

# RENDER ONTO CAESAR WHAT BELONGS TO CAESAR

So, I have been following the Belize news, specifically regarding the push by the Church to force a referendum on the decision on whether to legalize marijuana or not, which is a done deal by the government. Apparently, the Church, led by Rev. Wade and Bishop Benguche (no relation to me, thankfully) is spearheading the illegitimate assault on the process of governing. First off, I want to inform these two men of the cloth that they are surpassing their duties by meddling in government business. In the vernacular of Belize Creole, I advise, "mind yo own business". The Church has no business meddling in the process that determines the law of the land. That responsibility is the sole responsibility of the duly elected government of a democratic country.

The Church is not an arm of the

government. The Church needs to stay in its own lane and stick to the edict that outlines their responsibility, which is baptizing those who so desire, ministering to the sick and poor, and preparing souls to enter the kingdom of Heaven. In most countries, the separation of church and state is explicit for obvious reasons; consider the governments of Iran and Israel. If it were left to the Church, burning at the stake of non-believers would probably still occur, Galileo may have never contributed to the discovery of the New World; movies would still be censored. In Belize, the government does not interfere in Church business, and reciprocally the Church should not interfere with government business.

The Bible provides a clear example of this when the Pharisees tried to trick Jesus into meddling in politics. Jesus

told them, "render unto Caesar what belongs to Caesar and render unto God the things that are God's". The Church has no business immersing themselves in politics. The legislation of marijuana is complex; regardless of the pros and cons on this issue, it is not the Church's business whether to legalize marijuana or not. My purpose in this essay is not to argue the pros and cons of marijuana. My issue is with the Church overstepping their edict. The Church should be concerned with policing themselves and getting rid of the pedophiles and sodomites in their midst. They should stick to their hustle of living large.

When Moses came down from Mt. Sinai, he recorded his experience in Exodus 20. There was smoke, fire, a burning bush, lightening and the blasts of trumpets. I wonder what Moses was

smoking. I challenge the Church leaders in Belize and their opaque handlers to hold a joint session before they parade themselves as holier than thou. Perhaps too, like Moses, God will reveal a vision to them to include with their twenty-thousand signatures they have collected, ostensibly to influence a vote on the legalization of marijuana.

What would Jesus' position be on marijuana? So, Jesus was partying with his disciples at a wedding in Cana. Everyone was having a good time, and they ran out of wine. Jesus, seeing the dilemma, refilled the jugs with vintage wine, and the party continued. Based on this story, it is my opinion that Jesus would have no problem when people nice-up themselves. Take heed, Rev. Wade and Bishop Benguche. Le lah Caesario, lah Caesario. Praise be to the Almighty for his gift of life and the holy sacrament of the Ganja.

Itarala,  
Moses X [Benguche@gmail.com](mailto:Benguche@gmail.com)



## REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The US Government-funded Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) has selected Belize as one of only two countries in the world for a five-year government to government grant to fund a program aimed at reducing poverty and stimulating economic growth.

The Government of Belize (GOB) through the Ministry of Finance, **Economic Development**, and Investment, intends to contract a team of individual consultants to form a Compact Development Team in Belize that will work together with a U.S.-based MCC Team to conduct a diagnosis of the constraints to economic growth, prepare concept notes, develop project proposals, and plan for project implementation.

The Belize Compact Development Team will be led by a National Coordinator who will manage the team, engage key stakeholders across all sectors, and bear responsibility for the overall performance and work quality of the team. The Education and Workforce Development Specialist will be a member of this team and will, working closely with the MCC and other members of the Compact Development Team (CDT), coordinate the identification of potential projects that address the human capital constraint to growth; ensure that those projects are designed in a technically sound manner, reflect international good practice, and meet MCC's Investment Criteria; draft the concept note and concept paper that describe an education project in detail; and provide input into the analysis of policy and institutional issues.

### Vacant Post

#### 1. Education and Workforce Development Specialist

**Remuneration:** Competitive salary and benefits are offered, commensurate with academic level, work experience and other relevant strengths of the winning candidate. Kindly follow the below link for further details.

<https://med.gov.bz/>

Interested candidates are requested to submit ONE PDF File that shall include: **a)** Letter of Interest indicating the post being applied for; **b)** the curriculum vitae, **c)** copies of university degrees, and **d)** the names of 3 references.

Subsequently the top 3 applicants for the post will be interviewed.

Deadline for application is **13 May 2022 at 4:00pm**. Application can be sent via email to: [econdev@med.gov.bz](mailto:econdev@med.gov.bz) or hand delivered to the address indicated below:

Chief Executive Officer  
Ministry of Economic Development  
Sir Edney Cain Building  
Ground Floor, Right Wing  
Belmopan City, Belize C.A.

Any request for clarification should be sent via email to [econdev@med.gov.bz](mailto:econdev@med.gov.bz) no later than **6 May 2022**. Responses will be provided within three days.

## Mullins River woman, 64, killed in car crash on her birthday

*Bernalda Gregoria Pinelo of Mullins River village died on her 64th birthday on the Stann Creek Valley Road.*



**Bernalda Gregoria, deceased**

*by Charles Gladden*

STANN CREEK DISTRICT, Tues. May 10, 2022

On Monday, May 9, Bernalda Gregoria Pinelo, of Mullins River Village, Stann Creek District, was celebrating her 64<sup>th</sup> birthday when her life ended abruptly in a road traffic accident that occurred when a pickup truck in which she was a passenger collided with a James Bus being driven by 47-year-old Rolando Antonio Duran