

# AMANDALA



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# Bus operators threaten strike



*Belize Bus Association (BBA) members voted to strike after making no headway in meetings with the Minister of Transport, through which they had sought to reduce the financial strain on operators caused by ever-increasing fuel prices.*

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Mar. 10, 2022  
This week, members of the Belize Bus Association (BBA), after seeing their profit margins

repeatedly slashed over the past few months due to constantly increasing fuel prices, and facing the prospect of even more drastic increases in those prices due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, voted to stage a

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## Alleged gunman killed in Locke's Alley



Carrel Sanchez - deceased

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Mar. 10, 2022

On Tuesday night, March 8, a 23-year-old man believed to be a member of the PIV gang was fatally shot while reportedly attempting to execute a person in the Locke's Alley

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## CJ Benjamin's \$1.3 billion ruling against Barrow a dud

*"The Court is not a football to be kicked around by opportunists of any political party; it is hoped that the grave ill complained of, that is, the bringing of supplementary allocations and expenditure raised or received by the State without first seeking approval of the House of Representatives, as well as the retrospective appropriation of monies contrary to the provisions of the Constitution and the Finance and Audit Reform Act, has now ceased, since the parties before the court in this Claim are now wearing different hats," Chief Justice Michelle Arana (Ag.) stated in her judgment.*

by Marco Lopez

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Mar. 10, 2022

On January 31, 2020, former Chief Justice Kenneth Benjamin delivered an oral judgment in the civil suit

brought by Hon. John Briceño (the country's prime minister), who was Opposition leader at the time, and Cayo South area representative, Hon. Julius Espot, against the former Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Dean Barrow, and

in that judgment he ruled that \$1.3 billion dollars was spent by the then Minister of Finance without the requisite parliamentary approval

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## Nora Parham to be posthumously pardoned



Nora Parham (nee Williams)

(See story on page 33)

## Third narco-plane landing in 2 weeks

*The Gulfstream G2 luxury jet landed in a marshy area in the middle of a lagoon off the Southern Highway. Its cargo, which is believed to have been as much as one ton of South American cocaine, was likely transported up north by sea.*

BELIZE CITY, Tues. Mar. 8, 2022

As Thursday night, March 3, was ending, a Gulfstream G2 luxury jet believed to be carrying a sizeable payload of South American cocaine, landed on a boggy land



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## Justice Young says GOB broke law

*But Microsoft 365 contract to Smart not canceled*

BELIZE CITY, Tues. Mar. 8, 2022

Last Thursday, Justice Sonya Young issued an oral judgment on the judicial review application brought by Senator Michael Peyefitte against the Government of Belize for the awarding of a Microsoft 365 contract valued at \$3.4 million to SMART Belize, which was a late entrant to a selective bidding process, last year. Both parties are claiming

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# SSB contribution reform enters final phase

(See story on page 2)

# House fire leaves former teacher, 81, without a home



**Bernadette Lucas - fire victim**

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Mar. 10, 2022  
A small wooden home belonging to an elderly woman at the corner of South Street and West Canal in Belize City was burnt to the ground just after 7:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 9.

Bernadette Lucas, 81, who is reportedly a former Holy Redeemer teacher, is now homeless and has lost everything that was inside her 10' by 10' wooden structure that she called home. Firefighters were able to extinguish the fire before it made its way to nearby homes.

Lucas related to reporters what took place, as she was attempting to

make breakfast that day:

"I was cooking, and I had just made some tea, and the wind was very strong, so the fire went out, and I went in to get some sheets to put to start the fire again, and it went out again. So I went in to get a little bottle and started to pack it to start the fire, and the piece from here [the mask] fell and I came out and I pack it in there, and everything was okay. I didn't know the fire was started in there. But I was sitting with the door open and the fire was popping and something could have popped from the fire outside with the wind blowing so strong, and when I looked in, not even a minute. I was shocked, the floor was already on fire, and the mattress was burning. The place went fast too, because it's old. It's already condemned." she said.

Lucas said that she is hopeful, despite having to pick up the pieces and start all over.

"I have a positive attitude, so I'm already getting some help from my fellow neighbors, and they're doing their best to accommodate me, so I see the future bright. My friend came and helped already. The future looks bright. I'm happy to know after all this I can still pick up the pieces," Lucas said.

To assist Bernadette Lucas in getting back on her feet, you can call her at 621-0918 or 601- 9015.

# Prime Minister Briceño honored in Taiwan

*The Prime Minister of Belize, Hon. John Briceño, received the Order of Propitious Clouds with Special Grand Cordon from the Taiwanese government and an honorary doctorate from a Taiwanese university.*



**Hon. John Briceño - Prime Minister of Belize and Tsai Ing-wen - President of Republic of China Taiwan**

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Mar. 9, 2022

The Prime Minister of Belize, Hon. John Briceño, traveled with a small delegation this week to Taiwan, where he received the Order of Propitious Clouds from the Taiwanese government and an honorary doctorate from Kun Shan University during his five-day stay in that country.

Prime Minister Briceño departed Belize on Sunday, March 6, along with a delegation that included Hon. Eamon Courtenay, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Immigration; Hon. Jose Mai, Minister of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise; Hon. Francis Fonseca, Minister of Education, Culture, Science and Technology; Ambassador Stuart Leslie, Cabinet Secretary; and the Prime Minister's wife, Mrs. Rossana Briceño, Special Envoy for the Development of Families and Children.

The PM and his delegation were officially welcomed to Taiwan on March 9 with military honors in the plaza in front of the Presidential Office along with the president of the Republic of China Taiwan, Tsai Ing-wen. There was a 19-gun salute, as well as the playing of the national anthems of both countries, after

which a state banquet was held before the conferral of the Order of Propitious Clouds with Special Grand Cordon to Hon. Briceño for his role in enhancing ties between Taiwan and its Caribbean ally, Belize.

"This is the first time I have received Prime Minister Briceño since taking office, and it is Prime Minister Briceño's first visit to Taiwan since he assumed his current position. It is a great pleasure to greet a dear friend from afar with our grandest display of military honors," said president of the Republic of China Taiwan, Tsai Ing-wen during her remarks.

"In recent years, our two nations have worked together very closely in numerous fields. As we welcome Prime Minister Briceño's visit, we look forward to exchanging opinions on issues of mutual interest, deepening cooperation, and elevating our diplomatic friendship even further," she added.

During his remarks, Prime Minister Briceño said, "Belize and Taiwan are friends and partners. We enjoy a cordial bilateral relationship, which has grown stronger [for] almost 33 years. Belize has benefited greatly from our diplomatic partnership with Taiwan that is based on the shared values of democracy, freedom, human rights, and the rule of law."

Prime Minister Briceño also met with Vice President Lai Ching-te, and the two will head together to Tainan, where Briceño will receive an honorary doctorate from Tainan-based Kun Shan University. Lai and Briceño last met in January during their visit to Honduras for the inauguration of President Xiomara Castro.

This visit is Briceño's first trip to Taiwan in 16 years and the first time he is visiting the country as Belize's prime minister, since taking office in November 2020.

Belize and Taiwan established official diplomatic ties in 1989. The delegation is set to return to the country on Saturday, March 12.

# SSB contribution reform enters final phase

(From page 1)

2022 Contribution and Benefits Schedule											
Tentative Date: April 4, 2022											
No.	Actual Weekly Earnings by Category	Weekly Insurable Earnings	Amount of Weekly Contributions			Rate of Contributions (%)			Maximum Weekly Benefit Payments		Maximum Yearly Pension Payments
			Employer	Employee	Total	Employer	Employee	Total	Short Term (SB, MB, EI)	Pensions	
1	UNDER \$70.00	\$55.00	\$4.47	\$1.03	\$5.50	8.13%	1.88%	10%	\$ 44.00	\$ 47.00	\$ 2,444.00
2	\$70.00 - \$109.99	\$90.00	\$7.31	\$1.69	\$9.00	8.13%	1.88%	10%	\$ 72.00	\$ 54.00	\$ 2,808.00
3	\$110.00 - \$139.99	\$130.00	\$10.56	\$2.44	\$13.00	8.13%	1.88%	10%	\$ 104.00	\$ 78.00	\$ 4,056.00
4	\$140.00 - \$179.99	\$160.00	\$12.06	\$3.94	\$16.00	7.54%	2.46%	10%	\$ 128.00	\$ 96.00	\$ 4,992.00
5	\$180.00 - \$219.99	\$200.00	\$14.06	\$5.94	\$20.00	7.03%	2.97%	10%	\$ 160.00	\$ 120.00	\$ 6,240.00
6	\$220.00 - \$259.99	\$240.00	\$16.06	\$7.94	\$24.00	6.69%	3.31%	10%	\$ 192.00	\$ 144.00	\$ 7,488.00
7	\$260.00 - \$299.99	\$280.00	\$18.06	\$9.94	\$28.00	6.45%	3.55%	10%	\$ 224.00	\$ 168.00	\$ 8,736.00
8	\$300.00 - \$339.99	\$320.00	\$20.06	\$11.94	\$32.00	6.27%	3.73%	10%	\$ 256.00	\$ 192.00	\$ 9,984.00
9	\$340.00 - \$379.99	\$360.00	\$22.02	\$13.98	\$36.00	6.12%	3.88%	10%	\$ 288.00	\$ 216.00	\$ 11,232.00
10	\$380.00 - \$419.99	\$400.00	\$23.85	\$16.15	\$40.00	5.96%	4.04%	10%	\$ 320.00	\$ 240.00	\$ 12,480.00
11	\$420.00 - \$459.99	\$440.00	\$25.55	\$18.45	\$44.00	5.81%	4.19%	10%	\$ 352.00	\$ 264.00	\$ 13,728.00
12	\$460.00 - \$499.99	\$480.00	\$27.14	\$20.86	\$48.00	5.65%	4.35%	10%	\$ 384.00	\$ 288.00	\$ 14,976.00
13	\$500.00 - OVER	\$520.00	\$28.60	\$23.40	\$52.00	5.50%	4.50%	10%	\$ 416.00	\$ 312.00	\$ 16,224.00
*(A) & (B)			\$2.60	\$0.00	\$2.60	Covers Employment Injury Benefit Only					
*(A) Applies to persons 60-64 years who have received or are receiving Social Security Benefit and (B) All Persons 65 years and older											

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Mar. 10, 2022

In less than a month, the Social Security Board (SSB) will implement the final increase to the rate of contribution that must be paid into the pension scheme, which is the last stage of a reform process which began in January of 2020, but was delayed a number of times due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the overall economy and the livelihood of a large number of citizens. Cabinet had opted to defer the final increase that had been scheduled to take effect on January

4, 2021. The rate of contribution will now finally increase from the current rate (9%) to 10%, starting April 4, 2022.

"The final phase of contribution increases from 9% to 10% previously set for January 4, 2021, was deferred for one year as per SI No. 184 of 2020. On December 14, 2021, based on approval by Cabinet it was announced to become effective Monday, April 4, 2022!" a release from the SSB states.

Along with the upping of the contribution rate to 10%, the ceiling

for weekly earnings to be covered by the scheme will also be lifted to \$520 — with the employer covering 5.50% and the employee 4.50%.

The new contribution rate is expected to remain in place for the foreseeable future, or until the SSB determines that an update is needed to adequately sustain the fund. From 2003 to 2019, a contribution rate of 8% was in place before a 0.5% increase in the rate of contribution was effected in July 2019 and the insurable wage ceiling was raised to \$440.

The release from SSB states, "The increase in contributions translates to an increase in benefits for all persons in the new wage ceiling."

# Call center agent killed by “friends”

*Emroy Tracey, 23, call center agent of Emerald BPO, was killed during an argument with friends.*

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Tues. Mar. 8, 2022

While socializing on Saturday afternoon, March 5, with two men he considered his friends, 23-year-old Emroy Tracey, an employee of Emerald BPO, was stabbed multiple times in the yard of neighbors of his after reportedly refusing to comply with a request they made. He died shortly after.

Police have indicated that Tracey was at the corner of Curassow and Iguana Street when he got into an altercation with the two men, who had reportedly eaten at his home on multiple occasions and were considered “sons” by his (Tracey’s) mother. During the altercation, one of the men took out a knife and proceeded to stab Tracey several times, which caused severe stab wounds and bleeding that compounded his sickle cell condition and caused his death.

David Cadle, Tracey’s stepfather, has indicated that on the night before, while he, Cadle, was at work, the two men had been socializing with Tracey and Tracey “gave them whatever small change he had in his pocket”. Cadle said he was told that the men then asked for food, and that Tracey’s mother (Cadle’s common-law wife) had told Tracey to give them the food they requested.

He went on to relate, “In the morning, they said hello to my missus on her way to and from [the] market, and in the afternoon while I was about to take a shower, because I was

working again in the night, I heard banging on the door: “MAMS, THEY KILLING YOUR SON OVER THERE,” so I hurried [to] put on my pants and I went across only to see my stepson there on the ground with blood all over the place. All I could have done along with a police officer, because the police [were] already there, to put him in the truck and take him to the hospital. That’s what transpired between Friday and Saturday [at] 3 o’clock.”

Previously, Tracey considered these men his close friends, and had shared with them whatever he had. It appears that it was possibly because he had not complied with their most recent request for money on Saturday that he was killed. Cadle believes the motive behind his stepson’s killing was pure greed for money.

“I can only surmise that they wanted money from him, because he had money on him, and he was unwilling, and that’s my summation. And he works hard for his own money, and he doesn’t really have any other persons he calls friends, except those two young men. They come here. They get what they ask for from him, from my wife, and we treat them like our own, and to only do this to him. The question is very burning, ‘Why?’” said Cadle.

Emily Spencer, Tracey’s sister, echoed those sentiments. She emphasized the fact that her brother was undeserving of the type of death he suffered. “I would’ve understood if my little brother was out there

harassing people, meddling, getting into trouble, and [having] a record. But, like I said, my little brother, did nothing to anyone. My little brother won’t talk to anyone if you don’t talk to him. He won’t mess with you ... My mother didn’t teach us to be out there harassing people. Why did they have to kill him for? They could’ve beat him up or [done] him something, but they didn’t have to stab my brother so many times. My brother asked them, ‘Why are you killing me for?’ I just want justice for my little brother. I don’t want any retaliation; we don’t want any problem, and we don’t want anything, because we are not like that. We’re just asking for justice and asking for anybody out there that knows anything to just please come forward and give your statement.”

In frustration, Cadle mentioned that several persons were in the yard during the stabbing incident and did nothing to intervene to prevent Tracey’s death.

“I asked, ‘Why couldn’t anybody [try] stop this?’ ‘Oh nobody big was here; lone female in the yard.’ I said, ‘Geez! You mean you people in this yard, even lone females deh yah, no board, no nothing laying around in the



**Emroy Tracey - deceased**

yard that you could use to stop these two from doing what they were doing?’ ‘Oh, we don’t keep any board in the yard because of the children.’ What kind of nonsense is that? Even if it was with the frying pan, hit one of them in the head or something,” said Cadle.

Police have formally arrested and charged Gilroy Thomas, 26, a Belizean security guard, and Tyrique Swaso, 24, a Belizean construction worker, jointly for the crime of murder.

Tracey had been working at Emerald BPO since October 2021.

## BECOL worker falls to death at Chalillo Dam

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Mar. 9, 2022

A BECOL worker fell from a high post while working at the Chalillo Dam this past weekend and was pronounced dead on arrival at the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital. Carlos Rodriguez, a resident of San Jose Succotz, was reportedly on duty on Saturday, March 5, when the fatal fall occurred, but no explanation is yet available as to what were the circumstances which led to the tragic accident.

A release issued by BECOL states, “BECOL is working closely with authorities on the investigation into the matter, and so no further information is available at this time. The health and safety of our employees remains paramount, as is the safe operation of the Chalillo Dam.”

The company further indicated that they have reached out to the family, friends, and co-workers of Rodriguez and they expressed deepest sympathies to everyone involved in, or affected by, the tragedy.

This is the second person to have fallen to his death while on duty as a member of a service crew this year. There is no indication whether or not



**Carlos Rodriguez - deceased**

Rodriguez was wearing the necessary safety gear or if some failure or malfunction led to his untimely death.

The company will continue to investigate, but so far there has been no indication that foul play was involved.

## Santa Rosa man hacks suspected burglar

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Mar. 9, 2022

A Guatemalan farmer was charged with manslaughter over the weekend after hacking to death a man suspected of burglarizing his home in the village of Santa Rosa, Stann Creek. Manuel Bo, a Guatemalan farmer, was told that a man known in the village as “Rabbit” (since identified as Jeremiah Ack, 37) had broken into his home sometime during the day on Saturday, March 5. According to the Police Department’s Communications Director, ASP Fitzroy Yearwood, Bo, after carrying out his own investigation, confronted Ack about the alleged burglary, and an argument erupted between the two. One of the two men at some point during the argument retrieved a machete, which ultimately was used by Bo to fatally wound Ack. It has been reported that Bo then called the police to the scene himself.

“This person has since been charged for manslaughter. This was Manuel Bo, a Guatemalan farmer of that village, who reported that his house was broken into sometime during the day,” ASP Yearwood told reporters at a press briefing. Yearwood further explained, “Around 4:05 p.m., when police visited that scene ... he showed them the lifeless body of Jeremiah Ack, a thirty-seven-year-old Belizean, unemployed of Santa Rosa Village. He reported to police that while he was doing his own investigation into the burglary at his house, he approached Ack, where an



**ASP Fitzroy Yearwood**

argument ensued between both men and he caused the injuries to Mr. Ack. He has since been charged for manslaughter.”

Yearwood noted that the Director of Public Prosecutions was consulted prior to the levying of the charges against Bo, and that it was on the basis of her recommendation that a charge of manslaughter, and not murder, was brought against him.

“I am certain that it had to be that investigators found out that either one: he didn’t pull the weapon that may have caused the fatal injury to Rabbit, or else he would have been charged for murder, as opposed to manslaughter,” ASP Yearwood stated, while explaining the various factors that led to the decision to charge Bo with manslaughter.

According to reports from some residents of Santa Rosa, Ack was known in the village to cause mischief from time to time.

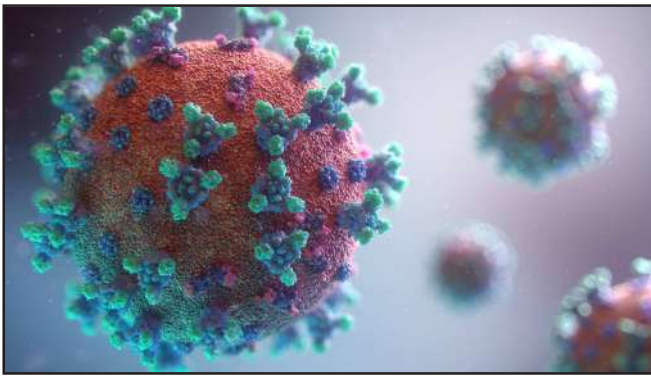
# COVID-19 positivity rate below 5%

by *Khaila Gentle*

BELIZE CITY, Tues. Mar. 8, 2022

The most recent COVID-19 report from the Ministry of Health & Wellness (which shows that the country's positivity rate currently stands at 3.91%, with only 34 cases detected on Friday, March 4) and the February 13th Epidemiological Update by the World Health Organization (WHO) have both shown that there has been a significant decline in the number of COVID-19 cases both locally and globally over the past few weeks, with all data suggesting that the peak of the Omicron wave could be nearing its end. According to the World Health Organization, during the week of February 7 to February 13, the world saw a 19% decrease in cases, while the number of global deaths remained stable. The Americas specifically saw a 32% decrease in the number of cases that week. This decline was also reflected in our own COVID-19 reports issued by the Ministry of Health and Wellness. In the month of January, there were a record-breaking number of cases, with over a thousand being reported in just one day. And up until early February, the number of daily reported cases remained in the upper hundreds. Since then, there has been a steady decline, with the number of cases falling to double digits by the end of February.

In its update, WHO also revealed that all previous COVID-19 Variants of Concern (Alpha, Beta, Gamma, and Delta) have been on the decline, as have Variants of Interest (Lambda and Mu) due to the global dominance of Omicron, which currently constitutes



about 98% of all COVID-19 specimens.

The recent surge and subsequent decline in cases have led several countries, Belize included, to ease pandemic restrictions—a welcomed change to many global citizens suffering from pandemic fatigue. But it remains to be seen whether this sudden downturn in COVID-19 numbers will remain constant and for how long, especially after the abolition of the nightly curfew in Belize and partial lifting of mask mandates resulted in large gatherings across the country this weekend, including during the launch and conclusion of the first La Ruta Maya Belize River Challenge in over a year. Despite several countries across the globe breathing a brief sigh of relief, many experts have warned that the threat of new variants, alongside inconsistent levels of immunity and inequitable vaccine distribution, still exists.

According to WHO, the “acute phase” of the pandemic, at least, could be over by this summer, but only if about 70% of the world's population is vaccinated by that time. Even with a decline in cases, though, the WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has advised that countries should refrain from prematurely thinking that the end of the pandemic is imminent.

# Corozal teen shot by ex-stepfather

*Andre Sanker, 18, was allegedly shot once in the back by his ex-stepfather while socializing. Doctors fear he may be permanently paralyzed.*



**Andre Sanker - shooting victim**

by *Charles Gladden*

COROZAL TOWN, Tues. Mar. 8, 2022

Andre Sanker, 18, a resident of Corozal Town, was shot once—allegedly by his stepfather—while he was socializing on a verandah with two friends of his on Tuesday, March 2, at about 10:30 p.m.

As we mentioned in last Friday's edition of the AMANDALA, Sanker was with two of his friends on a verandah on F & D Street when a lone gunman approached them from behind the home and fired a single shot at Sanker that hit him in his lower back.

Marlyn Galvez, Sanker's sister, told AMANDALA this week that after Sanker was discharged from the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital (KHMH), the neurologist who treated him told her that her brother may likely be paralyzed.

“He ran some CT scans, he did ultrasounds and different stuff, and there we met with Dr. Coye, who is the neurologist, and the following day the results came back, and he mentioned to us, due to his injuries he will not be able to move his legs, so he will be paralyzed. He said the chances of him walking would be slim to none at the moment; maybe, in the future, he could at least move his legs a little; it is not guaranteed he will be able to walk,” she said.

In regard to the identity of the gunman who caused her brother's devastating injury, Galvez noted, “From the moment he left Corozal Community Hospital, he met a policeman that was accompanying the ambulance, and he explained to the policeman who it was and he mentioned the same name. He gave [a] description as to what the person

was wearing. And then, on the 4th, when police officers came to KHMH, it was the same person he was describing and the same clothes.”

Galvez told us that they believe the shooter was her mother's ex-boyfriend, as he had made threats towards her the day before the shooting incident had occurred.

“He had made threats to our mother because they broke up, and the relationship that they had was toxic. It was a very abusive relationship, and it is sad she stayed in the relationship. When they broke up, he made threats to her, telling her he will kill her then kill himself, and then the day before the incident occurred, which would have been the first of March, he went [to] her job site at the Corozal Hospital and threaten her; if he can't have her, no one else will, and he will kill one of her sons that is her beloved,” mentioned Galvez.

“The young man that was living with my mother, wasn't a stepdad that you can say they have good memories of. He was not a nice person to them. He always made it difficult for them to even enter the house, so he went with [the] intention to do what he did. My brother mentioned to me that when he fell to the ground after he received the shot to his back, the guy stood around him to ensure that he was dead, so my brother said he just decided to play dead on the ground so that he doesn't unload more bullets on him,” said Galvez.

Galvez mentioned that Sanker will be transported once again to the Corozal Community Hospital and the family will be seeking a second opinion on his condition.

Galvez is pleading for assistance for her brother, who she says is a hardworking individual and isn't troublesome.

“I would like to beg the general public: if anyone finds it in their heart to just [helping] out this young man. He's only eighteen years old, he's a very hard-working person. He isn't a [troubled] person at all. He works hard for his money, so if anybody finds it in their heart and wants to reach out, they can contact me on my cell phone number, which is 613-4230, or they can find me on Facebook at Marlyn Galvez,” she said.

# Xaibe resident wanted for attempted murder

by *Charles Gladden*

BELIZE CITY, Tues. Mar. 8, 2022

A resident of Xaibe village is wanted by police for attempted murder after he inflicted injuries on a fellow villager, on Sunday, March 6.

Police have reported that the victim, Ermin Eligio Eloy Basto, 54,

a Belizean laborer of Xaibe Village, Corozal District, who was taken to the Corozal Community Hospital to receive treatment for a large chop wound to the body, had been involved in an altercation with Eulogio Noh, a 44-year-old Belizean laborer, also of Xaibe, at about 6:30 p.m. that day, and it was during that altercation that Noh inflicted the injury to Basto with a machete.

According to police, Ermin Basto has been listed in a stable condition at the Corozal Community Hospital. This morning police reported that Noh was captured and is in custody.

**Eulogio Noh Jr.**



**On 06 March 2022, Eulogio Noh Jr, 44yrs, Belizean laborer of Xaibe Village, Corozal District, inflicted severe machete wounds upon fellow villager Erminio Basto, 54yrs.**



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# End of plenty opportunities, living in even leaner times

The two decades between 1998 and 2018 could be described as the period of plenty opportunities for Belize. The only two governments we've ever had, the only two it seems we could ever have because of our First-Past-The-Post electoral system, shared the two decades equally—the PUP holding power between 1998 and 2008, and the UDP's three terms, which ended in 2020, spanning the second decade.

The PUP came to power in 1998 with an overwhelming mandate. Our country was cash poor but rich with assets—telecommunications, electricity and water—which the PUP proceeded to sell to private foreign interests. We were in a good position to take on loans, and borrow we did, from every entity that saw the potential in sharing in our development.

The PUP ended up on the rocks, and it put much of the blame for its failure on foul weather, since hurricanes had hit our most prized tourism areas, San Pedro and Placencia, in successive years. But some elements in the PUP government were also corrupt, and the PUP government borrowed recklessly, with much of the loans it took coming from interest-rate-heavy private sources.

The country was in heavy debt when the UDP drubbed the PUP at the polls in 2008, but the Alba Petro Caribe was rolling, and oil from wells in the Spanish Lookout area were gushing. No government in the history of our country had more liquidity than the two UDP governments between 2008 and 2015.

The UDP ended up on the rocks also, and the party put

much of the blame for its failure on the debt it inherited from the PUP, the so-called Superbond. But the UDP spent more time making political mileage off the debt than it did addressing it; the party became corrupt, and it mishandled the necessary re-nationalization of the country's telecommunications company, BTL, after the private owner(s) pushed private profit over development of the country.

In the last two years of the UDP's third term, we were out of the period of plenty opportunities. By 2018, the Alba Petro Caribe program had dried up, the BNE oil wells had dropped to a trickle and two of our major agro-industries, citrus and farmed shrimp, were on life support after years of battling persistent, crippling diseases. When the world fell into the grip of the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020, our economy had just recorded a fourth consecutive quarter of decline.

When the PUP came to power in November 2020, it was a far different situation from the one they found in 1998. Belize was really broke this time, and, in the grip of the pandemic, we were

borrowing a million dollars a day just to get by.

Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño has said that the most important sacrifice to help stabilize our economy and get us back on the road to recovery was made by the people in public employ. It took some maneuvering, but on May 28, 2021, the government was able to pass a motion that saw most of its 15,000 or so employees take a 10% pay cut, after they had already suffered an increment freeze which the previous government had implemented in 2020.

Despite the pandemic being unrelenting, our economy has been recording growth every quarter, and the recent International Monetary Fund report was glowing. Most everyone knows those reports aren't consistent with the reality on the ground. The finances of thousands upon thousands remain in a depressed state; many who were poor before the pandemic began are poorer now, and many who were not doing too badly have fallen into poverty. But the government was sufficiently buoyed by the economic reports to announce on February 28, 2022 that on July 1 it would be restoring the 10% it took from its employees last year.

Belizeans are happy that public employees will get their salaries restored. The more money public employees get in their paychecks, the more they will have to buy the goods and services produced/provided by the rest of us. The next item that will make Belizeans very happy is relief from the high prices at the fuel pumps. Our present government, in fact all our governments in recent memory, have promised to reduce the price of fuel in Belize, and none has delivered. The price of oil has increased steadily since the pandemic began, and so has the price of many other commodities. Oil fuels business, and as the price of oil goes, so goes the cost of production and transportation.

It is no secret that our government is heavily dependent on fuel taxes, but if knowing that we are not the only people being gouged at the fuel pump would give us "heart", it must be noted that we are not. 45% of the price Belizeans pay at the fuel pump goes back to GOB. UHY (Urbach Hacker Young International Limited), in the story "European Companies Struggling with the World's Highest Fuel Costs", says that in France, Germany and the UK 60% of the cost of fuel is due to taxes.

There are obvious pros to cheaper fuel, and it is essential in a developing economy, but in the immediate term, GOB would have a shortfall, relative to the reduction in taxation. The perfect example of a "trickle down economy" is one where fuel is kept at its cheapest. In that kind of economy the private sector would be expected to absorb the hundreds or thousands who would lose their government jobs. At the least, in the period of "plenty opportunities," we had the reserves to cushion the shocks if the tax on fuel had been greatly reduced.

With the period of "plenty opportunities" in the past, today our country is in a bind, and the focus now is mostly on survival. The pandemic caused fuel prices to go up, and now, to add fuel to our woes, Russia invaded Ukraine. The price of Brent crude was up to around US\$90 per barrel in January this year, and within days the war in the Baltics has caused the price to jump to around US\$130 a barrel.

Things are bound to get a lot harder if the war in the Baltics is prolonged. If the price of fuel at the pumps keeps rising, people will buy less, and businesses will stagnate. But in these extraordinary times in which we are living, GOB might contemplate not doing anything until its present formula actually stops yielding revenue, as it has over the years.

With the price of fuel spiraling upward, things are looking to get a lot leaner. But all isn't lost. As Barbados's superstar prime minister reminded us last week, we'll get by if we eat more of what we grow.



(estb. 1969)

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## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

### SUMMARY:

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

### DEPARTMENT DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

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

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

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

### KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL REQUIREMENTS:

Candidates will need to show evidence of the following:

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

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

### COMPETENCIES TO BE EVALUATED ON:

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

### EXPECTATIONS:

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

### EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS:

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

Interested persons can send your application letter with your detailed resume **March 21, 2022** to:

*Human Resources Manager*

Belize Water Services Limited,

P.O. Box 150, Central American Boulevard, Belize City, Belize

Email : [hr@bwsli.com.bz](mailto:hr@bwsli.com.bz)

**BWS: Delivering water and more...**

# Third narco-plane landing in 2 weeks

Continued from Page 1

mass in the midst of a lagoon off the Southern Highway. The Joint Intelligence Operation Center (JIOC) was notified that the aircraft was en route to Belize around 9:00 o'clock that night, but a small group of officers on the ground who were heading to the landing site were again outmaneuvered and were thwarted in their efforts to reach the site by spikes that had been placed in the surrounding area. They were thus unable to reach the location of the landing in time to disrupt the off-loading and transportation of the plane's cargo, which could have been as much as a tonne of cocaine, given the carrying capacity of the jet. That cargo was then transported by ATV's and loaded onto boats which presumably took the drugs into Mexican waters.

By now, the cargo, likely cocaine from South America, has been transported into Mexican territory, and the high-end aircraft remains bogged in the soft, muddy area just a short distance from Monkey River Village in Southern Belize.

"Sometime after 9:00 p.m. last night, a track was declared leaving South America and heading our way. The information was relayed through J.I.O.C., and based on that, J.I.O.C. contacted our operations commander for us to relinquish operation of the, or control of the operation teams, that is the Q.R.T. or the A.N.U. and some elements of the M.I.T. and Special

Patrol Unit to them for deployment in the respective areas that we would normally deploy. As you would know, that in order to maximize on our resources, we would normally have police, B.D.F., and Coast Guard deployed. And so that was done from around 9:30 p.m. last night, and we continued to monitor the track until it entered our airspace, which was sometime after 1:00 a.m. last night, and it passed our airspace and went into Mexico's airspace," Commissioner of Police, Chester Williams told reporters during a Zoom briefing on Friday following police's initial investigation.

He said that the jet then made an abrupt turn and re-entered Belize's airspace, where it headed to the remote area off the Southern Highway, where it landed.

"It stayed over Mexico for a few minutes, and then it made a turn and came back into our airspace." ComPol Williams said, adding, "The plane then came and went south and made landing on a small little island-type area in the Monkey River area."

A four-man team of police officers was stationed about 10 miles from the landing location and proceeded to make their way to the area, but according to ComPol Williams, were thwarted by spikes left on the road by the narcos – similar to what took place when a drug plane landed near Carmelita Village on February 21.

"We had a team which was based about ten miles away from where the plane landed, but that was just a four-

man team. Notwithstanding that, the team attempted to go to the area where the plane landed, but again, they were met by spikes on the road and that disabled the vehicle from proceeding to the particular area," Williams said.

According to Williams, the area in which the plane landed is very difficult to access, since it is an island-type land mass that is surrounded by a deep lagoon. The delay caused by the difficulties police encountered in traversing the terrain that leads to the area, coupled with the need to lean on Coast Guard vessels to reach the area by boat, prevented officers from reaching the off-loading area and making any attempt to avert the

operation. (It has been reported by 7News that at some point some officers had used a boat belonging to a nearby shrimp farm, whose workers had heard the landing of the plane, to attempt to get to the site.)

"Now, remember, I said that this area is surrounded by water, and so, the road that had the spike would have only taken the team probably about a mile or so from where the plane had landed, and then when they got to that location, there is a lagoon that they would have had to cross, a very deep lagoon. And so by foot, the team was not able to get to the location. They had to use boats.

Please turn to Page 33

Form of First Notice

**In The Matter of the International Business Companies Act (Chapter 270) of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2011**

And


**In Voluntary Liquidation, Members' Winding Up and Dissolution**

**TAKE NOTICE** that the following companies are in dissolution:

NAME	REG. NO.
ALPHA SERVICES LIMITED	2213
BELIZE ESCROW COMPANY INC.	4186

The date of commencement of the dissolution is the 10<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2022, and the liquidator is Alpha Services Limited of No. 84 Albert Street, Belize City, Belize. Any claims against the Company should be forwarded to Barrow & Williams LLP, attorneys-at-law for Alpha Services Limited the liquidator, within 30 days of this Notice.

Dated the 10<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2022.

  
**BARROW & WILLIAMS LLP**  
84 ALBERT STREET  
Email: attorneys@barrowandwilliams.com



## BELIZE CITY COUNCIL NOTICE TO ABATE NUISANCE

Pursuant to sections 138 & 140 of the Public Health Act, the Belize City Council hereby serves notice on the following owners or agencies of the following properties to abate nuisance by cutting all overgrown vegetation within fourteen (14) Days of publication of this Notice.

Owner	LOT #	PARCEL #	HOUSE #	STREET
Jose Balan	8368	467		Balan Street
Andrea E Saragoza	8369	468		Diego Street
Elsa Marina & Ming Hsien Cheng	8068	460		Giles Street
Phillip Wright	8081/82	382/83		Giles Street
Erica & Glenwayne Grant	8234	587		Administration Drive
Tania M. O'keefie	3126	81		Albert Hoy Street
ALMOG Holding Limited	12A	1701		Southern Foreshore
ALMOG Holding Limited		835		Southern Foreshore
ALMOG Holding Limited	15A	834		Southern Foreshore
Marie G/ Carol G./ Robert W. Gardiner & Reich	37A	1266		Southern Foreshore
Russell Alexander Young	37C	1562	41	Southern Foreshore
S. Alfred Pinks	127			Albert Street
Lionel Cabral	27	3235		Lauren Burgess Crescent
Israel D Gonzalez/ Sandra Ochoa	25	3237		Lauren Burgess Crescent
Adrian A Assad	21	3241		Lauren Burgess Crescent
Maria De Los Angeles Habet		2606		Mercy Lane
Clarisa Vessal	59		119	Neal Pen Road
Linda Gomez	46		95	Neal Pen Road
Paulette & Troy Sutherland	72A		162	Neal Pen Road
Lloyd Wright Subdivision		1419		Lawrence Avenue
Hortense Olive Clarke (Est.)	41	892		Lawrence Avenue
Lupita Ouan	33	884		Lawrence Avenue
Antonio & Lupita Ouan	32	879		Lawrence Avenue
Jermaine Jerris Hendy	7308	1256		McKenzie Lane
Hugo Silvia	7301			McKenzie Lane

**Kindly be advised that if any changes have been made to the ownership of any property in this listing above, it is the onus of the new owner to update the Council. If the nuisance has been abated, kindly disregard this notice.**



## El fin de abundantes oportunidades, viviendo en tiempos aún más difíciles

Las dos décadas entre 1998 y 2018 podrían describirse como el período de muchas oportunidades para Belize. Los únicos dos gobiernos que hemos tenido, los únicos dos que parece que podríamos tener debido a nuestro sistema electoral de mayoría simple, compartieron las dos décadas por igual: el PUP ocupó el poder entre 1998 y 2008, y el UDP tuvo tres mandatos, que finalizaron en 2020, y abarcan la segunda década.

El PUP llegó al poder en 1998 con un mandato abrumador. Nuestro país era pobre en efectivo pero rico en activos - telecomunicaciones, electricidad y agua - que el PUP procedió a vender a intereses privados extranjeros. Estábamos en una buena posición para tomar préstamos, cosa que hicimos, de todas las entidades que vieron el potencial de compartir nuestro desarrollo.

El PUP terminó contra las rocas, y atribuyó gran parte de la culpa de su fracaso al mal clima, ya que los huracanes habían azotado nuestras áreas turísticas más preciadas, San Pedro y Placencia, en años sucesivos. Pero algunos elementos en el gobierno PUP también eran corruptos, y el gobierno del PUP tomó prestado imprudentemente, y gran parte de los préstamos que tomó provinieron de fuentes privadas con altas tasas de interés.

El país estaba muy endeudado cuando el UDP derrotó al PUP en las urnas en 2008, pero el Alba Petro Caribe estaba rodando y el petróleo de los pozos en el área de Spanish Lookout brotaba a borbotones. Ningún gobierno en la historia de nuestro país tuvo más liquidez que los dos gobiernos UDP entre 2008 y 2015.

El UDP también terminó en las rocas, y el partido atribuyó gran parte de la culpa de su fracaso a la deuda que heredó del PUP, el llamado súper bono. Pero el UDP dedicó más tiempo a sacar provecho político de la deuda que a abordarla; el partido se volvió corrupto y manejó mal la necesaria renacionalización de la compañía de telecomunicaciones del país, BTL, después de que los propietarios privados antepusieron las ganancias privadas al desarrollo del país.

En los últimos dos años del tercer mandato del UDP, estuvimos fuera del período de muchas oportunidades. Para 2018, el programa Alba Petro Caribe se había secado, los pozos de petróleo de BNE se habían reducido a un goteo y dos de nuestras principales agroindustrias, cítricos y camarones de cultivo, estaban en soporte vital después de años de luchar contra enfermedades persistentes y devastadoras. Cuando el mundo cayó en las garras de la pandemia de Covid-19 en marzo de 2020, nuestra economía acababa de registrar un cuarto trimestre consecutivo de empeoramiento.

Cuando el PUP llegó al poder en noviembre de 2020, era una situación muy diferente a la que encontraron en 1998. Esta vez, Belize estaba realmente arruinado y, en medio de la pandemia, pedíamos prestado un millón de dólares al día solo para sobrevivir.

El Primer Ministro, el Honorable John Briceño ha dicho que el sacrificio más importante para ayudar a estabilizar nuestra economía y ponernos de nuevo en el camino de la recuperación lo hicieron las personas con empleo público. Tomó algunas maniobras, pero el 28 de mayo de 2021, el gobierno pudo aprobar una moción que vio a la mayoría de sus aproximadamente 15.000 empleados aceptar un recorte salarial del 10%, después de que ya habían sufrido un congelamiento de incremento que el gobierno anterior había implementado en 2020.

A pesar de que la pandemia es implacable, nuestra economía ha registrado un crecimiento cada trimestre y el informe reciente del Fondo Monetario Internacional fue resplandeciente. Casi todo el mundo sabe que esos informes

no son consistentes con la realidad sobre el terreno. Las finanzas de miles y miles permanecen en un estado deprimido; muchos que eran pobres antes de que comenzara la pandemia son más pobres ahora, y muchos a los que no les iba tan mal han caído en la pobreza. Pero el gobierno se sintió lo suficientemente animado por los informes económicos para anunciar el 28 de febrero de 2022 que el 1 de julio restauraría el 10% que tomó de sus empleados el año pasado.

Los beliceños están felices de que los empleados públicos recuperen sus salarios. Cuanto más dinero reciban los empleados públicos en sus cheques de pago, más tendrán para comprar los bienes y servicios que producimos/ brindamos el resto de nosotros. El siguiente elemento que hará muy felices a los beliceños es el alivio de los altos precios en las bombas de combustible. Nuestro gobierno actual, de hecho, todos nuestros gobiernos en la memoria reciente, han prometido reducir el precio del combustible en Belize, y ninguno ha cumplido. El precio del petróleo ha aumentado constantemente desde que comenzó la pandemia, al igual que el precio de muchos otros productos básicos. El petróleo impulsa los negocios, y a medida que sube el precio del petróleo, también sube el costo de producción y transporte.

No es ningún secreto que nuestro gobierno depende en gran medida de los impuestos sobre el combustible, pero si saber que no somos las únicas personas a las que están estafando en la bomba de combustible nos daría ánimo, debe tenerse en cuenta que no es el caso. 45% del precio que los beliceños pagan en la bomba de combustible vuelve al Gobierno de Belize. UHY (Urbach Hacker Young International Limited), en el artículo "European Companies Struggling with the World's Highest Fuel Costs", dice que en Francia, Alemania y Reino Unido el 60% del coste del combustible se debe a los impuestos.

Hay ventajas obvias para el combustible más barato, y es esencial en una economía en desarrollo, pero en el plazo inmediato, el Gobierno de Belize tendría un déficit en relación con la reducción de impuestos. El ejemplo perfecto de una "economía de goteo" es aquella en la que el combustible se mantiene en su punto más barato. En ese tipo de economía, se esperaría que el sector privado absorbiera a los cientos o miles que perderían sus empleos en el gobierno. Al menos, en el período de "muchas oportunidades", teníamos las reservas para amortiguar los choques si el impuesto sobre el combustible se hubiera reducido considerablemente.

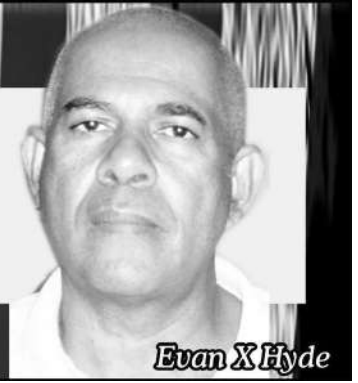
Con el período de "muchas oportunidades" en el pasado, hoy nuestro país está en un aprieto, y el enfoque ahora es principalmente sobre la supervivencia. La pandemia provocó que los precios del combustible subieran y ahora, para añadir combustible a nuestros problemas, Rusia invadió Ucrania. El precio del crudo Brent rondaba los 90 dólares por barril en enero de este año y, en cuestión de días, la guerra en el Báltico ha provocado que el precio salte a unos 130 dólares por barril.

Las cosas se pondrán mucho más difíciles si se prolonga la guerra en el Báltico. Si el precio del combustible en las bombas sigue aumentando, la gente comprará menos y las empresas se estancarán. Pero en estos tiempos extraordinarios en los que vivimos, el Gobierno de Belize podría contemplar no hacer nada hasta que su fórmula actual deje de generar ingresos, como lo ha hecho a lo largo de los años.

Con el precio del combustible subiendo en espiral, las cosas parecen volverse mucho más austeras. Pero no todo está perdido. Como nos recordó la primera ministra superestrella de Barbados la semana pasada, saldremos adelante si comemos más de lo que cultivamos.



# From the Publisher



Evan X Hyde

When the COVID-19 virus broke out in March of 2020, almost two years ago, I remember thinking to myself that the only way our roots people could survive this catastrophe was if there were some transfer of wealth from Belize's super rich to the poor. This did not occur. In fact, the super rich grabbed more.

As time went along, I asked my eldest son, Mose, how it was that our people were surviving. I knew that things had been rough even before the coronavirus, so the virus was a case of, as we say, from bad to worse. Mose said that it was the Belizean diaspora in the United States which had made survival in the home country possible. In the absence of any other explanation, I accepted his analysis.

When we watch our destitute and mentally challenged staggering along so pitifully along the streets of the old capital, those of us who know the history feel a dagger in our chest. These are our people, and there was a time, for centuries in fact, that our people, our enslaved people, were the backbone of this territory. Our enslaved people for centuries were the vast majority of the population in this British colony, which was called British Honduras by the colonial masters in London.

All Guatemalan children are taught in school that the land of Belize was stolen from Guatemala by the British, and that we Belizeans of color who live here were British chattel. That is a whole history in itself, and it will be culminating with a judgment by the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

I have said to you before that we Belizeans were more fortunate than other British subjects in this Caribbean region, because we had

a land bridge through Mexico to the United States of America, the richest economy in the world. British Honduras was the only British possession in Spanish-speaking Central America. So that, when American immigration officials at the border between the U.S. and Mexico heard black people speaking English, they assumed such individuals were black Americans, not "wetbacks."

It was World War II which opened the eyes of the working class in B.H. to the wealth and largesse of America, as compared to the suffering being imposed on us by the "geechy" British. During World War II (1939-1945), Belizean workers were hired to work in the Canal Zone in Panama, where the Americans ran things. Belizeans began to long to travel to the United States.

The wider context of this situation had to do with the Monroe Doctrine, a declaration by the United States government in 1823 that they would no longer tolerate interference in the Western Hemisphere by any European power, a designation which would include Great Britain, which was in possession of British Honduras in 1823. (The United States of America had declared independence from Great Britain in 1776.)

But there was a special relationship between the U.S. and the U.K. in the nineteenth century (white supremacy), so that in 1859 the United States "godfathered" a deal whereby Guatemala acceded to international boundaries to define The Jewel — 8,867 square miles — as British territory.

A few decades later, the ruling business/industrial and military classes in Guatemala began to

complain about the 1859 Treaty, but in 1919 there was a massive uprising by the black people in Belize (the so-called "British blacks") which was essentially rejecting British colonial rule. Still, Guatemala, the hostile 1,000-pound gorilla, remained on Belize's western and southern borders, and it was the British who had to send a warship here in 1948 to protect Belizeans, the majority of whom were black.

By 1950, however, because the British devalued the Belizean dollar, Belizeans began to agitate for self-government and independence. This original Belizean thrust for self-rule was supported between 1951 and 1954 by a Guatemalan government led by Jacobo Arbenz.

But Arbenz was too nationalistic for the Americans, so Washington organized his overthrow and began installing CIA puppets like Carlos Castillo Armas and Miguel Ydigoras Fuentes to run Guatemala. The result was a

terrible civil war in Guatemala, which began in 1960 and lasted until 1996.

During this period of bloody violence in the republic, Belize was completely peaceful, and achieved self-government in 1964. The British were now beginning to transfer British Honduras to the hegemony of the Americans who, following Hurricane Hattie in 1961, began to absorb Belize's black population into the Union.

Today, Belize's is a minority black population. The transfer from majority black to minority black was accomplished peacefully because we Belizeans wanted to go north.

So now, this is where Belize is today, where Washington decided for us to be. The only thing that really makes us different from the two Central American republics around us — Guatemala and Honduras — is that English is the official language in Belize. When that changes, this becomes a whole new ball game. Trust me.

## 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.



## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) invites applicants for the functions of National Consultant for the Surveillance of NCDs and risk factors

**Duty station:** Belize City

**Qualifications:** *Essential:* A Bachelor's degree in one of the health, social or management sciences from a recognized university  
*Desirable:* Postgraduate studies in public health or related field with emphasis on Epidemiology and Surveillance of NCDs and risk factors

**Experience:** *Essential:* At least 5 years national experience in the related field  
*Desirable:* working experience in health services project management

### Skills:

- Theoretical and practical expertise in all aspects related to surveillance, prevention, and control of Noncommunicable diseases, and the promotion of health, as well as a thorough knowledge of epidemiology, prevention, and control methods.
- Ability to analyze factors, trends, and forecast scenarios based on current surveillance systems and possesses the capability to develop and plan innovative and appropriate solutions for their improvement.
- Strong public health and strategic thinking background showing resourcefulness, initiative, leadership qualities and skills to deal with difficult situations and sensitive areas.
- Ability to plan and carry out technical cooperation initiatives on NCDs with emphasis on epidemiology and surveillance of NCDs and risk factors
- Knowledge of Global Strategies for the prevention and control of NCDs as well as regional, subregional, and national situation on NCDs.
- Knowledge of health services policies and administration within the framework of the model of family and community health.
- Knowledge and skills in the formulation of technical cooperation interventions and in the development of criteria and instruments for evaluating program interventions, including resource mobilization and grant management.
- Strong professional oral and writing skills, including the development of reports, oral presentations, and technical/persuasive documents for consideration at the highest levels of the Organization.
- Demonstrated ability to effectively use a computer and utilize software programs such as Microsoft Office Word, Excel, PowerPoint, SharePoint, and Outlook. Other IT skills and knowledge of other software programs for Statistical Analysis, Data Exploratory Analysis and Project Management would be an asset.

**Languages:** Very good knowledge of English and working knowledge of Spanish

**Deadline:** Letter of application, Curriculum Vitae, and two current letters of recommendation should be sent to [blzmail@paho.org](mailto:blzmail@paho.org) or to P.O. Box 1834, Belize City no later than **March 18, 2022**.

For further details visit our website <https://www.paho.org/en/vacancies> An interview will be held for this position and only candidates under serious consideration will be contacted.

PAHO/WHO has a smoke-free environment and does not recruit smokers or users of any form of tobacco.

# MADISON'S

AUCTIONS AND APPRAISALS LLP

## PUBLIC AUCTION

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



**Registration Section**  
Iguana Creek

**Block**  
18

**Parcel**  
67

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

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

[www.madisons.bz](http://www.madisons.bz) **TERMS: 10% DEPOSIT. BALANCE IN 14 DAYS**

AUCTIONEER: SYLVANO GUERRERO  
TELEPHONE: +501-610-3916  
EMAIL: [SG@MADISONS.BZ](mailto:SG@MADISONS.BZ)  
FACEBOOK: MADISONSAA

ALPHA BUSINESS CENTRE  
2118 GUAVA STREET  
BELAMA PHASE 1  
BELIZE CITY, BELIZE



## CONSULTANCY NOTICE

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



#### BACKGROUND

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

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

#### OBJECTIVES

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

The consultant will be expected to develop and submit the following to the Department for implementation.

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

#### QUALIFICATIONS

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

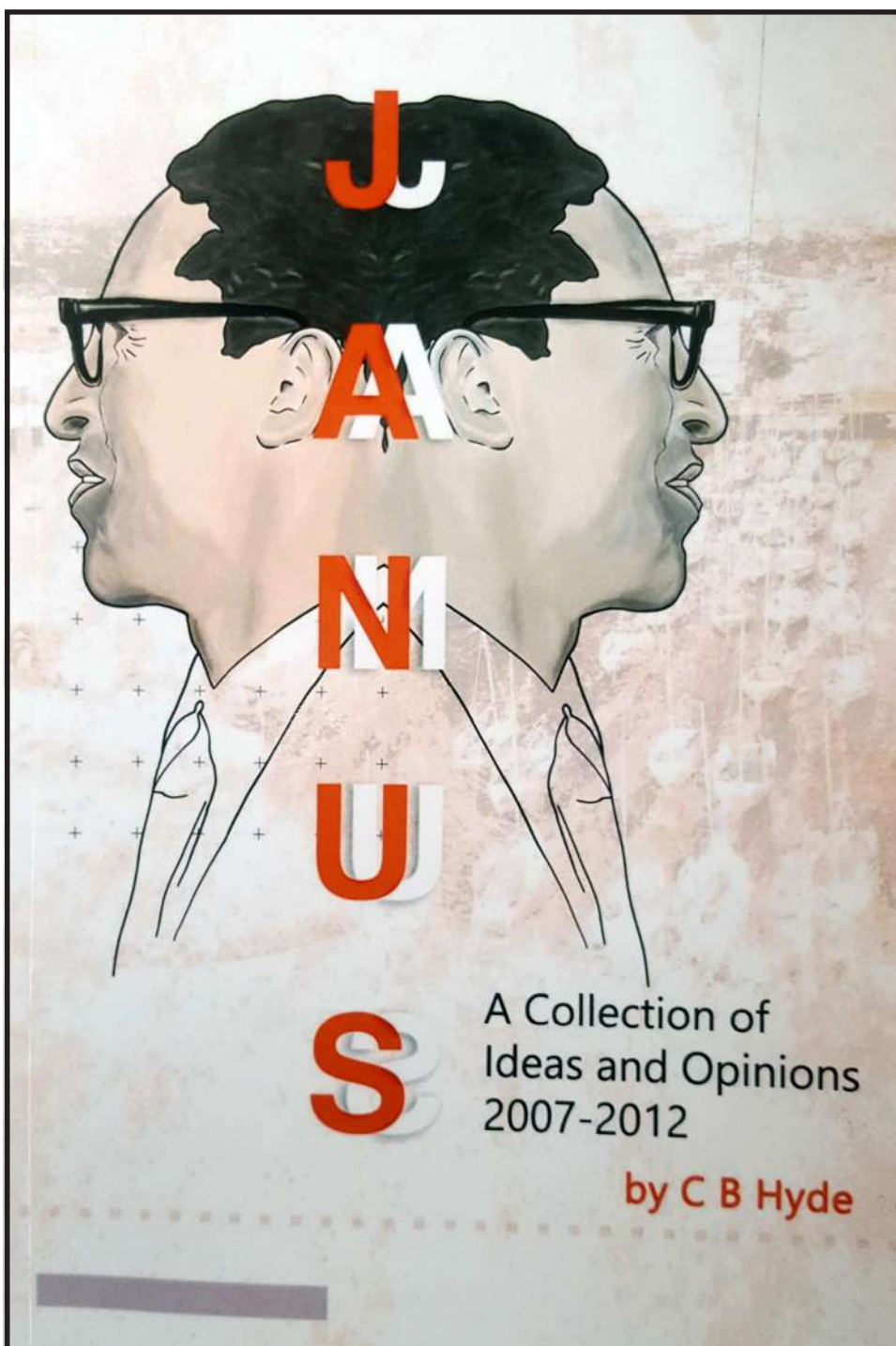
#### SUBMISSION PROCESS

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

#### DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION

The deadline for the submissions of packages has now been extended from February 24, 2022, to March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 3:30 pm.

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



# Tell those purists to stand down

by Colin Hyde

Thank you, Brother Clinton Canul Luna, for pointing out that we Kriol da noh Creole. In his piece last Friday, Brother Clinton said we are not a race, we are a mix-up, mix-up, and I'm cool with that. Oh, incidentally, Brother Clinton, you should have no indecision about which mix-up tribe you belong to. From your phenotype and the places you've lived, you da Mestizo.

Aha, Brother Henry Young told me that once when he was up in the north districts, a Mestizo, in some discussion about our tribes, identified himself as Spanish, and Henry said he told him, "Yu daam right. An I da Englishman." Henry Young is one of those elder brothers, my dad too, who should really be holding beef with Pere. I bet if those whiskey-swilling upper crust guys had known that it's on our books that doctors can prescribe weed, they would have called a meeting with the BMDA, and instead of good people sneaking around corners for a ten grams, all roads would have led to the pharmacy.

Ha, ha, you know I don't like how these word-specialist lawyers and magistrates take advantage of our slowness of tongue, but a classic is a classic, got to get its due. Miss Emma told me that in a paternity suit a man told Magistrate Balderamos he was not the father of the child because the tot didn't look like him, and the magistrate replied: "Yu daam right, this baby noh luk like you; ih luk like me. But you wahn mind ahn."

Brother Luna said Kriol is broken, ungrammatical English... only because I want to remain friends with him, I'll let that roll. Bah to these purists who get flustered

whenever Kriol is called a language. I seh to unu to cool it; unu will get counseled by the proper authority, the distinguished linguist, Dakta Silvaana Udz, who picked up the baton from our celebrated previous GG, the honorable Dr. Colville. At my level, all I can say is it didn't take me long to realize that this work on the true national language of Belize, to develop a spelling system and give us a dictionary, is all treasure.

These daam purists! Their hero, Mr. Ogden Nash, said the tour guide tell Professor Twist that haligayta gaan wid ih beautiful wife and instead of him getting together a party to go and rescue the woman in distress, he told them they were putting blame on the wrong reptile, that the culprit had to have been a crocodile.

Jawj Prais seh when the time come fu taak wi wahn taak, an we know Kriol ku taak, but sometimes wi haffu write. We all know that oral history gets lost. The difficulty was how to communicate, pass on the flayva on paypa, in print. We can't write, *Tiger gone with Banner dog*. But since the Kriol Prajek come along, wi kud. Yes, Sir, what yu mean is: *taiga gaahn wid Banna daag*.

## I "vote" for a "rogue" Chief Justice

An extremely famous man said we should judge a person by the content of their character, not by the color of their skin; but on the face of it, I had to wholeheartedly agree with a good friend who said it was good for Belize when we got a Cabinet with many black faces and a black

person at the top, because it gave children of color hope that they too could aspire and achieve great things and positions. It should be all about capacity and philosophy, but that's not all there is in the world in which we live.

There's been some talk that a big reason why the new government hasn't settled on the individual the previous government chose to head the justice department has to do with factors other than her qualifications, which are said to be nothing short of sterling. I must point out again that it is nothing new for the PUP to hedge on a judicial appointment made by the UDP. The files are still fresh, how the PUP literally ripped the UDP-appointed Belizean Chief Justice Manuel Sosa from off his seat, and replaced him with Sierra Leone's Dr. Abdulai Conteh.

Of course, I'd like to see a Garifuna woman sitting as Chief Justice. There is a socioeconomic ladder in Belize, and the bottom rung in those areas is where you find the Black Kriols and Garinagu. No lie, straight-hair Belizeans and light-skinned Belizeans are on the higher rungs, and at the very top we find the children of the white tribes, the "true" Creoles of our world. It is what it is, and that's why, based on ethnicity and color and hair texture, it is great for the Belizean fabric that we appreciate how much harder it is for some to climb the ladder to the top.

But the color thing hasn't been a factor in the selection of Chief Justices in Belize. Aha, if one case makes a trend, far bigger to contemplate is how the PUP handled a choice the UDP passed on to them. Indeed, we have one sensational instance of that, but we'll change the

channel, because we're looking for a happy ending.

I'm among those who have the least say in this matter, but in a democracy we all have the right to a voice, or to be silent, which I have been. Here's why I have withheld my "vote." I want a Chief Justice who's willing to be a "rogue" for the people.

Ms. Michelle Trapp says judges must follow the letter of the law. In some instances, that is extremely tough. I once asked someone close to the law why a young man got a jail sentence for a little bit of weed, and I was told that our magistrates have to ignore their feelings and be guided by the big book that Godfrey Smith revised. Thanks to the law, people in Belize go to jail for a tin of spam and others walk away with awards of millions for Belizean patrimony that was as good as gifted by government to them.

On these mammoth awards won by individuals against the people of Belize, a far too common occurrence, I want a Chief Justice who will follow the law, with a mighty scolding. I have heard of magistrates who use their trained wit to use up poor accused. I want them to pour out their sauce on lawyers when they bring their wickedness to court. I have heard of lawyers who represent the people of Belize poorly. I want these lawyers to be thoroughly tongue-lashed. I want a Chief Justice who will call the media and tell them, "Report this: I just lambasted a government lawyer for shoddy preparation in defense of the people's property, and I want to see his face and what I said on front page." Yaa.

We haven't always followed the law to the letter. Wouldn't it have been best for us if we had given Ashcroft and friends their verdicts in the lower courts, and then banged the hell out of them with a proper lecture about the harm they have done to our country? And that certainly would have put an abrupt end to the piling up of spoils derived from the interest on loans. My, my, more than half of our people who have lost properties in Belize are victims of the terribly high interest rates.

Hmm, I'm not sure our Acting CJ wants to be "roguish" for us. Maybe she feels constrained from being so. It's so much easier for one born at the top rung to let loose, but they would just be a star while doing nothing substantial for the people. Status quo defends status quo, unless they are named Fidel.

I hope I haven't crossed any line. But there you have it. The lady knows how she can get my vote.



**SACRED HEART COLLEGE**

P.O. BOX 163, SAN IGNACIO, CAYO, BELIZE. PHONE: (501) 824 -2102; 824 -2758; FAX: 824 - 3759

The following vacancy exist at **Sacred Heart Junior College (Beginning April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022)**

**1. One FULLTIME Math/Education Instructor**

Applicants for the above position should have a minimum of a B.S. in Math and Educational Leadership or related discipline but graduate degrees would be an advantage, as well as educational background in methodology, teaching experience and/or experience in the field will be an asset.

**Remuneration is commensurate with MOE approved salary scales.**

Application packages should include the following: a signed letter of application, a copy of a university diploma showing the highest earned degree, official university transcript(s), two named referees, copy of social security card, and a recent police record.

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

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

**Deadline for Application: March 14th, 2022**

**Visit us at**  
[www.amandala.com.bz](http://www.amandala.com.bz)



The Port of Belize Limited hereby gives notice to all those concerned that all cargo listed below that is not legally removed from the Port of Belize Limited by Friday, March 25, 2022 shall be sold at a Public Auction sale on Saturday, March 26, 2022 at 9:00am sharp at Port of Belize Ltd. Facility

Vessel	ATA	BL NO	Break Bulk Cargo/ Warehouse	Drno	QTY	UNIT	Description
			IDEFONSI ACOSTA	160308			
			ROY THOMAS	6308019			
			RED CROSS	6874168			
VANQUISH 146	14/03/2020	SMLU6088777A	MAHOGANY BAY MANAGEMENT	1626869		PL	BATH TOWEL/BRUSH/PEN/FISHING LINE/HOOKS/LAMPS
ALEXIA 30	25/02/2014	POMBZ100845	COLSON BAY INVESTMENTS	698853	8	PL	KNOCK DOCK BOXES
CARIBE MARINER 342	7/6/2014	PEVBZ108321	WARREN MUDRY	724543	20	PL	APPLIANCE
CARIBE MARINER 342	7/6/2014	PEVBZ108321	WARREN MUDRY	724555	9	PL	GENERAL GOODS
CARIBE MARINER 506	22/04/2018	PEVBZ149944	BRUCE DAVIDSON	1036970	1	PL	STC KITCHEN CABINETS
CARIBE NAVIGATOR 561	22/02/2020	PEVBZ172921	JUAN CARLOS VASQUEZ	1207841			USED PERSONAL GOODS
CARIBE NAVIGATOR 354	14/09/2015	CBOG298809	JOSHUA BUETTNER	623737	1		PERSONAL EFFECTS
CARIBE NAVIGATOR 359	19/10/2015	CBOG298894	JOSHUA BUETTNER	632614			PERSONAL EFFECTS
VANQUISH 174	20/09/2021	PEVBZ188929	RAMIREZ AC & ELEC	1343049	2		SOLAR EQUIPMENT
BALTIMAR ZEPHYR 19	2/5/2015	CBOG298352	MELINDA DIAZ	588203	1		PERFUMERY PRODUCTS
CARIBE NAVIGATOR 555	15/12/2019	PEVBZ170775	BUSINESS COMPUTER STYSTEM	1191495			COMPUTER SUPPLIES
CARIBE NAVIGATOR 555	15/12/2019	PEVBZ170775	BUSINESS COMPUTER STYSTEM	1191495			COMPUTER SUPPLIES
CARIBE MARINER 397	18/07/2015	PEVBZ115232	FULTEC SYSTEM	814840			COMPUTER SUPPLIES
CARIBE MARINER 375	30/01/2015	PEVBZ111962	HYDE BELIZE EXPRESS	774016			PERSONAL ITEMS
CARIBE MARINER 562	29/12/2019	PEVBZ171258	RUSSELL LONGSWORTH	1194291	1	CTN	PERSONAL ITEMS
JAN CARIBE 447	18/10/2020	SMLU6326563A	ANDRE MAHLER	1715370	1	CTN	JANITORIAL EQUIPMENTS
VANQUISH 159	21/06/2020	MIAJ258088	DENNIS JANTZEN	1229497	1	PL	SAID TO CONTAIN PRIMARY CELL BATTERIES
VANQUISH 156	31/05/2020	PEVBZ175526	CHANNEL BROADCASTING	1228645	1		STC REEL
CARIBE MARINER 564	28/01/2020	PEVBZ172046	FERNANDO GIACOMAN	1197202		CTN	GENERAL STORE MERCHANDISE
VANQUISH 6	14/05/2016		STEPHEN MOTT	A42230		CTN	HOUSEHOLD GOODS
PANJANG 3	8/3/2016	BZE1265	WINGSTOP	12867	4	CTN	PERSONAL EFFECTS
VEGA VIRGO 22	5/3/2013	CBOG296108	CITRUS COMPANY OF BELIZE	401696		BX	AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS
BALTIMAR ZEPHYR 15	31/03/2015	POMBZ10886	BZE BILTMORE PLAZA	791704	2	CTN	LAMP SHADES
VANTAGE 65	13/01/2019	PEVBZ159036	MSL LOGISTICS	936815		BX	
CORONA 19	18/12/2015	PEVBZ120502	BELIZE BREW CO. LTD.	1103999	1	PL	DIVERGAN-RS DRUMS
CARIBE MARINER 455	5/12/2016	CBOU12296405	BELIZE OCEAN CLUB LTD.	850246		BX	GENERAL GOODS
JAN CARIBE 434	12/7/2020	PEVBZ176407	GUERRA ENGINEERING	6616788	11	PC	HAZMAT
VANTAGE 55	30/09/2018	SMLU5417177A	JEFFREY DENNIS PIERCE	1232608	4	BX, PL	FURNITURE
CRIBE MARINER 585	1/11/2020	PEVBZ179578	SUGAR FIX BAKERY	1486032	3	BX, PL	RESTURANT EQ SUPLIES
JAN CARIBE 450	22/11/2020	PEVBZ180164	IONIE SLUSHER	1264936		BX	CLOTHING TV
CARIBE MARINER 590	13/12/2020	PEVBZ180694	KEAGAN MOORE	1266236	11	PL	BELT PRIME
			ROGER GABOUREL	1276472		PL	HOUSEHOLD GOODS

## My eldest son, Manuel Luna



My eldest son, Manuel Luna, was born on September 18, 1961 in Corozal. On February 16, 2022, at 6 o'clock in the morning, he passed away, and on Saturday, February 26, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. he was laid to rest at the Mount Calvary Cemetery in Corozal, Belize, C.A. The following eulogy was written by Manuel's cousin, Karina Arnold, and was read by his sister, Teresita Gotoy.

Manuel Carlos "Luna" Acosta, aka "Moon" to his close friends and family, was born on September 18, 1961, to parents Eloisa Acosta and Clinton Luna. Manuel is the only boy of five siblings. He, along with his sisters Bernadette, Teresita, Sharon, Michelle and their cousins Barbara, Celine and Karl, was raised by their mom and grandmother Dylis Acosta in their home in Altamira, Corozal. He had a host of nieces and nephews. As a child, he attended Saint Francis Xavier Primary School. Manuel was a free spirit from a young age; he loved to live life on the edge. His sister Bernadette recalls he would skip school or "bang hookie" to go to the sea wharf to idle because he didn't care much for school. He would tie his shoelaces together and hang them around his neck to avoid getting them wet so his grandma and mom would not know he went in the sea. It was from such a young age that he had a calling for the sea.

He dropped out of primary school; he didn't want to continue studying. He was always a hard worker. From

the young age of 12 he started working in the cane fields, cutting cane to help his mom and grandma put food on the table for the family. Manuel moved on to becoming a fisherman in his later teens, which he remained for the most part of his life. He moved to Belize City, where he spent years of his younger life fishing, Manuel was a man of the sea. He loved the water and he loved fishing. He was great at it. During this time he would hang out with his friends, drinking their Belikins while going bar hopping in the city. After some years, he moved back home to Corozal, where he lived with his mom and 2 cousins, Karina and Shanika. He helped his mom raise them like his own 2 children.

While Manuel never had kids of his own, he was known as the father of the family. He played a father role to many of his nieces and nephews, those with and without fathers. He was loved the same as he loved. He was a man of many personalities. Each family member can recall or share their own experience of who he was. I am sure each of us will cherish those memories. His nieces always recall the nicknames he gave them. Tracey recalls him giving her the nickname "Stressy"; he always reminded her how she laughed like a "turkey" and that she was "stressy" to him. Mindy was "Toushka", Ingrid was "Ringting". Alesha was "Dubzi", Samantha "Sam", and Loanna was "lowi". Her sister Michelle, or "Cheena" as he would call her, and her kids Jazmine, Chantel, and Chelsea, said Manuel would never forget to visit them when he came in from the sea. He always brought seafood for them.

The boys, Alec, Gerald, Adrian, Shamil, and Dan, looked up to him growing up, as he taught them many firsts. Shahied, Elderain and Latrell

all loved their uncle. On a trip back home, Manuel and Shahied developed a close relationship. Even though he only knew Elderain over the phone, the love they shared for each other was no different. Latrell got to know him over the last couple years. He sat with Manuel and told him how much he loved him and how much it would hurt him to lose him. Little did we all know that time would be so close. He was their uncle, but also their role model. To his brothers-in-law Jesse, Glen and Orlando, he was not only a friend but their brother. He welcomed them into the family and shared a special bond with each. To him, Barbara, Celine and Karl were not only his cousins, but they were also his little brother and sisters.

Manuel was known for his delicious ceviche. Each time I would visit home from the States he would ensure he made me some ceviche. Growing up, everyone knew that when Manuel came in from the sea, he would definitely make some good ceviche for the family and take a couple drinks with his friends. He taught everyone how to make ceviche. I believe that will be a memory that will live on forever. Manuel was not only a fisherman; he was also a farmer. Those who know him well know that he had a knack for planting. He loved planting his habanero peppers, his herbs and flowers in the yard for his mom. When he was not at sea, he was in the bush, working as always to provide for his mom and help whom he could in the family.

His mother was everything to him. He would ensure that when he came from the sea, no matter where she was he would find her and give her his money before he would go out drinking with his friends. He loved



by Clinton Canul Luna

his mother dearly, and she loved him the same. She would say "mi cross di come" when she saw him coming up the street to wherever she was. Manuel would always find her. When he lost her, it hit him really hard. He would say, "yo quiero ir con mi mama, aye mi madre, te amo", as he looked up in the sky. Today, we are here, barely 3 years later, and we can now look up to the heavens, as they have been reunited, smiling down on us all.

In his later years he turned to drinking. It was the disease that would cost him his life. Regardless of this dreadful addiction, he remained the same loving, selfless person he was. He became even more loving, always hugging and kissing the kids as he saw them. When he would see JJ, Mama, Bully and Kyle he would hug them tight and say they were his "nene". He would still visit everyone. He would take his drink, then pass by Bernadette to pick up his food and go home to rest. One thing for sure, he was always in bed early. We all loved Manuel; he was a son, brother, uncle, nephew and cousin to us all. We will forever hold him deep in our hearts, and whenever you miss him, just look up at the night's sky, because Luna will always be shining bright, looking down on us!

May he rest in peace!

[fincasolan@gmail.com](mailto:fincasolan@gmail.com)

March 5, 2022

Finca Solana

Corozal Town

## 10 richest people in Africa

According to an updated version of the 10 richest people in Africa published on Salaguamotors.com, the person holding the 10th position is:

10. Isabel dos Santos Estate – net worth: \$2.1 billion

As the eldest daughter of the former president of Angola, José Eduardo dos Santos, most of Isabel dos Santos's wealth comes from her family's power and connections, which have allowed her to participate in high-profile companies engaged in commercial activities in Angola. Some of her key investments in recent years include Trans Africa Investment Services, Unitel International Holdings BV, Santoro Finance, Esperaza Holding BV and Condis. As a result of her strategic investments, dos Santos has been named one of the 100 most influential women in the

world by the BBC, as well as Africa's first female billionaire.

9. Mohamed Mansour Estate – net worth: \$2.3 billion

Egyptian politician and businessman Mohamed Mansour ranks as the 9th richest person in Africa, with a net worth of \$2.3 billion. He can thank his wealth for his position as chairman of the Mansour Group, Egypt's second largest conglomerate by revenue. Other notable achievements include owning the exclusive distribution rights for Caterpillar equipment in several African countries and becoming one of the world's largest General Motors dealers after establishing the first GM dealerships in Egypt in 1975.

8. Koos Bekker net worth: \$2.4 billion

Bekker's wealth stems from his position as chairman of Naspers, an emerging-market media group that can claim the largest market capitalization of any peer company outside the United States and China. In 2001, Bekker invested in the Chinese internet and media corporation Tencent (a company in which he now has a 31% stake), significantly helping Naspers increase its market capitalization from approximately \$1.2 billion to \$45 billion.

7. Naguib Sawiris Estate – net worth: \$2.9 billion

Although he may not be as rich as his brother Nassef, Naguib Sawiris is still one of the richest men in Africa. Sawiris currently serves as chairman of Orascom Investment Holding (formerly known as

Orascom Telecom Media & Technology), a company that has grown into one of Egypt's largest and most diversified conglomerates since joining in 1979.

6. Issad Rebrab Estate – net worth: \$3.8 billion

As the founder and CEO of Cevital, the largest private company in Algeria, Issad Rebrab heads a company that owns one of the largest sugar refineries in the world, a steel mill in Italy, a water purification company in Germany and French appliance maker Groupe Brandt.

5. Estate of Johann Rupert and family – net worth: \$6.2 billion

Johann Rupert's considerable wealth of \$6.2 billion comes courtesy of luxury goods firm Compagnie

# FOOD SECURITY IN TIMES OF "GLOBAL MADNESS"

by *Bernard Bulwer*

Even Belize City and the Belize District can easily become near self-sufficient in home-grown, farm-raised food and fisheries.

Tectonic global shifts are happening right before our eyes. COVID-19 devastated the global economy. Now, amidst the escalating drumbeats of war ... even a global war, even with threats of "MADness" (national pride causes rulers to do insane things), THE PRICE OF FOOD is bound to escalate, easily beyond the reach of the masses.

If you're hooked on wheat flour, you'll be in real trouble, as Russia and Ukraine are among the largest exporters of wheat (a globally traded commodity, hence subject to global price shocks). The wise know

that there are several better and healthier home-grown alternatives to wheat and wheat flour, especially in a country called Belize.

In times like these, our farmers and fishermen (not traders) are amongst our nation's most important assets. Belize, with its tiny population and lots of arable land and seas ... including in Belize City, I see no excuse why almost everyone, regardless of your profession, can't do some level of home gardening, farming, and fishing. The wise and the diligent will take



**Ginger grown in Yarborough, Belize City**

heed, prepare, and act. The sluggard will ignore wise counsel, and pay the price of scarcity and dependency.

## 10 richest people in Africa

Continued from Page 13

Financiere Richemont. Richemont was founded in 1998 by Rupert in Geneva, Switzerland, and has since become one of the most profitable companies in its class, generating revenue of •10.979 billion in 2021 and net income of •1.21 billion.

4. Estate of Nicky Oppenheimer and family – net worth: \$7.3 billion

As heir to the DeBeers fortune, some may say that Nicky Oppenheimer's wealth was guaranteed, rather than created by himself. While it is true that Oppenheimer was never going to end his life in poverty, he also made some very wise decisions that have helped increase his wealth to the point of becoming the third richest man in Africa. In 2012, he sold his 40% stake in DeBeers to Anglo American for \$5.1 billion; two years later, he launched Fireblade Aviation, a full-service private charter company offering domestic and international flights.

3. Nassef Sawiris Estate – net worth: \$7.6 billion

Sawiris's wealth stems from OCI, one of the world's largest nitrogen fertilizer producers, as well as his position as supervising director of Adidas AG and chairman of English premier league club Aston Villa FC.

2. Mike Adenuga Estate – net worth: \$8.8 billion

As the Strategic Business Team points out, Mike Adenuga's route to becoming Africa's second-richest man is a classic rags-to-riches tale: After starting out as a taxi driver, he managed to lose two Telcom licenses and a bank before fleeing into exile, only to make his glorious comeback as the founder of Globacom, the fastest growing GSM network in Africa. Apart from holding such prestigious titles as Officer of the Order of the Niger (OON), Adenuga also has a staggering net worth of \$8.8 billion.

1. Aliko Dangote net worth: \$9.2 billion / Richest person in Africa

With a net worth of \$9.2 billion, Aliko Dangote is the richest black man in the world. His wealth stems from his position as founding chairman of Dangote Cement, the largest cement producer in Africa. According to *Forbes*, Dangote earned nearly \$650 million in dividends from the company's earnings in 2018, helping to further shore up his already massive fortune. Dangote's considerable wealth will only increase in the coming years: he has already announced plans to list Dangote Cement on the London Stock Exchange in 2021, which should deliver very healthy returns for both the company and Dangote.

[fincasolan@gmail.com](mailto:fincasolan@gmail.com)

March 5, 2022

Finca Solana

Corozal Town

### PUBLIC AUCTION SALE - PROPERTY

*Orange Walk Town; Orange Walk District*

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. The Belize Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via [belizepropertyauctions.com](http://belizepropertyauctions.com) the following property. Sale currently running and will expire Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022 at the time shown on the website.



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Orange Walk Town	4	3611

(Being a two storey concrete dwelling house [32 ft. X 37 ft. both levels] containing Ground Floor (2 Apartments) - Apartment 1 - 1 bedroom + 1 bathroom + living/dining/kitchen and Apartment 2 - 1 bedroom + 1 bathroom ; First Floor - 3 Bedrooms + 1 bathroom + living/dining/kitchen + front and back verandah TOGETHER with Lot [797.16 S.Y] situate at Parcel No. 3611 Moho River Street, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District, the freehold property of Mr. Teofilo R. Ayuso)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION - [www.belizebank.com](http://www.belizebank.com) (foreclosure listing)

**TERMS: STRICTLY CASH**

**KEVIN A. CASTILLO**

**TELEPHONE 223-4488**

Website: [belizepropertyauctions.com](http://belizepropertyauctions.com)

E-mail: [kevinacas@yahoo.com](mailto:kevinacas@yahoo.com)

Website: [belizepropertyauctions.com](http://belizepropertyauctions.com)

Face Book: Belize Auctions



### MINISTRY OF FINANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND INVESTMENT

#### NEW GAMING MACHINE LICENSE MORATORIUM NOTICE

The Gaming Control Board of Belize would like to inform the public that New Applications for Gaming Machine (Establishment) Licenses for the period of April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, to March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023, will only be accepted for those that will be located at the following tourism destinations: Ambergris Caye, Caye Caulker and Placencia.

A **Moratorium** will be placed on applications from all other locations until further notice. Please note that this applies only to new applicants and not renewals.

License Holders that received approval for the period of 2021/2022 may submit renewal applications.

**We can be contacted via:**

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

**Email:** [belizeinvestment@invest.gov.bz](mailto:belizeinvestment@invest.gov.bz)

**Facebook:** Investment Policy & Compliance Unit

# PRESS PREDICTIONS

## The sports psychic speaks

### BOLEDO

**"Press" Predictions: 12-55-25  
Boledo stats thru 11<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>  
March 2022**

In boledo news, 19 and 22 played 3 times each already. These are my lucky numbers for this week: 12-55-48-25-06-18. These are my lucky jackpot numbers: 2950-8617-3842. These are my PICK-3 numbers: 060-462-931-807-505-141. Get ready Belize some dinero will be coming our way. 50 is still out since the 15<sup>th</sup> of July 2020, that's over 1 year 7 months 2 weeks and 3 days now, 55 refuses to play since the 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020, that's over 1 year 4 months 2 weeks 4 days now. 49 just joined the crowd, 49 has not played since the

10<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2021, that's over 1 year and 1 month exact. Keep your eyes open for 55 and 49, those 2 hard numbers are long overdue. The teens and the ending 2 ball are rolling, the public wants 50 and 55 to play. A lot of low numbers will be out for the Easter Holidays. Remember to read your Psalms: 91-72-63. Good luck to all buyers, next week more stats.

### LOCAL FOOTBALL

**Verdes FC will go to  
CONCACAF  
Local Football Results  
Predictions**

In local football results of week 5 games, Verdes FC edged Altitude FC of Mango Creek 1-nil, then the San

Pedro Pirates crushed the Garden City Boys 3 goals to 1. Caesar Ridge then gained their first Victory of the season by edging out Wagiya FC 2 goals to 1. That game was very exciting at the FFB Field, Julius did predicted their first win of the season, Gilroy "Bredda" Thurton scored the first goal, Charlie Slusher is their coach, they have acquired some players from the BDF, they will win at least 2 more games before the season is over. Next week more results and Predictions. Enuff respect to the president of the FFB Mr. Sergio Chuc, who is doing a very splendid job for the country of Belize. God bless Belize - always.

### CYCLING



by Gilroy "Press" Cadogan

**Oscar Quiros is the best Belizean cyclist**

**The 39<sup>th</sup> Belmopan Cycling Classic Predictions**

In cycling action, Team Valvoline BTB-501 Oscar Quiros is the best Belizean Cyclist right now. The 39<sup>th</sup> Belmopan cycling classic is coming up this Sunday, Team



Oscar Quiroz

Valvoline BTB-501 is the best team right now, they have Derek Chavarria and his older brother Joslyn Chavarria, Jr. plus Brandon Cattouse their captain, Joshua Fuller also. Marlon Castillo has a team of 5, Ernest Bradley and Heusner, they will be very dangerous comes Cross Country in 36 days' time. The National Road Championship will be coming up in 2 weeks' time. This race will get started in Belmopan to Belize back to Belmopan, there will be at least 70 cyclists and more, next week more stats on the big race.

### NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

**Lebron James had 56 points against the Warriors**

**NBA Results and Predictions**

In NBA action, the Los Angeles Lakers crushed the Golden State Warriors by some 9 points, Lebron James had a season high of 56 points 8 rebounds and 6 assists - the best all-around player in the game today. They are still fighting for a playoff spot. Anthony Davis will be back very soon, the LA Lakers will have a spot in the play-in. The Phoenix Suns still has the best record at 54-13, Chris Paul will be back very soon. The Brooklyn Nets will be very dangerous in the playoffs. Kyrie Erving is unstoppable, Kevin Durant is back in the line-up. James Harden is back in the line-up for the new look Philadelphia 76ers. Joel Embiid will get his first MVP award, the Cleveland Cavaliers and the Chicago Bulls are playing above expectations. Next week more stats on those teams trying to make the playoffs.



#### REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

Institution: *Belize Water Services Limited*

Country: *Belize*

Project: *Independence to Seine Bight Transmission line*

Sector: *Water*

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

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

Deadline: *March 14, 2022*

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

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

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

Companies must qualify on two major work categories:

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

Financial category of the project:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Belize Water Services Limited*

Attn: *Engineering procurement*

*7 Central American Boulevard*

*Belize City, Belize, C.A.*

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

E-mail: [engineeringprocurement@bwsl.com.bz](mailto:engineeringprocurement@bwsl.com.bz)

# A Century of Oil, A Future of Options



**Dr. Devon Gardner -  
Head of Technical  
Programmes, CCREEE**

sustainability of economic growth in the majority of Caribbean countries; when oil prices are high, as they currently are, the economic challenges that are being faced by the region are typically aggravated and exacerbated. Unpredictability in the price of oil, resulting from rapid changes (up or down) over short time spans, is bad news because oil, and more broadly fossil fuel, is the commodity that is central and critical to the operation of a majority of economies, and the potential wealth-generating opportunities, within the region. As commerce thrives best when the costs of doing business can be anticipated and hedged against, unexpected swings in oil price continue to destabilize the business environment within the countries. Though lower energy prices, at times, provide temporary relief to consumers, the economy does not do

well “when the rug is unpredictably pulled from under its feet” by the constant large and unexpected changes in the cost of energy.

A result of this situation is that the cost of energy within the region has been mostly high and persistently unpredictable over the past two and a half decades, which has eroded competitiveness. In turn, these problems have contributed to, among other things, the region’s high cost of doing business, have increased external sector vulnerabilities, and have undercut growth in many economies within the region. In particular, high and generally unpredictable oil prices have consistently compromised the efforts of CARICOM governments to stimulate economic growth in the productive sectors, such as: agriculture and fisheries; tourism and services; and industries.

Energy is among the top strategic issues shaping the global agenda; the uncertainty and impact of energy and commodity price volatility has now established itself as the number one issue for energy leaders worldwide.

A history of unpredictable global oil price spikes has consistently impacted negatively on the

It is no surprise, therefore, that the region continues to recognize the economic value of alternative and sustainable energy options, especially from cost effective, indigenous renewable energy sources, that are predictable in pricing and supply. It is no surprise, also, that the region is exercising a leadership role within a global marketplace that is demanding cleaner energy, all precipitated by better and cheaper technologies and an international agenda that promotes sustainable development and climate management.

The region’s aspirations are among the highest, with the target of several Member States being 100% carbon neutrality by the year 2030. Despite a variety of opinions and analyses of the target, the Caribbean countries are firmly committed to an ambitious energy transition.

But what might corporate entities stand to gain from the development and implementation of sustainable energy projects?

The fact is that low-carbon energy transitions are already happening, globally, in many countries. This is, oftentimes, due to economic factors inasmuch as it is accelerated by environmental and climate change policies. Many of the technologies -- from utility scale and rooftop solar, to utility-scale wind, to battery storage, to electric vehicles, have already taken hold globally and are increasingly penetrating CARICOM markets.

There are new, profitable business opportunities for Caribbean companies that opt to participate in the sustainable energy sector. The emerging paradigm is one wherein the electricity sector is no longer focused on establishing large central power generation plants and the laying of wires. This is being replaced with an architecture that is encouraging and rewarding experimentation and product development among multiple players within a vibrant, robust marketplace. The effect is expected to be transformative, portending enormous improvements in energy efficiency and, with them, significant reductions in carbon emissions and improvement in reliability, including resilience to the impacts of natural disasters and other externalities on the conventional grid. This is part of a more general resilience model for the energy sector wherein resilience to multiple vulnerabilities, including the effects of weather and climate, is being simultaneously enhanced whilst countries transition to “low carbon” systems. Within the emerging energy future for the Caribbean, many companies are already increasing the profitability and improving the environmental, social and governance consciousness of their businesses by developing innovative products, offering new services, and creating more jobs.

There is cognizance that many businesses do not possess the internal



## REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

Institution: [Belize Water Services Limited](#)

Country: [Belize](#)

Project: [Seine Bight 500,000 US gallon Water Reservoir and site development](#)

Sector: [Plant](#)

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

Project Number: [285511191974/ BW-55-1858](#)

Deadline: [March 15, 2022](#)

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

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

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

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

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

Financial category of the project:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# Putin's Alleged "Kill Lists": Evil, but Not Unusual

by Thomas L. Knapp

In the fog of war, it's difficult to tell which claims are true and which aren't. What are Vladimir Putin's forces up to in Ukraine? Apart from some high points (real or media-manufactured), it's often hard to tell.

Even when we think that the US government's claims are true, they're difficult to credit as uniquely damning, because they almost always refer to behaviors the US government has no problem with when it's the one engaging in them.

"[W]e have credible information," Bathsheba Nell Crocker, US Representative to the Office of the United Nations, wrote in a letter to UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet in February, "that indicates Russian forces are creating lists of identified Ukrainians to be killed or sent to camps following a military occupation."

That sounds pretty bad. In fact, if true, it IS pretty bad. It's also something the US military and intelligence establishments have done for decades ... so much so that these days it doesn't even really try to hide it.

As the Future of Freedom Foundation's Jacob Hornberger points out, the CIA made use of "kill lists" at least as early as 1954 in Guatemala. They were secretive about it — they won't even reveal the names on those lists to this day — but there's little doubt such "kill lists" were provided by the CIA to paramilitary death squads throughout Central America at least into the 1980s.

Since 9/11, the US government hasn't even bothered to keep its "kill lists" especially secret. They don't always share the names, but "targeted killings" are an openly admitted element of US

warfare, even if US Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) gets slammed for saying the quiet part a little too loudly ("Is there a Brutus in Russia? Is there a more successful Colonel Stauffenberg in the Russian military? The only way this ends is for somebody in Russia to take this guy out").

In 2003, the US Defense Intelligence Agency even had playing cards printed and distributed to openly and proudly publicize its Iraq "kill list." Saddam Hussein (a head of state and thus as a matter of policy supposedly not subject to assassination like mere mortals) was the ace of spades. As of today, 48 of the 52 people on the "kill list" have been killed or captured.

The question isn't whether Vladimir Putin should be ordering the murder or capture of Volodymyr Zelensky and using "kill lists" to "de-Nazify" Ukraine. Clearly he shouldn't.

But from "kill lists" to cluster munitions and thermobaric bombs to outright invasions of other countries, the US regime should start meeting the same standards it's demanding Vladimir Putin's regime be held to. That seems like a low bar and easily gotten over.

Thomas L. Knapp (Twitter: @thomaslknapp) is director and senior news analyst at the William Lloyd Garrison Center for Libertarian Advocacy Journalism ([thegarrisoncenter.org](http://thegarrisoncenter.org)). He lives and works in north central Florida.



The US government's 2003 Iraq "kill list," released as a promotional deck of playing cards. Public domain.

## A Century of Oil, A Future of Options

Continued from Page 16

expertise or the financial resources to undertake the gamut of actions that are necessary to conceive, develop and implement, successfully, a sustainable energy project. This is part of the *raison d'être* for the Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CCREEE), which is a Barbados based institution of CARICOM that was established by the Conference of Heads of Government in 2017.

The Centre, in November 2020, established a Project Preparation Facility (PPF) to, among other things, provide project preparation assistance to the regional private

sector. The PPF deliberately targets the "most significant barrier" that is continuing to impede the ability of Caribbean businesses to confidently and successfully pursue projects and businesses in renewable energy and energy efficiency; that is, an unavailability of technical and financial resources to develop ideas and concepts into "bankable" outcomes that can secure the investment and other financing that is necessary for their implementation.

Through a combination of standard and bespoke services, the PPF is already delivering preparation assistance to projects in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, St. Kitts and Nevis, and Suriname.



### Terms of Reference

**Position: Executive Director**

#### Background

We are seeking a dynamic, energetic individual who possesses and models a commitment to the mandate of the National Women's Commission and has a highly developed understanding, excellent analytical skills and experience in management and elaboration and implementation of programs and policies for the advancement of Gender Equality, Equity, Women's Empowerment and Human Rights Issues.

#### Scope of Work/Duties

- Coordinate, manage and implement the policies and programmes of the National Women's Commission (NWC) to achieve its mandate and objectives.
- Serve as the Technical Advisor to the NWC.
- Develop and implement programmes and activities to educate the general public about the Convention on All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and international, regional and national commitments to women and encourage government and civil society to work towards achieving the goals of these commitments.
- Promote legislative reforms that will seek to promote and protect the wellbeing of women and their families.
- Facilitate the development of the commission's annual work plan, defining priorities and formulating strategies for monitoring its work.
- Mobilise resources from relevant funding agencies to implement the work of the commission.
- Assist the commission in the analysis and promotion of social sector policies in order to advocate for increased support for women and their families.
- Document, promote and publish the objectives and activities of the commission.
- Prepare reports, Cabinet papers, documents, proposals and minutes of meetings.
- Manage the Human Resources and work of the Secretariat.
- Assist in securing funding and expertise needed to conduct surveys on matters affecting women in order to provide data for the formation of necessary policies and programmes.
- Prepare financial reports for submission to the government and donor agencies that support the work of the commission.
- Work in close collaboration with international cooperation partners and relevant donor agencies.
- Work cooperatively and effectively with other stakeholders, partners and staff to set goals makes decisions that enhance the work of the Commission.

#### Competencies

- Possesses specialist knowledge in gender issues including gender-based violence
- Sound analytical skills, Proven facilitation, networking, coordination, team building and organizational skills; Teamwork;
- Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships in a multi-cultural environment, with sensitivity and respect for diversity.

#### Required Skills & Experience

##### Education

- Master's Degree in Gender and Development or other related Social Science Degree.
- At least three years working experience in the area

##### Language

- Fluent in English both written and spoken.

Interested and qualified persons can apply for the position via email to: [president.nwc@humandev.gov.bz](mailto:president.nwc@humandev.gov.bz) under the REFERENCE: **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Applicants are to submit the following documents:

- Cover letter
- Detailed resume
- Copy of Social Security Card
- Two letters of recommendation
- Copy of Educational Qualifications
- Police record
- Vaccination card

**Deadline for submission is March 31, 2022**



## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) invites applicants for the functions of National Consultant to support the Strengthening Climate Resilient Health Systems Project

**Duty station:** Belize City

**Qualifications:** *Essential:* A Bachelor's degree in Environment Science or Public Health from a recognized university

*Desirable:* A Master's Degree in Environmental Studies, Climate, or related field

**Experience:** *Essential:* At least 5 years of national experience in public health, environmental health, climate change or related field

*Desirable:* Experience in development of H-NAP

**Skills:**

- Experience developing HNAPs and conducting impact assessments and sensitivity analyses
- Demonstrable current knowledge of climate health risks and adaptation policies and programs
- Knowledge about health systems' operations
- Experience in data collection and analysis
- Strong research, problem-solving and organizational skills.
- Ability to work collaboratively (in person or virtually) with other team players
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills and sensitivity to political and cultural issues
- Ability to meet deadlines
- Strong professional oral and writing skills, including the development of reports, oral presentations, and technical/persuasive documents for consideration at the highest levels of the Organization.
- Demonstrated ability to effectively use a computer and utilize software programs such as Microsoft Office Word, Excel, PowerPoint, SharePoint, and Outlook. Other IT skills and knowledge of other software programs for Statistical Analysis, Data Exploratory Analysis and Project Management would be an asset.

**Languages:** Very good knowledge of English and working knowledge of Spanish

**Deadline:** Letter of application, Curriculum Vitae, and two current letters of recommendation should be sent to [blzmail@paho.org](mailto:blzmail@paho.org) or to P.O. Box 1834, Belize City no later than **March 25, 2022**

For further details visit our website <https://www.paho.org/en/vacancies> An interview will be held for this position and only candidates under serious consideration will be contacted.

PAHO/WHO has a smoke-free environment and does not recruit smokers or users of any form of tobacco.



## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) invites applicants for the functions of National Consultant in the area of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and Risk Factors under European Union grant

**Duty station:** Belize City

**Qualifications:** *Essential:* A Bachelor's degree in one of the health, social or management sciences from a recognized university  
*Desirable:* Postgraduate studies in public health or related field with emphasis on Nutrition Chronic Diseases and Health Promotion

**Experience:** *Essential:* At least 5 years national experience in the related field.  
*Desirable:* working experience in health services project management.

**Skills:**

- Theoretical and practical expertise in all aspects related to surveillance, prevention, and control of Noncommunicable diseases, and the promotion of health, as well as a thorough knowledge of epidemiology, prevention, and control methods.
- Ability to analyze factors, trends, and forecast scenarios based on current surveillance systems and possesses the capability to develop and plan innovative and appropriate solutions for their improvement.
- Strong public health and strategic thinking background showing resourcefulness, initiative, leadership qualities and skills to deal with difficult situations and sensitive areas.
- Ability to plan and carry out technical cooperation initiatives on NCDs with emphasis on health promotion, nutrition related chronic diseases, mental health disorders, substance abuse, violence and injuries, rehabilitation, aging and palliative care.
- Knowledge of Global Strategies for the prevention and control of NCDs as well as regional, subregional, and national situation on NCDs.
- Knowledge of health services policies and administration within the framework of the model of family and community health.
- Knowledge and skills in the formulation of technical cooperation interventions and in the development of criteria and instruments for evaluating program interventions, including resource mobilization and grant management.
- Strong professional oral and writing skills, including the development of reports, oral presentations, and technical/persuasive documents for consideration at the highest levels of the Organization.
- Demonstrated ability to effectively use a computer and utilize software programs such as Microsoft Office Word, Excel, PowerPoint, SharePoint, and Outlook. Other IT skills and knowledge of other software programs for Statistical Analysis, Data Exploratory Analysis and Project Management would be an asset.

**Languages:** Very good knowledge of English and working knowledge of Spanish

**Deadline:** Letter of application, Curriculum Vitae, and two current letters of recommendation should be sent to [blzmail@paho.org](mailto:blzmail@paho.org) or to P.O. Box 1834, Belize City no later than **March 18, 2022**.

For further details visit our website <https://www.paho.org/en/vacancies> An interview will be held for this position and only candidates under serious consideration will be contacted.

PAHO/WHO has a smoke-free environment and does not recruit smokers or users of any form of tobacco.



## REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

### INDIVIDUAL CONSULTING SERVICES

**Institution:** Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing

**Country:** Belize

**Project:** Additional Financing for George Price Highway Rehabilitation Project

**Sector:** Infrastructure, Environment and Natural Disasters

**Abstract:** Individual Consulting Services – Social Specialist

**Loan/Credit/Grant No.:** 4616/OC-BL

**Deadline:** **March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

The Government of Belize has received financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), towards the cost of the Additional Financial under the George Price Highway Rehabilitation Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services (“the Services”) include the contracting of a Social Specialist for one year who will be responsible for the design, implementation, and oversight of a social program for the technical cooperation and loan programs managed by the Program Management Unit.

The Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing now invites eligible Individual Consultants to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Inter-American Development Bank: [Policies for the Selection and Contracting of Consultants financed by the Inter-American Development Bank](#) (GN-2350-15, January 2020) – Section V, 5.2 Selection of Individual Consultants based on Comparison of Qualifications of National Individual Consultants.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours:

Program Management Unit  
#1 Power Lane, Belmopan, Cayo  
Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.  
Tel: 501-822-0100/1942  
Email: [pmupcmow@gmail.com](mailto:pmupcmow@gmail.com) or [gphrp.3344@midh.gov.bz](mailto:gphrp.3344@midh.gov.bz)

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by **10:00 am (local Belize time) on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022**.

**Attn:** **Mr. Rolando Chan**  
**Program Coordinator**  
**#1 Power Lane, Belmopan**  
**Cayo District, Belize**

**Tel:** **501-822-0100/1942**

**E-mail:** [pmupcmow@gmail.com](mailto:pmupcmow@gmail.com) or [gphrp.3344@midh.gov.bz](mailto:gphrp.3344@midh.gov.bz)

# Forum of the Countries of Latin America & the Caribbean is underway

*During the ECLAC forum on Sustainable Development in the region, CARICOM Secretary-General Dr. Carla Barnett gave a special International Women's Day address*

by *Khaila Gentle*

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica, Mon. Mar. 7, 2022

The Fifth Meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America & the Caribbean on Sustainable Development commenced this Monday, March 7, and will focus on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the region. The opening ceremony of the forum was led by Carlos Alvarado, president of Costa Rica; Amina Mohammed, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General; and Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

During her opening remarks, UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed lamented the fact that recovery from the most profound crisis in recent times has been further threatened by higher inflation, lower growth, and disruptions to global supply chains.

"We are meeting at a crucial time—when our ability to achieve the goals we set ourselves in the 2030 Agenda hangs in the balance. The COVID-19

pandemic has brought havoc to our societies and economies. The current conflict in Ukraine and the wider geopolitical dynamics are further destabilizing a global economy still reeling from the pandemic," she said, noting that Latin America and the Caribbean together form one of the regions that have been hardest hit by the pandemic.

She also said, however, that recovery is possible, as is achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and said that "getting back on track will require policy choices aligned with the 2030 Agenda and a clear emphasis on leaving no one behind."

Meanwhile, the president of Costa Rica, Carlos Alvarado, remarked that the region has been losing cooperation opportunities and the attention of developed partners, despite (and as a result of) many of its countries making strides in improving financially and being placed in the category of middle-income or upper-middle-income countries.

"These unidimensional classification criteria based solely on income (per capita) hide a reality that



leaves out the needs of a great number of countries in the world and their most vulnerable populations. The international community for cooperation cannot leave our region behind," he stated.

In addition to over 25 side events surrounding the discussion of regional progress and challenges of implementing the Sustainable Development Agenda, the forum has been set to feature the presentation of the document "An Innovative Financing Agenda for the Recovery" by Costa Rica's Foreign Affairs Minister, Rodolfo Solano, as well as the commemoration of International Women's Day on Tuesday, March 8, with participation by female ministers and high officials from institutions that promote the advancement of women. For the International Women's Day session, CARICOM Secretary-General Dr. Carla Barnett gave a special address during which she noted that further action is still needed when it comes to the issue of women in political leadership in the Caribbean.

"International Women's Day is a celebration of the important contributions and tireless service that

women around the world give every day at home, in their communities, and beyond in every sphere of life. We celebrate their many achievements and recognize the progress that has been made towards gender equality, while acknowledging that there is still much more work to be done," said the Secretary-General. In addition to paying tribute to women leaders like Hon. Mia Amor Mottley, the only female Head of Government in CARICOM, Dr. Barnett also gave her regards to Alicia Bárcena, the outgoing Executive Secretary of ECLAC.

According to a recent press release from ECLAC, there will be about 750 attendees, both virtual and in-person, at the intra-governmental forum, including representatives of governments, international institutions, the United Nations, the private sector, academia, and civil society. Issues to be tackled at the meeting include international cooperation for development, monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals, the asymmetry of climate change in the Caribbean, sustainable use of biodiversity for a sustainable recovery, conservation and education, and gender equality as a key human right.

violence among its fans. Last year, there was also a brawl in the stands during a "classic" with crosstown rival Chivas.

According to ESPN.com, at least 26 people were injured, and, according to unconfirmed reports, up to 17 persons reportedly lost their lives. Also, Queretaro state authorities mentioned that 23 persons are hospitalized; ten in serious condition and three others in critical condition with severe injuries. State authorities in north-central Mexico suspended five officials, including police, civil defense employees, and three people responsible for planning and preparations, for failing to restore order. Mauricio Kuri Queretaro, state governor, reported however that there were no deaths but calls the brawl a tragedy.

He said that of the 26 injured, 3 have been discharged, 3 are in a very critical condition, another 10 are in a delicate state and the remaining 10 are in a stable state.

The Mexican Football Federation announced Tuesday that Queretaro would have to play all home games behind closed doors for a year as punishment for its role in the brawl. The club will also be fined 1.5 million pesos (about USD \$70,000) and lose Saturday's match 3-0, it said.

Arrest warrants were issued by a judge for several persons who were suspected of taking part in the melee and were identified through news footage and social media images.

In a release issued by the Football Federation of Belize (FFB), the federation stated, "Following the tragic incident which took place yesterday after the match between Queretaro and Atlas, the Football Federation of Belize condemns all acts of violence." It added, "President Sergio Chuc on behalf of the FFB has also reached out to President Yon de Lusía to send condolences and prayers for all those affected during this tragic incident."

## Football melee in Mexico

*Top-division soccer league in Mexico suspends all matches after a brawl that unconfirmed reports say led to the deaths of 17 fans and injuries to 26 persons.*

by *Charles Gladden*

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Mar. 9, 2022

Mexico's top division football league, Liga MX, suspended all its matches scheduled for Sunday, March 13, after a brawl among fans that occurred on Saturday, March 5 between the home team, Queretaro, and Atlas from Guadalajara, the reigning league champion, led to 26 persons being injured, as well as the deaths of a number of fans—reportedly 17 of them—although those reports are unconfirmed.

At the 62nd minute of the match, the play was suspended when numerous fights broke out in the stands. Security personnel reportedly opened the gates to the

field so that fans, including women and children, could escape from the stands. After the brawl broke out, players from the visiting Atlas fled to the locker rooms, as did some members of the Queretaro team. Other Queretaro players, including Uruguayan goalie Washington Aguerre, stayed near the bench and tried to calm the fans. The brawl reportedly intensified and spread from the stands onto the field, where one fan was seen cutting the opposing team's net with a knife.

It is believed the brawl started between fans of the rivaling football teams—something that often occurs in Mexican stadiums. Guadalajara is the capital of Jalisco state, and Atlas has also had issues recently with



**Football brawl**



## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION



### INVITATION TO TENDER FOR EXTERNAL AUDIT SERVICES

The Public Utilities Commission Belize (“PUC”) is hereby seeking **TENDERS** from qualified auditing firms to submit proposals to perform annual external audit services.

#### 1. Scope of Audit Services

The PUC invites qualified auditing firms to submit proposals to perform annual external audit services for the fiscal year 2020|2021 and fiscal year 2021|2022. For fiscal year 2020|2021, the audit shall be comprised of two interim audit periods from April 1, 2020 to December 15, 2020 and from December 16, 2020 to March 31, 2021.

#### 2. Terms and General Conditions of Engagement

It is the intention of the PUC to enter into an agreement with the successful firm to provide external audit services for the two fiscal years.

#### 3. Acceptance of Proposal

The PUC reserves the right to reject any and all proposals for any reason. The lowest of any proposal may not necessarily be accepted. There is no expressed or implied obligation by the PUC to reimburse responding firms for any expenses incurred in preparing proposals in response to this request.

#### 4. Experience, Qualifications & Requirements

The firm must meet the following minimum requirements to be considered for evaluation pursuant to this request for proposal:

- Must be a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Belize and qualified to practise in Belize.
- Must provide a brief profile of the firm indicating the scope of its practice, range of activities performed, the firm’s contact person, phone number and email address.
- Must provide CVs and copies of certificates of key personnel that will be involved in the Audit.
- Must provide a list of at least 10 companies audited in the last three years and proof of same with their contacts.
- Must include a proposal on how fees charged will be calculated, with indication of involvement/time allocated in providing the said services.

#### 5. Audit Schedule

The firm is to work with the accountant at the PUC and agree upon a schedule of activities which shall lead to the completion of the annual audit by June 30, 2022.

#### 6. Deadline

Tenders should be addressed to the Chairman of the Public Utilities Commission and submitted in two sealed envelopes and delivered to the PUC’s office at #4 Princess Margaret Drive, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Marina Towers Building, Belize City, Belize.

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS MARCH 18<sup>th</sup> 2022 AT NOON.**

## Civilian casualties rise in Ukraine. Biden bans Russian oil.

*Since the start of the war, millions have fled Ukraine, thousands of protestors have been arrested, and several Western media reporters have been called out for racist coverage.*



*Anti-war protests in response to the Russia-Ukraine crisis*

by *Khaila Gentle*

KYIV, Ukraine, Tues. Mar. 8, 2022

Thirteen days after Russia launched its invasion of Ukraine, the civilian death toll has continued to rise, despite the United Nations’ call for the safe passage of refugees out of the war-stricken country. According to reports from Ukrainian rescue services, an airstrike on the city of Sumy Monday night resulted in the deaths of at least twenty-one persons, including two children. Ukraine president Volodymyr Zelenskyy has accused members of NATO of being “partially responsible” for the mounting casualties due to their inaction. Zelenskyy has repeatedly called for the establishment of a no-fly zone over Ukraine to prevent further attacks from Russia but many experts have warned that doing so—or any other display of aggression from the West—could potentially trigger the start of an even larger-scale war, as Russian president Vladimir Putin has warned that anyone attempting to enforce a no-fly zone, which would require shooting down Russian aircraft, would be considered a part of the military conflict.

“We repeat every day: close the sky over Ukraine. Close for all Russian missiles, for Russian combat aircraft, for all their terrorists,” said Zelenskyy.

“If you don’t, if you don’t give us at least planes so we can protect ourselves, there’s only one thing to conclude: you want us to be killed very slowly,” he added. The past two weeks have seen multiple Ukrainian cities and airbases bombed or hit with missiles in what Russia has been calling a “special military operation”.

While NATO has ruled out the option of direct intervention, on Monday, March 7, U.S. president Joe Biden announced that the United States would be banning Russian oil, coal, and natural gas imports. In

response, President Zelenskyy thanked Biden via a tweet, commending him for “striking in the heart of Putin’s war machine” and asking for other countries and world leaders to follow suit. The United Kingdom has also announced it will be phasing out the importation of Russian oil. Vladimir Putin previously warned that if the West were to halt imports from Russia, the price of oil would rise to over \$300 a barrel. As the war rages on, though, rising gas prices are only one of the countless ways in which civilians on both sides, along with the rest of the globe, have been and will continue to be affected.

The incessant bombing of Ukraine’s second-largest city, Kharkiv, has left countless citizens homeless and in hiding. And in the past thirteen days, almost two million refugees have fled the country. The outpouring of citizens is expected to continue, as there have been proposals for the opening of humanitarian corridors for the evacuation of citizens from Kyiv, Chernihiv, Sumy, and Mariupol. Meanwhile, Russian citizens anxious over the effects of mounting sanctions along with many who have been vocal in their anti-war stance have fled the country and gone to nations like Georgia, Finland, and Turkey. According to *BBC News*, more than 10,000 anti-war protestors have been arrested across 53 Russian cities in less than one week. Since the start of the war, protests have taken place across the globe, with thousands taking to the streets of Berlin, London, Prague, Madrid, Seoul, Istanbul, Washington D.C, and more.

Despite the overwhelming display of support, especially from the West, however, Western media has received criticism over the past few days for the biased and racist language used by some reporters during their coverage of the humanitarian crisis—

# Civilian casualties rise in Ukraine. Biden bans Russian oil.

Continued from Page 20

language that has since revealed the media bias and double standards often perpetuated when it comes to war and other tragedies.

Over the past two weeks, many have expressed outrage online at media representatives and news outlets that have contrasted the war in Ukraine with wars and bombings in African and Middle Eastern nations, such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen, and Syria. That includes CBS Foreign Correspondent Charlie D'Agata, who stated that, compared to other countries that have seen conflict, Ukraine is "relatively civilized."

"This isn't a place, with all due respect, like Iraq or Afghanistan that has seen conflict raging for decades. This is a relatively civilized, relatively European – I have to choose those words carefully, too – city, where you wouldn't expect that or

hope that it's going to happen," remarked D'Agata, whose sentiments were echoed by many other reporters and officials from the UK, US, and EU, including Al Jazeera's Peter Dobbie.

"These are prosperous, middle-class people. These are not obviously refugees trying to get away from the Middle East...or North Africa. They look like any European family that you'd live next-door to," said Dobbie.

Since then, several journalists and academics along with members of the public and the Arab and Middle Eastern Journalists Association (AMEJA)—while still empathizing with the people of Ukraine—have condemned the racist coverage of the humanitarian crisis that seeks to contribute to the normalization of the existence of war and tragedy in places like Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East.

"Newsrooms must not make comparisons that weigh the

significance or imply justification of one conflict over another," said AMEJA. The body of journalists also

stated that it stands in full solidarity with all civilians under military assault in any part of the world.

## NOTICE

BELIZE CITY

Estate of KENNETH R. NOYCE, deceased.

### STATUTORY NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Pursuant to Section 36 of the Administration of Estates Act, Chapter 197 of the Laws of Belize, **NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that all creditors and other persons having any claims or demands upon or against the Estate of **KENNETH R. NOYCE**, late of #7115 Reed Lane, West Des Moines, Iowa 50266, United States of America are required to send particulars in writing of their claims or demands to **PRUDENTIAL TRUST CORPORATION LIMITED**, the Administrator of the said estate, c/o Courtenay Coye LLP, Attorneys-at-Law, 15 "A" Street, Belize City, Belize and to send such particulars no later than the 9<sup>th</sup> day of June 2022, **AND NOTICE IS HEREBY ALSO GIVEN** that at the expiration of the last mentioned date, the Administrator will proceed to distribute the assets of the said **KENNETH R. NOYCE**, deceased, amongst the parties entitled thereto, having regard only to the claims or demands of which particulars have been delivered and the Administrators will not be liable for the assets or any part thereof so distributed to any person or persons of whose claims or demands it shall not then have had notice.

DATED the 9<sup>th</sup> day of March 2022.

  
COURTENAY COYE LLP  
Per: Iliana N. Swift  
Attorneys-at-Law

## ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER LENDING OPERATIONS

### JOB SUMMARY

The **Assistant General Manager, Lending Operations** is a key member of the Corporation's Executive Management Team and provides strategic and tactical direction in order to achieve the Corporation's objectives for development impact and financial sustainability through its suite of loan services, quality portfolio, market share, productivity and quality service. The AGM, Lending Operations provides oversight to the Credit Delivery, Portfolio Management and Marketing functions of the Corporation.

### QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

1. M.Sc. in Finance, Economics or other quantitative field or Management
2. 8-10 years of progressive executive level management experience, preferably in a financial institution.
3. Proven leadership skills with special concentration on strategic planning, change management, and communication.
4. Advanced loan underwriting/credit appraisal knowledge, and assessment of related risks.
5. Understanding DFC's role as a development bank and its mandate to shape Belize's economic and social landscape.
6. High ethical standards and uncompromising sense of integrity.

### KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. To provide strategic direction, business plans, and oversight to ensure relevance and quality of loan and related services, optimum market share, for continued financial sustainability and developmental impact.
2. Introduces and recommends loan policy changes to Executive Management and the Board as necessary. Responsible for interpreting and enforcing Loan Policies and Procedures.
3. To contribute to the sustainability of DFC by ensuring strategies are implemented for optimal portfolio growth and portfolio quality.
4. To oversee the effective evaluation and assessment of loan proposals and to make recommendations for approvals to the appropriate levels of delegated authority. Also approve loans within delegated authority.
5. To engage in funding negotiations with local, regional and international financial agencies.
6. Proactively identify and guide the implementation of innovative technological solutions and opportunities to enhance the loan servicing process to increase customer satisfaction, create process efficiencies and cost containment.
7. To identify and lead strategic initiatives to foster the Corporation's relationships with its customers to ensure services and solutions are delivered in alignment with the customer's objectives and corporate strategies.

### ACT NOW

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

Submit application  
with reference:

**Application for Vacancy  
Assistant General Manager,  
Lending Operations**

to:

**General Manager**

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

Applications may be submitted electronically by  
email to: [vacancies@dfcbelize.org](mailto:vacancies@dfcbelize.org)

**DEADLINE:**

**MARCH 23, 2022**

**VACANCY**  
Join our exciting team!



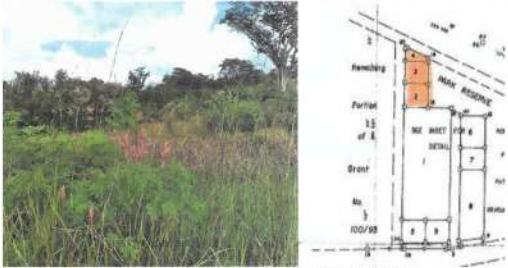
**PUBLIC AUCTION SALES: PROPERTIES**

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

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees, Messrs. Ascendancy Belize Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via [belizepropertyauctions.com](http://belizepropertyauctions.com) the below described properties. Sales currently running and will expire Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2022 at the times shown on the website.

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

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



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

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

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



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Orange Walk Town	4	3091/1

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

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



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Orange Walk Town	4	1236

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

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



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
San Jose Palmar	4	808

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

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



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Douglas Rural	4	118

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

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

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



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

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

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



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCELS
North San Pedro	7	5434 & 5435

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

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



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
San Pedro	7	2112

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

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



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Queen Square	45	1406

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

**D: Cayo District: Ontario Village**

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



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Society Hall	24	1323

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

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



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Society Hall	24	2427/1

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

**E: Stann Creek District: Dangriga**

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



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Dangriga South	31	1294

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

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

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



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Big Fall/Golden Stream	42	577

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

**"FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PHOTOGRAPHS PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE"**

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH

KEVIN A. CASTILLO

TELEPHONE 223-4488

Website: [belizepropertyauctions.com](http://belizepropertyauctions.com)

E-mail: [kevinacas@yahoo.com](mailto:kevinacas@yahoo.com)

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



## Ahmadiyya Basketball League Week 4 results

*Info courtesy Rodvern Lino – ABL Commissioner*

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Feb. 28, 2022

The Ahmadiyya Basketball League (ABL) continued yesterday, Sunday, February 27, with Week 4 of the tournament featuring 16 more games at the Mexico Center basketball courts inside the Marion Jones Sports Complex.

Below are the results in the different categories:

### U15

Falcons over PG, 58 – 21. Falcons – Jason Orosco 21pts; Wilburn Forbes 8pts. PG – Aguelle Flores 8pts; Atone Westby 5pts.

Los Lagos Defenders over ABS Hard Rock, 33 – 30. Los Lagos – Tevaan Dakers 9pts; Calvin Thurton 8pts. Hard Rock – Thomas Garcia and James Saldano 11pts each.

PG over Young Ballers, 28 – 23. PG – Atone Westby 10pts; Xylon Guzman 7pts. Young Ballers – Jernick Hyde 7pts; Keran Burgess 6pts.

### U18

Hard Rock Defenders over Cayo Dream Chasers, 49 – 26. Defenders – Devin Moody 23pts; Delhart Dominguez 15pts. Cayo Dream

Chasers - Zoren Deceuninck 12pts; Eliel Landero 7pts.

Cayo Dream Chasers over Vipers, 46 – 40. Cayo Dream Chasers – Kishawn Usher 18pts; Zoren Deceuninck 16pts. Vipers – Jahlone Gardiner 8pts; David Maheia 10pts.

Future Shock over Ladyville Big Dreams, 60 – 28. Future Shock – Kyle Castillo 15pts; Shane Pratt 13pts. Ladyville Big Dreams – Marque Ortiz 18pts.

Falcons over 501 Grizzlies, 36 – 28. Falcons – Jhalen Mariano 8pts; Alton Gutierrez & Julian Young 7pts each. 501 Grizzlies – LeBron Broaster 11pts; Leshawn Cadle 4pts.

Orange Walk Rebels over All Star Ballers, 46 – 33. Rebels – Jamar Higinio & Myron Bethancourt 10pts each. All Star Ballers – Keevis Tench and Brandon Smith 9pts each.

### U22

King's Park Raiders over 501 Gators, 28 – 24. King's Park – Glenford Bermudez 9pts; Dantae Smith 7pts. 501 Gators – Corey Garbutt 8pts; Lynden Gentle & Kirk Banner 5pts each.

Boom Ballers over Cayo Black Rose, 40 – 37. Boom Ballers – Joshua Westby 17pts; Jaheim Gallego 11pts.

Cayo Black Rose – Khalil Usher 13pts; Taheed Escalante 7pts.

Tropic Air Defenders over Orange Court Generals, ??? TA Defenders – Michael Goff 16pts; James Saunders 10pts. Orange Court Generals – Xylon Belgrave 17pts; Jaden Sutherland 4pts.

Orange Walk Rebels over Big Dream Ballers, 46 – 40. Rebels – Clinton Shaw 12pts; Hakan Godoy 9pts. Big Dream Ballers – Shamar Molina & Dennis Williams 14pts each.

Orange Walk Rebels over Northside Ballers, 52 – 42. Rebels – Rasheed Reneau 18pts; Clinton Shaw 14pts. Northside Ballers – Jonathon DeCosta

20pts; Greg Fisher 11pts.

Northside Ballers over Big Dream Ballers, 55 – 46. Northside – Jonathan DeCosta 31pts; Greg Fisher 10pts. Big Dream Ballers – Shamar Molina 22pts; Joshua Doran 6pts.

### Open

Orange Walk Dynapros over New Release, 36 – 30. Dynapros – Tyron Baptist 14pts; Tyrique Dawson 6pts. New Release – Keidel Lino 10pts; Alphius Cruz 8pts.

Orange Court Generals over Eagles, 32 – 29. OCG – John Kelly 10pts; Lincey Lopez 7pts. Eagles – Luis Barcelona 5pts; Zahir Harris 6pts.

## O.W. Sports Council hosted Softball Marathon

*by Leonard Zul a.k.a. Shaka Demus, Chairman of OWDSC*

ORANGE WALK TOWN, Mon. Feb. 28, 2022

Good morning, sports fans! It's been a while I haven't been writing or doing much in the sporting arena; but now I am back at it again as the Chairman of the Orange Walk District Sports Council (OWDSC); and we just held a Softball Marathon which went very well. (See the report below.) Our next plan is to start a competition to try and hype up the sports in OW.

The Orange Walk District Sports Council hosted a Softball Marathon yesterday, Sunday, February 27, with participation of 3 female teams (Orchid Girls of San Narciso Village, Czl; Carmelita United of Carmelita Village, OW; and Double G of Guinea Grass Village, OW) and 2 male teams (Madbull Production, OW; and Illusions, OW).

### Females

In game 1, Double G lost to Carmelita United, 7-5. Game 2 saw Double G losing to Orchid Girls, 7-3. And in the final game, Carmelita United won over Orchid Girls, 13-0, giving Carmelita United 1st Place in the Marathon; Orchid Girls was 2nd;

and Double G was 3rd.

### Males

The Male Category was a best-of-3 games affair. In the first game, Illusion won over Madbull Production, 6-2. In the second game, Madbull Production rebounded and won, 8-7. And in the decisive final match, Illusion took the game, defeating Madbull by a 15-3 score.

Following the Marathon, trophies and cash prizes were awarded to ALL participating teams along with individual awards for females and males.

### AWARDS

FEMALE: Best Pitcher – Herlett Bull (Carmelita); Most RBIs – Janeen Conoqui (Carmelita); Most Home Runs – Jenine Conoqui (Carmelita); Best Short Stop – Annette Desus (Double G); Best Outfield – Gizzell Gillett (Carmelita). Orchid Girls team also won the Best Sportsmanship award.

MALE: Best Pitcher – Germaine Chi (Illusions); Most RBIs – Ian Alvarez (Illusions); Most Home Runs – Carl Franklyn (Illusions); Best Short Stop – Jefferson Spencer (Madbull Production); Best Outfield – Jaheem Augustine (Madbull Production).

## FFB condemns all acts of violence

BELMOPAN, Sun. Mar. 6, 2022

Following the tragic incident which took place yesterday after the (Liga MX) match between Queretaro and Atlas (at Querétaro's Estadio Corregidora), the Football Federation of Belize (FFB) condemns all acts of violence. The FFB is deeply concerned about the incident which claimed the lives of many innocent people.

President Sergio Chuc on behalf of FFB has also reached out to President Yon de Luisa to send condolences and prayers for all those affected during this tragic incident. In his message, he reiterated the Football Federation of Belize position in standing in

solidarity with the Mexican Football Federation in condemning all acts of violence both on and off the field.

We join in prayer for the executives, officials, all football stakeholders and especially the grieving families during these very difficult times.

Football is a beautiful game; football is love, peace and unity. Football has been the sport to stop wars and bring unity, and as such it should never be the root of violence or mourning. Join us in sending love and prayers for all those suffering because of this tragic incident.

- press release -

## FFB calls National Senior Men's Team to camp

BELMOPAN, Thurs. Mar. 3, 2022

The Belize National Senior Men's Team is continuing its training preparations for the CONCACAF Nations League to be played from May 30 to June 14, 2022. The Senior Men's Team will play a friendly match against Cuba on March 27 at the FFB Football Stadium in Belmopan.

The Football Federation of Belize (FFB) wishes the National Senior Men's Team all the best as they report to camp on March 17 at 9:00 a.m.

The national team training schedule is as follows: March 17 & 18; and March 21 to 27.

Players called to camp and their respective home club are: goalkeepers – Woodrow West (Verdes FC), Earl Dyck (Rising Stars), Isaac Castillo (Garden City); defenders – Evral Trapp (Verdes FC), Collin Westby (Altitude FC), Allence Ayala (Verdes FC), Donnell Arzu (Wagiya FC), Asrel Sutherland (San Pedro Pirates), Norman Anderson (Verdes FC), Calvin Reid (Caribbean

Rum); midfielders – Denmark Casey (Garden City), Jordy Polanco (Verdes FC), Darrel Myvett (Verdes FC), Warren Moss (Wagiya FC), Tony Rocha (Orange Country, USA), Luis Torres (Altitude FC), Nana Yaw Mensah (NY Greek American AA), Angelo Capello (Sheffield United, UK), Eldon Reneau (Verdes FC), Jovaunn Ramos (Verdes FC); forwards – Deon McCaulay (Georgia Revolution, USA), Krisean Lopez (Verdes FC), Horace Avila (San Pedro Pirates), Michael Salazar (LA

Galaxy, USA), Carlos Bernardez (Real Espana, HON), Wilfredo Galvez (Garden City).

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

- press release -



# STRENGTHENING OF TAX ADMINISTRATION PROJECT

## REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

**Consultancy Firm to review and update the current Taxpayer Segmentation Model and develop a Risk-based Compliance Management Model**

**Institution:** The Ministry of Finance (MOF)

**Country:** Belize

**Project:** Strengthening of Tax Administration (STA)

**Abstract:** Consulting Services – Consultancy Firm to review and update the current Taxpayer Segmentation and develop a Risk-based Compliance Management Model.

**Loan No.:** 4839/OC-BL

**Deadline:** April 1, 2022, Belize Local Time

The Government of Belize (GOB) has received financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for the execution of a five-year tax modernization project entitled “Strengthening of Tax Administration” (BL-L1031). Through this project, the Belize Tax Service Department (BTSD) has procured a Modern Integrated Tax Administration System (the Revenue Management System (RMS)) and is presently in the implementation process. This new system will be used in the management of the Belize Tax Administration.

The BTSD Strategic Plan clearly addresses the relevance of taxpayer segmentation and the risk management approach. It indicates that:

“It has become good practice for Tax Administrators across the world to implement Taxpayer Segmentation in revenue management to effectively analyze taxpayer data and to efficaciously implement different and specific surveillance and control mechanisms,” and that; “The deployment of a ‘**Risk management approach**’ is a modern and pertinent tactic that would aid in compliance. This approach gives a structured basis for strategic planning; focuses on the underlying drivers (not symptoms) of non-compliance; promotes diversity in the way major tax compliance risks are treated, rather than a ‘one size fits all’ approach; realizes better outcomes as it refers to efficiency and effectiveness of programs; coincides with international standards and is a strong basis for evidence-based evaluation.

Consequently, the BTSD will explore the introduction of a Risk Management Plan (RMP) to properly respond to the risks identified on a timely basis, to minimize overall compliance burden for both the taxpayers and the tax administration. As an important aspect of the RMP, risk mitigating strategies will be proposed for application against potential and existing risks. The plan will highlight all areas of risks including risk-based assessments, risk-based audits, risk-based sector and taxpayer segmentation, compliance risks (registration, filing, reporting and payments) and international risks. Risk mitigation reduces the extent of exposure and ensures that the strategic objectives are achieved.”

The consulting services (“the services”) includes the contracting of a Consultancy Firm for a period of five (5) months to review and update the current Taxpayer Segmentation and develop a Risk-based compliance management model, including configuration of the model in the ITAS. The main activity of the consultancy includes:

1. To prepare an Action plan for the review and updating of the Taxpayer Segmentation Model and Risk Analysis Strategy
2. To Assess the status of BTSD taxpayer segmentation and the use of risk-based techniques in the BTSD and to analyze the BTSD taxpayer information to identify ways to segment the taxpayer population following different criteria (income, assets, number of employees, economic activities etc.), and other relevant indicators.
3. To review and update the current model for segmentation of BTSD taxpayers (companies and individuals) and to define a strategy for updating taxpayers’ segments and profiles in the ITAS periodically.
4. Profile all BTSD taxpayers following the model once the model is approved by BTSD management.
5. To propose a model for the risk-based compliance model, defining the risk-based indicators, the rules, the risk factors to be utilized, their relative relevance (high, medium, low), the sources of information to utilized, the mitigation measures, and the required operations to use them.
6. To include the information on taxpayer segmentation in the ITAS database, inclusive of defining (setting) the parameters and rules for its then configuration in the ITAS database.
7. To prepare a report on the risks identified as well as the relevant mitigation measures to be introduced.
8. To suggest additional information (internal and external) to improve its risk-based control system.
9. To deliver workshops to BTSD staff on the Taxpayer Segmentation Model and risk analysis strategy to be implemented.

The Consultancy Firm should have a minimum of five (5) years’ relevant working experience in similar assignment, helping tax administrations to implement risk-based taxpayer compliance programs with the application of taxpayer segmentation and information crosschecking. In addition, the Consultant firm should have a minimum five (5) years’ specific experience in the following areas:

- Tax administration,
- Taxpayer compliance control based on taxpayer segmentation, risk analysis and information crosschecking, and

- Training on risk-based taxpayer, taxpayer segmentation and information crosschecking.

As well as a minimum of three (3) years of previous experience in conducting assistance to countries in the areas of taxpayer segmentation, implementing risk-based compliance controls, and information crosschecking. Furthermore, the Consulting firm should have knowledge and experience working in Belize, and or the Caribbean environment in a similar assignment.

The Ministry of Finance now invites eligible Consultancy Firms (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested eligible Consultants must submit an Expression of Interest providing information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the services (description of similar assignments specifying start and end dates of assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills, etc.). *The term “consultant” means a legally established professional consulting firm or an entity that may provide the services.*

### Expression of Interest package should contain:

- (i) Document explaining interest, experience, and competence of the consulting firm.
- (ii) Firms experience in the assignment of similar consultancy services during the past five years. Description of similar assignments specifying start and end dates of assignments.
- (iii) Firms evidence of past jobs. (These includes letters from the respective client on the job (s) carried out, or a copy of contract or agreement with the client including copy of the TOR).
- (iv) Two references
- (v) Proof of nationality: Copy of certificate of incorporation, information of shareholders of company specifying the shares owned by each respective shareholder of the company and a copy of documentation of nationality of the shareholders of the company.

### Additional documentation required for National Consultants:

- (vi) Copy of Certificate of Good Standing from Belize Company Registry
- (vii) Copy of Certificate of Good Standing from the Social Security Board
- (viii) Copy of Certificate of Good Standing from the Belize Tax Service
- (ix) Copy of Current Trade License

A Consulting firm will be selected in accordance with the Quality and Cost - Based Selection (QCBS) procurement method set out in the Inter-American Development Bank: *Policies for the Selection and Contracting of Consultants financed by the Inter-American Development Bank* (GN-2350-15, May 2019 edition) and is open to all eligible consultants as defined in the IDB policies. The selection of the successful firm will be based on a competitive process among short-listed firms that takes into account the quality of the proposal and the cost of the service. **Only the short-listed firms will be notified and will be asked to submit a technical and price proposal.**

Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub-consultancy to enhance their qualifications. For the purpose of establishing the short list, the nationality of a firm is that of the country in which it is legally incorporated or constituted and in the case of Joint Venture, the nationality of the firm appointed to represent it.

**Further information** can be obtained at the address below during office hours Monday to Friday 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Expressions of interest must be delivered via direct mail or e-mail at the address indicated below by 3:00 p.m. (Belize local time) on Friday April 1, 2022.

Interested consulting firms are asked to submit their expression of interest via e-mail to [Michelle.Longsworth@bts.gov.bz](mailto:Michelle.Longsworth@bts.gov.bz) marked **STAP- Consultancy Firm to review and update the current Taxpayer Segmentation and develop a Risk-based Compliance Management Model** in the subject header, or submit on or before 3:00 p.m. (Belize local time) on Friday April 1, 2022 to the following address:

**Director General  
Belize Tax Service  
Strengthening of Tax Administration  
Project  
Charles Bartlett Hyde Building  
Mahogany Street, Belize City  
Tel: 501-222-5114**

For clarifications kindly contact:

**Procurement Officer  
Project Executing Unit  
Strengthening of Tax Administration  
Project  
Charles Bartlett Hyde Building  
Mahogany Street, Belize City  
Tel: 501-222-5114/E-mail: [Ian.Ramirez@mof.gov.bz](mailto:Ian.Ramirez@mof.gov.bz)**



# CARICOM-SICA signs Joint Declaration of San Pedro

by *Khaila Gentle*

SAN PEDRO, Ambergris Caye, Thurs. Mar. 3, 2022

At the conclusion of the Fourth CARICOM-SICA Summit, held in San Pedro, Ambergris Caye, heads of state/government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Central American Integration System (SICA) signed the Joint Declaration of San Pedro. With the declaration, the leaders of both sub-regions acknowledge the socioeconomic challenges that have been created by the climate crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic and also recognize the value in their countries' geographic proximity and shared values. The declaration expresses both SICA and CARICOM's commitment to strengthening relations in the name of economic recovery.

As we previously mentioned in last Friday's issue of *AMANDALA*, the

joint meeting is the first to be held in just over a decade. In the declaration, the heads of government emphasize the importance of meeting at more regular intervals "to consult and coordinate on issues of mutual interest on the regional and international agendas."

"[We] recognize the transformative force of regional integration in achieving inclusive sustainable development outcomes, and commit to continue strengthening their respective regional integration platforms of which they are members, and for others in which we share membership," stated the declaration.

The main focus of the CARICOM-SICA Summit was the discussion of ways to navigate the common challenges that both sub-regions have been facing. In response to those challenges, and as documented in the Joint Declaration of San Pedro, the sub-regions will now be seeking to



strengthen foreign policy consultation; encourage dialogue between Caribbean and Central American institutions in banking, trade, agriculture, tourism, disaster prevention, and more; strengthen cooperation in regards to climate change, including through collaboration between the CARICOM Climate Change Center (CCCCC) and the Central American Commission for the Environment and Development (CCAD); and work together to

strengthen the health systems of the region.

The Summit, like the 33rd Inter-Sessional CARICOM Heads of Government Meeting held on the island earlier in the week, was deemed a tremendous success. The conclusion of both meetings has set a pathway to a future of continued partnership and cooperation as the region strives to achieve a level of recovery that is both sustainable and resilient.

## BRANCH MANAGER, SOUTH

### JOB SUMMARY

The Branch Manager is responsible for the overall management of the branch operations inclusive of a loan portfolio, generating new business in support of the Corporation's annual objectives, lead and develop a high performance team and manage customer relations. The Branch Manager also represents DFC in local community through active participation in community affairs and participates in marketing of the Corporation's products and services.

### QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

1. A Bachelor's Degree in Economics, Agricultural Economics, Finance or related field.
2. At least five years of branch management experience at a Financial Institution.
3. At least five years of experience in loan underwriting. (Experience in management of developmental loans/projects would be an asset).
4. Certificate in Supervisory Management along with at least 3 years of experience in effectively leading people.

### REQUIRED SKILLS & ABILITIES

1. Knowledge of DFC's role as a development bank and its contribution to national economic development.
2. Superior communication skills – written, verbal, and inter-personal.
3. Mature and independent in judgment.
4. Results driven and customer focused.
5. Strong analytical skills.
6. Leadership and people-management skills.
7. Proficient in MS Office Suite and familiar with new channels used for mass communication.
8. Ability and willingness to travel, as required. This requires the possession of a privately owned motor vehicle and valid driver's license.
9. Working knowledge of Spanish.

### KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Lead all operational aspects of the Branch including administration, customer service, human resources, and marketing.
2. Process, review and approve loan applications based on authority, policies and procedures.
3. Maintain a quality loan portfolio to obtain the Branch's portfolio growth objectives.
4. Authorize loan disbursements and cash payments as per approved policies.
5. Provide direction to employees by effectively communicating job expectations, evaluating job performance, provide training and coaching, and maintain a motivated and high-performing team.
6. Develop the branch's annual objectives and budgets, and meet targets.
7. Implement the Branch's marketing plan to meet annual goals and targets.
8. Network to improve the presence and reputation of the Branch and the Corporation.
9. Adhere to high ethical standards, and comply with all company policies, regulations, and laws applicable to carrying out duties and responsibilities.
10. Other related duties.

### ACT NOW

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

Submit application  
with reference Application for Vacancy:  
**Branch Manager, South**  
to:  
**Manager**  
**Human Resources and General Affairs**  
Development Finance Corporation  
P. O. Box 40 | Belmopan | Belize, C.A.

Applications may be submitted electronically by  
email to: [vacancies@dfcbelize.org](mailto:vacancies@dfcbelize.org)

**DEADLINE:**  
**MARCH 16, 2022**

**VACANCY**  
**Join our exciting team!**



"Sicily in Belize city"



TASTE A BIT OF ITALY

The new and upgraded pier 1 is being transformed into a magnificent Italian experience, where advanced chefs prepare outstanding, appetizing delicacies for the entire family. We'd love to give Belizeans a taste of one of Italy's largest Mediterranean islands.



Daily Crossword Puzzle for March 10, 2022

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

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- Across**
- 1. Big name in banking
  - 6. Immobile class
  - 11. On the up-and-up
  - 12. Frequently
  - 13. Jungian term
  - 14. Rolls' partner
  - 15. Country lodging
  - 16. Oxlike critter
  - 17. Biblical trio
  - 19. Eyeball cover
  - 23. Autocrat of yore
  - 25. Author Amy
  - 26. Bake
  - 29. In need of more scratch
  - 31. Deviate off course
  - 32. Bath attire
  - 34. Just make, as a living
  - 36. Excuse me
  - 40. London hrs.
  - 41. Did lunch
  - 42. Cut too short
  - 45. High ranking Ottoman
  - 47. Name on a check
  - 48. Choral ensemble
  - 49. Argus-eyed
  - 50. Suspicious of
- Down**
- 1. Assertion
  - 2. Hair color
  - 3. Getting older
  - 4. Actor Alastair
  - 5. Airport info
  - 6. Bin
  - 7. Entangled
  - 8. Pig's place
  - 9. Gumshoe
  - 10. Compass pt.
  - 16. BSA relative
  - 18. Possessive pronoun
  - 20. Catchall abbr.
  - 21. Arena shout
  - 22. Even the slightest
  - 24. Wench
  - 26. Part of a reuben
  - 27. Acorn bearer
  - 28. Blow away
  - 30. 1773 jetsam
  - 33. Giant great
  - 35. Gawker
  - 37. Careless hurry
  - 38. Chloroform kin
  - 39. Heavily fleshed
  - 42. Curative water
  - 43. A Ripkin
  - 44. Crew's consent
  - 45. Bigwig in D.C.
  - 46. Air hero

**Crossword answers for last edition**

The answers below are for the puzzle appearing in the last edition of the Amandala. The answers for the above puzzle will appear in next issue of this newspaper.

Daily Interactive Crossword Puzzle - 03-02-2022 - Answers

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

**TENDER**



**Distribution Line Construction**

BEL invites tenders for Distribution Line Construction (Countrywide) for the year 2022 at the following locations:

- Corozal
- Orange Walk
- Belmopan
- San Ignacio
- Dangriga
- Punta Gorda
- Belize City and Ladyville
- San Pedro and Caye Caulker
- Independence and Placencia

The bidding documents, which outline all the duties and responsibilities of the contract are available on BEL's website at [www.bel.com.bz/Tenders.aspx](http://www.bel.com.bz/Tenders.aspx)

Bids must be submitted via email to [bidsubmittal@bel.com.bz](mailto:bidsubmittal@bel.com.bz) no later than 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 7, 2022.

The email subject should include the bid number located on the respective bid form.

For more information or queries, send email to [bidboxrequest@bel.com.bz](mailto:bidboxrequest@bel.com.bz)

Cost incurred for preparation of the tender document is the sole responsibility of the bidder. The lowest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.



**HARVEST CAYE CONSERVATION FOUNDATION DONATES BZD \$20,000 TOWARDS THE PROTECTION OF BELIZE’S WILDLIFE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**BELIZE CITY, BELIZE, Thursday, February 17, 2022:** The Harvest Caye Conservation Foundation (HCCF), a non-governmental organization established in partnership with Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings Ltd. (NCLH) and its subsidiary company, Belize Island Holdings Limited (BIHL), is proud to announce it is matching passenger donations dollar-for-dollar, which will be provided to two organizations protecting the wildlife and environment in Belize.

“We are pleased to match our passenger’s contributions towards safeguarding the Scarlet Macaw population, which was under direct threat from illegal poaching,” said Dan Farkas, general counsel at Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings Ltd. “By detecting and mitigating threats, the macaw population will have an opportunity to thrive, and future generations will be able to responsibly admire this iconic species.”

Located off the coast of southern Belize, Harvest Caye is considered the Caribbean’s premier resort-style destination. The HCCF was established in 2016 in partnership with Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings Ltd. and its subsidiary, Belize Island Holdings Ltd., as a non-governmental organization whose primary goal is to promote wildlife conservation. The HCCF is dedicated to working with other NGOs in Belize and overseeing advocacy and outreach work with schools and communities to promote conservation and awareness of threatened species.

The donations announced today reflects HCCF’s strong commitment to protect Belize’s wildlife. Half of the proceeds went to Friends for Conservation and Development, an existing partner. In 2020, HCCF was pleased to support a conservation project in Belize proposed by Friends for Conservation and Development which funded the launch of an Anti-Poaching Unit in the Chiquibul National Park. The main objective was to safeguard the Scarlet Macaw population which was under direct threat from illegal poaching. Scarlet Macaws are listed as an endangered species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, with less than 350 estimated to live in the jungles of Belize. This project was very successful in intercepting and detaining poachers. A total of seven baby Scarlet Macaws were rescued, recovered and reintroduced back into the wild. With the additional funding of BZD\$10,000, Friends for Conservation and Development will be able to improve the detection of threats to the macaw population and safeguard existing macaw nests starting this March.

The other half of the proceeds formalizes a new partnership with the Belize Wildlife Referral Clinic (BWRC), a non-governmental organization that provides professional veterinary care for injured or sick wildlife in Belize. BWRC works closely with the Forest Department in responding to wildlife issues, providing the necessary medical care and rehabilitation. The clinic also provides veterinary care and checkups for the wild scarlet macaws chicks in the Chiquibul forest each year under close monitoring by the Forest Department and Friends for Conservation and Development. In the past, BWRC has provided basic animal health check-ups for the captive wildlife. The BZD\$10,000 donation will support BWRC’s efforts to provide the needed care and rehabilitation for Belize’s wildlife.

HCCF is proud of its work to protect and promote wildlife conservation and is especially grateful for the support received by the Harvest Caye’s visitors. To learn more about the Company’s sustainability efforts, please see our inaugural [Environmental, Social & Governance Report](#).

**About Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings Ltd.**

Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings Ltd. (NYSE: NCLH) is a leading global cruise company which operates the Norwegian Cruise Line, Oceania Cruises and Regent Seven Seas Cruises brands. With a combined fleet of 28 ships with nearly 60,000 berths, these brands offer itineraries to more than 490 destinations worldwide. The Company has nine additional ships scheduled for delivery through 2027, comprising approximately 24,000 berths.



**Belize Wildlife Referral Clinic (BWRC)**



**Friends for Conservation & Development (FCD)**

## FROM THE PUBLISHER en Español

Cuando estalló el virus COVID-19 en marzo de 2020, hace casi dos años, recuerdo que pensé que la única forma en que nuestra gente de la base podría sobrevivir a esta catástrofe era si había alguna transferencia de riqueza de los súper ricos de Belize a los pobres. Esto no ocurrió. De hecho, los súper ricos tomaron más.

Con el paso del tiempo, le pregunté a mi hijo mayor, Mose, cómo sobrevivía nuestra gente. Sabía que las cosas habían sido difíciles incluso antes del coronavirus, por lo que el virus fue un caso de, como decimos, de mal en peor. Mose dijo que fue la diáspora beliceña en los Estados Unidos la que hizo posible la supervivencia en el país de origen. A falta de otra explicación, acepté su análisis.

Cuando vemos a nuestros indigentes y discapacitados mentales tambaleándose tan lamentablemente por las calles de la antigua capital, los que conocemos la historia sentimos una daga en el pecho. Esta es nuestra gente, y hubo un tiempo, durante siglos de hecho, que nuestra gente, nuestra gente esclavizada, era la columna vertebral de este territorio. Nuestro pueblo esclavizado durante siglos fue la gran mayoría de la población de esta colonia británica, que los amos coloniales de Londres llamaron Honduras Británica.

A todos los niños guatemaltecos se les enseña en la escuela que la tierra de Belize fue robada de Guatemala por los británicos, y que nosotros, los beliceños de color que vivimos aquí, éramos bienes muebles de los británicos. Esa es toda una historia en sí misma, y culminará con una sentencia de la Corte Internacional de Justicia (CIJ).

Les he dicho antes que los beliceños éramos más afortunados que otros súbditos británicos en esta región del Caribe, porque teníamos un puente terrestre a través de México hacia los Estados Unidos de América, la economía más rica del mundo. Honduras Británica era la única posesión británica en América Central de habla hispana. De modo que, cuando los funcionarios de inmigración estadounidenses en la frontera entre Estados Unidos y México escucharon a personas negras hablar inglés, asumieron que esas personas eran estadounidenses negros, no “espaldas mojadas”.

Fue la Segunda Guerra Mundial la que abrió los ojos de la clase obrera en H.B. a la riqueza y la generosidad de Estados Unidos, en comparación con el sufrimiento que nos imponían los británicos rudos. Durante la Segunda Guerra Mundial (1939-1945), se contrataron trabajadores beliceños para trabajar en la Zona del Canal en Panamá, donde los estadounidenses manejaban las cosas. Los beliceños comenzaron a anhelar viajar a los Estados Unidos.

El contexto más amplio de esta situación tuvo que ver con la Doctrina Monroe, una declaración del gobierno

de los Estados Unidos en 1823 de que ya no toleraría la injerencia en el Hemisferio Occidental por parte de ninguna potencia europea, designación que incluiría a Gran Bretaña, que estaba en posesión de Honduras Británica en 1823. (Los Estados Unidos de América había declarado su independencia de Gran Bretaña en 1776).

Pero hubo una relación especial entre los EE. UU. y el Reino Unido en el siglo XIX (la supremacía blanca), por lo que en 1859 Estados Unidos “patrocinó” un acuerdo por el cual Guatemala accedió a las fronteras internacionales para definir La Joya, 8,867 millas cuadradas, como territorio británico.

Unas décadas más tarde, las clases empresariales/industriales y militares dominantes en Guatemala comenzaron a quejarse del Tratado de 1859, pero en 1919 hubo un levantamiento masivo de los negros en Belize (los llamados “negros británicos”) que esencialmente rechazaba el dominio colonial británico. Aún así, Guatemala, el gorila hostil de 1,000 libras, permaneció en las fronteras occidental y sur de Belize, y fueron los británicos quienes tuvieron que enviar un buque de guerra aquí en 1948 para proteger a los beliceños, la mayoría de los cuales eran negros.

Sin embargo, para 1950, debido a que los británicos devaluaron el dólar beliceño, los beliceños comenzaron a agitar por el autogobierno y la independencia. Este impulso original de Belize por el autogobierno fue apoyado entre 1951 y 1954 por un gobierno guatemalteco dirigido por Jacobo Arbenz.

Pero Arbenz era demasiado nacionalista para los estadounidenses, por lo que Washington organizó su derrocamiento y comenzó a instalar títeres de la CIA como Carlos Castillo Armas y Miguel Ydígoras Fuentes para gobernar Guatemala. El resultado fue una terrible guerra civil en Guatemala, que comenzó en 1960 y duró hasta 1996.

Durante este período de sangrienta violencia en la república, Belize estaba completamente en paz y logró el autogobierno en 1964. Los británicos ahora comenzaban a transferir a Honduras Británica a la hegemonía de los estadounidenses quienes, luego del huracán Hattie en 1961, comenzaron a absorber la población negra de Belize en la Unión.

Hoy, Belize es una población negra minoritaria. La transferencia de la mayoría negra a la minoría negra se logró pacíficamente porque los beliceños queríamos ir al norte.

Así que ahora, aquí es donde está Belize hoy, donde Washington decidió que estuviéramos. Lo único que realmente nos diferencia de las dos repúblicas centroamericanas que nos rodean, Guatemala y Honduras, es que el inglés es el idioma oficial en Belize. Cuando eso cambie, esto se convierte en un juego de pelota completamente nuevo. Créanme.



GEORGETOWN TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL  
GEORGETOWN VILLAGE  
STANN CREEK DISTRICT

Applications are invited from suitably qualified individuals to fill the following vacancies:

**1 Mathematics Teacher – (3 Months)**

**1 English Teacher (3 Months)**

Qualifications for the teaching positions: Preferably a Bachelor's Degree in Education or the subject area. Interested persons in possession of an Associate's Degree may also apply.

Pay Scale will be in accordance with the scales approved by the Ministry of Education.

Interested persons are asked to submit Letter of Application, complete with Résumé, Transcripts, Valid Teacher's License and Two Letters of Recommendation by March 23, 2022 to the:

**Secretary  
Board of Governors  
Georgetown Technical High School  
P.O. Box 235  
Dangriga Town**



**Belize High School of Agriculture  
San Lazaro/Trinidad  
P.O. Box 161  
Orange Walk District  
Tel: 662-4142**



## Vacancy

Belize High School of Agriculture invites application from suitably qualified individuals to fill the following post:

English Teacher- Temporary (April 2022 – June 30, 2022)

Qualifications: The candidate shall possess a full License and a Bachelor's Degree in the subject area.

Interested persons are to submit their letter of application accompanied by resume, two letter of recommendations, medical certificate, police record, certified copies of transcript, diploma, social security, birth certificate/passport and teachers license to the following address:

Board Chairman  
Belize High School of Agriculture  
P.O Box 161  
Orange Walk District

Submit application with all relevant documents by March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022



## VACANCY: JOB OPPORTUNITY

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

### ASSISTANT OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR

#### Reports to: Cargo Operations Manager

**Summary of Responsibilities:** The Assistant Operations Supervisor will report to the Cargo Operations Manager and will assist with the supervision of all container movement and operations personnel. He or she will be responsible for preparing vessel worked forms to Accounts Department for billing and statistical/Operational reports. Able to check reefer plugins, read and calculate charges. Learn newly implemented Octopi Terminal Operating System, *training to be provided*. Assist COM with preparing gang order for vessels and reefer cargo information. This post is fun and challenging, come prepared for a new venture.

#### Job Responsibilities:

**Summary of Responsibilities:** The Assistant Operations Supervisor will report to the Cargo Operations Manager (COM) and will assist with the supervision of all container movement and operations personnel. He or she will be responsible for preparing vessel worked forms to Accounts Department for billing and statistical/Operational reports. Able to check reefer plugins, read and calculate charges. Utilize newly implemented Octopi Terminal Operating System (TOS), inhouse training and opportunity for ongoing self-development to be provided. Assist COM with preparing gang order for vessels, berth planning, staff scheduling and reefer cargo information.

#### Leadership Responsibilities:

- Attract, develop, grow and retain the best talents and fill the leadership pipeline.
- Organize, balance and schedule workloads within the department.
- Prioritize, delegate, and set performance objectives.
- Follow-up on performance, provide quality feedback, and objectively appraise differentiated performance levels.
- Empower and inspire staff to achieve high levels of motivation and employee engagement.
- Ensure zero harm, improve safe working processes.
- Provide timely reports for all accidents, incidents and disciplinary incidents.
- Understand Customer requirements and drive the department to achieve these on a consistent basis.
- Track and manage variable expenditure to avoid all cost waste and reduce costs to the bare minimum.
- Continuously lean, streamline, and improve processes.
- Leverage relevant technology to automate processes.
- Maintain high levels of data quality for data and information and reports provided to other functions.

#### Duties & Responsibilities:

- Remain vigilant and immediately take action in the event any personnel, customers or visitors to the terminal are not wearing PPE and/or any unsafe acts are witnessed.
- Assist with supervising of the movement of inbound and outbound of all containers and break bulk/bulk cargoes.
- Assist with supervising of personnel working in the port compound, container yard and pier.
- Assist with the input, processing and verification of correct and complete upload of vessel and cargo information into the TOS in preparation of vessel arrival. Reconcile planned and executed work prior vessel departure. Provide relief at Gate-In and Gate-Out processes as required.
- Develop and implement a systematic yard plan to accommodate perform cargo flows into and out of the yard; modify as required to meet actual vessel cargo fluctuations.
- Plan, sequence, execute and monitor cargo discharge and load, into and out of the yard in an optimized manner.
- Generate and execute work queues for yard stacker operators; discharge and load; monitor execution.
- Assist with the preparation of gang order for vessels.
- Assist with the preparation and daily maintenance of the staff roster; aligning anticipated operations manning requirements with projected vessel movements, distributing regularly (daily if required).
- Assist with the preparation and daily maintenance and distribution of the Berth Plan.
- Provide relief at Gate-In and Gate-Out processes as required.

- Provide relief at Front-Desk release processes as required.
- Check and sign delivery orders for authenticity to load direct delivery containers.
- Assist with the supervising of the loading and unloading of containers and break-bulk vessels in compound/pierhead.
- Provide reports of vessels worked to Accounts Department for billing.
- Provide reports (work logs) of vessels worked for operations statistics.
- Check and prepare reefer cargo information. Check reefer plug-ins, reading and calculate charges.
- Develop and maintain operational data and operational reporting.

#### Innovation & Productivity Improvements

- Learn "Octopi" Terminal Operating System (TOS). Initial basic training is to be provided and an inquisitive mind is required to continually learn, adopt and implement new features released within the TOS software on an ongoing basis. Strive to realize both the TOS's and the organization's full potential.
- Proactively drive efficiency and productivity and provide suggestions and recommendations to the Supervisors for continuous improvements.
- Develop and maintain updated processes and procedures for all tasks so that work is 100% standardized.
- Actively seek opportunities to drive innovation and realize efficiencies in the standardized work.
- Ensure all general work areas in a clean, tidy and hazard free condition.
- Any other duties and functions, of a related nature that may be assigned from time to time by the Cargo Operations Manager.

#### Requirements:

- Demonstratable supervisory and leadership skills required
- Proactive in addressing safety issues, hazardous practices and operational emergencies
- Ability to challenge standard practice and drive operational improvements
- Ability to work independently
- Able to work flexible hours
- Strong mathematical and analytical skills, critical thinking
- Microsoft office proficiency required
- Computer literacy including familiarity with data base entry and reporting, TOS utilization.

#### Job qualifications/Requirements:

- Experience in Cargo & Container Operations, Production or similar would be an asset.
- Associates Degree or higher
- Math & English CXC passes would be an asset.
- Experience supervising a blue-collar team would be an asset.

#### Skills/Competencies:

- Ability to work independently
- Ability to work flexible working hours
- Math and analytical skills required.
- Supervisory and leadership skills required.
- Pro-activeness required.
- Microsoft office proficiency required.

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

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

Applications should be emailed to:  
**[jobapplications@portofbelize.com](mailto:jobapplications@portofbelize.com)**  
**Closing date for receipt of applications is**  
**Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

# In Loving Memory of

To our Dad  
**Ronald Wilfred Flowers (Parks)**  
Sunrise: January 26, 1940  
Sunset: March 9, 2015



They say there is a reason. They say time will heal.  
Neither time nor reason will change the way I feel.  
Gone are the days we used to share, But in my heart you are always there.  
The gates of memories will never close,  
I miss you more than anybody knows.  
Love and miss you every day, 'till we meet again.

Sadly missed by the entire family

# In Loving Memory of

A dear mother, daughter, sister and friend

**Mercellee Therese Robinson**  
Who passed away March 9, 2009



Your life was a blessing  
Your memory a treasure...  
You are loved beyond words and missed beyond measure.

Sadly missed by son, daughter, mother, siblings other family and friends.



## CLASSIFIED ADS

### VACANCY

**VACANCY:** Looking for a babysitter/maid in Belize City; age 25 or over. Contact number: 604-5316.

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

**VACANCY:** Radiologist in Corozal Town, has to have a Medical License and has to be certified by the Ministry of Health and Wellness. Send job application, resume, qualification and 2 letters of reference to [Archangelmedicalczl@gmail.com](mailto:Archangelmedicalczl@gmail.com)

### NOTICE

**NOTICE:** I, Jordana Frutos lost registration number: CZL-0325; name

of vessel: "Early to Sea", white and blue 25-foot boat with blue canopy.

### LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE

**LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE:** Notice is hereby given that **Edison Trapp** is applying for a Restaurant Liquor License to be operated at Radisson Fort George Hotel & Marina, #2 Marine Parade, Belize City, Belize, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

**LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE:** Notice is hereby given that **Edison Trapp** is applying for a Publican Special Liquor License to be operated at Radisson Fort George Hotel & Marina, #2 Marine Parade, Belize City, Belize, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

**Sunday Review  
News Review Talk Show**  
On Krem TV & Krem Radio  
Live-streaming on Krem Television Face Book Page  
Host: YaYa Marin Coleman  
Date: Sunday, March 13, 2022 Time: 10:30 a.m. to noon  
Guest: Patrick Rodgers/Belizean Activist  
**Sunday Review will be repeated at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 13, 2022**

# CRYSTAL AUTO RENTAL

## Business gone crazy. Job opennings:

- Customer Service Agents
- Garage Supervisor
- Automotive Mechanic
- Car Sales Supervisor
- Auto Electrical Technician
- Car Washer / Drivers

Email resume: Deadline (Mar. 30th, 2022)

## crystalautorentalbz@gmail.com

## PUBLIC AUCTION SALE – BACAB ECO PARK

*Ridge Lagoon Estate Area, Boom Road, Belize District*

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. The Belize Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via [belizepropertyauctions.com](http://belizepropertyauctions.com) the following property. Sale currently running and will expire Monday 21st March 2022 at 1:30 pm:



REGISTRATION SECTION  
Ladyville/Lords Bank

BLOCK  
4

PARCEL  
64

(Being the following improvements/developments:

- a) **Caretaker's House** – (Being an elevated timber building [13 ft x 26 ft] + front porch [6ft x 13ft.])
- b) **Welcome Center** – (Between the parking lot and swimming pool and is comprised of several buildings being timber and masonry block walls, concrete floor, thatch roof and covered walkway approximately [16 ft. x 40 ft.])
- c) **Outdoor Bar** – (Being a thatched roof outdoor bar with tiled countertops + built-in stainless-steel buffet/ shelf cabinet)
- d) **Palapa Bar area with another open palapa** – (Being thatched roof, concrete floor, and half walls of palmetto sticks)
- e) **Swimming Pool** - (Timber planks and palmetto palm sticks board walk (100 meters long) leads to the pool area [approximately 6000 sq. ft]. Pool is reinforced concrete, tiled walls and is divided into two sections – kiddie section [2ft. deep]: Mushroom shape concrete waterfall: Adult section [4.5 ft. deep]: - rock waterfall + surrounded by concrete court with stone finish)
- f) **Pool Side Restaurant** – (Being a large thatch roof palapa – eating area + kitchen + cashier section + bartending area + water filter section + full male & female bathroom with storage lockers + showers + changing rooms)
- g) **Bathroom and locker storage area** – (Being a concrete building comprising of a female and male restroom, cut stone walls, roof galvalume roofing, and floor tiles)
- h) **Gift Shop** – (Being a small palmetto structure with concrete floors, palmetto walls, palmetto batten windows & doors, roof galvalume pitched supported by timber roof frame.)
- i) **Office and supplies storeroom** – (Being masonry block walls, with galvalume roofing material [12ft. x 15ft.])

- j) **Pasture for horses** – (Pastured sections are fenced with barbed wire supported by wooden posts)
- k) **Parking Lot**
- l) **Bicycle House**
- m) **Horse riding Pad and trail**
- n) **Horse riding equipment building**
- o) **Pool court with small palapas with table and seat**
- p) **Power supply and control station**
- q) **Water Supply Tower**
- r) **Swimming pool water pump house**
- s) **Kayak Pond**

and Parcel No. 64 (36.526 acres) located south of Ridge Lagoon Residential Estate, Burrell Boom Road, Belize District, the freehold property of Mr. Francis Smith & Maria Smith/Messrs. BACAB Eco - Park)

**VIEWING BY APPOINTMENTS ONLY**  
**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION - [www.belizebank.com](http://www.belizebank.com) (foreclosure listing)**

**TERMS: STRICTLY CASH**  
**KEVINA A. CASTILLO**  
**TELEPHONE: 223-4488**

**Website: [belizepropertyauctions.com](http://belizepropertyauctions.com)**  
**E-mail: [kevinacas@yahoo.com](mailto:kevinacas@yahoo.com)**  
**Face Book: Belize Auctions**



# INVITATION TO BID

## SEVENTH POWER PROJECT

### CAYE CAULKER INTERCONNECTION

#### Submarine Cable for the Caye Caulker Interconnection to San Pedro, Ambergris Caye; under the Seventh Power Project

Belize Electricity Limited (BEL) has received financing from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) towards the cost of the Seventh Power Project and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this financing to eligible payments under a contract for which this invitation is issued. Payments by CDB will be made only at the request of BEL and upon approval by CDB, and will be subject in all respects to the terms and conditions of the Financing Agreement. The Financing Agreement prohibits withdrawal from the financing account for the purpose of any payment to persons or entities, or for any import of goods, if such payment or import, to the knowledge of CDB, is prohibited by a decision of the United Nations Security Council taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. No party other than BEL shall derive any rights from the Financing Agreement or have any claim to the proceeds of the Financing.

**BEL now invites electronic bids from eligible bidders for the supply of 9.5 Miles of 34.5kV Submarine Cable for the Caye Caulker interconnection to San Pedro, Ambergris Caye under the Seventh Power Project. Works include but are not limited to the following:**

- **Design, manufacture, testing, transport, delivery to the Employer in Belize of 34.5 kV submarine cable and the accessories.**

Consideration will be limited to firms or joint ventures of firms which are legally incorporated or otherwise organized in, and have their principal place of business in an eligible country and are either:

- (a) more than 50% beneficially-owned by citizen or citizens and/or bona fide resident or residents of an eligible country or by a body corporate or bodies corporate meeting these requirements; or
- (b) owned or controlled by the government of an eligible country provided that it is legally and financially autonomous and operated under the commercial law of an eligible country and otherwise meets the eligibility requirements of the CDB Guidelines for Procurement (2006).

Procurement eligibility is extended to include all countries which are not CDB Member Countries.

Eligible bidders will be required to submit full qualification information with their bids establishing their eligibility to bid and qualification to perform the contract if the bid is accepted. Tender and qualification information are to be submitted in the English Language on the prescribed forms inserted in the Bid Documents. Submissions that do not provide the information required, or do not demonstrate the prospective bidder's ability to perform satisfactorily, will not qualify and will not be considered for further evaluation.

Qualification requirements include, inter alia:

#### A If the Bidder is a manufacturer:

##### (i) Financial Capability

The Bidder shall furnish documentary evidence that it meets the following financial requirement(s):

- (a) Average Annual Turnover: the Bidder shall have at least the Average Annual Turnover mentioned below over a period of best three years within last five years i.e. 5 years counting backward from the date of publication of ICB of at least \$8,000,000 USD.  
Bidder will submit audited financial reports along with the bid or if not required by the law of the Bidder's country, other financial statements acceptable to the Employer, for the last five (5) years to substantiate average annual turnover.
- (b) Liquid Assets: the Bidder at the time of bid submission should provide documentary evidence of at least the amount of liquid asset or working capital or credit facility or their combination of \$8,000,000 USD.

##### (ii) Experience and Technical Capacity

The Bidder shall furnish documentary evidence to demonstrate that it meets the following experience requirement(s):

- (i) General Experience: the Bidder should have at least five (5) years of general experience in supplying electrical goods and related services (i.e. years counting backward from the date of ICB publication).
- (ii) Specific Experience: the Bidder will at-least have experience of supplying similar goods (i.e. Submarine Cable/Underground Cable) having similar value in at least three contracts, within the last five (5) years (i.e. years counting backward from the date of ICB publication).

##### (iii) Documentary Evidence

The Bidder shall furnish documentary evidence to demonstrate that the Goods it offers meet the following usage requirement:

- (i) The manufacturer should have at least five (5) years of relevant manufacturing experience (i.e. Submarine Cable/Underground Cable). The five year period will be counted backward from the date of ICB publication).
- (ii) The manufacturer should have the annual manufacturing capacity of double of the offered quantities under the bid.
- (iii) The manufacturer should have registration with the local Chamber of Commerce and Industries or similar entity within the manufacturer's country.

#### B If Bidder is not a manufacturer:

If a Bidder is not a manufacturer, but is offering the Goods on behalf of the Manufacturer under Manufacturer's Authorization Form (Section IV, Bidding Forms), the Manufacturer shall demonstrate the above qualifications (i), (ii), (iii) and the Bidder shall demonstrate that it has successfully completed at least 3 contracts of similar goods valuing at least \$4,000,000 USD in the past 5 years.

Bidding Documents may be obtained by eligible bidders from the first address below for a non-refundable fee of one hundred United States dollars (USD 100). Requests must be made by written application including email. Written applications must be clearly marked: **"Request for Bidding Documents for the Supply of 9.5 Miles of 34.5kV Submarine Cable for Seventh Power Project"**, along with the name, address and contact information of the bidder for which Bidding Documents are being requested. Payment should be by wire transfer or bank draft made payable to: **Belize Electricity Limited**. Information to pay by wire transfer can be obtained from the first address below. Proof of payment is required before bidding documents are issued.

Documents will be promptly dispatched via registered email, but under no circumstance will BEL or their authorized agents be held responsible for late delivery or any other issue related to the issuance of the documents.

Electronic submissions in registered email with the subject title **"Bid for the Supply of 9.5 Miles of 34.5kV Submarine Cable for Seventh Power Project"**, must be received at the third address below no later than **10:00 a.m. Belize time** on **Monday, April 18, 2022**. A virtual bid opening will take place at 11:00 a.m. Belize time on Monday, April 18, 2022 at the second address below in the presence of bidders representatives who choose to attend virtually.

BEL reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the process and reject all bids, at any time prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected prospective bidder(s) or any obligation to inform the affected prospective bidder(s) of the grounds for BEL's action. BEL will not defray any costs incurred by any bidder in the preparation of bids.

#### 1. Address for Correspondence

Email: moris.alvarado@bel.com.bz

#### 2. Address for Bid Opening

Magazine Road Conference Room  
Belize Electricity Limited  
Belize City, Belize  
Central America

#### 3. Address for Bid Submission

Email: bidsubmittal@bel.com.bz



# Nora Parham to be posthumously pardoned

(From page 1)

*The 36-year old mother of eight and victim of domestic violence was condemned to death by hanging after an unfair trial. Countless pleas for mercy on her behalf went ignored.*

by Khaila Gentle

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Mar. 10, 2022

In the coming weeks, a posthumous pardon is likely to be granted to Nora Parham, the only woman to have been hanged in Belizean history. The motion to exonerate her was approved by Cabinet recently, and the proposal is now set to be sent to Governor-General H.E. Froyla Tzalam and the Belize Advisory Council for consideration.

Nora Parham was condemned to death not long after being arrested for allegedly setting her abusive husband, Ketchell Trapp, on fire in the latrine of their shared Orange Walk home. At the time, Belize was still under British rule, and British law determined that Parham was guilty. It was a decision ultimately made by a jury of twelve men in a trial presided over by Chief Justice Sir Clifford de Lisle Innis and Crown Counsel J. K. Havers. Despite pleas to the then governing party, led by First Minister George Price, and despite a petition that garnered over 2,000 signatures, Parham was denied mercy on the grounds that “sympathy” should not be allowed to “change court rulings.” And while a recommendation for mercy was sent to the British Governor at the time, Sir Peter H.G. Stallard, nothing was done to reduce the sentence or change the ruling. Additionally, a request for a Stay of Execution was sent to the Queen of England on behalf of Nora, to which the

Queen had agreed, but her correspondence did not arrive on time.

On June 5, 1963, a 36-year-old Nora Parham was escorted to the gallows by prison officer Eustace Pandey. In a 2015 interview with *AMANDALA*, Pandey described Parham as “brave”, noting that, although she said nothing before her death, she was smiling. Cabinet’s approval of the posthumous exoneration comes just three months shy of the 58th anniversary of Parham’s execution, with the official announcement being made this past Tuesday, March 8, on International Women’s Day.

Parham, a mother to eight boys, was a victim of domestic abuse at the hands of her common-law husband—a constable in the British Honduras police force and father of four of her sons. Despite her complaining to the police on numerous occasions about the violent nature of her partner, nothing was ever done, as is often the case with such incidents. On Wednesday, February 6, 1963, Ketchell Trapp would run out of the family’s latrine, naked and on fire, and Nora Parham, who rushed to get help, would later be arrested. Trapp would succumb to his injuries one day later and be buried with full police honors. While Nora admitted to throwing gasoline on Trapp, she testified that she did not light the fire that killed him. Her testimony, excerpts of which were recorded in *The Belize Billboard*, detailed the moments that led

up to the fire.

She related, “...he was going outside, saying to me he was going to the toilet. While going to the toilet he used threatening words to me. I then replied to him saying, ‘I will make the Sergeant know about your threatening words.’ He then returned back in the bedroom. While he came back in the bedroom, I had a gasoline iron [in] my hand with a pan of gasoline.

“He came in the bedroom with a stick in his hand and hit me on my head. When he was going to hit me another hit, I threw the gasoline on him and he grabbed away the pan from me, and I went through the backdoor and he stone me with the said pan,” she further said.

It was after that scuffle that Trapp would go to use the latrine and emerge shortly after on fire.

Before he died, Ketchell Trapp confessed to police that after the fight with Nora, he went to the restroom and lit a cigarette, which then caused the gasoline to ignite. He also confessed to hitting Nora, stating he “gave her a few blows”. But according to Agripina “Pinita” Espejo, M.B.E., J.P., a personal friend of both Parham and Trapp and Orange Walk’s first woman mayor, Trapp’s dying declaration was changed at Parham’s trial, with the prosecution accusing her of dousing the police officer with gasoline before setting him ablaze and locking him in the outhouse. This was not the only thing that was changed. During an interview in April 2009, Espejo also told *AMANDALA* that she and a nurse had visited Nora on the night of the incident while she was in police detention. Nora’s face was visibly swollen, but the medic, Fernando Zetina Rosado, failed to mention this in his court testimony, stating that the only thing he noticed on Nora was an 8-day-old shoulder wound. Despite Espejo’s constant attempts at telling people Trapp’s statement had been changed, no one ever acknowledged her.

Nora Parham was arrested and charged for the murder of Ketchell Trapp, and on Saturday, February 16, 1963, she was transferred to the Belize Central Prison. In April, the court would deliver a guilty verdict and Judge Clifford de Lisle Innis would sentence her to death. In the moments before her execution on June 5, an estimated 200 persons, including Nora Parham’s sons, kept vigil outside the prison.

“No black flag, no bell, and not even any noise audible to the public was made when eight o’clock came and Nora was

hanged,” reported *Belize Billboard*, run by Philip Goldson, the day after Parham’s death. On several occasions, the newspaper’s editor had called for the pardoning of Parham, if only for the sake of her eight children, but like all other previous appeals for clemency, it fell on deaf ears. The *Belize Billboard* was the main paper to provide a thorough account of Parham’s trial and the events that occurred between February and June of 1963. The paper described Parham as being neatly dressed, erect in posture, and well-spoken when she had pleaded “not guilty” to the charge of murder.

*From Colony to Nation*, a book on political women’s history in Belize written by Anne S. Macpherson, references the unjust trial and sentencing of Nora Parham and the denial of mercy by the then governing party, arguing that Nora was treated, not as a battered woman, but as a “cop slayer”. In it, Macpherson notes that “by refusing to treat the pair [Parham and Trapp] as wife and husband, not just cop slayer and cop, the government deepened its own highly political silence about domestic and community gender oppression and violence.”

Minister of Human Development, Hon. Dolores Balderamos Garcia, who first brought the issue of a possible pardoning to the House of Representatives in February this year, has expressed that she believes a historic wrong will be righted. On April 29, 2020, Dr. Samantha Parham-Casey, granddaughter of Nora Parham, wrote in this newspaper about the silent suffering that her father and uncles have endured over the past fifty-seven years.

“We say, clear Nora Parham’s name once and for all and rewrite history,” she wrote, demanding that the children of Nora Parham be given the justice that they deserve while they are still alive.

And while the symbolic gesture will ease the pain of Nora Parham’s descendants at least a little, there is still much work that needs to be done in regards to tackling domestic violence in Belize. The decades after the unjust execution of Nora Parham, and, undoubtedly the years before as well, have seen countless incidents of a similar nature in which victims of domestic violence have been ignored and even ridiculed, and their voices left unheard. The dismantling of the culture of domestic abuse that prevails in our society requires continued effort, not just from Government officials in the form of legislature reform, but from all of us.

## STATUTORY NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE ESTATE OF ALFONSO VALLEJOS,  
deceased

Late of Patchakan Village, Corozal District, Belize

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 36 of the Administration of Estates Act Chapter 197 of the Laws of Belize that all persons having claims as creditors against the above-named deceased or his estate, are required to lodge any such claim(s) with LOIDA IRACEMA POTT of Santa Clara Village, Corozal District, Belize the Administratrix of the above-mentioned Estate, within three (3) months from the first publication of this notice after which date the Administratrix shall proceed to distribute the assets of the estate among the beneficiaries entitled thereto having regard only to such claims of which the Administratrix will then have had notice.

DATED this 10th day of March 2022

**LOIDA IRACEMA POTT**  
**Administratrix of the Estate of**  
**ALFONSO VALLEJOS**

## Third narco-plane landing in 2 weeks

Continued from Page 7

With the assistance of the Coast Guard, they were able to get on that area where the plane had landed,” Commissioner Williams explained.

He said that the Mexican air asset had an aerial view of the operation that was taking place on the ground while our local authorities were trying to reach the location.

“We had aerial assistance from Mexican air assets, and they had indicated to us, play by play what was happening, and they said that there was like several ATV’s, and there were three boats right

by the lagoon, and the cargo was loaded from the plane and the ATV’s were used and taken to the boat and then the boats took the drugs through the sea and perhaps went over to the Mexican side through the sea,” Williams said.

As mentioned, by the time police reached the landing site, there were no drugs or narco operatives in sight, so no arrests were made. What remained on the scene, other than the Gulfstream jet, was a sunken ATV and a wooden trailer. This is the third drug plane to land in the country in just two weeks, with this Gulfstream G2 jet being valued at upwards of \$10 million BZD.

# Justice Young says GOB broke law

Continued from Page 1

that the ruling is a vindication of the position they have taken in regard to the action. While the government has been publicly highlighting the fact that the contract was not canceled by the judge, which GoB considers an act of vindication, Senator Peyrefitte has pointed to the reason for the judge's unwillingness to cancel the contract—the fact that it would result in additional costs for taxpayers. Also, according to Peyrefitte, the court did acknowledge that the government violated the Finance and Audit Reform Act and thus broke the law.

The UDP thus asserted in a press release that was issued today, March 8, “The truth is that our Claim succeeded. Justice Young in fact upheld our case and granted Judicial Review because she found the contract illegal. Thus, the Claimant was victorious and was awarded costs as the winning party. A further request to terminate the contract because of its illegality was denied because Justice Young exercised her undoubted discretion not to quash. She said that quashing would only bring additional hardship on taxpayers. This was for the reason that the services



Senator Michael Peyrefitte

under the contract, though illegal, had nevertheless already been performed for seven (7) of the twelve (12) months during which the contract was to last. Government would thus not be able to recover the taxpayer monies paid to Smart and Microsoft, and would in fact have to spend more taxpayer monies to enter into and pay for a new, legal contract.”

Peyrefitte himself noted when he spoke to reporters, “From what we could hear, she declared that the Finance and Audit Reform Act was violated, the government did not follow the Finance and Audit Reform Act, and they awarded full cost to us, and she also used the word ‘vindication,’ which means that we may be entitled to vindictory damages—clearly indicating that what the government did was illegal, but I guess, based on what her decision orally, that it would not make sense in her view for the contract to be terminated at this point.”

The Government Press Office, however, in a press release stated, “Justice Young found that the BZ\$3.4-million-dollar contract awarded to SMART for Microsoft 365 licenses for a period of one year was validly and rationally entered into with the government.”

And Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño took to Facebook following the announcement of the judgment and claimed that the ruling was a vindication of his government's decision.

“The judgement handed down by Justice Sonya Young is vindication that we acted prudently and with rationality,” the Prime Minister remarked on Facebook.

It has been noted, however, that had the judge considered the decision of the government to be fully legal and ethical, the government would not have been ordered to pay Peyrefitte's legal

fees and would not have been given an admonishment by the Supreme Court.

Peyrefitte, after the ruling, explained the nature of that admonishment issued by the court. “The judge even warned the government to say, ‘you are being watched, you are being monitored, you are being followed as to whether or not you will continue to follow these illegal procedures’, and I think what the judge did was to give a stinging review of the government to say that they violated the law, but at the same time, the judge felt that given where we are and given that the contract is already so far along in her view – in her view it did not make sense for her to declare the contract null and void,” Peyrefitte said.

The press release issued by the United Democratic Party has referred to Government's portrayal of Justice Young's ruling as a misrepresentation and further stated that the party “condemns the Briceño administration for lying to the Belizean people about Justice Sonya Young's ruling on the illegal awarding of a Microsoft contract to the Briceño owned company, SMART.” The party further remarked in its release that, “The shameful victory lap taken by Government after the judgement reeks of the stench left by Said Musa's “

‘vindication’ comment, which came after the CCJ award to Belize Bank for the unconstitutional and immoral diversion of \$20 million to a UHS loan. Such declarations of victory and vindication in relation to clearly wrongful acts demonstrates how dishonest those in power become when a Court, as in this case, does not—for public policy reasons—actually quash a contract even after declaring it illegal.”

What the UDP has emphasized is that, “Justice Young was clear... that the exercise of her discretion not to quash so as to spare taxpayers, should

not detract from the gravity of her finding and declaration as to the wrongfulness of the Government's actions in executing a contract in violation of the protective requirements of the Finance and Audit Reform Act.” It further insisted that the judge's decision to award Peyrefitte full coverage of his legal costs was “a way of signaling the Court's disapprobation of the Government's behavior.”

The attorney for the claimant, Senior Counsel Dean Barrow (former Prime Minister of Belize), in a phone interview with 7News, said that the funds paid out to SMART would be unrecoverable and the cost of a new contract would have had to be shouldered by the taxpayers. This contract is set to end in about 5 months or so, and Peyrefitte has said that they will review the written judgment before making a decision as to whether or not they will appeal the ruling.

“We have to clearly look at her decision. We have to clearly look at her reasons, and we have to decide whether or not we want to accept it or we want to appeal it, bearing fully in mind that the time for the appeal to be heard could very well be the time when the contract ends. All of that we have to analyze. I think it is a split decision, because the government will have to pay some serious cost, the government has been scolded and told that they failed to follow the law, but at the same time the judge also has the responsibility to say while she does declare that the government broke the law, whether or not it makes sense at this point to cancel the entire contract – I would have preferred for the judge to say that given the fact that they broke the law that the contract should be fully canceled, but that's the decision, and we have to respect her decision,” Peyrefitte said.

## Alleged gunman killed in Locke's Alley

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area. The plan went afoul when persons from that area observed him and companions of his entering the area and opened fire.

It has been reported that sometime before 9:00 that night, four men said to be from the PIV area were dropped off near Locke's Alley in the Logwood Street area after having been ordered to carry out an execution, but an unknown gunman spotted them from afar and opened fire in their direction, killing Carrel Sanchez, 23, in the process.

Police believe that these four men were sent to the area in retaliation for the attempted murder of Patrick “Pato” Jones, whose vehicle was shot at while he was driving along Nargusta Street several nights ago. Jones had survived that shooting.

Commissioner of Police, Chester Williams met with members of the media on Wednesday, March 9, and mentioned that the shootings are connected to the ongoing gang war between members of rival gangs in the George Street area and the Wagner's Lane area.

“We are doing a number of things to see how we can respond adequately to the raising of these different feuds with different factions. Let me say, what we have seen, over the past few weeks is an intense rivalry between George Street and Wagner's Lane which has resulted in many shootings, including one that was fatal. And then, we also have the tension within the Mayflower area, which [has] expanded to now include PIV, and this is a direct result of the shooting at [Patrick] “Pato” [Jones] vehicle. As you may recall that [Patrick] “Pato” [Jones] was shot at two nights ago as he traversed [the] Nargusta Street area and the shooting itself resulted in him overturning, causing extensive damage to his vehicle. So we saw last night now, where apparently, PIV retaliated in respect to what happened with [Patrick] “Pato” [Jones],” he said.

“What investigation shows is that one of the guys, who had gone to do the execution, he ran into the area firing shots and we believe was cornered while doing so and he was fatally shot,” COMPOL Williams further stated.

Commissioner Williams also noted

that the motionless body of Sanchez was found with gunshot wounds to his shoulder. Also, police found two loaded 9mm pistols at the scene after they canvassed the area. They believe that those weapons were to have been used by the group of PIV members to carry out the shooting. One person was detained following the shooting incident, as he was found near those weapons. Commissioner Williams stated that the person will be charged for possession of the weapons.

“We also were able to detain one suspect from the crowd that went in, and the guns were found not too far away from where he was, and so certainly he will be charged in respect to the discovery of those weapons. We have interviewed him and we're interviewing a number of other persons with a goal to ascertain what transpired,” he mentioned.

Notably, on the same day on which the shooting occurred, the Leadership Intervention Unit (LIU) had held another gang mediation meeting in response to the rise in gang activity in the city, and it was reported that the deceased Sanchez had attended that

meeting before his death later that day. Commissioner Williams has mentioned repeatedly to the local media that he will not be participating in any gang mediation sessions, since he believes that the participants in the mediation aren't taking it seriously.

“I am not sure if he was a part of any mediation. I don't know of any recent mediations, but perhaps he could be,” he said.

There have been unconfirmed reports that a police officer was involved in the crossfire among the gang members on Tuesday night. However, Commissioner Williams said that those reports are false, but noted that a police officer may have been the one to have taken the men to the area.

“We are getting information that a police officer is involved with the PIV crowd that went into the area; we have not confirmed. At this time, it is information received and the gang task force has been tasked to look at it very carefully, and if it is that we should find that indeed the police officer was involved, he certainly will be dealt with,” he said.

# Bus operators threaten strike

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nationwide bus strike in which the 38 bus operators who are part of the association will participate. The decision is said to be a direct response to the government's perceived reluctance to offer some form of relief to these bus operators, even after a series of discussions between the parties that stretches back to a few months prior to the onset of Covid-19 and the change in administration following the 2020 elections. Having been given no indication that they will be provided with some type of relief, and seeing price hikes occurring on a regular basis in other industries, the bus operators feel pushed against the wall, and as such are now pushing back.

During an interview this morning, Ewart Metzgen, secretary of the Belize Bus Association, stated, "Just recently when we started coming out of the pandemic, we started meeting and talking again, and these issues started coming up by our members—that they are saying that the burden is too high with the cost of having to buy supplies to do the sanitation and all that GOB is asking operators to do. It's taking a toll on our bottomline, and we just saw it fit to have approach them again and to bring the discussion up, which in we have many issues in the industry that we need to sort out because of demands coming from GOB and the pressure coming on operators with this new master plan and the difference of them wanting to implement new buses and all that. And we've sat down on many occasions; we've spoke to them about

this. It seems that most of the—we go into the meetings with them, they are there, they hear what we are saying, but they are not understanding what we are saying and it came to a halt on Tuesday when we had a final meeting with both Ministers in Transport Rodwell Ferguson and Mr. Usher along with the CEO and CTO along with two others from the department."

He said that 5 of the major bus operators are members of the BBA, and in total, the members of the association control about 85% of the public transportation routes in the country, and he pointed to a number of issues that are making it difficult to operate within the industry—one being the entry of a new busline, Floralia. Without going into any detail, he hinted at a legal challenge currently lodged against the company and claimed the new entrant may be eyeing northern routes as part of its expansion strategy. However, the rising cost of operations and their shrinking profits have been by far the paramount concern presented by the operators during their discussions with GoB. According to Metzgen, their pleas to the government for support have seemingly fallen on deaf ears.

"The other issue was the high cost of fuel and that bus operators can no longer absorb the cost. It's becoming too much of a burden for us, and we made a proposal for some sort of an increase to the bus fares to try and sort of balance off or alleviate the pressure that we are facing, and point-blank the Minister

looked at us and told us that can't happen and that only Cabinet can make a decision on bus fares. We told them we have the water taxis that have already taken up prices, you have grocery stores, everybody that uses transportation to move goods because of the cost of fuel has already taken up their prices. During the pandemic, the bus industry was one of those that was never ever looked at or given any assistance by the former administration, now this one," he said.

"There has to be a breaking point somewhere. I mean, they have to come and meet us halfway, somewhere. I mean, we are willing to sit down and try to see how we can work this thing out, but when he told us that on Tuesday, we took it back to our members, and our members they tell us what to do, and we go by what our members tell us to do. I mean, we are only the messenger here, myself, Mr. Shawn, executive of the BBA, we go by what our member tell us to do, and we did what they told us to do yesterday, announced that we will strike," Metzgen went on to say.

To prevent any type of preparation by the government that could minimize the impact and effectiveness of the strike, the BBA has not indicated when exactly they will go on strike, but has said that it could be at any time. A national bus strike will no doubt cause severe distress to users of public transportation and result in an added pinch on the pockets of the already cash-strapped bus operators. Metzgen said that the delay in the strike is also a short window for the government officials

to come back to the table and work out a resolution.

He remarked that the cost of fuel is driving up the prices of everything in the country and insisted that there must be some way that government can ease the burden on the citizenry.

"We as the bus operators cannot take the continued increase in the cost of fuel, much less the rest of people who use cars to traverse to work or whatever. We have not only bus transportation; we have trucking. This is driving up the cost of everything in the country. I mean, there must be some way that government can ease what is taking place with the cost of fuel. We know it's from an external source, but in-house, in the country, I mean, man, something must could be done, and they are refusing to budge." Metzgen said.

The BBA is requesting a 25% increase in bus fares to partially offset the increasing cost of fuel and other expenses that are eating away at the bus operators' bottomline. He noted that they will not be making any profits with the 25% increase and that it would serve only to reduce the impact of the cost of their operations, given the high fuel prices.

"What we are asking for is just for us to continue to provide the service that the Belizean public needs out there, and I know that Belizeans, they themselves can't afford a price hike, but come on, man. We have been suffering and taking the losses for so long, and it just cannot continue. We cannot continue to do so." said Metzgen.

## CJ Benjamin's \$1.3 billion ruling against Barrow a dud

Continued from Page 1

and, as such, was a violation of the Constitution of Belize and the Finance and Audit Reform Act. At the time, the claimants sought a permanent injunction to bar Hon. Barrow from engaging in further spending of monies from the Consolidated Revenue Fund without parliamentary approval, but CJ Benjamin instead issued a stay for 6 months on the injunction, to give former Prime Minister Barrow time to carry out the necessary amendments in order to correct the perceived illegality.

The issue here is that in April 2020, CJ Benjamin retired from the bench before perfecting his judgment and approving a draft order for the claimants—resulting effectively in a lapse of the 6-month stay, without no further concrete directive being issued by the court. This gave rise to this most recent application by the claimants, Hon. Briceño and Espat, who sought to have the Supreme Court lift the stay and post-judgment injunction, on the basis of the oral transcript and arguments in the case presided over by former CJ Benjamin.

One week ago, on March 3, 2022, Chief Justice Michelle Arana (Ag.) delivered a judgment on the application brought by Hon. Briceño and Hon. Espat in claim no. 142 of 2019, and she outlined the former Chief Justice's failure to perfect the oral order.

"Justice Benjamin, having received the draft and despite being the original arbiter of the facts and the law, in this case, failed to settle the order. An order was never perfected, the terms are highly contentious, and therefore no one knows

exactly what was the order made by Chief Justice Benjamin," CJ Arana's judgment states.

The claimants submitted in their application that the court was obliged to recognize and settle the terms of the order handed down by CJ Benjamin, while the defendants, including Rt. Hon. Barrow, contended that the claim must be heard *de novo*, or from the beginning, in order for a new judge to hand down a sound ruling.

In the defendant's legal submissions, they stated, "It is not for another Court to supply an order where none was made nor supply reasons not given by another judge. This Court cannot step into the shoes of the then Chief Justice and seek to right what was not done."

The claimants, for their part, stated that it was the current court's responsibility to complete the process that CJ Benjamin had left half-done.

"In the case, when Chief Justice Benjamin stayed the permanent injunction for six months, the Court retained a remedial and/or supervisory discretion to reconsider the stay if circumstances changed during that time and to grant the injunction sought. In constitutional cases, the Court has the even more extensive power to fashion new remedies as appropriate to ensure compliance with its declaratory order. To refuse to grant the order now sought in the circumstances now before the Court would be severely detrimental not only to the interests of the Claimants, but would be completely contrary to public interest and undermine the rule of law," the claimant's submission states.

CJ Arana, in her ruling, however, flatly

rejected that position and gave a serious admonition to the current administration.

"To seek to have this court, a court of concomitant jurisdiction, rely on the transcript of the case to infer the terms of the order, and lift a stay which may or may not exist, and give effect to an order that is ambiguous and perhaps non-existent is preposterous. Let me be clear in saying that this decision is in no way an abdication of this court's role in guarding the Constitution and upholding the Rule of Law; the Court is a jealous guardian of both. The Court is not a football to be kicked around by opportunists of any political party; it is hoped that the grave ill complained of, that is, the bringing of supplementary allocations and expenditure raised or received by the State without first seeking approval of the House of Representatives, as well as the retrospective appropriation of monies contrary to the provisions of the Constitution and the Finance and Audit Reform Act has now ceased, since the parties before the court in this Claim are now wearing different hats. It is no part of this court's function to seek to give effect to an order when this court has not had the benefits of hearing arguments and considering evidence which gave rise to the oral judgment, where the evidence of affidavits in support of the Application are contentious, and where the original arbiter of the facts and the law has failed to settle the order despite receiving drafts for approval submitted by counsel," CJ Arana's ruling states. The CJ noted that the situation would have been different if an order had been made and the terms of the order clearly set out.

The application was thus dismissed and the court costs were awarded to the defendants.

While the ruling of the former Chief Justice Kenneth Benjamin – which declared the previous administration's spending of \$1.3 billion to be unlawful—was not quashed or overturned, this judgment denies the claimants the remedy of an injunction effectively against the legislature and the executive, in breach of the doctrine of separation of powers.

The defendant's submission in the written judgment states, "The purported injunctive order in effect seeks to bind the State. Assuming though not admitting that a declaratory order was made on January 31, 2020, granting an injunction in this matter would in effect cause this Honourable Court to abrogate unto itself endless powers to supervise and usurp the function of the legislature."

This case, initiated to highlight illegal spending and bring judgment against the former prime minister, turned out to be a revelation of the gross inconsistencies at the bench under the leadership of retired Chief Justice Benjamin and a stark warning for the current leadership of this country. It must be noted that Port of Belize Limited has brought a case against the Christian Workers Union in an attempt to block a \$1.5 million payment made by the government to the PBL's stevedores, based on the claim that this administration did not receive the requisite parliamentary approval to pay out the funds—something that Hon. Briceño has said will be remedied during the government's upcoming presentation of a new budget in the House of Representatives.

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