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Order in the House!!

The first day of the budget debate descends into disorder with members hurling unparliamentary accusations across the aisle and standing defiantly despite Speaker Woods' rising. They were later forced to withdraw statements.



House of Representatives, March 24, 2022

BELMOPAN, Thurs. Mar. 24, 2022
At the sitting of the House of Representatives today, members engaged in the first portion of a two-day debate over the contents of the 2022-2023 Draft Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure, a 1.3-billion-dollar budget that, according

to the Briceño administration, includes the provision of free education in four southside high schools and an adjustment of the minimum wage by mid-year. These initiatives and other aspects of the

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"Cox" laid to rest

Andrew "Cox" Baptist, well-known owner of Cox Tire Shop, in the Vernon Street/ St. Martin's community dies from surgery complications.



Andrew "Cox" Baptist

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Mar. 24, 2022

This afternoon, Vernon Street was blocked off and a tent erected in front of Cox Tire Shop, where members of the community, as well as relatives and friends of well-loved businessman, Andrew "Cox" Baptist, gathered — reminiscent

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7-year-old drowns in Santa Familia



Lucianny Rebecca Thompson

by Khaila Gentle

SANTA FAMILIA VILLAGE, Cayo District, Wed. Mar. 23, 2022

A 7-year-old girl lost her life on Monday afternoon while playing in the Belize River in Santa Familia Village. The child, Lucianny Rebecca Thompson, a student of Sacred Heart

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Realm or Republic?

(See story on page 3)

Tracy vs Shyne on Sunday



Hon. Tracy Panton and Hon. Moses "Shyne" Barrow

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Mar. 24, 2022

On Sunday, March 27, a group of up to 516 delegates of the United Democratic Party will be convening to select the new leader of the party at the third such leadership convention to be held by the party in three years. The two contenders vying for the post are the area representative of the Albert constituency, Hon. Tracy Panton, and the current Leader of the Opposition

in the House, Hon. Moses "Shyne" Barrow (Mesopotamia area rep).

The UDP's secretariat has assured the media that everything is in place for the delegates (groups of 16 each from the 31 constituencies and the 20 members of the Central Executive) to cast their votes between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on Sunday,

Alternate delegates will then be

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Governor-General receives Order of Saint Michael and Saint George

Before his departure, the Duke of Cambridge bestowed upon Governor-General Froyla Tzalam the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George; he also awarded several medals to Belizean frontline workers and public officers.

by Khaila Gentle



SAN IGNACIO, Cayo District, Mon. Mar. 21, 2022

Today, March 21, the Duke of Cambridge, Prince William, bestowed upon the Governor-General of Belize, Froyla Tzalam, the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, and with it the title of Dame. The award, an order of chivalry named

after two military saints, is often given to leaders of Commonwealth

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Duke and Duchess depart after royal reception

by Khaila Gentle

SAN IGNACIO, Cayo District, Wed. Mar. 23, 2022

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge departed the country on Tuesday morning after what seems to have been a successful three-day visit. At the conclusion of their tour of Belize on Monday night, the royal couple attended a reception that was hosted by Governor-General Game Froyla Tzalam in their honor at the Cahal Pech Archaeological Site in San Ignacio. Locals and tourists alike stood waiting at the entrance to the site, hoping to get a glimpse of the duo. As the sun began to set over the twin towns, the Duke and Duchess arrived with a police escort leading the way.

Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño gave a speech at the reception, expressing delight at Belize being the first stop on the royal couple's Caribbean Tour. He also spoke briefly about Prince William's previous visit to Belize in 2000—when he did jungle training with BATSUB following his graduation from Eton College—as well as the Queen's 70-year-long reign.

"Throughout the Commonwealth, it is felt that Her Majesty the Queen has been an incomparable tower of strength, commitment, and stability



The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge wave goodbye before boarding the Royal Air Force's VIP Airbus

over the past seven decades," said the Prime Minister, who also spoke on the Queen's "extraordinary sense of duty".

"Long live the Queen," he proclaimed, as he proposed a toast. Following the Prime Minister's remarks, the Duke of Cambridge also delivered a brief address.

"Catherine and I are delighted to be here with you tonight in Belize at the beginning of our first official visit to the Caribbean. You could not have chosen a more beautiful and evocative setting than here at Cahal

Pech," said Prince William. He then went on to convey warm wishes from his grandmother, Queen Elizabeth II, and noted that she has always spoken fondly of the country, even mentioning her brief encounter with the "royal rat". The Duke also commended Belize for the level of leadership it has shown in tackling climate change.

The Governor General's reception took place at Plaza B of Cahal Pech, and in addition to marking the conclusion of the Duke and Duchess' trip to Belize, it was also a celebration of Belizean culture,

including Maya heritage, made evident by the food and traditional music that were a part of the event.

Prior to the reception, at which over three hundred guests including ministers, diplomats, and other government officials, were in attendance, the Duke and Duchess traveled to Caracol and also met with members of the British Army Training Support Unit Belize (BATSUB) at the Chiquibul Forest Reserve, where they observed some of their jungle training activities.

On Tuesday morning, the couple returned via helicopter to the Philip Goldson International Airport, where they boarded the Royal Air Force's VIP Airbus while music was played by the Belize Defence Force Marching Band. The Governor-General and the CEO of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Amalia Mai, were also there to bid farewell to the couple.

On the second leg of the royal couple's week-long Caribbean Tour, they will be in Jamaica. As was the case with Belize, however, the couple's visit to Jamaica sparked protests long before their actual arrival to the island nation. They are also expected to travel to The Bahamas on Thursday, March 24, and then leave for the United Kingdom on the 26th.

Price of chicken going up

"You will see that some stores might take the price far more than what we are doing... And to use the industry as an excuse to raise their prices, and that's what we don't want to see. We don't want to see the consumer being affected by people who would take advantage of the situation and take more money out of the consumer's pocket." — Armando Cowo, manager of the Belize Poultry Association

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Mar. 23, 2022

Belizeans will see an increase in the prices of poultry products in the upcoming days, says the Belize Poultry Association, which this week notified the public of a 9-cent price increase that will soon take effect.

Earlier this week, rumors of an increase in poultry prices ranging from 10 to 20 cents started to spread like wildfire. However, Armando Cowo, manager of the Belize Poultry Association, publicly addressed the matter and confirmed to the media that the price of poultry will be increasing by nine cents per pound.

Cowo told AMANDALA that the discussions about a possible price increase started to take place approximately 2 to 3 weeks ago, and was triggered by the global surge in fuel prices to near crisis levels, which has driven up the cost of production within the poultry industry.

Cowo explained, "We started discussion more than 2 weeks, 3 weeks [ago], and looking at the developing situation in the economy and how [they] impact the overall world economy was having on the local economy. You have to bear in mind, our industry sits in the middle between certain producers and consumers, and we have to buy corn and soybean to feed to convert into poultry products to pass on to the

consumer for consumption. The price of fuel is one factor and the price of fuel by-products is another factor."

"You can say everything boils down to oil. Our industry consumes a lot of plastics. There's no other medium to [sell] meat other than plastic. If you notice the chicken that comes in trays [is] covered by plastics as well. As we all know, plastic is a victim of [their] own success and that's the reason why environmentalists start taking measures against plastic. We can't do away with it, [and] how the saying goes? You can't live with it and you can't live without it, and as a consequence of that, the prices going up on all these petroleum by-products has an impact on the industry. Plus the other scenarios with other energy because our industry is energy-intensive," he further explained.

He went on to say, "I guess some people may not realize it, but from the get-go, we start consuming energy. From the farmers, starting to plow the land preparing the soil, land, the greens that we will consume energy is going. Harvesting is energy. Taking it to the mills, the mills will use energy to convert it into feed, and that feed needs to move from the mill to the barns, and the barns themselves need to consume energy, because we're running those barns on industrial fans to keep a certain temperature for the chickens to grow

properly. And then, when they leave the barn, again, it's another transportation to the slaughtering facility, and the slaughtering facility, itself, is a huge consumer of energy. We have to have those birds chilled within seconds; we don't take hours outside before we chill them. It's straight from slaughter into the giant cold houses, and it [consumes] a lot of energy."

Cowo calls the price increase an adjustment, and he predicts that prices may be adjusted downward when global conditions stabilize.

"We can't bear it anymore. We need to move now and raise, [well] I wouldn't say raise, [and] it's a rise in price. It's more like an adjustment to adjust to the economy. I wouldn't like to use the term 'raise,' because when you say 'raise,' it's like it doesn't go back down. We are hoping sometime in the future when things go back to where they were, if they do go back, we can readjust downward. We are not here to gouge the consumers. We're here to support them the same way they supported our industry," he said.

Cowo highlighted the possibility of price-gouging by some vendors throughout the country who may use the increased price of poultry as an excuse to further elevate the prices of their products beyond what is necessary.

"We know that there are people

out there who will take advantage of the situation. Let's look at this scenario: if you were to raise the price per pound for chicken by ten cents, and you go to the store and you buy a four-pound chicken; in theory, you should pay forty cents more, because for that store, nothing has changed; we're still delivering to the store, it's not like they're going to pick it up themselves. We deliver it to them. And therefore, any cost difference for them is not there. You will see that some stores might take the price far more than what we are doing. You might say, 'well, I might raise it up [to] forty cents per pound, I will [be selling] it for a dollar more for the chicken. And to use the industry as an excuse to raise their prices, and that's what we don't want to see. We don't want to see the consumer being affected by people who would take advantage of the situation and take more money out of the consumer's pocket,'" Cowo said.

He urged vendors not to exploit the situation by raising their prices unreasonably.

"We're simply trying to adjust the price, and if you need to adjust your price, adjust it accordingly and don't tax the consumer. Everyone is going through hard times, [in] all industries, nothing is easy for anyone right now. We all know the reasons why, and there's nothing that we can do about it," Cowo said.

Toledo man found guilty of killing Oh sisters

Wilmer Alexander Escobar, 23, was found guilty of murdering the Oh sisters, who were attacked while they were on their way home from a church service in San Jose, Toledo District, in 2018.

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Mar. 23, 2022

On Tuesday, March 22, Wilmer Alexander Escobar, 23, a resident of Bella Vista Village, Toledo District, was convicted in the Supreme Court in Punta Gorda Town of the 2018 murders of Josephina Oh, 18, and Crescencia Oh, 20,—two sisters who lived in San Antonio Village in the Toledo District.

On Sunday, January 21, 2018, at about 11:00 p.m., Punta Gorda police arrived at a location two miles off the main road in San Jose Village in the Toledo District, where they saw the partially nude, mutilated bodies of the two young sisters, with multiple chop wounds on their heads, on the right side of the road. The women were

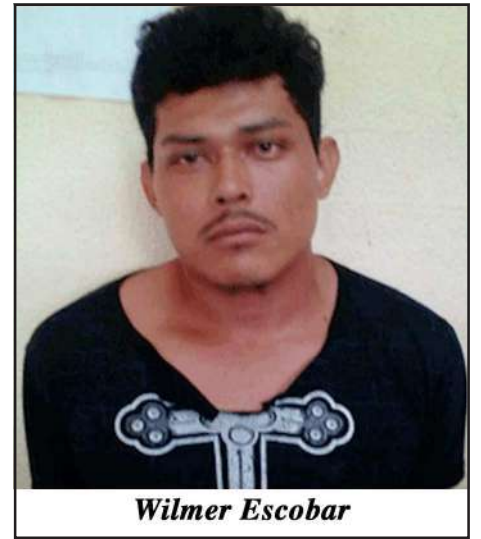
later identified as Josephina Oh, 18, and Crescencia Oh, 20. A subsequent investigation revealed that the two women had been walking to their home in San Antonio after a church service in San Jose, when they were ambushed and attacked with a machete a couple of miles away from the village in an isolated area.

On January 31, 2018, police arrested Escobar, who was charged with two counts of murder. Escobar has been on remand since then. In a statement given to the police by Escobar, he had confessed to killing both women – who were strangers to him – and raping one of the sisters. Throughout the trial, which commenced in November of last year, however, he maintained his innocence and claimed that police had tortured

him in order to coerce him to provide a confession. Escobar said that a JP (Justice of the Peace) who was present during the interrogation, could confirm his claims of police coercion; however, when the JP appeared in court, he denied Escobar's claims.

During the trial, which was presided over by Justice Antoinette Moore without a jury, Escobar was represented by the now-deceased attorney Herbert Pantón, and Senior Crown Counsel Javier Chan represented the prosecution. In January of this year, arguments concluded, and this past Tuesday, Escobar was found guilty by Justice Antoinette Moore in the Punta Gorda Supreme Court.

Escobar will be sentenced after a psychological evaluation is done and following the court's receipt of a report



Wilmer Escobar

from the Belize Central Prison. Escobar could be facing a maximum sentence of 35 years in prison before he is eligible for parole. He is expected to be sentenced later this year.

Realm or Republic?

(From page 1)



PM Hon. John Briceño and Opposition leader Hon. Shyne Barrow

by Marco Lopez

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Mar. 23, 2022

The royal visit organized by the British monarchy with the hopes of restrengthening its ties with its Caribbean “realms” is still ongoing as Prince William and his wife, Kate, continue their visit to Jamaica. The prime minister of that country, Andrew Holness, during his official meeting with the royal couple this week, declared that Jamaica intends to become a republic.

“We intend to ... fulfill our true ambitions and destiny as an independent, developed, prosperous country”, Prime Minister Holness said, while flanked by the royal couple.

He had also stated, as he greeted William and Kate in front of the media core, that unresolved issues remain. This week, following the departure of the royal couple from Belize, Prime Minister Briceño was asked his opinion on the push by some countries in the region to remove the Queen as the head of state and on the possibility of Belize transitioning from its status as a parliamentary constitutional monarchy, to being a parliamentary republic, with a president elected by the people as head of state.

“Well, I don't know if it has been like a big push. I think a lot of people have seen what has happened in Barbados, and basically what Barbados has done is just to change the Head of State to a president that has the same functions, so it has not been a real deep fundamental change that has happened,” Prime Minister Briceño said.

While Barbados became a republic on November 30, 2021, many citizens are questioning whether the transition to being a republic was merely symbolic and not accompanied by the substantive changes, primarily to the constitution, which some believe should be a new document. Also, the current president of Barbados is the former governor-general of the country, Dame Sandra Mason, who was elected by a two-thirds majority of the Barbadian parliament to become the first president of the republic. Future presidents of the country will be elected with a joint nomination of the prime minister and the leader of the opposition or a two-thirds majority in both houses of the Barbadian parliament.

Of note, one law professor from the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, located in Barbados, says any new president of the republic must be elected by the

people, adding that he is against a “president formed in the backrooms of the Parliament functioning as an electoral college for choosing a president, likely one of the same political class.”

During his remarks to the media, Prime Minister Briceño said that a People's Constitutional Consultation Commission will be working for at least a year to hear the view of citizens in regard to the drafting of a new constitution, and suggested that a discussion of Belize's possible transition to a republic would be a part of those talks, just as Minister of Constitutional Affairs and Political Reform, Henry Charles Usher, had indicated in a previous interview. The PM said that they have their views on the matter, without going into detail.

“We, about two weeks ago in Cabinet, we agreed to setting up the People's Constitutional Consultation Commission and that will be working for at least a year of consultations, and we want to hear what the views of our citizens are. We have our own personal views, and yes, in many instances we believe that whilst there are certain things that we are grateful for the UK for what they did for us here in Belize. We, time, things change and we move on. Probably it is time for us to take a closer look as to the governance, how we can deepen democracy,” PM Briceño said.

The Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Moses “Shyne” Barrow was in Liberia receiving an honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters from that country's national university while the royal couple was visiting Belize this past weekend. He was also asked to deliver the commencement address at the university's graduation ceremony.

“Fled the clutches of inhumane slavery and returned to their

motherland to create a nation of free human beings—which we should all be. We all have the inalienable right to freedom and liberty and pursuit of happiness. Liberia represents that. Against all odds, stolen from their homeland, and trafficked to this new world of inhumanity and perversion, they returned to their land by the grace of God and created a nation of freedom. So, you, my friends, should celebrate, because you are a beacon of light to the nations.” Barrow stated in his speech.

Barrow's address to the students of the University of Liberia (a state formed by liberated former enslaved persons who departed from America to create a state back in the homeland of Africa) took place at a time when the conversation of reparatory justice is looming over the Caribbean region, and has especially come to the fore during the royal charm offensive. During an interview with 7News, Barrow said that if he had been in the country he would have taken the opportunity to further the conversation of reparations for the former enslaved with Prince William, who is next in line to head the British monarchy.

“I must say, had I been here, I would have taken the opportunity to press William and Kate about reparations. They owe Belize and the Caribbean and all the nations that they colonized a vast amount of financial reparatory considerations as well as an apology,” Barrow said in his interview.

He added that there is no reason to celebrate until the descendants of former enslaved persons are given an apology from the British Crown and reparations for the historical wrongs which laid the foundation of their current status.

“It is something that we need to consider when the so-called

266 head of cattle sent to Mexico



(l-r) Hon. Jose Mai, Hon. John Briceño and Hon. Eamon Courtenay

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Mar. 23, 2022

On Tuesday, March 22, approximately 266 head of cattle were sent in trucks from Cacabix, Shipyard, in the Orange Walk District, to Mexico, where processing and packaging will be carried out by SuKarne, a Mexican meat company.

The formal exportation of cattle by Belize to Mexico began in July of last year when the Mexican government officially accepted livestock from the northern parts of Belize. This was done through SuKarne, which is one of the foremost exporters of meat products from this section of Central America to the United States and Canada.

Approximately 800 animals have been exported by local Belizean farmers to Mexico every week since the exportation began.

The partnership with the Mexican government has been facilitated by Belize's Agriculture Ministry, which has been making efforts to expand the livestock market for livestock producers in the country.

At a ceremony in Shipyard to mark this most recent exportation of cattle, the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Jose Abelardo Mai, commented, "The number of cattle farmers is close or similar to the number of sugar [cane] farmers. We have 5,400 sugar cane farmers. We have 5,693 cattle farmers. It means the majority of these farmers are small farmers, [which] means a lot. It means that these farmers and their families depend on the sale of cattle for their livelihood. It means the sale of cattle contributes to [putting] food on the table, to clothe their children, and to educate them. Hence the importance of this industry; it is critical to the economy."

Minister Mai has committed to improving the cattle industry, in line with one of the key goals outlined in Plan Belize.

"The export of cattle is perfectly in line with Plan Belize, and our agriculture policy from farm to the table. The government will do all it can to ensure that we improve and expand the cattle industry in a sustainable manner," Mai noted.

Prime Minister of Belize, Hon. John Briceño mentioned in his remarks at the ceremony that the exportation of cattle has increased the opportunities for farmers to be gainfully employed and for poverty in the country to be reduced.

"When we were working on Plan Belize, at that time, we were told that

poverty in the country was about 40%. Then right after that, we were told it was at 50%, and now we're finding out that poverty could be as high as 60%. That means that out of every 10 Belizeans, 6 of us are poor. That is unacceptable. How is it that you reduce poverty? You eliminate poverty by growing the economy, creating opportunities for our people. Creating opportunities for our farmers. Agriculture can continue to play a critical role in the development of this country," Hon. Briceño said.

Prime Minister Briceño applauded the Agriculture Minister and his team for leading the country's economic growth.

"For the very first time last year, agriculture started off and led the economic growth. Agriculture last year was over 20% of the growth, something that has not happened in probably the last 15 or plus years. But that did not just happen as a miracle; it happened by design. Because we have a minister, [Jose] Abelardo Mai, Abby Mai, who knows agriculture, who lives agriculture, who [loves] agriculture and that determination from Abby has been translating to the entire ministry," he said.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Eamon Courtenay, who was also present at the ceremony, mentioned in his remarks that his ministry, along with Mexico's Secretary of Economy, has discussed their shared agenda on a substantial trade agreement for cattle exportation.

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, and Immigration [have] stepped our engagement with Mexican counterparts. Last month, I met for a second time with the Secretaría de Economía to discuss our shared agenda to negotiate a substantial trade agreement. I emphasized to her the priority of Belize that we have placed on controlling an agreement with the earliest possible time. And she reiterated to me the specific instructions from President Andres Obrador that he wants to conclude an agreement with Belize at the earliest possible time. In that meeting, Belize requests an agreement to lower tariffs on Belize cattle imports into Mexico. We asked for this to be on an interim basis, whilst the countries continue to negotiate the more formal substantial agreement. The request was not opposed by the Mexicans. In fact, they proposed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding and several round tables to further the discussion in this regard," said Minister Courtenay.

Royals' visit to Jamaica met with more protest

As the Duke and Duchess continue their tour of the Caribbean, the Jamaican Prime Minister has revealed the country is moving forward with becoming a republic, and the Bahamas National Reparations Committee has called for slavery reparations.

by Khaila Gentle

KINGSTON, Jamaica, Wed. Mar. 23, 2022

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge arrived in Jamaica this Tuesday, March 22, amid numerous protests as well as calls for the country to follow in the steps of Barbados and become a republic. After a two-hour long flight from Belize, the royal couple landed at Norman Manley International Airport, marking the start of a two-night visit to the island nation. There, they were greeted by several Jamaican government officials and other dignitaries, including members of parliament and former Miss World, Lisa Hanna (representing the leader of the Opposition, Mark Golding, and the People's Nation Party), Senator Kamina Johnson Smith, and Chief of Jamaica's Defense Staff, Rear Admiral Antonette Wemess Gorman.

Upon departing the airport, the Duke and Duchess visited King's House, where they met with the Governor-General of Jamaica, Sir Patrick Linton Allen, and his wife, Lady Denise Allen. The couple also visited the birthplace of reggae music, Trench Town, where they played nyabingi drums at the Trench Town Culture Yard Museum, former home of reggae music legend Bob Marley (who often sang about standing up against oppression).

Additionally, the trip to Trench Town saw the Duke hail footballers Raheem Sterling and Leon Bailey as his "heroes". He also met Olympic sprinters Shelley-Ann Fraser Price and Elaine Thompson-Herah.

Several hours before the landing of the Duke and Duchess's aircraft on the island, however, approximately a hundred protestors gathered outside the British High Commission's office as part of the movement organized by Advocates Network Jamaica titled "Seh Yuh Sorry". The visit has even garnered comments from proclaimed King of Dancehall, Beenie Man, who expressed to *Good Morning Britain*

reporters that Jamaicans "don't want the Queen".

According to reports, the Prince and his wife are fully aware of the protests and Prince William is expected to acknowledge the issue during the visit.

Day two of the royal couple's visit to Jamaica included a meeting with Prime Minister Andrew Holness and his wife, Juliet Holness. The prime minister, who during his election campaigns vowed to push for Jamaica to become a republic, presented the Duke and Duchess with a gift of Appleton Estate Ruby Rum and stated that Jamaica was happy to have them. He also acknowledged the protests, stating that they are a show of freedom of expression and an example of how "free and liberal" the country is.

"There are issues here which are, as you would know, unresolved, but your presence gives an opportunity for these issues to be placed in context, put front and centre and to be addressed as best we can," said Prime Minister Holness, who mentioned his goals of seeing Jamaica thrive as an "independent, developed, prosperous country."

The royal couple also visited Shortwood Teachers College, where they met with future early childhood educators, and visited the college's primary and infant school. Later on, they stopped at Spanish Town Hospital, where they met with frontline workers and learned of their experiences during the pandemic.

The final stop on the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge's Caribbean Tour is The Bahamas, where they are also expected to spend two nights before departing for the United Kingdom on March 26. As was the case in Belize and Jamaica, some Bahamian groups have been protesting the visit, with the Bahamas National Reparations Committee issuing a statement expressing disappointment that The Bahamas will be shouldering much of the cost of the "extravagant trip" and stating "the time is now for reparations."





Times tough despite largest budget ever

Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño told the nation in his 2022/2023 budget presentation to the House of Representatives last week that his government had "exceeded all performance markers" and that the new Budget, with a proposed total of \$1.361 billion, will be the "largest spending and investment Budget in the history of our country."

PM Briceño could have been mistaken for his predecessor, the oftentimes grandiloquent Dean Barrow, as he gushed about our financial prospects in his introduction to GOB's estimates of revenues and expenditure for the upcoming year. The PM described his government's performance last year as "truly remarkable"; he told Belizeans that "a new day is dawning", he said our "economy is bouncing back", our dollar "is strong again...default and devaluation have been averted", and that his government's "progress report (is) unmatched in our 41 years as an independent nation."

But the PM didn't fall victim to his glowing introduction of his "Working Together for a Fair, Inclusive And Prosperous Belize" 2022/2023 budget. He warned that "the public debt emergency is not over", that our debt burden is still heavy and it "directs funds away from people-centered priorities such as education, sports, health, housing, and citizen security", and he made a direct appeal to "Ministries and Financial Officers to exercise maximum restraint" as they execute the projects and initiatives of this biggest budget ever.

Things are not that bright in Belize, and they are very likely to get worse. Much of our economic hardships are not the fault of the present government. While they have been about executing their Plan Belize, which has the stated goal that all of us will win, clearly the GOB has been functioning under heavily constrained conditions. Consequently, their report card on the financial side has to be afforded an asterisk, with their accomplishments being measured by the circumstances under which they have operated.

The government deserves no quarter on their promises to improve our governance systems, though. There is definite languishing on those promised reforms, and as soon as the budget season is over, they will have to be called to task for their lethargy.

The end of the pandemic is the best medicine anyone could have ordered for our country and our nearly one-and-a-half-year old government, and on that front luck seems to be breaking our way. Over the past weekend, Belize reported only 25 new cases of Covid-19, a steep drop from the over a thousand infections reported one frightening weekend in late January, and while no authority local or foreign has declared the pandemic over, everyone has been breathing a lot more freely. There are countries across the globe, notably in the Far East, and

the US, where cases have been on the rise, a clear warning that we must not let down our guard, but the general feeling is that the disease has lost much of its virulence.

At home, a number of the mandated Covid-19 restrictions have been relaxed, and more are expected to be removed shortly. However, until the WHO declares that we are in the clear, we can expect, especially our more vulnerable population, citizens over 60-years-old, to be advised to wear our masks when we are among persons who don't live in our households, to continue "physical distancing" as much as possible, and to wash our hands regularly, particularly after being in public places.

Unfortunately, hardly had the pandemic begun showing signs it was beginning to lose its grip on the world when a terrible war broke out in the Baltics. This war, the invasion of Ukraine by Russia, started on February 24, a month ago, and not only has there been no let up, but the invading Russians have actually increased the devastating power of the weapons they have unleashed against their neighbor, to force their will upon them.

There are other terrible wars raging across the globe, wars where the bloodshed and famines and displacement of people are no less. The war in Yemen has been going on over seven years. The war in Palestine has been going on almost since the winners of WWII carved out a space for the displaced Jews. In Africa, hundreds of thousands have died and are dying in ongoing wars in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, and the Central African Republic. The economic wars our good neighbor, the USA, declared on our good neighbors Cuba and Venezuela have caused people in those two countries indescribable economic hardship.

These wars rage on, with their terrible toll on the people in those countries, but with not much of a ripple across the rest of the globe. It's only when the European nations lock horns with each other that fear grips the world and our economies tremble.

Five hundred years after the Europeans "discovered" and conquered this part of the world, and began the pillaging of the African continent, they remain the economic and military superpowers in the world. When they engage in battle, as they did in the two "world wars", all of us are drawn into the fight. The present invasion and destruction of Ukraine by the Russian military hasn't escalated beyond the borders of Ukraine, but there is not a country across the globe that hasn't been negatively impacted.

We were firmly in the grip of the pandemic when the present government took the reins in November 2020, and just when it looks like we are maybe out of it, here comes a terrible war. The impact of this war, piled on top of all the havoc the pandemic wrought, is being felt in the cost of imported commodities, their finished goods, and inputs like fuel, fertilizers and pesticides that are essential to agricultural production. The acquisition costs of those inputs have gone up considerably. Consequently, the cost of most locally produced goods will increase, are increasing, too.

Despite the largest budget ever, we are living in really tough times. The PM said, "a new day is dawning." But storm clouds are blotting out the sun. It's another challenge for the Belizean people, but giving the devil its due, the GOB isn't showing any pessimism. It's far from enough — the GOB allotting \$6 million to help out the most marginalized, and a modest \$5 million to continue delivering homes to single mothers and Belizeans who have never owned one, but in times of lean we have to be glad that there's a little something in the basket.

The times are tough, but Brother David already showed us the path to follow. Brother David said it's all about Belizean products. We will survive and prosper if we support each other. When we go into the store, we must look for the "Made in Belize" label. We must keep spare change handy to buy from street-side vendors. If we follow that path, and the GOB does its part, all of us will win.



(estb. 1969)

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Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre

TENDER OPPORTUNITY: REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTERESTS

Data Management Officer

Country:	Belize
Donor:	Green Climate Fund (GCF)
Project Name:	National Adaptation Planning for Integrated Water Resource Management in Belize.
Contract Title:	Data Management Officer, Hydrological Data
Contract #:	Contract #22,23,24/2022/GCF/BELIZE/CCCC
Number of Positions:	Three (3)
Type of contract:	Fixed Price - Individual Consultant
Maximum budget	USD 24,000
Estimated Start Date:	April 2022
Contract duration:	Twelve (12) Months - Full Time
Main duty station:	Office of the National Hydrological Service under the Ministry of Natural Resources, Belize
Deadline for Submission:	on or before 2:00pm (GMT-6), Thursday, 7th April 2022

The Centre is an Equal Opportunity Employer

The full Terms of Reference (TOR) for the contract "Data Management Officer, Hydrological Data" can be accessed and downloaded at: <https://wp.me/pa0qC3-3AB>

Requests for Clarification: email: procurement@caribbeanclimate.bz Attention: **Andrea Tillett, Procurement Officer**. Requests for clarification should be received by the Centre no later than: **Wednesday, March 30, 2022**. Consultants are advised that the responses to the requests for clarification will be only posted on the Centre's Webpage at: <https://www.caribbeanclimate.bz/category/opportunities/>

The Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre reserves the right to accept or reject any submission and to annul the process and reject all submissions at any time prior to the contract signature without thereby incurring any liability.

3rd Floor, David McKay Business Centre, P.O. Box 563, Bliss Parade, Belmopan, BELIZE
Tel: (501)822-1104 or 1094, Fax: (501)822-1365, Website: www.caribbeanclimate.bz

PUBLIC AUCTION SALE: PROPERTY

DFC Housing Site, San Pedro, Ambergris Caye, Belize District

BY ORDER of Messrs. the Mortgagees Heritage Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following property. Sale currently running and will expire on **Monday 28th March 2022 at 10:00 am**. Parcel No. 2867 DFC Housing Site, San Pedro, Ambergris Caye, Belize District:



REGISTRATION SECTION
San Pedro

BLOCK
7

PARCEL
2867

(Being a two and a half storey timber/concrete residential/commercial building and lot [885.916 S.M. or 1059.55 S.Y.] situate in the DFC Housing Site, San Pedro, Ambergris Caye, Belize District, the freehold property of Mr. Juan Alamilla)

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH
KEVIN A. CASTILLO
TELEPHONE: 223-4488
Website: belizepropertyauctions.com
Email: belizeauctionsales@gmail.com
FACEBOOK: Belize Auctions

NOTICE

BELIZE CITY

Estate of **KENNETH R. NOYCE**, deceased.

STATUTORY NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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

DATED the 9th day of March 2022.

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



STATISTICAL OFFICER

Belize Crime Observatory

Project: The Evidence Based Information Management for Citizen Security in Central America and the Dominican Republic (INFOSEGURA) Project

A **Statistical Officer** with strong background Statistics, Data Management and/or related fields, is needed to:

- 1) Enhance the collection, collation and management of multivariate crime statistics relevant to Belize, including regional and international statistics for comparative purposes;
- 2) Support interagency partners (principally the Belize Central Prison, the Belize Police Department and the National Forensic Science Service) to improve the capture, collation, management and reporting of crime statistics;
- 3) Contribute reliable and quality statistics and/or indicators to the National Statistical System and the Statistical Institute of Belize;
- 4) Strengthen the knowledge of the BCO and partner agencies on best practices for data and information management, to enhance statistical outputs, both for internal and external users;
- 5) Enhance institutional and interagency capacity for qualitative and quantitative analysis through bridging gaps in knowledge and skills on data and information management, analysis and reporting of crime statistics;

RESPONSIBILITIES/ACTIVITIES INCLUDE

- Monthly compilation of crime statistics, including collation of data from interagency partners;
- Generation of monthly reports and statistical knowledge products (including open data products) for the Belize Crime Observatory;
- Dissemination of up-to-date crime statistics via the BCO's online portals;
- Generation of in-depth, multivariate, quarterly analysis imprisonment report;

For more information, e-mail bco@nsc.gov.bz

ACCESS THE DETAILED TERMS OF REFERENCE



SCAN ME

DEADLINE: 15 April 2022



**2 ½ Miles Phillip Goldson Highway, Belize City, Belize. Telephone: 280-1000
Fax: 223-1919 Email: info@speednet-wireless.com**

Notice to Customers

SPEEDNET WELCOMES SUPREME COURT DECISION IN CLAIM NO 563 of 2021: Michael Peyrefitte v Minister of Finance, Financial Secretary and the Attorney General

Speednet Communications Limited welcomes the judgment of Madam Justice Sonya Young in Claim No. 563 of 2021 (“Claim 563”).

In Claim 563, the Claimant, Senator Michael Peyrefitte, sought a series of declarations as to the lawfulness of a contract awarded by the Government of Belize to Speednet Communications Limited for the supply to the Government for a period of one year of Microsoft 365 Subscription licences and support services and to have the Court quash the contract. The Senator alleged that the contract was issued in breach of sections 18(2), 19 and 20 of the Finance and Audit Reform Act and that the decision to award the contract was additionally irrational and tainted with bias.

The government acknowledged and admitted at the outset of the claim that the contract awarded to Speednet had not been submitted to the Contractor General in accordance with section 18(2) and agreed that the Court should issue a declaration to that effect. However, aside from this declaration, all other claims by Senator Peyrefitte were either abandoned or dismissed. It should be noted that even though the contract was submitted late to the Contractor General, he found nothing wrong with the execution of the limited tender process by which Speednet had won the contract.

The court rejected the argument advanced by Senator Peyrefitte that the contract was awarded in breach of section 19 of the Act, which mandates that all contracts of \$5.0 million or above be subject to the open tendering procedure. The Government decided to award a one year contract which was less than \$5.0 million even though it also invited three year bids that would have exceeded \$5.0 million.

The court declined to consider his argument that the rules set out in section 20 of the Act were breached by the invitation of Speednet to participate in the process because Speednet lacked the requisite experience.

Senator Peyrefitte at the hearing abandoned the argument that the decision to award the contract to Speednet by the Government was irrational. The argument was however pressed by the National Trade Union Congress.

The NTUCB submitted that it was irrational to award the contract to Smart, because Digi is a nationalized company which had an ongoing contractual relationship with the Government. The Court rejected this argument and explained that the Government can certainly not be seen to show preference to a bidder because the government stands to gain otherwise from that bidder (dividends) because it would reek of “favouritism”. Further, that there is a legal duty to consider bids fairly in accordance with the conditions expressed in the invitation to tender so that favouritism has no part to play in the process.

Senator Peyrefitte also argued that the contract was also unlawful because the relationship between Speednet’s Jaime Briceno and Prime Minister John Briceno gave rise to at least an appearance of bias in the award of the contract. The court also soundly rejected this argument. The court ruled in effect that it is not enough merely to point to the familial relationship between Jaime and John Briceno to establish any bias when it was clearly established that Prime Minister John Briceno in fact did not participate in the decision to award the contract Speednet.

The judge continued, “The fact is that Smart qualified and had the lowest bid for a one-year contract. The technical advisers chose Smart. Digi also had the opportunity to bid for one year and it did so. It’s bid exceeded Smart’s and the contract was awarded to Smart.

As was noted by the court, “competition is a pillar of procurement”. The inclusion of Speednet in the limited tendering process increased transparency and effective competition for a public contract. There was “equal treatment of the suppliers involved in the procurement procedure, where previously there was but one preferred player”.

Speednet welcomes the opportunity to fairly compete for and provide reliable and affordable services to the Government of Belize and to finally fully participate in the telecommunications market in Belize.

END



Tiempos difíciles a pesar del mayor presupuesto de la historia

El Primer Ministro Honorable John Briceño le dijo a la nación en su presentación del presupuesto 2022/2023 a la Cámara de Representantes la semana pasada que su gobierno había "superado todos los indicadores de desempeño" y que el nuevo presupuesto, con un total propuesto de \$1,361 millones, será el "mayor gasto y presupuesto de inversión en la historia de nuestro país".

El primer ministro Briceño podría haber sido confundido con su predecesor, el a menudo grandilocuente Dean Barrow, a medida que hablaba efusivamente sobre nuestras perspectivas financieras en su introducción a las estimaciones de ingresos y gastos del Gobierno de Belize para el próximo año. El primer ministro describió el desempeño de su gobierno el año pasado como "realmente notable"; dijo a los beliceños que "está amaneciendo un nuevo día", dijo que nuestra "economía se está recuperando", nuestro dólar "está fuerte de nuevo...se han evitado el incumplimiento y la devaluación", y que el "informe de progreso de su gobierno (es) inigualable en nuestros 41 años como nación independiente".

Pero el primer ministro no fue víctima de su brillante presentación de su presupuesto 2022/2023 "Trabajando juntos por un Belize justo, inclusivo y próspero". Advirtió que "la emergencia de la deuda pública no ha terminado", que nuestra carga de la deuda sigue siendo pesada y "desvía fondos de prioridades centradas en las personas como la educación, el deporte, la salud, la vivienda y la seguridad ciudadana", e hizo un llamamiento directo a los "Ministerios y Oficiales Financieros para que ejerzan la máxima moderación" mientras ejecutan los proyectos e iniciativas de este mayor presupuesto de la historia.

Las cosas no son tan brillantes en Belize y es muy probable que empeoren. Gran parte de nuestras dificultades económicas no son culpa del gobierno actual. Si bien han estado ejecutando su Plan Belize, que tiene el objetivo declarado de que todos ganemos, claramente el Gobierno de Belize ha estado funcionando en condiciones muy limitadas. En consecuencia, su boleta de calificaciones en el aspecto financiero debe recibir un asterisco, con sus logros siendo medidos por las circunstancias en las que han operado.

Sin embargo, el gobierno no merece clemencia en cuanto a sus promesas de mejorar nuestros sistemas de gobierno. Definitivamente languidecen esas reformas prometidas, y tan pronto como termine la temporada presupuestaria, tendrán que ser llamados a la tarea por su letargo.

El final de la pandemia es la mejor medicina que alguien podría haber pedido para nuestro país y nuestro gobierno de casi un año y medio, y en ese frente parece que la suerte nos abre camino. Durante el fin de semana pasado, Belize reportó solo 25 nuevos casos de Covid-19, una fuerte caída de las más de mil infecciones reportadas un fin de semana aterrador a fines de enero, y aunque ninguna autoridad local o extranjera ha declarado que la pandemia ha terminado, todos han estado respirando mucho más libremente. Hay países en todo el mundo, especialmente en el Lejano Oriente y los EE. UU., donde los casos han ido en aumento, una clara advertencia de que no debemos bajar la guardia, pero el sentimiento general es que la enfermedad ha perdido gran parte de su virulencia.

En casa, se han relajado varias de las restricciones obligatorias de Covid-19, y se espera que se eliminen más en breve. Sin embargo, hasta que la OMS declare que estamos a salvo, podemos esperar que a nuestra población más vulnerable, especialmente los ciudadanos mayores de 60 años, se nos recomiende usar nuestras máscaras cuando estemos entre personas que no viven en nuestro hogares, continuar con el "distanciamiento físico" tanto como sea posible y lavarnos las manos regularmente, particularmente después

de estar en lugares públicos.

Desafortunadamente, apenas la pandemia había comenzado a dar señales de que comenzaba a perder el control del mundo cuando estalló una terrible guerra en los países bálticos. Esta guerra, la invasión de Ucrania por Rusia, comenzó el 24 de febrero, hace un mes, y no solo no ha habido tregua, sino que los invasores rusos en realidad han aumentado el poder devastador de las armas que han desatado contra su vecino, para imponer su voluntad sobre ellos.

Hay otras guerras terribles en todo el mundo, guerras en las que el derramamiento de sangre, las hambrunas y el desplazamiento de personas no son menos. La guerra en Yemen lleva más de siete años. La guerra en Palestina ha estado ocurriendo casi desde que los ganadores de la Segunda Guerra Mundial crearon un espacio para los judíos desplazados. En África, cientos de miles han muerto y están muriendo en las guerras en curso en la República Democrática del Congo, Sudán del Sur y la República Centroafricana. Las guerras económicas que nuestro buen vecino, EE.UU., declaró contra nuestros buenos vecinos Cuba y Venezuela han causado a la gente de esos dos países dificultades económicas indescriptibles.

Estas guerras continúan, con su terrible costo para la gente de esos países, pero sin mucha repercusión en el resto del mundo. Solo cuando las naciones europeas se enfrentan entre sí, el miedo se apodera del mundo y nuestras economías tiemblan.

Quinientos años después de que los europeos "descubrieran" y conquistaran esta parte del mundo y comenzaran el saqueo del continente africano, siguen siendo las superpotencias económicas y militares del mundo. Cuando se involucran en la batalla, como lo hicieron en las dos "guerras mundiales", todos nosotros nos involucramos en la lucha. La actual invasión y destrucción de Ucrania por parte del ejército ruso no se ha intensificado más allá de las fronteras de Ucrania, pero no hay un país en todo el mundo que no se haya visto afectado negativamente.

Estábamos firmemente controlados por la pandemia cuando el gobierno actual tomó las riendas en noviembre de 2020, y justo cuando parece que tal vez estamos fuera de ella, llega una guerra terrible. El impacto de esta guerra, sumado a todos los estragos causados ??por la pandemia, se siente en el costo de los productos básicos importados, sus productos terminados e insumos como combustible, fertilizantes y pesticidas que son esenciales para la producción agrícola. Los costos de adquisición de esos insumos han aumentado considerablemente. En consecuencia, el costo de la mayoría de los bienes producidos localmente aumentará, está aumentando, también.

A pesar del mayor presupuesto de la historia, estamos viviendo tiempos realmente difíciles. El primer ministro dijo: "amanece un nuevo día". Pero las nubes de tormenta están ocultando el sol. Es otro desafío para el pueblo beliceño, pero haciéndole justicia al diablo, el Gobierno de Belize no muestra ningún pesimismo. Está lejos de ser suficiente: el Gobierno de Belize asigna \$6 millones para ayudar a los más marginados y unos modestos \$5 millones para continuar entregando viviendas a madres solteras y beliceños que nunca han tenido una casa, pero en tiempos de escasez tenemos que estar contentos de que haya algo en la cesta.

Los tiempos son duros, pero el hermano David ya nos mostró el camino a seguir. El hermano David dijo que se trata de productos beliceños. Sobreviviremos y prosperaremos si nos apoyamos unos a otros. Cuando entremos a la tienda, debemos buscar la etiqueta "Made in Belize". Debemos tener monedas sueltas a la mano para comprar de los vendedores ambulantes. Si seguimos ese camino, y el Gobierno de Belize hace su parte, todos saldremos ganando.

“We have to look at the bigger picture” – PM on fuel taxes



Prime Minister John Briceño

by Khaila Gentle

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Mar. 24, 2022

It was reported this week that farmers in the northern districts will be paying 70 cents more per gallon of diesel after

With the recent cut to cane farmers' fuel subsidies and a 66-cent increase in the cost of regular gasoline this week, Belizeans continue to feel the pinch of the proverbial “gas pain.”

an apparent decision by the Government of Belize to cut their fuel subsidies — a decision made at a time when fuel prices continue to soar. It was understood at the time of the announcement that subsidies for cañeros in Orange Walk and Corozal would fall from \$4.14 and \$4.15 per gallon respectively to \$3.44 and \$3.45. In other words, the farmers will now be paying 16% more in fuel taxes. (In regard to the reduced subsidies for caneros, Prime Minister Briceño subsequently told 7News, “The subsidy is based on gallons and not the dollar value. The cane farmers are still getting the 1.4 [million] gallons, as they did over the past years. The tax on diesel has been reduced by over \$1.30 per gallon, so the dollar value is reduced.”)

UDP deputy leader and area representative for Corozal North, Hon. Hugo Patt, spoke out against the cut in a statement posted online, calling the Briceño administration “cold-hearted” and “unsympathetic” for the move.

But cane farmers aren't the only ones that will be suffering from the proverbial “gas pain,” as the prices of regular and premium gasoline have continued to inch towards the \$15 mark over the past few weeks. Just recently, a 66-cent increase in the cost of regular fuel on March 24 took the price from \$12.84 a gallon to \$13.50—more than the price of premium gasoline, which stands at \$13.46 a gallon for now. Meanwhile, diesel is currently being sold at \$13.41 per gallon.

The Government of Belize Press Office issued a release regarding the

latest increase, attributing it to the acquisition price of the fuel and also pointing out that the Government had reduced all levies on regular fuel by 29 cents so as to keep the price at the current level. According to the release, the Government has been engaging with stakeholders to discuss options for lessening the financial burden that has been placed on everyday citizens and has spoken with Belize's principal fuel importer, Puma Belize Ltd, about “the imperative of competitive acquisition and pricing.”

Last week, we reported that the Government was set to meet with the private sector and other entities to discuss the rising fuel prices and ways to mitigate the effects being felt. In an interview with local media this week, Prime Minister John Briceño revealed that a meeting, which was held with representatives of the Belize Bus Association, the churches, the NGO community, and other social partners, was a fruitful one, and noted that most of the entities understood that rising prices are a direct reflection of what is happening elsewhere in the world. He also revealed that the Government has been discussing the potential for a Fuel Stabilization Fund, which will be used to keep fuel prices consistent or at least allow for more predictable price fluctuations.

The Prime Minister also spoke on the decision to cut cañeros' fuel subsidies, as well as what many have deemed a lack of effort by the government in reducing the amount of fuel tax being taken from citizens to ease their gas pains. In doing so, Prime Minister Briceño took a defensive stance, suggesting that persons aren't looking at the bigger picture and that they've forgotten his administration inherited a broke government.

“We have to look at the big picture. If we cannot collect the taxes—remember they [the previous administration] left us bankrupt. The UDP left us borrowing one million dollars a day. You forget that man. I have to remind you,” he stated.

The Prime Minister said that while he wishes they could be rid of all taxes, they “just simply cannot”, reiterating that his administration inherited a bankrupt government. In the recent press release, the Government Press Office noted that, in the case of diesel, the government reduced the tax component by \$1.17 to keep its price at \$13.41—a reduction that represents a loss of \$17 million of anticipated budget revenue.

When asked why not focus on other forms of taxes—such as taxes on goods and services—rather than solely the fuel tax take, the Prime Minister stated that the economy needs to grow first.

“We can't tax the farmers even more as it is right now, because they are struggling. And if we then go and raise the taxes on our importation, then what is going to happen? You're going to have more contraband and then they're going to pass that cost onto the consumer,” he said.



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

Institution: *Belize Water Services Limited*

Country: *Belize*

Project: *Independence to Seine Bight Transmission line*

Sector: *Water*

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

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

New Deadline: *March 29, 2022*

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

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

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

Companies must qualify on two major work categories:

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

Financial category of the project:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Expressions of interest and application package must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by e-mail) by **March 29, 2022**, no later than 3:00 P.M.

Belize Water Services Limited
Attn: *Engineering procurement*
7 *Central American Boulevard*
Belize City, Belize, C.A.
Tel: *+(501) 222-4757, Ext. 1713*

E-mail: engineeringprocurement@bws.com.bz

**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 &124situated 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 WalkTown, 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

**ATLANTIC INSURANCE
COMPANY LIMITED**

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to fill the position of **Customer Service Representative - Punta Gorda Branch**

Duties and Responsibilities

- Attending to walk-in-customers and or prospective customers (prospect) and attend to customer/prospects via telephone.
- Prepare all necessary insurance documents as required.
- Assist customers and prospects via telephone to close sale and create referral base for future business.
- Develop prospect listing using the questionnaire form completed by our customers.
- Prepare Daily Remission Report as per deadline if the need arises.
- Attend to queries forwarded by Department Managers and ensure it is resolved efficiently.
- Provide basic marketing of Atlantic Insurance Products to customers/prospects who visit the office and to customers/prospects who are contacted via the telephone/visits.
- Projects may be assigned by the Department Manager and General Manager as necessary in any area of company's business. Deadlines must be adhered to.
- Other responsibilities may be added by Department Manager and General Manager at any time. The individual must be flexible and use the above responsibilities as a guide and not as limitations to skills or duties. The individual should use his/her initiative when there is a need to work late or on weekends.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE:

This post requires an individual who hold himself/herself to the highest standards and have a strong desire for personal growth and professional success. The individual should display initiative, diligence, self-confidence, and outgoing personalities.

- Minimum - Associate Degree in Business Administration or related field with at least one year working in customer service.
- Highly analytical with strong attention to detail, Strong work ethic
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Can demonstrate familiarity with basic principles in Sales
- Professional demeanor both on the phone and in person
- Proficiency is required in Microsoft Excel and Microsoft Word
- Bilingual in English and Spanish would be an asset
- Valid driver's license (motorcycle)

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ONLINE APPLICATIONS IS THURSDAY 31 MARCH 2022

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST INCLUDE:
TWO RECENT LETTERS OF REFERENCE ONE FROM PAST EMPLOYER AND A VALID POLICE RECORD
AND PASSPORT SIZE PICTURE

SEND APPLICATIONS AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS TO:

our website at: <https://aicbelize.com/employment-application>

Note: Incomplete applications will not be considered. Only short-listed applicants will be contacted for interviews.
We thank you for your application.



SPIEZ INTERNATIONAL LTD.

Pharmaceutical & Medical Supplies

**JOB VACANCY AT
SPIEZ INTERNATIONAL LTD.**

**WE NEED A FOREIGN TRADE MANAGER SKILL WITH
BILINGUAL INTERPRETATOR (ENGLISH, HINDI, SPANISH)**

APPLICANT HAS TO HAVE 2 YEAR EXPERIENCE FOR INTERNATIONAL BILINGUAL INTERPRETATION.

APPLICANT MUST BE FREQUENT USER OF QUICKBOOKS, MICROSOFT OFFICE, NETWORKING, ACCOUNT RECEIVABLE AND PAYABLE.

MUST HAVE EXPERIENCE IN EPORT AND IMPORT, FOREIGN EXCHANGE.

INTERESTED APPLICANT CAN SUBMIT THEIR RESUM ALONG WITH ID, SOCIAL SECURITY, PASSPORT, DRIVING LICENSE AND POLICE RECORD ALONG WITH REFERENCES OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO EMAIL:

spiezpharma@yahoo.com

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: 11 April, 2022

SPIEZ International Ltd.

1953 Coney Drive, Belize City

P. O. Box 2254

Tel: 203-3004, 627-5406

Guatemala, El Salvador, and gay marriage, gay teaching, abortion

by Colin Hyde

Earlier this month, we learned that Guatemala's Congress absolutely does not support gay marriage, and also, they were taking steps to oppose the teaching about the myriad new genders that have come out in recent years and were aiming to increase the prison sentence for abortion. If Dr. Giammattei needs my vote, well I'm with him 2 out of 3, just like I was 2 out of 3 for UBAD. I supported UBAD's manifesto call for an end to the Radio Belize monopoly and for the teaching of African and Mayan history in our schools. I vetoed the Amandala's call for the 18-year-old vote, because everyone below 21 is a full-blown member of the *Light Brigade*.

You've heard of children who are prodigies. That's fascinating, a child so well-wired. But nobody is born with wisdom. That is a factor of age, and humility. Whenever you hear a child sounding wise, go look up the elders they're eavesdropping on. Judy Boucher couldn't turn back the time on love, but this one is well within our grasp. Say no to the 18-year-old vote. Repeal it.

You know, one of the most incredible things to me is the acceptance of incarceration as humane punishment, and lashing/corporal punishment as inhumane. I can't believe I'm alone when I say that there is only one punishment worse than incarceration, and that is hanging someone by the neck until they are dead.

I can't support incarceration for women who abort a child. I think the state has every right to lay out the reasons why it is strongly against abortion, and maybe the church has

the right to cry shame on any woman who gets rid of a fetus, but taking away people's freedom is criminal unless they are a terrible menace to society. I don't think aborting babies is a habit of women. I think when a woman has an unwanted pregnancy she will be tempted to make the weak decision to abort. Bet that she'll try to protect herself next time around.

On this very difficult decision that some women will face, I would ask countries that believe they should be punished to consider an alternative form of punishment — even lashing. I saw a documentary on the plight of some women in El Salvador who were in jail because they were found guilty of the crime of abortion. A number of them had children, some of the children approaching their teenage years. I said my position on abortion is education, but until then I'd give the women a choice between being locked away from their children, or getting a whipping that is not brutal in nature. Let the women decide.

Aha, after the great UNIBAM victory that flung wide the closet door, a local lawyer who is now a judge said that that crowd should now go after kicking down the whole fence. I think the lawyer meant that they should go after the marriage license. There are some things they call the wonders of the world. Well, in the world of wonder, as in astonishment, there isn't anything like gay marriage. It's incredible to me that people will throw their support behind two men who are out to mek papisho of that institution.

But we know the true story. It's business...cakes and Chardonnay and wedding dresses and watered-down pastors and photographers and

all that paraphernalia. Social Security claims by gays just can't be a factor. Everyone knows that scheme was especially designed, in respect to marriage, to encourage mothering of children. You see why gays are so eager to adopt. Well, a fawn noh want no buck for a mother, and piglet don't want no boar for a mother.

Now why would anyone want to ruin the innocence of childhood with discussions of myriad sexual organs and genders? Properly, children should be taught to love one another. The state has to decide how much it will coddle softness in males because, as the crisis in Ukraine has shown, sometimes a state has to call on its MALES, young, middle-aged, and old, to defend turf. It's not impossible that a little education might be necessary. There are grey area difficulties, but we can do without the invasion of primary schools.

Congratulations to Guatemala for being sensible on 2 out of 3.

We can't be "that" independent

A former prime minister said about the way things are in this world, that "it is what it is," and looking at what is right now, we see the European world gathering around a war that is causing great damage all around the world. Ah, as if to remind those of us who might have forgotten what is, after all the talk and the forced end of both corporal and capital punishments which were described as barbaric, well what do you know, power still comes out of the barrel of a gun.

It is the reality in this world that

some countries have the bomb, and some don't. Ouch, no country, not one with African or Native American ties has a single one of those bombs. Maybe we are not interested. Maybe it is that we have a soft spot. It's dangerous to not have the bomb, but it's no great shame. We are true lovers of Mother Earth. Who could conceive making bombs that could destroy what none here could even contemplate creating? Not us.

It is so that those who don't have the bomb have to choose one to ally with. We are British, yes we are! Whoa there, I mean we ally with the British. I'm so sorry our great friends in Cuba were forced to ally with the Russian bomb. The people in the US who caused Cuba to turn to Russia are a set of hogs. It's no great shame on Cuba, they having to choose a bomb. What a pity Russia couldn't handle the fact that baseball, hot dog, apple pie, Chevrolet and McDonald's are the craze at this time.

My, my, two Sundays ago I listened to Brother Patrick Rogers on Sister Yaya's *Sunday Review* show and not once, not once over an hour-and-a-half long period did our brother acknowledge that our relationship with the British was no casual thing. Some people talk about the independence of countries as if it is 100%, or nada. Go to Cuba, magnificent Cuba, and find out how close to 100% their independence is?

Gudnis grayshos, I heard the famous Brother Dylan Vernon has issued a call for us to "ditch" the Queen. You have to love Belize's intellectual class. They talk a lot. Bah, before I read all that Mr. Vernon has to say I'll want to know what his position was on UBAD's call for every able-bodied male in this country to be trained and armed. You bet I was down with that.

Life is full of ironies. The PUP called PSWG an Anglophile, but when their GCP accepted independence with a UK defense guarantee "ordered" by the UN, hey man, play along with mi noh. Our independence is far more limited than the kind in Barbados or Jamaica. As beautiful as our sister Caribbean countries are, they aren't as strategic as we are. If they wanted to rival us that way, they could do it with a sudden discovery of a very precious metal, or black gold in the quantities found in Guyana.

How could those PUP loud mouths miss so badly? Don Hector didn't. He said George said the British are not our enemies. Yes, we battle to increase our share of rights, but we must know who our military ally is.

Yap, life is filled with paradoxes. We all want...wait, okay, many of us want to be independent. Do you know that an employer is as dependent as any employee? Sure, the employer can kick around the employee, but the employer has to prostrate him/herself, grovel before the consumer.

NOTICE

BELIZE CITY
Estate of DAVID DANIEL BURGOS, deceased.

STATUTORY NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Pursuant to Section 36 of the Administration of Estates Act, Chapter 197 of the Laws of Belize, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all creditors and other persons having any claims or demands upon or against the ESTATE OF DAVID DANIEL BURGOS of #2 PALMWOOD DRIVE, ORANGE WALK TOWN, ORANGE WALK DISTRICT, BELIZE are required to send particulars in writing of their claims or demands to the Executors of the said estate, KARINA DANIELI BURGOS and JAIME DAVID BURGOS, c/o of Law Office of José Alpuche, Suite 19 Northern Shops, 1.5 Mls. Philip Goldson Highway, Belize City, Belize and to send such particulars not later than 20th June, 2022, AND NOTICE IS HEREBY ALSO GIVEN that at the expiration of the last mentioned date, the Executors will proceed to distribute the assets of the said DAVID DANIEL BURGOS, DECEASED, amongst the parties entitled thereto, having regard only to the claims or demands of which particulars have been delivered and the Executors will not be liable for the assets or any part thereof so distributed to any person or persons of whose claims or demands it shall not then have had notice.

DATED the 17th day of March 2022.



José M. Alpuche
Attorney-at-law

BY ORDER OF CHARGE
NOTICE
OF INTENTION TO SELL

LA INMACULADA CREDIT UNION LIMITED, a Credit Union duly formed and registered in Belize under the Credit Union Act Chapter 314 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2011 with registered office situated at No. 5 Park Street, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District, Belize, hereby gives notice of its intention to exercise its Power of Sale as Chargee under the virtue of Charges between those hereinafter named and the said La Inmaculada Credit Union Ltd. with said Charge is registered at the Land Registry. The Credit Union will at the expiration of TWO MONTHS from the date of the first publication of this notice to sell the properties described in the schedule hereto.

ALL offers to purchase the said property must be made in writing to **LA INMACULADA CREDIT UNION LIMITED**, from whom full particulars and conditions of sale may be obtained.

SCHEDULE

ALL THAT piece or parcel of land being Parcel No.-3217 situated in the Ann Gabourel Registration Section, Orange Walk District, and held under Land Certificate LRS-201608522 **TOGETHER** with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon, the freehold of **Nery Leonardo Sosa & Josselin Jannethe Alvarado (Jointly)**.

ALL THAT piece or parcel of land being Parcel No.-122 situated in the Trial Farm Registration Section, Orange Walk District, and held under Land Certificate LRS-201108503 **TOGETHER** with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon, the freehold of **Angelica Leslie**.

ALL THAT piece or parcel of land being Parcel No.-491 situated in the Trial Farm Registration Section, Orange Walk District, and held under Land Certificate LRS-201108507 **TOGETHER** with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon, the freehold of **Angelica Leslie**.

ALL THAT piece or parcel of land being Parcel No.-1079 situated in the San Jose Palmar Registration Section, Orange Walk District, and held under Land Certificate # 9845/2004 **TOGETHER** with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon, the freehold of **Angelica Leslie**.

ALL THAT piece or parcel of land being Lot No.-184 attached to Plan No.-2146 Deed of Conveyance LTU-201501474 situated in the St. Matthews Village, Cayo District, and registered at the Lands and Surveys Department in Belmopan, as Lot No. 184 on Plan No. 2146 - **TOGETHER** with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon, the Deed of Conveyance of **Miriam Janet Quevedo for Abner Jonathan Quevedo**.

ALL THAT piece or parcel of land being Parcel No.1802- situated in the Ann Gabourel Registration Section, Orange Walk District, and held under Land Certificate LRS-201910114 **TOGETHER** with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon, the freehold of **Mark Glenford Meighan**.

ALL THAT piece or parcel of land being Parcel No.- 2050 situated in the Orange Walk Town Registration Section, Orange Walk District, and held under Land Certificate LRS-201810171 **TOGETHER** with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon, the freehold of **Roamir Edwardo Gonzalez**.

ALL THAT piece or parcel of land Parcel No.- 370/1 situated in the Miller's Bight Registration Section, Orange Walk District, and held under Lease Certificate LRS -201005197 **TOGETHER** with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon, the leasehold of **Carlos Garcia for Julie Linda Garcia**.

ALL THAT piece or parcel of land being Parcel No.-212 situated in the Guinea Grass Registration Section, Orange Walk District, and held under Land Certificate LRS-201900303 **TOGETHER** with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon, the freehold of **Edison Albert Johnson and Rosita Johnson (Jointly)**.

ALL THAT piece or parcel of land being Parcel No.-672 situated in the Ann Gabourel Registration Section, Orange Walk District, and held under Land Certificate # 3710/95 **TOGETHER** with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon, the freehold of **Maria Elena Diaz for Leonardo Daniel Diaz**.

ALL THAT piece or parcel of land being Parcel No.-2949 situated in the San Pedro Registration Section, Belize District, and held under Land Certificate LRS-201511416 **TOGETHER** with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon, the freehold of **Leon Levi Anderson**.

NOTICE

GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE TREASURY BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER 4/2022

Tenders are invited for an issue of Government of Belize Treasury Bills. The amount of the issue will be \$83,200,000.00.

The Bills will be issued in electronic form only evidenced by an electronic book entry in the Central Securities Depository of the Central Bank of Belize in multiples of \$200 and will be repayable at par 91 days after issue. They will be issued on Wednesday, 6 April 2022 and will be redeemed on Wednesday 6 July 2022.

Each tender must be for \$200 or a multiple of \$200 and must specify to five decimal places the amount, which is offered for each one hundred dollars face value of the Bills sought.

Members of the public who wish to participate in the auction must submit their bid to the Central Bank of Belize electronically or at the designated drop off box no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, 1 April 2022.

The Auction in the Central Securities Depository System (CSD) will be opened from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on Wednesday, 6 April 2022.

Successful bidders should arrange to settle via the Automated Payment & Securities Settlement System of Belize (APSSS).

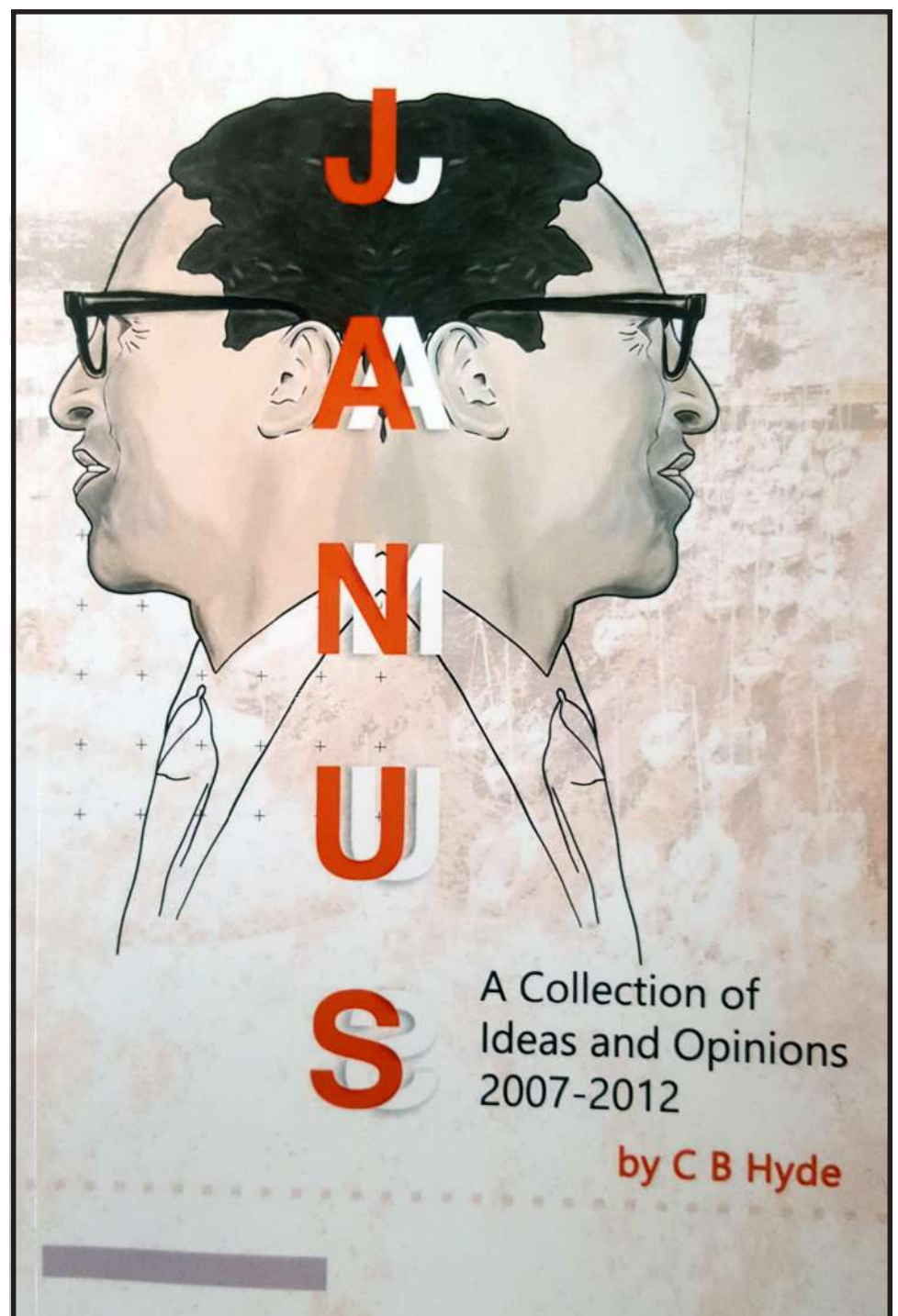
Bank: Central Bank of Belize
Account: GLICORP0402627

The Government of Belize reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all tenders in whole or in part.

CENTRAL BANK OF BELIZE

Notices are placed on Central Bank of Belize Website (www.centralbank.org.bz)

21 March 2022





STRENGTHENING OF TAX ADMINISTRATION PROJECT REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Consulting Services for Consulting firm to Prepare, Implement and Execute a New Audit Model, making use of the wider range examination and risk-based techniques (to include analytical tools for audit)

Institution: The Ministry of Finance (MOF)

Country: Belize

Project: Strengthening of Tax Administration (STA)

Abstract: Consulting Services for Consulting Firm to Prepare, Implement and Execute a New Audit Model, making use of the wider range examination and risk-based techniques (to include analytical tools for audit).

Loan No.: 4839/OC-BL

Deadline: April 8, 2022, Belize Local Time

The Government of Belize (GOB) has received financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for the execution of a five-year tax modernization project entitled "Strengthening of Tax Administration" (BL-L1031). The main beneficiaries of the Project are: (a) the Government, which will have more revenues to implement its public policies; (b) taxpayers, who will have more support and a digital environment to fulfil their tax obligations; and (c) the population, from the government policies implemented. Through this project, the Belize Tax Service Department (BTSD) has procured a Modern Integrated Tax Administration System (the Revenue Management System (RMS)) and is presently in the implementation process. This new system will be used in the management of the Belize Tax Administration.

The BTSD management has identified the need for a modern audit approach based on risk analysis. The BTSD Strategic Plan states that:

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

The consulting services ("the services") includes the contracting of a consulting firm for a period of ten (10) months to Prepare, Implement and Execute a New Audit Model, making use of the range examination and risk-based techniques (to include analytic tools for audit). The main activities of the consultancy include:

1. To assess the status of BTSD taxpayer audit strategies and operations for all tax type.
2. To review the Audit Division organization and resources, as well as the staff skills.
3. To suggest the strategy for centralization/decentralization of the audit.
4. To propose a new organization area (if required).
5. To propose the staff composition by area and by location.
6. To propose the different audit programs taking into consideration taxpayer segments and different audit locations (central, districts).
7. To propose a system of massive audit based on IT verification of returns against risk factors and third-party information. The selected cases should be resolved very quickly (4 cases a day) as they are based on firm verification.
8. To propose modern analytical tools for tax auditing suitable for Belize's environment by conducting a SWOT analysis to support the audit work.
9. Once the proposal of the modern analytical tools is approved, the consulting firm will procure the Analytical tools software for auditing with 50 licenses with subscription for 3 years, implement, and train auditors in its utilization for adoption.
10. To execute onsite Pilot audit (for at least one month in duration) with the audit team to plan, execute and report on randomly selected taxpayers.
11. To develop training materials and manuals in hard copies and digital copies in Microsoft Word format.

The consulting firm should have a minimum of five (5) years' experience in similar assignment. In addition, the consulting firm should have a minimum of three (3) years specific experience in the following areas (* are must):

- **Tax administration taxpayer audit and risk analysis. (*)**
- Conducting design of modern taxpayer audit programs. (*)
- **Conducting design of risk-based audit programs. (*)**
- Training tax administration staff in audit techniques (*)
- Using modern audit analytic tools. (*)
- Developing programs for organizational strengthening for tax administration.
- Developing modern taxpayer audit programs.
- Conducting design of modern information crosschecking programs.
- Business Strategy (supporting business and organization goals).

The firm should prove ability to identify strategic issues, opportunity and risks. As well as have knowledge and experience working in Belize and or the Caribbean

environment in a similar assignment.

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

Expression of Interest package should contain:

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

Additional documentation required for National Consultants:

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

The total estimated contract price for this consultancy inclusive of taxes is **US \$ 451,328.00.**

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

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

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours Monday to Friday 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Expressions of interest must be delivered via direct mail or e-mail at the address indicated below by 4:00 p.m. (Belize local time) on Friday, April 8, 2022.

Interested consulting firms are asked to submit their expression of interest via e-mail to Michelle.Longsworth@bts.gov.bz marked **STAP- Consulting Firm to Prepare, Implement and Execute a New Audit Model** in the subject header, or submit on or before 4:00 p.m. (Belize local time) on Friday, April 8, 2022 to the following address:

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

For clarifications kindly contact:

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



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

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

PRESS PREDICTIONS

The sports psychic speaks

BOLEDO

"Press" Predictions: 42-66-17
Boledo stats thru 25th March to 1st April 2022

In boledo news, the forties series has not played for just over 55 days now. These are my lucky numbers: 49-42-46-17-08-66. These are my lucky jackpot numbers: 8155-2706-9623. These are my lucky PICK-3 numbers: 360-432-682-710-565-901. Get ready Belize, some dinero will definitely be coming our way. 50 refuses to play for over 1 year 8 months 1 week and 3 days now. Then there is 55, the last time did play was on the 14th of October 2020, that is over 1 year 5 months 1 week and 4 days now. 49 just joined the crowd,

49 has not played since the 10th of February last year, that's over 1 year 1 month and 2 weeks exact. 03 is out for over 1 year 1 month 1 week and 5 days now, 42 will complete 1 year on All Fools' Day, 1st of April. Keep your eyes open for 42 and 03. Good luck to all buyers. Remember to read your Psalms: 23-91-62. Next week more lucky numbers.

LOCAL FOOTBALL

Belize National Team will edge Cuba 2 to 1 this Sunday

Local Football Results and Predictions

In local football action week-7 games results, Verdes FC is still

undefeated after crushing the Garden City Boys 3-0. Then Altitude beat Caesar Ridge 2-nil in Mango Creek. The San Pedro Pirates edged Wagiya FC 2 to 1, that game was very competitive. This weekend at the FFB Field at 4 p.m., the Belize National A Team will play Cuba in a friendly match. Tickets are for only \$10.00 right now, but at the gate will be more. Deon McCaulay, Nana Mensah and Mike Salazar will be here in the line-up. Enough respect to the FFB President Mr. Sergio Chuc for putting an over 40 tournament together, he donated \$3,000.00, Juan Carlos will donate the second prize. This Saturday in Placencia, a team from Livingston will play an over 40 team from Placencia, Norman "Tilliman" Nunez will play for Placencia. Next week the results of



by Gilroy "Press" Cadogan

all these games.

CYCLING

There will be only 30 foreigners allowed

The 92nd Cross Country Cycling Classic update

In cycling action, Team Digicell's Giovanni Lovell won the Belmopan Classic in solo fashion. Team Valvoline had 4 of their cyclists away, Oscar Quiros, Derek Chavarria Joslyn Chavarria, they went on some training for the upcoming cross Country in 3 weeks' time. There will be only 30 foreigners invited; the race will have at least 100 cyclists. The Williams brothers will be here in 2 times champion Justin and his younger brother Cory. Brandon Cattouse for team Valvoline BTB 501 will have his best chance this year because he has the strongest team right now. The Guatemalans and the Americans will be our best competition. Some Mexicans will also be invited, the race will be very fast and furious. Next week some predictions get started.

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

Lebron James passed Karl Malone on the scoring list

NBA Results and Predictions.

In NBA action, the LA Lakers' Lebron James passed Karl Malone on the All Time scoring list, he will reach 37,000 points in the other 2 games. He will be passing Kareem Abdul Jabbar 38,387 points the next season. His team is fighting for a play-in game with the number 9th seed, the New Orleans Pelican is Just 2 games behind the Lakers. The regular season only has 8 more games remaining. The Phoenix Suns will be the only team to win over 60 games and lose under 20. Steph Curry and Kevin Durant both twisted their ankle. Steph will be back for the playoffs; the East is more competitive right now. The Miami Heat have a 2-game lead on Philly; James Harden makes Joel Embiid a better player; the Boston Celtics is the hottest team right now, they have won 18 of their last 22 games. Jason Tatum is their best player; the Brooklyn Nets' Kyrie Irving scored 60 points against the Orlando Magic some 2 weeks ago. They will be very dangerous in the playoffs. Next week more stats.



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

Institution: [Belize Water Services Limited](#)

Country: [Belize](#)

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

Sector: [Plant](#)

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

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

New Deadline: [March 29, 2022](#)

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

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

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

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

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

Financial category of the project:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Expressions of interest and application package must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by e-mail) by [March 29, 2022](#), no later than 3:00 P.M.

[Belize Water Services Limited](#)
 Attn: [Engineering Procurement](#)
 7 Central American Boulevard
 Belize City, Belize, C.A.
 Tel: [+\(501\) 222-4757, Ext. 1713](#)

E-mail: engineeringprocurement@bws.com.bz



STRENGTHENING OF TAX ADMINISTRATION PROJECT REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Consultancy Firm to prepare and implement the Belize Tax Service Department (BTSD) Enforcement Collection Model based on risk criteria

Institution: The Ministry of Finance (MOF)

Country: Belize

Project: Strengthening of Tax Administration (STA)

Abstract: Consulting Services – Consultancy Firm to prepare and implement the Belize Tax Service Department (BTSD) Enforcement Collection Model based on risk criteria

Loan No.: 4839/OC-BL

Deadline: April 8, 2022, Belize Local Time

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

The authorities’ concerns on the growth of the arrears balance are reflected in the BTSD strategic plan; “The stock of debt has been steadily increasing throughout the years, with the largest increase recorded between 2017 and 2018. The respective annual increases from 2016 to 2018 were 4%, 7% and 23%. There is a need to institute a mechanism to facilitate monitoring and timely enforcement actions to collect and recover revenues.”

The consulting services (“the services”) includes the contracting of a Consultancy Firm for a period of five (5) months. The main activity of the consultancy includes:

1. To assess the current situation of BTSD enforcement collection and review the organization and resources of the collection area as well as their skills
2. To assess the potential sources for information on taxpayer transactions and assets that could be used as arrears payments (Customs, social security, immovable property registration department, Bank accounts, City Council’s Traffic Departments, etc.)
3. Propose a strategy for enforcement collections and prioritization based on risk analysis, define risk parameters and relevant mitigation measures as well as special procedures according to taxpayer segments
4. Establish a system of payment by instalment via Internet, with parameters defined by BTSD with payments through automatic debit in the taxpayer bank account and to freeze delinquent taxpayers’ bank accounts via Internet
5. Establish rules for writing off uncollectable debts and modify ITAS to incorporate them
6. Update the BTSD Enforcement Collection manual defining the procedures to select the debts to be enforced, the task to collect the debt, the identification, and procedures to put a lien on debtors’ properties, the rules, and procedures for agreements for payment by instalment, etc.
7. Propose performance indicators for monitoring the enforcement collection
8. Deliver workshops and train the collection staff in the new procedures
9. Implement the new procedures
10. Conduct Pilot with the designated BTSD staff to plan, execute and report on randomly selected taxpayers.

The Consultancy Firm should have a minimum of five (5) years’ relevant working experience in the following areas:

- Organizational development and design;
- Enforced arrears collections;
- Tax administration training

As well as minimum of five (5) years relevant assistance to tax administrations, particularly in the arrears collection areas. In addition, the Consultant firm should have at least three (3) years of previous experience specifically in conducting programs on arrears collection with the use of risk analysis techniques or similar programs and consultancies between the calendar years 2015 to 2020, as well as experience in Belize, and Caribbean environment.

The Ministry of Finance now invites eligible Consultancy Firms (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested eligible Consultants must submit an Expression of Interest providing information demonstrating

that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the services (description of similar assignments specifying start and end dates of assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills, etc.). *The term “consultant” means a legally established professional consulting firm or an entity that may provide the services.*

Expression of Interest package should contain:

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

Additional documentation required for National Consultants:

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

The total estimated contract price for this consultancy inclusive of taxes is **US \$133,555.00.**

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

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

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours Monday to Friday 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Expressions of interest must be delivered via direct mail or e-mail at the address indicated below by 4:00 p.m. (Belize local time) on Friday April 8, 2022.

Interested eligible Consultants are asked to submit their expression of interest via e-mail to Michelle.Longsworth@bts.gov.bz marked **STAP- Consultancy Firm to prepare and implement the Belize Tax Service Department (BTSD) Enforcement Collection Model based on risk criteria** in the subject header, or submit on or before 4:00 p.m. (Belize local time) Friday April 8, 2022 to the following address:

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

For clarifications kindly contact:

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



STRENGTHENING OF TAX ADMINISTRATION PROJECT REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Consultancy Firm to prepare and implement a Taxpayer Account Model to allow for fast taxpayer centric overview

Institution: The Ministry of Finance (MOF)

Country: Belize

Project: Strengthening of Tax Administration (STA)

Abstract: Consulting Services – Consultancy Firm to prepare and implement a Taxpayer Account Model to allow for fast taxpayer centric overview

Loan No.: 4839/OC-BL

Deadline: April 8, 2022, Belize Local Time

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

The consulting services (“the services”) includes the contracting of a Consultancy Firm for a period of six (6) months. The main activity of the consultancy includes:

1. To assess the current situation of BTSDS taxpayer account in Integrated Tax Administration System (ITAS).
2. Develop a model for a new taxpayer account in ITAS. The model should specify the entities dealing with the taxpayer account, the information that flows to and from the account, and the transactions that will be allowed with the taxpayer account (e.g., debt from tax returns, debts from refunds, debts from adjustments, debts from audits, debts from payment by instalment agreements, credits from regular payment, credits for adjustments in appeals cases, credit from payments of payment by instalment agreements, etc.). The account will be organized by Taxpayer Identification Numbers (TIN), tax type and period
3. Define the procedures for taxpayer access to his account via Internet
4. Define which transactions taxpayers would be allowed to perform through the Internet
5. Define the changes to be made in ITAS for the introduction of the new model
6. Prepare the taxpayer account manual
7. Implement the new taxpayer centric current account
8. Train BTSD staff in the new taxpayer account design and operation

The Consultancy Firm should have a minimum of five (5) years’ relevant working experience in the following areas:

- Designing modern taxpayer account
- Preparing taxpayer account procedures and manuals
- Training enforcement agents in taxpayer account;

As well as minimum of five (5) relevant working experience in enforcement of arrears payment and design of modern taxpayer current account. In addition, the Consulting firm should have at least three (3) years of previous experience conducting consultancies to countries implementing modern taxpayer accounts.

The Ministry of Finance now invites eligible Consultancy Firms (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested eligible Consultants must submit an Expression of Interest providing information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the services (description of similar assignments specifying start and end dates of assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills, etc.).

Expression of Interest package should contain:

- (i) Document explaining interest, experience, and competence of the consulting firm.

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

Additional documentation required for National Consultants:

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

The total estimated contract price for this consultancy inclusive of taxes is **US \$133,555.00**.

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

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

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours Monday to Friday 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Expressions of interest must be delivered via direct mail or e-mail at the address indicated below by 4:00 p.m. (Belize local time) on Friday April 8, 2022.

Interested eligible Consultants are asked to submit their expression of interest via e-mail to Michelle.Longsworth@bts.gov.bz marked **STAP-Consultancy Firm to prepare and implement a Taxpayer Account Model to allow for fast taxpayer centric overview** in the subject header, or submit on or before 4:00 p.m. (Belize local time) on Friday April 8, 2022 to the following address:

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

For clarifications kindly contact:

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



STRENGTHENING OF TAX ADMINISTRATION PROJECT

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

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

Institution: The Ministry of Finance (MOF)

Country: Belize

Project: Strengthening of Tax Administration (STA)

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

Loan No.: 4839/OC-BL

Deadline: April 1, 2022, Belize Local Time

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Expression of Interest package should contain:

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- (v) Proof of nationality: Copy of certificate of incorporation, information of shareholders of company specifying the shares owned by each respective shareholder of the company and a copy of documentation of nationality of the shareholders of the company.

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

**Director General
Belize Tax Service
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Tel: 501-222-5114/E-mail: Ian.Ramirez@mof.gov.bz**

Probably it might help in some kind of way



by Clinton Canul Luna

The cost of living in Belize is very high. The \$3.25-an-hour minimum wage in Belize is too low to sustain a family. However, they had said that the minimum wage would be raised to \$5 an hour. That amount is still too low, because when we check the prices of the basic groceries that are needed as food for a family, that amount of money is not enough. \$240 a week or \$250 is very low. When you go to the shop and start buying the items, you realize that \$100 is nothing. It's not like one time when, with \$100, you could buy enough items for consumption and still have some loose change, but in a household, food is not the only thing. There are other things that need to be bought, such as items for cleaning the house or washing clothes; electricity and water bills need to be paid. In the case of the majority of Belizeans who don't have their own houses, they must pay rent,

which is also high. So, that little amount of money cannot sustain a family.

What about clothing? Education in Belize is very expensive. It is said that there will be free education but, who knows when. That has been in the pipeline for many years and up to now, nothing is free. It is very expensive. The situation after COVID-19 has changed the entire scenario. Let us not blame other circumstances or issues that are taking place throughout the world. If not, let us look at the cost of living from 2018/2019; it was already too high. In addition to that, the unemployment rate was sky high. If I'm not mistaken, I think it was at 52%. Today, we can see that many things have risen so high that a little wage like \$250 a week cannot sustain a family of 3 persons, that is a couple and a child. Many of our homes have more than one child, and

these persons must eat, must go to school; each one has a necessity, and to comply with it, that little salary doesn't give.

In Belize, for a family of 3 or more, to more or less live a dignified life, they would need to make at least \$500 a week. Anyone can put together the cost of items and services. However, in other countries, persons that make a low salary or minimum wage, are given a coupon, what we call in Belize a pantry ticket. This coupon is for them to go to a certain store and get an amount of food and other articles that would be needed for health, such as toilet paper, clorox, soap, toothpaste, and many other little things that are needed in a home which don't last for long.

We are in hunger, and that is not from today. This was prior to the arrival of this deadly disease called Coronavirus and its variants. It would be necessary for those who have the responsibility to analyze the situation of poverty in this country, to come up with a strategy that is used in other countries to solve the problem of hunger and illnesses. Medication is very expensive. How many times have we listened to people on the radio asking for help to purchase medications. It shouldn't be. And please stop blaming other governments. That is a song that is constantly repeated every time we have a change of government; it is an old scratched record. It would be wise or important, for whosoever, to sit and analyze the situation that Belize is going through, that if they should raise the minimum salary to \$5, also taking into account that these persons would also need a ticket for food pantry. Let me share

with you the following, our dear readers of this column, which was published in "Center on Budget and Policy Priorities". Probably, it may help in some kind of way!

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the largest federal nutrition assistance program. SNAP provides benefits to eligible low-income individuals and families via an Electronic Benefits Transfer card. This card can be used like a debit card to purchase eligible food in authorized retail food stores.

SNAP Helps Low-Wage Workers in Every State

SNAP plays a crucial role in helping workers in low-paying jobs afford a basic diet in the United States. Roughly 14.49 million American workers live in households that participated in SNAP in the last year, Census data show. Millions of Americans work in jobs with low wages, inconsistent schedules, and no benefits such as paid sick leave — all of which contribute to high turnover and spells of unemployment. Many of these workers get help putting food on the table through SNAP. Americans participating in SNAP most commonly work in service, office, and sales jobs. In the United States, workers who participate in SNAP most commonly work in service occupations, such as cooks or home health care aides, office and administrative support occupations, such as customer service representatives, and sales and related occupations, such as cashiers or retail salespersons. Working Americans participating in SNAP typically have jobs with low wages. For example, some of the top occupations among Americans participating in SNAP have average hourly wages far below the U.S. average of \$24.34 in 2017. In some occupations, a large share of workers participate in SNAP. Workers in many of these jobs often earn low wages or work fewer or less consistent hours than they would like, so SNAP provides essential support. Over one-quarter of agricultural graders and sorters, personal care aides, and transportation attendants, and one-quarter of maids and housekeeping cleaners and telemarketers participate in SNAP.

fincasolan@gmail.com
 March 19, 20220
 Finca Solana
 Corozal Town

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.



MINISTRY OF FINANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND INVESTMENT

NEW GAMING MACHINE LICENSE MORATORIUM NOTICE

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

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

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

We can be contacted via:

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

Email: belizeinvestment@invest.gov.bz

Facebook: Investment Policy & Compliance Unit

Weekend fires displace a total of thirteen

by Khaila Gentle

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Mar. 21, 2022

Two separate fires ravaged Belize City homes over the weekend, leaving several families homeless and in need of assistance. The first and larger of the two fires occurred at an apartment complex located on the corner of Fabers Road and Caesar Ridge Road and the second, also on Fabers Road, destroyed the home of a mother and daughter.

On Saturday, March 19, the Belize Fire Department responded to a call and upon arriving at the corner of Fabers Road and Caesar Ridge Road found the center apartment of a cement two-story building on fire. According to Kenneth Mortis, the Station Supervisor at the Belize National Fire Service, despite the fire department's quick response, the blaze has left at least eleven persons displaced, with several apartments sustaining water and fire

damage.

Laverne Thomas, a resident of the apartment from which the fire originated, spoke with local media, and revealed that the blaze, which started in her mother's bedroom, has left her and her family with nothing.

"It started from my ma room. We mi deh outside in the hall, right. And we hear the neighbor halla 'go check see weh di go on eena the room,' right. So my lee bredda—he has special needs—he deh eena the room, ih look like he di sleep. So my ma di halla fi my bredda and he nuh di answer,"

explained the mother of one.

She went on to detail how her stepfather had to break the door down to get to her brother, who suffered burns on his hands and feet. Thomas, who ran back into the apartment after rescuing her 4-month-old baby, said she received burns on her hand and the side of her head. According to her, the family was only alerted to the fire after a neighbor saw smoke coming from the ceiling.

The family of six lost all their possessions in the blaze, including clothing and personal identification cards. Unfortunately, the apartment

complex, which houses a total of six units, was not insured, and as a result, its residents are forced to shoulder the expenses incurred to carry out any necessary repairs.

Thomas, who has lived in the area for almost her entire life, says that at the moment she has no place to stay. As a result, she and other families visited the office of their area representative, Hon. Gilroy Usher, seeking help. Those wishing to assist Ms. Thomas can contact Percival Usher at 635-4434. Any form of assistance would be appreciated.

Also affected by the fire was a single mother of five named Shanna, whose section of the building sustained electrical damage. She is also seeking assistance and can be contacted at 627-9160.

In speaking with the media, Station Supervisor Kenneth Mortis revealed the cause of the blaze. He explained that Thomas' brother, a 14-year-old minor, had apparently set fire to a part of the bedroom while his family was outside.

"In his inquisitive nature, he got mischievous and lit a portion of the building on fire. The family and other neighbors only became aware of the fire when they saw smoke between the buildings. The family members outside, they had to physically break down the door, as he had then locked himself in the building," said Mortis, who highlighted the importance of parents keeping account of their children.

"It boils down to parents not giving accountability for their children ... regardless of the age, regardless of the nature of the child, keep your children in your eyesight and encourage them to hand over these flammable substances, whether it be a match, a lighter, a candle ...," he stated.

Despite the quick response of the fire department and the adequate number of firefighters on the scene, Mortis noted that the fire department had to implement strategic firefighting in an attempt to prevent the blaze from spreading to the other apartment which lay a mere three feet away. He also gave credit to the residents in the area who assisted them in combating the blaze.

"It could have been worse. We could have probably had lives accounted for, we could have lost an entire block. I am grateful for those non-firefighters who turned themselves into a fireman at that particular moment," he said.

While some of the homes in the apartment complex were spared from the blaze, the same cannot be said for the home of a mother and daughter. On the morning of Sunday, March 20, firefighters responded to a call on the other side of Fabers Road, where they found a small zinc structure fully engulfed in flames.

According to reports from the fire department, the mother stated that she wasn't cooking at the time. This led to further investigation, which revealed that unfortunately, the fire was caused by an electrical overload due to the home using "an unregistered nature of electricity".

"We all know that once you are in the habit of trying to ease your financial expense by tapping into these lampposts in order to provide your residence with direct current, the risk that you're taking is very high," said Mortis, who lamented the unfortunate nature of both fires.

While the duo lost everything, luckily no one was injured.





CAREER OPPORTUNITY



Belize Sugar Industries Ltd.
Invites qualified and self-motivated individuals to submit applications for the post of:
IT Site Support Specialist
at Tower Hill, Orange Walk

The **IT Site Support Specialist** provides technical and analytical support to users, troubleshoot and resolve technical infrastructure issues that include PC's, printers, network devices, servers and collaboration technologies.

Qualifications and Experience:

- Bachelors of Science Degree in Information Technology or related field
- Minimum of three (3) years work experience in related field
- Fluency in English both written and verbal, ability to speak Spanish will be an asset
- Knowledge of Windows Active Directory architecture and its interaction with the desktop environment
- Knowledge of network topologies, protocols, UTP and Fiber cables
- Experience using remote client management tools
- Experience using Service Now or other Enterprise Service Desk incident and project management reporting tools
- Experience remediating operating system security vulnerabilities and patch implementation methods
- Experience with unattended build processes and imaging utilities
- Knowledge of device encryption and anti-virus software

Skills and Competencies:

- Good interpersonal skills, team oriented
- Strong analytical and research skills
- Self-motivated with exceptional work ethic
- Proactive, organized and dependable
- Good interpersonal skills, team oriented

Roles and Responsibilities:

- Provide technical support for clients at both the local office and remote locations
- Maintain site's IT inventory IN Asset Inventory System
- Work with outside contractors, project teams and internal staff to maintain and repair all IT assets
- Work with the infrastructure team on network device monitoring, maintenance, server patching and troubleshooting LAN/WAN/VPN connectivity issues
- Support annual equipment refresh including switch and server replacement

Letter of application accompanied by a résumé, police record, recent transcript and two letters of reference should be submitted to:

Human Resources Manager
P.O. Box 29, Tower Hill, Orange Walk
Or email
HR.Belize@asr-group.com





Deadline for submission is April 5, 2022.



Ministry of Finance, Economic Development & Investment
Belmopan
MARCH 22, 2022

**NOTICE TO TAX DEFAULTERS PURSUANT TO SECTION 64A OF TAX
ADMINISTRATION AND PROCEDURE ACT (TAPA)**

NAME	OCCUPATION	TAX CENTRE	TAX TYPE	AMOUNT OWED
Matus Medical Supplies	Medical Supplies Importer	Belize	GST and Business Tax	\$271,705.59
DK Limited	Retailer	Belize	GST	\$131,932.93
Darrell Carter	Upholsterer	Belize	GST	\$854,419.47
HLB Belize, LLP I Grant Thorton	Accounting Firm	Belize	GST and Business Tax	\$2,421,576.26
Buttercup Development Co. Ltd	Real Estate	Belize	GST	\$63,703.66
Jose Depaz	Land Surveyor	San Ignacio	GST	\$261,963.06
Mark Neal	Gym	Belize	GST	\$47,561.74
Denvor Fairweather	Producer	Belize	GST	\$17,017.42
Johnny Quan	Retailer	Corozal	GST	\$161,223.14
Zhen Jun Lan	Retailer	Corozal	GST	\$444,111.53
Damaris Berges	Restaurateur	Corozal	GST and Business Tax	\$115,881.53
Caribbean Sunrise Limited	Manufacturer	Belize	GST	\$402,440.99
Quality Water Depot	Manufacturer	Belize	GST	\$226,745.84
Amigos Del Mar	Tour Operator	San Pedro	GST	\$1,822,074.47
Belize Pharma Supplies	Pharmacy	Belize	GST	\$93,049.36
Ivor Company	Real Estate/Marketing	Belize	GST and Business Tax	\$60,410.51
Austin Waight	Marketing	Belize	GST and Business Tax	\$166,304.48
Michelle Rudon	Marketing	Belize	GST and Business Tax	\$52,161.28
Out Island Construction & Development	Construction	Belize	GST	\$408,950.55
Arthur Saldivar	Attorney	Belize	Business Tax	\$57,712.95
Eden Holland	Restaurateur	Belize	GST	\$834,465.22
Mark King	Security Services	Belize	GST	\$398,141.53
Smoky Mermaid	Restaurant	Belize	GST	\$256,017.56
El Secreto	Hotel	San Pedro	GST and Business Tax	\$293,630.87
M&M Engineering	Engineer/Construction	Belize	GST and Business Tax	\$2,784,507.54

You are hereby notified to contact the Belize Tax Service Department as soon as possible to settle your arrears. Failure to do so in a timely manner will result in court proceedings or further action taken against you pursuant to the TAPA.

**A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL
BELIZE TAX SERVICE DEPARTMENT**

TOGETHER WE BUILD OUR COUNTRY: YOUR CONTRIBUTION. OUR DEVELOPMENT



KREM Television Program Guide

Shoa Wiself, Si Wiself, Bee Wiself!!!

Questions or comments may be forwarded via email to

Phone: 202-5848 kremtelevision@yahoo.com

Friday March 24, 2022 to Thursday March 30, 2022

FRIDAY

- 6:30 a.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (LIVE)**
- 9:00 a.m. **Morning Stew (LIVE)**
- 12:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**
- 1:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 2:00 p.m. Documentary: Stolen Daughters — Kidnapped
- 3:30 p.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (Repeat)**
- 6:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (LIVE)**
- 7:30 p.m. Documentary: The Secrets of Sugar
- 9:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**

SATURDAY

- 9:00 a.m. Documentary: Lost Civilization — Africa
- 9:49 a.m. Movie: Resolution Song
- 11:00 a.m. Documentary: Stolen Daughters
- 12:19 p.m. Movie: Revenge of the Bridesmaids
- 12:45 p.m. Documentary: The Secrets of Sugar
- 1:26 p.m. Movie: Simple Justice
- 2:40 p.m. Documentary: The Truth About Your Food
- 3:38 p.m. Movie: The Longshot
- 5:12 p.m. Documentary: Mandela's Long Walk to Freedom
- 7:00 p.m. Music Videos

SUNDAY

- 10:30 a.m. **Sunday Review (LIVE)**
- 12:00 p.m. Movie: 42
- 2:08 p.m. Documentary: King Tut — Life and Death
- 3:31 p.m. Movie: Strom Boy
- 5:01 p.m. Documentary: DNA
- 5:30 p.m. **Sunday Review (repeat)**
- 7:00 p.m. Sunday Jazz
- 8:00 p.m. Music Videos

MONDAY

- 6:30 a.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (LIVE)**
- 9:00 a.m. **Morning Stew (LIVE)**
- 12:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**
- 1:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 2:00 p.m. Movie: Cheaper By The Dozen
- 3:30 p.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (repeat)**
- 6:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (LIVE)**
- 7:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 8:00 p.m. Documentary: Seeds of Death
- 9:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**

TUESDAY

- 6:30 a.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (LIVE)**
- 9:00 a.m. **Morning Stew (LIVE)**
- 12:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**
- 1:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 2:00 p.m. Documentary: Lost Civilization — Africa
- 3:30 p.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (repeat)**
- 6:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (LIVE)**
- 7:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 8:00 p.m. Documentary: Safari Africa
- 9:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**

WEDNESDAY

- 6:30 a.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (LIVE)**
- 9:00 a.m. **Morning Stew (LIVE)**
- 12:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**
- 1:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 2:00 p.m. Movie: Erax
- 3:30 p.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (repeat)**
- 6:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (LIVE)**
- 7:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 8:00 p.m. Belizean Legend: SONIA BULLER DAVIS
- 9:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**

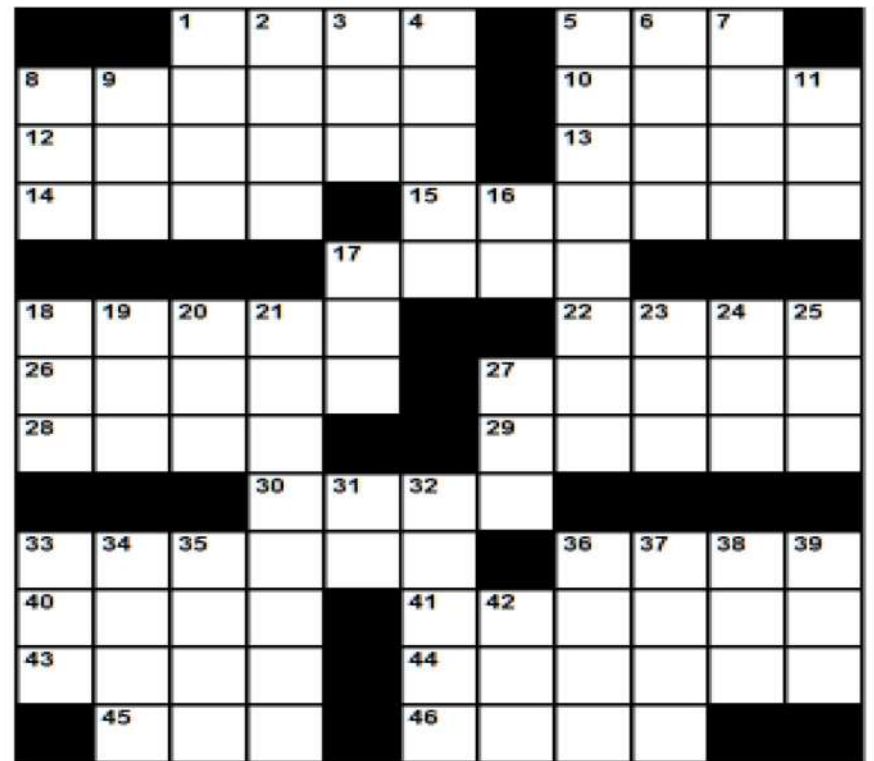
THURSDAY

- 6:30 a.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (LIVE)**
- 9:00 a.m. **Morning Stew (LIVE)**
- 12:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**
- 1:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 2:00 p.m. Movie: Nightbook
- 3:30 p.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (repeat)**
- 6:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (LIVE)**
- 7:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 8:00 p.m. Documentary: Larger Than Life
- 9:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**



NEW PUZZLE

Daily Crossword Puzzle for March 23, 2022



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Across

- 1. Bachelor party
- 5. Media overseer org.
- 8. Rich elaborate cake
- 10. Bring in a crop
- 12. Inventor Gray
- 13. Armbone
- 14. Bakery bite
- 15. Sheer fabrics
- 17. Argot
- 18. Hot dip
- 22. Crime boss
- 26. Mushroom maker
- 27. Muffled
- 28. Alleviate
- 29. Make vertical
- 30. Excuse me
- 33. Sprite
- 36. Bronco prodder
- 40. Against, prefix
- 41. Dignified calm
- 43. Beethoven's birthplace
- 44. Mental visions
- 45. Annoyer
- 46. 100 cents overseas

Down

- 5. Common appetizer
- 6. Cabal unit
- 7. Chaplin prop
- 8. Come down with
- 9. According to
- 11. Ballet step
- 16. Atop
- 17. Airport sight
- 18. Common pronoun
- 19. Arab robe
- 20. Angeles preceder
- 21. Daubing
- 23. Did lunch
- 24. Animal home
- 25. Anomalous
- 27. British parent
- 31. -- yo silver!
- 32. Ala King
- 33. Early Beatles describer
- 34. Auth. unknown
- 35. European volcano
- 36. Bandy words
- 37. Possum of the comics
- 38. Avail oneself of
- 39. Part of RSVP
- 42. Big bird down under

Crossword answers for last edition

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



Daily Interactive Crossword Puzzle - 03-17-2022 - Answers





VACANCY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OPERATIONS SPECIALIST

The **BELIZE ELECTRIC COMPANY LIMITED (BECOL)** is accepting applications for the management post of **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OPERATIONS SPECIALIST**.

BECOL is the owner and operator of the Mollejon, Chalillo, and Vaca Hydroelectric Projects. The main function of the company is to provide clean and reliable energy to BEL and as an extension to the country of Belize. The company's foremost concern is the safety of its employees and the running of an environmentally sound operation by following the guidelines of the International Standards Organization, category ISO14001.

JOB DESCRIPTION:

Bring innovation and efficiencies to the IT department. Position will be responsible for delivering new and enhancing existing technology services by embracing automation and continual service improvement across the organization. Ensure execution of key IT operational processes such as service, incident and problem management. Lead project management Information Technology projects. Aid in the development, execution and continuous improvement of the Cyber Security strategy and controls of the company to ensure security of its assets and minimizing cyber risk.

JOB DUTIES:

- Drive operational efficiencies by adopting innovation and automation, including the owning the management of the underpinnings technologies
- Take ownership and manage key IT operational processes such as service, incident, and problem management, conduct reviews to minimize major incidents and make formal recommendations for solutions.
- Lead project management of information technology projects and provide regular project status reports to the company.
- Managing and maintaining the network infrastructure, including firewall, switches, wireless networking and any related components.
- Manage and administer the server infrastructure, active directory, and Office 365 environment.
- Aid in developing, implementing, and managing of the organizations Cyber Security strategy and controls to ensure security of its assets and minimizing cyber risk.
- Aid in developing, implementing and managing of the organizations Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity Plans and associated controls to ensure recovery of its critical business processes and IT systems in an efficient and timely manner in the event of a disaster.
- Aid in developing business case justifications, cost/benefit analyses, bid requirements for IT operations, upgrades, audit compliance and continuous improvement initiatives.
- Aid in formulating and deploying long-term information technology strategic plans to support the delivering of the company's targets and enable business efficiency and cost-effectiveness.
- Aid in benchmarking, auditing, analyzing, reporting, and making recommendations for the improvement of the IT infrastructure and IT systems.
- Aid in the deployment, monitoring, maintenance, development, and support of all IT assets (hardware and software) based on department needs.
- Aid in developing and implementing IT & Security policies and procedures, including those for architecture, operational process & standards, service provision, general security controls, disaster recovery, Data classification and access controls.

SALARY:

- Dependent on Qualifications and experience

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

- Diploma/Certifications in Computer / Network Support such A+, Network+ and Security+ or equivalent certifications would be an asset.
- Minimum of 5 years IT support experience with extensive experience in application support, Windows desktop and server operating system administration, printer management, active directory, and group policy administration Office 365 administration.
- Strong background in networking technologies LAN, WAN & WLAN
Problem Solving skills - Troubleshooting and solution research skills.

Competencies:

- Demonstrates professional written, verbal, and interpersonal communication skills.
- Strong analytical, reasoning, and problem-solving skills.
- Must maintain confidentiality.
- Should be able to work effectively in both a team and individual environment.
- Effective time management and organizational skills.
- The ability to manage multiple projects
- The ability to remain open-minded and objective
- Good health and physical fitness

The successful applicant must relocate and reside in the San Ignacio/Santa Elena Town area or Benque Viejo del Carmen Town. Application letters, accompanied by two (2) letters of reference, must be submitted by **April 14th, 2022** to: Corporate@becol.com.bz

PUBLIC AUCTION SALES: AIRCRAFTS

Gulfstream G2 Aircraft; Hawker Siddeley; Piper Cheyenne Turbo Prop; Sabreliner 75A Jet
BY ORDER of the Asset & Utilities Unit, Ministry of Finance, Government of Belize, Licensed Auctioneer Kevin A. Castillo is selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the below described aircrafts. Sales currently running and will expire Monday 4th April 2022 at the times shown on the website.

1. Gulfstream G2 Aircraft



2. Hawker Siddeley HS125 800:



3. Piper Cheyenne Turbo Prop



4. Sabreliner 75 A Jet



Terms of Sale:

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

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH

KEVIN A. CASTILLO

TELEPHONE 223-4488

Website: belizepropertyauctions.com

E-mail: belizeauctionsales@gmail.com

Face Book: Belize Auctions

VACANCY

An International company is looking for a serious individual who is seeking a challenging and interesting work environment for the post of:

GENERAL MANAGER

The applicant should possess the following skills:

- Fluent in English and Spanish language verbally and orally
- Proven to have experience in Security, Accounting, Finance, HR and Marketing.
- Previously worked for an American company over 5 years
- Age between 30-40
- Excellent Analytical skills
- Excellent leadership and management skills
- Excellent organizational and planning skills
- Possess strong computer skills, proficiency in QuickBooks
- Must be able to function efficiently within a team environment in order to contribute to the success of the company's goals.
- Mature, Responsible & Efficient

Kindly submit your resume with a passport size photograph and police record to:

Attn: Human Resource Manager

P.O. Box 2202

Belize City

- Deadline for applications is April 4th, 2022.

MADISON'S

AUCTIONS AND APPRAISALS LLP



www.madisons.bz

BY ORDER of the Mortgagee, Messrs. Ascendancy Belize Limited, Licensed Auctioneer, Sylvano Guerrero, is selling by way of ONLINE AUCTION via www.madisons.bz the following properties with reserved prices. Auctions are now open for bidding and will close on Wednesday, March 30, 2022 at 12:00pm.

TERMS:10% DEPOSIT. BALANCE IN 14 DAYS



**Block 1, Parcel 157 & 158
Douglas North, Orange Walk**

All that piece or parcel of land being Block #1, Parcel #157 and #158, Douglas North, Orange Walk Belize. They are bounded on the east by a gravel street and on the west by an open land, on the north by a proposed street, and on the south by an open land, for a total area of 2494.466 sq. yds.

The subject properties are held by a Freehold Interest in the name of Erica Cabral.



**Block 1, Parcel 57/1
Buena Vista Village**

All that piece or parcel of land being Block #1, Parcel #57/1, Buena Vista Village, Corozal; comprising of a total area of 1280.44 sq. yds together with all buildings and erections thereon being a two-story building having a large open area, a bedroom, and a storeroom on the lower level, with an area of 1882 sq. ft.

The subject property is held as a Leasehold Certificate interest in the name of Florencia Pott.



Lot 63, Pomona Village, Stann Creek

All that piece or parcel of land being Parcel #63 Pomona Village, Stann Creek District; comprising of a total area 461.849 square meters together with all buildings and erections thereon being a concrete building approximately 20 feet by 40 feet and elevated 11 feet above the ground with 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, kitchen, dining and living room, a front porch approximately 5 feet by 10 feet and a side porch approximately 7 feet by 15 feet.

The property is held as a Minister's Fiat Grant No. 178 of 2006 in the name of Roy Sylvester Tillett.



**Block 42, Parcel 1789/1
Punta Gorda**

All that piece or parcel of land being Block #42, Parcel #1789/1, Punta Gorda Town, Toledo District, Belize; comprising of a total area of 555.56 sq.yds. together with all buildings and erections thereon being an incomplete building having on the lower level three bedrooms, two bathrooms, living, dining, store room, kitchen and utility room with a total area of 1,213 sq. ft.

The property is held in the Leasehold Interest in the name of Antonio Teul.



**Block 4, Parcel 2155
Orange Walk Town**

All that piece or parcel of land being Block #4, Parcel #2155, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk; comprising of a total area of 522.22 sq.yds. together with all buildings and erections thereon being a single storey building with an open loft above, two bedrooms, one bathroom, living, dining, kitchen an open area and storeroom for a total of 902 sq. ft.

The subject property is held in the Freehold Interest in the name of Fernando Baeza.



**Block 1, Parcel 682,
Libertad Village**

All that piece or parcel of land being Block #1, Parcel #682, Libertad Village, Registration Section, Corozal; comprising of 5,808 sq.yds. (1.20 acres) together with all buildings and erections thereon being an incomplete two storey residence having on the ground floor two bedrooms, one bathroom, living, dining, kitchen, utility room, a large front porch and an enclosed area for recreation.

The subject property is held as a Land Certificate Interest in the name of Heraan Botes.



**Lot 66, Pomona Village
Stann Creek**

All that piece or parcel of land being Parcel #66, Pomona Village, Stann Creek District; comprising of a total area of 722.193 sq.m. together with all buildings and erections thereon being a flat timber building with 3 bedrooms, 1.5 bathrooms, kitchen, dining room, living room, a 24ft x 33ft laundry room, a back addition of approximately 14 ft x 25 ft., a wraparound porch of approximately 250sq.ft., and carport. The property is held as a Minister's Fiat Grant No. 462 of 2010 under the name of Gerald Walter Peters.



Block 42, Parcel 793, Punta Gorda

All that piece or parcel of land being Block #42, Parcel #793, Punta Gorda, Toledo; comprising a total area of 893.33 sq. yds together with all buildings and erections thereon being a 2 storey building, having on the ground floor 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, living, dining and kitchen, and on the upper level, 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, living, dining, kitchen and 2 large porches with an area of 3,728 sq. ft. and porch of 686 sq. ft.

The subject property is held in the Freehold Interest in the name of Aurelio Oliva.



**Block 1, Parcel 62,
Corozal Central**

All that piece or parcel of land being Block #1, Parcel #62, Corozal Central Registration Section, Corozal Town; comprising of a total area of 555.56 sq.yds. together with all buildings and erections thereon being a 2 storey reinforced concrete and blocks structure having 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, living, dining and kitchen on the upper level. The lower level was a shop and is open. The building has an area of 1,267 sq. ft. The subject property is held as a Land Certificate Interest in the name of Albertico Gongora.



**Block 4, Parcel 948
Orange Walk Town**

All that piece or parcel of land being Block #4, Parcel #948, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk; comprising a total area of 738.76 sq.yds. together with all buildings and erections thereon being 2 buildings, both having reinforced concrete foundation, ground floor, beams and columns with the first having a floor area of 800 sq. ft, and the second 450 sq. ft.

The subject property is held in the Freehold Interest in the name of Narciso Ramirez.

AUCTIONEER: SYLVANO GUERRERO
TELEPHONE: +501-610-3916
EMAIL: SG@MADISONS.BZ
FACEBOOK: MADISONSAA

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

MADISON'S
AUCTIONS AND APPRAISALS LLP

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

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

Position Name: Janitor
Vacancy number: Belmopan-2022-06
Closing date: April 7, 2022

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

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

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

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

Notice of Dissolution

PALISADE GLOBAL INVESTMENTS LTD.
 ("The Company")

Notice is hereby given that **PALISADE GLOBAL INVESTMENTS LTD.**, a company formed pursuant to the International Business Companies Act has commenced dissolution on 18th January 2022.

Michael Kanevsky, of 157 East, 45th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V5W 1W8, Canada is the Liquidator of the company.

MICHAEL KANEVSKY
 Liquidator



CALL PROPOSALS 2022



Theme:

Promoting and Protecting the Economic, Social and Cultural rights of Maya women in Belize

Visit: <https://satiim.wixsite.com/satiim/vacancies>

Deadline for submission: April 6th, 2022 @ 5pm

For more information contact projectcoordinator@satiim.org.bz

MADISON'S
 AUCTIONS AND APPRAISALS LLP

 www.madisons.bz

BY ORDER of the Mortgagee, Messrs. Ascendancy Belize Limited, Licensed Auctioneer, Sylvano Guerrero, is selling by way of ONLINE AUCTION via www.madisons.bz the following properties with reserved prices. Auctions are now open for bidding and will close on Wednesday, March 30, 2022 at 12:00pm.

TERMS: 10% DEPOSIT. BALANCE IN 14 DAYS



Block 1, Parcel 134
San Pablo/San Jose, Orange Walk

All that piece or parcel of land being Block #1, Parcel #134 San Jose/San Pablo Registration Section, San Pablo Village, Orange Walk District; comprising of a total area of 4,195.7 square meters together with all buildings and erections thereon being a concrete bungalow residence with 2 bedrooms, a small living room area and a kitchen with dimensions of 18 ft by 24 ft and a front porch of 5 ft by 24 ft.

The property is held as a Land Certificate Interest in the name of Alfredo Samuel Cabrera and Josue



Block 42, Parcel 1925
Punta Gorda, Toledo

All that piece or parcel land being Block #42, Parcel #1925, Punta Gorda Town, Toledo District, Belize comprising of a total area of 566.67 sq.yds together with all erections thereon being a bungalow residence rectangular in shape, flat and at street level with 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, living, dining and kitchen with an area of 737 sq. ft.

The property is held in the Leasehold Interest in the name of Roland Tun.



Block 1, Parcel 244, San Pablo/San Jose, Orange Walk

All that piece or parcel of land being Block #1, Parcel #224, San Jose/San Pablo Registration Section, San Pablo Village, Orange Walk District; comprising a total area of 1635.8 square meters together with all buildings and erections thereon being a concrete bungalow residence with 4 bedrooms, a shared bathroom, kitchen, dining room, and living room with external dimensions of approximately 22 ft by 47 ft inclusive of an enclosed front porch of 9 ft by 10 ft and a back verandah of 7 ft by 12 ft.

The property is held as a Land Certificate Interest in the name of Alfredo Samuel Cabrera and Josue Cabrera.

AUCTIONEER: SYLVANO GUERRERO
TELEPHONE: +501-610-3916
EMAIL: SG@MADISONS.BZ
FACEBOOK: MADISONSAA

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

MADISON'S
 AUCTIONS AND APPRAISALS LLP



Ahmadiyya Basketball League Week 6 results

by Rodvern Lino – ABL Commissioner

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Mar. 23, 2022

The Ahmadiyya Basketball League Tournament 2022 continued this past Sunday, March 20, with sixteen (16) Week 6 games played on the Mexico Center courts at Marion Jones Sports Complex. In addition, one more game, a U22 encounter, was played on Saturday night, March 19, in Santa Elena at the Santa Elena Sports Complex.

Below are the results from Week 6 games in the different categories.

Sunday, March 20, at the Mexico Center:

U18

Cayo Dream Chasers over Ladyville Big Dreams, 51 – 34. Dream Chasers – Zoren Decueninck 20pts; Kishawn Usher 10pts. Big Dreams – Marque Ortiz 15pts; Rushard Armstrong 9pts.

We Got Game over Orange Walk Rebels, 42 – 33. We Got Game – Jaden Garcia 11pts; Kameron Heusner 9pts. Rebels – Orson Lawrence 15pts; Myron Betancourt 11pts.

501 Gators over Cayo Dream Chasers, 56 – 43. Gators – Jameer Young 16pts; Ahmaud Smith 15pts. Dream Chasers – Zoren Decueninck 11pts; Kishawn Usher 11pts.

Vipers over Orange Walk Rebels, 42 – 34. Vipers – Demetri Augustine 25pts; David Maheia 8pts. Rebels – Nyiel Rampassard 11pts; Orson Lawrence 8pts.

U22

Northside Ballers over Shuga City Boyz, 38 – 14. Northside – Shadrick Lord 9pts; Andy Faber and Greg Fisher 7pts each. Shuga City – Isaiah Pascual 6pts; Lucio Alcoser 5pts.

Young Legend Flames over Boom Ballers, 37 – 22. Young Legends – Jahiem Ciego 12pts; Guy Sutherland 8pts. Boom Ballers – Joshua Westby 8pts; Ahmaud Patnett 5pts.

Orange Court Generals over Shuga City Boys, 33 – 27. OCG – Jayden Sutherland 14pts; Anigi Conoquie and Isaiah Martinez 4pts each. Shuga City – Dreymon Casimiro 7 pts; Dion Ciego 6pts.

One Shot over King’s Park Raiders, 45 – 23. One Shot – Alfonso Audinett 16pts; Harlon Goff 8pts. Raiders – Dantae Smith 6pts; Leo Lodge 5pts.

Gorilla Cutz over Orange Court Generals, 43 – 30. Gorilla Cutz – Jahred Phillips 21pts; OCG – Anigi Conoquie 14pts.

Tropic Air Defenders over Big Dream Ballers, 39 – 27. Defenders – Jarvis Usher 9pts; Michael Goff 8pts.

Big Dream Ballers – Alexander Croft 9pts; Jaheed Ferrera 8pts.

Young Legend Flames over 501 Gators, 48 – 35. Young Legends – Azali Lambert 15pts; Jahiem Ciego 15pts. 501 Gators – Lyndon Gentle 10pts; Tristin Martinez and Corey Garbutt 6 pts each.

OPEN

New Release over BDF Ballers, 56 – 39. New Release – Felix Martinez 19pts; Kiedel Lino 8pts. BDF – Marcus Ifield 16pts; Lansden Blease 7pts.

Flight 822 over Chiefs, 39 – 24. Flight 822 – Brandon Flowers 9pts; Steven Williams 8pts. Chiefs – Travis Lennon 7pts; Darnell Galvez and Alejandro Baptist 4 pts each.

Flight 822 over Orange Court Generals, 28 – 27. Flight 822 – Brandon Flowers 9pts; Lisani Lambey 6pts. OCG – Gilbert Davis 6pts.

Westland over San Pedro Palapa Boys, 40 – 28. Westland – Ryan Michael 15pts; Alexander Ellis 10pts. Palapa Boys – Kirk Burgess 13pts;

Ashton Alvarez 3pts.

Belama Gators over Falcons, 48 – 41. Belama – Oliver Solis 14pts; Deven Mckenzie 9pts. Falcons – Matildo Gordon 12pts; Kevin Hamilton 12pts.

Saturday, March 19, at Santa Elena Sports Complex

U22

Shiesty Ballers over Cayo Black Rose, 40 – 39. Shiesty Ballers – Shawn Menzies 16pts; Jaylon Hibberd 14pts. Cayo Black Rose – Ryan Duran 19pts; Kyslon Kisling 10pts.

Upcoming Week 7 schedule

Ahmadiyya Basketball League’s Season 7 Week 7 games will be held on Sunday, March 27, at the Mexico Center (Marion Jones Stadium Compound). Please be on time for scheduled games.

Sunday, March 27, Mexico Center

9:00 a.m. – (Court 1 - U15) ABS Hard Rock vs Lord’s Bank Conquerors; (Court 2 – U15) Young Ballers vs Los Lagos Defenders.

10:00 a.m. – (Court 1 – U18) All Star Ballers vs 501 Grizzlies; (Court 2 – U22) Northside Ballers vs Gorilla Cutz.

11:00 a.m. – (Court 1 – Open) San Pedro Palapa Boys vs BDF Ballers; (Court 2 – Open) Orange Walk Dynapros vs Caye Caulker Stingrayz.

12:00 noon – (Court 1 – Lord’s Bank Conquerors vs Young Ballers; (Court 2 – Open) New Release vs Complex Titans.

1:00 p.m. – (Court 1 – U18) Riverside Bombers vs Future Shock; (Court 2 – Open) San Pedro Palapa Boys vs Caye Caulker Stingrayz.

2:00 p.m. – (Court 1 – U22) Cayo Black Rose vs One Shot; (Court 2 – U18) All Star Ballers vs Ladyville Big Dreams.

3:00 p.m. – (Court 1 – U22) King’s Park Raiders vs Boom Ballers; (Court 2 – U22) Big Dream Ballers vs Orange Court Generals.

4:00 p.m. – (Court 1 – Open) Orange Court Generals vs Chiefs; (Court 2 – U22) One Shot vs 501 Gators.

Caesar Ridge gains first point at Week 7 of Top League Closing Season

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Mar. 24, 2022

It’s been a long time coming for the youngsters who stepped up from Belize City 1st Division football to try and tangle with the some of the giants of the former Premier League of Belize (PLB) in the recently constituted Football Federation of Belize (FFB) Top League, which featured some former PLB clubs while others are waiting for the legal obstacles to be settled for a return to full time PLB action around August of this year. After six straight losses in this Top League 2021-22 Closing Season, including a few close calls where they gave good account of themselves, Caesar Ridge FC finally surprised one of the big teams, when they came from behind on the road to come away with a 1-1 draw against Altitude FC at the M.A. Stadium in Independence this past Saturday night.

All three Top League Week 7 games were played on Saturday night, March 19.

In a neutral turf game at the Marshalleck Stadium, all the scoring was in first half, as Verdes FC kept their record perfect with a 2-1 win over a game Garden City FC. Shaking the net for Verdes were Norman Anderson (17’) and Juan Carlos Lopez (36’), while Shaun Young (31’) scored a beauty from the edge of the eighteen for Garden City.

San Pedro Pirates FC was at home at the Ambergris Stadium, where the

visitors’ “Walk like a Dragon” rising star Warren Moss (15’) gave the visiting Wagiya SC a 1-nil first half lead. The “iron-men” Pirates, who have not allowed more than 1 goal in any game this season, got a second half reply from Mario Chimal (70’) to secure the 1-1 draw.

And it was another close encounter down at the M.A. Stadium in Independence, where home standing Altitude FC were getting comfortable with a 1-nil first half lead through Andres Orozco (38’); but the young Caesar Ridge FC squad was undaunted, and their talented midfield/striker Naim “Neemo” Wilson (60’) knotted the score at 1-1 in second half, and it stayed that way for regulation. 1-1 draw, Altitude FC and Caesar Ridge FC.

The timing could not be better for Caesar Ridge to gain their first point in the season, because their next scheduled game, after a break in competition this weekend for the International Friendly, will be at home at the MCC where they host the “undisputed, undefeated,” Concacaf-bound, defending Top League champion, Verdes FC. Verdes has already secured the Concacaf berth, and needs only one more victory to mathematically clinch their second Top

League championship, since there are no playoffs; but the game will be meaningful, especially for Caesar Ridge, for bragging purposes, and as they contemplate their possible admittance into the next PLB competition. To add to the intrigue, Verdes is the only team without a loss in the tournament, and Caesar Ridge remains the only team without a win. See you at the MCC on Sunday, April 3.

TEAM	W	D	L	GF	GA	Diff	Pts
Verdes FC	7	0	0	20	2	18	21
San Pedro FC	4	2	1	7	2	5	14
Altitude FC	3	2	2	8	6	2	11
Garden City FC	1	3	3	5	11	-6	6
Wagiya SC	1	2	4	4	11	-7	5
Caesar Ridge FC	0	1	6	3	15	-12	1

TEAM	PLAYER	Goals
Verdes FC	Juan Carlos Lopez	5
Verdes FC	Krisean Lopez	4
Garden City FC	Shaun Young	3
Altitude FC	Andres Orozco Sarabia	3
Verdes FC	Jovann Ramos	3
Wagiya SC	Warren Moss	3
Altitude FC	Jordan Castillo	2

(Twenty-four players have 1 goal apiece.)



DFC Launches New Citrus Loan Product to support Small, Medium and Large Citrus Farmers in support of the Revitalization of Belize's Citrus Industry.

The Development Finance Corporation (DFC) has launched a new Loan Product to support small, medium and large citrus farmers, aptly titled, DFC's Citrus Revitalization Loans. This product aims to provide the financial support citrus farmers need at this critical juncture, to aid in the revitalization of Belize's Citrus Industry. This financing is to contribute to the short-term objective of increasing citrus production from 1.5 million boxes to 3 million boxes over a period of 5 years; and in the medium-term; to increase citrus production from 1.5 million boxes to 5 million boxes of citrus in 10 years.

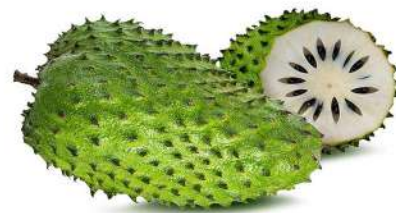
With this loan financing starting as low as 5.5%, farmers will be able to access Working Capital loans to Rehabilitate economically feasible, existing citrus groves and access Capital Investment Loans for the Replanting of old citrus groves affected by the HLB disease, commonly known as Citrus Greening. The goal is to rehabilitate 1,500 acres and replant 1,309 acres of citrus using Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). A component of this product is also for existing farmers to be able to Diversify their crops into high potential tropical fruits, namely pineapple, soursop and coconuts.

Small Farmers delivering less than \$10,000 boxes can access \$5,000 to \$250,000, medium sized farmers delivering less than 50,000 boxes can access \$5,000 to \$500,000 and Large farmers delivering above 50,000 boxes can access \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 in financing.

This initiative is in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise via its Citrus Working Group (CWG), appointed in 2021. The CWG, under the chairmanship of Mr. Hugh O' Brien includes representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, Directorate of Foreign Trade, Citrus Products of Belize Limited (CPBL), Citrus Growers Association (CGA), Belize Citrus Mutual (BCM), Citrus Research and Education Institution (CREI) and the Development Finance Corporation.

Mr. Hugh O' Brien shared, "This innovative loan program is well designed to facilitate access by interested citrus farmers and is only one of the many initiatives being launched by the Government of Belize to rebuild confidence in the citrus industry and put it on a firm path of revival."

Citrus farmers can learn how they can apply for a Citrus Revitalization Loan by contacting DFC's Dangriga branch at 522-3041, DFC's Cayo Branch at 822-2350 / 60 or by visiting DFC's website at www.dfcbelize.org



As Low As

5.5%

**REHABILITATE.
REPLANT.
DIVERSIFY.**



CITRUS REVITALIZATION LOANS
Attractive **Loan Terms.**

522 - 3041 / 42 | info@dfcbelize.org

CLASSIFIED ADS

NOTICE

NOTICE: The boat was full blue outside with three white stripes located from the bow to the stern. It was flipped over by the huge waves caused by the strong breeze; the name at the boat is: Tre'shawn, license number 2909 along the side; the boat captain: Brandon Yarde.

NOTICE: Babysitting service available. Safe and quiet Belama neighborhood, experienced babysitter, limits 3 children. For more information message on WhatsApp 607-3844.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE:

Notice is hereby given that **Rosendo Ruperto Howe** is applying for a Restaurant and Bar Liquor License to be operated at Tanah Beer Box, San Antonio Village, Cayo District, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE:

Notice is hereby given that **Daniel Hilton** is applying for a Liquor



Caesar Ridge gains first...

Continued from Page 26

TOP LEAGUE SEASON BREAKS THIS WEEKEND FOR CONCACAF INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY ON SUNDAY, MARCH 27, AT 4:00 P.M. - BELIZE JAGUARS VS CUBA AT

License to be operated at The Sicilian Pier, BTL Park, Barrack Road, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

THE FFB STADIUM IN BELMOPAN.

Top League Week 8 schedule:

Saturday, April 2

7:00 p.m. – Altitude FC vs San Pedro Pirates FC – M.A. Stadium in Independence

Sunday, April 3

4:00 p.m. – Caesar Ridge FC vs Verdes FC – MCC Grounds

4:00 p.m. – Wagiya SC vs Garden City FC – Carl Ramos Stadium



St. John's College VACANCIES



St. John's College, Belize City, invites applications from suitably qualified persons for the full-time positions of:

1) Librarian

Responsibilities

- Manage and develop the library programs
- Collection Development – acquire educational and recreations reading and reference books
- Maintain and updated relevant collection to satisfy the needs of the College Division Curricula
 - Collect, store, circulate and disseminate information
- Assist with professional and personal development needs of students, faculty, and staff
 - Provide Library training for all new students
 - Conduct training session on how to conduct a research and use the library
- Transition the library collection to an automated library management program
- Willing to pursue a Library Degree
- Any other duties assigned

Qualifications/Requirements

- Minimum of a Bachelor's Degree in any subject area from an accredited institution
- Interest in library work; experience working in a public library or school library would be an asset
- Familiar with and supportive of the mission of St. John's College
- Integral part of the learning services at St. John's College
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Basic computer skills including knowledge of Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel
- Interacts effectively and positively with a large and diverse student body, faculty, and administrators
- Effective team player
- Bilingual (English and Spanish)

2) Operations Officer

Responsibilities

- Oversee the daily operations of the institution including the maintenance of physical facilities, campus access, and environmental upkeep
- Supervise the Maintenance Services, Custodial Services, and the Security Services in the proper execution of daily duties
- Liaise with the public and private entities such as Belize City Council, Waste Control, Traffic Department, and Insurance agencies
- Assure that all campus vehicles are properly certified and maintained for road use
- Handle the usage and issuance of keys for all buildings
- Communicate and coordinate directly with the Division Heads in the physical organization and set up for campus events
- Book appointment for facility and vehicle rentals
- Any other duties as directed by the President

Qualifications/Requirements

- Associate or Bachelor's Degree in related field
- Minimum of three years work related experience
- Knowledge of general electrical, plumbing, air-conditioning, masonry work, and mechanical systems would be an asset
- Familiar with and supportive of the mission of St. John's College
- Strong leadership qualities
- Able to improvise in planning and execution of tasks

- Promote strict standards as it pertains to professionalism and work ethics
- Good computer skills including knowledge of Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel
- Good written and verbal communication skills

3) Computer Lab Technician (two)

Job Description: The computer lab technician would be responsible for installing, modifying, and maintaining the College's existing systems (software and website). The ideal technician would need to study the systems' technical capabilities and operations, handle timely task scheduling, file system adjustment, manage local and cloud storage, and liaise with other departments for updating requirements of the system.

Responsibilities

- Install, revise, enhance, and update the current customized College system software to optimize performance
- Research from the College personnel any technical problems in system management, programming, or operations and resolve issues timely
- Implement system backup procedures and participate in recovery operations in the event of system failure or data lost
- Test and review any updates or enhancements made to systems and ensure quality of service
- Plan, install, and implement equipment and interfaces necessary for maintenance, storage, and ensuring database security and integrity
- Review and document systems, access, upgrades, protection measures, failures, and corrective actions as directed
- Provide technical assistance to users and technical personnel as it relates to the College's systems
- Keep abreast of new developments and innovations in networking, hardware, and software
- Provide recommendations for continuous enhancements and implement proper user facilities and procedures for College's systems
- Any other duties assigned

Qualifications/Requirements

- Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science, Information Technology, or related field (preferred)
- Minimum of three years working experience
- Familiar with and supportive of the mission of St. John's College
- Knowledge in Windows Server, server virtualization, and intermediary devices configuration
- Strong hardware and software troubleshooting skills
- Familiarity of Wamp Server and batch scripting would be an asset
- Knowledge of code writing in Java, PHP, JavaScript, CSS and HTML

Remuneration: In accordance with Ministry of Education's Pay Scale

Application Deadline: Thursday, 7th April 2022

Application: Application form is available at the Office of the President or at www.sjc.edu.bz

Send or deliver completed application form along with cover letter, resume, official sealed transcript, copy of degree, two recent references, and copy of Social Security card to:

Human Resources
St. John's College
P.O. Box 548
Belize City, Belize C.A.
Tel: 501-223-3732
E-mail: hr@sjc.edu.bz



PUBLIC NOTICE

Parking Meters Pilot Project

The Belize City Council's Traffic Department hereby informs the general public of the impending commencement of the:

PARKING METERS PILOT PROJECT as of MONDAY, APRIL 4th, 2022

As we go through this one-year Pilot Project, here's what residents need to know: Starting Monday, April 4th, 2022, those conducting business within the following areas are to make use of the parking meters provided by the Belize City Council. Areas include:



NEWTOWN BARRACKS from the exit of Ramada by Wyndham Princess Belize City to Midtown Restaurant



ALBERT STREET from its intersection with Orange Street to its intersection with Dean Street.

To ensure a seamless transitional period, parking meter assistants will be available in these areas to provide assistance to the general public. Likewise, the Council will continue to provide updates through notices and education campaigns within the upcoming weeks to properly sensitize the public on how to use these newly installed devices.

Residents are encouraged to participate in the Parking Meters Public Meeting on April 7th, 2022.

Remember to look out for more information about this project!

Zee Edgell is laid to rest

The ashes of the beloved Belizean writer along with those of her husband, Alvin, were scattered in the Caribbean Sea this week. In honor of them both, the Edgell family has launched two scholarships for Belizean students.



Zee Edgell

by *Khaila Gentle*

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Mar. 24, 2022

This past weekend, the children of renowned Belizean writer Zelma "Zee" Edgell and Alvin "Al" Edgell celebrated the lives of their parents with a funeral service held at Holy Redeemer Parish on Saturday and a trip on Sunday to English Caye, where their ashes were scattered in the nearby sea. Zee—one of Belize's most internationally acclaimed authors, who penned the novels *Beka Lamb* and *In Times like These*, among others—passed away on Sunday, December 20, 2020, in her home in

St. Louis, Missouri, at the age of 80 after having battled with leukemia. Her husband, Alvin, with whom she raised two children—Holly and Randall—passed away in May of that year.

The funeral service held on Sunday saw numerous friends, family members, and fans in attendance, with Lisa M Shoman delivering Zee

Edgell's eulogy and Mr. Owen "Sonny" Meighan reading the eulogy of Alvin Edgell. After the mass, some of Zee and Al's ashes were interred at the Lord Ridge Cemetery, while on Sunday the remainder was scattered into the Caribbean Sea.

Zee Edgell was not only a novelist but an educator as well—having taught at Saint Catherine Academy from 1966 to 1968. During those years, she also became the founding editor of *The Reporter* and married Alvin Edgell, who had been working with the international developmental organization Save The Children. The two would go on to share a happy

marriage for 50 years.

Zee's book, *Beka Lamb*, was written in 1982 and quickly gained international acclaim after winning Britain's Fawcett Society Book Prize. The novel, the first novel published in a post-independence Belize, follows its titular character as she navigates the struggles of coming of age.

"On a warm November day, Beka Lamb won an essay contest at St. Cecilia's Academy, situated not far from the front gate of His Majesty's Prison on Milpa Lane," reads the first line. The winning of that essay contest is what goes on to change the life of the young Creole girl named Beka. And the family of Zee Edgell

is hoping that they can similarly help to change the lives of young scholars. In memory of Zee and Al Edgell, the family is offering two scholarships to Belizean students. And as part of the application process, students will be asked to write an essay.

"In *Beka Lamb*, winning an essay contest marks an important turning point in the life of Beka. It's with this in mind that my family is proud to announce the Zee & Al Edgell Memorial Scholarship," announced Holly Edgell on social media. Since then, the family has been hard at work raising the funds needed to provide the scholarships. Anyone wishing to donate can do so by visiting <https://gofund.me/ddfca87b>.

Sunday Review News Review Talk Show

On Krem TV & Krem Radio

Live-streaming on Krem Television Face Book Page

Host: YaYa Marin Coleman

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

Guest: Miguel Ico/Valley of Peace resident

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

Order in the House!!

Continued from Page 1

budget were debated only briefly between the members of the current administration and the Opposition members on the other side of the House before the exchange between the two sides got out of control and resulted in the Speaker of the House, Valerie Woods, having to clap to get the attention of members while herself standing as certain members of the House remained on their feet—an act of disrespect to the post of Speaker and an infringement on the Standing Orders of the House.

The back and forth which led to a temporary suspension of the House began during a presentation by the Fort George area representative, Hon. Henry Charles Usher.

Usher, during his address to the House, stated, “Just last night on the news he [the current Leader of the Opposition, Moses “Shyne” Barrow] named a who’s who of worthless UDP characters that he has surrounded himself with...” By this time, Barrow, the area representative for the Mesopotamia constituency, returned to the chamber to invoke a standing order in an attempt to put an end to Usher’s verbal attack.

“Mr. Speaker, the member from Fort George needs to stick to the budget...trying to eviscerate me with personal attacks is not a part of the debate,” Barrow said.

At the time, Marconi Leal, the area representative of Belize Rural Central and Deputy Speaker of the House, was filling in for Speaker Woods, and cautioned Minister Henry Charles Usher to avoid the personal attacks and stick to the contents of the budget—but the accusations continued, and soon after, Speaker Woods returned, only to find the House in chaos.

“He needs to go and find and bring back Rene Montero so that Rene Montero could face the music. If you are serious about it, then you need to do that,...” Minister Usher further quipped. Barrow replied, “You need to bring your father, to face justice for stealing 20 million dollars.”

The Speaker of the House had not even taken her seat, and indeed was still standing when Prime Minister John Briceno rose, not on a point of order, but to demand that Barrow “pull back” what he said. He remained standing, despite the fact that the Speaker was still on her feet. “Members, I just walked into this chamber,” Speaker Woods said as she took her seat. The infringement on the Standing Orders would continue to be seen as the verbal melee went on.

It must be noted that Standing Order 43(2) states, “When the Speaker, or Chairman, rises during a Debate any Member then speaking or wishing to speak shall immediately resume his seat, and the House or the Committee shall be silent.”

“If I point out, Madam Speaker, since you just stepped in, he just accused the former Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Said Musa, about stealing 20 million dollars; that’s what he said just now, so I am demanding that he takes

that statement back.” PM Briceno said.

Barrow replied, “The former prime minister was arrested and accused in a court of law for stealing 20 million dollars...” Briceno responded, “On trumped-up charges that your father did!”

By this time, Speaker Woods had to raise her voice before the Leader of the Opposition took his seat, and both sides continued to cast aspersions at each other.

Barrow shouted, “Unu da the biggest thief...”, which prompted Speaker Woods to caution him. “Leader of the Opposition...,” she said, but before her words were fully out of her mouth, the area representative of Orange Walk South, Hon. Jose Abelardo Mai, retorted, “and you da wa criminal...”

Speaker Woods then exclaimed, “Macebearer, I am calling you to attention! Members! Members! Leader of the Opposition, I am going to have to ask you to take that back.”

Initially, Barrow refused to withdraw his statement, and the sitting was suspended so that the House speakers could view the recording of what transpired. When she returned, she ordered both Barrow and Mai to withdraw the statements made during the heated exchange. Both did so reluctantly.

Woods stated, following a review of the recording, “In my absence, the Deputy Speaker cautioned about personal attacks. I have cautioned before about personal attacks. I have signalled to the macebearer that we will proceed with today’s sitting and that of tomorrow...and I have reminded him of standing order 44, particularly 44(3)(b)—unparliamentary language, behaviour, that is not becoming and after the efforts of asking you to withdraw those words from this House, the macebearer has the right to escort you out for the rest of the day’s sitting. It does not matter to me, members, if you sit on the government side or if you sit on the opposition side.”

The House meeting went on until about 5 o’clock today and ended with the Speaker of the House giving a reminder to House members of the importance of giving a notice of absence. On the Opposition side of the House, only Barrow and Hon. Tracy Taegar Pantan were present for the debate.

“I also wanted to remind members and really ask for your support on both sides. We do have what they call political whips for both sides, but to kindly work with members for those who do not attend House meetings; that’s standing order 84. The office of the clerk really ought to be notified. If the office of the clerk is not notified, please know for the record that is not regarded as an absence that has been duly cited with notice.” Speaker Woods said.

The sitting continues tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. We will have details of the budget estimates in the Tuesday issue of the AMANDALA following the conclusion of the debate.

Tracy vs Shyne on Sunday

Continued from Page 1

allowed one hour in which to cast a vote and they, like those who had voted before them, will be choosing between two candidates, Mrs. Tracy Pantan, the 2-time area representative for the Albert constituency, and freshman Mesopotamia area representative, Moses “Shyne” Barrow.

The UDP Secretariat has stated that its National Party Council agreed to use the same list of 516 delegates that was used during a recent convention held in July of last year in response to a petition to recall then party leader Patrick Faber, and that list was finalized on February 26.

There will, however, be some notable absences, since two prominent delegates on that list have passed away: namely Herbert Pantan, the late husband of Tracy Pantan, who died on March 2, and former UDP leader Sir Manuel Esquivel, who died on February 2, 2022.

The Pantan campaign team refused an offer by the UDP’s central executive and her opponent to delay the election by a few months in the face of her sudden loss, and alternate delegates for both deceased men as well as three other delegates who have been verified by the Secretariat to have resigned from their membership or are ill, were chosen.

Sunday’s election will be the culmination of a campaign that kicked off in the first week in February two months ago when the UDP’s National Party Council decided to put into effect former UDP leader Patrick Faber’s videotaped declaration of his resignation after his fiancée filed and withdrew charges of domestic abuse.

Faber had survived an attempt to

recall him at a convention held in July 2021, when his opponents, including the UDP Caucus for Change that had spearheaded a recall petition that triggered the convention, failed to get the requisite two-third majority of the delegates to support the recall. (On July 11, 2021, although 290 delegates had signed a petition demanding a recall, only 257 of the 483 votes (53%) cast supported the recall at the convention.)

Faber was elected to be the UDP’s deputy party leader on May 30, 2016, but lost his bid on February 9, 2020, to become longtime party leader Rt. Hon. Dean Barrow’s successor when his opponent, John Saldivar, received 342 votes while he, Faber, received 277 votes. Saldivar would be forced to resign from the post within days of winning the nomination following a campaign finance scandal.

Subsequently, at yet another convention on July 13, 2020, Patrick Faber became UDP leader when he received 286 votes to John Saldivar’s 267 votes (Wilfred Elrington received 10 votes and there were 4 rejected ballots) after 567 delegates cast their votes.

This Sunday, whichever of the two candidates (Tracy Pantan or LOO Barrow) receives more than 50% of the votes cast will be declared the new leader of the party.

Party officials are hoping that at least 70% of the 516 eligible voting delegates will attend Sunday’s election from all 31 constituencies. They fear fatigue following the November 2020 devastating general election loss and are also concerned that the continuing controversies may dampen turnout and signal a prolonging of the party’s doldrums—an extended period of poor election performances.

7-year-old drowns in Santa Familia

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Primary School, had been left in the care of her “godmother”, a retired Canadian national who had been acquainted with her family for about two years, while her parents traveled to Belize City to visit the Vital Statistics Office. According to the girl’s mother, Marina Vidal, the child was left in the care of the Canadian woman, Mary Arnold, only because the woman had insisted that the young girl stay with her.

Vidal also stated that the child was not able to swim, and for that reason she had instructed Arnold (who had reportedly been paying Thompson’s school fees) not to take her to the river. Nevertheless, Arnold, with whom little Thompson had reportedly been staying since Sunday, took the child on Monday to play in the river.

According to the 25-year-old mother, it was while she and her husband were on their way back to Cayo that she received a call indicating that something was wrong. But it wasn’t until she arrived

at Arnold’s home in Carmelita Gardens that she learned Thompson had drowned after being taken to the river, despite her instructions. Vidal found her daughter motionless and covered with a white sheet, near the river about one mile away from Arnold’s house.

According to Arnold’s account of what happened, the young girl had gone after a rubber toy that floated away from her when she was swept away by the current and ended up in deep water. Arnold claims that she attempted to rescue the child but was knocked over by the rapidly moving water several times. She said that when she realized that she wasn’t strong enough to save the child, she went to get help. But by that time, it was too late. Ultimately, a teenage boy reportedly retrieved the child from the water, and after an unsuccessful attempt at CPR, Thompson was taken to the hospital, where she was pronounced dead.

Those wishing to assist Thompson’s parents with funds to cover funeral and burial costs can contact them at 634 0992.

Belize/Ukraine

There are many reasons why everyone should be rooting for Ukraine, in the struggle to survive against the Russian onslaught. We Belizeans should really hope that Ukraine wins, or at least draws even with Russia, because we know that Guatemala is watching. You might think that I'm going too far, but if Russia succeeds in subjugating these people, what's to stop other countries with similar claims on neighboring states? Guatemala has had designs on the Jewel for many decades! You also would think that now that we're in the 21st century, now that Belize is an independent nation, recognized around the world as such, that the nationalistic yearnings of Guatemala would have been tempered. But no, their maps, their history and civic lessons, still include the fallacy that Belice es parte de Guatemala! Every Guatemalan child believes this, even as they cross the border every morning into Benque Viejo to go to school. Maybe the Education department should try to dispel that

notion by teaching Belizean history everyday, especially for the benefit of the misinformed Guatemalan students.

I remember in the 1980s, when the indigenous people in the Peten and elsewhere were almost entirely wiped out by Rios Montt and his generals, sanctioned by Ronald Reagan! It was unbelievable cruelty, the slaughter of innocents who were only hoping to be treated equally, not to have their lands divvied up by the rich landowners, who were mostly all of European descent. There were protests about this genocide, but for the most part, it was ignored. You see, the Mayans didn't have any power, or representation, so they were pillaged and raped and murdered, and at the time, no one was held accountable! Since then, of course, there have been investigations and trials, but the damage had already been done. The army was used to kill its own, mercilessly, and this went on for years.

If it turns out that Russia

overwhelms Ukraine, sets up their quislings to run the country, obliterate the borders and any opposition, it would just embolden others who have similar nefarious ambitions. China comes to mind, with Taiwan, and for us, Guatemala! Could you imagine what they would do to the population of Belize? Over 200,000 people were killed, 40,000 were disappeared in that civil war. That's what the military did to their own people! What do you think they'd do to us? I hope we never have to find out.

At this moment we can't take

anything for granted. We've already given away a whole chunk of our homeland, for peanuts. We should never let our guards down, and must build lasting alliances that will serve as a moat against the Guatemalan wet dream. Not an inch, not Hunting Caye, not the Sarstoon, our half, nada! They're already doing the Trojan horse thing, through legal migration. If we don't remain steadfast and vigilant and determined, we could become the next Ukraine, without all the outrage and support that they're receiving. No mas!

Governor-General receives Order of Saint Michael and Saint George

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nations who have provided extraordinary or loyal service.

Dame Froyla Tzalam, who is of Mopan Maya descent, is an anthropologist and the second woman to ever be appointed to serve as Belize's Governor-General. She was appointed less than a year ago, on May 27, 2021, and succeeded Sir Colville Young, the country's previous Governor General.

At the investiture ceremony, held at the San Ignacio Resort Hotel, Prince William also bestowed the Order of Knighthood and the title of Sir upon businessman Ralph Feinstein, the founder and chairman of Benny's Enterprises Limited, for his contributions to the country in the form of entrepreneurial leadership. Despite being semi-retired, Feinstein currently acts as a consultant to the family firm, whose most recent enterprises include property development and agriculture.

The Duke also awarded commemorative Platinum Jubilee

medals to several frontline workers and public officers. Among the awardees were Lance Corporal Arsenio Coy, for exemplary service shown during the response to Hurricane Eta in November 2020; BDF Captain Dr. Jamaal Elijio (who was infected with Covid-19 on several occasions while working on the frontlines) for his service during the pandemic; and Sergeant Thomas Itch for his past work in anti-narcotics operations.

The commemorative medal features an image of the Queen and the phrase "Elizabeth II, by the Grace of God, Queen, Defender of the Faith" inscribed in Latin.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Governor-General Dame Froyla Tzalam gave a toast to the Queen, after which Prince William spoke briefly with the awardees. The Duke of Cambridge was also gifted with a painting by local artist Alex Sanker which depicts the kiss shared between Prince William and his wife Duchess Kate Middleton on their wedding day.



Sir Ralph Feinstein, Prince Williams, and GG Dame Tzalam

"Cox" laid to rest

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of the typical vibe at the tire shop, which has become an institution in the Lake Independence community. Over the weekend, Baptist, the founder and owner of Cox Tire Shop, passed away, reportedly due to complications brought on by a recent surgery.

Cox's work in the community has uplifted many young men who would otherwise be victims of the street. His contribution — an open door for young people desirous of learning and working — has changed the lives of many young men in the community.

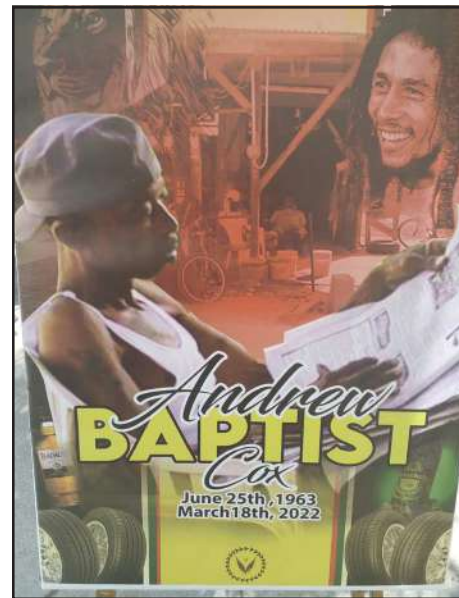
His son, Ernest Foreman, said that Baptist was a mentor to him and many other youths in the community, always

offering a safe space for those young minds to be developed.

"You always come to Cox when you need help, and Cox was never turn you back. If you broke round yah soh and you willing fi work, he wa always welling fi [you] do a thing and make a money," Foreman said. "Cox was always a fun-loving guy, you know; as long as you nuh cross ah, everything goh good, and everybody knows the boss; he haffi deh up pan money. Yo know he da smart man; aside from that he teach me fi be me, fi be a man, fi operate round people, gain respect and give respect," Foreman went on to say.

Cox's longtime friend, Arthur Randall Bryant, remarked, "he show everybody how to make one cent to be a dollar; afterward from the youth goh to me. I'm 75 years old. I'm the last one ih talk to [going] into ih vehicle. Ih seh, 'Arthur, take care of yoself,' and that is all."

Cox was laid to rest today, following a ceremony that was held in front of his iconic shop on Vernon Street. As seen in the photo used along with this article, Cox was a long-time supporter of the AMANDALA and one of the fellow black community employers on the southside of Belize City. We express our deepest condolences to the family and friends of Andrew "Cox" Baptist and join in mourning his passing. May he rest in peace.



Realm or Republic?

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monarchs visit our country. What is there to celebrate? When we get our reparations, the money that is owed to us, the apology that is owed to us, and we become a republic and from the monarch, then we can celebrate, then they can come as quasi-celebrities and vacate, but this entire prestige that is given to people who enslaved, I guess everybody was not enslaved, and I guess some of the people who

weren't enslaved feel, well, that has nothing to do with me, but it does," Barrow said.

Jamaican prime minister, Andrew Holness, in announcing that nation's intention to transition to a republic in December 2021, added that the switch cannot be one based on "empty symbolism", noting, "there are some people who want to speak prosperity into being, speak sovereignty and independence into being. My philosophy is that we must do these things into being."

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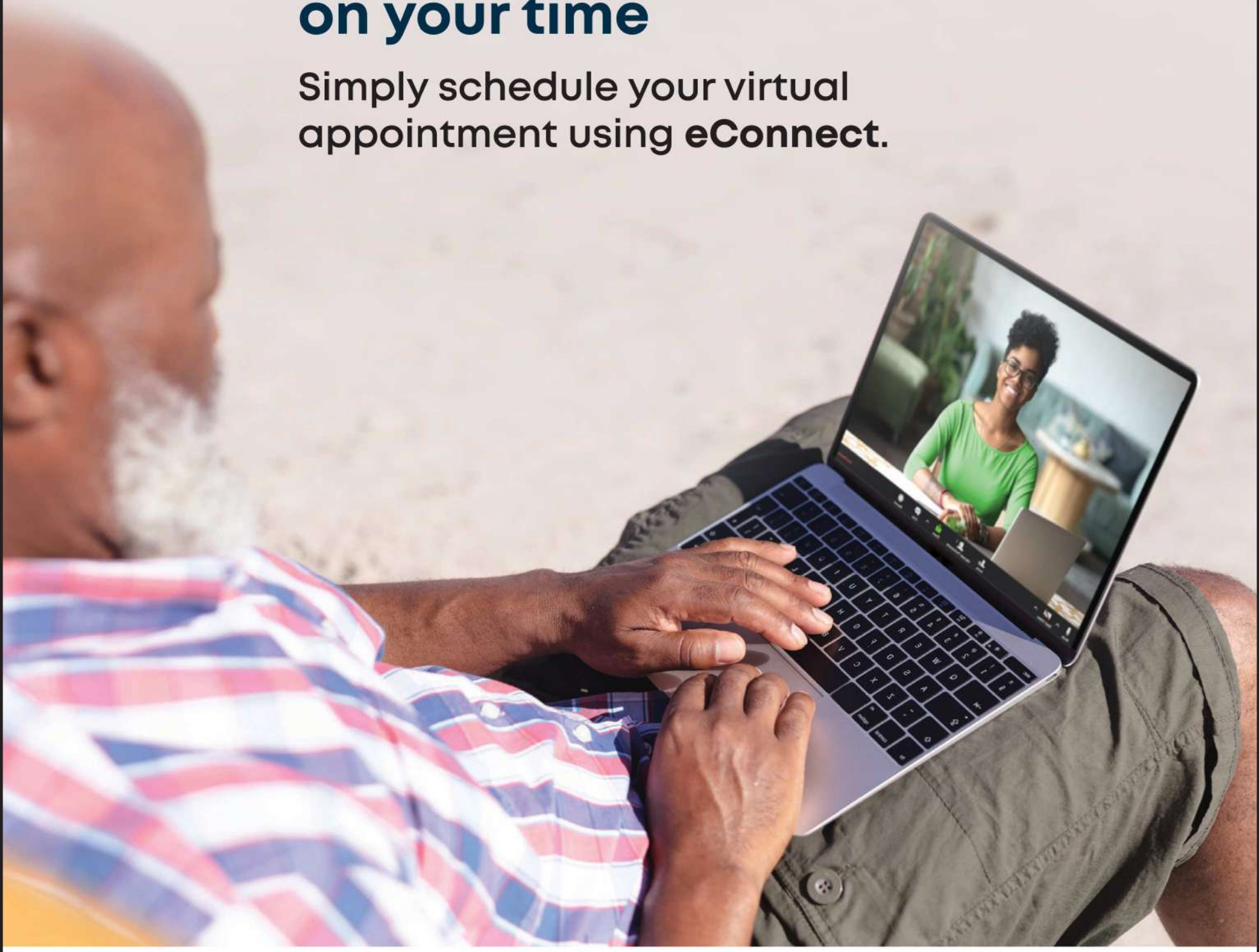
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