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Missing man found dead on John Smith Road



Allen Martinez

Allen Martinez was found in an advanced state of decomposition on the John Smith Link Road

location at which the body of a missing man, Allen Martinez, was found in a small pond—about 50 feet off the roadside. The body was found about one and a half miles down the airport link road along the route from the 8-Mile community to Ladyville.

Martinez was reported missing last Monday by his family, who had been in search of him since then. He was last seen on Saturday in front of Zan Zan Shop on Central American Boulevard. His family identified his body this morning at the scene as it was being processed by police.

Allen Martinez, who went by the

stage name “NOT NICE”, was a Belizean lyricist and recording artist who lived in the Port Loyola area of Belize City. Of recent, he had been battling mental illness and was frequently seen on Central American Boulevard.

Police have reported that he was last seen in front of Zan Zan shop on Central American Boulevard, but the Ladyville Highlights page published a photo and message suggesting he may have been spotted in the Lords Bank area.

There is no indication if this is true,

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Estranged lover wanted for chopping ex's male friend



Elias Pacheco, wanted by police

by Khaila Gentle

BELLA VISTA VILLAGE, Toledo District, Sat. Sept. 10, 2022

Elias Pacheco, a Honduran national, is wanted by police for chopping to death a Bella Vista man who was a friend of a woman with whom Pacheco had been in a relationship. Just after midnight on Saturday, Ernest Ellis Blanco, 46 years old, was standing in a yard with 33-year-old Denia Montolla in the village of Bella Vista when he was attacked by Pacheco, who is Montolla's ex-common-law husband.

According to a police report made by the 33-year-old woman, Blanco had recently walked her home, and they were standing inside her yard when she saw a grey vehicle come to a stop in front of them. Shortly after, Pacheco emerged from the vehicle wielding a machete and chopped Blanco several times.

Blanco ran onto the street and collapsed. He was eventually

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PUP's Northern Caucus supports BSCFA recommendations

A commercial agreement between the millers, ASR/BSI, and the largest cane farmers association in Belize, BSCFA, is currently being negotiated between the parties. The PUP's Northern Caucus supports changing the method of payments to farmers.

ORANGE WALK, Mon. Sept. 12, 2022

Last Wednesday, the PUP's Northern Caucus met with members of the Belize Sugar Cane Farmers

Association (BSCFA) to listen to the recommendations being tabled by the largest cane

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Prime Minister John Briceno and Minister Jose Mai

Waitress killed in Independence Village

by Charles Gladden

INDEPENDENCE, Stann Creek District, Mon. Sept. 12, 2022

Police have identified the body of a woman who was found earlier this morning, motionless, on top of a tomb in a cemetery in Independence village, Stann Creek District. According to police, the deceased

Marcelina Makin, a restaurant waitress, was found motionless on top of a tomb in the Independence Cemetery

woman is Marcelina Makin, a restaurant waitress.

According to initial police reports, on Monday, at around 6:29 a.m., Independence police went to the cemetery in the village, where they discovered Makin motionless in a face-down position on top of a white tiled tomb with visible cut injuries to the back of her head and face. Her

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Belize and Quintana Roo sign business-focused MOUs

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Sept. 12, 2022

Last Thursday two memoranda to enhance business synergy between Belize and Mexico were signed by representatives of the two countries. The Government of Belize's press office says the historic signing is an effort to forge stronger relationships between Belize and the bordering Mexican state of Quintana Roo – a destination frequently visited by Belizeans.

The first MOU was signed between the Corozal Free Zone (CFZ) and the Chetumal Industrial Park. The CFZ is still bouncing back after being shut down during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. This signing between the two entities seeks to facilitate collaboration and attract investments and possible new markets. Millions of dollars have been invested in the Chetumal Industrial Park in Quintana Roo (US\$74 million was invested in 2019 to fund the construction of warehouses and industrial buildings).

The Ministry of Finance and the Secretary of Economic Development for Quintana Roo also signed an MOU to formally establish a framework for inter-organization technical cooperation. The two agencies have four overarching goals they aim to accomplish through these agreements: to generate opportunities for investments and business between the countries, jointly develop regional investment programs and policies, promote investment opportunities through trade fairs, meetings, and exhibitions, and promote cooperation in training and education for greater capacity-building between the entities.

The ease of sharing information and creating meaningful business collaboration is also a major objective of the signings, as well as creating

greater business opportunities within the short term, ranging from agro-industry and tourism, to education, customs services, and other activities.

The Governor of Quintana Roo, Carlos Manuel Joaquín González, witnessed the signing along with Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño. During an interview following the signing of the MOUs, PM Briceño said that the link between Mexico and Belize will open the door for products to enter the CARICOM market.

"We believe that by setting up this installation here and connecting it to the free zone in Corozal, we can use that avenue to create—to be able to connect to the CARICOM market. Belize is a member of CARICOM, and that's why we can use Mexican products or materials to finish the processing in Belize and then have access to the CARICOM market. It's a great opportunity for both countries, for both Quintana Roo and Belize, and I want to urge Belizean business people to take advantage of this, to come here, take a look at what's happening, and see how they can take advantage of this great opportunity that is being made available to us through this memorandum of understanding," PM Briceño said.

Meetings between the CEO in the

Office of the Prime Minister and Ministry of Investment, Nadia García, and officials from Mexico to lobby for the signing of this agreement have been taking place since the start of this year, said PM Briceño. He said that the country is not only seeking to open the Mexican market, but also to use the geographic advantage of Belize's location to use materials from Mexico to create products that can eventually be sold in the CARICOM market, adding that a similar arrangement can be made with Guatemala.

"This time, again, the work with CEO García and her team, they've been pushing to see how we could participate and take advantage of those opportunities. As I mentioned in my speech a short while ago, we can then

take materials from Mexico, bring them into Belize, convert it into a product, and then export [it] into the Caribbean duty-free. We are also expanding the partial scope agreement that we have with Guatemala. The same thing we can do. We can take products from there—the materials—finish the production in Belize and then export into Guatemala. We mentioned the issue, for instance, of lime, that when there is a shortage in Belize, we can bring products from Quintana Roo, introduce it in Belize, mix it with our product, and continue the production. So, the opportunities are limitless," stated PM Briceño, who noted that now is the time for Belizeans to take advantage of the opportunities that will present themselves with the signing of these MOUs.

Two MOUs signed between Belize and the State of Quintana Roo, Mexico, will establish more extensive business links between the two countries, and create a route for the export of Mexican products to the Caribbean



Signing of two Memoranda of Business between Belize and Quintana Roo, Mexico. (l-r) Prime Minister John Briceño and Governor Carlos González

Belize hosts 244th COCESNA meeting

The purchase of an \$8-million-dollar primary radar for Belize was approved during the meeting.

SAN PEDRO, Ambergris Caye, Fri. Sept. 9, 2022

Members of the Central American Corporation of Aero Navigation Services (COCESNA) met in San Pedro, Ambergris Caye, Belize, for the organization's 244th Ordinary Meeting. The meeting was held last week, on September 8 and 9, and saw the approval of the purchase of an \$8-million Primary Radar for Belize. This "top-of-the-line" piece of equipment will upgrade the Secondary Radar currently being used in Belize and will be used to improve aviation services, track weather, and provide meteorological data, and even to monitor the routes of drug planes in the fight against narco-trafficking.

"The radar will also be able to detect



244th Regional Board meeting of COCESNA held in San Pedro, Belize

non-cooperating aircraft and assist in the fight against narco-trafficking in Belize and the region," a release from the Government of Belize states.

"Belize is poised in a highly favorable position at this time. We are assuming our rightful place around the table and

taking a leadership role in the decisions that impact our country and our region," Minister of Civil Aviation, Hon. Andre Pérez said during his remarks at the meeting.

Next year the International Civil Aviation Organization will conduct its

second audit on Belize. The next meeting of the COCESNA board will be held later this year in Montreal, Canada, during the 41st International Civil Aviation Organization General Assembly from September 27 to October 7.

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Belize celebrates the 224th anniversary of the Battle of St. George's Caye

Ceremonies for the 224th anniversary of the Battle of St. George's Caye took place at Memorial Park in Belize City, despite the rainy weather.

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Sat. Sept. 10, 2022

“Valiant and Bold, Proud and Strong! Belize Rebounds @ 41,” is the selected theme for this year’s September celebrations, and undertones of this theme were resonant at the ceremony marking the 224th anniversary of the Battle of St. George’s Caye, which took place at the Memroial Park in Belize City and was attended by various members of government as well as members of the diplomatic corps.

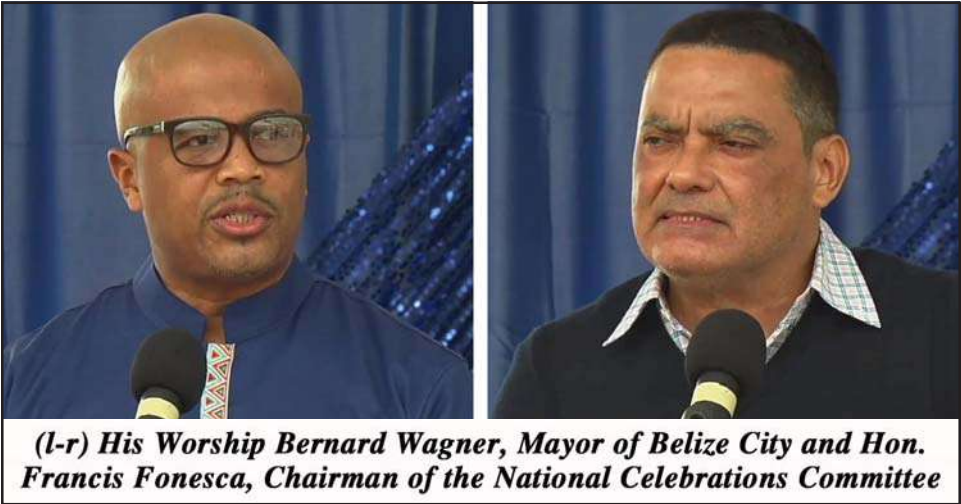
During his remarks, His Worship, Mayor of Belize City, Bernard Wagner, pointed to the type of rebound that is referred to in the September Celebrations theme:

“Seeing life being restored to national pageants, festivals, carnivals, and the many instances of people saying ‘we deh outside’ is nothing short of a

blessing. The worst is now behind us, and we are free to exploit a chance to build better days ahead. Move by our new mantra: Valiant and Bold, Proud and Strong! Belize Rebounds at 41. When we examine the pages of our history, there’s a common theme throughout: Belize rebounds. From attempted invasions and economic turmoil to devastating hurricanes and bloody tragedies, Belize rebounds time and time and time again, and what’s beautiful is not just the fact that we do so, but the way we do so, which is always together as one people,” said Mayor Wagner.

Hon. Francis Fonesca, Chairman of the National Celebrations Committee, highlighted Belize’s cultural diversity and noted that we must be able to protect and preserve our history and culture.

“Belize’s society is a beautifully



(l-r) His Worship Bernard Wagner, Mayor of Belize City and Hon. Francis Fonesca, Chairman of the National Celebrations Committee

intricately woven tapestry of cultural diversity. We must work to protect and preserve that history and culture, where it is worthy of protection and preservation. This means that we must be willing to question and challenge cultural and historic norms which have been passed on to us by colonizers. In the words of Fanon, imperialism leaves behind germs of rot, which we must clinically detect and remove from our land and from our minds as well,” he said.

“On days like today, we must be willing to ask ourselves, who are we as a people? What is our purpose as a nation? When will we truly rid ourselves of the shackles of oppression and colonialism? Where are we headed? And how can we all come together despite any social economic, political, and cultural divisions to create a Belize where hope and opportunity abound?” Fonesca added.

Minister Fonseca says its “regrettable” St. Mary’s did not inform parents sooner

by Khaila Gentle

BELIZE CITY, Fri. Sept. 9, 2022

Minister of Education, Culture, Science & Technology, Hon. Francis Fonseca, says it is regrettable that parents of students attending St Mary’s Anglican School did not learn that their children would be unable to sit in their physical classrooms sooner. The school’s building is in a severe state of disrepair, and was deemed unsafe for occupancy in June of this year by engineers. That was also when Minister Fonseca learnt of the situation. Students and their parents, however, were only informed some two weeks ago, just before the start of the new semester.

“I don’t know—it’s regrettable that it took so long for them to engage with the

The 92-year-old school building was deemed unsafe in June of this year and is set to be destroyed.

parents and the community. That in my view is unacceptable. It should have been done much earlier,” said Minister Fonseca.

The Education Minister did note, however, that since being informed, the parents have been engaging with the Ministry as well as the management and staff of St. Mary’s. As part of those discussions, the parents were made aware of the temporary classrooms that are currently being secured by the school to house its approximately 300 students later this year.

“First, they planned to go online and have these packages. We definitely wanted to discourage that. We just came out of two years of that,” said Hon. Fonseca.

Last Tuesday, General Manager for Anglican Pre and Primary Schools, Dr. Jeremy Cayetano, told us that the Anglican Diocese wanted to ensure that the information they gave to parents was as accurate as possible before they delivered the unfortunate news. She also noted that the Diocese wanted to confirm the delivery dates for the temporary classrooms.

“We understand and we sympathize with the parents. However, we believe that this plan of the package and the online learning ... we are trying to make it take the least possible amount of time,” said Cayetano.

The first of six temporary wooden buildings is expected to arrive at the end of this month and will house Infant 1 students. Standard 6 students will be utilizing St. Mary’s Church as their classroom for the time being.

“It may be that the ministry will be required to provide transportation for these students, because I understand, the facilities are on the other side of the city. So, we have to look at that, and we will certainly do that if that is required,” stated Hon. Fonseca.

Cops shoot call center agent



Chester Williams, Commissioner of Police

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Fri. Sept. 9, 2022

Just before 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 8, a call center agent, Rondane Swazo, 22, was shot once in the chest by a police officer during what police are claiming was a scuffle during

which Swazo attempted to wrest control of a police officer’s gun after two officers tried to detain him on Euphrates Avenue for attempting to sell them stolen goods.

According to initial police reports, the owner of the reportedly stolen goods informed police officers that he saw his items being promoted on social media for sale, and obtained the assistance of PC Zani Savala and PC Cory Cleland, who posed as persons wanting to purchase the items.

Those officers then met Swazo in the East Collet Canal area, where he reportedly took the stolen items for sale. The officers are claiming, however, that when they attempted to detain Swazo for the stolen goods, he resisted arrest, then attempted to flee. According to the officers, they followed him into a bushy abandoned lot on Euphrates Avenue adjacent to a basketball court in the area.

Rondane Swazo, 22, was shot once in the chest during a purported scuffle with a police officer after he attempted to sell several items that were reported stolen, and he is expected to be charged for handling stolen goods.

They are claiming that at that point, when PC Savala called for reinforcement, Swazo emerged from some bushes, where he had apparently been hiding, and tried to take away Savala’s gun, which caused it to go off, and the bullet that was fired hit Swazo in the chest.

Swazo’s girlfriend and loved ones, however, are finding it hard to believe this account of what happened. According to his girlfriend, Swazo is a low-key, law-abiding individual, and he had just left his house when shots were fired at him.

“... everyone knows he is from work to home — everyone knows that, his

manager, his supervisor, co-workers, friends. He is not affiliated with gangs. Like what I said, this is not a gang-affiliated situation. This is just maybe police wants some points,” she told a local reporter.

She went on to claim, “Literally 5 minutes he left from home, then we heard gunshots, then afterwards everybody ran out there and they say that your boyfriend got shot. So when I got there they already took the body, so the lady that was there came and talk me and said ‘Sweety, you know they left your boyfriend right there’, and

PUP's Northern Caucus supports BSCFA recommendations

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farmers association in the country, during the ongoing negotiation of a new commercial agreement. The meeting took place at the Yo Creek Agricultural Station and, following that meeting, the PUP Northern Caucus released a statement in which they indicated their support for the recommendations being put forward by the cane farmers.

Present at the meeting were Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño and Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Jose Mai, both cane farmers and area representatives of constituencies in northern Belize. They have sided with the BSCFA in support of a change to the current payment method from one based on the Net Strip Value of Sugar, to one based on the Gross Revenue derived from the Sugar, one of the long-standing desires of the cane farmers.

During an interview conducted with Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño following the meeting, he shared that the farmers of northern Belize (a group that includes the Prime Minister himself) want the mill to agree to a 60/40 arrangement for the sharing of revenue from various sugar sales, and not just on the basis of world market prices.

“That is part of the negotiations, as to how you’d be able to come out with the 60/40 split. BSI has said, ‘Well, we are prepared to give you the 60/40 split, provided, then, that we are just going to pay you on the world market price and BSCFA is saying, no, we believe that it should be 60/40 split on the different sugars that you sell; the white sugar, plantation white sugar, the direct consumption sugars, and the world market price sugars,” Prime Minister Briceño said.

Those negotiations, which are aimed at having the parties agree to a commercial agreement before the start of this year’s sugar crop in the next four months or so, are currently ongoing, with both parties holding firm to the positions they have already put forward. Minister of Agriculture Hon. Jose Mai, a northern cane farmer himself, said that an agreement has to be reached, even if government intervention is necessary.

During his interview with CTV3, Hon. Mai said, “Both parties have to understand that there will be an agreement. There are

no ifs and doubts about that. It has to happen, and if it does not, then the government have to intervene and decide what will happen, but we are going to have an agreement.”

The PUP Northern Caucus is in support of the request tabled by the BSCFA, and while the government was not involved in the meetings, two very influential government ministers, one of whom is the Prime Minister, backed the recommendations of the association.

In addition to an upgrade to the payment formula currently being used by the mill, the farmers are calling on the government to “urgently look at the outstanding premium payments to BSCFA for sugar sold under the Fairtrade label,” a release from the PUP Northern Caucus said.

According to Prime Minister Briceño, the mill has withheld those payments on the grounds that no commercial agreement is currently in place between the association and the company. Prime Minister Briceño said resolving this issue is also a part of the ongoing negotiations, adding that they support the BSCFA’s call for payment under Fairtrade.

“We support the call for BSCFA to have access to Fairtrade, which they have been unable to access simply because they are saying that BSI claims that because they don’t have a commercial agreement they could not have access to it. We believe they have a commercial agreement. That commercial agreement was extended for this crop, which will come to the end when the new crop starts. We believe they should have access to that,” PM Briceño said.

An interim agreement between the parties was signed in order to enable the commencement of the sugar crop late last year after a two-week delay. This delay resulted in tons of cane being left in the fields and significant financial losses for the cane farmers and the mill. A blockade at the mill by the members of the BSCFA and a march to the Prime Minister’s house preceded the interim agreement that was agreed upon late last year.

The sugar milling season will start in December, and the hopes are that a commercial agreement will be signed by sometime next month in October. Of note, a revision of the Sugar Industry Act is also a goal for the industry that the PUP Northern Caucus is supporting. GoB urges the parties to meet, “as soon as possible to reach an agreement equitable to both.”

KHMH gets new radiology equipment



by Khaila Gentle

BELIZE CITY, Sun. Sept. 11, 2022

The radiology department at the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital (KHMH) will soon be upgrading its medical imaging systems as a result of a donation from the Government of Taiwan this past week.

On Friday, September 9, the Embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan) held a handing-over ceremony during which the KHMH received new equipment that will help to digitize the country’s radiology system. That equipment includes computed radiology (CR) readers, radiology monitors, and medical imaging software known as PACS (Picturing, Archiving and Communication System)—used to produce and store medical images.

According to the KHMH’s CEO, Chandra Cansino, the new technology will enable technicians in the hospital’s radiology unit to perform their tasks with greater efficiency and accuracy—providing them with more images over a shorter period of time and allowing them to produce reports in a timelier manner.

“Digitizing our radiology system has taken us to the next level by making images available, sharable, and easily accessible to and by our healthcare workers, providing high-resolution images, and facilitating inter-disciplinary consultations,” she said.

Radiology, also known as diagnostic imaging, is a key tool for detecting and treating diseases. There is a wide range of examinations that are carried out within the department, including CT scans, MRIs, ultrasounds, and plain X-rays. At present, radiology services in the country’s public regional hospitals involve the use of darkroom photography processing to

develop physical images for patients.

One of the many advantages of the new, digitized system is that it will allow doctors to review images taken in other hospitals. It will also decrease the risk of losing images.

“We received software where the radiology images are now digital, so you will no longer see the big film that we used to carry around or we used to develop—we’ll no longer have those. Everything is digitized, so the patient can have their image on their phone as well as their computer as well as the medical professionals,” said Cansino.

The donation, added the CEO, is an invaluable contribution to the staff of the KHMH and, by extension, every person who enters the hospital. It comes two years after an agreement was signed between the governments of Belize and Taiwan to strengthen the medical imaging services in the country.

The Project for Strengthening Medical Imaging Systems in Belize, launched in November 2019, is being implemented by the International Cooperation and Development Fund (TaiwanICDF) in collaboration with Far Eastern Memorial Hospital in Taiwan, and Belize’s Ministry of Health and Wellness.

“We know medical care plays a very critical role in people’s everyday lives,” said Taiwanese Ambassador David Kuan-Chou Chien.

During Friday’s handing-over ceremony, Ambassador Chien noted that, of all the collaborative efforts between Taiwan and Belize, collaboration for public health is one of the most important.

“It is the hope that the handing over of this medical equipment will assist the KHMH to improve the quality of medical care for the Belizean people,” he stated.

Estranged lover wanted...

Continued from Page 1

transported to the Independence Polyclinic, but was pronounced dead on arrival.

According to Police Communications Director, ASP Fitzroy Yearwood, the police have since issued a wanted poster for Pacheco. They have also made contact with law enforcement agencies in neighboring countries, which have been asked to be on the lookout for him. He is believed to be in the country still and is likely to be armed and dangerous.

As we previously noted, Pacheco is the ex-common law husband of Montolla. ASP Yearwood noted that it seems Pacheco’s jealousy “put him in such a rage that he took the life of another man.”

Missing man found dead...

Continued from Page 1

There is no indication if this is true, but sometime this morning police responded to reports that his body was seen in the area, after being missing since Saturday, September 3.

The police report notes that no signs of injuries have yet been observed on Martinez’s body, but a postmortem examination will be carried out on his remains. Since the body was found in an advanced state of decomposition, that process would have to be expedited and may present additional challenges.

By all indications at this time, no foul play is suspected, and the case is being handled as a death investigation by police.

Waitress killed in Independence...

Continued from Page 1

body, according to the officers, was in an early state of decomposition.

Makin was last seen on Friday, September 9, at her workplace in the village and wasn’t seen again until this morning, when the officers found her.

At Monday’s weekly police press briefing, in response to questions about the Police Department’s strategy for preventing brutal deaths, such as that of Makin, from taking place, the Commissioner of Police, Chester Williams, noted that for the month of August, there only were 3 reported murders throughout the country. While pointing to that recent reduction in murders, however, he admitted that

non-preventable murders are still an issue for the department.

“The type of murders we would accustom to seeing [is] no more, at least for now, and these that I refer to as ‘silly murders’ are what is bothering us at this time. We have, for example, the murder in Bella Vista in the South where the young man was walking the lady home and her ex came and inflicted chops wounds [on] him, leading to his death. And again this morning, another body was found in the Independence Cemetery of a female. There appeared to be cut wounds to the neck and throat, but these are the type of murders that the policing effort will not be able to prevent,” he said.

Police are investigating.



Uncomfortable truths; the myth and reality of the Tenth

Monday, September 12, 2022

It is said that a house divided against itself cannot stand, and the Belizean people continue to be divided on a matter that is an incontestable fact of our nation’s history – the “Battle of St. George’s Caye”. And, while some critical decisions on our nation’s future will soon be decided at the ICJ, there is still time to pull our scattered thoughts and feelings together and clarify the misconceptions that have divided us, so that we can tighten our belts and brace ourselves as one unified people to meet the challenges of that fateful day.

Is there a human being in bondage who does not long with a burning desire to be free? Is there a struggling individual in Port Loyola who does not wish to have a job earning a decent salary? Yet, there are people who believe in promises, and the prettier the picture, the stronger their belief? While others are more cautious, and less gullible.

From the introduction of African slaves to cut mahogany in the early 1700s, slave revolts were an undeniable fact in the Belize settlement, as it was in every slave holding jurisdiction anywhere. Likewise, runaway slaves was an accepted fact during the era when slavery existed in the settlement. But, however wicked and inhumane the institution, weighing the risks and possible consequences, the majority of slaves did not choose to run away at any one time. Large-scale organized rebellion in the Belize settlement was a rare occurrence over the centuries. And there were a few, with slavemasters killed. But more often it was a matter of stealing away to the “maroon” hideout in Gales Point Manatee, or making a dash for the northern territory where reportedly there was a chance at freedom. Travelling dozens of miles without a compass through the bush at night with wild animals all around is not a welcoming prospect to many people, slave or free. And there were consequences for runaways who got caught.

Because there were slavemasters, and there were slaves, and there was an imminent invasion from a foreign force, therefore, in the view of some who call the whole Tenth story a myth, the slaves couldn’t, as one “his-

story” has put it, have stood happily shoulder-to-shoulder with their masters in defending the settlement from the invading representatives of the Spanish crown.

Now, that may be a myth, alright; but it does not negate the fact that the slaves did form part of the settlement’s defense force on that fateful occasion. And they played a critical role, for it was their maneuverability and speed in using their pit-pan paddling craft at night to uproot the channel markers placed by the Spaniards to guide their ships’ entry through the small break in the reef that severely hampered the enemy’s plans. This fact has been documented in the “his-story” of both the English and Spanish archives.

While there had been revolts and runaway slaves before, the question is seldom if ever discussed in either Spanish or English records, if the invaders had expected the slaves in the Belize settlement to capitulate to their side, or if the Baymen were worried about that possibility, and what they did or said to try and avoid that occurring. There is where there might be room for speculation, and for a myth maker to try and embellish the story with all kinds of sweetness between “master and slave.” That’s the myth; but that does not deny the significance of the Tenth.

After the 1786 Convention of

London between Britain and Spain had resulted in the population of the Belize settlement almost doubling with the arrival of residents, slave and free, from the Mosquito Coast, the population of the settlement was such that it would take a major Spanish force to effectively subdue and eject them from their foothold in the Belize settlement; thus the large fleet of invading Spaniards in early September 1798.

It is an accepted fact that on a number of previous occasions, most recently in 1779, the Baymen had been attacked at their headquarters on St. George’s Caye and all captives, masters and slaves, taken to prison in Cuba after all buildings on the cayes were burned to the ground. But it is also a fact that some of the Baymen kept coming back after a few years, though some called it quits and returned to England. And it is a fact also that the Spanish invaders could never catch all the Baymen and their slaves in one place, because they were always scattered in the many different “works” along the six main rivers where they conducted the wood cutting business. So that, when word of the ransacking of St. George’s Caye reached them, they could be prepared to withdraw further inland to avoid confrontation with the enemy.

The division is really one about the perspective on the event, and it merits a lot more thought and imagination by our artists and historians, for many records have been destroyed on various occasions in the settlement in the Bay by fires or hurricanes, and sometimes by the destructive force of soldiers of the Spanish army sent to raze the settlers’ forts and buildings to the ground. And despite a number of scholarly works on the topic, it is hard to find any written perspective from the impoverished, first enslaved, and later freed laborers of African descent, that were the greatest in number of the population around that time.

Another Independence Day celebration approaches for Belizeans, and yet we have not achieved a good “sending off” as a united people from the Tenth onwards to the Twenty-First. Carnival is a good escape valve for a population craving release from the stress of daily living, and there is no political divide among participants. They all hearken back to slavery, and treat Carnival as the breaking out party of the freed slaves being reenacted in revelry and reckless abandon; but there is hardly any nation-building narrative or patriotic inspiration towards individual sacrifice and unity of purpose for Belize’s Glory coming out of the Carnival experience. And that is where revisiting the so-called myth of the Tenth becomes a necessity, if we are to “heal all the wounds” of our nation’s orchestrated divisions.

Spain had declared war against Great Britain in 1796, so a major invasion of the Belize settlement was expected. There was no love for the Spaniards by the Miskita Indians due to a long history of bad treatment, while they had very good relations with the British, and their strong presence in the settlement would likely have influenced the unity of defense against the Spanish invaders.

There is still a lot of “his-story” to work with in trying to “pick sense from nonsense” in the whole Battle of St. George’s Caye affair. Skirmish or battle, what is most important for our Belizean nation and people to appreciate, is that it was a decisive event in the history of this land that we have now inherited; that our slave ancestors played a crucial part in that event; that a decision was made to stay and fight, whatever the consequences; and that decision rested on the strength of the Baymen’s conviction that, whatever were their reasons, the slaves would join in the effort rather than seize the opportunity to rebel or run away. And by joining in that unified effort outside of their wood cutting duties, a seed was likely planted in the minds and hearts of all who participated, that we now have a stake in this land that we have put our lives on the line for.

Yes, there was a return to business as usual after the euphoria of victory wore off, and our slave ancestors reluctantly returned to their station of servitude. Spain never, ever invaded the settlement again. But the records show that by 1820 there was another slave uprising, and runaways continued, until emancipation came in 1838.

In areas where real facts are not available, there is room for speculation and imagination by the descendants of slaves, just like some descendants of the slavemasters have chosen to imagine the myth of one-love between master and slave on that fateful time in our history. Whatever you believe about what was in the hearts and minds of our forebears in those critical times, however different might have been the perspectives of slave and free, in that time of existential crisis for the Belize settlement, it was nevertheless, as our BDF motto says, “shoulder to shoulder” on the Tenth. And that is why today we are this unique “Jewel of Central America in the heart of the Caribbean basin”.



(estb. 1969)

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FCD and BDF address cattle ranching by Guatemalans on Belizean land

The establishment of cattle ranching fields by Guatemalans on Belizean territory is well-documented, and decisive actions are now required.



Members of Friends for Conservation and Development (FCD) and Belize Defence Force meet

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Sept. 12, 2022

The Friends for Conservation and Development (FCD) met with the command of the Belize Defence Force last week to discuss and formulate an effective strategy to address the ongoing issue of illegal cattle ranching by Guatemalan nationals on Belizean land — in some cases in protected areas. This issue has been ongoing for years but has reached a point where adaptive strategies need to be put in place by security personnel. The two entities are constantly patrolling the Belize-Guatemala border and on a frequent basis encounter cattle ranchers and other Guatemalan nationals

What if!

I’m sure that this has been debated many times since the ending of the Civil War. I’m sure scholars and people much smarter than me, have voiced varied opinions on this subject. These are my thoughts, my unprofessional analysis of a different outcome to the plight of the newly freed (I use the word freed with sarcasm, because freedom then was only an illusion, that would soon disappear.) There was so much optimism, so much hope, and dreams, of a future where equality was a promise, the yoke and the burden of oppression lifted from the backs of a kidnapped race! These people, these beautiful people, living in the land where civilization began, where men first started to walk upright, and wander into their own new worlds, ripped from their version of Eden, into a nightmare of violence and greed and chaos! I’m sure they never imagined or foresaw any of that! Into a strange land of changing climates, where they were chattels, their lives valued below that of even animals, on the rung of the white man’s point of view, and that only grew worse after the Civil War ended!

What if Lincoln wasn’t assassinated right after the war? Would things have turned out differently for black people? What if Lincoln and General Grant had

in protected areas in Belize, where they have been illegally using a variety of Belizean natural resources.

Key protected areas in Belize such as the Vaca Forest Reserve, Caracol Archaeological Reserve area, Columbia River Forest Reserve, and the Chiquibul National Park have been used in part by Guatemalan ranchers over the years, despite the consistent presence of FCD and Belizean authorities.

The security personnel are now moving toward implementing more decisive action to address the incursions, which continue to advance further and further into Belize’s territory – causing large swaths of our pristine forests to be destroyed to create grazing land for cattle and thus impacting the integrity of protected areas.

While cattle ranching has been ongoing and more widespread in recent years, Guatemalan nationals have also engaged in poaching, illegal agricultural activities, and hunting in our national protected areas. Readers would recall that in 2014, Danny Conorquie, a Belizean special constable, attached to the Tourism Police Unit, was shot dead near the Caracol archeological site, and there are a number of instances of Guatemalan nationals being found and detained by Belizean operations.

Last year, soldiers from the BDF and FCD finally destroyed a farm in Belize owned by a Guatemalan whose surname is Jimenez. That farm, which had a crop of beans and cucumbers, was destroyed in that operation, which was sanctioned by the OAS, but not without some resistance. At the time, reports were that as many as 30 civilians and 60 Guatemalan soldiers gathered to display their disapproval of the operation. Reports are that members of the FCD were even shot at by Guatemalans during the exercise.

The soldiers from Guatemala reportedly crossed the Belize side of the border and were told by members of the Belize Defence Force that the operation was OAS-approved before they requested that the Guatemalan soldiers return to their side of the border.

The meeting between the FCD and BDF is an attempt to chart a part forward to address the concerns raised due to the consistent cattle ranching in the short and medium term.



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Dr. Natalia Beer — Technical Advisor for Maternal and Child Health (MOHW)

by Khaila Gentle

BELIZE CITY, Fri. Sept. 9, 2022

The Ministry of Health and Wellness has developed and launched a national strategy for addressing adolescent health and development. The Adolescent Health National Strategic Plan 2019-2030 outlines the steps that the Ministry will be taking in what Dr. Natalia Beer calls a

MOHW tackles adolescent health and development

holistic approach to adolescent wellness that goes far beyond just diseases and healthcare.

Beer, who is the Technical Advisor for Maternal and Child Health in the Ministry of Health and Wellness, spoke with the media on Friday and explained that the national strategy has been almost three years in the making.

“For a few years before the pandemic hit Belize, the Ministry of Health, in collaboration with other line ministries and partners, we got together and we worked on the development of the National Strategic Plan for Adolescent Health and we finalized it in the year 2019,” she said.

The plan was successfully developed through a collaborative effort among the Ministry of Health; the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology (MoECST); the Ministry of Human Development, Families and

Indigenous Peoples Affairs, and a number of youth-based organizations and UN agencies.

“We have under the plan three outcomes. The first one is to improve the access to services ... The second outcome speaks to reducing risk behaviors among adolescents, and we know that the most important thing is to increase the access to information to help them make better decisions. And then the last one has to do with environments that are safe and nurturing where adolescents grow,” said Dr. Beer.

Adolescents, or those between the ages of ten and nineteen, make up almost a quarter of the country’s population, and according to a report by UNICEF, they are particularly underserved by health programs in Belize. The new strategic plan is an effort to address this along with many critical health issues, such as mental health, adolescent

pregnancy, sexual and gun violence, and road traffic accidents, to name a few. It also seeks to improve opportunities for positive adolescent development and focuses on the areas of education, sports, and several others as well.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), Belize is among the first countries to develop a National Adolescent Health Strategic Plan under the guidance of the WHO’s Accelerating Action for Health of Adolescents strategy.

One of the highlights of the development of the plan, said Dr. Beer, is that adolescents from all over the country were involved in plan-formulation.

“We conducted consultations with them, and then we heard from them what their problems are. We heard from them what the possible recommendations to address these problems are, and that’s the way we built the plan. So the plan is developed in a manner that when the adolescent reads the document, they will find themselves there from beginning to end, because it speaks to adolescence,” she said.

According to Dr. Beer, the plan was developed in a way that it can be considered a living document—one that can be revisited after 2030 to enable further planning for the future.

The Adolescent Health National Strategic Plan 2019-2030 in its entirety can be accessed on the UNICEF website at <https://www.unicef.org/belize/reports/adolescent-health-national-strategic-plan-2019-2030>.

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- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
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| 2 | WOODEN OFFICE DESK W/2 BLACK OFFICE CHAIR | 2 | WOODEN OFFICE DESK W/2 BLACK OFFICE CHAIR |
| 3 | COMPRESS WOOD & METAL COMPUTER DESK W/3 OFFICE CHAIRS | 3 | COMPRESS WOOD & METAL COMPUTER DESK W/3 OFFICE CHAIRS |
| 1 | ACER MONITOR & DELL CPU COMPUTER W/AOC BATTERY BACKUP | 1 | ACER MONITOR & DELL CPU COMPUTER W/AOC BATTERY BACKUP |
| 1 | AVANTI WATER COOLER | 1 | AVANTI WATER COOLER |
| 2 | SAMSUNG COMPUTER SET W/HP DESKJET INK ADVANTAGE PRINTER | 2 | SAMSUNG COMPUTER SET W/HP DESKJET INK ADVANTAGE PRINTER |
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- | | | | |
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| 1 | CHAINSAW | 1 | ACETYLENE KIT W/ TANK LPG TANK, HOSE & CART W/ 3 AIRHOSES |
| 2 | TOOLCRAFT ALUMINIUM LADDER | 1 | METAL PRESS STANDING W 2TON JACK |
| 1 | METAL SQUARE STORAGE BOX W/ LAMTOP, VEHICLE SCANNER, DEWALT STONE GRINDER, & 20# EXTINGUISHER | 1 | MILLER THUNDERBOLT XL WELDING MACHINE |
| 1 | BLUE METAL TABLE | 2 | DRILLS, 1 SM AIRGUN & 1 LG AIRGUN |
| 1 | TOOLCRAFT VACUUM CLEANER | 1 | ELECTRICAL TOOLBOX, 2 LG METAL GRINDERS |
| 1 | BRIGGS & STRATION 950 PRESSURE WASHER | 1 | PORTABLE PORTER AIR COMPRESSOR 240 VOLT |
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| 1 | SM FUMIGATION PUMP | | |
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- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | BZ A 4551 1999 CHEVROLET SILVERADO PICKUP | 1 | BZ C 40273 2007 TOYOTA TUNDRA PICKUP |
| 1 | BZ A 4008 1996 INTERNATIONAL TRUCK | 1 | BZ C 42305 2012 CHEVROLET EQUINOX |
| 1 | BZ A 4009 1996 INTERNATIONAL TRUCK | 1 | BZ A 4626 2019 CHANGAN MINI TRUCK |
| 1 | BZ A 4066 1999 CHEVROLET SILVERADO PICKUP | 1 | BZ A 4630 2015 CHANGAN MINI TRUCK |
| 1 | BZ T 0271 TRAILOR | 1 | BZ A 4634 2019 CHANGAN MINI TRUCK |
| 1 | BZ A 4213 2013 PEGASUS TRUCK | 1 | BZ A 4625 2015 CHANGAN MINI TRUCK |
| 1 | BZ A 37522 2015 NISSAN PICKUP TRUCK | 1 | BZ A 4939 2015 CHANGAN MINI TRUCK |
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COMPOL addresses Carnival safety

BELMOPAN, Mon. Sept. 9, 2022

The long-awaited 2022 Carnival Road March, which carried the theme “We outside! We back pon the road”, hit the streets of Belize City after not occurring for two consecutive years due to the Covid-19 pandemic. While there was great anticipation among Belizeans, however, there were also safety concerns.

In an effort to address those fears of some members of the public in the days leading up to the Carnival that viewing or participating in the march might have been risky due to recent shootings in Belize City, the Commissioner of Police, Chester Williams, posted images on social media on the day of the carnival of him and a number of other officers patrolling the streets. It was an effort to provide assurance to a jumpy community.

Today, at a police press briefing, Commissioner Williams made reference to those efforts by the Police Department.

“The carnival was a huge event. It saw people from all across the country either participating or as spectators to the carnival, and so what we did is to ensure that we deployed an adequate



Verdades incómodas; el mito y la realidad del diez

Lunes, 12 de septiembre de 2022

Se dice que una casa dividida contra sí misma no puede sostenerse, y el pueblo beliceño continúa dividido sobre un asunto que es un hecho indiscutible de la historia de nuestra nación: la "Batalla de Cayo San Jorge". Y, aunque pronto se decidirán algunas decisiones críticas sobre el futuro de nuestra nación en la CIJ, todavía hay tiempo para reunir nuestros pensamientos y sentimientos dispersos y aclarar los conceptos erróneos que nos han dividido, para que podamos apretarnos el cinturón y prepararnos como un solo pueblo unido para enfrentar los desafíos de ese fatídico día.

¿Hay algún ser humano en servidumbre que no anhele con un deseo ardiente ser libre? ¿Hay alguna persona con dificultades en Port Loyola que no desee tener un trabajo que gane un salario decente? Sin embargo, hay personas que creen en las promesas, y cuanto más bonita es la imagen, ¡más fuerte es su creencia! Mientras que otros son más cautelosos y menos crédulos.

Desde la introducción de esclavos africanos para cortar caoba a principios de 1700, las revueltas de esclavos fueron un hecho innegable en el asentamiento de Belize, como lo fue en todas las jurisdicciones esclavistas en cualquier lugar. Asimismo, los esclavos fugitivos eran un hecho aceptado durante la época en que existía la esclavitud en el asentamiento. Pero, por perversa e inhumana que fuera la institución, sopesando los riesgos y las posibles consecuencias, la mayoría de los esclavos no optaron por huir en ningún momento. La rebelión organizada a gran escala en el asentamiento de Belize fue una ocurrencia rara a lo largo de los siglos. Y hubo unas cuantas, en las que los amos esclavistas fueron asesinados. Pero más a menudo se trataba de escabullirse al escondite "cimarrón" en Gales Point Manatee, o de correr hacia el Territorio del Norte, donde, según los informes, había una posibilidad de libertad. Viajar decenas de kilómetros sin brújula a través de la selva de noche con animales salvajes por todas partes no es una perspectiva agradable para muchas personas, esclavas o libres. Y hubo consecuencias para los fugitivos que eran atrapados.

Debido a que había amos de esclavos, y había esclavos, y había una invasión inminente de una fuerza extranjera, en opinión de algunos que llaman a toda la Historia del Diez un mito, los esclavos no podían, como ha dicho una "his-tory", ponerse felizmente hombro a hombro con sus esclavistas en defensa del asentamiento de los invasores representantes de la corona española.

Ahora, eso puede ser un mito, está bien; pero no niega el hecho de que los esclavos formaron parte de la fuerza de defensa del asentamiento en esa fatídica ocasión. Y desempeñaron un papel fundamental, ya que fue su maniobrabilidad y velocidad al usar sus embarcaciones de remo por la noche para desarraigar los marcadores del canal colocados por los españoles para guiar la entrada de sus barcos a través de la pequeña brecha en el arrecife que obstaculizó severamente los planes del enemigo. Este hecho ha sido documentado en la historia de los archivos ingleses y españoles.

Si bien hubo revueltas y esclavos fugitivos antes, la pregunta rara vez si acaso se discute en los registros españoles o ingleses, si los invasores esperaban que los esclavos en el asentamiento de Belize capitularan a su lado, o si los hombres de la bahía estaban preocupados por esa posibilidad y lo que hicieron o dijeron para tratar de evitar que eso ocurriera. Ahí es donde podría haber lugar para la especulación y para que un creador de mitos intente embellecer la historia con todo tipo de dulzura entre "amo y esclavo". Ese es el mito; pero eso no niega la importancia del diez.

Después de que la Convención de Londres de 1786 entre Gran Bretaña y España dio como resultado que la población del asentamiento de Belize casi se duplicara con la llegada de residentes, esclavos y libres, de la Costa de los Mosquitos, la población del asentamiento era tal que necesitaría una importante fuerza española para someterlos y expulsarlos efectivamente de su punto de apoyo en el asentamiento de Belize; por lo tanto la gran flota de invasores españoles a principios de septiembre de 1798.

Es un hecho aceptado que en varias ocasiones anteriores, la más reciente en 1779, los hombres de la bahía habían sido atacados en su cuartel general en Cayo San Jorge y todos los cautivos, amos y esclavos, fueron llevados a prisión en Cuba después de que todos los edificios del cayo fueron quemados hasta el suelo. Pero también es un hecho que algunos de

los Hombres de la Bahía siguieron regresando después de unos años, aunque algunos renunciaron y regresaron a Inglaterra. Y es un hecho también que los invasores españoles nunca pudieron atrapar a todos los hombres de la bahía y sus esclavos en un solo lugar, porque siempre estaban dispersos en las diferentes "obras" a lo largo de los seis ríos principales donde realizaban el negocio de la tala de madera. De modo que, cuando les llegara la noticia del saqueo de Cayo San Jorge, podrían estar preparados para retirarse tierra adentro para evitar la confrontación con el enemigo.

La división es realmente una sobre la perspectiva del evento, y merece mucho más pensamiento e imaginación por parte de nuestros artistas e historiadores, ya que muchos registros han sido destruidos en varias ocasiones en el asentamiento de la Bahía por incendios o huracanes, y a veces por la fuerza destructiva de los soldados del ejército español enviados a arrasar los fuertes y edificios de los colonos hasta los cimientos. Y a pesar de una serie de trabajos académicos sobre el tema, es difícil encontrar una perspectiva escrita de los trabajadores afrodescendientes empobrecidos, primero esclavizados y luego liberados, que eran la mayor parte de la población en ese momento.

Se acerca otra celebración del Día de la Independencia para los beliceños, y sin embargo no hemos logrado una buena "despedida" como pueblo unido del Décimo en adelante al XXI. El carnaval es una buena válvula de escape para una población que anhela liberarse del estrés de la vida diaria, y no existe división política entre los participantes. Todos se remontan a la esclavitud y tratan el Carnaval como la fiesta de los esclavos liberados que se recrea en el jolgorio y el abandono imprudente; pero apenas hay una narrativa de construcción nacional o inspiración patriótica hacia el sacrificio individual y la unidad de propósito para la Gloria de Belize que surge de la experiencia del Carnaval. Y ahí es donde revisar el llamado mito del Diez se convierte en una necesidad, si queremos "sanar todas las heridas" de las divisiones orquestadas de nuestra nación.

España había declarado la guerra a Gran Bretaña en 1796, por lo que se esperaba una gran invasión del asentamiento de Belize. Los indios miskitos no tenían amor por los españoles debido a una larga historia de malos tratos, mientras que tenían muy buenas relaciones con los británicos, y su fuerte presencia en el asentamiento probablemente habría influido en la unidad de defensa contra los invasores españoles.

Todavía hay mucha "his-story" con la que trabajar para tratar de "descifrar lo que tiene sentido y lo que no" en todo el asunto de la Batalla de Cayo San Jorge. Escaramuza o batalla, lo más importante para que nuestra nación y pueblo beliceño aprecien, es que fue un evento decisivo en la historia de esta tierra que ahora hemos heredado; que nuestros antepasados ??esclavos jugaron un papel crucial en ese evento; que se tomó la decisión de quedarse y luchar, cualesquiera que fueran las consecuencias; y esa decisión se basó en la fuerza de la convicción de los hombres de la bahía de que, cualesquiera que fueran sus razones, los esclavos se unirían al esfuerzo en lugar de aprovechar la oportunidad para rebelarse o huir. Y al unirse a ese esfuerzo unificado fuera de sus deberes de tala de madera, probablemente se plantó una semilla en la mente y el corazón de todos los que participaron, que ahora tenemos un interés en esta tierra por la que hemos arriesgado nuestras vidas.

Sí, hubo un regreso a los negocios como de costumbre después de que la euforia de la victoria se desvaneciera, y nuestros antepasados ??esclavos regresaron de mala gana a su estación de servidumbre. España nunca jamás volvió a invadir el asentamiento. Pero los registros muestran que en 1820 hubo otro levantamiento de esclavos y continuaron los fugitivos, hasta que llegó la emancipación en 1838.

En áreas donde los hechos reales no están disponibles, hay espacio para la especulación y la imaginación de los descendientes de los esclavos, al igual que algunos descendientes de los amos esclavistas han optado por imaginar el mito de amor mutuo entre amo y esclavo en ese fatídico tiempo en nuestra historia. Independientemente de lo que crea usted sobre lo que estaba en los corazones y las mentes de nuestros antepasados ??en esos tiempos críticos, por diferentes que hayan sido las perspectivas de esclavos y libres, en ese momento de crisis existencial para el asentamiento de Belize, fue, sin embargo, como nuestro lema BDF dice, "hombro con hombro" en el diez. Y es por eso que hoy somos esta única "Joya de Centroamérica en el corazón de la cuenca del Caribe".

Queen E didn't tell them to play ball

by Colin Hyde

We are British, yes we are... well no, when we were subjects, maybe, but definitely not now, since we became independent in 1981. Of course, who wears the crown is still the head of Belize, but that's titular, as it goes to the day-to-day running of our internal affairs. But don't underestimate the weight of that crown in the big scheme. It's a declaration to the world which bomb we're going to call. Of course, we pay for it, but the price is small, except when we aren't smart. I could tell you when we weren't smart, but that would take us away from Queen E, the star of this piece, so we'll let that story lie.

The Queen was blessed with years, 96 of them. That's 20 years beyond the average life span in countries with the best health care. Her old dad, King George VI, he only got 56. If he had been born in the time in which we live, with all the money he had in his bank account he could have bought many more moons to gaze at. Hmm, in this longevity game, Queen E's mom, wow, she got all of 101. It's a man's world, but women live much longer. It's good that the Queen had such a long life, because she has been sterling in her many leadership roles.

Immediately after the Queen died, some media were announcing that the entire mourning period and interment would cost the British billions because a lot of activities would be shut down during

the 10 or so days until the funeral. But they were making that assumption based on what had happened in the past. It's like 70 years since a monarch in the UK died, and much has changed since then. I read a story in the *Guardian* (UK) which said the British were called on to tone it down, but to carry on mostly as usual.

That's why it was such a stunner that British football shut down this weekend. I bet if Queen E had known they'd go to that extreme to show reverence on her passing, she would have left a message for them, to play. This is the time when you know who is pagan and who's a believer. Don't those Satan worshippers and misguided souls know that the Queen is now in the best seat in the stadium?

There was talk that the funeral would be on the 18th, the day we honor our patriots and hold the national awards ceremony, but an official announcement a few days ago said it would be on the 19th, which is the date the Father of the Nation died and our National Service Day. Belize has to think how to honor Price's memory and show respect for the Queen on the same day.

If the Queen was a young one, there'd be some real mourning, but for a 96-year-old there'll be a lot of celebration in the ceremony. Wow, both of those guys lived long, full lives, and both are deserving of maximum respect — Price, our first leader, and the Queen, the leader of the Commonwealth and our head of state.

There are protocols in place for the

reverencing of deceased dignitaries, but our leaders really will have to be dusting off some old books to find out how to handle this one. It isn't very often, nooo, that we bury the Queen of Belize on the same day we honor the memory of the Father of the Nation.

Anybody but Price

The Queen's passing didn't make Francis pause from declaring his position on this ill-thought out charge for us to move away from the Crown as the head of state. Ah, we all listened to Francis's speech on St. George's Caye Day, how he quoted Fanon and all that. I will say he wasn't as bold in his speech there as he was about his support for the JC, Patrick Rogers, Bill Lindo position, at least I can't say that until I've passed this Battle speech through my fine-tooth comb.

Hmm, I bet what Francis had to say resounded in Freetown, the division he inherited from George Price, via Jorge Espat, via a blunder by Pehreh, because the PUPs have long envisioned the face of Price on our money.

We're no fools here. All this talk from Francis about us becoming a republic, about us removing the Crown as the head of state, it's all to get Price on our dollar. Those PUP bohgas, yap, have been dreaming of that since 1949!

Well, I think that is a bad, terrible idea, and I'm not saying that just as an NIP holding old beef. Putting Price on the money doesn't make sense. For starters, the man hated money. Price's life was a statement of rejection of the material trappings of this world, the things people labor to get money to buy. When he traveled abroad he carried his clothes in a carton box instead of a name-brand valise. He didn't change vehicles every year. He promoted pupsi, kraana and green plantain as staples for our midday meals. He never threw away a piece of paper that had an unused side. He painted his house gray, the color of poverty.

The next reason, maybe the biggest reason we don't want Price on our money is because we don't want his lookalike Henry Charles to be getting any ideas. Henry Charles is way too full of himself already, and that would swell him up even more. I have a thing or two to say to Henry Charles, for taking a bill to the House with a super majority and fumbling the ball, getting declared out of bounds.

But let's stick with the money. I don't have much of it, but whatever I have must be safe from him. It's his granduncle's bad luck to have a doppelganger nephew. Otherwise, if not for the NIP thing I, ehm, might say hip, hip, hooray!

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said it

Nobody had the-you-know-what to say it, definitely nobody here, but Tedros, the head of WHO, wasn't afraid, because his business is to protect the world from dangerous diseases.

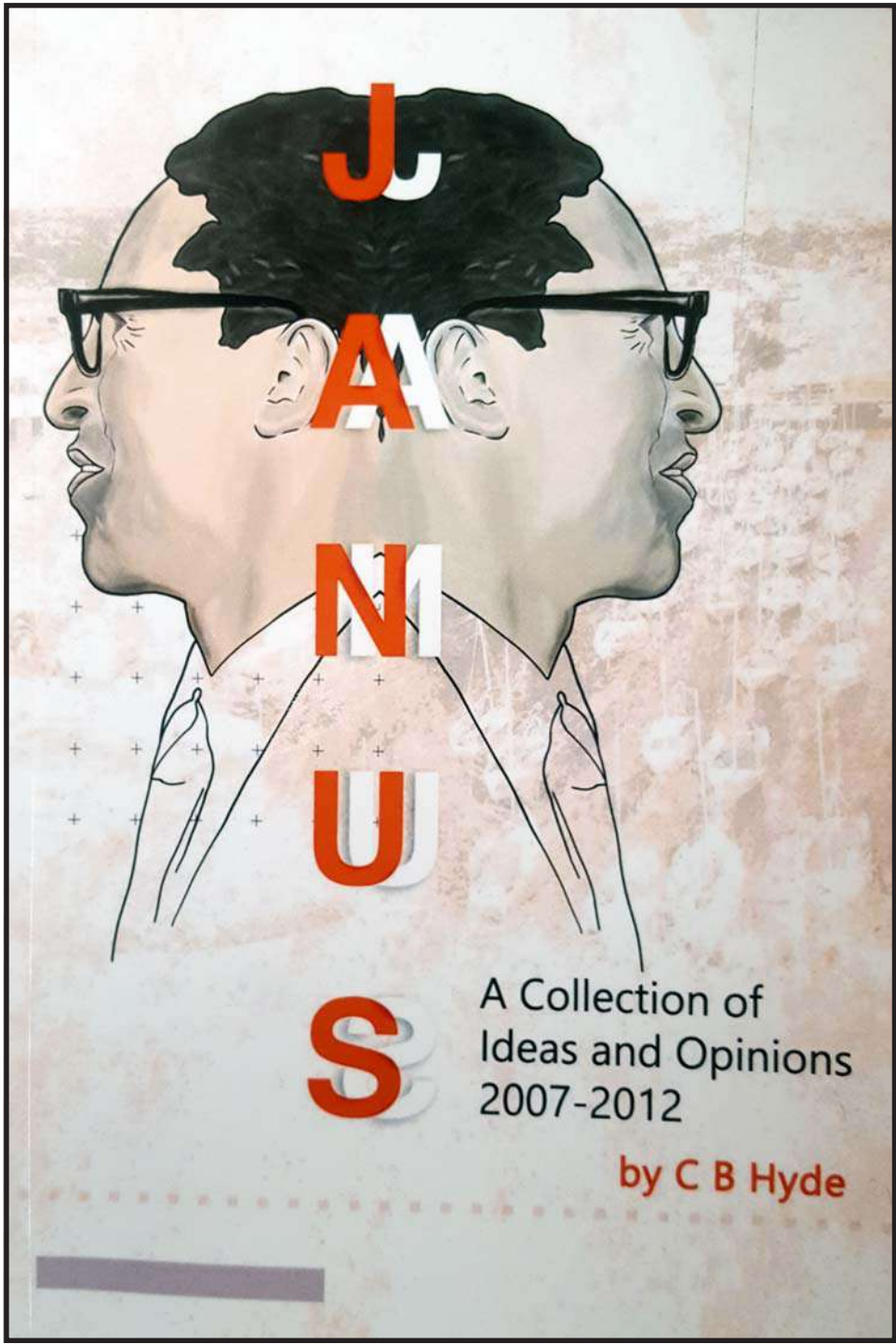
Annabelle Timsit and Dan Diamond wrote in a July story in the *Washington Post* that Tedros had "suggested that men who have sex with men temporarily limit their number of sexual partners while monkeypox cases increase within their community." Hmm, you shouldn't suffocate the truth if people need to know.

Stephanie Soucheray, in a story published in *CIDRAP News* titled "Monkeypox cases reach 7,500 in US; 99% of cases in males", said data from the CDC showed "99% of monkeypox cases in the United States are in males, and 94% of cases report recent male-to-male sexual or intimate contact." The story goes on to list gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men as disproportionately affected by the disease, and discusses the potential of an available vaccine.

Everyone can get monkeypox if they are exposed to an infected person, and the measures we took/take to reduce our exposure to Covid-19 will help us avoid this new disease that for a time was threatening to become a pandemic, but seems to have subsided. We're not out of the woods. We learnt a lot during the pandemic, about how dangerous viruses can be, how easily they mutate and increase in virulence.

So, why was it Tedros alone who zeroed in on where the greatest problem was, and pleaded with them to stay out of the closet for a while? Are even big people scared to tell gay men to stop what they're doing? They aren't an essential service. The world's population won't dip if they keep on the straight and narrow.

My, don't gay men feel any responsibility to be their brothers' keeper? And it's for their sakes too! Fu you, fu me, fu all a we, stay away from that closet, Braa.



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LaRouche: There's a US-NATO-funded blacklist



by Clinton Canul Luna

Permit me, our dear readers of this column, to present to you the following which was posted on Youtube by 'The LaRouche Organization entitled **"Shut Down the U.S.- NATO- funded Ukrainian kill list"**, dated September 8, 2022:

Good morning. I'm Harley Schlanger from the LaRouche Organization with your daily video update for September 8, 2022. Today, I'm going to call your attention to two events which took place yesterday, both of which will hopefully be shaping a better future for all nations on earth. The first was a press conference sponsored by the Executive Intelligence Review on shutting down NATO'S Ukrainian's "kill list". The second event was Putin's speech in Vladivostok to the eastern economic forum. These two events, which both occurred yesterday, are part of the emergence of a new majority in the world, committed to a new security and financial architecture which benefits all sovereign nations, not just the wealthy few, and by wealthy few I don't mean wealthy few nations but the wealthy few who control the so-called advanced sector nations.

So, let's begin with the Executive Intelligence Review press conference. This provided a full picture of the

hideous truth of what's going on in Ukraine right now and the reality behind NATO'S war against Russia. People who are in opposition to this war are being described as information terrorists who are put on a list that is a "kill list," according to western security experts, and all you have to do is look at what happened just over two weeks ago to Darya Dugina, a Russian journalist and activist who was on the list who was blown up in a car bombing conducted, most likely, by Ukrainian-directed terrorists who killed her outside of Moscow. Now, many of the speakers who were at this event were on the committee to combat this information blacklist, which is put out by the Ukrainian defense department and also on the Mirotvorets "kill list," as was Dugina. Some of these speakers included Colonel Richard Black, who's spoken often against the U.S. policy in Syria, and now he's been recently warning of the danger of nuclear war coming from the western involvement in Ukraine. Former weapons inspector, Scott Ritter, a passionate advocate of ending the western support for the slaughter that's going on in Ukraine; Ray McGovern; the U.S. senate candidate for New York, Diane Sare; Helga Zepp-LaRouche; all of them are on the hit list

and for full disclosure I should tell you, I'm on the hit list of both—the Committee to combat this information and Mirotvorets.

What is my crime that labels me as an information terrorist? Is it that I said that NATO'S policy of arming the Ukrainians and urging them not to negotiate is responsible for the deaths of Ukrainians in large numbers by the continuation of the war. That makes me a Putin spokesman and an information terrorist, according to them. There are also speakers at this event from Denmark, from Serbia, Italy, Argentina and elsewhere. It's a long video, but I would urge you to take the time to watch it, because you'll learn things from this that you'll never get in the western media. Now, including, why are people placed on the list? The calls for diplomatic negotiations to end the war makes you a Moscow puppet; the call to end the weapons deliveries makes you a Moscow puppet. The truth about Neo-Nazis in Ukraine, because these lists are largely the effort of those people from the organization for Ukrainian nationalism and their offshoots such as the Azov Battalion is they are the Neo-Nazis who make up these organizations creating this list and presumably will be the ones who try to carry out the list and also a challenge to the official lying narrative of why there's fighting going on in Ukraine.

If you question, if you ask, why did the west not talk to Putin seriously, you're considered an apologist for Russian genocide. Now, also, what was discussed was the role of U.S.-NATO support for this targeting operation, including the most recent example of that—the September 1st and 2nd conference in Kiev which was attended by 24 nations, mostly NATO members in the U.S. and U.S. officials who were there and spoke in support of their operations. In other words, targeting Americans for possible assassination with American officials in the audience who didn't raise a peep to object to this. Also a discussion of the funding of the counter-disinformation operations that is funding to silence Americans and put a chill on their free speech. You'll also see examples of courage, people who are speaking out despite threats to their life, speaking out and telling the truth, and finally the call for the Congress to cut off the funding for this and for NATO countries to stop supporting such terrorist operations supposedly in the defense of Ukrainian freedom and sovereignty. So again, I urge you to watch this, to think about it and to spread it around so other people can see it, because it's not being reported to you in the west, where we have a Cone of silence placed over the opposition to this war policy.

Now, the second event was the eastern economic forum in Vladivostok, which is a much more optimistic and forward-looking event. I'm going to just quote a little bit from Putin's keynote, because, again, this is not being reported generally, but the fact is that as was pointed out by

the moderator of this event, the people speaking at this event represent more than half of the world's population and that these are nations which refused to go along with the sanctions policy against Russia. In fact, they were appearing with Putin at the podium, including India, Vietnam and other countries that are being targeted by the West to support the global NATO policy as opposed to defending international law. Now, in his keynote, Putin was optimistic, despite the western efforts to destroy Russia, to wreck the economy and to promote regime change. He charged western nations with the effort to, quote, *"make everyone follow their rules which benefit only the few"* and by that he was directly attacking this idea of a rules-based order, and he said that what they're actually doing is extinguishing sovereignty to support, to force submission that nations will bend the rules which will benefit only those who make the rules, that is, they'll give in to the demands to give up their sovereignty.

But Putin pointed out that there's a waning of U.S. dominance. He said, *"The entire system of international relations has recently undergone irreversible tectonic shifts..."*, adding that, *"...the Asian Pacific nations have emerged as new centers of economic and technological growth..."* He pointed out that the Euro and the Dollar and the Pound are no longer trusted as suitable currencies for trade transactions, as they are subject to seizure by western banks if you go against the western narrative and that you're subject to sanctions if you don't go along with the sanctions policy. So if you don't support sanctions against Russia, you might find yourself sanctioned, you might have your accounts shut down, your foreign reserves stolen. That's supposed to build trust in the western system of democracy? And then what Putin outlined in contrast to that is optimistic plans for new transport corridors and connectivity, development of infrastructure, railways, seaports, pipelines and he contrasted this growth perspective with the policies in the West, which include sanctions, which include flawed economic plans that have led to inflation and the green policies which are threatening adequate energy supplies to the western nations, typified by western leaders who say 'We don't care if our people suffer with high prices and can't afford heat and food this winter, we will continue the policy of degrading Russia through support for the Ukrainian Neo-Nazis and that's final'. So Putin pointed out, how is this democracy?

Now the question that's posed by all of this, is, what is the west fighting for in Ukraine? To weaken or defeat Russia toward what end? Because Russia is such a bad actor in international policies?

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What if!

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decided that General Lee, Jefferson Davis, and all the Southern confederacy were to be treated as the traitors they were, and not the honorable adversaries they were portrayed to be? What if they had been prosecuted and found guilty and hung, as they should have been, for taking up arms against a legitimate government? What if all the rebels' guns, and whatever other armaments they possessed, had been confiscated? What if all those plantations, built on the backs of, and with the help of the slaves, had been confiscated and subdivided into plots of lands for each slave's families? There are a lot more what ifs, but let's just begin with these.

I understand that civil wars are the worse kind any country could face: brothers and friends and neighbors, killing and spying against each other! I understand also, that after the North won that struggle, they longed for peace and reconciliation; I get that. But I also believe in peace through strength! I believe that every visage of slavery, the romanticizing of the antebellum South, should never been allowed to flourish, as it did. The South should have paid for their treachery with a well-deserved, and unforgiving humiliation! Sure, they would've raised hell, but to the victors go the spoils!

Instead, after the loss of over six hundred thousand lives, hundreds of thousands more maimed and damaged for life, things got better for the traitors and worse for the "free" slaves! Their short-lived freedom during Reconstruction was quickly snatched away from them by a racist, emergent New South! Even then, fake news was prevalent. The traitors didn't fight to keep their slaves, but for State's rights! What a joke! They took away all the rights of the freemen, built statues and monuments commemorating their fallen, all traitors! This was accepted by the North, by the United States government, mainly in the name of peace, but also because they themselves were racists! They didn't believe in slavery, but they also didn't believe that black people were their equals! So all that promise of equality was taken away through Jim Crow laws, the Ku Klux Klan, state legislators, and through terror!

I believe that if the government had treated these people as they should've been, as traitors, had protected the rights of black people, made sure that the war had not been just a waste of time and lives, I believe that what is happening today with Trump and his traitors, would not be happening, not even an issue! Now, I'm not branding all of Trump's supporters as traitors. I'm talking about the insurrectionists, the election deniers, and those trying to change the honorable way in which elections are conducted! These, these are the traitors, the racists afraid of change and equality! If Lincoln and those that followed, had been firmer, had treated the vanquished with a little less equanimity and respect, and deference, we would live in a different, much better America!

"Mine eyes hath seen the glory!" What glory?

Glen

National groundwater monitoring system being developed



Photo by CTCN

New River Watershed

BELMOPAN, Fri, Sept. 9, 2022

For the next 12 months, the National Hydrological Service from within the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Belize National Climate Change Office will be engaged in the development of a national groundwater monitoring system. The agencies have joined forces to create a tool that will track the impact of climate change on the water system of Belize. The project is at this time in its preliminary phase, with studies currently being conducted on the New River Watershed – an area long under watch within the sector — to guide the development of the monitoring system.

The system will provide much-needed data to government ministries and non-state partners to identify risks in the water supply, a release issued by the Government Press Office stated today. A study to determine the number

of diverse groundwater users will also be conducted.

HR Walliford Limited, previously the Hydraulic Research Station, is a consultancy firm located in the UK that will conduct the technical work in collaboration with the local entities. Deliverables include the assessment of groundwater availability and demand and the mapping of the aquifers in the New River Watershed, as well as benchmarking of current methodologies for groundwater monitoring in Belize, the design of the monitoring system and a suggested implementation plan, and operational framework (including a financing strategy) and the development of a manual for capacity building.

Financial support for the project is being provided by the Climate Technology Center and Network. The government's release says a stakeholder group comprised of community and government partners will be created to provide high-level guidance and additional technical overview for the project.

At this time, only the New River Watershed has been named as a site that will be monitored, but it is assumed that studies will be conducted at the approximately 15 other watersheds located across the country. Significant concerns have been raised over the impact of the New River Watershed on water quality due to large-scale fish deaths. In August 2021 the Government of Belize developed a New River Watershed Management Plan in order to devise corrective measures to improve those conditions.

This additional research as a part of the development of the new groundwater monitoring system will shed more light on the condition of that aquifer.

Sustainable Development Ministry holds workshop on gender & climate change policies

Sustainable Development Ministry holds workshop on gender & climate change policies

by Khaila Gentle

BELMOPAN, Wed. Sept. 7, 2022

The Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change, and Disaster Risk Management's EnGenDER Project seeks to ensure equal access to climate change adaptation solutions for women, children, and other vulnerable groups in the Caribbean.

On Wednesday, the Ministry concluded a two-day training workshop on Integrating Gender into Climate Change Policies, Programs and Projects.

Numerous stakeholders from government ministries, departments, and non-governmental organizations came together on Tuesday, September 6, and Wednesday, September 7, in Belmopan for training on how to mainstream gender into decision-making processes when it comes to implementing climate policies and programs.

According to the Ministry, the workshop—which focuses on gender-inclusive planning in climate change—is a critical part of the successful implementation of its National Climate

Change Gender Action Plan (2022-2027). That plan will “play an important role in integrating gender considerations into socio-economic development”. It will also ensure that society, in all its diversity, is engaged in responding to the effects of climate change at all levels.

Discussion topics at the workshop included the link between climate change and gender that is often overlooked and how climate change affects various vulnerable groups.

The EnGenDER Project—or the Enabling Gender-Responsive Disaster Recovery, Climate and Environmental Resilience in the Caribbean Project—is being executed under the National Climate Change Office (NCCO).

LaRouche: There's a US-NATO-funded blacklist

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The Russians were patiently waiting for eight years for the west to speak up against the shelling into the Donbass region which killed 14,000 mostly civilians; they were waiting patiently for the Ukrainian government to follow up its commitment to the Minsk Accords to give limited autonomy to the eastern provinces of Ukraine, and they waited for the west to speak out against the Neo-Nazis which what actually happened is the West denied there were Neo-Nazis, despite numerous reports in the media of the power of Neo-Nazis going back to the Maidan Square Coup

and the role of Neo-Nazi forces such as the Azov Battalion in launching the fight against the Pro-Russian forces in Donbass. So, what you have here is a clear picture of two different directions, one toward development, toward a monetary system which is aimed at improving the physical conditions of life for people as opposed to the attempt to maintain control of a collapsing financial system which maintains its control through censorship, through lies, through threats to kill those people who speak, have the courage to speak the truth, and intends to commit itself to economic policies which will deprive people of

energy and food. So, take the time to watch our press conference yesterday. What we have to do is shut down this kill list and shift the policy of NATO away from this self-suicide. One way we can help with that is to join us this weekend, the Schiller Institute has a two-day online conference; you can register for it at the schillerinstitute.com. Tomorrow is Friday. I'll be taking your questions. Send them to me at harleysch@gmail.com.”

fincasolan@gmail.com
September 11, 2022
Finca Solana
Corozal Town

REGIONAL & INTERNATIONAL

UN says 50 million people worldwide stuck in 'modern slavery'

The pandemic, armed conflicts, and climate change have exacerbated conditions, trapping people in forced labour or marriage.



The number of people trapped in forced labour or forced marriage has swelled to about 50 million on any given day, the International Labour Organization says [File: Seyllou/AFP]

Mon. Sept. 12, 2022 (Aljazeera)

The number of people trapped in forced labour or forced marriage and other crises has swelled by a fifth in recent years to about 50 million on any given day, the United Nations' International Labour Organization (ILO) said on Monday.

The study by the UN agencies for labour and migration along with the Walk Free Foundation found that at the end of last year, more than half of those had been forced to work against their will and the rest forced into marriage, the ILO said.

That means nearly one out of every 150 people in the world are caught up in modern forms of slavery, the report said.

Both came under its definition of modern slavery as they involved people who "cannot refuse or cannot leave because of threats, violence, deception, abuse of power or other forms of coercion", it added.

The UN had set a goal to eradicate all forms of modern slavery by 2030, but the number of people caught up in forced labour or forced marriage ballooned by 10 million between 2016 and 2021, according to a new report.

The situation had been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which worsened conditions and swelled debt levels for many workers, as well as armed conflicts and climate change, leaving people in extreme poverty and forcing more to migrate, the agency said.

"I think, by and large, that we simply relaxed our efforts. We've taken our eye off the ball when it comes to forced labour," ILO Director General Guy Ryder told the Reuters news agency, calling for improvements in recruitment practices and labour inspections.

He said trade measures, such as a ban on products and imports made with forced labour currently under review by the European Union, could also help.

Modern slavery is present in basically

every country, with more than half of cases of forced labour and a quarter of forced marriages in upper-middle-income or high-income countries.

"It would be a mistake to believe that forced labour is solely the problem of poor countries," Ryder told the AFP news agency.

Migrant workers are more than three times as likely as locals to be affected, the ILO said.

The ILO also said women and children are by far the most vulnerable. Children account for one out of five people in forced labour, with more than half of them stuck in commercial sexual exploitation, the report explained.

But the report also said 14 percent of those in forced labour were doing jobs imposed by state authorities, voicing concern about the abuse of compulsory prison labour in many countries, including the United States.

It also pointed to grave concerns raised by the UN rights office about "credible accounts of forced labour under exceptionally harsh conditions" in North Korea.

And it highlighted the situation in China, pointing to concern about accusations of forced labour in parts of the country.

It referred to a report released by the UN's rights office on August 31 that said "serious human rights violations" had been committed in China and that the detention of Uighurs and other Muslims in Xinjiang may constitute crimes against humanity.

China has vigorously denied the accusations and last month ratified two conventions against forced labour.

This means "they will start to report on the situation of the Uighurs, and that will give us new opportunities to have access and to go deeper into the situation in that regard", Ryder told AFP.

He acknowledged that the discussion

COMPOL addresses Carnival safety



COMPOL Chester Williams addressing police officers before carnival

Continued from **Page 7**

number of officers on the ground, including all our senior command from Belmopan headquarters to assist in making sure the event goes through without any hitch. We know [before] the carnival, there were concerns by members of the public as to whether or not it would be safe, and we sought to give the Belizean people that comfort, that we would be doing all we can to make sure their safety during the carnival and we [did] just that," said COMPOL Williams.

Commissioner Williams added, "One of our strategies was to make sure that the carnival reaches its location before night set in. We would not have wanted the carnival to still be happening during nighttime. That would pose [a] significant challenges, and so you would've seen me at the head of the parade, pulling the parade, because I wanted it to get to Marion Jones before 4:30, at least the head, and the tail would've gotten there by 5:30. With that, the judging and everything else would be done by 6:00, and by 6:30 we could say we're done,

and we were able to achieve that."

Besides outlining police efforts to maintain safety at public events, Commissioner Williams also noted that private gatherings could also be disruptive in the neighborhoods in which they are held. He pointed out that excessive noise at such private functions is also a violation of the law.

"We are the ones who are called and had to respond, but in order for us to be able to take legal action, we would have to have the use of what we refer to ask a decibel meter, to be able to test the level of noise that is being pushed by these speakers. In commercial areas, there's a certain acceptable decibel; in residential areas, there's a level as well. Only a decibel meter can give us that testing that we require to be able to take legal action. But despite that, we try as best to speak to the people who are causing the annoyance and for the most part, they are compliant," he said.

After the carnival took place last week, there were several other September-themed events, and Commissioner Williams confirmed that those events occurred without any incidents.

20 dead in bus/fuel tanker collision in Mexico

by Marco Lopez

MEXICO CITY, Mon. Sept. 12, 2022

Mexican authorities are currently investigating a traffic accident that caused mass casualties on Saturday after a bus and a double-tanker fuel truck collided on the highway between Ciudad Victoria and Monterrey. A total of 20 persons were killed in the tragic accident. The bus was coming from the Hidalgo area en route to Monterrey, the capital of Nuevo Leon, when the accident took place in the border state of Tamaulipas. The burning vehicles made rescue efforts difficult, with 18 victims identified in the original death toll. The following day, two more bodies were found, taking the number of victims in this accident to 20.

The driver of the fuel tanker reportedly survived the ordeal and is currently under investigation. Reports are that one of the tanks being towed by his truck may have



Burning bus following accident in Mexico

become detached before hitting the bus and exploding. Various media outlets have reported that similar tankers have caused deadly accidents before, and are pointing to the lax nature of weight restrictions for tankers and safety inspections in Mexico as a contributing cause.

Of the victims, a total of 11 are from Veracruz, and 8 are from the state of Hidalgo. There is as yet no indication where the 20th victim is from, according to recent reports.

about labour rights in Xinjiang was "not an easy conversation ... but obviously,

it's a very important one".
First published by Aljazeera.



Finnegan starts a Facebook football storm with his “The Seventy Best”

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Sept. 12, 2022

In a 7News story posted on Facebook 5 days ago, former UDP Minister and lifelong football fan Michael Finnegan offered to the public his personal list of “The Seventy Best” footballers he has had the pleasure of seeing in action since he began watching games in Belize around 1960. As expected, the release of Finnegan’s list has kicked off a raging storm of complaints from football fans who are mostly concerned about names left off the list.

In his last term as FFB president, Ruperto Vicente attempted to establish a Belize National Football Hall of Fame, and appointed FFB President Emeritus Delhart Courtney to chair a Hall of Fame committee that included then Hon. Michael Finnegan, David Cruz, Mose Hyde, and yours truly of Amandala Sports, Charles X Hyde.

After a few meetings, the FFB Hall of Fame committee ran into a wall when a suggestion of starting the first induction with only 10 selected players became controversial, and it was felt that in order to catch up there would need to be a much larger number of initial inductees to cover the five decades plus that had elapsed since 1960. Renovations to the FFB building led to a suspension of the committee’s meetings. And that was that.

Finnegan’s list can be seen on the 7News Facebook page. As some comments suggest, a broad-based selection committee is best suited to vote on any final Hall of Fame selection for inductees. There will never be one hundred percent consensus, but it is a good first step towards enshrining “the best of the best” in a Belize National Football Hall of Fame.

While space does not allow us to include Finnegan’s list of his “seventy best” footballers, with their positions played and teams they played for, we will share his introductory note, explaining the reasoning behind his

selection, and thus deflecting criticism by others who see things differently.

Below is Finnegan’s statement:

THE SEVENTY BEST

By: Michael Finnegan

As you have come to appreciate, over the years I have been making contributions to football, from my vantage point, by way of short stories published in the local paper. Throughout my days of writing, observing and generally enjoying the sport, I have engaged in numerous heated discussions about who the best footballers are that we have produced in Belize, and at the end of the day, views remain varied with no two mirroring list. As I can vividly recall, one time I was asked to narrow down and name the best fifteen footballers, a task which I replied would be a very tedious job. However, the question always remained lingering on (my) mind and so I endeavored, on my own accord, to give it some serious thought. Now on the cusp of the forty-first anniversary of our nationhood, I have finally completed that list and I have decided to name the best footballers I have seen, not necessarily in any specific or fixed order. You may disagree with my selection, but this list is through my eyes commencing in 1960. Of course, there are those before 1960; however, I was not so privileged to witness their talent, so here it goes.

After completing his list of SEVENTY BEST players, with pictures of 59 of them included, Finnegan ended as follows:

From this grouping, here is my starting eleven playing a 3-3-4 formation; yours might differ!

Bembe the Mugger Garbutt, Garincha Adderly, Fred Martinez, Chico Ellis, Angus Vernon, Pappy Smith, Malanga Mayen, Lionel Hitler Gentle, Buck Palacio, Randolph Tempo Barrow and Nelson Ru Robinson.

FFB and Ghana sign agreement

Belize’s national football team and Asante Kotoko, a football club from Ghana, West Africa, are scheduled to play two exhibition games during the BICMIC in November



(l-r) Earl Jones, General Secretary at FFB, and Patrick Agyemang, representative from Kumasi Asante Kotoko Football Club

by Charles Gladden

BELMOPAN, Fri. Sept. 9, 2022

The Football Federation of Belize (FFB) and a football club from Ghana, West Africa, Asante Kotoko Sporting Club, signed an agreement on Friday, in Belmopan for two exhibition games to take place between Belize’s A Team and Asante Kotoko.

The exhibition games are scheduled to be played during the Belize International College of Mayors and Investors Conference (BICMIC) on November 15-18. In July, the Mayor of Belmopan, Sheran Palacio, toured Ghana and Liberia and was able to invite several mayors and other officials from that part of the world to the conference, thus creating a football exhibition match.

“FFB looks at the signing of this agreement as a significant step in the



Belize and Kumasi Asante Kotoko Football uniforms

collaboration with our African brothers out of Copperbelt FIFA region, and it’s an indication that football can do great wonders in bringing together nations from across the world. We have done so before, and we look forward to working closely with this club to improve our national team at home and develop some of the skills that they have and make sure we learn from the experience,” said FFBs General Secretary, Earl Jones.

Patrick Agyemang, a representative

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Belize Jaguars to host Ghana champs Asante Kotoko FC in November

BELMOPAN, Mon. Sept. 12, 2022

On Friday, September 9, the Football Federation of Belize (FFB) signed an agreement with Asante Kotoko Football Club, champions of the Ghana Premier League last season, and currently the #1 ranked club in Ghana.

The agreement signed will see the Ghanaian club visit Belize between the 15th and 30th November 2022 to participate in a pair of International Friendlies against the Jaguars. This agreement is important not only for football, but it also allows a unique

opportunity for tourism and cultural exchange for both countries.

Mayor of Belmopan Her Worship Ms. Sheran Palacio was instrumental in the realization of this agreement.

The Football Federation of Belize takes this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to the Asante Kotoko Team and all the fans who will be travelling to Belize in November.

- press release -



(l to r) FFB Gen. Sec., Earl Jones; Belmopan Mayor, Ms. Sheran Palacio; Asante Kotoko reps. Samson Dean and Patrick Osei Agyemang; and FFB Technical Director, Philip Marin

SRC Trading Thoughts

When the dust settles from the Afri-Caribbean Trade Forum (2022), what's next?

Dr. Jan Yves Remy

When the curtain fell last week on the inaugural Afri-Caribbean Trade and Investment Forum (ACTIF) 2022 hosted jointly by the Afri-Eximbank and the Government of Barbados, spirits were riding high. The three-day conference held in Barbados under the theme “One People. One Destiny. Uniting and Reimagining Our Future”, was hailed as a grand success in strengthening trade and investment relations between the private sectors of Africa and the Caribbean.

In attendance at ACTIF were African and CARICOM heads of governments and business organizations; and over 2,000 persons from the private sector, educational institutions and government entities registered for the event. A specially chartered flight from Lagos, Nigeria direct to Barbados brought over 120 African participants to participate in the joint exhibitions, cultural events and high-level speaking and panel sessions over the three days.

But having signed memoranda, declared grand intentions and issued a Joint Communiqué, many left ACTIF wondering what our leaders really achieved: what were the tangible gains made, and where do we go from here?

Where do we go from here?

These questions fell to my panel – the last session at the ACTIF (2022) – for consideration. Entitled Building Africa-Caribbean Value Chains for Exports: Imagining Caribbean–Africa Free Trade Area Agreement, our seven-person panel – comprising representatives from regional Secretariats, the private sector, and academics – was tasked with exploring how Africa and the Caribbean should build on the CARICOM-Africa Summit held in September 2021 and ACTIF 2022; and examine the prospects for an Africa-Caribbean Free Trade Agreement. After a 45-minute discussion, the consensus of my panel was clear: while our leaders’ ambitions were laudable, there is little appetite – or capacity – at this stage to enter a full-scale trade agreement between our two regions.

My own view was that, like ballast to a ship, the highfalutin intentions need grounding in a structured and coherent ecosystem and process, so that the passage can be smooth and steady. I made three main points in this regard.

First, and to the bemusement of my business-minded co-panelists, I reiterated that ideas and models matter. Propitious estimates by the ITC that the export

potential of trade between the Caribbean and Africa is \$1 billion; or by the World Bank that African integration would see a \$450 billion increase in GDP by 2035; or by the IMF that regional integration in CARICOM would generate welfare enhancement of over \$6 billion holds no real promise unless we can achieve structural transformation in each of our regions. Africa’s thinking, scholarship, and ambition under the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) has engrained a new development-friendly, sustainable and inclusive approach to trade. It embeds the counter-narrative to trade liberalism, through its focus not singularly on liberalizing goods and services, but privileging capacity building, and the participation of women, small businesses, youth, digital economy, investment, and the free movement of persons. These are also areas that CARICOM, under its CSME, cares about. Together, Africa and the Caribbean must use their voices to bring to centre-stage these approaches to trade, and our collective solutions to global challenges of debt financing, climate change and food security.

Second, I reiterated that if we are to take meaningful steps toward integration, we must prioritize and structure the

process for doing so. We had to consider and answer questions like: what sectors should we begin with? Do we start with the big or smaller companies? Should we engage at the bilateral, state-to-state level or should our respective Community Secretariats lead? Should decisions be made on a consensus basis or can some move earlier than others through “enhanced cooperation”? How do we overcome the implementation paralysis of both regions? Should we join each other’s integration processes as observers or associate members? How do we resolve disputes?

These questions led to my third and final point, which was a recommendation to create a high-level committee, answerable to Heads of African and CARICOM states, to frame the process for integrating our regions. Such a committee would comprise the right mix of business persons, academia, young leaders, women, civil society and regional secretariats, who would be tasked with proposing an effective approach and process for advancing the economic relationship between our regions. Importantly, the committee’s work would not displace organic synergies that are already happening between African and Caribbean stakeholders – for instance, joint endeavours between the private sectors or Secretariats in the respective regions. Rather, it would facilitate, embed and guide these processes, and provide accountability that would make them sustainable over the long run.

Sailing towards a common destiny

Africa and the Caribbean’s structural transformation through economic integration is a worthwhile pursuit. But to move forward, the immediate focus must be on cementing our own regional projects, with efforts to integrate at the wider level being well-conceived, structured and complementary. In the poignant but chilling words of one of my fellow panelists, it cannot be that centuries ago, our people were shipped as human cargo across the Atlantic, and today, we cannot ship our goods to each other. It is true that a common destiny awaits us, but in the interim, we need deft captains and crew to get us there.

Dr. Jan Yves Remy is the Director of the Shridath Ramphal Centre for International Trade Law, Policy and Services (SRC), UWI. For more information about the SRC, visit our website at: www.shridathramphalcentre.com

Zelenskyy says 6,000sq km of territory retaken in Ukraine blitz

UKRAINE, Mon. Sept. 12, 2022 (Aljazeera)

Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has said his forces had recaptured 6,000sq km (2,320sq miles) of territory from Russia in a counteroffensive this month, marking Moscow’s worst defeat in the near seven-month-old war.

“Since the start of September, our soldiers have already liberated 6,000 square kilometres of Ukrainian territory in the east and south, and we are moving further,” Zelenskyy said in his daily address on Monday.

Ukrainian troops made more gains on Monday, pushing all the way back to the northeastern border in some places, and claimed to have captured many Russian soldiers as part of a lightning advance that forced Moscow to make a hasty retreat.

“In some areas of the front, our defenders reached the state border with the Russian Federation,” said Oleh Synyehubov, governor of the northeastern Kharkiv region.

A spokesperson for Ukrainian military intelligence said Russian troops were surrendering en masse as “they understand the hopelessness of their situation.” A Ukrainian presidential adviser said there were so many prisoners of war (POWs) that the country was running out of space to accommodate them.

Ukrainian presidential adviser Oleksiy Arestovich did not specify the number of Russian prisoners but said the POWs would be exchanged for Ukrainian service members held by Moscow. Military intelligence spokesperson Andriy Yusov said the captured troops included “significant” numbers of Russian officers.

As blue-and-yellow Ukrainian flags fluttered over newly liberated towns, the Ukrainian military said it had freed more than 20 settlements in 24 hours.

In recent days, Kyiv’s forces have captured territory at least twice the size of

The Ukrainian troops have made major gains in the country’s northeast this month in counteroffensive against Russians.

greater London, according to the United Kingdom Defence Ministry.

The territorial shifts marked one of Russia’s biggest reversals since its troops were turned back from Kyiv in the earliest days of the nearly seven months of fighting.

‘Russian army should change strategy’

After months of little discernible movement on the battlefield, the momentum has lifted Ukrainian morale and provoked rare public criticism of Russian President Vladimir Putin’s war.

Ramzan Kadyrov, the Moscow-backed leader of the Russian region of Chechnya, publicly criticised the Russian Defence Ministry for what he called “mistakes” that made the Ukrainian blitz possible.

Sergey Markov, former adviser to Russian President Vladimir Putin and director of the Institute of Political Studies, said the Russian army should change strategy.

“On one hand Russia did not give information over this failure because in Russia we had three days of regional elections and the power is not interested in giving negative information to citizens,” Markov said.

“But on the other hand it’s a clear failure and Russia should change strategy. Many analysts here believe that Russia has to escalate its military operation in Ukraine



A man walks in a front of a residential building damaged by a Russian missile raid, amid Russia’s attack on Ukraine, in Kharkiv, Ukraine [Vyacheslav Madiyevskyy/Reuters]

... Russia’s military activities were too polite, too modest,” he added.

On Monday, Moscow launched air, rocket and artillery attacks on reclaimed areas in the Kharkiv region, a day after Kyiv said Russian raids on electricity infrastructure caused power blackouts.

Moscow conceded having lost territory — which experts saw as a serious blow to its war ambitions — but Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov saw no prospects for negotiations.

“The special military operation continues and will continue until the objectives that were originally set are achieved,” he added, using Russia’s terminology for the internationally-condemned war.

Full article can be found at: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/9/12/ukraine-recaptures-more-ground-as-russia-strikes-back>

First published by Aljazeera

FFB and Ghana sign...

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from Asante Kotoko Sporting Club, expressed appreciation to the FBB and Mayor Palacio for the collaboration.

“We thank you, Belize, the Football Association, and the Mayor of Belmopan, from Ghana the biggest club in the country, Kumasi Asante Kotoko. We are very proud and happy to come here for this international friendly match, but we are going to beat you,” he said.

Belize: Vulcan Mining Plan Extracts Protests, Foresight

by Cynthia Adina Kirkwood

Along with the vociferous opposition of local residents and several government ministers to Vulcan Materials Company’s proposal to quarry limestone near Gales Point Manatee, the mining company’s campaign has moved Belize’s Minister of Sustainable Development to consider creating a long-term “national development plan”.

Hon. Orlando Habet, Minister of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management told *Love News FM* (September 1):

“Definitely, the government will have to decide ... on what kind of development it really wants going forward. Possibly one of the faults we have, along with other governments, we have plans for maybe five years. We have to start looking at 40-, 50-year development plans. Not only with the party but, maybe, bring in the opposition parties, the churches, civil society and everybody else so that we can see where we want to be in 50 years. So, whether another party gets in to form the government, they might be able to change how you get there, but they can’t change that’s where we want to go, because that’s something that was a national development plan.”

Minister Habet, who has a Master of Science degree in Animal Breeding and Genetics as well as a Bachelor of Science degree in Dairy Production, has shown his proclivity for longer-term plans in the past. *Breaking Belize News* (March 22) reported that the Ministry’s “target is to strengthen the implementation of the framework for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and create a medium-term development strategy along

with the Ministry of Economic Development that ... puts Belize into thoughtful, rational action ...”

In addition, “Habet announced plans to phase out short-term forest licenses and strengthen long-term forest management programs by importing some limited species.”

The fruition of Minister Habet’s idea of creating a 50-year national plan would render the Vulcan campaign a catalyst for a stronger Belize. A plan, which lays bare the nation’s ecological and developmental outlook, would make it clear to companies that the *jewel* (a popular term of endearment for Belize) is not interested in selling its natural beauty and ecological balance for, as Deputy Prime Minister Cordel Hyde put it, “a few jobs here and a few nickels there”. With such a plan, Belizeans could channel their time, energy and creativity away from survival missions and into constructive projects.

Who is Vulcan Materials Company
Vulcan Materials Company was founded in 1909 as the Birmingham Slag Company. The Birmingham, Alabama, firm is traded on the New York Stock Exchange. In 2019, its revenue was \$4.929 billion.

Vulcan is mainly engaged in the production, distribution and sale of construction materials, such as gravel, crushed stone and sand. It employs 8,373 workers at about 300 facilities, according to *Fortune* (January 28, 2019). The firm serves about 20 states, the District of Columbia and, until recently, Mexico. In May, Belize’s neighbor shut down Vulcan’s operations due to methods that President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said amounted to “ecological catastrophe”, reported *Reuters* (May 25).

In March 2007, Vulcan Materials announced that it had been named to *Fortune* magazine’s list of Most Admired Companies for the sixth time. The company was ranked first in its industry sector, “Building Material, Glass”. Overall, Vulcan ranked among the top 10 companies in the Fortune 1000 for both long-term investment and social responsibility.

Yet, according to *The Atlantic*: “Bayou Corne (Sinkhole) (in 2012) is the biggest industrial disaster in the United States you haven’t heard of.”

In January 2018, Vulcan Materials was found to be partly responsible for the Bayou Corne Sinkhole in Louisiana along with Occidental Petroleum and Texas Brine Company, according to *The Advocate*, January 12, 2018. Occidental was found to be 50 percent responsible; Texas Brine 35 percent, and Vulcan 15 percent in a 2018 ruling of the 23rd Judicial District of Louisiana, reported *BRProud News* (August 5, 2018).

The Bayou Corne Sinkhole was created from a collapsed underground salt dome cavern. When the sinkhole first appeared in 2012, it spanned 2.5 acres. In 2018, it had grown to 34 acres, reported *The Advocate* (Baton Rouge) (October 12, 2018).

On its discovery, 350 residents were advised to evacuate the area as crude oil and methane gas came up, reported *WVUE* (December 4, 2014). Four years later, residents were allowed to return to their homes; only 12 out of 350 did so.

In an August 5 email to Dr. Ed Boles, an aquatic ecologist, who is an adjunct

lecturer at Galen University in Cayo, Belize, Janet F. Kavinsky, Vice President, External Affairs & Corporate Communications for Vulcan Materials Company, responded to his concerns:

“Over a 14-year period, the Mexican government repeatedly awarded our operation with its ‘Clean Industry Certificate’ – the highest official environmental award given by the government of Mexico to businesses operating in Mexico.”

For 36 years from 1986, Vulcan has been limestone quarrying for road fill in the bordering Mexican state of Quintana Roo. In May, the Mexican government stopped operations near Playa del Carmen on the Caribbean coast. The Environment Department said that parts of the quarry had been excavated below the water table and that mining threatened water quality and subsoil conditions. Meanwhile, the company has a trade dispute with the government, reported *Business & Human Rights Resource Centre* (May 6).

Vulcan Looking at Belize
Now, Vulcan Materials is eyeing Belize. “Vulcan Materials Company is exploring the feasibility of creating The White Ridge Project, an environmentally and socially sustainable limestone quarry, on the White Ridge Farm property near Gales Point, Belize,” according to the project website. The project would create more than 250 jobs, preserve a conservation buffer zone, and support community services, including improving access to clean drinking water.”

The White Ridge Project website is sparse on details. However, Dr. Ed Boles offered a wealth of information. The aquatic ecologist has spent more than 30 years protecting and restoring watersheds. He warned about Vulcan’s proposal in a guest editorial in the spring issue of *The Ag Report*, an independent, semi-annual agricultural newsletter:

“Representatives of Vulcan Materials Company (VMC) headquartered in Birmingham, Alabama, visited Belize on a fact-finding mission in December 2019, and alerted many people of the Stann Creek District coastal area that the company intended to purchase the 6,000-hectare (15,000-acre) White Ridge Farm. They sent down a company team to conduct test borings of the karst (limestone region) and granite rock in early 2020.

“Their goal is to establish a foothold in Belize with a working aggregate mine and ship the mined materials from the karst hills of White Ridge Farm to the southeastern United States. Their intention is to strip away the forest and soil, continually blast the limestone hills, breaking them apart, crushing rocks into graded sizes of aggregates required for roadbeds, fill, concrete and asphalt mixes, and other construction uses in the U.S., where limestone deposits are now less available.

“The material would be transported over land and into the inner channel off the coast just south of Gales Point by a massive conveyor bridge suspended above the land and water. The conveyor bridge would be transporting crushed and sorted aggregates to Panamax (the size requirements for ships traveling through the Panama Canal) self-loading ships waiting at anchor in the deeper waters of the inner channel.

“Dredging would be required to accommodate 228 meters (748 ft., or longer) vessels with 13.5 to 14 meters (44 to 46 ft.) draft, and the area would need to

be large and deep enough to turn these vessels.

“The scale of the project and the removal of karst features/aquifers are not compatible with the sustainable use of this area that conservation NGOs (non-governmental organizations) and residents have been envisioning and striving toward for three decades.

“Now this multi-billion-dollar company has set sights on the limestone deposits in Belize right next to the largest hawksbill sea turtle nesting beach and the largest congregation of manatees in the western Caribbean.

“Scraping away the forest and soil from a karst deposit imposes many impacts, including increasing the rate of storm-water runoff and erosion of the disturbed landscape and heavy sediment loads entering streams and the river. Unfiltered water from mining sites that enters groundwater resources from the mining pit or sinkholes can greatly reduce groundwater quality. .

“Ground vibrations created by rock blasting and heavy equipment can loosen small particles within fractured rock and conduits, increasing turbidity within groundwater, which can show up in people’s wells.

“The continual blasting and drilling and the continual movement of materials over the conveyor bridge (would) create patterns of vibrations that may affect manatee, sea turtles, and other wildlife in the area. Besides the impact on wildlife, these sounds (would) become a continual set of noises within the landscape, particularly those areas within a few miles of the mine.

“Ultimately, we are not sure just what the impact (would) be on the wildlife within the surrounding land and waters ... until it starts to happen.”

In the United States, there has been opposition to Vulcan’s plans for limestone quarries because of damage to groundwater resources, worsening of air quality due to dust, noise pollution from blasting and heavy equipment, habitat loss, disruption of scenic vistas and the overall degradation of the landscape, said Boles. There have been protests in Franklin County, Georgia (*WLHR*, December 30, 2021) and in Comal County in Texas (*Spectrum News I*, June 20, 2019).

Vulcan itself recognized that quarry areas were shrinking in the United States while demand was still high. In the legal claim administered by the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes, Vulcan, the claimant, against United Mexican States, respondent (May 18, 2020), said:

“In the 1980s, encouraged by Mexico’s policies to attract foreign investment in nonoil sectors, Legacy Vulcan started investing in Mexico. It developed a one-of-a-kind project to quarry limestone and produce high-quality aggregates in the State of Quintana Roo for export to the United States. Legacy Vulcan’s investment in Mexico is a vertically integrated operation designed to produce millions of tons of aggregates over many decades for sale in markets along the Gulf Coast and Atlantic seaboard of the United States. Because there are few or no indigenous limestone deposits in those markets, high-quality aggregates command a premium price there.”

Full article can be found at: <https://www.cynthiaadinakirkwood.com/post/belize-vulcan-mining-plan-extracts-protests-foresight>

Cops shoot call center agent

Continued from Page 3

say that if she didn’t went there and see this guy still breathing, they would have left him there to die.”

When Commissioner of Police, Chester Williams held a press briefing on Monday, he informed the media that the bullet that injured Swazo entered his chest and exited through his back and that he was sent to the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital for medical treatment and is listed as being in a stable condition.

The ComPol further stated that an internal investigation is being carried out to determine whether the officers involved in the incident complied with the Belize Police Department’s policy in regard to pursuit of a suspect.

“One cannot expect that the officer would have waited for the young man to take away his gun before doing something. I saw some of the comments on social media, and it would appear to me that some people would rather see the young man take police gun and kill the police, as opposed to the police responding the way he did. When we do have these shootings, it is always unfortunate, but at the end of the day, police officers are there to do a duty and in so doing, they also have a right to protect themselves and the wider public,” said Commissioner Williams.

Swazo is expected to be charged for handling stolen goods.



Sales Agents

BELIZE CITY

- * Puma Roundabout
- * Puma, 2 Mls.
- * Shell Service Station, C.A. Boulevard
- * Community Drug Store
- * William Supermarket, C.A. Boulevard
- * Fuel Logistics/Bel-China
- * Puma Freetown
- * Cambranes
- * J & K Supermarket
- * Twin Supermarket, 5526 St. Thomas Street
- * Tow Tow Grocery Store, Mahogany Street
- * Julie Wong Store, Belama (by police station)
- * JB's Store, Mahogany Street
- * 88 Shopping Center, C.A. Boulevard
- * Freetown Drug Store
- * Publics, Philip Goldson Highway
- * Buca Shell, Philip Goldson Highway
- * James Brodie & Co., Albert St., and Philip Goldson Highway
- * 1st Choice Pharmacy
- * Save-U Supermarket

PLACENCIA

- * Placencia Office Supplies

LADYVILLE

- * Puma Service Station
- * Shell Service Station
- * Low's Supermarket

ORANGEWALK

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

BENQUE

- * Eduard Cambranes
- 6 Diaz St., Benque

CAYO

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

BELMOPAN

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

STANN CREEK

- * Xaibel Service Station
- * S & S One Stop
- C/o Uno Belize
- * St. Vincent Convenience Store

COROZAL

- * Aguilar Car Care Products # 60 4th Avenue, Corozal Town
- * Xiomara Alcala c/o Corozal Farmer's Supplies # 99 - 5th Avenue, Corozal Town
- * Elena Castaneda WE Store Gabriel Hoare Market #A8 6th Avenue, Corozal Town

SAN PEDRO

- Rocks Shopping Center

INDEPENDENCE

- * G N J Mart

PUNTA GORDA

- * King's Texaco
- * NJV Pharmacy

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