



AMANDALA



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FRIDAY ISSUE

BELIZE

Belize's leading newspaper

NO. 3575

BELIZE CITY, FRIDAY, AUGUST 5, 2022

(40 PAGES)

\$1.50

Mass shooting in Hopkins: 2 dead, 8 injured

An initial investigation revealed that a Canadian national identified as military veteran John Roy Smith, 43, acted as the driver for the three shooters. He has been charged along with Brian Andrews, Kenyon Moore, and Sherwin Moore (all from Sittee River) with two counts of murder.

by Marco Lopez

HOPKINS, Thurs. Aug. 4, 2022

Two persons are dead; and eight others were wounded after what can only be described as an act of terrorism that shocked the peaceful coastal community of Hopkins early Sunday morning. Three men from Silk Grass Village reportedly stormed into Wabinaha Night

Club in Hopkins with firearms—first murdering who police believe to be the targeted victim, Noah Moro, 23; and thereafter opening fire on the patrons in the club indiscriminately. Another man, 56-year-old Honduran national, Emilio Garcia, who had reportedly tried to close the doors of the club to block the

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Photo from JR Smiths Facebook Page

(L-R) Kenyon Moore, 25; Brian Andrews, 28; JR Smith, 43; and Sherwin Moore, 35 charged for two counts of murder

OSH Bill being revisited by BCCL, trade unions

by Khaila Gentle

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Aug. 3, 2022

The Occupational Health and Safety (OSH) Bill is aimed at ensuring safe working environments for employees in Belize through the establishment of minimum standards for safety in the workplace. The Bill was first tabled in the House of Representatives in January 2014, but the process of implementing it has been a painstakingly slow one. According to Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) president Marcello Blake, though, the bill is being revisited, and the Chamber has finished its final review of it.

“We have actually concluded all the reviews, and what we’ve done now is created a marked-up version of the bill.

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Cannabis legalization shelved

The Minister of New Growth Industries, Hon. Kareem Musa, says the hefty price tag of the referendum is the reason for the delay, not concerns raised by the banking community



Hon. Kareem Musa – Minister of New Growth Industries

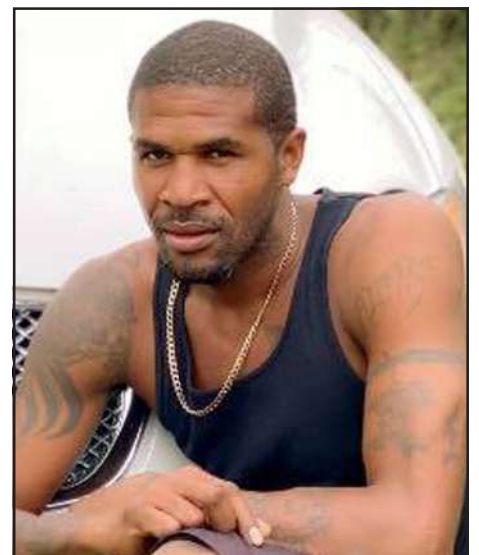
BELIZE CITY, Wed. Aug. 3, 2022

The process of legalizing cannabis in Belize and launching a cannabis industry has been put on pause after a recent meeting between the churches and

government officials. There had been speculation that concerns raised by the banking community may have been the impetus behind the shelving of the marijuana legalization bills, which have gone through three readings—in both the lower and upper houses of the Belizean parliament—with only final assent from the Governor-General being necessary for them to be put into effect. The recently amended Misuse of Drugs Act and the Cannabis and Industrial Hemp Control and Licensing Bill 2022 had laid the legal framework for a legal cannabis industry in Belize, but an offensive from the churches, which garnered the requisite number of signatures to trigger a referendum on the matter, has brought efforts to get

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Alrick Smith - man with “nine lives” - killed in front of MORE FM



Alrick Smith, deceased

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Aug. 4, 2022

The man who was referred to in the streets as “a cat with 9 lives”, 36-year-old Alrick Smith, an affiliate of the PIV Bloods gang who had escaped death

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SOE declared in Lake I

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GoB officials conduct site visit at Sarstoon FOB



Sarstoon FOB meeting

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Aug. 4, 2022

Government officials today visited the Sarstoon Forward Operating Base (FOB) to conduct a site survey and gather data that will be used to formulate recommendations to fortify the military base. A few weeks ago, AMANDALA reported on the severe erosion that has affected the stability of the ground on which the Sarstoon Forward Operating Base (FOB) is built and has caused a portion of that land to become submerged in the southern seas. The FOB's front stilts are already under water, and as a result a decision was made to evacuate the approximately 12 soldiers who were stationed at the base to prevent any mishaps that could lead to their injury.

Those soldiers, who were transferred to a base in Barranco Village, are taken to the island to stand guard from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily. Following the visit to the site by key government officials in the National Security, Environment and Infrastructure Development ministries, the government will proceed with the development of a plan to address the situation at the Sarstoon FOB.

"The visit follows reports concerning

the integrity of the FOB due to erosion. During the visit, engineers conducted a site survey and collected data with a view to making recommendations for immediate and short-, medium- and long-term improvements. Once the engineers present their recommendations, the ministry intends on tabling before Cabinet for consideration," a release from the government of Belize said.

Present during the site visit were retired Brigadier General (Ret'd) Dario Tapia, CEO of the Ministry of National Defence; and CEO Kenrick Williams, representing the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change, and Disaster Risk Management. Civil engineer, Irvin Thimbriel from the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing, and Alan Garcia, also from that Ministry.

Executive officer of the First Infantry Battalion, Justo Veliz, Jr., was also present, as well as Devin Azueta, Communications Officer in the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change, and Disaster Risk Management.

No announcement has been made about what specific steps will be taken to address the issues at the FOB.

NSUB wants rep on People's Constitutional Commission

by Khaila Gentle

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Aug. 4, 2022

Monday, August 1, was the proposed launch date for the People's Constitutional Commission, and while Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño has suggested that there will be no more additions to the list of groups represented on the Commission, the demands for inclusion have continued. Just this week, the National Students Union of Belize wrote to the Minister of Public Service & Constitutional and Political Reform, Hon. Henry Charles Usher, expressing concern at the "lack of students' participation" in the PCC.

In that letter, dated August 1, the National Students Union of Belize (NSUB) states that the Constitution of Belize is built on inclusivity that diminishes "economic and social privileges" and notes that students are no more or less important than any other group of citizens in Belize.

"We maintain that tertiary level students' participation in the national

development processes of Belize is non-existent, despite its relevance and our several requests throughout the years," the letter goes on to state.

The NSUB also asserted in the letter that denying them the opportunity for active participation in the constitutional reform process would be deemed "democratic backsliding" and may infringe on their constitutional rights "due to a lack of true and equal representation."

The union, whose members are students at the tertiary level in universities and junior colleges across Belize as well as those abroad, is the first-ever students' union in Belize and is also a member of the Commonwealth Students Association and the Caribbean Students' Union, and an honorary member of the National Trade Union Congress of Belize (NTUCB).

In its letter, the NSUB states that while the government's recent consultation with both them and the Young Leaders Alliance of Belize (YLAB) is commendable, it demonstrates a concern for "throughput legitimacy".

We note that last week the Young

Cannabis legalization

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that industry off the ground to a sudden halt.

The referendum, which was set to take place by early September, has been put on hold after the government and churches agreed to hit the pause button. When recently interviewed by local reporters, Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño said that his Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, Hon. Chris Coye, had a meeting with key players in the banking community who expressed concern over the legalization, and how the industry could affect correspondent banking relations.

Minister of New Growth Industries, Hon. Kareem Musa, for his part, has acknowledged those concerns and how critical it is to preserve correspondent banking relations in Belize, but pointed out that the cannabis industry in Belize would be entirely cash-based — meaning revenue from the cannabis and industrial hemp industry would not be deposited in, or handled by, local banks with international correspondent banking relationships.

He noted that it had always been the intention within his ministry to have the cannabis industry operate on a cash-only basis, and he went on to point to the fact that the industrial hemp industry, among others in Belize, is considered cash-based.

"Correspondent banking is a live issue at all times for Belize and for the Caribbean, but what I can tell you is that countries like Jamaica, and Antigua, are moving towards it; Trinidad is about to pass their legislation, and St. Vincent. Those countries are moving toward the legalization of cannabis. As I always say, it is a cash industry, so when you ask me about banking— banking does not necessarily come into the picture unless you are banking your cannabis dollars," he said.

He further noted that even the United States' cannabis industry is a cash-based enterprise.

"In the Caribbean and the great United States, where it is a 92-billion dollar industry, it is a cash industry, so individuals who are engaged in the cannabis sector do not go and deposit their funds within the banks. That does not happen even in America," Hon. Musa said.

Minister Musa went on to suggest that maybe a local institution with no international correspondent banking facility may be an option for the handling of earnings within the industry.

He pointed out, however, that the greater concern at this juncture of the process is the cost of the referendum, which the government has already set aside \$5 million to cover in a recent supplementary appropriation. The process of having Belizeans vote on whether they support or oppose marijuana legalization, however, could cost much

more than what was budgeted, and has caused the government to decide to stall the process.

"The real point is that it is a costly referendum, and so it's \$5 million it would have cost for us to do this referendum, and to me that is the real reason, but at the same time as we put a pause on the legislation, we have time to tighten up whatever loose ends there may be in terms of correspondent banking, but in my respectful opinion that will never be tied up," Minister Musa outlined.

He also indicated that the government and other stakeholders will have to figure out a way to work around the global banking reality facing the cannabis industry.

"We will have to figure a way— whether it [be] opening community banks or credit unions that do not have correspondent banking in order to bank the dollars here in Belize. That is the solution, and there are several international companies who have expressed interest to come and open these community banks here, so there are solutions to that, but like I said, the primary concern at this time is the cost of the referendum," Hon. Musa said.

Minister Musa emphasized, however, that commercial banks in the country would need to do additional due diligence to ensure the funds being deposited at their institutions are not proceeds from the cannabis industry—a concern that had reportedly been raised by one of the country's major banks.

"What it does is that it imposes obligations on the local banks to do their due diligence to make sure that the funds that they are receiving are not related to, whether it is a cultivation license or a dispensary license, the banks just have to ensure that they are not receiving funds from the cannabis-related businesses. There are several other cash industries already in existence in Belize; for example, the cattle that we transship to Guatemala, tobacco, and the cigarette industry at the Free Zone—that is a cash industry. The hemp business right now in Belize ... the funds received in relation to that industry is not accepted by the banks, and so cash industries are normal in Belize. We have to understand that, but there is a greater concern, because there is so much revenue to be earned from cannabis that in fact, the local banks are saying, 'we want to make sure there are no issues for us,'" Hon. Musa outlined.

For now, however, the legalization of cannabis in Belize is on pause.

Late this evening, the churches and the Government of Belize released a joint statement which made that pause in the holding of a referendum (and the legalization of marijuana) official. The release states, "The Church Leaders on behalf of the petitioners and the Government of Belize request of the Governor General to defer the issuing of the Writ of Referendum until a date to be determined."

Leaders Alliance of Belize, after consulting with the Good Governance Unit in the Ministry of Public Service & Constitutional and Political Reform, was allowed to serve as the Youth Representative on the People's Constitutional Commission.

The NSUB states that they are still hopeful that the Director of the Good Governance Unit, Caesar Ross, will "hold

his promise" to assist the union in obtaining a seat on the commission.

While the NSUB and several other groups, including the UBA Educational Foundation (UEF), the Belizean diaspora, and the East Indian Council of Belize, have lamented their exclusion from the PCC, one group that will see themselves

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Woman fatally stabs man during domestic dispute in Belize City

by *Khaila Gentle*

BELIZE CITY, Tues. Aug. 2, 2022

A domestic dispute led to a stabbing incident that claimed the life of one Belize City man this week. In the wee hours of Tuesday morning, 27-year-old Shantel Williams and 39-year-old Louis Adolphus were in the midst of an argument at Adolphus' home on Curassow Street, when Williams stabbed her common-law-husband in the shoulder.

According to the Commissioner of Police, Chester Williams, Louis Adolphus was seen walking on the street after being stabbed, and he even managed to give the police his account of what transpired between him and Williams. Adolphus reportedly then asked the police to take him to the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital (KMH), where, moments later, he succumbed to his injuries while undergoing treatment.

Williams is currently in the custody of the police, and according to the Police Commissioner, she has claimed that she



Louis Adolphus, deceased

acted out of self-defense.

"We know that there are previous complaints of domestic abuse that she had filed with the police, and so the matter is with the DPP's office at this time, and they will determine if in fact the lady will be charged, and, if yes, what she will be charged for," he said.

Burnt remains of drug plane found in Crique Sarco



Burnt remains of a drug plane

by *Charles Gladden*

CRIQUE SARCO, Toledo District, Wed. Aug. 3, 2022

While a number of police officers in the Stann Creek District were responding to a mass shooting at a nightclub in Hopkins Village in the wee hours of Sunday morning, reports were received that a suspected narco jet had made landfall in the southern part of Belize in the vicinity of Crique Sarco, Toledo District, and by the time law enforcement personnel arrived at the scene later, only the burnt remains of the aircraft were in the area.

Sometime between 11:30 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 31, members of the Belize Defence Force (BDF) and the Belize Police Department were deployed to an off-road about 6 miles away from Crique Sarco village in the Dolores area. When the members of the joint operation arrived at the location, they saw an illegal airstrip measuring about a mile in length and a double-engine airplane that was about 30 feet long on the said airstrip.

When local reporters questioned the Commissioner of Police, Chester Williams on Tuesday, he noted that over the weekend when the landing

occurred, Hopkins Day festivities were taking place in that village, and officers from the Police Department's quick response team had been out doing patrols in the village and the surrounding area. He went on to say that when the department received reports of the entrance of a suspected drug plane into Belize's airspace, a number of officers had to be re-deployed to the location of the reported landing.

"When we do have these events, we have Hopkins Day, we had the music fest in San Pedro. Anytime we have major events, you'll find that we'll deploy our quick response team and our specialized units to assist in policing those events. And so, the quick response team from Dangriga was in charge of policing and patrolling Hopkins, due to the Hopkins Day event. When we had the information of the night plane in our airspace, the police officers, the quick response team that was in Hopkins, had to leave Hopkins to respond to the plane, and that left Hopkins open with no patrol, because they were the ones who were patrolling. The team subsequently, along with the BDF team, conducted searches in the southern part of the country as information was that one

Sports Council worker on Darren Banks shooting: It wasn't me!

by *Charles Gladden*

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Aug. 4, 2022

Michael Morris Meighan, 32, a National Sports Council employee, whose attorney, Norman Rodriguez, turned him in to police on Tuesday after the Police Department announced he was the prime suspect in the murder of former PIV Bloods leader Darren Banks last Monday, tearfully denied the claims made by police this week, and has said that the false accusations against him have ruined his life.

Over the weekend, the Belize Police Department released a wanted poster that indicated that Meighan was suspected of being involved in the murder of 42-year-old former PIV Bloods leader, Darren Banks, who was gunned down in broad daylight in the St. Martin De Porres area at about 6:00 in the evening on Monday, July 25.

According to last week's issue of AMANDALA, the former PIV gang boss, who was left for dead in a drain after being shot multiple times at the corner of Amandala Drive and Ebony Street in Lake Independence, had stepped away from a life of crime after being diagnosed with Schizophrenia while serving a 3-year prison sentence for a firearm and ammunition that were found during a police raid.

While police so far have no evidence confirming the identity of the triggerman, they have pointed fingers at Meighan, who was reportedly seen at the time of the Banks' murder, near the scene of the shooting in a vehicle that he uses to carry out his duties as a messenger for the National Sports Council.

Notably, the wanted poster issued by police referred to Meighan as a resident of Ebony Street, but he told 7News that he has never lived at such an address and has never been involved in any gang activity.

"I lose my job, I lose my reputation, [and] I lose everything. Then on the wanted poster, they put my address as Ebony Street. I have never ever lived on Ebony Street. I don't even have family members in that area. I don't have any kind of involvement in the Martin De Porres area. I don't have any family, no friends in the BLC area, in the PIV area ... So you are telling me if you don't have any questioning for me and you all questioned me after the murder and you don't have any evidence to charge me — you will send me up in the State of Emergency too? Which gang? I am not a gang member," he lamented.

However, when questioned by local reporters on Wednesday,



Michael Morris Meighan, accused of murder

Commissioner of Police, Chester Williams, confidently pointed to surveillance camera footage that shows Meighan speeding away from a location near the scene of the shooting inside a National Sports Council vehicle.

"If he was so innocent, why did he not show up to work the next day after the shooting? These are the things, you know. These young men go and find attorneys, line them up and come and say to the police what they want the police to hear. But we are no fools. We have video footages that showed that vehicle near the murder scene. We have video footages that show after the murder took place, the vehicle raced down from there and went over a bridge, and went to Roger's Stadium. If he was so innocent, police went to look for him the next day at his workplace; he was a no-show ... And it showed also at the Sports Council that he was the one who signed out for the vehicle; he was the one in the vehicle," said COMPOL Williams.

Interestingly, in June of this year, Meighan had been featured in local newscasts after he was shot and robbed on Princess Margaret Drive while turning into St. Thomas Street. COMPOL Williams was asked if the police are looking at any possible connection between that robbery and the murder that Meighan is now accused of.

"It's something we need to look at, because yes, just months ago, he was the victim of a robbery in the vicinity of the Marion Jones Stadium. We are not certain as to who the persons were who did that robbery, because I think in his statement, he had mentioned then that he did not know who the persons were," he said.

So far, no charges have been levied against Meighan.

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of the planes faded in the Dolores area. They went into the area, they conducted searches, and the burnt remains of the plane [were] found," Commissioner Williams said.

Williams noted that no visible markings could be observed on the airplane, which was reportedly a King

Air 200, because only the aircraft's charred remains were at the site after it had been completely destroyed by fire. According to Police Commissioner Chester Williams, none of the cargo that is believed to have been onboard the plane has been found, nor was anyone found in the area.

Alrick Smith - man with “nine lives” - killed in front of MORE FM

Alrick Smith, 36, a well-known street figure who escaped death multiple times, was fatally gunned down after leaving the Rene Villanueva Media Center following his participation in a short radio segment on MORE FM.

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after being shot on a number of previous occasions, was executed a little after 10:00 p.m. after briefly being a guest on a MORE FM radio show at the Rene Villanueva Media Center on Slaughterhouse Road on Thursday night, July 28.

Smith's final moments were captured by the surveillance camera, and in that footage, he could be seen entering the building along with a female companion at around 9:46 p.m. The footage also shows a silver Chevy Equinox stopping in front of the building for a few seconds after Smith entered, then driving off. That same vehicle would return to the scene a few minutes later.

While in the building, Smith and his female companion made their way to the studios of MORE FM, where a regular Thursday night radio show featuring Blue Steel Sounds was in progress, and Smith, in a short segment, joined the hosts on-air to promote his business, Car Guys, and to give away cash prizes to some listeners.

After Smith's participation in that segment was done, he exited the building at around 10:03 p.m. and was casually greeted by some bystanders who were in front of the media center. At that point, he stepped outside the frame of the surveillance camera and was no longer visible in the recorded footage. That was the point at which he was besieged by bullets that purportedly were fired by the occupants of the silver Chevy Equinox that was seen earlier. He reportedly died on the spot. The car, with the gunmen inside, then sped away.

Notably, dents could be observed on the doors of the Chevy Equinox that had been seen in the surveillance camera footage of the shooting, and over the weekend, images of burnt remains of that same vehicle (which was found on the John Smith Road) were circulated throughout social media. On Tuesday, Commissioner of Police, Chester Williams confirmed to local media that it was the getaway vehicle used by the shooters.

On the following day, Commissioner Williams informed the media that his department had found out that the Chevy Equinox used in the murder was brought into the country by Jody (Jedd) Burgess of the St. Martins De Porres area and was sold to Justin Usher, who flew out of the country on the day after the murder took place. Williams additionally noted that on the night of Smith's murder, two persons were seen in the vehicle—one being a relative of Burgess and the other being Burgess' close associate, according to reports.

“From what we made to understand, is that the day after the shooting, Justin Usher left the country. Certainly, him leaving the country may have been pre-planned, because you can't just go to the

airport and show up and catch a plane. You need to book your ticket at least 48 hours ahead. Notwithstanding that, though, we do believe that Justin Usher has some questions to answer. The two persons who we have been told were in the vehicle, we also have been reliably informed that one of them may be on their way to the US through the back; we're still trying to confirm that. So what we have done is that to inform our Mexican counterparts, we have also put out wanted posters for Justin Usher and we will see if we can locate the other individual who is [a] close relative to Jody Burgess, who we believe is still in the country. But that group of four, we believe has all the answers to the murder of Alrick Smith, as we have now confirmed that his murder was inter-gang related,” explained Compol Williams.

Williams then went on to point to possible motives for the murder: “Certainly, from what we have obtained, it is over a woman. We also have second information that it may be over money, but the most credible one is that it is over a woman,” he said.

Before turning his life around and becoming a reputable car dealer, Smith was a notorious gang figure in the streets of Belize City and had been charged with numerous offenses. In 2014, he was accused of attempting to kill four on-duty police officers. Also, in 2016, he was accused of seeking to murder an entire family.

Notably, Thursday night's shooting was the most recent of a series of attempts over the years to end his life, and the success of that final attempt startled many of his loved ones, who had begun to believe that he could defy death. In 2019, a gunman attempted to end his life, but only grazed him at the back of his head. Later that same year, he was shot at while socializing on Curl Thompson Street.

Kayla Flowers, Smith's sister, told local reporters that his family had expected that he would become the target of gunmen again, but they did not expect another shooting to occur so soon, and they had begun to believe that he would survive any such attempts.

Flowers recalled how close she and her brother were during their childhood, when they were inseparable.

“[We] grew up together. Everything that we do together. If he is going to fix a bike, it would be me and him together. If he goes driving around to go look for someone, it would be me and him together. We're always around. When he was younger, he had a lot of girlfriends, and I used to be the one he would take when he used to buy ice cream, and if he liked you he would buy you ice cream. That's the way how I know him, that's the way we grew up. We did everything together,” she said.

Interestingly, the chairman of the United Democratic Party, Senator Michael Peyrefitte, made an explosive claim in relation to the Alrick Smith murder while he was a guest on the UDP's morning radio show, *Fus Ting da Mawning*. According to Peyrefitte, a police corporal with ties to the current administration might have been involved in the shooting, but attempts by police to detain him for questioning as a possible person of interest were suddenly halted after a call was made by a person of high rank within the administration, who instructed the

Pelosi dares China

by Evan X Hyde

The visit to Taiwan this week by Nancy Pelosi, the House Speaker in the United States of America, and the third most powerful Biden administration leader after President Joe Biden himself and Vice-President Kamala Harris, came after Mainland China threatened some kind of military action to demonstrate its anger at the prospect of such a visit. Mainland China considers Pelosi's Taiwan visit a slap in their face, because they believe the island to be a part of the Chinese state.

Since Pelosi arrived in Taiwan, the most important supplier of semiconductors (semiconductors are critical components in the manufacture of strategic equipment and weaponry) to the United States, China has been carrying out aggressive military exercises in space which, strictly speaking, is Taiwanese. The danger here is that the Taiwanese may react to the Chinese provocations and trigger a situation which could result in a confrontation between the Americans and the Chinese. (The Americans consider themselves defenders of the Taiwanese.)

This is not pleasant to contemplate, because the U.S. and China are nuclear powers. Meanwhile, in Ukraine there is concern over Russian activity in a massive nuclear plant which is inside

Ukraine territory.

I think that the Democratic Party is supporting the Pelosi visit to Taiwan in order to have the Biden administration appear strong at a time when Biden's Democratic administration is trailing the Republican Party badly in polls preceding mid-term Senate and Congressional elections later this year in the United States.

When you combine the Pelosi visit to Taiwan with the months of increasing tension between the U.S. and Russia because of America's open financial and military support for Ukraine, you will conclude that our world has become a much more dangerous place recently. In the words of Robert Nesta, “See them fighting for power, but they know not the hour.”

In October of 1962, planet earth came close to nuclear catastrophe when one of the members of America's Joint Chiefs of Staff, Air Force General Curtis LeMay, called for a nuclear attack on Cuba, where Russia had installed missiles at the request of Cuban leader, Fidel Castro.

In Belize (then British Honduras), we were totally unaware of the danger. We did not know that Castro was very angry when the Russians backed down and removed the missiles. Fidel risked nuclear war in defence of Cuban sovereignty.

First case of Monkeypox confirmed in Guatemala

GUATEMALA CITY, Thurs. Aug. 4, 2022

The Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance in Guatemala confirmed on Wednesday that the first case of Monkeypox in that country was detected in the capital, Guatemala City,



in a 31-year-old man.

The National Health Lab in Guatemala did the testing and confirmed the case, and ruled out one other suspected case. On July 23, the World Health Organization declared monkeypox a public health emergency of international concern.

officers not to proceed with the detainment of the corporal. Peyrefitte further claimed that the police corporal is a driver for a government official. Commissioner Williams, however, denied those allegations and told reporters that it was he, Williams, who told the officers to refrain from detaining the police officer, since there was in fact no sound basis for believing the officer was in any way involved in the shooting or connected to the shooters.

“In the wake of the murder [of] Alrick Smith, we had received information that the vehicle that was involved in the murder was parked at a particular house in the Japan area of Ladyville. Based on [the] information obtained, I directed that the police go to the house and retrieve the vehicle as well as whoever is the occupant of the particular home. Police visited the area ... the house was seen with no one inside. I ordered a surveillance team be put in place to ascertain who lives at the house, because if the policeman that they were saying lived at that particular house, we know for a fact that he does not live there. He lives miles and miles away. And we also know for a fact that his parents also do not live there. They live much more down the road. So at the end of the

day, certainly, the police officer that they were saying lived at the house or parents lived at the house, neither of [that] information was true,” said Commissioner Williams.

Williams further explained, “... somehow I was made to understand that, [the] directive was given to go and pick up the particular police officer and detain him. That information reached me, and I was the one who called the team that went to detain the officer and told them to stand down because of the fact that it is clear that he had absolutely nothing to do with the house, where he was alleging the vehicle was parked, and neither did he have anything to do with the investigation ... I, again, insisted that we ascertain who lives at the particular house; that was done, and we [learned] that the person who lives [in] the house is a guy who works as an air traffic controller at the PGIA, and we got this information through the landlord. What we also learned, the police officer in question, he did live at the house. Over four years ago he moved out from that house and now resides with his wife miles and miles away.”

Smith leaves behind three children: two girls and one boy.



Violence, grief, and financial ruin

Belize has rarely seen violence on a scale equal to what occurred in peaceful Hopkins over the weekend when a gunman or gunmen opened fire at a nightclub where Belizeans were enjoying part of the Hopkins Day festivities organized by that village's village council. At the end of the shooting, which police reports say was ignited by a personal confrontation, not gang warfare, the families and friends of two people, a young man and a middle-aged man, were grieving their deaths; dozens of people were traumatized, eight of them with gunshot wounds; one man was in custody and three men were on the run; and the Hopkins Village Council and all the villagers felt the air go out of a weekend they had spent months preparing for.

In the weeks leading up to countrywide Village Council Elections this year, the National Garifuna Council (NGC) made a call for villagers in traditional Garifuna villages to vote for individuals of Garifuna ethnicity. Eyebrows were certainly raised by this call, but at its core the NGC was just seeking to preserve the culture of this relatively small group in our country.

The Garinagu are a proud, progressive people, and their villages are close-knit, peaceful communities where everyone is known by their name. A village-council hosted event in a Garifuna village was one of the last places in our country where we would have expected ugly violence to break out. What happened in Hopkins is no reflection on the villagers. It's our country; there is mad violence all over, especially in urban areas, and in the night vicious visitors came to Hopkins and shattered the village's tranquility.

In the immediate aftermath of the horrific gun violence, the NGC issued a press release expressing sympathy to the victims, particularly the families who lost loved ones, and expressed its

concern about the "far-reaching negative impact this type of inhumane, criminal act can have on the reputation of our Garifuna community." The chairman of the Hopkins village council, Mr. Macario Augustine, used social media to express his grief over the unfortunate violence the night before, and to inform Belizeans across the land that the festivities would continue as planned, with heightened security.

The leaders of the village must have done some hard thinking before they decided against cancelling the events they had planned for Sunday. The tremendous investment of Hopkins' residents has to be emphasized. Some villagers probably put their entire year's savings into preparing items for sale on Hopkins Day. The payments for some children's/youth's school books and uniforms might have depended on the sales from their family's booth.

These violent acts not only take lives; they suck the economic life out of our communities. It's an ongoing crisis that government after government has been impotent in addressing. After all the hard work, the planning

and investment, there should be joy. Instead, there is unimaginable grief, horrific trauma, and major financial losses for many people because of unconscionable violent acts.

Another SSB loan goes under the microscope

Alarm bells ring every time the Social Security Board (SSB) issues a loan, especially since a PUP government came to power in November 2020. The PUP failed in three consecutive elections, in 2008, 2012, and 2015, and one explanation for the party being snubbed at the polls is the belief of many that between 1998 and 2008, when the party was in power, its appointees did not handle the SSB's funds with the best judgment.

The SSB can't stand pat; it can't bury the "talents." The SSB has to grow its fund so that it can meet its obligations to beneficiaries, and to that end SSB directors and its investment committee are charged to make sound investments in economically sound/socially desirable projects. Many entrepreneurs seek SSB loans because the interest rates are significantly lower than they can get at the banks.

In 2019 the fund stood at over half a billion dollars, and as then chairman, Doug Singh said, much of it sat at the banks earning little interest. In 2016, Singh thought it was a great investment opportunity for the SSB to lend Santander \$12 million at 7% and 8%, but the company backed out because Belizeans didn't like the idea of the SSB lending money to foreigners. In 2014, the SSB, under Chairman Singh, was "allowed" to lend over \$10 million to the Citrus Growers Association (CGA), after Denzil Jenkins, chairman of the CGA subsidiary, ICL, lowered the anxiety of Belizeans a few degrees with the information that the SSB would be making almost 6% more off its funds by lending it to the CGA, than it would make if the money was left in the banks.

Those loans mentioned were on the table during years when the UDP was in government, but even though the UDP was on a high after cleaning up messes at the SSB and DFC made by the PUP, particularly the PUP 1998-2003 administration, the scrutiny was intense.

Caution flags were flying when the SSB recently announced that it was lending \$20 million to the DFC, but the DFC quickly put fears to rest with the claim on its website that this latest loan was one of 24 it had received over the years from the SSB, and that in its 59-year history it hadn't defaulted on any of its debt obligations. That one having been addressed, next in line is a proposed \$7 million loan to Pharmacy Express Ltd., a company few had heard of prior to it applying for SSB funds.

It is claimed that the company has put up collateral that is worth three times the sum it hopes to borrow, but that hasn't stopped Belizeans from clamoring for the SSB to do more scrutiny of this company before lending it the people's money. A couple days after information was published about the proposed loan, the Ministry of Health & Wellness expressed "some concerns", and Cabinet, in a meeting on July 28th, said it recognized the "autonomy of the SSB but supports the importance and necessity of ensuring that all relevant information regarding Pharmacy Express Limited is shared with SSB before a final decision is made in respect of the loan."

As noted, SSB loans are much sought after, and ever since a PUP government was less than careful with the people's funds—the details of such misdeeds or missteps lying buried in a Commission of Inquiry report that has never been published—Belizeans have kept a particularly keen eye on the Board's transactions. It's possible that Pharmacy Express Ltd. can generate sufficient cash flow to service a \$7 million loan and that its collateral is as good as Placencia land, factors that would make it a fair bet. But the company will have to open its books to more examination. That's because Belizeans, having been bitten before, become very wary whenever they hear of a new investment of the people's funds by the SSB.



(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
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3304 Partridge Street
c/o P.O. Box 15,
Belize City, Belize

Amandala's website:
amandala.com.bz

Poet Roy Davis talks love, racism, and more in new collection, *Fooley Me*

by Khaila Gentle

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Aug. 3, 2022

Fooley Me is the title of the recently published collection of poems by writer and former AMANDALA journalist Roy Davis. The collection includes poems that Davis has written over the years, spanning from the 1990s to 2020.

The Belizean poet spoke with us over the phone and shared the vast array of themes explored in the twenty-five poems featured in his book. Those themes include crime, poverty, addiction, racism, nature, and even love.

When asked whether he had a favorite poem out of the entire collection, Davis responded, with pride, "all ah dem."

"I love all ah deh," he added.

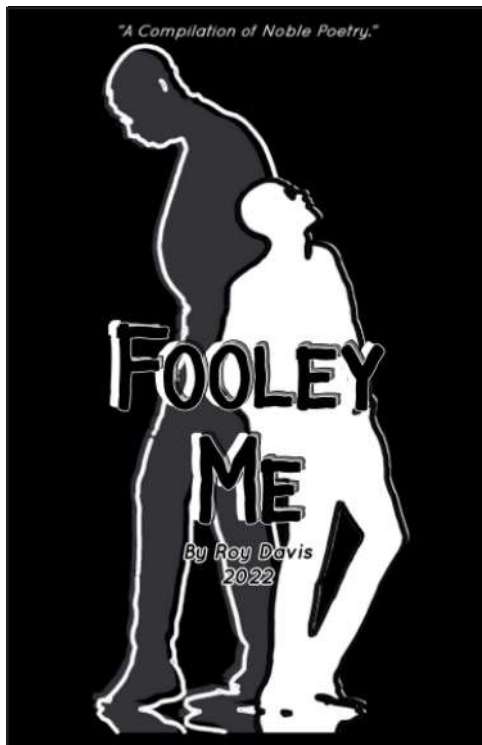
Included in the collection is the titular piece, "Fooley Me," which speaks about Davis' own personal struggle with drug addiction and how he managed to overcome it.

"Freedom" is a poem about the former journalist's brief stint in jail, written during the 18 days when he found himself incarcerated.

Other poems include "Deception," which focuses on racism; "Sing to Me", a tribute to the melodic blackbird; and "Juana Maria," a tribute to marijuana (otherwise known as Mary Jane).

In the book's preface, Davis notes that he penned the poems in his collection to "enlighten, entertain, and be a source of wisdom to those who read them."

As has been mentioned, Davis, who previously published a collection of original Bra Anansi and Bra Tiger stories entitled *All in One*, is also a former journalist and court reporter. He



began writing for the *Reporter* in 1979, and remained there for a total of four years. Soon after, he would join the team at AMANDALA for four years before going on to do freelance work.

Fooley Me was compiled and proofread by Sean Taegar, who Davis says was instrumental in helping him put together the collection, alongside publisher Margaret Reynolds, owner of Reynolds Desktop Publishing.

When we contacted him, Davis told us that he had just recently sold his last copy of *Fooley Me*, but he is hoping to print more in the near future. Until then, persons interested in reading the book can visit the Leo Bradley Library, where a few copies are available.

His other book, *All in One*, is available for sale at The Book Center on North Front Street.

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Vacancies exists for the following positions to join our accounting team:

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- Assist Executive team with ad hoc reporting and analysis
- Other responsibilities as assigned

Responsibilities:

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- Preparing client payroll items
- Conducting reviews and coordinating audit requests from third parties
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- Invoice tenants for monthly billings and apply payments accordingly.
- Reconcile bank statements
- Maintain rent roll
- Ensure accuracy in general ledger
- Experience with depreciation/amortization schedules and straight-line rent
- Prepare monthly financial statements
- Experience with annual NNN reconciliations

Responsibilities:

- Coordinating accounting functions and programs.
- Performing month end responsibilities such as preparing journal entries.
- Preparing financial analyses and reports.
- Assisting with preparing and monitoring budgets.
- Maintaining and reconciling balance sheet and general ledger accounts.
- Assisting with annual audit preparations.
- Investigating and resolving audit findings, accounts discrepancies, and issues of non-compliance.
- Preparing federal, states, local, and special tax returns.
- Contributing to the development of new or amended accounting systems, programs, and procedures.
 - Performing other accounting duties and supporting the junior staff as required or assigned.

Please submit application letters along with resume to: info@belizeapplications.com by August 22, 2022

Our email address for news, letters and articles is editor_amandala@yahoo.com

CLASSIFIED ADS

NOTICE

NOTICE: I, Wayne Matura, owner of M/V Vonetta, bearing Registration Number BZ-0901, have lost my registration certificate.

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LIQUOR LICENCE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Kirah Hemmans** is applying for a Liquor Licence, to be operated at Sleeping Giant View Services Ltd., Seine Bight Village, Stann Creek District, under the Intoxicating Liquor Licence Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

Kingdom Summit Belize 2022

Matthew 11:12

AUGUST 26 - 27 2022
7PM

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PRAYER. BREAKFAST / PRINCESS HOTEL
\$25 BELIZE DOLLAR

SUNDAY MORNING 10AM



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Looks like Social Security has Money to Burn!

by Rudolph A. Neal

The Belizean populace is irate! The country is furious—angry at their Social Security Board (SSB) for a slew of investments that not only total an exorbitant sum but are very questionable, to say the least. In case you're living under a rock, for context, the Social Security Board has just recently made public an intent to lend a whopping 20 million dollars to the Development Finance Corporation (DFC) and an inconceivable and incomprehensible 7 million dollars to a private pharmaceutical company! Now, if your head is getting tight and you're deeply suspiring at this news, you have every right to! Because what in the good heavens of a ridiculous investment is this? The only logical thing that one can think is that Social Security must have money to burn!

Before we get to the 7 million for the private pharmaceutical company, let's

analyze the 20 million loan to DFC, first. Regarding the SSB loaning DFC a whopping 20 million dollars, I am suspiring in utter anger at this investment blunder. And let me tell you why. If I understand correctly, the SSB is a statutory body, that serves as an insurance entity for the Belizean public that provides a safety net at times of sickness, unemployment,

and death, in addition to the pension benefits provided during retirement. So they are an entity through whom the populace insure themselves against the aforementioned phenomena. Now DFC is a development bank. A bank's functions and responsibilities are to provide financial products to the populace by means of loans, mortgages, and the like. Now if you're following the narrative, it is utterly incomprehensible that a statutory body (that should also function as a somewhat private entity) can loan 20 million dollars of their people's money

to a bank, yes a bank.

That is ludicrous and oxymoronic, to say the least. How could SSB, in good conscience take 20 million dollars out of people's hard-working money and loan it to a bank? How? I just cannot understand it, and the mere thought of it is unfathomable! Then it is presumed that the DFC will take the 20 million dollars that SSB loaned them out of the people's money (that was supposed to be secured) and then turn around and loan it back to the same people who had made those contributions to SSB in the first place at an increased rate that would yield a profitable return? That is bloody murder, and outright callous and blatantly ridiculous. That is incendiary and is putting people's Social Security investment at risk.

Then, to further compound an already egregious situation, the SSB announced a further 7-million-dollar loan to a private pharmaceutical company. Now, from all sides and all

angles, no matter how you flip it, it is utterly flagrant, repugnant, and ludicrous. Such an investment in a private entity will yield absolutely no benefits for the Belizean people, whose money you're investing, might I remind you. How can you take people's hard-earned money, and because of your investment framework, consider the unthinkable and seek to invest 7 million in a private company that will yield little to no fruition and development to the people whose money you're investing and the country who could use some development, like seriously!

It is my fervent hope that SSB would seriously reconsider these investments and wheel and come again, 'cause good grief! The same people whose money the SSB is seeking to invest, are the same people who just bore the callous and brutal brunt of a tiered increase in Social Security contributions. And at the time, when the populace begged and decried such an increase, it was stated that the increase was necessary because the funds would eventually run out if an increase was not had. Well, they got their increase, and now it appears that the funds are no longer in peril, evident by these monumental investment proposals. I guess that is why they are making such large investments back to back, perhaps 'cause they have money to burn, huh?

But the truth of the matter is this: these investments could have better targeted the needier sectors of the country that would have more adequately promoted true and just developments. For instance, if the SSB truly wanted to invest in the development of this country, you know how many primary schools are in dire need of a feeding program? Do you know how many high schools across the country need a computer lab and their science labs needs urgent repair? Hell, the nation's national referral hospital that sits across from SSB is in dire need of an overhaul. Do you know what a 20-million investment would have done for KMHM? I mean, they could have invested the 7 million in a low-income housing project ... If SSB wanted to invest in the development of our country, they could have taken the 7 million to build \$50,000 bungalow cement houses. That would have yielded 140 bungalow cement houses, benefitting 140 families, lifting them out of poverty, and charting a path to sustainable development. But no ... all I can say is that it appears that Social Security has money to burn!

Unchained Reflection Of A Liberal Pragmatist.



BELIZE CITY COUNCIL
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Violencia, dolor y ruina financiera

Belize rara vez ha visto violencia en una escala igual a la que ocurrió en el pacífico Hopkins durante el fin de semana cuando un hombre armado o hombres armados abrieron fuego en un club nocturno donde beliceños disfrutaban parte de las festividades del Día de Hopkins organizadas por el consejo de la aldea de ese pueblo. Al final del tiroteo, que según los informes policiales fue provocado por una confrontación personal, no por una guerra de pandillas, las familias y amigos de dos personas, un joven y un hombre de mediana edad, lloraban su muerte; decenas de personas quedaron traumatizadas, ocho de ellas con heridas de bala; un hombre bajo custodia y tres hombres a la fuga; y el consejo de la aldea de Hopkins y todos los aldeanos sintieron que se les iba el aire de un fin de semana para el que habían pasado meses preparándose.

En las semanas previas a las elecciones de los consejos aldeanos de todo el país este año, el Consejo Nacional Garífuna (NGC por sus siglas en inglés) hizo un llamado a los aldeanos de las aldeas garífunas tradicionales para que votaran por personas de la etnia garífuna. Este llamado ciertamente causó asombro, pero en esencia, el NGC solo buscaba preservar la cultura de este grupo relativamente pequeño en nuestro país.

Los Garinagu son un pueblo orgulloso y progresista, y sus aldeas son comunidades pacíficas y unidas donde todos son conocidos por su nombre. Un evento organizado por un consejo aldeano en una aldea garífuna fue uno de los últimos lugares en nuestro país donde hubiéramos esperado que estallara una violencia fea. Lo que sucedió en Hopkins no es un reflejo de los aldeanos. Es nuestro país; hay violencia loca por todas partes, especialmente en las zonas urbanas, y en la noche visitantes viciosos llegaron a Hopkins y destrozaron la tranquilidad del pueblo.

Inmediatamente después de la terrible violencia armada, el NGC emitió un comunicado de prensa expresando su simpatía por las víctimas, en particular las familias que perdieron a sus seres queridos, y expresó su preocupación por el "impacto negativo de gran alcance que este tipo de acto criminal e inhumano puede tener sobre la reputación de nuestra comunidad garífuna". El presidente del consejo de la aldea de Hopkins, el Sr. Macario Augustine, utilizó las redes sociales para expresar su dolor por la desafortunada violencia de la noche anterior y para informar a los beliceños de todo el país que las festividades continuarían según lo planeado, con mayor seguridad.

Los líderes de la aldea debieron haber pensado mucho antes de decidir no cancelar los eventos que habían planeado para el domingo. Se debe enfatizar la tremenda inversión de los residentes de Hopkins. Es probable que algunos aldeanos hayan invertido los ahorros de todo el año en la preparación de artículos para la venta en el Día de Hopkins. Los pagos de los libros y uniformes escolares de algunos niños/jóvenes podrían haber dependido de las ventas de la caseta de su familia.

Estos actos violentos no solo cobran vidas; absorben la vida económica de nuestras comunidades. Es una crisis continua que gobierno tras gobierno ha sido impotente para abordar. Después de todo el trabajo duro, la planificación y la inversión, debería haber alegría. En cambio, hay un dolor inimaginable, un trauma horrible y grandes pérdidas financieras para muchas personas debido a actos violentos desmesurados.

Otro préstamo de SSB pasa bajo el microscopio

Las campanas de alarma suenan cada vez que la Junta de Seguridad Social (SSB por sus siglas en inglés) emite un préstamo, especialmente desde que un gobierno PUP llegó al poder en noviembre de 2020. El PUP fracasó en tres elecciones consecutivas, en 2008, 2012 y 2015, y una explicación para el partido siendo desairado en las urnas es la creencia de muchos de que entre 1998 y 2008, cuando el partido estuvo en el poder,

sus titulares no manejaron los fondos de la SSB con el mejor criterio.

La SSB no puede quedarse quieta; no puede enterrar los "talentos". La SSB tiene que hacer crecer su fondo para que pueda cumplir con sus obligaciones con los beneficiarios y, con ese fin, los directores de la SSB y su comité de inversiones están encargados de realizar inversiones sólidas en proyectos económicamente sólidos/socialmente deseables. Muchos empresarios buscan préstamos de la SSB porque las tasas de interés son significativamente más bajo de lo que pueden obtener en los bancos.

En 2019, el fondo superó los 500 millones de dólares y, como el presidente de ese entonces, Doug Singh dijo, gran parte se encontraba en los bancos ganando poco interés. En 2016, Singh pensó que era una gran oportunidad de inversión para la SSB prestarle a Santander \$12 millones al 7% y al 8%, pero la empresa se retractó porque a los beliceños no les gustó la idea de que la SSB prestara dinero a los extranjeros. En 2014, a la SSB, bajo la presidencia de Singh, se le "permitió" prestar más de \$10 millones a la Asociación de Productores de Cítricos (CGA por sus siglas en inglés), después de que Denzil Jenkins, presidente de ICL, la subsidiaria de CGA, redujera la ansiedad de los beliceños unos pocos grados con la información de que la SSB obtendría casi un 6% más de sus fondos prestándolos a la CGA, de lo que obtendría si el dinero se quedara en los bancos.

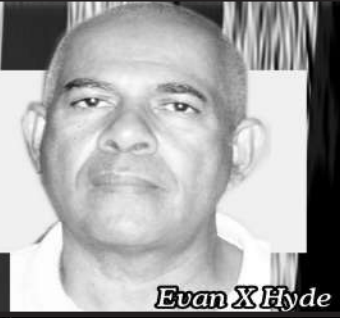
Esos préstamos mencionados estuvieron sobre la mesa durante los años en que el UDP estuvo en el gobierno, pero a pesar de que el UDP estaba en un punto alto después de limpiar los problemas en la SSB y la Corporación Financiera de Desarrollo (DFC) hechos por el PUP, particularmente la administración PUP de 1998-2003, el escrutinio fue intenso.

Las banderas de precaución ondeaban cuando la SSB anunció recientemente que estaba prestando \$20 millones a la DFC, pero la DFC rápidamente disipó los temores con la afirmación en su sitio web de que este último préstamo era uno de 24 que había recibido a lo largo de los años de la SSB, y que en sus 59 años de historia no había incumplido ninguna de sus obligaciones de deuda. Habiendo abordado ese tema, el próximo en línea es un préstamo propuesto de \$7 millones a Pharmacy Express Ltd., una compañía de la que pocos habían oído hablar antes de que solicitara fondos de la SSB.

Se afirma que la empresa ha ofrecido una garantía que vale tres veces la suma que espera pedir prestada, pero eso no ha impedido que los beliceños clamen a la SSB para que haga un mayor escrutinio de esta empresa antes de prestarle el dinero del pueblo. Un par de días después de que se publicara la información sobre el préstamo propuesto, el Ministerio de Salud y Bienestar expresó "algunas preocupaciones" y el Gabinete, en una reunión el 28 de julio, dijo que reconocía la "autonomía de la SSB pero apoya la importancia y la necesidad de garantizar que toda la información relevante sobre Pharmacy Express Limited se comparta con SSB antes de que se tome una decisión final con respecto al préstamo".

Como se señaló, los préstamos de SSB son muy buscados, y desde que un gobierno PUP fue menos que cuidadoso con los fondos de la gente (los detalles de tales fechorías o pasos en falso yaciendo enterrados en un informe de una Comisión de Investigación que nunca se ha publicado), los beliceños han mantenido una atención particular en las transacciones de la Junta. Es posible que Pharmacy Express Ltd. pueda generar suficiente flujo de caja para pagar un préstamo de \$7 millones y que su garantía sea tan buena como la tierra de Placencia, factores que la convertirían en una apuesta justa. Pero la compañía tendrá que abrir sus libros para un mayor examen. Eso es porque los beliceños, habiendo sido mordidos antes, se vuelven cada vez más cautelosos cada vez que se enteran de una nueva inversión de los fondos del pueblo por parte de la SSB.

From the Publisher



Evan X Hyde

“In their religions, the Americans paralleled the rest of mankind. Every religion derives its form and color from the mind of the worshipers, so that by their gods we may know them. From elevated nations emanate chaste and refined conceptions of the deity; from brutish natures come coarse conceptions.

“Christianity is the highest and purest of all religions; but if we study the moral precepts of the foremost American nations, we shall see that in many respects they were not far behind, and were indeed in some instances in advance of Christianity.

“True, the Aztecs practised human sacrifice, with all its attendant horrors; but what were the religious wars, the expulsion of Jews, the slaughter of Infidels, the burning of heretics, but human sacrifice?

“Moreover, while we turn in horror

from the sacrificial stone of the Aztecs, where the human victims were treated as gods and whence their souls were sent direct to Paradise, yet we find among them little of that most infamous of crimes, persecution for opinion's sake; nor yet do we read of their ingenuity being taxed for the contrivance of engines of the most excruciating torture, as we do in the history of Christianity. Tortures which, while killing the body, it was believed consigned the soul to eternal agonies.”

- from pg. 60, BANCROFT'S WORKS, Volume 6, (Central America, 1501-1530), by Hubert Howe Bancroft, an Arno Press book published in cooperation with McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1886.)

The quote at the top of this column, from Hubert Howe Bancroft, is not totally relevant to the core content of

this column, but religion has surged to the top of matters for discussion in Belize over the last few months, primarily because of the mobilization of Christian churches here to prevent the legalization of marijuana being proposed by the Government of Belize. In addition, a leading Christian pastor luminary, Louis Wade, Jr., has been chosen by his media colleagues to represent the media in a new constitutional reform commission.

Because of religion's discussion prominence recently, I thought it was important to present Bancroft's argument that Christianity, historically, was just as barbarous as, and sometimes more so, than some of the Indigenous religions in the Americas which have been historically indicted by the said Christian faiths.

Today, I want to tell you about a part of our history in this settlement of

Belize/ colony of British Honduras—that there was once a black family here which owned a newspaper, printing presses, and wrote books on matters as critical as the 1931 and 1961 hurricanes.

The Cain family was at the height of its prestige and power during the Garveyite era in the first part of the twentieth century. They were led by two brothers, if my information is accurate, who were Herbert and Ernest Cain.

When the United Black Association for Development (UBAD) was founded in February of 1969, we opened an office at no. 45 Hyde's Lane, in a warehouse-type building. Our landlord was a Chinese Belizean, I believe, and that landlord was quickly pressured by the ruling People's United Party (PUP) and gave UBAD notice to move from his building.

I remember distinctly that Mr. Ernest Cain, who had written the books about the two hurricanes, came to us and gave us an emergency home on Racecourse Street, next to the bridge across the canal, which I think was known as Brooklyn Bridge. Mr. Cain was a fine and upstanding gentleman, a man of dignity.

One of his sons (or nephews, I'm not sure) owned a printing business on New Road. I never met Mr. Herbert Cain, Mr. Ernest Cain's brother who had been a major player in the Cain newspaper, which was called THE BELIZE INDEPENDENT.

In the Garveyite era in the first part of the twentieth century, the population of British Honduras, especially Belize Town, the capital, was overwhelmingly black, as we can see from an examination of the 1919 uprising in Belize Town.

It was still challenging to be a “Spanish” (Mestizo) in Belize Town when I was growing up in Belize City in the 1950s. Boxing was one avenue through which Mestizos, such as the late Hipolito Bautista, Sr., would show their courage and mettle, and gain respect.

I can't understand how the story of the Cain family has just disappeared from the annals of Belize's history. I suppose it was my personal responsibility to record the Cain story, but Paul Cain, a star of the family, whom I got to know through Stretch Lightburn, was living and working in Los Angeles at the time. So, that's my excuse.

I've been in public life here since 1969, and none of the big boys ever asks my opinion of this self-inflicted genocide which is taking place amongst our black youth. I'm not begging for attention: what I'm doing is pointing out that there is a racist power structure in place here which Belizeans pretend they cannot see. That power structure branded me a pariah from 1969, but it will take them a little while to “disappear” me from Belize's history. There is stuff down in black and white. They will have to resurrect Diego de Landa. I'm just saying.

FROM THE PUBLISHER en Español

“En sus religiones, los americanos eran paralelos al resto de la humanidad. Cada religión deriva su forma y color de la mente de los adoradores, para que por sus dioses podamos conocerlos. De las naciones elevadas emanan castas y refinadas concepciones de la deidad; de naturalezas brutales vienen concepciones rudas.

“El cristianismo es la más elevada y pura de todas las religiones; pero si estudiamos los preceptos morales de las naciones americanas más destacadas, veremos que en muchos aspectos no se quedaron atrás, y de hecho en algunos casos se adelantaron al cristianismo.

“Es cierto que los aztecas practicaban el sacrificio humano, con todos sus horrores concomitantes; pero ¿qué eran las guerras religiosas, la expulsión de los judíos, la matanza de los infieles, la quema de los herejes, sino sacrificio humano?

“Además, mientras nos alejamos con horror de la piedra de los sacrificios de los aztecas, donde las víctimas humanas eran tratadas como dioses y desde donde sus almas eran enviadas directamente al Paraíso, sin embargo, encontramos entre ellas poco del más infame de los crímenes, la persecución por la opinión, tampoco leemos que su ingenio haya sido puesto a prueba por la invención de máquinas de la tortura más insostenible, como lo vemos en la historia del cristianismo, torturas que, mientras mataban el cuerpo, se creía que consignaban el alma a agonías eternas.”

- de la pág. 60, BANCROFT'S WORKS, Volumen 6, (América Central, 1501-1530), de Hubert Howe Bancroft, un libro de Arno Press publicado en colaboración con McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1886.)

La cita en la parte superior de esta

columna, de Hubert Howe Bancroft, no es totalmente relevante para el contenido central de esta columna, pero la religión ha ocupado el primer lugar en los temas de discusión en Belize en los últimos meses, principalmente debido a la movilización de iglesias cristianas aquí para evitar que el Gobierno de Belize proponga la legalización de la marihuana. Además, un destacado pastor cristiano, Louis Wade, Jr., ha sido elegido por sus colegas de los medios para representar a los medios en una nueva comisión de reforma constitucional.

Debido a la importancia de la reciente discusión sobre la religión, pensé que era importante presentar el argumento de Bancroft de que el cristianismo, históricamente, ha sido tan bárbaro, y a veces más, que algunas de las religiones indígenas en las Américas que históricamente han sido acusadas por dichas creencias cristianas.

Hoy, quiero contarles sobre una parte de nuestra historia en este asentamiento de Belize/colonia de Honduras Británica: una vez hubo aquí una familia negra que era propietaria de un periódico, imprentas y escribía libros sobre temas tan críticos como los huracanes de 1931 y 1961.

La familia Cain estuvo en el apogeo de su prestigio y poder durante la era Garveyita en la primera parte del siglo XX. Eran dirigidos por dos hermanos, si mi información es precisa, Herbert y Ernest Cain.

Cuando se fundó la Asociación Negra Unida para el Desarrollo (UBAD por sus siglas en inglés) en febrero de 1969, abrimos una oficina en el número 45 Hyde's Lane, en un edificio tipo almacén. Nuestro arrendador era un beliceño chino, creo, y ese arrendador fue rápidamente presionado por el gobernante Partido Unido del Pueblo

(PUP) y dio aviso a UBAD que tenía que mudarse de su edificio.

Recuerdo claramente que el Sr. Ernest Cain, quien había escrito los libros sobre los dos huracanes, vino a nosotros y nos dio una casa de emergencia en la Calle Racecourse, al lado del puente que cruza el canal, que creo que se conocía como Puente Brooklyn. El Sr. Cain era un caballero fino y honrado, un hombre de dignidad.

Uno de sus hijos (o sobrinos, no estoy seguro) era dueño de una imprenta en New Road. Nunca conocí al Sr. Herbert Cain, el hermano del Sr. Ernest Cain que había sido un actor importante en el periódico de Cain, que se llamaba THE BELIZE INDEPENDENT.

En la era garveyita de la primera parte del siglo XX, la población de Honduras Británica, especialmente la Ciudad de Belize, la capital, era abrumadoramente negra, como podemos ver en un examen del levantamiento de 1919 en el Municipio de Belize.

Aún era un desafío ser “español” (mestizo) en el Municipio de Belize cuando crecía yo en la Ciudad de Belize en la década de 1950. El boxeo era una vía a través de la cual los mestizos, como el difunto Hipólito Bautista, Sr., mostrarían su coraje y temple, y ganarían respeto.

No puedo entender cómo la historia de la familia Cain simplemente ha desaparecido de los anales de la historia de Belize. Supongo que era mi responsabilidad personal registrar la historia de Cain, pero Paul Cain, una estrella de la familia, a quien conocí a través de Stretch Lightburn, vivía y trabajaba en Los Angeles en ese momento. Entonces, esa es mi excusa.

He estado en la vida pública aquí

John has big dreams — Part 8



by Clinton Canul Luna

On the drive back home, while John was occupied familiarizing himself with the portfolio of his assigned tasks, he did not realize that the driver had accelerated until he took a break off the papers and saw the speed meter reading 80 miles per hour.

John: “Tony, you are going very fast. I have always told you that you should drive at the maximum 50 mph, and when we pass through a village or town you go down to 15 mph. I do not want you to have an accident and crash into a Christian.”

Tony: “Yes, Sir. Pardon me.”

He slowed down and continued. Hours later, John receives a call from a lady named Susan who was a taco vendor and back in the days when John was in the underworld, he would run errands for her by buying tortillas.

Susan: “John, how are you? I’m Susan.”

John: “Hello, Ms. Susan. How are you? How are you?”

Susan: “Okay, thanks. I’m calling to invite you. It’s my granddaughter’s birthday today, and I made a very tasty escabeche just the way you like it with local chicken, and I invite you to come here to the house for dinner.”

John: “That’s very kind of you, Ma’am, I’ll pass, I’ll be there.”

They hung up and continued their journey. Around 7:00 p.m., John arrived at Susan’s house. They parked the truck in the yard, got out, and Susan came out excitedly to greet them affectionately and invited them to come into the house. Once there, she ushered them into the dining room and they took a seat. She served both John and Tony and sat down at the table as well.

Susan: “John, aside from the invitation I gave you, I wanted to

talk to you.”

John: Yes, Ma’am, tell me. I’m all ears.”

Susan: “Look, I heard you had a meeting with the alcoholic people at Rainbow Beach.”

John: “Yes, it is indeed so.”

Susan: “And how was the meeting?”

John: “Well, it was fine. I’m just going to have another one. There’s a little problem that, well, I don’t know how I can help those people to get out of that mess they’re in.”

Susan: “It seems to me that it is very difficult. Since I don’t know if there is a rehab centre here where they could be placed in order to help them so they can care for themselves. You know that they can only do so if that person wants.”

John: “Yes, you are right, Ms. Susan.”

Susan: “Look, where I sell, you know, where I have my taco stand, there are always about 8-10 drunks there, insulting and a little violent in their way of speaking and in any carelessness they steal because they don’t have a job, they don’t have money and they want to continue drinking. I found out that each little bottle of those things they drink costs \$5. On two occasions I had to call the police to have them removed. They go away, but a couple days later they come right back.”

John: “Yes, you’re right. It’s a social problem, and I don’t think the government has funds to open some sort of rehabilitation center to help these people.”

Susan: “I think you’re right. But can you imagine how much money the company earns?”

John: “Well, I can’t imagine.”

Susan: “About how many people went to your meeting?”

John: “About 70 people, I think.”

Susan: “Seems, it wasn’t all of them. I mean, while you had your meeting,

those 10 were at my taco stand.”

John: “Yes, well, we don’t know how many there are.”

Susan: “Can you imagine in all of Belize, how many there are of those?”

John: “I wouldn’t know. I don’t think they’ve done any head counts or recorded how many of those people there are.”

Susan: “It’s not just them. There are also people who are economically stable who buy it. They are people with money. I don’t know what that thing contains that is so addictive. Can you imagine, John, that there were 50,000 people in the country of Belize that took that thing and each consumed 3 daily. How much money would that be per day?”

John: “At least, it must be about \$750,000.”

Susan: “And per month?”

John: “It would be approximately \$22,500,000.”

Susan: “And how much does the government earn in taxes?”

John: “I wouldn’t know. I’ve never realized they charge tax for it. I have no idea. Well, it’s a big deal.”

Susan: “Yes, it is a great business for the company and I doubt that they will stop producing that article that these people like so much.”

John: “You are right.”

Susan: “And I don’t know if the company gives anything in exchange for that damage that is being caused not only to some people but also to the country.”

John: “Yes, I think you are right, Ma’am.”

So, they continued talking. They finished eating; he thanked the lady for the tasty food and left. They hit the road again. After that conversation, John kept thinking about what the lady had told him, and said to himself, “I think I’m going to talk to the boss. Let’s see what

advice he gives me. Possibly something can be done.” Well, on one of those days that John had to return to the office, he took the opportunity to talk with his boss, who replied as follows:

Boss: “John, if you’re right, it’s a social problem, but I’m going to advise you to see Ms. Eleonor and tell her. Possibly something can be done. It’s a matter of her getting the information or seeing what she comes up with. The social problems of this country are her responsibility.”

John thanked him and left. A few days after, he went to visit the lady during one of his free moments and told her about the issue. Ms. Eleanor attentively listened to his concerns, then replied:

Ms. Eleanor: “Mr. John, I understand your concerns, but I must inform you that there is no program to deal with such an issue as alcoholism. I wish you luck in your endeavors, but I cannot do anything about it. The only way a program can be set is if orders from the highest heads of government are issued.”

John: “Thank you, Ms. Eleanor, for taking the time out to receive me.”

John exited the office with his head lowered, devastated, sad, for he did not know how to help the people.

fincasolan@gmail.com

July 30, 2022

Finca Solana

Corozal Town



Vacancy- Edward P. Yorke High School

1. Information Technology

(3 months)

Minimum Qualifications

Associate Degree with specialization in the subject areas to be taught or a Trained Teachers Diploma with evidence of past CXC passes in the subject area.

Candidates must be familiar with the CSEC syllabus in the related subject areas and must have a valid Teacher’s License.

PAYSCALE

In accordance with the Government pay scale.

Letters of application accompanied by a resume, references, copies of qualifications, and police record must reach the Secretary of the Board of Management, Edward P. Yorke High School P.O Box 471, Belize City, Belize by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, August 12, 2022.



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desde 1969, y ninguno de los chicos grandes me pregunta alguna vez mi opinión sobre este genocidio autoinfligido que está teniendo lugar entre nuestra juventud negra. No estoy pidiendo atención: lo que estoy haciendo es señalar que aquí existe una estructura de poder racista que los beliceños fingen que no pueden ver. Esa estructura de poder me tildó de paria desde 1969, pero les llevará un poco de tiempo “desaparecerme” de la historia de Belize. Hay cosas registradas en blanco y negro. Tendrán que resucitar a Diego de Landa. Sólo digo.



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at:
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4703

Props for the churches, weed for the British

by Colin Hyde

Wanting to believe the best, I believe the church lobbyists have agreed to give the GoB space to improve the marijuana law before it is brought before the people in a referendum. There's no feeling like being vindicated, no feeling like being able to say, I told you so. Well I did, I told you that these church folk are good people and that with a little guidance they would make us proud. Boy, they came though the smoke triumphant, like Nebuchadnezzar's three prisoners.

It pays to be good. The government quite easily could have interfered in the process, like the UDP did to save Penner's hide. I hear that for penance Penner has become involved in a lot of charity work, sponsoring canoe races to keep the young people active, and such. Community service is so much better than going to jail.

I don't want this government to be resting on its laurels. Wait, it's not the government that deserves the praise, it's the churches — what the government needs to do now is give thanks, show gratitude for receiving a good turn, and I have just about the best Good Samaritan job for them to repay their debt.

Have you heard about the poor British? They say charity begins with your own, and the British who once loaned us their flag and anthem are being forced to get draconian on marijuana. That's what I

heard. If so, we all know why. It's their climate; they can't grow it. Damn these hard times. They've never been soft on weed, but now they have to get the other way with users because those Europeans know that the economic staple, grow what you eat and eat what you grow, goes for what you smoke too.

This is a big opportunity for us to make the British glad we are their friends. We solved their dye problems, their fine furniture problems, and their banana problems; why not solve their weed problems too? They've always had to pay for the yellow fruit that Minor Keith turned into a gold mine, but in the old days the wood things were all on us. I say, let this one be on us too, except for the labor. Let us grow them all the marijuana they need.

Bah, the US was against weed, and oh how quickly they changed their tune when in their vast country they found a few areas where it could grow. Now big "Cabinet" people in that country are growing, selling, and smoking holy bush. The poor British, they can't, but lucky for them, we can. Our friend is in need, and I want our leaders to seize the moment. Oh boy, I'm so excited I can see the label on the bales — Belize Weed for the British.

Clinton isn't soft on violent crime

In one of his most recent columns,

Brother Clinton Canul Luna said he agreed with El Salvador president, Nayib Bukele, who, reacting to criticism from the "civilized" world about his bringing down the hammer on gangs, told them if their love and compassion was so great for ruthless gang members they should take them to their country. Brother Clinton said sometimes the way to make men behave like human beings is by taking away their freedoms and democracy, and if not that, then it must be an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, pain. Brother Canul Luna suggested that some particularly vicious individuals deserved to be burned alive.

There is tremendous frustration in our land. Everywhere there is violence, and this has prompted our authorities to copy the El Salvador blueprint with a recent roundup of persons believed to be involved in criminal business. We can expect local human rights activist lawyers and intellectuals to holler foul, and maybe we will get some bruising in the foreign press as the defenders of human rights reach out to add clout to their cause.

If he hasn't, Brother Canul needs to explore our justice system and its giant failure in all of this. Foolishly, Belizeans embraced criminal lawyers when they started beating the system in the courts. Oh, we were quick to blame the police. In truth, they had a big share in the problem, a number of them being corrupted because of the insane drug

laws. But the big fault is the system. We shouldn't cheer for the acquittal of a person accused of murder. On every acquittal we must lament; if not the accused, then who?

Justice died in Belize when we got independence. There are a number of reasons why civilians become violent, many of them economic — poverty, disparate wealth, and corruption. The number one cause for people becoming violent is injustice, and the worst injustice is unpunished violent crime.

We have been averaging nearly 125 murders per year in our little country over the last two decades, with less than 200 convictions. What an unjust country we live in. If we kept a record, the most used term in these past two decades within our justice system would be *nolle pros*, insufficient evidence.

I would like Brother Canul Luna to explore what fellow *Amandala* columnists Janus and I recommended to fix this justice disaster. Janus, in his "New Jurisprudence," said the defense and the prosecution must work together in all murder cases, and he wasn't talking about the little fraud thing they do in evidence sharing.

I suggested that we build a comfortable prison specifically for individuals who would have been let go on the *nolle pros*, the insufficient evidence. I suggested that

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SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD

TENDER INVITATION FOR THE SUPPLY OF EXTERNAL AUDIT SERVICES TO SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD (EXTENDED DEADLINE)

Social Security Board (SSB) invites tenders for the supply of external audit services for the period January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2024.

The Scope of Services document is available at SSB's Headquarter Office on Bliss Parade, Belmopan between the hours 8:00a.m.-5:00p.m. Monday to Thursday and 8:00a.m.-4:30p.m. on Friday. The Scope of Services document can also be forwarded electronically upon request.

Social Security Board
P.O. Box 18, Bliss Parade, Belmopan, Belize
Telephone: **822-2163** Ext. **1272**
Email: seholder@socialsecurity.org.bz

The **extended** closing date for tenders is **August 12, 2022**, at **4:30pm** and must be sent to:

Suad Holder
Manager, Internal Audit Services
Social Security Board, Belize
P.O. Box 18, Bliss Parade
Belmopan, Cayo District
Belize, Central America

SSB reserves the right to accept any tender or reject all tenders.



Independence High School

Independence Village
Stann Creek District
Telefax: 523-2220

Email Address ind_highschool@yahoo.com

Applications are invited from suitably qualified individuals to fill the following vacancies:

- 1 English Teacher
- 1 Business Teacher
- 1 Math Teacher (August 2022 – January 31, 2023)

A Bachelor Degree in the respective subject area is preferred. However, applicants in possession of an Associate Degree may apply. In addition, experience in teaching at CSEC level would be an asset.

All applicants must be in possession of a valid teaching license. Salary is based on qualification and experience and is in accordance with Government's pay scale. Completed application package should be forwarded by Tuesday, August 9, 2022 to:

Secretary
Board of Governors
Independence High School
Independence Village
Stann Creek District

Applicants will be interviewed at the high school on Thursday, August 11, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

PRESS PREDICTIONS

The sports psychic speaks

BOLEDO

“Press” Predictions: 18-35-26, Boledo stats thru 5th to 12th August 2022

In boledo news, the sixties series is completed when 63 plays. These are my lucky numbers for this week: 35-26-52-86-47-18. These are my lucky jackpot numbers: 8173-5627-9640. These are my lucky PICK-3 numbers: 396-505-191-051-248-766. These are only 17 numbers left for the year to play: 00-18-26-27-30-34-35-40-41-47-55-73-80-81-83-86-94. You all must form some beautiful jackpots out of those 17 numbers. Get ready Belize, some mucho dinero will be lingering in our pockets this week. 22 played 6 times already, 88 and 68 played 5 times each already. Then there are 10 numbers that played 4 times each last year. 95 played 9 times, 36 played 8 times, 65 and 34 played 7 times each. These are 4 numbers that played 5 times and more yet to play: 00-86-94-34, keep your eyes open for those 4 numbers. 55 is still out for over 1 year 9 months 2 weeks 5 days, then 26 refuses to play, out over 1 year 6 months 1 week and 5 days now, 47 is still out for over 1 year 3 months and 2 weeks now. Happy birthday to Mrs. Audrey Meighan Stanford, celebrating her 55th birthday, 55 will surely play now. Remember to read your Psalms: 91-73-62. Good luck to all buyers.

LOCAL FOOTBALL

Verdes FC drew with Platense of El Salvador, nil-nil

Local football Over-40 finals results

In Concacaf action, our 2 times champions Verdes FC drew with Platense of El Salvador nil-nil. The game was very entertaining, Platense had more possession of the ball. The game was well attended by over 2,300 fans.



David “Manu” McCaulay

Salvadorian fans were about 200 of them. In local football Over-40 final, Kulture Yabra drew with Pickstock Lake-I, 2 goals to 2, David “Manu” McCaulay scored the first goal. Jerome “Jarro” James scored the other. John Castro scored the 2 goals for Lake-I. The game was very exciting and very well attended. The FFB President, Mr. Sergio Chuc was in attendance to give out the Westline Cup. Kulture Yabra received \$3,000, Pickstock Lake-I received \$1,000.00. There were only 4 teams in the tournament. David “Manu” McCaulay becomes the oldest player to ever score in a final, he was the first player also to score a World Cup Qualifier goal for Belize against Panama when they rallied

from 1-nil to beat us 2 to 1, Dally Valdes had the 2 goals for Panama on the 1st of June 1996 at the National Stadium. Over 4,000 fans witnessed that game. Next week more stats.

BILLIARDS

There will be 6 teams in Belize Playoffs

Belikin 8-Ball Billiards Results

In the Belikin 8-Ball Billiards Tournament throughout the entire country, Long Island still has the lead on Lake-I, then Lake-2 are playing very



Wilman Mejia

well, Wilman Mejia is a top left hand shooter for Lakers-I, Nairu Rosado is the best player in the country, he plays for Long Island alongside Larry Lisbey and Manuel “Policeman” Ramos. They still have the best team. Lion King Warriors are struggling, Delta will be in the top 6 playoffs format, Sen Sen 8-Ball Killers are at the 6th spot, they want to make the playoffs very badly. Lakers Juniors and the BDF Team will not make the playoffs. In Orange Walk, the Gunners are leaders, then the Chatazz, Dados, High-5 and Esias 1 & 2 will not make the top 4 playoff format, Ernest Arzu is still undefeated. Mr. Ramon “Witz” Moreno is their brain piece; Wayne Wilshire will play in the playoffs. He is a hired player, MVP in 2010 Nationals. Belmopan has only 5 teams, BRC is my favorite team, Mr. Tim Banman Team, Punta Gorda and Corozal always have very good teams too. Next week more stats.



Naim Rosado

There are some massive contracts right now

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

NBA Updates and Predictions

In NBA news, there are some very massive contracts going on right now. Nikola Jokic, the 2 times MVP has a



Nikola Jokic

contract of 254 million for 5 years, Devin Booker received 214 million from the Phoenix Suns for 5 years, Bradley Beal gets 214 million from the



Kevin Durant

Washington Wizards for 5 years, John Wall will play for the Los Angeles Clippers, Kevin Durant is in negotiations with the Boston Celtics, Kyrie Erving wants to play with LeBron James once again in Los Angeles this time. Danny Ainge is the General Manager of the Utah Jazz organization, he wants to trade Donovan Mitchell their best player, because they will have plenty of money to play with down the stretch, plus, they have 4 first round picks in 2024. A lot of moves are going on right now. Next week more updates on the NBA.

INTERNATIONAL BASEBALL

The LA Dodgers now have the best record

Baseball Results and Predictions

In baseball action, the Los Angeles Dodgers have lost 3 of their last 4 games, but they still have the best record by 1 game over the New York Yankees. Aaron Judge leads the league in homeruns with 44, then he leads in RBI'S with 95. He will be the American League MVP very easily. The Houston Astros and Justin Verlander will win their division. The Minnesota Twins also will



by Gilroy “Press” Cadogan

win their division. The Kansas City Royals beat the NY Yankees 8 to 6, the Boston Red Sox and the Chicago White Sox are trying to put things together. The Cleveland Indians have not won a World Series since 1948, that's the longest drought in baseball right now. In the



Clayton Kershaw

National League, the Colorado Rockies beat the LA Dodgers 2 of 3 games, they will have a big series against the San Francisco Giants. Clayton Kershaw is one of the

top pitchers in the league. Mookie Betts and Cody Bellinger are playing very well. The Milwaukee Brewers still lead the Central Division. The St. Louis Cardinals are some 4 games behind them. The New York Mets lead the East Division. They are playing very well from the start of the season. Francisco Lindor is their top shortstop, one of the best in the business of baseball today. Next week some more results and predictions.

Props for the churches, weed for the British

Continued from Page 11

the state hire a battery of lawyers and detectives totally dedicated to unearthing new evidence in these cases. No one should walk away from a murder charge for iffy reasons. We need every stone to be turned in cases where blood is shed.

Worse will follow molasses truck accidents if we don't step in

It was a disappointing decision by ASR/BSI to truck sugar instead of ship it by river and sea. No one can be happy about the wear and tear increased trucking will cause on the highways, and the worry that more huge trucks on our highways will lead to more accidents. No amount of prayers can stop the road wear and tear, and they aren't working in accident prevention either. ASR/BSI trucks have been involved in a couple spectacular smashups recently, fortunately neither fatal. We have to act before it gets worse.

We have a problem here, and luckily the remedy isn't expensive. After the most recent accident, Shawn Chavarria of BSI told Channel Five that the company is very conscious about safety, and among their safety measures are limiting and

monitoring the speed of their trucks. Chavarria said their trucks are fitted with GPS equipment so they can monitor their drivers from the factory, and they have set maximum speeds of 45 mph for truck drivers transporting sugar and 35 mph for molasses trucks.

We all know about the dangers of speeding, but you can also travel too slowly. Some years ago I told a story about my friend getting pulled over on the Mexican highway for driving at what he considered a brisk 45 mph. If you don't know about the dangers of going too slow, just get in a vehicle and feel the pain of traveling behind a big truck doing 35. Those BSI speeds won't work. They will cause traffic to gum up on the highway, and that will lead to frustration, and bad decisions will follow.

These big trucks need to travel at night, between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. They'll need a fleet of drivers, so they can have a good rotation of fresh guys behind the wheels. They must select drivers who have good night sight and equip them with goggles that enhance night vision and every other aid that is available. They will wreck the roads, but the felony shouldn't be compounded by accidents too.

Amidst violence surge, Belize can't return to business as usual

by *Kahlil Enriquez*



blow off steam and will now be content, will have a rude awakening if the nation returns to business as usual", he said.

Belize reached a most disturbing tipping point when we recorded our first mass shooting incident in Hopkins last weekend, in which almost a dozen persons were shot, including two who were fatally wounded in a crowded bar hosting a community dance. While it was bad enough that there has been relentless bloodshed on our streets as a result of targeted gang rivalry, this new occurrence of an unexpected, reckless, indiscriminate mass shooting in the peaceful village of Hopkins, not known for violence, has left Belizeans all over the country more deeply troubled. Clearly, this nation, which only a few generations ago was regarded as a "peaceful haven of democracy", has continued over recent years to be consistently ranked as one of the most

violent countries in the world.

Such an unprecedented level of violence has got to have all of us citizens insisting strongly to the government, the churches, civil society, business community, schools, and families, that if we are to avoid a further rude awakening, this nation cannot go back to business as usual. This is a national collective mental illness of crisis proportions that urgently needs to be addressed. There are deeply hurt, neglected, and violently angry people who urgently need healing interventions in order to prevent the further unleashing of the state of violence that they already have within them.

The current situation must be treated with extreme urgency, making it one of our highest national priorities to find every means necessary to devise the most effective national strategy to systemically address the problem of

relentless crime at the root level. If society's institutions remain apathetic to this level of violence and adjust their acceptance of this trend, it will, like cancer when left untreated, more aggressively spread and become more dangerous and destructive to our country. If this situation is not effectively addressed now, the more emboldened our criminal elements will become, the more difficult it will be to resolve.

As a Belizean youth, I do not get the impression that there has been a strong sense of urgency being collectively conveyed by our society's institutions to address this deepening problem. Instead, all institutions seem to be continuing business as usual, without a sense of urgency to devise as many plans as possible for effective targeted interventions to support the nurturing and transformation of values among youths. We should implement and increase programs that lead to empowering learning experiences in the school system; and increase the number of committed youth organizations to develop positive values and skills among youths; as well as the number of interventions for a decrease in abuse and violence within and among families. Collectively, these have deep impacts on our youth and are bound to escalate to future generations if this business as usual status quo continues.

Belizean youths across the country are left with many unanswered questions regarding the current state of affairs. Since then, over 1,000 youths (mainly black males) have been killed as a result of gun violence over the past few years. How many more would have to be killed before institutions awaken from their sleeping business-as-usual mindset? And if not now, then when? If not now, when will be the right time for us to amend our laws, judicial processes, and our failed justice system? If not now, then when will be the time to implement the strictest of intervention measures to nurture consistent mental/emotional health and wellness practices throughout our schools? If not now, then when will we come together as a society to plan and implement strong, effective systems in which criminals do not feel immune to the law: and commit increasingly atrocious crimes which put everyone at risk and compromise freedom, sense of security and way of life? When will be the time to invest in nurturing positive values, through sports, creative and expressive arts, and productive skills training among youths, especially those outside the school system? What type of nation is the adult population across institutions, leaving behind for us youths? Is the apparent lack of engagement by too many adults to stop this crisis, the legacy to leave for future generations?

At this critical juncture, we can no longer sit back and hopelessly and nonchalantly wait for the usual, slow, and inefficient process of our failed justice system to work. It has been proven time and time again that our system is hopelessly broken. A nation or state that cannot adequately provide

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Sagicor

Man, 24, gets life sentence for murder of businessman Ruben Perez

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Aug. 1, 2022

On Friday, July 29, Keon Dennison, 24, was sentenced by Supreme Court justice Ricardo O’Neil Sandcroft to life in prison for murdering 47-year-old businessman, Ruben Perez in 2015.

A 2015 AMANDALA article reported that the incident, which took place in November of that year, was captured on surveillance camera footage. In the footage, Dennison and Tyrone Reid, a Belmopan resident, were seen entering the premises of Perez’s business, Perez Hardware Store, at the corner of Vernon Street and Western Avenue.

At that point, the footage shows Perez getting up from behind his desk, where he had been sitting, with his phone in his hand. He walked towards the entrance of his business, where

Reid and Dennison, who were seen entering the establishment, began a struggle with him.

During that struggle, Perez was shot twice – once in the abdomen and once in the head. After he was shot, his assailants fled the scene on bicycles, but they returned and stole Perez’s cellphone, after which they headed in the direction of Lord Ridge Cemetery, on the George Price Highway.

Dennison had been on remand at the Belize Central Prison since his detainment five years ago, and in May of this year, he was tried by a judge without a jury and was found guilty of the crime. On Friday, Dennison was given a life sentence by Justice Sandcroft and will serve 20 more years in prison before becoming eligible for parole.

Crown Counsel Riis Cattouse prosecuted the case against him.

His accomplice, Reid, who had



Keon Dennison gets a life sentence

pleaded guilty to the crime, was also given a life sentence without the possibility of parole until after serving a total of 25 years (including his time

on remand) in prison.

Dennison and Reid were 18 and 19 respectively when they murdered Perez.

Amidst violence surge, Belize can't return to business as usual

Continued from Page 13

justice and protection for its citizens is a failed state. This nation is at a critical juncture. The time to act in transformative ways and also to find ways to resolve this national crisis of violence is now.

Government officials, Minister of National Security, Commissioner of Police, church leaders, civil society, the business community, please let us see you act effectively to bring forth the interventions that are necessary. While youths are seeking answers, you all have the experience, or ought to, to bring this dangerous societal decay to a halt. How can we call our society a free society if we all live in a society where citizens are increasingly fearful to exercise their constitutional freedoms without becoming a victim to violence?

The time is now to devise a collective and inclusive national intervention plan without the divisive bickering that has added to the chaos in this country. The process should include relevant local and international stakeholders at the table to discuss how we can most efficiently and effectively reduce the prevalence of violence and its inclinations by way of anger, jealousy, envy and hatred in the homes, schools, offices, and wider community. Let us also find ways to heal personally and collectively, knowing that verbal and physical violence inflicted against others mainly come from persons who have deep wounds buried in the mind that can be triggered mindlessly if not healed. Every possible avenue for rebuilding our nation, including lessons learned from abroad, must be looked at.

The tendency to rely mainly on the Police Department to solve this very complex multidimensional issue is short-sighted and will continue to show failure, even when manpower is increased. This is far more than a police problem. It requires efforts at various levels of society, all working in unison with a strong, sustained sense of urgency, and a passion that we are undertaking a mission on which our lives and that of future generations literally depend, and we cannot fail. There must be a renewed effort with the strongest conviction of all institutions that we can and must do all that is necessary to break this destructive cycle of violence. Just as resources were secured to pave even the remotest highways in this country, such resources must be found to pave a new social environment where Belizeans can learn to respect and enjoy individual and community life in peace and harmony.



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The Government of Belize (GOB) through the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development, and Investment intends to contract a team to form a Central Execution Unit (CEU) to Manage the design, execution and monitoring of IDB financed projects in accordance with Government-defined policies and strategic planning.

The CEU’s mission should be to provide assistance, when needed, and ensure their alignment with the sector policies established by the Government through the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment (MFEDI). It also seeks to lend efficacy to the portfolio of IDB financed projects by generating synergies and interactions and facilitating a rapid execution, as well as securing adherence and congruence with national public policies.

The CEU will be led by an Executive Director who will providing leadership, coordination and guidance on all matters pertaining to the preparation, design, planning and smooth administration and successful implementation of assigned Programs/Projects through the efficient management of the Central Executing Unit (CEU) in accordance with the Program Operations Manual (POM) of the CEU and the procedures and obligations specified in therelevant loans contracts and technical cooperation and/or other relevant administrative Agreements.

The other team members will include the following members

Vacant Posts
1. Procurement Specialist (I) and (II)
2. Financial Management Specialist
3. Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist
4. Environmental and Social Specialist
5. Administrative Officer

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

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

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

Deadline for application is 11th August 2022 at 4:00pm. Application can be sent via email to: Irelandde@gobmail.gov.bz or hand delivered to the address indicated below:

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

Any request for clarification should be sent via email no later than 5th August 2022. Responses will be provided within three days.



OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE R.C. HIGH SCHOOL

VACANCY

A vacancy exists at Our Lady of Guadalupe R.C. High School, Belmopan, for the following post for the school year 2022-2023:

- Teacher of Music (Fulltime)

Teaching position may include extracurricular responsibilities (supervising athletic programmes, moderating student houses and clubs, mass preparation, etc.)

QUALIFICATIONS

- First Degree in the relevant field(s) preferred
- Associate Degree may be considered
- Ability to work and communicate effectively with students, staff and administration
- Knowledge, competence and expertise in using technology in teaching
- High motivation and commitment to teaching
- Must be in possession of a **valid Teacher's license**

SALARY

Based on qualifications and in accordance with the Government Payscale

The deadline for submission of applications is August 8th, 2022. **Application letters along with a current curriculum vitae, valid teachers license original transcript, certified copies of degrees, certified copy of social security card, marriage/divorce certificate, a medical report, Covid 19 vaccination card, letter of release and two recent letters of reference should be sent to:**

Email: hrc@olgh.edu.bz
Principal
Our Lady of Guadalupe R.C. High School
P.O. Box 479
CITY OF BELMOPAN



**St. John's College
VACANCY**



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

Cashier

Responsibilities

- Serve students/customers efficiently and politely
- Manage inventory accurately
- Order, receive and post deliveries accurately in P.O.S system
- Coordinate timely deliveries
- Complete and submit daily sales report
- Tidy and maintain the work area
- Any other tasks assigned
- Supervise other cafeteria attendants

Qualifications/Requirements

- Minimum of an Associate Degree in Business Administration
- At least three years work experience
- Knowledge of P.O.S and clerical procedures
- Knowledge of computers and relevant software applications
- Knowledge of customer service principles and practices
- Written communication skills

Remuneration: In accordance with experience

Application Deadline: 12th August 2022

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

Send or deliver completed application form along with cover letter, official sealed transcript, copy of diploma or degree, 2 recent references and copy of Social Security card to:

Human Resources
St. John's College
P.O. Box 548
Belize City, Belize C.A.
Tel: 501-223-3732/31
E-mail: hr@sjc.edu.bz



VACANCY
ASSISTANT INVENTORY SUPERVISOR

Regent Street Corporate Office

We are looking for an organized Assistant Inventory Supervisor to complement our team. The successful candidate will be responsible for the monitoring and managing of inventory as well as providing direction where needed to improve our inventory management systems. You must be comfortable with day-to-day repetitive procedures and working within short timeframes.

Responsibilities:

- Verify accuracy of all inventory data entry.
- Assit with the inventory data entry.
- Provides direction and assistance to inventory clerks as needed.
- Performs physical checking of inventory at all locations.
- Analyzes and reconciles inventory discrepancies.
- Assists with the annual stocktaking.

Education & Skills:

- Minimum of Associate Degree in Business Management or related field.
- Highly analytical and attentive to detail.
- Computer literate and well versed in Excel spreadsheets.
- Good keyboarding skills.
- Knowledge of inventory management systems.
Knowledge of Sage would be an asset.

Submit applications to:
hr@brodies.bz by August 12, 2022
2 Recent Reference Letters, Valid Police Record, Resume & Cover Letter



VACANCY
INTERNAL AUDITOR

Regent Street Corporate Office

We are looking for an objective Internal Auditor to add value and improve our operations by bringing a systematic and disciplined approach to the effectiveness of risk management and control. The successful candidate must possess a thorough knowledge of audit/accounting procedures and a sound judgement.

Requirements & Skills:

- Proven working experience as Internal Auditor or Senior Auditor
- Advanced computer skills on MS Office, accounting software and databases
- Ability to manipulate large amounts of data and to compile detailed reports
- Proven knowledge of auditing standards and procedures, laws, rules and regulations
- High attention to detail and excellent analytical skills
- Sound independent judgement
- BS degree in Accounting or Finance



Submit applications to:
hr@brodies.bz by August 12, 2022
2 Recent Reference Letters, Valid Police Record, Resume & Cover Letter



Vacancies at Julian Cho Technical High School



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

- 1 Visual Arts/LSPD – Temporary
- 1 Integrated Science Teacher- Temporary

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: ictsssecretary@yahoo.com

Deadline for applications is Monday August 15, 2022.



VACANCY

The British High Commission, Belmopan has a vacancy for a full time Head of Political & Media.

Main purpose of the job:

To lead on day to day political and economic work for the High Commission, covering a wide range of themes, and to lead the High Commission's communications strategy, strengthening and amplifying the UK's work in Belize and supporting bilateral relations.

This is a key, multi-hatted role that involves leading a small team and flexibility to adapt to different priorities.

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

- Monitor political developments and provide analysis and reporting on a wide range of themes in Belize. This includes on domestic politics, human rights including diversity and inclusion, the economic and financial situation, Covid-19, biodiversity and climate change, security, and foreign policy including regionally with CARICOM.
- Develop and maintain a network of contacts in Government, other diplomatic missions, civil society, academia, the media and wider stakeholders.
- Report on Belize's positions and lobby in support of UK Government interests;
- Provide briefing on a wide range of themes, adapted to different formats.
- Identify opportunities for building on UK-Belize shared interests, partnering and technical assistance as means of delivering UK Government and High Commission objectives.
- Lead on communications for the High Commission – monitor press, broadcast and online reporting, develop and implement an effective communications strategy, write press releases and support the team in delivering engaging social media.
- Arrange programmes for visitors and play a key role in delivering High Commission events.
- Review and update travel advice for British Nationals visiting Belize.
- Line manage the Projects and Communications Officer and ensure that our programme and project work supports FCDO priorities. This includes the Chevening Scholarship programme and regional programmes that include Belize.
- Contribute to the running of the High Commission, including as a member of the Senior Management Team.

Essential on arrival:

- Previous experience in political and/or economic analysis;
- Exposure to handling media and press;
- University educated;
- Proven ability to develop relationships with stakeholders;
- Ability to work under pressure and meet deadlines;
- Effective communication skills;
- Strong IT skills;
- A good general understanding of the political and economic landscape in Belize.

Desirable:

- Knowledge of economics;
- Previous experience of managing projects;
- Spanish speaker (basic level).

Salary will be BZ\$4,872.42 per month

How to Apply

Interested persons should use the preferred method of applying online at <https://bit.ly/3z8Ev6D>.

The Deadline for applications is 4:00pm on **Tuesday, 9th August 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.

BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM

COUNTRYWIDE PUBLIC AUCTION SALES: PROPERTIES

Orange Walk Town, Guinea Grass Village, Orange Walk District

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. Heritage Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following properties. **Sales currently running until 30th September 2022. Public Auction Sales will expire fortnightly on the dates and times listed on the website until these properties are sold.**

1. Corner Egret & Kiskadee Streets, Otro Benque Area, Orange Walk Town:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Orange Walk North	4	109

(Being a two-storey concrete dwelling house [36 ft. X 44 ft.] consisting: Ground & First Floors: 3 Bedrooms + 2 Bathrooms + Living/Dining/Kitchen and laundry room and lot [0.254 acre or 1229.36 S.Y.] situate at the corner Egret & Kiskadee Streets, Otro Benque Area, Orange Walk Town, the freehold property of Mr. Earl Nicholson)

2. Parcel No. 141 Honey Camp Street, Orange Walk Town:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Orange Walk Town	4	141

(Being an incomplete two storey concrete house (30 ft. X 45 ft.) Ground Floor: three bedrooms, bathroom, living/dining/kitchen; First Floor constructed up to belt beam; Additional Storeroom/Laundry (10 ft. X 20 ft.), the freehold property of Mr. Noel F. Blanco & Ms. Celia A. Blanco)

3. Parcel No. 47 Guinea Grass Village, Orange Walk District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Guinea Grass Village	4	47

(Being a concrete bungalow dwelling house containing 2 Bedrooms + 1 Bathroom and lot [1227.28 S.Y.] situate in the Village of Guinea Grass in the Orange Walk District, the freehold property of Mr. Elmer Garrido)

"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

SOE declared in Lake I

BELIZE CITY, Tue. Aug 2, 2022

Gang members and affiliates embroiled in an ongoing, bloody rivalry in the St. Martin de Porres community were caught off-guard Saturday morning when police officers stormed into the area and trucked them away for 30 days of detainment at the Belize Central Prison. It was a State of Emergency (SOE) that was put into effect in an effort to staunch the bloodshed that's been taking place as a result of a feud between the PIV Bloods and the Back-a-Land Crips that most recently led to the execution of former PIV leader Darren Banks last Monday near Ebony Street. Of the 80 persons on the list of individuals being sought by police, between thirty and fifty-five persons (possibly more) have so far been detained under this latest SOE. Members of the Belize Defense Force are also assisting the police officers who have been deployed in the area.

"As you would know, there is an intense feud between the Back-A-Land Crips and the PIV Bloods, and that feud

"We are ensuring that we have police presence at every corner of the city as best as we can. Yes, the emphasis now is on the St. Martin's area... The regulation for the State of Emergency do give the police a number of powers; we are not going to exercise all those powers unless there is a need for us to do so, and it will only be exercised against those rivaling groups and not the law-abiding citizens,"
Commissioner of Police, Chester Williams said on Saturday.

has resulted in many shootings, two of which have been fatal," Commissioner of Police, Chester Williams told local media in a Saturday morning interview. He went on to note that those shootings have taken place despite pledges by members of the warring groups to "hold the peace" after mediation sessions carried out by the Leadership Intervention Unit (LIU), which has staged a number of interventions in an attempt to broker some truce between those groups.

The SOE will last for 30 days, and might possibly be extended, depending on how the individuals who have been rounded up, respond to the detainment

and mediation efforts.

"We ensure that we capture also the Back-A-Town area. As you would know, Back-A-Town is a close affiliate of the PIV, and we also capture Mayflower, because Mayflower is a close affiliate of the Back-A-Land. So we tried to see how we can get the different groups that are involved in this feud, and to let them go to prison and hopefully while they are in prison they should be able to cool off," Williams said.

He said that the area in which these individuals reside is difficult to police during times of flare-ups because of the proximity between the zones in which the



Chester Williams, Commissioner of Police

various groups operate.

"As a matter of fact, some of the opposing gangs live in the territory of the rival group, and so it is extremely hard for law enforcement, so we think at this time the State of Emergency is the best solution to be able to bring to the situation under control, and I want to send a sound warning, to the other groups who are holding it down at this time. If it is that they choose to go down this path, then they will face a similar fate," Commissioner Williams went on to say.

Please turn to Page 27



Ministry of Rural Transformation
 Community Development, Labour and Local Government

Nº 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 12th August 2022 at 4:00pm

PC Alicia Trapp sues the Police Dept. and the COMPOL

“Anybody can sue,” said Commissioner of Police Chester Williams in regards to the civil suit filed against the Police Department by Trapp’s attorney.



WPC Alicia Trapp

by Khaila Gentle

BELIZE CITY, Sat. July 30, 2022

In response to the news that PC Alicia Trapp intends to take legal action against him, Commissioner of Police Chester Williams says that, while “anybody can sue”, there is no guarantee that PC Trapp’s lawsuit will be a successful one. “I have gone through the fixed date claim form which was filed by her attorney, and I can say certainly that is not going to hold water. No way,” said Commissioner Williams to our colleagues at KREM last Saturday.

The civil suit filed against the Commissioner, the Attorney General, and the Belize Police Department by PC Trapp’s attorney, Orson “OJ” Elrington last week, claims that the disciplinary action being taken against her as a result

of comments she made on Facebook live video following an altercation with the Minister of Infrastructure and Development, Hon. Julius Espat, was “discriminatory” and goes against her constitutionally protected rights of freedom of expression and freedom of political opinion. PC Trapp is demanding a declaration from the court that the Police Department unfairly restricted her constitutional freedoms and that the disciplinary action is unlawful.

In June of this year, Trapp was involved in a confrontation with Minister Espat during the Teakettle village council elections. Shortly after, she began a livestream on Facebook, during which she claimed that Minister Espat had insulted her and pointed his finger in her face. Days later, she went on to allege that the PUP Minister had verbally and physically assaulted her. Those allegations were dismissed after witness statements and pictures taken during the altercation showed that Trapp, and not Minister Espat, was the apparent aggressor.

While Minister Espat did not press criminal charges against the police corporal, she is currently facing a disciplinary tribunal for violating the Police Department’s social media policy by going live on social media

for political reasons.

In a letter sent to the Commissioner of Police in June, attorney Orson Elrington had indicated that any attempt by the Department to punish his client would be met with “swift legal action.”

The Police Commissioner and the Police Department are expected to be represented in court by the Attorney General’s office. Commissioner Williams has expressed confidence, however, that Trapp’s suit will not go very far.


“Anybody can sue. The thing is how far it is going to reach. And I cannot hold anything against her attorney for doing what he is doing. That is his job—he’s been paid to do that—and I can’t hold it against her, she’s exercising her rights. The matter is going to the courts and the court is going to determine the matter in terms of whether or not what is being claimed is correct or the action we took is right. So, it’s a matter for the court to decide,” said Williams.

BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM
COUNTRYWIDE PUBLIC AUCTION SALES
PROPERTY:
Independence Village, 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 property. **Sales currently running until 30th September 2022. Public Auction Sales will expire fortnightly on the dates and times listed on the website until this property is sold.**
Lot No. 251 Seagull Street, Independence Village, Stann Creek District:



(ALL THAT 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 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. (Being a two-storey concrete/timber structure [3775 sq. ft.] consisting: Ground Floor – 2 bedrooms + 1 bathroom + living/dining/kitchen; First Floor – 1 bedroom + 1 bathroom + living room + dining room; large 2 car garage TOGETHER with lot [661.665 S.M.] situate on Seagull Street, Independence Village, the freehold property of Ms. Anthea Mathias and Mr. Samuel Mathias)
“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



PROJECT HEAL welcomes application by qualified persons for the following position for the St. Martin’s De Porress Primary School:

Post: 1 full-time School Counsellor
Type of Contract: 11 months with possibility of extension
Commencement date: August 29, 2022



Qualifications:

- Bachelors in Psychology or Social Work
- Ability to work and communicate effectively with children between the ages of 5-14 year of age
- Self-motivated, great work ethic and committed
- Work experience would be an asset

Application Process:
Interested persons are asked to submit:

- ✓ a cover letter and your resume
- ✓ two letters of recent letters of recommendation
- ✓ a copy of your recent transcript
- ✓ a copy of your degree

Completed application should be submitted to projecthealbelize@gmail.com, and your subject should read “Counselling Vacancy”. Deadline for application is **Friday, August 12, 2022 at 5:00 pm.**

Vacancy Belize Rural High School

The Belize Rural High School is seeking a qualified person to fill the following teaching position:

1.) Mathematics/Integrated Science Teacher (permanent)

Qualifications:

Applicants must possess the following qualifications:

- A Teaching License
- Minimum of an Associate’s Degree in subject area to be taught
- Teaching experience at the third and fourth form level
- Good command of the English Language
- Knowledge of the CXC syllabus
- Willingness to do extra-curricular activities
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Have an interest to encourage and work with students according to ability and need.

Salary: Salary will be in accordance with Government’s pay scale for teachers.

Application packages should include a signed letter of application, a résumé, certified copy of diploma reflecting the highest earned Degree, certified or official university transcript, a copy of a valid teacher’s license, a police record and two letters of recommendation.

Completed applications can be e-mailed to principal@brhs.edu.bz or mailed to:

The Principal
Belize Rural High School
P.O. Box 1481
Double Head Cabbage, Belize District

Deadline for Application: August 15, 2022

NOTICE

GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE TREASURY BILLS ISSUE NUMBER 9/2022

Tenders are invited for an issue of Government of Belize Treasury Bills. The amount of the issue will be \$67,408,200.00.

The Bills will be issued in electronic form only evidenced by an electronic book entry in the Central Securities Depository of the Central Bank of Belize in multiples of \$200 and will be repayable at par 91 days after issue. They will be issued on Wednesday, 17 August 2022 and will be redeemed on Wednesday, 16 November 2022.

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

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

The Auction in the Central Securities Depository System (CSD) will be opened from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on Wednesday 17 August 2022.

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

**Bank: Central Bank of Belize
Account: GL1CORP0402627**

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

CENTRAL BANK OF BELIZE

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

27 July 2022

Statutory Notice to Creditors

IN THE ESTATE of ROMEL TIBURCIO PERDOMO, Deceased, of #1773 Henderson Avenue, Buttonwood Bay, Belize City, Belize.

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 36 of the Administration of Estates Act, Chapter 197 of the Laws of Belize that all creditors and other persons including the beneficiaries and kin having any claims and demands upon or against the Estate of Romel Tiburcio Perdomo, late of No. 1773 Henderson Avenue, Buttonwood Bay, Belize City, Belize who died on the 6th day of February, 2022 in whose Estate a Grant of Probate has been granted to Vanessa Retreage of No. 6286 Pike Crescent, Belize City Belize and Magalie Perdomo of No. 7702 Madam Liz Avenue, Belize City, Belize to lodge any claims or demands in writing to Reyes Retreage LLP of #122 Eve Street, Belize City, Belize, Lawful Attorneys for the Executrices of the Estate of Romel Tiburcio Perdomo on or before the expiration of three months from the first publication hereof and notice is also hereby given that the expiration of the said three months the said executrices shall proceed to distribute assets of the said Romel Tiburcio Perdomo, deceased amongst the beneficiaries entitled thereto, having regard only to claims and demands of which they shall then have had notice.

Dated the 27th day of July 2022.



REYES RETREAGE LLP

Attorneys for Vanessa Retreage and Magalie Perdomo

Executrices of the Estate of Romel Tiburcio Perdomo



**MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE
DEVELOPMENT
AND
HOUSING**



PROCUREMENT NOTICE

CONSTRUCTION OF ONE (1) BEDROOM MODULAR HOMES

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:

- (a) Bidders shall be registered with the MIDH.
- (b) 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**.
- (c) 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:
 - i. having a minimum contract value of BZ\$45,000.00;
 - ii. having a minimum residential space of 400 square feet; and
 - iii. having completed the construction contract within a maximum timeframe of three (3) months.
- (d) Bidders shall demonstrate, by providing documentary evidence, having access to the following equipment:
 - i. One (1) 3/4-horsepower concrete vibrator;
- (e) Bidders shall present a work plan for the contract.

Bidding documents can be obtained by request at the address below, starting **Tuesday, August 2, 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:

1. Belmopan, Cayo District
2. Belize City, Belize District
3. Corozal Town, Corozal District
4. Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District
5. Dangriga Town, Stann Creek District
6. 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 **Wednesday, August 17, 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:

- 1. 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

Belizean murdered during holdup in the US

Christopher Williams, a Belizean, was shot multiple times during a gas station robbery while he and two other persons were purchasing gas in Chicago, Illinois.

by Charles Gladden



Christopher Williams, deceased

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO, Tues. Aug. 2, 2022

The family of 22-year-old Christopher Williams, a Belizean who moved to the US at the age of 12 and attended high school in Illinois, Chicago, where he lived with his aunt, is mourning his death after he was shot multiple times during a gas station robbery while he and his cousin and her boyfriend were purchasing gas.

Williams' aunt, Michelle Walford, who also resides in the US, described to a local media outlet the series of events preceding her nephew's death. She told them that while Williams, her daughter and her son-in-law were purchasing gas at the gas station in Beach Park on Tuesday, July 26, a gunman entered the establishment and demanded their belongings.

When they told the robber that they didn't have anything, he reportedly fired a barrage of bullets at them. Christopher was hit four times, while Walford's daughter was hit twice in the

leg and her boyfriend was hit three times in his back.

Christopher Williams succumbed to his injuries on Thursday morning at around 7:15.

"He was humble. Nobody thought Christopher could even talk, because he was not the talking kind. He didn't have any friends that we know of. His friends were his girlfriend, his brother-in-law, and my kids. Those were his friends. Those were the only people I know of that he would always be with, so when this happened it was a shock to us," Walford said.

The family of Williams has opened a GoFundMe account in an effort to raise funds to bring his body home to Belize for burial in Lords Bank village.

On the 22nd of August, Williams would've celebrated his 23rd birthday.

Life in decades!

A friend of mine called me the other day, asking me if I remember a murder that happened behind the Continental Club on Freetown Road, in the late 60s, early 70s. Of course I had; it was such a rare occurrence back then, that of course it sticks out. You know, we go through life, living and working and becoming responsible adults, and before you know it, we're up there in years. You start wondering, where did all that time go? Of course I won't mention who committed the murder or who the victim was—families and all that, would be upset, bringing up the bodies, so to speak.

After I hung up following the call from my friend, I started to divide my life into decades, starting with the 1950s to present day. The first two decades were the longest, transitioning from childhood to youth. What I recall of the 1950s was that I lived in 4 different places, went to 4 different schools, 4 different sets of friends. One of those friends was Pete Soberanis, whose grandfather had a barbershop right next to British Honduras Broadcasting Service, on Queen Street. A kindly old man to me. It's only later on in life I learned what a special man he was, what a national treasure! The 50s seemed to last for a lifetime—growing up, those formative years, when you held everything before you, in awe, no matter how slight or trivial the experience was.

The 1960s! What a decade! Also

drawn out while one experienced adolescence, puberty, girls, and more lasting friendships, through primary to secondary schools. The decade that innocence was lost, up to a point. But it dragged on, and I for one, never wanted it to end. It was the perfect time, at least for me.

Then came the 70s, 80s, 90s, up to present day, almost a blur because of the quickening pace of the years, of life, of living. A year seemed like 6 months, as if though time itself was moving at breakneck speed. You could hardly catch your breath before something new distracted you, spared you the experience of a boring existence! Your life changed, for the better, mostly, with family, kids, a great education and a promising career! You patted yourself on the back! Doing a great job, pal!

Then one day you realize that you are much older, much wiser, and that you can feel autumn in the air. That smell of promises of a great retirement, healthy, happy, fulfilled! Not for all of us, but definitely for some. You realize that things that used to be important, that mattered greatly to you, don't anymore. You have lived long enough not to dwell on the small stuff. It's time for comfort and relief! Just go with it. Some of us try to relive our youth, our lives! We can't! Just go with it.

Glen

PUBLIC NOTICE

Lodgment of an EIA Report and Public Consultation For

Angel Fish LLC Limited

For the construction and operation of a Small Resort facility on Angelfish Caye in the Stann Creek District, Belize

The General Public is hereby informed that the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report for a small tourism accommodation facility to be located on Angelfish Caye situated 10 miles southeast of Hopkins Village, within the South Water Caye Marine Reserve, Stann Creek District, was submitted to the Department of the Environment (DOE) by Angel Fish LLC Limited. The EIA report will be reviewed by the National Environmental Appraisal Committee (NEAC) before a final decision is taken by the DOE.

The General Public is advised that the EIA report will be available for public review from 22nd July-August 12th, 2022. The public is invited to submit comments in writing before August 15th, 2022, to the DOE at the DOE address: 7552, Hummingbird Highway, Belmopan or email to envirodept@environment.gov.bz or eiaunit@environment.gov.bz. The EIA report can be examined free of charge, Mondays to Fridays, during normal working hours (8:00 am to 5:00 pm), at the Ignacia Cacho Library in (Dangriga Town), Hopkins Berties Library (Hopkins Village) and the Placencia Village Council Office, Stann Creek District. The EIA report and its annexes are also accessible on the DOE's website at the following link: <https://doe.gov.bz/environmental-clearance/>.

Kindly be informed that a hybrid (in-person and virtual) public consultation for the EIA will be held on August 12th, 2022, commencing at 6:30 pm sharp at Belizean Dreams Resort in Hopkins Village, Stann Creek District. An online link will be provided closer to the date (August 12th, 2022). The general public is invited to attend or participate online, to make comments, ask questions, seek clarification, express concerns/issues, or make representation to the DOE and/or the Developer, in relation to the effects of the proposed project activity on the environment.



MINISTRY OF HEALTH & WELLNESS

VACANCY NOTICE

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to fill the post of **Chief Drug Inspector, Ministry of Health & Wellness**.

Salary Pay Scale: 23 of \$36,554 × 1480 -\$64,674

Qualification: Recognized Master's Degree in Pharmacy or related field. Must be a registered Pharmacist with five (5) plus years' experience as a pharmacist.

Deadline: August 19, 2022

Application with two (2) references and copies of qualifications to be submitted to:

**Chief Executive Officer
Ministry of Health & Wellness
3rd Floor, East Block Building
Belmopan**

(N.B. complete details on this position can be viewed at <https://jobs.publicservice.gov.bz/>)



Consultancy Services to Develop a Transport App for Smart Cities (INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

Country: BELIZE

Project name: E-Mobility

Period of assignment/services: 45 working days over a period of 6 months

Background:

UNDP Belize in partnership with the Government of Belize, Ministry of Energy and the Belize City Council, with funding from the European Union (EU) has launched a project on the decarbonization of Belize's Public transport sector through the introduction of electric vehicle technology. The EU funded E-Mobility project, pilots the inclusion of electric buses as a means of satisfying growing public transportation demands for sector efficiency and modernization. The Project focuses on demonstrating conditions and early experience for e-mobility integration into the national public transportation system, informing sector growth and investment planning. This 'Sustainable City' initiative offers innovative, smart and technical solutions for urban challenges ensuring inclusiveness of action and improving accessibility of services to the city's population.

In support of the emobility pilot, the project hopes to introduce "SMART" governance systems aimed to positively impact all residents of Belize City particularly vulnerable groups such as women and youth, PWDs and the elderly.

UNDP Belize is seeking a mobile application developer to develop the transport mobile application for Smart Cities Within the framework of Smart Mobility, the project supports the development of a mobile application with real time tracking of electric buses and other participating vehicles. This is meant to address the current irregularity of city buses and the difficulty experienced by passengers to gauge bus wait time. The app is also meant to monitor seat availability and whether transportation option is accessible to persons with disabilities. This app will be launched through a smart cities app platform, but the information will also be displayed on screens staged in strategic areas in Belize City, as an interactive map for those who are unable to access the app through their phones. The initial phase of the app will focus on catering the need of the people regarding the irregularity of the bus schedule.

Objectives, Duties and Responsibilities:

The overall objective of the assignment is to develop:

1. A user friendly Mobile Application
2. Focus on Bus Schedule and support to a cashless public transport system Support capacity building, knowledge management, and documentation of lessons learned

Qualification, Experience and Skills:

- Master's Degree or equivalent Advanced Degree in Software Engineering, Computer Science, information technology, web developer, graphic designing or other related disciplines
- Progressive experience of working in the development of mobile applications;
- Capacity to understand the needs for the app development,
- the ability to communicate openly and integrate all feedback which is provided;
- A proven track record of developing successful mobile applications;
- Working experience in developing graphically designed products for UNDP or other organizations from the UN system.
- Experience working in a fast-paced environment managing and meeting multiple deadlines and priorities
- Fluency in English

Request for Proposal Package located:

Please download the RFP package at:

https://procurement-notice.undp.org/view_notice.cfm?notice_id=94182 or

<https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice/Index/179678>

Submission of Application Package:

Technical Proposals are required to submit by email clearly labeled *RFP: Consultancy Services to Develop a Transport App for Smart Cities*

United Nations Development Programme

Attn: Procurement Associate

3rd Floor, Lawrence Nicholas Building, Belmopan

Cayo District, Belize, C.A.

Tel: (501) 822-2688, 0467, 4228

Email: procurement.bz@undp.org

Deadline for Application: Monday, August 15, 2022. UTC.

UNDP is committed to achieving workforce diversity in terms of gender, nationality and culture. Individuals from minority groups, indigenous groups and persons with disabilities are equally encouraged to apply. All submissions will be treated with the strictest of confidence.

UNDP does not tolerate sexual exploitation and abuse, any kind of harassment, including sexual harassment, and discrimination.



BELIZE SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND **TENDER NOTICE**

Country: Belize Project: CARICOM Development Fund Grant No: BZE/G00011
Project ID: CDF/00011/5 Contract Number: W/CDF-02/2022 National
Competitive Bidding (NCB) Deadline: **September 5, 2022**

1. The Government of Belize has received funding through the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) towards the cost of Eligible Sub-projects and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the contract for **Design, Supply and Installation of a Reverse Osmosis Purification Water Supply System for Chunox Village, Corozal 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 to design, supply and installation services for a reverse osmosis purification water supply system for the Chunox Village, Corozal District. The system is desired to be connected to the village water well, along with being able to produce an estimated output of a minimum of 50,000 gallons per day to provide water to 425 households. Shall also include the provision of all designs (civil, mechanical, electrical, etc.) and any other designs needed for the optimal and efficient functioning of the reverse osmosis purification water supply system; Reference shall be made to the proposed electrical design for the Chunox pump house.

3. **Final (Project Site) Destination as specified in BDS:** Belmopan, 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 four (4) contracts, each of a minimum value of BZ\$125,000.00, but with a total value of all contracts equal or more than BZ\$500,000.00 (d) demonstrate cash flow requirement: capacity to have a cash flow amount of BZ\$42,000.00 of which not more than BZ\$21,000.00 can be credit for materials (e) an average annual turnover of BZ\$500,000.00 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 8th, 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: **"Design, Supply, and Installation of a Reverse Osmosis Purification Water Supply System for Chunox Village, Corozal 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 5th, 2022** at the address below. **Bids will be opened at 10:15 a.m., September 5th, 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\$ 5,000.00 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 Wednesday, August 23rd, 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

SIB: June inflation rate was 6.7%

Out of all municipalities, Orange Walk Town, once again, reported the highest rate of inflation, while Independence village reported the lowest.

by *Khaila Gentle*

BELMOPAN, Sat. July 30, 2022

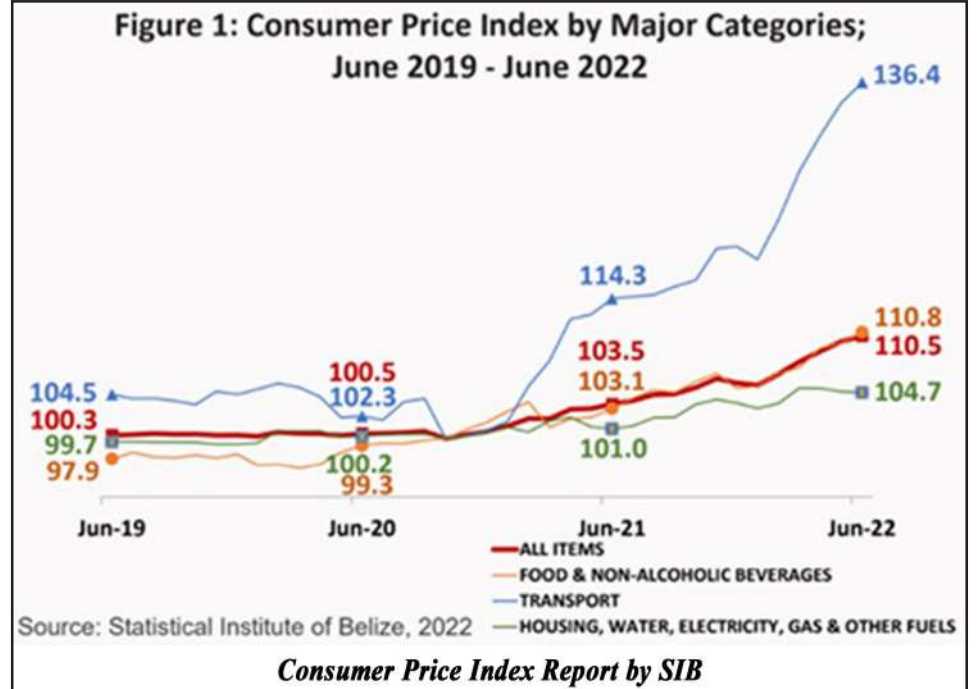
The Statistical Institute of Belize (SIB) has revealed that the overall national inflation rate for June 2022 was 6.7%, primarily due to an increase in consumer prices for motor vehicle fuels, food, and liquid petroleum gas (LPG), which are notably higher than what they were in June 2021. The Consumer Price Index report released last week also pointed to increases in the cost of transportation services, restaurant services, entrance fees to cinemas, and household cleaning products as well.

As has been the case in previous months, a surge in prices of products in the “Transport” category, which

includes fuel pump prices, was the main contributor to the inflation rate. This time around, it accounted for almost half of the overall increase in consumer prices, with average prices up by 27.7% when compared to June of last year. The price of premium gasoline registered the highest increase, having gone from \$11.76 per gallon in June 2021 to \$15.87.

Additionally, said the SIB, passenger transport services were up by 13.8%, as higher bus fares, international airfares, taxi fares, and sea fares were seen across the country.

In the “Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages” category, price increases for cereal products, including rice, flour, and bread; meats, including poultry, beef, and pork; cooking oils;



fresh produce, including watermelons, cabbages, and Irish potatoes; and dairy products, such as natural milk and eggs, also contributed significantly

to the inflation rate.

LPG prices, which come under the category of “Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels” were 27.1% percent higher than they were in June of 2021, with the average cost of a 100-lb cylinder of gas rising from \$113.02 to \$143.67. Furthermore, prices for construction materials for household use were up by 14.3%, while rent was up by 0.6%.

The only major category within which a decrease in prices was recorded was “Information and Communication”. This is owed to a decrease in the cost of internet services.

When it comes to inflation rate by municipality, Orange Walk Town, once again, reported the highest figures, with a rate of 9.6%. (It stood at 9.4% in April and 9.7% in May). This was attributed to increases in the prices of food items, home rental costs, restaurant services, laundry products, soaps, detergents, women’s clothing, and haircuts in that locality. The lowest inflation rate— 5.1%— was recorded in the village of Independence.

In May, the national inflation rate stood at 6.6%, while it was 5.8% in April.

The SIB also issued a report on the country’s imports and domestic exports for June 2022, noting that imports were up by 19.8% while exports had increased by 112.5%. According to the SIB, total domestic exports increased by \$31.1 million—going from \$28.1 million in June 2021 to \$59.7 million in June 2022. The main driver for this increase was sugar, with earnings from the industry more than tripling. According to the SIB, this was due to the fact that a bulk shipment of sugar was recorded this year, while no shipments were made in June of last year.



MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

AND

HOUSING



INVITATION TO BID

REPAIRS AND RESURFACING OF VARIOUS SECTION OVER A 7.5 MILES LENGTH OF EX-SERVICEMAN’S ROAD (BOOM CREEK VILLAGE ROAD) TOLEDO DISTRICT

The Government of Belize via the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing (MIDH) intends to repair and re-surface various small sections over 7.5 miles length of the Ex-serviceman’s Road (Boom Creek Village Road)), Toledo District with suitable crushed material.

The Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing now invites sealed bids from suitably qualified and experienced contractors for repairs and resurfacing of small sections of Ex-serviceman’s Road, Toledo District.

The scope of works repair works on the road will include the following:

1. Clean main road of all vegetation and deleterious materials and dispose of spoil within a 2 miles radius of project site.
2. Clean side drains—8,000 linear yards and dispose of spoil within a 2 miles radius of project site.
3. Drainage improvement & Culvert Installation works (Provisional item)
3. Scarify, shape and compact road surface (110,000 S.Y) as per crossfall on drawings.
4. Supply, transport, place and compact 6 inches of subbase type material as per specifications.
5. Supply, transport, place and compact 6 inches of crushed All-In as per specifications.

Bidders who are interested must have the financial capacity, necessary equipment, technical expertise, and experience to complete the works in accordance with the Bidding Documents.

Bidding will be conducted through national competitive bidding procedures and interested bidders may obtain further information and a copy of the bidding documents at the offices of MIDH at the address belows of Monday August 8, 2022, during normal office hours Monday through Fridays from 8.00 A.M – 12.00 Noon and from 1.00 PM – 4.00 PM.

Bidding documents are free of charge and may be picked up by interested bidders on the submission of a written application (email) to the address below.

All bids must be delivered to the address below by 11.15 AM local time on Tuesday, September 2, 2022, and they will be opened on the same day at 11.30 A.M, at the address below. Late bids will be rejected. A bid security of \$10,000 must be submitted and delivered to the address below at the same time of the bid submission.

1. Victor Espat
Chief Executive Officer
Ministry of Infrastructure Development & Housing
#1 Power Lane
Belmopan, Belize
Tel: 501-822-2136/39
Fax: 501-822-3282
E-mail: ceo.secretary@mow.gov.bz

2. Lennox Bradley
Chief Engineer
Ministry of Infrastructure Development & Housing
#1 Power Lane
Belmopan, Belize
Tel: 501-822-2136/39
Fax: 501-822-3282
E-mail: BradleyLE@midh.gov.bz

**KREM
PHONES
(OFFICE)**

280-4469

280-4299

(EMAIL)

ON LINE LIVE:

www.krembz.com



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 5 to Thursday, August 11, 2022

FRIDAY

- 6:30 a.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (LIVE)**
- 9:00 a.m. **Morning Stew (LIVE)**
- 12:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**
- 1:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 2:00 p.m. Documentary: Muammar Gaddafi Qaddafi Biography
- 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: Stake Bank Yoga Discussion
- 9:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**

SATURDAY

- 10:00 a.m. **UEF Belizean Women Movement Community Conversations (LIVE)**
- 11:00 a.m. Documentary: Stake Bank Relationship Discussion
- 11:49 a.m. Documentary: Philip Goldson Interview with Nuri Muhammad
- 1:14 p.m. Movie: Mahogany
- 3:00 p.m. Documentary: Stake Bank - What Do I Want Out Of Life Discussion
- 3:33 p.m. Movie: Second Sight
- 4:56 p.m. Documentary: Stake Bank Family Discussion
- 5:30 p.m. **UEF Belizean Women Movement Community Conversations (repeat)**
- 8:00 p.m. Music Videos

SUNDAY

- 10:30 a.m. **Sunday Review (LIVE)**
- 12:00 p.m. Movie: Separados mas iguales - Separate But Equal
- 1:30 p.m. Documentary: Stake Bank Focus Discussion
- 2:00 p.m. Movie: Thornwell
- 1:30 p.m. Documentary: Stake Bank Financial Management Discussion
- 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. Stake Bank Tyler Savary Conversation
- 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 Africans: A Triple Heritage Program, 2A Legacy of Lifestyles
- 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. Stake Bank Knowing Your Right Discussion
- 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. Ted Talk: The price of shame - Monica Lewinsky
- 9:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**

WEDNESDAY

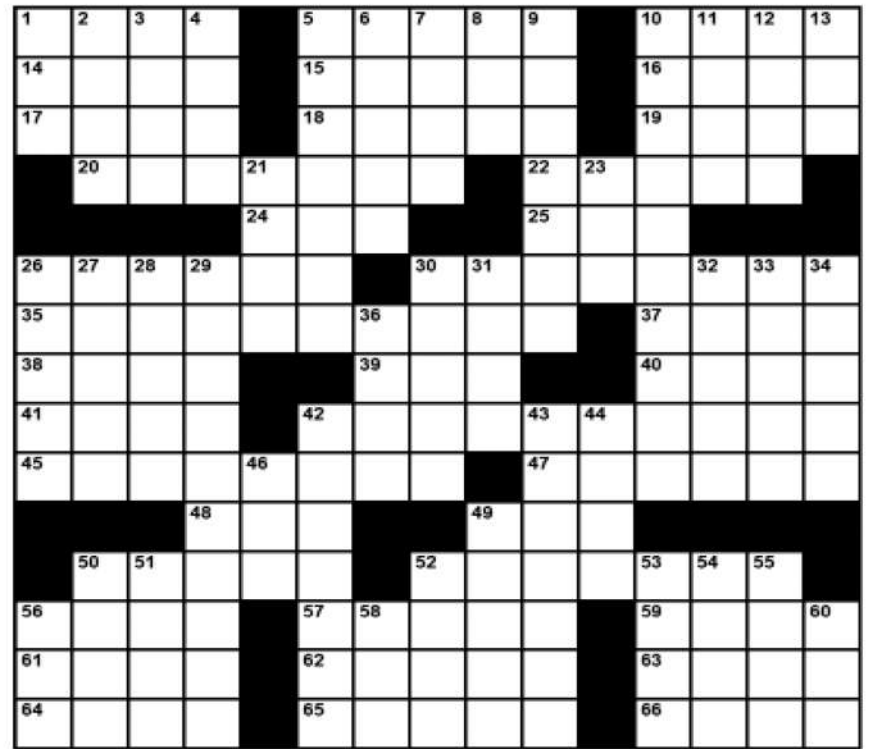
- 6:30 a.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (LIVE)**
- 9:00 a.m. **Morning Stew (LIVE)**
- 12:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**
- 1:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 2:00 p.m. Documentary: The Social Dilemma
- 3:30 p.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (repeat)**
- 6:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (LIVE)**
- 7:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 7:30 p.m. Belizean Legends: Myrna Manzannares
- 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. Founders Day: The White Swan Song
- 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: Lost Civilization - Africa
- 9:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**



Daily Printable Puzzle - 08-04-2022



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Across

- 1. Before mobile or mat
- 5. Cacophonous tower
- 10. Cabbagelike plant
- 14. Covered with cinders
- 15. Cremona craftsman
- 16. Final bio
- 17. Cottontail
- 18. Lazy girl
- 19. Flood survivor
- 20. Outfit
- 22. Kind of charge
- 24. Before two
- 25. Bauxite bonanza
- 26. Air sock
- 30. Abuse
- 35. Oater caravan
- 37. Bone dry
- 38. Edible starchy taro root
- 39. Anomalous
- 40. Burns one up
- 41. Big fibs
- 42. Where it's ready to blow
- 45. Symphonic piece
- 47. Trojan hero
- 48. Favoring
- 49. Cleansing agent
- 50. Extempore
- 52. Broad thoroughfare
- 56. Fizz flavor
- 57. Perfume resin
- 59. Exuberance
- 61. African wading bird
- 62. Ventilated
- 63. Active volcano
- 64. Beaten track
- 65. Be frugal
- 66. Elbow action

Down

- 1. Dismissing comment
- 2. USA mil. fliers
- 3. By way of, for short
- 4. Hearing in court
- 5. Steel helmet
- 6. Emulate a jester
- 7. Big party
- 8. Airport info
- 9. Penny portrait
- 10. Spiritual rebirth
- 11. Chinese horn
- 12. Fabricator
- 13. Antique ending
- 21. It could be proper
- 23. Alley cat's scrap
- 26. Resided
- 27. AM/FM device
- 28. Funny Nash
- 29. Emotional stress result
- 30. Butterfly for a woman
- 31. Benefits
- 32. Ala King
- 33. Action setting
- 34. Class struggles
- 36. Actor's part
- 42. Refrain from
- 43. Fun trip in a wagon
- 44. Furtive look
- 46. Baked Hawaiian dish
- 49. Fine fabrics
- 50. Brain's white matter
- 51. Just conclusion
- 52. Andes Nation
- 53. Have a bawl
- 54. A chorister
- 55. American to a Brit.
- 56. Drink cognac
- 58. Avoid the truth
- 60. Denial in Glasgow

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 - 07-28-2022 - Answers



SOE declared in Lake I

Continued from Page 19

Other gangs in other areas will be monitored closely during this time as well as the Police Department embarks on an effort to prevent any outbreaks of gun violence in other parts of the city, COMPOL Williams said.

“The George Street, Rocky Road, Jump Street area is still of concern to us, likewise the [inaudible] Extension area. We know that they have had their flare-ups as well, and we are watching them closely. If it is we see that they begin to rear their ugly head again, then we know what to do,” Williams said.

Commissioner Williams assured the public that the police will not be exercising all its powers under the SOE this time around, and that an effort will be made to limit the impact on the law-abiding citizens of the community. He did say, however, that “gang members will not be allowed to breathe.”

“I want to assure the law-abiding

citizens that we will do what we can to ensure their safety and at the same time to make sure that they are able to move around their communities freely. The gang members will not be allowed to breathe. We will be right in their back, making sure that they are not given the opportunity to do what needs to be done, and those who are on our list of potential troublemakers will be detained,” COMPOL Williams said.

Interestingly, Senator Michael Peyrefitte, who is the chairman of the United Democratic Party and its Shadow Minister for National Security, has made an explosive allegation. He is claiming that members of the Police Department are aware that the shooting of Alrick Smith stemmed from a matter of a personal nature and was not gang-related. He thus called into question the department’s justification for the State of Emergency in the Lake Independence area. Peyrefitte claimed that the Minister of Home Affairs, Hon. Kareem Musa, signed a declaration

for what he (Peyrefitte) described as an unannounced SOE, which, according to Peyrefitte, was triggered by the murder of Alrick Smith.

He told 7News’ Jules Vasquez, “ I have good information, credible information, that the whole State of Emergency situation came about with the murder of Alrick Smith. There was a feeling in the department that once that murder took place that there would be some serious retaliation. The investigation, however, led the police to realize that that was not a gang-related crime. It was a personal situation that led to that crime, and hence there wasn’t the aggression and the press conferences and the usual barrage or blitz or police activity in that area, because they realize it was not gang-related, and even the gang elements in the streets were telling the



COMPOL Williams in Lake I area speaking with residents

police this is not gang related, this is personal.”

In response to these allegations, Commissioner Williams, when interviewed by reporters yesterday, said “Mr. Peyrefitte was the Minister of National Security with three SOEs under his leadership, and everyone, including you, the media, who are not lawyers [and] who have never been the Minister, you all know that when it comes to [the] State of Emergency, the Minister of National Security or Home Affairs [does] not sign any declaration. The declaration of an SOE is signed by [the Governor General]. For him to say that the Minister [Kareem Musa] signed a declaration for the State of Emergency again is total nonsense. To make matters worse, he said that it was called unannounced. For Christ’s Sake, have we ever announced [the] State of Emergency? Have we? If you announce it, you defeat the purpose. You will be alerting the people who are supposed to be picked up in the SOE that you’re coming for them and they’ll go on the run. He knows better!”

For his part, Minister of Home Affairs, Hon. Kareem Musa, said, “Very quick action had to be taken. We had received very reliable information that certain retaliation would have taken place, and so I believe it was Saturday morning, it was imposed, and if it were a weekday, I’m sure the media would have had an opportunity to interview us, but it happened on a Saturday morning, following the Friday shooting. And so, that is the reason why.”



BELIZE CITY COUNCIL
Always 'bout The People



PUBLIC AUCTION

By order of the Municipal Court, certified and licensed Auctioneer Ryan Marlon Jones will sell the following property:
Friday, August 12, 2022 at 1:30 p.m. ON SITE

Property in Belize City
Parcel #2467 Palm Grove Estate
Comprising of 75 feet x 100 feet, containing 833.01 sq. yards
Situated in Caribbean Shores
Registration Section Block #16, Belize City

Licensed Auctioneer
Ryan Marlon Jones
#33 West Collet Canal | Belize City | Tel: 634-2452
Email: jaymarvlous@yahoo.com

 Belize City Council
 belize_city_council



TERMS - CASH
10% Deposit - Balance in 14 days



KREM FM

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

Traffic officers in new Enforcement Department granted the power to arrest

Starting this month, residents of Belize City can expect to see greater enforcement of traffic laws, with the creation of a new Enforcement Department and the issuance of tickets for parking meter violations.

by Khaila Gentle

BELIZE CITY, Tues. Aug. 2, 2022

The Belize City Council will begin to increase the enforcement of traffic laws this month with the establishment of a new Enforcement Department, created through the merging of the Traffic Department and the Special Constables Unit. As a part of the merger, 43 traffic wardens were sworn in as Special Constables and equipped with the power to make arrests this past Friday.

According to Belize City mayor Bernard Wagner, the goal of the merger is to strengthen the traffic department's enforcement team and ensure that there is a unit that can effectively respond to

traffic infractions.

"Every day we see the infractions. Some of them are minor infractions. Some of them are larger infractions, but clearly, we need to change the culture in the city with respect to all types of infractions. The driving of vehicles on the sidewalks, the traffic violations, the running of the red lights, the buses in the evening time, those need to be curbed—and the only way we could curb them is to have a more effective and efficient group that now has the power to arrest," said Mayor Wagner to reporters after the swearing-in ceremony held at the House of Culture.

During his speech at the ceremony, the Mayor noted that many traffic



Traffic officers recite the Special Constable's Oath

officers have complained that residents often show them no respect. The launch of the new department, he added, may very well be one of the most important initiatives taken on by the Council. He

told the media that, now, those officers, and the entire department, are in a much better position.

"Previously, we had traffic officers who didn't have that power to arrest. All they had was the ticket. That clearly nuh mi di work, and so we felt that by giving them now that teeth of the power of arrest we are in a much better position," he said.

The 43 new Special Constables were trained by Senior Superintendent Leslie Wade, the Director of Training at the Police Training Academy in Belmopan. Their training sessions covered a broad range of topics, including constitutional rights, road traffic law, powers and methods of arrest, report writing, and intoxicating liquor license.

Officers who were already part of the former Special Constables Unit also took the training which, according to the Belize City Council, served as a refresher course.

The new Enforcement Department features four units: the Traffic Unit, the Internal Security and Discipline Unit, the Trade and Liquor License Unit, and the Parking Meters Unit. Those officers belonging to the Parking Meters Unit are expected to be hard at work as early as the first week of August, since the issuance of tickets for parking meter violations commenced on Monday, August 1.

In a public notice released last week, the City Council urged residents to continue familiarizing themselves with the parking meters as the pilot project progresses. According to Mayor Wagner, the first quarter of the one-year-long project has been completed, and, so far, residents of the city are slowly adapting.

"We've received some of the data. We have over 700 hours of usage on the Albert Street side and about half on Princess Margaret by the DIGI Park side. But we're very comfortable with the usage," he said.

The Mayor also noted that the council plans on making some adjustments, including creating a "stop zone" for customers of the vendors located inside the DIGI Park.



BELIZE CITY COUNCIL
Always 'bout The People



PUBLIC AUCTION

By order of the Municipal Court, certified and licensed Auctioneer Ryan Marlon Jones will sell the following property:
Friday, August 12, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. ON SITE

Property in Belize City
Parcel #+2427 Zone 5C Palm Grove Estate
Comprising of 73 feet x 90 feet, Containing 728.80 Sq Meters
Situating in Caribbean Shores
Registration Section Block #16, Belize City

Licensed Auctioneer
Ryan Marlon Jones
#33 West Collet Canal | Belize City | Tel: 634-2452
Email: jaymarvlous@yahoo.com

 Belize City Council
 belize_city_council



BELIZE CITY COUNCIL
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TERMS - CASH
10% Deposit - Balance in 14 days



AMANDALA

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

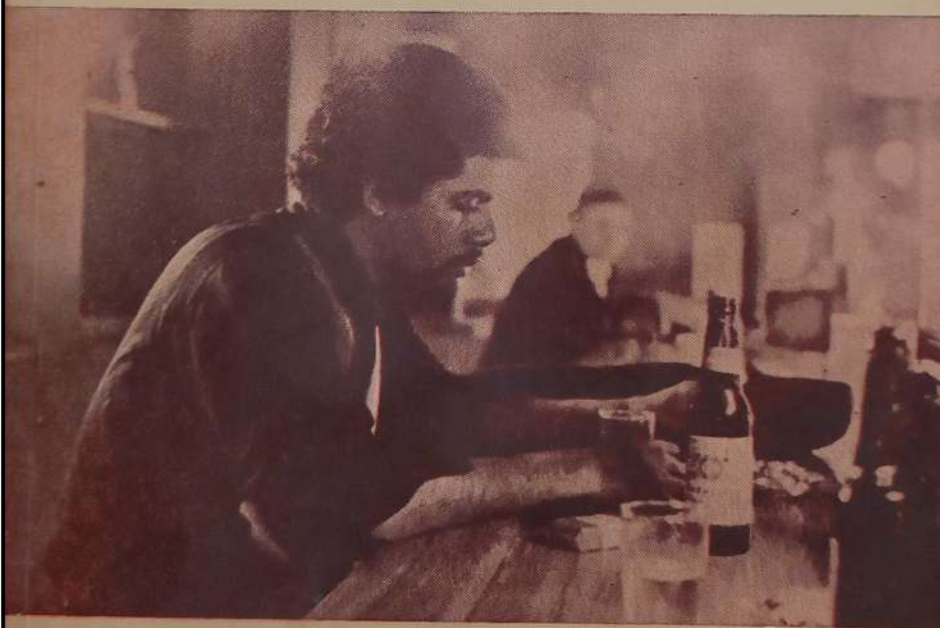


BELIZE CITY COUNCIL EX-PARTE NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 27(3) of the Town Property Evaluation Act, the Belize City Council hereby publishes the following Property Tax matters heard Ex-Parte during the month of **July 2022** in the Municipal Court. The persons whose name appears on the list should visit the Municipal Court at 109 North Front Street to settle these judgements.

Name	Address	Years & Acct#	Amount	Court Date	Remarks
Clarissa Steadman	Parcel 2148 Lot 267 Starfish Crescent	2011-2022	\$8,563.42	25 July 2022	Defendant ordered to pay the sum of \$8563.42 + \$5.00 c/c in full by 1 st September 2022, in default Distress.
Geraldine Kingston	Parcel 3117 Lot 50 Albert Hoy Ave	2008-2022	\$8,488.60	25 July 2022	Defendant ordered to pay the sum of \$8488.60 + \$5.00 c/c in full by 1 st September, 2022, in default Distress.
Charline Christine Cadle	Parcel 3004 Lot 35 Apollo Street	2013-2022	\$6,089.75	25 July 2022	Defendant ordered to pay the sum of \$6089.75 + \$5.00 c/c in full by 1 st September, 2022, in default Distress.
Eugene Ariola	Parcel 1497 Edwards Ave, Coral Grove	2013-2022	\$8,364.90	25 July 2022	Defendant ordered to pay the sum of \$8364.90 + \$5.00 c/c in full by 1 st September, 2022, in default Distress.
Wang & Chou Shih-Hsin/ Chao- Yi	Parcel 2467 Palm Grove Estate	2008-2022	\$10,704.00	15 Jan 2022	Defendant ordered to pay the sum of \$10704.00 + \$5.00 c/c in full by 25 February, 2022 in default Distress
Michelle Dawn Gill	Parcel 3036 Lot 184 Supt. George Arthurs Street	2013- 2022	\$6545.00	25 July 2022	Defendant ordered to pay the sum of \$6545.00 + \$5.00 c/c in full by 1 st September, 2022, in default Distress.

North
Amerikkkan
Blues



by Evan X Hyde

**SPORTS, SIN AND
SUBVERSION**



Evan X Hyde

Former Gilharry 7 musician found dead

Raymond Whitfield Jones, 59, a former Gilharry 7 band member, was found dead in a crouching position beside a cement fence after he fell while drinking.

by Charles Gladden

COROZAL, Tues. Aug. 2, 2022

The former trumpet player of the Gilharry 7 band, Raymond Whitfield Jones, 59, also known as “Lion,” was found motionless in a crouching position beside a cement fence on 5th Avenue in Corozal Town after he fell while allegedly drinking.

According to initial police reports, at about 2:00 p.m. on Thursday,



Raymond Whitfield Jones, deceased

July 28, Jones was drinking with a companion of his while seated on a fence when he lost his balance and fell backward and landed on the ground, where he seemingly lost consciousness.

Jones was transported to the Corozal Community Hospital, where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

Police are investigating.

Magnitude 4.9 quake on Honduras coast felt in Belize



Photo: Volcano Discovery

by Khaila Gentle

LACEIBA, Honduras, Tues. Aug. 2, 2022
A moderate earthquake that occurred

off the coast of Honduras was felt in some parts of Belize on Tuesday morning. According to the European-Mediterranean Seismological Centre (EMSC), the quake occurred some 89 kilometers (55.3 miles) northwest of La Ceiba, Departamento de Atlantida, Honduras at 9:17 a.m. local time.

The earthquake was listed as measuring 4.9 on the Richter Scale and did not cause any significant damage, although light vibrations were felt by persons located up to 122 km (75 miles) away from the epicenter.

Two persons die in separate motorcycle accidents



Gemino Rigoberto Chun, deceased

by Charles Gladden

TOLEDO DISTRICT, Tues. Aug. 2, 2022

Two fatal motorcycle accidents occurred over the long weekend—one of which claimed the life of a police officer.

The first accident, which resulted in the death of the police officer, took place sometime between Saturday and early Sunday morning. The officer, 29-year-old Gemino Rigoberto Chun, who was serving at the San Antonio Police Sub-Station in Toledo, was found lying on top of his motorcycle about ten feet off the San Antonio Road between the San Pedro Columbia junction and Mafredi Village. Police say he was

Please turn to Page 35



MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

AND

HOUSING



INVITATION TO BID

BLASTING AND SUPPLY OF CRUSHED ROAD MATERIALS TO REPAIR EX-SERVICEMAN'S ROAD(BOOM CREEK VILLAGE ROAD) TOLEDO DISTRICT

The Government of Belize via the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing (MIDH) intends to repair various small sections of the Ex-serviceman's Road (Boom Creek Village Road)), Toledo District with suitable crushed material.

The Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing now invites sealed bids from suitably qualified and experienced contractors to blast and crush road materials for use on repairs of small sections of Ex-serviceman's Road, Toledo District.

The scope of works repair works on the road will include the following:

- 1 Clear Borrow Pit Location
- 2 Provide equipment and labour to drill Borrow Pit and Prepare site for Blasting
3. Coordinate all applicable safety measures for control blasting as required by the Belize Police Dept and the MIDH
- 3 Blast and supply the following crushed road materials:
 - 4,500 C.Y. of 1 ½ inch graded Limestone material
 - 4,500 C.Y. of crushed graded 3" minus subbase material
 - 2,600 C.Y. of crushed 4–8-inch graded material

Bidders who are interested must have the necessary equipment, financial capacity, a licensed blaster, technical expertise, and experience to complete the works in accordance with the Bidding Documents.

Bidding will be conducted through national competitive bidding procedures and interested bidders may obtain further information and a copy of the bidding documents at the offices of MIDH at the address below as of Monday August 8, 2022, during normal office hours Monday through Fridays from 8.00 A.M – 12.00 Noon and from 1.00 PM – 4.00 PM.

Bidding documents are free of charge and may be picked up by interested bidders on the submission of a written application (email) to the address below.

All bids must be delivered to the address below by 2.00 p.m.local time on Tuesday, September 2, 2022, and they will be opened on the same day at 2.15p.m. at the address below. Late bids will be rejected. A bid security of \$10,000 must be submitted and delivered to the address below at the same time of the bid submission.

1. Victor Espat
Chief Executive Officer
Ministry of Infrastructure Development & Housing
#1 Power Lane
Belmopan, Belize
Tel: 501-822-2136/39
Fax: 501-822-3282
E-mail: ceo.secretary@mow.gov.bz

2. Lennox Bradley
Chief Engineer
Ministry of Infrastructure Development & Housing
#1 Power Lane
Belmopan, Belize
Tel: 501-822-2136/39
Fax: 501-822-3282
E-mail: BradleyLE@midh.gov.bz

The Caribbean HIV response is in danger

by *Richard Amenyah*

Director, UNAIDS Multi-country Office for Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, the OECS, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

New data released by UNAIDS shows that despite the Caribbean's 28% decline in new HIV infections since 2010, new infections have trended upwards in Belize. An estimated 14,000 people contracted HIV in the region during 2021. That translates to 270 new HIV infections every week!

While the Caribbean has not had the increase in new infections experienced in other places, the rate of decline is far too slow. Thousands of avoidable HIV infections every year are making it harder and more expensive to ensure that the targets to end the AIDS pandemic by 2030 are reached.

Of particular concern is that one-third (34%) of new infections last year were among Caribbean young people

ages 15–24. There were twice as many young women (23%) contracting HIV as compared to young men (11%). The new data also points to an increased risk for “key populations,” including gay men and other men who have sex with men, sex workers, people who use drugs and transgender people. We are facing a prevention crisis. Every new infection is a hole in the HIV response bucket—a requirement for future resources.

Deaths due to AIDS fell by half in the region since 2010. Still, 5,700 people died of AIDS-related illnesses in the Caribbean last year. As of the end of 2021, 84% of people living with HIV in the Caribbean were aware of their status. **(Belize was one of just a few countries in the region to have achieved at least 90% for this testing target.)** Eighty-three percent (83%) of all diagnosed people were on treatment. Of these, 87% were virally suppressed. The Caribbean is currently below the global averages for both HIV

treatment coverage and viral suppression.

Viral suppression matters. A person living with HIV who sustains an undetectable viral load is unable to pass the virus on to others. It is therefore in everyone's interest to support people in getting tested, starting treatment early and achieving an undetectable viral load.

The human and financial cost of not ending AIDS by 2030 would far outweigh the cost of the immediate and necessary action to turn the ship around. The good news is that success is possible. We know how.

First, we must address the inequalities that stop people receiving HIV prevention, testing and treatment services. Even where HIV services are available, intolerance and worry about experiencing injustice can make people fearful to learn their status, make it difficult for them to access treatment and undermine their ability to stay the course. The cost of inaction is too high

a price to pay, and so leaders in the Caribbean must act now to save lives.

In diverse settings, countries and communities are taking action to end inequalities and close gaps. Building on this momentum, policymakers need to strengthen their understanding of localized epidemics to focus on eliminating the inequalities that are slowing progress against the pandemic. Jamaica became one of the first countries to join the Global Partnership for Action to Eliminate All Forms of HIV-related Stigma and Discrimination. This pioneering partnership between civil society, the State Minister of Health and Wellness and parliamentary leaders is working at the country level to translate this commitment into concrete action.

We must also work to realize human rights for all. Punitive and counterproductive laws and policies must be removed. Just recently, Antigua and Barbuda joined Belize, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago—the growing list of Caribbean countries where discriminatory laws were successfully challenged in the courts.

We need increased commitment by governments to review the legal landscape and remove laws that are a barrier to the HIV response. More also be done to establish positive protections, such as anti-discrimination and hate crime legislation while working to change prejudiced social attitudes.

We must make a new push for HIV prevention. Countries urgently need to elevate the political and financial prioritization of HIV prevention and move to large-scale implementation of prevention projects so that innovations such as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) become much more widely accessible, especially to the key populations. (PrEP is daily medicine taken by an HIV negative person who is at substantial risk to prevent contraction of the virus). In the past year, Guyana has shifted its policy, ensuring that PrEP is available nationwide to anyone who needs it, particularly those who are most vulnerable.

As part of this prevention push, we must ensure young people have the education and services they need to stay healthy. After decades of debate and commitments, the region still does not have a comprehensive and consistent strategy for giving all young people the knowledge and support required to stay HIV-free. This entails providing comprehensive sexuality education, youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services as well as psychosocial support to address the specific needs of at-risk youth.

Ending AIDS is a political and social choice. This is a promise we must keep.

The 2022 Global AIDS Update, “In Danger”, is available on unaids.org.



MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

AND

HOUSING

INVITATION TO BID

**MAJOR REPAIRS TO HAWKESWORTH BRIDGE (563 FT IN LENGTH) SPANNING THE
MACAL RIVER, SAN IGNACIO TOWN, CAYO DISTRICT**

The Government of Belize via the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing (MIDH) intends to have major repairs done on the Hawkesworth Bridge which spans 563 feet across the Macal River in San Ignacio Town, Cayo District. The Bridge is approximately 48 feet above normal water level of the Macal River.

The Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing now invites sealed bids from suitably qualified and experienced Bridge contractors to undertake the proposed repairs of high-level Suspension type Hawkesworth Bridge.

The scope of works repair works on the road will include the following:

- 1 Replacement of various metal elements of the Main Deck, Towers and Pedestrian Sidewalk of the Bridge structure such as Metal I Beams, Wind Braces, and Guardrails.
2. Replacement of Nuts and Bolts on the Main Bridge Deck
3. Sand blasting of sections of the Bridge
4. Painting of the entire Bridge with a Primer and two coats of Rustoleum Paint

Bidders who are interested must have the financial capacity, necessary equipment, technical expertise, and experience as Bridge Contractor to complete the works in accordance with the Bidding Documents.

Bidding will be conducted through national competitive bidding procedures and interested bidders may obtain further information and a copy of the bidding documents at the offices of MIDH at the address below as of Monday August 8, 2022, during normal office hours Monday through Fridays from 8.00 A.M – 12.00 Noon and from 1.00 PM – 4.00 PM.

Bidding documents are free of charge and may be picked up by interested bidders on the submission of a written application (email) to the address below.

All bids must be delivered to the address below by 10.00 AM local time on Tuesday, September 7, 2022, and they will be opened on the same day at 10.15 A.M, at the address below. Late bids will be rejected. A bid security of \$10,000 must be submitted and delivered to the address below at the same time of the bid submission.

1. Victor Espot
Chief Executive Officer
Ministry of Infrastructure Development & Housing
#1 Power Lane
Belmopan, Belize
Tel: 501-822-2136/39
Fax: 501-822-3282
E-mail: ceo.secretary@mow.gov.bz

2. Lennox Bradley
Chief Engineer
Ministry of Infrastructure Development & Housing
#1 Power Lane
Belmopan, Belize
Tel: 501-822-2136/39
Fax: 501-822-3282
E-mail: BradleyLE@midh.gov.bz



*The newspaper
with the greatest
circulation in
Belize!*





REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST INDIVIDUAL CONSULTING SERVICES

Institution:	Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing
Country:	Belize
Project:	Additional Financing for George Price Highway Rehabilitation Project
Sector:	Infrastructure, Environment and Natural Disasters
Abstract:	Individual Consulting Services – Preparation of Institutional Strengthening in Environmental Compliance
Loan/Credit/Grant No.:	4616/OC-BL
Deadline:	August 25th, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. (Local Belize Time)

The Government of Belize has received financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), towards the cost of the Additional Financing for George Price Highway Rehabilitation Project (AFGPHRP) and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services (“the Services”) include the contracting of an Individual Consultant for forty-five (45) days who will be responsible for designing and implementing a training program for the relevant stakeholders involved in the construction and supervision of the George Price Highway Rehabilitation Project. The training program will focus on environmental compliance and knowledge of other relevant permitting agencies involved with the project and should be designed to determine conformity with environmental laws and regulations.

The Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing now invites eligible Individual Consultants to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

A Consultant 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, January 2020) – Section V, 5.2 Selection of Individual Consultants based on Comparison of Qualifications of National Individual Consultants. 2

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours:

Program Management Unit
#1 Power Lane, Belmopan, Cayo
Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Tel: 501-822-0100/1942
Email: pmupcmow@gmail.com, gphrp.3344@midh.gov.bz or procurement.officer.midh@gmail.com

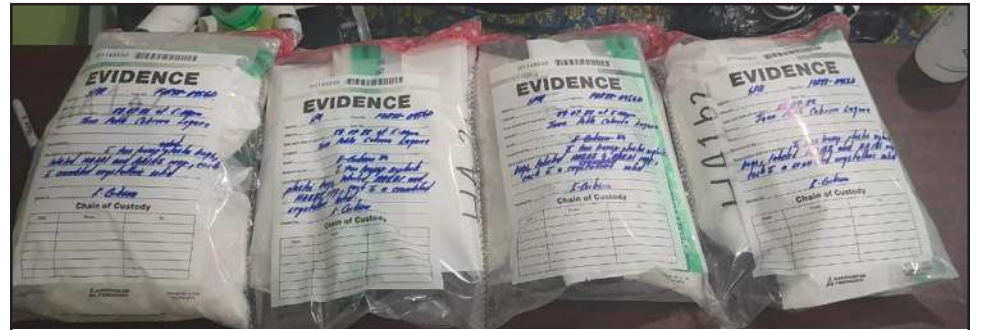
Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by **2:00 p.m. (Local Belize Time) on August 25th, 2022.**

Attn: Mr. Rolando Chan
Program Coordinator
Program Management Unit
#1 Power Lane, Belmopan
Cayo District, Belize

Tel: 501-822-0100/1942

E-mail: pmupcmow@gmail.com, gphrp.3344@midh.gov.bz or procurement.officer.midh@gmail.com

Mexican busted with crystal meth



9 kilos of crystal meth

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Aug. 1, 2022

On Thursday, July 28, a Mexican construction worker from Guanajuato, Mexico, was caught with 9 kilos or 8,913 grams of crystal meth by members of the Belize Police Department and the Belize Defence Force in the Ramonal area of Patchakan Village in the Corozal District.



Juan Pablo Cabrera Lagunas, charged

According to police reports, at around 1:00 o'clock that afternoon, law enforcement personnel who were on patrol in the area, where an illegal border crossing is located, saw Lagunas standing in some bushes with two bags in his hands. Upon sighting the officers, Laguna reportedly attempted to flee, but the officers followed him, and they were able to

apprehend him about 100 feet away from the area where he had been spotted.

The officers then looked into the bags Laguna had been carrying, but they did not see marijuana or cocaine—which have many times been found during busts in the area. Instead they saw four aluminum cylinders, and inside each of those cylinders were two transparent

plastic bags that contained a substance that the officers suspected to be crystal meth (short for crystal methamphetamines).

On the following day, Lagunas appeared in the Magistrate Court and was charged with possession of controlled drugs with the intent to supply to another. He was then remanded to the Belize Central Prison.

From St. Louis to Hopkins - a sistren's advice

- Contributed -

St. Louis, USA, Sun. July 31, 2022

Wow! As soon as I read the headline, my heart just dropped to the bottom. I knew the next word would be: HOPKINS!

The way my conspiracy mind works, and especially being from one of the most violent cities in the States, something is brewing with purpose and intent! Hopkins is prime real estate, and whenever outside people in power want it, they devalue it... FIRST! Whether it is paying, instigating or planting outsiders (or even disturbed, disgruntled and angry insiders) to create fear and crime ... ESPECIALLY WHEN THERE IS LOCAL (VILLAGE) LEADERSHIP ATTEMPTING TO LIBERATE AND MAKE CHANGES.

Call me paranoid and crazy, but THE PLAN'S PLAYBOOK rarely changes. THE PEOPLE HAVE TO! Hopkins will need more local men and women who are prepared and positioned to remain sober and serious!

If you study mostly any gentrified city in the States, you will know exactly how the justification for takeover is done:

1. Drop drugs
2. Drop guns
3. Instigate gangs
4. Pay crooked cops
5. Wait

6. Wait
7. Wait
8. AND GRAB THE REAL ESTATE

This is not about AVOIDING HOLDING THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS ACCOUNTABLE EITHER! It is just my opinion based on years of teaching and living in Black neighborhoods and losing students, family members and other young Black men to streets, violence and prisons when they are often times coerced, threatened, and manipulated by those who don't get their hands dirty! So it becomes only a Black on Black violent thing, and then the retaliations start. And then the news spreads the stories, images about how bad a people and place is becoming, and then ... BOOM:

The neighborhood turns white and all the drugs, violence and killing magically disappear. If you think it took white folks moving in to change it for the better, then you might be the one who is crazy.

HOPKINS! YOU HAVE A VILLAGE! You have a language and history! You have elders! You have a SPIRIT!

So, may the men and women warriors of the Village organize and prepare! Everybody can't be life of the party! Somebody has to be the bouncer at the door of LIFE's Party!

Please turn to Page 35



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



SADIE VERNON TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL
 (MINISTRY OF EDUCATION)
 Cor. Morning Glory Street & Amandala Drive
 P.O. Box 2044
 Belize City, Belize
 Phone: 222-5683
 Email: sadietech@yahoo.com

Vacancy for the following Post of:

Technical Drawing Teacher (Full Time)

Qualification: Applicants must possess qualification in teaching Technical Drawing and computer aided drawing and design (CAD) using its software and 2-D modeling and a valid Teaching License.

Applicants must submit a cover letter, a resumé, copies of degrees, certificates and transcripts, a Police Record, a copy of a valid teaching license, 2 reference letters, a copy of a valid Social Security Card and a medical certificate.

Salary will commensurate according to Government's Pay Scale.

Application along with relevant documents must be addressed to: Secretary, Board of Management, Sadie Vernon Technical High School, Cor. Morning Glory & Partridge Streets, Belize City no later than Friday, August 19, 2022.

PUBLIC AUCTION SALE

Sandhill Village & Belmopan City

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees, Messrs. Heritage Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneer Fitzgerald A. Joseph will sell the following properties on Site on Saturday the 13th August, 2022 starting at 9:00 a.m.



Being Lot No. 6 containing 3,539.96 square yards situated in Sandhill Village, Belize District, Belize the freehold property of **Armando Moralez** at **9:00 a.m.**



Being a three bedrooms bungalow house with two bathrooms, porch, kitchen, living, dining and laundry rooms together with a fully fenced lot being Lot No. 8 containing 2,193.79 square yards situated in Sandhill Village, Belize District, Belize the freehold property of **Armando Moralez** at **9:30 a.m.**

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

Registration Section
 Belmopan

Block
 20

Parcel
 9



Being a two storey concrete apartment units having a commercial unit on the ground floor comprising four rooms, two bathrooms and two open areas. On the upper floor there are apartment units each having two bedrooms, one bath, kitchen, living, dining and a verandah. In the back there is a one storey apartment having two apartment units each having two bedrooms, one bath and an open plan to facilitate living, dining and kitchen area. It has entrance from both Nargusta Street and Hummingbird Avenue, together with a fully fenced lot containing 538.89 square yards situated on Nargusta Street and Hummingbird Avenue, Belmopan City, Cayo District, Belize the freehold property of **Kenzle Hulse** at **11:00 a.m.**

Registration Section
 Belmopan

Block
 20

Parcel
 6364



Being a bungalow having three bedrooms, three baths, living, dining, kitchen, foyer and laundry rooms together with a parcel of land containing 464.561 square meters situated in the Las Flores area of Belmopan City, Cayo District, Belize being the freehold property of **Miguel A. Guerra Jr.** at **11:30 a.m.**



Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital Authority

TENDER NOTICE

Date: August 4, 2022

To: SUPPLIERS OF PEST CONTROL SERVICES, BELIZE C.A.

Tender Invitation – Pest Control Services, Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital Authority

Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital Authority guidelines for quotations from Pest Control Agencies.

The quotation requested is to provide spraying services to the below areas. Any additional services provided by the Pest Control Agency is to be submitted in a separate quotation.

PURPOSE:

The Pest Control Agency is responsible for keeping the entire hospital compound and building free of most pests including: Roaches, Ants, Fleas, Termites and Rodents. In addition, ensure to control the population of domesticated and wild animals on the compound. Pesticides recommended for use will be discussed in the Pre-Tender meeting.

SCOPE OF SERVICES:

The Pest Control Agency shall keep and maintain the below listed zone areas on a weekly basis free of all pests as set out in the “PURPOSE” section.

Zone I: Compound, Material & Supplies, Purchasing, Housekeeping, Laundry, Sewing Room, Maintenance, Dietary Kitchen, Morgue and NICU/PICU.

Zone II: Administration, Medical Ward, Surgical Ward, Pediatric Ward, Maternity Ward, Dialysis, Pharmacy, PRO Office, Infection Control/AQAC, Shift Supervisor, and Dialysis Social Worker.

Zone III: Accident & Emergency, Asthma Bay, Labour & Delivery, Operating Theater/Post Anesthetic Recovery, Private Ward, Milk Room, Central Sterilizing Unit, Radiology, Stat Lab, Physiotherapy, Operator Booth, Medical Records, Specialist Clinics, Main Lobby, Gift Shop, and Accounts.

Pre-qualification Requirements:

- Business registration certificate and company's Belize office address (es) including: telephone numbers, fax number and e-mail address
- Company Registry certificate of good standing
- Company's profile, organizational structure with names of key personnel and all management staff including resumes
- Company code of conduct
- Any additional information that will enhance the potential of the company

Commencement and validity of Provision of Pest Control Services:

- The contract is expected to commence on September 1, 2022 and will be for an initial period of two years from the effective date with a one-year extension option.

A meeting will be held on August 18, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. at the KHMHA conference room to address queries.

Bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “KHMHA Pest Control Services” addressed to Director Operations, Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital, Princess Margaret Drive, Belize City, Belize C.A. on or before August 19, 2022 at 4 p.m.

KHMHA reserves the right to reject any or all Tenders.



The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) is searching for a highly qualified

Economist Consultant

The IDB Belize Country Office (CBL) is seeking the services of a consultant to support the Country Office under the guidance of the Country Representative and the Country Economist in the implementation of the Bank's economic agenda in the Country by conducting research and analysis and providing operational and strategic support.

The ideal candidate must hold a master's degree in economics or similar discipline with five (5) years relevant professional experience or the equivalent combination of education and experience.

Post of duty: The IDB Country Office in Belize City
Contract Info: Full Time Consultancy for 19 months with possibility of renewal up to 3 years

For more information on the position's requirements and to apply please visit our website at

[Job Description - Economist Consultant for Country Office Belize \(2200000593\) \(taleo.net\)](#)

Closing date for application is August 5th, 2022

If you have any challenge with the application process, please contact us at hrsc@iadb.org



The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) is searching for a highly qualified

General Operational Portfolio Supervision and Country Strategy Implementation Consultant

The IDB Belize Country Office (CBL) is seeking the services of a consultant who will work under the guidance of the Chief of Operation to provide general support to the office's operational team; support the deployment and adoption of relevant digital tools; and conduct general research and analytical work in support of the implementation of the new Country Strategy 2022- 2025

The ideal candidate must hold a master's degree in economics, business, mathematics, social science, or similar discipline with five (5) years relevant professional experience or the equivalent combination of education and experience.

Post of duty: The IDB Country Office in Belize City
Contract Info: Full Time Consultancy for 19 months with possibility of renewal up to 3 years

For more information on the position's requirements and to apply please visit our website at

[Job Description - General Operational Portfolio Supervision and Country Strategy Implementation Consultant \(2200000696\) \(taleo.net\)](#)

Closing date for application is August 11th, 2022

If you have any challenge with the application process, please contact us at hrsc@iadb.org

GRIGA CONQUERORS WILL WIN IT ALL

By Wellington C. Ramos
(former national football player)



Three weeks ago, I was in Dangriga watching a football Inter-district competition game between Griga Conquerors from Dangriga Town and Caribbean Boyz from Orange Walk District. The game was competitive from start to finish. Caribbean Boyz dominated the game with excellent ball control, teamwork and shooting, while Griga Conquerors played with speed, fitness, endurance and resiliency.

Caribbean Boyz scored the first goal, but the Griga Conquerors responded by scoring a goal as well. At the ending of the first half, the score was 2-2. During the game, many players from the Caribbean Boyz were falling down

on the ground, and a few of them were taken out of the game. Despite the injuries they received, their football game remained competitive up until the nearing of the end. Eventually, the wear and tear began to take its toll on the Caribbean Boyz team and they lost the game to Griga Conquerors

by a score of 4-2.

Griga Conquerors had some players that were dribbling the ball too much, lagging in the defensive area, and were standing in the goal area, which brought a lot of pressure on the goalkeeper, and the team was not playing a midfield

pressure game. These types of play can make a team lose its game from my experience playing football, but, Griga Conquerors were able to win.

After the game, I went to meet and congratulate the sponsors, coach and the players and gave them my analysis of the game. They were very receptive to my critique, and the coach told me that the team would avoid making those same mistakes when they played Progresso FC the following week. The game with Progresso FC ended up in a draw, and they had another game to play in Dangriga Town, which they won 1-0 last Sunday on July the 31st.

Now, Griga Conquerors will be in the final playing against Club Atletico from San Ignacio Town, who defeated San

Please turn to **Page 38**

From St. Louis to Hopkins - a sistren's advice

Continued from **Page 32**

And right now, there appears to be too much partying without enough bouncers keeping the Village protected.

Titles and badges cannot and will not do it alone!

Sorry for the rant! Hopefully, you don't find it distasteful while family and friends are grieving. Peace and strength to these families

May the loss of lives liberate ACTION! That is one way the living may honor the dead but never forgotten.

Facebook post by

[Sandra Roberts](#)

(From [St. Louis](#); Lives in [St. Louis](#))

Two persons die in separate..

Continued from **Page 30**

motionless when he was found.

According to an initial police report, Chun was last seen on Saturday heading to Mafredi Village on his motorcycle prior to the accident, and at about 6:00 a.m. the following day, he was found dead on the road by a passerby.

Police are also investigating another motorcycle accident that occurred at Mile 6 on the Hummingbird Highway in the Stann Creek District. The victim, Desmon Bernard, a 48-year-old Belizean truck driver of Havana Street, lost control of the motorcycle he was riding, which collided into the guard rail of the Southern Highway.

Reports have indicated that Bernard was test driving a Suzuki 1000 Ninja motorcycle on a journey from Dangriga toward Belmopan when he was flung off the motorcycle after he allegedly lost control of the bike, which crashed into the guard rail of the Southern Highway.

Bernard sustained head and body injuries and was transported to the Southern Regional Hospital, where he passed away due to his injuries while receiving treatment.

Police are investigating.



MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

AND

HOUSING



INVITATION TO BID

PAVING OF 2.2 km of GUINEA GRASS VILLAGE ROAD ORANGE WALK DISTRICT

The Government of Belize via the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing (MIDH) intends to upgrade to paved standard a 2.2 section of Guinea Grass Village Road (section passing through Village), Orange Walk District with Double Chip and Seal Treatment.

The Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing now invites sealed bids from suitably qualified and experienced contractors for paving of the above-mentioned 2.2 km section road passing through Guinea Grass Village, Orange Walk District.

The scope of works will involve upgrading to paved standard a total of 7218 ft x 23 ft of roadway with Double Chip and Seal Treatment and will include the following:

1. Clean main road of all vegetation and deleterious materials and dispose of spoil within a 2 miles radius of project site.
2. Clean side drains-14,437 linear feet and dispose of spoil within a 2 miles radius of project site.
3. Drainage improvement & Culvert Installation works (Provisional item)
3. Scarify, shape and compact road surface (18,446 S.Y) as per crossfall on drawings.
4. Supply, transport, place and compact 6 inches of subbase type material as per specifications.
5. Supply, transport, place and compact 6 inches of crushed All-In as per specifications.
6. Supply all equipment, materials, and labour to apply 2 coats of chip seal treatment covering a total surface area of 18,446 S.Y.

Bidders who are interested must have the financial capacity, necessary equipment, technical expertise and experience to complete the works in accordance with the Bidding Documents.

Bidding will be conducted through national competitive bidding procedures and interested bidders may obtain further information and a copy of the bidding documents at the offices of MIDH at the address below as of Monday August 8, 2022 during normal office hours Monday through Fridays from 8.00 A.M – 12.00 Noon and from 1.00 PM – 4.00 PM.

Bidding documents are free of charge and may be picked up by interested bidders on the submission of a written application (email) to the address below.

All bids must be delivered to the address below by 10.00 AM local time on Tuesday, September 2, 2022 and they will be opened on the same day at 10.15 A.M, at the address below. Late bids will be rejected. A bid security of \$10,000 must be submitted and delivered to the address below at the same time of the bid submission.

1. Victor Espat
Chief Executive Officer
Ministry of Infrastructure Development & Housing
#1 Power Lane
Belmopan, Belize
Tel: 501-822-2136/39
Fax: 501-822-3282
E-mail: ceo.secretary@mow.gov.bz

2. Lennox Bradley
Chief Engineer
Ministry of Infrastructure Development & Housing
#1 Power Lane
Belmopan, Belize
Tel: 501-822-2136/39
Fax: 501-822-3282
E-mail: BradleyLE@midh.gov.bz



Kulture Yabra Over-40 are Belize City undefeated 2022 champions

BELIZE CITY, Tues. Aug. 2, 2022

On Friday, July 29, at 7:00 p.m. at the MCC Grounds, the Westline Over-40 2022 football tournament concluded with a 2 to 2 tie in the final game of the season, the second of a two-game championship series. Kulture Yabra is once again champion, defeating Medina's Jewelry Pickstock Lake 5 to 3 in a two-game series.

The final game was a classic. Kulture took a 1-nil lead 20 minutes into the game on a goal from Jerome "Jarro" James (The referee officially recorded it as an own goal by Lake defense, under pressure from Jarro). Medina's Lake quickly responded with a goal from Bruce Dwayne Carrillo. The first half ended 1 to 1.

25 minutes into the second half, John Castro scored to give Lake a 2 to 1 lead. With 10 minutes to go, David "Manu" McCaulay scored a magnificent goal to tie the game and secure the championship for Kulture Yabra. Kulture Yabra is the reigning national back-to-back Over-40 champion. Now they are the Belize City Over-40 undefeated 2022 champion.

The Most Valuable Player, from Kulture Yabra, is Chris Gilharry. The Best Goalkeeper is Anthony "Willie Bo" Bernard (Kulture Yabra). Best Defense is Albert "Allie" Thurton (Kulture Yabra). Kevin Rowland (Kulture Yabra) has the Golden Boot for the most goals scored.



Medina's Pickstock Lake captain, Aaron Buckley (left) receives sub-champ trophy from National Sports Council's Marvin Otley (right)



Yabra's Jerome "Pealoff" Maheia (left) receives championship trophy from Westline owner/FFB president, Sergio Chuc (right)

Best Midfielder is Bruce Dwayne Carrillo of Medina's Pickstock Lake. Jarro James (Kulture Yabra) was the leading scorer in the playoff with 3 goals.

We thank all our sponsors, including Westline Limited, Publics Supermarket, Kulture Yabra Football Club, Belize Social Security Board, Khal Kob's Home Suite Rental, and *Amandala* newspaper.

National Elite U13 Boys Championship 2022 kicks off; Week 1 results

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Aug. 3, 2022

The Football Federation of Belize (FFB) kicked off its National Elite U13 Boys Championship tournament over the weekend with five games being played at different venues across the country, all games being scheduled for 2:00 p.m. on Fridays.

There are 10 participating regions being represented in the tournament, and they all saw action in Week 1 on Friday, July 29. (See the Week 1 results below.)

At the Carl Ramos Stadium in Dangriga, Stann Creek Elite dropped Belmopan Elite, 1-0, on a goal by Joemei Ingram (30').

It was a 1-1 draw between Toledo Elite and Mid-South Elite at the Victor Sanchez Union Field in Punta Gorda, where Bernardo Avila (27' PK) put Mid-South in front from the penalty spot and Henry Coc (37') equalized the score ten

minutes later.

At the People's Stadium in Orange Walk, it was Orange Walk Elite prevailing, 3-2, over Corozal Elite. Goal scorers for Orange Walk were Yaser Hernandez (19' PK), Kevin Ferguson (30') and Jaylen Hall (52'); while Corozal's goals were by Abel Ochaeta (24') and Jahzeel Navarro (62').

Out west at the Marshalleck Stadium it was Cayo Elite, 5-0, over Benque Viejo Elite. Marlon Meza, Jr. had a hat trick (4', 16' & 50'), while his teammates Brian Wiltshire (32') and Jared Garcia (60') added a goal each for Cayo.

And here at the MCC Grounds in Belize City, a first half goal by Jaroh Joseph (32') stood up to give Belize Elite the 1-0 victory over San Pedro Elite.

According to the tournament schedule, each team will be playing four

San Ignacio/Santa Elena and Benque crown basketball champions

by Karim Juan

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo District, Sun. July 31, 2022

The playoffs for the Benque and San Ignacio/Santa Elena Tournament concluded this past weekend at the Resilience Center at the Victor Galvez Stadium in San Ignacio Town. In the Under 15 division, Assassins Jr. (#1) defeated Benque Basketball Academy (#2) in the third and decisive game 3, claiming the Under 15 championship. In the Open Male division, on Friday night Assassins (#2) defeated Venom (#1) by the score of 68 – 56 in game 1 of the best-of-three series. On Saturday night, Assassins sealed the championship with a 76 – 66 victory.

Friday, July 29 results

(Open Male) Assassins (#2), 68-56, over Venom (#1). Assassins – Aaron Allison 14 pts; Shemar White 12 pts; Jamie Carbajal 9 pts; Robert Jeffries 8 pts. Venom – Elvert "PG" Ariola 15 pts; Joel Montejó 14 pts; Frank Fuller 10 pts; Johan "Cutto" Bermudez 8 pts.

Saturday, July 30 results

(Under 15) Assassins Jr. (#1), 45-39, over Benque Basketball Academy (#2). Assassins Jr. – Jeremy Carbajal 24 pts; Roy "Sonny" Valentine 8 pts; Assad Juan 7 pts. Benque Academy – Gevan Canelo 16 pts; Hua Qiang Zhao 13 pts; Byron Rosas 6 pts.

(Open Male) Assassins (#2), 76-66, over Venom (#1). Assassins – Aaron Allison 19 pts; Jamie Carbajal 15 pts; Shemar White 14 pts; Robert Jeffries 9 pts; Ryan "Mentes" Carbajal 9 pts. Venom – Johan "Cutto" Bermudez 23 pts; Frank Fuller 16 pts; Joel Montejó 10 pts; Allizair Rhaburn 4 pts.

Trophies were presented to the winning teams on Saturday night.

In regards to this local tournament, the first and second place teams in the Under 15 and Under 18 divisions received a team trophy. For the Open Male division, the champions will receive a team trophy with \$300, the 2nd place team will receive a team trophy with \$250, and the third place team will get a team trophy with \$150.

For the national tournament that will be held in Belize City on August 13 and 14, each player on the Under 15 and Under 18 champions will receive a one-year scholarship, while in the male and female Open divisions, the champions will receive \$10,000, while the second place teams will receive \$5,000.

Below are the teams that will be representing the west at the national tournament that will be held in Belize City.

Category	San Ignacio & Santa Elena	Benque Viejo Del Carmen
Under 15	Assassins Jr.	Benque Basketball Academy
Under 18	Love Soul Mambas	---
Open – Male	Assassins	Venom
Open - Female	---	Benque Queens

Griga vs Belmopan for National Bank of Belize Amateur Interdistrict Championship 2022

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Aug. 4, 2022

After each registering a 3-2 win in the first leg of the semifinals in the National Bank of Belize Amateur Interdistrict Championship (NBBAIC) 2022, both Griga Conquerors FC of Dangriga and Atletico FC of Belmopan completed their semifinal series with victories this past Sunday, July 31, to set up this coming weekend's knockout championship final.

With a 4:30 p.m. kickoff time at the Carl Ramos Stadium in Dangriga on Sunday, Dajon Daniel (22') scored the only goal of the match, to give Griga Conquerors FC the 1-0 win over Progresso FC from Orange Walk, which resulted in a 4-2 aggregate victory in the series for Griga Conquerors.

Then at 5:00 p.m. the same day, the ball started rolling at the Ambergris Stadium in San Pedro, where San Pedro's

Conquerors FC would try to overcome their 3-2 loss in the first leg of the semifinals to visiting Atletico FC from Belmopan. A late goal from each side made it 1-1 at the half; but Atletico got 2 more goals in second half to secure the 3-1 victory, and 6-3 aggregate win over Conquerors. Atletico got a goal each from Tyriq Ciego (44'), Wilfredo Galvez (64') and Korey Gomez (88'); while the lone goal for Conquerors was by Rayjan Jones (45+').

Top goal scorer so far in the tournament is Atletico's Wilfredo Galvez with 10 goals.

The Grand Finale, a one-match affair, takes place this weekend in Belmopan.

NBBAIC Finals schedule:

Saturday, August 6

7:00 p.m. – Atletico FC vs Griga Conquerors FC – FFB Stadium



Rough ride for Belize in Concacaf U15 Girls' Championship in Miami, Florida



Belize National U15 Girls Team 2022

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Aug. 4, 2022

First reports were bright, where Belize U15 Girls were among the opening day winners at the Concacaf Girls' U15 Championship being held at the Hillsborough County Tournament Sportsplex in Tampa, Florida; but it was a rough ride thereafter.

With 4 teams each in Groups C, D and E of League B, Belize played in a round-robin with our other Group C members—small islands Anguilla, Martinique and Bermuda. Group D included Aruba, Honduras, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Bahamas; and Group E—Nicaragua, Cayman Islands, Guyana, and Turks & Caicos Islands.

League A is comprised of the top ranked teams in Concacaf U15 Girls, and they were in two groups, Group A—Mexico, Dominican Republic, Wales (an invitee), and Costa Rica; and Group B—United States, Canada, Puerto Rico, and Jamaica.

Belize defeated Anguilla, 3-1, in our first match on July 31, on the strength of a brace from Asia Flores, but the celebration ended there for our girls. The next two Group C matches for Belize included a 3-0 loss to Martinique on Monday, August 1, and a 1-0 loss to Bermuda on Wednesday,

August 3. With only the group winners and best second place finishers moving on to the semifinals, Belize, in third place with 3 points behind Martinique with 7 pts and Bermuda with 6 pts, was left only to contest a League B ranking match against U.S. Virgin Islands today, August 4, which Belize again lost, 2-0.

Concacaf has arranged its tournaments to afford more matches of a competitive nature for all teams to get a chance to develop their game. Twelve (12) teams from Groups C, D and E participated in the League B section of the competition; while the eight (8) top ranked teams squared off in Groups A and B of League A. Top performing teams from League B can look forward to moving up to League A, where they can vie for the championship.

While our Belize U15 Girls team exited the Concacaf U15 Girls' Championship without making it to the semifinals of League B, they at least enjoyed the sweet taste of victory once in the tournament opener, and will surely be focusing their efforts in the coming weeks and months to make a greater impact in their next opportunity.

Heads up, and thanks for a great effort, Belizean girls!

FFB calls teachers/coaches to FIFA Football for Schools workshop

BELMOPAN, Tues. Aug. 2, 2022

The Football Federation of Belize (FFB) is hereby calling the following teachers/coaches to attend the capacity building workshop for the 'FIFA Football for Schools' which is to be held from August 15 - 17, 2022 at the Princess Ramada in Belize City. The coaches are to report to the Princess Ramada hotel no later than 9:00 a.m. on the first day of the training. The course is to be facilitated by FIFA Football for Schools consultants Alexandre Gros and Alberto Giacomini from Switzerland.

The Football for Schools aims to contribute to the education, development and empowerment of boys and girls around the country by incorporating football activities into physical education curriculums.

Belize - FIFA Football for Schools				
#	Name	Gender	Organization / School	Region
1	Wayne Casmiro	Male	FFB – Ag. Head of Coaching Education	FFB
2	John George	Male	FFB – Coach Educator	Belmopan
3	Brayan Paz	Male	FFB - Belmopan Comprehensive School	Cayo
4	Jose Aleman	Male	FFB - Technical Officer	Midsouth
5	Elmer Pott	Male	FFB - Technical Officer	Orange Walk
6	Paul Casimiro	Male	FFB - Gwen Liz High School	Belize
7	Norman Koko	Male	FFB - Stann Creek Ecumenical College	Stann Creek
8	Iris Centeno	Female	FFB - Women's Director	Midsouth
9	Tamara Recinos	Female	FFB - Independence Junior College	Toledo
10	Miriam Villamil	Female	FFB - Corozal Sports Council	Corozal
11	Roger Woodye	Male	St. Peter Claver School	Toledo
12	Fidel Kuk	Male	San Marcos Government School	Toledo
13	Maclovio Ack	Male	Barranco St. Joseph RC School	Toledo
14	Senaida Shol	Female	Columbia RC School	Toledo
15	Zerrick Torres	Male	Independence Primary School	Midsouth
16	Lennox Mejia	Male	United Community Primary School	Midsouth
17	Victor Juarez	Male	Santa Cruz Primary School	Midsouth
18	Christino Acal	Male	Red Bank St. Paul RC	Midsouth
19	Albourne Marshall	Male	Light of the Valley	Stann Creek
20	Sonia Marin	Female	Holy Ghost School	Stann Creek
21	Dayton Antonio	Male	San Juan Bosco R.C	Stann Creek
22	Clifton Lorenzo	Male	Sacred Heart School	Stann Creek
23	Juan Alas	Male	Our Lady of Guadeloupe R.C	Belmopan
24	Nicholas Bolon	Male	St. Jude Primary School	Belmopan
25	Idania Ramirez	Female	United Evergreen Primary School	Belmopan
26	Rutilda Useda	Female	Kuxlin Ha Government School	Belmopan
27	Karen O'Brien	Female	Garden City Primary School	Belmopan
28	Tracy Augustine	Female	Santa Elena Primary RC School	Cayo
29	Indira Spain	Female	Saint Hilda's Anglican School	Cayo
30	Temeneh Andrews	Female	St. Matthews Government School	Cayo
31	Niketa Lemott	Female	El Progreso Community School	Cayo
32	Edwin Noralez	Male	Bishop Martin RC School	Cayo
33	Alvaro Marin	Male	La Inmaculada Primary School	Orange Walk
34	Hernan Cal	Male	Santa Cruz Primary School	Orange Walk
35	Fabiana Rodriguez	Female	San Juan Primary School	Orange Walk
36	Ronaldo Umana	Male	St. Peter's Anglican School	Orange Walk
37	Sakenah Lopez	Female	St. Luke Primary	Belize
38	Charlize Hunter	Female	St. Luke Methodist	Belize
39	Elmer Torres	Male	Queen's Square Primary	Belize
40	Joel Wade	Male	Our Lady of the Way RC	Belize
41	Nicasio Gonzalez	Male	Chan Chen Government School	Corozal
42	Sylvin Che	Male	Our Lady of Guadeloupe R.C	Corozal
43	Javier Hernandez	Male	Church of Christ	Corozal
44	Robert Hernandez	Male	Mount Carmen School	Benque
45	Wilson Pat	Male	Succotz Roman Catholic School	Benque

-press release-

NSUB wants rep on People's Constitutional Commission

Continued from Page 2

represented is the country's business sector, through the Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI). Marcello Blake, the president of the BCCI, confirmed this when speaking with the media this week.

Blake was asked to share his thoughts on the fact that the Prime Minister wishes to put a cap on the number of persons

included in the PCC. The BCCI president expressed the view that too many cooks can indeed spoil the broth:

"Depending on the number of seats, I think that's the Prime Minister's call. We also have to be cognizant that when you have far too many voices at the table, then there is just noise and nothing gets done. So, it's important that you keep the focus on what is the end objective of that committee," said Blake.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

INTERNAL AUDITOR

La Inmaculada Credit Union Ltd. (LICU) is pleased to inform that we are currently accepting applications for the post of **Internal Auditor**

Responsibilities:

1. Evaluate internal and external risks that could impact LICU
2. Work with Management and the Supervisory Committee to develop and execute a yearly audit plan for LICU
3. Review existing policies and procedures and recommend changes to existing policies
4. Aid in the development of policies and procedures to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the institution
5. Liaise with the external auditor and LICU's management team to address issues identified
6. Prepare written reports and detailed internal audit reports/work papers summarizing the scope of the audit, the procedures performed, and recommendations for improvement to policies, processes and controls.
7. Be prepared to lead special investigations that may involve allegations of wrong doing
8. Report any instances of non-compliance with policies or potential issues with legal or regulatory compliance
9. Other projects and duties as may be assigned.

Requirements:

1. Bachelor's Degree in Accounting (being a Certified Internal Auditor (CIA), Chartered Certified Accountant (ACCA) or Certified Public Accountant (CPA) would be an asset)
2. 3-5 years experience in internal/external audit
3. Excellent communication and reporting skills
4. Flexible working hours
5. Valid driver's license (Class A)
6. Be willing to travel as required

Please send cover letter, curriculum vitae along with copies of qualifications, transcripts, police record and two references.

Address applications to:

Supervisory Committee
La Inmaculada Credit Union Limited
5 Park Street
Orange Walk Town
Or via email to licu@btl.net

Deadline for submission is: August 17, 2022

Cannabis legalization..

Continued from ▶ Page 1

that industry off the ground to a sudden halt.

The referendum, which was set to take place by early September, has been put on hold after the government and churches agreed to hit the pause button. When recently interviewed by local reporters, Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño said that his Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, Hon. Chris Coye, had a meeting with key players in the banking community who expressed concern over the legalization, and how the industry could affect correspondent banking relations.

Minister of New Growth Industries, Hon. Kareem Musa, for his part, has acknowledged those concerns and how critical it is to preserve correspondent banking relations in Belize, but pointed out that the cannabis industry in Belize would be entirely cash-based—meaning revenue from the cannabis and industrial hemp industry would not be deposited in, or handled by, local banks with international correspondent banking relationships.

He noted that it had always been the intention within his ministry to have the cannabis industry operate on a cash-only basis, and he went on to point to the fact that the industrial hemp industry, among others in Belize, is considered cash-based.

“Correspondent banking is a live issue at all times for Belize and for the Caribbean, but what I can tell you is that countries like Jamaica, and Antigua, are moving towards it; Trinidad is about to pass their legislation, and St. Vincent. Those countries are moving toward the legalization of cannabis. As I always say, it is a cash industry, so when you ask me about banking—banking does not necessarily come into the picture unless you are banking your cannabis dollars,” he said.

He further noted that even the United States' cannabis industry is a cash-based enterprise.

“In the Caribbean and the great United States, where it is a 92-billion dollar industry, it is a cash industry, so individuals who are engaged in the cannabis sector do not go

and deposit their funds within the banks. That does not happen even in America,” Hon. Musa said.

Minister Musa went on to suggest that maybe a local institution with no international correspondent banking facility may be an option for the handling of earnings within the industry.

He pointed out, however, that the greater concern at this juncture of the process is the cost of the referendum, which the government has already set aside \$5 million to cover in a recent supplementary appropriation. The process of having Belizeans vote on whether they support or oppose marijuana legalization, however, could cost much more than what was budgeted, and has caused the government to decide to stall the process.

“The real point is that it is a costly referendum, and so it's \$5 million it would have cost for us to do this referendum, and to me that is the real reason, but at the same time as we put a pause on the legislation, we have time to tighten up whatever loose ends there may be in terms of correspondent banking, but in my respectful opinion that will never be tied up,” Minister Musa outlined.

He also indicated that the government and other stakeholders will have to figure out a way to work around the global banking reality facing the cannabis industry.

“We will have to figure a way—whether it [be] opening community banks or credit unions that do not have correspondent banking in order to bank the dollars here in Belize. That is the solution, and there are several international companies who have expressed interest to come and open these community banks here, so there are solutions to that, but like I said, the primary concern at this time is the cost of the referendum,” Hon. Musa said.

Minister Musa emphasized, however, that commercial banks in the country would need to do additional due diligence to ensure the funds being deposited at their institutions are not proceeds from the cannabis industry—a concern that had reportedly been raised by one of the country's major banks.

“What it does is that it imposes obligations on the local banks to do their due diligence to make sure that the funds that they are receiving are not related to, whether it is a cultivation license or a dispensary license, the banks just have to ensure that they are not receiving funds from the cannabis-related businesses. There are several other cash industries already in existence in Belize; for example, the cattle that we transship to Guatemala, tobacco, and the cigarette industry at the Free Zone—that is a cash industry. The hemp business right now in Belize . . . the funds received in relation to that industry is not accepted by the banks, and so cash industries are normal in Belize. We have to understand that, but there is a greater concern, because there is so much revenue to be earned from cannabis that in fact, the local banks are saying, ‘we want to make sure there are no issues for us’,” Hon. Musa outlined.

For now, however, the legalization of cannabis in Belize is on pause.

Late this evening, the churches and the Government of Belize released a joint statement which made that pause in the holding of a referendum (and the legalization of marijuana) official. The release states, “The Church Leaders on behalf of the petitioners and the Government of Belize request of the Governor General to defer the issuing of the Writ of Referendum until a date to be determined.”

GRIGA CONQUERORS..

Continued from ▶ Page 35

Pedro Conquerors 3-1 last Sunday. I have never seen Club Atletico play, but from what I have heard, they are one of the best teams in the competition. The Cayo District, like the Stann Creek District, is historically known for exceptional football players, teams and rivalry. If Griga Conquerors take my advice and play midfield football, do not lag in their goal area, attack, play man-to-man football, avoid over-dribbling, pass, run and shoot the ball to the goal, they will defeat Club Atletico.

Griga Conquerors is a team that is determined to win, and their morale is high. Their success as a team can be described as a miracle, because they are struggling with minimal sponsorship support. I call on the people from Dangriga, to make a kind contribution to this team, because they are helping to renew and maintain our Dangriga football pride.

Despite the poverty some of our youths experience growing up in Dangriga, we have and continue to produce some of the most exceptional football players in our country of Belize.

Mass shooting in Hopkins: 2 dead, 8 injured

Continued from Page 1

gunfire, was also shot. (According to some reports, he stumbled over a body during that attempt to save lives and was shot by the gunman when he fell onto the floor.) The other shooting victims, including three police officers who were transported to, and treated at, the Southern Regional Hospital, all are listed as being in stable condition or have been released.

This incident is only the second instance of a mass shooting in recent Belizean history, according to Commissioner of Police Chester Williams: in 2008, 14 persons were shot at the Putt Putt Night Club in Belize City. But this shooting, unlike that 2008 incident, occurred in the fastest-growing tourism hub and vacation spot in southern Belize—Hopkins village, known as a destination that offers visitors peace of mind within a tranquil community.

Commissioner of Police, Chester Williams has told reporters that the bloody incident, which took place sometime after 1:00 in the morning, stemmed from an altercation between the three accused shooters—Brian Andrews, 28; Kenyon Moore, 25; and Sherwin Moore, 35—and the first victim, Noah Moro, over a woman toward whom the three men had made



John Roy Smith

them to not cooperate with police, and said that police were not able to get much information from the men due to that lack of cooperation.

“The attorney told the accused men not to cooperate with police investigators, and so they all choose to remain silent during the entire interview process. Notwithstanding that, we do have sufficient evidence, based on eyewitnesses, as well as video footage, to indicate that these three young men are the culprits in respect to the shooting in the Wabinaha Night Club in Hopkins village,” Commissioner Williams said.

The four men have since been charged and arraigned on two counts of murder jointly at the Dangriga Magistrate’s Court and have been remanded to the Belize Central

Prison until November 9.

The nightclub at which the shooting occurred is said to be owned by a Belizean with strong roots in Hopkins, Bernard Nunez, 69. We have received reliable information that the backdoor of the establishment was padlocked at the time of the shooting, and Commissioner Williams had indicated on Monday that an “investigation is also underway against the proprietor of the establishment for breaches of the conditions of his license by not having an adequate exit.”

Notably, one of the persons who was shot at the club is a 15-year-old female, and the National Commission for Families and Children (NCFC) thus called this week for a full investigation of the management of the nightclub.

“It is clear that a 15-year-old should not be in a bar or nightclub, which must be reserved for adults. We call on law enforcement to fully investigate the management of the nightclub and to let the law take its course for this grave infraction,” a press release issued by the NCFC this morning states.

Compol Williams has noted as well that the police officers who were shot at the club—Superintendent Gerald Jones, PC Rudel Pau, and PC Pamela Zuniga—were only doing a routine stop and check and were not assigned to be security at the club. He said that the management instead had a civilian serving as a security guard. It has also been reported that no weapon searches were conducted on persons who entered the club.



Wabinaha Night Club

advances. According to Compol Williams, Moro, who was with the woman, approached the men, and it was this act of intervention on his part that marked the start of the altercation. The men are said to have left and returned shortly after, being driven by a Canadian national since identified as John Roy Smith.

It was at that point, according to police, that they barged into the club, shot Moro fatally, and proceeded to engage in indiscriminate gunplay that resulted in a second death and injuries to 8 others before they left the establishment in a vehicle being driven by Smith. Police detained Smith shortly after the incident.

A glance at his Facebook profile will show a banner linked to the Canadian Army, and in his profile photo, if one looks closely, the three accused men can be seen alongside him. We have confirmed that he is a veteran of the Canadian army who has been retired for over a decade and moved to Belize just 6 months ago. He was reportedly residing in Sittee River, where the three accused gunmen also reportedly have lived.

On Monday, it was announced that the three persons believed to be the triggermen were captured near Silk Grass, and according to Police Commissioner Williams, at the time of their capture they were being driven by an attorney who indicated that he was on his way to hand over the accused to police. He was also taken in for questioning.

Commissioner Williams has accused the men’s defense attorney of directing

OSH Bill being revisited by BCCI, trade unions



Occupational safety equipment

Continued from Page 1

So, instead of having what we were looking at—documents and Excel sheets and all of that in different parts—we’ve compiled all of that into the bill, so there’s a marked-up version that unions are going to review,” he said.

Blake informed the press that, after the unions have conducted a final review, the Bill’s stakeholders will submit their joint position on it in writing to the Minister of Local Government (Hon. Oscar Requena) for consideration.

When the bill was first introduced eight years ago, the then Prime Minister of Belize, Rt. Hon. Dean Barrow, stated that while the objectives of the OSH Bill were “laudable”, implementing it would come at a huge financial cost.

In the January 28, 2014 issue of AMANDALA, Barrow is reported to have said that “it is perhaps time, and maybe even overdue, that Belize makes this quantum leap forward.”

“But, let nobody be under any illusion about the substantial burden and cost that will come to the Government, as regulator and employer, as well as to the private sector, including small business persons and self-employed individuals, who will also have to become compliant—even if they employ just one person,” he added.

Soon after the bill was tabled, numerous stakeholders in the business sector and various industries raised

concerns about various parts of it, including the proposed introduction of fines which, according to the BCCI, could easily cripple any small business.

Back in 2019, shortly after the tragic death of two construction workers at the Belize City Civic Center, the Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry released a statement declaring that it fully supported and had always been committed to the passage of the Occupational Safety and Health Bill.

The two workers died after a platform on a scaffolding collapsed and sent six men plummeting to the floor that lay some 50 feet below them. The other four workers received extensive injuries. Jose Contreras, a witness to the tragic incident, told AMANDALA in an article dated Friday, September 13, 2019, that one man had pointed out the fact that the scaffolding was faulty, noting that the 2x6-inch piece of lumber supporting the platform “had a belly” and needed to be replaced.

While the BCCI had called for amendments to be made to the bill, in its 2019 statement it also noted “the record will show that at no point has the BCCI ever opposed the Bill itself.”

Today, the Chamber maintains that while it is important to continue to look out for employees and ensure that they are working in a safe environment, “it can’t be to the detriment of businesses.”

“Also in [the bill], it shares the onus of the responsibility, because the employee is just as responsible as the employer in cases where there are health and safety issues, and so it is important that we continue to ensure that our members are going to be adhering but also covered from certain levels of risk where the employee chooses not to utilize the resources that have been given to them by the employer,” said the BCCI president.

Nunez was thus charged yesterday in the Dangriga Magistrate’s Court for admitting the 15-year-old minor into the club and failing to provide a male and female security guard.

AMANDALA spoke to a resident of Hopkins who is the father of one of the shooting victims and who chose to remain unidentified. He was on the scene of the crime and confirmed that no police were on duty at the club at the time of the incident.

“As I reach the club, like about 10, 15 minutes after that the thing happen. Good thing I was there, because if I never deh there, maybe it coulda mi be worse. It coulda mi be maybe one of my sons or me. I mi had a feeling and said, just make a goh. The guys they just pass, the mad dog everybody, they gone da the front door, and look like they mi got the thing plan long time. Dey gun mi already cock, gone da the front door and just start open up fire pan everybody and they send one da the back door, and the back door was close right, so there was no access for anybody get out, cause that padlock up. Da like everybody trap inna the place,” the eyewitness told us.

He said that the front door was ajar, and that he was near the door when they kicked it open and began to shoot.

“I was right at the door, and I shet in the door. I end up stomp in the door make they nuh see nobody. He just start blast

ata the building, stomp open the door and start blast again. Da soh everybody start get it, and then I tell yo the next gunman, the next man run da the back door and he start shot through the back door too so nobody can’t go front nor back, just have to take cover, lay down, and pray for the best,” the eyewitness said.

The eyewitness, whose 18-year-old son was shot during the incident, said that two police officers arrived on the scene while the gunmen were still making their escape, but that those officers failed to take any steps to apprehend them. He said that he then rushed both his son and the wounded 15-year-old female to the hospital.

Interestingly, while the eyewitness acknowledged that he did see glimpses of an altercation at the bar of the club about 20 minutes before the shooting took place, he does not believe that the altercation over a woman at the club was the reason for the spiteful shooting.

While the motive for the shooting is yet uncertain, the Chairman of the Hopkins village council, Mr. Macario Augustine, wanted to make it clear that the incident, which took place on Hopkins Day, does not reflect what the community is about. “In regards to the unfortunate incident that occurred in our village last night, I want to assure the public that it is an isolated incident. . . .”, he said in a video message on the day after the shooting.

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