

Belize submits ICJ Counter-Memorial

Guatemala is to reply by the end of the year



International Court of Justice Chambers

by Marco Lopez

BELIZE CITY, Fri. June 3, 2022

The Government of Belize announced at the sitting of the House of Representatives that the country submitted its Counter-Memorial to the Registrar of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) today in response to Guatemala's territorial, insular and maritime claim—five days before the

June 8 deadline. The team from Belize was reportedly in England recently putting the final touches on this recent submission. In announcing this historic step, the Prime Minister, Hon. John Briceño, told the members of the House, “Our Counter-Memorial provides a strong defense to Guatemala’s Memorial or their claim and resolutely defends the

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Nationality Act amended for Amnesty 2022

During Friday’s sitting of the House of Representatives, the first reading of the Belize Nationality (Amendment) Bill 2022 was tabled to provide for the regularization of up to 60,000 irregular migrants living in Belize.

BELIZE CITY, Mon. June 6, 2022

Asylum seekers and undocumented migrants living in Belize will soon have the opportunity to receive permanent residency, and some eventually citizenship, as a result of the Amnesty 2022 program being forwarded by the Briceño administration. On Friday, when the Prime Minister, Hon. John Briceño, introduced an amendment to the Belize Nationality Act to lay the groundwork for the amnesty program to be carried out, he said that there will be time for consultation and debate on this amendment before the next two readings and that the program will not officially begin until after the amendment’s passing

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Tracy: Minister Mai “crossed a dangerous line” in House

by Khaila Gentle

BELMOPAN, Sun. Jun. 5, 2022

Minister of Agriculture Hon. Jose Abelardo Mai and other members of the House of Representatives have come under some scrutiny after Mai, during a heated debate at Friday’s House sitting, hurled seemingly demeaning remarks at Albert area representative, Hon. Tracy Panton.

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(L-R) Hon. Jose Abelardo Mai and Hon. Tracy Panton

WPC claims Julius Espat insulted her

See story on page 10



Alicia Trapp claims Hon. Julius Espat pointed in her face and cursed her

Fishermen face stiff fines for Fisheries violations

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Mon. June 6, 2022

Two separate search operations conducted by the Belize Fisheries Department on Sunday, June 5, led

to several fishermen being fined a total of \$130,000 BZD for illegal fishing activities.

The first search operation was conducted at around 3:40 p.m., on an anchored vessel located one mile

southeast of Hatchet Caye on Lighthouse Reef Atoll, where Fisheries Department personnel encountered three male persons on a

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COMPOL condemns those who record rather than render assistance

by *Khaila Gentle*

BELIZE CITY, Mon. June 6, 2022

Commissioner of Police Chester Williams, who over the weekend was made aware of a disturbing incident involving a young woman at a popular Belize City restaurant and bar, has criticized persons who stop to record victims of crimes rather than rendering aid. He also expressed disappointment in police officers' delayed intervention in the matter, but said that it was most likely due to a misinterpretation of a specific local law.

On the night of Friday, June 3, a young Belize City woman became the victim of what most suspect was a spiked drink. The young woman, showing signs of distress, appeared in the common area of the bar with the lower half of her body exposed. She was then revictimized when other patrons, rather than assisting her, took out their phones and filmed the ordeal. The Commissioner, like many members of the public, has condemned the acts of these persons, noting that the Police Department will be exploring the possibility of levying cyber-crime-related charges.

"Instead of trying to get something to cover the young lady from being exposed, they just took out their phones and videoed and then leaked it to the public. It speaks volumes to the society that we are currently living in," said Williams.

In the case of the police officers that were present, Commissioner Williams said that their initial lack of action was most likely due to ignorance of the law—with them having been under the impression that male police officers



Commissioner of Police Chester Williams

were not allowed to intervene in incidents involving a woman that is exposed.

"The law does not say that male police officers cannot intervene in situations involving women. It simply says that male police officers cannot search [them]. In this case, she would not be searched. In this case, the officers would be acting to protect the woman from being exposed," he stated.

The Commissioner of Police told local reporters that he feels the matter demands an investigation, but as no formal complaint has been made, it will be difficult to do so.

The proprietor of the restaurant and bar where the incident took place issued a statement this week stating that he is "extremely sorry" for what occurred Friday and that the bar's management is "glad that we had customers with training who assisted the police and our manager in dealing with the situation."

"To the person or persons who did this I say to you that you are the scum of the earth," added the bar owner.

Bread prices not going up

Minister of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise, Hon. Jose Mai says that the government cannot support the proposed increase in the price of bread and that "people need to eat."

by *Charles Gladden*

BELMOPAN, Mon. June 6, 2022

Hon. Jose Mai, Minister of Agriculture, Food Security & Enterprise, announced during a meeting of the House of Representatives on Friday that the Government of Belize

will not be authorizing an increase in the price of the 16-oz loaf of bread sold in the country.

The last time the price of bread saw an increase in its wholesale price was in 2008, under the last PUP administration, which was caused by the increased cost of flour, and since then the wholesale price of bread has

16-oz sliced



remained steady at \$1.50, and the retail price of \$1.75 has also been unchanged.

In April of this year, however, the bakers submitted a proposal to the Cabinet in which they sought approval to increase the price of a 16-oz loaf of bread by 75 cents due to the increased cost of various ingredients used in the production and packaging of bread—

PM introduces \$6.2 million loan motion for COVID-19 response

At Friday's sitting of the House of Representatives, the Opposition criticized the Government of Belize for the large number of loan motions that it has tabled in the House, stating that they have been borrowing at an "irresponsible rate."

by *Khaila Gentle*

BELMOPAN, Fri. June 3, 2022

At Friday's sitting of the House of Representatives, Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño rose to present a loan motion for US \$6.2 million from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The loan would be used to fund the country's COVID-19 response, and would partially be used for the purchase and deployment of vaccines as well as the strengthening of the country's health system.

"The loan proceeds will significantly assist the Government of Belize in its continuous efforts to contain and mitigate the spread of, and deaths caused by COVID-19, and strengthen the ability of the health system to respond to future health emergencies," the PM stated.

While not addressing the COVID-19 recovery loan motion specifically, the Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Moses "Shyne" Barrow, rose to criticize the Briceño administration for its constant borrowing—the very thing



Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño

which he says Briceño once criticized the Barrow administration for doing.

"The Prime Minister always ridicules me to say that I'm embarrassing myself. I won't say that he's embarrassing himself, but I would be embarrassed to continue coming to the House with loan motion after loan motion after loan motion when you sat in this seat and condemned the Barrow

MOHW receives equipment from NHI



Dr. Ramon Figueroa, General Manager, NHI (Source: GOB Press Office)

by *Khaila Gentle*

BELMOPAN, Mon. June 6, 2022

National Health Insurance (NHI) handed over a wide array of equipment to the Ministry of Health and Wellness and the Civil Society Organization Hub today, including three Gene X-pert machines, viral load kits, furniture, laptops, and digital cameras.

The equipment, procured through funding from a Global Fund grant that aims to support recipients in improving services to key population groups, will be used to aid the documentation of work

as well as the monitoring and evaluation processes involved in the response to HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis (TB).

Present at the handing over ceremony was Dr. Ramon Figueroa, the General Manager of NHI.

"Today represents but one of the many good things to come. But nothing else, no equipment, no money, no additional personnel will be as important as the individual and collective commitment to address the issue surrounding HIV/AIDS and TB and the discrimination that is directed at groups in our society," noted Dr. Figueroa.

Minister of Health and Wellness, Hon. Kevin Bernard expressed his gratitude for the donation and commended the continued work of the National HIV/AIDS team in biomedical strengthening and decentralization of screening and testing services for HIV, TB, and COVID-19 across Belize, even as the country faces another wave of COVID.

"It is clear that we must reiterate the importance of enhancing surveillance at all points, even more so with the current threat and presence of Monkeypox disease in neighboring countries," remarked Hon. Bernard.

particularly the price of wheat, which has soared due to the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine, which are

two of the world's largest wheat

Cancer Walk returns with a new Belize City route



(L-R) Mayor Bernard Wagner and Laura Longworth, president of Belize Cancer Society

BELIZE CITY, Sat. June 4, 2022

The Belize Cancer Society (BCS), resumed its annual Cancer Walk on Saturday, June 4, with a new Belize City route. This is the first time in the history of the sensitization event that participants marched through the streets of the old capital, since the route is usually from Ladyville to Belize City. Cancer Walk 2022 was held under the theme “Celebrating Life”. On Saturday morning participants started their walk at the Marion Jones Sports Complex on Princess Margaret Drive and took a circuit across the Southside and Northside of Belize City, before returning to the Sports Complex.

This annual event was on pause for two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic but is a major fundraising

event for the BCS, which usually sells shirts to participants. The services provided by the BCS include providing access to cancer care information, counseling and support, and the NGO’s advocacy focuses on lobbying for policies and legislation to facilitate affordable, available, effective, and efficient services for citizens.

The Belize Cancer Center in Dangriga works hand in hand with the BCS and now has a satellite location at the Belize City BCS office. According to the president of the Belize Cancer Society, cancer has become one of the leading causes of death in the country.

The mayor of Belize City, Bernard Wagner, gave the welcome address to kick off the inaugural Belize City route on Saturday morning.

Tropical Storm Alex forms after flooding South Florida

by Khaila Gentle

MIAMI, Florida, Sun. June 6, 2022

After causing widespread flash flooding across South Florida this past weekend, Tropical Storm Alex, the first named storm of the 2022 Atlantic Hurricane Season, is now headed towards Bermuda. Alex, which partially emerged from the remnants of the Eastern Pacific hurricane Agatha, gained tropical storm level strength off the eastern coast of Florida late Sunday evening, but long before that, the effects of the storm proved devastating, both for residents of the USA’s “Sunshine State” and persons in parts of Cuba.

While just a tropical system at the time, Alex—then known as Potential Tropical Cyclone One—claimed at least



Tropical Storm Alex (Source: NOAA)

three lives in Cuba and destroyed dozens of homes in Havana on Friday, according to reports from authorities.

In Florida, the system brought over a foot of intense rains over some areas, particularly along the east coast, along with strong winds and flash flooding. On Saturday, Miami officials cautioned the public against traveling, as several roads were rendered inaccessible due

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Family friend robs Cayo woman of \$12,000

A Santa Elena woman was robbed by a so-called family friend of over \$12,000 and her vehicle.

by Charles Gladden

SANTA ELENA, Cayo District, Mon. June 6, 2022

Police are searching for Jonathan Cruz Bahadur, a resident of San Ignacio Town, who allegedly stole over \$12,000 on Thursday, June 2, from 35-year-old Sheree Bateman, a businesswoman of Santa Elena, Cayo District, whose vehicle he was reportedly driving at the time.

According to initial police reports, while Bateman was returning from Belmopan to San Ignacio in her White 2009 Mitsubishi Outlander, which was being driven by Bahadur, Bahadur unexpectedly diverted from their route and drove down a feeder road.

When Bateman asked him why he had taken that unexpected turn, Bahadur reportedly claimed that he knew a shorter route. Not long after, however, he asked Bateman to open a bag she had in her possession which contained over \$12,000 and which belonged to Bateman’s brother, and when she



Jonathan Cruz Bahadur, wanted

declined his request, he physically assaulted her.

In fear for her life, Bateman reportedly jumped out of the moving vehicle while Bahadur was driving along the Loma Luz Boulevard and received a number of injuries to her body.

Police later recovered the Outlander on Bishop Martin Street in Santa Elena, and are seeking Bahadur for questioning.

Married Persons Protection Amendment Bill tabled

by Khaila Gentle

BELMOPAN, Fri. June 3, 2022

The Briceño administration reintroduced its Senior Courts Bill and its Married Persons (Protection) Amendment Bill 2022 at last Friday's House of Representatives meeting. Both bills are expected to change the way divorces are handled in court, with the latter removing the fault grounds on which a person can file for judicial separation and replacing them with incompatibility as the primary basis for divorce.

Minister of Education, Culture, Science, & Technology, Hon. Francis Fonseca, explained that the Married Persons (Protection) Amendment Bill seeks to address two objectives: to update the country's laws as they relate to divorce and judicial separation "to meet the needs of an ever-evolving society" and to remove any discriminatory provisions against women that are currently present in the law.

"Regrettably, the provisions of the current act mean that men and women are not entitled to equal treatment under the law, and additionally the requirement for an applicant to rely on the misbehaviour of one's spouse to secure an order for judicial separation

promotes an atmosphere of blame for the breakdown of the marriage between parties," he noted.

The bill, said Fonseca, would eliminate the need for one spouse to accuse the other of "misbehaviour" to justify an application for judicial separation.

A Cabinet brief issued in early May explained the reason for the new amendment, stating that the Family Court is often "bogged down" by acrimonious family proceedings "not conducive to the family healing and moving on". The passing of the bill would see amendments made to the Marriage Persons (Protection) Act, Chapter 175 in the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020.

The Minister of Education also explained how the Senior Courts Bill would change the way matters of separation would be dealt with. According to Fonseca, the bill, much like the Married Persons (Protection) Amendment Bill, removes provisions that are discriminatory based on sex, allowing spouses to have equal footing in divorce proceedings.

"It removes archaic and offensive language to modernize the law. It also establishes a rules committee, which is chaired by the Chief Justice," he explained.

COMPOL on his work trips

by Charles Gladden

BELMOPAN, Mon. June 6, 2022

On Saturday, May 21, the Commissioner of Police, Chester Williams, departed the country to attend an INTERPOL conference in Leon, France. Following the conference, COMPOL Williams traveled to the Bahamas to attend the 36th Annual Association of Caribbean Commissioners of Police (ACCP) event, which commenced on Monday, May 30, and ended on Friday, June 3.

The COMPOL told reporters that he was in France consulting with the INTERPOL authorities on ways to ensure that the organization is evolving in a way that will more fully align it with the needs of the member countries.

Williams, while talking to members of the local media on Monday, June 6, during the weekly

police press briefing, explained, "The trip to France, as well as the one to the Bahamas, was working visits, and there's a lot that garnered from those two trips. In France, we basically just looked at amending the constitution of INTERPOL to try to make it more workable for member states. As well, [as] to make sure it aligns with international law and our domestic laws. So it was the meeting of the governing group of INTERPOL that met in Leon, France. I was happy to be a part of that group to look at these very important aspects of the work that INTERPOL does on a daily basis."

He went on to state, "We have made certain recommendations for amendments, and those



Chester Williams, Commissioner of Police

recommendations would be further discussed in Singapore in September, and then we should finalize the recommendations then, and it goes to INTERPOL general elections in November, which will be held

Opposition calls \$750,000 allocated to International Music Festival a waste

by Khaila Gentle

BELMOPAN, Fri. June 3, 2022

Member of the Opposition and a r e e a representative for the Albert Division, Hon. Tracy Panton, rose during the most recent sitting of the House of Representatives on Friday to address what she calls "wasteful spending of taxpayers' money" to cover the costs of holding the Belize International

Music & Food Festival, which is set to take place this summer. The Belize Tourism Board will be spending an estimated \$750,000 on the two-day mega-concert, and Panton believes that three-quarters of a million dollars could be used in more beneficial ways.

"Music festivals and food festivals have been used for years, particularly in the Caribbean region, to attract tourist arrivals to our country at a time that is considered the low tourism season. So it's not a novel idea. But the timing, Madame Speaker, of putting together a tourism concert in less than two months under the guise that it will help to improve tourism arrivals in Belize is nothing short of stupid," said Hon. Panton, also pointing out that she has years of experience in tourism marketing, having served as Director of Tourism for Belize for over 15 years.

Hon. Panton went on to highlight the country's current economic crisis, with soaring gas prices and inflation rates at record highs, which have created needs within the community that the funds allocated for the festival could be used to address.

"Tour operators are falling out of the sector left right and center, and the BTB seems to be unable to provide meaningful relief and support. But yet we are to prepare to spend \$750,000, almost a million dollars, on a poorly

planned concert," she stated.

Panton pointed out that the money could be used to provide food pantry programs in vulnerable communities, create greater access to education, or improve other government ministries. She also noted that the local artists performing in the concert would be paid much less than their international counterparts.

Hon. Tracy Panton's comments did not go without a response from the government side of the House. Minister of Education, Culture, Science, and Technology, Hon. Francis Fonseca, rose to speak in place of the Minister of Tourism, Hon. Anthony Mahler, who was not present. Fonseca called Panton's statements an attempt at politicizing something positive.

"It's this type of intervention, really, that you know has the Belizean people in a position where they really feel like politics has lost its way. For every single issue we attempt to score political points, even where this is clearly a case of the BTB trying to do something positive for Belize, something positive for our creative community, obviously something positive for the tourism industry," he stated.

Hon. Fonseca also said that the Government is anticipating a return of over 3 million dollars on the \$750,000 investment.



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somewhere in India."

Williams added, "... In terms of Bahamas, it was the ACCP Conference. Again, there we looked at crime within the Caribbean region and some of the salient issues discussed was major crime; the rise in major crime. We looked at the whole issue of cybercrime; we looked at transnational crime, [and] child exploitation, among others. Again, these different topics of discussion are relevant to our day-to-day society in Belize ... We tried as best as we can to look at best practices—what has

worked in different countries and to see how we can bring it and domesticate it and make it work for us, and so I met this morning with my senior management team at our conference, and we are looking at some of the practices I brought with me and to see how we can utilize it within Belize to make us more efficient in the delivery of services to the public."

During COMPOL Williams' absence, DCP Dezerie Phillips Magdaleno was acting as Commissioner of Police.



Lawyer-politicians and campaign financing: a job for the losers

(former House Speaker) C.B. Hyde: "Both sides of the House can propose Bills." Sat. June 4, 2022

Sunday, June 5, 2022

A former Belize minister of government, an experienced lawyer, and albeit with good intentions, invested in two full pages of commentary/philosophy in the *Reporter* newspaper this past weekend, where he delivered an impressive summary of the development of human civilization from its earliest beginnings to where we are in the present day. And all to draw the conclusion that the tragedies and tribulations resulting from human behavior, even the Armageddon-type effects of Global Warming now coming upon us, are all inevitable because human nature is driven by greed. He offers no hope of a possible solution to this dilemma, except that, even though "man will destroy himself, including all of us," the Earth itself "will recover as it has on many occasions after cataclysmic upheavals." Perhaps this inevitability attitude is a clue to the failings of our governance system, where the said lawyer-politician enjoyed over a decade in one of the highest seats of power in the past administration, with little impact to show against this torrential flow of human greed that has characterized our supposed "government of, for, and by the people." Perhaps the current

cry from opposition members in the House that the government side is dragging its feet on enacting campaign financing legislation, is a cry of "crocodile tears," while they await their turn at the "feeding trough" of government. If not so, then prove it.

Our esteemed lawyer-politician took us from the earliest establishment of "hamlets, villages, towns and cities" over 10,000 years ago, through the eventual conflicts and wars caused by "competition for food and space," which soon saw the emergence of great empires and civilizations that rose and fell, including along the way the exploitation and even enslavement of people, and with the recent advent of the industrial revolution, the escalating decimation of the earth's forests, leading us to the current phenomenon of Global Warming, because "the forests are the 'lungs' of the earth," and are critical to maintaining "the temperature balance of the earth." Because of their massive consumption of fossil fuels that has led to the destruction of the ozone layer protecting the earth from overheating,

the "Developed Countries" are the major culprits in this existential crisis that most immediately faces small islands and low-lying coastal towns and cities due to rising ocean levels and other climatic calamities, including more frequent and intense "droughts," "tornadoes," "hurricanes," "floods" and heat waves, which have begun to affect us with increasing intensity each passing year.

Having analyzed the essential driving force behind all the great civilizations and empires throughout human history to the present, with all their ups and downs, triumphs and tragedies, good and evil endeavors, his final conclusion is that "The fundamental problem is GREED and it is now in the very DNA of man." And he offers no solace to those who are troubled by what appears to be our impending doom, because he is resigned to the fact that "The greed of man knows no bounds." And his only positive view seems to be in the hereafter because, "The thing is, man will not destroy the Earth; the Earth will recover as it has on many occasions after cataclysmic upheavals. Man will destroy himself, including all of us!" So it looks like we better all just grab our holy books and start praying.

But while our esteemed and learned friend invites us all to indulge in the inevitability of doom because of "The Culture & Philosophy of Man's Greed," he has not bothered to explore the immense potential of hopes and dreams of which the human intellect is capable, and which can and does, as has been observed by more optimistic minds, allow man to periodically reassess his situation and chart a retreat before falling off that final precipice.

Indeed, as he observes, it is "the Developed Countries" that are "causing the problems, but it is the Developing Countries that are feeling and suffering the negative effects most!" And so, the attitude of developed countries is that the "various peoples" of developing countries "must learn to adapt to the situation. Imagine!" But while the "DNA" of human greed may be always in effect, we would like to suggest that the more pressing and visible human trait being exposed here, as elsewhere, is selfishness, which is usually accompanied by shortsightedness; because, to those not blinded by that greed, there is immense wisdom in the immortal words of poet John Donne: "No man is an island entire of itself..." It is only with the connivance and encouragement of shortsighted selfishness that human greed has been allowed to cause us to start to self-destruct upon the rocks of nature's order; and if developing countries cannot find the logic to convince developing countries of the folly in their greed, perhaps their energies would be better spent in trying to reach their human soul where the true knowledge-of-self resides. But such a venture starts "at home," because unselfishness can best be taught by example.

And so we come back to our own "House," where our good friend once resided, and which has long resisted the people's constant cry for "good governance," starting with the demand for campaign financing legislation. Over the years, and after many changes of government, Belizean voters have slowly come to the conclusion that much of their frustration with lack of good governance stems from the wide open field of un-regulated and un-documented campaign financing of our political parties when election season comes around. And so they are left to add one and one and come up with two, when certain decisions by their elected government seem to be at the behest of a suspected individual or entity known or suspected to be a major financier of their election campaign.

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Senior Courts Bill introduced

“The bill really represents, Madam Speaker, the most progressive and comprehensive restructuring of the judiciary ever undertaken in our nation’s history,” Minister Francis Fonseca said.



Hon. Francis Fonseca introducing the Senior Courts Bill at Friday’s sitting of the House of Representatives

A Cabinet release issued in early May states, “Cabinet has also given its approval for the introduction of a bill to address consequential amendments to the Belize Constitution to provide for the additional judicial office holders as well as to provide for the office of the Chief

judges that will increase efficiency within the judicial system.

“There are to be specialized divisions, which is intended to lead to greater efficiency. There is to be a commercial division, which will deal with contracts, torts, and corporate matters. A constitutional and public law division will deal with constitutional challenges, judicial review claims and case stated matters, and then a family and trust law division, which will deal with family trust and probate matters, and such division as the Chief Justice over time may think necessary to add. Specialized courts, of course, lead to specialized judges who can more effectively and swiftly deal with matters, having become familiar and developing expertise in particular areas of the law,” Minister Fonseca shared.

Fonseca said that along with the

senior judges, masters, judicial assistance personnel, and the Chief Registrar will be introduced in the Criminal and Civil Divisions of the Senior Courts.

“Very importantly, Madam Speaker, it provides for video recording to eventually replace typewritten transcripts, which are time-consuming and costly to produce and which delay the appeal process and judgment delivery,” Minister Fonseca also announced.

He said that a consultation process was undertaken by the Attorney General’s Ministry during the months of February, March, and April of this year and indicated that the proposed bill that has been tabled is a reflection of those consultations. The bill has been referred to the Constitutional and Foreign Affairs Committee for further examination

BELIZE CITY, Mon. June 6, 2022

After being deferred at the previous sitting of the House of Representatives, the Senior Courts Bill was introduced by Minister of Education, Hon. Francis Fonseca last Friday on behalf of the Attorney General’s Ministry, marking the start of a reorganization of the judiciary in Belize, notably the first-ever since independence.

“Belize has not implemented any meaningful reforms in the upper courts since attaining independence, despite the well-known challenges present in our upper courts. It is evident that proper reform of the court administration is needed to ensure efficiency and consistency in the judicial system,” Fonseca said. He remarked that the bill is all about strengthening the administration of justice, and, as previously reported, its goal is to “improve the efficiency, accuracy and consistency” of the judicial system of Belize.

Justice to be the administrative leader of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal as well as for the renaming of the Supreme Court to that of the High Court. The office of the President of the Court of Appeal is being retained, but shall be subject administratively to the office of the Chief Justice.”

Minister Fonseca further explained in the House that, in addition to this, “The Chief Justice is to be assisted by a president of the Court of Appeal, two senior judges to the high court, one senior judge for the Criminal Division, and one senior court judge for the Civil Division. This will allow for the Criminal Division to have a dedicated full-time head to improve the timely delivery of justice in that division, as well as having a full-time leader in the Civil Division to provide for greater efficiency in the Civil Division.”

He noted that there will also be specialized divisions and additional

Fishermen face stiff fines for Fisheries violations

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boat cleaning fish fins and fillets that appeared to be legal catch.

However, authorities did a thorough search of the vessel and discovered a white crocus bag under a plank that contained fish fillets. And after opening the bag, they found 74 Spotlight Parrotfishes, 2 Midnight Parrotfishes, 12 Angelfishes, and 8 Ocean Triggerfishes, which are protected under the new Fisheries Research Act.

According to Hampton Gamboa, Fisheries Enforcement Officer for the Belize Fisheries Department, the fine for being caught with such species is 1,000 BZD per piece, and the three men will be sent to court on Tuesday, June 7.

In addition to the fishes that were found in the crocus bag, 68 fish fillets were found without the required skin patch, for which the men will be subject to a separate fine ranging from \$50 to \$100 BZD for each violation.

Later in the night, two individuals were caught fishing at the Glovers Reef, which is known to be a protected conservation area. The duo were found with 61 undersized conch in their shells. They will be charged for four different fisheries offenses and will face a minimum fine of 5,000 BZD.

Gamboa told local media that enforcement efforts for the department are challenging, as offenders often commit violations at night, while the enforcement officers are sleeping.

“Normally for us, we try to ensure that we have [a] presence as much as possible, and of course, we know that with the challenging efforts when it comes to enforcement, it’s very costly. And as you can see, we have to be battling with the timing of being out there [at a] certain time of night as well as early morning. We have certain issues that we’re looking at right now when it comes to the closed season of



Hampton Gamboa, Fisheries Enforcement Officer for the Belize Fisheries Department

lobsters and when people are moving these lobsters and when they are actually harvesting them. Sometimes while we are in our beds, 3:00 or 4:00 in the morning and the daybreak, guys are out there harvesting, so it is a challenging venture when it comes to enforcement ... as you can see, we’re looking at almost, for these two offenses, 130,000 BZD in fines and penalties,” said Gamboa.

CEO of the Ministry of the Blue Economy, Kennedy Carillo, noted that the ministry is aware of the illegal activities that are taking place within Belize’s waters and mentioned that enforcement officers will be out monitoring.

“We know that many of the persons that are engaging in this are very well aware that activity’s illegal. But that is why they go out at 10:30 at night, because they are under the assumption that they are doing it at a time when there are no enforcement officers, but we want people to know that we’re taking our responsibility very seriously and that our enforcement officers are there with greater presences than ever before,” said CEO Carillo.



Lawyer-politicians and campaign financing: a job for the losers

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While in office, our lawyer/politician friend was most aptly situated as Attorney General to accomplish some legislation in this vital area. But the tone of his recent essay might suggest that there were restrictions placed on his hand by the forces of “human greed” elsewhere during his administration.

Well, if the driving force of greed is anywhere near as strong as our friend implies, it can hardly be considered a blight on the current administration that campaign financing legislation has not seemed a priority for them. After all, there is much to accomplish “for the people” in many areas of government that demand urgent attention. And we must admit that, despite some mistakes, they are getting a whole lot done. So, it should be no surprise that drafting and enacting legislation that would restrict their own hand at election time, is not high on the priority list of any government. But if our out-of-office lawyer-politicians are true to their proclaimed desire for good governance, they can prove their sincerity by putting in the work on drafting campaign finance legislation now, and discussing it with the people, before presenting it to the House for the government side to publicly say “yea” or “nay.” Indeed, besides criticizing the perceived wrongs of the governing party, those in opposition have a job to do also; and this is one area in which the people need them to take the bull by the horns—if they are serious and not themselves choking with human greed—and start drafting campaign finance legislation for political parties in Belize.

The remarkable Queen Elizabeth II

by Colin Hyde

Congratulations to Queen Elizabeth II on the attainment of the Platinum Jubilee, a record. What a remarkable woman! Joe Eroles, George Price and the rest of the wikid PUP tried to tear her down, but they got turned back just like the Devil got rebuffed in the desert. Ah, it is good to give respect where it is due. *God Save Our Gracious Queen*; she is like Tarrus Riley sang: royal.

Whoa there, I meant to drop a sour note about the GOB's diss of Commonwealth Day, and I forgot. I heard Kareem say that although he had

struck it out as a public and bank holiday it would still be commemorated. Well, as far as I know, all we got from GOB was a notice that all employees had to report to work, 8 to 5.

Khaila Gentle said in the *Amandala* that our GG was in London to celebrate with the Queen. Dame Froyla flew over the Atlantic (if da mi me I woulda mi haftu goh by Queen Mary) to join in the celebration, which Ms. Khaila said the British government declared would be “a ‘once-in-a-generation show,’ mixing ‘the best of British ceremonial splendor and pageantry with cutting-edge artistic and technological displays.’”

Channel Five's Duane Moody said Rotary International hosted the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacon Lighting ceremony at the GG Field, and also featured at the gala were speeches, cultural performances, arts and crafts, good food and liquid refreshments. From Mr. Moody's report, leadoff speaker for the event was Belmopan mayor, Sharon Palacio, who said “Let it be known in proclaiming this tribute to Her Majesty the Queen on her platinum jubilee that we are one nation and one Commonwealth – God Save the Queen.” Other speakers were Stuart Leslie, who subbed for the GG, and

the British High Commissioner, Claire Evans.

Many choose to remember what is bad about our time under British rule, going all the way back to slavery. In this gloomy world, I think it is good when we also remember the good things. There is much to celebrate about the Queen, and her people. Of course, we can't run away from the dark side of life altogether, and when we discuss the palace, we know what the big issue is—the color of the baby.

Let's not waste any ink on any cousin; let's go to the top: so what if she wondered if Harry a Megan baby would a mi baan black? Ha, there must have been some tense moments at Buckingham Palace, wondering if they were getting Boris, or Jack Johnson. Really though, if you had been born at a time when Europeans had ruled the world for 400 years, when their version of history was the only one that existed, and Britannia ruled the waves, and the sun never set on your country, boy for sure it would have been hard for you to not feel like you da somebody.

Humans have discrimination issues over everything. A man like me, I'd never want to engage Hart Tillett in a conversation, in English. Hmm, I bet he and JC Arzu would hit off real well. You've heard the saying, it's not what you say, it's how you say it. Well of course that isn't all true, but it does emphasize the importance of being up to mark with our speech. Proper articulation, sensitivity, and proper tone of voice will get you far. You think everything Sandra Coye says is gospel? But boy, where in the world is there another who speaks like her?

There are negatives to those daam British, but when people deserve props, you give it to them. The Queen's outstanding gift to the world is class, and you gotta respect that. She set a great example to the world for 70 years! You bet human frailty entered and tried to derail her. Only the special few can resist the world's many temptations. Of course, she was protected by the system. If she didn't eat with knife and fork, I bet she would have forgotten table etiquette and licked her fingers after feasting on that tasty gibnat. I must put in that I prefer pikayri.

My, all these years, and if there are any gaffes, you won't need more than one hand with five fingers to count them.

Accept that apology, Tracy

Well, no one takes advice from me. I should cry, because at least SOME of my published thoughts are worth the paper and ink expended on them. Like my call sometime back that the word “bukut” should be banned from the House. The English, whose language we use at the meetings, have a number of euphemisms in that arena, but none are soft enough to be civil. We really shouldn't be leaning so heavily on euphemisms of the world's most taboo word. Dammit, go to Hart

Tillett's school and get your vocab pumped up.

Bukut is daam low. You know how the emperor ended up walking about town without clothes? It's all because people feared to speak truth to power. Please, a word like bukut shouldn't get to smell where children and adults who aspire to respectability congregate. If we learned only one thing from the Queen, it is class. We shouldn't aspire to be animals. We ARE animals! There's no achievement in being there, please!

I can't read José Mai's mind, and I admit to being underexposed, so I might be off when I say that carrots' only claims to fame are their bountiful stores of Vitamin A, and their being so irresistible food for rabbits that Elmer Fudd had to take out his shotgun to keep away Bugs Bunny.

I am thinking that maybe Miss Tracy has been hanging around that low section of the UDP crowd too long. The PUP has its low section too, and you don't have to come from NIP stock to know all about their bad behavior. Keeping it on the tamer side, stories abound about the PUP ordering special candles and burning them on election nights. The way I understand it, wherever a race was tight, they sent in the candles. Okay, I might not have that story right, but I know for sure that the entire party went on a boat trip before the 2008 election, with a foreign guru whose special art was the séance.

I think if Tracy will save herself, she'll have to break away from the Barrows' party. That's a hard one; she probably can't, and that's because there's no other game in town. The people she should link arms with — Paul, Hubert, Patrick, and Bobby — have gone and grown old on us, Nancy has settled down to ostrich farming, and Wil, his passion is as a naturalist and nationalist.

It's possible that Tracy's whole gambit here is to reduce the PUP in this area, drag them down to the UDP level which they sank to after the Esquivel era. There are spoils to be had there. If she can do that, she'll win some points with her party's low branch.

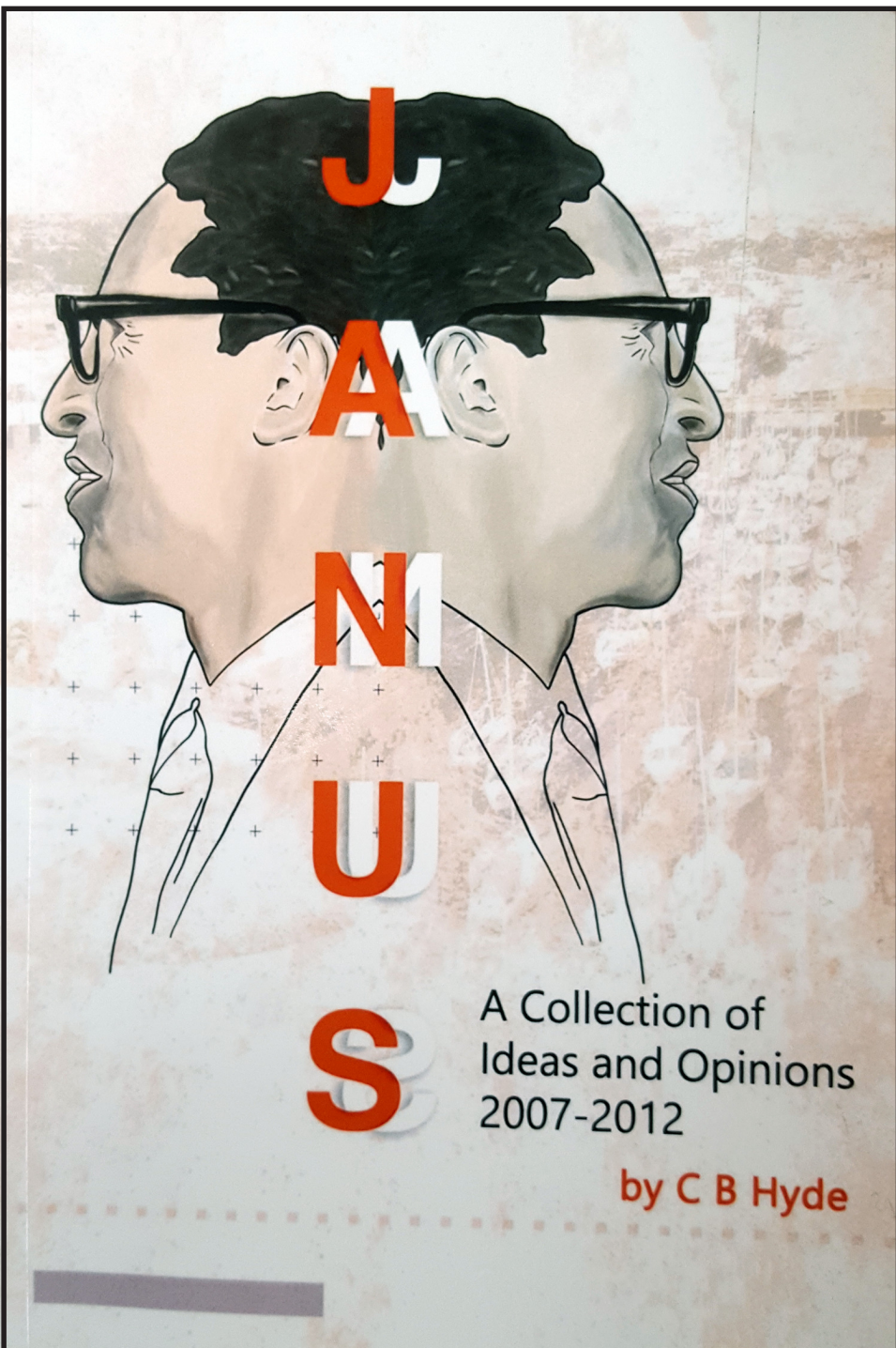
No, I can't believe José is that rude, but the statement wasn't respectful. You have to be careful with humor. Humor is risky. We all saw how that man slapped that other man at the movie show. The women in the House keep it straight, on the boring path, and maybe it is best.

Respect to Mr. Mai for apologizing. So, we never knew that when he was a boy Julius got himself called a—name. You know that the discussion on that name-calling thing isn't complete. I think we Kriols got called names too, but, because brown Kriols were a tribe not far from the top in the soup below the British, and racism is top down, not bottom up, the finger is on us. Haha, in primary school a girl of Julius's tribe called my darker sister, a black bear. I think my sister kohn home di baal.

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Abogados-políticos y financiación de campañas: un trabajo para los perdedores

(ex presidente de la Cámara) C.B. Hyde: "Ambos lados de la Cámara pueden proponer proyectos de ley". Sábado, 4 de junio de 2022

Domingo, 5 de junio de 2022

Un exministro de gobierno de Belize, un abogado experimentado, y aunque con buenas intenciones, invirtió en dos páginas completas de comentarios/filosofía en el periódico *Reporter* el pasado fin de semana, donde entregó un impresionante resumen del desarrollo de la civilización humana desde sus inicios más remotos hasta donde estamos en la actualidad. Y todo para llegar a la conclusión de que las tragedias y tribulaciones resultantes del comportamiento humano, incluso los efectos tipo Armagedón del Calentamiento Global que ahora nos sobrevienen, son todos inevitables porque la naturaleza humana está impulsada por la codicia. No ofrece ninguna esperanza de una posible solución a este dilema, excepto que, aunque "el hombre se destruirá a sí mismo, incluidos todos nosotros", la Tierra misma "se recuperará como lo ha hecho en muchas ocasiones después de agitación cataclísmica". Tal vez esta actitud de inevitabilidad sea una pista de las fallas de nuestro sistema de gobierno, donde dicho abogado-político disfrutó durante más de una década en uno de los puestos más altos del poder en la pasada administración, con poco impacto que mostrar contra este flujo torrencial de la codicia humana que ha caracterizado a nuestro supuesto "gobierno del, para y por el pueblo". Tal vez el grito actual de los miembros de la oposición en la Cámara de que el lado del gobierno se está demorando en promulgar una legislación de financiación de campañas, es un grito de "lágrimas de cocodrilo", mientras esperan su turno en el "comedero" del gobierno. Si no es así, entonces demuéstrenlo.

Nuestro estimado abogado-político nos llevó desde el establecimiento más temprano de "caseríos, aldeas, municipios y ciudades" hace más de 10.000 años, a través de los eventuales conflictos y guerras causados por la "competencia por comida y espacio", que pronto vio el surgimiento de grandes imperios y civilizaciones que surgieron y cayeron, incluyendo en el camino la explotación e incluso la esclavización de las personas, y con el reciente advenimiento de la revolución industrial, la creciente destrucción de los bosques de la tierra, llevándonos al actual fenómeno del Calentamiento Global, porque "los bosques son los 'pulmones' de la tierra", y son fundamentales para mantener "el equilibrio de temperatura de la tierra". Debido a su consumo masivo de combustibles fósiles que ha llevado a la destrucción de la capa de ozono que protege a la tierra del sobrecalentamiento, los "Países Desarrollados" son los principales culpables de esta crisis existencial que enfrenta de manera más inmediata a las pequeñas islas y pueblos costeros bajos y ciudades debido al aumento del nivel de los océanos y otras calamidades climáticas, incluidas "sequías", "tornados", "huracanes", "inundaciones" y olas de calor más frecuentes e intensas, que han comenzado a afectarnos con mayor intensidad cada año que pasa.

Habiendo analizado la fuerza impulsora esencial detrás de todas las grandes civilizaciones e imperios a lo largo de la historia humana hasta el presente, con todos sus altibajos, triunfos y tragedias, esfuerzos buenos y malos, su conclusión final es que "El problema fundamental es la CODICIA y está ahora en el mismo ADN del hombre." Y no ofrece consuelo a aquellos que están preocupados por lo que parece ser nuestro destino inminente, porque está resignado al hecho de que "La codicia del hombre no conoce límites". Y su única visión positiva parece estar en el más allá porque, "La cosa es que el hombre no destruirá la Tierra; la Tierra se recuperará como lo ha hecho en muchas ocasiones después de agitaciones cataclísmicas. ¡El hombre se destruirá a sí mismo, incluidos todos nosotros!" Entonces parece que es mejor que tomemos nuestros libros sagrados y comencemos a orar.

Pero mientras nuestro estimado y erudito amigo nos invita a todos a entregarnos a la inevitabilidad de la pérdida debido a

"La cultura y filosofía de la codicia del hombre", no se ha molestado en explorar el inmenso potencial de esperanzas y sueños de los que es capaz el intelecto humano, y que puede y permite, como han observado mentes más optimistas, al hombre reevaluar periódicamente su situación y trazar una retirada antes de caer por ese precipicio final.

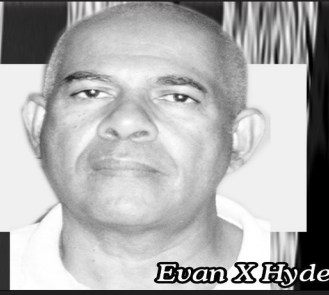
De hecho, como él observa, son "los países desarrollados" los que están "causando los problemas, pero son los países en desarrollo los que sienten y sufren más los efectos negativos". Y así, la actitud de los países desarrollados es que los "diversos pueblos" de los países en desarrollo "deben aprender a adaptarse a la situación. ¡Imagínense!" Pero si bien el "ADN" de la codicia humana puede estar siempre vigente, nos gustaría sugerir que el rasgo humano más apremiante y visible que se expone aquí, como en otros lugares, es el egoísmo, que suele ir acompañado de miopía; porque, para aquellos que no están cegados por esa codicia, hay una sabiduría inmensa en las palabras inmortales del poeta John Donne: "Ningún hombre es una isla entera en sí mismo...". Es solo con la connivencia y el estímulo del egoísmo miope que la codicia humana ha sido permitida hacer que comencemos a autodestruirnos sobre las rocas del orden de la naturaleza; y si los países en desarrollo no pueden encontrar la lógica para convencer a los países desarrollados de la locura de su codicia, tal vez sería mejor gastar sus energías en tratar de llegar a su alma humana donde reside el verdadero conocimiento de sí mismo. Pero tal empresa comienza "en casa", porque la generosidad se puede enseñar mejor con el ejemplo.

Y así volvemos a nuestra propia "Cámara", donde una vez residió nuestro buen amigo, y que por mucho tiempo ha resistido el grito constante de la gente por "buena gobernanza", comenzando con la demanda de una legislación de financiamiento de campañas. A lo largo de los años, y después de muchos cambios de gobierno, los votantes beliceños han llegado lentamente a la conclusión de que gran parte de su frustración por la falta de buena gobernanza se debe al amplio campo abierto del financiamiento de campaña no regulado ni documentado de nuestros partidos políticos cuando llega la época de elecciones. Y entonces les queda sumar uno y uno y llegar a dos, cuando ciertas decisiones de su gobierno electo parecen estar a instancias de un individuo o entidad sospechoso que se conoce o se sospecha de ser uno de los principales financiadores de su campaña electoral.

Mientras estuvo en el cargo, nuestro amigo abogado/político se encontraba en una posición más adecuada como Fiscal General para lograr alguna legislación en esta área vital. Pero el tono de su reciente ensayo podría sugerir que las fuerzas de la "codicia humana" le impusieron restricciones en su mano en otros lugares durante su administración.

Bueno, si la fuerza impulsora de la codicia es tan fuerte como sugiere nuestro amigo, difícilmente puede considerarse una plaga para la administración actual que la legislación de financiación de campañas no les haya parecido una prioridad. Después de todo, hay mucho que lograr "para el pueblo" en muchas áreas del gobierno que exigen atención urgente. Y debemos admitir que, a pesar de algunos errores, están logrando mucho. Por lo tanto, no debería sorprender que redactar y promulgar legislación que restringiría su propia mano en el momento de las elecciones no sea una prioridad en la lista de prioridades de ningún gobierno. Pero si nuestros abogados-políticos fuera del poder son fieles a su proclamado deseo de buena gobernanza, pueden demostrar su sinceridad trabajando en la redacción de la legislación de financiación de campañas ahora y discutirla con la gente, antes de presentarla a la Cámara para que el lado del gobierno diga públicamente "sí" o "no". De hecho, además de criticar los errores percibidos del partido gobernante, los de la oposición también tienen un trabajo que hacer; y esta es un área en la que la gente los necesita para tomar el toro por los cuernos - si son serios y ellos mismos no se ahogan con la codicia humana - y comiencen a redactar leyes de financiamiento de campañas para los partidos políticos en Belize.

From the Publisher



Evan X Hyde

In the interests of academic accuracy, I simply must point out to those of you who are serious readers that the section of Peter Ashdown's article ("The problem of Creole historiography") which was reproduced on pages 28 and 29 of last weekend's issue of this newspaper is only that -- a section. (The original article stretches from pages 142 to 152 of the Second Edition of READINGS IN BELIZEAN HISTORY, a May 1987 St. John's College publication.)

I chose not to reproduce the entire article, thus making it mandatory for serious readers to do their own research, because at one point Ashdown criticizes a prominent Belizean personality (now deceased), and I think that if this newspaper published the entire article, it would open an old UBAD wound.

Now, of course, the younger

Belizean generations have heard almost nothing about UBAD, and I'm not going to try to educate them in this column, for different reasons.

I will say this, however, that after all these fifty years, I have come to the conclusion that when the UBAD riot of May 29, 1972, threatened to become an outright insurgency, as president of the organization I should have acted in a more proactive manner. I should have put down my foot, because my instincts told me at the time that it was time for us to disperse, to disappear. I had too much respect for the officer who had become inflamed, and chose to go about the business of taking some of the Miss Afro Honduras candidates to their homes in an automobile. In retrospect, I gave up my leadership that night, and, also in retrospect, that was the beginning of the end of UBAD.

In February of 1970, a

situation which was somewhat similar had developed with respect to UBAD Minister of War, Charles X "Justice" Eagan. He was twice my age, and much more experienced in the streets than I. The seditious arrests of myself and the late Ismail Shabazz had suggested to me that the ruling People's United Party (PUP) had raised the stakes of the quarrel between us to a point where my book learning/training would become somewhat irrelevant.

Whatever, Justice became the de facto UBAD leader. Justice, myself, and Charles X Stamp ended up being tried in the Supreme Court in January of 1971. X Stamp and I were acquitted, but Justice went to jail.

I want to end this short column by saying to the attorney Godfrey Smith, who is not and has never been my friend, that his research into the devastating tragedy which ended the people's revolution in Grenada in

1983 is of massive importance. I give credit where credit is due.

What happened in Grenada, a small Eastern Caribbean island and former British possession which was the site of the only successful black power rebellion in the 1970s (1979), is that the two major leaders, Maurice Bishop and Bernard Coard, ended up in a violent confrontation. Bishop was slaughtered by machine gun fire, the United States invaded, and Coard spent decades in jail.

In 2022, as we Belizeans face the potential trauma of this International Court of Justice (ICJ) hearing in the months and years ahead, the pressure on our various leaders will be immense. This ICJ faceoff with Guatemala is serious business, and we can see now, 2022, that regional white power rules almost absolutely in these parts. Belizeans, we have a problem.

FROM THE PUBLISHER en Español

En aras de la precisión académica, simplemente debo señalar a aquellos de ustedes que son lectores serios que la sección del artículo de Peter Ashdown ("The problem of Creole Historiography") que se reprodujo en las páginas 28 y 29 de la edición del fin de semana pasado de este periódico es sólo eso: una sección. (El artículo original se extiende desde las páginas 142 a 152 de la segunda edición de READINGS IN BELIZEAN HISTORY, una publicación de St. John's College de mayo de 1987).

Elegí no reproducir el artículo completo, para que así fuese obligatorio que los lectores serios hagan su propia investigación, porque en un momento Ashdown critica a una prominente personalidad beliceña (ya fallecida), y creo que si este periódico publicara el artículo completo, abriría una vieja herida UBAD.

Ahora, por supuesto, las generaciones beliceñas más jóvenes no han escuchado casi nada sobre UBAD, y no voy a tratar de educarlos en esta columna, por diferentes razones.

Diré esto, sin embargo, que después de todos estos cincuenta años, he llegado a la conclusión de que cuando el motín de UBAD del 29 de mayo de 1972 amenazó con convertirse en una insurgencia abierta, como presidente de la

organización yo debería haber actuado de una manera más proactiva. Debería haber adoptado una actitud firme, porque mi instinto me dijo en ese momento que era hora de que nos dispersáramos, de desaparecer. Le tenía demasiado respeto al oficial que se había inflamado, y opté por dedicarme a llevar a algunas de las candidatas a Miss Afro Honduras a sus casas en un automóvil. En retrospectiva, renuncié a mi liderazgo esa noche y, también en retrospectiva, ese fue el comienzo del fin de UBAD.

En febrero de 1970, se había desarrollado una situación algo similar con respecto al Ministro de Guerra de UBAD, Charles X "Justice" Eagan. Él tenía el doble de mi edad y tenía mucha más experiencia en las calles que yo. Los arrestos sediciosos de mí y del finado Ismail Shabazz me habían sugerido que el gobernante Partido Unido del Pueblo (PUP) había subido las apuestas de la disputa entre nosotros a un nivel hasta donde mi aprendizaje/entrenamiento académico se volvería algo irrelevante.

Sea como fuere, Justice se convirtió en líder de facto de UBAD. Justice, Charles X Stamp y yo terminamos siendo juzgados en la Corte Suprema en enero de 1971. X Stamp y yo fuimos absueltos, pero Justice fue a la cárcel.

Quiero terminar esta breve columna diciéndole al abogado Godfrey Smith, quien no es y nunca ha sido mi amigo, que su investigación sobre la devastadora tragedia que puso fin a la revolución popular en Granada en 1983 es de enorme importancia. Doy reconocimiento donde se debe reconocimiento.

Lo que sucedió en Granada, una pequeña isla del Caribe Oriental y antigua posesión británica que fue el sitio de la única rebelión exitosa del poder negro en la década de 1970 (1979), es que los dos principales líderes, Maurice Bishop y Bernard

Coard, terminaron en una violenta confrontación. Bishop fue asesinado por fuego de ametralladora, Estados Unidos invadió y Coard pasó décadas en la cárcel.

En 2022, mientras los beliceños enfrentamos el trauma potencial de esta audiencia de la Corte Internacional de Justicia (CIJ) en los próximos meses y años, la presión sobre nuestros diversos líderes será inmensa. Este enfrentamiento de la CIJ con Guatemala es un asunto serio, y podemos ver ahora, 2022, que el poder blanco regional gobierna casi absolutamente en estas partes. Beliceños, tenemos un problema.

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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.

Seven ministries sign road safety proclamation

The goal is to reduce serious road traffic accidents by 50% by the year 2030 across the world.



Ministers signed Road Safety Decade of Action proclamation

BELIZE CITY, Mon. June 6, 2022

Today, the CEOs of several ministries met to sign on to a proclamation pledging support for the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety. First launched in October 2021, the Global Plan for the Decade of Action was developed by the World Health Organization and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. Today the government ratified its support to realize the goal set out in the action plan, “to reduce serious road traffic crashes and serious injuries on the highways by 50% by the year 2030,” a release from GoB states.

The proclamation was signed by the chief executive officers from the ministries of Economic Development; Transport; Education; Health & Wellness, Infrastructure Development, and Housing; Finance; and National Security, along with a representative from the Belizean Youth for Road Safety. The second road safety project, centered on the United Nations Pillars of Action for Road Safety, is being funded by the Caribbean Development Bank.

The Project Manager, Zane Castillo, stated today at the official signing, “Whereas the government of Belize in conjunction with the Caribbean Development Bank has already demonstrated its commitment to implementing successful road safety projects through the country’s first road safety project, whereas the government of Belize is executing its second road safety project, and whereas the long-term road safety plan for Belize has

already set its target of preventing at least 50% of road traffic deaths and injuries by 2030. Therefore, the government of Belize on June 6, 2022, pledges its support for the Decade of Action 2021- 2023.”

In Belize, road traffic accidents are frequent and many times fatal. Just last weekend there were three accidents in the vicinity of Belize City, and another fatal accident in the south.

“Unfortunately, as of April 30, 2022, 16 fatalities resulting from road traffic incidents have been recorded—an average of four per month,” a release from the government of Belize states.

The second road safety project is aimed at strengthening the capacity of relevant stakeholders to provide mental health care to victims of accidents.

“Currently, the post-crash care system only focuses on the important short-term goal of saving lives, concentrating on physical recovery; however, little attention has been given to the mental health effects on both victims and relatives. To address this, the Second Road Safety Project, through relevant stakeholders, will also strengthen the capacities of key Belizean professionals working in emergency services and post-crash care by imparting knowledge and skills in psychosocial support,” the release outlines.

The mentioned ministries, along with the Police Traffic Unit, municipal traffic departments, BERT, and PAHO, continue to partner for the execution of this second road safety project.

WPC claims Julius Espat insulted her

TEAKETTLE VILLAGE, Cayo District, Mon. June 6, 2022

A woman police officer identified as WPC Alicia Trapp will likely be disciplined by the Professional Standards Branch of the Police Department for a viral video that was published live on her Facebook page. In the video, she alleges that the Minister of Infrastructural Development and area representative for Cayo South, Hon. Julius Espat pointed his finger in her face and used crude words when he spoke to her—apparently because he was angered by the fact that she was participating in the Teakettle Village Council Election as a United Democratic Party supporter.

While she says that she was insulted by the minister, today Commissioner of Police Chester Williams stated that her actions violated the police’s social media policy and rules against open participation in a political party.

During her video, WPC Trapp identified herself as a police officer in civilian clothing and shared that she was approached by Hon. Espat, who attempted to scold her for her wearing a red shirt and being under a tent with UDP supporters. She said explicitly that she was approached because of the color of what she was wearing, a red sports shirt which didn’t have anything imprinted on it that indicated a UDP affiliation. She said that as a police officer of 9 years, she felt ashamed and disrespected by Hon. Espat’s approach and felt compelled to go live and condemn his actions.

Area representative Hon. Julius Espat was seen in her video just a stone’s throw away from where she proceeded with her own criticism of Hon. Espat and what she referred to as a trend for PUP ministers to disrespect women.

“Mr. Julius Espat came to my face and pointed and tell me I cannot be *explicit* there underneath the UDP tent. What’s wrong with this minister, ah? First Abelardo Mai disrespected Mrs. Tracy Panton; now this next minister wah come and disrespect me just because I da wa police officer and I inna civilian clothes? And he tell me I can’t wear no red shirt. What is wrong with him? I can wear any color I choose to, and even if I mi want wear wa white or wa blue shirt, I know who I will vote for. Da none ah his business that.” WPC Trapp said on her live video.

The Commissioner of Police said, however, that WPC Trapp was never to have taken to social media to rant.

“Having listened to the video

footage, even if we were to disregard her confrontation with the Hon. Julius Espat, as police officers we do have a code of conduct, and we do not expect our members to be ranting and raving on social media the way she did. It certainly is a clear violation of our social media policy, that’s one; secondly, under the Public Service Regulation, it clearly stipulates that public officers are not supposed to engage in any political activity or to show themselves to be preference to a certain political party,” COMPOL Williams said.

The COMPOL said that while WPC Trapp attempted to suggest that she was participating in the village council election as an independent voter, and that her wearing a red shirt was a matter of coincidence, some of her own remarks made her affiliation clear.

“She made mention to the fact that Alberto August was standing their with ‘our posters’, so she said our posters, and it turned out those posters that Alberto August has were UDP posters, so she automatically aligned herself with a political party” COMPOL Williams said.

Additionally, in the live video, WPC Trapp alleged that a member of Espat team described only as Ms. Mari, pushed and slapped Alberto August. “She came just because Mr. August was standing right there at the entrance with our posters, and he is supporting the chairman from Teakettle, and she came and push him, and because he didn’t want to move, she came and slap him on his face. Is that right? Please, people,” she said.

Unconfirmed reports are that WPC Trapp is supposedly the wife of the UDP chairman candidate of the village.

COMPOL Williams said that as a police officer she should not have been out there as a supporter of any party, and added that a person who places himself or herself in a political environment should expect nasty encounters.

“Everybody knows the Hon. Espat to be a political animal, not in a bad way, and so if you put yourself in the political arena, you must take what comes to you. You can’t get inna pig pen and nuh get expect to get muddy. It’s simply that, and so it’s a matter that has been passed on to the Professional Standards Branch, and they will look at it and see where we do from there,” the COMPOL remarked. He said that she is certainly at risk of facing disciplinary charges, although he could not say of what nature at this time.

Bread prices not going up

Continued from Page 2

exporters.

During Minister Mai’s presentation at the House of Representatives meeting, he noted that three proposals were submitted by the bakers. After their first proposal, in which they requested permission to increase the price of bread by 75 cents—to a \$2.25 wholesale price and \$2.50 retail price—was not approved, they sent a second proposal to Cabinet in which they suggested a 50- cent increase, and finally, in their third proposal, they

asked that government approve a 25-cent increase. Mai then mentioned that the Cabinet considered the proposed price adjustments and decided to not allow an increase in the controlled price of a 16-ounce loaf of bread at this time.

“This government, under the leadership of Honorable John Briceño, has approached this issue delicately, considering first and foremost the impact and [a] potential increase to have on the most vulnerable members of our society. While we have the utmost respect for private enterprise and wholeheartedly believe they are entitled

to a decent rate of return, this government is also cognizant of the fact that, after all is said and done, people need to eat, and it is the responsibility of [me] and this government to enact policies which will create an atmosphere in which people are secure in knowing that they are able to satisfy the basic needs for nutrition. Bread is an essential part of that equation,” said Mai.

“... The request to increase the price by 75 cents was presented to Cabinet and given due consideration. The record shows Cabinet could not support a 50% increase in the

controlled wholesale price. The Ministry and Supplies Control Unit [was] instructed to meet with the bakers and engage [in] negotiations to identify a more feasible alternative... I am pleased to announce to this honorable House and the nation that this PUP government will not authorize any increase [in] the controlled price of a 16oz loaf of bread,” continued Minister Mai.

It has been reported that the government might instead be providing subsidies to the bakers to cover their increased costs in order to ensure that bread prices do not rise.

Russian missiles more powerful than reported



by Clinton Canul Luna

It seems as if the Russia/Ukraine conflict will take longer than was anticipated by the western world. According to different mediums of communication, the NATO countries will supply the president of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelensky, with the most modern high-tech weaponry to defend his country against Russia. One thing is what is said, and another is when it really takes place. However, if such weapons reach the hands of someone from the Ukraine army and they make the mistake of attacking the country of Russia, then that is when we are going to experience a Third World War, a nuclear one, which will affect the world on a whole. There are all kinds of things that are taking place which are not known to the general public, since it also seems that Taiwan is preparing themselves should an invasion take place. Something similar to how it had happened previous to the Ukraine war. However, permit me to share with you, our dear readers of this column, the following opinion of the American Chris Sanders that was published on May 28, 2022 on the American News Network's YouTube page. It is entitled "*Russian Missile Tests Zircon, Iskandar, Poseidon, Caliber all faster, more powerful than reported*". It is as follows:

American News Network and I thank you for joining me today. I'm going to go over some military analysis. In fact, over the missiles that Putin has been shooting, and in fact, there's some scary stuff going on. Scary, meaning, what if I told you that everything is faster? Everything is stronger. Everything is more scary than how you reported it. Behind me, here is the Iskandar missile. Originally, he was saying that the Iskandar was, you know, a sub missile that is 24 feet long, three feet in diameter, but it can go 4,525 miles per hour. Originally, we were thinking this thing went about 2,500 miles per hour. Now, it has an accuracy of 10 meters. Meaning, it can hit a target within 10 meters. What I think Putin is actually doing, and, please pay attention, is he's perfecting the accuracy of all of his arsenal and he's using Ukraine as a testing ground.

I could go over every single thing he's doing, and that should put Europe on very high alert, especially with the Iskandar dismissal. Very easy to around, it can move it in any semi truck, pull it out, and boom. In fact, four of these can fit in a semi truck. Just a 53-foot trailer. Pull it out and immediately, there you go, and how easily could he move all these all around Europe? That's the question. So, there's over 20 different payloads that he has that he could put on the Iskandar. He's putting the weakest one on all of them, and you're going to learn that Zelensky, because of this and, him using it last night, is already talking about surrendering, and that's because last night he blew up all of his reserve troops while they were sleeping in their barracks.

Now I know you think that's evil. But that's exactly what we did with the

Republican Guard in Desert Storm when we were fighting Saddam Hussein. And we didn't use the mechanized cable. We used the mechanized cavalry. They went in and cluster-bombed them. And that's how we won the war. Well, Putin just did the same thing with this Iskandar missile. That's not half of it. The other thing is that, remember the Poseidon, it was told to the whole world for years that it was a 100-megaton cobalt wave nuclear torpedo. Turns out it's 200 megatons, okay? This Iskandar was supposed to be 310 miles maximum range. 500-mile range. In other words, everything is faster. Everything is stronger than what he claimed. And the Iskandar, not only is it going 4,525 miles per hour, but it is highly maneuverable, so we can't even shoot it out of the sky as it's coming to us. Now, you gotta think about how long does that take? Well, it takes about six seconds for you to meet your doom from pushing the button to it hitting the target. Now, with the 310-mile range, this puts all of the Ukraine on high alert, because from the north, he can attack everything through Belarus and through the ocean and through Russia; he can attack the entire country just with this one missile.

Next missile, I'm going to bring that he just tested is now the fastest missile ever tested. And it is the Zircon. And this has stunned the world. Now, how are we tracking these and knowing that he's lied about the speed of his missiles through satellite? And so, through satellite, what we thought was a 4 Mach, 5 Mach, then we tracked it going 8 Mach. Now, it's looking from just yesterday, going to Mach 9. It has what's called a plasma cloud that surrounds it, and it's again highly maneuverable. So, he test-fired this just yesterday from the Gorbachev, and his hypersonic Zircon cruise missile is now the fastest thing. You can see it going right here [Video clip shown]. And it's a scary sight. But the thing is, they shot it out of the same porch that they were shooting their caliber missile out of, which basically means it's kind of like how the Americans use the sidewinders. They can be shot out of everything now. Okay. So it's highly maneuverable. We thought it had a 500-kilometer range, but we just saw it go 1,000 kilometers. Again, it doubled what they claimed. Two stage uses: fuel first, then scram jet.

Now why am I bringing all this up to the American public and to the world? The reason why I'm bringing it up is if he said this missile goes Mach 4 but it goes Mach 9. If he said that Poseidon was 100 megatons, now it's 200 megatons. Well keep in mind, he said he had 5,500 nuclear bombs, missiles. Is that figure really eleven thousand, 12,000? Because that's the picture I'm getting. Most countries try to lie and say that they're stronger than they really are. But in this case, Putin's lying, and he's really stronger than he's saying he is. If you get on YouTube and you just type in Ukraine or Putin, they show out Putin. He's losing the war. When guess what?

He's not losing in any type of way at all. But he's not losing in any way. And now he just released the flying Chernobyl. That's another one. And that's like a jet that then goes off in several other missiles to hit us over here.

But the thing that's scary about him calling it the Chernobyl is because "Chernobyl" means wormwood in the Bible. In Isaiah, it said Chernobyl would fall from the sky like a lightning torch. And infect one third of the waters of the world. That's what he called it. And now we have a nuclear missile named Chernobyl. Now this makes everything more Biblical and more scary. Because now we have a missile named Chernobyl. Which means wormwood in the Bible. And in the Bible it says in Revelation that a fiery torch would fall from the sky. Turning a third of the world bitter. Could this be it? Now, when I saw that name, it made shivers go through my spine, and all I want to say is this war in Ukraine is so not worth it. We

need to join each other as defenders of the Constitution, defenders of the United States Constitution.

Anyways, that's the report for the day. I want you to know that the Ukrainian forces were in fact hit in the middle of the night And they were killed in their sleep. And the very next morning Zelensky talked about surrendering. And that is today. We'll see what happens. Because we're not getting the real report. And that's why I'm reporting to you. Chris Sanders. Major News Network Online. American News Network on Facebook. God bless.

fincasolan@gmail.com

June 4, 2022

Finca Solana

Corozal Town

The value of a life

Forensic scientists in Italy, with the help of scientists from all over, have discovered skeletal remains of victims of the Mount Vesuvius eruption in 79 A.D. At first, they were skeptical of the fact that they would be able to retrieve DNA from those bones, because of the extreme heat of the lava that covered Pompeii and Herculaneum! Well, happy to report that, because the skeletons were so well preserved in the enamel-like lava, they not only extracted the DNA from a male in his forties but also from an elderly woman who perished in that powerful, natural, and very deadly disaster. The male had tuberculosis and was too impaired to try to escape, probably bedridden; the female had arthritis and was not ambulatory. This was almost 2,000 years ago, and yet they could solve the puzzle with detailed accuracy! They also figured out, because of the location in which they were found, that they were working-class Romans! It is indeed amazing, how much science and technology has advanced, just in the last 50 years. There are hardly any mysteries left in our part of the universe that cannot be explained away through scientific research!

I remember as a little boy, growing up in the 50s, spending time in the country with my grandparents, Crooked Tree, to be exact. Sometimes I would accompany my grandmother to a "setup." That's when a sick or elderly person was supposed to be dying, and all the ladies, mostly of the village, would go and sit around the bed and chat and sing hymns, waiting for the person to die, late into the nights. At times that person would be chatting with them, or eating something, and even in my innocence, I wondered how that was possible. But yes, there were no doctors

around, so whether it was stoppage of water (prostate), or pneumonia or whatever, they were just waiting round to die. And death was a big deal, still a mystery, back then.

Today, death is just something that happens to anyone at anytime! There are no more surprises and wonder and awe about dying. There's so much murder and mayhem everywhere. No respect for that gift, the greatest gift we will ever have, of life, of living and growing and learning and appreciating and cherishing our time on earth! It has been so devalued, so taken for granted! People take each other's lives every minute of every day, because of an insult, a grudge, even a look, and you are cancelled, because your life isn't worth much anymore, at least not to them!

I have been blessed with longevity. I look at my grandchildren, young and vibrant and expectant! Dreaming of school or the next gift or friends or vacation or adventures that are in store for them. Unaware of all the perils they will face in this modern world, which is a good thing, for the most part. I know that my children will teach them to respect and value life, teach them to be the best they can be. It's so hard these days, when a child is not safe in his/her school, or on a playground. Parents just have to do their best to protect them, and to teach them to respect and value every breathing moment of their hopefully long and happy lives! Life and living and discovering—what could be more precious?

Now, if only we had the science and technology to guide us through a pathway to the preserving and protecting of life, while we're still alive, not 2000 years from now.

Glen

Nationality Act amended for Amnesty 2022

Figure 20. Top 20 countries with the largest proportional population change in Latin America and the Caribbean, 2009–2019

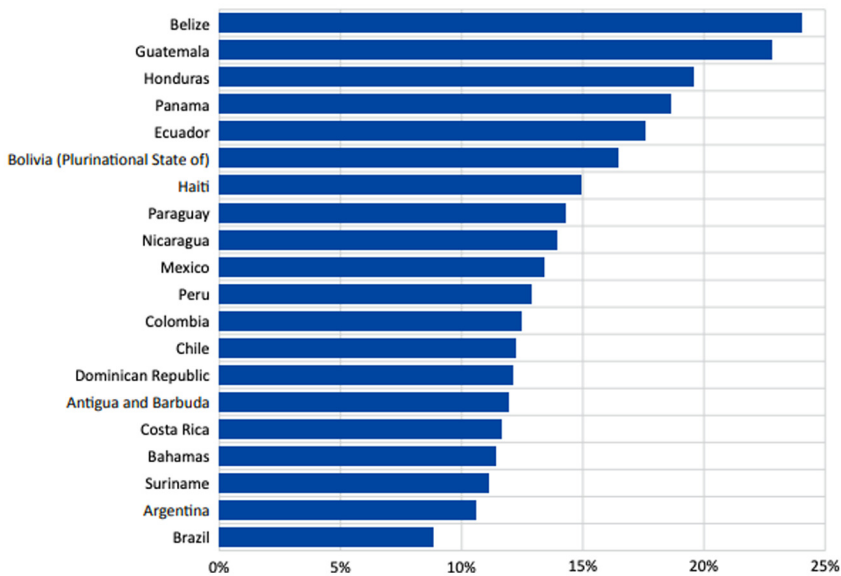


Figure 20. Top 20 countries with the largest proportional population change in Latin America and the Caribbean, 2009–2019

(Source: World Migration Report 2020)

Continued from Page 1

and the issuance of accompanying regulations.

Persons who qualify under one of the eight criteria that have been outlined by GoB will be given an opportunity to go through the application process, which, according to the Department of Immigration website's page on the Amnesty 2022 program, will require that applicants take 7 steps before they are granted a permanent residence card.

To qualify to apply for this amnesty program, undocumented migrants will have to meet one of the following requirements: be a registered asylum seeker with the Department of Refugees before March 31, 2020; have resided in Belize before 31st December 2016; have at least 1 child born in Belize on or before December 2016; have completed any level of schooling in Belize; be married to a Belizean, or be in a common-law union with a Belizean for at least 5 years; be a child or victim of human trafficking referred by the Department of Human Resources, or have maintained gainful employment in Belize for 5 years.

Those persons will have to apply to the department, which will determine their eligibility and set up an appointment with the applicant before their application is submitted. They will have to submit a police record and also be interviewed by the police at their home address. Once the application is approved, then payment for the permanent residency will have to take place before they are finally able to receive the card. According to the Prime Minister, these approved persons will have to wait 5 years before they can apply to become Belizean citizens.

"It is important to stress that successful applicants would have to wait at least 5 years before they can apply to become Belizean citizens; permanent residents are not eligible to vote in general and municipal elections," the Prime Minister said.

According to data from the World Migration Report 2020, Belize has experienced the greatest percentage of population growth linked to migration in the region over the last 10 years. The report states, "All the top 20 countries experienced an increase in the size of

their populations during this period, with the largest proportional population changes occurring in Central America. Belize had the greatest percentage change, with its population increasing by 24 percent from 2009 to 2019. It was followed by Guatemala and Honduras, whose populations grew by nearly 23 and 20 percent respectively."

While the majority of the undocumented persons living in Belize are from the neighboring republics in Latin America, the Department of Immigration notes that a growing percentage of persons are coming from Haiti, China, and Africa.

"Most of the migrants who have settled in Belize are from the neighboring republics, with increasing numbers from Haiti, China, and Africa. Migrants from the Central American republics are, in the main, fleeing gang-related violence and seeking employment opportunities. Migrants from Haiti are fleeing political-related violence, ungovernability, and economic opportunities, whilst those from China are primarily seeking economic opportunities," the Prime Minister said in his remarks at Friday's House sitting.

The recent census done in 2010 shows that 14.2% of persons living in Belize were born abroad, and the new ongoing census being carried out by the Statistical Institute of Belize may likely show an increased percentage, since the currently stated percentage does not reflect the number of persons that have moved to Belize over the last 10 years—an estimated 40 to 60 thousand persons. At this time, the Belize Refugee Department has 73 confirmed refugees documented and 4,030 persons with asylum seeker status; it must be noted that Guatemalan citizens are not eligible to seek asylum in Belize.

The first amnesty program held in Belize was done 3 years after independence in 1984 when 8,680 undocumented migrants were regularized; in 1999, during a second amnesty program, an additional 11,168 were registered. An estimated 20,000 undocumented migrants were estimated to be in the country in 2010, but an amnesty program scheduled for that year was never executed. Based on these numbers, the Immigration

Belize submits ICJ Counter-Memorial

Continued from Page 1

sovereignty, the territorial integrity, and independence of Belize."

Belize's submission today marks a decisive step in a process that has dragged on since December 2008 when the Special Agreement was first agreed on by both countries. The ICJ, located in The Hague, Netherlands, acts as the judicial arm of the United Nations. The court became the official arbiter of the dispute in June 2019, with the submission of the Special Agreement and the accompanying Protocol.

Subsequently, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the court was forced to adjust the time limits at the request of the Guatemalan government and agreed to extend that country's deadline for submission of its Memorial from June 8, 2020, to December 8, 2020. At the time, the agent from Belize stated to the court in a letter that two months would be a sufficient extension, in their view. Belize's date of submission was then moved from June 8, 2021, to June 8, 2022.

Guatemala is due to submit its reply to Belize's Counter-Memorial by or on December 8, 2022, exactly 6 months after our deadline date. Belize will have another six months to submit a rejoinder to Guatemala's reply, with a deadline set for June 2023, before a date for oral arguments is set.

The Prime Minister, in his remarks to the House, said, "June 3 is a historic day for Belize. I can report to this honorable House and to the Belizean people that earlier, Belize filed its Counter-Memorial at the International Court of Justice in The Hague."

He also gave a snapshot of the timeline: "By this special agreement, Guatemala must submit its reply to Belize's Counter-Memorial by December 3, 2022. Belize will have six months thereafter to deliver our rejoinder, so that by June 2023 we expect the written pleadings in the case to have closed. This, of course, assumes that there will be no further events or eventualities that might delay this case," PM Briceño said.

The COVID-19 pandemic, as mentioned, caused a delay in the

process. The PM thus said that if there are no other interruptions in the process, a date as early as 2024 could be set for oral hearings.

"Assuming that there is no further delay, the court will proceed to set a date for hearing, which I am advised can occur in 2024 if not before," he said.

At this time, only a few are privy to the details of Guatemala's Memorial and Belize's Counter-Memorial, since the court rules forbid any disclosures of the pleadings from either party. The Prime Minister reassured citizens, however, that a strong case has been submitted for Belize.

"Belizeans can rest assured that a strong, clear, and powerful case has been made for all our territory, continental and insular, as well as the maritime areas as determined by international law," PM Briceño said.

In his remarks, the PM also called on the Guatemalan government to adhere to the agreed upon Confidence-Building Measures of 2005 and to prevent their citizens from engaging in illegal activity on Belize's side of the border.

"We continue to appeal to Guatemala to adhere to the Confidence Building Measures in place since 2005, which requires, for example, our government, both governments, to clear the areas around the three reference markers at Gracias Adios, Garbutt Falls, and Aguas Turbias. The Guatemalan government also undertook to dissuade its citizens from crossing illegally into Belize. But, we continue to have problems with Guatemalans occupying Belize near the Western Border. Narcotrafficking continues to pose a security problem, while illegal logging, farming, poaching and mining continues to cause significant damage to our environment and wellbeing. Similarly, the Guatemalan government has refused to abide by repeated commitment to negotiate Confidence Building Measures regarding the Sarstoon River in defiance of appeals by international bodies. Again, we urge the government of Guatemala to put into effect its undertaking the agreed CBS for the Sarstoon," the Prime Minister said.

Department estimates that up to 60,000 undocumented migrants may be living in the country, many being subjected to daily violations of their human rights because of the vulnerability resulting from their irregular status.

The PM says this is one of the primary reasons for the exercise. "What we are doing is something that is necessary, something to be able to regularize the status of these people. Many of these people are being taken advantage of by unscrupulous business people, both the men and women, and in some instances these children are forced to work in the fields to be able to help their families. So it is not about politics ...," the PM said.

He remarked that this amnesty program is the right and necessary thing to do. According to the Department of Immigration, irregular migration breeds illegality and abuse. It stated, "Many migrants find themselves victims of human trafficking – modern-day

slavery. Irregular migrants, because of their vulnerability, are often employed at very low wages and work in dreadful conditions. Additionally, many are paid 'off the books' and therefore generate little tax revenue. Some of the migrants are gang members or former gang members and engage in serious criminal activities in Belize. Many have children in Belize and enter relationships, which leads to complications. There are families where both or one parent is irregular, but their children are regular. Registering the children in school exposes the parents, and there is a tendency not to enroll them. Of course, any irregular migrants access social and other services and therefore add to the cost-of-service delivery."

The legal framework for Amnesty 2022 will be put in place by this recently introduced amendment. After that legislation is passed, the government will

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Presenting our Belize U15 Girls National Team

BELIZE CITY, Wed. June 1, 2022

At a press conference last Wednesday morning around 10:00 a.m. at its Belmopan headquarters, the Football Federation of Belize (FFB) presented the final selection of the Belize U15 Girls National Team that will be representing the country in upcoming games between June 5 and 12 in Costa Rica, where 7 teams will be involved in a “preparation tournament” in advance of the CONCACAF Girls U15 Championship involving 32 teams that is scheduled to take place between July 31 and August 7 of this year in Tampa, Florida, USA. The 7 teams in the preparation tournament include 2 from the Caribbean – Puerto Rico and Dominican Republic, and 5 from Central America – Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras and Belize.

Belize has been placed in Group B along with El Salvador and Dominican Republic, and according to the latest reports revealed by FFB Technical Director, Phillip Marin, our Belize U15



girls will face El Salvador on Tuesday, June 7, and then they take on the Dominican Republic on Thursday, June 9.

The Belize U15 Girls National Team features: goalkeepers – Allisha Alvarez and Vadia Myvette; defenders –

Shanalee Smith, Jasha Bernardez, Kristel Melchor, Tannaejah Castillo, Marcelle Mar, Athiana Ovando, Madison Hyde, Aireh King; midfielders – Raquel Cal, Shamikah Pollard, Jahxann Waight, Betsy Perez, Aisha Flores, Lineth Chan, Janilyn Cal; and

forwards – Shakeisha Jones, Gianina Menjivar, Kenya Perez and Alysha Reymundo.

The Belize U15 Girls National Team is coached by Joseph Waight, and his assistant is Paul Casimiro.

Le’s go, Belize Girls!!

Veteran defenders, Willie and Charro pass a week apart

BELIZE CITY, Mon. June 6, 2022

Even while former Berger 404 defender Larry “Charro” Bennett was already a week in KHMH, we received word that former Landivar sweeper and captain, Clarence “Willie” Williams had passed in Florida, USA.

Willie reportedly had recently suffered a stroke, and was in rehab when he suffered a second stroke and passed on Thursday, May 26.

Charro had been ailing for a few months and was hospitalized on May 19 at KHMH where he passed on Friday, June 3.

Charro played flank defense on a number of Belize City championship teams, starting with the 1974-76 Berger 404 back-to-back Belize City football champions, later with champions Chito’s Rangers, and he was also a member of that memorable Belize selection that travelled undefeated in 5 games played in Mexico back in 1978. Willie was the sweeper/captain of a tough defence that carried Landivar to a number of championships in the late 1960s and



Larry “Charro” Bennett at far left standing in back row with 1978 Belize Selection to Mexico (pic courtesy “Sports, Sin And Subversion” by Evan X Hyde)

early 1970s, even while their striking force was not formidable, winning many a 1-nil game. Willie may have migrated to the US sometime after their last Landivar championship in 1974.

Our sincere condolences from the sports desk to both their families.

Below we share a recent Facebook post by football fan Roger Bradley. While Roger’s post focused on Larry, who was known to be ailing at the time, he didn’t mention the Landivar sweeper, who was most likely Clarence “Willie” Williams. Willie was a few years older than Charro. Willie was the sweeper on an Amateur Sporting Club team that was reinforced with some players from

Landivar and other teams for a trip to Agua Dulce, Vera Cruz in July (or August?) of 1972.

By Roger Bradley:

Larry Bennett was a defender by nature. He was a wall with “Salad Oil” with the Berger dynasty of the 1970’s and early 1980’s. They won about four championships together. However, I distinctly remembered what a game in what I believe was Larry’s first year with Berger 404 in the 1973-74 season. Landivar was the defending champs and during the match Larry literally marked the dangerous Landivar left winger Half-a-D Pascascio very hard. Every time the midfielder forwarded a pass to Half-a-D for a run through Larry

was always alert and stopped Half-a-D. Half-a-D was sneaky and tricky. With ten minutes left in the game, lack of experience eventually took its toll on Larry. He took his eyes off Half-a-D one time too much and the latter got the run-through pass, and Half-a-D was too far ahead of Larry. Half-a-D went in all alone on the left side and smoked a low grounder past Bunucal. Landivar won 1-0.

Rest In Peace, brothers Larry “Charro” Bennett and Clarence “Willie” Williams.

Funeral arrangements for Willie are in the U.S., while we understand that Larry’s funeral will be held later this week or on the weekend.

REGIONAL & INTERNATIONAL

US-bound migrant caravan leaves southern Mexico

TAPACHULA. Mon, June 6, 2022 (Aljazeera) — Several thousand migrants have set out from southern Mexico in a caravan bound for the United States, which is hoping to address regional migration during talks at the Summit of the Americas this week in Los Angeles.

Migration activists said the group, which left from the Mexican city of Tapachula on Monday, could be one of the region's largest migrant caravans in recent years.

The caravan was estimated to include 4,000 to 5,000 people, mostly from Central America, Venezuela and Cuba, The Associated Press reported, while witnesses told Reuters that the group counted approximately 6,000 people.

Mexico's National Institute for Migration did not provide an estimate of the group's size and provided no additional comment on the caravan.

Caravan organiser Luis Garcia Villagran said the group represented various nationalities of people fleeing hardship in their home countries, including many from Venezuela.

"These are countries collapsing from poverty and violence," he said. "We strongly urge those who attend the summit ... to look at what is happening, and what could happen even more often in Mexico, if something is not done soon."

Tapachula serves as a key point in the journey of many migrants and asylum seekers hoping to reach the US, with thousands arriving in the city in Mexico's



The caravan set off from the southern Mexican city of Tapachula on Monday [Quetzalli Nicté-Ha/Reuters]

southeastern Chiapas state in recent months.

For months, people have complained that Mexico's strategy of containing them in the southernmost reaches of the country has made their lives miserable. Many carry significant debts for their migration and there are few opportunities for work in Mexico's south.

Ruben Medina, of Venezuela, said he and 12 members of his family found themselves in southern Mexico because of his country's president, Nicolas Maduro.

"[We have] been waiting about two months for the visa and still nothing, so better to start walking in this march," Medina told AP.

"They gave us an appointment for August 10 in [the asylum commission], and we don't have the money to wait," said Joselyn Ponce of Nicaragua. "We had to walk around hiding from immigration, there were raids, because if they catch us they will lock us up."

The caravan set off as Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said he would not attend the Summit of the Americas, serving a blow to the Biden administration's efforts to use the meetings to build more regional cooperation on migration.

US President Joe Biden, who promised to reverse some of his predecessor Donald Trump's most restrictive immigration

policies, has been under pressure to address increasing numbers of asylum seekers arriving at the country's southern border with Mexico.

The US hoped to end a contentious border restriction known as Title 42 last month, but a federal judge on May 20 blocked that effort.

The policy, which allows US authorities to turn away most people who arrive at the border without giving them a chance to apply for protection, has been slammed by migration advocates as a violation of US and international law.

Despite the restriction, many asylum seekers continue to make long and often arduous journeys to Mexican border cities and towns, in hopes of being allowed to enter

the US.

Over the years, thousands have joined caravans in hopes that walking in large numbers would provide them with greater protection and success. Authorities in Guatemala and Mexico broke up several previous caravans before they could reach the US border, however.

Colombian migrant Robinson Reyes, 35, said he hoped the group would attract the attention of leaders at the Americas summit.

"We want a future for our children ... we want to cross Mexico without any problems," he said. "God willing, they can talk and resolve this."

First published by AL JAZEERA



National Amateur Women's

Fury's Khalydia blasts 7 goals against relegation headed Verdes Rebels in NAWL Week 9

BELIZE CITY, Mon. June 6, 2022

All Week 9 games of the National Amateur Women's League (NAWL) 2022 Opening Season took place on Saturday afternoon, June 4, at different stadiums across the country.

Defending champion Jewel Fury's rookie sensation Khalydia Velasquez exploded for 7 goals against Group A cellar dwellers and certainly relegation headed Verdes Rebels, who were shut out, 9-0, by the Fury at the Isidoro Beaton Stadium in Belmopan. Scoring for Jewel Fury were Khalydia Velasquez (10', 12', 32', 45', 64', 65' & 66'),

Ceneia Apolonio (69') and Janivi Quiroz (79'). Those 3 goals in a 3-minute span by Khalydia must be some sort of NAWL record. After a slow season start, Jewel Fury is now firmly in command of the lead in Group A with a single loss, while Verdes Rebels are yet to record their first win in the tournament. (See standings below.)

Meanwhile in the other Group A encounter, it was home team San Pedro Pirates with the 3-1 victory over Rumberas FC at the Ambergris Stadium. Shaking the net for the Pirates were Olivia Dacosta (37' & 85') and

Iamara Baptist (71'), while Rumberas' goal was by Roshanny Narvaez (69').

In Group B in another lopsided affair at the Carl Ramos Stadium, Wagiya United SC had a field day against Corozal United Warriors who were shut out, 15-nil. Sharing in the scoring for Wagiya were Taryn Arnold (2', 8, 24', 55' & 58'), Jessie McLaughlin (15' & 79'), Tenechia Zuniga (30'), Shadette Lino (42' & 69'), Bernadine Sebastian

(50' & 70') and Jaelin Cacho (62' & 67'), and they also benefited from an own goal by Corozal's Sasha Innis (89' OG).

And the other Group B match was another blowout, as Cayo Dreamers blasted Santa Elena Strikers, 9-0, at the Norman Broaster Stadium with goals from Alysha Bowman (9', 13' & 20'), Sara Torres (11', 31' & 73'), Daisy Paz (50' & 60') and Alicia Coc (90+').

Nat'l Amateur Women's League 2022 Opening Season								
Standings at Week 9, Sunday, June 5, 2022								
GROUP A	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Diff	Pts
Jewel Fury FC	7	5	1	1	22	3	19	16
Rumberas FC	7	3	2	2	10	6	4	11
Sagitun Girlz	6	3	1	2	11	11	0	10
San Pedro Pirates	7	3	1	3	9	12	-3	10
Verdes Rebels	7	0	1	6	6	26	-20	1
GROUP B	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Diff	Pts
Bay City FC	7	7	0	0	56	0	56	21
Cayo Dreamers	7	5	0	2	30	9	21	15
Wagiya United SC	7	4	0	3	36	13	23	12
Santa Elena Strikers	7	1	0	6	3	56	-53	3
Corozal United Warriors	6	0	0	6	1	48	-47	0

Saturday, June 11

3:00 p.m. - (A) Rumberas FC vs Jewel Fury FC - M. A. Stadium in Independence

3:00 p.m. - (B) Cayo Dreamers vs Wagiya United SC - Norman Broaster Stadium

3:00 p.m. - (B) Corozal United Warriors vs Bay City FC - Ricalde Stadium

Sunday, June 12

3:00 p.m. - (A) Verdes Rebels vs Sagitun Girlz - Norman Broaster Stadium

REGIONAL & INTERNATIONAL

Cuba floods: At least two dead as heavy rain hits island

Mexican president Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador says he will boycott the event over guest list that excludes Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela.

CUBA. Mon. June 6, 2022 (BBC news)

At least two people have died in Cuba's capital, Havana, after the remnants of Hurricane Agatha brought heavy rain and floods to the Caribbean island.

The Cuban weather service said the downpours would

last until Saturday afternoon, bringing more than 20cm (8in) of rain to some places.

Western and central areas of the country, including Havana, are the worst affected.

Hurricane Agatha hit Mexico last Monday, killing nine people.

Nearly 2,000 people have evacuated their homes in Havana, and around 50,000 people in and around the city are without electricity.

Evacuation centres have been prepared to shelter people from the rain, the state-affiliated Cuban News Agency reported.

The storm is the remnant of Hurricane Agatha, which hit Mexico's west coast last week killing nine people.



A vintage car makes its way through Havana's flooded streets (Source: Reuters)

It was the strongest hurricane ever recorded in the country during the month of May.

The weather system has now moved north-east towards the Gulf of Mexico, and is likely to become the first named tropical storm of the season. It is expected to bring heavy rain to the US state of Florida.

Cuba is no stranger to hurricanes, but climate change has increased the intensity and frequency of the powerful storms.

In 2019, amendments were made to the Cuban constitution which commit the government to confronting climate change, recognizing it as a threat to the survival of the human species.

First published by BBC news.

Tracy: Minister Mai "crossed a dangerous line" in House

The sitting of the House of Representatives this past Friday was rife with disputes, one of which led to what the UDP has called a "shameless display of misogyny" after a heated debate quickly became insolent.

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The exchange took place after Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño introduced a loan motion for the expansion and rehabilitation of the Philip Goldson Highway, which Hon. Panton rose to oppose. The US \$24 million loan, which would be used to repair 16 miles of the highway (from Miles 8.5 to 24), has been approved by the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), of which Belize is a member and from which it is thus eligible to receive financial and technical assistance.

While Panton did not dismiss the importance of infrastructure development, she criticised the government's continued borrowing at what she called an "irresponsible rate". She also pointed out the government's constant flip-flopping between celebrating the country's economic rebound and lamenting about austerity.

During her address, Hon. Panton used a term that some have deemed offensive to refer to the Government's irresolute stance on its economic performance, which garnered criticism from Cayo South area rep, Hon. Julius Espat. Hon. Panton quickly apologized for using the term and retracted her statement, extending an apology to all Belizeans.

This was not the case, however, when the member for Orange Walk South and Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Jose Abelardo Mai, rose to support the motion. After criticising the previous administration for mishandling the country's infrastructural development, Hon. Mai turned his attention to Hon. Panton, calling her "confused" and then bringing up the topic of carrots—an issue to which Hon. Panton had referred when she had made previous public statements about the purported losses being suffered by carrot farmers in Orange Walk (Mai's constituency) whose crop is supposedly rotting in the ground because of sub-par sales locally.

"She spoke about carrots and putting old pictures from under their term, Madam Speaker. She is confused. Confusing in the sensation to pee-pee and to poo-poo," he remarked, eliciting laughter from other members of the House.

"Confusing carrots fi something else, definitely. You are confused, my dear. So, Madame Speaker, when you put nonsense on Facebook like that, it is shaming, man. Let me tell you something, you need to correct yourself. Unconfuse yourself. When you go and sit down on the carrots and take a photograph, I will believe it. The next time you go to San Carlos, you go and sit on the carrots and take a photograph and make it evidence. Do not come here and lie. You are deceiving people. Unconfuse your sensation, please," added Hon. Mai, who also told Hon. Panton that if she truly cared for local farmers, she would have attended the National Agriculture and Trade Show

to witness the work they have been doing.

After Friday's events, Hon. Panton took to her social media page to voice her discontent, calling Hon. Mai's comment that she should go sit on the carrots—a comment which she says was laced with sexual innuendo—completely unparliamentary.

"Abelardo Mai, is that how you speak to a woman? Is that how you speak to your mother, your sister, and your wife?" she wrote, calling the Orange Walk South representative a disrespectful fool.

"Where are Rossana and Dolores? In fact, where was the House Speaker, Valerie Woods, did she really miss the sexual innuendo of this fool?" added Hon. Panton.

But while the three women called out by Hon. Panton were silent, the United Democratic Party was quick to condemn the House members, calling Hon. Mai's comments and the supporting laughter a "most shameless display of misogyny" and expressing disappointment that the Speaker of the House did not reprimand Hon. Mai.

"The United Democratic Party is appalled at the nasty verbal assaults directed at Hon. Tracy Panton in today's meeting. We strongly condemn the comment made by the Member from Orange Walk South, Jose Mai, and call shame on all the members who laughed and cheered him on," stated the UDP.

The party has accused Speaker Woods of chairing the House using a laissez-faire approach and allowing House members on the Government side to "insult, belittle, and bully members of the opposition bench." Additionally, the party has called on the Speaker to demand an apology from Hon. Mai and to censor him.

Also speaking out against Hon. Mai's comments was the United Democratic Party National Organization of Women (UDPNOW), who with their own press release have demanded an apology for Hon. Panton not only from Minister Mai but also from the Prime Minister who, not long after Hon. Mai, said to the Albert area rep, "don't get excited; you might get a stroke right now, just relax."

The UDP has noted that this was not Hon. Briceño's first instance of using "offensive tactics" against the Albert area representative.

UDPNOW condemned Hon. Mai's comments as being "condescending, lewd, distasteful, and disrespectful."

"The Member from the House of Representatives from Orange Walk South, the Hon. Jose Abelardo Mai, crossed a dangerous line yesterday," wrote Hon. Tracy Panton on Saturday.

According to her, Minister Mai has since contacted her to give her somewhat of an apology, stating that "what she thought she heard is not what he meant to say" and calling the matter a miscommunication. She has said, however, that the matter requires a public apology.

Nationality Act amended...

Continued from Page 12

issue the Belizean Nationality Amnesty 2022 Regulations. The PM said that the ministry has engaged in "widespread" consultation and will have time for more, and has put in place the administrative arrangements to carry out the program.

"This is being done with international partners such as the International Office of Migration and the UNHCR. It is expected that Amnesty 2022 will commence on the 2nd August 2022; within a registration period of four months, their applications will be processed, and cards issued to a successful application," Prime Minister Briceño said.

Tropical Storm Alex forms...

Continued from Page 3

to flood waters rising to up to 12 inches.

"This is a dangerous and life-threatening situation. Traveling during these conditions is not recommended. It's better to wait. Turn around, don't drown," wrote The City of Miami on Twitter.

Between Friday and Saturday, somewhere around 100 vehicles became stranded in floodwaters throughout Miami, reports CNN.

According to the Mayor of Miami Beach, Dan Gelber, the storm put the city's drainage pumps—recently installed in response to increased flooding in the area caused by climate change—to the test. He told local reporters that, since

Saturday, the flood waters have been dissipating.

Late Sunday evening, the center of Tropical Storm Alex was located some 395 miles west of Bermuda. With maximum sustained winds of 65 mph, it is expected to pass north of the island on Monday, causing up to 2 inches of rain.

While the Atlantic Hurricane Season officially began on Tuesday, June 1, the formation of Alex marks an unusually early start. Last month, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) published their predictions regarding this year's hurricane season, forecasting an above-average year with at least 14 named storms.



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- * J & K Supermarket
- * Twin Supermarket, 5526 St. Thomas Street
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- * Julie Wong Store, Belama (by police station)
 - * JB's Store, Mahogany Street
 - * 88 Shopping Center, C.A. Boulevard
 - * Freetown Drug Store
 - * Publics, Philip Goldson Highway
 - * Buca Shell, Philip Goldson Highway
 - * James Brodie & Co., Albert St., and Philip Goldson Highway
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- * Placencia Office Supplies

LADYVILLE

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- * Low's Supermarket

ORANGEWALK

- * One Stop Service Station
- * People's Store

BENQUE

- * Eduard Cambranes
- 6 Diaz St., Benque

CAYO

- * Amini Habet
- C/o Shell Service Station
- San Ignacio
- * Venus Store

BELMOPAN

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- * Hydes Mini Market
- * First Choice Variety Gift Shop
- * Shell Service Station
- * Medicare Plus Pharmacy

STANN CREEK

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- C/o Uno Belize
- * St. Vincent Convenience Store

COROZAL

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- * Xiomara Alcala c/o Corozal Farmer's Supplies # 99 - 5th Avenue, Corozal Town
- * Elena Castaneda WE Store Gabriel Hoare Market #A8 6th Avenue, Corozal Town

SAN PEDRO

Rocks Shopping Center

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- * G N J Mart

PUNTA GORDA

- * King's Texaco
- * NJV Pharmacy

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