

Belize's leading newspaper

Deputy PM: Vulcan's efforts to get their own way "reeks of colonialism"

Minister of Natural Resources, Petroleum and Mining, Hon. Cordel Hyde, believes that Belize, as a sovereign nation, has the right to make its own decisions on whether to accept or reject the projects of developers. But when it comes to corporate giants such as Vulcan Materials Company and Waterloo Investment Holdings, that often proves difficult.

by *Khaila Gentle*

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Aug. 25, 2022

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Natural Resources, Petroleum and Mining, Hon. Cordel Hyde, says that the efforts of giant corporations to exploit the country's natural resources for exportation abroad is very reminiscent of colonialism. The minister is one of a few Government officials that have publicly spoken out against Vulcan Materials Company's interest in aggregate mining at White Ridge Farm in Gales Point Manatee. Today, he once again expressed his strong views on the matter to the media.

According to Hon. Hyde, as an independent nation, Belize should have the power to reject developers that it has no interest in working with. Large, multinational companies, however,



Hon. Cordel Hyde, Deputy Prime Minister

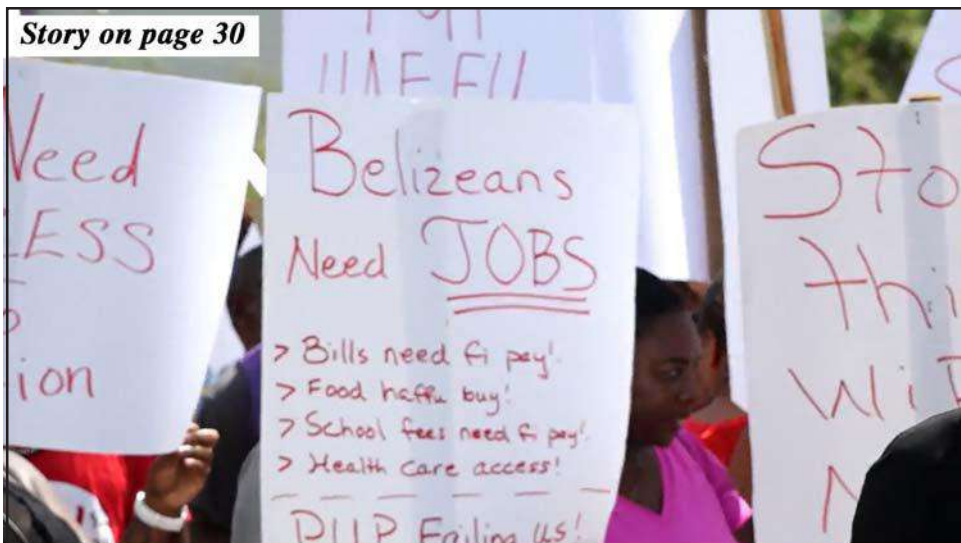
often have a hard time accepting "no"

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UDP protests: "Life haad out ya!"

Following their protest on Tuesday, the United Democratic Party says that if the demands of the Belizean people are not met immediately, the Government can expect an escalation in resistance.

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Belizeans protest with the UDP

Ashcroft/Waterloo "threatens" GoB again

by *Marco Lopez*

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Aug. 24, 2022

While Waterloo Investment Holdings has been publicizing its submission of an updated Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for its proposed cruise terminal at the Port of Belize Ltd. and has been touting a public consultation on the proposal that is to be carried out on Thursday, September 1, 2022 at the Biltmore Plaza in Belize City, it seems that the company has been taking another, more aggressive approach behind the scenes—one that appears to be based on threats. Those threats hint at the economic pain that a Lord Ashcroft-financed legal team



Michael Ashcroft, Chairman - Waterloo Investment Holdings Ltd

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House passes Supplementary Appropriation Bill to settle BISL claim



Hon. Moses "Shyne" Barrow, Leader of the Opposition



Hon. John Briceño, Prime Minister

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Aug. 25, 2022

Yesterday, the House of Representatives passed a Supplementary Appropriation Bill, for the allocation of an additional BZD \$76.5 million to cover the cost of the settlement agreement reached between the Government of Belize and the

Ashcroft Alliance's Belize International Services Limited (BISL), following what BISL claimed was an unlawful termination of its contract to operate the two registries in the country—the International Merchant Marine Registry

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House passes bill for extra \$12 Mil for tropical wave-related repairs

The repairs were made by the Ministry of Infrastructure Development during and after last week's tropical wave. The funds will also be used to put in place proper drainage in those areas most severely affected.

by *Khaila Gentle*

BELMOPAN, Wed. Aug. 24, 2022

Earlier this week, it was reported that Cabinet had given its support for the supplementary appropriation of BZ \$12 million by the Government to cover the cost of emergency repairs made due to damages caused by last week's tropical wave. On Wednesday, during the Sitting of the House of Representatives, the Briceño administration tabled two supplementary appropriation bills, totaling \$16 million, which includes that \$12 million.

The Minister of Infrastructure Development and Housing, Hon. Julius Espot, presented the motion, detailing the extent of the damage that was seen across the country after an estimated seven inches of rainfall. In addition to compromising several parts of the Philip Goldson Highway, the heavy rainfall also led to massive flooding which, according to the Minister, was a direct result of a lack of adequate drains and culverts.

As was mentioned in the Tuesday issue of the AMANDALA, shortly after the tropical wave passed, The Ministry of Infrastructure Development & Housing (MIDH) began working on alleviating the impacts of flooding across the country, including in the villages of Caledonia, Libertad, and San Roman, in the Belize River Valley, and along the Guinea Grass Road.

"Perhaps these are possible signs that the effects of climate change will be a greater challenge to us at the MIDH and maybe for the country on a whole, in fact, for the world on a whole as we go forward," said Minister Espot during the House sitting.

In response to objections from area representative for the Albert division, Hon. Tracy Panton, Minister Espot rose to give an even more extensive breakdown of the reasons for the spending of \$12 million on repairs.

"Yes, it was a rain that came that passed over us for two days. Yes, we had substantial damage. Yes, if it would

rain for more than two days a week or two, we would be in dire infrastructural problems. Why is this so? It is because the Government that she [Hon. Panton] was a member of, neglected the infrastructure of this country—especially the rural communities—for thirteen years, and Mister Speaker, all we are doing is trying to bring it up to an acceptable level," he said.

Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Shyne Barrow, agreed that the construction of additional culverts and drainage is in the best interest of the country. He did add, though, that the Government should be investing more to address what he called a "human development crisis".

"The Leader of the Opposition is in agreement, because I know he has been in those villages, and he has seen it—and when he was there, it wasn't raining; it was about to," added Minister Espot.

According to Espot, of the twelve million dollars requested, the Belize District has been allocated \$6.7 million



Hon. Julius Espot—Minister of Infrastructure Development & Housing

dollars; the Orange Walk District, \$4 million; and the Corozal District, \$1.25 million. These areas, said Hon. Espot, were the most severely affected by the rains due to a lack of natural drainage.

"Everybody that you speak to in the country that is knowledgeable of infrastructure—from the villagers to the engineers—all agree that we as Belizeans and as a government need to invest more in draining our communities," he stated.

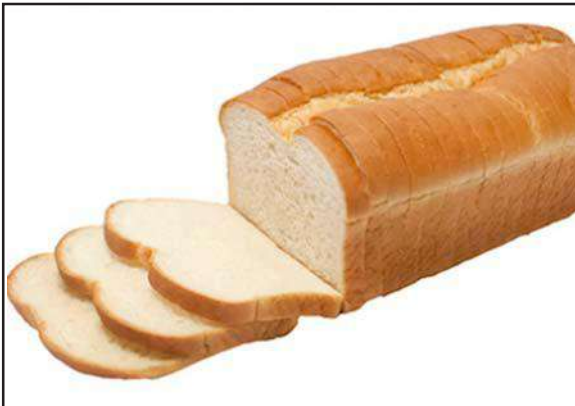
Bread subsidies still on hold

BELMOPAN, Thurs. Aug. 25, 2022

In early June of this year, after the government reviewed a proposal for an increase in a 16-ounce loaf of bread that had been submitted by the country's bakers in April, the Minister of Agriculture, Food Security & Enterprise, Hon. Jose Mai, announced during a meeting of the House of Representatives that the Government of Belize would not be authorizing such a price increase.

According to Mai, the bakers in an initial proposal had sought a 75-cent increase, and in a second proposal they suggested a 50-cent increase. After those two proposals were not approved, they requested permission to raise the price of the 16-ounce loaf of bread, which is sold at a price of \$1.75, by 25 cents. However, none of those proposals were approved by Cabinet—despite the struggle of bakers to generate enough revenue to cover the ever-increasing costs of production—including the rising price of flour. (Most recently, an 11% increase in the price of Bebe Agua flour was reported.) Mai had indicated, however, that "The Ministry and Supplies Control Unit [was] instructed to meet with the bakers and engage [in] negotiations to identify a more feasible alternative ...". Not long after, GoB indicated that subsidies would be provided to offset increases in the price of flour in order to ensure there are no major hikes in the most essential of foods—bread.

That subsidy has not yet been provided for the bakers, however. And when questioned about the lack of response by the government to the plight of the country's bakers, the Prime



Minister, Hon. John Briceño, said that the subsidy has not yet been approved because an agreement has not been reached with ADM Mills, the only flour mill in Belize, due to the constantly changing price of wheat and other conditions that have been repeatedly altering the terms of negotiation between GoB and the mill. "When we already think that we have a settlement then—for instance, wheat went up again, and we have spoken with Minister Mai that Supplies Controls have to meet with the flour mill," the PM explained.

He also referred to a discrepancy between the system of measurement used by the mill and the measurement system used by the Supplies Control Unit, which he says has created loopholes that can be exploited by the mill—enabling them to raise prices without being subject to the enforcement measures of the unit. In Belize, the imperial system is used to measure weight, and thus the price of a 100-pound sack of flour is controlled, but according to the PM, the company uses the metric system of measurement, and thus produces a 45-kilogram sack of flour, which is not subject to price controls.

American man dies in Belmopan RTA



Fatal RTA in front of Bravo Motors in Belmopan

by *Charles Gladden*

BELMOPAN, Thurs. Aug. 25, 2022

A 48-year-old American national from California—Steven James Savarda—lost his life on Wednesday evening in a single-car road traffic accident at the entrance of Belmopan in front of the Belmopan branch of Bravo Motors, near the Agriculture Showgrounds.

According to initial police reports, Savarda was exiting Belmopan and heading onto the George Price Highway in his 2014 Audi SUV when, upon reaching between Miles 47 and 48 on

the Hummingbird Highway, he reportedly lost control of his vehicle. The SUV then careened into a drain and crashed front-first into a culvert off the right side of the highway in front of Bravo Motors.

When police and medical personnel arrived at the scene, they found Savarda in the driver's seat and began to make checks on Savarda, who was unresponsive and had no pulse. Savarda's lifeless body was transported to the Western Regional Hospital, where he was pronounced dead at 5:53 p.m. that day by medical officers.

"So that's not price controlled. I mean they are playing games. The price control is basically on the pound of flours, so because those things are constantly changing, we constantly have to be meeting with them on negotiations," said Prime Minister Briceño.

He further suggested that, although the government is committed to keeping the price of bread as low as possible, Belizeans should consider preparing

more flour tortillas and johnny cakes at home, which may be a cheaper option.

"We are committed to try to keep the bread as low as possible, because that is something that people, everybody, uses every day, but also we have to start to do more Johnny cakes, and more flour tortillas at home, you know, because that end up, it being a little bit cheaper than buying the bread," the PM said.

Dorothy Bradley to be reappointed Auditor General

The former Auditor General retired in 2021, but according to the president of the PSU, Dean Flowers, her tenure was filled with grievances.



(Photo: US Embassy in Belize)

Dorothy Bradley – Former Auditor General

by Khaila Gentle

BELMOPAN, Wed. Aug. 24, 2022

Former Auditor General Dorothy Bradley will once again be taking up the position for the next two years, come September 1st. During the sitting of the House of Representatives on Wednesday, a motion to appoint someone to act as Auditor General was tabled, with the Government recommending Bradley as the appointee.

Bradley retired in December 2021, and since then there has been no Auditor General of Belize, as the Government has been unable to find someone to fill the vacant position.

Upon rising to present the motion, Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño stated that as Auditor General, Bradley did “an exceedingly good job.”

One of the highlights of her tenure was the drafting of updated legislation in line with the LIMA and Mexico Declaration for the Independence of Supreme Audit Institutions. That updated legislation, which was praised by regional counterparts, would allow the Auditor General to function independently of the Executive branch of government.

Also, under Bradley’s leadership, the Office of the Auditor General was able to expose corrupt activities that were ongoing within the Immigration and Nationality Department during the period 2011-2013—including the illegal sale of passports and visas and, according to the US Embassy in Belize, “granting of Belizean citizenship to foreign nationals” (without the requisite due diligence) during the Barrow administration. The Auditor General’s Report on the irregularities in the department, which was prepared under Bradley’s headship, ultimately prompted Senate Special Select Committee public hearings in late 2016, during which high-level government officials and sitting Cabinet ministers were questioned.

Bradley was one of the first persons

interviewed by that committee, which was chaired by then senator Aldo Salazar. And in reference to her report which prompted those hearings and other notable work she has done, the Prime Minister, Hon. John Briceño, told local reporters this week, “You know, she was the one that went there and audited and did the tough work and work that then government was not too pleased about, and they were used to attack her for that. And we want to bring her, we want her to continue to do the same kind of work. If they find anything that our government is doing wrong, they need to call us out. So that is the only way we can get governments to be able to walk the straight line.”

According to the Prime Minister, the Government has been trying to find a suitable candidate to fill the vacant position, but, eventually, they came to a consensus that reappointing Bradley for the next two years would allow a smoother transition for her successor.

When interviewed by the media this week, however, the president of the Public Service Union, Dean Flowers, has claimed that many public officers working under Bradley had many grievances with her, which fostered an “atmosphere of animosity”.

According to the PSU president, Bradley, during her tenure, did not enjoy the confidence of the majority of her staff. It was a statement highlighted by the Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Shyne Barrow, who rose against the motion to reappoint Bradley.

The Opposition Leader stated that he could not support the motion and called it a lazy approach by the Government. Those on the government side of the House, though, vehemently disagreed. The Minister of Public Service, Hon. Henry Charles Usher, rose to support Bradley’s appointment, calling her a “nonsense professional.”

“She has carried out her role as Auditor General with professionalism. She has carried out her role as Auditor General, not exhibiting any favor for any political party. As a matter of fact, the former Prime Minister even commented on the role and the work done by Miss Dorothy Bradley when he said that she gets her work done,” he said.

Following her retirement, Bradley moved on to become a member of the United Nations Independent Audit Advisory Committee. She had first taken up the role of Auditor General in 2011, when she left her Chief Elections Officer post to replace Edmund Zuniga.

The Auditor General’s Office plays a key role in ensuring transparency and accountability in the use of public funds and assets.





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Man found with crushed on highway

Jermaine Christopher Patnett, 36, was found with his head crushed in Ladyville.

by Charles Gladden

LADYVILLE, Belize District, Wed. Aug. 24, 2022

The motionless body of Jermaine Christopher Patnett, 36, was found in an area between Miles 6 and 7 on the Philip Goldson Highway early Wednesday morning. When police arrived at the scene, they saw Patnett, whose identity was unknown at the time, dressed in a blue and green checkered shirt with black long jeans pants, and barefooted. Reports are also indicating that his head was crushed when his body was found, although no information has yet been provided on what could have caused such an injury.

According to initial reports, at about 1:08 a.m. Wednesday morning, police officers received a call from a concerned person who informed them that someone was lying on the road, and at the time, no one was at the scene to provide any additional information or identify the person. Patnett was thus initially referred to as “John Doe” at the National Forensic Science Service and was transferred to the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital, where he was pronounced dead by medical officials.

Patnett was later identified by his



Photo: 7 News

Jermaine Christopher Patnett



Tattoos on Jermaine Christopher Patnett

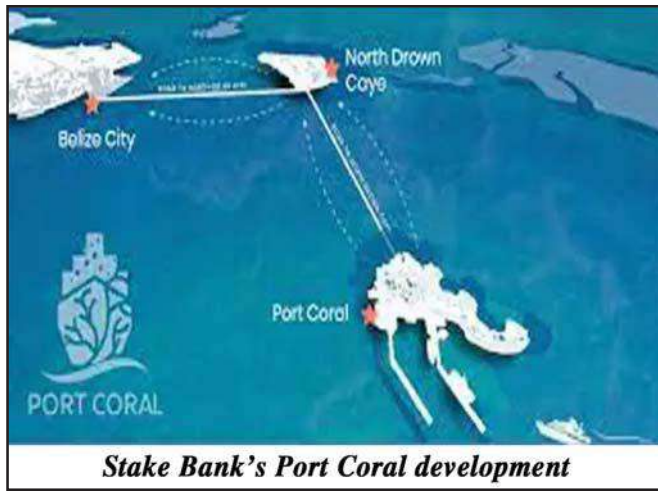
brother, based on the tattoos on his arm. A post-mortem exam will be carried out on his remains to determine the official cause of his death.

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Causeway still under review -CEO Williams

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Aug. 25, 2022

The controversial causeways which are proposed as a part of the Port Coral cruise terminal on Stake Bank Caye are currently still under review, the CEO of the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Kenrick Williams, told local media this week. The causeway is a piece of infrastructure that is intended to



Stake Bank's Port Coral development

connect Stake Bank to North Drowned Caye and North Drowned Caye to the Belize City shoreline—thus removing the need for any tendering by boat for travelers who visit the Port Coral cruise port. The prospect of the construction of a bridge across the open sea, all the way to the Belizean coastline, has raised concerns for some in the environmental community, however.

Both the causeways were purportedly approved in a 2019 ECP (Environmental Compliance Plan) handed down by the National Environmental Appraisal

Committee (NEAC) to the developers of Port Coral, who view the causeway as a vital part of the project. While former ministers who were part of the then UDP administration have made public declarations that no green light was given for the construction of the causeways, the apparent 2019 approval of the project in the documents held by the Department of Environment (DOE), seems to indicate otherwise.

Now, the DOE is once more conducting a review of the proposal—meaning that there is currently a pause on that particular part of the project. Development of the Port Coral cruise port at Stake Bank continues, however, despite the holdup in the construction of the causeway. Also, the developers, Feinstein Group, seem to still include the causeways as a key part of their project, since they state on their website, “Stake Bank and Ocean View Grand will be connected to each other via a vehicular causeway, and another causeway will connect Ocean View Grand to the mainland.”

Ocean View Grand, which is a second project that is part of the development, is to be located on the island of North Drowned Caye, which is to be connected via the causeway to the mainland. At one point, an option was on the table to tender boats from Stake Bank to North Drowned Caye and have a causeway constructed from that island to the Belize City coastline, a distance of about 2 miles or so. That option is seemingly no longer being considered.

The mainland construction was set to be completed this year, and is to be followed by the completion of the construction of two berthing piers which will facilitate 4 Oasis-class ships. The approval of the causeway hangs over the head of this development, since removing the need for tendering travelers by boat—and instead using the vehicular path connecting the two islands to Belize City—is a major selling point for cruise lines, which are aiming to stop the practice of tendering entirely by 2024.

One major concern for environmentalists, however, is the fact that the causeway would likely run directly across waters through which manatees habitually travel.

“Manatees are found in many areas in Belize, but Swallow Caye, a mangrove island which is part of a group of mangrove cayes in the area called Drowned Cayes near Belize City, has a good number of animals. Estimates show that between 15 to 20 manatees are in the area at any one time—possibly even more if you include the other areas around Swallow Caye (Seashore, 2001),” a study titled, “Manatee Watching at Swallow Caye, Belize”, written by Esther Chuc, states.

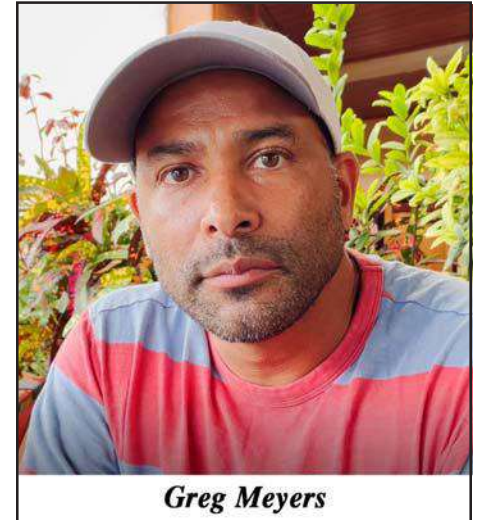
AMANDALA talks to Greg Meyers

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Aug. 25, 2022

Greg Meyers, 44, a Belizean-American from the village of Burrell Boom in the Belize District, sat down with AMANDALA this week for an exclusive interview about his mission to upgrade the sporting facilities and programs in the country to provide more opportunities for advancement to local athletes.

During his years in high school in New York, Meyers, who returned to Belize every summer as a child during the 80s, was state champion in the 800m race and was granted a scholarship to attend Rutgers University. However, due to injuries, Meyers eventually pursued



Greg Meyers

a range of career paths before becoming a track and field coach.

Meyers' coaching resume is quite extensive, as he has over 18 years of experience as a track and field coach, and coached several Belizean track and field athletes in the early 2000s, and now he is coaching his three children: Daniel Meyers, 15; Demetrie Meyers, and Mallory Meyers, 12, who recently competed in the 49th CARIFTA Games in Kingston, Jamaica.

During his sitdown with AMANDALA, Meyers spoke of his plans to improve several sporting

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George Mckenzie, Jr.
Sunrise: June 19, 1974
Sunset: August 27, 2007

George Mckenzie 111
Sunrise: November 14, 1994
Sunset: August 28, 2016

It's been 15 and 6 sad years
R.I.P. my love, till we meet again.
The day you both die and don't say
goodbye hurts the most.

I wear the pain like a heavy coat.
I feel you everywhere I go.
I see your smile; I see your face,
I hear you laughing in the rain.
I still can't believe you're gone.
It ain't fair: you both died too young,
Like the story that had just begun,
But death tore the pages all away.
God knows how I miss you,
All the hell I've been through,
Just knowing' no-one could take your
place.

An' sometimes I wonder,
Who you both would have become
today?
Would you see the world? Would you
chase your dreams?

Greatly missed by mother, daughter,
brother, niece, common-law wife, sister,
and the rest of the family including
friends and co-workers



Alma Olivia Tingling
11.10.1930 – 08.22.2021

There are people in our lives who
never leave us, even after they're
gone.
Your life was a blessing, your
memory is a treasure.
You are loved beyond words and
missed beyond measure.
It's been a whole year since you were
called home,
but no amount of time can make us
miss you any less.
We know the Lord welcomed you
with open arms,
so we find peace knowing you
watching over us all.
Continue to rest, we will continue to
miss you.
Forever In Our Hearts,
Arlene, grands & your great grands
God is love!



UDP's financially sound BISL move saved flag from disgrace

The announcement this week that the government has reached an agreement with the Ashcroft Group and a Panamanian law firm on the buyout/takeover of Belize International Services Limited (BISL), is concerning due to the amount of money we have to pay out from our meager resources, but it was a move that had to be made. We took over the company; we had to pay for it.

BISL, which managed the International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize (IMMARBE) and the International Business Companies Registry (IBCR), had led our flag into international disgrace, seriously jeopardizing both our dignity and our capacity to do business abroad. In 2013 Belize was blacklisted by the European Parliament's Fisheries Committee, on allegations that a number of ships flying our flag were engaging in unscrupulous activities. Also, according to the *Amandala*, a major bone of contention was "Belize's open merchant ship registry, administered by IMMARBE, which allows foreigners, including Europeans, to be able to register their vessels in Belize and land products in the EU under tax-free status, using IBCs (International Business Corporations) registered in Belize."

The situation was intolerable, and the government of 2013 (UDP) under Prime Minister Dean Barrow, to clean up IMMARBE, and also to address the contract of BISL, which it believed had not been properly gotten, took it over.

A PUP government had renewed BISL's contract in 2003, for 10 years, to 2013, at which time a new government would have decided if it wanted to continue the relationship, pursue a relationship with another group, or take over the company. But the 2013 government (UDP) found that a PUP government, in 2005, had gone ahead and extended BISL's contract, to 2020.

In 2005 it was clear that the PUP government that had allowed the Ashcroft Group so many opportunities would lose its mandate in 2008, or whenever the next general election was called. It appeared that the PUP might have had to call the general election early, either out of respect for the British parliamentary system we inherited, or because of severe pressure from the people. The leaders of the day would have to explain why in 2005 they made the giant leap of giving BISL an extension to operate from 2013 to 2020.

Putting aside the legal aspects of the matter, it ended with the CCJ declaring that the government of 2013 (UDP) was in the wrong when it took over BISL. This week, the present government (PUP) says we came off the better after arriving at a "discounted" settlement, US\$38.25 million. PM Briceño said many negative things about how the Barrow governments did business, but from his report, it is clear that since taking over BISL, our country has done very well on the bottom line.

On Monday night, Belizean educator, historian and activist, Ms. Sandra Coye asked the hosts of Love FM's Monday night business show, if they knew what our government would be giving up for this

"discounted" settlement. Neither knew. What we know is that since the takeover, our flag is a lot more respectable on international waters.

From blocking VoIP to blocking KREM and Channel 7

Former Prime Minister, Dean Barrow, insists his government didn't pay too much to get back BTL. Briefly, the saga began when a PUP government allowed Lord Michael Ashcroft and his group to gain controlling shares in the company, and the Ashcroft Group proceeded to use the company as a cash cow, with no regard for the development of the country.

Apart from failing or refusing to help the PUP fulfill its manifesto promises in the area of telecommunications, BTL under the Ashcroft Group forced out many small shareholders, and moved to ensure that BTL remain a monopoly. With its monopoly control, BTL was able to block Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP), solely in the interest of profits. From the perspective of a private company, that was understandable, but it was wholly intolerable for the country and its development, especially considering that BTL, like the Port of Belize, was a creation of our government and people.

Blogger Steve Ellis, in his story, "The History of VoIP Solutions: How it Revolutionized The Modern Business", said "Just like how the telephone, a massive achievement in human history, fundamentally changed the way we communicated as a species, so did VoIP for the modern business." Ellis said that by 2003 a quarter of all voice calls made was via VoIP, and this occurred because it made an expensive endeavor, long distance/international phone calls, into "an inexpensive activity so long as a stable internet connection and basic communication hardware is present."

The people of Belize got VoIP on April 30, 2013, after a Belize government (UDP) had taken full control of the company. Too many Belizeans either don't know or have forgotten what it was like before our country got back control of BTL. Ignoring employees of the Ashcroft Group, who understandably express regret that BTL was taken from his control, those who think the government overreached or are noncommittal need to do some research, to separate themselves from their ignorance. The story of BTL under the control of the Ashcroft Group is that it wasn't interested in the development of the country, only in profits for its shareholders.

PM Barrow has said that over time Belizeans will come to realize that the price we paid to get back BTL wasn't too high. As it relates to our dignity, no price was too high to get back the company, and as it relates to the development of our country, probably no price was too high either, though we could have gotten a much better deal if the Barrow UDP hadn't treated the company much like their very own private property.

The Ashcroft Group didn't stop at blocking VoIP; it moved on local television stations, KREM TV and Channel 7, blocking them from usage of the fiber optic cable. According to the *Amandala*, KREM TV was told by cable operators that the Ashcroft Group wanted the station to run free ads for BTL, in return for usage of the fiber optic cable.

The *Amandala* said KREM TV's manager, Mose Hyde, described the Ashcroft Group's attack on the station as "ludicrous", that it amounted to asking local networks to pay for the expansion of the cable companies, to pay for HBO, Showtime. Hyde said, "This argument about us paying is hogwash. The day this thing broke, the boss of CBC ... admitted that BTL requested KREM and Channel 7 not be put on." Prior to the Ashcroft Group blocking KREM TV on cable, it had blocked KREM's streaming service off the Internet without notice.

History shows that BTL, prior to privatization, had been growing from strength to strength; it was our nation's flagship, a company that was focused on the development of our country, a company we could all be proud of. And then, with it falling into private hands, it became an instrument for profits for its shareholders, and a company that trampled on our dignity and the businesses of local entrepreneurs. Those are the facts.



(estb. 1969)

Business and editorial offices:
3304 Partridge Street, Belize
City, Belize, Central America
is printed twice weekly by the
Amandala Press.

**Telephones: 501-280-4703/
501-202-4477**

Publisher: Evan X Hyde
Editor-in-chief: Marco Lopez
Business Manager: Jacinta Hyde
Make-up & Design
Artist: Deshan Swasey
Composer: Tyra Welch
Lithography: Clive Smith
Printer: Kent Brooks

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National Meteorological Service discusses improving weather and climate services



Ronald Gordon, Deputy Chief Meteorologist

by *Khaila Gentle*

BELIZE CITY, Tues. Aug. 23, 2022

The National Meteorological Service of Belize hosted a forum this week during which there were high-level discussions on improving the national framework for weather and climate services. That framework, said the CEO of the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change & Disaster Risk Management, Dr. Kenrick Williams, will allow for better use of meteorological data and will broaden the scale of services provided by the Met Office.

According to Deputy Chief Meteorologist Ronald Gordon, the National Meteorological Service had three main objectives during the meeting: presenting to stakeholders the services provided by the Met Office,

How can weather and climate data be used to improve services across the country? That is the question that was posed by the MET Office during this week's high-level discussions.

presenting the products the MET Office provides and how those products can be scaled up, and evaluating how their services and products can be integrated into projects in which stakeholders are

involved.

“The mechanism or the national framework of climate services is basically a mechanism to collaborate between the National Met Services and the stakeholders that use climate information and weather information,” Gordon said.

The portfolio of the Ministry of Sustainable Development is coupled with two other key portfolios: Disaster Risk & Climate Change, and according to the CEO in that Ministry, Dr. Kenrick Williams, the Ministry is looking at how those portfolios can continue to integrate data from the Met Service to address issues of vulnerability across the country.

One of the main questions asked during the forum was how can long-series data be utilized to inform decision-making, including when it

comes to addressing natural disasters such as the widespread flooding caused by last week's tropical wave.

“We currently use the data at the level of the productive sector—so the farmers, and those in energy, and transport and others use that short-term forecasting to inform, for example, farming and the impact on pests and diseases. We want to see how we can scale up a national framework that

informs a more long-term adaptive management for Belize and really addresses that long-term mitigation in terms of the impact of climate change,” Dr. Williams said.

Meteorological data, said the CEO, can do much more than inform farming practices. The Ministry is looking at how it can be applied in areas such as health, project management, infrastructure development, and even education.

Yohnny Rosado wants an apology

The tour operator says that the way he has been portrayed in the media after purchasing a vehicle in Belize that he did not know was stolen has tarnished his name, which poses a threat to his livelihood.

by *Khaila Gentle*

BELIZE CITY, Tues. Aug. 23, 2022

Yohnny Rosado, the well-known owner of Butts Up Cave Tubing enterprise, has maintained that he knew nothing about the stolen status of the Volkswagen Atlas that was confiscated from him by the police, and this week the businessman and tour operator is demanding an apology from the Government and the Commissioner of Police.

Rosado has been in the media spotlight for several weeks now after a vehicle he purchased was found to be stolen. The vehicle, a Volkswagen Atlas which cost Rosado \$65,000, was confiscated by police in early August.

On Friday, Commissioner of Police Chester Williams suggested that the Volkswagen, stolen from a car rental company in Chicago, is likely a part of a larger illicit ring and said that Rosado should sue the dealer that sold him the vehicle and gave him a falsified title as well. The Commissioner also stated that the vehicle would be remaining in the possession of the Police Department.

Rosado held a press conference on Tuesday, during which he said that, while he does not wish to sue anyone—including the Police Department—he does want an apology.

“All I did was buy a vehicle from Mr. Roberto Villanueva, and that is what has me in a mess—missing a vehicle, sixty five thousand dollars, and my name has been [tarnished]. I depend on a clean name to do a clean business in tourism,” he said.

Rosado, who sold a parcel of land to purchase the vehicle, says that the entire situation has been a complete nightmare for him.

“I wish for Chester Williams to apologize to me. I wish for the Traffic Department to apologize to us—me and



Businessman Yohnny Rosado

my family. I wish for the Customs Department to do a better job. I wish for everything to be retracted. But I'm pretty sure that none of this will happen,” he said.

More than anything else, the disgruntled businessman is upset with those who allowed the stolen vehicle to be brought into the country to be sold—something which he says is most likely a common occurrence.

Those persons mentioned by Rosado include Hon. Marconi Leal, area representative of Belize Rural North, whose name was allegedly on the customs appraisal form used in connection with the importation of the vehicle—apparently in an effort to reduce the customs duties paid by Roberto Villanueva. Hon. Leal has told local reporters, however, that he “had no interest in that vehicle, (and) just asked Customs to assist a friend with a little discount on the duty”.

Rosado stated at the press conference that he does not want to sue the government, because when persons sue the Government, they are simply shooting themselves in the foot, since the money used to pay them back ultimately belongs to the people.

Anglican Cathedral College

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to fill vacancies that exists for the following:

- English Teacher
- Mathematics Teacher
- Physical Education Teacher/ Sports Coordinator

Core Responsibilities:

- Planning, preparing and delivering lessons
- Researching and developing relevant teaching material
- Setting assessments and overseeing examinations
- Providing academic support to students
- Supporting school activities and initiatives

Qualifications

Minimum qualification required is an Associate Degree in the subject to be taught or a related area, however, a Bachelor's Degree is preferred.

Salary

Salary will be in accordance with Government pay scales for teachers.

Required Documents

- Cover Letter
- Curriculum Vitae
- Certified copies of transcripts
- Certified copies of degrees, diplomas and certificates
- Certified copy of valid Teachers' License
- Two recent letters of recommendation

Application packages should be submitted by September 2, 2022 to info@acc.edu.bz or delivered to:

Mr. Nelson Longworth
Principal
Anglican Cathedral College
71 Regent Street
P.O. Box 98
Belize City, Belize

Call us at: 202-4477



August 25, 2022



SHAREHOLDERS UPDATE FORM

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS

Notice is hereby given to all shareholders of Belize Telemedia Limited ('BTL') that:

a. BTL is currently updating all contact information contained in the BTL Registry of Shareholders and;

b. Pursuant to Article 135 of the Belize Telemedia Limited Articles of Association, Shareholders who elect to receive dividend payments by bank transfer may forward a completed 'Request for Bank Transfer' form to BTL.

BTL Shareholders are asked to submit their updated contact information including; Residential Address, Mailing Address, Contact Phone Number, and Email Address.

Kindly submit all requests for bank transfer and updated contact details on or before August 30, 2022 via email to prdept@livedigi.com or by post to:

**Public Relations Department
Belize Telemedia Limited
Regent Street
P.O. Box 603
Belize City, Belize**

Shareholders are asked to fill out the below forms and return to the above-mentioned address or download our complete Shareholders Update Form and Request for Bank Transfer Form at www.livedigi.com.

Shareholder's Name: _____

Full Name of any other holder: _____
(If Applicable)

Residential Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

.....
Signature of Shareholder

REQUEST FOR BANK TRANSFER

I, of, Belize
Shareholder Name Shareholder Address
do solemnly and sincerely declare that I am the true owner of Ordinary shares in Belize Telemedia.
Number

I hereby request that all Belize Telemedia Limited dividend payments are deposited to the following account:

Bank: _____

Name: _____

Account no: _____

And I make this solemn declaration, conscientiously believing the same to be true; and by virtue of the provisions of The Oaths Act, Chapter 130 of the Laws of Belize.

.....
Signature of Shareholder

Declared and subscribed at

This day of 2022

before me,

.....
NOTARY PUBLIC/JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

N.B. Please note that the shareholder's name must match with the name on the bank account.

For further details, contact prdept@livedigi.com

Tribute to a beloved father and pillar of the Belizean Community.

By Mariana Moguel Mendez and Jenniffer Moguel

Dr. Jose Moguel, born March 19 1962 in San Lazaro village, Orange Walk came from very humble beginnings and rose to a height that few have achieved as a pillar of the Belizean medical and healthcare community. There is no disputing that he was a great man who influenced many people and saved countless lives. In Cuba, he graduated from Salvador Allende Medical School from 1981 until 1987 and continued his studies there as a General Surgeon from 1987 until 1991. Upon finishing his studies, he returned to Belize to fulfil his dreams of advancing medicine in his home country. Since February 3rd, 1992 he has been offering an unbroken service to the Belizean community, a period of over thirty years. During this period he offered medical and surgical care both in the public and private sector for the community in Belize. He was the head of the Surgery Department at Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital in Belize City from 2001 until September 2016, which he also helped to develop. In 2004, he attended a postgraduate certificate course in Developing and Organizing Trauma System in the Rambam Medical Center in Haifa, Israel. He was the founder of and first recipient of the Taiwan scholarship programme which allowed him to attend a three month course in minimal access surgery in Taijung Veterans General Hospital in Taiwan. He was Vice President of the Belize Medical and Dental Association (BMDA) until he was inevitably elected as President in 2015. He held his presidency for five years until 2020. In 2017, he attended the World Medical Association General Assembly in Chicago in which he represented the BMDA for the first time. He was incredibly proud of his roots and fought to bring Belize to the world stage of the medical community.



Though most of Belize remembers him for these achievements, his unwavering service to the Belizean community, and his many accolades, to his two daughters, he was a carefree and goofy man who loved to live life to the fullest each and every moment of the day. Our father was a true humanitarian, who also shared a passion and love for history, music, art, and everything that life has to offer. Our father wasn't a perfect man, but in spite of all his flaws, we loved him. He taught us how to ride our bikes and how to drive a car. He took us on our very first dates and would always help us sneak donuts without our mom finding out. We will always remember his smiling face, his happiness and his unbridled joy. His daughters will forever remain his junior and chiweena. His strength, discipline, confidence, and goofy personality make for stories that we will cherish for the rest of our lives. Dad, your absence makes our hearts ache, you are gone too soon and we miss you terribly. Wherever you are, you will always be in our hearts.

Mariana Mendez



La acción financieramente sólida sobre BISL del UDP salvó la bandera de la desgracia

El anuncio de esta semana de que el gobierno ha llegado a un acuerdo con el Grupo Ashcroft y una firma de abogados panameña sobre la compra/toma de control de Belize International Services Limited (BISL), es preocupante debido a la cantidad de dinero que tenemos que pagar de nuestros escasos recursos, pero era una movida que había que hacer. Nos hicimos cargo de la empresa; tuvimos que pagar por ello.

BISL, que administraba el Registro de la Marina Mercante Internacional de Belize (IMMARBE por sus siglas en inglés) y el Registro de Empresas Comerciales Internacionales (IBCR por sus siglas en inglés), había llevado a nuestra bandera a la desgracia internacional, poniendo en serio peligro tanto nuestra dignidad como nuestra capacidad para hacer negocios en el extranjero. En 2013, Belize fue incluido en la lista negra por la Comisión de Pesca del Parlamento Europeo, sobre las denuncias de que varios barcos que volaban nuestra bandera estaban realizando actividades sin escrúpulos. Además, según *Amandala*, una de las principales manzanas de la discordia era que “el registro abierto de buques mercantes de Belize, administrado por IMMARB, que permite a los extranjeros, incluidos los europeos, poder registrar sus buques en Belize y desembarcar productos en la UE bajo estado libre de impuestos, usando las Corporaciones Comerciales Internacionales) registradas en Belize.”

La situación era intolerable, y el gobierno de 2013 (UDP) bajo el primer ministro Dean Barrow, para limpiar IMMARB y también para abordar el contrato de BISL, que creía que no se había obtenido correctamente, se apoderó del registro.

Un gobierno PUP había renovado el contrato de BISL en 2003, por 10 años, hasta 2013, momento en el que un nuevo gobierno habría decidido si quería continuar la relación, buscar una relación con otro grupo o hacerse cargo de la empresa. Pero el gobierno de 2013 (United Democratic Party, UDP) descubrió que un gobierno PUP, en 2005, había procedido y había extendido el contrato de BISL hasta 2020.

En 2005, estaba claro que el gobierno PUP que había permitido tantas oportunidades al Grupo Ashcroft perdería su mandato en 2008, o cuando fuera que se convocaran las próximas elecciones generales. Por respeto al sistema parlamentario británico que heredamos, o por la fuerte presión del pueblo, parecía que el PUP tuvo que convocar las elecciones generales temprano. Los líderes del día tendrían que explicar por qué en 2005 dieron el gran salto de darle a BISL una extensión para operar de 2013 a 2020.

Dejando a un lado los aspectos legales del asunto, terminó con la Corte Caribeña de Justicia declarando que el gobierno de 2013 (UDP) estaba equivocado cuando se hizo cargo de BISL. Esta semana, el gobierno actual (PUP) dice que salimos ganando después de llegar a un acuerdo “descontado”, US\$38,25 millones. El primer ministro Briceño dijo muchas cosas negativas sobre cómo los gobiernos de Barrow hacían negocios, pero de su informe queda claro que desde que asumió BISL, a nuestro país le ha ido muy bien en el resultado final.

El lunes por la noche, la educadora, historiadora y activista beliceña, la Sra. Sandra Coye preguntó a los presentadores del programa de negocios de los lunes por la noche de Love FM, si sabían a qué estaría renunciando nuestro gobierno por este acuerdo “con descuento”. Ninguno sabía. Lo que sabemos es que desde la toma de posesión, nuestra bandera es mucho más respetable en aguas internacionales.

Del bloqueo de VoIP al bloqueo de KREM y Canal 7

El ex primer ministro, Dean Barrow, insiste en que su gobierno no pagó demasiado para recuperar BTL. Brevemente, la saga comenzó cuando un gobierno PUP permitió que Lord Michael Ashcroft y su grupo obtuvieran acciones de control en la empresa, y el Grupo Ashcroft procedió a utilizar la empresa como fuente de ingresos, sin tener en cuenta el desarrollo del país.

Además de fallar o negarse a ayudar al PUP a cumplir las promesas del manifiesto en el área de las telecomunicaciones, BTL, bajo el Grupo Ashcroft, expulsó a muchos pequeños accionistas y actuó para garantizar que BTL siguiera siendo un monopolio. Con su control monopólico, BTL

pudo bloquear Voz sobre Protocolo de Internet (VoIP), únicamente en aras de las ganancias. Desde la perspectiva de una empresa privada, eso era comprensible, pero era totalmente intolerable para el país y su desarrollo, especialmente considerando que BTL, como Port of Belize, fue una creación de nuestro gobierno y nuestra gente.

El bloguero Steve Ellis, en su nota, “La historia de las soluciones de VoIP: cómo revolucionaron los negocios modernos”, dijo: “Al igual que el teléfono, un gran logro en la historia de la humanidad, cambió fundamentalmente la forma en que nos comunicamos como especie, también lo hizo la VoIP para el negocio moderno”. Ellis dijo que en 2003 una cuarta parte de todas las llamadas de voz realizadas se hicieron a través de VoIP, y esto ocurrió porque convirtió un esfuerzo costoso, llamadas telefónicas de larga distancia/internacionales, en “una actividad económica siempre que se disponga de una conexión a Internet estable y un hardware de comunicación básico”.

El pueblo de Belize obtuvo VoIP el 30 de abril de 2013, después de que el gobierno de Belize (United Democratic Party, UDP por sus siglas en inglés) tomó el control total de la empresa. Demasiados beliceños no saben o han olvidado cómo era antes de que nuestro país recuperara el control de BTL. Ignorando a los empleados del Grupo Ashcroft, quienes comprensiblemente lamentan que BTL haya sido arrebatado de su control, aquellos que piensan que el gobierno se extralimitó o no se comprometen necesitan investigar un poco, para separarse de su ignorancia. La historia de BTL bajo el control del Grupo Ashcroft es que no le interesaba el desarrollo del país, solo las ganancias para sus accionistas.

El Primer Ministro Barrow ha dicho que con el tiempo los beliceños se darán cuenta de que el precio que pagamos para recuperar BTL no fue demasiado alto. En lo que respecta a nuestra dignidad, ningún precio fue demasiado alto para recuperar la compañía, y en lo que respecta al desarrollo de nuestro país, probablemente ningún precio fue demasiado alto tampoco, aunque podríamos haber obtenido un trato mucho mejor si el UDP de Barrow no hubiera tratado a la empresa como si fuera su propia propiedad privada.

El Grupo Ashcroft no se limitó a bloquear VoIP; se movió contra las estaciones de televisión locales, TV KREM y Canal 7, impidiéndoles el uso del cable de fibra óptica. Según *Amandala*, los operadores de cable le dijeron a TV KREM que el Grupo Ashcroft quería que la estación publicara anuncios gratuitos para BTL, a cambio del uso del cable de fibra óptica.

Amandala dijo que el gerente de TV KREM, Mose Hyde, describió el ataque del Grupo Ashcroft a la estación como “ridículo”, que equivalía a pedir a las cadenas locales que pagaran por la expansión de las compañías de cable, que pagaran por HBO, Showtime. Hyde dijo: “Este argumento de que paguemos es una tontería. El día que surgió esta noticia, el jefe de CBC... admitió que BTL solicitó que no se agregaran KREM y el Canal 7”. Antes de que el Grupo Ashcroft bloqueara a TV KREM por cable, había bloqueado el servicio de transmisión de KREM en Internet sin previo aviso.

La historia muestra que BTL, antes de la privatización, había ido creciendo cada vez más; era el buque insignia de nuestra nación, una empresa enfocada en el desarrollo de nuestro país, una empresa de la que todos podíamos estar orgullosos. Y luego, al caer en manos privadas, se convirtió en un instrumento de lucro para sus accionistas, y en una empresa que pisoteaba nuestra dignidad y los negocios de los empresarios locales. Esos son los hechos.

Sunday Review News Review Talk Show

On Krem TV & Krem Radio

Live-streaming on Krem Television Face Book Page

Host: YaYa Marin Coleman

Co-Host: Dwight Neal

Date: Sunday, August 28, 2022

Time: 10:30 a.m. to noon

Guest: Dr. Nathaniel Millett/Associate Professor of History from Saint Louis University.

Sunday Review will be repeated at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, August 28, 2022

BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM

COUNTRYWIDE PUBLIC AUCTION SALES: PROPERTIES

Rumpoint, Beachfront Properties, Placencia, Stann Creek District

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. The Belize Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following properties. Sales currently running until 31st October 2022. Public Auction Sales will expire fortnightly on the dates and times listed on the website until these properties are sold.



REGISTRATION SECTION
Placencia North

BLOCK
36

PARCEL
931

(Being **4033.922 square metres** of **BEACHFRONT** property containing 2 buildings as follows: a two storey concrete building [approx. 36 ft. X 36 ft.] Ground Floor - 2 equally divided sections each comprising an open floor area + bathroom at the back; First Floor - same as ground floor; Second building also two storey concrete [40 ft. X 45 ft.] with similar design as building 1, TOGETHER with 4,033.922 square metres of land at **Rumpoint** within walking distance of the Placencia Airstrip, the freehold property of Messrs. Millennium Holdings Ltd.)

REGISTRATION SECTION
Placencia North

BLOCK
36

PARCEL
2294

(Being **6.3 acres** of **BEACHFRONT** property that spans both sides of the of the Placencia Road containing a two-storey concrete building [approx. 40 ft. X 40 ft.] with similar design as above TOGETHER with huge **BEACH FRONTAGE** + a portion situate northwest of the Placencia Road which contains approx. 2.8 acres at **Rumpoint**, ALL within walking distance of the Placencia Airstrip, the freehold property of Messrs. Millennium Holdings Ltd.)

REGISTRATION SECTION
Placencia North

BLOCK
36

PARCEL
932

(Being **1.59 acres** of vacant **BEACHFRONT** property planted with a variety of fruit trees, situate at **Rumpoint** near the Placencia Airstrip on the Placencia Road, Stann Creek District, the freehold property of Messrs. Millennium Holdings Ltd.)

N.B. ALL THREE PROPERTIES WILL BE OFFERED IN ONE LOT.

“FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PHOTOGRAPHS PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE”

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH

KEVIN A. CASTILLO

TELEPHONE 223-4488

Website: belizepropertyauctions.com

E-mail: kevinacas@yahoo.com

Facebook: Belize Auctions



Maud Williams High School

Email: mwhseducate@gmail.com

TEACHER WANTED

Applications are invited to fill the following vacancies for September 2022:

**Building Maintenance
Technical Drawing**

Deadline: August 31st, 2022

Teaching Qualifications:

- Bachelor's or An Associate Degree in Building Technology

Applicants should forward:

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

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

Email applications to :

mwhseducate@gmail.com

**Secretary
Board of Management
Maud Williams High School
Corner Dolphin and Raccoon Streets
Belize City**



BATSUB is seeking to employ a qualified and motivated individual for the position of a Vehicle Mechanic.

Roles and Responsibilities:

- To repair and maintain all vehicles/equipment's operated by BATSUB to meet and comply with UK legislative standards.
- Adjust or replace work or defective mechanisms, parts and reassemble repaired systems.
- Consultation of technical manuals to determine, when not known, correct failure diagnosis and repair procedure and the sourcing of component part numbers.

Essential:

- Sound engineering practice and time served with a recognized mechanical engineering qualification.
- Must be computer literate.
- Must a valid driver's license Class B2 minimum.
- Must be able to communicate effectively in English.
- Must have a Police Record free from entry.
- Minimum of five years' experience working in the trade.

Interested applicants can submit their letter of application, resume, COVID19 vaccine card and two recent letters of recommendation electronically to:

Jackie.perez102@mod.gov.uk

Closing date for application is Friday, 30 September 2022.



INDIVIDUAL/LOCAL CONSULTANT

for

Strengthening of the Medicolegal Death Investigation System in Belize through Stakeholder Engagement and Legislative Reform

Belize National Forensic Science Service

The INDIVIDUAL/LOCAL CONSULTANT will:

1. Conduct a comprehensive review, with stakeholder participation, of Belize's current medicolegal death investigation (MLDI) system, including its structure, processes, procedures, practices, and interface with the justice system, public health system, and civil registration system.
2. Conduct a comprehensive review, with stakeholder participation, of the legal framework that currently pertains to Belize's MLDI system.
3. Make recommendations, with stakeholder input, for enhancing the conduct, integrity, and utility of death investigations and improve the public's confidence in death investigations and in the system.
4. Produce draft primary legislation, with stakeholder input, necessary for strengthening Belize's MLDI system.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND DELIVERABLES:

- (1) Conduct 1st Round of Stakeholder Workshops and/or Meetings
- (2) Preliminary Draft MLDI System and Legal Framework Review and Recommendations Report
- (3) Conduct 2nd Round of Stakeholder Workshops and/or Meetings
- (4) Revised Draft MLDI System and Legal Framework Review and Recommendations Report & Presentation of Revised Draft Report
- (5) Preliminary Draft Legislation
- (6) Conduct 3rd Round of Stakeholder Workshops and/or Meetings
- (7) Revised Draft Legislation & Presentation of Revised Draft Legislation
- (8) Final MLDI System and Legal Framework Review and Recommendations Report & Final Draft Legislation

For more information and how to apply, e-mail info@forensics.gov.bz

**View the full
Terms of Reference**



SCAN ME

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: 2nd September 2022

ASR's ace

by Colin Hyde

I was on the side of the UDP GOB when they didn't support the sugarcane farmers' initiative to take control of the sugar factory. The logic behind my little "vote" is simple. Ah, some things in the world have changed since, but some things have not... in this present world structure, as it was then, we are dependent on multinationals for our market for certain commodities.

In 1985 the Esquivel government closed down the Libertad Sugar Factory. Elizabeth Morgan, in a story in *Caricom Today*, said "through the centuries, with some exceptions, Caribbean sugar exports to Britain benefited from preferential market access and good prices. From the 1960s, there were also quotas from the USA following the Cuban revolution,"

but "the fortunes of sugar would slide from the 1980s as the USA began to subsidize its domestic sugar producers and drastically reduced quotas to overseas suppliers."

Morgan said the Caribbean, "once covered in sugarcane now only has four countries remaining in significant production, Belize, Jamaica, Guyana and Barbados."

Sugar is not lobster or red snapper fillet, or Belize citrus in the old days. There was a time when our orange and grapefruit grown on sour orange rootstock in the rich, deep soils of the Valley, was the most prized in the world. People from abroad used to buy our citrus to blend with theirs, to bring up their quality. I don't think that is so anymore. I know that in our efforts to combat a notorious virus, Tristeza, we changed from sour orange rootstock

to a number of others, and the fairly recent Citrus Greening has severely hurt our quantity and quality.

Sugar has a different story. Looking at the bare facts, nobody is scrambling to buy our sugar. Hence the UDP (I bet the PUP in government now too) support for this alliance with multinationals.

But that doesn't mean our GOB and our cañeros should roll over. There is indeed a point when we must say, *basta, we are going back to tortilla and beans*. Our GOB has to make sure our cañeros get the best possible deal from ASR/BSI, and our smaller producers especially need support to get into other activities. It's high time that farmers get into value-added products. Don't let anybody talk bad about "spirited" drinks. There isn't an economy in the world, especially ones in a capitalist

state, that can survive "dry".

America's Beer, Wine & Spirits Retailers, at the website ablusa.org, says "the 2018 Economic Impact Study of America's Beer, Wine & Spirits Retailers [created] more than 2.03 million jobs from direct retail alcohol sales, [paid] more than \$47.9 billion in local, state and federal taxes", that the direct impact of the "retail industry [spirits] is more than \$122.63 billion annually; the total economic impact of the industry is \$363.33 billion annually; and the industry is responsible for 1.65 percent of the U.S. economy based on total GDP."

I believe there is a place for a farmers' factory, but I don't believe it can focus on bulk sales of sugar. We can put up a good fight at home and abroad with confectioneries that are native to our country. I believe a good opportunity in ethanol is slipping us by because we are biting hard into talk about electric vehicles. GOB must pressure ASR/BSI to open those books on bagasse. It's nonsense for that crowd to say that farmers weren't in on it at the beginning, so the ship passed by.

Yes, ASR has an ace, a big ace – we *cut them een or they cut it out*. But we shouldn't allow anyone to walk on us. As Mr. Alfredo Ortega of the BSCFA said, we are used to eating tortilla and beans.

Columbia's racial profile

I had to look at Columbia's racial profile, as a first step to understanding how a country on Mainland America that was under Spanish rule, could choose a Marcus-Garvey-black person to hold the second highest seat in their land. I suppose women folk will want to find out things too, but I'll leave that to that 50% of our population.

British-ruled Guyana has produced black presidents. In Belize we had Philip Goldson, but even though we were majority black for many years, he never came close to the crown. We had Ted Aranda, and wouldn't it have been interesting if he had led the UDP in that 1984 general election against an absolutely spent PUP. In America, they would call Dean Barrow black, but in Belize he is very brown.

I'll not be discussing the phenomenon of Barack Obama here, except to say his carriage did a lot for black people everywhere. You know that dignity is prized among people who go to vote in elections, to have their say. Bah, it's the crude that have their way.

I forget the movie's name, but the writer of the movie said that when Genghis Khan invaded China, the Chinese emperor could not believe that that barbarian would desecrate the land. He thought when the Khan saw the wonders of China he would bow down and worship at their shrine.

My, my, how callously Bush and Putin obliterated the people of Iraq and Ukraine and pounded the great infrastructure those people had built. Why are white people so invested in



MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING



PROCUREMENT NOTICE – RE-ADVERTISEMENT OF TENDER

CONSTRUCTION OF ONE (1) BEDROOM MODULAR HOMES

Due to limited submissions in the previous round of tendering, this re-advertisement notice is being issued to capture a wider audience.

The Government of Belize (GOBZ), through the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing (MIDH), wishes to invite interested bidders to tender for the construction of one (1) bedroom modular homes in the Corozal, Orange Walk, Belize, Cayo, Stann Creek and Toledo Districts.

The requirements for this bidding process are as follows:

- Bidders shall be registered with the MIDH.
- Bidders shall demonstrate, by providing documentary evidence, having experience as a contractor or sub-contractor on any type of construction project over the period **January 2020 to July 2022**.
- Bidders shall demonstrate, by providing documentary evidence, having satisfactorily and substantially completed a minimum of three (3) residential construction contracts during the period **January 2017 to July 2022** with the following details:
 - having a minimum contract value of BZ\$45,000.00;
 - having a minimum residential space of 400 square feet; and
 - having completed the construction contract within a maximum timeframe of three (3) months.
- Bidders shall demonstrate, by providing documentary evidence, having access to the following equipment:
 - One (1) 3/4-horsepower concrete vibrator;
- Bidders shall present a work plan for the contract.

Bidding documents can be obtained by request at the address below, starting **Monday 29 August 2022**, on weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. When making requests for bidding documents, bidders shall clearly indicate which of the following location packages are required:

- Belmopan, Cayo District
- Belize City, Belize District
- Corozal Town, Corozal District
- Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District
- Dangriga Town, Stann Creek District
- Punta Gorda Town, Toledo District

Submissions of bidding documents shall be in English and shall be received in sealed envelopes, clearly marked "**Tender - Construction of One (1) Bedroom Modular Home, (Insert Location), District**".

Bidding documents shall be delivered by hand to the address below not later than **Friday, 9 September 2022 at 10:00 a.m.**

The MIDH reserves the right to accept or reject late bids or to cancel the bidding process partially or in its entirety. The MIDH will not defray costs incurred by bidders in the preparation and submission of the bidding documents.

Further details about the bidding process can be obtained by contacting:

- Attention: Mr. Evondale Moody**
Engineering Coordinator
Project Execution Unit
Ministry of Infrastructure Development & Housing
Power Lane
Belmopan
Cayo District
BELIZE, C.A

Tel: +501-828-5220
Email: peu@midh.gov.bz
cc:colin.escalante@midh.gov.bz

PRESS PREDICTIONS

The sports psychic speaks

BOLEDO

“Press” Predictions: 26-55-34
Boledo stats thru 26th August to 2nd Sept. 2022

In boledo news, 22 and 33 played 6 times each already. These are my lucky numbers for this week: 26-55-09-34-73-14. These are my lucky jackpot numbers: 6827-8976-4630. These are my lucky PICK-3 numbers: 485-030-181-141-962-767. There are 14 numbers left to play for the year: 00-18-26-35-40-47-55-73-80-81-94-34-30 and 27. 12 of these numbers will be out before the year up. Get ready Belize, some dinero will be coming our way. 55 is still out for over 1 year 10 months and 2 weeks now. 26 is still out over 1 year 7 months and 3 days now, 47 is also out over 1 year 4 months and 3 days now. 35 joined the crowd last Saturday the 20th of August, out for 1 year and 6 days now. The seventies series has played some 27 times already. The ending 2 ball has come out some 27 times now. Then doubles has already 27 times already but 27 has not played yet. Only 00 and 55 left in doubles to play. 40 is the hardest number to play, because the forties series has only played 12 times, and ending 0 has only played 14 times. Good luck to all buyers. Remember to read your Psalms: 92-73-63. Next week more stats, big up Mrs. Delores Cruz and her Husband Mateo Cruz my favorite cyclist.

LOCAL FOOTBALL

Verdes still unbeaten in their last 40 local games

Local Football Results and Predictions

In local football action, in week - 4 games results, Wagiya FC beat Port Layola FC 3-nil. Warren Moss is one of Belize's best young



Warren Moss

players, he deserves his scholarship but the USA Council refuses his visa. The FFB should look into that situation. Verdes FC, the 2 times defending champions edged Altitude FC of Independence, Mango Creek 1-nil. The game was very exciting and was well attended, the fans enjoyed their money's worth of football and entertainment at the half always. Big up their owner Mr. Jordan Zabaneh. Verdes FC leads with 10 points, Wagiya FC in second with 9 points, Altitude FC in third with 9 points also. Then San Pedro Pirates with 6 points, Police Benque United with 6 points also. Port Layola FC stays with 4 points. Marvin Ottley is their new coach. Elroy Smith is their sweeper, Shawn Young scored 2 goals already for them. Verdes FC still is unbeaten in their last 40 games in local competition, next week more stats.



Elroy Smith

BILLIARDS

Long Island will beat C-Delta 6 to 2 games

Belikin 8-Ball Billiards Results

In the Belikin 8-Ball Billiards in Belize, Long Island will beat C-Delta 6 games to 2, Naim Rosado is still the best player in the country. Larry Lisbey won the most MVP in 8-Ball Billiards. Manuel Ramos aka "Policeman" is the longest most competitive player for the last 35 years. Dennis Zuniga and Luiggy Villanueva and Evan Williams are their backup players; Mr. Mejia of Long Island owns the team. They will beat



Naim Rosado

C-Delta home and way. In Orange Walk the Gunners will beat Chatazz and Dados, they have Ernest Arzu, Wayne Wilshire, Leroy Jacobs aka "Malic", Kenneth Dawson, Julio and Mr. Ramon Moreno aka "Witz" who won the Nationals MVP in 2019. The Nationals will be in Independence, Mango Creek on the 17th and 18 of September, Big Mangoes' team is the favorite, JR Muschamp owns the team. Big up Mrs. Dorla Muschamp his mother, his daughter plays very well also. Punta Gorda champions, Cayo, Corozal and Orange Walk alongside the Belmopan champions will all be there. Next week some stats on those outdistrict champions.

INTERNATIONAL BASEBALL

Wilson Contreras for the Chicago Cubs is a top catcher

Baseball Results and Predictions

In Baseball action, the Los Angeles Dodgers still have the best record at 80-37. The Houston Astros are the best in American League with a record of 75-42. The New York Yankee are still struggling after a great start. The Milwaukee Brewers and the St. Louis Cardinals are rubbing shoulder to shoulder. That race will go all the way to the very last week of the season. The Chicago Cubs are spoilers, they have won 3 straight games. Willson Contreras is one of the best catchers in the league. The Cubs better do not trade him, they are in third place in the Central Division. The New York Mets are rolling in the East Division, they have some very good hitters in Francisco Lindor and their catcher. The regular season only has 45 more games. The Dodgers will win their division. The Minnesota Twins will win their division. The Houston Astros will also win their division. The Yankees are



Willson Contreras



by Gilroy "Press" Cadogan

in bad trouble right now. Next week more stats.

INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL

Carlos Casimiro joins Manchester United

International Football Updates



Carlos Casimiro

In international football action, the EPL is in their third week. Arsenal leads with 9 points from all 3 games. Tottenham has 7 points, Manchester United has lost all their games. But they have acquired top midfielder from Real Madrid, Carlos Casimiro. He will make a very big difference with striker Cristiano Ronaldo. Leeds United beat Chelsea 3-nil, Brentford beat Manchester United 4-nil. Liverpool has lost Saudia Mané to Bayern Munich in Germany in the Bundesliga. Mohamed Salah will surely miss him. A lot of the top teams are having a slow start. The PSG team is having some problems with Kylian Mbappé and Neymar Jr., and also with Lionel Messi, the coach will have to iron out that problem. In the Serie A, Roma has acquired some very good players. They will be very competitive against AC Milan, Inter Milan and also against Juventus, the former 8 times champion. The World Cup in Qatar is just 84 days away. All of the Hotels are sold out. There will be over 1.2 million fans in Qatar in November. Next week, more stats.

NOTICE

BELIZE CITY, BELIZE

Estate of MYRON EUGENE SELL a.k.a SONNY SELL, Deceased
 STATUTORY NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Pursuant to Section 36 of the Administration of Estates Act, Chapter 197 of the Laws of Belize, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all creditors and other persons having any claims or demands upon or against the Estate of MYRON EUGENE SELL a.k.a SONNY SELL, late of #72 Rivera Area, Belmopan City, Cayo District, Belize are required to send particulars in writing of their claims or demands to the Administrator of the said estate, PRUDENTIAL TRUST CORPORATION LIMITED of #15 A Street, Belize City, Belize, the Lawful Attorney of Kristine Lea Sell and Tyron Kristopher Sell, the duly appointed Executors of the Estate of Myron Eugene Sell a.k.a Sonny Sell, and to send such particulars no later than the 15th day of November 2022, AND NOTICE IS HEREBY ALSO GIVEN that, at the expiration of the last mentioned date, the Administrator will proceed to distribute the assets of the said Myron Eugene Sell a.k.a Sonny Sell, deceased, amongst the parties entitled thereto, having regard only to the claims or demands of which particulars have been delivered, and the Administrator will not be liable for the assets or any part thereof so distributed to any person or persons of whose claims or demands it shall not then have had notice.

DATED the 15th day of August, 2022

Courtenay Coye LLP
 COURTENAY COYE LLP
 Attorneys-at-Law

Letters to the editor

The new school year

Dear Editor,

Please allow me a little space to share some thoughts regarding the upcoming school year in Belize.

After being shut in by the pandemic for more than two years, our children are now going to be heading back to school. This will be a challenging year both for students and teachers.

Our children, for the most part, have obviously missed out on learning throughout the pandemic. With that in mind, there will be the need for a

coherent strategy to bring them up to speed. The challenge will be to simultaneously impart the current curriculum for the respective classes along with the aforementioned catching-up work. This will not be an easy task, but I believe our teachers can get it done.

Are Saturday classes out of the question? What about evening classes? What about a website organized by the

Please turn to Page 28

Senior auditors decry poor hiring practices in Audit Dept.

The president of the PSU, Dean Flowers, says that poor management of the personnel in the Audit Department has been an ongoing issue for years now.

by Khaila Gentle

BELIZE CITY, Tues. Aug. 23, 2022

A group of auditors from the Office of the Auditor General have written to the CEO in the Ministry of Public Service, Rolando Zetina, to voice their objection the “poor, insensitive, and ineffective administration” of their office. One of the main areas of concern for the auditors is the process through which vacant posts are filled.

The auditors’ letter specifically makes reference to nine posts—including the post of Deputy Auditor General—that were filled between the 15th and 18th of October, 2021. Also among those posts were five

Supervisor of Audit posts, and, according to the letter, the persons selected to fill those five positions do not have the required experience and academic qualifications that were outlined when the vacancy was advertised. That specific post required candidates who either had a Master’s degree, 5 years’ experience as an Examiner of Accounts I, or a Bachelor’s degree with five years in a senior position.

The auditors claim that those who do qualify for the positions were completely disregarded. Furthermore, the letter raises the issue that persons with no experience in public auditing were brought in to become

supervisors—which it referred to as “insulting”. The letter then goes on to describe the overall practices within the Ministry of Public Service as demoralizing and unfair.

According to the letter, the Ministry of Public Service has proposed to fill five additional vacancies at the Audit Department. The auditors have asked that serious and genuine consideration be given to those in the office who are qualified.

“Bringing in new people over existing staff demoralizes us and undermined the progress and development of our office and our career advancement within the public service,” said the letter.



Dean Flowers – President, Public Service Union

Today, the president of the Public Service Union, Dean Flowers, weighed in on the matter. He told the media that what is transpiring at the Audit Department comes as no surprise to the Public Service Union, saying that it has been an ongoing issue.

“I believe that the media and the general public would recall that, as far back as 2017, there were some dissent and unease within the Office of the Auditor General. The former Prime Minister and the former CEO and Minister of Public Service all failed to address what has been ongoing issues of poor management and administration of the personnel within the Audit Department,” he said.

With the retirement of the previous Auditor General, Dorothy Bradley, said Flowers, the union had hopes that there would have been some improvement in the department. Unfortunately, there has been none.

According to the PSU president, the former administration “ran away” from addressing the human resources troubles of the Auditor General’s Office. And while he does give credit to the current administration for having commenced dialogue with the office, he says that they are not moving quickly enough.

While Flowers could not speak in depth about the specific positions mentioned in the letter from the auditors, he did say that the ongoing practice of recommending persons for positions that they are unqualified for is not specific to the Audit Department. Nevertheless, he said, it should be a cause for public concern, especially when it comes to a department that is so key to ensuring transparency and accountability in the public sector.

“Conversations are happening, but for you to fix the kind of problems that exist within the Audit Department, feathers will have to be ruffled,” Flowers said.



CENTRAL BANK of BELIZE



CAREER OPPORTUNITY
EXAMINER III

The Central Bank invites qualified individuals to join its Supervision Department.

The Examiner III will conduct both off-site surveillance and on-site examinations of banks and financial institutions licensed under the Domestic Banks and Financial Institutions Act (DBFIA), International Banking Act (IBA), and credit unions registered under the Credit Unions Act (CUA).

- 1. Off-Site Surveillance**
 - Ensure that risk assessment is conducted on institutions.
 - Assess license applications for banks, other financial institutions, and credit unions.
 - Prepare monthly information papers and make recommendations to address emerging issues.
 - Coordinate and assess economic and financial data for the processing of large credit applications.
 - Compile quarterly financial performance indicators for banks and credit unions.
 - Keep abreast of economic developments and trends.
 - Respond to enquiries from customers, banks, and credit unions.
 - Monitor compliance with the DBFIA, IBA, CUA, and Money Laundering and Terrorism (Prevention) Act (MLTPA).
- 2. On-Site Examination**
 - Assist in conducting on-site examinations on banks and credit unions, which includes the assessment of risk management, corporate governance, and internal controls.
 - Prepare reports on the financial condition, management, and operations of institutions examined.
 - Ensure compliance with the DBFIA, IBA, and CUA.

The applicants should possess the following:

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

- A minimum of a Bachelor’s Degree in Accounting, Banking, Economics, or Finance from a recognized university. Three (3) years relevant work experience would be an asset.

TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE

- Excellent report writing skills; Proficient in the use of the Microsoft Office Suite and web-based computer applications; Ability to analyze qualitative and quantitative financial data; Ability to deal effectively with personnel, officials of financial institutions being examined, regulatory authorities, and the public; Understanding of accounting procedures and financial analysis; Knowledge of the Central Bank Act, DBFIA, IBA, CUA, MLTPA, and their subsidiary laws would be an asset.

COMPETENCIES

- Strong Oral & Writing Skills; Analytical Thinking; Diagnostic Information Gathering; Results Oriented; Thoroughness; Attention to Details; Interpersonal Effectiveness.

Submit the following documents by **Wednesday, 7 September 2022**:

- CBB Employment Application Form (Available online)
- Curriculum Vitae
- Three (3) current references (one must be from a previous employer)
- Certified copies of university transcripts, degrees, and any other personal certificates

Applications should be addressed to:

Manager, Human Resources Department
 Central Bank of Belize
 P O Box 852 or Gabourel Lane
 Belize City, BELIZE

Ref: Examiner III- Supervision Department
 Email: hr@centralbank.org.bz or online at www.centralbank.org.bz
 (All applications will be held in strict confidence.)

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Letters to the editor

August 22, 2022

Dear Editor,

In reference to the investigative reports recently made via 7News Belize, as to the David L. McKoy Business Centre Building for Social Security Board in the City of Belmopan, which refer to my person as the architect responsible for the design and the alleged challenges in its construction, allow me to set the record straight as to my participation in this project.

On November 29, 2015, a public bid was made inviting architects to submit a financial proposal in line with providing Architectural Consultancy Services for the Preparation of Designs and Bill of Quantities for the structure in mention — a four-storey ferro-concrete commercial building for Social Security Board in Belmopan.

My firm, LAR Architect & Associates, registered under the Companies Act (January 2000), was successful in the bid. The contract was signed on July 8, 2016,

between CEO Richard Flowers for Social Security Board and Luis Alberto Ruiz for LAR Architect & Associates.

When the project was officially commissioned, the Client, being Social Security Board, provided us with the list of requirements and artist images in line with the expectations of the project.

Each of the four floors in the building would follow an open concept, in which tenants would subsequently install their own partitions. The first three floors would include an appendix-like structure with the same characteristics.

Each level would include a centralized toilet area with both the male and the female units. The toilets would be able to accommodate 70 persons per floor. The idea behind a centralized system of toilet cubicles was to avoid having toilets all over the building. Social Security would oversee accessibility to these toilets whenever tenants were to install their cubicles. This would minimize expenses. The fire extinguishing system was to be the

Luis Alberto Ruiz set the record straight

responsibility of the leasing client.

The floors would also include a main access stairway, two elevators and an emergency exit with a push bar door. For safety reasons, the building was to be hurricane proof for the expected wind speed in Belmopan. Included as well was a fire protection system for the steel columns. A centralized AC system was not considered by the Client due to the open tenancy.

Initially the building was going to be constructed on the site of the old Plaza Theater. Social Security Board then opted to use the property adjacent to the Social Security headquarters building, the reason being that the building at the Plaza Theater site would have been secluded behind DFC with limited parking space. Both sites are property of Social Security Board. With a new location, having the façade of the building facing west, we recommended installing double-6-mm glass panel windows, with the exterior being solar reflective.

Once the final design had been approved by the Social Security Board, the Construction Drawings and the Technical Specifications were developed. The electrical installation drawings and diagrams were submitted to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). Upon approval by PUC on November 7, 2016, the dossier was passed on to Social Security Board, addressed to the then CEO, Dr. Colin Young. Social Security Board subsequently forwarded the drawings to the Local Building Authority (LBA) Unit of the Belmopan City Council

for approval. The 'No Objection' to the Proposed Development was granted by the LBA on January 17, 2017.

After the LBA approving process was completed, contractors were invited to bid for the construction of the project. Five offers were emailed to me for evaluation in June of 2017. The offers ranged from \$8,916,559.62, being the lowest tender, to \$12,973,451.63 being the highest. The evaluation of tenders was then submitted to the Social Security Board for its consideration, and this concluded the terms of my contract.

In summation, allow me to close by saying that my firm was not in any way involved during the construction phase of the building in mention. LAR Architect & Associates was never called upon, consulted, or contacted in whichever manner concerning any missing information, uncertainty, or discrepancy that may have arisen during the construction phase. LAR Architect & Associates, therefore, is unacquainted, and disassociates itself from, any modification to the original design or incongruence that may have occurred in the process.

Sincerely

(signed)

Luis Alberto Ruiz

B.Arch. (University of San Carlos, Guatemala)

M.Sc. (Bartlett School of Architecture, University College, London)

Registered Member APAB #001-2001

LAR Architect & Associates

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE BELIZE TEACHING SERVICE COMMISSION

IT IS NOTIFIED for general information that, with effect from 3rd June 2022, the following persons are appointed as members of the Belize Teaching Service Commission, pursuant to section 15(2) of the Education and Training Act, Chapter 36:01, of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020-

- (a) Ms. Maud Hyde, appointed as Chairperson by the Governor-General acting in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister given after consultation with the Leader of the Opposition, the National Council for Education and the National Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training for a period of 1 (one) year; and
- (b) members appointed by the Hon. Francis Fonseca, Minister of Education, Culture, Science and Technology for a period of 3 (three) years-

Name	Position	Organisation
Dr. Sharmayne Saunders	Member	Board of Management of Government-Aided Secondary Schools
Mrs. Celia Usher	Member	General Managers of Government-Aided Primary Schools
Mrs. Ayonie Briceno	Member	Board of Management of Government-Aided Tertiary Schools
Mr. Claudio Leal	Member	Board of Management of ITVET Institution
Senator Elena Smith	Member	Largest Registered Teachers' Union
Mr. Carlos Tun	Member	PTA's North Districts
Ms. Michelle Lockwood	Member	PTA's Central Districts
Ms. Andrea Peters	Member	PTA's Southern Districts
Dr. Danalyn Myvett	Member	Churches
Ms. Yolanda Gongora	Ex-Officio Member	Chief Education Officer
Dr. Dian Danderson	Ex-Officio Member	Director of the Commission's Secretariat

Dated the 19th day of July, 2022.


 (HON. FRANCIS FONSECA)
 Minister of Education, Culture, Science and Technology



Vacancies at Julian Cho Technical High School



Julian Cho Technical High School invites suitably qualified persons to apply for the following posts:

1 Belizean Studies/LSPD Teacher – Temporary (August 2022 to February 2023)

Qualification for Teacher:

- (a) Bachelor's Degree or Higher in the subject area with pedagogical training preferred, however an Associate Degree in the subject area may be considered.
- (b) Teaching experience at the secondary level would be an asset.
- (c) Good communication skills and a willingness to uphold the mission of Julian Cho Technical High School.

Application package must include:

- A letter of application and resume
- Certified copies of diplomas and certificate/s
- Sealed transcript from all post-secondary institutions attended
- Birth certificate or Passport
- Certified copy of Social Security Card
- Recent Medical Certificate
- Recent Police Record
- Valid Teacher's License (Secondary level)
- Two recent letters of recommendation

***ALL COPIED DOCUMENTS MUST BE CERTIFIED BY A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.**

Salary:

Salary will be in accordance with the government pay scale based on qualification.

Application packages must be addressed to:

Secretary
 Board of Governors
 Julian Cho Technical High School
 P.O Box 171
 Toledo District
 Belize, Central America

ELECTRONIC PACKAGES CAN ALSO BE EMAILED TO: jcths.secretary2@yahoo.com

Deadline for applications is Monday September 5, 2022.



**GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE
INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK**

STRENGTHENING OF TAX ADMINISTRATION

**Terms of Reference
Project Support Officer**

DUTY STATION: Belize City, Belize
PROJECT NUMBER: BL-L1031

I. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Government of Belize (GoB) has entered into a US\$ 14 Million Loan Contract Agreement (No. 4839/OC-BL) with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for the execution of a five-year tax modernization project entitled "Strengthening of Tax Administration". The main beneficiaries of the Project are: (a) the Government, which will have more revenues to implement its public policies; (b) taxpayers, who will have more support and a digital environment to fulfill their tax obligations; and (c) the population, from the government policies implemented.
- 1.2 The main objective of the Project is to contribute to Strengthening Tax Administration aimed at increasing revenue collection, through the following specific objectives: (a) increasing the effectiveness of the Government to collect taxes and (b) increasing tax administration efficiency. These objectives will be achieved by improving tax administration governance and operational processes, and by modernizing the technological infrastructure.
- 1.3 The MoF is the Executing Agency responsible for the implementation of the Strengthening of Tax Administration Project. The Project Execution Unit (PEU) of the Ministry of Finance provides the concrete technical, administrative, financial, control and planning, monitoring and evaluation responsibilities for this and all other IDB-funded initiatives implemented by the Ministry.
- 1.4 In this regard, a vacancy exists for the **Project Support** for the PEU under a contractual arrangement with the MoF.

II. OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE OF WORK

- 2.1 The objective of the position is to provide general administrative and clerical support to the PEU in compliance with IDB and national regulations.
- 2.2 The Project Support Officer is responsible for the overall daily affairs of the PEU as it pertains to the effective and successful completion of the various activities under the project portfolio of the Ministry of Finance, and ensuring that all Projects' activities are executed in accordance with the applicable MoF and the Bank's requirements.

III. RESPONSIBILITIES/ACTIVITIES

- 3.1 The main responsibilities of the Project Support officer include, among others:
- (a) Provide secretarial services for the PEU.
 - (b) Provide clerical services for the PEU.
 - (c) Work closely with the project team in coordination of a wide range of activities in order to meet project and organizational objectives, targets and demands.
 - (d) Work closely with the project team to ensure that internal and external policies and procedures are followed.
 - (e) Maintaining an adequate filing system for the PEU records, including the payment records, among others.
- 3.2 Specific support activities include:
- Financial and Procurement Management**
- (a) The PSO shall provide clerical support to the Financial Specialist in carrying out the financial requirements of the Projects. This may include but is not limited to letter writing, minute taking, filing, document collation, preparation of reports (Expense Justification and Request for Advance of Funds, meetings reports, etc.) and support with the payment process such as creation of purchase orders and payment vouchers in SmartStream (in accordance with the payment process and controls specified in the Project Operations Manual.
 - (b) Support the Financial Specialist in maintenance of supporting project financial documents for audit and review processes.
 - (c) Support in collating information for the updating of Fixed Assets Register.
 - (d) Liaise with Ministry's Finance Accounts Unit to assist in the procurement of goods, including raising requisitions, tracking purchase orders, and maintenance of all aspects of receipt of goods.
 - (e) The PSO shall provide clerical support to the Procurement Specialist in carrying out the procurement requirements of the Projects in accordance with Government and IDB procurement policies and procedures. This may include but is not limited to letter writing, preparation of request for quotations, requesting quotations, minute taking (meetings and negotiations), filing, document collation, preparation of reports (evaluation reports and meetings reports), updating of contract ledger.
- Project Monitoring and Reporting**
- (a) The PSO shall support the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Specialist in monitoring the project results indicators, and other aspects of the M&E system for the Projects.
 - (b) Assist the Project team for preparation of monthly, quarterly and semester progress reports and annual operation plans for the Projects.
 - (c) Support the development and maintenance of information systems to ensure real time tracking and activity management under the Projects.
- Coordinate and Liaison**
- (a) Organize all project and stakeholder meetings, consultations and events as and when necessary, and maintain records of these meetings. This may include assistance in drafting Agenda, sending and confirming invitations, venue booking, Food and Refreshments, equipment for meetings.
 - (b) Record Minutes of Meetings, including Project Steering Committee Meetings, Technical Advisory Committees, other partners and any other meetings as required by the Project Coordinator;
 - (c) Support in arranging project-related travel.
- Knowledge Management and Innovation**
- (a) Provide research support capacity to the PEU;
 - (b) Support in developing Project presentations and media documents, in compliance with the external and internal policies of the Projects.
- Operational and Logistical Support**
- (a) Assist Program Coordinator in monitoring all HR Requirements and related activities;
 - (b) Maintain records of projects files and other supporting documents in compliances with external and internal procedures;
 - (c) Assist the Project Coordinator in the preparation of project reports, and to ensure compliance with contractual obligation;

- (d) Pro-actively coordinate/liaise with Ministry units on all administrative matters, as delegated by the Project Coordinator;
- (e) Act as a point of contact for outside callers, written and email inquiries, where necessary;
- (f) Coordinate all outgoing and incoming correspondences;
- (g) Collate reports for Project Steering Committees, Technical Advisory Committee, semester reports, and other internal or external stakeholders/audiences
- (h) Collate documents and communicate to and from BTS team and consultants to allow for successful completion of consultancy work.

3.4 The Project Support Officer shall undertake his/her work with the guidance of and coordination with the MoF and the BTS.

IV. REPORTS/ DELIVERABLES

- 4.1 The Project Support Officer will be responsible for preparing/ updating the following which are considered recurrent deliverables or responsibilities:
- (a) Project files (payment, procurement, etc.)
 - (b) Minutes of meetings
 - (c) Contract ledger
 - (d) Other.

V. QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE

- 5.1 **Education:** Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Public Administration or related fields is an asset. Participation in relevant courses/training in fields of project management, Microsoft Project, time-management, computer skills, Microsoft Office would also be considered an asset.
- 5.2 **General Experience:** A minimum of two (2) years general working experience since obtaining the first academic degree.
- 5.3 **Specific Experience:**
- A minimum of two (2) years of work experience in performing administrative support services and/or secretarial duties.
 - One (1) year experience working with SmartStream system is considered an asset.
 - One (1) year experience working with international or national development agencies is considered an asset.
 - One (1) year experience working with Microsoft Project is considered an asset.

5.4 **Skills:** (a) knowledge of records management is an asset; (b) Have excellent computer skills, including Microsoft Office; (c) task orientated and able to prioritize projects, multitask and meet tight deadlines; (d) fluent in written and spoken English with the ability to express data in a concise and clear manner; (e) ability to speak Spanish is an asset; (f) team player and possess strong self-motivation and initiative; (g) professional, honest and display strong business ethics and integrity.

VI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

6.1 The Project Support Officer reports to the Project Coordinator for BL-L1031. He/she shall work in close coordination with the staff of the MoF, and especially the members of the BTS and the Finance Officer of the Ministry.

VII. COMPENSATION

7.1 The Project Support Officer will be paid a monthly salary to be established during the contracting process.

VIII. APPLICATIONS

8.1 **CRITERIA FOR SELECTION**

Consultants will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Inter-American Development Bank: Policies for the Selection and Contracting of Consultants financed by the Inter-American Development Bank GN-2350-15 section 5 – individual consultants and is open to all eligible candidates as defined in the IDB policies. The individual consultant will be selected in accordance with the selection of Individual Consultant based on Comparison of Qualifications method set out in the Contracting of Consultant Policies.

8.2 **APPLICATION PROCEDURES:**

Expression of Interest package should contain:

- (i) Cover letter briefly explaining interest, experience, and competence of the consultant
- (ii) Comprehensive resumé with the Individual Consultant's experience in the assignment of similar nature. Description of similar assignments specifying start and end dates of assignments. *Please provide dates, name of employing organization, titles of positions held, types of activities performed and location of the assignment.*
- (iii) Copy of degrees/certificates
- (iv) List of at least two references
- (v) Proof of nationality: copy of documentation of nationality

Qualified Individual Consultant must submit their expression of interest via e-mail to Michelle.Longsworth@bts.gov.bz no later than 4:00 p.m., Friday September 2nd, 2022, marked **STAP- Project Support Officer** in the subject header. In addition, applicants may also submit a hardcopy at the following address:

**Director General
Belize Tax Service
Strengthening of Tax Administration Project
Eleanor Hall Building
Lake I. Boulevard, Belize City**

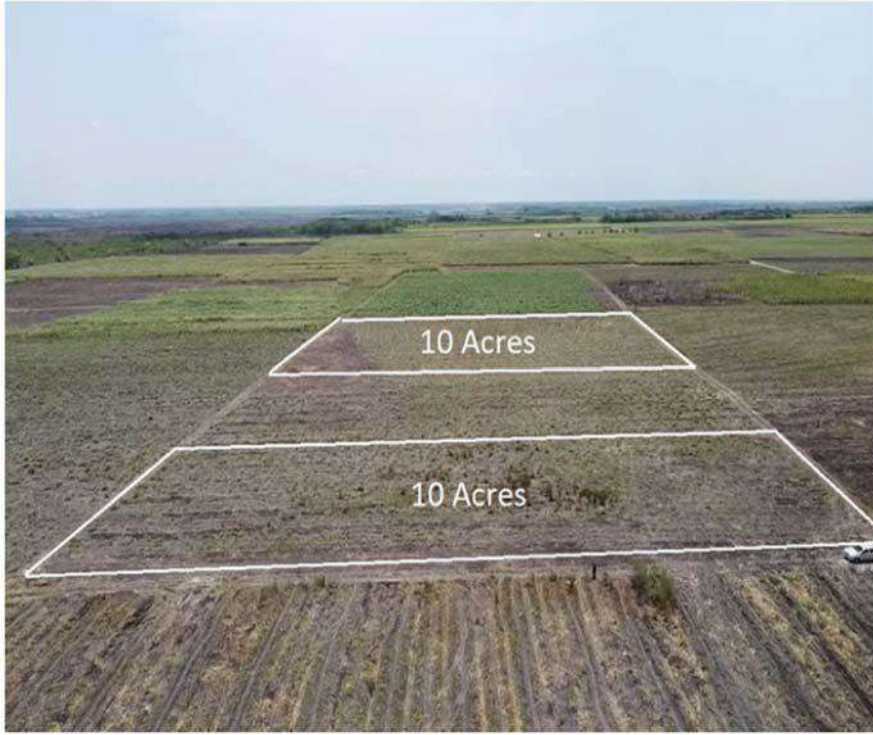
For clarifications kindly contact:

**Senior Economist
Ministry of Finance
Sir Edney Cain Building
Belmopan
Email: raquel.guerra@mof.gov.bz**

**PUBLIC AUCTION SALE
CONCEPCION VILLAGE, COROZAL DISTRICT**

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees, Messrs. National Bank of Belize Limited (NBB), Licensed Auctioneer Jonathan Mulligan, will be selling by way of Public Auction, the following properties ON SITE on Saturday September 24th, 2022 at 1:00pm.

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Concepcion, Aventura/Corozal District	1	200/1 & 202/1



Totaling 20.96 acres, these properties provide an excellent opportunity for those looking to purchase extremely fertile, commercial size farmland in the sugar rich fields of Concepcion Village. **Freehold Property of Faustino Moh.**

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH
JONATHAN MULLIGAN
TELEPHONE: 615-1133
Email: Bz.auctions.realty@gmail.com

**PUBLIC AUCTION SALE
SANTA RITA HILL, COROZAL DISTRICT**

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees, Messrs. National Bank of Belize Limited (NBB), Licensed Auctioneer Jonathan Mulligan, will be selling by way of Public Auction, the following property ON SITE on Saturday September 24th, 2022 at 11:00am.

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Santa Rita Hill/Corozal North	1	3499



This concrete bungalow house measures an impressive 1,740 square feet in space, and boast three bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 2 living rooms, dining room, and a spacious kitchen. The house is complimented by a front porch, and a huge, enclosed back porch. The yard measures in at 50 feet by 100 feet with an area of 555.4 square yards. Property is located in Santa Rita Hills at the "Chactemal Estates", which is a modern, well planned, private housing community that comprises of medium to high income homes. Financial Institutions such as banks, grocery stores and a wider range of goods and services are available in Corozal Town, which is approximately 1/2 mile away. Property is also but a 10-minute drive away from the Belize/Mexico Border. **Freehold Property of Lyndon Russell Gillett and Rhyma Ann Gillett.**

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH
JONATHAN MULLIGAN
TELEPHONE: 615-1133
Email: Bz.auctions.realty@gmail.com



**LA INMACULADA CREDIT UNION LIMITED
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

La Inmaculada Credit Union Ltd. (LICU) is pleased to inform that we are currently accepting applications for a **Human Resource Officer (Orange Walk Main Office).**

Minimum Qualifications Required:

- A. Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Management, or related field
- B. At least 5 years of work experience as HR officer or similar role.
- C. Knowledge of the principles and practices of HR management.

Main Job Tasks, Duties and Responsibilities

- 1. Plan and manage recruitment and selection of staff
- 2. Employee Onboarding, development, needs assessment, and training.
- 3. Identify and manage training and development needs for employees
- 4. Assist in development of Human Resource policies and procedures
- 5. Implement Human Resource policies and procedures
- 6. Implement compensation and benefits
- 7. Ensure compensation and benefits are in line with company policies and legislation
- 8. Benchmark compensation and benefits
- 9. Support annual salary review
- 10. Implement and monitor performance management system
- 11. Channel employee complaints, grievances and disputes appropriately
- 12. Document employee discipline processes
- 13. Conduct exit interviews
- 14. Assist in recommendation for review and update employee rules and regulations
- 15. Maintain the Human Resource Information System and Employee database
- 16. Coordinate employee safety, welfare, and wellness
- 17. Ensure that employment is in compliance with regulatory concerns regarding employees.
- 18. Assist in organizational departmental planning.
- 19. Assist in [performance management](#) and improvement systems
- 20. Nurture a positive working environment internally and externally

ALL Prospective Applicants, as relevant, must possess the following qualifications & skills:

- 1. Must have strong initiative, assertiveness, be results-oriented and self-motivated
- 2. Ability to maintain high ethical and professional standards
- 3. Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- 4. Accuracy and attention to detail
- 5. Excellent planning and organizational skills
- 6. Be team oriented, proactive and possess a positive attitude
- 7. Be fluent in English and Spanish, both written and oral
- 8. Ability to work well under pressure
- 9. Be willing to work flexible hours
- 10. Be willing to travel as required. This requires the possession of a valid driver's license: Class A.

All Applicants must provide along with their application letter, two (2) recent letters of reference, Curriculum Vitae, Copy of valid Social Security card, Proof of address, Recent Police Record, Copy of most recent qualification transcripts and diploma.

Applications that are emailed must be sent in **ONE single PDF file.** A receipt of payment for a recent police record will be accepted. **Only complete applications will be considered.**

Applications must be sent by **September 6th by 5:00 pm** addressed to:

General Manager
La Inmaculada Credit Union Ltd.
5 Park Street
Orange Walk Town
Email: licu@btlnet

Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted for an interview.



AUGUST 18, 2022

Public Notice

FILLING OF ANNUAL RETURNS FOR COMPANIES INCORPORATED UNDER CAP. 250 COMPANIES ACT.

The Belize Companies and Corporate Affairs Registry (BCCAR) would like to notify company shareholders and directors that have a company registered under Cap. 250, Companies Act to have their **annual filings up to date by November 4th, 2022** in order to remain active and have a smooth transition under Belize Companies Act, 2022 (Act 11 of 2022). This transition is anticipated for the end of November 2022 when the migration of all company records will be executed to launch the Online Business Registry System (OBRS). **Companies will be required to re-register via OBRS and will be given a new 9-digit company number and E-certificate.** Further information on the re-registration process and launch date for OBRS will be published beforehand.

Inquiries can be submitted to:
inquiries_bccar@belizefsc.org.bz

www.belizecompaniesregistry.gov.bz

Find us on:



AGOSTO 18, 2022

Aviso público

PRESENTACIÓN DE DECLARACIONES ANUALES PARA EMPRESAS INSCRITAS BAJO EL CAP. 250 DE LA LEY DE COMPAÑÍAS.

El Registro de Empresas y Asuntos Corporativos de Belice (BCCAR por sus siglas en inglés) desea notificar a los accionistas y directores de empresas registradas bajo el Cap. 250, de la Ley de Compañías a **actualizar sus declaraciones anuales antes del 4 de noviembre de 2022** para permanecer vigentes y facilitar la transición a la Ley de Compañías de Belice, 2022 (Ley 11 de 2022). Esta transición se prevé para fines de noviembre de 2022, con el traslado de todos los registros de las empresas, previo al lanzamiento del Sistema de Registro de Empresas en Línea (OBRS por sus siglas en inglés). **Las empresas deberán volver a registrarse con OBRS y recibirán un nuevo número de registro de la empresa consistiendo de 9 dígitos y un certificado electrónico.** Más información sobre el proceso de reinscripción y la fecha de lanzamiento de OBRS será publicada con anticipación.

Envíe sus consultas a:
inquiries_bccar@belizefsc.org.bz

www.belizecompaniesregistry.gov.bz

Encuétranos en:

FORTIS BELIZE

VACANCY

OPERATION & MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN I

FORTIS BELIZE LIMITED (Formerly BECOL) is accepting applications for the post of **OPERATION & MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN I**.

FORTIS BELIZE LIMITED is a leading renewable energy generation company that operates the Mollejon, Chalillo, and Vaca Hydroelectric Plants. The main function of the company is to provide clean and reliable energy to BEL and as an extension the entire country of Belize. The company's foremost concern is the safety of its employees and the running of an environmentally sound operations by following the guidelines of the International Standards Organization, category ISO14001.

JOB DESCRIPTION:

As a key contributor of the Operations and Maintenance department would be responsible to monitor, control and maintain all generating equipment at Fortis Belize's power generating facilities under the supervision of a Senior Personnel. The O&M Technician I will work in periods of shift and on call rotation to ensure the highest level of plants availability and reliability. Participation in a cross-training program will be required to enhance career development. These training will include Power Plant Operation, Instruments & Controls, Electrical and Mechanical Maintenance.

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Perform routine inspections and/or maintenance activities on equipment such as Controls, Transformers, Excitation Systems, Generators, Motors, Motor Controls, Three Phase Systems, High-voltage Switchgear, 125VDC Battery Systems and Hydraulic Systems.
- Conducts troubleshooting and calibration under the supervision of a Senior Personnel on Electrical, Mechanical and Instruments and Controls equipment.
- Under the supervision of Senior Personnel, conduct basic troubleshooting and repairs motor control center, switchgear, battery chargers, distribution panels and excitation systems.
- Start or stop generators, auxiliary pumping equipment, turbines, and other power plant equipment, and connect or disconnect equipment from circuits.
- Take readings from charts, meters and gauges at established intervals, and take corrective steps as necessary.
- Execute clearances, protective locking / tagging and performs high voltage switching on generator, and station service switchgear.
- Clean powerplant and equipment and maintain equipment such as generators, turbines, pumps, and compressors to prevent equipment failure or deterioration.
- Communicate with Senior operators to regulate and coordinate transmission loads and line voltages.
- Inspect operational data and logbook entries and communicate with other plant personnel, to assess equipment operating status.
- Record and compile operational data, completing and maintaining forms, logs, and reports.
- Monitors and operates all plant generation equipment from centralized and remote-control panels according to plant operating procedures.
- Assure compliance with all operating and safety procedures.
- Under the supervision of a Senior Personnel, conduct basic troubleshooting and repairs on control systems, flow switches, limit switches, pressure transducers and relays.
- Under the supervision of a Senior Personnel, conduct basic troubleshooting and repairs on mechanical systems, standby generators, compressors, motors.
- Must immediately report to a Senior Personnel all abnormalities or events encountered in the execution of a job which may adversely affect maintenance execution or deemed responsible for observed defect or malfunction.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Associates Degree in Mechanical & Electrical Engineering and/or equivalent experience in relevant field.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

- Two (2) years work experience in related field is desirable.
- Knowledge of power plant or large industrial equipment and operating procedures desirable.
- Must be able to successfully complete the Operator Qualification Program in policy defined period.

Key Knowledge, Skills and Abilities Required:

- Possess a safety-first work attitude.
- Good reading comprehension and communication skills (written/verbal).
- Basic analytical and problem-solving skills
- Ability to work under pressure.
- Willing to learn new skills.
- Possess good organization and time management skills
- Good health and physical fitness.

SALARY: Dependent on Qualifications and experience

The successful applicant must reside in the San Ignacio/Santa Elena Town area or Benque Viejo Del Carmen Town. Application letters, accompanied by two (2) letters of reference, must be submitted by **September 5, 2022** to: corporate@becol.com.bz

Human Resource Department
Fortis Belize Limited (Formerly BECOL)
Mile 71.5 George Price Highway
Cayo District, BELIZE C.A.

Deadline: (September 5, 2022)



ATTORNEY GENERAL'S MINISTRY VACANCY NOTICE

Suitably qualified applicants are invited to fill the position of:

DEPUTY REGISTRAR

Applicants for the position of Deputy Registrar – Belize Intellectual Property Office (BELIPO) must be:

- an Attorney-at-Law qualified to practice law in Belize or the Commonwealth
- versed and trained in Intellectual Property laws.
- in good health.
- a person who conducts himself at all times, both in his professional and in his personal life, in a manner that will maintain public confidence.

Experience and training required:

- Minimum of five (5) years' experience in intellectual property;
- Bachelor of Laws Degree from a recognized institution; and
- Minimum of five (5) years' experience in management

Salary: Based on qualifications and experience.

Interested persons may download an application package from the Attorney General's Ministry Website – www.agm.gov.bz or submit in writing to:

The Secretary, Judicial and Legal Services Commission
Ground Floor, Sir. Edney Cain Building
Thru' the Office of the Solicitor General
Attorney General's Ministry
Belmopan City, Cayo District Belize, Central America
Telephone number: 822-2504 or 822-0519
email address: agsecretary@agm.gov.bz

Deadline for receipt of applications: **September 30, 2022**

Applicants must submit proof of qualifications and two reference contacts along with application.

Note: Only suitably qualified applicants will be acknowledged. Commission is not bound to make an appointment from among those persons who apply.



The National Council on Ageing

Is looking for a highly motivated and energetic person to fill the position of:

Programme Officer

The National Council on Ageing is a mechanism of the Government that works by advocating for the changes that are necessary to provide an enhanced quality of life for all older persons in Belize.

The NCA is looking for a person that has an interest in working with older persons and population ageing. He/She must demonstrate the ability to work independently and network with stakeholder organizations to implement programs.

In addition the Programme Officer will be responsible for:

- Promotion of the National Policy of Older Persons
- Implementation of the National Council on Ageing's strategic plan.
- Continuing public awareness activities/campaigns for the NCA
- Development of sustainable program that promote inclusion of older persons and protection of older person's rights.
- Maintenance of NCA Website and social media presence

This position is open to any person with an Associate's Degree in Social Science or related field experience in program planning, implementation and evaluation would be an asset.

The salary is negotiable and will be determined by qualification and previous experience in this field.

All persons wishing to apply for this position should forward a letter stating their interest, along with a Curriculum Vitae and the names of 2 referees (one of which should be a current or recent employer) no later than: **August 26, 2022**

Please note only those candidates who are short listed will be contacted.

The National Council on Ageing
 Secretariat Office,
 Unit 17, Garden City Plaza, Belmopan
 Tel: 822-1546
 Email: ncabze@yahoo.com
 Website: www.ncabz.org



VACANCY

The British High Commission, Belmopan has a vacancy for a full time Housekeeper/Cook.

Main purpose of the job:

Offer a high quality service to the High Commissioner, guests and visitors at the High Commission Residence by providing and maintaining a high standard of cooking, housekeeping and laundry services; and supporting official functions as required including catering and serving meals and drinks.

Roles and responsibilities/ what will the jobholder be expected to achieve?

Responsible for the overall cleanliness of the High Commission Residence, including the High Commissioner's private living areas, entertaining spaces, guest rooms and service areas to an excellent standard including:

- Ensure high quality cleaning: dust, sweep, mop floors/polish all surfaces/clean glass surfaces/polish silverware
- Provide full laundry service: washing/ironing /arranging dry cleaning/minor repairs
- Plan, cook and serve meals, liaising with the High Commissioner
- Perform weekly fire / incident alarm test
- Maintain inventories of linen and kitchen equipment
- Report maintenance issues and safety and security hazards and ensure all maintenance jobs are attended in coordination with the Estate Department
- Ensure high standard of hygiene and food safety in food storage and preparation
- Ensure care and maintenance of all kitchen equipment
- Escort workmen around the Residence to ensure safety of assets

Events / Visits:

- Prepare events meal budgets
- Set tables to a high standard
- Prepare meals for events and official functions
- Provide waiting service at official functions
- Prepare floral arrangements for dinner functions
- Prepare beverages and serve / set up bar for official entertainment
- Tidy up and after official functions and events

Ad hoc:

- Ad hoc office support – e.g. crisis management, visits
- Attend staff meetings e.g. weekly staff meetings, Post Management Committees etc
- To take on work of the Senior Housekeeper as required when she is on leave or ill.
- Work evenings and weekends to deliver official functions or when official guests stay at the Residence.

Essential on arrival:

- Have good communication skills and a good command of the English language - both oral and written
- At least 2 years' work experience in the hospitality industry
- Maintain a customer focus approach
- Willing to take initiative and to be flexible and proactive ("Can do" attitude)
- Able to effectively prioritise and have a proven ability to work under pressure with limited supervision
- Able to work effectively and supportively with colleagues, both individually and in a team
- Able to act with discretion at all times
- Have good IT Skills – familiar with Microsoft Office (Word, outlook, excel)
- Have a positive outlook
- Keen attention to detail

Desirable:

- Previous relevant working experience in a hotel, diplomatic residence or equivalent
- Experience in maintaining inventories

Salary will be BZ\$ 1,413.32 per month

How to Apply

Interested persons should use the preferred method of applying online at <https://bit.ly/3Qiwvry>.

The Deadline for applications is 4:00 pm on **Sunday, 4 September 2022**. Only those candidates who are short-listed will be contacted. Please be aware that all applicants must have a legal status to work in Belize. Confirmation of appointment is subject to the satisfactory completion of a probationary period and security clearance.

The British High Commission in Belize is an inclusive and diversity-friendly employer. We value difference, promote equality and challenge discrimination, enhancing our organisational capability. We welcome and encourage applications from people of all backgrounds. We do not discriminate based on disability, race, colour, ethnicity, gender, religion, sexual orientation, age, veteran status or other category protected by law. We promote family-friendly flexible working opportunities, where operational and security needs allow.

John has big dreams! (Part 11)



by Clinton Canul Luna

Finally, the expected day had arrived. The weekend when John had a pending meeting with his friends, the alcoholics. Fortunately, he trusted his driver, Tony. John had instructed him to go with the lady from Patchakan on Saturday to order the two hundred tamales and horchatas for the meeting and to have everything ready. By his own account, John had already sought permission from the proper authorities to use the space at Rainbow Beach. He was aware that the name had been changed, but all the locals, natives of Corozal, knew what this place was once called. Anyway, very early on Sunday he got up and did his usual exercises and arrived at 8:00 in the morning for the meeting, a good time. He had noticed that there were more people, and he began to think that possibly the word had spread that that Sunday there would be tamales and horchatas and, of course, who does not want to eat such a delicious delicacy, courtesy of the good Samaritan friend, John. So, as he walked under the tent he said good morning, and everyone answered.

He told them, "I asked Tom to find out what I can do to give you all a helping hand."

One of them replied, "Thank you, honorable John. Note that many here have a place to live, but many others do

not, and what you could help us with is, if possible, renting a house so that we can sleep, where we can live."

John was a little thoughtful, because that was one of the rather bigger conditions. However, he told them, "Okay. I can help you with \$500 for the rent of a house. But you will have to look for that house, and I want you to know that at this moment I can do it because I have a good job, but also as you know that while the government is in power, I will have a job. But once there is a change of government, I will no longer have it. You know perfectly well that when that happens, all of us who have a political position, through the party, once that party is no longer in the government, we have to resign, but as long as the government is in position and I have my job, I will gladly help you, but on one condition. Once you get the house, I will be paying for it monthly. I want that every Sunday the house is clean, because I am going to invite an Evangelist to go preach and teach you all a little about the messages that Jesus Christ left. I know that many of you know, since the educational system here in Belize is of a state religion. So the schools, although they are called private, frankly, the teachers are paid by the government, but the schools belong to one religion, and in that school they

teach the doctrine of their religion, most of which are Christian. So, if you went to elementary school, I'm sure you know about the existence of Jesus Christ and the Holy Bible, which is used to teach his works. I will not be present, because I will have other activities that I have to dedicate myself to. But I want to recommend and I want to ask Tom if he can lend himself to supervising that you keep the place clean and that you are present to listen to the message that the Evangelist is going to give."

Another attendee asked, "Honorable John, and are you giving us tamales that Sunday too?"

John smiled and told them, "Wow, you all are going to be pretty expensive. If it's not tamales, maybe it's going to be other things, other foods, but you're going to have it. I promise you that you're going to have a plate to eat that day and possibly there is someone else who wants to participate in this adventure. It would be very important that you also do your part, because I want you to know that alcoholism is an illness. The circumstances that made you fall into that vice are not your fault, but a system that is rotten. A system in which there is no control, and apart from that there is nothing to do. You have to dedicate yourself to something. There

is no program that could help you to improve your lives and help you overcome that vice. Please, I don't want you to take it the wrong way, because maybe you don't know the truth, but yes, alcoholism is an illness. Can it be cured? Yes, it can, but you need to want it. Life without alcohol, it's very different, it's happiness, it's a family, being in your five senses, being able to have good friends, and a more peaceful life than the one you have today."

fincasolan@gmail.com

August 21, 2022

Finca Solana

Corozal Town

Business & Advertising email
amandalapress@gmail.com
News, letters and articles
editor_amandala@yahoo.com



VACANCY

Registrar and Chief Marshal, Caribbean Court of Justice

The Regional Judicial and Legal Services Commission invites applications from suitably qualified applicants for the position of Registrar and Chief Marshal, Caribbean Court of Justice.

The Job Description and Application form are available on the Court's website at <https://ccj.org/rjlsc-recruitment-update-2-2/>.

Applications should be emailed to recruitment@rjlsc.org or delivered to:

The Human Resources Manager
 Regional Judicial and Legal Services Commission
 #134 Henry Street, Port of Spain
 Trinidad and Tobago, 101010

no later than **Friday 2nd September 2022 by 4:00 p.m. Atlantic Standard Time.**

Candidates may be required to make themselves available for an interview when notified.

The Regional Judicial and Legal Services Commission:
 Constituted under the Agreement establishing the Caribbean Court of Justice

BY ORDER OF THE MORTGAGEES

Pursuant to The Belize Bank Limited Undertaking (Belize Bank Corporation Limited Operations) Vesting Act, 2021 and The Belize Bank Limited Undertaking (Belize Bank Corporation Limited Operations) Vesting Act (Appointed Day) Order, 2021, THE BELIZE BANK LIMITED, a company duly formed and incorporated under the Laws of Belize with registered office situate at Second Floor, Matalon Business Center, Coney Drive, Belize City Belize (the "Bank") acquired the undertaking of Belize Bank Corporation Limited (formerly Scotiabank (Belize) Ltd.).

The Bank thus hereby gives notice of its intention to exercise its power of sale under a Deed of Mortgage between Scotia Bank (Belize) Ltd of the one part and Anthea Young Mathias & Samuel Mathias (hereinafter called "the Mortgagors") of the second part which was filed at the Land Titles Unit in Belmopan City on the 8th Day of June 2011 in Deeds Book Volume 13 of 2011 at folios 1255-1284 being no. 1012/11. The Bank will at the expiration of two months from the date of the first publication of this notice sell the property of the Mortgagors described in the SCHEDULES hereto.

ALL offers to purchase the said property must be made in writing to the Bank or to the undersigned from either of whom full particulars and conditions of sale may be obtained.

THE SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO AS

ALL THAT lot, piece or parcel of land being Lot No. 251 comprising of 661.665 square metres situate in Independence Village, Stann Creek District, bounded and described as shown by the Plan No. 884 of 2001 attached to Minister's Fiat Grant No. 884 of 2001 TOGETHER with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon.

Dated the 15th August 2022

**The Belize Bank Limited
 Second Floor
 Matalon Business Center
 Coney Drive,
 Belize City**

Wanted MS13 member caught in Belize

Eric Alberto Lucero, also known as "Rockero", a member of the Salvadoran MS 13 gang, was caught in Belize and handed over to Guatemalan police, before being transferred to El Salvador.



Eric Alberto Lucero, caught

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Aug. 24, 2022
 Last Monday, Eric Alberto Lucero, a member of the MS13, one of the most dangerous gangs in all of Central America, was found in Belize, and was thereafter handed over to Guatemalan

police at the Benque/Melchor border, before being transferred to El Salvador, where he was immediately placed in jail.
 Lucero, also known as "Rockero," who is suspected of carrying out notably vicious crimes in El Salvador and has been labeled a "terrorist" by that country's authorities, was stopped last Monday by Belizean law authorities who observed some striking tattoos on Lucero that were particularly menacing in appearance, and decided to run a quick search in the law enforcement database. They then found out that Lucero was wanted in El Salvador.
 Belizean authorities thus



communicated with their Salvadoran police counterparts, and last Thursday, members of the Belize Police Department and the Immigration Department handed him over to Guatemalan police at the western border. Lucero was then handed over to the Transnational Anti-Gang Center

of El Salvador.
 PNC El Salvador, the local police department in El Salvador, posted on social media that Lucero is known as an MS 13 terrorist and will be held in custody until his trial. The Salvadoran police department added that Lucero could be imprisoned for up to 30 years.



ATTORNEY GENERAL'S MINISTRY VACANCY NOTICE

Suitably qualified applicants are invited to fill the position of:

SENIOR LITIGATOR

Applicants for the position of Senior Litigator:

- a) must be:
 - i. qualified to practice as an attorney-at-law or as an advocate in a court in any other part of the Commonwealth having unlimited jurisdiction either in civil or criminal causes or matters; and
 - ii. has been qualified for not less than five years so to practice in such a court.
- b) must be in good health.
- c) must be a person who conducts himself at all times, both in his professional and in his personal life, in a manner that will maintain public confidence in the standards of the legal profession.

Experience and training required:

- a) Minimum of ten (10) years' experience as a practicing attorney-at-law in the area of civil litigation of complex legal matters specifically in public law (constitutional law and administrative law) and human rights law;
- b) Bachelor of Laws Degree from a recognized institution; and
- c) Legal Education Certificate or equivalent from a recognized institution.

Salary: BZD \$84k per annum with allowances.

Interested persons may download an application package from the Attorney General's Ministry Website – www.agm.gov.bz or submit in writing to:

The Secretary, Judicial and Legal Services Commission
Ground Floor, Sir. Edney Cain Building
Thru' the Office of the Solicitor General
Attorney General's Ministry
Belmopan City, Cayo District Belize, Central America
Telephone number: 822-2504 or 822-0519
email address: agsecretary@agm.gov.bz

Deadline for receipt of applications: **September 4, 2022**

Applicants must submit proof of qualifications and two reference contacts along with application.

Note: Only suitably qualified applicants will be acknowledged. Commission is not bound to make an appointment from among those persons who apply.

STATUTORY NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE ESTATE of **ESTEBAN MESH a.k.a. SALVADOR MESH a.k.a. ESTEBAN MESH a.k.a. SALVADOR ESTEBAN MESH a.k.a. ESTEBAN SALVADOR MESH**, deceased of San Antonio Village, Cayo, Belize

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 36 of the *Administration of Estates Act*, Chapter 197 of the Laws of Belize that all persons that have claims or demands as creditors upon or against the Estate of **ESTEBAN MESH a.k.a. SALVADOR MESH a.k.a. SALVADOR ESTEBAN MESH a.k.a. ESTEBAN SALVADOR MESH**, deceased of San Antonio Village, Cayo, Belize are required to send particulars in writing of their claims or demands to the Administrator of the said estate, Marciana Mesh of San Antonio Village, Cayo, Belize and to send such particulars no later than November 16th, 2022, **AND NOTICE IS HEREBY ALSO GIVEN** that at the expiration of the last mentioned date, the Administrator shall proceed to distribute the assets of the said **ESTEBAN MESH, a.k.a. SALVADOR MESH, a.k.a. SALVADOR ESTEBAN MESH, a.k.a. ESTEBAN SALVADOR MESH**, deceased, amongst the parties entitled thereto, having regard only to the claims or demands of which particulars have been delivered and the Administrator will not be liable for the assets of the said deceased or any part thereof so distributed to any person or persons of whose claims or demands it shall not then have had notice.

Dated this 16th day of August 2022.

M. Mesh
MARCIANA MESH
 Administrator



can be heard on the following frequencies:
 96.5FM in Belize City, Punta Gorda Town, Santa Elena, Cayo and Carmelita Village;
 91.1FM in Ladyville and Independence;
 101.1FM in Dangriga Town, Camalote Village and Caye Caulker

China experiencing “worst heatwave in climatic history”

As a result of the heatwave and drought, industries have shut down, millions have lost power, and the depth of parts of the Yangtze River is at record-breaking lows.

by Khaila Gentle

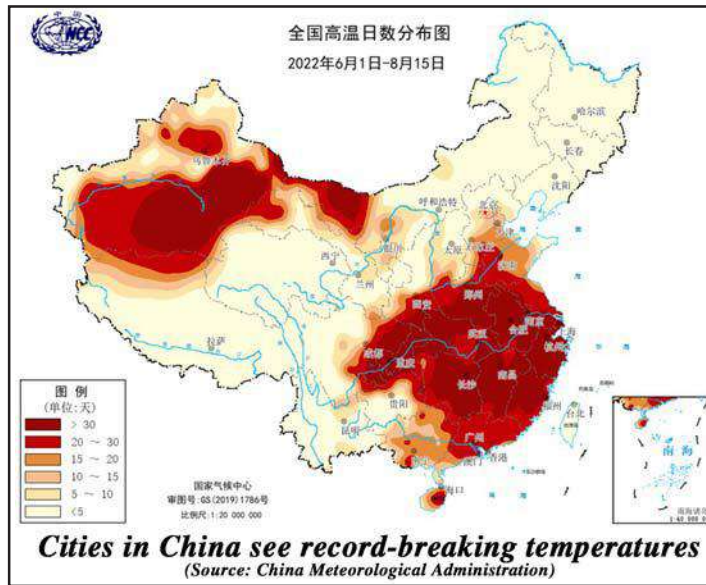
BEIJING, China, Wed. Aug. 24, 2022

It has received minimal coverage by western media up until this week, but for the past seventy-four days, China has been gripped by what experts are calling the worst heatwave in global climatic history. As a result, the country is also experiencing a severe drought which has led to the water level of the Yangtze River—the third largest river in the world—reaching never-before-seen lows.

It is the longest heatwave on record for China since record-keeping began in 1961 and has impacted up to 600 million people. One report by *Bloomberg News* says that several factories have been shut down as the heat continues to put a strain on

energy grids. As a result, China’s economy, already made fragile by frequent COVID lockdowns and a property crisis, has taken a massive hit.

In Sichuan, large numbers of residents have taken refuge from scorching temperatures in air-raid shelters. The province, reports *Bloomberg*, is the hardest hit by the drought due to its high dependence on hydropower—China’s largest source of clean energy. While the heat has increased energy



Cities in China see record-breaking temperatures
(Source: China Meteorological Administration)

demand by over a quarter, the decrease in water levels has reduced dam generation by half.

According to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), China’s heatwave this summer has broken “all records”. This week alone, more than 240 cities have forecasted temperatures above 104 degrees Fahrenheit (40 degrees Celsius).

According to a report by *The Guardian*, local authorities have been urged by the Government to take all available measures to ensure that crops survive the extreme heat.

China is not the only place contending with record-breaking climate-change-induced events. Just this week, the European Drought Observatory (EDO) reported that Europe is currently experiencing the worst drought seen in the region in 500 years.



Ministry of Rural Transformation
Community Development, Labour and Local Government

📍 N9 5163 University Boulevard, Belmopan
☎️ (501) 822-2679
(501) 802-2663
(501) 802-2297
(501) 802-0671
✉️ info@labour.gov.bz
🌐 www.ruraltransformation.gov.bz

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Consultancy to Develop a National Rural Development Strategy for Belize

1. PURPOSE

The Ministry of Rural Transformation, Community Development, Labour & Local Government’s overarching mission is to contribute to Belize’s sustainable development by providing effective labour administration services, strengthening local governments, and facilitating an enabling environment for rural development.

The Ministry of Rural Transformation has embarked on developing a new National Rural Development Strategy (NRDS) that is both area-based and multi-sectoral. The NRDS would aim to alleviate the current ad hoc approach to rural development by establishing a multi-sectoral and coordinated approach to not only reducing rural poverty but also improving rural residents’ cultural, social, political, and environmental well-being.

2. CONSULTANCY OBJECTIVES:

The objective of the consultancy is to develop a national rural development strategy for Belize that will serve as a national framework to guide the rural sector’s development process by clearly identifying development strategies that result in poverty reduction and rural economic growth while enhancing local culture and conserving critical environmental resources.

3. SCOPE OF SERVICES

To develop the strategy, the Consultant will conduct the following:

- At a high level, engage directly with relevant line Ministries for assessment and planning of the strategy framework.
- Assess the implementation deficit of the previous BRADS and identify lessons learned.
- Carry out a situational analysis of the social, economic and natural environment conditions of the rural sector based on an informed delineation. The issues to be considered/reported upon in the analysis should include, but not necessarily be limited to the following:
 - Economy – identify critical elements of the rural economy including production, emerging commodities, off-farm employment, tourism, eco-tourism, main employers, livelihoods, labour force participation and overall economic opportunities. Establish clear linkages to the private sector and value chains for whatever opportunities that exist in various sectors.
 - Social development – produce a sex-disaggregated profile of the rural sector. Describe the supply and demand of health and education services, educational achievement, multidimensional poverty, and other relevant social issues of concern.
 - Infrastructure – identify needs and gaps in infrastructure including roads and public utilities that impact on the efficiency of production and quality of rural life.
 - Environment and natural resources – identify the state of the environment, degradation risks, resources for production inputs and climate change risks.
- Review secondary data including reports, studies, assessments, and relevant policy and legal documents including poverty assessments, census reports, labour surveys, etc.
- Collect primary data through participatory consultations with all categories of stakeholders in order to introduce the initiative, obtain feedback and gauge perception of need and strengthen buy-in.
- Prepare, validate, and submit a National Rural Development Strategy to the Ministry.

4. SUPERVISION/PROCESS MANAGEMENT

The Consultant will report to the Chief Executive Officer or his designate. The Rural Development Department’s staff will assist the Consultant in coordinating activities such as meeting planning, stakeholder workshops, interaction with government Ministries and agencies, and general administrative matters.

5. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND DELIVERABLES

The Consultant shall prepare and submit all reports in English. A soft and hardcopy of all reports are to be submitted to the Ministry.

Main tasks	Payment	Timeframe
Inception Report and Work Plan	20%	One week after signing
Situational Analysis Report	25%	One month after commencement
Draft of National Rural Development Strategy	30%	Three months after commencement
Final National Rural Development Strategy	25%	Five months after commencement

6. DURATION OF CONSULTANCY

5 months (August – December 2022)

7. TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION

Consultant will be expected to travel to locations for meetings and consultation sessions as agreed upon by both parties. The Consultant’s fees will be inclusive of travel and accommodation costs.

8. QUALIFICATIONS

The consultant must have the following qualifications and experience:

- Minimum of a master’s degree in Rural Development, Local Economic Development, Sustainable Development, Agriculture Economics or any disciplines directly related to the Consultancy.
- At least 10 years’ experience in local economic, rural development or community development planning.
- Extensive knowledge of rural community development, public policy, poverty reduction, climate change adaptation, gender and equity approach to programming.
- Broad experience in facilitating extensive stakeholder consultations with government representatives, private sector, NGOs, and other stakeholders.
- Proven technical report-writing (English), analytical, communication, and project management skills.

9. INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICATION:

Technical proposals must demonstrate relevant local or regional experience, appropriate knowledge, skills, and academic qualifications, approach and methodology, and a preliminary work plan. Financial proposals should include consultant costs such as fees, travel, and accommodation. The Ministry will cover the costs of meetings and workshops.

The full Terms of reference may be requested by writing to us at Coord.Rural.Dev@labour.gov.bz.

Technical and financial proposals must be submitted to:

Elsa Cardinez
Coordinator for Rural Development
Ministry of Rural Transformation, Community Development, Labour and Local Government
Email: Coord.Rural.Dev@labour.gov.bz
Subject: “National Rural Development Strategy for Belize”

All submissions must be made by August 29th, 2022, at 4:00pm



INVITATION TO QUOTE – GOODS

Institution: Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing
Country: Belize
Project: Additional Financing for George Price Highway Rehabilitation Project
Sector: Transport
Abstract: Equipment for the Program Management Unit, Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing
Loan No.: Loan 4616/OC-BL
Deadline: 2:00 p.m. (Belize Local Time) on September 1st, 2022

- The Government of Belize has received loan financing from the Inter-American Development Bank toward the cost of the Additional Financing for George Price Highway Rehabilitation Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this financing to payments under the Contract for the Supply of **Laptops, Laptop Briefcases, UPS Systems, USB-C Docking Stations, and Laser Printers** under the Additional Financing for the George Price Highway Rehabilitation Project.
- The Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing now invites sealed quotation from eligible and qualified suppliers for the supply of the following item: **Laptops, Laptop Briefcases, UPS Systems, USB-C Docking Stations, and Laser Printers**.
- Bidding will be conducted through Shopping procedures specified in the Inter-American Development Bank's Policies for the Procurement of Works and Goods financed by the Inter-American Development Bank.
- Interested eligible suppliers may obtain the full Invitation to Quote for the required **Laptops, Laptop Briefcases, UPS Systems, USB-C Docking Stations, and Laser Printers** from the Program Management Unit, Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing, located on the First Floor of the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing Soils Lab Building, Power Lane, Belmopan by emailing pmupcmow@gmail.com, gphrp.3344@midh.gov.bz AND procurement.officer.midh@gmail.com.
- Quotation must utilize forms provided in the invitation to quote. One (1) Original and two (2) copies are to be submitted in sealed labelled envelopes to the address indicated below. Quotations by email **WILL NOT** be accepted.
- Suppliers are informed that they can only quote for the type of **Laptops, Laptop Briefcases, UPS Systems, USB-C Docking Stations, and Laser Printers** specified, and quote for all items in this Invitation. Price quotations will be evaluated for all the items. Price quotations should be **Inclusive of General Sales Tax**.
- Your quotation(s) should be submitted as per the following instructions and in accordance with the Terms and Conditions of supply in the attached Quote Submission Sheet.
 - VALIDITY OF THE OFFER:** Your quotation(s) should be valid for a period of **90 days** from the date of receipt for quotation(s).
 - SUBMISSION OF OFFERS:** Offers will be submitted on the Quote Submission Sheet including a description of specifications offered, Price Schedule for Goods and Related Services. These templates are annexed in the full Invitation to Quote. All documents must be completed without any alterations in format, and no substitutes shall be accepted. All blank spaces shall be filled in with the information requested.
- The Purchaser shall award the Contract to the offer which complies substantially with the technical specifications and other requirements in these documents and represents the lowest price.
- Quotation must be delivered to the address below at or before **2:00 pm (Local Belize Time) on September 1st, 2022**. Electronic quote **will not** be permitted. Late quote will be rejected. Your quotation should be in the English language in the required format or other similar, acceptable format should be addressed and submitted to:

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

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

Phone #: 822-1942/822-0100

Email: pmupcmow@gmail.com,
gphrp.3344@midh.gov.bz AND
procurement.officer.midh@gmail.com

From the Publisher

Reproduced from page 9 of the Tuesday, August 23, 2022,
 #3580 issue of *Amandala*

There was a very bad mistake in my Tuesday column last week, the Tuesday newspaper being printed only online. I caught the mistake when I read over the column when it was reproduced in our Friday hard copy edition.

For decades, from the 1980s, I had a secretary by the name of Odessa Robinson Smith who typed all my material. It ended up that she was the only one who could read my terrible handwriting. I think Odessa migrated to New York after the coronavirus pandemic began, so I have been doing my own typing since then, and I hate it.

In any case, on Tuesday I typed that “hundreds” of Japanese had been killed by the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombs in August of 1945. It should have been “hundreds of thousands” instead of hundreds — hundreds of thousands in each of the cities.

Anyway, my column today, apart from seeking to correct that Tuesday error, is intended to flesh out an aspect, a very important aspect, of the John Kennedy assassination in 1963 which I had not mentioned in my Friday column.

When Miguel Ydigoras Fuentes, an army general, was elected President of Guatemala in 1958, I was just a child, maybe eleven years old. Fuentes was very aggressive where the Guatemalan claim to British Honduras was concerned, and there was great concern in the majority black Belize City, where many people felt the ruling People's United Party (PUP), which Rt. Hon. George Price had taken over from Hon. Leigh Richardson and Hon. Philip Goldson in 1956, was not hostile enough to said claim.

The United States administration of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, had cut a deal with the Fuentes administration to have Cuban exiles trained on a coffee estate in Guatemala for an invasion of Cuba, which Fidel Castro had taken over by revolution in January of 1959.

John Kennedy found this plan for a so-called Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba by Cuban exiles on his desk when he assumed the presidency of the United States in January of 1961.

Fuentes later claimed that in return for his allowing Guatemala to be used to train the Cuban exiles, the U.S. government had promised him support for Guatemala's claim to the British colony. There is no doubt that he was very aggressive where the Belize claim was concerned, and Philip Goldson, who had entered into a coalition with Herbert Fuller's National Independence Party (NIP) in 1958, was using his newspaper, THE BELIZE BILLBOARD, the leading newspaper in British Honduras, to counter Fuentes' rhetoric and

activities, such as trying to cross the Benque Viejo border, and boost the morale of alarmed Belizeans.

Anyway, when the Cuban exiles finally invaded Cuba in April of 1961, there was a critical moment in the invasion when the Cuban exiles needed air cover from the U.S. government. One assumes it was the American “deep state” which had come up with the original invasion plan during the Eisenhower administration. When that “deep state,” and the Cuban exiles, called for the air cover in desperation, Kennedy refused.

The Cuban exiles were then overwhelmed by the Cuban defenders, led by Fidel himself, and about 1300 of them ended up prisoners in Cuban jails. Castro later exchanged them for American farm tractors.

Figuring out why President Kennedy refused the air cover is not for me to try to do. What we know is that there were Cuban exiles and members of the American deep state who became very, very angry with Kennedy and his decision. Students of the Kennedy assassination believe that Kennedy's decision to refuse to provide the Bay of Pigs air cover contributed substantially to the assassination conspiracy against him.

It's interesting to note that Fuentes' decision to host the training of the Cuban exiles in Guatemala, sparked a nationalist rebellion in the Guatemalan army in late 1960, led by Marco Antonio Yon Sosa and Luis Turcios Lima. Many scholars view that army rebellion as the beginning of the Guatemalan civil war, which lasted for thirty-six years.

That civil war may have contributed to Great Britain's being able to push through political independence for Belize, because the Guatemalan civil war was very bloody and out of control in 1981, and the rest of the world looked favorably on Belize's quest for self-rule.

Well now, here we Belizeans are presently confronted by this International Court of Justice (ICJ) arbitration. My personal opinion is that we are in the hands of the Americans. You will say, of course, what do I mean by that. Well, can you deny that we were in the hands of the British until 1981?

In closing, I would like to say that there are some Belizeans here who focus exclusively on the activities and dangers of the Mexican cartels. These Belizeans never mention the American Mafia, but there is such a thing as cross-border crime.

I have a teacher named Clinton Canul Luna. You know that. But I also have a white American teacher named Jeff. He knows a lot more than I do, so I spend time listening to him.

Power to the people.



AMANDALA

the newspaper with the greatest circulation
 in Belize!

BY ORDER OF THE MORTGAGEES

Pursuant to The Belize Bank Limited Undertaking (Belize Bank Corporation Limited Operations) Vesting Act, 2021 and The Belize Bank Limited Undertaking (Belize Bank Corporation Limited Operations) Vesting Act (Appointed Day) Order, 2021, **THE BELIZE BANK LIMITED**, a company duly formed and incorporated under the Laws of Belize with registered office situate at Second Floor, Matalon Business Center, Coney Drive, Belize City Belize (the "Bank") acquired the undertaking of Belize Bank Corporation Limited (formerly Scotiabank (Belize) Ltd.).

The Bank thus hereby gives notice of its intention to exercise its power of sale under a Deed of Mortgage between Scotia Bank (Belize) Ltd of the one part and Henry Woelk Klassen & Letecia Klassen (hereinafter called "the Mortgagors") of the second part which was filed at the Land Titles Unit in Belmopan City on the 8th Day of May 2018 Instrument: LTU-201800794. The Bank will at the expiration of two months from the date of the first publication of this notice sell the property of the Mortgagors described in the SCHEDULES hereto.

ALL offers to purchase the said property must be made in writing to the Bank or to the undersigned from either of whom full particulars and conditions of sale may be obtained.

THE SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO AS

ALL THAT lot, piece or parcel of land situated in Duck Run 2 Village, Cayo District, Belize being Lot no. 9 comprising of 0.45 acre as shown on Entry No. 15300 of Register No. 38 surveyed by J. Javier Depaz, Licensed Land Surveyor, and more particularly described and delineated as follows:

COMMENCING at a concrete pillar marking the northwestern corner of the herein described lot, thence easterly on a grid bearing of 59°50'58" for a distance of 49.046 meters to another concrete pillar, thence southerly on a grid bearing of 154°16'09" for a distance of 37.478 meters to another concrete pillar, thence westerly on a grid bearing 239°50'58" for a distance of 49.046 meters to another concrete pillar, thence northerly along a 40 feet road on a grid bearing of 334°16'09" for a distance of 37.478 meters back to the point of commencement **TOGETHER** with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon.

Dated the 9th August 2022

**The Belize Bank Limited
Second Floor
Matalon Business Center
Coney Drive,
Belize City**

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BELIZE A.D 2022

CLAIM NO. 1 OF 2022

ASCENDANCY BELIZE LTD.

CLAIMANT

AND

GIOVANNI FOSTER

DEFENDANT

TO: GIOVANNI FOSTER of Main Middle Street, Punta Gorda Town, Toledo District, Belize

TAKE NOTICE that Claim No. 1 of 2022 has been commenced against you in the Supreme Court of Belize, by **ASCENDANCY BELIZE LTD.** a company duly incorporated under the Laws of Belize with registered office situate at 84 Albert Street, Belize City, Belize in which the CLAIMANT'S claim is for monies owing by the Defendant to the Claimant, being principal and interest due and payable on account of a loan advanced to the Defendant under and by virtue of a Charge and Memorandum Accompanying Charge executed by the Defendant inclusive of legal fees:

AND it has been ordered that service of the Notice of Application for Judgment with Affidavit in support of 20th June, 2022 on you be effected by this advertisement.

AND you are required to attend court on Monday, September 12th, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. before the Honorable Madam Justice Lisa Shoman at the Supreme Court of Belize for the Hearing of the said Notice of Application.

TAKE NOTICE that in default of your so doing, the said Claimant may proceed therein, and Judgment may be given in your absence.

DATED the 22nd day of August, 2022.

CAVE LOCHAN WATSON LLP
Attorneys-at-Law for the Claimant
Cor. Landivar & 4th Streets, Kings Park
Belize City, Belize

BY ORDER OF THE MORTGAGEES

Pursuant to The Belize Bank Limited Undertaking (Belize Bank Corporation Limited Operations) Vesting Act, 2021 and The Belize Bank Limited Undertaking (Belize Bank Corporation Limited Operations) Vesting Act (Appointed Day) Order, 2021, **THE BELIZE BANK LIMITED**, a company duly formed and incorporated under the Laws of Belize with registered office situate at Second Floor, Matalon Business Center, Coney Drive, Belize City Belize (the "Bank") acquired the undertaking of Belize Bank Corporation Limited (formerly Scotiabank (Belize) Ltd.).

The Bank thus hereby gives notice of its intention to exercise its power of sale under a Deed of Mortgage between Scotia Bank (Belize) Ltd of the one part and Lourdes Rudon (hereinafter called "the Mortgagors") of the second part which was filed at the Land Titles Unit in Belmopan City on the 28th September 2004 in Deeds of Book Volume 29, of 2004 at Folios 951 - 1012. The Bank will at the expiration of two months from the date of the first publication of this notice sell the property of the Mortgagors described in the SCHEDULES hereto.

ALL offers to purchase the said property must be made in writing to the Bank or to the undersigned from either of whom full particulars and conditions of sale may be obtained.

THE SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO AS

ALL THAT lot, piece or parcel of land being Lot No. 50 (568.219 Square Meters) situate in Mango Creek Village Extension, Stann Creek District bounded and described as shown on Plan No. 784 of 2003 and more particularly described in Minister's Fiat Grant No. 784 of 2003 together with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon.

Dated the 10th August 2022

**The Belize Bank Limited
Second Floor
Matalon Business Center
Coney Drive,
Belize City**



CENTRAL BANK
of BELIZE

www.centralbank.org.bz

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Bank of England to Withdraw

Legal Tender Status of £20 and £50 Paper Banknotes

Belize City, 16 August 2022: The Central Bank of Belize hereby informs the public that the Bank of England has notified that it will withdraw the legal tender status of **£20** and **£50** paper banknotes on **30 September 2022**. After this date, only polymer banknotes will be legal tender. The Bank of England is encouraging both individual and institutional noteholders such as financial institutions to use, deposit, or exchange these banknotes by 30 September 2022.

Members of the Belizean public holding these paper banknotes are advised to submit them for exchange at their domestic bank. Institutional noteholders in Belize should continue to return these sterling banknotes to the Central Bank for repatriation to the Bank of England.

Note that after the 30 September 2022 deadline, holders of paper sterling banknotes will no longer be able to use them in transactions.

More information can be found on the Bank of England's website at:

<https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/banknotes/paper-20-paper-50-withdrawal>

<https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/-/media/boe/files/banknotes/paper/20-50-paper-notes.pdf>

- ENDS -

ISSUED BY:
THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
CENTRAL BANK OF BELIZE

1 GABOUREL LANE.
BELIZE CITY, BELIZE
T: +501 223 6194
E: communications@centralbank.org.bz



BELIZE SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND TENDER NOTICE

Country: Belize Project: CARICOM Development Fund Grant No: BZE/G00011 Project ID: CDF/00011/WS2 Contract Number: W/CDF-03/2022
National Competitive Bidding (NCB) Deadline: **September 12th, 2022**

1. The Government of Belize has received funding through the CARICOM Development Fund (CDF) towards implementation of a project that focuses on improving water supply systems in four (4) communities and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the contract for **Installation of a Chlorinator and the Upgrading of the System's Electrical Components for the Mahogany Heights Water Supply System, Mahogany Heights Village, Belize District, Belize.**

2. The Social Investment Fund, a Statutory Corporation, established under the Social Investment Fund Act No. 3 of 1996 and located at Constitution Drive, Belmopan, Cayo District, hereby invites tenders from suitably qualified contractors for the construction of the following:

The contract proposes to:

The contract proposes the installation of a chlorinator and the upgrading of the system's electrical components in Mahogany Heights, Belize District, Belize.

3. **Final (Project Site) Destination as specified in BDS:** Mahogany Heights, Belize District, Belize.

4. Belize Social Investment Fund now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the construction works in the aforementioned areas.

5. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures specified in the CARICOM Development Fund's Guidelines for Procurement (May 2010), and are open to all countries of the world are eligible to tender for this contract.

6. Qualification requirements include (a) The bidder shall furnish unaudited or audited financial statements (balance sheets with corresponding notes, income statement, and statements of cash flow) of the firm for years 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 to demonstrate the current soundness of the bidder's financial position (b) Bidders should have general experience under contracts in the role of contractor, JV member, subcontractor, or management contractor for the years 2019, 2020 and 2021 with activity of at least five (5) months in each year starting 1st January, 2019 (c) Bidders should have specific experience as a prime contractor, joint venture member, management contractor, or subcontractor, between 1st January 2011 and the bid submission deadline and should have less than or equal to three (3) contracts, each of a minimum value of BZ\$11,300.00, but with a total value of all contracts equal or more than BZ\$33,900.00 (d) demonstrate cash flow requirement: capacity to have a cash flow amount of BZ\$8,500.00 of which not more than BZ\$4,250.00 can be credit for materials (e) an average annual turnover of BZ\$203,400.00 which shall be calculated as total certified payments received for contracts completed within the best two (2) years of the years 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 (e) other provided in the respective Bid Documents.

7. A secured "sample" electronic Bid document can be shared with interested Bidders at the address below, starting **August 15th, 2022**, on week days between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. for viewing purpose only (has a time restriction for viewing). A complete set of Bidding documents (hard-copy or electronic version) can be purchased by interested bidder upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **BZ\$150.00**. Requests may be made by personal application or in writing to the address below. Written applications must be clearly marked: **"Installation of a Chlorinator and the Upgrading of the System's Electrical Components for the Mahogany Heights Water Supply System, Mahogany Heights Village, Belize District, Belize"**. The method of payment will be by cash deposited to, or Bank transfer to BSIF's Bank Account only. Banking details can be requested at the address below. Cash payment will not be accepted at the BSIF Office.

8. **Deadline** for bids is **at or before 10:00 a.m., September 12th, 2022** at the address below. **Bids will be opened at 10:15 a.m., September 12th, 2022** at the Social Investment Fund, 3rd Floor, #1902 Constitution Drive, Belmopan, Cayo District in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to participate. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids **will be rejected**. All bids must be accompanied by a "Bid Security" of BZ\$ 350.00 or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency or Bank Guarantee. The bid validity period is 90 days.

9. A Virtual Pre-bid meeting with interested eligible bidders will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 30th, 2022. The link is <https://bit.ly/31ACuQU>. Bidders can participate in the meeting to address any queries about the bidding document or the scope of works. Persons who purchase packages are urged to attend.

10. The address referred to above is:

Contact: Ms. Ruby Pascascio
Senior Procurement Officer Social Investment Fund
3rd Floor, #1902 Constitution Drive
Belmopan Cayo District
Tel: 822-0239/822-0508
E-mail: ruby.pascascio@sifbelize.org
cc: carlos.tun@sifbelize.org
therese.arzu@sifbelize.org



BELIZE SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND TENDER NOTICE

Country: Belize Project: CARICOM Development Fund Grant No: BZE/G00011 Project ID: CDF/00011/WS3 Contract Number: W/CDF-06/2022
National Competitive Bidding (NCB) Deadline: **September 19th, 2022**

1. The Government of Belize has received funding through the CARICOM Development Fund (CDF) towards implementation of a project that focuses on improving water supply systems in four (4) communities and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the contract for **Installation of Water Meters for the Georgeville Water Supply System, Georgeville Village, Cayo District, Belize.**

2. The Social Investment Fund, a Statutory Corporation, established under the Social Investment Fund Act No. 3 of 1996 and located at Constitution Drive, Belmopan, Cayo District, hereby invites tenders from suitably qualified contractors for the construction of the following:

The contract proposes to:

The contract proposes the upgrading of the rudimentary water supply system throughout the installation of 275 water measuring and control devices in Georgeville Village, Cayo District, Belize.

3. **Final (Project Site) Destination as specified in BDS:** Georgeville Village, Cayo District, Belize.

4. Belize Social Investment Fund now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the construction works in the aforementioned areas.

5. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures specified in the CARICOM Development Fund's Guidelines for Procurement (May 2010), and are open to all countries of the world are eligible to tender for this contract.

6. Qualification requirements include (a) The bidder shall furnish unaudited or audited financial statements (balance sheets with corresponding notes, income statement, and statements of cash flow) of the firm for years 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 to demonstrate the current soundness of the bidder's financial position (b) Bidders should have general experience under contracts in the role of contractor, JV member, subcontractor, or management contractor for the years 2019, 2020 and 2021 with activity of at least five (5) months in each year starting 1st January, 2019 (c) Bidders should have specific experience as a prime contractor, joint venture member, management contractor, or subcontractor, between 1st January 2011 and the bid submission deadline and should have less than or equal to three (3) contracts, each of a minimum value of BZ\$15,600.00, but with a total value of all contracts equal or more than BZ\$46,800.00 (d) demonstrate cash flow requirement: capacity to have a cash flow amount of BZ\$5,850.00 of which not more than BZ\$2,925.00 can be credit for materials (e) an average annual turnover of BZ\$140,400.00 which shall be calculated as total certified payments received for contracts completed within the best two (2) years of the years 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 (e) other provided in the respective Bid Documents.

7. A secured "sample" electronic Bid document can be shared with interested Bidders at the address below, starting **August 22nd, 2022**, on week days between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. for viewing purpose only (has a time restriction for viewing). A complete set of Bidding documents (electronic version) can be purchased by interested bidder upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **BZ\$150.00**. Requests may be made by personal application or in writing to the address below. Written applications must be clearly marked: **"Installation of Water Meters for the Georgeville Water Supply System, Georgeville Village, Cayo District, Belize"**. The method of payment will be by cash deposited to, or Bank transfer to BSIF's Bank Account only. Banking details can be requested at the address below. Cash payment will not be accepted at the BSIF Office.

8. **Deadline** for bids is **at or before 10:00 a.m., September 19th, 2022** at the address below. **Bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m., September 19th, 2022** at the Social Investment Fund, 3rd Floor, #1902 Constitution Drive, Belmopan, Cayo District in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to participate. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids **will be rejected**. All bids must be accompanied by a "Bid Security" of BZ\$500.00 or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency or Bank Guarantee. The bid validity period is 90 days.

9. A Pre-bid meeting with interested eligible bidders will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 7th, 2022 at Georgeville Village, Cayo District, Belize. Bidders can participate in the meeting to address any queries about the bidding document or the scope of works. Persons who purchase packages are urged to attend.

10. The address referred to above is:

Contact: Ms. Ruby Pascascio
Senior Procurement Officer Social Investment Fund
3rd Floor, #1902 Constitution Drive
Belmopan Cayo District
Tel: 822-0239/822-0508
E-mail: ruby.pascascio@sifbelize.org
cc: carlos.tun@sifbelize.org
therese.arzu@sifbelize.org

BREAD AND CIRCUSES!

“Give them bread and circuses!” The term was coined by Juvenal, a Roman playwright and poet, in the 1st century A.D. He was referring to the superficial appeasements that the rulers of Rome, the Emperor and the Senate, doled out to the unwashed masses, to take their minds off the brutal social and economic conditions that they were experiencing. So there were great spectacles in the forum, gladiatorial

combats of epic proportions, and bread for everyone. Sometimes these concerts of that era, would be month-long, nonstop, and they achieved their purposes—that propaganda worked, at least for a while. And then along came the Christians, and more bread and circuses. No matter how dire your conditions are, there are still those who have it worse than you; that was the message. I imagine that everyone knew the

outcome, the score, every Sunday: lions - 6, Christians - 0!

I suppose every government has their version of bread and circuses, and I mean universally. China v Taiwan, Russia v Ukraine, Guatemala v Belize, fascist Republicans v the rest of America! I remember in 1969, when the PDM, the new political party founded by Dean Russell Lindo, ran against the PUP in the general elections. Charlie Woods, the ex-priest, ran against Madame Liz, in the Pickstock division. His motto was, “A tin of milk is not enough; we will put pigtailed in your beans, jam on your bread!” Bread and circuses! Needless to say, old Charlie’s loss was decisive! I also remember the Falklands or Malvinas war! The Argentine Junta was in trouble, so they decided to distract the people by starting a war with the British! That didn’t end well for them, but, bread and circuses!

It is getting harder to fool the people, in this time of advanced technology, the instant news and media availability, so we now have a new form of bread and circuses: disinformation! It blankets every corner of the world! Sometimes the more outrageous the claims and lies, the more believable they become, mainly to the less informed. We see it every day, especially in America, where the most famous con artist of all times, I mean that sincerely, has transformed the American landscape into an Alice in Wonderland world of fantasy! America was divided during the Civil War, but at least each side knew what they were fighting for—no doubts in their minds that they were on the right side of history. They understood what was at

stake, right or wrong! Now the divisions are even more serious, more alarming, more vainglorious!

Presently, we are weaving our way through these prisms of fantasy and reality! We are banning books; teachers don’t have the right to teach the truth any more in some states; women’s rights depend on the whims of middle-aged white men in power who decide their fates. Voters’ rights are being whittled down to what they were during Reconstruction; doctors can’t treat people who are dying because they are afraid of being sued by the government of their state! Seriously? No bread and circuses here, just doom and gloom.

I think it is more imperative now, more than ever before, to make sure that we educate our kids, we parents. Teach them to read, encourage them to read everything, art, science, literature, any and everything in print. We need them to have an open mind to survive all that is coming at them. To be able to decipher fact from fiction, reality from fantasy! Give them the tools which will make it possible for them to disagree and argue for what they believe in, in a civil manner, not in the threatening, ominous way in which differences of opinions are now being handled. Teach them to think for themselves. No legacy could be more rewarding than that!

Maybe bread and circuses should be reevaluated, making more sense than the madness that is hurtling towards us at breakneck speed, unstoppable and inevitably! There are times when optimism seems so futile!

“The centre cannot hold!” — Yeats.
Glen

Columbian man charged with rape

Luis Alejandro Rios, 46, was charged with raping a 23-year-old Guatemalan woman.

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Aug. 24, 2022

Columbian national, Luis Alejandro Rios, 46, who is employed in Belize as a computer technician, was arrested and charged with raping a 23-year-old Guatemalan woman on Sunday, August 21.

While the crime for which Rios was charged is a bailable offense, the prosecutor, Sgt. Theodore Lopez, objected to Rios’ request for bail on the grounds that Rios is not a Belizean and may be a flight risk, and also out of concern for the safety of the complainant, whom Rios has allegedly attacked twice.

Rios, who is being represented by



Luis Alejandro Rios, charged with rape

attorney, Rene Montero, Jr., was thus denied bail in the Magistrate’s Court and was remanded at the Belize Central Prison.



Social Investment Fund Basic Needs Trust Fund

Constitution Drive, P.O. Box 459, Belmopan, Belize C.A.



TENDER NOTICE

The Social Investment Fund, a Statutory Corporation, established under the Social Investment Fund Act No. 3 of 1996 and located at Constitution Drive, Belmopan, Cayo District, hereby invites BIDS for the purchase of the following vehicles:

Vehicle: quote : Vehicle199

Registration Number: BMPE00199

Make: Toyota Hilux 2011 Pick-up

Seating: 5 persons

Manual transmission Diesel

Color: white, double cab, airconditioned 4 Cyl, 4-wheel drive

Vehicles are sold as is, where is and can be viewed during normal working hours at the Social Investment Fund (SIF) office, Papi’s Building, Third Floor, #1902 Constitution Drive in Belmopan.

The purchaser should be prepared to pay import duties and other taxes to the Government of Belize.
The SIF reserves the right to reject any or all tenders.

Bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “Motor Vehicle Bid”. Addressed to:

Office Manager, Social Investment Fund, Constitution Drive, Papi’s Building, Third Floor, #1902 Constitution Drive, Belmopan, Cayo District.

Bids in sealed envelopes will be received at the SIF Belmopan Office no later than 3:00 p.m. **Wednesday, September 7th, 2022.**



KREM Television Program Guide

Shoa Wiself, Si Wiself, Bee Wiself!!!

Questions or comments may be forwarded via email to
Phone: 202-5848 kremtelevision@yahoo.com

Friday, August 26th to Thursday, September 1st, 2022

FRIDAY

- 6:30 a.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (LIVE)**
- 9:00 a.m. **Morning Stew (LIVE)**
- 12:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**
- 1:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 2:00 p.m. Movie: Buck Breaking
- 3:30 p.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (repeat)**
- 6:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (LIVE)**
- 7:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 7:30 p.m. Documentary: Migration: Are Europe and America Hypocritical - Sankofa Pan African Series
- 7:30 p.m. Documentary: The Creole Culture
- 9:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**

SATURDAY

- 9:27 a.m. Movie: The Men
- 10:27 a.m. Documentary: Money, Happiness and Eternal Life
- 11:58 a.m. Movie: A Case of Deadly Force
- 1:33 p.m. Documentary: Reggae Britannia
- 2:41 p.m. Movie: Guilty of Innocence
- 4:16 p.m. Documentary: The Spanish Flu
- 4:49 p.m. Movie: License to Kill
- 6:25 p.m. Documentary: Mission Mind Control
- 8:00 p.m. Music Videos

SUNDAY

- 10:30 a.m. **Sunday Review (LIVE)**
- 12:00 p.m. Movie: Philip Goldson Interview with Nuri Muhammad
- 1:24 p.m. Documentary: The Guardian
- 3:06 p.m. Documentary: America's Great Divide
- 5:01 p.m. Documentary: When, Why and How Europe Twisted History
- 5:24 p.m. Documentary: Did Germany Comitt Genocide in Namibia
- 5:30 p.m. **Sunday Review (repeat)**
- 7:00 p.m. Sunday Jazz
- 8:00 p.m. Music Videos

MONDAY

- 6:30 a.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (LIVE)**
- 9:00 a.m. **Morning Stew (LIVE)**
- 12:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**
- 1:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 2:00 p.m. Movie: No Way Out
- 3:30 p.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (repeat)**
- 6:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (LIVE)**
- 7:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 8:00 p.m. Documentary: Vibrations Interview with Shahrazad Ali
- 9:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**

TUESDAY

- 6:30 a.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (LIVE)**
- 9:00 a.m. **Morning Stew (LIVE)**
- 12:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**
- 1:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 2:00 p.m. Movie: Buck Breaking
- 3:30 p.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (repeat)**
- 6:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (LIVE)**
- 7:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 8:00 p.m. Documentary: The Garrett Morgan Story
- 9:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**

WEDNESDAY

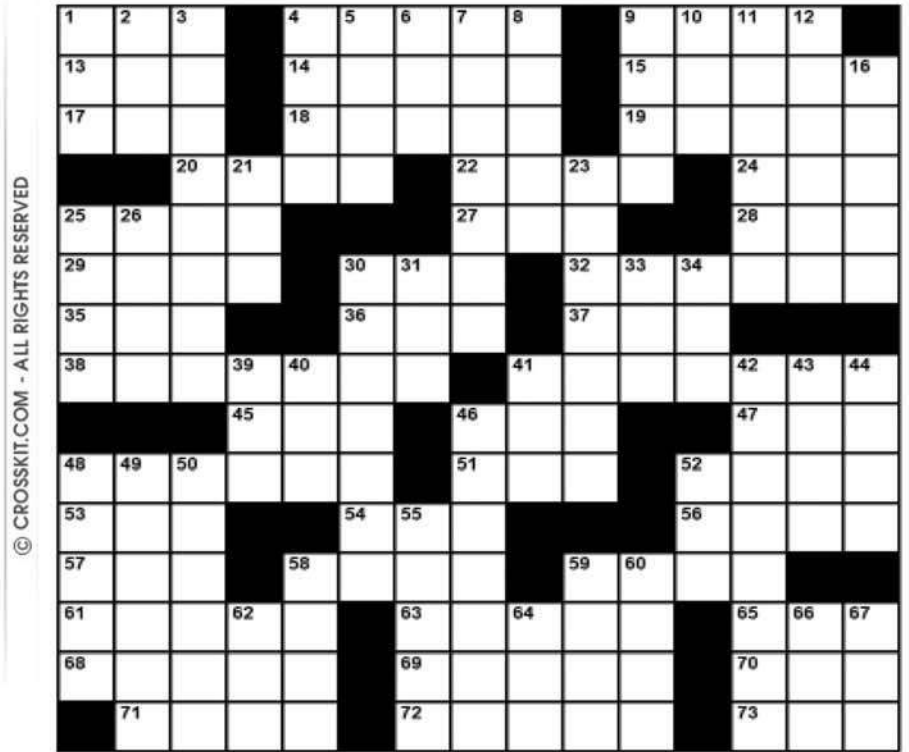
- 6:30 a.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (LIVE)**
- 9:00 a.m. **Morning Stew (LIVE)**
- 12:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**
- 1:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 2:00 p.m. Movie: The Social Dilemma
- 3:30 p.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (repeat)**
- 6:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (LIVE)**
- 7:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 8:00 p.m. Documentary: In Kingston the Police are More Corrupt than the Criminals (2009)
- 8:00 p.m. Stake Bank Training
- 9:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**

THURSDAY

- 6:30 a.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (LIVE)**
- 9:00 a.m. **Morning Stew (LIVE)**
- 12:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**
- 1:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 2:00 p.m. Movie: Black Girls
- 3:30 p.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (repeat)**
- 6:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (LIVE)**
- 7:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 8:00 p.m. Belizean Legends: Talita Long
- 9:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**



Daily Printable Puzzle - 08-24-2022



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Across

- 1. Batter ingredient
- 4. Cat cries
- 9. Embroiders
- 13. Ring around the collar
- 14. Alcohol base
- 15. Drainpipe parts
- 17. Beer barrel
- 18. Catch a dogie
- 19. Artist's prop
- 20. Ballet, music, etc
- 22. Agenda component
- 24. Air hero
- 25. Agra attire
- 27. Kid's query
- 28. Buy at auction
- 29. Before mobile or mat
- 30. Just short
- 32. Vortices
- 35. Hindu Mr.
- 36. Ankle site
- 37. Be a beau
- 38. Metal cutter
- 41. Iraq capital
- 45. Blighted tree
- 46. Infection indication
- 47. Cassowary kin
- 48. Fictitious name
- 51. Blond shade
- 52. Enamel material
- 53. Canto preceder
- 54. Chicago lyricist
- 56. Hassle free
- 57. Archaic
- 58. Herr's mate
- 59. Exhibit ennu
- 61. Established procedure
- 63. Blackthorns
- 65. Eviscerate
- 68. Frat party outfits
- 69. Rise and fall
- 70. Anteceding
- 71. Avian retreat
- 72. Alpha's antithesis
- 73. Chromosome letters

Down

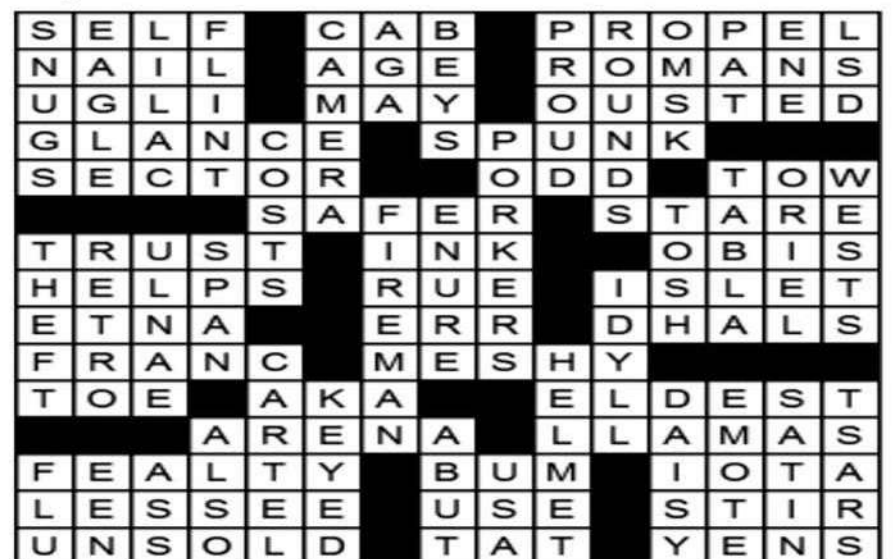
- 1. Antlered animal
- 2. Aw, shucks
- 3. Huge
- 4. Defrost
- 5. Depot info
- 6. Mild interjections
- 7. Word processing acronym
- 8. A deadly sin
- 9. Derive from
- 10. Historic time
- 11. Sushi condiment
- 12. Coin of the realm
- 16. Coasters
- 21. Brazilian city
- 23. Nonsense
- 25. Annoying ailment
- 26. Charisma
- 30. Big house
- 31. Cut with an ax
- 33. Boxer, e.g.
- 34. Homer's phooey
- 39. Actor Olin
- 40. Conning
- 41. Clear tables
- 42. Crazy
- 43. Paris pals
- 44. Responsibility
- 46. Mind food
- 48. Around
- 49. Byron of golf
- 50. Senescence
- 52. Less than many
- 55. Ezio Pinza, e.g.
- 58. Celebratory suffix
- 59. Safecracker
- 60. Drifting
- 62. Ammonia, e.g.
- 64. Bauxite bonanza
- 66. Cineraria
- 67. 1773 jetsam

Crossword answers for last edition

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



Daily Printable Crossword Puzzle - 08-18-2022 - Answers



UDP bans public criticism of party by members

by Khaila Gentle

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Aug. 22, 2022

During a press conference this Monday, the chairman of the United Democratic Party, Senator Michael Peyrefitte, said that the party has, once again, agreed on a way forward, following a National Party Council meeting that was held on Saturday. According to Peyrefitte, at that meeting major decisions regarding the future of the party were made—one being that all persons wishing to remain a member of the party must comply with the directives and decisions of the UDP's National Party Council (NPC), the second highest body in the party.

"This weekend, all parties were duly invited, and a quorum was present, meaning all decisions passed have to be followed by anyone in the UDP who wants to remain in the UDP. The NPC believed that they wanted to reemphasize certain aspects of the UDP constitution, and we all agreed to be bound by it," said Senator Peyrefitte.

It was the first in-person meeting held by the National Party Council in several years and took place after weeks of failed attempts at uniting the fragmented Opposition. One part of the party's constitution that was reemphasized during the meeting was Article 5(6) (d), which states that criticism of persons or processes within the party must take place in the private councils and committees of the Party rather than in the public domain.

According to Senator Peyrefitte, everyone present at the meeting agreed



**Senator Michael Peyrefitte,
UDP Chairman**

that infighting would stop—which will include the removal of any posts on social media that criticize the party.

"We move forward. We have one enemy, and it's the PUP, not each other," he said.

Hopefully, said Peyrefitte, all members of the party will, going forward, agree to submit to the due authority of the NPC. But, in regard to those who do not wish to comply, he believes that they have already made a decision on "where they stand in the party."

Also during Saturday's meeting, the NPC appointed a new Secretary General. Former vice president of the Senate, Juliet Thimbiel, will now be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the party and the supervision of the UDP headquarters' staff.

Four women caught with crack cocaine



(l-r) Dirannie Lopez, Brenda Monterrosa, Gilriam Mejia, and Laura Aguirre, arrested and charged for possession of controlled drugs with intent to supply another

by Charles Gladden

BELMOPAN, Wed. Aug. 24, 2022

Four women residing in Belmopan were arrested on Monday after police officers found over 15 grams of crack cocaine during a search of a home where the women were staying. The four were thus slapped with drug-related charges.

The women—Dirannie Lopez, 22; Brenda Monterrosa, 49; Gilriam Mejia, 49; and Laura Aguirre, 19, were present at a home on Guyana Street, in the San Martin area of Belmopan, where police located a transparent plastic bag, inside of which were five smaller bags that contained pieces of crack cocaine, which together weighed 16.6 grams.

The four were formally charged with



16.6 grams of crack cocaine found

possession of controlled drugs with intent to supply another.

Following their arraignment in court, the women posted statements on social media in which they insisted that they are innocent of the charges against them and are not involved in any drug-related activity. The four are currently out on bail.



Call For Proposals GEF SGP Operational Phase 7

The Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP) implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Belize is inviting eligible local civil society organizations to submit innovative project proposals.

Introduction:

As a corporate programme of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) implemented by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and executed by United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) has been active in Belize since 1993, providing over US\$8.34 million and has leveraged US\$10 million for investments to more than 296 projects nationally. GEF-7 STAR resources will support a portfolio of innovative projects utilizing an integrated programming approach.

GEF SGP's investments are aligned with those of the GEF to fund innovative, inclusive, and impactful projects that address global environmental and sustainable development issues, while addressing the GEF Focal Areas of: Biodiversity Conservation, Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation, Prevention of Land Degradation, Protection of International Waters, Reduction of the Impact of Chemicals.

Strategic Initiatives and Activities for funding include:

Project proposals must address one of the following Strategic Initiatives:

- Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species**
 - Improve management effectiveness of terrestrial and marine protected areas and enhance stewardship between civil society organizations and the regulatory agencies.
 - Improve community-led biodiversity friendly practices and approaches, including promoting blue economy (e.g., mariculture, sustainable low-carbon fishing practices, nature-based tourism).
 - Enhance community led actions for protection of threatened species and biodiversity stewardship.
 - Operationalization of the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment essential for survival of all.
- Sustainable agriculture, fisheries, and food security**
 - Resilience and adaptation - COVID19 blue and green recovery for MSMEs.
 - Increase competitiveness, innovation, efficiency and effectiveness of overall local food production and value chain.
 - Increase diversification and livelihood improvement and recovery for indigenous and local communities.
 - Increase youth and women involvement in agroecology and empowering the next generation of farmers using innovative family farming approaches.
 - Remove deforestation from supply chain and expand restoration of degraded lands.

Projects should focus on promoting equity, sustainability, and resilience to climate change. Specifically, addressing at minimum one of the following:

- Management and stewardship of national protected areas system and community conserved areas.
- Youth and Women led initiatives fostering inclusive economic development and empowerment.
- Strategic support for implementation of a portfolio of innovative blended financing of blue economy initiatives.
- Supplemental livelihood and income generation opportunities utilizing natural resources sustainably.
- Indigenous, traditional, cultural, and green/blue economic activities.
- Capacity building in the areas of MSME development, CSO governance and institutional development, proposal writing, digital innovation, business management, marketing and record keeping; and
- Knowledge management, community engagement and participation in sustainable development initiatives.

Is the Civil Society Organization registered and in good standing in Belize?

- National or local non-governmental organization (NGO),
- Community-based organization (CBO),
- Women's Group,
- Youth Group,
- Indigenous umbrella or grassroots organization or
- Local cooperative or association?

How can proponent organizations apply for a Grant?

Eligible local organizations should prepare a proposal using the standard GEF SGP proposal format. Proponent organization must ensure their proposed project ideas are aligned to the GEF SGP Operational Phase 7 Country Programme Strategy. Proposals should have a letter of endorsement from the applicable regulatory agency, partner organization or community. Proponent organizations are required to meet the 1:1 in-kind or cash co-financing requirements for co-investments in projects.

Planning Grants of up to US\$5,000 can be awarded to eligible organizations that do not have the capacity to contract a consultant to prepare a proposal through a participatory planning process. The planning grant application, proposal format and OP7 Country Strategy can be accessed [via this link](#) or requested by sending an email to gefsgp@btl.net.

Small grants, ranging from US\$5,000 to US\$50,000.00, can be awarded to eligible local civil society organizations. A complete organizational assessment form must be submitted along with the proposal. Only proponent organizations whose proposal passes the technical screening criteria will be invited to present and defend their proposed project to the National Steering Committee. A maximum of US\$50,000.00 can be awarded to a Grantee Partner per Operational Phase of the GEF SGP.

The closing date for submission of complete proposals is 30th September 2022 at 17:00 hours. Proposals should be submitted electronically to gefsgp@btl.net.

The National Coordinator
GEF Small Grants Programme
Email: gefsgp@btl.net
Telephone: 822 2462 / 610-8735
Website: www.sgp.undp.org



INVITATION TO BID

REHABILITATION OF NAGO BANK COLLECTION CENTER

Institution: Ministry of Economic Development

Country: Belize

Project: Resilient Rural Belize Programme

Loan No.: 200002301

Deadline for Submission of Proposals: September 19, 2022 at 3:00 PM.

Background:

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

Scope of Service:

One of the objectives of the Programme is to assist farmers organizations to become more climate resilient by improving their agricultural production through investments in climate resilient agricultural technologies such as covered structures, water harvesting facilities and storage facilities.

The scope of service includes the renovation of the Produce Collection and Packaging Facility for the Los Pequeños Agricultores y Gaderos de Nago Bank Cooperative Society Limited in the Nago Bank Community of Maskall Village, Belize District.

Location of Work:

Nago Bank Collection Center in the Nago Bank Community of the Maskall Village.

Deliverables:

The deliverables shall include:

- i. Submission of a proposed project schedule that outlines the scope of work in accordance with the intended project timeline.
- ii. Submission of a proposed expected Milestone Payment Schedule as follows:
 1. Demolishing Works
 2. Floor Screed and Tiling
 3. Wall Construction & Window Installation
 4. Plastering
 5. Roller Shutter Door Installation
 6. Painting/Refurbishments

Qualifications of Firm:

To qualify, construction firms must meet the following minimum qualifying criteria:

- a) A minimum of ten (10) years' experience in general building construction.
- b) A minimum of five (5) projects of similar nature and size in the last ten (10) years. A company profile in the form of a Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) must be submitted for review. Submitted SOQ should include previously completed projects.

The Resilient Rural Belize (RRB) Programme now invites eligible contractors to submit bids for the *Rehabilitation of the Nago Bank Collection Center*.

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

Contractors interested in receiving the Request for Quotation (RFQ) and submitting a bid should register their interest by sending an e-mail (with subject: *Request for RFQ - Rehabilitation of the Nago Bank Collection Center*) to the Procurement Officer at nvernon.rrb@med.gov.bz giving full contact details of the Consultant. This will ensure that the Contractors receive updates regarding this RFQ.

Bids must be submitted via email to the following address on or before September 19, 2022 at 3:00 PM (Local time).

Attn: Geraldo Flowers
 Programme Manager
 Resilient Rural Belize Programme
 Ministry of Economic Development
 National Agriculture Showgrounds
 Hummingbird Highway
 Belmopan, Belize
geraldo.flowers@med.gov.bz
 cc: nvernon.rrb@med.gov.bz

Robbers target home of US missionaries

SANTAELENA TOWN, Cayo District, Mon. Aug. 22, 2022

An American missionary couple is traumatized after their home in Santa Elena, Cayo, was broken into last night. The robbers who entered their home, however, later fled empty-handed.

The wife told police that at around 11:40 p.m. she was upstairs of the couple's home when she heard a bang on the front glass door. When she went to investigate the noise, she found herself facing an unknown masked man with a scarf over his head, who held her captive.

She later heard her husband downstairs shouting to someone, "Don't kill me", which was followed by the sound of a single gunshot. Upon hearing the commotion, the robber who was holding

her hostage let her go and ran downstairs. She then went to check on her husband, who was unharmed, and he told her that he had been responding to the same noise when someone grabbed him, pointed a gun at his head, and demanded money.

He further related that while he was being held captive, he told one of the robbers that he and his wife did not keep money at the house. It is unclear at this point what was the robber's immediate response or whether there was a struggle, but a single gunshot was fired at the kitchen floor and hit the carpet. Both robbers then fled the home without acquiring any money or valuables.

Police have detained one person for questioning as part of their investigation into the incident.

ASR's ace

Continued from **Page 11**

making bombs, and using them? Hmm, you read these stories about white kings, and it's all debauchery. But maybe the black and brown kings had the advantage of being allowed harems. And that is not a plug for polygamy. Ah, multiple docile wives, what a nice idea, especially for a man with money in his pockets.

The new vice president of Columbia, Francia Márquez, is black, and in a country where the elite Spanish dominate, and people with pronounced European features have had their run at the top, that is phenomenal. Of course, we'll have to look at the substance of this lady, and she must bring some special things to the table, but let's begin this story at the beginning, the colorifics of Colombia. Oh no, we haven't yet come close to arriving at the place MLK dreamed about, where a human being is judged by the content of their character, not the color of their skin, and might I add, facial features and hair texture.

One Wikipedia page, quoting information extracted from the Public Library of Science (PLOS), says "genetic research determined that the average Colombian (of all races) has a mixture of European 62.5%, native Amerindian 27.4%, African 9.2% and East Asian 0.9%."

Andrew Dier, in a piece, "Colombian Demographics", that can be found at the website hatchettebookgroup.com,

wrote: "Most of the population (over 86 percent) is either mestizo (having both Amerindian and white ancestry) or white. People of African (10.4 percent) and indigenous or Amerindian (over 3.4 percent) origin make up the rest of the Colombian population."

Returning to the Wikipedia story, it says "since independence both Amerindians and blacks have continued to reside on the outskirts of national life", but because "black slaves often had close relations—as domestic servants—with Spaniards and British", they were more exposed to Spanish culture than Amerindians, and thus they "became a part of Colombian society from the beginning, adopting the ways of the Spanish that were permitted them and learning their language."

Interestingly, the Wikipedia story says, "by the end of the colonial period, the blacks thought of themselves as Colombians and felt superior to the Amerindians, who officially occupied higher status, were nominally free, and were closer in skin color, facial features, and hair texture to the emerging mestizo mix."

My final extract from this Wikipedia piece, says "those blacks who achieved freedom sometimes moved into Amerindian communities, but blacks and zambos remained at the bottom of the social scale and were important only as a source of labor."

The new school year

Continued from **Page 12**

Ministry of Education dedicated solely to help the children with school work for all grade levels? All hands should be on deck to find the best ideas to help move our children and, by extension, our country forward with a curriculum designed for the 21st century.

Being back in school after an extended absence will bring its own set of issues as it relates to the children. Our teachers will have to pack an extra bag of patience each day, and hopefully there will be counselors on hand to help with guiding our children along.

A critical component of this whole experience will be the parents. The role that our parents must play cannot be overstated. We all want to see the children succeed, and parents have a very critical

role in making that happen. A constant (I get it, parents work and not all have the time) dialogue between parents and teachers is essential.

We have a huge challenge (though not insurmountable) ahead of us. Together, the students applying themselves, teachers performing at their optimum and parents keeping the door of communication with our teachers open, can get this done. The goals should include: good, civil and competent students; safe/healthy and congenial learning environments at school; and effective and efficient teachers.

Welcome back, students, teachers and parents! Good luck with the new school year.

Thank you.
 Sincerely,
 J. Lewis

Vulcan Mining Still Failing to Win the Hearts and Minds of Gales Point

by André Habet

At 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 20, 2022, the residents of the Gales Point Manatee (GP) community and other concerned Belizeans met with representatives of the Vulcan Materials Company, a mining company headquartered in Birmingham, Alabama, USA. They gathered in a field adjacent to the community's school to learn more about the proposed limestone mining operation in the nearby Sugar Hill area, presently under ownership by White Ridge Farms. Under three tents, plus another with refreshments, Vulcan representatives made themselves available to questions about the project, outlining the potential community impacts; the proposed port; and their environmental impact mitigation strategies.

The meeting followed Minister of Natural Resources, Hon. Cordel Hyde's public opposition to the project earlier this month, and was arranged so Vulcan could address Gales Point residents' questions and concerns about the mine. The tents featured various posters and brochures, and representatives attended to questions about the scale of the dredge the necessary port would require, the training for a range of mining and support staff jobs, and the extraction process the mine would use.

The last of those received some



Signs protesting Vulcan displayed during presentation at Gales Point



Residents of Gales Point

attention in an August 8 7News interview, where Vulcan VP of External Affairs, Janet Kavinovsky made a distinction between strip-mining, a term that often carries connotations of environmental destruction, and Vulcan's proposed method of 'aggregate quarrying,' which Kavinovsky described as "taking big rocks and breaking them down to little ones". Asked to validate Kavinovsky's distinction, hydrologist Dr. Ed Boles said that while the methods might vary, their differences are ultimately negligible. Both methods require stripping the forest above the mining site, and would negatively hinder the ecosystem services provided by the limestone hills and forest, including managing the quality and flow of water through the area's landscape.

A few attendees had no prior knowledge of Vulcan, and others mentioned having conducted internet searches of their own and learning about the company's contention with ten other countries for purported environmental harm. Some in attendance were curious about the possibility of steady employment once the mine began operation; others wanted to know the extent of the mine's impact on the surrounding landscape, and a small contingent voiced the possibility of Vulcan potentially supporting alternative

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UDP protests: "Life haad out ya!"

by Khaila Gentle

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Aug. 24, 2022
 "Life haad out ya!"

Those were the words echoed by disgruntled Belizeans on Tuesday as they marched through the streets of Belize City demanding a decrease in the cost of living. The demonstration was orchestrated by the United Democratic Party who, despite being denied a permit by the Police Department, went ahead with their plan of marching to the Shell Gas Station located on Central American Boulevard, which they believe is owned by the Prime Minister's family.

Today, the UDP is saying that if the demands of the people are not met by the Government soon, an increase in resistance can be expected. That list of demands, chanted by the people on Tuesday and posted on the UDP's social media pages shortly after, is not a long one. The Opposition is telling the current administration to do three things: lower

gas prices, lower the cost of living, and stop corruption. According to the Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Moses "Shyne" Barrow, those demands are all being made in an attempt to provide relief to the Belizean people.

The protest began in front of the UDP headquarters on Youth for the Future Drive, and as it made its way toward Central American Boulevard, the size of the crowd gradually increased. Standing front and center was Hon. Barrow, who was flanked by several longtime party members, including Port Loyola standard bearer, Philip Willoughby; former Belmopan area rep, John Saldivar; former Lake



Belizeans protest with the UDP

Independence standard bearer, Dianne Finnegan; and UDP senator and second deputy leader of the party, Beverly Williams. Also present was party chairman, Michael Peyrefitte, who, on Monday, confidently told the press that he would be protesting even if he were the only person to show up.

When asked by *KREM News*' Marisol Amaya, how he felt about the turnout (estimated to be 200 by *7News*), Senator Peyrefitte said that it came as no surprise, as there are many who want their voices and their opinions to be heard by the Government.

"With all that's happening and not happening, I doubt very much that I'm the only one who wants to see some change and who wants to send a message to the government," he stated.

In regard to the small size of the crowd, Senator Peyrefitte said that the fact that they were protesting without a valid permit may have impacted the turnout, with many persons fearing arrest or police aggression. While there were some police officers present, they had little to no interaction with the crowd.

While in front of the Central American Boulevard Shell Gas Station, the Leader of the Opposition spoke with reporters.

"We believe that it is a conflict of interest to have a Prime Minister that has vested interest in a gas station, and now we have the highest gas prices ever. That is problematic, and we need action. We want action," he said.

"Bring down the gas prices. Bring down the cost of living. Stop the corruption," shouted Hon. Barrow.

Back at the UDP headquarters, the party leader was asked whether the recent conflicts within the United Democratic

Party (including the recent expulsion of former member of the UDP central executive Delroy Cuthkelvin and the recent disciplinary measures brought against former UDP leader Patrick Faber) made it difficult to organize the protest, he did not give a direct answer.

"As the responsible opposition, we cannot allow distractions to take away from our responsibility to advocate on behalf of the Belizean people. That is exactly what we are doing with the Chairman, the Deputy Party Leader, and the grand leaders of this party, which are the delegates and the party faithful and the Belizean people," he said.

"For the past two years, the Opposition, whether in question to the Ministers in the House of Representatives, whether in the media, we have been asking the Government to respond appropriately to the plight of the suffering people, and that has not taken place," he added.

The Opposition Leader called the rise in the cost of living, particularly the record-breaking increase in fuel prices, borderline inhumane and noted that it has affected even working-class persons who have since been "pushed to the margins of poverty."

"We deserve a Government that is going to take into consideration our quality of life. We deserve a government that will use our taxpayer dollars to our benefit," he told the press.

According to the Leader of the Opposition, Tuesday's protest was "only the beginning" and the first of many.

Notably absent from the protest were UDP parliamentarians Hon. Tracy Panton (Albert area rep) and Hon. Patrick Faber (Collet area rep).

BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM

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REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Caribbean Shores	16	2125
The freehold property of Mr. Arleigh Gough & Ms. Olga Urbina		

2. Parcel No. 1010 Handyside Street, Belize City, District District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Fort George/Pickstock	45	1010
The freehold property of Mr. Derek Cervantes.		

3. Parcel No. 3981 Yvonne Hyde Street, Orchid Garden Extension, Belmopan, Cayo District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Belmopan	20	3981
The freehold property of Ms. Chevonne Indira Parham.		

4. Parcel No. 19 Toledo Street, Belmopan, Cayo District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Belmopan	20	19
The freehold property of Ms. Arifa McKoy.		

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DATED the 26th day of August, 2022

Arguelles & Company
 Attorneys-at-Law



Belize powerlifting team returns

After competing in the 19th annual North American Powerlifting Federation (NAPF) championship in Panama City, six Belizean athletes brought back gold and bronze medals to the jewel.



(l-r) Khalid Usher, Robert Williams, William Murillo—medal recipients

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Tues. Aug. 23, 2022

A team of eight Belizean powerlifting athletes, four males and four females, has returned to the country with two gold and four bronze medals in their respective classes after competing in the 19th annual North American Powerlifting Federation (NAPF) Regional Classic Powerlifting Championships, a six-day tournament which was held in Panama City, Panama, and which had the participation of over 200 athletes from 15 countries.

Alida Sharp represented Belize in the Women's Master II 52 kg category, while the country was represented by Edith Ruiz in the Women's 57kg category, Jacqueline Alas in the Women's Open 63 kg Category, and Nerry Sho in the Women's 76 kg category. The four men representing Belize at the tournament were Leo Matura in the Men's Open Category, Robert Williams in the Men's Masters 1 Open 120 kg Category, Khalid Usher in the Men's Open 93 kg Category, and William Murillo in the Men's Juniors 105 kg Category.

On the first day of the competition, Alida Sharp was the first to capture the gold in her respective category, and set a new record for the squat, the bench press, and total points in the Master's II 52 kg category. Following Sharp's gold medal performance, Robert Williams also achieved the gold medal in his category.

Williams, who also participated in the competition in 2018 in Mexico and received a gold medal, stopped by the AMANDALA along with several of his teammates and granted us an interview about their experience competing internationally.

"Man, Panama was a great trip! If anybody knows me, I did [a] strongman competition in Belize [in] 2016, '17, '18, and '19, but due to the pandemic, everything was shut down, and thanks to Khalid [Usher] and his crew of Belize Powerlifters Association, we launched this initiative and we were able to go out internationally. So I went to Panama with high hopes, because I was already accustomed to lifting heavy weights, but then I did have to adjust my training ... So I went out there, I did it, I did it the best and brought back the gold to Belize," Williams said.

The Belize Powerlifting Association is the brainchild of Usher, the president of the association, who developed the concept in 2018 along with his university colleagues, after competing in the same tournament in Mexico without receiving any medals. Then later that same year, a fully formed association returned to Mexico City and returned with two gold and one bronze medal.

Usher said one of the takeaways from the trip to Panama was seeing how other associations conduct their operations and getting insights into how to create a better association in Belize.

"When we were out there, and it's the same thing with the athletes, we saw a lot of hope for the future. That's the main takeaway from the competition. We saw where we need to go and what we need to be capable of. We got to network with a lot of them. We got to see what well-established associations how [to] work, how their athletes operated, and it was a very good learning experience for everyone," he said.

William Murillo, who is the youngest member of the team, and who brought back a bronze medal, told us about his

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Softball Nationals still scheduled for this weekend at Rogers Stadium

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Aug. 25, 2022

Last word coming from Softball Federation of Belize (SFB) president Jude Lizama this afternoon, was that the games scheduled for this weekend in the XXX National Women's Softball Championship are still on at Rogers Stadium, beginning with game 1 at 5:00 p.m. on Friday.

There are eight 8 teams participating in this year's Nationals, and they have been divided into two groups: Group A – Belmopan Play Chune Girls; Beacon; Crooked Tree; and San Lazaro Bravers. Group B – Belize Bank Bulldogs; Grace Kennedy Roaring Creek; Double Head Cabbage Unity; and Guinea Grass.

The weekend tournament schedule calls for 3 games on Friday, August 26, starting at 5:00 p.m.; 7 games on Saturday, August 27, beginning at 9:00 a.m.; and 5 games on Sunday, August 28, also beginning at 9:00 a.m.

On Saturday, after completion of the first two games, the tournament will pause for the official Opening Ceremony which should be completed before the start of the third game at 2:00 p.m.

The last two regular competition matches are scheduled for Sunday morning, with the championship round set to begin at 1:00 in the afternoon.

In the championship round on Sunday, Group B #2 seed will clash with Group A #1 seed; and Group B #1 seed will face Group A #2 seed. The two winners then square off in the championship final.

Below are the games schedule:

Friday, August 26

5:00 p.m. – (B) Belize Bank Bulldogs vs Grace Kennedy Roaring Creek
7:00 p.m. – (A) Belmopan Play Chune Girls vs San Lazaro Bravers
9:00 p.m. – (B) Double Head Cabbage Unity vs Guinea Grass

Saturday, August 27

9:00 a.m. – (A) Beacon vs San Lazaro Bravers
11:00 a.m. – (B) Roaring Creek Grace Kennedy vs Guinea Grass
OPENING CEREMONY

2:00 p.m. – (A) Belmopan Play Chune Girls vs Crooked Tree
4:00 p.m. – (B) Belize Bank Bulldogs vs Guinea Grass
6:00 p.m. – (A) Crooked Tree vs San Lazaro Bravers
8:00 p.m. – (B) Roaring Creek Grace Kennedy vs Double Head Cabbage Unity
10:00 p.m. – (A) Belmopan Play Chune Girls vs Beacon

Sunday, August 28

9:00 a.m. – (B) Belize Bank Bulldogs vs Double Head Cabbage Unity
11:00 a.m. – (A) Beacon vs Crooked Tree
CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND

1:00 p.m. – (Semi-Final 1) Group B #2 vs Group A #1
3:00 p.m. – (Semi-Final 2) Group B #1 vs Group A #2
5:00 p.m. – (FINAL) Winner Semifinal 1 vs Winner Semifinal 2

A Peru Olivera story

by Roger Bradley

(From a post on Bilal Morris' FaceBook page, BELIZEAN LEGENDS SHINIING STARS)

Peru was a legend on the Barracks. I will recall a friendly played between the Belize City selection and Congolon of Honduras around 1978. Avengers and Congolon tied 2-2 on Saturday, so you know the MCC Garden was packed to capacity to see this match on Sunday. It was like a heavyweight match and no one could shake the net. Both keepers saved everything shot at them.

With about maybe 10 minutes left in the game, Rojo (Francis) Arnold received a pass on the right wing and he took the ball in all alone, and it was only him and the Congolon keeper, who (had) saved a few Belize City bullets that day.

At close range Rojo fired a ground scorcher, and the Congolon keeper tried to cradle it, but with so much power the ball bounced off his chest and rolled out of his hands, and guess who was there. Peru Olivera was right there to tap the loose ball back into the net, and there was pandemonium at the Garden. Belize City Selection 1, Congolon 0.

Peru was a goal getter and played flawlessly. He was something to watch.

(AMANDALA Sports Ed. Note: The funeral for the great Peru will be held on Monday, August 29, at the Lake-I Baptist Church in Lake Independence, beginning at 1:00 p.m. Sincere condolences from all of Kremandala especially to his brother Wayne "Hogman" Olivera and sister Elaine Olivera, and to all of his relatives, friends and many fans. Rest in peace, brother Rudolph "Peru" Olivera.)



Yabra Mayor's Cup 15 & Under semifinals scheduled for this Sunday at Yabra field

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Aug. 25, 2022

The final 2 regular season games in the Yabra Mayor's Cup 15 & Under football tournament were played on Sunday, August 21, at the Yabra football field. In the opener, Yabra and Reality Youth played to a 2-2 draw. Netting a goal each for Yabra were Michael Martinez and Tyrone Linares; while Reality Youth also got a goal apiece from Brian Richardson and Elieja Arnold. And in the nightcap,



Hattieville beat Poor & Famous, 6-0, with a goal each from Raymond

Bowen, Kyler Lewis, Kyle Hemsley, Geroy Bainton, Kenyon Pratt and

Shackquan Castillo.

With the regular season now completed, it is on to the knockout semifinal playoffs, featuring the #1 seeded team Yabra against the #4 seed Poor & Famous; and #2 Hattieville vs #3 Reality Youth. Kickoff time for the first game is 12:00 noon.

Yabra Mayor's Cup 15 & Under semifinals schedule:
Sunday, August 28, Yabra Field

Game 1 – Hattieville vs

Reality Youth

Game 2 – Yabra vs Poor & Famous

Vulcan Mining Still Failing to Win the Hearts and Minds...

Continued from Page 29

industries in the area instead of mining. Dennika Bowen, a Gales Point resident and tourism student, opposed the mine, calling it a threat to eco-tourism opportunities that would come with the completion of the Coastal Road's present upgrade.

Gales Point resident, Anton Andrewin, Jr., said he did not want Vulcan to operate in Belize after previously working for the company last year, expressing frustration about the company prohibiting marijuana users from work as well as a back injury received on the job. Gales Point village chairman Jay Altschaf and Nancy Bailey, also in attendance, recalled taking other residents to the hospital following back and groin injuries sustained while carrying Vulcan's heavy drilling equipment up the hills during the initial survey phase conducted in late 2019 to early 2020—work that many described as 'hard labor.' In a follow-up, Vulcan said that it was aware of one employee being injured and taken by them to Dangriga's hospital and requiring stitches on his hand and that "in 2021, 94% of their facilities had zero lost-time injuries." Vulcan Materials and its subsidiaries have incurred 82 workplace safety and health violations for the years 2000-2022, according to the US national policy research center, Good Jobs Still, which aggregates information across US federal agencies.

The day's event didn't proceed as Vulcan hoped once it began. Community members almost immediately shared their exasperation with the meeting's format to the Vulcan representatives and the media. Several described the separate tents as a "divide and conquer" strategy, and voiced dissent to the representatives for what some felt was a manipulative tactic to deceive attendees. Meanwhile, Vulcan representatives assured them that it considered the three information

tents a means to limit a small number of personalities from dominating a 'town-hall-style' panel meeting. The community members offered to move the chairs and tents to alter the meeting format, but Vulcan maintained their preference for their original plan, later adding it had hoped to provide greater opportunities to address individual concerns.

Forty-five minutes after the meeting began, a few of the village's drummers, including local legends Emmett Young and Bombay, got out their instruments under the 'Community Impact' tent. They played while others danced and sang. For thirty minutes they transformed a small portion of the event into a gathering of joyful resistance, with various elders stepping in for a dance. The musical protest started to disband once several in the crowd encouraged those playing to depart the field altogether rather than wait for Vulcan to change their mind. By 3:14 p.m., many who had arrived from the village left the field, remaining at their vehicles across the road, at the school grounds, or at neighboring residents' yards, while a few continued to visit the tents and talk to Vulcan's representatives.

Of those that departed the field, Andrewin, Jr. was among them. He stated he viewed the company's resistance to changing the meeting format as another instance where the mining company was attempting to deceive the villagers, and take advantage of their individual unawareness of mining to persuade them. Bailey, owner of Manatee Lodge, voiced agreement with that interpretation of the day's event. She and several others wore shirts made for the day with the slogan "Nah Play We Fi Idyat."

At the end of the meeting at 4:00 p.m., Jimmy Flemming of Vulcan Materials said that while he was somewhat disappointed by the meeting, he and Vulcan were

Sports Council to close portion of Marion Jones for September events

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Aug. 24, 2022

The National Sports Council (NSC) is pleased to advise the public that commencing Thursday, August 25, until Monday, September 26, 2022, access to the Marion Jones Sports Complex will be limited on occasion to the track area for athletes and the general public

wishing to exercise.

Entrance access will be the gate facing the Princess Margaret Drive.

Closure is necessary due to the 2022 September Celebration events.

Thanks for your understanding in this matter.

-press release -

Belize powerlifting team returns

Continued from Page 31

first international competition in powerlifting.

"... I'm still in shock that I brought back a medal and I brought back this bronze, because I got one of my lifts overturned. I lifted a total that earned me a silver, but they overturned it ... it is something I'm going to cherish, and it's something that I want to build. I'm focused now on improving on this medal, and I'm aiming for a silver or gold, and I'm more motivated. I see myself in years to come competing in powerlifting here in Belize and outside," said Murillo.

Sho, who has been a personal trainer for 5 years, commented on the stigma of women who are ridiculed for being in the gym.

"That is from the days of our ancestors and the olden time when we

felt like the woman's job was to just be in the kitchen to be taking care of the house. We're so past that; we have come a long way ... Lifting weights will not make you look manly, it will just grow your muscles [and] make you look better. The way your body turned out is the way your body has been structured, but you don't need to be scared to lift," she said.

The Belize Powerlifting Association is aiming to send out three of its women athletes to compete in the IPF (International Powerlifting Federation) World Classic Championships in Canada in October. Financial donations can be sent to the Association's Belize Bank account, account number 186-293-010-120-000.

Usher, along with Ruiz, and Alas, captured bronze medals for Belize in their respective categories, while Matura placed 4th and Sho finished 5th.

undeterred in commencing with the Environmental Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and continuing in their talks with the people of Gales Point. The US company is committed to buying the White Ridge Farms property and is currently working through its shortlist of potential consulting firms that would prepare the document for review by the National Environmental Appraisal Committee (NEAC), who would then vote and make a recommendation to the Department of the Environment.

Since then, CEO of the Ministry of

Sustainable Development, Kenrick Williams, has told *News5* that "[Vulcan's mine] may not be an investment that has the support of the government" and that they would hold a preliminary meeting with them by week's end. It is yet to be determined if Vulcan will succeed in rallying the necessary public support for its mining interests. For now, those opposed in the village seem to outnumber its advocates, and they are continuing in their efforts to preserve Gales Point's unique ecologies and the sustainable life many have cultivated in this Kriol community.

House passes Supplementary Appropriation Bill to settle...

The payment to the Ashcroft Alliance's BISL for BZD 76.5 million dollars will go to the Senate for final approval; Prime Minister Briceño said this payment ends all legal claims related to the matter

Continued from Page 1

of Belize (IMMARBE) and the International Business Companies Registry (IBCR). The bill was approved in the House with little resistance from the Opposition and will now be sent to the Senate to be rubber-stamped before payment is made to Waterloo Investments Holdings and Morgan y Morgan (a Panamanian law firm), the two former owners of the registries operated under BISL.

The PM, in explaining the reasons for the payout, said that the debt, to which up to \$17,000 in interest is added daily, would balloon in size if not settled; and he further noted that this settlement, which is a little more than half of the amount initially demanded, will end the claim definitively and thus remove another legal claim that has been looming over the Belizean public.

"The claim was for over 65 million US dollars or 130 million Belize dollars. The BISL claim, I must stress, grows every day, with daily interest depending on the eventual core compensation of between BZ\$4,000-\$17,000 a day, and so after the proposed settlement, government will still net US\$48,615,000,789. Simply put, government pays this now so that it can avoid paying a whole lot more at some time in the future," PM Briceño said.

PM Briceño then pointed to the action which prompted the litigation that resulted in the claim—a decision by the Barrow administration to take over the two registries managed by BISL. By doing so, Barrow brought an end to a contract with BISL that had been extended by a former PUP administration—an act by Barrow that BISL claimed was wrongful. That contract was first granted in 1993, but in 2003 was extended—allowing the company to continue managing the registries until 2013. However, two years later, in 2005, they were given a subsequent extension to operate from 2013 to 2020. It was an extension that the Barrow administration considered unlawful, and in 2013, it took control of the registries. The company then filed a claim on March 26, 2015, against the government for damages caused by a breach of the contract, but both the country's Supreme Court and Appeals Court ruled in favor of the government. The company, however, pursued litigation all the way to the Caribbean Court of Justice, which ruled in favor of the company and ordered the Supreme Court to determine a quantum.

At the House of Representatives meeting on Wednesday, however, the Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Moses "Shyne" Barrow, asserted that the 2005 agreement was done under the table and was illegal.

"What the Prime Minister did not mention is that no one knew about the 15-year extension that then Prime Minister Musa gave to BISL. I don't even think the Cabinet at the time knew about the secret agreement,"

Barrow claimed.

Another member of the Opposition, Albert area representative, Hon. Tracy Pantón, questioned how the government has been able to allocate sufficient funds to clear this legal claim but postponed the marijuana legalization referendum because of its estimated 5-million-dollar price tag.

"In one payment we can settle a 38.5 million US dollars, 76 million dollars [Belize] on the backs of the Belizeans. Wasn't it just the last House meeting when the government coerced the churches to say we will put a hold on the referendum on marijuana because we can't be afforded the \$5 million? But yet, Mr. Speaker, we can find 76 million dollars to meet this debt obligation in one payment, not through a payment plan, not in installments, that would be less burdensome for the Belizean people—in one payment," Pantón said.

When interviewed by reporters after the House meeting, the Prime Minister reiterated that the payment of the settlement would be final, and he pledged, in the spirit of transparency, to share all the documentation related to the settlement with the public.

"The point that I would like to make is that the \$38.25 million US, of which 11.5 million is going to be paid in Belize dollars, is final. That's it. We won't owe them anything. They are not going to come later and say, 'Oh, you owe me court fees or lawyer fees'—nothing; we will settle there. From our end, we have not received the bills from Dr. Ben Rossovich, Senior Queen Counsel, and also from Hallmark Advisory. From what I understand, and I need to get more clarity, I don't think we're going to get a bill from them. They just want it to help to settle this, did this issue and felt that it was, you know, we just had to do trying to save money for the Belize people," Prime Minister Briceño commented.

Current Minister of Foreign Affairs and Lead Senator for Government Business, Hon. Eamon Courtenay, was one of the lawyers representing BISL in its claim against the government of Belize prior to the 2020 general elections. His law firm, Courtenay Coye LLP, which is also part-owned by Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, Hon. Chris Coye, is expected to collect a hefty sum for their work representing the Ashcroft Alliance in this case. The PM, in an interview yesterday, said that Courtenay recused himself from the Cabinet meeting at which the matter was discussed, and had nothing to do with the settlement agreement reached between the Government and BISL.

"What I can tell you, Courtenay and Coye did not participate in the settlement. They participated in going



to court up to 2020, but since [they] have come into the office they have had no participation on this, and Minister Courtenay walked out at mid-day before this issue came up to Cabinet, and Minister Coye was out of the country with his family," PM Briceño said.

Notably, during the discussion of the supplementary appropriation at the House of Representatives meeting on Wednesday, Minister of Education, Culture, Science and Technology, Hon. Francis Fonseca, pointed to the need for Belize to adhere to the rule of law.

"This settlement requires each of us to ask one fundamental question: are we as a nation committed to the rule of law? Are we a nation of laws? Or are we a rogue nation? That's the fundamental question. Are we a rogue country that thumbs its nose at the highest court in our jurisdiction, the Caribbean Court of Justice? That really is the only question before us today," stated Fonseca.

One such judgment handed down by the CCJ which met resistance from the Belize government at the time (the Barrow administration) was the Universal Health Services (USH) judgment order—an order to pay the Belize Bank compensation for a guarantee provided by the Musa administration for a loan received by private investors in the Universal Health Services (UHS) hospital. There had been allegations of illegality and ethical violations surrounding that deal prior to the CCJ ruling however—with reports that a grant of over \$20 million from Venezuela to fund the construction of houses (in addition to another \$20 million granted by Taiwan) was diverted to the bank by the Musa administration, as payment to settle the claim, without National Assembly approval. In 2008, Prime Minister Barrow told the public, "... There is the written agreement that made it absolutely plain that this was an international agreement committing the government of Belize to use these

funds for the specified purposes. \$9 million was for use in home improvement loans and the other ten million, which Amalai Mai instructed the Venezuelans to send to an account in the UK held in the name of the Belize Bank, was for use in new home construction. The confirmation note sent by the relevant Venezuelan agency, BANDES is the Spanish acronym, to the Belize Bank with respect to the fact that the \$10 million had been wired, had clearly on the face of it wording that said that this was in connection with the disbursement being made to the government of Belize for use in housing construction..." (7News transcript—March 2008)

He then went on to state, "... the enormity of what has been done is compounded by this fact: forty million dollars gifted to us by Venezuela and Taiwan was paid over to the Belize Bank. We did not end up owning the hospital, notwithstanding that \$40 million was paid. That money was then, as we understand it, deposited in the name of a charitable trust registered in Nevis but operating at a Turks and Caicos Belize Bank account." An AMANDALA article in May 2009 had said that Musa at one point was "facing a charge of theft in relation to the payment of ... US\$10 million—the grant coming from the Government of Venezuela to Belize, billed for housing for the poor—to pay the UHS debt" to the Belize Bank.

And thus it was that, after the CCJ subsequently issued a judgment which ordered the then Barrow administration to settle the Belize Bank's claim, that administration refused to comply. Parliament at the time voted against a supplementary bill that was tabled to cover the debt, which former Prime Minister, Dean Barrow, referred to as "immoral."

The Belize Bank, owned by a subsidiary of Waterloo Investment Holdings Limited, took the case in 2019 to the Supreme Court and was given leave to use unpaid business tax to recover the sums from the claim. There is no indication if a firm agreement was reached between the government and the bank to finally determine a settlement for that debt, and there is no indication if the sum owed by the government, a total of 95 million dollars at the time it was quantified, is still growing. A timeline is not set for when Belize Bank will stop using funds that should be allocated for business tax to settle the UHS claim.

During yesterday's interview, the PM spoke briefly on the matter, and claimed that it had already been settled. "That has already been negotiated. That has already been settled, and they are using the tax monies to be able to pay themselves, but no, they have not come to us and said, 'mek we work out something, make we discount and pay it off'. No, they have not come to us with something like that."

Waterloo “threatens” GoB again

Just one day after government announced that an agreement was reached to settle a claim brought by Waterloo Investments Holdings’ BISL, a January 2022 letter from Waterloo’s chairman, Lord Michael Ashcroft, in which he threatens legal action for a supposed breach of a UK-Belize treaty for the Promotion and Protection of Investments, was leaked. It appears to be a more aggressive tactic aimed at wresting approval of Waterloo’s proposed cruise terminal from GoB, and has entered the public domain just days before the scheduled public consultation on the new ESIA for the project takes place.

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could cause the country through another lawsuit if Waterloo’s most recent multi-million-dollar enterprise in the country is not approved. Specifically, what has been leaked is a letter penned by the chairman of Waterloo, Lord Michael Ashcroft, who in that letter, threatened legal action against the Government of Belize if the Promotion and Protection of Investments 1982 agreement between the UK and Belize was not upheld by the government.

The letter was sent in January, following the rejection of the company’s first EIA by the National Environmental Appraisal Committee (NEAC) and Department of the Environment (DOE) late last year—a decision that had prompted the company to both lodge an appeal and to make accusations, of supposed solicitation of bribes by members of the NEAC—allegations that it never provided any further details about, even after being prodded by the Minister of Sustainable Development, Hon. Orlando Habet, to do so. And thus, the Ministry’s attempt to investigate Waterloo’s claim that “the NEAC recommendation accepted by the DOE ... came following Waterloo’s refusal to pay bribes to certain NEAC members in exchange of ‘assisting’ Waterloo in answering NEAC’s question in the environmental screen process” stalled—because Waterloo made no attempt to substantiate the claims.

The letter sent by Lord Ashcroft nonetheless admonishes the government for the rejection of the first submission for environmental clearance tabled by Waterloo. Ashcroft’s letter stated that he and the UK shareholders of Waterloo are entitled to compensation under the Promotion and Protection of Investments 1982 agreement between Belize and the UK, since they have already invested upward of 5 million dollars in the project.

The letter finally invited GoB to “amicably settle the above dispute” within three months from the date of the letter or “the investors will be entitled to submit this dispute to international arbitration.”

This is not the first time that Ashcroft has used the UK-Belize treaty as a basis for seeking millions of dollars of compensation from GoB. A December 2009 AMANDALA article entitled, “Ashcroft’s attorneys invoke UK-Belize treaty to claim +\$200 million,” reported that, in 2009. “By way of formal notice to Prime Minister Dean Barrow and Attorney General Wilfred Elrington, Dunkeld International Investment Limited (a Turks and Caicos company affiliated with British tycoon Michael Ashcroft) ... indicated that it [was] invoking foreign arbitration for damages and losses of at least BZ\$200 million

and up to \$400 million, following the nationalization of Belize Telemedia Limited (BTL) in August. The notice of arbitration makes reference to a treaty Belize signed with the UK back in 1982, with a 1985 amendment signed by Barrow, as Minister of Foreign Affairs, extending the treaty to the British territory of the Turks and Caicos.”

The letter sent by Ashcroft in reference to his most recent proposed venture—the Waterloo cruise port—was sent to the Prime Minister, Hon. John Briceño, in January of this year, as mentioned, and all indications point to steps being made to avoid yet another bout of litigation with the Ashcroft Alliance—with Waterloo’s appeal being heard, and a new ESIA being submitted to the DOE for review and being uploaded on their website. Waterloo is now knee-deep in a process to seek approval of its project, and a positive assessment of that project’s environmental and social impact—with public consultation scheduled for next week.

But the letter sent by Lord Ashcroft was issued before any final determination was made about the environmental impact of the project. And it also made no mention of the still-ongoing assessment of the social impact of the project. Neither does it acknowledge the gravity of any of the other considerations that would impact any decision by GoB—including the approval already given to two other cruise terminal projects (Stake Bank’s Port Coral and Portico Enterprise’s Port of Magical Belize) which would be operating, along with any proposed Waterloo port, within a small geographical area (an 8-mile radius) in the Belize District. What is seemingly suggested in the letter is that none of that matters—that perhaps the sheer fact that a UK investor is desirous of building a port obliges the government to issue an approval or risk violating this investment treaty. Questions have thus surfaced about what exactly are the terms of such a treaty—and whether it requires a country to disregard any environmental harm or social harm that could be caused in order to ensure compliance. Some in the public are wondering how Lord Ashcroft could be requesting payback for money he spent of his own volition to develop a project, the approval of which was never guaranteed. There is, in fact, an even more gnawing question in many Belizeans’ minds: were any assurances given to the Waterloo investor, either by this current administration, or the previous one?

The threat of litigation in the letter is real, and is particularly haunting because of the timing of the leak—just a day after the announcement that GoB would be paying Waterloo’s Belize International Services Limited (BISL) approximately \$76.5 million dollars (\$38.25 million US) after the company took its claim against

Next steps

In light of the above, the GoB is invited to amicably settle the above dispute under Article 8(1) of the UK-Belize BIT. As prescribed therein, in the event that no amicable settlement is reached within three months of the date of this letter, the Investors will be entitled to submit this dispute to international arbitration under Article 8 of the UK-Belize BIT.

Yours sincerely



Lord Ashcroft, KCMG PC
Chairman

the government of Belize through all the courts in the judicial system before getting a judgment in its favor at the Caribbean Court of Justice.

The Tuesday issue of the AMANDALA reported, “The company, BISL, was contracted in 1993 to manage two registries for Belize, the International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize (IMMARBE) and the International Business Companies Registry (IBCR), and was given an extension in 2003 to operate from that year until 2013. Two years later, in 2005, they were given a subsequent extension to operate from 2013 to 2020. The government, however, considered the 2005 extension unlawful after taking over control of the registries in 2013. The company then filed a claim on March 26, 2015, against the government for damages caused by a breach of the contract, but in October 2016, current acting Chief Justice Michelle Arana ruled in favor of the government, deeming the agreement to be unconstitutional, illegal and void. The case was taken to the Court of Appeal, where the Justices of Appeal dismissed the appeal and affirmed the ruling of then Justice Arana. The company finally got a favorable ruling after seeking redress at the highest appellant court, the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ), which ruled that the government acted unlawfully when it seized control of the two BISL registries. The court further ordered that damages be assessed by the Supreme Court and paid to the claimant in its judgment.”

This is just one example of how Waterloo has used its vast financial resources to fund relentless litigation in order to forward its business goals. Another legal battering at the hands of Waterloo would likely cost the Belizean public millions of dollars, making the proximity of the BISL settlement and the leak, or “release,” of the letter unsettling.

The fears about potentially devastating harm that could be caused by the project, however, are also very real. The issue of the placement of dredged material generated during the initial phase of construction of a cruise terminal at the Port of Belize was one aspect of the environmental impact of the project which caused the conservation community to sound alarm. Such dredging would be necessary to create an access channel to allow Oasis-class cruise ships to berth directly on the Belize City shoreline at the proposed cruise terminal—but there were concerns about possible damage to the Belize Barrier Reef. Following the outcry, the company had adjusted its plan to dump 7.5 million cubic meters of dredged material at an off-shore location (between English Caye and the Turneffe Atoll) and had suggested instead in an EIA

addendum that it would dispose of the material at near-shore and on-shore locations.

“The volume of dredged material that will be generated by the dredging operation will require placement in onshore and nearshore locations,” the 2022 ESIA draft by Nextera Environmental and Engineering Consultants on behalf of Waterloo states.

The Belize Water Services, however, lodged a public complaint last year to the DOE regarding the placement of the new proposed dump site—which the company said is between its sewer ponds and the sea, and on top of an important mangrove wetland used for wastewater treatment.

“BWS is greatly concerned by the developer’s proposal to dredge and to place 7.5 million cubic meters of dredged material between the location of BWS’s sewer ponds and the Caribbean Sea,” the letter, sent in September 2021, states.

The company’s release goes on to state, “Based on the EIA report addendum, the near-shore and on-shore locations for placement of dredged material lie directly on top of the natural mangrove wetland used as part of the wastewater treatment process and extend well beyond the present-day Caribbean Sea shoreline. BWS anticipates a serious disruption of the established treatment process, as well as an increase in the challenges of meeting the regulated effluent limits for discharges from domestic wastewater treatment systems into Class 1 waters.”

In regard to the possible impact of such a project on our marine areas, the stakes are even higher because of the commitments the country made when it entered the Blue Bond financing arrangement with the Nature Conservancy (TNC)—an agreement which allowed the country to shed hundreds of millions of dollars of public debt by retiring the Superbond at a discounted rate that almost halved that debt. That arrangement also paved the way for many more potential opportunities for financing and investment based on preservation of the marine environment—all of which could be placed at risk if projects such as Waterloo are not properly assessed.

In fact, in a recent interview, the local representative for The Nature Conservancy in Belize, Julie Robinson, said that one of the 8 commitments made by the government of Belize as a part of the Blue Bond conservation funding agreement was to strengthen the EIA process.

“One of the commitments that

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AMANDALA talks to Greg Meyers

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facilities in the country.

“The goal of this particular trip is to bring the potential architects and builders to get a layout of the land [at] the different facilities that may be at our disposal so that we can start putting together a plan to develop the stadiums [like the] MCC Grounds, Rogers Stadium, National Stadium, and any other government-owned facilities, which is what private-public partnership entails. This is just an exploratory [trip] to figure out what is feasible ... The grand scheme is, hopefully, to have a layout over the years coming to build a national facility that can foster, develop the youths all the way to the national teams at a youth class level just on par like everyone else,” he said.

He added, “... Ultimately, this is something that we want to spread through the districts and through the villages. Each village has a park; some have a large enough to have a small track, and I believe that it’s not that expensive to put a track on a field; it’s not really that expensive.”

Meyers further noted the impact that such enhanced facilities and programs could have on at-risk youth and on crime-reduction efforts. “The numbers are there. Everywhere you go, there is a structured athletics program through youth development that drastically reduces crime. Not just gang violence, or crime. We use sports to reduce stress and increase morale [and] increase productivity ...,” he said.

Meyers went on to state that for some time now he has been conveying to the

Belize Athletics Association his willingness to train the local athletes in the country to compete on the international stage. However, there has been no reply from the Association to indicate acceptance of his offer

“I don’t just coach my kids. I coach all over. I was offered a lot of money to go and coach a Division Two university, which I’ve turned down because I have a goal to be here. I want to help here. What’s frustrating is that I have people knocking down my doors for me to train their athletes, yet my own country doesn’t even return e-mails. So I would say the relationship is at this point, tenuous at best. I have communicated several times in regards to my children competing for Belize. My training is a year in advance; everything I have is planned out for an entire year, where they’re going to race because we have Olympic dreams. In order to effect change [within] the Association, it starts with communication and transparency, which I don’t see as yet. I’ve asked with zero response what status within the Association I am willing to help. I’m willing to be here, but I need to know what [my] status is,” Meyers explained.

Before the exclusive interview ended, Meyers mentioned that he has arranged

for four Belizean high school student-athletes to get scholarships to attend St. Jago College in Spanish Town, Jamaica, for four years, during which they will participate in track and field training exercises.

“I have an agreement with Jamaican College and St. Jago College, for four scholarships. They want four boys. They don’t have to be superstars or all-stars, but as long as I give them my approval that they have the ability, and they’ll have the desire to go to Jamaica. Full scholarships; room and boarding, transportation; back and forth, to Jamaica to attend St. Jago High School and run track and field for four years ... If we can identify up to four boys, we can get them to Jamaica by September 1, next week, so long as they have all their shot records, their families are involved, and communicate. I’m sure it’ll take more than September 1, but on September 1, I’ll have four scholarships available for four young men to attend St. Jago High School and four more for Jamaica College, but wouldn’t be till the following year,” Meyers said.

For more information on the track and field scholarship in Jamaica, Meyers can be contacted via **WhatsApp** at 347-407-3583.

Deputy PM: Vulcan’s efforts to get their own way...

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for an answer.

“We should have the power to say to any company, ‘you know what, your money is not good here. You know what, thanks, but it is okay. We do not want that kind of investment. We are concerned about other issues, and so you may want to move on to another country.’ We have that right. We’re an independent, sovereign nation. If we can’t do that, then we are not,” he said.

Minister Hyde confirmed today that representatives from Vulcan have requested, via the US Embassy in Belize, to meet with him. And while he has not fulfilled that request, the representatives have met with the Ministry’s CEO and the Mining Director.

“We are dealing with giant companies. We are dealing with multinationals that are used to getting their own way,” added Hon. Hyde.

Despite repeated and staunch objections from the people of Belize, developers have continued in their efforts to launch proposed projects in various communities. That includes Vulcan Materials.

This past Saturday, residents of Gales Point, a Kriol village, met with representatives from the company. There, some villagers made their message clear: they want nothing to do with Vulcan. Despite that response, the company has written a letter to the people of Gales Point, stating that they have been “energized by the productive conversations” that they had with the residents.

According to that letter, the company will continue to seek input from the village as well as from government leaders, local NGOs, scientists, and regulators. Vulcan also notes that this week, it plans to begin providing jobs to the people of Gales Point that will “pay a minimum of double the current minimum wage”. According to the letter, some persons have already expressed interest in taking up those jobs.

“We understand that there are some who have already made up their minds about this project. But we also know—from both our conversations with the government and with village residents—

that there are many others who support this project,” wrote the Vulcan White Ridge Project Team.

Similarly, Waterloo Investments Holdings, a company believed to be owned by the Ashcroft Alliance, has continued in its efforts to get its proposed port expansion and cruise tourism village project approved, despite having been rejected by members of the public on at least three occasions during public consultations due to social and environmental concerns.

“For me, this whole Vulcan situation kind of reminds me of Ashcroft. There are some people who are just too big for this country,” noted Minister Hyde.

The people of Gales Point, says Hyde, are resolute in their no. He also said that the environmental damage likely to result from mining in the area is “unthinkable”.

“You’re talking about our animals. You’re talking about our marine life. You’re talking about our hicatee, our manatees, our turtles, our fishes, our trees, our mountains that will never be the same. So why should we go down that road for a few jobs here and a few nickels there, while the rich multinationals will exploit our raw materials and ship that abroad?” Hyde said.

“You know what that sounds like to me? That smacks of slavery. That smacks of colonialism. That’s the very same thing that the ancestors of the Gales Point community fought against—escaped from slavery hundreds of years ago because they could not deal with that. They shunned that kind of thing,” Hon. Hyde further remarked.

Vulcan Materials Co. was recently ordered to cease its operations in Mexico, allegedly due to environmental and labor abuses committed while operating in Quintana Roo. The company has subsequently brought numerous lawsuits against the country’s government, including one for \$1.5 billion.

The company’s representatives have requested to meet with the Ministry of Sustainable Development. Vulcan also plans to submit an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report in the near future.

Waterloo “threatens” GoB again

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government has made is to strengthen its environmental impact assessment regulations, and so it is a process. That process, that EIA process, needs to be revised; it needs to be strengthened,” Robinson said in an interview with *KREM News*’ Marisol Amaya.

She added, “What was brought to light when we were going through this process was that the EIA process itself needed to be improved upon. We needed to do things like, for example, look at the cumulative impact of projects rather than just on their own, because we are working in an area where you have connectivity, and if you have projects A, B, and C right next to one another, you are having a much greater impact, but the EIA process does not allow you to look at the cumulative impact.”

As a part of the Blue Bond agreement, the government is thus required to strengthen its EIA regulations before proceeding with any major development projects. No set timeline is set for the revision and update of the EIA regulations, but Robinson said that a Marine Spatial Plan being drafted by the parties will be used to guide developments of this nature.

The Blue Bond Agreement was signed in November of last year. It was at that time that the government made the commitments, which included the revision and update of the EIA regulations process. It is to be noted, however, that while Robinson indicated

that TNC can advise the government to put a pause on the approval of new developments until the revision is completed, she pointed out that after a project has started, bringing it to a halt would open the door for legal action against the government. It is an indication that Blue Bond commitments must be considered BEFORE approval for any potentially harmful project is issued, rather than after a project has been given the green light.

“As part of the agreement that we have, we can only push as far as to say that it remains consistent with Belizean law. We can advise—so things like, when you are looking at Waterloo or any of the cruise ship developments, is the EIA process has already started, then perhaps a pause can be placed on it until we are able to look at the process. However, it is not necessarily something that can be stopped. I think if you were to put a stop order or something like that, the government would expose themselves to being sued because, according to the law, they are starting a process. What we are trying to make sure if that process is as robust as it possibly can be. So we could request—if that process is going through—we could request and say, ‘hey, let’s put a pause on this until we have had a chance to review that environmental impact assessment process and strengthen it to take into consideration’, like when you talk about the cruise ship, you are talking about three cruise ports that are all like in a within an 8-mile radius of one another,” Robinson said.

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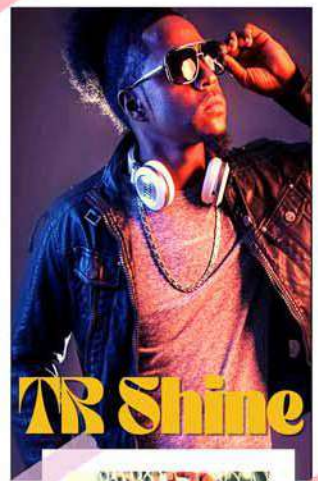
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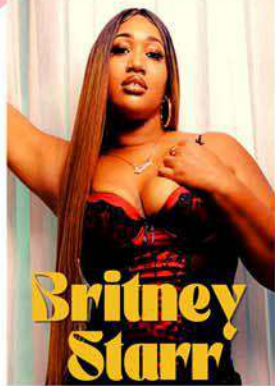
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TR Shine



Cozmo Boy



Britney Starr



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King Rome

MARTINS FEST

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 11TH

MAHOGANY STREET

STARTING FROM 10 IN THE MORNING

★ Sweet Pain Band 3.0 Chico Ramos ★

★ PAPA JOHN ★ YG ★ J MONEY ★ XKLUSIVE Soundz ★

★ BLUE
STEEL ★

THERE IS GOING TO BE A KIDS ZONE WITH RIDES, BOOTHS FROM VARIOUS BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS. FOOD WILL BE ON HAND ALL DAY MAHOGANY STREETS FLAVORS AND QUALITY.