

Lisa to make landfall in Belize; likely as Cat 1 hurricane

The National Meteorological Service says that, regardless of where exactly in the country the storm makes landfall, impacts could be felt countrywide.

by **Khaila Gentle**

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Oct. 31, 2022

The National Meteorological Service and the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) have been monitoring the development of Tropical Storm Lisa since late last week and today have confirmed that the storm is likely to become a Category

1 hurricane by the time it makes landfall in Belize. NEMO's first Tropical Storm Advisory, which was sent out at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, informed the public that Lisa is expected to move south of Jamaica Monday, north of the northern coast of Honduras on Tuesday, and then approach the coast of Belize late Wednesday, making landfall either late Wednesday night or early Thursday

morning.

According to Chief Meteorologist Ronald Gordon, Lisa is expected to bring up to four inches of rainfall per day between Wednesday and Thursday, which



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Belize Bureau of Standards releases advisory on price gouging

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Oct. 31, 2022

This afternoon the Belize Bureau of Standards (BBS) issued a consumer advisory warning the public to remain vigilant of prices of goods and services being charged in light of the imminent landfall of Tropical Storm Lisa.

The BBS states that it is common for some businesses to engage in "unscrupulous business practices"



such as price gouging during and after

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CEOs' allowances were restored, not increased – Cabinet Sec

Leslie chastised both the media and the Opposition for calling the restoration of Cabinet CEOs' living and entertainment allowances from \$750 monthly to \$1,500 monthly (the amount that was being paid to CEO's prior to May 2020) an increase.

by **Khaila Gentle**

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Oct. 31, 2022

Cabinet Secretary Stuart Leslie is defending the restoration of Cabinet CEOs' living and entertainment allowance to the \$1,500 monthly which was the amount given to those holding a CEO position in the Cabinet prior to it being reduced to \$750 in May of 2020



Stuart Leslie – Cabinet Secretary

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Hurricane Hattie – the storm that changed a nation

by **Khaila Gentle**

Hurricane Hattie, 1961

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Oct. 31, 2022

As Belizeans brace for Hurricane Lisa's landfall, we are reminded of the hurricane that literally reshaped the country some 61 years ago. Hurricane Hattie, one of the strongest and deadliest storms of 1961, made landfall outside Belize City, near Mullins River, on October 31 as a Category 4 storm after having



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Police Department gets 100 body cams

by **Charles Gladden**

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Oct. 31, 2022

The Belize Police Department has received 100 body cameras courtesy of the Ministry of Tourism. The cameras will be placed on on-duty officers, particularly those who belong to specialized units of the department, to record their interaction with civilians,



Minister of Home Affairs, Hon. Kareem Musa, handing over body cameras to Commissioner of Police, Chester Williams

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Land clinic held in OW Central



(l-r) Prime Minister of Belize, Hon. John Briceño; and Deputy Prime Minister, Hon. Cordel Hyde

by Charles Gladden

ORANGE WALK, Mon. Oct. 31, 2022

Last week, a team from the Ministry of Natural Resources, Petroleum, and Mining, led by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Natural Resources, Hon. Cordel Hyde, conducted a mobile land clinic at the People's Stadium in the Orange Walk Central area. Also in attendance was the area representative of Orange Walk Central, Prime Minister of Belize Hon. John Briceño.

Since early 2021, the Ministry of Natural Resources has conducted mobile land clinics in various parts of the country to bring the services of the Lands Department to residents in areas outside of Belmopan so that they are able to renew expired leases or process applications for purchasing a property

and access other forms of assistance from the Lands Department without having to travel long distances.

"As you well know, this area has been with the People's United Party for as long as anybody can remember, and certainly with the Prime Minister from 1993, so when the United Democratic Party is in government, no love comes this way, so we have a tremendous backlog here. So we're trying to address that here and doing it for two days," Minister Hyde told local reporters.

Prime Minister Briceño, who has represented the Orange Walk Central area for almost three decades, told members of the local media, "... It is a massive undertaking. We have about 40 members of staff working here with their computers. We have to make sure that they have good internet so that we can,



Land Clinic in OW

after the issues that our people are finding that they're having. In effect what the DPM is doing is that he's bringing Belmopan to the people, and that is what we are doing. We have several hundred people already. [Since] last week we have been writing down people's names, what is their issue so that we could try to move the process very quickly, and so here we are trying to resolve as many problems as we can and to ensure that people can get the piece of land that they deserve."

PM Briceño further noted to local reporters that some residents find it difficult when dealing with the Lands Department to comprehend the process and also are facing a huge backlog in the process.

"We find an instance of how we can properly address it. We just had a widow [whose] husband left the lease certificate

for her, but it's a lease certificate, and that one it's a legal title so they need to be able to go to court and get the letter of administration, but when you have the empirical evidence that the husband left it for the mother, a certificate of [the] lease can be canceled, but it is a legal process, so we make it easier for these people. This lady is alone. She lives in San Estevan, and the cost would be prohibitive for her to be able to go to an attorney. Go to the Supreme Court in Belize City and go through the entire process, so these are ways where you feel a sense of accomplishment that you help the people that really need the help," he said.

PM Briceño noted that talks are in motion for the clinic to once again be taken to Orange Walk and also there are discussions taking place on how to digitize the process.

SIB: 7.1% increase in prices from Sept. 2021 to Sept. 2022

BELIZE, Mon. Oct. 31, 2022

The Statistical Institute of Belize (SIB) has reported that the prices of goods and services related to 'Transport' were up by 20 percent in September 2022 when compared to September of last year. Most notably, prices for motor vehicle fuels were more than 27 percent higher, on average, than they were in September of 2021. At the pump, premium gasoline registered the largest increase of \$5.04, with the average price per gallon rising from \$11.85 in September of last year to \$16.89 in September of this year. The price of diesel was up by \$2.82, from \$10.70 to \$13.52, while the price of regular gasoline rose by \$2.08, from \$11.46 in September 2021 to \$13.54 in September 2022.

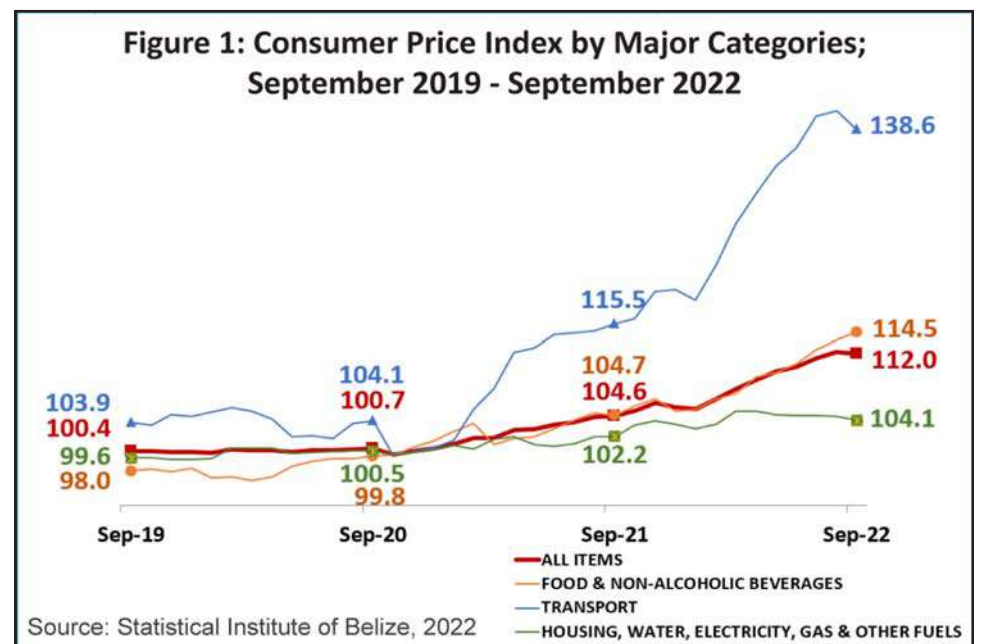
The SIB also reported an overall 9.4 percent increase in the price of beverages—the highest recorded for this category so far in 2022, with higher prices being recorded across all food sub-categories during the month. The most notable increases continued to be seen in the prices of various basic food items, such as cereal products, including rice, flour and bread; meats, including poultry, beef, and pork; cooking oils; fresh produce, including watermelons, cilantro, habanero, and Irish potatoes; and dairy products, such as natural milk and eggs. Nonetheless, there were some decreases recorded for a few food items, including

black beans and red kidney beans.

Additionally, LPG prices were up by 11.1 percent compared to what they were in September of 2021, and prices for construction materials for household use were up by 17.2 percent.

Prices for goods and services in the 'Furnishings, Household Equipment, and Routine Household Maintenance' category went up by 3.7 percent. This was attributed to a 7.8 percent increase in prices for 'Non-durable Household Goods' and a 3.8 percent rise in the cost of domestic services. In the "Personal Care, Social Protection, and Miscellaneous Goods and Services" category, prices went up by 1.3 percent compared to September of last year, owing to increases in the cost of personal hygiene products, and men's and women's haircuts.

Over the one-month period between August 2022 and September 2022, consumer prices decreased by a marginal 0.2 percent on average. Prices within the 'Transport' category, which have been steadily increasing for the past months, went down by 1.5 percent over this period, as a result of a reduction in prices for premium gasoline between August and September. The 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels' category decreased by 0.4 percent on average, due to a small reduction in prices for LPG over the one-month period. These decreases were partially offset by a 0.8 percent increase in 'Food



and Non-Alcoholic Beverages', with prices for fresh produce, cereal products, and dairy products rising between August and September of 2022.

The year-to-date inflation rate for the first nine months of 2022, when compared to the same period in 2021, stood at 6.2 percent. The 'Transport' category, with a year-to-date inflation rate of 19.1 percent, was directly responsible for more than a half of the overall increase in consumer prices for the nine-month period, as considerably higher costs were seen across all types of motor vehicle fuels, as well as for new motor vehicles, and passenger transport services. The 'Food and

Non-Alcoholic Beverages' category had a year-to-date inflation rate of 6.7 percent, due mostly to higher prices for cereal products, dairy products, meats, cooking oils, fresh produce, fish, and other seafood. A 2.8 percent year-to-date inflation rate was recorded in the 'Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels' category due to a 24.4 percent rise in LPG prices and 14.4 percent increase in the price of construction materials for household use over the first nine months of the year.

(Extracted from the October 26th, 2022 Consumer Price Index (CPI) published by the Statistical Institute of Belize(SIB))

Elise-Gayonne Vernon is Miss World Belize 2022

by Khaila Gentle

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Oct. 31, 2022

On Saturday, at the Ramada Princess poolside, 21-year-old Elise-Gayonne Vernon was crowned Miss World Belize 2022. Vernon, who hails from the village of Biscayne in the Belize District, is a young farmer and certified beekeeper.

AMANDALA had the pleasure of meeting with the new Miss World Belize last Thursday when she and three other contestants, Veronica Ruano, Paris Cawich, and Shante Morgan, visited the YWCA Daycare Center to hand out Halloween party bags. There, she told us that the

road to the Miss World pageant so far has been a learning experience.

An animal lover, Vernon is an agriculture student and says that she signed up for the pageant with the intention of inspiring others and making an impact. She will go on to represent Belize in the 2023 Miss World competition.

First runner up was Tori Chaplin, while Paris Cawich will go on to be Belize's first ever Miss Global and will attend that upcoming pageant in Vietnam in 2023.

The crown was passed on to the new Miss World Belize by Markeisha Young, Miss World Belize 2021. Young took her final walk on stage at the Princess poolside and shared a reflection of what the past year has been like for her.



Miss Universe Belize, Ashley Lightburn (l); and Miss World Belize, Elise-Gayonne Vernon (r)

"I would be lying if I said this journey was an easy one. But like my mom always told me, nothing great comes easily. Hard work and determination is always needed to see that light of greatness," she said.

Throughout her journey, added Young, she had the opportunity to meet countless new people who have the same love for humanity and passion for their countries that she does.

The date of the 2023 Miss World competition has not yet been announced. The current crown holder is Karolina Bielawska of Poland, who was crowned by Jamaica's Toni-Ann Singh in March 2022 in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Created in 1951, Miss World is the oldest existing international beauty pageant.

Prison under lockdown until all clear

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Oct. 31, 2022

The Belize Central Prison has advised the public that the facility will be placed on lockdown on Wednesday, November 2, and will remain closed until Tropical Storm Lisa has passed and an all-clear is issued by NEMO.

The Kolbe Foundation, which manages the facility, made the announcement today. The release further states, "during this closure, absolutely NO visits with inmates nor business transactions with customers of the



Belize Central Prison

prison will be conducted." At this time, there are projections that the system will turn into at least a Category 1 hurricane. A hurricane watch is now in effect for the entire country.

Patrick Faber replaced as UDP Collet standard bearer

Ian Jones is scheduled to be endorsed as the UDP standard bearer for the Collet Division

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Oct. 31, 2022

The UDP will be reportedly holding an endorsement convention for Ian Jones, whose application to serve as the party's standard bearer for the Collet constituency was approved by the UDP Nominations Committee on Friday, October 21. This decision effectively ousts 5-time elected Collet area representative, Patrick Faber, from his position as the UDP standard bearer for the division in which he has been elected as area representative five times. His application to once again represent the party was purportedly rejected by the Nominations Committee for his non-compliance with the directive of the National Party Council that he remove social media posts deemed critical of the party.

Those posts were removed a little over a week ago, but the letter approving Jones' application and informing him of an endorsement convention to be held on his behalf was sent before Faber's public announcement of his removal of the social media posts. While Faber claims that they were removed in late September, his public announcement



Ian Jones, to be endorsed as UDP Collet Division standard bearer

and public apology took place almost a month after.

Ian Jones, a long-time supporter of Faber and former Director of the National Sports Council under Faber's Ministry of Sports, will now be the UDP standard bearer for the Collet Division, which is a stronghold of his one-time superior. It must be noted that Jones's mother has served as the chairlady of the UDP Collet Division Executive Council under Patrick Faber for well over a decade.

Possible cenote found submerged in New River



Hon. Orlando Habet, Minister of Sustainable Development

ORANGE WALK, Fri. Oct. 28, 2022

Bathymetric studies conducted at the New River have led to the possible discovery of a freshwater cenote submerged inside that waterway. The Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management has been actively working to address issues affecting the health of the New River, and studies are currently being conducted to determine the best course of action to optimize the condition of the river.

Sustainable Development Minister, Hon. Orlando Habet said that while one of the studies was being carried out, a freshwater cenote that at one point may have been above the ground was found at the bottom of the river. These sinkholes, found

especially in this part of the world, are usually permanent sources of fresh water.

"If it is a freshwater cenote, very important, because we can get divers to go down there, take samples, and if there is a constant sufficient flow of fresh water coming from there, it could be a potential source for good clear fresh water for Orange Walk Town and the surrounding communities," Minister Habet said.

A cenote is a natural well or sinkhole typically found in Central America that is created when the collapse of surface limestone exposes fresh groundwater in the chamber.

"More than likely at some point in time, possibly that was up on the surface and is now down the river," Minister Habet said.

Operation Fast Ball activated



Red Watch 1 flag at Belize Defence Force in Ladyville

BELMOPAN, Mon. Oct. 31, 2022

Belize Defence Force soldiers on annual leave and *stand down* are called to report to the nearest military base, a release from the Ministry of National Defence and Border Security stated this evening. “Operation Fast Ball” has been activated, the release, which was issued this evening, went on to say.

“This action is necessary as the

Force continues its preparation and readiness plan of action to respond appropriately to any eventuality caused by and in anticipation of Tropical Storm Lisa,” it explained.

All members of the BDF Regular Element were informed that the operation was activated today at 4:30 p.m. At Price Barracks, in Ladyville, the Red Watch 1 flag is currently being flown at the base.

Ministry of Blue Economy holds climate data gap consultations



Climate Data and Information Gap Assessment and Action Plan for the Fisheries and Coastal Zone Sector of Belize (Photo: GoB Press Office)

by Khaila Gentle

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Oct. 31, 2022

The Government of Belize has continued to host consultations under its new climate readiness project, titled “Enhancing Adaptation Planning and Increasing Climate Resilience in the Coastal Zone and Fisheries Sector of Belize”. The project is being implemented by the Ministry of Blue Economy and Civil Aviation (MBECA) along with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Green Climate Fund. The most recent round of consultations was a Climate Data Gap and Information Assessment Consultation held at the Belize Biltmore Plaza on Friday, October 28.

The main aim of this new climate readiness project is to prepare a comprehensive action plan for adaptation and mitigation of climate-related changes in Belize’s coastal zone and fisheries sector based on the government’s highest climate mitigation

targets, which are outlined in its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC).

Friday’s consultations were geared at identifying key gaps in data and information relevant to the monitoring of climate change impacts and developing an action plan for addressing these gaps.

According to the Ministry of Blue Economy and Civil Aviation, well-managed data in all sectors is the foundation for mainstreaming climate change into sector plans and policies. It is also at the core of all projects aimed at achieving national climate goals in the coastal and fisheries sector.

“Understanding what these indicators are and mapping the needs to facilitate NDC implementation are paramount to improving the resilience of the highly vulnerable coastal zone and fisheries sector, as well as to chart prioritized steps towards improved climate data collection, monitoring and evaluation,” said the Ministry of Blue Economy in a recent press release.

Joyjah shines in traditional Garifuna attire at *Wakanda Forever* world premiere

This past Thursday’s Hollywood screening of the sequel to Marvel’s *Black Panther* saw a number of celebrity appearances, including Tyler Perry, Rihanna, and Michael B. Jordan.

by Khaila Gentle

BELIZE CITY, Fri. Oct. 28, 2022

Belizean-born model Joyjah Estrada has carved a name for herself as a beauty and lifestyle influencer on social media, having amassed almost half a million followers on Instagram. And on Wednesday night, she walked among some of the biggest names in Hollywood while representing her home and her heritage at the world premiere of *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever*.

The long awaited movie is the latest installment in the cinematic universe created by comic book movie giant Marvel Studios, and its world premiere was notably elegant. It took place at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, California, with celebrities in attendance running the gamut from Tyler Perry to Rihanna. But what Belizeans were most excited to see was one of their own strutting down the purple carpet.

Estrada attended the event as a representative for MAC cosmetics, which will be collaborating with *Wakanda Forever* through the release of new themed makeup products, but she also elected to represent her roots, donning a bright yellow, black, and white skirt and dress set with a



Photo via @joyjah on Instagram

matching hair tie. The outfit was created by Hopkins resident Olive Miranda Nunez.

In the caption of a video posted on the model’s TikTok account, which has a following of just over a quarter million people, she notes “do it for the culture & to God be the glory!”

On Instagram, Estrada wrote “Feeling like the most beautiful girl in the world and so proud. Moments like this one is bigger than me, and I was so sure I wanted to wear my traditional Garifuna Outfit.”

Marvel’s *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever* will be showing in theaters on November 11, including here at home, at the Ramada Princess Cinema in Belize City.

Hydrological Service releases flood forecast

Tropical Storm Lisa formed this morning in the Caribbean Sea and is expected to make landfall in Belize later this week

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Oct. 31, 2022

The National Hydrological Service has informed the public that rivers across the country are expected to possibly rise to the flood stage with the passing of Tropical Storm Lisa, which is expected to make landfall between Wednesday and Thursday. Waterways in most areas are expected to continue receding (after their levels peaked due to recent floods) and to remain at relatively normal levels until rains from Tropical Storm Lisa increase the level of those waterways to the flood stage.

In Region 7 the Rio Hondo and the New River are both expected to remain

at above-normal levels, with an expected increase later in the week. In Region 9 on the Mopan, Macal, and Belize Rivers and the Crooked Tree Lagoon, waters are receding, but these areas are expected to become flooded with the passage of TS Lisa.

In Region 11, over the next two days, the Sibun River and Southern Lagoon are projected to continue receding. Decreasing water levels are expected in the eastern slopes of the Mayan Mountain and Sittee River at Kendal Bridge as well. The Monkey River, Deep River, and Rio Grande were expected to be below normal levels and to be decreasing as well. Those areas are expected to become more flooded with the passage of TS Lisa.

And in Region 13, the Sarstoon River will remain at a normal level for now, but is also expected to increase to the flood stage level once the storm passes.



AMANDALA

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“Time for a change”; Repent, Belize!

Monday, October 31, 2022

An old timer in Belize, who passed away in the latter 1950s before Hurricane Hattie had devastated the then British Colony of British Honduras on October 31, 1961, and destroyed much of Belize City and Dangriga and everything between, he once expressed his belief that a major hurricane would hit our country every thirty years. His life experience had included the devastating 1931 hurricane, which didn't have a name (they didn't give hurricanes names then).

He wasn't around when Category 5 Hurricane Hattie did hit us thirty years later, so his prediction seemed ominous when the 1990s came along. It didn't happen, thank goodness, but we did experience the biggest hurricane scare of our lives when Category 5 Hurricane Mitch danced around us like a necklace in 1998. We were blessed.

According to en.wikipedia.org, the 1931 hurricane that hit British Honduras (before our name change to Belize in 1974) reached “Category 4 hurricane intensity on 10 September” when it “made landfall in Belize City with maximum sustained winds of 130 mph (215 km/h)”... “killing an estimated 2,500 people.” When you consider that our country's whole population was listed in 1931 at 51,347 (according to sib.org.bz), one can try to imagine the scale of the human disaster that our forebears experienced when 2,500 souls perished on that Tenth Day of September. Consejo.bz says of the 1931 hurricane that, “Although weaker than Hurricane Hattie of 1961, it remains the deadliest hurricane and natural disaster in British Honduras (Belize) history.”

There are no census records that we can locate from that period that describes the demographics of our population in those times, but it is generally accepted that Belize Town or City was the major population center from the early days of the settlement when the African descended

slave population was by far the most numerous. sib.org.bz describes the breakdown by district in 1931 when the whole country's population was 51,347 as follows: Corozal with 13.4%, Orange Walk at 11.5%, Belize District at 42.2%, Cayo at 11.1%, Stann Creek at 9.6%, and Toledo at 12.2% of the population.

According to consejo.org, whose information is from the USA's National Hurricane Center's archives, “Since 1930, there have been 16 Hurricanes, 8 of which were Major Hurricanes, that have either made landfall in Belize or passed close enough to cause damage or loss of life. Additionally, 17 systems made landfall in Belize as Tropical Storms.” There were storms that barely reached hurricane strength in 1933, 1942 and 1945 that made landfall in some part of the country. After 1953, the US began giving female names to tropical storms and hurricanes, and in 1955 a Category 5 Janet on September 27 “reduced Corozal Town into rubble with sustained winds (that) reached up to 175mph.” In July of both 1960 and 1961, Belize was affected by Hurricanes Abby and Anna, respectively, both with minimal hurricane strength at landfall. Then on October 31 of 1961 it was Category 5 Hurricane Hattie which “landed just south of

Belize City with ... sustained winds of 155mph with gusts to 200mph.” Hattie “killed more than 400 people ...” “Almost half of Belize City was demolished” and “It was this hurricane that caused George Price, and his People's United Party (PUP) to relocate the Capital City from Belize City to the safer location of Belmopan.” Stann Creek Town and all villages between Belize City and Stann Creek were also badly battered by Hattie.

There was Category 1 Hurricane Francelia in 1969, then in 1974 Category 2 Hurricane Fifi caused significant damage in southern Belize, while on September 18-19 of 1978, Category 2 Greta hit Belize City and affected areas down to Stann Creek. And there were a few tropical storms that did impact us with rains and flooding and gusty winds.

Notably, as if by a blessing following our country's Independence, it is observed that from 1981 to 1997 “No Tropical Cyclones affected Belize ...” Were we being given time as a new nation to get our house in order? It does seem so.

Ironically, it is exactly during that period that another type of hurricane began to devastate our young and fast growing population. The prophetic Said Musa declared that the advent of television in Belize would be like an invasion of “an army of ten thousand.” But he didn't mention crack cocaine, and that has probably made an even greater difference in our society.

As a nation we were not counting our blessings properly during that grace period from hurricanes. True, the religious folks continued their yearly candle-light vigil, but other forces were at work in our communities, where the value of life and love began to fall on the scale, beside the lure of drugs and fast/easy money. Along with the advent of mass tourism and the temptations of “a pimper's paradise,” our whole society fell under the spell of greed and lust and selfishness, from “the boardroom to the bases,” and soon a young man's life had little value in the game of soldiers and gangs. Forget the love, family ties and neighbourliness, forget pride and principle and “good name;” for many it was now all about “the paper.”

But, “We kyahn blame di youth dem,” in this dog-eat-dog capitalist world of “free market” competition, when hunger burns in the dark faces of angry children in search of a dream, while they witness obscene wealth and extravagance on display by the fair success stories in a system that thrives on their own neglect and ignorance and frustration that breeds self-hatred and despair inside the simmering pot of 60% poverty.

Fight the hunger, Belize! We must do better. A piece of land is great, until we get sick and have to sell it to pay doctor bills from malnutrition and health care neglect.

Mitch just “fainted” us in 1998, but we still suffered side effects from flooding due to heavy rainfall in the region.

Hurricane Keith was down to a Category 2 by the time it savaged San Pedro, Ambergris Caye and Caye Caulker on October 2 of 2000 and later moved across to the mainland near Belize City.

Tropical storm Chantal in August of 2001 almost reached hurricane strength, but nevertheless it lingered long enough to cause serious damage in Caye Caulker and San Pedro. Then on October 8 of that same year, the terrible Category 4 Hurricane Iris devastated Placencia and many agricultural areas in southern Belize when it made landfall on October 8, 2001, with 145mph winds and was “registered as the strongest hurricane of the 2001 Atlantic Hurricane Season.” “Losses in the agricultural industry were estimated at \$74.5 million. 31 people were killed by the storm; 20 of those were people on a dive boat, M/V Wave Dancer, when it capsized at the dock in Big Creek and eight others were listed as missing.”

In 2007, Category 5 Hurricane Dean passed “25 miles north of the Belize/Mexico border,” but it nevertheless “caused extensive damage in northern Belize.” That same year, another Category 5, Hurricane Felix, coming from the south, was forecast to strike Belize, and was “near Belize City for several days before the storm decided to maintain its westward track and leave Belize untouched.” Give thanks!

In 2010, tropical storms Alex, Karl and Matthew all caused some flooding but did not impact us with hurricane winds. However, on October 24, Category 1 Hurricane Richard crushed “the picturesque village of Gales Point Manatee” and then went on a rampage “westward over open country to

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(estb. 1969)

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Dr. Zabaneh goes to Antigua



Hon. Dr. Louis Zabaneh (4th from left) at the Ninth Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities

by Charles Gladden

ANTIGUA, Guatemala, Mon. Oct. 31, 2022

Minister of State in the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science, and Technology, Dr. Hon. Louis Zabaneh, led a Belizean delegation consisting of H.E. José Alpuche, Ambassador of Belize to the Republic of Guatemala; and Mr. Idelso Leslie, Counsellor at the Embassy of Belize in Guatemala, to Antigua, Guatemala, for the 9th Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities.

The meeting, which took place on October 27 and 28, was hosted by the Inter-American Council for Integral Development and the Government of Guatemala under the theme “Technology, creativity, and innovation as an opportunity for developing and strengthening culture,” which focused on how technology was used to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on key sectors and drivers of economic activity in the Americas, specifically on culture and creative industries. During the meeting, member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) had the

opportunity to explore how artists and cultural practitioners were able to maintain their livelihoods during the pandemic, as a result of their adaptation to new circumstances, use of technology and support from the government during that period.

During Hon. Dr. Zabaneh’s presentation entitled, “The Causality between Culture Development, and Science, Technology, and Innovation,” he highlighted the resilience of Belize’s creatives, who adapted by using digital platforms to survive the evaporation of their markets. Additionally, he noted that the government provided support where possible to help micro and small enterprises, including the creative sector, to understand how technology could be used to improve their businesses.

Furthermore, Minister Zabaneh noted that the region could benefit from further applied research to help identify the factors that could contribute to cultural development and innovation, and to better understand the relationship between both. The results, he said, could guide the creation of better policies for culture and ensure a path to sustainable human development.

Members of the Belize Medical Dental Association (BMDA) meet to discuss COVID lessons

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Oct. 31, 2022

Members of the Belize Medical Dental Association (BMDA) convened on Friday, October 28, at the BMDA’s 39th Annual Congress, a two-day event which was held at the Best Western Biltmore Plaza under the theme “Improving and Standardizing the Quality of Healthcare in a Post-Pandemic Era.”

At the event, medical professionals took an analytical look at how the country’s healthcare system functioned, and the challenges faced and lessons learned, during the two-year period within which the COVID-19 pandemic was at its peak.

One of the presenters at the event was Dr. Fernando Cuellar, an internal medical specialist, who focused on what medical officials have learned from the COVID pandemic and how to prepare for any future health crises.

“The truth of the matter is that we’re not quite sure yet. We haven’t done a thorough formal post-mortem of what has happened through the pandemic. We have different opinions, and we have different anecdotal responses, but I have encouraged my colleagues and the ministry, and the authorities to do a formal post-mortem, and even if it takes us a year or two years so that we can say we did this right and this was totally wrong and we can prepare ourselves for the next go around, because there will be a next go around, unfortunately, and in the next 20 years or 30 years, then we should put ourselves in a position where we are better prepared,” said Dr. Cuellar.



Dr. Fernando Cuellar, internal medical specialist

He went on to point out, “... Definitely, we need to give much more emphasis to public health professionals in epidemiology, the drivers, the lab technicians, the lab workers, the nursing, and a lot of support people that played a big role and helped us to get through it as well as we did ...” He then referred to the 682 deaths caused by the Covid-19 virus and remarked, “... we need to look at it properly so that we could see if those amount of deaths were avoidable or if we can do better next time.”

Cuellar also noted that although there are relatively few Covid-19 cases currently, there has not yet been an official declaration of the end of the pandemic by WHO. “We have to wait until an official declaration of the end of the pandemic, and we’ve only relied on one international body, which is WHO, who will formally do that. But we are close to that, both on a local level, and on a global level. We are close to that. We will have to go from pandemia to endemia, meaning that we will have it with us all the time in just the same way that we have dengue with us all the time, chikungunya, and those other transmissible illnesses. So, we’re going to use different terminologies. We will still have COVID, but not in the large numbers and the mortality associated with them,” he said.



“Time for a change”; Repent, Belize!

Continued from Page 5 Belmopan, Roaring Creek, Camalote, Teakettle, Ontario and Unitedville, destroying village homes and tearing up the landscape.” Even “Belmopan ... experienced a strong category 1 hurricane with winds between 80 and 90 miles per hour.”

Tropical Storm Harvey was “the only Tropical Cyclone of the 2011 season to make landfall in Belize,” but caused minor damage and flooding.

In 2012, Category 1 Hurricane Ernesto only caused “minor wind damage and some severe flooding from the nearly 8” of rain dropped by the storm” as it made landfall just South of Mahahual, Mexico or about 45 miles North East of Consejo, Belize.”

In 2013 there was only some flooding effects from Tropical Storm Barry, but from 2014 – 2016 “No Tropical Cyclones affected Belize.”

Our last direct impact from hurricane winds was in 2017 when 80mph Category 1 Hurricane Earl made “landfall on Belize on August 4... causing extensive damage; losses to agriculture exceeded US\$100 million;” but thankfully, no loss of life in Belize.

There were no tropical cyclones affecting Belize in 2018, and since then we have had a few “pass close” incidents, including recently the effects from Hurricane Ian which passed south of Belize but caused major flooding in the southern and western districts.

Belize, we have much to be thankful for as a people. Despite the hard times and the poverty, there is much wealth in Belize, and as bad as things may be for some, and as bad as it may get in the months ahead with the global upheaval and rising prices, we can all lend a helping hand to better share the goodness that God has given to us in “this beautiful Jewel of ours.”

According to latest advisories, this one seems to be heading our way. Hold tight, Belize! We can make it if we stick together and share what we have in times of need. We must heed Jah/God’s warning and make a change in how we treat each other, and in our health care system, and our wages, so the pie is shared better so all can survive. And if it is His will that we must endure punishment this time, then we must pledge to bear the strain together, and keep the faith for a better tomorrow. Peace and love, Belize!

BSCFA calls for strategic development plan for sugar industry

“I think the government is at a crossroads right now and it has to be established if in this decade, the '20s, will the sugar cane industry continue to be a small-farmer, family-run industry or will it be converted to a plantation-type economy that BSI seems to be favoring,” Oscar Alonzo, CEO of BSCFA, stated.

by Marco Lopez

ORANGE WALK, Thurs. Oct. 27, 2022

“The whole north that depends indirectly and directly on this industry will go down. We will not repeat our words, will go down!” This is the stark warning that was issued by the chairman of the Belize Sugar Cane Farmers Association (BSCFA), Andy Westby, this Tuesday during the association’s press conference. The BSCFA and the American Sugar Refinery/ Belize Sugar Industry Limited remain at odds over how revenue from the sale of sugar should be shared; and with no real progress having been made towards the signing of a new commercial agreement between the two parties, the prospects of a timely and efficient start of the upcoming sugar crop seem slim. As reported previously, BSCFA and BSI/ ASR have agreed to secure the assistance of a mediator in an attempt to resolve the outstanding matters causing this impasse to persist.

Among other demands, the association is calling on the government

to regulate the sugar industry more extensively and work with the parties to implement a 10-year strategic plan to ensure the survival of the industry and equitable distribution of the revenue generated from the sale of sugar. While the finalization of a new commercial agreement between the parties is pivotal, BSCFA’s CEO, Oscar Alonzo, stated that the 10-year strategic plan will create a necessary roadmap for the industry, given the uncertain economic times. He said that the last attempt to create such a plan failed.

“There was an attempt, the last 10 years, to produce a strategic development plan for the industry, but what happen? That failed, because ASR was trying to have the focus of the plan only put on the shoulders of the farmers,” Alonzo claimed. Farmers were called to increase productivity, adhere to standards, and ensure the mill has its demanded supply of sugar cane guaranteed by the Sugar Industry Act, but the plan did not define any outlay by the mill to ensure farmers were compensated for the increased



Andy Westby – Chairman, BSCFA



Oscar Alonzo - CEO, BSCFA

productivity outlined within the plan.

He further stated that the attempt failed because the proposals were one-sided. The association is now calling on the Briceño administration to create a network that would enable the creation of a strategic development plan to ensure fair revenue for the cane farmers.

Alonzo asserted that the current Sugar Industry Act gives the millers unfair “power and support.”

He stated, “We also have to look at the other issue: the current Sugar Industry Act is what gives BSI all the power, all the support to continue in this same mode. One, the act gives them the monopoly to export the sugar, to sell the sugar. Two, it also gives them the monopoly over the cane production of the cane farmer, which doesn’t give them any sort of leverage to try to sell for example to Santander if they have excess production. This act provides 1.5 million tons of cane to BSI for the farmers to produce, and their milling capacity is barely 1.2, 1.3, the whole act has to be looked at to see how things can be made more equitable. It’s not a matter of only this agreement; it brings into play a whole series of other measures that will have to be taken into account.”

Andy Westby, chairman of the BSCFA, believes that serious government intervention is needed to safeguard the interests of the cane farmers and ultimately preserve the industry. As mentioned in an article in the previous issue of the *Amandala* (“BSCFA asks BSI to prove claims about costs”), he believes that the numbers are, “in the dark and need to come to light” in order for the true costs and expenses incurred by BSI/ASR in the production and marketing of sugar to be reflected in the financial statements delivered to the association.

“Going forward, if we don’t fix this that has been harming us for all the years from 2015 and backward, if we don’t fix these prices to reflect the true cost, then this will not regulate the industry. We will always have an unbalance, and everything is inclining on one side, and we need to balance out; we need to bring those numbers reflecting their true cost to light,” Westby said.

This is the reason for the BSCFA’s proposal to the millers that there be a 60/40 split in the gross revenue from sugar sales, with 60% going to the

farmers and 40% to the millers—”so this back and forth stops,” said Westby, who called the proposal a simple formula that anybody could analyze.

He echoed his call for this government to intervene in the matter.

“Past government messed up. The government needs to regulate, because otherwise, the whole north that depends indirectly and directly on this industry will go down. We will not repeat our words, will go down! So they cannot be neglecting and ignoring the fact that what is going on in the sugar industry needs government, and we need to have an agreement before the next crop or we will not go to a crop if we don’t have an agreement,” Westby said.

CEO Alonzo commented that the government now needs to fulfill its responsibility to protect the small cane farmers.

“This is where the government needs to exercise its role. Is the government there to support big business, big multinationals to come and take away the livelihood of small farmers who have been in this industry for the past 60 years?” Alonzo questioned.

When asked about the role former deputy prime minister, Florencio Marin has played to bridge the gap between the two parties, Westby pointed out that on the part of the association it has not been “too productive.”

“With all respect, he has his way of thinking. What we have is our way to get the best for our members, and we will point out that he has been playing his role but not seriously with us at the associations. From the moment we get in this negotiation, things are very delicate, and even at the level of government, they wish not to put the hand. They still drag back, saying we are two independent entities,” Westby said. He did note that Marin has shared his professional opinion on various topics, and they have been back and forth in discussions.

Last year’s sugar crop started on December 27. This late start resulted in some sugar cane being left in the fields—causing losses in revenue for both the farmers and the mill. The sugar crop typically starts in early December, less than two months from now—making the finalization of a commercial agreement between the parties an urgent objective for the farmers, the mill, and the government.

VACANCY

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Applications are invited to fill the following Vacancies:

1 School Counsellor- Belize City

Responsibilities:

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- Supervise assigned programs to monitor performance and achieve overall curriculum objectives.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor’s Degree in Counselling, Psychology or Social Work is preferred.
- Associate Degree in Counselling, Psychology or Social Work will be considered.
- At least one year’s experience in school counselling would be an asset.

Application letters with resumes, two letters of reference and copies of credentials should be forwarded to:

General Manager
Methodist Schools
75 Albert Street, Belize City
Email: schoolmethodist@yahoo.com

Deadline: November 15, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.

Our email address for business & advertising is
amandalapress@gmail.com



Es tiempo de un cambio"; ¡Arrepiéntanse, Belize!

Lunes, 31 de octubre de 2022

Un vejete en Belize, que falleció a fines de la década de 1950 antes de que el huracán Hattie devastara la entonces colonia británica de Honduras Británica el 31 de octubre de 1961 y destruyera gran parte de la Ciudad de Belize y Dangriga y todo lo que se encontraba entre ellos, una vez expresó su creencia de que un gran huracán azotaría nuestro país cada treinta años. Su experiencia de vida había incluido el devastador huracán de 1931, que no tenía nombre (entonces no le daban nombre a los huracanes).

Él no estaba presente cuando el huracán Hattie de categoría 5 nos golpeó treinta años después, por lo que su predicción parecía siniestra cuando llegó la década de 1990. No sucedió, gracias a Dios, pero experimentamos el susto de huracán más grande de nuestras vidas cuando el huracán Mitch de categoría 5 bailó a nuestro alrededor como un collar en 1998. Fuimos bendecidos.

Según en.wikipedia.org, el huracán de 1931 que azotó a Honduras Británica (antes de que nuestro nombre cambiara a Belize en 1974) alcanzó una "intensidad de huracán de categoría 4 el 10 de septiembre" cuando "tocó tierra en la Ciudad de Belize con vientos máximos sostenidos de 130 mph. (215 km/h)".. "matando a unas 2.500 personas". Cuando se considera que la población total de nuestro país figuraba en 1931 en 51.347 (según sib.org.bz), uno puede intentar imaginar la magnitud del desastre humano que vivieron nuestros antepasados cuando 2.500 almas perecieron en ese día diez de septiembre. Consejo.bz dice del huracán de 1931 que, "aunque más débil que el huracán Hattie de 1961, sigue siendo el huracán y desastre natural más letal en la historia de Honduras Británica (Belize)".

No hay registros de censos que podamos ubicar de ese período que describan la demografía de nuestra población en esos tiempos, pero generalmente se acepta que el municipio o ciudad de Belize fue el principal centro poblacional desde los primeros días del asentamiento cuando la población descendiente de esclavos africanos, era, con diferencia, la más numerosa. sib.org.bz describe el desglose por distrito en 1931 cuando la población total del país era 51.347 de la siguiente manera: Corozal con 13,4%, Orange Walk con 11,5%, Distrito de Belize con 42,2%, Cayo con 11,1%, Stann Creek con 9,6%, y Toledo con el 12,2% de la población.

Según consejo.org, cuya información proviene de los archivos del Centro Nacional de Huracanes de EE. UU., "Desde 1930, ha habido 16 huracanes, 8 de los cuales fueron huracanes mayores, que tocaron tierra en Belize o pasaron lo suficientemente cerca como para causar daños o pérdidas de vida. Además, 17 sistemas tocaron tierra en Belize como tormentas tropicales". Hubo tormentas que apenas alcanzaron la fuerza de huracán en 1933, 1942 y 1945 que tocaron tierra en alguna parte del país. Después de 1953, EE. UU. comenzó a dar nombres femeninos a las tormentas tropicales y los huracanes, y en 1955, un Janet de categoría 5 el 27 de septiembre "redujo al Municipio de Corozal a escombros con vientos sostenidos (que) alcanzaron hasta 175 mph". En julio de 1960 y 1961, Belize se vio afectado por los huracanes Abby y Anna, respectivamente, ambos con una fuerza mínima de huracán al tocar tierra. Luego, el 31 de octubre de 1961, fue el huracán Hattie de categoría 5 que "aterrizó justo al sur de la Ciudad de Belize con... vientos sostenidos de 155 mph con ráfagas de hasta 200 mph". Hattie "mató a más de 400 personas..." "Casi la mitad de la Ciudad de Belize fue demolida" y "Fue este huracán lo que provocó que George Price y su Partido Unido del Pueblo (PUP) trasladaran la ciudad capital de la Ciudad de Belize a un lugar más seguro en Belmopán". El Municipio de Stann Creek y todas las aldeas entre la Ciudad de Belize y Stann Creek también fueron duramente golpeadas por Hattie.

Hubo un huracán de categoría 1 Francelia en 1969, luego, en 1974, el huracán Fifi de categoría 2 causó daños significativos en el sur de Belize, mientras que el 18 y 19 de septiembre de 1978, Greta de categoría 2 golpeó la Ciudad de Belize y afectó áreas hasta Stann Creek. Y hubo algunas tormentas tropicales que nos impactaron con lluvias e inundaciones y ráfagas de viento.

Cabe destacar que, como si fuera una bendición después de la Independencia de nuestro país, se observa que de 1981 a 1997 "Ningún ciclón tropical afectó a Belize..." ¿Se nos estaba dando tiempo como nueva nación para poner nuestra casa en orden? Parece que sí.

Irónicamente, es exactamente durante ese período que otro tipo de huracán comenzó a devastar nuestra población joven y de rápido crecimiento. El profético Said Musa declaró que el advenimiento de la televisión en Belize sería como una invasión de "un ejército de diez mil". Pero no mencionó la cocaína crack, y eso probablemente haya marcado una diferencia aún mayor en nuestra sociedad.

Como nación, no contábamos nuestras bendiciones correctamente durante ese período de gracia de los huracanes. Ciertamente, las personas religiosas continuaron su vigilia anual con velas, pero otras fuerzas estaban trabajando en nuestras comunidades, donde el valor de la vida y el amor comenzaron a caer en la balanza, además de la atracción de las drogas y el dinero rápido/fácil. Junto con el advenimiento del turismo de masas y las tentaciones del "paraíso de los proxenetas", toda nuestra sociedad cayó bajo el hechizo de la codicia, la lujuria y

el egoísmo, desde "la sala de juntas hasta las bases", y pronto la vida de un joven tenía poco valor en el juego de soldados y pandillas. Olviden el amor, los lazos familiares y la buena vecindad, olviden el orgullo y los principios y el "buen nombre"; para muchos ahora todo se trataba de billetes.

Pero, "nosotros no podemos culpar a los jóvenes", en este mundo capitalista de competencia de "libre mercado", cuando el hambre arde en los rostros oscuros de niños enojados en busca de un sueño, mientras son testigos de riqueza obscena y extravagancia en exhibición por las justas historias de éxito en un sistema que se nutre de su propia negligencia, ignorancia y frustración que genera odio hacia sí mismo y desesperación dentro de la olla a fuego lento del 60% de pobreza.

¡Lucha contra el hambre, Belize! Debemos hacer mejor. Un terreno es grandioso, hasta que nos enfermamos y tenemos que venderlo para pagar las facturas médicas por desnutrición y negligencia en la atención médica.

Mitch simplemente nos hizo ademán en 1998, pero aun así sufrimos los efectos secundarios de las inundaciones debido a las fuertes lluvias en la región.

El huracán Keith se había reducido a una categoría 2 cuando asoló San Pedro, Cayo Ambergris y Cayo Hicaco el 2 de octubre de 2000 y luego se trasladó al continente cerca de la Ciudad de Belize.

La tormenta tropical Chantal en agosto de 2001 casi alcanzó la fuerza de un huracán, pero se demoró lo suficiente como para causar daños graves en Cayo Hicaco y San Pedro. Luego, el 8 de octubre de ese mismo año, el terrible huracán Iris de categoría 4 devastó Placencia y muchas áreas agrícolas en el sur de Belize cuando tocó tierra el 8 de octubre de 2001, con vientos de 145 mph y fue "registrado como el huracán más fuerte de la temporada de huracanes del Atlántico de 2001". "Las pérdidas en la industria agrícola se estimaron en \$74.5 millones. 31 personas murieron a causa de la tormenta; 20 eran personas en un bote de buceo, M/V Wave Dancer, cuando volcó en el muelle de Big Creek y otros ocho figuraban como desaparecidos".

En 2007, el huracán Dean, de categoría 5, pasó "25 millas al norte de la frontera entre Belize y México", pero sin embargo "causó grandes daños en el norte de Belize". Ese mismo año, se pronosticó que otro huracán de categoría 5, Félix, proveniente del sur, azotaría a Belize, y estuvo "cerca de la Ciudad de Belize durante varios días antes de que la tormenta decidiera mantener su rumbo hacia el oeste y dejar a Belize intacto". ¡Damos gracias!

En 2010, las tormentas tropicales Alex, Karl y Matthew causaron algunas inundaciones pero no nos impactaron con vientos huracanados. Sin embargo, el 24 de octubre, el huracán Richard, de categoría 1, aplastó "la pintoresca aldea de Gales Point Manatee" y luego se fijó con violencia enfurecida "hacia el oeste sobre campo abierto a Belmopan, Roaring Creek, Camalote, Teakettle, Ontario y Unitedville, destruyendo casas aldeanas y arrasando el paisaje." Incluso "Belmopán... experimentó un fuerte huracán categoría 1 con vientos entre 80 y 90 millas por hora".

La tormenta tropical Harvey fue "el único ciclón tropical de la temporada 2011 que tocó tierra en Belize", pero causó daños menores e inundaciones.

En 2012, el huracán Ernesto de categoría 1 solo causó "daños menores por el viento y algunas inundaciones graves debido a las casi 8" de lluvia que cayeron por la tormenta" cuando tocó tierra justo al sur de Mahahual, México o a unas 45 millas al noreste de Consejo, Belize".

En 2013 solo hubo algunos efectos de inundación por la tormenta tropical Barry, pero de 2014 a 2016 "Ningún ciclón tropical afectó a Belize".

Nuestro último impacto directo de vientos huracanados fue en 2017 cuando el huracán Earl de categoría 1 de 80 mph tocó tierra en Belize el 4 de agosto... causando grandes daños; las pérdidas para la agricultura superaron los US\$100 millones;" pero afortunadamente, no hubo ninguna pérdida de vidas en Belize.

No hubo ciclones tropicales que afectaran a Belize en 2018, y desde entonces hemos tenido algunos incidentes de "paso cercano", incluidos recientemente los efectos del huracán Ian que pasó al sur de Belize pero causó grandes inundaciones en los distritos del sur y el oeste.

Belize, tenemos mucho que agradecer como pueblo. A pesar de los tiempos difíciles y la pobreza, hay mucha riqueza en Belize, y por muy malas que sean las cosas para algunos, y por muy malas que puedan llegar a ser en los próximos meses con la agitación mundial y el aumento de los precios, todos podemos echar una mano para compartir mejor la bondad que Dios nos ha dado en "esta hermosa Joya nuestra".

Según los últimos avisos, este parece estar dirigiéndose hacia nosotros. ¡Agárrense fuerte, Belize! Podemos lograrlo si nos mantenemos unidos y compartimos lo que tenemos en tiempos de necesidad. Debemos prestar atención a la advertencia de Jah/Dios y hacer un cambio en la forma en que nos tratamos unos a otros, y en nuestro sistema de atención médica y nuestros salarios, para que el pastel se comparta mejor para que todos puedan sobrevivir. Y si es Su voluntad que debamos soportar el castigo esta vez, entonces debemos comprometernos a soportar la presión juntos y mantener la fe para un mañana mejor. ¡Paz y amor, Belize!

Are Carlo Habet & Javier Molina the new Belize Film Commissioners?

Submitted by a concerned Belizean citizen working in the Audio Visual Film Industry in Belize/ internationally

Submitted Wednesday, October 26, 2022

While scrolling television channels to find the news from Monday night, I find Mr. Carlo Habet sitting on the *Sunup* morning show couch on Tuesday, October 25th.

The wording underneath him said, "Carlo Habet, Film Commissioner, Managing Director of Ignite."

Immediately enraged, I watched to see what he would say about being "Film Commissioner."

That critically important topic was never mentioned in the 20+minute conversation with Mr. Habet, the hosts, nor the virtual guest Ms. Audrey Rubin, the project funding representative for Trust for the Americas (Organization of American States).

Supposedly Mr. Nigel Miguel and Ms. Suzette Zayden were serving as the 2-person Belize Film Commission

(BFC), paid by the Government of Belize, tax dollars provided by "we the people" for the last 12-13 years.

Miguel reportedly opened BFC offices in Los Angeles and New York recently.

Are they still functioning and being paid by the people of Belize?

I had only heard rumors that somehow Carlo Habet was Belize's new Film Commissioner, which was a budget item under the Government of Belize's National Institute of Culture and History (NICH), Film Media Arts Unit (FMAU)— which no longer exists after the massive firing of over 100 employees (administrators were fired due to documented fraud, theft and corruption).

No official public announcement has been made about the current governance of NICH and their organizational restructure, including a new Acting President.

Without mentioning the Belize Film Commission position, *Sunup*7 hosts welcomed Mr. Habet to promote a free youth media workshop hosted by

Trinidad/Tobago, including Jamaican and Belizean youth participants (25 per nation).

Belize has only registered 5 youth and has 20 openings until the deadline Thursday, November 3rd.

The workshop begins online on Saturday, November 5th.

Signup can be done on Facebook page "Belize DL Lab" or with Ignite (through Carlo Habet). Javier Molina is the co-instructor.

Red flag concerns/questions:

1. In what capacity is Carlo Habet functioning?
2. Is Carlo Habet the Belize Film Commissioner?
3. How was he given, afforded, recruited, interviewed and selected for this post?
4. If it was an appointment, who appointed him (and with what authority)?
5. What are the Terms of Reference for the Belize Film Commissioner, Government of Belize post?
6. Who supervises this post? What Ministry does it fall under?
7. Is Carlo Habet making deals and agreements as the Managing Director of Ignite (a private production company), or as the Belize Film Commissioner (a public service office)?
8. Has the Belize Audio Visual Industry Association (BAVIA) membership and acting Board of Directors been informed and/or was a part of the selection process for a new Belize Film Commissioner?
9. Is there a Belize Film Commission office? Where? Address? Who works in it?
10. What authority do they have to represent the interests of the workers in our growing film industry, and have they communicated with the over 200 BAVIA members who work in the film industry?
11. What conflicts of interests are evident in labeling oneself in two different roles simultaneously — private business manager/owner and the Belize Film Commissioner, a public service position?
12. Who is Javier Molina? Is he the Acting Vice President of BAVIA, whose official term ended 2020, a worker bee for Nigel Miguel and Suzette Zayden, and the person who recently blocked the then Acting Secretary from administration of the BAVIA Facebook page and BAVIA email accounts to maintain full control of the public platforms created to inform members of the scheduled Annual General

Meeting (AGM) for BAVIA to elect an all new 9-member Board of Directors?

BAVIA still has not held an AGM since 2020.

Three (3) attempts were made by former President and former Secretary to host an AGM (publicly announced to members), with consistent obstruction by Acting Vice President and Acting Treasurer.

Javier Molina (Acting Vice President) and Stephen Zayden (Acting Treasurer and brother of Suzette Zayden) are the remaining Acting BAVIA Board of Directors.

They are also the 2 remaining signatories to the over \$6,500.00 BZD that was in the BAVIA Belize Bank account. The former President was the third signatory.

Six (6) out of nine (9) BAVIA-elected Board of Directors formally resigned.

One (1) informally resigned.

Without a BAVIA AGM, there is no legal institution to advocate for the protection of the rights and interests of ALL workers in the audio-visual film production sector (the creatives that give Belizeans all their Belize-based television content, Government of Belize and private business commercials, online marketing content, website content, merchandising, etc).

Without a Belize Film Commission, there is no legal institution that advocates for Belizean film production workers, governed with transparency in accessing global film markets and international film productions that come into Belize, so all Belizean service providers and products get first priority equitably and in alignment with international standards of quality, business etiquette and transparent financial accounting.

CALL TO ACTION!

TO JAVIER MOLINA: Host a BAVIA AGM with all former members and the interested public, formally invited and welcomed, to facilitate a fair nominations and election process for an active, forward thinking NEW Board of Directors. (According to the BAVIA Constitution, Javier Molina is no longer eligible to serve on the Board, as he has already served 2 consecutive terms).

TO CARLO HABET: Publicly and officially announce "appointment" of the new Belize Film Commission office & governance structure, and the Ministry that holds the portfolio of the Belize Film Commissioner, Mr. Carlo Habet (also Managing Director of Ignite production company, owner of an international real estate business)

We are unable to find the Facebook page or Ignite website link to sign up for the youth media workshop. What a way.

Supernova

While most stars just quietly fade away, the supergiants destroy themselves in a huge explosion called a "supernova!" While I and most of my contemporaries won't be around to see the end results, I believe that the collapse of the American reign as the maximum supernova, I mean superpower, has begun! The Persian Empire lasted about 200 years until they were defeated by Alexander the Great. The Roman Empire lasted for a 1,000 years, and because of infighting, and growing fat and lazy, they were defeated by the Barbarians, The Goths and other Germanic tribes, who slowly and stubbornly encroached and nibbled away at territory, frustrated the once invincible Roman armies. The Hapsburg, the Ottomans and the British Empire all collapsed under their own useless weight, or as a result of wars and the putting the rest of all those antiquated ideas in the 20th Century. The wannabes like Russia and China still have illusions of grandeur, which will never be fulfilled. Russia is a paper tiger, and China, well China cannot sustain itself on its current trajectory! This is my opinion, of course, not some lengthy research by geniuses at famous think tanks!


For as long as I've been alive, America has been the dominant superpower in the world! Again, not Russia or China; they have always played second fiddle, in the order of power and influence. America was victorious in both World Wars, helping its European allies defeat a cocky Germany in WWI, and then defeating fascism and the Axis powers in WWII! After the First World War, America began to flex its muscles, and after WWII, it really took over as the major superpower, using Russia and communism as the foil to get countries not under the umbrella of the USSR, to rally to her side, for "freedom and

democracy!" If the government or leader of a country important to her was veering off script, well then, they were dealt with. Iran, Guatemala and Chile are a few of the most glaring examples of this "might makes right" policy.

And now, in just over a 100 years, America is destroying itself and its status as a superpower, from within, just like Rome did, some 1800 years ago. While we were preaching democracy and fair elections to the world, a slow disintegration of our own democratic system had already begun! Fascism and racism and xenophobia, always in the offing, have once again reared their ugly heads, and like the Hydra, seem invincible, with no Hercules in sight to save the day! The upcoming elections will predict how quickly this fall from grace will accelerate, but we are heading down the path to a closed-off America, fighting for survival against itself.

Don't get me wrong, America is still the greatest military power in the world, and way more technologically advanced than any other nation! Some will say, well, there's China. Please, they steal most of their technology, and America could shut them down in little or no time. And as for Russia, Ukraine shows us all how weak they are, with the help of American technology! As for nuclear weapons, well so far their use is unimaginable, but who knows. So, it won't happen overnight, but the gradual eating away at democracy, the rise of fascism, the book banning, the state and religion mix, the racism, the conspiracies, a suspect Supreme Court, the alarming rate at which the populace is arming itself, are all contributing to the inevitable downfall of this, the greatest nation on earth! So much for American exceptionalism! The supernova!

Glen



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

Mexican prez signs deal to restore land to Yaqui peoples



by Clinton Canul Luna

Permit me, our dear readers of this column, to present to you the following, which I find to be of utmost interest. The below report was published on Telesur (in Spanish) under the heading “*Presidente de México firma decreto para restituir tierras a pueblos Yaquis*” on October 30, 2022. The English translation is as follows:

President of Mexico signs decree to restore land to Yaqui peoples

Nearly 30,000 hectares of ancestral lands that were dispossessed will be returned to that indigenous community. The president of Mexico, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, signed this Sunday in the community of Belem,

municipality of Guaymas, state of Sonora (northwest), a decree through which the government restituted lands that were dispossessed from the original Yaqui peoples. The president signed the decree for the return of 29,241 hectares of land found in areas within the Yaqui territories, such as La Noria del Sahuaral and El Picacho de Mosobanco. He recalled that President Lázaro Cárdenas (1934-1940) gave the Yaquis 491,649 hectares; however, the presidential resolution was not fully executed. “We are going to move forward, because here is the team that will continue working with you (...) Working with you is doing justice to the Yaqui peoples. It is a tribute to all those who lost their lives, those who fought in

the Mexican Revolution for justice, freedom, democracy and national sovereignty”, said the Mexican president.

According to local media, the land restitution is part of the justice plan of the current Mexican government for the Yaquis, whose ancestral lands were taken from them over nine decades. During the signing of the decree, the governor of Sonora, Alfonso Durazo Montaña, asked López Obrador to include the issue of paving indigenous communities as part of the same plan. He stressed that “with the support of the National Institute of Indigenous Peoples (INPI) we are going to commit to improving the streets of the eight towns of the ethnic group here.” The secretary of the Traditional Guard of the community of Belem, Francisco Nocamea Hernández,

asked the federal government to regularize the possessions that have been recovered by the towns of Cócorit and Loma de Guamúchil, such as Las Piedras, El Rescate, El Tigre, La Matanza and Las Palomas. Nocamea Hernández requested to conclude the negotiation for the right of Federal Highway Mexico 15 and the railroad tracks that cross the territory.

fincasolan@gmail.com

October 30, 2022

Finca Solana

Corozal Town



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Hurricane Hattie – the storm...

Continued from Page 1

downsized from a Category 5.

The leading newspaper in British Honduras at that time, the *Belize Billboard*, reported on Saturday, October 28, 1961, that Hattie appeared in the Caribbean 550 miles southwest of Kingston, Jamaica. On the following day, the storm began heading north, but by Tuesday night, at some time around midnight on October 31, the storm had stalled, and then it made an abrupt southwest turn, wreaking havoc on the colony of British Honduras from Belize City (then known just as Belize) down to Stann Creek Town.

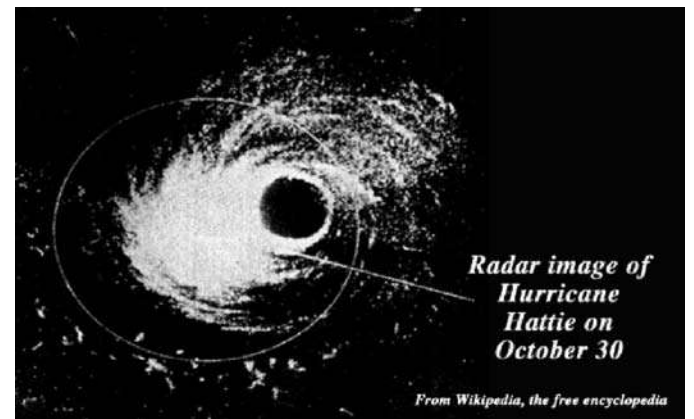
“A Hurricane at Halloween,” is what an *Amandala* article, dated Saturday, November 3, 2018, called that event. And indeed, for the tens of thousands of people living in British Honduras at that time, it was a nightmarish event, to say the least. Even today, some might say that Hurricane Hattie left an indelible mark on Belize.

It was the storm that split Caye Caulker into two, and many also know it as the reason the country's new capital, Belmopan City, was built. It also prompted residents of British Honduras to begin building their houses out of reinforced concrete.

Hattie is also the reason a vast majority of Belize's Kriol population began migrating en masse to the United States—a move that would lead to a dramatic change in the demographics of the country, as that ethnic group gradually dwindled from being 50% of the population to the current 24.9%.

With winds of up to 160 miles per hour and gusts of up to 200 mph, Hattie battered the colony from midnight onward. Storm surges reached heights of 13-15 feet, and by the end of it all,

most of Belize and Stann Creek had been destroyed. More than 200 persons died that night, with Belize City contributing to almost half of the death toll. Though, admittedly, had there not been any advanced warnings, loss of life would have been much worse. As for property



Radar image of Hurricane Hattie on October 30

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

loss, a total of \$60 million in damage was estimated—a figure that equates to close to \$400 million today. Thousands of persons were left homeless—an effect that would lead to the establishment of Hattieville and Georgetown.

The struggle and hardship caused by Hattie would last for many years. And those who lived through the storm would forever remember those harrowing moments in the early hours of October 31.

Former air traffic controller, Mr. Alejandro Vernon, who was stationed at Puerto Barrios in Guatemala during Hattie, wrote to the Editor of *Amandala* on Friday, December 8, 2006, recounting his experiences during and after the storm.

“Monday morning of October 31, there was a dead calm in Puerto Barrios,” he said. “The tide was way out. A few birds flew lazily above our Tower. There was news that a hurricane was moving in the Caribbean towards our coast. By 3:00 p.m. a brisk wind developed into strong gusts from 20 to 40 knots. By seven pm, hurricane outer winds were lashing past Roatan, and its center heading straight for Belize.”

By the time the storm had passed, he

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Cuba's overture to big bad USA

by Colin Hyde

Cuba's recent request to the US for assistance after it was hit by Hurricane Ian could be interpreted as a friendly gesture, and it is to be hoped that the world power will soften its "heart" and let those brave people go. For six decades, ever since the Cuban Revolution, the US has had its heel on Cuba's neck. To protect its revolution, Cuba, led by Fidel Castro, followed a communist path that led them into a strategic alliance with Russia (formerly the USSR) that is still intact today, even after that country's horrible invasion of its neighbor.

Taking a quick glance at what transpired in Cuba to provoke Castro to become a "rebel", first he was denied a chance to get into government via the democratic process when Fulgencio Batista seized power and preempted the 1952 election. Fidel hadn't promised to turn Cuba into a communist country; he was more or less with the reforms Jacobo Arbenz had introduced in Guatemala, but when his group seized power in 1959, the losers, Batista's supporters, weren't about giving up any ground. They, and "ugly Americans" in Cuba, turned the US government against the revolution.

Cuba abstained when called upon to vote on the Russia/Ukraine war. Venezuela also chose to sit on the fence. I think Venezuela was absent from the

hall when the vote was called. Only Nicaragua from our side of the world supported Russia when the most recent vote was taken on the war.

They say the enemy of your enemy is your friend, something like that, and Nicaragua has had strained relations with the US for decades. Remember, the US backed the repressive Somoza government, and the Nicaraguans had to take up guns to get rid of that greedy crowd. Anyway, I read somewhere that the US is Nicaragua's biggest trading partner, so I expect the Ortegas know what they're doing.

Returning to our island neighbor, the story is that Russia has oil it can't sell since so many of their trading partners turned against them over their aggression, and Cuba is the beneficiary there. But all that oil coming to Cuba isn't much against six decades of US embargo. The island is strapped for cash, and it will continue to be tight there until the Americans get a heart.

Cuba gets hit by hurricanes more often than we do, and it's only after this last hit that our island friends reached out to our powerful mainland friends for some ease. The good Americans under Joe Biden have responded with the US\$2 million the Cuban government asked for, but with a little insult. NBC News said the money will be distributed through the U.S. Agency for International Development, and it will be handled by "trusted,

independent organizations operating in the country who have a long presence in hurricane-affected communities."

A representative for the Cubans thanked the Americans for their generous assistance. The government agent did not comment on the path the Americans have chosen to get the critical aid to the Cuban people. There's a history to everything under the sun, and maybe this is part payment from the US government for getting rebuffed in 2008.

NBC News said that back in 2008 US president George W. Bush offered the Cuban government US\$5 million in assistance after the island was hit by two powerful hurricanes, but Fidel Castro spurned the offer. Fidel said the US had "caused billions of dollars in damage with its embargo", and he said the US needed to get the sense that "the dignity of a people has no price."

Reuters described this recent call for assistance as a "rare request." The Associated Press suggested that Cuba couldn't condemn Russia's invasion of Ukraine because they needed to maintain good relations with Putin, but its hesitancy "to denounce Russia on a global stage could complicate the slow thawing of its icy relationship with the U.S."

On the sidelines watching all this is a crowd in Miami that is doing wrong to both Cuba and the US. Sixty years after the Cuban revolution, Cuban exiles in Florida, and their children, insist on revenge, and they rally their resources in the US to support candidates that are against the lifting of the cruel economic embargo on the island. Someday, hopefully soon, the United States will get the full sense of the amount of political favor it has lost in this part of the world, for pleasing the Cuban exiles. Cubans in the US have received special treatment, and the group is among the wealthiest, most successful in that nation. But greed and bad mind seem to have no end.

Reaching the RC Bridge

Many years ago, when a new bridge over Roaring Creek was being contemplated, one of my mentors told me that no amount of engineering talent could replace institutional knowledge when it came to deciding on the best place to put a new bridge. See, there are things people living in an area will learn over time, and that's wisdom to die for, wisdom you have to be out of your mind to ignore.

I know the architects for the recent works to improve the George Price Highway between Roaring Creek and Santa Elena, Cayo, and the construction of the new bridge over Roaring Creek,

interviewed many people in the area, because I read much of the report. It's a long study, and unfortunately I can't remember where I placed it. Bah, I can't remember all that they asked about flooding, the primary reason that for decades people wanted a new bridge.

Just about everyone who has any history about Roaring Creek watched with incredulity as the approaches to the new bridge, especially on the west side, were largely ignored. Everyone said, *wow, what a beautiful bridge, but how will we reach it when a big flood comes.* My, just months after the new bridge opened last year, it couldn't be accessed because of a flood.

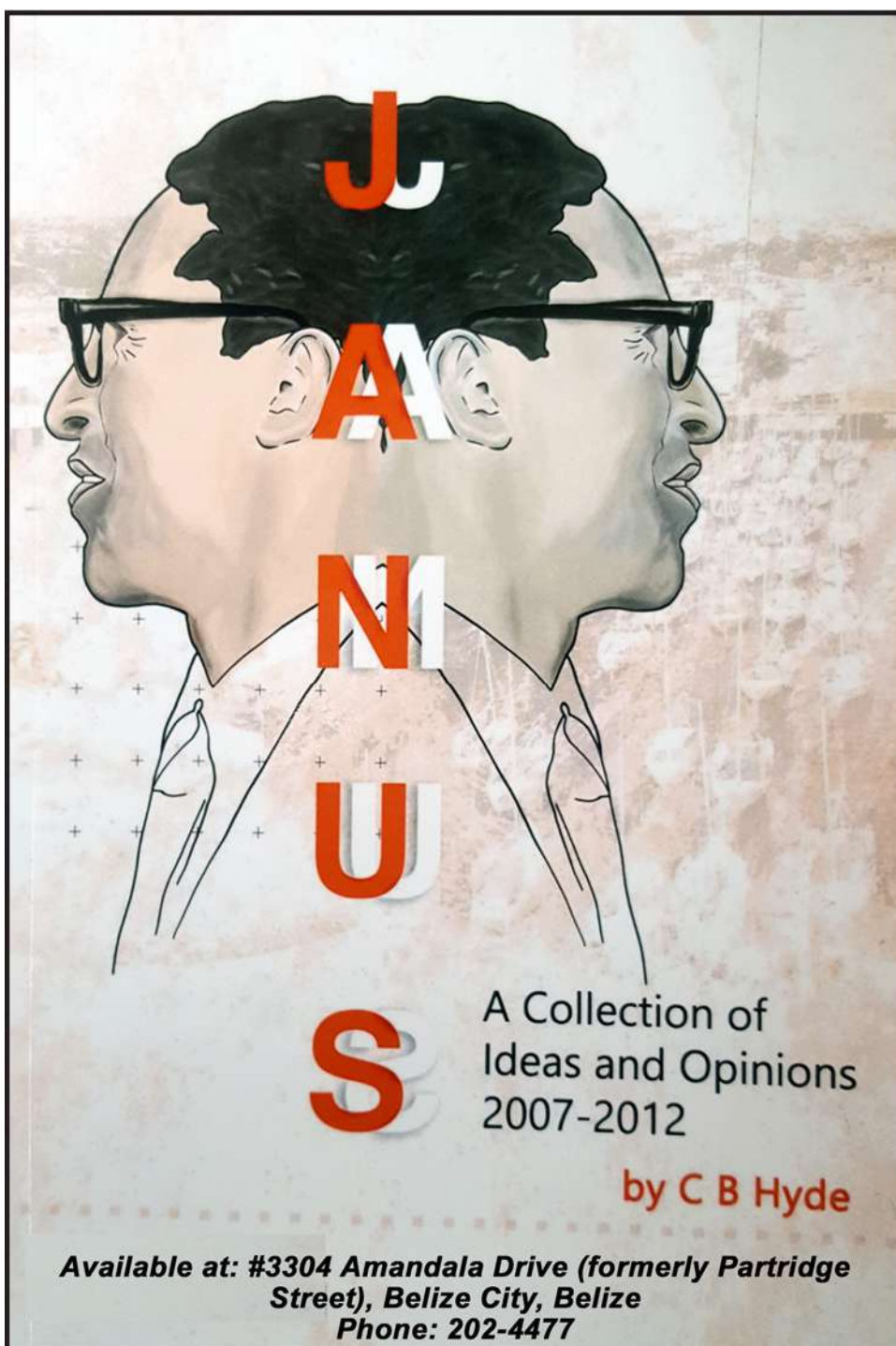
At least once every five years, the Belize River backs into Roaring Creek and inundates the area. The climate change experts say we are to expect more and bigger floods, and that was factored into the rehabilitation work that was done on the highway between Roaring Creek and Santa Elena. But the approaches to the new bridge were not addressed.

A major investment of money and time is being made now to raise the approach on the west side of the bridge. Fair enough, doing now what should have been done two years ago comes at no direct extra financial cost, but quite likely if we had done what had to be done, at the time it should have been done, we would have hesitated to spend so much on unnecessary culverts and making an entire face of the bridge support structure out of "designer blocks." Yea, someday when you're passing through Roaring Creek, pull over on the north side of the road, take out your camera, and walk back toward the old bridge, the one that was just replaced. On the left you'll see the old police station; on the right you'll see the magnificently carved glyphs.

Bah, while they raise the road, traffic is being diverted. The owner of the vegetable shop in Roaring Creek told me she was informed that the job will take up to three months, so she has to relocate. Much of that could have been avoided if the work had been done at the appropriate time.

Add necessary signs to road safety billboards

Hurray for road safety billboards! Along with that plot we need some signs at dangerous spots. One area on the George Price Highway that absolutely needs a bold sign can be found between the Frank's Eddy cutoff and the cement factory. It's a blind spot, a trap for foreigners and Belizeans who are unfamiliar with that highway. There are a number of unmarked blind spots on our highways, and off the top I can think of two more on the GCP.



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REGIONAL & INTERNATIONAL

Tropical Storm Lisa forms, could become a hurricane before hitting Central America



by Alex Sosnowski, AccuWeather senior meteorologist

Tropical Storm Lisa formed in the western Caribbean on Monday, and the newly formed storm could reach hurricane intensity before making landfall late Wednesday in Central America, AccuWeather meteorologists say.

As of 5 p.m. EDT Monday, Lisa was located about 320 miles (515 km) southeast of Grand Cayman Island. Lisa's maximum sustained winds were 45 mph (75 km/h), and the system was moving to the west at a speed of 14 mph (22 km/h). A tropical storm watch was in effect for Jamaica. Tropical storm force winds extended outward to 105 miles (165 km) from the center. As of Monday afternoon, a hurricane watch was issued for the Bay Islands as well as the Belize coast from north of Puerto Barrios to south of Chetumal.

Forecasters have been suggesting since the middle of October that a tropical storm could brew in the region around the end of the month or during early November. On Sunday, as the system began to steadily organize, AccuWeather meteorologists began to refer to the budding storm as a tropical rainstorm in order to help people in the projected path of the storm to begin preparations. Early on Sunday evening, the National Hurricane Center (NHC) dubbed the system Potential Tropical Cyclone 15.

Prior to becoming Lisa, the tropical system looked rather disorganized early Monday morning, AccuWeather Meteorologist La Troy Thornton said. Multiple NOAA Hurricane Hunter aircraft will be used to investigate the storm each day for the next few days, according to the NHC.

"The most intense thunderstorm activity continues to be displaced well to the east of the exposed center, and development will be slow until the activity consolidated," Thornton said. "The longer that the system takes to fully organize, the lower the chances that it will become a powerful hurricane before making landfall."

According to the latest forecast track put together by AccuWeather meteorologists, a landfall in Belize is most

likely to occur Wednesday night. However, as the storm approaches the coast, winds and seas will build as rainfall ramps up on Wednesday.

Should the system take a more westerly course, rather than track just north of west, it could reach land sooner and strike Honduras. In this case, the storm's development window could be chopped by 12-18 hours, and the chances it would become a hurricane would diminish.

The western Caribbean has a history of storms that have undergone rapid intensification, provided the right atmospheric conditions were in place. Meteorologists say it's not out of the question that could happen with this system.

"As a word of caution, it is also worth noting that this storm is rather small," Thornton said. "With tropical systems, this often means that if and when conditions allow it to finally become better organized, a sudden burst of

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Halloween stampede in Seoul leaves at least 149 dead



Rescue team members wait with stretchers to remove bodies from the scene where dozens of people were injured in a stampede during a Halloween festival in Seoul, South Korea, October 29, 2022. REUTERS/Kim Hong-ji

by Soo-Hyang Choi, Daewoung Kim and Hongji Kim

SEOUL, Oct 30 (Reuters) - At least 149 people, mostly teenagers and young adults in their 20s, were killed in a crush when a huge crowd celebrating Halloween surged into an alley in a nightlife area of the South Korean capital Seoul on Saturday night, emergency officials said.

A further 65 people were injured in the melee in Seoul's Itaewon district, Choi Sung-beom, head of the Yongsan Fire Station, said in a briefing at the scene.

Nineteen of the injured were in serious condition and receiving emergency treatment, the officials said, adding the death toll could rise.

It was the first Halloween event in Seoul in three years after the country lifted COVID restrictions and social distancing. Many of the partygoers were wearing masks and Halloween costumes.

Some witnesses described the crowd becoming increasingly unruly and agitated as the evening deepened. The incident took place at about 10:20 p.m. (1320 GMT).

"A number of people fell during a

Halloween festival, and we have a large number of casualties," Choi said. Many of those killed were near a nightclub.

Many of the victims were women in their twenties, Choi said.

Witnesses described chaotic scenes moments before the stampede, with the police on hand in anticipation of the Halloween event at times having trouble maintaining control of the crowds.

Moon Ju-young, 21, said there were clear signs of trouble in the alleys before the incident.

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Moon Ju-young, 21, said there were clear signs of trouble in the alleys before the incident.

"It was at least more than 10 times crowded than usual," he said.

Social media footage showed hundreds of people packed in the narrow, sloped alley crushed and immobile as emergency officials and police tried to pull them free.

Choi, the Yongsan district fire chief, said all the deaths were likely from the crush in the single narrow alley.

Other footage showed chaotic scenes of fire officials and citizens treating dozens of people who appeared to be unconscious.

Fire officials and witnesses said people continued to pour into the narrow alley that was already packed wall-to-wall, when those at the top of the sloped street fell, sending people below them toppling over others.

An unnamed woman who said she was the mother of a survivor said her daughter and others were trapped for more than an hour before being pulled from the crush of people in the alley.

Full article can be found at: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/about-50-people-reported-hurt-stampede-south-korea-yonhap-2022-10-29/>

First published by Reuters

Brazil election: Lula da Silva narrowly defeats Jair Bolsonaro

Left-wing former leader wins Brazil's presidency in close vote but far-right incumbent has yet to concede.



Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva waves at his supporters after being elected president in Sunday's election [Carla Carniel/Reuters]

BRAZIL. Sun. Oct. 30, 2022 (Al Jazeera) Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has won Brazil's

presidential election by a whisker, but with incumbent Jair Bolsonaro still not conceding defeat there were concerns the far-right contender might challenge the result.

According to the country's election authority, Lula secured 50.8 percent of the vote compared with 49.2 percent for Bolsonaro on Sunday.

"Today the only

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National Women's League kicks off 2022 Closing Season

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Oct. 31, 2022

With first Bay City FC from Corozal, and then Jewel Fury FC from Belmopan declining participation in the 2022 Closing Season of the National Amateur Women's League (NAWL), Group A, which is now down to 3 teams, kicked off its regular tournament with one game only in Week 1 last Saturday, October 22. Group B with 5 teams held their Week 1 games this past weekend; while Group A had its Week 2 match.

In the Group-A Week-1 game on Saturday, October 22, at the M.A. Stadium in Independence, home standing Sagitun Girlz prevailed, 1-0, over Verdes Rebels, courtesy of a second half goal from Tanya Teul (55').

This past Saturday, October 29, Group A's Week 2 match at the M.A. Stadium saw Sagitun Girlz grab the 3-2 win over their Mid-South counterparts, Rumberas. Sagitun got a goal each from Jurshia Zuniga (7') and Iamara Baptist (40') along with an own goal by Rumberas' Carmen Campus (81' OG); while Sidney Montenegro (23') and Kelsey Polanco (88') scored for Rumberas.

Also on Saturday, October 29, Group B kicked off their season at the MCC Grounds in Belize City with a Week 1 match that saw Guardian FC crushing Millenium Fusion, 6-1, with goals coming from Gianni Gomez 6' & 40', Shayamma Caliz (19', 31' & 41') and Sarah Arzu (85'). Ailani Gonzalez (45') got the sole tally for Millenium Fusion.

Week 1 of Group B continued on Sunday, October 30, at the Norman Broaster Stadium, where Cayo Dreamers and Napoles played to a 1-1 draw. Yolanda Alarcon (26') gave Napoles the first half lead, but Ilyn Cruz (71') tied the score for Cayo Dreamers in second half.

Upcoming Group A Week-3 and Group B Week-2 schedule:

Saturday, November 5

Group A Week-3

4:00 p.m. – Verdes Rebels vs Rumberas – Norman Broaster Stadium

Group B Week -2

3:00 p.m. – Millenium Fusion vs Napoles – MCC Grounds

Sunday, November 6

Group B Week-2

3:00 p.m. – Cayo Dreamers vs Wagiya SC – Norman Broaster Stadium

First weekend of playoffs in SSBA Tournament 2022

by Mark O'Brien

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo District, Sun. Oct. 30, 2022

The San Ignacio & Santa Elena Basketball Association (SSBA) hosted 8 playoff games over the weekend at the Resilience Centre at Victor Galvez Stadium in San Ignacio Town. The U7, U10, U12, U15 and U18 divisions will use the one-and-out format, with the winners advancing to the next round, while the senior males and females will play best-of-three series. Below are the scores.

Friday, October 28

Game 1 – CK Restaurant has been eliminated from the playoffs. (Under 10 – Coed) Codd's Drug Store (1-0), 10-7, over CK Restaurant (0-1). Codd's Drug Store – Jonathan Requena 5 pts; Akializ Williams and Cai Castanede 2 pts each. CK Restaurant – Aiden Pinelo 4 pts; Amiel Segura 3 pts.

Game 2 – Caracara has been eliminated from the playoffs. (Under 10 – Coed) Eskimo Ice (1-0), 9-5, over Caracara (0-1). Eskimo Ice – Liam Dacak 4 pts; Connor Smith 3 pts; Joe Luis Pech 2 pts. Caracara – Davion Rudon 3 pts; Josue Tuyud 2 pts.

Game 3 – Alphas has been eliminated from the playoffs. (Seniors – Male) Vegan Roots Brotherhood (1-0), 75-53, over Alphas (0-1). Vegan Roots Brotherhood – Emani Enriquez 22 pts; Keke Martinez 21 pts; Shelton Defour 11 pts. Alphas – Roberto Lobos 16 pts; Mohammed Garcia 14 pts; Aidan Brooks 13 pts.

Game 4 – Game 1 of quarterfinals. (Seniors – Male) NBB Pay Elites (1-0), 74-54, over NexGen Ballers (0-1). NBB Pay Elites – Kevin Brown 19 pts; Akeem Waters 14 pts; Travis Lennan 13 pts. NexGen Ballers – Karl Williams 19 pts; Owen Kuylen 11 pts; Julian Thiessen 7 pts.

Saturday, October 29

Game 1 – Western Queens was unable to field 5 players. (Seniors – Female) Vegan Roots Sisterhood (1-0), (20-0) over Western Queens (0-1) by default. Vegan Roots Sisterhood – Jane Martinez (20 pts).

Game 2 – Joehann Construction has been eliminated. (Under 18 – Male) Recino's Imports (1-0), 62-35, over Joehann Construction (0-1). Recino's Imports – John Aranda 24 pts; Tayshawn Haylock 12 pts; Floyd Gillett 8 pts. Joehann Construction – Elvis Garcia 23 pts; Ka'zean Crawford 5 pts; Edison Johnson 4 pts.

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Jubilation in Sugar City; Progresso makes PLB playoffs

BELIZE CITY, Sun. Oct. 30, 2022

The Premier League of Belize (PLB) 2022-2023 Opening Season regular fixture is finally over after Week 14 games were completed this afternoon. The Top-4 semi-final playoff fixture is now set, and it includes first time PLB entrant, young Progresso FC out of Orange Walk.

One Week 14 match was played on Saturday night and three today, Sunday; but until late this afternoon, the fourth playoff spot was still undecided. (See the Week 13 standings below.)

Premier League of Belize 2022-2023 Opening Season								
Week 13 Standings update, Wed. Oct. 26, 2022								
TEAMS	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Diff	Pts
Altitude FC	13	9	2	2	20	9	11	29
Verdes FC	13	6	6	1	20	9	11	24
San Pedro Pirates FC	13	6	4	3	18	11	7	22
Progresso FC	13	4	5	4	10	10	0	17
Port Layola FC	13	5	1	7	16	18	-2	16
Wagiya SC	13	4	2	7	14	19	-5	14
Benque United FC	13	3	4	6	11	16	-5	13
Bandits SC	13	2	2	9	11	28	-17	8

With a playoff berth in the balance this afternoon, the chances were extremely slim for Wagiya FC (14 pts), who needed a big victory over Police/Benque United FC (13 pts) in Dangriga, and they would have still needed Progresso FC (17 pts) to lose against San Pedro Pirates FC (22 pts) in Orange Walk, and Port Layola FC (16 pts) to lose or draw against league leading Altitude FC (29 pts) in Independence for them to have any chance at clinching the fourth playoff spot.

[NOTE: If two teams are tied in points, the goal difference column (Diff) is then referred to; and if they are also tied there, then it is the team that has scored the most goals (GF) that gets the nod.]

Wagiya was quickly out of the picture as Benque took an early 2-nil lead, and it ended 4-1 for the visitors. However, the other two games kept football fans in suspense, as at halftime it was 1-1 in Independence, and 1-nil in favour of San Pedro in Orange Walk. When TNC's Raynord Garbutt signed off their telecast from Dangriga, it was still 1-1 in Orange Walk, and it sounded like that was the final score; meanwhile, Altitude had taken a 2-1 lead in Independence, and a late penalty could have tied it for Port Layola, but they missed it. Actually, it wasn't yet over in Orange Walk, as San Pedro scored at the 87th minute to go ahead 2-1, but Progresso came back to draw it 2-2 in injury time. Port Layola needed a win to displace Progresso, but it didn't happen; they lost. Even without the extra point from their 2-2 draw, Progresso FC had clinched the fourth spot in the PLB semi-final playoffs. (See final regular season standings below.)

In the game on Saturday night at the Isidoro Beaton Stadium, home standing Bandits SC fell by a 4-0 score to Verdes FC. Desmond Wade had a hat trick (24', 44' & 63') and Facundo Garnier (76') got the other goal for Verdes.

All three Sunday games today were scheduled to start at 3:30 p.m. Police/Benque United FC dropped Wagiya SC, 4-1, at the Carl Ramos Stadium. Carlton "Fubu" Thomas (14' & 70') struck twice and had an assist, and Kayser Tut (42') and Brayan Cuellar (80') got a goal each for Benque; while Erwin Middleton (90+1' PK) converted a penalty for Wagiya. Meanwhile, at the M.A. Stadium in Independence, it was Altitude FC, 2-1, over Port Layola FC. Altitude goals were by Andres Orozco (8' PK) and Luis "Baaka" Torres (63'), while Ian "Yellow" Gaynair (34') scored for Port Layola. And up north at the People's Stadium in Orange Walk, it ended in a 2-2 draw between Progresso FC and San Pedro Pirates FC. Shaking the net for San Pedro were Horace Avila (31') and Erick Roman (87'); while Progresso responded with Leocadio Briceno (69') and Ethali Rivero (90+1') in injury time.

Below are the final regular season standings.

Premier League of Belize 2022-2023 Opening Season								
Wk 14 Final Reg. Sesn. Standings, Sun. Oct. 30, 2022								
TEAMS	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Diff	Pts
Altitude FC	14	10	2	2	22	10	12	32
Verdes FC	14	7	6	1	24	9	15	27
San Pedro Pirates FC	14	6	5	3	20	13	7	23
Progresso FC	14	4	6	4	12	12	0	18
Benque United FC	14	4	4	6	15	17	-2	16
Port Layola FC	14	5	1	8	17	20	-3	16
Wagiya SC	14	4	2	8	15	23	-8	14
Bandits SC	14	2	2	10	11	32	-21	8

The home-and-away semi-finals which begin this coming weekend (praying the storm avoids us) will match #1 seed vs #4, and #2 vs #3. That means it will be Altitude FC vs Progresso FC, and Verdes FC vs San Pedro Pirates FC in the semi-finals.

The tentative Semi-final 1st Leg schedule:

Saturday, November 5

7:30 p.m. – San Pedro Pirates FC vs Verdes FC – Ambergris Stadium

Sunday, November 6

3:30 p.m. – Progresso FC vs Altitude FC – People's Stadium



Yabra FC to host U10 & U13 return Friendlies with Cayo teams

by Rudolph "Bolo" McKoy

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Oct. 31, 2022

Yabra Kulture Under 13 and Under 10 kids teams are scheduled to play against Mrs. Diane Chuc's kids club teams from Cayo on Sunday, November 6, at Yabra Field.

The Under 10 game starts at 1:00 p.m., followed by the Under 13 game at 2:00 p.m.

Then at 3:30 p.m. it will be bonus coverage, as Yabra Kulture Over 40 team plays Yabra Under 17 team.

Entrance fee at the games is only "good behavior."

All are invited to attend. Cayo vs Yabra!

(AMANDALA Sports Ed. Note: Of course, it all depends on the weather.)

FFB announces closure of offices, postponement of competitions

BELMOPAN, Mon. Oct. 31, 2022

The Football Federation of Belize (FFB) takes this opportunity to inform the general public that all offices countrywide will be closed to allow the FFB staff to prepare for the upcoming storm starting tomorrow November 1, 2022.

All competitions for this weekend, including U13 Girls Elite, Travel

Belize Beach Soccer Cup and the National Amateur Women's League are postponed until further notice.

FFB President Sergio Chuc and the Executive team take this opportunity to advise our football family to take all necessary precautions to secure their family and loved ones.

-press release -

First weekend of playoffs in SSBA Tournament 2022

Continued from Page 13

Game 3 – NexGen Ballers have been eliminated from the playoffs. (Seniors – Male) NBB Pay Elites (2-0), 53-52, over NexGen Ballers (0-2). NBB Pay Elites – Jayden Lopez 25 pts; Kevin Brown and Akeem Watters 8 pts each. NexGen Ballers – Kerwin Polanco 14 pts; Brandon Flowers 13 pts; William Murillo 12 pts.

Game 4 – Game 1 of quarterfinals. (Seniors – Male) West Side (1-0), 72-63, over Vegan Roots Brotherhood (0-1). West Side – Jahiem Ciego 33 pts; Raheem Thurton 10 pts; Greg Fisher 8 pts. Vegan Roots Brotherhood – Emani Enriquez 16 pts; Shelton Defour and Raul Venegas 14 pts each.

Playoffs continue with the upcoming schedule. All games will be played at Victor Galvez Stadium.

Friday, November 4

6:30 p.m. - (Under 15 - Male) Tyre Center (#2) vs Tolacca Restaurant (#3)

7:00 p.m. - (Open - Female) Western Queens (#2) vs Vegan Roots (#3)

7:30 p.m. - (Seniors - Male) West Side (#2) vs Vegan Roots (#3)

8:30 p.m. - (Seniors - Male) Assassins (#1) vs NBB Pay Elites (#3)

Saturday, November 5

6:30 p.m. - (Open - Female) Ixchel (#1) vs Winner of Western Queens/Roots

7:00 p.m. - (Under 18 - Male) Atlantic Bank (#2) vs JDB (#3)

7:30 p.m. - (Seniors - Male) Assassins (#1) vs NBB Pay Elites (#3)

8:30 p.m. - (Seniors - Male) Venom (#1) vs Winner from West Side/Roots

OR West Side (#2) vs Vegan Roots (#3) – Game 3 if needed

Brazil election: Lula da Silva narrowly defeats Jair Bolsonaro

Continued from Page 12

winner is the Brazilian people," da Silva told the crowds gathered at a Sao Paulo hotel. "This isn't a victory of mine or the Workers' Party, nor the parties that supported me in campaign. It's the victory of a democratic movement that formed above political parties, personal interests and ideologies so that democracy came out victorious."

Bolsonaro had been leading throughout the first half of the vote

count, but as soon as Lula took the lead, the streets of Sao Paulo's city centre filled with the sound of cars honking their horns.

People in Rio de Janeiro's Ipanema neighbourhood could be heard shouting, "It turned!"

"He's the best for the poor, especially in the countryside," said retired government worker Luiz Carlos Gomes, 65, who comes from Maranhao state in the poor northeast region. "We were always starving before him."

Belize Bureau of Standards releases advisory on price gouging

Continued from Page 1

natural disasters. It must be noted that consumers have also in a number of instances seen evidence of such practices by some business places in the days prior to the arrival of a storm as well.

The BBS urges consumers to keep receipts as proof of purchase, since those can serve as evidence to lodge a formal complaint against any business owner who engages in such gouging.

"For price-controlled goods, it is an

offense for businesses to sell any such commodities above the maximum permissible price ceiling," the release states. Reports of price gouging or any other unsavory business practice can be made at the Consumer Protection Hotline at 0-800-283-5587 or via email at bbs@btl.net.

Reports can also be made directly to the Supplies Control Unit at phone number 822-2648.

A list of the current price-controlled goods can be found at <https://bbs.gov.bz/price-controlled-goods/>.

Tropical Storm Lisa forms, could become a hurricane...

Continued from Page 12

intensification cannot be ruled out."

"Deep water temperatures in the path of the storm are bathlike and in the 80s F while wind shear is forecast to drop off in the northwestern Caribbean," AccuWeather Chief Broadcast Meteorologist Bernie Rayno added. "These conditions could foster rapid strengthening."

Wind shear is represented by stiff breezes from the same direction or varying directions over a particular area of the atmosphere. Strong wind shear usually inhibits tropical storm development and/or strengthening. Low to moderate wind shear can aid in the development and strengthening of a tropical system.

AccuWeather meteorologists have rated Lisa as a 1 on the AccuWeather RealImpact™ Scale for Hurricanes in Central America and less than one for islands near the path of the storm in the Caribbean. The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale takes into account only the wind intensity while the RealImpact™ Scale for Hurricanes and tropical storms takes into account rainfall, storm surge and risks to lives and property as well.

A life-threatening situation could unfold regardless of the peak wind intensity of the developing tropical system as the storm pushes inland over Central America with torrential rainfall that is likely to unleash flash flooding and mudslides.

A general 4-8 inches (100-200 mm) of rain will fall directly in the storm's path with an AccuWeather Local StormMax™ of 12 inches (300 mm) possible in some localized areas. In addition to urban flooding, streams and rivers are expected to rise while runoff over the hillsides can lead to mudslides. Some of the worst conditions could occur over the mountains as far inland as Guatemala and to the south over Honduras.

Winds near the center of the storm and for 100 miles (160 km) or so inland

are likely to gust to 60-90 mph (100-150 km/h) with an AccuWeather Local StormMax™ of 100 mph (160 km/h). At this force, trees and power lines will come down, and damage to homes and businesses can occur.

By Thursday or Friday, Lisa is likely to become a tropical depression or rainstorm as it loses wind intensity. However, if the circulation center of the storm survives the trip across southern Mexico or western Guatemala, it could become the third system to retain its name while reaching the Eastern Pacific basin this year — something that has never happened before on record.

Back in early July, Tropical Storm Bonnie pushed into the eastern Pacific. Bonnie's journey across both basins made it one for the record books, as the storm traveled more than 6,600 miles and became one of only four systems to ever cross over Central America and become a major hurricane in the Pacific.

More recently, in October, Julia survived the trip across Central America and spent a few hours as a tropical storm in the eastern Pacific. Julia was only the second system on record to pass from the Atlantic basin to the Pacific basin with at least tropical storm in intensity in the same season. The storm was blamed for more than two dozen deaths in Central America.

Areas from the Caribbean to the southwestern Atlantic could be a trouble spot for further tropical activity well into November, experts say.

Some meteorological data suggest that waters within a few hundred miles of Florida could be near the middle of such activity during the second week of November. A broad area of low atmospheric pressure is likely in the region with pockets of showers and thunderstorms. Any of these disturbances slowly could evolve into a tropical system over time.

The Atlantic hurricane season will officially conclude on Nov. 30.

First published by Accuweather

The election was Brazil's most polarising poll since its return to democracy in 1985 after a military dictatorship that Lula, a former union leader, has rallied against and Bolsonaro, a former army captain, invokes with nostalgia.

The vote also marked the first time that the sitting president failed to win re-election. Just over two million votes

separated the two candidates; the previous closest race, in 2014, was decided by a margin of roughly 3.5 million votes.

Full article can be found at: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/10/30/brazil-election-lula-da-silva-narrowly-defeats-jair-bolsonaro>

Published by Al Jazeera

Lisa to make landfall in Belize—likely as Cat 1 hurricane

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could result in flooding over low-lying and other flood prone areas. Flooding is made even more likely by the fact that the soil is still saturated after the torrential rains caused by Hurricane Julia earlier this month.

Gordon, along with Minister of Sustainable Development, Climate Change, and Disaster Risk Management, Hon. Orlando Habet and National Coordinator of NEMO, Colonel Shelton Defour, held a press conference today to brief the media as Lisa quickly approaches.

He told reporters that there is also a chance of coastal flooding due to storm surges of three to five feet to the north of the storm’s center. Areas around the storm’s center will be affected by winds of 74 – 95 miles per hour. And while there is still some uncertainty regarding where exactly that center will fall, the National MET Service is advising persons countrywide to remain alert.

Predictions are expected to increase in precision as the storm draws nearer, especially twenty-four hours before landfall, but Gordon stressed the importance of not focusing solely on the area of direct landfall, noting that impacts will be felt far beyond that location.

Colonel Shelton Defour says that NEMO has already begun implementing their readiness plan, which includes alerting search and rescue teams and gathering supplies. NEMO’s Human Resource Management Committee, responsible for managing the public officers that will be working in shelters once they are opened, has also begun to prepare.

Defour explained that shelters will be opened as needed in each constituency, and this will begin once hurricane

warnings come into effect. San Pedro and Caye Caulker, which are likely to be the first areas to experience the effects of Lisa, have already identified what establishments will be serving as shelters. If an emergency evacuation is needed, residents from the cayes will be able to take refuge in the University of Belize gymnasium in Belmopan.

In addition to rain, wind, and flooding, potential effects of Hurricane Lisa include falling trees and branches, interrupted water and power lines, and falling debris. Weather conditions are expected to worsen in the next few days. According to the Chief Meteorologist, all predictive systems are currently indicating that intensification beyond a Category 1 hurricane is not likely.

“But there is no such thing as 0%,” he added.

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Science & Technology has issued a public notice stating that classes for all schools will be suspended from Tuesday, November 1 until further notice. Minister of Sustainable Development, Climate Change, and Disaster Risk Management, Hon. Orlando Habet has urged the public to follow the advisories published by NEMO and the National Meteorological Service.

NEMO is advising persons to put their family emergency plans into action, check emergency food, water and medical supplies, and check on the elderly and persons with disabilities. Those in high risk areas should make preparations to evacuate.

Lisa is set to become one of the few storms that have made landfall in Belize in November. Records only show three such storms that have done so before—Tropical Storm Laura in 1971, another storm in the 1800s and one in 1931.

CEOs’ allowances were restored, not increased – Cabinet Sec

Continued from ▶ Page 1

to it being reduced to \$750 in May of 2020 as part of the Barrow administration’s austerity measures. Leslie met with the press on Friday, and told reporters that when the unions agreed to accept a 10% cut in their salaries, the ministers, ministers of state, and their CEOs also agreed to a fifty percent reduction of their entertainment allowances. He explained that the CEOs are contractually entitled to that \$1,500 monthly, but upon entering office following the 2020 elections they agreed to continue accepting the reduction in allowances due to the financial situation of the country. And since public officers had their full salaries reinstated this year, Leslie argued, CEOs are entitled to the same.

“This misinformation that CEO’s allowances were doubled or a hundred percent is false, not true,” he added.

As we noted in last Friday’s issue of the AMANDALA, the Public Service Union (PSU) did not receive the news of the reinstatement favourably, and that is because while public officers did have the 10% of their salaries that had been cut, reinstated, their annual increments are still frozen.

When asked about the timeliness of such a reinstatement, Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño told reporters on Thursday that there is empirical evidence showing that the country is currently doing better than ever. This week, the Cabinet Secretary made a similar point:

“This team, this government, this administration, reversed unemployment from thirty-something percent to nine percent ... This administration restored confidence, so now business is growing and the economy is back to the point where, not within three years as was promised but within one year, the public officers’ 10% salary reduction was given back to them. Is it that the CEOs should not be given their restored allowances at the same time?” he said.

In a press release issued on Thursday, the United Democratic Party criticized the Government’s decision to increase allowances at this time, calling it an act of disrespect towards public officers and the Belizean people. And on Friday, during a press conference, the Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Moses “Shyne” Barrow, reprimanded the Government

even further. He said that the Prime Minister is “misleading the people” by saying CEOs are simply getting back what they were entitled to, and he also called out the Government for poor prioritization.

“Where is the priority of the Government? It shouldn’t be for CEOs who are already making \$80,000. I have to confess, I am not happy with the fact that a CEO makes more than the Leader of the Opposition or members of the House of Representatives,” he said.

Unlike members of the House of Representatives, CEOs, however, do not receive a pension after completing their terms of service.

Cabinet Secretary Stuart Leslie further defended the reinstatement by saying that CEOs, in addition to not getting any increments, have not received any salary increase since 2018.

“It is not as if CEOs are getting something more, because think about what I said earlier—2018 was the last time that CEOs got any salary increase, any increase in allowance or anything, 2018. Most jobs, anywhere you go, every year, people get increases. Public officers are saying right now, we want our annual increase. CEOs don’t get any increase in anything. They have to go to the table and negotiate to get any increase, so if you’re talking about cost of living and so on, what we are earning right now, is what the government believes a CEO is worth in 2018. Think of how the world has changed between 2018 and 2020,” he said.

He also compared the salaries of Government CEOs, \$76,000 annually, to those of other CEOs, stating “the former chairman of BTB sued the government, her annual salary was \$250,000 without benefits ... Right now as we speak, the salary for the CEO of BTL is, I think, close to half a million dollars, now including benefits; the salary for the CEO of BEL I think is in the avenue of \$300,000, if I’m not mistaken. The president of UB, the Chief Magistrate, earns more. All of these people earn more than a CEO.”

While the average Belizean makes far less than any of those figures and also has to grapple with the rising cost of living without any form of allowance or benefit, the Cabinet Secretary says that most people don’t have to run a company or manage a 1.1-billion-dollar economy.

Police Department gets 100 body cams

Continued from ▶ Page 1

particularly when they are engaged in the pursuit or detention of a suspect.

“Many times, we see officers going on a scene, and the last thing they’re thinking about is to let me pull out my phone to try to record what is taking place, and in many instances we see spliced videos making it onto the media whereby individuals don’t show what prompted a situation to escalate. They only show a situation that attempts to make the officers look bad, and so this gives us an opportunity for the full picture from start to end of any incident,” said Minister of Home Affairs, Hon. Kareem Musa, at a ceremony during which the cameras were handed over to the police.

“... Even before the introduction of body cams, we have seen situations where members of the public have taken it [upon] themselves to record their engagements with the police, and that is fine; that is encouraged. The issue that I have, [as] I mentioned earlier, is that a lot of the time they don’t show their aggression [which] led the police to do what they did. And so what this does, is it sorts out the playing field,

because you get two sides of the story, just not one side. While it is that we do have this from the police angle now, we still encourage all members of the public, [and] all civilians, if there’s a situation that you feel uncomfortable with, of course take out your cell phone,” Minister Musa went on to say, as he highlighted the need for a complete picture of the interaction between police and members of the public in cases where allegations are made of police misconduct.

Musa further pointed out that the number of allegations of police abuse, particularly by the GI3, has been reduced by 80% due to the usage of body cams.

During his remarks, the Commissioner of Police, Chester Williams, said that a policy has been developed to provide guidelines for the use of the cameras and the footage they record.

“Those things that you spoke about before, there are no policies that guide the usage ... But with this, it doesn’t require much. All we need is the computer to download the footage after the tour of duty is done, and then we have people to review, and we should be good to go from there. The policy we have is very good. I went through it myself, and our

Hurricane Hattie – the storm...

Continued from ▶ Page 10

said, Belize City was under water.

“Belize’s Stanley Field Airport was incommunicado, isolated from Belize City. Telephone lines were down, and the British soldiers from Airport Camp were on the double cutting their way through debris, zinc, fallen trees and huge logs strewn across the road in an effort to reach Belize City,” he added.

Vernon’s wife had been in the Belize

legal team put it together, and it is good. It is for officers to comply. We have a compliance unit in Belmopan that make sure that there’s compliance with our policy,” stated Williams.

Commissioner Williams commented that the fourteen-hour-footage captured

Hospital at the time, having undergone surgery two days prior. She and twenty other patients found themselves crammed into the hospital bathroom, listening as wind and waves battered the building.

Hattie would go on to be known as the most powerful hurricane to impact the region until 1998’s Hurricane Mitch. Still, it is rivaled in notoriety perhaps only by the nameless September 10, 1931 hurricane which demolished Belize Town and claimed over 2,000 lives.

by the body cams will be reviewed daily after it is uploaded and will be stored for one month.

Additional body cameras are expected to arrive in a few weeks, and 50 more of such cameras will be donated by the Taiwanese Embassy.



Available at:

BELIZE CITY

- * Puma Roundabout
- * Puma, 2 Miles Philip Goldson Hwy.
- * 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. Ltd. - Supermarket, Albert Street and Philip Goldson Highway
- * 1st Choice Pharmacy, Cemetery Road
- * Save-U Supermarket

LADYVILLE

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

ORANGE WALK

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

COROZAL

- * Aguilar Car Care Products, # 60 4th Avenue, Corozal Town
- * Xiomara Alcalá c/o Corozal Farmer's Supplies, #99 - 5th Avenue, Corozal Town

BELMOPAN

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

CAYO

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

BENQUE

- * Eduard Cambranes
- * People's Store

STANN CREEK

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

PLACENCIA

- * Placencia Office Supplies

INDEPENDENCE

- * G N J Mart

PUNTA GORDA

- * King's Texaco
- * NJV Pharmacy

SAN PEDRO

- * Rocks Shopping Center

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