

# Curfew lifted countrywide

## Diesel now \$12.06 per gallon!

Another unannounced increase to the pump price of fuel, this time diesel, took place over the weekend; GOB absorbed a portion of that increase.



BELIZE CITY, Mon. Feb. 28, 2022  
 The price of diesel is \$12.06 following yet another unannounced increase that took place over the weekend. Last week, while speaking to local reporters, Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño announced that the government would be absorbing a price increase for the latest shipment of fuel that entered the country, but it now appears that only half that amount was absorbed, since a 50 cents hike at the pumps for diesel is being seen

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## Economy on the rebound, says IMF

(See story on page 13)

## Mask mandate scaled back

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Feb. 28, 2022  
 The Government of Belize has announced a relaxation of the curfew and mask-wearing mandate in an updated set of Covid-19 regulations which comes into effect tomorrow, March 1. This means citizens countrywide will not have to be at home by 11:00 p.m. each night, and mask-wearing will no longer be required at

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## Supreme court blocks stevedores' \$1.5 mil

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Feb. 28, 2022

Last Friday, we reported that the Christian Workers Union was in the process of disbursing the \$1.5 million payment promised to them by the Government of

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## 10% salary cut to end July 1

Prime Minister Briceño's letter dated today, February 28, announces a full reinstatement of public servant salaries come July 1

I am therefore most pleased to inform that my Cabinet has agreed that in this upcoming fiscal year, the Government of Belize will fully restore the wages and salaries of our public officers and teachers. To be more specific, as of July 1, 2022, the 10% reduction in wages and salaries will be no more. It will be restored not in stages, not in increments, but in full as of that date. Allowances that had been reduced will also be restored in full. On restoration of wages and salaries on July 1, 2022, the work week for public officers and teachers will also revert to the normal work week of 39.5 hours per week. Increments will continue to be frozen for two additional fiscal years as previously indicated unless we are able to achieve an end-of-year primary surplus as a percentage of GDP of no less than 3.5% before then, in which event we shall revisit the matter of increments.

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Feb. 28, 2022

Last week, the Joint Union Negotiating Team (JUNT) and the representatives from the Government of Belize, at a scheduled meeting

between the parties, discussed the restoration of the 10% of public workers' salaries that had been cut,

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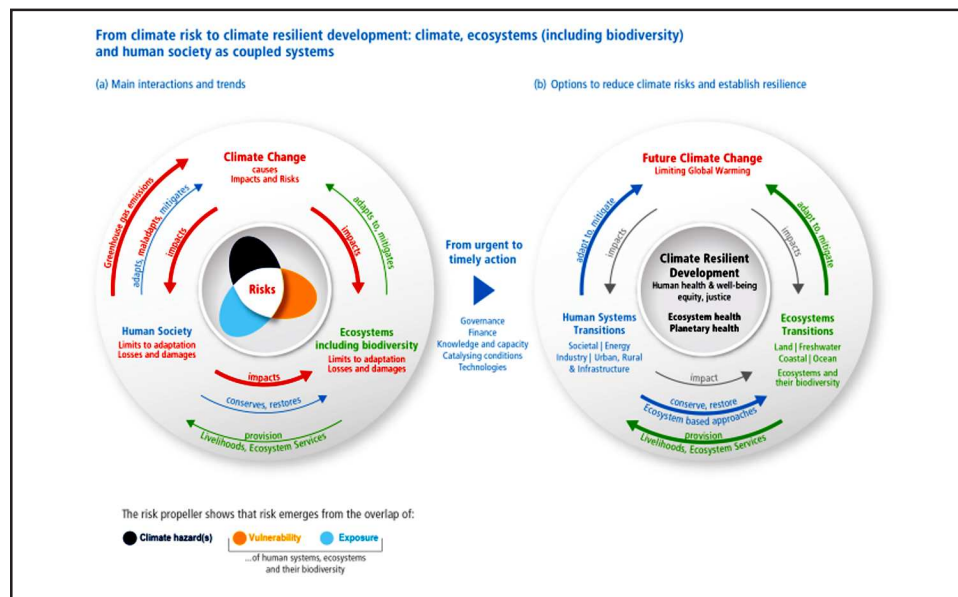
## IPCC releases Sixth Assessment Report

*The world faces unavoidable multiple climate hazards over the next two decades with global warming of 1.5°C (2.7°F). Even temporarily exceeding this warming level will result in additional severe impacts, some of which will be irreversible.*

by Marco Lopez

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Feb. 28, 2022  
 Yesterday, 195 member governments approved the Summary for Policymakers of the 2022 IPCC Working Group II report entitled,

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# Heads of Government to discuss CSME advancement

*The implementation of the Caribbean Single Market & Economy has been hailed as the most practical way for the region to achieve economic recovery.*



by *Khaila Gentle*

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Feb. 28, 2022

At the 33rd Inter-Sessional Meeting of the CARICOM Heads of Government, a number of critical issues will be discussed, including the

advancement of the implementation of the Caribbean Single Market & Economy (CSME), which is currently seen as the most practical means of achieving economic recovery throughout the Caribbean. CSME seeks to build a more resilient Caribbean

## Five remote villages to get electricity

*The European Union and Belize Electricity Limited will be providing mini-grid electricity schemes in isolated villages.*



*EU Ambassador Marianne Van Steen and BEL CEO John Mencias*

by *Charles Gladden*

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Feb. 28, 2022

The European Union (EU), alongside the Belize Electricity Limited (BEL), is funding an \$11 million project for the installation of mini-grid electricity schemes in isolated villages in the country. BEL and EU signed the agreement for the BZD \$11 million Rural Electrification Project, by means of which five remote villages will gain steady access to electricity.

Over a three-year period, BEL will be constructing mini-grids in villages which do not have access to electricity. The project will benefit an estimated 550 residents and businesses, which will receive safe, reliable, and sustainable energy services.

BEL will operate and maintain the mini-grids, which will provide electricity that will be generated and

stored using hybrid solar-diesel and battery technologies.

EU Ambassador Marianne Van Steen says, “Access to electricity is an opportunity for isolated communities to develop agricultural transformation activities and generate additional income sources. For households, access to electricity will improve the quality of family life by providing lighting, alternative cooking, access to information, and communication. Particularly to women, access to energy means a direct effect on their living conditions and an opportunity for their economic and political empowerment”.

A pilot phase for the project will be initiated in La Gracia village outside of Valley of Peace, Cayo District. The mini-grid project is underway in the villages of Indian Creek and Corazon Creek, Toledo District.

Community through the integration of the small CARICOM economies by removing trade and professional restrictions among member states. It focuses on the free movement of goods, people, technology, and capital across the region.

“There is significant impetus for the CSME at this time because of the impact of the COVID pandemic, so we will be looking forward to advancing some of those ideas,” said CARICOM Secretary-General Dr. Carla Barnett during a press conference with media representatives from across the Caribbean this Monday.

During the press conference, the Secretary-General said that the key areas of implementation of CSME will be discussed at the 33rd Inter-Sessional Meeting, and she noted that a protocol for the enhanced cooperation of Member States is set to be tabled. This protocol will allow Member States who wish to move forward on a particular aspect of CSME to do so, while those who do not wish to can join at a later time or whenever they are able to.

“One of the important things that will be on the table at this meeting is a protocol on the enhanced cooperation among Member States that will allow some groups of Member States to work together closely so that we do not remain bound by the current understanding that we all have to agree to every single step before we make a single step—because that is one of the issues that keeps back movement in the Community,” said the Secretary-General.

“And so, this protocol would allow that kind of forward movement, so that, I think, is probably the most important thing that will be addressed at this meeting,” she added.

According to Dr. Barnett, the Prime Minister of Barbados Hon. Mia Amor Mottley, who is leading the implementation of CSME, has been

meeting with CARICOM Secretariat staff to work through what needs to be done to accelerate implementation. The Secretary-General further noted that the enhanced cooperation of Member States is a critical aspect of CSME and expressed her hopes that it will ensure faster advancement. When asked how confident she is about whether CSME will be implemented across the entire region, especially considering that some Caribbean territories have not embraced certain parts of the treaty, Dr. Barnett noted that, like all other integration processes, the implementation of CSME will have its ups and downs.

“Let me tell you, no integration process is perfect. And the reason why we have a structure for raising issues that may be counter to the treaty is because we expect as we roll out the integration process that there will be a need for dispute settlement, there will be a need for judgments to be made if somebody is violating any of the fundamental principles. This is normal as we build up the process, and it’s important for us to understand that it is normal. That is why when there are issues that arise we have a process for going to the court when one country calls out the other.”

According to the Secretary-General, the fact that CARICOM has negotiated a protocol that is set to be discussed is a significant development, which has led her to be optimistic about the future of CSME.

“We’ve reached the point where we’ve actually negotiated a protocol that’s going to be discussed. And we will see if there are other things that need to be done as the legal draftspersons would say ‘to perfect it’. But it is at the stage where we have a draft protocol for consideration—we’ve not had that before, so for me that we’ve managed to reach this stage is for me a good thing,” she said.

## Did the police get false reports from criminals?

*ASP Fitzroy Yearwood, Police Communications Director, says many of the weekend shooting incidents may have been reported by persons seeking to cause mischief*



*ASP Fitzroy Yearwood*

by *Charles Gladden*

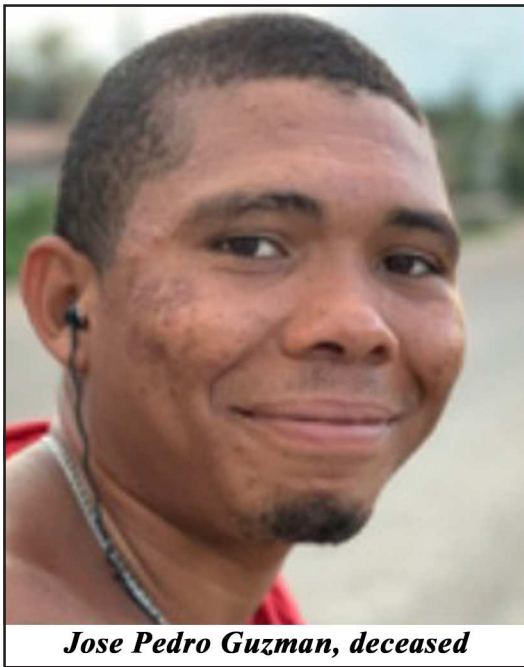
BELIZE CITY, Mon. Feb. 28, 2022

A series of shooting incidents were reported in Belize City over the weekend—with some of those incidents being reported as early as Thursday afternoon, February 24. However, when police arrived at the location of many of the reported incidents, there was no indication that any such incident had occurred.

Communications Director for the Belize Police Department, ASP Fitzroy Yearwood, mentioned in Monday’s police press briefing that a

# Dead man found behind Port identified

*Jose Guzman, a 25-year-old, mentally ill man, was the unidentified man whose body was found behind the Port of Belize with gunshot wounds.*



**Jose Pedro Guzman, deceased**

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Feb. 28, 2022

The dead man whose body was found with gunshot wounds in the water behind the Port of Belize by a local

## Did the police get false reports from criminals?

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number of the reports they received of shooting incidents may have been false.

“Let me be honest, Saturday night we got a lot of calls from all over the city about shootings. When officers visited these scenes, most of these scenes didn’t materialize to be any shooting scene and nobody came out to the police and made any report in like four or five different calls that were relayed to our police control room. I monitored these information very closely, especially knowing people would want to cause mischief in the city. But whenever I report on a shooting scene, it’s because we have established one did occur,” he said.

ASP Yearwood was asked if these so-called ‘false reports’ were a ruse of criminals to direct law enforcement personnel to a certain area while committing their crimes elsewhere.

“The way we have our patrol set up in Belize City, it’s not like before where we just had one central police station. So in each precinct area, we have different patrols set up so that now when you have a shooting incident reported, we wouldn’t send more vehicles needed in that zone so as to not leave the rest of the city naked. When people believe that they can pull our resources to one area and concentrate our officers in that zone to go out and commit a crime in another area. Then we have surprises for them, our method of policing has changed to suit our time and we notice that the criminals have done their homework and believe they can elude us. But in most of these cases, we have our police respond very rapid in the entire city,” he replied.

fisherman has been identified as Jose Guzman, 25, a mentally ill man.

On Wednesday, February 23, police responded to a report that the body of an unidentified man, which was in an initial stage of decomposition, had been found partially submerged in the sea in a bushy area near the shore behind the Port of Belize compound in Belize City just before noon.

Upon arriving at the scene, police found a body on which there were apparent gunshot wounds. The dead man was reportedly wearing a dark green, sleeveless shirt and grey pants, with a grey sweater around his neck.

At the time, the only distinguishing feature of the remains by which police could try to identify the deceased man was a tattoo of the name “DESIREE” on the deceased man’s arm. However, that proved to be sufficient to alert a relative of the dead man. He was later identified as 25-year-old Jose Pedro Guzman, or ‘Joey’ as his family called him, by his cousin, who recognized him when she saw an online media report that made reference to the tattoo.

Carmita Leslie, the cousin of Guzman, told us her initial reaction when she realized her cousin was the “John Doe” that police had been trying to identify.

“I was at work, and then went on my Facebook. I saw that they wanted someone to come identify a John Doe. So I just scrolled down on the picture, and that was when I saw his tattoo, because I know his tattoo very well. I see Joey every day, because he comes and eat at our restaurant. When I saw his tattoo, I called his sister and told her to come down to Belize and so we can try identify his body, because I know that’s his tattoo.” Leslie said.

According to Leslie, Guzman’s

mental challenges started when he was living with his aunt in Roaring Creek five years prior and went swimming with a group of young men.

“One of my aunts that live in Roaring Creek, where he used to stay with, she said that one day Joey went to the river with some boys and when he came back he was not the same. I guess they probably gave him something to drink, or something to smoke, and that was what did that to him. He started walking the highway first, and then after that, he started to come to the streets in Belize City. Because of his mental illness, we couldn’t get him to stay off the street, and since Belize doesn’t have an institution that can take them, and it’s very hard to deal with those types of people,” Leslie explained.

“He would normally come on the canal side by the bus terminal where our restaurant is by the East Collet Canal right across from the Michael Finnegan Market. He could be seen in that area, or he goes out by BTL Park; he goes by the call center because everyone from the call center saying that they know Joey from out there. And whenever, we would go buy ice cream in the night, he’s right out there. I don’t know what he was doing in the Port area. I know he has some family that lives in that area, so I don’t know if he took his walk in that area too. I’m not sure,” said Leslie.

Leslie told us that her cousin is not the type of person to hurt or wrong anyone and she does not believe that he did anything that could have provoked such an act of violence against him.

In regard to what could have led someone to fatally shoot her cousin, she said, “I think it was an act of idleness, because all the killings that are happening, and Joey just became a victim of circumstances. But that was idleness, because Joey was not a thief.

He didn’t even take crack or anything like that. Joey smoke cigarette. He would ask for a shilling to buy a cigarette to smoke. He never comes here with anything trying to sell us anything. All Joey has is his cape, because all say that he’s a guardian angel, and every day he comes here, he comes for his breakfast in the morning and for his lunch in the afternoon and he goes again. I think they bullied him out of his life senselessly. I know for a fact, Joey did not do anything to anyone.”

Regardless of Guzman’s condition, Leslie stated that she will always remember her cousin as happy and always smiling, and she said she has numerous memories of him at her establishment.

“I will always remember Joey as a jovial, happy despite his condition, despite the way he was, always smiling, always laughing. I have so much videos of him in the morning time, when he comes, I’m always videoing him; I’m always clowning him, talking to him and he gives me all kind of stories. I always listen and laugh. He never come upstart, cursing, violent, always a jovial person. Even in his condition, he was a jovial person.”

Leslie shared a few words of encouragement for families with loved ones suffering from mental illness: “It’s a very hard thing to deal with; it is very hard to see our loved ones like that. So most people would just shun their family members away. But I don’t think those people should be shunned. I think those people should be loved and treated [well]. You just have to try and work with them. Maybe you can’t take them in, because they want to be out there. Just show them love, show them that you care. Just don’t shun them away. I wish there was an institution where you can put them and they get their medication,” she said.

**AMANDALA**  
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## Notice

**Our advertisers, sellers and readers are advised that there will only be the Friday issue of Amandala next week, which will hit the streets on Friday, March 11, 2022. There will be no online Tuesday issue next week.**

*Happy National Heroes & Benefactors Day*  
*From the Management and Staff of Amandala*

# Put agriculture back in the hands of locals – Nancy Marin

*Belize People's Front leader Nancy Marin says her venture into ostrich farming is not just for her but for all of Belize, whose food sovereignty, according to her, has slowly been sold out to foreigners and monopolies.*

by *Khaila Gentle*

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Feb. 28, 2022

Despite having been met with mountains of red tape, Nancy Marin is still fighting to get the proper permits and paperwork needed to begin rearing ostriches in Belize—a venture which she says can ultimately serve to benefit the entire country, especially its small farmers. In a recent interview with *AMANDALA*, the Belize People's Front Movement leader said that ostrich farming—considered one of the most profitable agricultural projects in countries like Germany, South Africa, Senegal, and Namibia—has been gaining popularity as the demand for this bird across the globe far exceeds what is being produced. But despite bringing attention, with the aid of the media, to the roadblocks she's been facing and having received expressions of support both from the public and from government officials, including Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño, Minister of

Agriculture Hon. Jose Abelardo Mai, and Minister of New Growth Industries Hon. Kareem Musa, Marin remains unable to breed the world's largest living bird for livestock, since the Forestry Department has only offered her a permit for keeping it as an exotic pet. Marin told *AMANDALA*, though, that she does not want a pet and that her goal is to create an industry and opportunities in Belize.

"I will not accept that permit that they are offering me. I'm not trying to be difficult. I'm trying to open industry in our country—it is needed, and small farmers need something else. Our governments have sold out our food sovereignty to foreigners. And so small farmers are being stifled. We can't compete with poultry, we can't compete with eggs, we can't compete with cattle livestock—it is difficult to compete with these things," she said.

"Our agriculture industry, our food industry, is held by monopolies, by foreigners, and we need to think out of the box to bring new things for

our people and that is simply what I'm doing. That's all I'm doing," she added.

The BPF leader also expressed concerns that, while she is being prevented from raising ostriches as livestock,

several others have already been doing so for years. According to Marin, ostriches have been in the country for as much as fifteen years now.

"But there are other people that have been farming the ostrich. We have seen evidence of even the *Guardian* taking out pictures from their archives that they have seen it ... I think their pictures were from 2008 or something like that. The first time I knew about ostriches in Belize was 15 years ago. B.A.H.A. has consistently taken the ostrich from people—confiscated it, processed it, and gave it back. And so when a government removes something from somebody and then says 'okay, it's okay now, you can have it,' they have legitimized the ostrich so there's no illegal ostrich in Belize. The government has processed them and legitimized them to these business people. These business people shouldn't have to be hiding their ostriches—it has been legitimized by our government, so I still do not understand what the big deal is," she said.

That "big deal," according to B.A.H.A., is the inclusion of ostriches on a list of protected species under CITES, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, which aims to ensure that the trade of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. It should be noted, though, that while, as stated by the Forestry Department, the critically endangered North African Ostrich is protected from international trade under CITES, the Common Ostrich is listed as a species of "least concern".

Some studies have indicated that, when compared to large-scale cattle farming, which is as brutal on the environment as it often is on the cattle themselves and produces about 14.5% of the world's greenhouse gases, ostrich farming is much more environmentally sustainable. Some critics, however, have expressed concern regarding the issues of animal welfare, along with the full extent of ostrich farming's sustainability.

In response to statements that the



ostrich might pose a threat to other industries, such as poultry and cattle, Marin noted that the farming of ostriches would be helping rather than harming the country's agro-industry. "One ostrich egg can be about five to seven pounds—it's about two dozen chicken eggs...and the prices of an ostrich egg can go from seventy to a hundred Belize dollars. That is what we would be selling it for. We can produce a certain percentage for domestic use and export the rest. So we would be killing two birds with one shot. Our people need variety. I am certain that Running W would be happy to purchase ostrich meat from me and process it," she said.

"This is not a fight for Nancy Marin. And this is not just about ostriches. This is about our food sovereignty. We have been losing our food sovereignty, and it's time that we think out of the box to create something that is for our local farmers. My proposal is for local farmers. It is not for foreigners to invest in. This is for our people," added Marin.

## NHI to be expanded

*PM Hon. John Briceño and Minister of Health and Wellness, Hon. Kevin Bernard are touring health facilities prior to the rollout of NHI countrywide.*



by *Charles Gladden*

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Feb. 28, 2022

Last Thursday, Prime Minister of Belize, Hon. John Briceño, and Minister of Health and Wellness, Hon. Kevin Bernard visited three medical facilities in Belize City that are part of the National Health Insurance (NHI) program in preparation for the rollout of the public insurance scheme in other parts of the country. The facilities that were visited by the PM and Health Minister included the Mercy Clinic, the Matron Roberts Clinic, and the Integral Health Care Partners Clinic.

Currently, the NHI program is available solely on the Southside of Belize City and the southern districts, Stann Creek and Toledo. During the upcoming expansion of the NHI, the program will be made

available in the northern districts.

Prime Minister Briceño told local media that NHI will be introduced in the Corozal District, and subsequently in Orange Walk.

"The previous government expanded, but it was limited to where they gave it and limited in service. With the very same budget with what they got, what they did, they opened it for competition, and by doing that the prices have gone down. We're opening up to more people, and more services are being offered for the same budget they were having under the previous government," said PM Briceño.

Prime Minister Briceño said that taxpayers' dollars will be used to provide the services of the NHI and noted that the Government of Belize is spending approximately 150 million dollars annually in the Ministry of Health.

## Curfew lifted countrywide

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private residences, or while persons are outdoors in an open space, or are driving alone, or driving with a member of the same household in a motor vehicle.

This relaxation is literally a breath of fresh air for many, but comments being posted on social media are already criticizing the decision to relax the mask mandate — a requirement that in some quarters is still believed to be useful and necessary at this time.

Masks must still be worn, however, within public buildings, and business owners will have to continue ensuring these regulations are adhered to. Persons entering government buildings, churches, and supermarkets, as well as those attending funerals or weddings, will thus still be required to wear masks.



# Pandemic woes: from Covid to Putin

“When elephants fight, it is the grass that suffers.” — African proverb

Sun. Feb. 27, 2022

It is a foregone conclusion among most international experts that in the aftermath of current events in Eastern Europe, where Russia’s army has invaded neighboring Ukraine, the ripple effects in the coming weeks and months will be harder economic times around the world, especially for poor people in small developing countries like Belize who rely heavily on imported goods. Things were just beginning to look hopeful with the waning effects of the Covid virus since the advent of the Omicron variant, when a pandemic of a different sort was unleashed by the powerful Russian ruler, Vladimir Putin, who is himself at variance with many thousands of his own citizens who risked their lives by taking to the streets in protest of their nation’s invasion of its smaller neighbor. In little Belize, we have endured the Covid pandemic, struggled to rebuild our economy with strategic moves by our new government which included huge sacrifices by public officers, and now as a people we may soon be asked to come together in unity to withstand another ordeal in the coming months, as already high commodity prices are expected to rise even more due to disruptions of world oil supply and trading sanctions imposed upon Russia.

The future was looking bright for Belize, as Government was basking in the praise of IMF for their effective turnaround of our severely crippled economy over the past year and three months since the PUP took office. The headline of last Friday’s issue of the PUP mouthpiece, the *Belize Times*, proudly declared, “Economic Recovery,” while boasting that, far from the gloomy outlook given previously by the IMF, their Article 4 Mission Team,

which recently concluded virtual technical meetings with Belize’s public and private sector officials, has commended the Belize government on the positive growth achieved over the past twelve months. According to Prime Minister Briceño, the IMF team leader told him that he had “never seen any country accomplish what we have” in managing “to turn things around in such a short 12 months.”

While acknowledging the “hard work and sacrifice on the part of public officers” who submitted to a 10% salary cut, the P.M. expressed government’s intention to enter negotiations with union leaders to discuss reinstating that ten percent of those workers’ salaries, or at least “come up with a compromise that everybody can live with.” Hopefully, those high hopes will not be short-lived due to events in Ukraine.

Few people in the world are happy with the news of Russia’s aggression. Rferl.org reports that Russia stood alone in vetoing a draft UN Security Council resolution on February 25 that condemned Moscow’s invasion of Ukraine. It said, “Eleven of the council’s 15 members voted for the resolution, which was co-written by the United States

and Albania. China, India, and the United Arab Emirates abstained.” And axios.com reported that “Eighty-seven countries either voted for or co-sponsored a draft UN Security Council resolution deploring Russia’s invasion of Ukraine on Friday, though Russia used its veto to block it;” while on “the other side: Countries including Cuba, Iran and Venezuela have claimed the U.S. and NATO are responsible for the current crisis, but virtually no world leaders have endorsed Russia’s invasion.”

There are certainly many sides and angles to this international conflict, and at npr.org, Betty Sullivan offers that “With the invasion, a 30-year-old foreign policy debate has made a return to center stage.” That’s a long and complicated story that hinges on Russia’s sense of insecurity as more and more countries of the former Soviet Union became allies of the West and joined NATO (The North Atlantic Treaty Organization) for protection against any possible future aggression from Russia. According to Sullivan, “Putin himself has long said that he believes Ukrainians and Russians to be a single people, unified by language, culture and religion...”

For the U.S. and its Western allies, a successful and independent Ukraine was a potent potential symbol that Russia’s time as a powerful empire had come to an end.”

In explaining why Ukraine is so important, she said: “Over the course of the 1990s and early 2000s, NATO expanded three times: first to add the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland; then seven more countries even farther east, including the former Soviet republics of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania; and finally with Albania and Croatia in 2009... Ukraine, as the largest former Soviet republic in Europe besides Russia itself, has been a key part of alliance talks since it declared independence from the USSR in 1991. In the three decades since, NATO expansion has put four members on Ukraine’s borders.”

Whatever the outcome of hostilities inside Ukraine, which is now experiencing the fourth day of Russia’s invasion, it is undeniable that the world’s economic stability has been rifled and will undergo some convulsions in the weeks and months ahead. That’s because Ukraine is a significant player on the world trade market. According to one Wikipedia page, “because of its extensive fertile farmlands, Ukraine is one of the largest grain exporters in the world.” Ukraine “is the second-largest country by area in Europe after Russia...” It has an “area of 603,628 km<sup>2</sup> (233,062 sq mi), with a population of 43.6 million, and is the eighth-most populous country in Europe. The nation’s capital and largest city is Kyiv,” which the Russian army has reportedly surrounded.

For some background, that Wikipedia page also states that “In the aftermath of the Russian Revolution, a Ukrainian national movement for self-determination emerged, and the internationally recognized Ukrainian People’s Republic was declared on 23 June 1917. The Ukrainian SSR was a founding member of the Soviet Union in 1922. The country regained its independence in 1991, following the dissolution of the Soviet Union.”

In terms of how this conflict could impact world commodity prices: theconversation.com notes 5 “essential commodities that will be hit by war in Ukraine:”

Starting with “Energy—Many European countries are heavily dependent on Russian energy, particularly gas... Global gas reserves are low due to the pandemic and energy prices are already rising sharply, impacting consumers and industry.”

Next, “Food: ...Food producers are likely to come under further pressure as prices of key inputs rise now... Russia and Ukraine together account for more than a quarter of global wheat exports, while Ukraine alone makes up almost half of exports of sunflower oil. Both are key commodities used in many food products. Ukraine is also the top supplier of corn to China... If harvesting and processing is hindered in a war-torn Ukraine, or exports are blocked, importers will struggle to replace supplies.”

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(estb. 1969)

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**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 -

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**Letters to the Editor**

**Deon Sutherland responds**

Dear Editor,

I want to clarify three important points in your editorial article.

1. We have always invited and welcomed foreign athletes and coaches to participate in the work of the BAA and represent Belize at athletics events for which they are eligible and qualify. As a matter of fact, we have been criticised by this same entity, AMANDALA, of using more foreigners than Belizeans to represent us in international competition. Now we are criticised for not engaging foreigners. Make up your minds and not be blown around by winds of hearsay or ear-tickling persons.

2. Kaina Martinez was never and has never been given a cold shoulder. In 2016 Ms. Martinez was our first choice to represent us at the 2016 Olympics in Rio; it was a lack of her being responsible that caused that scenario. She has made the decision that she will not represent Belize or work with the BAA until such time as she desires. The BAA has not gone anywhere, so Ms. Martinez, we are still here.

3. In response to Mr. Greg Meyers, the only communication I received from Mr. Meyers was an email sent on February 5, 2022 to the BAA

official email address, which I do not check. I was never contacted by Mr. Meyers until I personally responded to his email after seeing this article. Obviously, this was his first email, since this is where he introduced himself and stated his request. He seemingly was in communication with one Alvin Tillett (coach) and Jaheed Smith. The only question that was asked by me was done by Jaheed Smith, saying that one Mr. Meyers was asking if his children can represent Belize at CARIFTA in Jamaica. My simple answer was 'yes, do they have Belize passport?'

I had no knowledge of Mr. Meyers coming to Belize to conduct any training. Unfortunately, that weekend I led a delegation of athletes and officials to the Central American Cross Country in Athletics that was hosted in San Salvador, El Salvador. I left on Thursday, February 17 and returned on Tuesday, February 22, 2022. If I had knowledge that Mr. Meyers was going to be at the MJSC to conduct training, or I would have ensured that someone from the BAA executive was present to meet the athletes we have agreed to represent us. Please note that it was on the 14th

Please turn to **Page 12**

**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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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

**Pandemic woes: from Covid to Putin**

Continued from **Page 5**

Next, "Transport: ... While rail carries only a small proportion of the total freight between Asia and Europe, it has played a vital role during recent transport disruptions and is growing steadily... Rising oil prices due to the war are a worry to shipping more generally. Freight rates are already extremely high and could rise even further... There is also a worry that cyber attacks could target global supply chains ..."

"Metals: Russia and Ukraine lead the global production of metals such as nickel, copper and iron. They are also largely involved in the export and manufacture of other essential raw materials like neon, palladium and platinum... For all these materials, we can expect disruptions and potential shortages, threatening to lead to increased prices for many products and services."

And finally, "Microchips: ... As part of the sanctions towards Russia, the US has been threatening to cut off Russia's supply of microchips. But this

rings hollow when Russia and Ukraine are such key exporters of neon, palladium and platinum, all of which are critical for microchip production... any prolonged supply disruption caused by military action in Ukraine will severely impact the production of semiconductors and products dependent on them, including cars."

In the mid-1960s, soul singer Marvin Gaye asked "What's going on?" as the mighty USA waged war on communist Vietnam. While it took years for the anti-communist rhetoric to wane and public sentiments to build against the US war in Vietnam, the almost global opposition has been immediate towards Vladimir Putin's decision to order his Russian army to invade neighboring Ukraine. In Belize we also know that "war is not the answer." While our government has expressed our solidarity with the citizens of Ukraine, we Belizeans will also need to stop the wars amongst ourselves and come together to face the impending economic storm that is now brewing.

# TAI didn't have to dump on the second PM

by Colin Hyde

If someone runs a show for three consecutive weeks, they have to get your attention, and popular and oftentimes edifying *Belize Times* columnist “Think About It” (TAI) has been on a binge since the funeral of the young man, Mr. Winston “Tanga” James. TAI is fascinated by the number of people who viewed the procession on the internet, the number of people who lined the streets, and in TAI’s equation what we have here is a phenomenon worthy of three weeks’ ink.

But TAI didn’t get enough of measuring the departed by the number of people who attended or viewed the funeral on social media, this week TAI moved to use that blessed home-going ceremony to savage a non-favorite of his. For the third time, TAI said that 10,000 people viewed Mr. James’ funeral; and this time the columnist threw ashes on the “colonial” former PM, Manuel Esquivel, whose passing, TAI said, only a handful of people bothered to notice.

Not to take anything away from TAI’s hero, but what’s a “like” or “view” anyway? You can punch a “like” just in the flow of things, or

you can punch it after a thoroughly absorbing, titillating experience to show real appreciation. And a “view”, that could be just a passing glance, a mere stop to interfere, or it could be from beginning to end, from cover to cover.

I think in the superficial game, it’s natural for people to want their loved one to have a big funeral. I would say to people who fret about that, no, don’t make that stress you. There are living people who pray that when they are dead many will come to see them off. I would say to such people, your ego is way past the limit.

You’ve read the social media joke about the guy who had a thousand social media friends, and when he died, there were only three people at the funeral. Keeping it simple, most facebook friends can’t see you off in the flesh, because the vast majority of them are not in one’s neighborhood. It is conscionable to advise fb friends to not take a jet plane to come and express their sympathies.

Not showing up at a person’s funeral doesn’t mean you didn’t appreciate them. As Lucio sang, “noh wait til the man dead”; as Sparrow sang, when dehn “mother was alive

they didn’t know she then”, and when she dead they “buy her a casket big like Hilton Hotel.” You know who your friends are by the way they treat you while you’re here, and if a person is your friend they’ll do well by the people you loved when you were present.

If you’re really absorbed with this big funeral thing, there are things you can do to help your plan along. One is to not wait until you’re old to pass out. My, my, so many people have outlived their friends and family. If all your friends and family are gone, who’s there to come?

Don’t let the mystique wear off. I bet the young girls in London and Belize City weren’t sniffing when the Duke departed. You bet if that “living, breathing duke,” that “true prince, charming in the very flesh” had pushed off while in his prime, there wouldn’t have been mops enough to dry up the eye waata flooding the streets.

Another good move is to not be stingy. Of course, before you can do that you have to have a little chum, you have to be kind of substantial. Empty pockets never had any friends. If you doubt me, ask Sam Cooke. He sang: “nobody wants you when you’re down and out.”

A sure winner is to get someone to make your send-off spectacular. My, it would have been 10,000 and one if someone had called me to take a look at the grand parade that followed TAI’s hero through the streets. Dancing girls for sure will bring in a crowd. You remember that politician who almost dusted off Dean Barrow; all the thanks for that near miss belong to the sensational Caliente Girls. Wa, did some people really peel off the fattest dough and throw it into the great beyond with the girls dem shuga?

I’m no judge of the gentleman’s worth on earth, and I regret the way he went out, and all his family have my sympathy. I’m just beefing because this TAI threw dirt on the former prime minister...because he didn’t have a big funeral.

If Kathy had wanted a grander sendoff for Sir Manuel, she could have brought in the bagpipes from Scotland, and dressed the remnant of the L&POB in red, white and blue suits. My, that would have been some special, like in the old days when the Imperial Band struck up a lively tune as they marched their way home after attending the interment of a Lodge brother.

I get the point of TAI, that a young man from the hood can be loved, can be a star, fully worth three consecutive weeks of ink, but man, TAI didn’t have to dump on the second premier.

## PUP séance at Dream Valley

It’s nothing new, the PUP on a séance and not presenting a list of the

invitees. 10 to 1, under the cover of night those bohgaz snuck in Said and Ralph for some good old times. Oh if walls had ears, and could talk.

## Get away with those lists

You’ve seen those madabig lists showing all the ways a good whipping destroys the minds of children. The one I pulled up here is way on the short side, but we’re all familiar with the humongous efforts of those who claim to be smarter than Proverbs, what lengths they will go to assault whipping, so the condensed edition should serve.

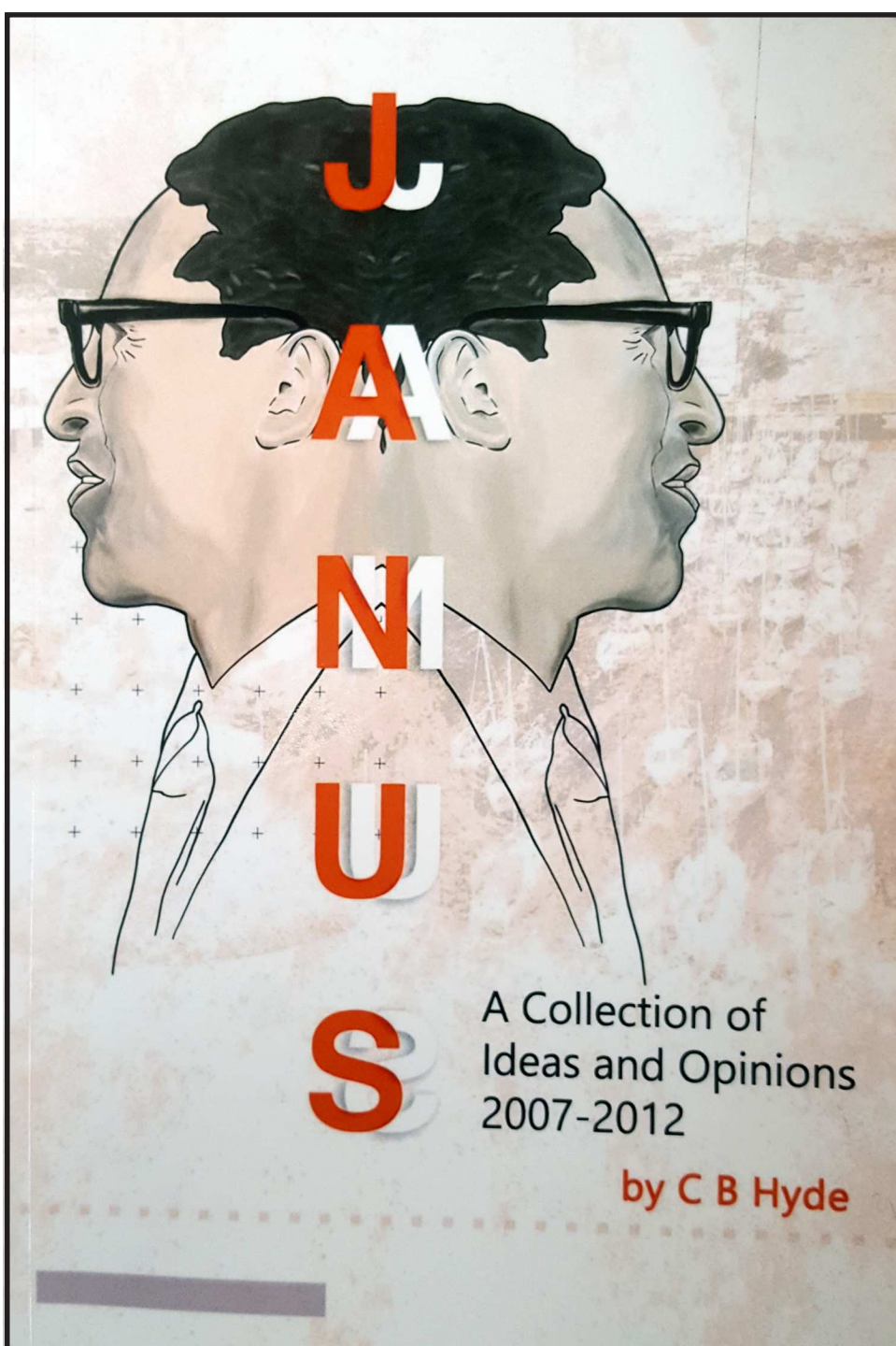
The Ministry of Social Development in New Zealand says “physical punishment has been revealed to be a predictor of a wide range of negative developmental outcomes” such as “increased child aggression, antisocial behavior, lower intellectual achievement, poorer quality of parent-child relationships, mental health problems (such as depression), and diminished moral internalization.”

All these people who are talking, they have to start by telling us how many children they raised. It’s not that people can’t go to school and learn valuable lessons in child rearing, but oftentimes the people who write books are running on agenda. I don’t trust everything I read. Before you develop such heavy conviction that sparing the rod is the best thing for a child, you have to present some practical experience—prove the pudding.

Next, they have to tell us what kind of income they have. The family in the book, *Cheaper by the Dozen*, by Ernestine Carey, the breadwinner there was rolling in it, so money was not an issue in the household. Try a dozen in a household where money is short, where parents can’t buy their way through tough situations. How do you handle the bully child who keeps beating up the others? Sure, parents should run through all the cerebral tools first, hence why the Proverbs haters have a place, but that last resort can’t be discarded.

Getting into heavier substance, there are many kinds of children in this world. I’d like them to tell us how Sidney Poitier could have gotten through that bad boy in “To Sir With Love”, other than punching him in the belly.

For sure we can be better at parenting, our handling of children and youth, but never forget what the ma of the mighty Farrakhan told the police officer when he came after her for putting the whip to her boy. She told him, ‘I wap the boy because I don’t want him to go wayward, because if he does he’ll get wap up by you.’ Those lists, I think it’s true that lashing has negatives, but Proverbs noh fool. It has its good sides, and sometimes it is absolutely indispensable.





## Problemas de la pandemia: de Covid a Putin

“Cuando los elefantes pelean, es la hierba la que sufre.”—Proverbio Africano

Domingo 27 de febrero de 2022

Es una conclusión inevitable entre la mayoría de los expertos internacionales que, a raíz de los acontecimientos actuales en Europa del Este, donde el ejército de Rusia ha invadido a la vecina Ucrania, el efecto dominó en las próximas semanas y meses será tiempos económicos más difíciles en todo el mundo, especialmente para las personas pobres en pequeños países en desarrollo como Belize, que dependen en gran medida de los productos importados. Las cosas apenas comenzaban a parecer esperanzadoras con los efectos menguantes del virus Covid desde el advenimiento de la variante Omicron, cuando una pandemia de un tipo diferente fue desatada por el poderoso gobernante ruso, Vladimir Putin, quien, en sí, está en desacuerdo con muchos miles de sus propios ciudadanos que arriesgaron sus vidas al tomar las calles en protesta por la invasión de su país a su vecino más pequeño. En el pequeño Belize, hemos soportado la pandemia de Covid, hemos luchado para reconstruir nuestra economía con movimientos estratégicos de nuestro nuevo gobierno que incluyeron enormes sacrificios por parte de los funcionarios públicos, y ahora, como pueblo, pronto se nos puede pedir que nos unamos en unidad para soportar otra prueba en los próximos meses, ya que se espera que los precios de las materias primas, que ya son altos, aumenten aún más debido a las interrupciones del suministro mundial de petróleo y las sanciones comerciales impuestas a Rusia.

El futuro se veía brillante para Belize, ya que el gobierno disfrutaba de los elogios del FMI por su recuperación efectiva de nuestra economía gravemente paralizada durante el último año y tres meses desde que el PUP asumió el cargo. El titular de la edición del viernes pasado del portavoz del PUP, el Belize Times, declaró con orgullo, “Recuperación económica”, al tiempo que se jactaba de que, lejos de la perspectiva sombría dada anteriormente por el FMI, su Equipo de Misión del Artículo 4, que recientemente concluyó reuniones técnicas virtuales con funcionarios del sector público y privado de Belize han elogiado al gobierno de Belize por el crecimiento positivo logrado en los últimos doce meses. Según el primer ministro Briceño, el líder del equipo del FMI le dijo que “nunca había visto a ningún país lograr lo que nosotros hemos logrado” al lograr “revertir las cosas en tan cortos 12 meses”. Mientras reconoció el “trabajo duro y el sacrificio por parte de los funcionarios públicos” que se sometieron a un recorte salarial del 10%, el P.M. expresó la intención del gobierno de entablar negociaciones con los líderes sindicales para discutir el restablecimiento del diez por ciento de los salarios de esos trabajadores, o al menos “llegar a un compromiso con el que todos puedan vivir”. Con suerte, esas grandes esperanzas no serán efímeras debido a los acontecimientos en Ucrania.

Pocas personas en el mundo están contentas con la noticia de la agresión de Rusia. Rferl.org informa que Rusia fue la única que vetó un proyecto de resolución del Consejo de Seguridad de la ONU el 25 de febrero que condenaba la invasión de Ucrania por parte de Moscú. Decía: “Once de los 15 miembros del consejo votaron a favor de la resolución, que fue coescrita por Estados Unidos y Albania. China, India y los Emiratos Árabes Unidos se abstuvieron”. Y axios.com informó que “Ochenta y siete países votaron a favor o copatrocinaron un proyecto de resolución del Consejo de Seguridad de la ONU que deploraba la invasión rusa de Ucrania el viernes, aunque Rusia usó su veto para bloquearlo;” mientras que “del otro lado: países como Cuba, Irán y Venezuela han afirmado que Estados Unidos y la OTAN son responsables de la crisis actual, pero prácticamente ningún líder mundial ha respaldado la invasión de Rusia”.

Sin duda, hay muchos lados y ángulos en este conflicto internacional, y en npr.org, Betty Sullivan ofrece que “Con la invasión, un debate de política exterior de 30 años ha vuelto al centro del escenario”. Esa es una historia larga y complicada que depende de la sensación de inseguridad de Rusia a medida que más y más países de la antigua Unión Soviética se convirtieron en aliados de Occidente y se unieron a la OTAN (Organización del Tratado del Atlántico Norte) para protegerse contra cualquier posible agresión futura de Rusia. Según Sullivan, “el propio Putin ha dicho durante mucho tiempo que cree que los ucranianos y los rusos son un solo pueblo, unificado por el idioma, la cultura y la religión...”

Para Estados Unidos y sus aliados occidentales, una Ucrania exitosa e independiente era un potente símbolo potencial de que el tiempo de Rusia como un imperio poderoso había llegado a su fin”.

Al explicar por qué Ucrania es tan importante, dijo: “En el transcurso de la década de 1990 y principios de la de 2000, la OTAN se expandió tres veces: primero para agregar la República Checa, Hungría y Polonia; luego, siete países más aún más al este, incluidas las antiguas repúblicas soviéticas de Estonia, Letonia y Lituania; y finalmente con Albania y Croacia en 2009... Ucrania, como la ex república soviética más grande de Europa además de la propia Rusia, ha sido una parte clave de las conversaciones de alianza desde que declaró su independencia de la URSS en 1991. En

las tres décadas posteriores, la expansión de la OTAN ha puesto a cuatro miembros en las fronteras de Ucrania”.

Cualquiera que sea el resultado de las hostilidades dentro de Ucrania, que ahora vive el cuarto día de la invasión de Rusia, es innegable que la estabilidad económica mundial ha sido saqueada y sufrirá algunas convulsiones en las próximas semanas y meses. Eso es porque Ucrania es un actor importante en el mercado comercial mundial. Según una página de Wikipedia, “debido a sus extensas y fértiles tierras de cultivo, Ucrania es uno de los mayores exportadores de cereales del mundo”. Ucrania “es el segundo país más grande por área en Europa después de Rusia...” Tiene un “área de 603,628 km<sup>2</sup> (233,062 millas cuadradas), con una población de 43.6 millones, y es el octavo país más poblado de Europa. La capital de la nación y la ciudad más grande es Kiev”, que, según los informes, ha rodeado el ejército ruso.

Para algunos antecedentes, esa página de Wikipedia también establece que “Después de la Revolución Rusa, surgió un movimiento nacional ucraniano por la autodeterminación, y el 23 de junio de 1917 se declaró la República Popular de Ucrania reconocida internacionalmente. La República Socialista Soviética de Ucrania fue miembro fundador de la Unión Soviética en 1922. El país recuperó su independencia en 1991, tras la disolución de la Unión Soviética.”

En términos de cómo este conflicto podría afectar los precios mundiales de los productos básicos: theconversation.com señala 5 “productos básicos esenciales que se verán afectados por la guerra en Ucrania”:

Comenzando con “Energía: muchos países europeos dependen en gran medida de la energía rusa, particularmente del gas... Las reservas mundiales de gas son bajas debido a la pandemia y los precios de la energía ya están aumentando considerablemente, lo que afecta a los consumidores y la industria”.

A continuación, “Alimentos: ... Es probable que los productores de alimentos se vean sometidos a una mayor presión a medida que aumentan los precios de los insumos clave ahora... Rusia y Ucrania juntas representan más de una cuarta parte de las exportaciones mundiales de trigo, mientras que Ucrania por sí sola representa casi la mitad de las exportaciones de aceite de girasol. . Ambos son productos básicos utilizados en muchos productos alimenticios. Ucrania también es el principal proveedor de maíz de China... Si la cosecha y el procesamiento se ven obstaculizados en una Ucrania devastada por la guerra, o si se bloquean las exportaciones, los importadores tendrán dificultades para reemplazar los suministros”.

A continuación, “Transporte:... Si bien el ferrocarril transporta solo una pequeña proporción de la carga total entre Asia y Europa, ha jugado un papel vital durante las recientes interrupciones del transporte y está creciendo de manera constante... El aumento de los precios del petróleo debido a la guerra es una preocupación para el transporte marítimo generalmente. Las tarifas de flete ya son extremadamente altas y podrían aumentar aún más... También existe la preocupación de que los ataques cibernéticos puedan tener como objetivo las cadenas de suministro globales...”

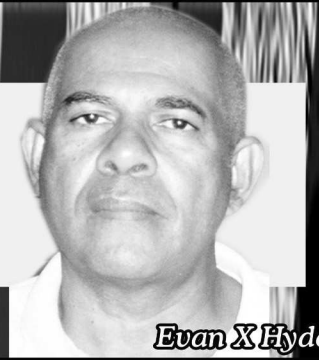
“Metales: Rusia y Ucrania lideran la producción mundial de metales como el níquel, el cobre y el hierro. También participan en gran medida en la exportación y fabricación de otras materias primas esenciales como el neón, el paladio y el platino... Para todos estos materiales, podemos esperar interrupciones y posibles escaseces, que amenazan con aumentar los precios de muchos productos y servicios”.

Y finalmente, “Microchips: ... Como parte de las sanciones hacia Rusia, EE. UU. ha estado amenazando con cortar el suministro de microchips a Rusia. Pero esto servirá de poco cuando Rusia y Ucrania son exportadores clave de neón, paladio y platino, todos los cuales son críticos para la producción de microchips... cualquier interrupción prolongada del suministro causada por una acción militar en Ucrania tendrá un impacto severo en la producción de semiconductores y productos que dependen de ellos, incluidos los automóviles”.

A mediados de la década de 1960, el cantante de soul Marvin Gaye preguntó: “¿Qué está pasando?” mientras el poderoso Estados Unidos libraba guerra contra el Vietnam comunista. Si bien tardó años para que la retórica anticomunista se desvaneciera y se desarrollaran sentimientos públicos en contra de la guerra de EE. UU. en Vietnam, la oposición casi global ha sido inmediata a la decisión de Vladimir Putin de ordenar a su ejército ruso que invada la vecina Ucrania. En Belize también sabemos que “la guerra no es la respuesta”. Si bien nuestro gobierno ha expresado su solidaridad con los ciudadanos de Ucrania, los beliceños también necesitaremos detener las guerras entre nosotros y unirnos para enfrentar la inminente tormenta económica que ahora se está gestando.



# From the Publisher



Evan X Hyde

This Monday morning I decided to visit the KREM Television studio in order to give a little moral support to Ya Ya Marin Coleman, who had been forced to substitute for host Mose Hyde on KREM's WUB morning show. As president of the Christian Workers Union (CWU), Mose had major responsibilities this morning in the Supreme Court because of a dastardly challenge to the union by the Port of Belize, which is to say, by Vladimir Ashcroft. But yesterday morning, the practically indefatigable Ya Ya had missed her *KREM Sunday Review* show because of exhaustion. Hence, my "morale" visit.

I was stunned when I pushed the KREM TV door to see my contemporary Cliff Lewis, the television station's technical guru, cleaning up in the bathroom, a classic case of beyond the call of duty. Like myself, Cliff is in his mid-seventies, and past what we normally consider retirement age. A lot of things went through my head.

The centerpiece of my thoughts was

an organization of young people that emerged in Belize City in the early 1960s after the devastating Hurricane Hattie of late October 1961. The organization was called "The Righteous Crowd," and gathered on weekends mostly at the North Front Street home of Kevurtis Andersen.

Some years ago, my son Mose and Norman Fairweather's daughter, Imani, who are friends, got Norman and me together to discuss various things, principally for our children's understanding and benefit.

A prominent and assertive leader of "The Righteous" was the late Cecil "Chubby" Reneau, but to me, as a sideline associate of The Righteous, the undoubted superstar was Norman Fairweather, who had been sent to school in Jamaica after Hattie and had become exposed to a more sophisticated level of socializing.

Let me bring in Cliff, whom I knew only by face back then in the early 1960s. Cliff was a modest and quiet guy. He and the late Ed "Junior" Yorke were dating two sisters, tall

young ladies from the Myvett family, and both of these relationships were very stable.

Perhaps the only area where Tony Wright and I have a slight disagreement is this: Tony feels that we have lost things that we will never regain in the black community here. I agree, but I do not encourage myself in nostalgia, because I feel that all young generations will experience relationships and happenings that they will look back on with wonder when they age. This is because teenage hormones are so powerful, Jack, so powerful.

During my session with Norman as long as a decade ago, he said his children suggested he write a book. The Righteous was an unbelievable organization because it included Belizean teenagers across school, religion, and class barriers.

One of the reasons I was not a Righteous regular was because, as an SJC Sixth Form student, I rolled sometimes with parties that included young people like Sonny Meighan,

Peter Young, Carlson Gough, Carlos Perdomo, Vance and Lennox Vernon, and so on. I think the hostesses of these parties were the Martinez sisters of Daly Street, and for sure Anne Longworth from St. Hilda's College was one of the female stars.

A few weeks ago, Norman and I were corresponding by e-mail, and he told me that Percy Mutrie, Steve Tillett, and Dick Lewis had all moved to Florida. I missed Dennis "Jazz" Henry, my basketball teammate from SJC.

Kent Bladon and Evan Evans have passed.

Everybody moved to America except Junior Yorke (deceased), Cliff, and me. That's how it looks to me.

The Righteous Crowd — what an incredible sociological phenomenon. Nzinga Barkley-Waite was a part of that story. Cliff Lewis knows a lot of things. Talk to him sometime.

Power to the people, and blessings upon you.

## "A Sustainable Feminist Recovery"



by António Guterres

As the world moves ahead to mark International Women's Day, the

clock on women's rights is moving backwards. All of us are paying the price.

The cascading crises of recent years have highlighted how women's leadership is more crucial than ever.

Women have heroically confronted the COVID-19 pandemic as doctors, nurses, and public health and social care workers.

But at the same time, women and girls have been the first to lose out on jobs or schooling, taking on more unpaid care work, and facing skyrocketing levels of domestic and cyber abuse and child marriage.

The pandemic has highlighted even more starkly an age-old truth: the roots of patriarchy run deep. We

still live in a male-dominated world with a male-dominated culture.

As a result, in good times or bad, women are more likely to fall into poverty. Their healthcare is sacrificed, and their education and opportunities are curtailed.

As we look to the future, a sustainable and equal recovery for all is only possible if it is a feminist recovery — one that puts progress for girls and women at its centre.

We need economic progress through targeted investments in women's education, employment, training, and decent work. Women should be first in line for the 400 million jobs we are called to create by 2030.

We need social progress through investments in social protection systems and the care economy. Such investments yield huge dividends, creating green, sustainable jobs, while supporting members of our societies that need assistance, including children, older people and the sick.

We need financial progress, to reform a morally bankrupt global financial system, so all countries can invest in a woman-centred economic recovery. This includes debt relief and fairer tax systems that channel some of the massive pockets of wealth around the world to those who need it most.

We need urgent, transformative climate action, to reverse the reckless increase in emissions and gender inequalities that have left

women and girls disproportionately vulnerable. Developed countries must urgently deliver on their commitments on finance and technical support for a just transition from fossil fuels. The successful, stable economies of the future will be green, gender-inclusive and sustainable.

We need more women in leadership in government and business, including finance ministers and CEOs, developing and implementing green and socially progressive policies that benefit all their people.

We know, for example, that having more women in parliaments is linked with stronger climate commitments and higher levels of investment in healthcare and education.

We need political progress through targeted measures that ensure women's equal leadership and representation at all levels of political decision-making, through bold gender quotas.

Gender inequality is essentially a question of power. Uprooting centuries of patriarchy demands that power is equally shared across every institution, at every level.

At the United Nations, we have achieved — for the first time in the organization's history — gender parity in senior management at headquarters and around the world. This has dramatically improved our

### 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.htm>

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.

# REGIONAL & INTERNATIONAL

## Four stories you may have missed amid Russia-Ukraine crisis

Here are some major stories you might not have seen because of the breaking news out of Russia and Ukraine



Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Japanese Defence Minister Nobuo Kishi said the North Korean missile flew about 300km (190 miles) at a maximum altitude of about 600km (370 miles) before landing off North Korea's eastern coast and outside Japan's exclusive economic

zone.

No damage to vessels or aircraft has been reported, he said.

"If North Korea deliberately carried out the missile launch while the international community is distracted by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, such an act is absolutely unforgivable," he told reporters.

South Korean officials said they detected the launch from the North's capital area and expressed "deep

concerns and grave regret" over it.

Pakistan-Afghan border reopens

A key border crossing between Pakistan and Afghanistan has reopened, days after fighting between security forces killed at least three people.

Since the Taliban returned to power last year, border tensions between the neighbours have risen, with Pakistan alleging armed groups were planning attacks from Afghan soil.

The Taliban denies harbouring Pakistani rebel fighters. It is also infuriated by a fence Islamabad is erecting along their 2,700km (1,600 miles) long border, drawn up in colonial times and known as the Durand Line.

14 shot at Vegas shisha cafe

One person was killed and two were critically wounded after 14 people were shot during a party at a Las Vegas shisha cafe on Saturday.

Preliminary information indicated

there was a party during which two people got into an altercation and exchanged gunfire, said police Captain Dori Koren.

Koren told reporters no arrests had been made and no suspect descriptions were immediately available.

Australian cricket team arrives in Pakistan for first tour in 24 years

Australia's cricket team has arrived in Pakistan on its first tour of the country in nearly a quarter of a century – and into a security bubble that will envelop them throughout their six-week stay.

Australia pulled out of a tour five years ago after a suicide blast at a Lahore church.

They last played in Pakistan in 1998, winning a three-Test series 1-0 and blanking the hosts in the three one-day internationals.

First published by AlJazeera

AlJazeera, Sun. Feb. 27, 2022 - As the Russian invasion of Ukraine enters its fourth day, below is a roundup of some of the major international stories you might have missed:

North Korea fires another ballistic missile

North Korea launched a ballistic missile into the sea on Sunday, Japan said, in a resumption of weapons tests that came as the world is focused on

## 'Ethnic cleansing': Ethiopian allies accused of Abala massacre

Survivors and witnesses say the Ethiopian allied forces went door to door for five days straight, targeting Tigrayans.

by Lucy Kassa

**ETHIOPIA, Sat. Feb. 26, 2022 (AL Jazeera)** Desta Gebreananya remembers seeing hundreds of bodies littered all over the street – young men, children and even pregnant women – on December 24, 2021- just days after Ethiopian allied forces raided her hometown of Abala in the Afar region.

The 41-year-old and her five children were fleeing the community, which is at the border between the Afar and Tigray regions, after hiding for a week in the house of a neighbour, an ethnic Afar. They walked on foot for three days and then paid smugglers to cross into Tigray.

"They [soldiers] protected civilians of other ethnicities and erased the Tigrayans," said Desta who now lives in the Derg-Ajen camp for internally displaced people (IDP) on the outskirts of Mekelle, the Tigrayan capital. "They killed, gang-raped, looted and arrested every Tigrayan they found in the town. Only if you knew an Afar to either hide you or help you escape, could you be saved."

She still does not know whether her husband, who went missing in the melee, is dead or alive.

In the camp, there are almost 7,000 people who fled from Abala to Tigray in late December, including 26 girls who reported cases of sexual violence. The survivors, mostly

women and children, are currently sheltered in four IDP centres including Derg-Ajen, all located on the outskirts of Mekelle.

As part of its investigation, Al Jazeera obtained testimonies from dozens of them. "They exterminated us all," Desta said. "No Tigrayans are left now in the town. They committed genocide against us."

In November 2020, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed sent troops to the Tigray region to remove the northern region's governing party, the Tigray People's Liberation Front, from power accusing it of attacking a military base.

Since then, thousands have died and more than nine million people are in need of urgent humanitarian intervention in a conflict that has escalated to neighbouring regions of Amhara and Afar.

Ethiopian federal forces and allied troops have been accused of weaponised sexual violence, mass detention and summary executions. As the conflict escalated to Amhara and Afar regions, the Tigrayan forces have also been accused of abuses against civilians.

In June 2021, Eritrean troops retreated from much of Tigray when the rebel forces captured most of the region from the Ethiopian federal army. But Eritrea has since renewed its military partnership with the regional forces of Afar, one of nine regional states in Ethiopia, which is next door to Asmara.

Witnesses say the collaborative efforts between Ethiopia and its allies led to an attack on Abala, a community of predominantly Tigrayan people, in December. The invading military battled Tigrayan forces all of December [18], leading to the latter's retreat from the area.

In the interregnum, the allied forces killed unarmed Tigrayan civilians; witnesses presented Al Jazeera with a list of 278 people they had confirmed dead. Fifteen survivors also recounted how Afar militiamen and Eritrean troops went from house to house, seeking Tigrayans out in a killing campaign that continued over five consecutive days.

"They came to our neighbourhood at midday as I was baking injera in the back yard," says Asay Teka, another survivor from the IDP centre of Lemlem. "They shot my husband and 11 other Tigrayan neighbours they found around," she said. "Among them



Tigray refugees who fled the conflict in their home region ride a bus going to a temporary shelter, near the Sudan-Ethiopia border, in Hamdayet, eastern Sudan  
[File: Nariman el-Mofty/AP Photo]

were four boys under the age of five, killed alongside their parents."

For the next five days, Asay hid in her house, staring at her husband's corpse and praying the soldiers would not return. When the bloodletting slowed down on December 24, she fled.

Full article can be found at: <https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2022/2/25/calculated-ethnic-cleansing-ethiopian-allies-accused-of-killin>

First published by Al Jazeera

# Eight years of conflict leave behind pain and desolation in Donbass

Permit me, our dear readers of this column, to present to you the following information, which I find to be very interesting:

## Eight years of conflict leave behind pain and desolation in Donbass

Published: 25 Feb 2022

**RT (It is to be noted that RT is a Russian news agency, and the accuracy of some of the claims in this report has not been independently confirmed.)**

*Churches, cemeteries, residential buildings, or even schools and hospitals bear the marks of bombing by Ukrainian forces.* RT cameras have

toured some of the many places in the Donetsk People’s Republic where the serious consequences left by the bombings of the Ukrainian forces on these territories located in Donbass remain visible to this day. One of these sites is located on the outskirts of the city of Donetsk, near the line of contact that had been established in 2014. The impact of shells against all kinds of targets—be it churches, cemeteries, residential buildings, or even schools and hospitals—has become commonplace here. Among the buildings that preserve the marks of shots is the Iverski monastery, one of the faces of the region. It was built in 2001 and belongs to the Moscow

Patriarchate of the Orthodox Church. Since 2014 the religious temple has been the target of constant attacks. But despite all the attempts to destroy it, masses continue to be celebrated here and the faithful come to the monastery to pray so that the nightmare they have lived in their own flesh for eight years will end once and for all.

Residents of the neighborhoods near the Donetsk airport still remember very well the intense fighting that took place in this area. In the streets you can find some monuments to civilians who died during the aggression of the Ukrainian Army in the years 2014-2016. Many of these victims were children. “My



by Clinton Canul Luna

daughter was 22 years old. I still can’t resign myself. A shrapnel wounded her heart in the middle of the street and also pierced her lung. She died in two hours, on July 24, 2014,” says Liudmila Rut, mother of one of the victims honored in one of these monuments. Another scar left by the bombing is a residential building that suffered the impact of dozens of attacks from Ukraine and, although it is hard to believe, not all its tenants have left. In each portal there are two or three families who, despite all the danger, continue to live in the same apartments simply because they cannot imagine a life outside of that place.

[fincasolan@gmail.com](mailto:fincasolan@gmail.com)  
February 26, 2022  
Finca Solana  
Corozal Town

### ELECTIONS AND BOUNDARIES COMMISSION

R.P.R.R. 36 (4)

#### REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE REGISTRATION RULES, CAP. 9 (Second Schedule)

Registration Office  
Cayo North Electoral Division  
28 West St.  
San Ignacio Town

#### LIST OF OBJECTIONS

I, MILDRED MARTINEZ, Registering Officer for the CAYO NORTH ELECTORAL DIVISION hereby give notice that the following list of objections were received by me in accordance with Rule 36 (2) of the Representation of the People Registration Rules:-

Name and Address of Persons Objected To	Name and Address of Objector	Grounds of Objections
<b>POLLING AREA No. 75</b>		
ADLE, Karim Bullet Tree Falls, Santiago Vasquez St.	BARREDO, Emilio Bullet Tree Falls	Does not live in Bullet Tree Falls.
ADLE, Karim Bullet Tree Falls, Santiago Vasquez St.	JIMENEZ, Orlando Bullet Tree Falls, Rosa Jimenez St.	He does not live in Bullet Tree Falls.
ADLE, Karim Bullet Tree Falls, Santiago Vasquez St.	PINELO, Sabino Wilfredo Bullet Tree Falls, Camalote St.	He does not live in Bullet Tree Falls.
ADLE, Karim Bullet Tree Falls, Santiago Vasquez St.	VASQUEZ, Santiago Regino Zericote St.	He does not live in Bullet Tree Falls.

**TAKE NOTICE** that the revising officer has adjourned the case for hearing to **1<sup>st</sup> March 2022 at 1:00 p.m. at Magistrate’s Court, Magistrate’s Court Building, San Ignacio Town.**

DATED this 28<sup>th</sup> day of February 2022

Signed: MILDRED MARTINEZ  
REGISTERING OFFICER I  
Cayo North Electoral Division

## “A Sustainable Feminist Recovery”

Continued from Page 9

ability to better reflect and represent the communities we serve.

Every step of the way, we can take inspiration from women and girls pushing for progress in every sphere and every corner of our globe.

Young women climate campaigners are leading global efforts to pressure governments to live up to their commitments.

Women’s rights activists are bravely demanding equality and justice, and building more peaceful societies as peacekeepers, peacemakers and humanitarians in some of the world’s trouble zones and beyond.

In societies where women’s rights movements are vibrant, democracies are stronger. When the world invests in expanding opportunities for women and girls, all of humanity wins.

As a matter of justice, equality, morality, and plain common sense, we need to turn the clock forward on women’s rights.

We need a sustainable, feminist recovery centred around — and driven by — women and girls.

\*\*\*

*António Guterres is Secretary-General of the United Nations*

## FROM THE PUBLISHER en Español

Este lunes por la mañana decidí visitar el estudio de Televisión KREM para brindar un poco de apoyo moral a YaYa Marin Coleman, quien se vio obligada a sustituir al presentador Mose Hyde en el programa matutino WUB de KREM. Como presidente del Sindicato de Trabajadores Cristianos (CWU por sus siglas en inglés), Mose tenía responsabilidades importantes esta mañana en la Corte Suprema debido a un cobarde desafío al sindicato por parte de Port of Belize, es decir, por parte de Vladimir Ashcroft. Pero ayer por la mañana, la prácticamente incansable YaYa se había perdido su programa *KREM Sunday Review* debido al agotamiento. Por lo tanto, mi visita de inyección de ánimo.

Me quedé atónito cuando empujé la puerta de TV KREM para ver a mi contemporáneo Cliff Lewis, el gurú técnico de la estación de televisión, limpiando el baño, un caso clásico de alguien yendo más allá del deber. Al igual que yo, Cliff tiene setenta y tantos años y ha pasado lo que normalmente consideramos la edad de jubilación. Muchas cosas pasaron por mi cabeza.

La pieza central de mis pensamientos fue una organización de jóvenes que surgió en la Ciudad de Belize a principios de la década de 1960 después del devastador huracán Hattie a fines de octubre de 1961. La organización se llamaba "The Righteous Crowd" ["El Grupo Recto"] y se reunía los fines de semana principalmente en la casa de Kevurtis Andersen en la Calle North Front.

Hace algunos años, mi hijo Mose y la hija de Norman Fairweather, Imani, que son amigos, nos reunieron a Norman y a mí para hablar sobre varios temas, principalmente para la comprensión y el beneficio de nuestros hijos.

Un líder prominente y asertivo de "The Righteous" fue el finado Cecil "Chubby" Reneau, pero para mí, como socio secundario de The Righteous, la superestrella indudable era Norman Fairweather, quien había sido enviado a estudiar a Jamaica después de Hattie y había sido expuesto a un nivel más sofisticado de socialización.

Permítanme presentarles a Cliff, a quien solo conocía de cara a principios

de la década de 1960. Cliff era un tipo modesto y tranquilo. Él y el finado Ed "Junior" Yorke estaban saliendo con dos hermanas, jóvenes altas de la familia Myvett, y ambas relaciones eran muy estables.

Quizás la única área en la que Tony Wright y yo tenemos un ligero desacuerdo es esta: Tony siente que hemos perdido cosas que nunca recuperaremos en la comunidad negra aquí. Estoy de acuerdo, pero no me animo en cuanto a la nostalgia, porque siento que todas las generaciones jóvenes experimentarán relaciones y acontecimientos que recordarán con asombro cuando sean mayores. Esto se debe a que las hormonas adolescentes son tan poderosas, José, tan poderosas.

Durante mi sesión con Norman hace una década, dijo que sus hijos le sugirieron que escribiera un libro. The Righteous era una organización increíble porque incluía a adolescentes beliceños más allá de las barreras escolares, religiosas y de clase.

Una de las razones por las que no era un Righteous habitual era porque, como estudiante de la Preparatoria del Colegio San Juan, a veces participaba en fiestas que incluían a jóvenes como Sonny Meighan, Peter Young, Carlson Gough, Carlos Perdomo, Vance y Lennox Vernon, etc. Creo que las anfitrionas de estas fiestas eran las hermanas Martinez de la Calle Daly, y seguro que Anne Longsworth del Colegio Santa Hilda era una de las estrellas femeninas.

Hace unas semanas, Norman y yo nos escribimos por correo electrónico y me dijo que Percy Mutrie, Steve Tillett y Dick Lewis se habían mudado a Florida. Echaba de menos a Dennis "Jazz" Henry, mi compañero de equipo de baloncesto del Colegio San Juan.

Han fallecido Kent Bladon y Evan Evans.

Todos se mudaron a Estados Unidos excepto Junior Yorke (fallecido), Cliff y yo. Así es como me parece.

The Righteous Crowd: qué increíble fenómeno sociológico. Nzinga Barkley-Waite fue parte de esa historia. Cliff Lewis sabe muchas cosas. Hablen con él alguna vez.

¡Poder al pueblo, y bendiciones sobre ustedes!

## Deon Sutherland responds

Continued from Page 6

February, 2022 that we officially registered Mr. Meyer's three (3) children to represent Belize and the BAA at the CARIFTA Games to be held in April of this year.

I must reiterate that the BAA has always welcomed foreign athletes and coaches to assist in the development of the sport of athletics. We have sought many ways to better the performance of our athletes, but while we do that, we try to ensure that the athletes of the BAA will [not] be taken advantage of in the process. Many have tried to do

such. We will always aim to make BAA one of the best sporting associations and ensure our athletes have the enabling environment to perform their best. This will always be our number one priority. I have contacted Mr. Meyers via email and have welcomed him to share his knowledge and sporting expertise with us at the BAA. He has agreed to work with us for future programs.

The executive of the BAA are aware that many people have knowledge that the BAA elections are in the pipeline, and therefore the level of mischief will be up, but I hope that



## Black Health Matters: Safe Spaces to Exist and Thrive

by Akilah Cadet

Healthline.com

This is Black Health Matters, a series shedding light on the health realities of Black people in America. Akilah Cadet, DHSc, MPH, in partnership with Healthline, aims to educate about inequities to inspire a world where everyone can attain their full health potential, regardless of the color of their skin.

Imagine living in a constant state of stress.

You repeatedly ask people not to touch your hair. You pretend it's not hurtful when people say "you talk white."

You advocate for yourself daily as the only Black person in your workplace or social circle.

You fear for your life at a traffic stop. You doubt whether your child will come home every night.

This is the reality of Black people in America. This is why we say, "Black lives matter."

We have been fighting for humanity, equality, dignity, and respect since the enslavement of Black people in America. It takes a toll.

It's exhausting to have to prove your worth, your right to life, every single day.

The power of community

This is what makes community so essential for Black people. We need a space where we're safe to exist.

The physical, social, and economic conditions that affect well-being, known as the social determinants of health Trusted Source, outline the importance of community and social context.

These factors include:

- positive relationships at home, work, and in the wider community
- high rates of civic engagement and advocacy
- environments free from discrimination
- low rates of incarceration and policing

Black people often don't have access to safe communities like this.

What kind of support can communities actually provide when

before this paper listens to hearsay and tickle-ears falsities, they will get the facts on any important matter or issue. If one desires to see the sport develop and progress, don't be a person who tears down, but lend a hand and an idea to assist and build and make better and stronger.

Don't say it. Show it.

Thanks  
Deon Sutherland  
President  
Belize Athletics Association

they're riddled with stress?

Discrimination

The enslavement of Africans in America began in the 1500s.

History tends to point to 1619 to signify the beginning of enslavement of Africans in an English colony, although records show the Spanish were first in what's now Florida.

Slavery is an important part of American history. It set the tone for how Black people are still being treated today.

When slavery was abolished, things did not automatically get better for Black people. It marked the beginning of the Jim Crow era and the Ku Klux Klan. Both upheld values of white supremacy and dominance.

Discrimination flourished on plantations and progressed to today's oppression of Black communities, workplaces, schools, and more.

"Whites Only" signs, seen into the late 1960s, gave white people the permission to accost Black people verbally or physically for virtually no reason.

The Ku Klux Klan, which former confederates began in 1865, terrorized Black neighborhoods. Many KKK members worked in law enforcement and city offices to ensure policies and legislation would be in place to protect white supremacy.

Slavery is an important part of American history. It set the tone for how Black people are still being treated today.

Civic participation and advocacy

Today, white supremacy lives on.

The insurrection of January 6, 2021 was a public display of terror meant to uphold white dominance.

A noose erected at the Capitol stood tall. The message was clear: Slavery's legacy is not over.

Although comparisons have been made to Black Lives Matter protests, it's important to note that Black organizers are fighting for the humanity and equality of Black people.

They're fighting to have the same access to healthy communities, work opportunities, education, and livelihood as white people and for the end of police brutality.

We also know that if Black protestors wanted to enter the Capitol, it would be a different, tragic scene.

Much like the Civil Rights Movement of 1964 and Voting Rights Act of 1965, Black Lives Matter advocates for better and healthier lives for Black people. Better, healthier lives for Black people means better, healthier lives for all people.

Full article can be found at : <https://www.healthline.com/health/black-health-matters-safe-spaces-to-exist-and-thrive#4>

First published by: [www.healthline.com](https://www.healthline.com)

# Economy on the rebound, says IMF

(From page 1)

With the country's GDP projected to grow by 6.5% and public debt on the decline, the IMF has given positive reviews of Belize's growing economy in its Concluding Statement.

by Khaila Gentle

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Feb. 28, 2022

As was reported in last Friday's issue of the AMANDALA, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) released its preliminary findings after the conclusion of the Article IV Consultation visit to Belize. The IMF's mission to Belize involved a review by a group of its staff members who visited Belize of a number of fiscal and economic indicators related to the current state of the country's finances. The findings, titled "Staff Concluding Statement of the 2022 Article IV Mission", make note of Belize's robust economic recovery and paint a much brighter picture of the country's overall fiscal health in comparison to 2021's bleak assessment, which had even sparked rumors of a possible devaluation.

According to the Concluding Statement, while the COVID-19 pandemic has had a severe impact on Belize—as reflected in the 16.7% contraction in GDP and increase in public debt in 2020—the Government of Belize has made significant progress towards reducing public debt. The Statement also notes that the country's GDP is projected to grow by 6.5% in 2022. The IMF attributes

this growth in GDP to "a rebound of activity in the construction, retail and wholesale trade, transport and communication, and tourism sectors."

The Statement also pointed out that one significant risk to the outlook of Belize's economy is the potential for escalation of the pandemic through the emergence of new variants which could derail the recovery of tourism. On a positive note, however, the IMF stated that vaccinations may help curb this risk. Other key risks to economic recovery listed by the IMF included natural disasters, due to Belize's vulnerability to climate change and extreme weather, tightening of global financial conditions which could lead to high cost of external financing, as well as a further rise in inflation due to increased international energy and food prices.

The country has also seen a decline in public debt, which stood at 133% of GDP in 2020 and declined to 108% in 2021. It is predicted to fall to 84% of GDP by 2032. The IMF staff has recommended that the Government capitalize on this, suggesting that they attempt to reduce its debt even further, to an ambitious 60% of GDP by 2031. This recommendation, says the Concluding Statement is "to ensure that it stays below the 70 percent of GDP

threshold for sustainability even when the economy is hit by shocks."

Additionally, to achieve further fiscal consolidation, the staff recommends that authorities broaden the country's tax base by taxing some non-necessity-zero-rated items at the standard 12.5% rate and including the hotel sector among the enterprises which pay GST, which, according to the report, could generate revenue equivalent to 1.5% of GDP by Fiscal Year 2024.

Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño commented on the IMF staff's Concluding Statements, and said that the government is highly pleased with the extremely positive report.

"They never expected that Belize could have done so well in such a short time, and that Belize is on the path to recovery. They support the work that we're doing, the changes we're doing, the services we are providing people, the work on infrastructure and housing, all of that. As I mentioned to them, when they were saying they're very happy and very pleased, but we're not out of the woods yet, and I agree with them."

Hon. Briceño told the media that while a potential return to a pre-COVID economy is good, it is still not enough, since, before the pandemic



and under the UDP administration in 2019 the country was in recession. He further said that he would like to see the economy return to what it was in 2007, when it was showing tremendous growth.

And while the Prime Minister is pleased with the glowing reviews received from the IMF, he noted that he is also aware of the social commitment that the Government of Belize has to its people—something which he says he made sure to tell the IMF.

"Our job also has to do with people. It's about the social services that we have to prepare; it's not only numbers ... but it's also that we need to be able to provide housing ... land, education, the National Health Insurance. These are part of the anchor of Plan Belize and that if we can implement that as quickly as possible, then we can truly, really, transform the lives of our people," he said.

(FIRST PUBLICATION)

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BELIZE, A.D. 2021

CLAIM NO. 158 of 2021

BETWEEN:

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


TO: EDDIE USHER  
Dangriga  
Stann Creek District  
Belize

Take Notice that on February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022, the Supreme Court of Belize granted an Order:

- 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.

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 28<sup>th</sup> day of February 2022

  
ESTEVAN PERERA & COMPANY LLP  
Per: Rene A. Montero  
Attorneys-at-Law for the Claimant

## Belize hosts Heads of Government Conference

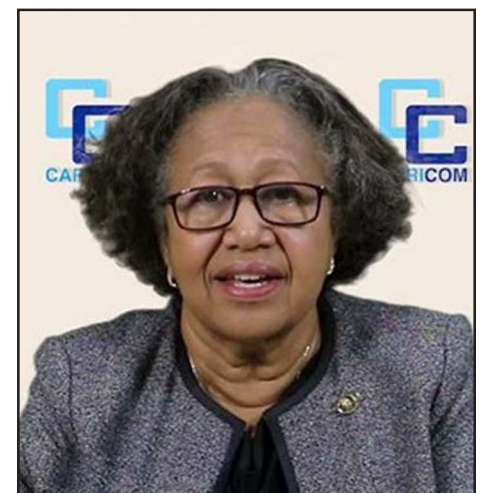
Several critical issues will be discussed at the 33rd Inter-Sessional Meeting this week, including food security, economic recovery after COVID, and the current situation in Haiti.

by Khaila Gentle

Belize City, Mon. Feb. 28, 2022

The 33rd Inter-Sessional Meeting of the CARICOM Heads of Government will be held this Tuesday in San Pedro, where the region's leaders will discuss a wide range of critical issues affecting the Caribbean. Ahead of the meeting, which will be held on March 1 and 2 under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño, CARICOM Secretary-General Dr. Carla Barnett sat down to speak with the Secretariat's Communications Officer Tusankine English-Francis last week. During the conversation, Dr. Barnett spoke on some of the issues that will be tackled this Tuesday.

According to the Secretary-General, food security is at the top of the agenda, especially after the disruptions in shipping seen during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic cast a spotlight on the importance of the region supporting and feeding itself. She noted that being able to plant more food in environmentally sustainable ways is of the utmost importance and that one of



Dr. Carla Barnett—  
CARICOM Secretary-General

CARICOM's key objectives is to place the Community in a position to reduce importation and stimulate agricultural production.

Dr. Barnett also shared that the heads will be discussing regional economic recovery as well as the maintenance of sovereignty over financial affairs.

"We are still at risk of losing access to international financial markets because of de-risking

# A string of shootings in the city

Within a period of less than twenty-four hours, more than four persons were wounded by gunshots.

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Feb. 28, 2022

A string of shooting incidents were reported to police over the weekend.

The first reported incident occurred on Thursday afternoon, February 24. At about 2:28 p.m., 18-year-old Joshua Jones was leaving a residence on Central American Boulevard along with a companion of his, when a gunman rode up towards both Jones and his companion and fired several gunshots in the direction of the men.

The apparent assailant then fled from the scene through Matura Street. Jones, who was wounded as a result of the gunfire, was taken to the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital (KMH), where he was listed in a stable condition.

Later that day, 36-year-old Ralph McField and 20-year-old Jovanni Gabourel were shot at around 7:00 p.m.

According to initial reports, both McField and Gabourel were standing in front of the Mount Olives Seventh Day Adventist Church when a white van passed by and several gunshots were fired by the occupants of that van. Both McField and Gabourel were wounded in the lower part of their bodies.

One person has been detained in connection to that shooting.

On that same night, at another location, 43-year-old David Tillett was shot in the lower part of his body while socializing in front of a car wash located on Vernon Street. Reports suggest that while Tillett was socializing at the carwash, an unknown gunman emerged from Magazine Road and fired several shots at him.

His assailant then ran towards Cemetery Road and escaped.

Tillett was transported to the KMH, where he was admitted and is listed in a stable condition.

Following those shooting incidents on Thursday, eighteen-year-old Leonard Castro, a local fisherman, was shot in the elbow on Friday. Castro was at a house in an alley on Lakeview Street in the vicinity of Banak Street in Belize City when a barrage of bullets was fired at him, but he quickly ran towards Lakeview Street and he escaped from further harm.

Castro was taken to the KMH, where he was treated for an injury to his elbow that he sustained during the shooting. He is listed in a stable condition.

Police have yet to determine the motive for the shooting.



“Every shooting within the country of Belize is of grave concern to us. Whether a person was hit or not, it is very concerning, and in this case, Mr. Castro was injured. Thankfully, he’s in stable condition, but we have patrols in that area. We have officers

actually doing foot patrols also in that zone,” said Communications Director for the Belize Police Department, ASP Fitzroy Yearwood.

Police have not indicated as yet whether previous attempts have been made on Castro’s life.

## Diesel now \$12.06 per gallon!

Continued from Page 1

countrywide.

“There was a shipment that came in a few days ago, and diesel would have gone up by about a dollar at the pump,” PM Briceño had told local media.

While responding to questions posed by those local reporters last week, the PM had pointed to the inevitability of continued increases in the price of fuel.

“On this shipment alone, we have decided that the government is going to absorb that cost. It is going to cost us about a million and a half dollars. And within a next week or two, more fuel is going to come, and so now we have to sit down as a Cabinet to decide what we can do, because as I pointed out before, fuel brings in about a hundred and fifty million dollars in revenues for the government, and we just simply just can’t afford not to collect those taxes,” PM Briceño had said.

But the president of the Public Service Union (PSU), Dean Flowers, in a sitdown with AMANDALA earlier this month, had remarked that the government should be able to absorb the price increases, since they have likely surpassed the estimated revenue from taxes on fuel that GoB had projected it would receive in the budget for the current fiscal period.

“The government, I believe, has surpassed their revenue projected where fuel taxes or taxes on fuel is

concerned, and I will repeat, there should be no excuse or reason why they cannot now absorb some of that cost,” Flowers stated in an interview.

The PM, however, has said that the percentage of fuel price increases that it has been receiving in the form of tax revenue has been decreasing since the current administration entered office, and hinted that the topic would be discussed at the Cabinet retreat that took place over this weekend.

PM Briceño said, “For us as a country, the taxes that we collect on the price of fuel have been going down. Before we got into government, it was approximately forty-eight percent of the price; now we are down to thirty-eight percent. Today, in Cabinet, well we have a retreat this afternoon and all day tomorrow, and that is going to be one of the important topics for us to discuss.”

An important topic widely discussed in the public is the constantly increasing prices of fuel. In the past, each additional price increase was announced in a generic Government of Belize press release, which typically has prompted widespread scrutiny and public criticism. The most recent price increases, however, took place without the customary release being issued. The Government Press Office has apparently halted its issuance of these releases, possibly to avoid condemnation on social media and in other public forums.

## 10% salary cut to end July 1

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and a number of other important matters. Without going into much detail, the president of the Public Service Union (PSU), Dean Flowers, stated that the government has made a commitment to carry out a phased restoration of the full salaries of public workers. In an interview subsequent to the PSU announcement, however, Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño remarked that Flowers’ comments were “premature.” But today, a leak letter from the Officer of the Prime Minister announced the reinstatement of the 10% salary cut on July 1, 2022.

“My Cabinet has agreed that in this upcoming fiscal year, the Government of Belize will fully restore the wages and salaries of our public officers and teachers. To be more specific, as of July 1, 2022, the 10% reduction in wages and salaries will be no more. It will be restored not in stages, not in increments, but in full as of that date. “The letter from the Prime Minister stated.

Flowers had said that while government officials provided no details on a timeline for full restoration, they suggested that the 10% may likely be reinstated in two or three stages. He said that he was told that a discussion of this matter would take place during a Cabinet retreat at a getaway in Cayo that occurred over this weekend. The decision to lift the 10% cut was made at the weekend meeting.

During an interview last Thursday, PM Briceño had said that the members of the government team

handling negotiations with the JUNT—DPM Cordel Hyde, Hon. Francis Fonseca, and Hon. Henry Usher—would be reporting to him on the outcome of the meetings held with the JUNT, and discussions would be had on any advancements made.

He said the restoration of the 10% of public workers’ salaries that had been cut will result in an additional 60 million dollars approximately in annual costs, and that while they are not “in any way opposed to giving back the 10%”, they have to consider the global financial crisis facing developing countries.

Either way, Flowers said that the Cabinet is to formulate a definitive decision on the stages of the restoration of the 10% salary cuts and he expressed hopes that there would be no more than two adjustments. As, announced in the letter from the PM, his hopes will be realized with a full reinstatement. Flowers noted that each time a change is made to the salaries of public servants, changes have to be made to the pay scales, and more than two adjustments in a single fiscal year would not be ideal.

The letter from the PM states, “On restoration of wages and salaries on July 1, 2022, the work week for public officers and teachers will also revert to the normal work week of 39.5 hours per week. Increments will continue to be frozen for two additional fiscal years as previously indicated unless we are able to achieve an end-of-year primary surplus as a percentage of GDP of no less than 3.5% before then, in which event we shall revisit the matter of increments.”

**AMANDALA is cream!**

# IPCC releases Sixth Assessment Report

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“Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability”. Since February 14, member governments have been engaged in a virtual approval session of the document that highlights directly the interaction between the climate crisis and its impact on ecosystems, biodiversity, and human society.

The report highlights unequivocally the impact of human society on our biosphere and systems of life, and it shows that the people of the global south, which have contributed the least to greenhouse emissions, are not in a position to cope with the impact of climatic change and loss/damage of biodiversity and systems of life.

The chairperson of the IPCC, Hoesung Lee, in a press release today, said, “This report is a dire warning about the consequences of inaction. It shows that climate change is a grave and mounting threat to our wellbeing and a healthy planet. Our actions today will shape how people adapt and nature responds to increasing climate risks.”

The gaps between action taken and action needed to prepare nations for the impacts of climate change are ever widening: calls for increased ambitions by vulnerable nations are constant, commitments made by developed countries are lacking, and those low-income populations continue to be the most affected by the disparity.

“Increased heatwaves, droughts, and floods are already exceeding plants’ and animals’ tolerance thresholds, driving mass mortalities in species such as trees and corals. These weather extremes are occurring simultaneously, causing cascading impacts that are increasingly difficult to manage. They have exposed millions of people to acute food and water insecurity, especially in Africa, Asia, Central, and South America, on Small Islands and in the Arctic,” the release from the IPCC states.

Transforming vulnerable states into climate-resilient states will take action from governments; adequate financing, knowledge and capacity-building, technology, and catalyzing conditions, the report says. Without advancements in these areas quickly, countries, especially

those at greatest risk, may suffer from loss and damage that is irreversible.

Risk is defined by the report as, “the potential for adverse consequences for human or ecological systems, recognizing the diversity of values and objectives associated with such systems.”

127 key risk areas are identified in the report, which emphasizes that climate change is a global challenge that requires local solutions and clearly outlines a narrowing window for action, while emphasizing the challenges of climate-resilient development at this stage, and how this will be increasingly difficult if the global temperature increase were to exceed 1.5°C (2.7°F).

The release states, “In some regions, it will be impossible if global warming exceeds 2°C (3.6°F). This key finding underlines the urgency for climate action, focusing on equity and justice. Adequate funding, technology transfer, political commitment, and partnership lead to more effective climate change adaptation and emissions reductions.”

In his remarks CO- Chair Hans-Otto Pörtner said, “The cumulative scientific evidence is unequivocal: Climate change is a threat to human well-being and planetary health. Any further delay in concerted anticipatory global action on adaptation and mitigation will miss a brief and rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a liveable and sustainable future for all.”

Countries like Belize, which is a part of the Caribbean and Latin America, are at a high risk of irreversible climatic impact. Since the country sits in the hurricane belt, and is a lowlying nation, the impact of a major hurricane, would be devastating. The IPCC calls on countries to utilize its Summary for Policy Makers to guide decision-making on the climate front to ensure that nations are able to withstand the onslaught of climatic impacts. The 37-page summary provides key findings of Working Group II reports that, as mentioned, have been approved by the IPCC member governments.

A technical report containing extended key findings and the full 3,675-page report can be found and downloaded on the IPCC website at <https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6wg2/pdf/>

# Supreme court blocks stevedores’ \$1.5 mil

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Belize for the financial harm they’ve suffered and the alleged violations of their rights that were caused by the 2002 privatization of the Port of Belize. The employer of the stevedores, Port of Belize Limited, filed an injunction last week in an attempt to stop the disbursement from the government. After the government proceeded to issue that payment to CWU and indicated that the payment would be included in its upcoming budget, attorneys for PBL filed yet another emergency injunction requesting a Freezing Order on the monies paid to the CWU account, to stop the payments from being distributed to the stevedores, whom Prime Minister Briceño had described last week as “not rich” people who needed the money — which, when apportioned, would have amounted to about \$10,000 per stevedore. It was a move by PBL that was seen by many members of the public as notably vicious and has been viewed by many as geared primarily at causing economic pain to the stevedores, who, according to CWU president Evan “Mose” Hyde, have felt “hunted and encircled” by PBL, which, according to Hyde, has not complied so far with the rulings of the Essential Services Arbitration Tribunal—even though the stevedores had ended an 8-day strike with the hope that they would.

PBL’s application was this afternoon heard in the court of Justice Lisa Shoman — who, coincidentally, was closely affiliated with the very PUP administration under which the Port of Belize was privatized — and at the end of the sitting she ordered an interim injunction with the same effect of the freezing order sought by the applicant. The money in the CWU account is to be frozen until March 16 — a little over two weeks from now, at 5:00 p.m. To date, while it was announced that the payments were disbursed to the stevedores via cheques, no concrete evidence was presented that those funds have in fact left the account, so the court is asking that any money still in that account be frozen until the full hearing on the matter, also on March 16.

An affidavit, filed by the CWU’s general secretary, Guy Neal, had stated that the payments were made by check to the stevedores, and the fourth defendant’s attorney, Darrell Bradley, had argued that this changed the nature of the proceedings.

The attorneys representing PBL insisted, however, that the affidavit did not provide sufficient evidence of payment, and only receipts. They instead requested a bank statement.

In her comments to the court Justice Shoman (while ruling in favor of an entity reportedly controlled by a billionaire known to have used what has been viewed as unethical and questionable legal and business tactics) expressed disapproval of the decision of the fourth defendant to make disbursement of the funds to the financially strapped stevedores, since they knew they would be in attendance at this hearing today. The

also be held in San Pedro on Thursday, March 3. It will be the first summit held in almost 10 years and will see the Caribbean Community and Central American countries meet to discuss common challenges faced by both regions, including financing and climate change.

application’s legal representative, Godfrey Smith, who himself represented that billionaire in a number of legal maneuvers (the ethics of which have been questioned by many Belizeans) said that the payments were made despite the court’s desire to hear the matter today. He went at length in censuring the decision by the CWU before asking the court for the freezing order and the bank statements. The tone of propriety and moral rectitude being expressed was notable, in the context of legal moves being made that are seen by many as ruthless. At a press briefing last week, the president of the CWU had remarked that in fact they tried to act swiftly, because they have seen the previous actions of the Ashcroft-affiliated entities that Smith has represented, and they “saw bad mind coming ... saw bad vibes coming.” He in fact had lamented that their figurative head was “in tigh mouth”.

Attorney Bradley argued that the applicants were jumping the gun in asking for the freezing order, since the case is currently being heard, and noted that the amended injunction had only just been filed by the applicants. He outlined that, contrary to the applicant’s argument that the processes were hurried by the CWU to “neuter the powers of the court”, the process to get the payment to the stevedores started as far back as February 3<sup>rd</sup> — something noted by Hyde last week. He said they accelerated all processes necessary to disburse payment in a manner that ensured transparency and accountability, in line with their commitment to GoB.

Justice Shoman, however, decided to grant the injunction restraining the CWU from disbursing any funds from the 1.5 million dollars paid by the government of Belize, as is within her powers as presiding judge. This order remains in place until March 16 at 5:00 p.m. This is the same date when the full proceedings will be heard, starting at 9:30 a.m. It is to be noted that the country’s commerce hinges on the ability of the CWU and the Port of Belize to settle their differences. It is a breakdown in negotiations after what was seen by the stevedores as provocative and insulting moves by PBL that led to the 8-day industrial strike which prompted an outcry from many local businesses. When the stevedores returned to work, they expressed hopes that there would be good faith negotiations, that the PBL would meet them halfway. Questions arise about whether the PBL took into consideration the impact failed negotiations could have on those businesses when it opted to engage in legal moves that have intensified tensions between the two groups.

This evening, Hector Guerra, one of the attorneys for PBL, said that if the requisite parliamentary approval is granted at the next sitting of the House of Representatives, the applicants would have to do some reconsideration of the matter.

“We will certainly have to reconsider the matter. We have our own view as to whether that would cure the misstep that has happened, but because the matter is still sub juris, it’s still before the court. I would not want to comment on what our position if that were to happen, would be, but I will say that it will, of course, trigger a reconsideration of what is transpiring before the courts,” Guerra said.

# Belize hosts Heads of Government Conference

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activities, because of correspondent banking relationships that fall, because of that. And the more recent minimum global tax rate is another issue that we are dealing with, so that is very much a priority as well,” she stated. One of the main ways in which the Community is seeking to recover economically is through the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME), which also aims to build a more resilient Community overall.

Of course, tackling the COVID-19 pandemic and increasing vaccination rates across the region also remains a priority, as does the issue of security, especially in consideration of the increase in violent crime that has been seen across

the region in recent years.

At a press conference on Monday, during which she engaged with representatives of the media, Dr. Barnett said that she expects the Heads of Government meeting to be a productive one. This year’s Conference is the first time in two years that the heads will be meeting face-to-face and is the Secretary-General’s first in-person Inter-Sessional Meeting. The opening session of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Inter-Sessional CARICOM Heads of Government Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 1 at 9:00 a.m. Belize Time, while an end-of-meeting press conference will be held on Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. Following the Heads of Government meeting, the fourth CARICOM-SICA Summit will



# Sales Agents

## BELIZE CITY

- \* Puma Roundabout
- \* Puma, 2 Mls.
- \* Shell Service Station, C.A. Boulevard
- \* Community Drug Store
- \* William Supermarket, C.A. Boulevard
- \* Fuel Logistics/Bel-China
- \* Puma Freetown
- \* Cambranes
- \* J & K Supermarket
- \* Twin Supermarket, 5526 St. Thomas Street
- \* Tow Tow Grocery Store, Mahogany Street
- \* Julie Wong Store, Belama (by police station)
- \* JB's Store, Mahogany Street
- \* 88 Shopping Center, C.A. Boulevard
- \* Freetown Drug Store
- \* Publics, Philip Goldson Highway
- \* Buca Shell, Philip Goldson Highway
- \* James Brodie & Co., Albert St., and Philip Goldson Highway
- \* 1<sup>st</sup> Choice Pharmacy
- \* Save-U Supermarket

## PLACENCIA

- \* Placencia Office Supplies

## LADYVILLE

- \* Puma Service Station
- \* Shell Service Station
- \* Low's Supermarket

## ORANGEWALK

- \* One Stop Service Station
- \* People's Store

## BENQUE

- \* Eduard Cambranes  
6 Diaz St., Benque

## CAYO

- \* Amini Habet
- C/o Shell Service Station
- San Ignacio
- \* Venus Store

## BELMOPAN

- Dakers Stationery & Books
- \* Hydes Mini Market
- \* First Choice Variety Gift Shop
- \* Shell Service Station
- \* Medicare Plus Pharmacy

## STANN CREEK

- \* Xaibel Service Station
- \* S & S One Stop
- C/o Uno Belize
- \* St. Vincent Convenience Store

## COROZAL

- \* Aguilar Car Care Products # 60 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Corozal Town
- \* Xiomara Alcala c/o Corozal Farmer's Supplies # 99 - 5th Avenue, Corozal Town
- \* Elena Castaneda WE Store Gabriel Hoare Market #A8 6th Avenue, Corozal Town

## INDEPENDENCE

- \* G N J Mart

## PUNTA GORDA

- \* King's Texaco
- \* NJV Pharmacy

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