

AMANDALA



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FRIDAY ISSUE

BELIZE

Belize's leading newspaper

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BELIZE CITY, FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 2022

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Belize "legalizes it!"

The bill for the legalization of cannabis, read for the third time today, was supported in its drafted form by the government side in the Senate, but due to serious concerns raised, further amendments will be announced.



BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Mar. 31, 2022

Yesterday, the Senate passed into law the Cannabis and Industrial Hemp Control and Licensing Bill of 2022, which, in conjunction with the recently amended version of the Misuse of Drugs Act, legalizes the recreational use, commercial production and sale of cannabis throughout the country of Belize. The laws legalize cannabis use for adults only and put in place a framework for the rollout of the

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Senate debates 2022-2023 budget

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Mar. 31, 2022

After over 8 hours of debate in the Senate yesterday, the budget for this coming fiscal year, 2022-2023, was passed into law. The 1.3-billion-dollar budget is reportedly the largest in Belize's history, but according to the Prime Minister, it is being rolled out at a time when stormy economic headwinds are projected. Senator Eamon Courtenay, Leader of Government Business in the Senate, went to great lengths during his defense of the budget to present a catalog of accomplishments of the current administration that resulted from what he considers prudent management over the last year.

"The projected outturn, as set out in the revenue estimates, is one billion, one hundred and ninety-two million, approximately nineteen

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Family of US man murdered in Belize receives \$3.3 Mil

Eight years after US national Tim McNamara was murdered on Belizean soil, his children have won the civil murder suit brought against his alleged killer: Tracy Nessler, McNamara's niece, whom he had married in 2013.



Tim McNamara and alleged killer, Tracy Nessler

by Khaila Gentle

WASHINGTON STATE, USA, Fri. Mar. 25, 2022

The children of Timothy McNamara—a US farm operator who was murdered in Belize on Christmas Day in 2014—have won the civil murder suit brought against their father's alleged killer: their cousin (McNamara's niece) whom he had married a year prior to his death. The verdict, delivered in a Washington

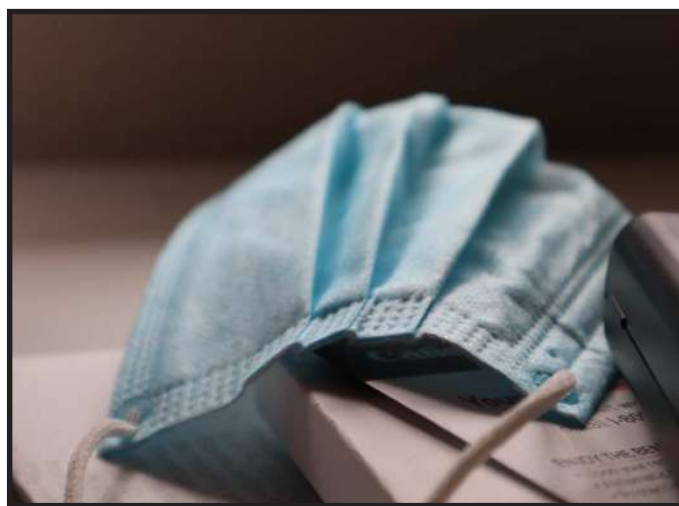
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No more masks for Belize

by Khaila Gentle

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Mar. 31, 2022

Come Friday, April 1, all COVID-19 restrictions, apart from those in place for persons crossing the border, will be lifted. This will allow all clubs and bars to open their doors to the public, and mask-wearing will no longer be required



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Sunday Wood and Conejo sign boundary agreement

This weekend, a team of powerhouse Mayan women trained in GPS and way-point mapping accompanied the leaders of Sunday Wood and Conejo to pinpoint and formally mark the boundary between the two villages, after which they signed an official treaty.



Rosa Teul – resident, Conejo Creek Village

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Mar. 30, 2022

Over the weekend, the villages of Sunday Wood and Conejo signed a boundary treaty establishing the borders between those two Toledo communities in line with the Delimitation: Principles and Methodology protocol, which calls for auto-delimiting and demarcation of Maya villages in southern Belize.

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Cayo man murdered in Belize City



Windell Neal, deceased

(See story on page 37)

Businesses pledge to support safe houses for domestic violence survivors



by *Khaila Gentle*

BELIZE CITY, Tues. Mar. 29, 2022

The National Women's Commission (NWC) partnered with the Ministry of Human Development, Families, and Indigenous Peoples' Affairs as well as the UN's Spotlight Initiative this Tuesday to host a signing ceremony during which a number of companies and local businesses pledged ongoing support to safe houses that provide shelter for domestic violence victims. Those enterprises included the Belize Water Services Limited, F.T. Williams & Associates, and FAST Construction. The area representative for Belmopan, Hon. Oscar Mira, and Belize City Councillor Javier

Castellanos were also there to pledge their support.

According to a press release issued by the NWC, the commission has been working towards enhancing the quality of services provided by safe houses, including providing added training to safe house workers and volunteers. The commission has noted that there is an urgent need for the sustained upkeep of these shelters, as they play an important role in protecting displaced victims (and survivors) of gender-based violence or human trafficking as well as their children.

In addition to thanking those entities which pledged their support, the National Women's Commission also encourages other businesses to commit to the ongoing initiative.

LIU begins school outreach program



William Cadle, chairman of the Leadership Intervention Unit

by *Charles Gladden*

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Mar. 30, 2022

As part of a Ministry of Home Affairs initiative aimed at steering youths who live in gang zones, away from a life of crime, the Leadership Intervention Unit embarked on a school outreach program earlier this week. On Monday, personnel from the LIU made a stop at the first of several Belize City schools that the unit plans to visit: Maud Williams High School. Then, on Wednesday, March 30, the LIU went to Gwen Lizarraga High School, where they spoke with 30 teens of varying ages.

"What transpired is a school outreach program that we're presently having within the different schools in Belize City. This is a collaboration the Leadership Intervention Unit is doing with the Ministry of Home Affairs, the

Ministry of Youth and Sports, and, of course, the Police Department, the Community Policing Unit. We're trying to wrap around service to support students who are in school. We know that many times gangs target young boys and girls going to school, and we think it's very important to engage [with] these young people who are in school to make sure that they understand that there's a support system that is available to help them get through school and life in a whole in Belize City," explained William Cadle, chairman of the LIU.

Cadle further remarked, "It's no secret that parenting is an issue here in Belize. In some instances, some of these young [people] really don't have that level of nurturing and assistance from their parents, and we can not play a blind eye to this. It's really evident in the classroom setting, and when you meet these young people, the lack of respect and discipline, and so in that regard we are very much cognisant that it is important to look at the root cause of crime and violence."

Anthony Campbell, a former member of the PIV gang, accompanied the members of the unit on their visit to the two high schools and spoke to the students.

"In life, you need to have people that will help guide you. Sometimes we out here don't have someone that can we can express our problems to, somebody to talk to, because some people feel because they are [a] certain level, so you're nobody. But [few] things someone listens and says can make a difference in a youth's life. This can make a youth be someone different, even though we're not seeing it. Some are here laughing and some are taking it seriously. Like right now, a little one said that he wants to talk to me. Why? Because he feels the inspiration," said Campbell.

The LIU chairman noted that the Ministry of Home Affairs has been conducting a family needs survey, which has entailed interviewing "different families to find out what their needs are" in an effort to determine "the necessary assistance that some of these family need and create that support system holistically for all the individuals across the country."

He pointed out, however, that "Belize City is where the hub of violent activity [is]", and thus the initial efforts of the unit and the Home Affairs Ministry will be targeted at Belize City youths and their families. "...We're starting here and then we branch out to the districts," he said.

That's what happened, and well, the guy said that the truck saved his life, because if it was him and the other car, maybe he would be a dead man right now. So the truck was a shield for him."

Teen dies in 3-vehicle collision

Delso Antonio Alveno, 19, a resident of Orange Walk, died in a 3-vehicle collision on the Philip Goldson Highway.



Delso Antonio Alveno, deceased

by *Charles Gladden*

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Mar. 31, 2022

Delso Antonio Alveno, 19, a resident of Orange Walk Town, lost his life on Tuesday night when the car he was driving, a Saturn Vue, collided with a dump truck heading in the opposite direction between Miles 37 and 38 on the Philip Goldson Highway near the community of River Ridge. On the heels of the collision between those two vehicles, a Ford F-150 truck that was traveling behind the dump truck slammed into the rear end of that truck—resulting in a 3-vehicle collision. The incident reportedly

occurred at about 7:30 on Tuesday night as Alveno was heading to Belize City from Orange Walk.

Initial police reports indicate that the dump truck, which was being driven by Steven Laing, 27, an Orange Walk Town resident, was heading in the direction of Orange Walk Town, when, somewhere between Miles 37 and 38, the Saturn Vue driven by Alveno allegedly crashed into the front of the truck, after which the Ford F-150, which was being driven by Jose Hernandez, 40, a resident of San Estevan village, hit the rear end of the truck.

When police arrived at the scene, Alveno was trapped inside his vehicle, while the dump truck was parked on the right side of the highway with extensive damage to its front portion and the Ford F-150 behind it.

Alveno was retrieved from his vehicle and transported to the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital for medical attention but succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced dead on arrival. Laing and Hernandez, on the other hand, received only minor injuries.

Police have since detained Laing

pending an investigation. According to a friend of an eyewitness of the accident who was interviewed by 7News, however, Laing might not have been at fault.

"... The truck was going back to Orange Walk and the car was going to Belize City and the truck was driving on his right-hand side, and there was coming to another vehicle on the back an F-150 belonging to a guy from Orange Walk, San Estevan, and the guy from Orange Walk, San Estevan, saw when the car swerved directly in front of the car and hit the truck, and upon hitting the truck, the truck lost control and swerved a little out from the roadside, actually completely out from the roadside, and well, that's what occurred, nuh," he said.

In regard to what led the F-150 truck to hit the rear end of the dump truck, he said, "...the guy that hit the back, that was because the truck spilt all the oil, which the firemen had to wash the same night, because it was a pool of oil, and the truck, the pickup coming at the back couldn't control it—that's what the driver said, and then he never hit the back of the truck; he hit the right corner of the truck.



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 Thursday, April 7th, 2022 to be held at the House of Culture starting at 6:00PM Sharp!

Remember to look out for more information about this project!

MOFA cracking down on illegal migrants/human trafficking

"Belize has a serious migration problem," said Hon. Eamon Courtenay, who has proposed that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs begin to further enforce immigration laws.

by *Khaila Gentle*

BELMOPAN, Tues. Mar. 29, 2022

In today's meeting of the Senate, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, and Immigration, Hon. Eamon Courtenay addressed the increasing number of undocumented migrants entering the country, remarking that Belize currently has a "serious migration problem." According to Hon. Courtenay, to solve this problem and reduce the number of illegal migrants entering the country, as well as the number of trafficked persons and persons using Belize as a transit point, the ministry will be enforcing local immigration laws. He added that the Ministry will be working diligently to reduce the flow of illegal migrants into Belize—stating firmly that "the laws of Belize will be applied."

"Efforts—and I'm going to be clear and unapologetic—efforts continue up until this very morning to attempt to undermine the laws of this country. People pretending that they are representing people who want refugee status, people pretending that they're representing people who should not be repatriated as the law requires. Madam President, there is a serious migration problem in this

country," stated Minister Courtenay.

A huge part of the problem, says Hon. Courtenay, is the fact that persons continue to arrive in Belize posing as asylum seekers before fleeing to other nations shortly after.

The Ministry's crackdown on immigration recently resulted in the detention of a group of nine Cuban nationals—seven adults and two minors—who were detained after being caught attempting to enter the country undocumented on February 15. This week, after having spent 50 days at the Kolbe Foundation, those persons narrowly escaped deportation and would have been placed on a flight to Cuba had the Human Rights Commission of Belize not intervened on the basis of the "Great Writ" of Habeas Corpus, a fundamental constitutional right that protects persons against unlawful imprisonment by demanding they be subjected to a fair trial in court before any action is taken against them.

Previously, in January, *AMANDALA* reported on the authorities' initial decision to deny entry to 37 passengers who arrived at the Philip Goldson International Airport aboard a COPA Airlines flight. While some of those passengers were eventually

repatriated, eight of them, all Venezuelan nationals, were allowed to stay after stating that they wished to seek refugee status. Those persons never made it to the Immigration Department to apply for asylum, however, and reports quickly surfaced that they had left the country en route to Mexico. During his address in the Senate, Minister Courtenay suggested that incidents such as these have been continuously occurring.

These two incidents and the countless others that have occurred, however, are the telltale signs of not only a migration problem but issues that are much larger, which according to UNICEF include poverty, violence, climate change, and extreme weather events, all of which have prompted persons to leave their home countries.

In the past few years, Belize and other nations have seen an uptick

in migrants as persons flee their homes in search of a better quality of life, in search of better opportunities, or out of a fear of persecution, with most of them headed to North America. As a result of this, many organizations, including the Center for Migration Studies of New York and the American Immigration Council, have begun to propose that governments pursue alternative—and more humane—approaches to tackling the migration issue rather than resorting to the detention and subsequent deportation of undocumented immigrants who are often in need of protection, as they are the most at risk of being trafficked or exploited.



New publishing company seeks to spark literary renaissance

Bent Pin Press has published its first anthology of Belizean poems and prose.



beautiful, it spoke to the Belizean experience and living as a Belizean.”

Andre Habet, the assistant editor of Bent Pin Press, pointed out that targeting unpublished and up-and-coming talented writers was also a primary motivation.

“There were a lot of people who felt like their work did not have a home space to go towards. They couldn’t imagine who would be interested in it, and so when Samantha started announcing Bent Pin Press coming about to me, I was interested in us finding those people, the people who have been writing privately for a very long time and just really

because of lack of experience, because of lack of apprenticeship, they didn’t know what it would take to get their work published, and so in one way Bent Pin Press serves as an entry point to people who I hope are published much more widely published beyond Bent Pin Press right,” Habet said.

He added, “This is hopefully just the start for them, that not only are they published here, but hopefully through other workshops, through other panels in the future we can do. I want Belizean writers to be elevated to where you know when somebody goes to a store in the United States, in the UK, in our Caribbean sisters and brothers’ countries, that they go in a store and

they see a book by a Belizean author, they recognize that name from maybe some other journal, and they want to pick up a book, you know, pick up a novel, pick up a book of poetry.”

One of the writers whose poetry is featured in this first issue of Bent Pin Press’s literary journal is the author of *Crossroads: A Collection of Poems*, Khaila Gentle, who is incidentally, also a staff writer with us here at AMANDALA. Her dexterous style of storytelling has already captivated many in Belize and abroad, with her book of poems is receiving praise and respect from various quarters. In reference to the selection of writers such as Gentle, the assistant editor of Bent Pin Press, Andre Habet, said, “it’s really just wise on our part to hitch our bandwagon on to the people who are gonna be stars.”

The team at Bent Pin Press includes its publisher and editor-in-chief, Samantha Singh; co-editor, Bianca King; and assistant editor, Andre Habet. These three are also readers of the pieces, along with Gisselle Hernandez, who is responsible for public relations, and Alina Scott.

Issue No. 1 features cover artwork by Taiwanese-Belizean artist Yaoling Lee. The cover image is one of her many personal sketches depicting everyday life in Belize. In the scene featured in this particular piece of art, people are buying fast food at a popular joint in the heart of the city, Fibbers. Singh said that her stumbling upon the piece turned out to be

serendipitous, since it meshed perfectly with the mood of the overall publication.

“It’s not the sort of piece that she typically sells; those are her sketches, personal pieces for her, as she shared with us, but it’s about the beauty that she sees in parts of Belize that other people don’t that I think is the spirit of a lot of pieces and the sort of work we are looking to publish,” Singh shared.

The hard copy of Issue No. 1 is being sold for just \$30BZD. The journal can also be purchased online on the company’s website via the link <https://www.bentpinpress.com/bookshop/p/issue-no-1>. Those interested in purchasing a copy locally can make a deposit in Bent Pin Press’s Belize

Bank account: 194099019120000, after which they can email screenshots of confirmed payment and their address to bentpinpress@gmail.com and await a message that their copy has been dispatched. The editorial board is also seeking to partner with possible vendors who would like to carry the book for sale in their stores.

The artists featured in this publication include *Abigail Gongora, Andrea N. West, Anthony Rath, Arnulfo Kantun, Cheyenne Williams, Christopher DeShield, E.A. Luna, Gerardo Polanco, Jomarie Lanza, Junell “Etheralting” Sanker, Khaila Gentle, Kory Alexander, Kyraan Gregory Gabourel, Rafael Gamero, Toni Acevedo Klassen, Ubaldimir Guerra, and Zee Edgell.*

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Mar. 30, 2022

The first issue of an annual anthology of Belizean poems and prose was officially released last Saturday by the newest publishing enterprise in the country, Bent Pin Press. The process started in March 2021, and culminated with the publication of *Issue No. 01*, which features the work of 17 Belizean storytellers whose poems and short fiction pieces made the final cut from a pool of nearly 200 submissions, according to the editor-in-chief of Bent Pin Press, Samantha Singh.

“It’s definitely been an adventure,” Singh stated, “there’s been a lot of ups and downs, and it’s also been a learning process for me, for sure, but it’s been so rewarding. It’s been so great to work with so many different writers within the country.”

That collaboration came from an effort to support Belizean writers and to reinvigorate Belize’s literary culture while creating a platform through which local artists can gain international exposure.

“I think that the real reason why we wanted to start Bent Pin Press is, we really are interested in supporting the writing community locally. It’s a personal passion, I think.... To be able to provide another place for the writers in Belize to come together and work together was really the push, and I think more than that, we wanted to have a place that is both Belize and a part of the international community, so really I think those two principles together are why we wanted to found Bent Pin,” Singh explained.

While the editorial board had no set theme in mind initially for this first issue, they said that truly intimate Belizean experiences seen through the eyes of the Belizean authors is a refrain in the content that reverberates through the entire anthology.

Singh noted, “What we ended up with, I think, came together to represent a truly Belizean experience, a very intimate personal experience that Belizeans can relate to. They are pieces as opposed to speaking to Belize as a tourism destination or a place to visit or a place that is

Senate debates 2022-2023 budget

Continued from Page 1

percent higher than was budgeted. On the expenditure side, the recurrent expenditure of one billion, two hundred and seventeen million was slightly higher than budgeted. Madam President, on any measure, on any reckoning, that is prudent stewardship by the Honorable Prime Minister and the team in the Ministry of Finance. Let us not forget, Madam President, let us not forget the historic Blue Bond negotiated by the People’s United Party and concluded by the People’s United Party. It was this government, history will recall, that

vanquished the Super Bond that was a noose around our collective necks for far too long. It was this single, brilliant Blue Bond transaction that caused this public debt – the public debt of this country, to move from one hundred and thirty-three percent of GDP to one hundred and eight percent of GDP, twenty-five percentage points, Madam President.” Senator Courtenay said.

While Senator Darrell Bradley agreed that the reduction of the debt-to-GDP ratio is indeed something that every Belizean should be proud of, he highlighted areas of overspending and pointed out that government

procurement of goods and services has still not been reined in by this administration.

“In my humble opinion, overspending when we need not be. I will just mention a few references. Page sixty of the budget under the Office of the Prime Minister, number fifty: ‘Grants to Individuals’. This went from forty-five thousand to one point six million dollars. On the same page in the Office of the Prime Minister, number thirty, personal emoluments: from nine hundred and fifty-three thousand, one hundred and

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Hon. Eamon Courtenay – Lead Business Senator, Hon. Darrell Bradley – UDP Senator and Hon. Kevin Herrera – Business Senator



A referendum could only delay the inevitable

Last week *Krem News* reported that a handful of pastors, members of the National Evangelical Association (NEAB) and Roman Catholic priest, John Robinson had gathered at the National Assembly steps to show their disapproval of the Cannabis Control and Licensing Bill, 2022 that was being introduced in the National Assembly by the Minister of New Growth Industries and Home Affairs, Hon. Kareem Musa. The religious leaders had been vociferously in favor of marijuana remaining a wholly prohibited product, when a previous government moved to decriminalize 10 grams of the drug for personal use, in 2017, and now that a government is moving toward freeing up the drug even further, the religious leaders have stepped up their offensive.

The World Health Organization softened its position on marijuana for medicinal use in 2020, moving it from its list of "most dangerous drugs", but this change has had no influence on pastors in Belize. They might give an ear to medical marijuana, but they don't want us to grow it. They consider marijuana a deadly drug, and they're pushing for a referendum, with the hope that the people would vote against legalizing it for recreational use and maybe even turn back the decriminalization of 10 grams. Judging from what is taking place in Mexico, where they are close to legalizing recreational marijuana, and the US, where many states have done so, a referendum in Belize could only achieve a delay of the inevitable.

In the US, it is by way of referenda that recreational use of marijuana is now legal in a number of states in that country.

At the fore in lobbying for states to vote on the status of the drug is the US's "Marijuana Policy Project", a nonprofit organization based in Washington, D.C. which was founded in 1995 with the stated vision to create "a nation where marijuana is legally regulated similarly to alcohol, marijuana education is honest and realistic, and treatment for problem marijuana users is non-coercive and geared toward reducing harm."

One by one, states in the USA have been decriminalizing or legalizing marijuana for recreational use. *BALLOTPEDIA*, a nonprofit, nonpartisan online political encyclopedia in the US, states that by mid-2021 eighteen states in the US had already legalized recreational marijuana. Legislators in the US are on the verge of regulating marijuana similarly to the way that alcohol is regulated all across that nation.

In Belize, our government is moving toward alcohol-type regulations to control marijuana, but not without great resistance. Former government minister, Wilfred Elrington, wrote last week in a column in *The Reporter* titled "Dons, Dealers and

Dors" that "the evidence is irrefutable that the legalization of marijuana does much more harm than good to the poor and the powerless in those societies where it has been legalized!" Mr. Elrington did not cite his sources, but it is generally accepted that marginalized persons are more at risk than their better off peers.

The local lobby against legalizing marijuana has opined that if the drug were to be given such status by GOB, it would be interpreted as a blessing and lead to explosive use of it by our nation's youth. In every aspect of their lives, more has to be done for this group, but on the whole legalizing marijuana is not the great threat to them that many make it out to be. In Colorado, where recreational use of marijuana was legalized in 2012, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment said "the proportion of Colorado high school students reporting using marijuana ever in their lifetime remained statistically unchanged between 2005 and 2019."

Pastor Robinson, in making the Catholic Church's case against legalization, spoke about a visit he made recently to an area in California, USA. Pastor Robinson said California, "one of the richest places in the world...legalized recreational marijuana back in 2016 (and) it is now unrecognizable, with homeless people living in the streets...many or perhaps most of them are addicted to drugs." Greg Rosalsky, in a discussion of homelessness in California aired on the highly regarded *NPR*, said the president of the National Alliance to End Homelessness, Nan Roman, said the root cause of people living in the streets of California is that "housing has gotten way too scarce and expensive." Rosalsky mentioned poverty, mental illness and chronic drug use as contributors to the problem.

Pastor Robinson said if parents "cannot stand up and say no to this bill, how can we expect our children to say no to drugs?" The *Amandala* respects the position of the churches and all the advocates who work to deter the use of drugs and alcohol. This newspaper stopped accepting advertisements for cigarettes decades ago, and while it has criticized the state's 'roughing up' of Rastafarians who use the drug in their religious ceremonies, it has never encouraged the smoking of marijuana. However, there are adults who like the drug, and making it illegal has been disastrous.

The determined Mr. Elrington, in his story in *The Reporter*, said "the dealers, dons, and dors, easily compromise our political and public service elites making it virtually impossible for them to carry out their duties in the best interest of our country." As observed in the US, prohibiting alcohol led to the corrupting of their political leaders and security forces, and caused mayhem in the streets as gangs fought each other for a share of the illegal gains. A wise man somewhere said *insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results*. The US, recognizing the folly of prohibiting the drinking of alcohol, made spirituous liquors legal way back in 1933.

Our church leaders couldn't be called out if they are a little jealous on seeing so many potential members of their flocks who, in desperation to salve mental and physical anguish caused by excruciating poverty and inadequate housing, turn to alcohol and marijuana instead of the Word. It indeed would be great to see the pews crammed with eager souls, but in the world of free will, a special gift from the Almighty, people make choices, and while it is regrettable when we make not-so-wholesome ones, as long as we aren't directly interfering with our neighbors, our rights should be respected.

Criminalizing weed was a disaster, and decriminalizing 10 grams is just a Band-Aid. Utilizing a referendum to try and delay GOB taking control of the production, distribution and use of the drug wouldn't help any. What we need to do, as the GOB proceeds to legalize weed, is to watch them every step of the way, to ensure the best for our people, with special emphasis on our children and youth to help them stay away from drugs and alcohol.



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TENDER

Streetlight Maintenance 2022-2024

BEL invites tenders for Streetlight Maintenance for the period 2022 to 2024 at the following location:

- Punta Gorda

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

Bidders are encouraged to attend a virtual pre-bid meeting on **Monday, April 11, 2022**. Submissions of interest to attend the meeting can be sent to bidboxrequest@bel.com.bz no later than **3:00 p.m. Friday, April 8, 2022**.

An email submission must be received at bidsubmittal@bel.com.bz no later than **3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 13, 2022**.

Proposals will be accepted by email only and should include the subject **BID # 2022-442 Streetlight Maintenance: Punta Gorda**

For more information or queries, send email to bidboxrequest@bel.com.bz

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

The CCREE invites you to...

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PUBLIC AUCTION SALES: AIRCRAFTS

Gulfstream G2 Aircraft; Hawker Siddeley; Piper Chyenne 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 Chyenne 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.
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CALL PROPOSALS 2022

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

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

For more information contact projectcoordinator@satiim.org.bz

Honduran Supreme Court orders extradition of former president

The Honduran Supreme Court has ordered that Juan Orlando Hernández, former two-term president of Honduras, be extradited to the US on drug trafficking and firearms possession charges.

by Charles Gladden

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras, Wed. Mar. 30, 2022

The Supreme Court in Honduras has authorized the extradition of the country's former president, Juan Orlando Hernández, to the United States, where he will be facing drug trafficking and firearms possession charges after being accused by US prosecutors of participating in a wide-ranging drug-trafficking scheme between 2004 and 2022.

An unprecedented investigation, which highlights Honduras' role as a critical transit point for the smuggling of massive amounts of cocaine from South America to the United States, uncovered evidence indicating that the former president allegedly shielded persons engaged in the illicit activity.

According to Honduran news outlets, Hernandez accepted millions of dollars in bribe money in exchange for protecting drug traffickers from investigation and prosecution as well as aiding those persons in the use of weapons, which include machine guns.

While Hernandez has denied all claims made against him, he was arrested in mid-February during an expansive stakeout at his home and since then, he has been in police custody.

A statement issued by the family of Hernandez pointed out that the decision made to extradite the former president does not amount to a criminal conviction. The statement further claims that the accusations are in fact the handiwork of Honduran narcos themselves.

"We're ready and confident that

we'll be able to show the U.S. justice system that these accusations are a revenge plot from Honduran narcos whose empire of crime and violence Juan Orlando destroyed," the statement asserted.

Hernandez's lawyer, Hermes Ramirez, told Honduran media that his client was ambushed by authorities and claims that the warrant used is illegal, because he has immunity as a member of the regional Central American parliament.

"They are trying to trample on the rights of President Hernandez," Ramirez said.

Tony Hernandez, the former president's brother, is currently serving a life sentence with an additional 30 years in a US federal prison in connection with a related drug trafficking investigation. US



Juan Orlando Hernandez, former two-term president of Honduras

authorities believe former president Hernandez was a co-conspirator in the operation, channeling drug money to help fund his presidential campaigns. However, those allegations have been denied by Hernandez.

Hernandez was replaced as president last month by leftist leader Xiomara Castro, Honduras' first female president, after serving 8 years in office.

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER LENDING OPERATIONS

JOB SUMMARY

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

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

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

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

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

ACT NOW

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

Submit application
with reference:

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

to:

General Manager

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

Applications may be submitted electronically by
email to: vacancies@dfcbelize.org

**DEADLINE:
APRIL 6, 2022**

VACANCY
Join our exciting team!





Un referéndum solo podría retrasar lo inevitable

La semana pasada, *Noticias Krem* informó que cinco pastores, miembros de la Asociación Evangélica Nacional (NEAB por sus siglas en inglés) y el sacerdote católico romano, John Robinson, se habían reunido en los escalones de la Asamblea Nacional para mostrar su desaprobación del Proyecto de Ley de Licencias y Control de Cannabis, 2022 que estaba siendo presentado en la Asamblea Nacional por el Ministro de Nuevas Industrias de Crecimiento y Asuntos Internos, el Honorable Kareem Musa. Los líderes religiosos habían estado a favor de que la marihuana siguiera siendo un producto totalmente prohibido, cuando un gobierno anterior se movió para despenalizar 10 gramos de la droga para uso personal, en 2017, y ahora que un gobierno está avanzando hacia la liberación de la droga aún más, los líderes religiosos han intensificado su ofensiva.

La Organización Mundial de la Salud relajó su posición sobre la marihuana para uso medicinal en 2020, moviéndola de su lista de "drogas más peligrosas", pero este cambio no ha tenido influencia en los pastores en Belize. Puede que quieran prestar atención a la marihuana medicinal, pero no quieren que lo cultivemos. Consideran que la marihuana es una droga mortal y están presionando para que se lleve a cabo un referéndum, con la esperanza de que la gente vote en contra de legalizarla para uso recreativo y tal vez incluso revoquen la despenalización de 10 gramos. A juzgar por lo que está pasando en México, donde están cerca de legalizar la marihuana recreativa, y en Estados Unidos, donde muchos estados lo han hecho, un referéndum en Belize solo podría lograr un retraso de lo inevitable.

En los EE. UU., es a través de referéndum que el uso recreativo de la marihuana ahora es legal en varios estados de ese país. A la vanguardia del cabildeo para que los estados voten sobre el estado de la droga se encuentra el "Proyecto de política de la marihuana" de los EE. UU., una organización sin fines de lucro basada en Washington, D.C., que fue fundada en 1995 con la visión declarada de crear "una nación donde la marihuana es re regulada legalmente, de manera similar al alcohol, la educación sobre la marihuana es honesta y realista, y el tratamiento para consumidores problemáticos de la marihuana no es coercitivo y está orientado a reducir el daño".

Uno por uno, los estados de EE. UU. han ido despenalizando o legalizando la marihuana para uso recreativo. BALLOTPEDIA, una enciclopedia política en línea no partidista y sin fines de lucro de los EE. UU., afirma que, a mediados de 2021, dieciocho estados de los EE. UU. ya habían legalizado la marihuana recreativa. Los legisladores en los EE. UU. están a punto de regular la marihuana de manera similar a como se regula el alcohol en toda esa nación.

En Belize, nuestro gobierno se está moviendo hacia regulaciones similares al alcohol para controlar la marihuana, pero no sin una gran resistencia. El exministro de gobierno, Wilfred Elrington, escribió la semana pasada en una columna en *The Reporter* titulada "Dons, Dealers and Dors" que "la evidencia ¡Es irrefutable que la legalización de la marihuana hace mucho más daño que bien a los pobres y desamparados en aquellas sociedades donde ha sido legalizada!". Elrington no citó sus fuentes, pero en general se acepta que las personas marginadas corren más riesgo que sus pares en mejores condiciones.

El cabildeo local en contra de la legalización de la marihuana ha opinado que si el Gobierno de Belize otorgara tal estatus a la droga, se interpretaría como luz verde y conduciría a un uso explosivo de la misma por parte de la juventud de nuestra nación. En todos los aspectos de sus vidas, se debe hacer más por este grupo, pero en general, legalizar la marihuana no es la gran amenaza para ellos que

muchos pretenden. En Colorado, donde se legalizó el uso recreativo de la marihuana en 2012, el Departamento de Salud Pública y Medio Ambiente de Colorado dijo que "la proporción de estudiantes de secundaria de Colorado que informaron haber usado marihuana alguna vez en su vida se mantuvo estadísticamente sin cambios entre 2005 y 2019".

El pastor Robinson, al presentar el caso de la Iglesia Católica en contra de la legalización, habló sobre una visita que realizó recientemente a un área en California, EE. UU. El pastor Robinson dijo que California, "uno de los lugares más ricos del mundo... legalizó la marihuana recreativa en 2016 (y) ahora es irreconocible, con personas sin hogar viviendo en las calles... muchos o quizás la mayoría de ellos son adictos a las drogas". Greg Rosalsky, en un debate sobre las personas sin hogar en California que se transmitió en la prestigiosa *NPR*, dijo que el presidente de la Alianza Nacional para Acabar con las Personas sin Hogar, Nan Roman, dijo que la causa fundamental de que las personas vivan en las calles de California es que "las viviendas se han vuelto demasiado escasas y caras." Rosalsky mencionó la pobreza, la enfermedad mental y el uso crónico de drogas como contribuyentes al problema.

El pastor Robinson dijo que si los padres "no pueden levantarse y decir no a este proyecto de ley, ¿cómo podemos esperar que nuestros hijos digan no a las drogas?" *Amandala* respeta la posición de las iglesias y de todos los defensores que trabajan para disuadir el uso de drogas y alcohol. Este periódico dejó de aceptar anuncios de cigarrillos hace décadas, y aunque ha criticado el "maltrato" por parte del estado a los rastafaris que usan la droga en sus ceremonias religiosas, nunca ha fomentado el consumo de marihuana. Sin embargo, hay adultos a los que les gusta la droga, e ilegalizarla ha sido desastroso.

El determinado Sr. Elrington, en su nota en *The Reporter*, dijo que "los traficantes, los capos y los vendedores comprometen fácilmente a nuestras élites políticas y de servicio público, lo que les hace prácticamente imposible cumplir con sus deberes en el mejor interés de nuestro país". Como se observó en los EE. UU., prohibir el alcohol condujo a la corrupción de sus líderes políticos y fuerzas de seguridad, y provocó el caos en las calles cuando las pandillas lucharon entre sí por una parte de las ganancias ilegales. Un hombre sabio dijo en alguna parte que *la locura es hacer lo mismo una y otra vez y esperar resultados diferentes*. Los EE. UU., reconociendo la locura de prohibir el consumo de alcohol, legalizaron las bebidas espirituosas allá por 1933.

Nuestros líderes de la iglesia no podrían ser criticados si están un poco celosos al ver a tantos miembros potenciales de sus rebaños que, en su desesperación por aliviar la angustia mental y física causada por la pobreza extrema y la vivienda inadecuada, recurren al alcohol y la marihuana en lugar de la Palabra. De hecho, sería grandioso ver los bancos repletos de almas ansiosas, pero en el mundo del libre albedrío, un regalo especial del Todopoderoso, las personas toman decisiones, y aunque es lamentable cuando tomamos decisiones no tan saludables, siempre y cuando no estemos interfiriendo directamente con nuestros vecinos, nuestros derechos deben ser respetados.

Criminalizar la marihuana fue un desastre, y despenalizar 10 gramos es solo una tirita. Utilizar un referéndum para tratar de retrasar que el Gobierno de Belize tome el control de la producción, distribución y uso de la droga no ayudaría en nada. Lo que debemos hacer, mientras el Gobierno procede a legalizar la marihuana, es observarlos en cada paso del camino, para garantizar lo mejor para nuestra gente, con especial énfasis en nuestros niños y jóvenes para ayudarlos a mantenerse alejados de las drogas y el alcohol.

11 Belizean "Sheroes" honoured

by Khaila Gentle

BELIZE CITY, Tues. Mar. 29, 2022

The Belize City Council's second-ever Sheroes Award Ceremony, an event which honours unsung female heroes for their contribution to the community, was held today, Tuesday, March 29, at the Radisson Fort George Hotel & Marina. At the ceremony, held in commemoration of Women's Month, eleven Belize City women, each nominated by a city councilor, were recognized for their hard work and dedication and were each presented with a commemorative plaque, after which a luncheon was held in their honour. Additionally, the City Council donated funds to a charity of each woman's choice. In his keynote speech at the event, Mayor Bernard Wagner commended the awardees for their contributions, and highlighted the important role that women often play in society

"To all you fierce, accomplished, gifted women here today, I say good afternoon, and I want you to know that I am honored to be here before you. Your contributions to your households,



(l-r) Carolyn Trench-Sandiford, Marilyn Garvin, Lula Bennett, Grace Flowers, Erica Michelle Howard, Nilza Acosta, Pastor Ruth Pipersburgh, Sherrie Reneau and Brendalee Enriquez

neighborhoods, our city, and our country are difficult to equate, because they are invaluable," he stated.

Present at the award ceremony was Mrs. Karen Cain, Executive Director at the Youth Enhancement Services (YES) and a champion of women's and children's rights. Cain delivered an inspirational address as the event's

guest speaker, and noted that her life's work has been motivated by a desire to serve women and young girls and help them overcome the challenges and struggles they face, just as her mentor had done for her.

City councillor Natasha Pipersburgh, who holds the council's portfolio for women and children, gave a welcome statement, during which she highlighted the need to acknowledge the struggles faced by women, including domestic violence. She cited persons like Nora Parham, a victim of domestic violence and a woman wrongly convicted, and honored her and all other victims of domestic violence with a brief moment of silence. After the ceremony, Pipersburgh spoke with local media and explained how the eleven awardees were selected.

"Many of the individuals who were selected today were individuals who in some way or form have contributed to some genre in regards to dealing with women and helping them to be more established and basically molding them to be someone of society," she said.

The Sheroes Award Ceremony, which is the brainchild of former councillor Dr. Candice Pitts, was first held in March of 2019. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however, the initiative was put on pause. But, after this year's ceremony, the City Council has plans to make the event an annual occurrence.

The 2022 Sheroes Award recipients included Grace Flowers, an entrepreneur and community activist; Julian Young-Mortis, who has been serving as a counsellor and mentor for young women and girls; Sherrie Reneau, community outreach activist in the Albert Division; Pastor Ruth Pipersburgh; Carolyn Trench-Sandiford, president of the Belize Association of Planners and president of the Senate; Marilyn Garvin, the founder and chairperson of the Community Initiative to Better Belize (CIBB) and interim president for the National Kriol Council; Nilza Acosta, entrepreneur and community activist in the Queen's Square division; Lula Bennett; Erica Michelle Howard; Brendalee Enriquez; and Lorraine Henry, who has been championing access to quality education in her community.

AMANDALA got the chance to speak with one of the awardees—Miss Lula Bennett, a renowned Belizean hairstylist and jewelry designer, who told us that she feels both humbled and grateful that her work is being recognized.

"Serving is the greatest, you know, but sometimes we serve a lot, and people don't—even with your children—sometimes they don't recognize the effort that you do. But I'm glad that the Belize City Council looked at my portfolio and said, 'well you know, Lula's been contributing to the society, whether it's been doing hair or uplifting people, because when they come to your salon you uplift their spirit through the extra work that you do'," she said.

Bennett told AMANDALA that she chose Open Door Believers Chapel as her charitable organization, and said that she is looking forward to seeing the children from Southside Belize that attend the church benefit from the donation that will be made on her behalf by the City Council.

PUBLIC AUCTION SALE: PROPERTY
 Banak Street, Belize City

BY ORDER of the mortgagees, Messrs. Heritage Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo & Christiana Rebecca Castillo is selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the below described property. Sale currently running and will expire Monday 11th April 2022 at 1:30 pm.

REGISTRATION SECTION: Lake Independence
 BLOCK: 45
 PARCEL: 757

(Being a two-storey concrete/timber dwelling house (1,368 sq. ft): Ground floor – Open Area; First floor – 2 bedrooms + 1 bathroom + living/dining/kitchen + Verandah and lot [352.471 Sq. Yds.] situate at No. 16, Banak Street, (between Lake View Street & Central American Boulevard) Lake Independence, Belize City, Belize, the freehold property of Mr. Reynaldo Romero & Ms. Ema Romero.)

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH
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 TELEPHONE 223-4488
 Website: belizepropertyauctions.com
 E-mail: belizeauctionsales@gmail.com
 Face Book: Belize Auctions

In Loving Memory of

Catherine Virginia Perez
 Sunrise: 18/1/1939
 Sunset: 28/3/2004



Alexis Leona Perez
 Sunrise: 17/7/1964
 Sunset: 16/2/2012



Clifford Candido Perez
 Sunrise: 29/8/1936
 Sunset: 25/1/2018



Memories are treasures,
 No one can steal,
 Death leaves wounds no one can heal.
 Precious are the memories,
 Silently kept,
 Of all we love and will never forget.

Sadly missed by children, other relatives and friends.



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

Did the Barrows teef that election?

by Colin Hyde

You'll have to take my word for it that in a discussion of the history of the UDP, which was formed in 1973 by the coming together of a number of opposition parties that were tired of the quinquennial battering by the juggernaut PUP, Dean Barrow seh that when his uncle Dean Lindo took the helm of the party, the PUP run of teefing elections was over because, because if any teefing mi fu du da fu hihn uncle mi wahn du it. No, no, no, he didn't say that the UDP stole any election; he said IF hanky panky reigned after 1973, the devil no longer wore blue.

History is a hell of a thing. We NIP grew up believing the PUP were a set of teef. Our leaders knew they were better stewards, and that the people of Belize weren't hoodwinked, so there was only one explanation for the lock, stock and barrel crowd getting over. Bah, it is nigh impossible to get a guilty verdict in a Belize court. It should be that the wicked had to prove their innocence. Every election petition got thrown out.

Whoa, this story can't descend into election-day ballot fraud, not yet. It took a while for the Reds to realize that there were devils in other parts of the process. Oh, if Colville Young had only known that there was a way to make the deceased vote, that you could give residency to whole families living in New York, that you could round up the impartial and disinterested and for a few dollars get them to vote for you! Ideology hell, it's all about the process. But Sir Colville still wouldn't have won. Knowing the depths one must go to win an

election in Belize, he would not have run. Some people too classy fu this.

Ah, now to the dastard election ballot fraud. Tracy nevva happy wid the way Pere and Company handled the last part of the process. Her people are hollering 'teef', and isn't that a good thing for the country. We would not have wanted the world to believe that in the Lenten Season we, in sound mind and in a fair election, chose the wrong one. I mean, like the lady had ALL the credentials!

Boy, these Barrows know how to play the game. After the process had delivered him a big victory, got him all the votes of the desperate, disgraced wing of the UDP, Shyne said the UDP needs reform, needs to fix the process. My gudnis, Pere, he "didn't think" that a recount was necessary. I suspect Eamon is going to have a field day in Senate meetings for years to come. How long does it take a lawyer to count 500 votes, Braa? Did I hear Pere say if they started recounting they might be there until morning? Hn, maybe not.

Pundits are saying it is a mighty victory for Belizeans abroad who have been clamoring for direct representation. Well, I thought that when our people out there sent a champion, it would have been some giant educator, mega-successful business person, or super scientist, the kind of talent that could command respect across the globe and steer us to economic glory. My gudnis, a rappa whose claim to fame is writing devil lyrics.

So, it was a squeaker. Console yourself that a close vote would have been no victory for you, Tracy. Maybe you and the country owe one to Pere for declaring the party's

counting process infallible. What do you do if half of your core followers are the man from 'pan's clones?

A close vote, could there be a better gift for serious third parties than a down-the-middle, divided Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition? Don't look in that haas mouth, just ride. Ai, this should be the third parties' moment, but the VIP is chasing redistricting as the BPM. The BPP is being led by Wil Maheia, who is brave, but not only is not a politician, he doesn't really care to be one; and Nefretery, well she, every ounce of her energy is now directed at protecting her expensive ostrich from predators.

Bah, the people are abandoned, and the moment, it is all for the Barrows, them and them alone. There are no consequential third parties, and they have firm control of the UDP after they just won another election. Or did they, ehm, teef it?

Have a "republic" discussion without tinkering with the Queen

It took eons for me to realize that Patrick and Bill and JC are not being straight when they tell us that having the Queen on our money, having a Governor General, having area reps verbally express allegiance to England, stymies our economic development. Putting the blame on the Queen is preposterous, so, they being such brilliant guys in most everything else, it must be, agh, that some people truly believe that all is fair in war. They are hankering to ditch the Queen, and they don't mind straying from the truth to get the dethroning done.

Having the Queen at the head is no excuse for those representatives who are crooks and incompetents.

Belizeans went to the polls and voted them in to serve the interests of Belizeans. There are constraints, things without and within that limit a leader in their functions—it is for sure that our leaders have their fair share of sharks and mines to navigate through so they can deliver the best for us. But it is not because of the Queen that so many of our governments have come up short.

There are things we have to change in our country. We've got a first-past-the-post system (FPTP) which our political leaders clutch on to like a drowning man onto anything floating nearby. This FPTP system blocks many brilliant Belizeans from participating in the electoral process. You think if we ditch the Queen those bohgaz are going to let that go? No, sir!

Of course it is manly for us to give up the Crown. But get real; that kind of manliness comes at a price. Some take a while to make their own nest. I didn't vote for the trip to the ICJ because I believed Guatemala will become a trustworthy neighbor after they are told that Belize lock, stock and barrel is the territory of a people called Belizeans.

Don't let any soft pops intellectuals fool yu. Having the monarch as titular head means something. But that's enough on that, fu now.

A terrible day in El Salvador

It was a terrible day in El Salvador on Saturday, as 62 people, most of them vital, fell in a wave of violence that has been calculated to be the most devastating since that country was in the grip of a Civil War which lasted from 1979 to 1992. The story over there is that deadly gangs are behind the massacre.

According to BBC News, last year was a 30-year low for murders in El Salvador, with a rate of 18 per 100,000. A murder rate of 18 per 100,000 in Belize would amount to about 80 murders for the year, and we have not had less than 100 murders in a year since two decades ago. So, things were calming down in El Salvador, but now they are under a state of emergency.

BBC News says El Salvador's parliament has enacted new laws that "restrict the right to gather, allow arrests without a warrant and the monitoring of communications." The country's energetic and progressive president, Nayib Bukele, was devastated and sounded almost helpless when he spoke about the terrible situation. "We have had a new spike in homicides, something that we had worked so hard to reduce. While we fight criminals in the streets, we must try to figure out what is happening and who is financing this", the BBC News reported him saying.



VACANCY

The Social Security Board invites applications from suitably qualified persons to fill the role of **QUALITY ASSURANCE INTERNAL AUDITOR** at its Internal Audit Services Division, SSB Headquarters, Belmopan.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:
Bachelor's Degree in Business Management, Finance, Accounting, or other closely related discipline, with five (5) years' supervisory experience in Internal Auditing.

Visit our website at www.socialsecurity.org.bz/vacancy-announcement/ to view further details on this position.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:
Application packages containing application letter, resume, two (2) recent letters of recommendation, copies of degree, certifications and other relevant academic credentials and current police record or receipt for record may be submitted via email to:

Manager, HR Strategies, SSB Headquarters, Belmopan:
dlindo@socialsecurity.org.bz

HR Advisor, HR Policy & Strategy, SSB Headquarters, Belmopan:
fphillips@socialsecurity.org.bz

Copy to: Ag. General Manager, Human Resources, Headquarters, Belmopan: odakers@socialsecurity.org.bz

Email Subject Line: "Application for QA Internal Auditor"

APPLICATION DEADLINE: April 14th, 2022



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**

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.**

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: GL1CORP0402627

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

BY ORDER OF MORTGAGEE
NOTICE
OF INTENTION TO SELL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dated this March 11th, 2022



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 BTS 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**

PRESS PREDICTIONS

The sports psychic speaks

BOLEDO

**“Press” Predictions: 54-03-36
Boledo stats thru 1st to 8th April, 2022**

In boledo news, 78 finally played on a Sunday after 11 years 9 months and 3 weeks exact. These are my lucky numbers for this week: 03-21-77-08-54-36. These are my lucky jackpot numbers: 7840-5633-9629. These are my lucky PICK-3 numbers: 303-452-619-787-059-629. Get ready Belize, some dinero will be coming our way. The forties series has not played for over 62 days now, 50 is still out over 1 year 8 months 2 weeks and 2 days now, 55 is still out for over 1 year 5 months 2 weeks and 1 day now. 49 and 03 just joined those 2 hard numbers out over 1 year and more. The ending 2 ball has played some 14 times already. Keep your eyes open for 36, 34 and 65, those 3 numbers last year played 22 times all together. Good luck to all buyers. Remember to read your Psalms: 72-91 and 63. Next week more stats.

LOCAL FOOTBALL

Cuba beat Belize 3-nil easily Local Football Results and Update

In local football action, the Cuba Team beat our National A Team 3- Nil. The Belize Team had a very good first half, nil-nil; they did not have goalkeeper Woodrow West because of some personal problems. Charles Tillett, the backup goalkeeper, was very impressive in the first half with 4 spectacular saves. The game had over 1,000 fans. Enuff respect to the FFB president Mr. Sergio Chuc, he has done a splendid job for Belize, big up his vice president Mr. Cruz Gamez who is the assistant Manager of the Belize Bank branch in Cayo. The president has a very strong team around him, especially Mr. Philip Marin and Mr. Earl Jones, Mr. Ian Jones and Mr. Raymond Davis who use to play for the most disciplined team, Landivar, in the early seventies. Mr. Hoy, their coach was the best in his day. Next week history of old tim, more stats.

CYCLING

Oscar Quiros won the Ernest “Jawmaine” Meighan Classic The 92nd Cross Country Cycling Classic Predictions

In cycling action, Team Valvoline

BTB 501’s Oscar Quiros won the Ernest “Jawmaine” Meighan Classic. The race went to Mount hope and back to Belize City, Wasani Castro was second. The race had over 50 cyclists. The 92nd Holy Saturday Cross Country is just 2 weeks away. There will be only 30 foreigners invited, some Americans like John Delong will be here, and the Williams Brothers in Cory and his older brother 2-time Cross Country Champion Justin Williams, alongside 2 Americans and some Guatemalans. The race will be very fast and furious. Fitzgerald “Palas” Joseph aka the Black Rocket will also be in the lineup, he has ridden at least 30 Cross Country races with Michael Lewis, Eugene” Tricky” King and the late Glenford Gordon aka the Black Sampson. There will be lots of station prizes along the way, the public is long awaiting this race because of the 2-year pandemic. Next week some predictions get started.

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

Chris Paul will be back for the playoffs for the Suns NBA Results and Predictions

In NBA action, the regular season only has 8 more games left for each



by Gilroy “Press” Cadogan

team. The Phoenix Suns will be the only team to win over 60 games and lose under 20 games. Chris Paul, their leader, will be back for the playoffs, they will end up with a record of 64-18. Devin Booker is a special player. This year’s playoffs will have a lots of upsets on both sides of the 2 conferences. The Memphis Grizzlies will be at 2. The Golden State Warriors will be at the 3 seed, Steph Curry is hurt at the moment. The Utah Jazz and the Dallas Mavericks are fighting for the home court advantage in the first round. The Denver Nuggets and Karl-Anthony Towns’ team, the Minnesota Timberwolves are fighting for the 6th spot. In the East, the Miami Heat will be at the number one seed. The Boston Celtics and Jason Tatum are the hottest team right now, they have won 22 of the last 27 games. They will be very dangerous in the playoff. Kyrie Erving can play home games now, the Brooklyn Nets will be very dangerous in the playoffs.

A Collection of Ideas and Opinions 2007-2012
by C B Hyde



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

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**.



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

Marijuana — the cream of the cream

If I'm not mistaken, Belize will be the first country in Latin America and the Caribbean to legalize marijuana. I have heard several comments from people who are interested in this new industry that will be created when marijuana can be used freely without prosecution or punishment for use of a prohibited drug that can be harmful to the human body. Of course, there is another worse drug, which is alcohol. However, according to other people who are masters in this matter of the drug, they say that marijuana has different ways of affecting people, or rather, people who use this drug have different reactions, but at the same time, those who are interested in making this plant a big business give such beautiful speeches about this herb. You can do a lot of things with it apart from using it as a cigarette. They have also mentioned that it will not be used publicly, but there will be special places to

consume it. It will no longer be a drug, it will be something wonderful, like a special dish from one of our ethnic groups which we have in this country. I have also heard that it will be a special plant that will not be harmful, if not of excellence. Previously, it was known as cream of the cream. I've heard them mention that tourists love it and those who reside in this country will be able to use it freely but not publicly. It is very interesting to listen to the speeches, the interviews, the point of view of those who agree to use this very special cigarette, while there are others who do not agree and have publicly spoken about the effect and the damages this drug could cause, not only on the human body but also in Belize as a country where it is not against the law to have marijuana, to grow marijuana, or to sell marijuana. It would be a great production.

I listen to those who think that this

would be a great business which would reduce poverty and crimes. I remember, not so many years ago, I had written an article in which I said that the day the United States grows its own marijuana, would be the day it would decriminalize such drug, both in that country and in the entire world. When I said the entire world, I was referring to all those countries that follow the US system, its allies and others who are lambiscones or rather love the green dollar. Ultimately, that is something else. I'm trying to analyze and see how this would work out. Belize is a member of CARICOM and SICA, a door which opens to Central America and Mexico, in contact with the Caribbean islands, a key point for smuggling; that has been historical. It has always existed since the British entered what is today Belize, bringing goods from their country, smuggling it into what were the Spanish colonies, and even after they had achieved independence, the smuggling continued. Also, when Belize got its political independence, the smuggling continued; it never stopped.

Now, this adventure of converting Belize into a drug producer, that is something else. We've seen through history, that places like China, I'm referring to communist China, and the Opium War, all that history and what they had to do to get rid of England, the United States, Japan and all the drug cartels, which were inside that country—how many people were exterminated? How many were raped and beaten? Today, in this 21st century, in 2022, where neighboring countries are against the marijuana cultivation, marketing and



by Clinton Canul Luna

consumption, however, Belize, which is in the middle, will become a great producer of this drug. Obviously, the domestic market is not enough; according to what is being heard, there are large investors who want to enter this adventure. And when we talk about investors, well, I am thinking of millions and millions of dollars, and no one is going to invest a large amount of money for nothing or to receive a few cents. So what will the market be? Not all tourists smoke marijuana, not all Belizeans smoke marijuana either, what will be the market? The United States? No. The United States already has its own marijuana; it has its own farm for consumption and also for exportation. Speaking of exports, it reminds me of the Plan Colombia when they invested billions and billions of dollars. They killed so many people to take away their land to plant that African palm tree from which they made oil. The oil that was extracted from the African palm tree was exported along with the cocaine to the United States and Europe. And touching the point of Europe, I heard Vladimir Putin, president of Russia, mention that there are drugs in Ukraine. Obviously, I don't live in Ukraine, but I know what is happening here, and I know the past history of China. It is also publicly known that the first 5 multi-millionaire families of the United States had introduced opium in their own country and China.

The history of mankind is very rich, but returning to the point of Belize and marijuana, who are they going to sell it to? To Mexico? Mexico already has its cartel that is planting its own marijuana and they do not want to have other marijuana entering their country of better quality, or in Central America. No. So what is going to happen to those powerful groups of the drug business? They are going to control the market, they already have their own market. I start to wonder: Will they come to Belize to buy? And how are they going to get it? Will it be that they are going to transport it the same way they had transported 20 tons of cocaine? That was another article I wrote about 10 years ago. A retired military general was murdered by the ZETA chief in Cancun. This military general was recommended by the president of Mexico at that time to be the head of security in Cancun. On his arrival, he was killed, and according to the news in Mexico on Channel 2 (Canal

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.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.

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given under Section 4(1) of the Standards (Preparation and Declaration) Regulations, 1997 that the Belize Bureau of Standards proposes to recommend to the Standards Advisory Council that the following draft standard be declared a compulsory Belize Standard:

1. the Belize Draft Specification for Marking and Labelling of Medical Gas Cylinders

Belize lacks standards in the medical gases industry especially when it comes to safety and most importantly life-saving oxygen and medical gases. This standard provides for minimum requirements for labels and markings on compressed gases in cylinders and cryogenic liquid container cylinders containing medical gases namely for medical air, oxygen, carbon dioxide, helium, nitrogen, nitrous oxide and mixtures. Labels shall be applied to compressed gases and cryogenic liquid containers to identify the container contents and to warn of principal physical and health hazards associated with the container and its contents.

Any comments on the draft standard should reach the **Director, Belize Bureau of Standards** at the below-mentioned address no later than **May 27th, 2022** or at bbs@btl.net. Copies or details of this standard are available from the office of the Belize Bureau of Standards located at Power Lane, P.O. Box 430, City of Belmopan or on the website at www.bbs.gov.bz.



Ministry of Finance, Economic Development & Investment
Belmopan
MARCH 31, 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
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**



Institution: Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

Country: Belize

Project: Solid Waste Management Project II (SWMPII)

Sector: Waste Management

Abstract: Social Inclusion Officer for the Solid Waste Management Project II(SWMPPII).

Loan No.: 3684/OC-BL

Deadline: April 14, 2022

The Government of Belize (GOB) has received financing from the *Inter- American Development Bank (IDB)*, towards the cost of the Solid Waste Management Project II and intends to apply part of the proceeds towards to hiring of a Social Inclusion Officer.

The Objective of the consultancy is to provide technical assistance to BSWaMA in promoting the social inclusion, formalization, and professional development of affected recyclers working at key project sites.

The Belize Solid Waste Management Authority, the Executing Agency, now invites interested eligible individual consultant to submit Expressions of Interest indicating qualification and experience required to provide these consultancy services listed below.

A) SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES

The Consultant shall:

- 1) Support BSWaMA and the IDB Project Team as needed in the updating and implementation of the Social Inclusion Plan (SIP) for the recyclers at each of the project sites, following the Social Inclusion Plan Framework as a guide and including, but not necessarily limited to: (i) consultation; (ii) documentation; and (iii) the monitoring of SIP related performance indicators.
- 2) Prepare reports on the SIP implementation status, to be included in the semi-annual reports to the IDB.
- 3) Provide support to the recyclers at the 5 operational transfer station sites across Belize, and provide consultation and support to the recyclers at the beneficiary municipalities of SWMPPII, in the formation, maintenance, and promotion of a cooperative; or other form of formally recognized sustainable collective organization.
- 4) Support the preparation of a replicable Business Plan/ model for the recyclers recovering material at the operational transfer station.
- 5) Provide support to all other affected groups of recyclers at the project sites. The exact nature of this support is to be determined in consultation with them, and in accordance with the Social Inclusion Plan Framework, but it should, among other things, involve actions designed to close gender gaps.
- 6) Ensure that the recycler groups are trained in team building, organization, entrepreneurship and other income diversification related skills; support and provide guidance as needed.
- 7) Monitor and observe recyclers, listen to their concerns, and assist

them in understanding and managing social, and habitual problems.

8) Facilitate the development of social and business partnerships (e.g., with the Cooperatives Department, Belize Recycling, private sector and buyers of recyclable materials, other GoB agencies, NGOs, credit unions, and local CBOs).

B) QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

The Consultant shall have the following:

- 1) Minimum of a Bachelor's degree in Social Work, Social Sciences, or related discipline; A masters degree will be an asset. A combination of a social science degree with a Business Management or Administration degree or training in entrepreneurship, production, sales and marketing will be considered an asset.
- 2) Two (2) or more years demonstrated professional experience in at least one of the following areas:
 - Institutional strengthening, partnership building activities, community organization, cooperative development, business development, marketing, conducting training, and fund raising.
 - Experience working with poor and marginalized communities, and irregular immigrants particularly those involved the informal sector; the waste/recycling sector and/or small business development
- 3) Demonstrated capacity to conduct field-level interventions and processes with marginalized groups and engage in strategic planning and the preparation of key operational documents.

Good command of the English Language. Knowledge of the Spanish language will be an asset.

The *Ministry of Natural Resources, Petroleum and Mining* now invites eligible individual consultants to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested individual Consultants must provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualification and relevant experience to perform the Services.

Consultants will be selected in accordance with the Selection of Individual Consultants method and other procedures set out in the Inter-American Development Bank: *Policies for the Selection and Contracting of Consultants financed by the Inter-American Development Bank - GN-2350-15*, and is open to all eligible candidates as defined in the policies.

Further information can be obtained at the email address below during office hours: Monday to Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. local time.

Expressions of interest must be submitted electronically and must include a signed application letter, Curriculum Vitae (CV), copies of academic qualification, and the names and contact information of two professional references no later than Thursday, April 14, 2022, at 2:30 p.m. local time. **Application must be submitted via one consolidated PDF document; only complete packages will be processed.** Packages must be sent to the address below:

Solid Waste Management Authority

Attn: Procurement Officer
 3013 Bougainvillea Street, Orchid Garden Area
 City of Belmopan, Belize, C.A.
 Tel: (501) 802 1527
 PO Box 285
 E-mail: GladdenM@gobmail.gov.bz



INVITATION TO QUOTE – GOODS

Institution: Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing
Country: Belize
Project: Additional Financing for George Price Highway Rehabilitation Project
Sector: Transport
Abstract: Equipment for the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing Soils Lab
Loan No.: Loan 4616/OC-BL
Deadline: **2:00 pm (Local Belize Time) on April 21st, 2022**

1. The Government of Belize has received loan financing from the Inter-American Development Bank toward the cost of the additional Financing for George Price Highway Rehabilitation Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this financing to payments under the Contract for the Supply of Equipment for the Soils Lab under the George Price Highway Rehabilitation Project.

2. The Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing now invites sealed quotations from eligible and qualified bidders for the supply of the following items: a **Compression Testing Machine, a Motorized Liquid Limit Machine, Rebar locator/cover meter along with spare parts and a Plastic Limit Roller with 20 pads.**

3. Bidding will be conducted through the Shopping procedures specified in the Inter-American Development Bank's Policies for the Procurement of Works and Goods financed by the Inter-American Development Bank, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Policies.

4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain the full Invitation to Quote for the required equipment from the Program Management Unit, Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing, located on the First Floor of the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing Soils Lab Building, Power Lane, Belmopan by emailing pmupcmow@gmail.com AND mow.project3344@gmail.com.

5. Quotations must utilize forms provided in the invitation to quote. One (1) Original and two (2) copies are to be submitted in sealed labelled envelopes to the address indicated below. Quotations by email **WILL NOT** be accepted.

6. Bidders are informed that they can only bid for the type of equipment specified, and quote for all items in this Invitation. Price quotations will be evaluated for all the items. Price quotations should be **Exclusive of General Sales Tax**.

7. Your quotation(s) should be submitted as per the following instructions and in accordance with the Terms and Conditions of supply in the attached Quote Submission Sheet.

(i) **VALIDITY OF THE OFFER:** Your quotation(s) should be valid for a period of **90 days** from the date of receipt for quotation(s).

(ii) **SUBMISSION OF OFFERS:** Offers will be submitted on the Quote Submission Sheet including a description of specifications offered, Price Schedule for Goods and Related Services. These templates are annexed in the full Invitation to Quote. All documents must be completed without any alterations in format, and no substitutes shall be accepted. All blank spaces shall be filled in with the information requested.

8. The Purchaser shall award the Contract to the offer which complies substantially with the technical specifications and other requirements in these documents and represents the lowest price.

9. Quotations must be delivered to the address below at or before **2:00 pm (Local Belize Time) on April 21st, 2022**. Electronic quotes **will not** be permitted. Late quotes will be rejected. Your quotation should be in the English language in the required format or other similar, acceptable format should be addressed and submitted to:

Attention of (Name): **Mr. Rolando Chan, Program Coordinator Program Management Unit**

Address: **Program Management Unit,
First Floor – Soils Lab
Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing
Power Lane, Belmopan
Cayo District, Belize**

Phone #: **822-1942/822-0100**

Email: pmupcmow@gmail.com AND mow.project3344@gmail.com



Ministry of Rural Transformation
Community Development, Labour and Local Government

No. 5163 University Boulevard,
Belmopan

(501) 802-2679
 (501) 802-2663
info@labour.gov.bz
www.mlgrd.gov.bz

CALL FOR PROPOSALS:

Consultancy services for research and formulation of a plan for the Gradual Implementation of the Government's Commitment to reaching A Five-Dollar National Minimum Wage

PURPOSE:

The Ministry of Rural Transformation, Community Development, Labour and Local Government is launching a call for proposals from interested professionals to conduct background research and formulate a plan for the gradual implementation of the Government's commitment to reaching a Five-Dollar National Minimum Wage.

OBJECTIVES OF THE CONSULTANCY:

The main objective of the Consultancy is to formulate a Plan for the gradual implementation of Government's commitment to reaching a Five-Dollar national minimum wage.

MAIN ACTIVITIES:

Phase (I) – Situational Analysis: A thorough assessment of the political, economic, social, business and institutional factors in order to understand the current and future national context of the wage's dynamics.

Phase (II) – Gap Analysis: The Consultant will identify specific wages and productivity issues for traditional and non-traditional forms of work – against the backdrop of significant challenges and opportunities for Belize's labour market.

Phase (III) – Drafting of Plan: The Consultant will produce a Plan in plain, actionable language while grouping topics and provisions in a logical structure addressing scope of implementation, and supplementary and legal provisions.

Phase (IV) - Implementation: The Consultant will prepare an operational and monitoring and evaluation framework.

QUALIFICATIONS AND COMPETENCIES:

Candidates seeking to undertake this consultancy should possess the following minimum qualifications:

- Master's Degree in Public Policy, Labour Economics, Development Studies, Industrial Relations or any related fields from a recognized university or institution with ten years of relevant professional experience;
- Exposure to and familiarity with local labour markets' conditions, policies, programs and Pre and Post COVID-19 situations;
- Strong practical understanding of macro and micro economic policies and conditions;
- Strong practical knowledge and implementation of wages legislation and policies;
- Strong practical knowledge of government processes, legislations, regulations, and policies;

SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS AND SELECTION PROCESS:

Each proposal should consist of:

1. A short cover letter (2 pages maximum) with exact references to the consultant's experience with similar undertakings specifying – in detail – (i) experience with wages policies, action plans or similar documents; (ii) experience with policy research, development, and implementation skill; and (iii) knowledge of Belize labour markets' conditions, policies, programs and Pre and Post COVID-19 situations;
2. Relevant samples of work and/or hyperlinks to published material;
3. Tentative calendar for carrying out the various phases of the process (see section 7, paragraphs (i) to (iv) of the Terms of Reference). With regards to the calendar of activities, please note:
 - a. The consultant is expected to start working during the month of April 2022 and conclude the exercise at least, by October 2022.
 - b. The full stakeholders' consultation schedule and modality will be jointly determined after selection of the candidates in line with the stakeholders' availability, COVID-19 health situation/regulation and available resources.
4. Curriculum vitae and current affiliation of relevant consultants, if any;
5. A price proposal that includes all consultant fees and related expenses. Meetings and workshop costs will be covered by the Ministry.
6. Incomplete proposals will not be considered.
7. The full Terms of Reference may be requested from lambcl@gobmail.gov.bz

Proposals must be submitted to:

Post:
Chief Executive Officer
Ministry of Rural Transformation, Community Development, Labour and Local Government
5163 University Boulevard
Belmopan City, CAYO

And

Email: lambcl@gobmail.gov.bz

All submissions must be made by 12th April, 2022 at 4:00pm

VACANCY NOTICE

Position Title:

Grant Support and External Relations Coordinator

Salary Pay Scale:

Salary commensurate with qualification and experience

Duty Station:

Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management.

Accountable to:

the Chief Executive Officer

Posting Period:

2 years

Basic purpose of position:

The Grant Support and External Relations Coordinator shall effectively assess and coordinate the donor landscape aligned with our sustainable development priorities with the aim of aligning, identifying, and facilitating the entrance into and approval by these facilities; thus, securing opportunities and financing for environmental/sustainable development projects with high biodiversity returns in Belize.

Duties and Responsibilities:

1. Serve as the ministry's liaison officer between international partners such as the UN system, Multilateral Environmental Agreements, Central American Commission for Development, among others.
2. Assess the grant funding landscape aligned with national sustainable development targets and goals.
3. Document entry points, focus areas, processes, requirements, and opportunities of donor agencies aligned with our national target and goals for the environment.
4. Develop a funding dashboard which facilitates tracking of biodiversity targets and investment funding windows.
5. Develop expressions of Interests, concept notes in collaboration with relevant agencies for submission to donors and facilities.
6. Work closely with Results Based/Monitoring and evaluation Specialist within the MSDCC&DRM to ensure alignment of grant opportunities with investment opportunities.
7. Develop a donor coordination mechanism that supports the ministry's strategic priorities.
8. Submits periodic reports on the status of projects development with external stakeholders.
9. Any other duties, assigned from time to time, for the MSDCC&DRM.

Minimum Qualifications – Academic/Training:

Master's Degree in: Finance, Economics, Investment Management, or closely related field

Skills, Experience and Qualification Required:

1. Strong organizational skills and leadership capability.
2. Ability to integrate financial knowledge with operational strategies and policy objectives.
3. Knowledge of environmental finance, sustainable development issues and the interface between socioeconomics and the environment at the local and international level
4. Strong interpersonal and communication skills
5. Intermediate level Spanish proficiency
6. Knowledge of national governance framework strongly desired
7. Ability to prepare publications, reports, and presentations.
8. Proven knowledge of financial planning and diagnosis
9. Ability to conduct research, data analysis.
10. Ability to work with a multidisciplinary and multicultural team.
11. Computer literacy particularly in Microsoft and Access software application
12. Strong work ethic.
13. Flexible and ability to prioritize a variety of complex evolving tasks.

Application Requirements

Interested persons shall submit an Expression of Interest/Letter of Application Letter along with Curriculum Vitae inclusive of two (2) references and supporting documents no later than **April 18, 2022**, to:

Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change & Disaster Risk Management

Attn: National Biodiversity Office- Director

3rd Floor Green Complex Building

#2557 Hummingbird Highway

Belmopan

Telephone number 828-9055

or

Email address: BIOFIN-Belize@environment.gov.bz

***Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted**



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES FOR THE DESIGN OF THREE STORAGE AND PACKING FACILITIES

Institution: Ministry of Economic Development

Country: Belize

Project: Resilient Rural Belize Programme

Loan No.: 2000002301

Deadline for Submission of Proposals: April 15, 2022 at 10:00AM.

Background:

The Government of Belize (GOB), through a financing agreement with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and Green Climate Fund (GCF), has embarked on a six year Programme, Resilient Rural Belize (RRB), which aims to minimize the impacts of climatic and economic events on smallholder farmers while supporting sustainable market access for their produce. The programme will help farmers employ climate resilient agricultural practices and technologies; integrate profitable smallholder participation into the development of select vegetables, fruits, and honey value chains; and support smallholder production capacity through investments in public and private climate resilient infrastructure and in the strengthening of smallholder farmer Producers' Organizations and relevant GOB Departments.

Scope of Service:

One of the objectives of the Programme is to assist small farmers to become more climate resilient by improving their agricultural production through investments in climate resilient agricultural technologies such as covered structures, water harvesting facilities and storage facilities. To accomplish this, the Programme must prepare appropriate designs and architectural drawings, which shall be used for the procurement of quality services and materials for the construction and delivery of all identified technologies.

This assignment aims to prepare a complete set of architectural drawings for packaging and storage facilities for three Producers' Organizations that the RRB already has signed agreements with, inclusive of electrical drawings (digital and hard copies), for a solar powered electrical system and priced Bill of Quantities for multiple Producer Organizations (PO). These Producer Organizations for whom these three architectural drawings are directly applicable are:

1. Valley of Peace Farmer's Association Holdings Limited
2. Maya Green Growers' Cooperative Society Limited (San Antonio, Cayo)
3. New River Farmer's Cooperative Limited, (San Carlos, Orange Walk).

Deliverables:

The deliverables for the project shall include:

- i. Workplan with work schedule for the project.
- ii. Preliminary Report of findings.
- iii. Initial Renderings of Drawings in 3D view.
- iv. Final architectural and electrical design and detail working drawings, including 3D Renderings, for the structure in digital and two (2) hard copies.
- v. Priced Bill of Quantities for the completion of the three facilities.

The Resilient Rural Belize (RRB) Programme now invites proposals for the provision of **Architectural Services for the Design of Three Storage and Packing Facilities**.

A Consulting Firm will be selected in accordance with the procurement procedures set out by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the policies.

Consulting Firms interested in receiving the RFP and submitting a Proposal should register their interest by sending an e mail (with subject: Request for RFP Architectural Services for the Design of Three Storage and Packing Facilities) to the Procurement Officer at nvernon.rrb@med.gov.bz giving full contact details of the Consultant. This will ensure that the Consultants receive updates regarding this RFP.

The Proposal must be delivered to the following address on or before April 15, 2021, at 10:00AM (Local time). Consultants also have the option of submitting their Proposals electronically using the File Request Link: <https://bit.ly/3Lcz8YK>

Attn: Nadia Vernon
Procurement Officer
Resilient Rural Belize Programme
Ministry of Economic Development
National Agriculture Showgrounds
Hummingbird Highway

Marijuana — the cream of the cream

Continued from **Page 17**

de las Estrellas), the commentator had stated that the chief of ZETA, after killing the general, came to Belize and took out 20 tons of cocaine, introducing it into Mexico. That was also written by yours truly and published in this same newspaper. Obviously, the information did not come from me, because I don't know anything about it. The person and the information medium was the one who said it. How did they know? I do not know. I don't know who the mafia is either, but I do know that it exists because the news says so. There is marijuana that comes from Mexico, because the news says so.

So, if they are growing marijuana in Mexico and it is against the law, that means that the national security of Mexico is on top of it. Could it be? I wonder. Since, the mafia is already controlling the marijuana market in Mexico, would they stay calm looking at Belize producing marijuana? It means we must think. There are not enough elements here to stop a guerrilla war or a drug outlaw at the international level. In Mexico, they haven't been able to do it, so how can this small country control such an outbreak? Do they plan to put everyone as national security? Fortunately, most of the people here are Christians and, according to the Bible, "the sins of the parents shall fall upon the children". That same marijuana that you are going to plant will be for your children and for your grandchildren, or for your own family; they are going to consume it. And I ask the specialists, how does the brain operate when using this drug? Could it be that they turn into zombies? In Belize, there are already zombies who consume alcohol. That's why there are so many problems that are happening; apart from the automobile accidents, there are other crimes such as love, passion and depression crimes, etc. Do you think you can control that? If we cannot control what is taking place right now, will we be able to control a takeover by the cartels who are also well-trained people? Don't forget that when Guatemala released its kaibiles, where did they go? They went to Mexico to give their services to the drug cartels. All of that is in history. I am not saying anything new. Everything is in history. Think it over, and more than anything your brain—it should not be that for a few cents your children wake up dead in the drain and you come to regret it afterwards.

fincasolan@gmail.com
March 26, 2022
Finca Solana
Corozal Town



Government of Belize Belize Social Investment Fund III Loan (BSIF III)

Consultancy Services to Undertake Design Review Services and Construction Works Supervision Services for the Proposed Expansion of Water Supply Services for the Communities of Camalote Village, Teakettle Village, and St. Matthew's Village, Cayo District, Belize

Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI)

The Government of Belize (GOB) has received financing from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) towards implementing the Belize Social Investment Fund III Loan Project (BSIF III), which aims to provide increased gender-equitable and inclusive access to climate-resilient infrastructure and quality basic social-services for poor and vulnerable communities. The Project comprises small-scale infrastructure works and capacity building for stakeholders. The GOB has appointed the Belize Social Investment Fund (BSIF) as the Implementing Agency (IA) for the Project, and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds to eligible payments under a contract for which this invitation is issued. Payments by CDB will be made only at the request of GOB and upon approval by CDB, and will be subject in all respects to the terms and conditions of the Financing Agreement. The Financing Agreement prohibits withdrawal from the financing account for the purpose of any payment to persons or entities, or for any import of goods, if such payment or import, to the knowledge of CDB, is prohibited by a decision of the United Nations Security Council taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. No party other than GOB shall derive any rights from the Financing Agreement or have any claim to the proceeds of the Financing.

The BSIF, the IA, now wishes to procure consultancy services to undertake design review services and construction works supervision services for the proposed expansion of water supply services for the Communities of Camalote Village, Teakettle Village, and St. Matthew's Village, Cayo District, Belize. Important to note is that design services and construction works will be undertaken by Belize Water Services Ltd.

The objective of the consultancy is to provide technical support to the IA during the implementation of the BSIF III Project. Consulting Firms will be required to review existing designs and estimates; advise on scope and adequacy of sub-project intervention; and provide detailed revised designs, revised summary estimates, and revised priced activity schedules. The work must consider thematic areas such as gender and environmental assessments, and shall seek to integrate disaster mitigation measures into revised designs. Consulting Firms will also be required to provide technical inspection of construction works. The duration of the assignment is expected to be for a period of approximately sixteen (16) months; however, it may vary as a result of certain aspects of the sub-project.

The BSIF now invites interested eligible **consulting firms** to submit Expressions of Interest (EOI) indicating qualifications and experience required to provide these Consultancy Services.

Consultants shall be eligible to participate if:

- in the case of the body corporate, it is legally incorporated or otherwise organized in an eligible country, has its principal place of business in an eligible country and is more than 50% beneficially owned by a citizen(s) and/or bona fide resident(s) of an eligible country(ies) or by a body(ies) corporate meeting these requirements;
- in the case of unincorporated firms, the persons are citizens or bona fide residents of an eligible country; and
- in all cases, the consultant has no arrangement and undertakes not to make any arrangements, whereby any substantial part of the net profits or other tangible benefits of the contract will accrue or be paid to a person not a citizen or bona fide resident of an eligible country.

Eligible countries are member countries of CDB. The Member Countries of the CDB can be found at the following web address: <https://www.caribank.org/countries-and-members/borrowing-members> and <https://www.caribank.org/countries-and-members/non-borrowing-members>. In the assessment of submissions, consideration will be given to consulting firms' qualifications and experience in relation to providing detailed designs and construction supervision services for water supply projects; local and regional experience; financial capability; and existing commitments. All information must be submitted in English. Further information may be obtained from the first address below between the hours of 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Belize time) Monday to Friday, except on Public Holidays.

The Expression of Interest must be received electronically at the first (BSIF) and second (CDB) address below no later than **10:00 a.m. (Belize time) on Monday, April 11, 2022**. The subject line of the email containing each submission shall be clearly marked "**BSIFIII - Expressions of Interest – Consultancy Services to Undertake Design Review and Construction Works Supervision Services for the Proposed Expansion of Water Supply Services for the Communities of Camalote Village, Teakettle Village, and St. Matthew's Village, Cayo District, Belize**".

Following the assessment of submissions, a short-list of not less than three (3) and not more than six (6) applicants will be provided with full terms of reference and invited to submit technical and financial proposals to undertake the assignment. Following the submission of proposals, a Consultant shall be selected by utilizing the Least Cost Selection (LCS) method. GOB reserves the right to accept or reject late applications or to cancel the present invitation partially or in its entirety. It will not be bound to assign any reason for not short-listing any applicant and will not defray any costs incurred by any applicant in the preparation and submission of Expressions of Interest.

Addresses:

1. Procurement Unit
Belize Social Investment Fund
3rd Floor #1902 Constitution Drive
Belmopan
BELIZE
Tel. (501) 822-0239; Fax. (501) 822-0279
Email: submissions@sifbelize.org

2. Procurement Officer
Caribbean Development Bank
P.O. Box 408
Willey St. Michael
BARBADOS, W.I.
Tel. (246) 539-1600
Email: procurement@caribank.org
cc: omar.bispat@caribank.org

Royal visit ends with renewed discussion of decolonization

The royal couple met more protests in the Bahamas as they concluded their tour of the Caribbean. Belize's Minister of Constitutional Affairs, Hon. Henry Charles Usher, during Friday's House meeting, said, "Perhaps it is time for Belize to take that next step in truly owning our independence."



Prince William



Hon. Henry Charles Usher

BELIZE CITY, Sun. Mar. 27, 2022

The royal visit of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, Prince Williams and his wife Kate, came to an end with a visit to the Bahamas, where they were once again met by protest from residents. This time, the Rastafarian community in the country attempted to stage a protest in front of a primary school that the couple visited. They were reportedly removed from the area by police. In his remarks during a state dinner in Jamaica, Prince William aligned himself with the sentiments of his father, Prince Charles, who during a ceremony in Barbados at which the island officially became a republic, said, "the atrocity of slavery forever stains our history". During his



Protest in the Bahamas

remarks William said, "I want to express my profound sorrow. Slavery was abhorrent. And it should never have happened."

While this statement falls short of an explicit apology, the remarks are being seen as unprecedented. A statement issued by Kensington Palace yesterday said that the duke took the opportunity to reflect, and admitted that the visit has brought a sharper focus on the past and how the peoples of the countries visited will decide upon their futures.

"I know that this tour has brought into even sharper focus questions about the past and the future. In Belize, Jamaica, and The Bahamas, that future is for the people to decide upon. But we have thoroughly enjoyed spending time with communities in all three countries, understanding more about the issues that matter most to them!" Prince Williams remarked in the release.

During Friday's sitting of the House of Representatives, Minister Henry Charles Usher, who had recently announced the establishment of the People's Constitutional Commission, said that in revisiting the laws of Belize, it may be time to revisit our governance structure, which means the people would choose whether or not the country should remain a parliamentary monarchy or become a republic. Another body that was recently established by the government is a Good Governance Unit, which, according to Minister Usher, will be the secretariat for the People's Constitutional Commission.

"The G.G.U., the Good Governance Unit, will also be the Secretariat for the People's Constitutional Commission, which will have a comprehensive look at the laws of Belize, including the Constitution, as well as the way we are governed. Madam Speaker, the decolonization process is enveloping the Caribbean region. Perhaps it is time for Belize to take that next step in truly owning our independence. But, it is a matter that the people of Belize must decide on," said Minister Usher.

It must be noted that the UBAD Educational Foundation released an open letter to Minister Usher urging him to ensure that there is sufficient representation of the black Belizean community both locally and from the diaspora on the newly formed constitutional commission.



Belize Solid Waste Management Authority

of the

Ministry of Natural Resources, Petroleum and Mining

Invitation to Quote (ITQ) for Maintenance of Dumpsites in Corozal, Orange Walk, Belmopan, Dangriga, Placencia and Punta Gorda

The Government of Belize (GOB) has received financing from the *Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)*, towards the cost of the Solid Waste Management Project II and intends to apply part of the proceeds towards the maintenance of dumpsites in Corozal, Orange Walk, Belmopan, Dangriga, Placencia and Punta Gorda.

The Belize Solid Waste Management Authority now invites interested bulldozer operators from Corozal, Orange Walk, Belmopan, Dangriga, Placencia and Punta Gorda to submit an application letter to provide services for the respective dumpsite, a completed quotation and schedule, and bulldozer specifications in hardcopy or email to the address listed below.

Additional information and a copy of the template for quotation and schedule may be obtained from the address below. Deadline for submission of application is April 8, 2022, at 3:00p.m.

Waste Management Technician
 Belize Solid Waste Management Authority
 3013 Bougainvillea Street, Orchid Garden Area
 City of Belmopan, Belize, C.A.
 Tel: (501) 802 1527
 E-mail: TimmonsRJ@gobmail.gov.bz



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 April 1, 2022 to Thursday April 7, 2022

FRIDAY

- 6:30 a.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (LIVE)**
- 9:00 a.m. **Morning Stew (LIVE)**
- 12:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**
- 1:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 2:00 p.m. Movie: Second Sight
- 3:30 p.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (repeat)**
- 6:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (LIVE)**
- 7:00 p.m. Jazz Session
- 7:30 p.m. **You And The Law (repeat)**
- 9:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**

SATURDAY

- 9:00 a.m. **Community Dialogue (LIVE)**
- 11:50 p.m. Movie: Mulan
- 1:46 p.m. Documentary: Safari Africa
- 2:14 p.m. Movie: Mandela's Long Walk to Freedom
- 5:34 p.m. **Community Dialogue (repeat)**
- 7:15 p.m. Movie: The Tiffany Rubin Story
- 8:00 p.m. Music Videos

SUNDAY

- 10:30 a.m. **Sunday Review (LIVE)**
- 12:00 p.m. Documentary: Seeds of Death
- 1:19 p.m. Movie: The Hate You Give
- 3:32 p.m. Documentary: The Power Of A Story - Walter Rodney
- 4:02 p.m. Movie: Thy Will Be Done
- 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. Documentary: Inside Job
- 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: Q Leslie
- 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. Belizean Legend: Bella Carib
- 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: The Truth About Your Food
- 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: One Last Prayer
- 3:30 p.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (repeat)**
- 6:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (LIVE)**
- 7:00 p.m. Jazz Session
- 7:30 p.m. **You And The Law (LIVE)**
- 9:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**

THURSDAY

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



Daily Crossword Puzzle for March 29, 2021

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9
10				11				12		
13				14				15		
16					17					
18				19	20			21		22 23
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27	28	29					30	31		
32				33	34					
35				36		37			38	39 40
			41		42				43	
44	45							46		47
48				49					50	
51					52				53	

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- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>Across</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Close a duffel bag 4. Bandeau, for short 7. Bara film 10. Angry state 11. Adult elver 12. Breakfasted 13. Bad review 14. Consign confidently 16. Bake sale grp., maybe 17. Bumbler's word 18. Cowardly 21. Atlas charts 24. American to a Brit. 26. Come down with 27. Basque headgear 30. Song of sorrow 32. Aves, once 33. Aspiration 35. Compact 37. Guitarist Chet 41. Steer flesh 43. Actor Pendleton 44. Guilty party 47. Big flap 48. Avail oneself of 49. Baseball bat lumber 50. Love, in a sense 51. Cochlea site 52. Any miss 53. Anteceding | <p>Down</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Full of vim and vigor 2. Incensed 3. Code variety 4. Andy Taylor's aunt 5. Publicity 6. A chorister 7. Bacon alternative 8. Possessive pronoun 9. After taxes 15. 45 or 78, e.g. 19. Cleansing agent 20. Egad or dang 22. Coat rack piece 23. Farm abode 25. Held on to 27. Automation, abbr. 28. A notorious Peron 29. Classic Nash vehicle 31. Albanian currency 34. Clumsy 36. Brisk energy 38. Cockamamie 39. Rock bottom 40. Elegant wrap 42. Angelico and Diavolo 44. Actor's hint 45. NAFTA member 46. A relative |
|--|---|

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 - 03-25-2021 - Answers

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



CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Belize Electricity Limited (BEL) is the primary distributor and the only licensed public provider of electricity in Belize. Our Mission is to deliver safe, reliable and sustainable energy solutions to enhance the quality of life and the productivity of enterprise and to support national development.

We are looking for a highly motivated, goal oriented, responsible and committed person to join our Company in the role of **Supervisor, Operations Information Systems in the Distribution Planning and Engineering Department** of our **Distribution Services Division** at our Magazine Road compound in Belize City.

Duties:

- Maintain and update the Company's Geographic Information System (GIS) database and manage data collection procedures involving Distribution Technicians countrywide.
- Train pertinent staff in all relevant departments as required to implement data collection.
- Implement and manage ArcFM Designer and workflow control, implement and maintain ArcFM Web Portal, create mapping applications that facilitate efficient data dissemination.
- Review for adequacy the human, equipment, software and other resources required to develop, update and maintain the GIS database, make recommendations for new resources or for resource changes as seen relevant.
- Document, categorize and develop a plan for the delivery of various GIS services to departments/users throughout the Company, and external customers as requested.
- Provide services (including web apps, map services, etc.) to relevant users as required.
- Lead Operations Information System (OIS) section to support BEL Divisions with GIS related operations and lead the transition from a traditional process to geographically integrated systems.
- Develop and implement process flows to support BEL's operations.

Education and Experience:

- Bachelor's degree in Geographic Information System or related field and five year's relevant experience
- Two year's supervisory experience

Required Skills and Abilities:

- Working knowledge of GIS related software (ArcGIS suite)
- Knowledge of Server Management software
- Working knowledge of Microsoft Office programs and database applications
- Strong project management skills
- Strong analytical and critical thinking skills
- Good innovation and creativity skills
- Excellent interpersonal and leadership skills
- Strong general and technical communication skills (reports, instructions, specifications, technical manuals, proposals, presentations)
- Action and results oriented with excellent collaborative skills for pursuing shared goals
- Ability to take initiative, exercise sound judgement while maintaining high work quality
- Ability to meet deadlines in a fast paced and changing environment
- Valid driver's license

Salary: in accordance with Company Salary Structure.

Submit application letter along with resume, copy of degrees and certificates and three recent professional letters of recommendation via email to:

Manager, Talent Acquisition & Development
Email: career.opportunity@bel.com.bz

In the email subject, please indicate the position:
Supervisor, Operations Information Systems

Only electronic applications are being accepted at this time.
For more information or queries, call 227-0954 Ext. 2901 or 1415

Deadline: Wednesday, April 6, 2022



Ahmadiyya Basketball League Week 7 results

by *Rodvern Lino* –
ABL Commissioner

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Mar. 28, 2022

The Ahmadiyya Basketball League (ABL) Tournament 2022 continued over the weekend with Week 7 games, which included fifteen (15) games played on Sunday, March 27, at the Mexico Center courts at the Marion Jones Sports Complex, and an additional 3 games played on Saturday, March 26, at the Multipurpose Center in Orange Walk in what has been dubbed the "ABL Northern Classic". In an effort to bring games to the districts, ABL on wheels!!!!

Below are the results from Week 7 games:

Sun. Mar. 27, Mexico Center in Belize City

U15

Los Lagos Defenders over Young Ballers, 56 – 23. Los Lagos – Calvin Thurton 14pts; Tevaan Dakers 8pts. Young Ballers – Maleeque McDonald 9pts; Levaughan Reneau 6pts.

Lords Bank Conquerors over Young Ballers, 24 – 22. Conquerors – Dario Cruickshank, Jr. 8pts; Kingston Nicholas 7pts. Young Ballers – Jernick Hyde 8pts; Sheldon Smith and Keron Burgess 4pts each.

ABS Hard Rock over Lords Bank Conquerors, 46 – 14. Hard Rock – Daniel Musa 10pts; Kyle Goff and Thomas Garcia 8pts each. Conquerors – Winfield Tasher and Dario Cruickshank, Jr. 4pts each.

U18

All Star Ballers over Ladyville Big Dreams, 35 – 24. All Star – Brandon Smith 11pts; Jayden Thomas 9pts. Big Dreams – Maleek Middleton 6pts; Marque Ortiz 7pts.

All Star Ballers over 501 Grizzlies, 43 – 35. All Star – Brandon Smith 17pts; Andre Bevans 10pts. 501 Grizzlies – Farian Kingston 12pts; T. Gallego 10pts.

Future Shock over Riverside Bombers, 69 – 21. Future Shock – Shane Pratt 20pts; Triston Perriot 12pts. Riverside – Sanjay Baltazar 7pts; Curtis August, Jr. and Mark Jenkins 6pts each.

U22

Orange Court Generals over Big Dream Ballers, 23 – 21. OCG – Kerdel Tench 8pts; Mordecai Lewis 4pts. Big Dream – D'Jon Canelo 13pts; Antuane Warrior 4pts.

One Shot over 501 Gators, 56 – 41. One Shot – Kerwin Palacio 16pts; Dominic Gill 11pts. Gators – Corey Garbutt 16pts; Kayden



Week 2 of NAWL and defending champs Jewel Fury still winless

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Mar. 31, 2022

Week 2 of the National Amateur Women's League (NAWL) 2022 Opening Season is in the books, and by now it has likely dawned on fans of the old capital that there is no Belize City representative team in this NAWL season. The Belize District is represented by San Pedro Pirates FC women's team. Neither is there any team from Toledo or Orange Walk (Juventus Girls pulled out a week before the tournament started.) Of the 10 participating teams, 5 in each group, there are 2 teams playing out of Corozal – Corozal United Warriors and Bay City FC; 1 from the Belize District – San Pedro Pirates FC; 1 from Belmopan – Jewel Fury; 3 from Cayo – Cayo Dreamers, Santa Elena Strikers and Verdes Rebels; 2 from Mid-South – Rumberas and Sagitun Girlz; and 1 from Dangriga – Wagiya United SC.

It will also be noticed that this might be a season like no other, as Week 2 is over, and defending champs Jewel Fury is yet to register a victory, actually sitting near the bottom of the standings in a season that is slated to end in relegation of the Division A last place team, and elevation of the Division B winner. (See standings below.)

In Week 1 games on Saturday, March 19, Sagitun Girlz clipped Jewel Fury, 2-1; San Pedro Pirates FC dropped Verdes Rebels, 1-0; and Bay City FC blanked Wagiya United SC, 4-0. The game scheduled for Sunday, March 20, between Santa Elena Strikers and Corozal United Warriors was postponed.

This past weekend, there were 3

games on Saturday, March 26, and 1 on Sunday, March 27.

Saturday, March 26

(Div. A) At the M.A. Stadium in Independence, it was scoreless in first half, but Rumberas got second half goals from Carlene Tillett (61') and Roshanny Martinez (89') to gain the 2-0 victory over Sagitun Girlz.

(Div. A) Meanwhile, it was a scoreless draw, 0-0, at the Isidoro Beaton Stadium between Jewel Fury and San Pedro Pirates FC.

(Div. B) At the Ricalde Stadium in Corozal, the visiting Cayo Dreamers came away with a 3-0 win over Corozal United Warriors, courtesy of a goal apiece from Sara Torres (22'), Jehnia Arnold (44') and Allyshia Bowman (57').

Sunday, March 27

(Div. B) The home fans at the Ricalde Stadium were happier on Sunday, when their flagship team, Bay City FC avenged the Warriors' loss on Saturday with a 13-0 drubbing of another visitor from the

Cayo District, Santa Elena Strikers, who added to the 12 goals scored by Bay City with an own goal from the Strikers' Martha Stevens (no time given). Sharing in the scoring for Bay City were Alisha Terry (3' & 53'), Anahie Blanco (15', 24' & 51'), Nora Ramirez (22'), Darina Tzul (46' & 50'), Miriam Villamil (54'), Aaliyah Herbert (75'), Shante Chacon (79') and Jocelyn Sho (86').

After a break for international matches of the National Senior Women's Team on April 6 and 12, followed by the Easter holidays and Cross Country, the competition resumes with Week 3 games on April 23.

Week 3 NAWL schedule:

Saturday, April 23

4:00 p.m. – (A) Verdes Rebels vs Rumberas – Norman Broaster Stadium

4:00 p.m. – (A)

San Pedro Pirates vs Sagitun Girlz – Ambergris Stadium

3:00 p.m. – (B) Wagiya SC Ladies vs Santa Elena Strikers – Carl Ramos Stadium

Sunday, April 24

3:00 p.m. – (B) Cayo Dreamers vs Bay City FC – Norman Broaster Stadium

NAWL 2022 Opening Season							
Week #2 Standings at Sunday, March 27, 2022							
DIVISION-A	W	D	L	GF	GA	Diff	Pts
San Pedro Pirates FC	1	1	0	1	0	1	4
Rumberas	1	0	0	2	0	2	3
Sagitun Girlz	1	0	1	2	3	-1	3
Jewel Fury	0	1	1	1	2	-1	1
Verdes Rebels	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0
DIVISION-B	W	D	L	GF	GA	Diff	Pts
Bay City FC	2	0	0	17	0	17	6
Cayo Dreamers	1	0	0	3	0	3	3
Corozal United Warriors	0	0	1	0	3	-3	0
Wagya United SC	0	0	1	0	4	-4	0
Santa Elena Strikers	0	0	1	0	13	-13	0

NSC Recreation & Wellness Basketball Tournament Week 2 update

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Mar. 31, 2022

While Belize City fans await the return of semipro basketball, the National Sports Council (NSC) has launched its Recreation and Wellness Basketball Tournament 2022 on Friday, March 18, at the Marion Jones Sports Complex in Belize City, and already they have completed 2 weeks of competition.

The twelve (12) participating teams are divided into two groups:

Division A – Belize Healthcare “Shooting Stars”; Belize Tax Services “Kolletaz”; Belize Defence Force “Snipers”; Digi; Belize City Council “Dragons”; Customs & Excise Department.

Division B – Department of Youth Services (DYS); K.H.M.H.

“Injectors”; National Sports Council “Valley”; Central Bank; BWS; Bowen & Bowen “Belikin Bruwers”.

The current tournament is for male players; the female tournament will be launched soon.

Below are the results from the first two weeks of the competition, where 3 games were played on each Friday night.

Friday, March 18, Group A

In the opener, Belize Tax Services “Kolletaz” pulled out a close victory over Belize Healthcare “Shooting Stars”, 36 - 34. For “Kolletaz” - Ron Nicholson 11 pts; and for “Shooting Stars” - Sekani Tillett 12 pts.

Game 2 was another tight one, with Customs & Excise Department gaining the win over Belize Defence Force “Snipers”, 38 - 36. Customs & Excise - Devon Garcia, Sr. 18 pts; BDF “Snipers” - Ernest Myles 16 pts.

And in the nightcap game, Belize City Council “Dragons” defeated Digi, 48 - 42. BCC “Dragons” - Devin

Daly 20 pts; Digi - Lennox Cayetano 15 pts.

Friday, March 25, Group B

In the opener, KMH “Injectors” disciplined Department of Youth Services, 82 - 19. The top scorer for the “Injectors” was Karl Smith with 33 points; while Department of Youth Services was led by Thaleb Nunez with 7 points.

Game 2 saw Bowen & Bowen

**FOR SALE
BY ORDER OF THE MORTGAGEE**

The Development Finance Corporation of Bliss Parade, City of Belmopan, Cayo District hereby gives notice of its intention to exercise its power of sale as mortgagee under Deed of Mortgages or Charges between those hereinafter named and the said Corporation which mortgages or charges are recorded at the Land Titles Unit or the Lands Registry, respectively and that the said Development Finance Corporation will, at the expiration of two (2) 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 the said Corporation at its Headquarters Office or District Offices.

SCHEDULE

Parcel No. 446, Block 45, Queen Square Registration Section containing 452.11 Square Yards situate on Neal Pen Road, Belize City, Belize District held under a Land Certificate being the freehold interest of **PAUL DAWSON**.

Parcel No. 633, Block No. 45, Queen's Square Registration Section containing 721.41 Square yards situate on Supaul Street, Belize City, Belize District, Belize held under a Land Certificate being the freehold interest of **PAUL DAWSON**.

All that lot, piece or parcel of land situate on the left hand ascending on the Sibun River below Freetown Sibun known as Freetown Dawson Bank, Belize District containing 20 Acres held under a Deed of Gift being the freehold interest of **PAUL DAWSON**.

Parcel No. 2769, Block 1, Corozal North Registration Section containing 1852.73 Square Yards situate on No. 1 G Street, Corozal Town, Corozal District, held under a Land Certificate being the freehold interest of **GABRIEL BOCHNIA**

Parcel No. 7161, Block No. 16, Ladyville/Lord's Bank Registration Section containing 478.005 Square Meters situate in the Los Lagos Area, Ladyville Village, Belize District held under a Land Certificate being the freehold interest of **MICHELLE ELIZABETH TRAPP-ZUNIGA**

Parcel No. 937, Block No 4, Tower Hill Registration Section containing 30 Acres situate in Guinea Grass Village, Orange Walk District, Belize held under a Land Certificate being the freehold interest of **EUFEMIO FIDEL BUSTILLOS**.

DATED THIS 30TH DAY OF MARCH, 2022



Ahmadiyya Basketball League Week 7 results

Continued from  Page 25

Bradley 6pts.

Northside Ballers over Gorilla Cutz, 48 – 36. Northside – Jonathon DeCosta 13pts; Kelvin Pablo 12pts. Gorilla Cutz – Kendis Cayetano 11pts; Everal Tablada 10pts.

Kings Park Raiders over Boom Ballers, 50 – 44. Raiders – Donovan Baird 15pts; Tahj Hemmans and Dantae Smith 9pts each. Boom Ballers – Joshua Westby 16pts; Jaheim Gallego 11pts.

Open

San Pedro Palapa Boys over BDF Ballers, 33 – 25. Palapa Boys – Kirk Burgess 9pts; Andre Almendarez 6pts. BDF Ballers – Renon Baizar 13pts; Marcel Lucas 4pts.

New Release over Complex Titans, 46 – 37. New Release – Felix Martinez 12pts; Kiedel Lino 9pts. Titans – Andrew Ortiz 8pts; Francis Arana 6pts.

Caye Caulker Stingrayz over Orange Walk Dynapros, 41 – 39. Stingrayz – Osmin Arana 14pts; Danny Reynolds 10pts. Dynapros – Roger Reneau 19pts; Iseini Velasquez 9pts.

Chiefs over Orange Court Generals, 40 – 31. Chiefs – Gregory Buckley and Alejandro Baptist 10pts each; Tevaun Lennon 8pts. OCG – John Kelly 10pts; Akeem Trapp 9pts.

San Pedro Palapa Boys over Caye Caulker Stingrayz, 38 – 37. Palapa Boys – Douglas Penland 11pts; Keith Pollard 8pts. Stingrayz – Danny Reynolds 16pts; Harrison Cadle 10pts.

ABL Northern Classic results

Sat. Mar. 26, Orange Walk Multipurpose Center

U18

Hard Rock Defenders over Orange Walk Rebels, 44 – 17. Hard Rock – Devin Moody 25pts; Jahren Rivers 6pts. Rebels – Tevaughn Dawson 8pts; Nyeil Rampassard 5pts.

U22

Orange Walk Rebels over Shuga City Boyz, 56 – 22. Rebels – Rasheed Reneau 17pts; Kevin Jones 16pts. Shuga City – Kendale Clare 8pts; Abner Ramirez 4pts.

Open

Orange Walk Dynapros over Westland, 40 – 28. Dynapros – Roger Reneau 16pts; Josh McLaughlin 9pts. Westland – Alex Ellis 13pts; Darwin Zuniga 8pts.

TENDER FOR THE GENERAL SECURITY AND SURVEILLANCE OF THE CENTRAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OFFICE

Tenders are invited from security companies for the general security and surveillance of the Belize National ICT Center Building (Belmopan City), corner Mountain View Blvd. and Dry Creek Street, and for infrastructure relating to the Disaster Recovery Site located on the top floor of the Post Office Building in Belmopan.

1. The tender shall be for a period of one (1) year commencing 1 July 1, 2022, and ending 30 June 2023.
2. The successful tender will be expected to provide the following security and surveillance services:
 - (a) General security and surveillance of the Belize National ICT Center compound (the “Premises”) including all buildings and fixtures erected therein by armed guards on a 24-hour basis seven days per week, including public and bank holidays.
 - (b) Monitor the Disaster Recovery Site (the “DR Site”) using surveillance cameras and conduct nightly patrols and random verification checks of the generator, electrical room door, and main access door commencing at 6pm to 6am.
 - (c) Allow only authorized persons to enter the Premises. The Security must maintain a log of all persons and vehicles entering and leaving the Premises.
 - (d) Conduct patrols outside the Premises to ensure that doors remain locked and that there is no sign of breakage into the building.
 - (e) The Security Company will provide its personnel with equipment including a licensed firearm for the effective performance of their duties.
 - (f) The Security Company, or its agents shall not divulge to any person or persons, any proprietary information coming to their knowledge in the course of their duties.
 - (g) The Security Company/Guard shall also comply with CITO’s Fire Safety Policy in the event of an emergency fire evacuation. (Details available upon request)
 - (h) Any other security related task as may be agreed upon from time to time by the Parties involved.
3. Costs incurred in visiting the Premises and preparations of the tender bid are the sole responsibility of the tenderer.
4. Tenders shall include
 - a. Letters of Good Standing Belize Tax Service
 - b. Letters of Good Standing Belize Companies Registry
 - c. Letters of Good Standing Belize Social Security Board
 - d. Current Trade License
5. The tenderer shall provide evidence:
 - a. firearm licenses.
 - b. evidence of past jobs
 - c. recommendations for 3 or more customers.
6. Tenders are to be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “**TENDER FOR THE GENERAL SECURITY AND SURVEILLANCE OF THE BELIZE NATIONAL INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) CENTER BUILDING (BELMOPAN)**”, and delivered to the Central Information Technology Office, Belmopan, no later than 3 June 2022 at 10:00 a.m.
7. Tenders will be opened on 3 June 2022 at 10:30 a.m. in front of the tenderers or their representatives who wish to attend the opening.
8. Evaluation of tender will be carried out immediately after the opening of the tenders on 3 June 2022.
9. Additional information can be obtained from Ian Smith at telephone: 828-5169 or by email at ian.smith@cito.gov.bz.
10. The lowest tender will not necessarily be accepted.
11. Late tenders will be disqualified and returned to the tenderer unopened.

Visit us at

www.amandala.com.bz



PUBLIC AUCTION SALES

Hope Creek, Dangriga & Belmopan City

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees, Messrs. Heritage Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneer **Fitzgerald A. Joseph** will sell the following properties **ON SITE** on Saturday the **9th April, 2022** starting at **9:30 a.m.** Please note that **Social Distancing Protocol** will be in full effect and the wearing of mask will be mandatory.



Being 13.515 acres situated in Hope Creek Village Agriculture Layout, Stann Creek District being described as Block 43A Minister's Fiat Grant No. 519 of 1998 the freehold property of Ken & Darlene Arnold at **9:30 a.m.**

<u>Registration Section</u> Dangriga South	<u>Block</u> 31	<u>Parcel</u> 1756
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Being an elevated concrete house having three bedrooms, two baths, living, dining, kitchen, two porches, verandah and having a cement roof located in the south western side of Dangriga Town together with a parcel of land containing 729.05 square meters together with all buildings and erection standing and being thereon the freehold property of Hilberto Arzu Jr. at **10:00 a.m.**

<u>Registration Section</u> Belmopan	<u>Block</u> 20	<u>Parcel</u> 1266
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Being a two storey concrete building together with a partially fenced lot containing 3,006.45 square yards situated at the Cor. Forest Drive & Ministry Drive, Belmopan City, Cayo District, Belize the freehold property of Kenzle Hulse at **2:00 p.m.**

<u>Registration Section</u> Belmopan	<u>Block</u> 20	<u>Parcel</u> 9
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Being a two storey concrete apartment units having a commercial unit on the ground floor comprising four rooms, two bathrooms and two open areas. On the upper floor there are apartment units each having two bedrooms, one bath, kitchen, living, dining and a verandah. In the back there is a one storey apartment having two apartment units each having two bedrooms, one bath and an open plan to facilitate living, dining and kitchen area. It has entrance from both Nargusta Street and Hummingbird Avenue, together with a fully fenced lot containing 538.89 square yards situated on Nargusta Street and Hummingbird Avenue, Belmopan City, Cayo District, Belize the freehold property of Kenzle Hulse at **3:00 p.m.**

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH
FITZGERALD A. JOSEPH
TELEPHONE: 601-2039
Email: palas105@yahoo.com

LEADERSHIP SEARCH VICE PRESIDENT



JOIN OUR TEAM

The University of Belize is seeking a VICE PRESIDENT to support the effort to transform itself into a vibrant national institution committed to sustaining the continuing development of Belize.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Reporting to the President, who carries overall responsibility for the functioning of the institution, the Vice President is responsible for the day-to-day management of, and medium-term planning for, the academic operations of the University. The post carries specific oversight responsibility for the teaching and research operations and management of the individual faculties and other academic units, including ensuring adequate staffing of teaching and research positions, and including the management of campus operations at Central Farm and Punta Gorda, and the Environmental Research Institute. The Vice President is also responsible for supervising the operations of the Student Affairs Office, the Office of the Registrar, the Office of Quality Assurance and the Library. A critical requirement of the post is the establishment and maintenance of arrangements for ensuring the highest possible levels of academic quality in the teaching outcomes of the institution, for ensuring relevance in the content of courses and programmes offered by the University, and for ensuring the highest quality in teaching delivery and harnessing research. The ideal candidate would be performance-focused, output- and outcome-oriented, people-friendly, and willing and capable of encouraging high-level performance from subordinates. Emphasis in candidate-selection would be placed on a demonstrated track-record.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

- Doctoral degree and a record of excellence in teaching, research and service;
- Proven academic leadership skills; willingness and ability to lead, manage, motivate and counsel faculty members and administrators;
- Demonstrated experience in the design, development, organisation, management and evaluation of teaching curricula; knowledge of the maintenance of curricula relevance; and knowledge of teaching delivery methods and the evaluation of teaching delivery effectiveness, including distance delivery;
- Experience in the development of tertiary-level academic policies as they affect faculty, students, and non-academic staff;
- Experience in administration in tertiary-level institutions, including staffing, budgeting, and multi-year operational planning and the oversight of institutional activities;
- Experience in the conduct and management of research activities.

IDEAL CHARACTERISTICS

- Impeccable integrity;
- People-centred with outstanding interpersonal communications skills with a demonstrated ability to develop strategic partnerships;
- A proven leader and skilled manager with an inclusive leadership style who will empower faculty, staff and students to think creatively;
- Ability to inspire trust and confidence, while building consensus within the institution;
- Ability to interact effectively with organizations as the face and voice of the University, acting as the advocate for the institution's mission to drive national development, and attracting needed resources;
- Ability to work in a non-partisan way with all stakeholders;
- A persuasive leader who will work with the Office of Institutional Advancement, faculty, staff and the Alumni Association in the development of donor prospects;
- Strong focus on the delivery of the highest possible quality of the main University product: the student graduate; and
- Commitment to the establishment and maintenance of the highest level of academic quality.

While operations at UB are conducted in English, a working knowledge of Spanish would be useful.

COMPENSATION AND TERMS OF ENGAGEMENT

This is a full-time contractual appointment. Compensation and terms of engagement will be competitive with those associated with posts carrying similar breadth of responsibilities at institutions in the region similar to the University of Belize.

APPLICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO

Major Lloyd Jones (Ret'd) MBA, MSc.
Vice Chairman
Board of Trustees
Head of the Vice President's Selection Committee
University of Belize
Hummingbird Avenue
Belmopan City, Cayo District
Belize, Central America
Email: ubseniorvacancies1@gmail.com

Candidates should include a cover letter, detailed curriculum vitae, and copies of relevant degrees and certificates. To expedite the applications process, candidates are asked to include also the names, addresses, and electronic contact information (including telephone numbers) of five (5) referees (two persons who report directly to the candidate, two persons to whom the candidate reports directly, and one faculty member from the current or a former educational institution). The University of Belize must have authorization from candidates to contact the identified referees.

Queries may be addressed to: ubseniorvacancies1@gmail.com
For More information About the University of Belize: www.ub.edu.bz

Deadline to Apply is Monday, May 9, 2022



CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Belize Electricity Limited (BEL) is the primary distributor and the only licensed public provider of electricity in Belize. Our Mission is to deliver safe, reliable and sustainable energy solutions to enhance the quality of life and the productivity of enterprise and to support national development.

We are looking for a highly motivated, goal oriented, responsible and committed person to join our Company in the role of **Lineman** in the **Distribution Operations Department** of our **Distribution Services Division** at the following locations.

San Pedro	San Ignacio	Independence
Caye Caulker	Dangriga	

Duties:

- Effectively listen and provide input in tailboard discussions.
- Communicate with other crew members promoting teamwork.
- Assign/operate vehicle and other tools and equipment.
- Expand experience to work on multiphase circuits.
- Progress to angled structures to perform rubber glove work on circuits energized to 25kV and hot stick work on circuits energized to 115kV.
- Plan/action live line jobs involving rubber gloves and live line tools.
- Take on-call duties as required to respond to emergencies.
- Adhering to the Company construction and maintenance standards, codes of practice and safety rules.
- Work under the supervision of a lineman line supervisor and assist with on call duties.

Education and Experience:

- Associate Degree in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and/or Engineering Technology is required
- Successful completion of all levels and requirements of the Apprentice Lineman Program

Required Skills and Abilities:

- Ability to work in a team with good collaborative skills for pursuing shared goals
- Must be reliable and self-motivated
- Possess planning and organization skills with good attention to detail
- Ability to work in a fast-paced environment and meet deadlines
- Good communication and interpersonal skills (written and verbal)
- Actions and results oriented
- Working knowledge of the Windows Environment and Microsoft Office applications
- Valid Class B2 driver's license

Salary: in accordance with Company Salary Structure.

Submit application letter along with resume, copy of degrees and certificates and two recent professional letters of recommendation via email to:

Manager, Talent Acquisition & Development
Email: career.opportunity@bel.com.bz

In the email subject, please indicate the position:
Application - Lineman (vacancy location of your choice)

Only electronic applications are being accepted at this time.
For more information or queries, call 227-0954 Ext. 2901 or 1415

Deadline: Friday , April 8, 2022

Woman raising funds for sick mom dies in RTA

Safira Teul, a 23-year-old mother of 3, died on Sunday in a traffic accident that occurred in an area between the San Roman and Maya Mopan villages in the Stann Creek District.



Safira Teul, deceased

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Tues. Mar. 29, 2022

A young mother of three who had been delivering tamales made by her family as part of an effort to raise funds for her ailing mother, tragically lost her life after a traffic accident on Sunday morning, March 27. Safira Teul, 23, had reportedly been on her way back to her home when she was in an accident that occurred on the Southern Highway between the villages of San Ramon and Maya Mopan in the Stann Creek district at around 7:00 a.m.

She was reportedly seated in the passenger side of a vehicle that was heading from San Roman Village to her home in Maya Mopan when, as they drew near to a cemetery, there was a blowout of the left front tire of the vehicle near a curve. At that point, the driver lost control of the vehicle and it overturned—resulting in severe injuries to Teul that eventually led to her death.

Her brother, Christopher Teul, told reporters that a farmer who was on his way to his plantation saw the accident and rendered assistance. However, Safira succumbed to her injuries while being transported to the Southern Regional Hospital.

He said: “Luckily, there was a farmer that was heading to his farm on a motorcycle with his son-in-law on that same morning, and he was the first person to be on the scene. He actually saw when the vehicle was turning over and he responded and noticed that there were 4 occupants of the vehicle. He then sent his son-in-law to the field, because they were having a marathon on the field on that same day in the village. My brother was also on the field”. “My sisters were doing delivery and the first thing that came to my mind was, ‘this is my sisters’, so he hurriedly got a vehicle and proceeded to the scene and that was when my sister, my little niece, and brother-in-law came



CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Belize Electricity Limited (BEL) is the primary distributor and the only licensed public provider of electricity in Belize. Our Mission is to deliver safe, reliable and sustainable energy solutions to enhance the quality of life and the productivity of enterprise and to support national development.

We are looking for a highly motivated, goal oriented, responsible and committed person to join our Company in the role of **Apprentice Lineman** in the **Distribution Operations Department** of our **Distribution Services Division** at the following locations:

San Pedro	San Ignacio	Independence
Caye Caulker	Dangriga	

Applicants will undergo company-based training aimed at progression to qualified Lineman. This post offers the opportunity for progressive career advancement to supervisory/management levels.

Education and Experience:

- Associate Degree in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and/or Engineering Technology is required

Required Skills and Abilities:

- Ability to work in a team with good collaborative skills for pursuing shared goals
- Must be reliable and self-motivated
- Possess planning and organization skills with good attention to detail
- Ability to work in a fast-paced environment and meet deadlines
- Good communication and interpersonal skills (written and verbal)
- Action and results oriented
- Working knowledge of the Windows Environment and Microsoft Office applications
- Valid Class B2 driver's license

Salary:

- \$20,700.00 per annum
- Annual increase is applied based on training progression

Submit application letter along with resume, copy of degrees and certificates and two recent professional letters of recommendation via email to:

Manager, Talent Acquisition & Development
Email: career.opportunity@bel.com.bz

In the email subject, please indicate the position:
Application - Apprentice Lineman (vacancy location of your choice)

Only electronic applications are being accepted at this time.
For more information or queries, call 227-0954 Ext. 2901 or 1415

Deadline: Friday, April 8, 2022

Woman raising funds for sick mom dies in RTA

Continued from Page 29

out of the vehicle. My sister, who later passed away, came out and complained of stomach pain. So the vehicle that my brother took to reach the scene, [he] carried them to the hospital [Independence Polyclinic], and then my sister was moved from the polyclinic to Southern Regional Hospital in Dangriga where she passed away in the ambulance," recounted Teul.

Safira Teul leaves behind 3 children all under the age of 7-years-old, and Christopher Teul is pleading with the general public for financial assistance to partially cover the family's funeral expenses.

"My sister left behind her 3 children—her 6-year-old, 4-year-old, and 2-year-old daughters. If the public or anyone is willing to help financially in any way, they can; everyone is welcomed. I can be reached at 665-3358. I have a Belize Bank account ... Belize Bank's number is 214695010160000. Everybody is welcome to donate. We're still planning the funeral, as a post-mortem must be conducted on her, so we're just waiting to finalize when will be the wake and the funeral," he said.

NSC Recreation & Wellness Basketball Tournament Week 2 update

Continued from Page 26

"Belikin Bruwers" defeating National Sports Council "Valley", 57 – 50. Top scorer for "Belikin Bruwers" was Kadeem Olivera with 18 pts; while for NSC "Valley", Steven Baizar and Devon Smith had 12 pts each.

The nightcap game was another blowout, as this time it was BWS opening the floodgates on Central Bank by a 64 – 28 score. BWS was led by Travis Bernardez with 17 pts, while Floyd Talbert had 12 pts for Central Bank.

Upcoming Week 3 schedule:
Friday, April 1, Group A
6:00 p.m. - Belize Defence Force "Snipers" vs Digi
7:15 p.m. - Customs & Excise Department vs Belize Healthcare "Shooting Stars"
8:30 p.m. - Belize Tax Services "Kollectaz" vs Belize City Council "Dragons"

(Information courtesy Ms. Barbara Cadle – NSC Sports Coordinator)

ZEE EDGELL EULOGY

by Lisa Shoman

**“LET MY THOUGHTS COME TO YOU
WHEN I AM GONE,
LIKE THE GLOW OF SUNSET
AT THE MARGIN OF STARRY
SILENCE”**

RABINDRANATH TAGORE

How do you sum up a life entire in only a few minutes? How can you capture eighty years of an amazing, rich, beautiful existence in anything less than a novel? And how could anyone do so when the subject is Belize's most prolific and celebrated writer and a beloved teacher? Impossible.

Zelma Inez Tucker was born on Cleghorn Street, in Belize City, British Honduras, on October 21, 1940, to Veronica and Clive Tucker

– a notable Creole Family; one of a bevy of siblings, some of whom I always refer to as the Fabulous Tucker Girls : Martha, Zee, Laura, Monica and Ava. Her brothers were Barry, Clive Jr., Alexander and Lenton. Her family was large and loving.

Zee, like many of us, attended Holy Redeemer School, and St. Catherine Academy, and it can fairly be said that she lived much of the time and places featured in perhaps her most celebrated novel, *Beka Lamb*. Zee Edgell's compelling novel of a span of time in the life of 14-year-old Beka Lamb is a redolent capsule of a bygone Belize City through the observant eye and knowing pen of a girl who was once herself 14.

This is how it begins: “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.”

And just then you have no doubt that this was here, in Belize, and it was about an SCA girl. It is so tempting—and I confess that I truly could not resist the temptation—to read Zee's debut novel, published a year after our Independence in 1981, to see if I could data-mine her work of fiction for clues about the young life of a writer who so obviously knew what she was writing about; a girl who, like Beka, was no “flat-rate Belize Creole, but a person with a ‘high mind’”. Like Beka, Zee was destined to make the shift from “the washing bowl underneath the house bottom to books in a classroom overlooking the Caribbean Sea” — and we are all the richer for it.

Lest there be any doubt that Zee was destined to be a writer, you should know that at the tender age of

18, she worked as a trainee reporter at *The Daily Gleaner* in Kingston, Jamaica, in the late 1950s. These were heady, turbulent times in our Caribbean, and Zee was obviously alive to the struggle of Black Caribbean leaders for independence and self-determination.

In 1965, Zee earned a Diploma in journalism from Regent Street Polytechnic (now the University of Westminster) in England, and the following year, 1966, Zee began her first stint of teaching at St. Cecilia's Academy, I mean, SCA which was situated not far from the front gate of his Majesty's Prison on Gaol Lane.

While still teaching, Zee also became one of the founders of *The Reporter* newspaper in 1967, and in 1968, she met the wonderful Alvin George Edgell, who had come to Belize with the development agency, CARE. Al and Zee were married in Belize in 1968.

And in short order came the twin loves of their lives – Holly, a year later in 1969, and Randall in 1975. Al's work took Zee and the children to Nigeria, the United Kingdom, to Afghanistan, to Bangladesh and to Somalia — where he wound up his development career working for Save the Children.

Zee, Al and their young family settled in Belize City in the early 1980s and Al began to do consulting work and served as a lecturer at the emerging University College of Belize (now the University of Belize). Zee, in true triple threat Superwoman fashion, came home to teach again at SCA (where I had the honor to be in her class) and also served as the Director of the Belize Women's Bureau (also known as the Women's Dept.), 1981-82.

And if that were not enough, her debut novel, *Beka Lamb*, which was also the very first Belizean novel published after Belize gained its independence, in that same year earned the 1982 Fawcett Society Book Prize.

There should be no doubt that Zee cared deeply about women, development and our place in the new Belize. From 1986 to 1988, Zee served again as Director of the Women's Department under a different political administration.

No wonder, then, that all her novels feature women, living, loving, struggling and striving in Belize:

- *In Times Like These*, her 1991 novel, who most readers in the know regard as her most autobiographical sketch, featuring Pavana Leslie, who returns with her children to Belize after many years abroad, and who fights to come to terms with her past;

- 1997's *The Festival of San Joaquin*, in which Marina is released from prison on a three-year probation for the murder of her husband and returns to her home in a Mestizo community in Belize, and which explores the dark territory of domestic violence and a machista culture;




WE ARE HIRING!

Marketing & Sales Manager

At Remax Dorado, we are looking for a resilient, goal oriented, proactive and highly motivated person to join our Team at our Headquarters in Belize City.

Responsibilities:

- Responsible for positioning our brand, creating market awareness and deepening customer engagement.
- Responsible for leading and managing our company's social media platforms.
- Responsible for developing & implementing social media marketing strategy effectively.
- Set key performance indicators and metrics to measure success and maximize sales by developing a business plan that cover sales, revenue, and expense controls.
- Setting sales target and overseeing the activities and performance of the sales team.
- Tracking sales goals and reporting results as necessary.

Education, Experience and Skills:

- Bachelor's Degree in Marketing, Business Administration or related field with at least two years' working experience in sales.
- Bilingual (English & Spanish)
- Knowledge of Grant Cardone Sales
- Excellent time management and organizational Skills
- Excellent negotiation and sales skills
- Excellent communication and presentation skills
- Excellent collaboration and motivation skills

APPLY NOW

Submit application letter along with resume, copy of degrees and certificates and two recent reference letters to:

conzie@remax-dorado.com

Deadline: April 9, 2022

CLASSIFIED ADS

VACANCY

VACANCY: Animal Medical

Centre is looking for a skilled Bookkeeper to accurately record all day-to-day financial transactions, including purchases, sales, receipts and payments. Responsibilities will

include ordering, purchasing and maintaining inventory. The candidate should be familiar with QuickBooks and Excel and have a solid understanding of basic accounting principles. Degree in Finance, Accounting or Business preferred. Email your cover letter and resume to belizevet@yahoo.com

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE

Frank Vernon is applying for a Malt & Cider License to be operated at Di Creole Boys Gift Shop, Avenida Hicaco, Caye Caulker, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Luis Gongora** is applying for Restaurant License to be operated at Moonlight Restaurant, Bahia Puesta Del Sol, Caye Caulker, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Mrs. Myrna Harris** is applying for a Malt & Cider Liquor License to be operated at Belcove Hotel, #9 Regent Street West, Belize City, Belize, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Salvador Luis Marin** is applying for a Night Club License to be operated at I & I Reggae Bar, Luciano Reyes Street, Caye Caulker, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Club Bizzo** is applying for a Publican Special License to be operated at Club Bizzo, 43 Queen Charlotte, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Delone Dawn Westby** is applying for a Publican Special License to be operated at Delone's Deli, 42.5 Miles George Price Highway, Cayo, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Serame Distributors Limited** is applying for a Publican General License to be operated at Serame Distributors Limited, 8730 Curl Thompson Street, Belize, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Ian Vega** is applying for a Convenience Store License to be operated at Vega's Distributors Trading as Mopan Gas Station, Mile 72 George Price Highway, San Jose Succotz Village, Cayo District, Belize, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Richard Gill** is applying for a Liquor License to be operated at Dis Side 2 dat Side Ferry and Boat Bar, #1 Alux Street, Caye Caulker, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

NOTICE

NOTICE: I, Hector Salvador, state that I have lost my original Vessel Registration Certificate. Registration Number: TOL-0259 Name of Vessel: The Killer

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Derrol**

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, April 3, 2022 **Time:** 10:30 a.m. to noon

Guest: Breadah Kojo Asare Bonsu from the Global Afrikan People's Parliament (GAPP)

Sunday Review will be repeated at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 3, 2022



WE ARE HIRING!

Graphic Designer



At Remax Dorado, we are looking for a creative, detailed oriented and highly motivated person to join our Team at our Headquarters in Belize City.

Responsibilities:

- Design visual content for print, digital applications and web design
- Perform retouching and manipulation of images
- Provide technical support for graphic design and video related content for all social media platforms
- Ensure projects are completed with high quality and on schedule
- Design and layout of essential business materials (e.g. business cards, logos, flyers)

Education, Experience and Skills:

- Associate's Degree in Commercial Graphic design, Communication or related field with at least two years' working experience in design and as a video editor
- Bilingual (English & Spanish)
- Proficient in Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop, WordPress, AfterEffect and Premier Pro
- Excellent IT skills, especially with design and photo-editing software
- Exceptional creativity and innovation
- Excellent time management and organizational skills
- Accuracy and attention to detail
- An understanding of the latest design trends and their role within a Sales Environment

APPLY NOW

Submit application letter along with resume, copy of degrees and certificates and two recent reference letters to:

conzie@remax-dorado.com

Deadline: April 9, 2022

ZEE EDGELL EULOGY

Continued from Page 31

• And in 2007, *Time and the River*, about Leah Lawson, daughter of a slave owner and a slave woman in Belize, dreaming of a better future and forced to make difficult choices.

Writers like Zee are gifted beings who hold up a mirror to our faces so that we are obliged to see who we are. There is no gift more precious, or more rare, and Zee had that by the bucket-full. And she clearly loved to teach. I can attest to the fact that she was a wonderful mentor, guide and teacher. In 1988-89, Zee served as a lecturer at the University College of Belize (now the University of Belize).

In the early 1990s, Zee was offered an assistant professor position at Kent State University in Kent, Ohio, and Al and Zee moved to Kent, where Zee became a professor of English with tenure from 1992 to 2009. She retired from Kent State University in 2009, as a full professor of English. Talk about a “high-minded person”!

In 2007, our Zee was made a Member of the British Empire for her services to literature and the community; and in 2009, she was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Literature, from the University of the West Indies at Cave Hill, Barbados, 2009. I believe she is the sole Belizean writer so far to be so distinguished by my alma mater.

After retirement, Al and Zee moved to St. Louis, to be closer to Holly, Randy and Randy’s growing family.

But Zee left her family (and us) too soon in 2020, but those of us who believe, know that she is with her soulmate of 52 years, the incomparable Alvin Edgell. Al and Zee are survived by their son Randall and his wife Emily Shavers Edgell, and their daughter Holly; as well as by three grandchildren: Isaac Edgell, Sophia Edgell and Simon Edgell.

This is but the skimming of the life of Zelma Inez Tucker Edgell. You will each no doubt have many stories, poignant, funny, memorable, to tell each other about her life, her times and her many deeds and accomplishments. Tell the stories; this is how you who are nearest and dearest to her, keep her memory alive.

The rest of us will have her words, always – her four novels and her short stories – and they will teach us again and again, who we were, where we came from and who we are.

Ave Atque Vale, Zee.

I started with Tagore. Let me end with his beautiful words:

DEATH IS NOT
EXTINGUISHING THE LIGHT;
IT IS ONLY PUTTING OUT THE
LAMP
BECAUSE THE DAWN HAS
COME.

RABINDRANATH TAGORE

In loving memory of

John Edward Swift Sr.

Who quietly and peacefully departed this life on March 30, 1973

His life’s journey on this earth

Begun on February 02, 1905

And sixty-eight years later . . . his life’s work was done!

His children, grandchildren and friends,

Still call his name today;

And, they often will say a prayer thanking God

For having blessed them with his life.

They all have different memories of when he was here,

But they all remain grateful for the love he showed; the guidance he gave; and, life’s lessons he taught.

Sadly missed and gratefully remembered by his children, grandchildren and many friends.



Toledo Teachers Credit Union, Ltd.
Queen Street, Punta Gorda Town
Post Office Box 95
Toledo District, BELIZE C. A.
Phone Nos: (501) 722-2522, 722-0060, 722-0056, 671-2522
E-mail: ttcu@btlnet

VACANCY – INTERNAL AUDITOR

Suitable applications are being invited for the post of Internal Auditor for the Toledo Teacher’s Credit Union Ltd to provide coordination and completion of all Regulatory and Auditing requirements of the Credit Union. The Internal Auditor is responsible for monitoring and reporting on the Internal Control Policies, Loan Underwriting Processes & Procedures, Financial Transactions & Daily Operations, and the Audit Programme of the Credit Union. In this capacity, the Internal Auditor will provide an independent assessment of management’s responsibilities for the Credit Union’s assets and compliance with Local & National Regulatory Authorities.

Responsibilities will include:

- Provide quarterly, independent audit reports to the Supervisory Committee via the General Manager guided by the Audit Charter.
- Determine the objectives and scopes of each audit and the allocation of audit resources necessary to complete audits.
- Provide an Annual Audit Plan to encompass the necessary testings & internal controls of the Credit Union.
- Obtain, analyse and appraise sufficient documentary evidence as a basis for formulating an opinion on the efficiency and effectiveness of operations and activities being audited.
- Prepare work papers in accordance with Credit Union and Industry Standards that document test works that were performed and support the findings and conclusions that were derived.
- Prepare formal reports documenting audit procedures performed and audit results, risks associated with audit findings, and practical recommendations for improvement.
- Monitor and appraises the adequacy and effectiveness of corrective actions taken on audit findings and present written reports to the GM and the Supervisory Committee.
- Inform the Supervisory Committee of all significant issues regarding the Credit Union that may be detected through audits or interactions with management and/or staff.
- Establish and maintain written policies, procedures, practical internal verifications, controls, and audit trails to be incorporated into the audit function.
- Monitor national and international regulations as needed. Other responsibilities as assigned by the President/GM and the Supervisory Committee.
- Perform other duties and projects as assigned by the Supervisory Committee and/or President/GM

Required Skills:

Requires general knowledge of the financial institution’s operations, regulations, and services. Possess three to five years of specific or related experience with ability to demonstrate integrity, credibility, confidentiality, and responsibility.

Qualifications:

Minimum of Bachelor’s Degree in Accounting/Business Management with at least three years working experience. Being an Anti-Money Laundering Certified Associate would be an asset. The ability to be fluent in English and Spanish will be an asset.

Application packages should include:

- Letter of Application
- A current Curriculum Vitae
- Copies of Relevant Diplomas/Certificates
- Two letters of recommendation or references.
- A recent Police Record.
- Proof of Address
- Valid Social Security Card or Passport (Belize)
- Proper notice for commencement of work
- Recent Medical Examination

Package can be sent to the General Manager
Deadline for submission of application is 15 April, 2022

Mr. Leopoldo Romero
General Manager
Queen Street
Punta Gorda Town
Toledo District
Belize

Online application can be sent to lromero@ttcupg.org

Toledo Teachers Credit Union is a viable, innovative, socially responsible and transparent financial institution that provides the most efficient, reliable, convenient and competitive financial services to its member-owners and community through education, the use of modern technology, good governance and sound financial management practices.



Central Information Technology Office

Ministry of Finance

Corner Dry Creek Mountain View Boulevard Belmopan

Telephones: 501 822-2406/08-20708 • Email: contact@cito.gov.bz

TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY OF MICROSOFT 365 LICENSES FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE

- The Government of Belize, acting through the Central Information Technology Office, now invites Tenders for the supply of Microsoft 365 Licenses for the Government of Belize. The subscription period required is for one (1) year.
- Procurement of the goods will be conducted through Open Tendering Procedure.

3. Terms of Reference

3a. Technical specifications

The scope of work includes the provision of Microsoft Licenses for the products listed in the table below:

ITEM	QUANTITY
Azure Active Directory Premium P2	100
Microsoft 365 E3	3,800
Microsoft 365 F3	175
Office 365 E3	750
Office 365 E1	900
Office 365 F1	200
Microsoft Defender for Office 365 (Plan 1)	5725
Microsoft Defender for Office 365 (Plan 2)	100
Power BI Pro	10
Project Plan 3	60
Project Plan 5	7
Visio Plan 2	70

3b. Program of Works

The program of work includes:

- Technical support with license provisioning
- Activation of licenses and handing over to Central Information Technology Office
- Issue resolution for the duration of the contract period (12 months)

3c. Schedule

The licenses are to be provisioned and activated no later than 30 June 2022.

- Copies of this Tender document can be downloaded from the Ministry of Finance Procurement Portal <https://procurement.gov.bz/> or from the CARICOM Public Procurement Notice Board <https://cppnb.caricom.org/epps/home.do>.

- Currency exchange rate for regional/international bidders is USD 1.00 to BZD 2.00.

- Eligibility Criteria:** This invitation is open to all eligible Tenderers as per the eligibility criteria below:

- The Tenderer has an active membership in Microsoft Partner Network for Latin America and the Caribbean region and market (MPN ID)
- The Tenderer must be an active Cloud Service Provider (CSP) that can sell CSP offers in Latin America and the Caribbean region and market
- The Tenderer should provide evidence of experience deploying Microsoft 365 for business of a comparable size within the past three years.
- Audited Financial Statements for the past 3 years.
- Bid-Securing Declaration in the amount of BZD 10,000
- The Tenderer has availability of liquid assets through either:
 - Access to line of credit of 30% of the bid price
 - Case in bank account of an amount at least 30% of the bid price

- All Tenders shall include the following additional documentation:

I. Business certificates

a. For local Tenderers:

- Copies of Certificates of Good Standing from:
 - Belize Tax Service
 - Belize Companies Registry
 - Belize Social Security Board
- Copy of current Trade License

- For regional/international Tenderers:** Statement of compliance from Companies' Registry

- Evidence of past jobs including a copy of the contract or agreement with the client including a copy of the TOR.

- Two references.

- The contract is subject to Income and Business Tax as per Government Policy as shown below:
 - 25% - for non-Caricom states
 - 15% - for Caricom member states
 - 6% - for companies in Belize.

- Price should be inclusive of General Sales Tax (GST) payment of 12.5%

10. Questions and Replies

Questions shall be type-written in English and shall be sent via email to the following address: MS365tenders2022@cito.gov.bz. The deadline for queries is 9 May 2022. Responses from the CITO will be type-written in English and will be emailed to the requester and may also be made available to other Tenderers subject to confidentiality.

- Submission Tenders** should be emailed to MS365tenders2022@cito.gov.bz with the subject TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY OF MICROSOFT 365 LICENSES FOR GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE.

The bid response should consist of two password protected files - one technical and one financial. The Technical file will be open first and evaluated.

Only the top 4 bidders that meet the technical merit will have their financial file opened.

To ensure the confidentiality of the submission, the files should be protected via a password. This can be done on the file itself, using zip password protection, or some other means of password protecting the file. The password will be requested at the opening of the tender.

- The deadline for Tender submission** is 23 May 2022. Submissions received after the deadline will be rejected.

13. Evaluation Criteria

Tenders will be evaluated on technical merit and price based on the following criteria:

Evaluation Criteria	Weight (%)
Financial Offer	50%
Technical proposal	50%
Direct technical support from Microsoft.	20%
Access to the portal for managing licenses with the flexibility to increase or decrease licenses throughout the term of the agreement (1-year) at the guaranteed price.	10%
Service delivery models for issue resolution, preferably with English-speaking technical support.	10%
Service delivery experience in provisioning and supporting Microsoft365 for business comparable in the magnitude of this Tender	5%
Financial strength of company demonstrated over past three (3) years	5%
Total	100%

- Opening of the Tenders** will take place online on 23 May 2022 at 2 pm Belize Time and in the presence of the Tenderers or their representatives who wish to attend the Tender opening.

- Evaluation of the Tenders** will be conducted on 25 May 2022.

- The selection of the successful Tenderer will be based on a competitive process that considers Technical and Financial Proposals.

- Incomplete tenders will not be accepted.

PUBLIC AUCTION SALES: PROPERTIES, FARM EQUIPMENT & VEHICLES

San Pedro, Ambergris Caye; Vista Del Mar, Hattievillage Village, Lord's Bank Village, Belize District; San Antonio Village, Xiabe Village, Waree Bight Village, Corozal District; Trail Farm, August Pine Ridge Village, Indian Creek Community, Hill Bank Area, Orange Walk District; Belmopan, Georgeville Village, Camalote Village, More Tomorrow Village Extension, Santa Elena Town, Cayo District; Dangriga, Stann Creek; Bella Vista Village, Toledo District

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees, Messrs. Atlantic Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the below described properties, farm equipment and vehicles. Sales currently running and will expire 11th & 12th April 2022 at the time shown on the website.

A: San Pedro, Ambergris Caye, Belize District:

1. Vehicle:



1999 Toyota Rav 4
VEHICLE: Available for viewing prior to sale

2. Parcel No. 7854 Ambergris Bay Area on the Western Portion of Ambergris Caye, San Pedro, Belize:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
San Pedro	7	7854
Freehold property of Mr. Pedro Valeriano Vasquez.		

3. Parcel No. 6824 Colonia Diego, San Pedro Ambergris Caye, Belize District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
San Pedro	7	6824
Freehold property of Mr. Pablo Sosa.		

4. Parcel No. 2601 San Pedro Ambergris Caye, Belize District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
San Pedro	7	2601
Freehold property of Mr. Pablo Sosa		

5. Parcel No. 9412 approximately 13 miles northeast of San Pedro Town in Bracelette Caye on the west coast of Ambergris Caye, Belize District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
San Pedro	7	9412
Freehold property of Messrs. Pair of Aces Limited, surety for Mr. Keith Alan Zielaskowski.		

B: COROZAL DISTRICT:

1. Parcel No. 799 Waree Bight Area, near Little Belize, Corozal District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Waree Bight/Freshwater Creek	3	799
Freehold property of Mr. David Neufeld of Little Belize Corn Mill.		

2. Parcel No. 130 San Antonio Village, Corozal District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Corozal North	36	130
Freehold property of Mr. Carlos C. Elvir & Blanca Elvir.		

3. Parcel No. 929 8th Avenue, Corozal Town, Corozal District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Corozal Central	1	929
Freehold property of Mr. Abraham Nicholson.		

4. Parcel No. 178 Xaibe Village, Corozal District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Xaibe Village	1	178
Freehold property of Mr. Abraham Nicholson.		

C: ORANGE WALK DISTRICT:

Farm equipment: FARM EQUIPMENT: CAMP 18 SHIPYARD COMMUNITY - Available for viewing



Combine Harvester Sprayer

1. Parcel No. 1124 August Pine Ridge Village, Orange Walk District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
August Pine Ridge	9	1124
Freehold property of Mr. Jacob Freisen.		

2. 726.969 Acres Indian Creek Community, Hill Bank Area, Orange Walk District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCELS
Sierra De Aqua	23	68,69,70,71,72,73,75,76,77,78,79, 80, & 81
Freehold properties of Mr. Jacob Freisen & Mr. Bernhard Freisen.		

3. Parcel No. 396 Trial Farm Village, Orange Walk District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Trial Farm	4	396
Freehold property of Mr. Jesus Pena.		

D. BELIZE DISTRICT:

Vehicle: Available for viewing prior to sale at No. 170 Beltex Avn., Belama Phase I, Belize City



2000 Isuzu Rodeo Truck

1. Lot No. 58 situate in Lord's Bank Village Extension, Belize District:



ALL THAT lot piece or parcel of land being Lot No. 58 situate in Lord's Bank Village Extension, Belize District comprising 1066.42 square yards TOGETHER with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon. Freehold property of Mr. Norman Augustine Jr.)

2. Lot No. 307 Hattievillage Village, Belize District:



ALL THAT piece or parcel of land being Lot No. 307 situated at Belizean American Site near Mile 17 1/2 South of George Price Highway, Hattievillage Village, Belize District comprising 613.44 square meters TOGETHER with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon. (Freehold property of Mr. Sean Delroy Nicholas)

3. Parcel Nos. 1534 & 1535 Sailfish Avenue, Vista Del Mar, Ladyville, Belize District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCELS
Vista Del Mar	16	1534 & 1535
Freehold property of Ms. properties of Ms. Heather Jones.		

E: CAYO DISTRICT:

1. Parcel No. 3173 Western Side Hummingbird Highway, Belmopan, Cayo District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Belmopan	20	3173
Freehold property of Ms. Su Ti Liang.		

2. Lot No. 193 Georgeville Village, Cayo District:



ALL THAT piece or parcel of vacant land being Lot No. 193 Minister's Fiat 606 of 2013 of Goreville Village, Cayo District, comprising of 1026.481 Square Meters, TOGETHER with all buildings and erection standing and being thereon. (Freehold property of Ms. Tanesha Salazar)

3. Parcels Nos. 2286 & 2287 Camalote Village, Cayo District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCELS
Society Hall	24	2286 & 2287
Freehold properties of Mr. Ron Waight & Ms. Karina Waight.		

4. Lot Nos. 7 & 12 More Tomorrow Village Extension, Cayo District:



ALL THAT piece or parcel of land being Lot No. 7 containing 920.616 square meters and Lot No 12 containing 909.380 square meters situate in More Tomorrow Village Extension, Cayo District, TOGETHER with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon. (Freehold properties of Mr. Jimmy Robinson Sr., surety for Mr. Jimmy Robinson Sr. and Mr. Jimmy Robinson Jr.)

5. Parcel No. 422 Perez Street, Santa Elena, Cayo District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Santa Elena/Cayo	23	422
Freehold property of Mr. Guillermo Monolo Castillo & Ms. Arlene August.		

F: STANN CREEK DISTRICT

1. Parcel Nos. 440 & 618 Dangriga, Stann Creek District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCELS
Dangriga South	31	440 & 618
Freehold property of Messrs. Dangriga Cable Vision.		

G: TOLEDO DISTRICT:

1. Lot No. 2 Bella Vista Village, Toledo District:



All That piece or parcel of land known as Lot #2 located in Bella Vista Village, Stann Creek District comprising 445.892 square meters Together with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon. (Freehold property of Mr. Robert Andrew August and Ms. Roselia E. Lizama)

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH

KEVIN A. CASTILLO

TELEPHONE 223-4488

Website: belizepropertyauctions.com

E-mail: kevinacas@yahoo.com

Face Book: Belize Auctions

The GWU strike of October 1952

A nation-wide strike called in October 1952 by the GWU and in which the manual government employees participated was the high point of the PUP counter-pressure on the colonial government. Indeed, the strike demonstrated that the attempt to stifle the ascendancy of the PUP required much more than the establishment of a buffer electoral institution.

Secondly, the constitutional modification could not have been a gift, since the NP's negligible influence had thrown the burden of opposing the PUP onto the colonial administration. The defensive attitude which the Governor had adopted in the first few months of the political ferment in 1950 gave way to an offensive and belligerent approach.

Government pressure was exerted upon the two PUP allies, the GWU and the BELIZE BILLBOARD, to alter their relationship with the party. In October 1950, government communiques and advertisements were withheld from the newspaper. The boycott did not only deny the BELIZE BILLBOARD access to reliable information, but dealt it a serious financial blow.


The government also denied the BELIZE BILLBOARD the services of both its editors, Richardson and Goldson, when they were sentenced to imprisonment for eighteen months on charges of sedition against the

Governor in 1951.

It also attempted to discourage the GWU from supporting the party. In a letter to the GWU, it discredited the PUP leaders as demagogues interested in their "own personal and political ambitions ... and as tools in the hands of aliens, who, for their own purposes wish to embarrass the British government and to perpetuate a state of discontentment." The situation, the letter concluded, could only steel the employers in their opposition to labour.

This attitude in fact was particularly true in the case of the BEC, which continued to deny the workers in its lumber camps the right to join the GWU and placed all kinds of obstacles to the entry of union officials into its veritable domain. In other words, the British government's message to the union was clear and straightforward. If the latter needed to contract a marriage, as its President, Pollard, claimed in 1950, then it was incorrect of the union to conclude that it had "seen no other possible suitor eligible for such a marriage, except the PUP and the BELIZE BILLBOARD." There was also the BEC which offered greater prospects as a partner.

This reaction was typical of colonial administrations. As B. C. Roberts has observed about the

Please turn to  Page 38



Easter Holiday Opening Hours

The public is advised that all Atlantic Bank Branches and Drive Thrus will be opened for business from
8:00 AM - 1:00 PM
on Thursday, April 14, 2022.

All branches will reopen on
Tuesday, April 19, 2022.

PUBLIC AUCTION SALES: PICKUP & VAN

Belize City, Belize District

BY ORDER of Messrs. St. John's Credit Union Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the below described vehicles. Sales currently running and will expire Monday 11th April 2022 at the time shown on the website.



2014 Great Wall Wingle 5



2006 Suzuki Aerio

VIEWING AVAILABLE

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH

KEVIN A. CASTILLO

TELEPHONE 223-4488

Website: belizepropertyauctions.com

E-mail: kevinacas@yahoo.com

Face Book: [Belize Auctions](#)



Maud Williams High School

Email: mwhseducate@gmail.com

Tel: (501) 227-6717

TEACHERS WANTED

At MWHS our students come first and we work tirelessly for our students' success. This positive determination means that we provide our students with a positive, caring school environment with ample opportunities for students to do well.

If you believe that you are qualified and can add value at MWHS, you are invited to apply to fill the following VACANCIES for May 2022.

- Business
- Building Maintenance

Deadline: April 25th, 2022

Teaching Qualifications:

- Preferably a Bachelor's Degree in the content areas with pedagogical training.
- An Associate Degree with teaching experience will be considered.

Applicants should forward:

- Letter of application
- Curriculum vitae
- Two recent recommendations
- Copy of transcript
- Certified copy of teaching license
- Certified copies of qualifications
- Copy of Police Record

Short listed candidates are asked to bring to the interview original transcripts, police record and completed medical form.

Address to: Secretary
Board of Management
Maud Williams High School
Corner Dolphin and Raccoon Streets
Belize City



VACANCY - PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICER

CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS - BELIZE CITY

Interested applicants must possess the following skills and qualifications:

REQUIREMENTS AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

Education and Experience:

- Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration or similar field with at least 2 years of related experience.
- Experience in project management and banking will be considered an advantage.

Interpersonal Relations:

- Excellent oral and written communication.
- Contribute positively to team building.
- Maintain good relations with team leader and team members.

Knowledge, Skills and Competencies:

- Excellent organization and time management skills.
- Detail oriented in managing and executing work responsibilities.
- High level of proficiency in Microsoft 365 and Microsoft Project.
- High level of work and ethical standards.
- Ability to prioritize tasks assigned and work effectively under pressure.
- Ability to manage highly sensitive and confidential information.

General Responsibilities:

- Manage projects in accordance with the Bank's methodology.
- Provide support to the Project Manager and Sponsor.
- Maintain effective working relationships with all project stakeholders.
- Manage and update project documentation.
- Quality monitoring and implementation of project standards across projects.
- Track the status of project deliverables and milestones.
- Reporting on all aspects of the project status to Manager.
- Overseeing progress of projects versus the project plan.
- Analyze project activities comprehensively and independently to recommend improvements.
- Ensure timely project delivery for all projects under assigned portfolio.
- Train, coach and guide team members and teams in project management.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2022

Interested applicants may submit application letter, résumé, and two reference letters to:

Manager Human Resources /Admin.
Human Resources Department
Cor. Cleghorn Street / Freetown Road, P.O. Box 481, Belize City, Belize
Atlantic Bank Ltd.

Labor shortage pushing citrus industry to the brink of crisis

With citrus falling off trees and a shortage of workers in the fields, undocumented workers are traveling from Central America to fill the labor gap.

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Mar. 31, 2022

Farms in the citrus belt of southern Belize have been bushhogged, and trees are covered with fruit that is already falling, but a dire shortage of field hands is pushing the citrus industry into crisis mode—with picking and bagging of citrus lagging behind (to an unprecedented extent) what would have typically been harvested at this juncture in the season. Native-born residents of the area, however, are reluctant to take on the back-breaking work of picking citrus and filling sacks to be deposited on trailers before finally being towed off to the juice-processing factory or sold on the local market. Each sack, almost completely filled, earns a laborer between \$1.00 and \$1.50, and one of those bags would be difficult to even lift.

It is against this backdrop in the citrus industry that, on Saturday, March 19, an anti-narcotics sting operation in the south resulted in the interception of 39 undocumented Central Americans who said they were enroute to pick oranges in one of the local orchards down south.

The bus was reportedly stopped near Maya King Farm, where 27 adults and 12 minors were identified. Reports are that 8 of the adults are from Honduras, 1 is from El Salvador, and 18 are Guatemalans. It is common for entire families at times to work on large farms as fieldhands during harvest season, and according to initial reports on the incident, this seems to have been the case—with some of the minors (ranging from 6 to 17 years of age) reportedly being the children of the adults who were on the bus.

According to police, all of the children under age 13 were reportedly



Photo By David Mitchell

Citrus Farms in Southern Belize

accompanying their parents, but those between 14 and 17 years of age were working as unaccompanied minors on the farms.

John Zabaneh, who reportedly owns the bus on which the laborers were found, insisted to 7News that in general the farm owners in the citrus belt do not employ underaged workers, and went on to suggest that it is possible that a few minors “slipped through the cracks.”

“... There are exceptions, like I said, a few slip through the cracks, where they did not come with their mother or father; they came with their older brother or they come with an uncle, and for these people that you mentioned, that is unacceptable. The least they will accept is mother, father and grandmother. They told me that themselves. So they might have come with an uncle or an older brother or an auntie, besides those that come with mother, grandmother, father and things like that. But they are [making a] mountain out of a mole hill. I am telling you that. People who came, a few bring their kids and they are making a big thing out of this. It’s nothing to be

alarmed about, honest to God. I would say little things can’t be a hundred percent, but when you see the thing outrageously in high incidents, then. We are talking 4 people,” he said.

He went on to lament the circumstances currently facing the industry. “The fruit is falling to the ground. This will be a disastrous year, nobody to harvest the fruit. It’s so slow. Other years at this time at the year this is the peak of the crop. For instance, I would be doing 5, 6 of these big trailer loads—900 boxes each—I would be doing between 5 and 6 of those for the day. I am scraping one right now per day, and other farms are doing worse, a lot worse,” he said.

A release from the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Unit states, “there are apparent labor violations, to say the least. These children should not be allowed to do labor-intensive work at a farm where heavy equipment such as trucks and tractors operate.”

Initial reports are that, following the detention of the adult laborers by police, a number of calls were made to police by high-ranking government officials, including the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Jose Mai, who, unconfirmed reports say urged police to release those persons and have them continue on their way, but when interviewed yesterday he said that he called to ensure that the process was being handled properly. (Ten of the minors had been placed in the care of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Unit, which reportedly endeavored to reunite them with their parents.)

“Our calls were made to ensure that we’re doing the right things. Taking into consideration that we’re losing fruits right now. The calls were made for us to do the right thing, do the proper investigation, not to release anybody who was guilty of wrongdoings, but to do proper investigation before we accuse anybody,” Mai said.

As mentioned, the police’s initial investigation revealed that none of the detained persons had any identification documents or local work permits; however, Minister Mai maintained that the laborers couldn’t be accused without evidence.

“Many times, we accuse people without the proper evidence, so our call was to ensure that due diligence is done, and whoever is liable will

have to be liable. But if somebody is just being targeted for whatever reasons, that is unfortunate, and we don’t want that to be the case. It’s not the case, and we don’t want that to be the case,” Hon. Mai stated.

He went on to pledge that he would not allow the citrus industry to collapse and indicated that the country will inevitably have to rely on laborers from our Central American neighbors as fieldhands for harvesting the citrus crops, but said that it has to be done the right way, which involves strict adherence to international labor and child rights conventions.

“We have to import labor, but it has to be done the proper way. We cannot have children laboring in the field, and not only in citrus—the sugar cane industry too, because you know that there are conventions against child labor and so on, so we are signatory to these conventions and we must abide by them, not only citrus, banana, sugar up north, but we do have a problem with the availability of labor in the country, right, and it’s a sad thing...” Mai remarked.

He had also stated, when asked whether there would be a decline in the citrus industry in the country, “I hope not, especially under my ministry, under my watch. We inherited an industry which is really in ICU. We invested, right now, we have invested 15 million dollars or we are ready to invest 15 million dollars which is procured from the DFC to rehabilitate farms.... The situation with the 35 persons, I cannot discuss that, because another ministry and department, I don’t want to go down that way, but we are going to solve that problem. That is what our government does, this government solves problems.”

It is to be noted that last week, while delivering an address in Spanish Lookout, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Immigration, Hon. Eamon Courtenay, stated, “The government of Belize believes pure and simple that Belizeans should be offered employment before foreigners. Many migrants are illegally entering Belize seeking temporary employment and being employed before they make their way northwards. We have an increase in the number of child labor, underaged children who should be in school are toiling in fields for a pittance that the government of Belize will not tolerate this much longer. We will fight child labor, we will fight human trafficking, and we will fight for a living wage for all lawful workers.”

He also noted, during a budget debate in the Senate yesterday, “After neglect and negligence, our government is renewing the citrus industry with an investment of 15 million dollars over three years. That money, Madam President, is being made available through the Development Finance Corporation, and we continue to work with the farmers to ensure a lawful supply of migrant workers to reap their fruit.”

Cayo man murdered in Belize City

(From page 1)

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Mar. 31, 2022

At around 10:00 o’clock on Wednesday night, March 30, 27-year-old Windell Neal, an unemployed Petticoat Alley resident, originally from Santa Elena Town, Cayo District, was fatally shot near the junction of North Front Street and Rhaburns Alley on the north side of Belize City while socializing.

It has been reported that Neal went along with a few of his companions to purchase drinks at an establishment on Victoria Street and later went to a yard located inside Rhaburns Alley, where the group began to socialize. While the group was socializing, an unknown gunman approached them and fired a single gunshot at Neal, fatally injuring him.

When police arrived at the scene at around 10:09 p.m., they saw the motionless body of Neal with a gunshot wound to his body surrounded by a

pool of blood.

Local artist, Alex Sanker, who is a resident of Rhaburns Alley, expressed his concerns about this recent murder that occurred in his neighborhood.

“Let’s be real. It’s 2022—who is killing out one another? We need to move on, but by moving on we need to start valuing life, and that is what we’re losing in this country—value. There’s no family value, no friendship value, no nothing; there’s nothing. Do you know where a lot of this learn from? A lot of these learn corruption, no opportunities, lack of opportunities; there’s no hope for these youths. I have kids that come to my gate every day that come and beg. Out here is rough. At the end of the day, when you really watch what’s going, what we have introduced for the youths coming up, which is the future of tomorrow, it’s sad to say [that] there’s no future for these guys,” lamented Sanker.

Police are investigating.

The GWU strike of October 1952

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relationship between trade unions and politics during colonial rule, “Unions have been counselled against forming too close an attachment to political parties because this has made their acceptance and recognition by employers more difficult. It is hard enough in any circumstances to persuade employers, who have been used to determining conditions of employment without interference to accept willingly an obligation to

bargain with a newly developed union. If the union is also engaged in making a political attack on the employer’s position in the territory, the hostility it arouses is an additional handicap to its recognition.” He might also have added that the employer becomes more obdurate when he has a close relationship with the colonial administration.

(— from pgs. 153-155, *THE MAKING OF MODERN BELIZE*, by C. H. Grant, Cambridge University Press, 1976)

Belize “legalizes” it!

Continued from **▶ Page 1**

industry in Belize, which is to be overseen by a Cannabis Control Commission. Senator for Government Business, Hon. Eamon Courtenay, highlighted during the Senate meeting that every person wishing to have cannabis in their possession must hold a Cannabis Identification Card.

“Clause 5.2, an application for a cannabis ID card, the person must be at least 21 years of age. That is to ensure that there are -- as best as possible when it’s regulated -- it doesn’t get into the hands of children. Obviously, it’s no guarantee, but it is an attempt by the law to say that it is 21 years and older who will be lawfully allowed to possess cannabis. And it sets out, Madam President, the other prescribed documents that must be presented, and the fee for that ID card,” Courtenay explained.

The government of Belize has opted to create a local cannabis industry through which it will be able to tax and regulate ganja usage across the nation and will be offering a range of licenses for anyone desirous of entering that industry. It will be required, however, that at least 30% of the shareholders of such enterprises be citizens of Belize, and applicants must undergo an Interpol check before being granted any license.

As reported earlier this week, the National Evangelical Association of Belize (NEAB), along with a few Catholic priests and other churches, had called for a referendum on the matter and the senator representing the country’s churches had supported the business senator, Hon. Kevin Herrera in his attempt to prevent the bill from being read through all its stages yesterday. Those attempts failed, and eventually, Senator Bishop Alvin Benguche decided against the calling of votes. In his remarks, he stated, “Perhaps, no matter how many consultations are held, in so far as the church is concerned, this is not the direction that we should be going at this time...” Senator Benguche highlighted obstacles and difficulties that legalization would create in the banking sector.

“When we talk about this being a cash-only industry, and we know why the business people know why they know that we cannot, we ought not, and we should not be dealing with that kind

of money within the banking sector, we know that and how it will be affected as adversely as a country if we do,” Senator Benguche remarked.

“I think in a way, it may actually cause us more problems, and we just over the past three years, we had a little of the problems within our banking system. I mean, I remember the company in the business community, mine included, had tremendous problems working with banks because of the corresponding banking issues that we are having, moving our money from one country to the other, and I think that is why the banks don’t want to touch it, and I think if the local banks don’t want companies’ money who are dealing in this industry, then what we are talking about, Madam President, is that we would have to run this through a cash system,” Senator Herrera commented.

He added, “It may bring unnecessary risk to our banking system and risk the other businesses who are operating in other aspects of the economy, so I wonder if it’s a risk too high for us to take at this point.”

Those in dissent didn’t have a sufficient number of votes to stop the three readings of the bill, but senators who opposed the bill took the opportunity to voice the concerns they had with the bill. Hon. Darrell Bradley, UDP senator, noted that there were mixed views even within his own party on how to approach the debate of this bill, but said that he appreciates that there is a balancing act at play.

“It is appreciated that this is a balancing act. There is an economic agenda, and economic push, a need for job creation and stimulating the economy, but there are also quite legitimate concerns that the social partner senators have expressed. Members of our own caucus have expressed those concerns; the senators on our side could not agree to what our position would be. Members of the United Democratic Party could not agree,” said Bradley.

“I listened to the presentation and one of the things which were informative was that no matter what adjustments are made, there will still be opposition to the bill. So that the opposition is not to tweaking, the opposition is not to the proposal, the opposition is not to how do we improve this and put safely networks in place so that whatever fallout is minimized and we address

Family of US man murdered in Belize receives \$3.3 Mil

Continued from **▶ Page 1**

State courtroom on Friday, March 25, came after a three-and-a-half-hour deliberation, during which the jury arrived at the conclusion that Tracy Nessler had willfully “committed battery” against McNamara and caused his death. She will be ordered to pay his children, Caleb McNamara and Jennifer Ralston, \$3.3 million in damages.

According to Stritmatter Firm, which is providing legal representation to Caleb and Jennifer, Tim McNamara and Tracy Nessler began dating in 2012. Within months, McNamara had paid off all of Nessler’s bills, had named her on his life insurance policy, and had made her the sole beneficiary in his will. A year later, the couple married, with McNamara purchasing 50 acres of land in Belize and placing it in both their names. Wanting to start a new life after being shunned in their hometown for

resources to ensure that those things have minimal negative impact on our society. It is that we do not support the bill and we do not support the policy of the bill, that is within the sphere of the political aspect of society, and I do not know that that is something that would merit a referendum,” Senator Bradley went on to state.

For his part, OJ Elrington, sworn in as a temporary senator for this sitting, touched on the need for the Cannabis Identification Card, adding that requiring users to pay \$50 to receive that permit is tantamount to re-creating a regime that targets those persons in possession of small quantities of marijuana.

“Of significant concern to me immediately is section 5, which requires a licence in effect for mere possession, and with that, not only do you need a licence, but you also must pay \$50... for many of the persons that bill was created for, if it is that is the case, that it would create a regime, where once again, we would be criminalizing small quantities,” Elrington observed.

During Senator Courtenay’s closing presentation, he responded to some of the assertions made by those opposed to the bill. “I have not heard of a single case, of a person attempting to go into a bank to deposit money and the bank saying, ‘no, I nuh di tek your money because I want know if you di buy and sell marijuana’... We sit here and talk about threats to the banking system when the United States is about to pass the Safe Banking Act to allow for the banking of the proceeds of the sale of marijuana this month.”

He added, “The position is as far as this side of the Senate is concerned. We support the legislation as drafted. Serious concerns have been raised, and proposed amendments and issues that have been discussed, debated, we will take those on board and we will propose at the appropriate time, after consultation, further amendment.”

the incestuous nature of their relationship, they then began to build on the property located in Boston Village off the Old Northern Highway. But in December 2014, McNamara would be found dead on that property, with a single gunshot wound to the back of his head.

McNamara’s wife claimed that it was suicide—a claim that she maintained even during the 2022 trial. But local investigators eventually found that McNamara had been murdered, citing splatters of blood on Tracy Nessler’s blouse, the trajectory of the bullet, and a lack of gunpowder on the victim’s hands as evidence. By that time, however, Nessler had left the country, returning to Soap Lake, Washington, to live on the McNamara family farm, which she now owns.

After the murder, Belize police put out an Interpol warrant for Nessler’s arrest but were unable to pursue the matter any further, since it required the US to allow for extradition and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) had no jurisdiction. This is what led McNamara’s children to file a civil murder suit in Washington in 2015, claiming that Nessler had “seduced, murdered, and deceived” their father for financial gain. They were able to file the suit under Washington’s Slayer Statute, which states that a person may not benefit from a property if they had killed a person to get it. That trial began on March 7, 2022, and concluded last Friday.

“...the jury announced its verdict in favor of criminal murder. Specifically, Defendant [Tracy Nessler] committed battery against Tim McNamara which proximately caused his death. Her actions were unlawful and willful. Plaintiffs did not want a dollar more from Defendant than what she took,” read the statement released by Stritmatter Firm after the verdict was delivered.

Tim McNamara and Tracy Nessler married in 2013 while keeping their blood relation a secret, but by 2014, witness reports state that the couple’s relationship had soured, with McNamara having discovered that Nessler had an affair. According to the family, Tim McNamara had begun to distrust his wife. Furthermore, the family’s attorneys reported that in October 2014, just two months before the murder, Nessler had purchased a 9mm pistol in North Carolina and had it shipped to Belize. She had the firearm licensed on December 2nd of that year.

The verdict delivered last Friday will see Caleb McNamara and Jennifer Ralston awarded roughly \$3.3 million in damages: \$77,000 in economic damages to the estate, \$1.8 million in personal damages of Timothy McNamara, and \$725,000 in damages to each of the children as McNamara’s beneficiaries. So, while Tracy Nessler remains a free woman, she will be required to pay the family every dollar that they say she had taken from their father.

Sunday Wood and Conejo sign boundary agreement

Continued from Page 1

In February we reported on a similar inter-boundary agreement signed by four Maya villages, and over the weekend, the most recent boundary agreement between Maya villages was made possible when a team of Mayan women who received training in GPS mapping took the arduous hike to the boundary location with village leaders, and verified the line between the villages.

“Today is a historic day for me; first time see how they do the boundary signing,” said Rosa Teul, a villager from Conejo and one of the women who took the trek through the swampy jungle to pinpoint the limits. She added, “I was a part of the team that went to do the verification along with the alcalde and chairman of

Conejo... [I] went there to help them to navigate to the area where they want their boundary line; it was a challenge but it was accomplished, we went safely and we came back safely.”

The leaders and some residents of Conejo village met in Sunday Wood, where, after negotiations and some deliberations on the boundary limits of the villages, they came to a final agreement.

Maya Choc, executive director of SATIIM, said that the leaders were impressed with the resilience of the women of the village who took a previous trek about two weeks ago and asked them to accompany them as they undertook this process.

“So the mapping is one component, but there are also the negotiations, discussions surrounding the

boundary, because these are legally binding agreements that communities are entering in,” Choc said.

Choc noted that while the discussion about the boundary between the villages has been ongoing since January of this year, there were some challenges before this agreement was finalized.

“There were some challenges within the two communities in terms of conflict areas, but I am very happy that both communities were about to settle that matter with the assistance of community people. We strongly believe that everything should come from the community; we’re only there to support, so when you are having conflict, it is important that you hear from others: how do you go about doing this? And also recognizing that there are times when there have to

be a give and take—you lose some, but you win some as well ... so I’m happy to see that the leaders were able to sort that out, not on their own. They had to go back to their community and explain to them what transpired, they had to explain their conclusion and why it is that they believe that this is the best way to go, and I think it worked out well because the community said ‘well, we accept it,’ and for that reason, we have now completed that boundary,” Choc said.

As mentioned, the agreement on village delimitation is the 5th of the 8 steps of the Delimitation: Principles and Methodology agreed between Government of Belize representatives and the Maya communities in Toledo as part of the process that has been laid out for the implementation of the Caribbean Court of Justice’s consent order to clearly define and delimit the territories of the Maya people.

Donicio Shol, mapping expert and Land Tenure Facility Project coordinator, at the Julian Cho Society, said in a February interview that up to 22 villages have consented to auto-delimiting, adding “*not to say that others are not in the process, but there are different steps.*”

This signing was supported by SATIIM, and according to a representative from the Toledo Alcalde Association, is not a part of the work they lead.



Enrique Makin – 1st Alcalde, Conejo Creek Village; Maya Choc – Executive Director, SATIIM and Rosendo Pau – resident, Sunday Wood Village

Senate debates 2022-2023 budget

Continued from Page 4

forty-six dollars to one point six million dollars – an increase of seven hundred thousand. The Ministry of Finance page, seventy-five, number two hundred and thirty: personal emoluments, from thirty-four million to sixty-four million; Ministry of Finance, item three hundred and fifty: grants, an increase from five point two million to twenty-seven million dollars. The point that I’m making here is that there has to be political will to rein in spending,” Senator Bradley remarked.

In response to the concerns raised by Bradley, Senator Courtenay pointed to a piece of legislation passed in the Senate recently to address the issue of overspending.

“On the 18th of March, this month, this Senate approved a motion, ‘InterAmerican Development Bank Program for Strengthening Public Expenditure Management in Belize.’ This motion provides for a loan of 8 million dollars to be allocated for strengthening public spending,” stated Courtenay.

One recurring issue remains, the

overwhelmingly large wage bill, which, according to Senator Bradley, has increased by about 30 million dollars.

“Government has to prioritize public sector reform. We have to look at areas where individual Belizeans get value for that significant chunk of the National Budget. That’s a significant part of our spending. It has been that way for a period of time. I note in terms of that section of the Budget speech, the Prime Minister mentioned increases over the last administration and this administration in terms of what would have gone on and what he would have inherited. I

only want to point out here that when one looks at the numbers since the last election, and I stand to be corrected, the wage bill has gone up about thirty million dollars. We continue to have a concern raised by our social partners, particularly the unions, about the impact of contract officers and the impact of that on the wage bill,” Senator Bradley noted.

Also pointing out this increase to the wage bill and public sector workforce was the Senator representing the business community, Hon. Kevin Herrera. He remarked that while the number of persons employed by the government is growing, the rate of

revenue increase is not.

“You’ll note that between the year 2019/2020, and 2022/2023, the staff of the public sector would have grown by 2,249 employees. If you look at that same period, Madam President, in what I call the base year and this current year, the revenues would have grown by 100 million dollars. That is -- the staff rate is growing at 17% over that period of time. Yet, the revenues grew only by 8.5%. The reason I’m bringing that up, Madam President, is because there’s been a significant concern, both by the unions as well as the private sector, that there’s an ever-ballooning public sector,” Senator Herrera said.

No more masks for Belize

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indoors.

According to Statutory Instrument 61 of 2022, which was gazetted today, March 31, the Ministry of Health and Wellness has reached the conclusion that, since the threat of community spread of COVID-19 has dwindled at both the district and national levels,

most restrictions can be safely lifted. The Ministry has noted, however, that it is still necessary to prevent the spread of COVID-19 by persons arriving at any land or sea ports. As a result, tourists entering the country must present proof of a negative COVID-19 test result, whether arriving by land or by sea, and if they fail to do so they must be tested at their

point of entry. Furthermore, Belizeans leaving the country must be fully vaccinated. All other restrictions, however, will be lifted.

Despite the lifting of restrictions, though, the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital has issued a memorandum informing that the use of face masks on the hospital’s premises remains mandatory.



Press Release
28 March 2022

Digi to Power Nationwide Mobile Wallet Offering



Digi, Our National Telecom, is proud to announce the successful launch of DigiWallet - Belize's most innovative mobile wallet solution – on March 23rd, 2022!

DigiWallet is an all-in-one solution that will replace the need for Belizeans to conduct monetary transactions across the country. The launch of this dynamic mobile app is Digi's contribution to financial inclusion across Belize, offering mobile money as a safer and more accessible option to pay for goods and services.

DigiWallet will charter a new way to pay for all Belizeans!

Our National Telecom has focused over the years in providing the most innovative products, services, and solutions to our customers. We continue to meet the demands of the evolving Belizean market; aligning our corporate goals to support Belize's continued economic growth and development. This all-inclusive solution is available to mobile customers across Belize regardless of their service provider and is easily accessible regardless of the handset type. DigiWallet will open doors and create opportunities for Belize's banked, underbanked and unbanked populations.



“Today we unveil the most complete, comprehensive, and innovative payment solution that introduces a new era of mobile payments in Belize. Digi today launched financial technology within the mobile industry; making us the first to launch a mobile payment platform in Belize. We are a mobile telecom that now allows you to use your device to conduct multiple forms of payments and financial transactions. We are excited that this new innovative solution that is backed by the Digi brand is here; transforming and redefining the overall financial landscape.”

Ivan Tesucum, Chief Executive Officer, Digi

DigiWallet gives all registered users across the country the ability to conduct low-cost financial transactions in a safe, secure, and easy manner.

To enjoy the wide range of DigiWallet features, users are only required to have a registered mobile number in Belize and a mobile device. Download and register for DigiWallet today to be a part of the transformation.

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To find out more, visit www.digiwallet.bz