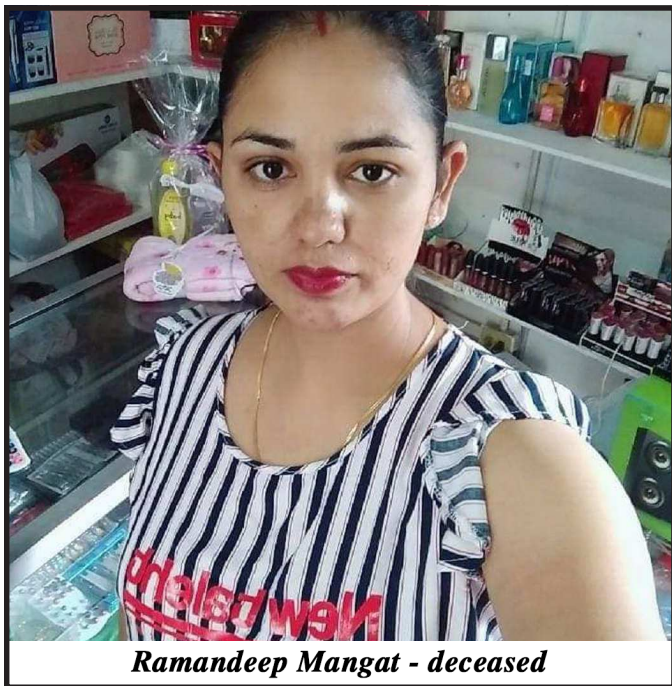


Belize's leading newspaper

Woman executed in San Ignacio

29-year-old Ramandeep Mangat, an Indian national, was killed while waiting for her husband to get an order of tacos from a nearby stand.



Ramandeep Mangat - deceased

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Mar. 21, 2022

A woman was murdered in San Ignacio, Cayo, on Friday night, March 18, while waiting for her husband inside their car while he was getting an order of tacos from a nearby vendor.

According to initial police reports, at around 8:10 p.m. that night, 34-year-old Gurmeet Mangat,

an Indian national, arrived at a tacos stand near the San Ignacio Hotel on Buena Vista Street in San Ignacio Town in the Cayo District in his red Toyota Tacoma, along with his wife, 29-year-old Ramandeep Mangat.

Gurmeet Mangat reportedly parked at the corner of Buena Vista and Apollo Streets and proceeded to leave his wife inside the vehicle as he stepped out to order tacos. A few moments later, Gurmeet heard his wife screaming, and when he turned around, he saw her trying to exit their vehicle. When Gurmeet ran to her to render aid, she was already outside on the ground bleeding profusely from apparent gunshot wounds.

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Indian Creek residents and UEF protest Royal visit

Villagers from Indian Creek torn—two protests staged: a protest on Friday morning to tell Prince William “do not land on our land”; and another on Sunday, asking him to “please come back”—all overshadowed by a communal land dispute between villagers and a conservation organization patronized by Prince William and the Royal family. The UBAD Educational Foundation (UEF) calls the visit “an atrocity to our Afrikan Ancestors, and Afrikan people living in Belize!”



Indian Creek residents protesting Prince William's visit

by Marco Lopez

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Mar. 21, 2022
 The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, Prince William and Kate Middleton, arrived in Belize on Saturday to start their week-long Caribbean tour reportedly under the auspices of Queen Elizabeth herself to restrengthen ties with the United Kingdom and its Commonwealth nations. Their itinerary, however, underwent a last-minute reshuffle following a protest staged by the leadership of Indian Creek and some villagers, who told Prince Williams

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Murder in Cristo Rey

(See story on page 13)

Royals begin their Caribbean tour in Belize

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge kicked off their Caribbean tour with a three-day visit to Belize, which has since triggered intense discussion and debate in both local and international spheres.

by Khaila Gentle

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Mar. 21, 2022
 The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge's three-day visit to



Duke and Duchess of Cambridge at Che'il Mayan Chocolate

Belize—the first stop in their Commonwealth Tour—has been deemed mostly a success, having gone smoothly even as it sparked debate in communities both on and offline. The visit, being done on behalf of Queen Elizabeth II in celebration of her Platinum Jubilee, is one of many royal tours taking place this year to commemorate the monarch's 70th year on the throne. The visit also comes just four months after

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▶ Page 13

Senate approves stevedores' \$1.5 million payment

The ex-gratia payment frozen by order of the Supreme Court received parliamentary approval last Friday

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Mar. 21, 2022

Last Friday, the Senate passed the General Revenue Supplementary Appropriation Bill #4 of 2021 to approve the \$1.5 million ex-gratia payment from the Government of Belize to the stevedores who are members of the Christian Workers Union. The payment, which was blocked by an interim order resulting from a lawsuit brought by Port of Belize Limited against its employees, the stevedores, was granted to those workers for hardships and losses suffered due to the privatization of PBL, and also to bring to a halt to

Please turn to ▶ Page 14

Firefighter badly injured; cousin loses leg, in hit-and-run

While heading to work, the two young mothers, who were traveling on a motorcycle, were hit by an unknown driver on the Old Northern Highway over two weeks ago. Their family is seeking assistance from the public.



Chyrol Morgan and Raven Bennett, hit-and-run victims

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Mar. 21, 2022

On March 5, while traveling from their home in Maskall Village on a motorcycle to their respective workplaces—one at the National Fire Service headquarters in Belize City and the other at a National Fire Service facility in Ladyville—two women, who are cousins, were hit by a hit-and-run driver and are now badly injured.

Chyrol Morgan and Raven Bennett are residents of Maskall Village. Morgan is employed as a firefighter in Belize City and Bennett as a National Fire Service radio attendant

in Ladyville.

Both ladies were on their way to report for their 8:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. night shift when they were knocked down by an unknown vehicle and left for dead near Boston Village. The women survived the accident but were badly injured—with Bennett having to have a leg amputated, and Morgan possibly needing a skin graft due to a large leg wound.

The incident occurred over two weeks ago, but Melanie Bennett-Castro, the mother of Raven Bennett, told AMANDALA that the last time she had gotten an update from the police about the incident was last week.

“Well, what happened, all they’re

saying is that they’re investigating and they had a suspect that they had arrested for 48 hours and was released, but they said that they have to do more investigation, and up until now, I haven’t heard anything on it. I know they have viewed cameras, and so on. I’ll be honest with you, I really don’t know the details that much when it comes to the police,” noted Castro.

Residents of the area know the road can be quite dangerous at night, as there is limited lighting along that portion of the highway. According to Castro, Morgan has been commuting to her job on her motorcycle for about 4 years, and her daughter has gotten a ride from her on countless occasions, since they both are employed by the National Fire Service.

“It’s very curvy; it’s a road that’s very curvy and it doesn’t have much light. You have to be someone that knows this road and is familiar with the road that commutes regularly to really drive this road, and if you’re speeding on the road you will definitely have problems on that road. For the situation with my daughter, Raven, and Chyrol Morgan, she has been commuting on that road, back and forth, for 4 years going to her job as a firefighter on [a] motorcycle and it wasn’t the first time either my daughter caught [a] ride with her on that motorbike. Because they both work at the fire station but Chyrol is a firefighter and my daughter is a radio/telephone operator for the National

Fire Service, the main branch in Belize City. So they were on their way to their job when this unfortunate incident happened,” Castro explained.

The family of both victims is organizing a fundraiser at the Maskall Community Center to aid in covering all the medical expenses that have been incurred to treat the two women’s injuries.

“My daughter Raven Bennett, she lost her left leg, and Chyrol she got huge lacerations on her left leg also and she still is in the hospital because the doctors are trying hard to save her left leg. We’re having a turkey dinner which will take place this Friday the 25th. We will be delivering in the city, and along the road, and also [on] the 26th which is this Saturday, we will be having [a] football marathon and mountain bike races at the Maskall Community Center. We will have drinks on sale and afterward, we will have a dance. All proceedings will be going to medical bills, because as you know, my daughter has therapy and doctor appointment and she has therapy two times a week and Chyrol is still in the hospital,” said Castro.

Those wishing to provide assistance to the family can contact the mother of Raven Bennett at 614-7986 or the sister of Chyrol Morgan, Ebony Arnold, at 600-4100.

Both victims are young mothers. Morgan has three kids, one of whom is a nine-month-old, and Bennett has two sons.

FIU and Bankers Association report phishing scams

In recent weeks a number of customers within the banking sector have been affected by “phishing,” a release from the Belize Bankers Association states.

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Mar. 21, 2022

The Financial Intelligence Unit and the Belize Bankers Association have released separate press releases warning Belizean citizens of an ongoing phishing scam targeting locals, and according to the FIU, in some instances being carried out by locals on behalf of third parties.

Cybercriminals are currently targeting Belizean bank accounts, typically by contacting unknowing victims using fraudulent identities that seem reputable in order to extract sensitive data from those persons. Personal information, banking and credit card details, and passwords are acquired and used to illegally access and steal funds.

“The FIU notes that persons have been receiving emails purporting to be from their local bank and stating that they are required to update their bank account information and/or migrate to new online banking security settings. Following the instructions received, victims would have divulged sensitive banking credentials. In the hands of phishers, personal information is used to carry out fraudulent transfers of funds via online banking. There are increasing reports

of breached banking accounts and subsequent fraudulent online transfer,” a release from the FIU states.

Customers of local banks are now being asked to go on high alert to avoid having their online accounts compromised.

“The Bankers Association of Belize advises customers that Banks will not send emails or other communication requesting the disclosure of personal banking information. Therefore, customers should not reply to any communication requesting personal banking information,” a release issued today by the Belize Banking Association states.

The FIU warns residents of the country who are working with those third parties to carry out phishing scams that they will be subject to having their accounts frozen and subsequent prosecution under the Money Laundering and Terrorism Prevention Act.

“On the other hand, residents are being recruited via social media to harvest the proceeds of these crimes, and remit or transfer the value to criminal third parties, some of whom may reside overseas.” the FIU

release states.

The release adds, “The FIU is conducting investigations into these reports of phishing schemes and will pursue prosecutions of perpetrators and their accomplices. Account-holders who permit their accounts to be misused to enable the transfer of illicit proceeds may be subject to the freezing of their accounts and subsequent prosecution to recover the proceeds of the crime.”

The Belize Bankers Association noted that disclosure of customers’ personal banking information that results in any compromise is the responsibility of the customer.

“Additionally, the Bankers Association strongly advises customers that they should avoid using their accounts to process transactions on behalf of third parties,” the release from the Bankers Associations states.



Almost all COVID-19 restrictions to be lifted April 1

It's not an April fool's prank. Minister of Health and Wellness Hon. Kevin Bernard has announced that COVID-19 restrictions will be eased even further than they already have been, come next month.

by *Khaila Gentle*

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Mar. 21, 2022

As the COVID-19 numbers continue on a downward trend, the Ministry of Health & Wellness has stated that come April 1, most COVID-19 restrictions will be done away with, including those that have prevented the opening of bars and nightclubs. Minister Kevin Bernard spoke with local reporters last week and broke the news. He also stated, however, that there will still be some regulations left in place, including the requirement that all persons traveling or attending any major event such as concerts be vaccinated. He further

noted that, ultimately, it is up to the members of the public to protect themselves if they so desire.

"I wear my mask even outdoors, because it is up to me. And I want to encourage people, if you feel uncomfortable and not safe, then wear your masks," said the Minister.

Notably, there has been a recent rapid increase in the number of COVID-19 infections across the United Kingdom, which scientists have attributed to the BA.2 Omicron sub-variant. Currently, almost 1 in every 20 persons in the UK is infected with the virus, according to reports from *BBC News*. The variant is even more transmissible than its

predecessor and has also begun to spread across the US. Many experts believe that the easing of restrictions in both countries as well as a decline in immunity could be responsible for the spikes. It remains to be seen whether the BA.2 sub-variant also causes more severe illness than the previous BA.1 variant.

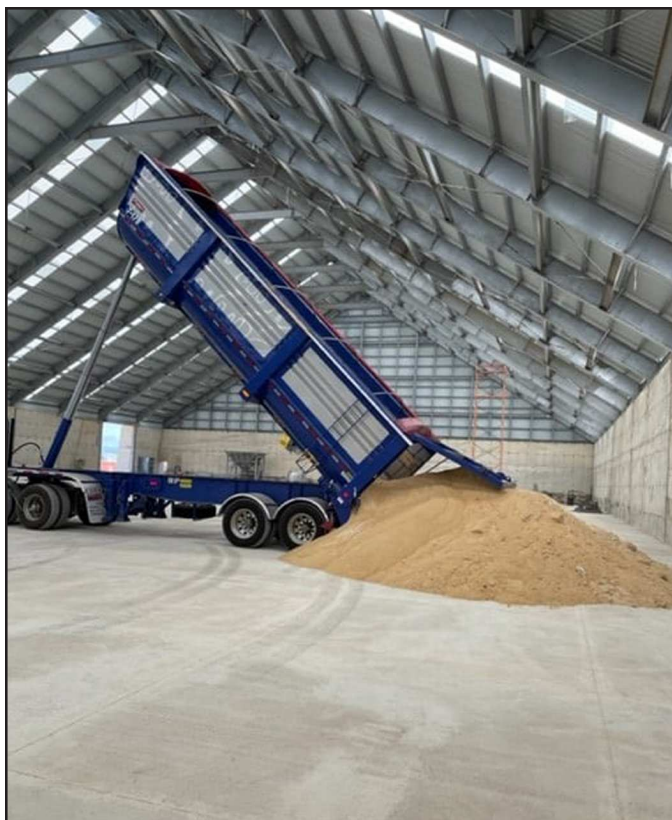
Minister Bernard has stated that the Health Ministry is remaining on alert, especially considering the recent boom in tourism since the reopening of the airport, cruise tourism, and most recently the land borders and the resulting likelihood of the variant making its way to Belize.

"If we see that there is an increase or spike, the Ministry of Health will make its recommendation to Cabinet to put back some of these restrictions. So it's not that we are just opening



up, but we are also making sure that we are keeping our eyes and watch on what is happening around us. So we have to also understand that we may likely come back to you in two months, three months and say we have to do certain things. I just want Belizean people to understand that it is up to us to prevent the spread of this virus. Whatever happens, we must do our part to be responsible, do everything that is listed out in terms of the protocols and continue to be safe," he stated.

BSI's new Big Creek warehouse completed



BSI delivers the first load of sugar to the new Big Creek warehouse

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Mar. 21, 2022

In a Facebook post published last Friday, Belize Sugar Industries (BSI) announced the completion of its new warehouse at Big Creek. The new warehouse, constructed to facilitate the loading and offloading of sugar since the company's move from the Port of Belize Limited, has a capacity of 30,000 metric tons of sugar—a total investment of \$30 million, the company states.

The company is currently in the process of filling the warehouse prior to loading the sugar ships using its new conveyor system, which, according to them, will improve the loading rate from 500 tons to 5,000 tons per day.

In its release to social media, the company states, "BSI continues to 'grow the industry pie' by reducing freight costs and demurrage charges, resulting in savings of approximately BZ\$1.4 to \$2.5 million to cane farmers."

It must be noted that the stevedores of the Christian Workers Union (CWU)

have been pointing to the significant loss of revenue they have suffered and will continue to suffer as a result of the shifting of the sugar-loading operations from the PBL facility to Big Creek. The move is also, according to the CWU, a violation of an MOU signed by the Government of Belize and Toledo Enterprises Limited (managers of Big Creek Port) in 2006 in which the company, Big Creek Port, agreed "not to provide port facilities and operation at the Big Creek Port for general cargo vessels which are presently

utilizing the Belize City Port at Port Loyola."

The MOU was reportedly not upheld by the current government, who said they have little say in the private company's decision (although it has been reported that GoB facilitated a loan from the IDB that provided funds that aided in the transition).

BSI is now seeking to fill its new warehouse facility with this year's sugar, which by previous indications is expected to be a bumper crop for the cane farmers and the BSI. This \$30-million-dollar investment comes on the heels of an unresolved commercial agreement between the company and the Belize Sugar Cane Farmers Associations (BSCFA), who are seeking increased payment for their cane farmers by means of a new commercial agreement. Currently, the BSCFA and BSI have an interim commercial agreement which expires at the end of the milling season this year.

Senator Chanona is sworn in



NGO senator Janelle Chanona taking the Oath of Allegiance beside National Assembly Clerk, Mr. Eddie Webster

by *Khaila Gentle*

BELMOPAN, Fri. Mar. 18, 2022

On Friday, March 18, NGO senator Janelle Chanona was sworn in as a member of the upper house and was welcomed by her fellow senators. The Senate meeting was just over four hours long, with the swearing in of the 13th senator via the Oath of Allegiance being the first thing on the agenda.

"I will only say thank you very much for the very warm welcome from the entire Senate. And as I have reiterated to those whom I represent, I intend to work very hard to honor their vote of confidence for me in this position. And I am also very minded of all the men and women who agitated for this position, and I give thanks that I am able to be here and represent those in the Belize Network of NGO's and NGOs on a whole," remarked the new senator.

After the swearing-in had taken place, President of the Senate, Hon. Carolyn Trench Sandiford briefly

noted the significance of yet another woman being added to the Senate, and during Women's Month no less.

Minister of Foreign Affairs and lead senator for the People's United Party, Hon. Eamon Courtenay extended a warm welcome to Senator Chanona, expressing his confidence in her after having known and worked with her for quite some time. The PUP senator also added that Senator Chanona has "big shoes to fill"—referencing her father, the first mayor of Belmopan and a former PUP senator, Anthony Chanona.

Lead UDP senator, Hon. Michael Peyrefitte echoed Hon. Courtenay's welcome, noting that he first met Senator Chanona, whom he referred to as a "rising star within society", while he was a teacher at SJC Sixth Form, and describing her as "impressive from then".

"I beam with pride that one of my students can join me in the Senate.

BPM's Paul Morgan says equal representation is the benchmark

Responding to comments made by the Minister of Constitutional and Political Reform, Hon. Henry Charles Usher, stating that the redistricting benchmark is effective and not equal representation of residents, the Belize Peace Movement's Paul Morgan says "nobody should push false information about the Constitution".



Hon. Henry Charles Usher - Minister of Public Service, Constitutional and Political Reform and Paul Morgan - representative of Belize Peace Movement (BOM)

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Mar. 21, 2022

Last week, the Minister of Constitutional and Political Reform, Hon. Henry Charles Usher, told the media that the constitutional benchmark in regard to voter representation is for government to ensure "effective" and not "equal" representation. However, the Belize Peace Movement, in its redistricting case against the government's Election and Boundaries Department, has highlighted the constitutional mandate for equal representation amongst the electoral divisions across the country.

"The constitution says that there must be effective representation; it does not say equal representation. Now effective representation has been defined throughout other jurisdictions. They have had redistricting exercises and court cases in other countries and judges have pronounced on what it means by effective representation. And certainly you have to look at different factors when it comes to the meaning of the word effective, including population, including transportation, including geography. So there are

different factors that are put into place, but what is important that the constituencies are so made up that each constituency, the persons in those constituencies receive effective representation," stated Minister Henry Usher.

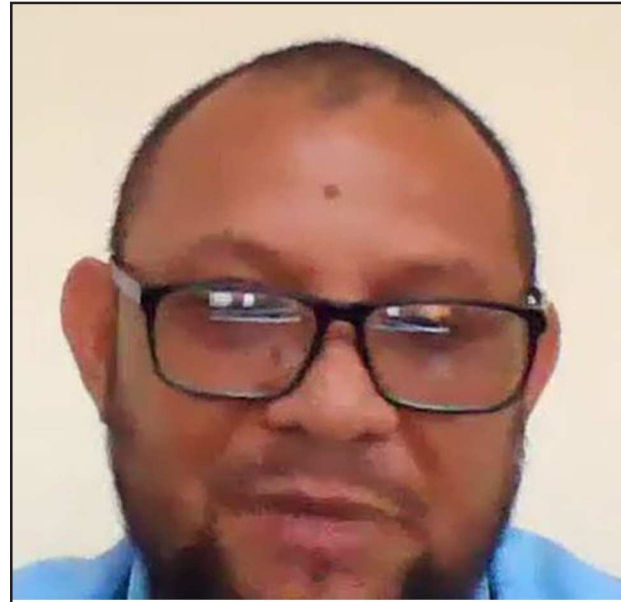
Paul Morgan, a representative of the Belize Peace Movement, however, told us in an interview that Minister Usher needs to fact-check his information, and he asserted that the Constitution at no time refers to "effective representation" but speaks of "fair, equal" representation.

The redistricting case, which is currently still ongoing, went back to court on February 24, when the arguments from the Government side and BPM were heard and the judgment on the matter was deferred to a later date, said Morgyban.

In an interview following the establishment of the redistricting task force, Chief Elections Officer, Josephine Tamai said that the case would not have any influence on the work of the task force, which is scheduled to hand down its recommendation to the government of Belize in about a year or so.

NAC launches pilot phase for HIV self-testing

The National AIDS Commission enters the pilot phase for the introduction of an HIV self-testing kit to increase HIV testing.



Enrique Romero, Executive Director, National AIDS Commission (NAC)

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Mar. 14, 2022

Since the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) had been discovered back in the 1980s, 79.3 million persons have been infected with the virus, and 36.3 million people have died of the disease.

The virus is known to be undetectable within a person's body for months or even years and can be transmitted via unprotected sex with an infected person or other forms of exchange of bodily fluids.

In an ongoing effort to combat the spread of HIV, the National AIDS Commission (NAC) launched the initial phase of its HIV Self-test Pilot Project on Tuesday, March 8. The NAC pilot project is supported through the Caribbean Med Lab Foundation under the PANCAP-CVC-COIN Multi-Country Regional Grant, of which Belize is a beneficiary.

NAC has acquired 50 OraQuick self-test kits, which provide an alternative to blood tests for the detection of HIV antibodies. Conducting a self-test can be done by collecting saliva from one's mouth, applying the test to the saliva, and receiving the result privately in the comfort of one's home.

Enrique Romero, Executive Director for the National AIDS Commission, said that the HIV self-testing kit is close to 100 percent accurate, with 99% accuracy, and has been approved by the World Health Organization (WHO). Romero further stated that the self-testing during the initial phase of the project will be done at the Belize Family Life Association and Civil Society Organization Hub to validate the self-test accuracy and to welcome persons who wouldn't go to a clinic to get tested for HIV.

"... We're doing it at a facility base for several reasons. The pilot will not only allow us to get persons that would not normally go to a clinic to get a test, but it will also allow us to validate [the accuracy]. So, when I go

to the facility for example, and they give me the test kit—I open it and they give the instructions on how to do it; I swab my mouth, I wait, I look at the result, and the facility will do two HIV rapid test on me to validate. So, if the rapid test is saying negative, we are expecting the other two will also be negative. You can also be referred to the laboratory for confirmation through bloodwork. That's the final test that is done to confirm," Romero explained.

He further pointed out, "The pilot phase is used for us to validate the accuracy of the OraQuick HIV self-test. It's similar to the COVID test, where people have stated that they did a rapid test, and it's negative but they have symptoms, and they went to do a PCR test then the PCR shows that yes they have COVID."

Romero mentioned that in 2020, there were 193 persons newly infected with HIV, and the majority of those persons were young adults with ages ranging from 20 to 39.

"Ages 20 to 24, 29 new infections; ages 25 to 29, 30 new infections; ages 30 to 34, 25 new infections. So, those three brackets there [is] the cream of our population. That's the youth of our population. That's when people are in their prime in terms of productive years of work in society, so it's alarming that our young people are the ones that are being infected. We know that young people are in the prime of their lives; they want to experience, they have multiple partners, 2, 3 girlfriends and so forth; these are the [people] we want to reach to," said Romero.

According to WHO, an estimated 37.7 million individuals were living with HIV globally at the end of 2020. An estimated 5,500 persons are living with HIV in Belize, and close to 2,800 persons know their HIV status.

"We have heard stories from persons who go to health facilities, and they're treated badly ... so people say, 'I don't want to go to that facility because they treat me bad, they treat me different,' so all these are barriers that prohibit people from accessing services ... a person that has HIV/AIDS is ten times more likely to die from tuberculosis than from AIDS itself because what the AIDS disease does is it impairs your immune system, it weakens it just like COVID, and when your immune system is weak then you have what is called opportunistic infections; you can get bronchitis, you can get tuberculosis and those things are the ones that will kill you easier than the AIDS disease itself," explained Romero.

Senator Chanona is sworn in

Continued from Page 3

And while you may not agree with me, as you often did not agree with me in the classroom, let's just say we look forward to your contributions. Welcome to the Senate. I'm sure you will make a great addition, and we look forward to discussing the national issues of the day," said the UDP senator.

Those national issues included the discussion of several bills recently tabled in the House of Representatives, including the General Revenue Supplementary Appropriation Bill, Protection of

Witnesses Amendment Bill 2022, and the Fisheries Resources Amendment Bill 2022.

Senator Chanona, who is currently the vice president of OCEANA Belize, rose in support of the Fisheries Resources Amendment Bill, emphasizing its importance in safeguarding not only fisheries resources but the livelihood of those who depend on those resources.

"I cannot tell you enough how often we've heard from the fishers—licensed Belizean fishers—lamenting that there is not enough being done to make sure that illegal activity is deterred," she stated.



Power, personalities and politics

Mon. Mar. 21, 2022

Our little Jewel, Belize, has made some major strides towards economic stability over the past year of the new PUP government; give PM John Briceno and his party their due. Some breaks have been in their/our favor – like the recent dwindling presence of Covid-19 that has allowed a gradual reopening of economic activity; and the patience and perseverance of public servants and teachers who have endured the 10% salary cut even while the economy was reeling in the throes of Covid-induced stagnation of commercial activity. But they must also be credited with positive and productive initiatives, especially in agriculture, land distribution, infrastructure, Blue Economy/Nature Conservancy negotiations, etc. There seems to be more progress on the horizon, despite the crippling grip of rising oil/commodity prices attendant with the Russia-initiated “war” against Ukraine; but as a small nation in a world of big giants, it makes sense for our leaders to continue on the path of constructive and cordial international relations that suit our country’s best interests. The big powers all do the same, and so must we if we are to achieve the goal of health and happiness for all our people. In that regard, a word of caution may be pertinent at this time to those of us who are tempted to go overboard in our condemnation or praise of one side or the other when powerful nations are squared off against each other, or even when their representatives happen to visit our shores.

It’s not that we should not express support for our allies, or disagreement and disapproval of the actions of their opponents in any conflict, but we should always remember that these nations are concerned first and foremost about their own national interests, and it is no longer just as simple as one ism is bad (communism) and the other ism is good (capitalism). In fact, a closer scrutiny may reveal that the personalities in leadership of nations have a lot to do with

the level of human rights and welfare of the masses of people, regardless of the particular political system. For example, a review of history very close to home will show how the bogeyman of “communism” has been used by our good big-brother up north to inflict great suffering among the Guatemalan people in the name of protecting “democracy”. Targeted propaganda has been used by the giants in action to pursue their intended goals and self-interests; and that propaganda often results in a distortion of understanding among ordinary people, who are deceived into equating communism with dictatorship, and capitalism with democracy. And it is just not that simple. Democracy is a principle which must be defended and guarded every step of the way. And while a number of communist countries are led by dictator presidents, there are enough examples of capitalist countries that have slipped into dictator-style rule, where the president wields seemingly unlimited power, as is the case now in Russia, which adopted the capitalist system after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

Wikipedia provides a good, brief explanation of how anti-communist propaganda was used to justify the CIA overthrow of Guatemalan president Jacobo

Arbenz in 1954, when his popular and democratically elected government was replaced by a military dictator with the support of the American CIA, resulting in 30 years of civil war and hundreds of thousands of casualties. (Google “Jacobco Arbenz” or “1954 Guatemalan coup d’etat.”)

Many folks forget that the communist Soviet Union was one of the allied forces (allies with Britain, USA and France) in World War II against Nazi Germany, Italy and Japan; but this was followed by the so-called “Cold War,” where the two former superpower allies, the capitalist U.S. and the communist Soviet Union, began to vie for world dominance. Signs of the rift became evident after two important conferences near the end of the war among leaders of the “big three” – Britain, the US and the Soviet Union, in the Yalta Conference, February 4-11, 1945, featuring Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin; and the Potsdam Conference, July 17 to August 2, 1945. At the root of the problem was a deep personal distrust between then U.S. president Harry Truman (who replaced the deceased Franklin D. Roosevelt after the Yalta Conference) and the Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin, who ruled the Soviet Union from 1932-1952. And that distrust was further enhanced by the U.S. first gaining the advantage of nuclear capability, as demonstrated in their atomic bombing of Japan near the end of World War II.

“Absolute power corrupts absolutely,” and dictators, whether in so-called capitalist states like Guatemala under a series of military dictators, Haiti under “Papa Doc” Duvalier and Iran under the Shah, or in communist states like North Korea under Kim Jung-un, or the Soviet Union under Stalin, have tended to endorse a very small, wealthy and privileged elite class at the expense of the masses of oppressed people.

The so-called “Truman Doctrine,” which led to the formation of NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) in 1949, made no bones about its objective “to contain the spread of communism” in Europe or around the world; but this drive to maintain and increase their “sphere of influence” may have had as much to do with the big powers trying to secure markets for trade and sources of raw material for their economies, as with enhancing true democracy or spreading communist ideology.

Following his annexation of the Crimean Peninsula in 2014, it was well known that Putin still had his eyes on the wealthy Ukraine, a former Soviet republic which had expressed a desire to join NATO, a military alliance of some 28 European countries along with the U.S. and Canada, membership in which would have effectively made Ukraine “untouchable” by Russia.

For what he claims as Russia’s national security interest, since U.S. president Biden and European allies had refused to guarantee that Ukraine would not be admitted into NATO, Putin has now preemptively directed the military might of Russia against neighboring Ukraine, and neither country is communist. The wealthy Ukraine is said to be corrupt; but so is Russia, which, under Putin since 2000, has gone from “crony capitalism to state capitalism.”

Thankfully, there were more sober minds facing off in the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis, when Soviet Union leader Nikita Khrushchev and American president John F. Kennedy found a way to maintain the peace and avoid nuclear Armageddon. The problem right now is that this Russian president Putin reportedly idolizes former Soviet leader Joseph Stalin, and that totalitarian Stalin character was most soundly condemned by Khrushchev himself in a secret speech “On the Cult of Personality and Its Consequences,” which he delivered in 1956 at the Twentieth Party Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. (Google “Khrushchev’s Secret Speech.”) The same despotic qualities he decried in Stalin are now being displayed by Putin.

Would-be dictators and individuals who enlist unethical or even fraudulent means to grasp and entrench themselves in positions of great power and authority, whether it be in government, NGOs or in sports associations and federations, can undermine peace and progress due to selfish motives and egotistic ambitions, and need to be keenly monitored and restrained by freedom-loving Belizeans and people the world over. Democracy is energized when those who are denied their right to vote, fight to get it; and those who already have a vote, prepare themselves to use it.



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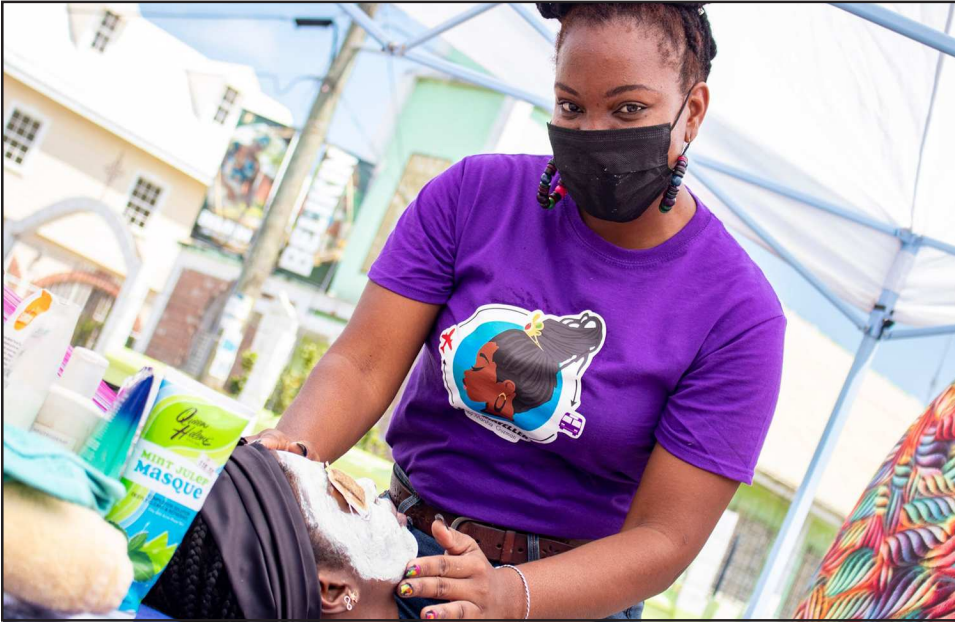
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Belize City Council Hosts Female Entrepreneurship Pop Up Shop



BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Mar. 17, 2022

On March 12, 2022, the Belize City Council hosted their first Women in Business Pop Up Shop in Battlefield Park. This event was a Women's Month celebration under the theme, "Break the Bias". The Pop Up Shop hosted over 30 local female entrepreneurs who brought out their merchandise on full display at the available booths.

Some of the Belizean-made products on sale included candles, air fresheners, skin products, hair accessories, jewelry, sangria and more. In addition to products, the entrepreneurs also provided their services at the Pop Up Shop. Residents visited the *Locs Nation* booth of Ms. Desiree Jones to have their hair cared for, the *Hair Traveller* booth by Ms. Marsha Guzman to receive facials and the *Mie Make Up* booth by Ms. Miesha Brannon for makeup and eyelash application.

One of the participating female entrepreneurs was Ms. Shanice

Messam, owner of *Stich by Shan*. Her small business offers handmade hair accessories, many of which are made of satin material. Following the event, Messam said, "It was an amazing experience with an impressive curation of creative and talented women entrepreneurs coming together in one place. I loved meeting everyone, new and repeating customers, and serving them."

Ms. Amira Corraera was also an entrepreneur at the event. Corraera owns *Sangria Mia*, a business that offers homemade sangria. According to Corraera, "These opportunities are exactly what we need to advance our economy and to create a cycle for a sustainable community."

The Women in Business Pop up Shop is expected to take place in municipalities all over the country throughout the month of March in order to create a platform for Belizean women to showcase their products and be connected to new customers.

Legalize It!

I listened with much interest as the Prime Minister laid out his budget for the next fiscal year. The government is going through almost acrobatic lengths to stress that the people of Belize won't be overtaxed in this budget. To keep all the promises any government makes to its people, taxes have to be raised to accomplish the stated goals! The last 2 years have been very difficult. The cash cow, tourism, was almost non-existent because of the plague. Covid also devastated the country economically, not only in Belize, but worldwide. There is no way that any country can recover from this disaster without a limp. We see it in the inflation explosion, the strain on the healthcare system, and the impact it has had on our children, and on education, in general.

In 2021, a year after weed was made legal in the state of Illinois, 1.4 billion dollars in sales were made. The state reaped approximately \$400 million in new taxes! That is \$400 million more than they had ever collected at anytime before. Those taxes are being used for education, to build affordable housing for the poor, and to help the state achieve that elusive surplus that all governments yearn for. It also frees up the police to follow up on real crimes, and drains the penal system of its overcrowded population. It also allows cancer and arthritis patients, and elderly people who need medical marijuana, to not have to go through hoops to get exemptions to get weed. You walk into the store, show your ID that you are of age to purchase your supply, and you are done!

Belize has some of the finest weed grown anywhere. Maybe the soil is special, but that Belize Breeze is good weed! That's why America forced politicians back in the 80s to contaminate it, and our soil, with paraquat! Maybe we should seek reparations for that also. When I think

of all the youths that have been, and are still being locked up, for selling inconsequential amounts of the herb, it makes my blood boil. In the late 1920s/30s when in the fervor of Prohibition, they outlawed marijuana, and after Prohibition ended, the liquor lobby has made sure to keep it illegal, until now! Every day, a state or country is legalizing that natural ambrosia.

This is a win-win proposition for the government of Belize. Imagine the amount of revenue they will pull in if it's legalized, properly taxed, and regulated. Sure, some in the religious community will raise hell, but they raise hell about anything that they don't like, whether it's beneficial to the country or not. Sure, they can be consulted, but they should never have the final say about the outcome. After all, they're not elected; most of them are just parasitical! The prisons will stop being overcrowded, tourists won't have to slink around buying weed for fear of being arrested, and more people will have an opportunity to earn a living! More money in the coffers of the government without them investing a single cent, in the development of this most profitable enterprise!

So plant it, grow it, legalize it. All that fighting over drug turf will ease up considerably. Gangs will always be around; that's for the cops to deal with. This legalization would marginalize their effect on the most vulnerable, and neutralize their grip on something that's for everyone, given to us by Mother Nature, to wean us off all those prescription drugs that get us hooked, then kills us! Legalize the weed! Please? Stop talking and start doing something good, for the right reasons. The evidence of the effects that weed has on so many ailments is overwhelming, especially for the elderly, and those suffering from chronic pain. Just legalize it!



SUMMARY PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Contract Title: Consultancy to Prepare a CARICOM Model Law and Regulations on Deposit Insurance and the Formulate Proposals for a Special Resolution Regime for CARICOM Member States.

Contract reference no.: EU/SFCICP/EDPTR/ SER/ 2022-EW

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat intends to award a service contract for the **Consultancy to Prepare a CARICOM Model Law and Regulations on Deposit Insurance and the Formulate Proposals for a Special Resolution Regime for CARICOM Member States**. The contract will be implemented at the CARICOM Secretariat (Guyana) Office with financial assistance from the **11th European Development Fund**. The detailed Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI) is available at <https://caricom.org/procurement-notice/>

The deadline for submission of Expressions of Interest (EOIs) is **5 April 2022**.



SUMMARY PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Contract Title: Consultancy for the Development of Online Learning through an Electronic Platform for Statistical Training and Research (e-CISTAR)

Contract reference no.: EU/SFCICP/STATS2022-PH

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat intends to award a service contract for the **Consultancy for the Development of Online Learning through an Electronic Platform for Statistical Training and Research (e-CISTAR)**. The contract will be implemented at the CARICOM Secretariat (Guyana) Office with financial assistance from the **11th European Development Fund**. The detailed Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI) is available at <https://caricom.org/procurement-notice/>

The deadline for submission of Expressions of Interest (EOIs) is **5 April 2022**.

GOB owes apology to Indian Creek and Buckingham

by Colin Hyde

Our government, the relevant ministry or ministries, needs to do the sackcloth thing before the Queen and her people, and the leaders of Indian Creek and their people, for that failure to properly handle the visit of the Duke and Duchess. If we had been in the habit of being honorable and properly respectful, a problem would not have arisen. Our leaders have the very bad habit of disrespecting village leaders. In my village, it hasn't happened once or twice that authorities have come to the village on official business without the village leaders knowing. The last I heard, village leaders get a little stipend, not a big fat salary, and that might help explain the disrespect.

Of course, there have been times when village leaders have returned the favor, sometimes for petty party political reasons. That's one example of failure in leadership at the village level. I'm pretty sure I have dropped a message to authorities about these matters, but before going over that again, let me get on with this apology.

If you are going to bring a foreign dignitary to a village, land a helicopter on the village field, there

is only one excuse for keeping the activity clandestine, and that is for security reasons. Absolutely we have to protect foreign dignitaries when they're on our soil. If the landing was secret for security reasons, then we had a terrible breach, and that is even worse than the embarrassment of "inhospitality", which was caused by disrespecting Indian Creek's leaders. I won't even include the communal rights issue here.

There isn't anything eyebrow-raising about mowing a football field. It's usually paid for from the village's resources, and sometimes it's a gift from the Works Ministry. When the bush hog comes to cut the grass, there is much appreciation, especially from the young men and women. In the villages our young people still prefer to play ball, to playing couch potato in front of the television.

You don't walk into a village without acknowledging the people's leaders. It's a practice that must stop. We don't drive SUVs or wear name-brand clothing, but we have as much rights as anyone else. Okay, we can be as petty and self-serving as the rich and powerful too.

After we have concluded the village council elections this year, we

need a full leadership course for all the persons who get elected. I'd like to see these DAVCOs honor the chairpersons and village councilors who provide excellent leadership to their communities and the NAVCO honor the grand champion leaders at the local level. These awards should be given out once each year, but not in an election season.

Dionicio Shol is class, and so are Indian Creek's chairman and alcalde

Respect to Brother Dionicio Shol for his brilliant and responsible reporting to the nation about the protest in Indian Creek. For all the madness that has befallen us since local lawyers started ruining our country, there are still many brothers and sisters who show that we have good and capable people here. Much respect, Dionicio!

I have no complaints about the *Daily Mail* report on the protest. Forget *Flora and Fauna* for the moment...okay, they put *Flora and Fauna* in a good light, but let's not forget that prior to communal land rights *Flora and Fauna* had a lot of good in it. Whoa, I'm not saying it's now a bad thing. And I'm not saying all, some or none of the land it holds should be subject to communal land rights. I'm saying I'm cool with the reporting.

In the *Daily Mail* story, by Rebecca English and our Cherisse Halsall, they say Dionicio remarked that the way the visit of the Royals was handled "raised the issue of colonialism" and that Brother Shol said:

"For us it really hits right at home because of the treatment. The organizer said we had to let them use the football field and that people were coming to our village and it had to look good. But they didn't want to divulge who. Eventually somebody said it was Prince William coming to our village. That's where the first issue arose. These are high-profile people, we respect them, but they also have to be giving respect to the community leaders. Giving community leaders commands did not sit well with the community."

Maximum respect for the way you handled that, Braa. Hey, major props to the Indian Creek Alcalde and Chairperson, for the comments they made to *Love FM*. I heard them on *Love FM's* Saturday news, and they were beautiful too. *Love FM News* also said someone from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had apologized for not handling the visit properly. Respect for humility.

The visit by Queen E's grandchildren has sparked much discussion, and we'll have to get it on for real in the coming weeks. But for now I close off with love and a big thank you to the brothers and sisters in Hopkins and Maya Center for the

way they feted the royal stars of our military and business allies, the duke and duchess.

Mr. Usher should be milking snakes

I think his name is Gilbert, and he is one of very few people in this world who has played with poisonous snakes. You see videos of people swimming with white sharks, people engaging in many other dangerous activities, but few, very few play with bad snakes.

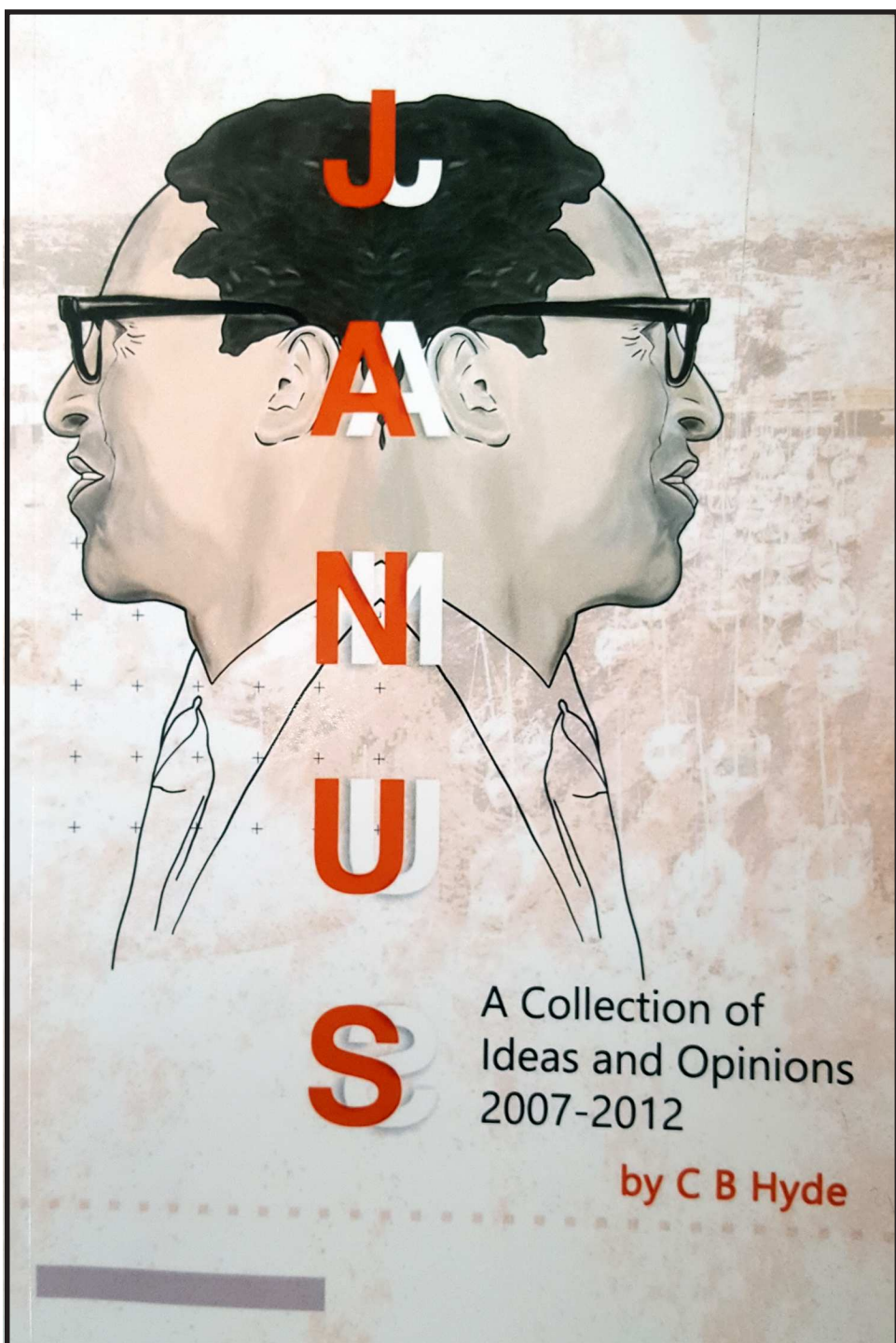
Why do people have to be abrasive to get authorities in Belize to pay attention? Mr. Usher apparently isn't rude (I heard him on the Krem WuB) and that might explain why he can't get a license to handle a common wowla. It's supposed to be all in the name of animal rights, but people really can go too far. Sorry, I'd rather be a pet pig than a pork chop. I love to see paarat and blak bod flying about, but when I'm planting corn I want them eena cage. Slow down, slow down, there's a limit to everything.

I don't want anyone around me who's playing with snakes, but as long as Mr. Gilbert sticks to wowla and black tail he should have his license to entertain tourists. If the license deniers put that to a referendum, I bet they'll lose 99 to 1.

When I saw Mr. Usher on the WuB, the first thing that came to my mind was my request of the MoHW that they ensure that we have an adequate supply of snake anti-venom in our hospitals. Apparently Mr. Chebat was way too busy producing infomercials to pay attention to me. I hope Mr. Bernard ignores the entertainment world and does the things that are needed on the ground. Whoa there, did I just diss those infomercials that helped us get 68% of *vaccinatable* Belizeans jabbed? My apologies, but I need Mr. Bernard's attention, without being too rude.

A man like Mr. Gilbert Usher has an extremely valuable gift; few people in this world have the courage to milk snakes to develop antidotes to snake bites. We are a country with a number of poisonous beasts, many Belizeans work in agriculture and we take tourists to see the wonders in our forest. I just hope we have a good stock.

In the world of venomous creatures, I think it was last year that we lost a lady to a bee sting. She had to have been highly allergic to bee venom, to succumb after just one sting. I'd like to see ehm, infomercials – yes, yes, Chebat was great – yap, infomercials that teach/give advice to people in the countryside who face these hazards every day. Hey, someone told me the best way to treat bee or wasp stings is to rub the wound with leaves taken from hot pepper plants. Information on treatments are available through a Google search, but I found nothing there about hot pepper leaves being the panacea.





Poder, personalidades y política

Lun. 21 de marzo de 2022

Nuestra pequeña Joya, Belize, ha dado algunos pasos importantes hacia la estabilidad económica durante el último año del nuevo gobierno del PUP; dénele al primer ministro John Briceno y su partido lo que les corresponde. Algunos saltos han sido a su/nuestro favor, como la reciente disminución de la presencia de Covid-19 que ha permitido una reapertura gradual de la actividad económica; y la paciencia y perseverancia de los servidores públicos y maestros que han soportado el recorte salarial del 10% incluso cuando la economía se tambaleaba en medio del estancamiento de la actividad comercial inducido por Covid. Pero también se les debe atribuir iniciativas positivas y productivas, especialmente en agricultura, distribución de tierras, infraestructura, negociaciones de la Economía Azul/Nature Conservancy, etc. Parece haber más progreso en el horizonte, a pesar del agarre paralizante del aumento de los precios del petróleo y las materias primas acompañante de la "guerra" iniciada por Rusia contra Ucrania; pero como una pequeña nación en un mundo de grandes gigantes, tiene sentido que nuestros líderes continúen en el camino de las relaciones internacionales constructivas y cordiales que convienen a los mejores intereses de nuestro país. Todas las grandes potencias hacen lo mismo, y nosotros también debemos hacerlo si queremos lograr el objetivo de la salud y la felicidad para todo nuestro pueblo. En ese sentido, una palabra de advertencia puede ser pertinente en este momento para aquellos de nosotros que estamos tentados a exagerar en nuestra condena o alabanza de un lado u otro cuando las naciones poderosas se enfrentan entre sí, o incluso cuando sus representantes pasen a visitar nuestras costas.

No es que no debamos expresar apoyo a nuestros aliados, o desacuerdo y desaprobación de las acciones de sus oponentes en cualquier conflicto, pero siempre debemos recordar que estas naciones están preocupadas ante todo por sus propios intereses nacionales, y ya no es tan simple como que un ismo es malo (comunismo) y el otro ismo es bueno (capitalismo). De hecho, un examen más detenido puede revelar que las personalidades en el liderazgo de las naciones tienen mucho que ver con el nivel de derechos humanos y el bienestar de las masas de personas, independientemente del sistema político en particular. Por ejemplo, una revisión de la historia muy cercana a casa mostrará cómo el hombre del saco del "comunismo" ha sido utilizado por nuestro buen hermano mayor del norte para infligir un gran sufrimiento entre el pueblo guatemalteco en nombre de proteger la "democracia". La propaganda enfocada ha sido utilizada por los gigantes en acción para perseguir sus objetivos e intereses propios; y esa propaganda a menudo resulta en una distorsión de la comprensión entre la gente común, que es engañada al equiparar el comunismo con la dictadura y el capitalismo con la democracia. Y no es tan simple. La democracia es un principio que debe ser defendido y custodiado en cada paso del camino. Y aunque varios países comunistas están dirigidos por presidentes dictatoriales, hay suficientes ejemplos de países capitalistas que han caído en un régimen de estilo dictatorial, donde el presidente ejerce un poder aparentemente ilimitado, como es el caso ahora en Rusia, que adoptó el sistema capitalista después del colapso de la Unión Soviética en 1991.

Wikipedia proporciona una buena y breve explicación de cómo se utilizó la propaganda anticomunista para justificar el derrocamiento del presidente guatemalteco Jacobo Arbenz por parte de la CIA en 1954, cuando su gobierno popular y elegido democráticamente fue reemplazado por un dictador militar con el apoyo de la CIA estadounidense, lo que resultó en 30 años de guerra civil y cientos de miles de bajas. (Busquen en Google "Jacobo Arbenz" o "golpe de estado guatemalteco de 1954").

Mucha gente olvida que la Unión Soviética comunista fue una de las fuerzas aliadas (aliados de Gran Bretaña, Estados Unidos y Francia) en la Segunda Guerra Mundial contra la Alemania nazi, Italia y Japón; pero esto fue seguido por la llamada "Guerra Fría", donde los dos antiguos superpoderes aliados, EE. UU.

capitalista y la Unión Soviética comunista, comenzaron a competir por el dominio mundial. Las señales de la ruptura se hicieron evidentes después de dos importantes conferencias cerca del final de la guerra entre los líderes de los "tres grandes": Gran Bretaña, Estados Unidos y la Unión Soviética, en la Conferencia de Yalta, del 4 al 11 de febrero de 1945, con Churchill, Roosevelt y Stalin; y la Conferencia de Potsdam, del 17 de julio al 2 de agosto de 1945. En la raíz del problema había una profunda desconfianza personal entre el entonces presidente de los EE. UU. Harry Truman (quien reemplazó al finado Franklin D. Roosevelt después de la Conferencia de Yalta) y el dictador soviético Joseph Stalin, que gobernó la Unión Soviética entre 1932 y 1952. Y esa desconfianza se vio reforzada por el hecho de que EE. UU. obtuvo primero la ventaja de la capacidad nuclear, como se demostró en su bombardeo atómico de Japón cerca del final de la Segunda Guerra Mundial.

"El poder absoluto corrompe absolutamente" y dictadores, ya sea en los llamados estados capitalistas como Guatemala bajo una serie de dictadores militares, Haití bajo "Papa Doc" Duvalier e Irán bajo el Shah, o en estados comunistas como Corea del Norte bajo Kim Jung-un, o la Unión Soviética bajo Stalin, han tendido a respaldar una clase élite muy pequeña, rica y privilegiada a expensas de las masas de personas oprimidas.

La llamada "Doctrina Truman", que condujo a la formación de la OTAN (Organización del Tratado del Atlántico Norte) en 1949, no ocultó su objetivo de "contener la propagación del comunismo" en Europa o en todo el mundo; pero este impulso para mantener y aumentar su "esfera de influencia" puede haber tenido tanto que ver con las grandes potencias tratando de asegurar mercados para el comercio y fuentes de materia prima para sus economías, como con la mejora de la verdadera democracia o la difusión de la ideología comunista.

Tras su anexión de la península de Crimea en 2014, era bien sabido que Putin todavía tenía los ojos puestos en la rica Ucrania, una antigua república soviética que había expresado su deseo de unirse a la OTAN, una alianza militar de unos 28 países europeos junto con EE. UU. y Canadá, cuya membresía habría hecho efectivamente a Ucrania "intocable" por Rusia.

Por lo que afirma que es un interés de seguridad nacional de Rusia, dado que el presidente estadounidense Biden y los aliados europeos se negaron a garantizar que Ucrania no sería admitida en la OTAN, Putin ahora ha dirigido preventivamente el poderío militar de Rusia contra la vecina Ucrania, y ninguno de los dos países es comunista. Se dice que la rica Ucrania es corrupta; pero también lo es Rusia, que, bajo Putin desde 2000, ha pasado del "capitalismo clientelista al capitalismo de Estado".

Afortunadamente, hubo mentes más sobrias que se enfrentaron en la Crisis de los Misiles Cubanos de 1962, cuando el líder de la Unión Soviética Nikita Jrushchov y el presidente estadounidense John F. Kennedy encontraron una manera de mantener la paz y evitar el Armagedón nuclear. El problema en este momento es que este presidente ruso, Putin, supuestamente idolatra al exlíder soviético Joseph Stalin, y ese carácter totalitario de Stalin fue condenado más rotundamente por el propio Jrushchov en un discurso secreto "Sobre el culto a la personalidad y sus consecuencias", que pronunció en 1956 en el XX Congreso del Partido Comunista de la Unión Soviética. (Busquen en Google "El discurso secreto de Jrushchov".) Las mismas cualidades despóticas que denunció en Stalin ahora están siendo mostradas por Putin.


Los aspirantes a dictadores y las personas que recurren a medios poco éticos o incluso fraudulentos para apoderarse y atrincherarse en posiciones de gran poder y autoridad, ya sea en el gobierno, ONGs o asociaciones y federaciones deportivas, pueden socavar la paz y el progreso por motivos egoístas y ambiciones egoístas, y necesitan ser monitoreados y restringidos por los beliceños y gente de todo el mundo que son amantes de la libertad. La democracia se dinamiza cuando a quienes se les niega el derecho al voto luchan por conseguirlo; y los que ya tienen voto, se preparan para usarlo.

**STATUTORY NOTICE
TO CREDITORS**

IN THE ESTATE of **RAFAEL HUEZO** deceased of Stadium Street, Orange Walk Town, Orange 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 creditors and other persons having any claims and demands upon or against the Estate of **RAFAEL HUEZO**, deceased, late of 55 Stadium Street, Orange Walk Town, Orange District, Belize, who died on the 17th day of December, 2019 and in whose estate Grant of Administration has been granted to **EVELYN JAEL HUEZO** of 1900 Driftwood Bay, Belize City, Belize, should lodge claims or demands with the said **EVELYN JAEL HUEZO c/o Balderamos Arthurs LLP, Charter House, Suite 6, 3 ½ Miles Phillip Goldson Highway, P.O Box 486, Belize City, Belize** on or before the expiration of three months from the first publication hereof **AND NOTICE IS ALSO HEREBY GIVEN** that at the expiration of the said three months the said **EVELYN JAEL HUEZO** shall proceed to distribute the assets of the said **RAFAEL HUEZO**, deceased, amongst the beneficiaries entitled thereto, having regard only to claims and demands of which she shall then have had notice.

DATED this 4th day of March, 2022



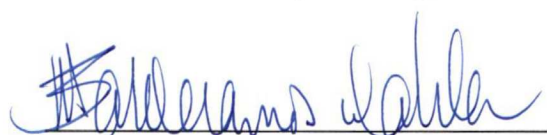
BALDERAMOS ARTHURS LLP
 Attorneys-at-Law for the Estate of
RAFAEL HUEZO

**STATUTORY NOTICE
TO CREDITORS**

IN THE ESTATE of **THOMAS E. CHUILLI**, deceased of 71 Liberty Street, South Amboy, New Jersey 08879, USA

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 36 of the *Administration of Estates Act*, Chapter 197 of the Laws of Belize that all creditors and other persons having any claims and demands upon or against the Estate of **THOMAS E. CHUILLI**, deceased of 71 Liberty Street, South Amboy, New Jersey 08879, USA, who died on the 6th day of March, 2007 and in whose estate Grant of Administration with the Will Annexed has been granted to **BA NOMINEE SERVICES LTD.** of 3 ½ Miles Philip Goldson Highway, Belize City, Belize the Lawful Attorneys of **DONNA KENNEDY** of No. 316 South Pine Avenue, South Amboy, New Jersey 08879 U.S.A., should lodge claims or demands with the said **BA NOMINEE SERVICES LTD. c/o Balderamos Arthurs LLP, Charter House, Suite 6, 3 ½ Miles Philip Goldson Highway, P.O Box 486, Belize City, Belize** on or before the expiration of three months from the first publication hereof **AND NOTICE IS ALSO HEREBY GIVEN** that at the expiration of the said three months the said **BA NOMINEE SERVICES LTD.** shall proceed to distribute the assets of the said **THOMAS E. CHUILLI**, deceased, amongst the beneficiaries entitled thereto, having regard only to claims and demands of which it shall then have had notice.

DATED this 28th day of February, 2022



BALDERAMOS ARTHURS LLP
 Attorneys-at-Law for the Estate of
THOMAS E. CHUILLI

**BY ORDER OF MORTGAGEE
NOTICE
OF INTENTION TO SELL**

ATLANTIC BANK LIMITED, a company incorporated under the Laws of Belize with its registered office situate at Corner Freetown Road and Cleghorn Street in Belize City hereby gives notice of its intention to exercise its power of sale as Mortgagee under and by virtue of Charges and Deeds of Mortgage between those hereinafter named and the said Atlantic Bank Limited which said Charges and Deeds of Mortgage are registered at the Land Registry and the Land Titles Unit. The Bank will at the expiration of **two months** from the date of the first publication of this notice sell the properties described in the Schedule hereto.

ALL offers to purchase the said properties must be made in writing to **ATLANTIC BANK LIMITED** from whom full particulars and conditions of sale may be obtained.

ALL THAT piece or parcel of being Block 1, Parcel No. 569 situate in Corozal Central Registration Section, Corozal District, Belize comprising 574.3 square yards, **TOGETHER** with all buildings and erection standing and being thereon, the freehold property of **MARIO PEREZ**.

ALL THAT piece or parcel of land being Block 1, Parcel No. 785 situated in Santa Elena Registration Section, near Santa Elena Border, Corozal District, Belize comprising 1,127.765 square meters, a partially completed three storey concrete structure 26 feet by 48 feet, each floor measuring 1248 square feet **TOGETHER** with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon, the freehold property of **CARLOS GIBSON**.

ALL THAT piece or parcel of land being block No 11, Parcel No 432, situated in Belize Rural North II Registration Section, Belize District comprising 8.101 Hectare(s), **TOGETHER** with all buildings and erection standing and being thereon, the freehold property of **REYES PROFOAM SYSTEMS LTD/ SULAMA REYES**.

ALL THAT piece or parcel of land being block No 7, Parcel No 7092, situated in San Pedro Registration Section, Belize District comprising 461.164 square meters, **TOGETHER** with all buildings and erection standing and being thereon, the freehold property of **REYES PROFOAM SYSTEMS LTD / EDILBERTO REYES JR.**

ALL THAT piece or parcel of land being Block 13, Parcels Nos. 120, 121, 122-, 123 & 124 situated in Sierra De Agua Central Registration Section West of San Felipe Village and along Eastern Side of Section of Booths River, Orange Walk Town, Belize District comprising of 1,546.38 acres, 2,488.03 acres, 1,044 acres, 3.845 acres, 39 acres respectively **TOGETHER** with all buildings and erection standing and being thereon, the freehold property of **HILLBANK AGRICULTURAL COMPANY LIMITED / DYCK BROTHERS COMPANY LIMITED**

ALL THAT piece or parcel of land being Block 4, Parcel No. 981 situated in Ann Gabourel Registration Section, Trial Farm, Orange Walk Town, Belize District, comprising 823.09 square yards, **TOGETHER** with all buildings and erection standing and being thereon, the freehold property of **AMADO OLIVERA**.

ALL THAT piece or parcel of land being Block 4, Parcel No. 105 situated in Trial Farm Registration Section, Orange Walk Town, Belize District, comprising 3274.46 square meters, **TOGETHER** with all buildings and erection standing and being thereon, the freehold property of **EMMANUEL ALEX COWO**.

ALL THAT piece or parcel of land being Block 3, Parcel No. 508 situated in Sarteneja Registration Section, Corozal District, Belize comprising 1,187.79 square yards, **TOGETHER** with all buildings and erection standing and being thereon, the freehold property of **JAIME SOSA**.

ALL THAT piece or parcel of land being Block 1, Parcel No. 296 situated in San Joaquin/San Maximo Registration Section, Corozal District, Belize comprising 1,365.58 square meters, **TOGETHER** with all buildings and erection standing and being thereon, the freehold property of **WILBERT P. LINAREZ**.

ALL THAT piece or parcel of land being Block 1, Parcel No. 4013 situated in Corozal North Registration Section, Corozal District, Belize comprising 482.687 square meters, **TOGETHER** with all buildings and erection standing and being thereon, the freehold property of **LEROY WESTBY**.

Dated this March 11th, 2022

GOB awarded US\$750K Funding from MCC

by Eden Cruz (freelancer)

BELIZE CITY, BELIZE, Thurs. Mar. 17, 2022

A delegation from the U.S. Government's Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), led by MCC Chief Executive Officer Alice Albright, along with Deputy Vice President for Europe, Asia, Pacific, and Latin America, Mr. Jonathan Brooks, held a media press brief this morning at the Radisson Hotel to introduce the agency's development grant program – \$500 million MCC-Nepal Compact Grant.

During their three-day visit the MCC team met with Prime Minister

John Briceño and signed an agreement for US\$750K that will be used to set up a special unit which will identify projects and policies that will help Belize's economy. A focal point of the discussion panel, which included Leyla Moses-Ones, Chargé d'Affaires at the U.S. Embassy of Belize, and Dr. Osmond Martinez, Minister of Economic Development, was MCC's analytical and collaborative approach to fighting poverty through economic growth and the next steps in the compact program development process.

According to www.mcc.gov, the Millennium Challenge Corporation is



(l to r) MCC C.E.O - Alice Albright, Deputy Vice President - Mr. Jonathan Brooks, Leyla Moses-Ones, Chargé d'Affaires and Dr. Osmond Martinez, Minister of Economic Development.

a bilateral US foreign aid agency established by the U.S. Congress in 2004 to apply a new philosophy toward foreign aid, after President George W. Bush called for a new compact for development with accountability for both rich and poor countries in 2002.

According to the MCC's guiding principles, before Belize could be eligible to receive assistance the MCC's Board had to examine its performance on 17 independent and transparent policy indicators. The MCC requires GOB to identify its priorities for achieving sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction. The MCC teams then work in close partnership with Belize to refine the proposed programs.

From the implementation of the MCC in 2008, to 2021, Belize failed to meet the criteria, with our annual GDP exceeding the threshold. However, after the COVID-19 pandemic severely impacted our overall economic growth Belize now qualifies as an MCC candidate and will be receiving MCC funding over the course of the next 5 years (2023-2027).

According to the official MCC press release, "Selecting Belize for a compact allows MCC to partner with a country that has demonstrated a clear commitment to democratic governance, but that is facing rising poverty rates and significant

challenges to economic growth. With this new partnership, MCC will support the Government of Belize's efforts to build economic resilience and address its most binding constraints to growth."

MCC's Board of Directors selected Belize as an eligible candidate to develop an MCC compact program in December 2021. Compacts are five-year agreements between MCC and an eligible country to fund specific programs that target key constraints to economic growth. Since Belize was awarded as a selected Candidate, GOB will set up its own local MCA team which will be overseen by the Ministry of Economic Development to hire professional consultants to manage and oversee all aspects of implementation. Monitoring of funds is rigorous and transparent, often through independent fiscal agents.

"The United States is committed to working with our partners in the Belizean government to bring greater prosperity and support good governance for the benefit of all the citizens of this great nation," Leyla Moses-Ones said. "We look forward to getting started on the compact development process."

To learn more about Millennium Challenge Corporation and Belize's future projects and proposals, visit the MCC website page at <https://www.mcc.gov/>

My Response to Corbyn's Comments



by Thérèse Belisle-Nweke

It was a good thing when this AH was relegated to the nether world of British politics for good.

It is exactly this type of half-assed, pro-communist rhetoric of "my enemy's enemy is my friend" that emboldens malignant and power-drunk dictators like Putin, Xi of China, al-Assad of Syria, Mohammed bin Salman of Saudi Arabia, Khalifa bin Zayed of the UAE, and wannabes like Erdogan of Turkey, Modi of India and Naftali Bennett of Israel.

If you look carefully at the above line-up of characters, since this truly barbaric war against Ukraine began three weeks ago, check all their responses to Putin's totally unnecessary war.

I am not taking brief for predatory powers like the US. But when a thief is caught, one does not justify his crime by pointing fingers at all the other thieves you know, and argue that after all he is not the only person who steals!

This old-school communist talks blithely about the UN, which anyone with eyes to see is extraordinarily effete, and has absolutely no authority outside of what happens at the level of the Security Council -- which definitely is in need of a root and branch overhaul!

Putin does not wish to negotiate, and cannot be trusted to negotiate honestly. He has broken and torn up every treaty he agreed to concerning the use of

nuclear weapons, which for the first time he introduced in a sense a day ago in the Ukrainian city of Mariupol.

He actually used Kinzhal hypersonic missiles yesterday, which can hit a target some 1, 250 miles away and flies 10 times the speed of sound — 7,653 mph.

One cannot negotiate with a dog that has rabies. Putin is wild, like a rabies-infected dog. He is infected and consumed by the desire to acquire more POWER, and to be far greater than Stalin, and so restore Russia to the glory days of the Soviet Union.

But even with all his nuclear warheads and military toys, the economy of Russia is not up to that of the State of California! This is a grim fact.

Putin, instead of embarking on calamitous military adventurism, which can only result in global pariah status, and threatening the NATO nations whose citizens generally enjoy a much higher standard of living than Russia's, should ask himself: why have almost all the former Soviet republic nations joined the EU and NATO, after the breakup of the USSR? And why are Georgia and Ukraine, which he invaded, also so eager to join these two groupings?

Putin should have taken a leaf from China's playbook, in which 860 million Chinese have been lifted out of poverty, with China's poverty rate falling from 88% in 1981 to 0.7% by 2015. And, since Xi took power in 2012, more than 100 million of China's rural population are no longer poor.

Improving the living standards of the Russian people, who have suffered for CENTURIES under despotic governments of every kind, from the Czars to the Bolsheviks, down to the Communists, the oligarchs and silovarchs (whose wealth make up more than 85% of Russia's), plus Putin's 22-year-dictatorship, should have been Putin's most important goal and legacy.

Is it by force? Nigerians often ask those trying to bully and browbeat them. And, to tell the truth, they are dead right!

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

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

Position Name: Maintenance Mechanic (Generator Mechanic)
Vacancy number: Belmopan-2022-05-R
Closing date: April 1, 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.



AMANDALA

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in Belize!

The indoctrination of minds

Thank you, Brother Colin Hyde, for your words of comfort published in your column on March 18, 2022. It is very appreciated. Let me take this opportunity to try to explain what was written in my previous columns concerning the Creoles' and Mestizos' ethnicity, which we have in our country. I hope you have noticed that my son was a black man, which shows that we Mestizos of different shades of color also have the African genes in us, and I am pointing this out because of a way-back historical discrimination that has existed and still exists among us, when the reality is that we are one of the same; regardless ah cala, all ah we dah one.

For us to achieve unity, we need to cleanse our minds from the old custom of looking at each other as stereotypes. We are all Belizeans. On the other hand, as I have mentioned on several occasions in my other writings, Belize is still a British colony, although based on a paper it is said that it has its independence, but according to the Constitution it is a monarchy. For this reason, the leaders of this country have to bow their heads to the descendants of former masters, to the oppressors, to the murderers, those who raped, killed, and did all kinds of inhumane things to our ancestors.

I am aware of and grateful for the voice of Sister Ya Ya Marin Coleman, who on Friday March 17, called the Krem WUB morning show, as a leader and president of the movement representing the African people of this country, to protest not being consulted or informed about the arrival of persons from the British royalty, which has nothing to do with us as a Maya and African people. The same was done to a Maya community who were not consulted nor informed. How the hell are you going to bring someone to my house and not consult me? Who do you think you are? These two races, both African and Mayan, are the ones that suffered the transformation of this place. While the Maya were being invaded and their lands stolen from them, the Africans suffered the transfer of the Atlantic Trade when they were brought as slaves to this place by the British and the treatment that they received from their barbaric masters was inhumane.

The words from Sister Ya Ya Marin Coleman are ones that, this yours truly, supports.

I also want to mention that Sister Ms. Sandra Coye called Krem on the same morning asking two questions to the guest. As far as my understanding, the question was never answered. From what little I know, from what

little I can understand, I think I comprehend the question, and I also know where this supposedly new form of education is going, which is older than those who invented it. The British colonized and indoctrinated our people. Now, the United States has recolonized with the Monroe Doctrine philosophy and indoctrinated the minds of the youths with the American way of thinking. However, dear readers of this column, I want to present an article that was addressed to the previous editor of this newspaper, written by yours truly and was published on Sunday, December 19, 2004. I have not removed or added any word. The following goes as it was published back then. You will be the ones to analyze if there has been any changes from then to now, in this 2022.

"No one has asked me, but I am concerned about the lack of participation of our intellectuals on the information given in the books about the teachings of the African and Mayan civilizations in our religious academic schools. Except for the Amandala that has been writing about the matter. It should have been a national concern since it's about education for the Christian schools and the involvement of the Ministry. I truly expected a public national debate on the subject so as to educate the general public on the matter and tell us the pros and cons. We should not be ashamed of ourselves because of the way we think. We should not be ashamed to ask questions, because no one on earth knows it all. We can only know to a certain amount. 98% of the people in a certain country are Roman Catholics. Whenever there is an event, either national or international, the press in general will call in or interview their intellectuals. The system has all types of intellectuals. They don't close themselves into one or two levels. They go all up to the sideways eight level.

"Let me give an example, for instance, the film, "The Passion of Christ," was put to a public forum. And afterwards a panel of six persons was set up at a TV station that covers four continents to discuss the subject, "The Passion of Christ". Among them there were two priests of the highest degree in theology of the Roman Catholic belief. The debate lasted over one hour. During the discussion, one of the panelists debated the "Crucifixion of Christ." He said to them, that there is no evidence or proof that Christ was nailed on a cross, a post or hung. The priests couldn't show that this person was not saying the truth. By hearing or knowing what the panelists said to the two priests and that they had no justification to show the contrary, doesn't stop me from having faith in Jesus Christ.

"I know that the people of my country are very religious. And that is what makes me doubt very much that the religious academic schools will




by Clinton Canul Luna

teach about the 'African Civilizations' on a whole. They will probably depict what for them is correct or true, and the rest shall be dumped as rubbish. Going back to the 'African Civilization', and what scientists say about the early humans known as 'Australopithecine'. They say that this big monkey, also known as 'Anthropoid', lived on the oriental and meridian part of Africa about five million years ago. Its brain wasn't larger than the actual simians, but it walked upright and probably used tools. Their primitive tools were rudimentary instruments made out of bones of the animals that they ate. What scientists haven't been able to clarify or identify is the color of the skin, hair and eyes. Could I say 'race? Scientists have advanced so much that they can make human beings in laboratories. They can trace your DNA from a string of your hair, but they haven't been able to prove if human beings come from apes.

"The theory of Charles Darwin and his followers is just that – 'theory'. To confirm that this creature called 'Australopithecine' and or 'The man 1470', is where humans came from is irresponsible. Scientists say that the lakes of Africa have been the cradle of humanity. In other words, what they want to say is that our forefathers were apes. I personally have no problem with that. The problem I have is to understand how these apes turned into different races such as red (Atlantis), yellow (Asia-China), Black (Africa), white (Indo-Europeans). I know that there is a scientific hypothetical answer which is 'Nature and Time'. But why did the evolution of races not continue? We stayed at a stop point, except for the mixture of the four races. I mentioned four races because there are scholars that say that the ancient Egyptian priests adjusted it. And that they are represented in the paintings at the tomb of Sethis 1 in Thebas. The name for the red race is 'Rot'; the black-African-race is named 'Halasu'; the Asiatic race is named 'Aruc', and the white-Indo-European race is named 'Tamaku'. "Independently from the above mentioned we also have a green race (this is another scientific theory) which names are given as plants, trees, forest, etc. Their responsibility is to be the lung of this university college called earth. And their worst enemies are the Homo-sapiens."

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



GENERAL REGISTRY
FILED

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

CLAIM NO 414 OF 2021

BETWEEN:

(LILLIAN LOCKWOOD)	CLAIMANT
(AND)	
(KEISHA CHRISTIAN)	DEFENDANT

ORDER

The 17th day of February 2022

BEFORE THE HON. MADAM JUSTICE GENEVIEVE CHABOT


UPON HEARING Ms. Magalie Perdomo, Counsel on behalf of the Applicant and upon reading the Affidavit filed herein.

IT IS ORDERED that:

- (1) That service of the Fixed Date Claim Form and Statement of Claim dated 9th June 2021; Amended Fixed Date Claim Form and Statement of Claim dated 30th November 2021; and Amended Urgent Notice of Application dated 10th December 2021, with draft order, be effected by two consecutive publications in a principal newspaper of general circulation in the country of Belize on Keisha Christian, and that the said Keisha Christian acknowledge service within 14 days of the second publication.
- (2) The time for serving the Fixed Date Claim Form and Statement of Claim dated 9th June 2021; Amended Fixed Date Claim Form and Statement of Claim dated 30th November 2021; and Amended Urgent Notice of Application dated 10th December 2021, with draft order, is hereby extended to 30 days from the date of this Order.
- (3) That Costs of this application to be cost in the cause.

DATED the 25th day of February 2022

BY ORDER


DEPUTY REGISTRAR



U-10 & U-13 Little League playoffs this Saturday at Marion Jones

by *Edon Rowley –
Tournament Coordinator*

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Mar. 21, 2022

The Future Football Club U-10 & U-13 Little League 2022 Football Tournament got underway on Saturday, March 5, at the Marion Jones Sports Complex Football Field in Belize City and games have been played every Saturday since.

Four (4) teams participated in the U-10 & four (4) in the U-13 Future Little League Football Tournament. These are: U-10: Freetown Future FC, Faber's Road Ballers, Elite

Squad, and Tut Bay Yabra FC; and U-13: Freetown Future FC, Elite Squad, Belize United, and Tut Bay Yabra FC.

The tournament was a single round-robin, with the semifinals and the finals scheduled for this coming Saturday at the same venue.

Below are the results from games played on March 5, March 12 and this past Saturday, March 19.

Saturday, March 5 results

U-10: Tut Bay Yabra FC defeated Freetown Future FC, 5-3. Goals for Tut Bay were by Kyron Linarez with 2 goals, and Maurice Rivera, Tyrone

Guy and Latuel Frazier with 1 apiece. All 3 goals for Freetown Future FC were by Noel Flores.

U-13: Tut Bay Yabra FC tied with Belize United, 1-1. The Tut Bay goal was by Esmond Sanker, while Juan Diego scored for Belize United.

U-13: Tut Bay Yabra FC won, 5-0, over FFFC. Goal scorers for Tut Bay Yabra FC were Esmond Sanker with 2 goals, and Jayven Noralez, Deon Meighan and Deon Broaster with 1 goal each.

Saturday, March 12 results

U-10: Tut Bay Yabra FC defeated Elite Squad, 4-0, with 2 goals from

Cardinal Welch, 1 from Kyrone Martinez, and an own goal from the Elite Squad.

U-13: Belize United bombed Freetown Future FC, 9-0. Goal scorers for Belize United were Tyler Gentle, Antwan Latchman and Ishmael Gonzalez with 2 goals apiece, and Juan Diego, Byran Richardson and Herwin Godoy with 1 goal each.

U-10: Freetown Future FC won, 3-2, over Elite Squad. Goals for Freetown Future were by Drew Willoughby, Rajan Thomas and Noel Flores with 1 goal each; while Reyleen Middleton and Alden Coleman got 1 goal apiece for Elite Squad.

U-13: Tut Bay Yabra FC dropped Elite Squad, 4-0, with a goal apiece from Deon Broaster, Esmond Sanker, Christon Linarez and Tyreque Fraizer.

Saturday, March 19 results

U-10: Tut Bay Yabra FC defeated Faber's Road Ballers, 3-0. Goal scorers for Tut Bay were Cardinal Welch, Asher Welch and Tyrone Linarez with 1 goal each.

U-13: Elite Squad tied with Freetown Future FC, 1-1. The goal for Elite Squad was by Davion Cacho, while Charles Leslie scored for Freetown FFC.

U-10: Freetown Future FC defeated Faber's Road Ballers, 2-0. Jamar Middleton and Edgar Lorenzo scored 1 apiece for Freetown FFC.

U-13: Belize United dropped Elite Squad, 5-0. Brian Richardson netted 3 goals, and Juan Dussan and Shay Gordon scored 1 each for Belize United.

U-10: Elite Squad won over Faber's Road Ballers, 3-1. Goals for Elite Squad were by Leon Jones and Rojon Ingleton with 1 goal each along with an own goal by Faber's Road Ballers; while Faber's Road Ballers also benefited from an own goal by Elite Squad.

Upcoming schedule:

Saturday, March 26

SEMIFINALS

9:30 a.m. – (U10) Tut Bay Yabra FC vs Faber's Road Ballers

10:00 a.m. – (U13) Belize United vs Freetown Future FC

10:30 a.m. – (U10) Freetown Future FC vs Elite Squad

11:00 a.m. – (U13) Tut Bay Yabra FC vs Elite Squad

3RD PLACE GAMES

12:00 noon – (U10) Loser Game 1 vs Loser Game 3

12:30 p.m. – (U13) Loser Game 2 vs Loser Game 4

CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES

1:00 p.m. – (U10) Winner Game 1 vs Winner Game 3

1:30 p.m. – (U13) Winner Game 2 vs Winner Game 4

BELIZE BANKERS ASSOCIATION

Bankers Association Press Release: Phishing

In recent weeks a number of customers within the banking sector have been affected by 'Phishing'. Phishing is a fraudulent practice of sending emails purporting to be from a reputable company in order to induce individuals to reveal personal information such as passwords.

The Bankers Association of Belize advises customers that Banks will not send emails or other communications requesting the disclosure of personal banking information. Therefore customers should not reply to any communication requesting personal banking information.

Customers' personal banking information should remain private as this information can be utilized by others to perform unauthorized online banking transactions from their accounts. Consequently, customers should advise their Bank immediately if they believe their personal banking information has been compromised or unauthorized transactions have been performed on their account.

While Banks may provide assistance to remediate inconveniences caused, disclosure of a customer's personal banking information that causes unauthorized transactions to be performed on their account is the responsibility of the customer.

Additionally, the Bankers Association strongly advises customers that they should avoid using their accounts to process transactions on behalf of third-parties.

-----END-----

March 21, 2022

Royals begin their Caribbean tour in Belize

Continued from Page 1

Barbados cut ties with the monarchy, electing to become a republic while still remaining a part of the Commonwealth community.

On Saturday, March 19, the Duke and Duchess, Prince William and Catherine (“Kate”) Middleton, along with an entourage of fifteen other persons, including a hairdresser and press team, arrived at Belize’s Philip Goldson International Airport (PGIA), where they were greeted by the Belize Defense Force; Governor-General H.E. Froyla Tzalam; the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Immigration, Hon. Eamon Courtenay; Foreign Affairs CEO H.E. Amalia Mai, and British High Commissioner to Belize, Claire Evans O.B.E. The couple also received a 21-gun salute via three miniature cannons. They were then escorted to the Laing Building in Belize City, where they met privately with Prime Minister John Briceño and his wife, H.E. Rosanna Briceño, the Special Envoy for the Development of Families & Children.

The first stop on the royal couple’s Belize visit was set to be Akte’il Ha Cacao Farm located in Indian Creek Village in the Toledo District, but those plans quickly changed after villagers staged a protest on the eve of their arrival date. The protests in Indian Creek resulted in the cancellation of the visit to the village, but the Royal Tour proceeded, with the Government announcing that they had activated their contingency plan. On Sunday, March 20, the Duke and Duchess traveled to Che’il Cacao Farm in Maya Center Belize, where they were greeted by the owner, Mr. Julio Saqui. There, they learned the traditional art of making chocolate and witnessed the entrepreneurship of Maya families in the cacao industry. The royal couple was even granted the opportunity to sample cacao in its rawest form—straight from the pod itself.

The tour of Southern Belize also included a visit to Hopkins village,

where the couple danced alongside Garifuna performers, with the Duke of Cambridge showing off his dance moves much like his brother Harry had in 2012 for the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee. The Duke and Duchess were also able to try some local cuisine, including Hudut and Sahou, courtesy of Chef Sean Kuylen. Meanwhile, some villagers from Indian Creek staged a demonstration, welcoming the Duke and Duchess and lamenting the cancellation of their trip to the village.

“It was an incredible experience to see firsthand how this world famous chocolate was made—using all organic products, all grown on their land nearby. We can see why this is loved all around the world,” expressed the couple in a tweet.

On their third day in the country, the couple visited the Caracol Archaeological Site, accompanied by the Assistant Director of Research at NICH, Dr. Alan Moore. The British High Commission shared photos of the visit, stating that the Duke and Duchess explored the natural and cultural treasures of the area in addition to admiring the view from the sky palace, Caana. In addition to visiting Caracol, the royal couple is expected to observe the British Army Training Support Unit Belize’s (BATSUB) jungle training as well as meet with two NGO’s—Friends for Conservation and Development and Panthera Belize.

According to a release from the royal family, the primary focus of the couple’s visit to Belize, Jamaica and The Bahamas is understanding the impact that the pandemic has had on the region. They are also expected to touch on a number of programs that they have been involved in, most notably the Earthshot Prize, which offers £1 million in funding to innovative projects that aim to tackle the climate crisis. It has also been noted, however, that the visit is a charm offensive on behalf of the monarchy—an attempt to strengthen support from the Caribbean and deter other nations from following in Barbados’ footsteps.

Murder in Cristo Rey

(From page 1)



Location where the victim was found on Sunday morning

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Mar. 21, 2022

A 44-year-old man, Henry Charles Baptist, a resident of Santa Elena Town, was murdered in the village of Cristo Rey in the Cayo District sometime during the late hours of Saturday night, March 19.

Police visited a secluded area on the Cristo Rey Road in the Cayo District, where they discovered Baptist’s motionless body in a pool of blood. Upon closer examination of the body, the officers discovered an apparent gunshot wound. It appears that the victim was shot and left for dead.

Prior to being killed, Baptist and other members of his family had attended a wake in Cristo Rey for his brother, Jesse Espot, who was found dead in Orange Walk just a few days earlier. Reports are that he had received threats from persons in the village that he would be harmed if he was seen in the area.

“Mister Baptist was in the village the night before attending a wake for a relative, and sometime after 1:00 a.m., he walked without telling anyone he was going, but it not until the following morning when his body was discovered and that person called police and [stated] what they saw,” stated ASP Fitzroy Yearwood, Communications Director of the Police Department.

As mentioned, police believe that Baptist, who has had a number of run-ins with the law, was killed due to a prior altercation he had with a few men in the area who had warned him to stay away.

“He has had his fair share of run-ins with the law, and apparently, there were persons in Cristo Rey Village in the past that he may have offended, and those persons were sending threats that if he visited the area what would take place, and I must say that they lived through with their threats,” ASP Yearwood said.

Ralph Pilley, a resident of the area, explained that he was awakened by the sound of what he thought was kids lighting firecrackers

in the area, but that noise was actually the gunshots that took Baptist’s life.

“It was Saturday night; I don’t know the time. I was awakened by what I thought at the time were firecrackers. I mean, we hear firecrackers all the time, and so somebody shooting firecrackers, and then my next thought was ‘but it’s not a holiday—why anybody would be shooting firecrackers?’ And the sounds I heard were two pops real close together and then a pause and then a third pop. And right after that third pop, there was a motorcycle engine that revved up. The thing went full speed, down this road, down the hill towards San Ignacio, and a car right behind it a couple [of] seconds’ right behind,” recounted Pilley.

“So I went back to bed, I didn’t imagine that anybody had been shot, you know. I thought it was some kids blowing up firecrackers. And it wasn’t until I got up later that morning, I then came out and saw that there have been a shooting. When I came out here, the police were already here and had cordoned off the body and, to be honest with you, when I first came by I thought that somebody was hit by a car, you know, some person was drinking and came in late to their house and got struck by a car, until I asked the police, they said it was a shooting,” he said.

Pilley said that he had never seen Baptist in the area before.

“My wife and I have lived here for about 2 months now, and we’ve met maybe 8 or 10 people, and I didn’t get a good look at the body that was laying here. And I know now, this person’s name, never heard that name before, and in the picture that I’ve seen on the internet is not a picture that I’ve seen before,” he said.

Police have one person detained and charges will be levied against that person in connection with the murder of Baptist.

Baptist’s body was transported to the San Ignacio Community Hospital, where he was pronounced dead by medical personnel at around 6:00 a.m. on Sunday.

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Senate approves stevedores' \$1.5 million payment

Continued from **Page 1**

a protest being staged earlier this year, according to an MOU signed by the government of Belize and the CWU.

Lead Opposition Senator, Hon. Michael Peyrefitte, in his presentation to the upper house on Friday, said that the government should never have paid out money to remedy a conflict between two private entities, although he did not acknowledge that the privatization of PBL was an action facilitated by the government (nor did he mention a memorandum of understanding that was brokered by a former prime minister and was violated under this current government, which led to the transfer of sugar-loading to Big Creek.)

"I am talking about government policy. I'm not talking about whether it came out of Contingency Fund or Consolidated Revenue Fund; I'm talking about policy. The policy of the government. Madam President, cannot be that they see a dispute and go in and put money into that dispute, especially when they do not have the authority to settle that dispute," said Peyrefitte.

Without acknowledging the unique circumstances surrounding the ownership of PBL, and the key public function of the facility, as well as the crippling effects of a decade-long receivership which followed government's involvement in a privatization of the facility, Senator Peyrefitte commented, "I'm not talking about the case at all. I'm talking about the government opening up the floodgates when it has a policy, so any two, if the teacher gets involved with some union or some other entity, the government will come and compensate again? It is the policy of the government providing resources and money to entities involved in disputes that does not concern government, and that government cannot fix."

The President of the Senate, Hon. Carolyn Trench-Sandiford, made a repeated effort to ensure that Senator Peyrefitte focused his comments on the contents of the bill and did not discuss the ongoing legal battle between the parties.

In response to her reminders,

Peyrefitte said, "I've not only been in the Senate since 2017, but I'm also an officer of the court. I fully appreciate not discussing matters that would somehow make my pronunciations or presentations be prejudicial to a court process. If the government was so sensitive about the pronouncements in parliament concerning this appropriation, then maybe they should not have brought it. Since they want to respect the court so much and respect the process so much, then delay this until the court has completed its process, if you really care. The government has no business paying out money to 1 of 2 parties in a private dispute."

While the government side of the Senate did not make any notable remarks about the bill, the Senator for the unions, Hon. Elena Smith stated that while they support the payment, and consider the stevedores to be "more than deserving" of such a payment, in light of all that these workers will endure as a result of certain decisions made by GoB, they are calling on the government to abide by the Finance and Audit Reform Act (FARA).

"And while some may say that's a lot, a huge amount, it may not be deserving, we believe that it is more than deserving because it will not cover what these stevedores will have to endure going forward. And so I listened, Madam President, just a bit to what was said in the House, and I know that there were concerns when the matter was raised of it was the government abiding by the Finance and Audit Reform Act. As unions that have always worked to ensure that government is accountable and that the government does what is right, despite the fact we support, we have to remind the government that it ought to ensure that it abides by these acts, and do things when they're supposed to be done, and not have to come after the fact. I believe that as trade unions, the work that we have been doing -- as I said, while we certainly approve, and we support, we have to make that reminder." Senator Elena Smith said.

Last week, the BNTU issued a public statement in which it indicated



Senator Michael Peyrefitte and Senator Elena Smith

that it would remove its accounts from Belize Bank (which is reportedly affiliated with the entity controlling the Port of Belize Ltd.) and urged sister unions to do the same—citing the lawsuit brought by PBL against the CWU's negotiating team as an attack on all trade unions.

While this bill, which by all indications should have remedied the issue of non-parliamentary approval in the granting of the ex-gratia payment to the stevedores, was passed on Friday, the final determination of this case, and whether or not the cash will be released to the stevedores, will go back to the court in May. Then the court will hear PBL's newly packaged arguments in its most recent efforts to prevent the disbursement of cash to the stevedores— whether or not the payment should have come from a contingency account and if it is in line with the FARA.

One of the CWU's attorneys, Darrell Bradley, who is also a UDP senator, was not present during the debate on the appropriations bill. While the Opposition members of the Senate argued that the government should never have made the payment, saying the policy could create a culture of the government bailing out entities in private disputes, Bradley in an interview agreed that the case does highlight an issue of policy, but pointed out that the government and any government has the right to make key policy decisions.

As stated in the Friday, February

25 edition of the AMANDALA, there is a particular legal provision that enables the government to make urgent payments of sums of up to approximately \$1 million, and thus the matter being contested now in court is whether the Contingencies Fund, from which that amount could have been paid, was activated.

That AMANDALA article explained, "...In October 2021 this administration established a Contingency Fund under the Finance and Audit Reform Act. That legislation governs payments that are urgent and unforeseen, for which no provision exists. Section 2 (3) of the Finance and Audit Reform Act amendment states, 'Notwithstanding sub-rule (2), where an urgent and unforeseen need for expenditure has arisen and cannot without serious injury to the public interest be postponed until adequate provision can be made by the National Assembly, the Minister may by warrant, authorize the issue from the Fund of such sums as may be necessary.' Section 4(a) and (b) mandates that the payment be authorized by the National Assembly but subsection (c) points out, 'authorizations by warrant which have not been confirmed by the enactment of an Appropriation Act shall not at any time exceed in the aggregate an amount equivalent to ten per centum of the amount voted for the respective head of the approved expenditure estimates for the year, or the sum of one million dollars in the case of new goods or a new service'."

Woman executed in San Ignacio

Continued from **Page 1**

Ramandeep Mangat was transported by her husband to the San Ignacio Community Hospital, where she succumbed to her injuries.

Initially, police had detained Gurmeet Mangat and questioned him about the mysterious circumstances surrounding the murder of his wife.

"I wouldn't say that it is the only source, but usually a murder of this nature, we want to clear the person who was with the victim last before you know which other direction to go. And I am certain that he was only

detained for questioning to clear up whatever the investigators believe could put him in the clear. We had to begin somewhere, and that's why we began with the husband to see if there was anything there other than what he reported to the police. Like I said, it's 8:00 in the night; they [have] parked a little distance from the actual stand, but I know our officers were out there that night canvassing trying to get whatever information they could to see how we can solve this one," explained ASP Fitzroy Yearwood, Communications Director of the Belize Police Department.

There is no confirmation at this time that the sound of a gun being fired was mentioned in Gurmeet Mangat's report.

"I'm only presenting what the investigators have sent to me. So far, they're saying he heard a scream, his wife scream; that's what he's claiming. Well, logical thinking, unless of course there was some form of device adapted to the firearm use, at the end of the day, I will not go any further into it, because then I will be speculating. [As] I said, I presented the facts to you that [was] sent to me, and until I get a report, then I can

comment on the remainder of that,"

ASP Yearwood told local reporters.

ASP Yearwood also did not indicate whether Gurmeet Mangat was still in police custody and if he was cooperating. Also, he did not provide an answer when asked if Mangat owned a licensed firearm.

It is expected that a postmortem examination on the body of Ramandeep Mangat will assist police in determining what kind of weapon was used to commit this murder, as no expended shells were found at the scene.

Indian Creek residents and UEF protest Royal visit

Continued from Page 1

via placards to “land somewhere else.”

“We don’t want them to land in our land; that’s the message that we want to send. They could land anywhere, but not in our land,” the chairman of Indian Creek, Sebastian Shol, said in an interview on 7News.

According to Dionisio Shol, a youth leader from the village, the village’s chairman and alcalde were informed last minute of the visit and were instructed to cut the grass on the village’s football field - which would have been used as the landing site for Prince William’s aircraft and the starting point for his tour of Southern Belize, as well as the first event on the itinerary of the couple’s Caribbean tour. According to Shol, in a village meeting on Thursday, they agreed to stage a protest, not only in response to the disrespect by Belize’s government officials via their late demand to the village leaders, but also because they learned that Prince William is the patron of Flora and Fauna International (FFI), the conservation organization which reportedly owns a disputed 12,000 acres tract of land which the village of Indian Creek is claiming as communal property, used traditionally by the villagers.

During an interview, Dionisio Shol said, “We get to find out that he is a patron of Fauna and Flora International. We, you may know, we were on the media about a month or so ago also regarding information that came to the village saying that now FFI has finished purchasing in the land, so the village was also up in arms, and so now, here comes the patron of our [village] and simply put, it, the village is asking, you know, what does a patron mean? Somebody, who is for us, it’s simply somebody who is sending the money paying for the people who are restricting our access to the land, so that is why his name comes into a bigger picture in our village where he is a patron of FFI, and we have an issue....so it’s really with the leadership and him being a patron of FFI.”

The patronage of FFI has long been held by the Royal Family, with King George VI being appointed the first royal patron in 1937. Prince William recently replaced Queen Elizabeth II in that role in October of 2020.

Boden Creek, a dense rainforest area near the village, has been used traditionally by the residents of the village, said their area representative, Minister Oscar Requeña, but he noted that the land is privately owned.

“They are lands that they have been using for farming, lands where they go in and hunt, lands where you know,

they go and get materials to build their homes, and certainly, as you are aware, it’s a large tract of land; I think it’s about [13,000] acres of land, and the community is very much concerned that that’s where they do their livelihood. I must clarify, though, that my understanding is that it is private land,” Minister Oscar Requeña said.

Minister Requeña recommended that the parties come together and reach some compromise, since the need for more land in the community, currently consisting of about 800 residents, is constantly increasing.

FFI’s country representative, Lisel Alamilla, who is incidentally also the former Chairperson of the Maya Land Rights Commission, told Jules Vasquez in an *Uncut* interview last year that the community and government would likely have to engage in a process which could include taking the matter to court to get back the land from FFI.

“One of the first things that you probably would do is you would approach the landowner and say, ‘we agree with the villagers of Indian Creek that this land should be recovered and returned to them. And so, we want to ask you if you would take another piece of land of the same value or size somewhere else in the country.’ And the person might agree, the owner. If the person doesn’t agree, then you can say, ‘well, we wanna purchase the land from you. We’ll pay you for the value of the land’, and the owner can say, ‘No, I don’t want to get rid of the land’. Government has to take that owner to court. There has to be a process to extinguish that owner’s rights. This consent order tells you that Maya customary land tenure exists in the Toledo District, but it doesn’t prescribe how those lands are going to be recovered. With Boden Creek, this is private land, and until you get to the point where you’re going to start addressing the issues of private land, this land is protected,” Alamilla stated.

The international wildlife organization, by all accounts the



Prince William and Kate Middleton tasting cacao in Maya Center

oldest in the world, has a donation page active on its website calling for “urgent funds” to “save Boden Creek”.

“Your donation today will help protect Boden Creek – forever. A vital expanse of virtually untouched rainforest in Belize, Boden Creek is home to jaguars, monkeys, ocelots and hundreds of other species. But even more importantly, areas like this urgently need our protection,” the website’s donation page states.

It must be noted that the protection of biodiversity and wildlife in Boden Creek is vital to the overall protection of a critical forest corridor in Central America. This corridor has been traditionally sustained for generations by the indigenous peoples living in the area, but a key portion of this area became private property in 1998. According to onearth.org, a website where donations are being sought to buy the land, the area was partially abandoned in 2021, “leading to the poaching of timber and wildlife from the private reserve, as well as the destruction of infrastructure due to conflicts between the former manager and adjacent communities.”

The need for an inclusive implementation of a Free, Prior, Informed Consent (FPIC) protocol, which corrects the issue of non-consensual private ownership of indigenous communal lands is highlighted in the protest staged on Friday by the Indian Creek residents against the arrival of FFI’s patron, Prince William.

Also, in protest of the arrival, the UBAD Education Foundation (UEF) released a scathing statement calling the visit of the “British colonizers an atrocity to our Afrikan Ancestors, and Afrikan people living in Belize!” UEF stated that Belize and the other Caribbean nations are being deemed “realms of the British monarchy” that to this day have mere “flag independence”.

UEF chairperson, Yaya Marin Coleman, stated in a recent interview, “Our African ancestors are here with us today. We will not be moved, we

are still here, and respect to the indigenous people in southern Belize who are also resisting those oppressors coming back.”

Prince William and Kate Middleton’s trip to Belize ends tomorrow, but they have so far met with the Prime Minister, Hon. John Briceño, and his wife; and visited Che’il Cacao Farm and Chocolate Factory, where they ate fresh cacao, and Hopkins Village, where they enjoyed Garifuna cuisine and danced with the locals.

The charm offensive at the behest of Her Majesty the Queen comes as she marks 70 years on the throne, and as conversations on reparations, the atrocities of the Transatlantic Slave Trade, and its benefit to the British crown, and the Industrial Revolution are being revitalized throughout the region. Last November, Barbados, a nation historically used as a sugar cash hub for the English, completed its transformation into a republic. The Government of Belize has itself introduced legislation forwarding CARICOM’s reparation’s mandate, to seek admission of the historical wrongs committed against the people of the region, and an apology from the former colonial masters, before starting the conversation of reparations. The UK has never admitted to its historical role in the genocide of African and Indigenous peoples of the New World.

Today, a group of Jamaican business leaders, doctors, and politicians, known as the Advocates Network, penned an open letter preceding the royal couple’s arrival in that country on the second leg of their Caribbean tour. An excerpt from the letter states, “We see no reason to celebrate 70 years of the ascension of your grandmother to the British throne because her leadership, and that of her predecessors, has perpetuated the greatest human rights tragedy in the history of humankind.”

The group has begun a campaign called “60 reasons to Apologize” with a slogan that states, “seh yuh sorry and make Reparation “. We will continue to follow.

Our email address for business & advertising is
amandalapress@gmail.com


Our email address for news, letters and articles is
editor_amandala@yahoo.com

**STATUTORY NOTICE
TO CREDITORS**

IN THE ESTATE of **WELMA NANCY HUEZO** deceased of Stadium Street, Orange Walk Town, Orange 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 creditors and other persons having any claims and demands upon or against the Estate of **WELMA NANCY HUEZO**, deceased, late of Stadium Street, Orange Walk Town, Orange District, Belize, who died on the 17th day of December, 2019 and in whose estate Grant of Administration has been granted to **EVELYN JAEL HUEZO** of 1900 Driftwood Bay, Belize City, Belize, should lodge claims or demands with the said **EVELYN JAEL HUEZO c/o Balderamos Arthurs LLP, Charter House, Suite 6, 3 ½ Miles Phillip Goldson Highway, P.O Box 486, Belize City, Belize** on or before the expiration of three months from the first publication hereof **AND NOTICE IS ALSO HEREBY GIVEN** that at the expiration of the said three months the said **EVELYN JAEL HUEZO** shall proceed to distribute the assets of the said **WELMA NANCY HUEZO**, deceased, amongst the beneficiaries entitled thereto, having regard only to claims and demands of which she shall then have had notice.

DATED this 1st day of March, 2022

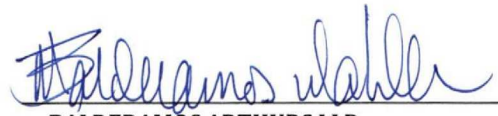

BALDERAMOS ARTHURS LLP
Attorneys-at-Law for the Estate of
WELMA NANCY HUEZO

**STATUTORY NOTICE
TO CREDITORS**

IN THE ESTATE of **RITA EVANGELISTA RAMOS a.k.a. RITA RAMOS** deceased of No. 6819 Aloe vera Street, Belize City, Belize.

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 36 of the Administration of Estates Act, Chapter 197 of the Laws of Belize that all creditors and other persons having any claims and demands upon or against the Estate of **RITA EVANGELISTA RAMOS a.k.a. RITA RAMOS**, deceased, late of No. 6819 Aloe vera Street, Belize City, Belize, who died on the 7th day of March, 2017 and in whose estate Grant of Probate has been granted to **ANNE MELCHORA PALACIO a.k.a. ANNE PALACIO** of 2932 Clifton Betson Street, Belama Phase II, Belize City, Belize, should lodge claims or demands with the said **ANNE MELCHORA PALACIO a.k.a. ANNE PALACIO c/o Balderamos Arthurs LLP, Charter House, Suite 6, 3 ½ Miles Philip Goldson Highway, P.O Box 486, Belize City, Belize** on or before the expiration of three months from the first publication hereof **AND NOTICE IS ALSO HEREBY GIVEN** that at the expiration of the said three months the said **ANNE MELCHORA PALACIO a.k.a. ANNE PALACIO** shall proceed to distribute the assets of the said **RITA EVANGELISTA RAMOS a.k.a. RITA RAMOS**, deceased, amongst the beneficiaries entitled thereto, having regard only to claims and demands of which she shall then have had notice.

DATED this 1st day of March, 2022


BALDERAMOS ARTHURS LLP
Attorneys-at-Law for the Estate of
RITA EVANGELISTA RAMOS a.k.a. RITA RAMOS



CONTRACT AWARD INFORMATION – CONSULTANCY SERVICES

THIRD WATER (SOUTH AMBERGRIS CAYE WATER AND SEWERAGE EXPANSION) PROJECT – BELIZE

DEVELOPING A GENDER POLICY AND OPERATIONAL STRATEGY FOR HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

1. **Summary of Scores:**

Names of Shortlisted Consultants	Country	Technical Proposal Scores						Financial Proposal Prices		Final Rank
		Specific Experience (10%)	Methodology, Workplan & Organisation and Staffing (35%)	Key Experts (45%)	Knowledge Transfer (5%)	National Experts Participation (5%)	Total (100%)	Submitted Price (USD)	Evaluated Price (USD)	
Shidaa Sustainable Development Solutions Ltd.	Trinidad	8.3	31.1	35.6	4.4	4.1	83.5	\$88,872.00	\$80,786.50	1
PricewaterhouseCoopers	Jamaica	8.6	31.9	34.1	4.3	2.2	81.1	Financial proposal was not opened	Financial proposal was not opened	Not Applicable
Caribbean Policy Development Centre	Barbados	Did not submit proposal								
Niagra College Canada	Canada	Did not submit proposal								

2. **Name of Successful Consultant:** Shidaa Sustainable Development Solutions Limited
3. **Final Awarded Price:** USD 80,786.50
4. **Commencement Date of Contract:** March 1, 2022
5. **Duration of Contract:** Ten (10) months
6. **Summary Scope of Contract:** The consultancy services will develop a Gender Policy and Operational Strategy (GPOS) for Human Resource Management in Belize Water Services (BWS) by executing an institutional analysis of current human resource practices with regard to adherence to gender equality; conduct a gender sensitization workshop with BWS staff; develop a GPOS; and carry out Training of Trainers. The service will encompass all investigative work, analyses and strategic direction to realize the objectives stated above. The consultant will use participatory and consultative methodologies in working closely with BWS and will develop a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework which should facilitate the monitoring of the results of the consultancy.

Note: Selection Method: Quality-Based Selection (QBS)
Minimum Technical Proposal Score required to open Financial Proposal: 80