'), while Arlen Mendoza (13') scored for Stann Creek.

National Men U17 Elite Championship 2022								
Final Standings at Week 5, Sat., Feb. 12, 2022								
Group A	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	+/-	Pts
Belize Elite	4	3	1	0	19	3	16	10
Belmopan Elite	4	3	1	0	12	2	10	10
San Pedro Elite	4	1	1	2	8	12	-4	4
Orange Walk Elite	4	0	2	2	4	19	-15	2
Corozal Elite	4	0	1	3	4	9	-5	1
Group B	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	+/-	Pts
Mid-South Elite	4	4	0	0	12	3	9	12
Stann Creek Elite	4	3	0	1	23	4	19	9
Cayo Elite	4	1	1	2	9	9	0	4
Toledo Elite	4	1	1	2	3	9	-6	4
Benque Viejo Elite	4	0	0	4	1	23	-22	0

U17 Elite Men Top Goal Scorers		
TEAM	PLAYER (Group)	Goals
Belize Elite	Keffer Perteau (A)	7
Stann Creek Elite	Arlen Mendoza (B)	6
Stann Creek Elite	Aaron Estero (B)	5
Mid-South Elite	Dantay Green (B)	5
Belize Elite	Shemar Thomas (A)	3
Stann Creek Elite	Harrison Roches (B)	3
Orange Walk Elite	Diego Chan (A)	3
Belmopan Elite	Dylon Gongora (A)	3

First leg of Semifinals for Men U17 Elite:

Saturday, February 26

12:00 noon – Stann Creek Elite vs Belize Elite – Carl Ramos Stadium

12:00 noon – Belmopan Elite vs Mid-South Elite – Isidoro Beaton Stadium

Women U20 Elite Week 5 results

Only one Week 5 game, a Group B back-match, was played on Saturday, February 12, to complete the regular season for the Women U20 Elite 2022 tournament.

Kicking off at 10:00 a.m. at the

Isidoro Beaton Stadium, (Group B) Stann Creek Elite ran over Belmopan Elite by a 6-1 margin. Sharing the scoring for Stann Creek were Leslie Pensamento (30'), Shendra Casimiro (39' & 82'), Jaelin Cacho (42'), Taryn Arnold (59') and Josephine Pop (62'); while the lone goal for Belmopan was by Janivi Quiroz (56').

Nat'l Women U20 Elite Championship 2022								
Final Standings at Week 5, Sat., Feb. 12, 2022								
Group A	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	+/-	Pts
San Pedro Elite	4	2	2	0	7	3	4	8
Orange Walk Elite	4	2	1	1	6	5	1	7
Belize Elite	4	2	0	2	10	8	2	6
Corozal Elite	4	1	1	2	5	6	-1	4
Group B	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	+/-	Pts
Stann Creek Elite	4	3	0	1	10	2	8	9
Cayo Elite	4	1	2	0	7	3	4	5
Belmopan Elite	4	1	2	1	5	6	-1	5
Toledo Elite	4	0	0	4	3	23	-20	0

U20 Elite Women Top Goal Scorers		
TEAM	PLAYER (Group)	Goals
Belize Elite	Shante Chacon (A)	6
Stann Creek Elite	Shendra Casimiro (B)	5
Belmopan Elite	Roshany Navares (B)	4
Cayo Elite	Alliysha Bowman (B)	3
Orange Walk Elite	Kaite Jones (A)	3
Belize Elite	Aaliyah Herbert (A)	3
Corozal Elite	Alysha Terry (B)	3
Stann Creek Elite	Jaelin Cacho (B)	3

[CORRECTION:

Our apologies for error in last week's Top Goal Scorers list, where the teams for Shante Chacon and Roshany Navares were mixed up, and we mistakenly had Shante for Belmopan and Roshany for Belize.]

First leg of Semifinals for Women U20 Elite:

Saturday, February 26

2:00 p.m. – Cayo Elite vs San Pedro Elite – Norman Broaster Stadium

2:00 p.m. – Orange Walk Elite vs Stann Creek Elite – People's Stadium

Men U20 Elite Week 5 results

At 2:00 p.m. at the MCC Grounds in Belize City, (Group A) Belize Elite overpowered San Pedro Elite to the tune of a 7-1 margin. Belize goals came from Shemar Gillett (8' & 31'), Alender Herrera (45+'), Lawnie

Leslie (53'), Enoch Rhaburn (59') and Jaylen Clothier (66') along with an own goal by San Pedro's Jerson Betancourt (OG 90+'); while the lone goal for San Pedro was by the same Jerson Betancourt (15').

Meanwhile, at the Victor Sanchez Union Field in Punta Gorda, (Group B) the home team Toledo Elite got the 2-0 win over Cayo Elite with goals from Wilfredo Torres (49') and Andres Miranda (89').

At 4:00 p.m. at the Isidoro Beaton Stadium, (Group A) Belmopan Elite and Orange Walk Elite played to a 0-0 draw.

Meanwhile, at the M.A. Stadium in Independence, (Group B) the visiting Stann Creek Elite came away with a 3-2 victory over Mid-South Elite.

Netting a goal each for Stann Creek were Daijan Daniels (3'), Jason Kelly (45+') and Kevin Higinio (41'); while Jordan Apolonio (34' & 50') got both goals for Mid-South.

National Men U20 Elite Championship 2022								
Final Standings at Week 5, Sat., Feb. 12, 2022								
Group A	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	+/-	Pts
Belmopan Elite	4	3	1	0	11	0	11	10
Belize Elite	4	3	0	1	14	3	11	9
Orange Walk Elite	4	2	1	1	9	3	6	7
Corozal Elite	4	1	0	3	3	16	-13	3
San Pedro Elite	4	0	0	4	3	18	-15	0
Group B	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	+/-	Pts
Stann Creek Elite	4	3	0	1	9	6	3	9
Benque Viejo Elite	4	3	0	1	8	7	1	9
Mid-South Elite	4	2	0	2	10	8	2	6
Cayo Elite	4	1	0	3	4	7	-3	3
Toledo Elite	4	1	0	3	7	7	0	3

U20 Elite Men Top Goal Scorers		
TEAM	PLAYER (Group)	Goals
Belmopan Elite	Wilfredo Galvez (A)	4
Orange Walk Elite	Jaheim Augustine (A)	3
Stann Creek Elite	Kevin Higinio (B)	3
Belize Elite	Shemar Gillett (A)	3
Benque Viejo Elite	Jaylen Lennon (B)	3

First leg of Semifinals for Men U20 Elite:

Saturday, February 26

Time TBA – Benque Viejo Elite vs Belmopan Elite – Isidoro Beaton Stadium

Time TBA – Belize Elite vs Stann Creek Elite – MCC Grounds (TBA – To be announced)

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FROM THE PUBLISHER en Español

Una de las cosas más interesantes que me dijo Charlie Good fue que había estado en la nómina de la CIA (Agencia Central de Inteligencia) en 1984 cuando el Comisionado de Policía, Max Samuels, lo contrató para que me asesinara. El jefe de la CIA en Belize en ese momento era un tal Bob Trencher, a quien creo que me presentó un hombre de negocios amigo mío. Good dijo que la respuesta de Trencher a la revelación del contrato de Samuels fue: "Simplemente no nos involucremos".

Otra cosa interesante que dijo Good fue que Samuels le había dicho que un oficial de policía superior (ya fallecido) "se encargaría de todo" una vez que cumpliera la orden X.

Como dije en la columna anterior, después de escuchar las noticias de las 12:30 p.m. ese fatídico día, fui a buscar a Rufus X, que estaba trabajando en los cimientos flotantes de la casa donde he vivido desde 1987 en el paseo Seashore en Buttonwood Bay. (El terreno está frente al mar y me lo concedió el Honorable George Price y el Ministro de Tierras, el Honorable Florencio Marin, Sr., porque el Sr. Price sintió que yo había sido de ayuda en cuanto al éxito de su partido en la campaña de las elecciones generales de 1979).

De todos modos, Rufus era típicamente imperturbable y sin prisas; luego me llevó a su casa, donde trató de mostrarme cómo usar un arma. El ejercicio lo frustró rápidamente, diría yo, así que me dijo que yo debería conducir y que él se encargaría del "armamento". Luego fuimos a buscar al Sr. Good, y mientras buscábamos en la ciudad, recibimos noticias alrededor de la 1:45 de que la policía lo había detenido en la tienda propiedad del finado Ernest Meighan, Sr., cerca de la Biblioteca Pública del Municipio Cinderella. No se dieron detalles. (Alrededor de la época del Preámbulo de Acuerdo, Meighan solía escribir una columna en este periódico titulada "Belize-U.S.A.: The Only Way").

Unos días después, estaba en mi cama temprano una noche, cuando una vecina llamada Erica Moses, que estaba planchando algo para mi esposa, vino a preguntarme si quería ver a Charlie Good. Good estaba afuera de mi casa en la planta baja de la Calle Primera. Yo estaba, por supuesto, asustado, y le dije que no. Siempre he sentido que si Erica no hubiera estado allí, las cosas podrían haber sido diferentes.

Entonces decidí pasar a la clandestinidad, lo que hice en una

habitación del antiguo Bliss Hotel en Water Lane. Faltaba aproximadamente una semana para las elecciones generales de 1984, y sentí que si sobrevivía hasta las elecciones, ya sea que el PUP ganara o perdiera, el peligro para mí se reduciría considerablemente.

El hombre fuerte panameño, Manuel Noriega, había estado en la nómina de la CIA antes de volverse rebelde, por así decirlo, y el presidente estadounidense George Bush, padre, decidió invadir Panamá dirigida por Noriega en 1989. Mi creencia personal es que Max Samuels también había sido un activo de la CIA que se volvió deshonesto, y el gobierno de los Estados Unidos revocó su visa estadounidense a principios de la década de 2000 cuando era Ministro de Inmigración del PUP. Sospecho que Max era un activo de la CIA en 1984, cuando se desarrollaba este drama de Good/X.

El problema personal de Samuels conmigo fue probablemente el resultado del artículo principal en la edición del viernes 24 de agosto de 1984 de AMANDALA, por el cual el comisario exigió una disculpa. Yo era joven y macho en ese momento, y rechacé su demanda.

La noticia principal del 24 de agosto de 1984 estaba directamente relacionada con el artículo principal de la edición del viernes 4 de mayo de 1984 de AMANDALA. El titular del 4 de mayo discutía la acusación de tres beliceños prominentes en el condado de Dade (Florida) por el cargo de mover \$ 2.2 mil millones (EE. UU.) en cocaína a los Estados Unidos desde Colombia a través del Aeropuerto Internacional de Belize. En el momento de la acusación, Samuels le dijo al público beliceño que se ocuparía personalmente del caso.

El 24 de agosto de 1984, nuestro artículo principal había informado: "También se lanzaron miradas inquisitivas hacia él (Samuels) después de que un abogado estadounidense radicado en Los Ángeles (casado con una dama beliceña) hiciera una fiesta de \$12,000 para el comisionado Samuels en el Hotel Fort George. Los rumores decían que los clientes del abogado eran todos gánsteres relacionados con narcóticos y que tenía motivos ocultos para organizar la fiesta de Samuels".

No fue sino hasta la década de 1990 que un reportero estadounidense llamado Gary Webb comenzó a contar una historia monumental en un periódico de California: THE SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS. Webb murió misteriosamente, pero no antes de publicar DARK ALLIANCE en 1998. He aquí un par de párrafos del prólogo del libro de Webb escrito por la conocida congresista de Los Ángeles, Excma. Maxine Waters:

"La noche que leí la serie 'Dark Alliance', estaba tan alarmado que

literalmente me senté derecho en la cama, analizando cada palabra. Reflexioné sobre las muchas reuniones a las que asistí en el centro sur de Los Ángeles durante la década de 1980, cuando constantemente preguntaba: '¿De dónde vienen todas las drogas?'".

"El tiempo que pasé investigando las acusaciones de la serie 'Dark Alliance' me llevó a la conclusión innegable de que la CIA, la DEA, la DIA y el FBI sabían sobre el tráfico de drogas en el centro sur de Los Ángeles".

Tratemos de acortar una larga historia. De lo contrario, tendríamos que escribir otra columna sobre este tema, algo sin precedentes en nuestra historia. Charlie Good, un oficial militar altamente capacitado, se convirtió en el jefe de seguridad de AMANDALA a mediados de la década de 1990. Cuando me convertí en presidente de la junta directiva del Colegio Universitario de Belize en 1999 (y luego de la Universidad de Belize en 2000), lo contraté como nuestro jefe de seguridad en el campus universitario de la Ciudad de Belize.

Nuestras esposas se hicieron amigas y visité su casa varias veces, a veces con el finado Odinga Lumumba, quien había sido un agente de seguridad de alto rango y consultor en Ghana bajo el finado Jerry Rawlings. La historia de Lumumba en sí es increíble, pero quiero terminar con el hecho de que un par de veces me topé con Charlie y Odinga burlándose de mí. No estaba enojado, porque era un intelectual frágil en comparación con estos hermanos guerreros.

Cuando mi generación de estudiantes universitarios en esta región se estaba radicalizando en la década de 1960, adorábamos al Che Guevara y Fidel Castro porque habían sido estudiantes universitarios que lucharon con éxito contra los soldados profesionales en la Revolución Cubana. En África, los estudiantes idolatraban al sudafricano Nelson Mandela, un abogado que había dejado la ley para entrenarse en la guerra de guerrillas. En mi caso, cuando tuve que enfrentarme a Charlie Good, no tuve posibilidad de sobrevivir. Si lo que parecía suceder era real, entonces Rufus X me salvó la vida. Directamente hacia arriba.

Cuando mi generación de estudiantes universitarios en esta región se estaba radicalizando en la década de 1960, adorábamos al Che Guevara y Fidel Castro porque habían sido estudiantes universitarios que lucharon con éxito contra los soldados profesionales en la Revolución Cubana. En África, los estudiantes idolatraban al sudafricano Nelson Mandela, un abogado que había dejado la ley para entrenarse en la guerra de guerrillas. En mi caso, cuando tuve que enfrentarme a Charlie Good, no tuve posibilidad de sobrevivir. Si lo que parecía suceder era real, entonces Rufus X me salvó la vida. Sin pelos en la lengua

MADISON'S

AUCTIONS AND APPRAISALS LLP

PUBLIC AUCTION

BY ORDER of the Supreme Court of Belize, Sylvano Guerrero, is selling by way of ONLINE AUCTION via www.madisons.bz the following property with a reserve price. Auction is now open for bidding and will close on Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at 12:00 p.m.



Registration Section
Iguana Creek

Block
18

Parcel
67

All that piece or parcel of land being referred to as Parcel No. 67 Block 18 Iguana Creek Registration Section, situate approximately 1.75 Miles North of Spanish Lookout, Los Tambos Area, Cayo District; comprising of a total area of 99.979 Acres.

The subject property is held by Land Certificate in the name of Darin M. Smith.

www.madisons.bz TERMS: 10% DEPOSIT. BALANCE IN 14 DAYS

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ALPHA BUSINESS CENTRE
2118 GUAVA STREET
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BELIZE CITY, BELIZE

Sista B AWOL

by Glenn Tillett

“Improved governance of our parliament will require serious commitment by all parliamentarians. Our Standing Orders are being worked on for revision, as several aspects of it need to be changed and updated — not just Standing Order 84 on Absences from meetings.

“Becoming a member of parliament carries with it a tremendous responsibility to good governance and accountability. Therefore, the revision of Standing Orders is only one of several considerations for recommended actions needed to elevate the parliamentary system of Belize.” – Madam Speaker of the Belize House of Representatives, Ms. Valerie Woods.

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Feb. 24, 2022

It was announced yesterday via press release that the women

parliamentarians of the Belize National Assembly had convened a meeting earlier this week to discuss the establishment of the Belize Women Parliamentarians Caucus. The release from the Clerk of the National Assembly recorded that those present at this initial meeting were Hon. Valerie Woods, Speaker of the House of Representatives; Hon. Carolyn Trench Sandiford, President of the Senate; Hon. Dolores Balderamos Garcia, Minister of Human Development, Families and Indigenous People’s Affairs (the most senior female parliamentarian); Corozal Bay area representative Hon. Elvia Vega-Samos, and senators Hon. Isabel Bennett, Hon. Elena Smith, Hon. Sheena Pitts, and Hon. Erica Jang.

Albert area representative Hon. Tracey Pantan was absent, after having informed organizers that she had prior commitments related to the campaign leading up to the March 27, 2022, UDP

national convention at which a new party leader will be selected. No one was surprised to learn that Queen’s Square area representative Hon. Denise “Sista B” Barrow not only did not attend, but only informally responded to the invitation by stating that she was out of the country. The total number of women parliamentarians in the National Assembly (both chambers), including the presiding officers, is 10, and collectively, women parliamentarians account for 22% of the National Assembly’s 46 members.

While this is the greatest number of women serving in parliament in the history of Belize, women are still a minority in parliament. Honorable Denise “Sista B” Barrow did not attend the last meeting of the Belize House of Representatives on Friday, February 4, 2022. It was the ninth meeting at which she was marked absent. She has also missed the last seven consecutive

meetings, only obtaining leave from the Speaker as is required for just one of those absences, the meeting held on October 26th. She made no request for leave to be absent from the last meeting on February 4th and was in fact photographed and video-recorded blithely going about her business, riding her bicycle on St. Thomas Street in Belize City, as the meeting was in progress at the National Assembly in Belmopan.

Section 59(2)(a) of the Constitution provides that a person who absents him/herself for such period and in such circumstances provided in the standing orders vacates his/her seat. Standing Order 84 provides that a seat is vacated by a member after they have been absent from the House for more than six consecutive sittings, if it occurs during the same session (note this session commenced December 11, 2020), the six consecutive absences happen within a period of three calendar months, and the parliamentarian did not obtain leave from the Speaker to be absent before the ending of the six consecutive sittings.

Belize’s National Assembly has never had six consecutive meetings within a period of three calendar months, and sessions are deemed held for the entirety of the political administration’s term, that is from general election to general election. The Honorable Denise Barrow has missed every meeting since April 22, 2021, the first day of the Government of Belize’s annual budget debate — a total of 7 consecutively, and she only requested and obtained leave from the Speaker for one of her absences. She has only been marked present 3 times since being elected and has been absent from 9 of the 12 meetings so far in this session of the House of Representatives.

Even when she did attend House meetings, she has not participated in the discussions and debates, and in fact left early, really early, on the first day of the 2-day budget exercise, and was reportedly seen “chilling” at the Belmopan Market down the Hill.

Cayo North area representative Hon. Elvin Penner, was absent without leave from 13 of the 24 meetings held in 2013, 2014, and 2015. He missed three consecutive meetings three times. Neither Hon. Penner’s nor Hon. Sista B’s absences, however, are as remarkable as those of former Orange Walk North area representative and Deputy Prime Minister Hon. Gaspar “Gapi” Vega, who absented himself from his sworn duty to attend and participate in House meetings 22 consecutive times, from October 20, 2017, to March 5, 2020, a period of 2 years and 4 months, during which he drew no rebuke or censure from either his party leader and prime minister, Hon. Dean Barrow, or the then-Speaker of the House, Hon. Michael Peyrefitte.

His appearances at meetings on March 5 and 19 were his last as a member of the Belize House of Representatives, since he was also absent for the last seven meetings of the 2015-2020 Barrow administration.

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.

Barbados gets US \$115 Million loan from China for road rehabilitation

The concessional loan from the People's Republic of China to the Government of Barbados will be used to rehabilitate 224 kilometers of road.



Chinese Ambassador Yan Xiusheng and Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley

by **Khaila Gentle**

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, Tues. Feb. 22, 2022

Last week, Prime Minister of Barbados Mia Amor Mottley cosigned a framework agreement on a concessional loan from the government of China to Barbados for road rehabilitation valued at \$230 million Barbados dollars or \$115 million US dollars. The funds obtained through the loan will be used to repair 56 roads (a total of 224 kilometers or 139 miles) throughout Scotland District, located on the east coast of the country.

“This is an important morning for us in Barbados. Over the course of

the last few months, you would have heard us speak as a government about the fact that we are in the process of negotiating and settling a loan agreement with the Chinese government—with EXIM Bank of China, to be more precise,” said Prime Minister Mottley.

According to Mottley, the loan, which has a highly concessional interest rate of 2%, will be paid back over the course of twenty years, while the Government of China will subsidize the difference between that 2% and the market rate that EXIM Bank would normally apply—somewhere between 4.5 and 5%.

Please turn to **Page 33**

MINISTRY OF HEALTH & WELLNESS VACANCY NOTICE

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to fill the post of **Assistant Procurement Manager, Central Medical Stores, Ministry of Health & Wellness.**

Principal Duties: Ensure assigning and delivery of requisitions within the CMS scheduled delivery to health facilities countrywide. Track stock levels and report none delivery of tender items to Procurement Manager for sourcing ensuring availability.

Salary Pay Scale: 11 of \$19,301 x 890 - \$36,211 per annum

Qualification: Associates Degree in Applied Science
Registered Pharmacist
Minimum 5years Experience in Hospital Pharmacy

Deadline: Deadline is March 14th, 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.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BELIZE A.D. 2022

CLAIM NO. 2 OF 2022

IN THE MATTER OF A CLAIM TO RECOGNIZE A FOREIGN RECEIVER

AND

IN THE MATTER OF RULE 8.1(6)(b) OF THE SUPREME COURT (CIVIL PROCEDURE) RULES, 2005

BETWEEN

MARC-PHILIP FERZAN OF ANKURA
CONSULTING GROUP, LLC

CLAIMANT

AND

SITTEE RIVER WILDLIFE RESERVE
ECO-FUTURES BELIZE LIMITED
SANCTUARY BELIZE PROPERTY OWNERS'
ASSOCIATION

FIRST DEFENDANT
SECOND DEFENDANT
THIRD DEFENDANT


TO: SITTEE RIVER WILDLIFE RESERVE
ECO-FUTURES BELIZE LIMITED
SANCTUARY BELIZE PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

Take Notice that on February 24th, 2022, the Supreme Court of Belize granted an Order:

1. Recognizing the appointment of Marc-Philip Ferzan of Ankura Consulting Group, LLC as Receiver over the Defendants; and
2. Awarding costs to the Claimant in the sum of \$20,000.00.

Further Take Notice that it was ordered that service of this Order be effected by publication in two successive editions of a local newspaper.

DATED the 24th day of February, 2022


BARROW & WILLIAMS LLP
Attorneys-at-Law for the Claimant

MINISTRY OF HEALTH & WELLNESS VACANCY NOTICE

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to fill the post of **Procurement Officer, Central Medical Stores, Ministry of Health & Wellness.**

Principal Duties: Ensure assigning and delivery of requisitions within the CMS scheduled delivery to health facilities countrywide. Track stock levels and report none delivery of tender items to Procurement Manager for sourcing, ensuring availability.

Salary Pay Scale: 10 of \$18,367 x 878 - \$35,048 per annum

Qualification: Associates Degree in Applied Science - Pharmacy
Registered Pharmacist
Minimum 5years Experience in Hospital Pharmacy

Deadline: Deadline is March 14th, 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.



Kelly Street FC are Champions of BDFA 1st Division 2021-22 Opening Season



Kelly Street FC celebrates 1st Division championship

before at the FFB Stadium, there was a scheduled match between Caesar Ridge FC and Verdes FC in the FFB Top League tournament.)

The championship game between Kelly Street FC and Lake-I FC was an exciting high scoring affair that ended up at 4-4 in regulation, with star striker for Kelly Street, Steven Baizar netting a hat trick; and it remained that way through overtime. Shaking the net for Kelly Street in regulation were Steven Baizar (5', 9' & 65') and Michael Bradley (76'); while Lake-I goals were by Hubert Baptist (40'), Floyd Jones (47' & 70') and Harold Usher (74'). Kelly Street won, 4-2, in the penalty shootout.

FFB executive member Marlon Kuylen was on hand to distribute the trophies and awards after the game.

Team trophies went to: 1st Place – Kelly Street FC; 2nd Place – Lake-I FC; and 3rd Place – Stars Academy.

Individual awards were for: Best Coach – Julius Allen (Stars Academy); Best Defence – Francis Arana (Lake-I FC); Best Midfielder – Kenyon Smith – Village Boys FC; Best Goalkeeper – Jason Gabb (Caesar Ridge FC); Best Forward – Steven Baizar (Kelly Street FC); Most Goals Scored – Traveyon Martinez (Lake-I FC); Fair Play Award – Alender Herrera (Hattieville United); Regular Season MVP – Leon Jones (Stars Academy); Playoff MVP – Keemar James (Kelly Street FC); and Best Young Goalkeeper – Tyron Alvarez (Lake-I FC); he also received a pair of goalkeeper gloves from Stanley “Jordan” Reneau).

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Feb. 24, 2022

Football fans came out in numbers at the MCC on Sunday to witness the finals of the Belize District Football Association's (BDFA) 1st Division

2021-22 Opening Season.

The 3rd place game was awarded by default to Stars Academy because Caesar Ridge FC did not field a team. (Incidentally, on the Saturday evening

Another football great, Juvencio “Bud” August passes

BELIZE CITY, Tues. Feb. 22, 2022

We received the sad news just after noon today of the passing this morning of another great footballer, Juvencio “Bud” August of Orange Walk who was a giant of the game as a star striker in the 1980s. Bud had reportedly been ailing for some time, but few details were available to us.

Bud was a starting eleven striker on that All Belize selection that held the touring Canadian national team to a hard earned 2-nil win over our squad that was put together only two weeks before the international friendly under head coach Winston Michael.

With the passing only a couple weeks ago of another football great, Jacinto “Tash” Gutierrez, and reports of a few other former great players of the 1970s and 80s who are not doing well, the urgency of a concerted effort towards the establishment of a Belize National Football Hall of Fame becomes more evident. A number of different

Hall of Fames have been established over the years, but the time is ripe for an officially sanctioned, organized and structured process for Belize football to finally document a definitive list of the all-time greats, meticulously structured and executed to make it really meaningful and representative of the very best in Belize football.

It goes without saying that a player of Bud August's stature will most likely be a first round inductee into such a Belize National Football Hall of Fame whenever it is constituted.

In these Covid times, although the pandemic seems to be on the way out, the whole economic and social climate has been so stifled over the past two years that the indirect effects of neglect, inadequate medical attention and support for the ailing has hastened the passing of some of our loved ones.

Our sincere condolences from the sports desk to his family and his many football fans. Rest in peace, brother Juvencio “Bud” August.

Bubbler fund raising Quadrangular a success

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Feb. 24, 2022

Kulture (Yabra) and Lake-I veterans, who joined forces to organize a trip to San Ignacio for a quadrangular tournament involving two teams from Cayo, say the event was a success, although the Cayo veterans prevailed. A return date is being planned in Belize City.

Rudolph “Bolo” McKoy of the Kulture veterans was on the trip, and he said that Cayo Rebels defeated Kulture, 4-nil; and Cayo Quantas dropped Lake, 3-1. The games were played on Saturday at the Norman Broaster Stadium.

According to Bolo: “It was a great success for Bubbler, who spent the day with us at the park and was able

to collect from the gate and donations about 500 dollars. Hopefully, from this we can now get the Over-40 national tournament going.”

Allan “Bubbler” Valerio is a veteran footballer who was a stalwart promoter of youth teams, often taking them to play games in the villages, during and especially after his active years as a footballer. He has recently lost his sight and a leg to diabetes. He has three children and helps his wife to support.

It is a great example that the veteran ballers from Yabra and the Lake are setting in coming together to assist and support their brother in distress. Love and strength always, the Bubbler!

PUBLICAUCTIONSALE: PROPERTY

Melhado Estate, Mount Pleasant, Cayo District

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees, Messrs. The Belize Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the below described property. Sale currently running and will expire on Wednesday 9th March 2022 at 2:00 pm:

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.		

“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



Indigenous People's Affairs Commissioner writes to CCJ

(From page 1)

In Greg Ch'oc's letter to the CCJ, he accuses the TAA of intending to "arrogate exclusively to themselves the voice of the Maya People"

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Feb. 23, 2022

A 9-page letter penned by the Commissioner of Indigenous People's Affairs, Greg Ch'oc, was sent to the Deputy Registrar of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) on February 14 in an effort to refute the claims made by the Toledo Alcalde Association (TAA), the Maya Leaders Alliance (MLA) and the Julian Cho Society that they had not been consulted prior to the government's recent submission of the Free, Prior, Informed Consent protocol to the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ).

In the letter, Commissioner Ch'oc stated that the government considered the completion of the FPIC protocol a "historic achievement," despite the abundance of opposition to its contents and to the manner in which it was submitted. While he said that the protocol "paves the way for respectful dialogue with the Maya Villagers", it is to be noted that those villagers are represented by a chosen alcalde, and the alcaldes of the respective villages have in turn opted to be collectively represented by the TAA.

According to Ch'oc, however, the government recognizes only individual alcaldes and not a collective body.

"An alcalde functions at the village level, as I said, so Mr. Bah or the members of the executive of the association cannot come here and hold an alcalde's court, for example, unless you villagers allow it or accept it, but I have been to almost 24 villages, and most of this, in fact, all of the villagers have said to me, 'our village members are the decision-makers, we come to a meeting like this and we make decisions. When there is a big issue that comes we come to a meeting and we make decisions and our alcalde executes that. Our chairman executes that', that is what the villagers have said to me ..." Ch'oc had stated during a public address.

He added, "I have not heard any of the villages telling the government, 'this is the organization that represents us'. That's the reason why we have taken the position. So, the government of Belize in this policy document recognizes the alcalde system."

One of the primary issues of contention in regard to the FPIC protocol is the terminology used in the document, which will determine whether the government is required to get the consent of villagers prior to carrying out any activities that involve the use of their lands, or

whether it only has to consult them. Internationally, the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples makes provision for Free, Prior, and Informed Consent. Commissioner Ch'oc has said, however, that they are championing a free, prior, and informed consultation protocol.

Ch'oc has rightly stated that consultation must be free, prior, and informed in order for consent to be obtained from those communities, but maintained that the protocol is for consultation, and is not a consent protocol.

"Some have said that it has to be a consent protocol but we have said that it should be a consultation protocol, because under international law it is clear that the government must consult, but that must be free, prior, and informed ... so that if you decide that you accept it, you would have understood the negative, the positive, all that you need to understand to say, 'I will accept it, so if anything goes wrong you have nobody to blame but yourself,'" Ch'oc had told residents of San Antonio village, which he recently visited.

Commissioner Ch'oc, has seemingly been on a public tour across the Maya communities along with Minister Dolores Balderamos Garcia and gave those comments during a San Antonio village meeting. During a similar meeting in San Pedro Colombia, he stated, "If you're doing a process to accept, then there is no process to say, 'I don't want it.' That was what was wrong with the first protocol. It is a protocol that geared the community toward consenting. There was no option to say 'no, we don't want it.' And I want to turn you to the section, number 12, under Customary Decision Making. Part 12 number 16, is what the Government of Belize has recognized. It is unprecedented. It is perhaps the first in the Americas. It says if consent is withheld, and a Maya village or villages are clear that they do not consent to the proposed administrative measures, there the consultation process is over. And no administrative action may be taken. It's done. You said no. So, it is consultation, because it has to be free, prior, and informed. So, when you say, I consent, it is because you fully understood why you accepted. And if you say no, likewise you fully understood why you say no."

The representatives from the Ministry of Indigenous People's Affairs have said that there would be some instances where consent from the Maya communities would not be needed for the government to take

Google Certificate in Data Analytics Program being offered to Belize's youths

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Feb. 24, 2022

Belizean youths between the ages of 14 and 29 years old will have an opportunity to participate in a course through which they can earn a Google Certificate in Data Analytics. The course is part of an initiative being carried out by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science, and Technology (MoECST) in collaboration with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and Google.

The Google Certificate Program requires no previous knowledge in the field, and through the program participants will be able to acquire skills that are in high demand, which is expected to gain them access to remote job opportunities with high entry-level salaries at international companies. The program involves 10 hours of study per week and will be carried out entirely through remote learning. Participants will also be receiving individual life skills coaching.

The Minister of Education, Culture, Science and Technology. Hon.

Francis Fonseca, is encouraging young women to participate in the program in order to close the gender gap.

"While the course is open for all youth, we, in particular, encourage young women to apply to help close the world's gender gap in STEM fields," he said.

"Building digital skills is at the center of the IDB's Vision 2025 for the full recovery of the Latin American and Caribbean region, and as such, this opportunity directly benefits the youth population that has been affected by the pandemic, providing access to knowledge that is in demand by the digital labor market," noted Country Representative for the IDB, Ramiro Lopez Ghio.

Established in 1959, the IDB is devoted to improving lives and is a leading source of long-term financing for economic, social, and institutional development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

For interested participants under the age of 18, parents must fill out a questionnaire and provide their consent.

action—in cases of emergency and where reserves of government-owned minerals are concerned.

During an interview in late January, Minister Balderamos Garcia stated, "The constitutional authority of the Government of Belize over all land in Belize is not affected, and you can go and read that right in the consent order itself. The government is not giving away when it comes to oil drilling etc. Anything in the ground is owned by the people of Belize and administrated by the government."

The Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights in the United Nations, in referring to FPIC protocols, states, "The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples requires States to consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through **their own representative institutions** in order to obtain their

free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them."

Article 32 of that declaration refers to, "The undertaking of projects that affect indigenous peoples' rights to land, territory, and resources, including mining and other utilization or exploitation of resources."

Article 28 makes provision for the recovery of lands. It states that indigenous peoples who have unwillingly lost possession of their lands, when those lands have been "confiscated, taken, occupied or damaged without their free, prior and informed consent" are entitled to "restitution or other appropriate redress."

The parties will be back before the CCJ at a compliance hearing scheduled to take place in a few months.

Russia invades Ukraine

Continued from **Page 1**

reports, this first strike has already left numerous Ukrainian soldiers and at least ten civilians dead. Dozens more have been wounded, and as a result, thousands of residents have been fleeing for their lives, and many of the country's roads are in gridlock. Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskyy has declared martial law, calling the invasion a declaration of war against all of Europe. In an address broadcasted prior to Russia's attack, President Zelenskyy pleaded with Putin for peace, but that plea fell on deaf ears.

"As of today, our countries are on different sides of world history. Russia has embarked on a path of evil, but Ukraine is defending itself and won't give up its freedom," he tweeted. According to Zelenskyy, Ukrainian defenders gave their lives to thwart the attempts of Russian occupation forces to seize the Chernobyl nuclear power plant—a battle ultimately lost, as the military seized the plant in a matter of hours, holding its workers hostage.

Europe's long-lasting state of peace was shattered in just one day, but the tensions between Russia and Ukraine have been mounting for months now. In December 2021, just a few weeks after satellite imagery showed troops gathering at the Ukraine border, Russia issued several detailed demands to the West. The most prominent of those demands was that Western officials were to provide a legal written pledge that Ukraine and Georgia—both former Soviet republics—would not join NATO. The uncompromising West, however, rejected those demands, and instead, in January of this year, U.S. president Joe Biden reassured the Ukrainian president that the U.S. would "respond decisively" if Russia were to invade. Later that month, the U.S. put 8,500 soldiers on alert while other Western nations began evacuating staff from embassies in Kyiv. And by the beginning of February, the U.S. and its allies, such as the U.K., had begun alerting the public of the threat of war. According to *CNBC*, analysts have suggested that Putin knew his demands would have been rejected, but that making the demands enabled him to say that the West had ignored Russia's security concerns, thus allowing him to blame Ukraine and the West for increased tensions.

Ahead of the attack, Putin also stated that the invasion was being carried out in an effort to protect the citizens of Eastern Ukraine. The Russian president, who has formally recognized the independence of Ukraine's pro-Russian breakaway regions of Donetsk and Luhansk, declared that the purpose of sending in his army was to "protect" the two self-proclaimed republics and to keep the peace in the East. This, however, is illegal. Not only

do Putin's actions infringe on the territorial integrity of Ukraine, as explained by Kenyan UN Representative Martin Kimani, but those actions also breach international law, which dictates that peacekeeping missions must follow specific protocols that are in place—none of which involve the invasion of a country.

In less than 24 hours, the effects of the full-scale attack on Ukraine have already rippled across Europe and the globe, including in the global financial markets. Stocks have plummeted, and the cost of crude oil has risen to over \$100 per barrel for the first time since 2014—a change that will most certainly be reflected in the already steadily rising fuel pump prices both in Belize and around the world. As time passes, the ramifications could prove even worse, with Russia being one of the world's largest foreign-oil suppliers and with Ukraine being a major exporter of grain and raw materials. Inflation rates have been soaring since the start of the pandemic, but an all-out war can, and will, send those rates even higher—something that can ultimately result in political upheaval in countries already feeling the pinch of increased costs of living. At the end of it all, ordinary Ukrainians, and ordinary folk from across the globe, are the ones who will suffer the most.

This Tuesday, President Biden issued the first tranche of sanctions against Russia, cutting the country off from financial support by the West. Those sanctions have only increased since Thursday, with Japan, the EU, the U.K., and Australia joining in as well. Condemnation from the international community has also increased. On Tuesday, the Government of Belize Press Office issued a statement on the attack, "roundly condemning Russia's unjustified and unprovoked attack on Ukraine" and expressing that Belize stands in solidarity with the Ukrainian people who are enduring the horrors of war.

"Belize is resolute that all states must respect and adhere to norms and principles of international law which are fundamental to the maintenance of the international system and peace and security, including respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity within internationally recognized borders, non-interference in the internal affairs of another state, and the prohibition on the threat or use of force and peaceful resolution of disputes," stated the press release.

Vladimir Putin has responded to condemnation from global leaders and mounting sanctions with hostility, threatening anyone wishing to meddle with "consequences you have never faced in your history" and making reference to Russia's arsenal of nuclear weaponry.

IMF Article 4 consultations release

(From page 1)

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Feb. 24, 2022

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) completed its 2022 Article IV Mission to Belize and has issued a concluding statement describing the IMF team's preliminary findings after the visit. Most notably, those findings included the fact that a relatively robust economic recovery is taking place in Belize, with the country's GDP currently projected to grow by 6.5% this year. The IMF also found that the country made significant progress towards restoring debt sustainability in 2021. Other notable observations were that Belize's fiscal

position has strengthened in line with its economic recovery and that its debt dynamics have improved. The IMF team also noted that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to pose a threat to the country's economic outlook.

Based on the observations presented in the statement, the IMF staff will be sending a report to the Executive Board, which will then be discussed. The concluding statement and preliminary findings, including recommendations made by the team, will be covered in greater detail in Tuesday's issue of the AMANDALA.

Barbados gets US \$115 Million loan from China for road rehabilitation

Continued from **Page 30**

"Our calculation would tell you that when you look at that amount over the period of the 20 years, you're effectively looking at 85 Million Barbados dollars in subsidy or the equivalent of 42 and a half million US dollars, and therefore we want, on behalf of the people of Barbados and the government of Barbados, to thank the People's Republic of China for so gracefully agreeing to provide that subsidy while allowing us to service the 2% ... which is by far the smaller amount when you look at the market rate," she added.

The loan will be used to fund the Scotland District Rehabilitation Project, which, Mottley says, is important not only to the Barbadian government but also to its people. The district, which covers 1/7 of the land area of Barbados, has suffered from a great deal of erosion over the last

decade, with some of its roads being so bad that one major tour operator made the decision to stop conducting tours on the east coast. The project will involve road upgrading, reconstruction of roads and major repairs, new asphalt paving and some bridge building, along with the stabilization and the regeneration of eroded soil.

"With the signing of this agreement and the loan agreement which will be signed afterward, the Scotland District Road Rehabilitation Project will enter the phase of implementation, and we are looking forward to the start of the actual work on the road as soon as possible, which will surely facilitate enhanced commercial development and tourist-related activity on the east coast and create conditions for rapid economic recovery and development out of the influence of the COVID-19 pandemic," stated Chinese Ambassador Yan Xiusheng.

Redistricting: BPM back in court; EBC task force begins exercise

Continued from **Page 1**

by the Belize Peace Movement (BPM) in an effort to get the Supreme Court to order the government to proceed promptly with the redistricting exercise—something the formation of the task force might have been done to preempt—will be heard. At that hearing, an application to strike out the action will be put before the court. The Chairman of the Elections and Boundaries Commission, Oscar Sabido, had made that submission earlier this year for the BPM's legal action to be canceled on the grounds that the claimant failed to file its submissions on time and the process of preparing for the redistricting exercise has begun. The Belize Peace Movement, however, has emphasized the importance of having the court declare its ruling on the matter before the government's engagement in the process. They have expressed a lack

of confidence in the government's commitment to completing what it claims it has started, and believe that a ruling by the court will provide the necessary assurance that the process will be carried out.

Hubert Enriquez, a representative of the Belize Peace Movement, had told AMANDALA that BPM was seeking a declaration from the court on the matter. "Now that government has already started the exercise, why is it necessary to continue with the case? But you know, we have heard these things before already. A promise is a comfort to a fool. We want to see it take place, because there is no guarantee, even if they say they will do it now, once the case is withdrawn, they will continue with doing it, and so we need to have this case settled in court. Because we also want a determination from the court itself,

Please turn to **Page 35**

Stevedores get \$1.5mil from GOB

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parliamentary irregularity on the part of the government. The application for the injunction is the most recent legal action to be brought by PBL against the union.

On the 11th of February it was confirmed publicly that the Port of Belize (PBL) had brought a lawsuit against the Christian Workers Union (CWU), as well as the union's president, Evan "Mose" Hyde, and five of its members, who sit on the negotiating tribunal, in an attempt to force the defendants to pay \$1,034,403.00 in special damages, along with interest, and costs, for losses the company claims it suffered during eight days of industrial action carried out by the stevedores who belong to the union, in early January. PBL claimed that each day of what it classified as an illegal strike resulted in average losses of \$114,934.00 and that the total loss incurred by the company was \$1,034,403.00.

At that time, the company was portraying its lawsuit as an effort to recover what it had lost. But the second lawsuit that was filed this week, which sought an injunction to block a \$1.5 million payment from GOB to the stevedores, has caused those purported motives to be called into question and has left many in the public wondering what exactly the reasons are for the PBL's legal actions. This second lawsuit was filed by an attorney who represents a range of Lord Ashcroft-owned entities and economic interests — SC Godfrey Smith. The ostensible purpose of the lawsuit, as previously mentioned, is the recovery of lost revenue, but this effort at recouping \$1 million in "losses" is being done on behalf of a company that seemed unbothered or hesitant to litigate when a shift of sugar-loading to Big Creek (in violation of a memorandum of understanding) caused it to lose possibly tens of millions, or more, in future earnings.

The second lawsuit brought by PBL, as previously mentioned, is an effort to seek an injunction to block the payment by GoB of \$1.5 million to the stevedores (which would amount to roughly \$10,000 or less to each of the stevedores) that had been promised to them in a Memorandum of Understanding geared at compensating those workers for all the alleged economic harm and violations of their rights that resulted from the privatization of PBL.

Earlier this month, the Government of Belize agreed to give the stevedores of the CWU the ex-gratia payment for the near 20 years of losses and violations believed to have been a direct result of the privatization of the Port of Belize Limited. The most recent lawsuit filed by PBL seeks to restrain the government from making that payment, but the payment has since been forwarded to the CWU account, via its president, Evan "Mose" Hyde.

Attorneys for PBL have argued that no authorization was obtained to legalize the payment to the stevedores from the Consolidated Revenue Fund and that such approval from the National Assembly could not have been obtained for the payment because no sitting of the House of Representatives had been scheduled in time for the payment date, February 28, and thus the government would not have had time to authorize the payment. The PBL, which, as previously mentioned, also filed a claim seeking damages of \$1.3 million from the CWU, purported to be fearful that if the money was disbursed to the struggling stevedores, it would not be recoverable.

"Furthermore, once paid out and distributed to the individual stevedores, it is unlikely that the One Million Five

Hundred Thousand Dollars (BZ\$1,500,000.00) would be recoverable from the Fourth Defendant," PBL's attorney stated in its application for an injunction to block the payment. Nonetheless, government proceeded with the disbursement process and the funds have been sent, and thus those aggrieved workers will likely soon be getting their portion of the payment.

The PBL has been in a 20-year receivership, with no end in sight to that unideal arrangement; its receiver, Arturo Vasquez, the second claimant in this action, says he is bringing the claim as a taxpayer who has a keen interest in the government's fiscal responsibility and went as far as calling the perceived suffering and prejudice faced by stevedores under the PBL receivership "baseless claims."

"I am keenly interested in ensuring that the money I pay in taxes as well as those collected by the government from the other taxpayers are lawfully and validly issued from the Consolidated Revenue Fund and applied in a transparent and accountable way in accordance with law and not used to settle baseless claims or as quid pro quo for the Fourth Defendant or any individual or individuals to discontinue unlawful acts," the claim states.

Questions abound, however, about why PBL sought such an injunction that would have caused tensions to intensify between the parties, at a critical point when the CWU had expressed hopes for good faith negotiations with the employer on the various matters of contention between the two parties (which prefaced the decision of the government to make the payment and the CWU's acceptance of the offer). Even more questions surround the timing of the claim, which PBL must have known would be inflammatory and could provoke action by the stevedores, in the aftermath of industrial action that temporarily brought a halt to the flow of some imports/exports. And then there are more questions—about why the company is so fastidious about legal violations and quick to litigate in regard to a matter with a \$1 million price tag but so readily allowed the violation of a memorandum of understanding that guaranteed it compensation if sugar-loading was transferred to Big Creek — a violation which caused much larger losses — without making one legal move.

At a press conference held by the CWU today, the president of the union, Evan "Mose" Hyde, stated, "Listen, we want to live in a society, I argue for that, where the people and agencies of the people hold their government to account and to step up and make sure that government acts properly. But truth be told — PBL? Is an entity that has a reputation for being a guardian of parliamentary properness? PBL? I know you have organizations like the Peace Movement. I know you have other organizations in civil society that have made it a signature of their purpose to hold government and to be engaged as such, but PBL and its receiver has now become that guardian? It's just impossible for us to believe that they have all of a sudden become concerned about parliamentary protocol being adhered to, so there must be other motivations..."

Hyde went on to say, "Now you are the employer. Your employee has engaged in a negotiation with the government. Whatever your thoughts or feelings about what precipitated that process, your employees have negotiated and agree with that government to an ex-gratia payment, and you, the employer, you, the employer, sat down and said to yourself, 'man, I can't allow my employees to get that.' I can't

read minds; we can't judge a person's heart, but we have a level of common sense. It appears that there is a deep embedded animosity, because that is what our members experienced it as — that you have to really have a deep problem with us, that you should have made it your business to try, you put your resources. You put your actual money, because lawyers don't work for free. You put your money, you have the port that is in desperate need of improvement, you have equipment not working and being dependable; we have a pier that is in a state of disrepair, but your high priority for resources is to do your best to try to prevent that from happening, " (It is worth noting that in some quarters, and on some local talk shows, some Belizeans have expressed fears that it might be a calculated move, combined with a series of other moves, that could be geared at perhaps provoking an enraged, disruptive response from the stevedores, which could provide a pretext for the carrying out of other plans that might already be in place. These speculations persist.)

Hyde further pointed out, "You might have somebody out there that believes them on what they present that they are simply concerned, about parliamentary protocols and procedures. Our members, unfortunately, we don't believe that for a minute."

PBL is claiming that the Prime Minister, Hon. John Briceno, bypassed the function of the legislature by agreeing to the payment without first taking it to the National Assembly for approval. In an interview yesterday, the PM said, without providing a detailed description of the process, that the government was able to make the advanced payment and account for it within the new upcoming budget.

It must be noted that in October 2021 this administration established a Contingency Fund under the Finance and Audit Reform Act. That legislation governs payments that are urgent and unforeseen, for which no provision exists.

Section 2 (3) of the Finance and Audit Reform Act amendment states, "Notwithstanding sub-rule (2), where an urgent and unforeseen need for expenditure has arisen and cannot without serious injury to the public interest be postponed until adequate provision can be made by the National Assembly, the Minister may by warrant, authorize the issue from the Fund of such sums as may be necessary."

Section 4(a) and (b) mandates that the payment be authorized by the National Assembly but subsection (c) points out, "authorizations by warrant which have not been confirmed by the enactment of an Appropriation Act shall not at any time exceed in the aggregate an amount equivalent to ten per centum of the amount voted for the respective head of the approved expenditure estimates for the year, or the sum of one million dollars in the case of new goods or a new service."

(7News, in its newscast last night, reported that it had been told that "government simply issued a warrant for the expenditure — as is the practice — which gives them three months to seek parliamentary approval.")

"What we will do is that we will also include it in the budget...so that 1.5 million dollars will be included in the new budget. Yes, we will pay it in advance, because it is something that we felt needed to be done and at the same time to be able to ease the tensions that were taking place at the Port of Belize. We wanted to make sure that we could settle that without any kind of bloodshed or any kind of violence," said Prime Minister Briceno.

The PM went on to say that he is sure that PBL has other ways to recover their losses incurred during the strike without saddling the stevedores with these legal claims.

"My initial reaction is that it is unfortunate that PBL would take such a step to be able to prevent the stevedores to get a fund that we believe was merited. It's something that's a part of trying to correct history so that they can have access to these monies. The stevedores are not rich people, they need the money..." the PM said.

Hyde seemed to make reference to a portion of that statement by the Prime Minister during the press conference held by the CWU today:

"If all of this is just one big 'paratus. If all of this is just one big set up, and we nuh even know, because we cannot allow ourselves to become in any way off of our focus and alter because a million and a half dollars has been ex-gratia paid to us. Our members will lose that and more every single year going forward... Our members have not been made rich by it. They have not been made financially stable by it. It's a gesture that they have received, and they have respect for because, that's the people's money. But our losses are going to be continuous, so we don't have any delusion about the terrain that we are operating in, we don't have any delusion that well, all of a sudden government loves stevedores. Ultimately, we have lost sugar, and the government had chosen not to implement or to defend its agreement that it had signed with Big Creek and with PBL..." he said.

He added, "We are not delusional, because we know we have had people who are a part of the government who has said to our members, 'go find another job'. Our members don't forget these thing, you know. A million and a half dollars is not going to get them to forget that, so we know that right now, in the place that we are operating — schemes and games, and we have to deh pan the top ah fi we game, because ultimately, yo woulda say, we can't trust, and can't trust and we can't assume. Because we make mistakes, we get set up before, we get told all the best of things before and then the next thing you know, we take lick, the members take lick. Everybody want to tell us about, well the business take a lick. Fi we members take lick...nothing like the lick of losing sugar."

It is to be noted as well that the losses that PBL is claiming it suffered were purportedly the result of eight days of industrial action that the stevedores engaged in, in late January following PBL's refusal to accept key recommendations from the union's membership, as well as suggestions it made to the union regarding possible forms of compensation for losses due to the shift of sugar-loading to Big Creek that were seen as insulting and provocative by the stevedores.

During an interview yesterday, Dean Flowers, president of the Public Service Union (PSU), expressed his views on the recent lawsuits brought by big corporations against protesting workers:

"As the leader of the largest public sector union, I will say that I am disgusted by the Port of Belize Limited and ASR/BSI, extremely disgusted. These capitalists believe that when they can continue to rape and abuse workers the way they have grown accustomed to, that they can go to court and try to squeeze you financially. I want to say also that I was disappointed to hear the Minister of Agriculture only say

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Two drug planes in two days

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strategically placed spikes on the road for at least three hours, giving the narcos ample time to move their cargo, likely South American cocaine, across the border into Mexican territory.

According to Chester Williams, Commissioner of Police, Belize's Joint Intelligence Operations Center (JIOC) had been tracking both the drug planes before they arrived in the country's airspace, and each of those planes which landed, on consecutive nights, had been one in a pair of planes that were headed in our direction.

While sharing information about the first of the two landings with local reporters, Commissioner Williams explained, "Night before, we had two tracks coming, and again we were out monitoring, one of the track came and flew over Belize, and the other one maneuvered several times and in several areas as if it was trying to find a place to land and it disappeared off the radar, so we lost communications or sight of them from the radar, and when it did reappear again, it's because we were told that it had landed in the Faiya Bun area I think—that's somewhere behind Carmelita Village in the Orange Walk District."

Williams further noted, "I must say that we had a team in that area in Carmelita and that team quickly made their way to the location, but while they were doing so, apparently the traffickers had placed spikes on the road, and the spikes caused damage to all the tires of the vehicle, so that disabled the team from reaching the location within a timely manner."

When the police finally arrived at the scene of the landing, following what was at least a three-hour delay, only the Saberliner jet was found. No narco-traffickers or cargo were in sight.

"By the time another vehicle came to assist and get the team to the location, the plane was found without its cargo. We continue to conduct operations within that area with a view to see if we will be able to locate the cargo and those persons behind this landing," said Williams.

In reference to the second landing, which took place last night in Toledo, the Police Commissioner said, "And then, again last night, we were monitoring two

tracks again. As we normally do, we deploy our personnel across the country in different areas and around 1:00 a.m. this morning one of the planes hovered over the Bladen area for about 20 minutes. We had a team there. We believe that they may have suspected we had teams in that area, so they went Kanantik area, and we had a team there as well, and they circle there for like 10 minutes, and perhaps they figured something was wrong. Again they moved on and went down south."

Williams went on to state, as previously mentioned, that police believe that the plane may have landed in a heavily vegetated area of Graham Creek, near the Belize/Guatemala border.

"Again, that is an area that is heavily vegetated, and it does pose significant challenges to the security forces to get to that location, and so I believe that's the reason why that area was chosen. I can say at this time that we have not confirmed that landing, but we have all reasons to believe that the plane did land in that area." Williams said.

Teams of officers, as previously stated, are currently en route to the location, but it is almost a certainty that, by now, any cargo or drug traffickers are likely long gone, since the arduous journey takes several hours and involves hiking in jungle terrain.

Noting the drug traffickers' use of spikes to delay officers and the maneuvering of the drug planes over the various clandestine landing strips before a landing location was chosen, the ComPol pointed to what is appearing to

be increased sophistication in the operations of the narcos in Belize, who are apparently deploying new, more innovative tactics in their efforts to avoid detection and detention.

"They have become very sophisticated. Obviously we know that these narco-traffickers will do whatever they can to get their cargo from point A to point B, and when these planes come, they don't have one landing spot; they have several proposed landing spots," Commissioner Williams said. He added, "We are working with the DEA to see what we can do to address the challenges that we are currently facing in the Toledo District. Graham Creek, Dolores, Crique Sarco—these are the challenging areas for us, and so we are working to see what we can do to enhance our presence and response within that area." said Williams.

While no cargo was found following either of the landings, the plane used in the operation near Orange Walk has a capacity of almost 2,000 pounds. According to Williams, any cargo that was on that aircraft was likely transported via river by the drug traffickers and smuggled into Mexico via the Botes crossing in Orange Walk.

"I think it took our team like 3 hours to get to the plane after the team experienced the spikes. Three hours would have been quite reasonable, if they have adequate vehicular resources, to move the cargo from point A to point B," Williams said. He told reporters,

however, that police are still operating as if the drugs are still in the area and have teams at the location still conducting searches.

In reference to the seemingly high-level locals who were involved in this drug trafficking operation, Williams said that those persons are from the Carmelita area and that the police have a good idea who those persons are.

"We believe that the narco-traffickers are from within that general Carmelita area. There are a couple of them who operate out of Carmelita; we know who they are, and those are the persons we are looking for, and as a matter of fact, we had gone to their homes yesterday. I have directed the team to make sure we go to their homes yesterday morning to see if they were there – and they were not at home, so that again say something that they could be involved and are still out in the fields dealing with the cargo," said Williams, who further pointed out that those villagers' knowledge of the terrain makes them ideal workers to move the drugs.

"The local people are the ones who know our terrain. They know the ins and outs of those areas. The Mexican cartel who would normally come would not be acquainted with our terrain or acquainted with how to maneuver the jungles, so they do rely on our local people who are from the particular area to help them in that regard, so certainly they are not only clearing space but are also involved in the movement of these drugs," Commissioner Williams said.

Redistricting: BPM back in court; EBC task force begins exercise

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what is their view on the Constitution, and not only that, but for future reference, we will be able to say that in fact this matter was settled by a court and the court made certain precedents," Enriquez had said.

The Chief Elections Officer and new chairperson of the task force, Josephine Tamai, said this week in an interview that the work of the new body has nothing to do with the ongoing case, and rather involves gathering the information needed to carry out the process.

"I will tell you as the chair of the task force, our duties and our responsibilities, it has nothing to do with a court case, because this is something that has been in the making for several months, if not years. So, our main focus right now, like I mentioned, is to get the information that is required, and yes, we already have some of that information," Tamai stated.

As previously reported by AMANDALA, the Election and Boundaries Commission has set the end of 2023 as the expected timeline for the completion of this redistricting process. The task force will work on laying the groundwork, mapping out the election boundaries, and gathering information needed to complete the exercise.

"As the Commission mentioned to us, as members of the task force, in

terms of the expectations that they have, we know that many times people were saying that you're behind in terms of conducting this exercise, but again, here we are today, and we are going full steam ahead with getting this exercise done, as the Government of Belize has already provided funding for us to do so," Tamai stated.

Minister of the Public Service, Constitutional and Political Reform, Hon. Henry Charles Usher, in early December 2021 had announced that the redistricting exercise would begin in January of this year, and cited July 23 as a possible date of completion. The recommendations from the Elections and Boundaries Commission would then go to the House of Representatives for approval.

"Remember, when they are completed and they make the recommendation, it then has to go to the House of Representatives, and it has to be passed in the House for it to become law. It then takes effect after the next elections. So it will take effect when the next election is called. I represent the smallest constituency in terms of size, in terms of population. Certainly, it is something that we have to look at, but the Constitution is very clear. It says that the electoral divisions must be within a certain percentage of each other for it to be fair, and it is important that the Election and Boundaries Commission follow the Constitution and carry out its work with

this redistricting exercise," Minister Usher stated in a December 7 interview. (During that interview, he had expressed his belief that the historical divisions should remain, but he acknowledged the importance of complying with the Constitution.)

Chairperson Tamai concurred that there are plans to submit a first draft report to the Commission by the middle of this year. "We do have a timeline, and I also want to state that we are hoping that by the middle of this year as the task force, we are able to produce, at least a first draft report, so by July, August of this year, to produce a first draft report to submit to the Election and Boundaries Commission. We'll have some time to review whatever is provided, feedback again to the task force, and then we see how we proceed from there, because initially, we have to look at all the statistics and all the data and make recommendations as to how we will proceed with actually redefining the electoral divisions," Tamai said.

As a part of the redistricting case, an expert witness hired by Lord Michael Ashcroft—an approved interested party in the proceeding—compiled a report outlining recommendations for carrying out the redistricting exercise. There has been no indication whether the Commission will utilize the data already gathered by the expert since, as mentioned, that case continues in the Supreme Court tomorrow.

Stevedores get \$1.5mil from GOB

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that government will be looking at supporting the BSCFA in terms of indemnifying them and providing the legal and financial support they will require, and not a single comment was made about government supporting the stevedores financially and legally. I want to call on the government to defend the brothers and sisters of the Christian Workers Union in this litigation. They are the ones who took the decision to put these individuals in this mess against another capitalist. So, they have a duty and obligations to ensure that a proper legal team and financial support is given to the CWU in the same manner that it is being given to the BSCFA, unless we have a racial divide in the country," Flowers said.



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