

# Lisa caused approx. \$20 million in infrastructural damages

**This includes the cost of repairing the Philip Goldson Highway and the three damaged court buildings in Belize City.**

*by Marco Lopez*

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Nov. 7, 2022

Relief efforts following Hurricane Lisa have been ongoing for days now – especially so in the Southside of Belize City, an area that felt the brunt of the storm’s impacts. Additionally, a constituency development fund has been rolled out to area representatives so that they can begin to give immediate assistance to the affected residents. Much more



**Prime Minister John Briceño**

resources will be required to address the destruction caused by the storm, however. The Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing has

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## Belizean businessman arrested with 9.95 kilo of suspected heroin in New Delhi

**The drugs were stashed under the false bottom of a bag reportedly being carried by Francis Gegg, 70, official leaked documents suggest.**



**Francis Gegg, arrested**

NEW DELHI, India, Mon. Nov. 7, 2022

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs was unable to verify reports of the arrest of prominent Belizean, Francis Gegg, 70, in New Delhi, India. Gegg was

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## BEL restores power to over 90% of Belize District

**Since Thursday, Belize Electricity Limited has been working towards restoring power in Belize City and other parts of the country that were affected by Hurricane Lisa. Countless expressions of gratitude and commendation have been directed at BEL employees for their hard work.**



*Photo: BEL Facebook*

*by Khaila Gentle*

BELIZE CITY, Mon, Nov. 7, 2022

Since late Thursday morning, shortly after the “all clear” was issued for the country following

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## Belize City's Hurricane Lisa cleanup campaign continues

**Tons of debris have been removed from the city in the days following the passing of Hurricane Lisa, but there's still more work to be done, says Mayor Bernard Wagner.**

*by Khaila Gentle*

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Nov. 7, 2022

The Belize City Council’s massive cleanup campaign is still underway, and according to Mayor Bernard Wagner, the Council, while far from finished, has made plenty of progress.

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**BELIZE CITY COUNCIL**

## COP 27 starts with Egypt's Foreign Affairs Minister as prez

*by Marco Lopez*

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt, Mon. Nov. 7, 2022

Egyptian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sameh Shoukry assumed the presidency of the 27th Conference of Parties of the UNFCCC (COP27) yesterday during opening ceremonies held in Sharm El-Sheikh,



**Youth climate activist, Leah Namugerwa**

Egypt. Alok Sharma, the outgoing COP26 president, highlighted the achievements of last year’s conference, saying that the signing of the Glasgow Pact and IPCC reports published this year show that the global multilateral

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# Reopening of several schools delayed in the aftermath of Hurricane Lisa

**The Ministry of Education, in addition to releasing an official list of schools approved for delayed reopening, stated on Sunday that it is the only legal authority with the power to cancel or suspend classes.**

by *Khaila Gentle*

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Nov. 7, 2022

Homes and businesses throughout Belize City have been severely affected by Hurricane Lisa, and the same can be said for quite a number of schools as well. Those schools have since received approval from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science, and Technology to delay reopening in order to allow for any necessary cleaning and restoration.

On Sunday, the Ministry issued a press release notifying the public that classes would resume as normal on Monday, November 7, for all schools, including those in the Belize District, that are able to open safely. Some twenty-seven schools, however, two of which are in Belmopan, have been granted a transition period of up to one week ahead of reopening.

Most of those schools will be reopening in the next two to three days, but three of them will have a delay period of seven days. Gwen Lizarraga High School, Holy Redeemer RC Primary School, and St. Luke's Methodist Primary School are not scheduled to reopen until Monday,

November 14.

While some schools emerged unscathed following the passage of Hurricane Lisa, a few others sustained damages which, according to the Ministry, may take weeks to repair. This was confirmed following structural assessments carried out by the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing. A few other schools served as shelters during the hurricane, and as such will need to undergo cleaning and other preparations before they can reopen.

In addition to structural damages to their classrooms, many teachers have also found themselves personally affected by the storm. In response to this, the Ministry of Education, in cooperation with the Belize National Teachers Union (BNTU), has been putting together a list of those in need of support and assistance.

“Those teachers are also asked to communicate with their principals to be allowed days off to take care of their personal affairs. These teachers will not be required to apply for UPAs; permission will be given through principals and management,” said the Ministry on Sunday.



**Belize Elementary School roof ripped off**



**Wesley High School compound after Lisa**

## Port of Belize/Waterloo public consultation rescheduled



by *Khaila Gentle*

BELIZE CITY, Fri. Nov. 4, 2022

The public consultation session for Waterloo Holdings' proposed Port of Belize Cruise Tourism Facility and Cargo Expansion Project that was set to take place on Friday, November 4, has been postponed due to the impacts of Hurricane Lisa. According to the Department of the Environment (DOE), the consultation has been rescheduled for next Friday, November 11. It will commence at 6:30 p.m. at the Best Western Belize Biltmore Plaza and will also be streamed live on the Government of Belize Press Office Facebook page.

Those interested in attending the consultation can review Waterloo's recently resubmitted Environmental

Impact Assessment (EIA) Report on the DOE's website at <https://doe.gov.bz/environmental-clearance/>.

Persons can submit their comments in writing to the DOE on or before November 17 by email ([envirodept@environment.gov.bz](mailto:envirodept@environment.gov.bz) or [eiaunit@environment.gov.bz](mailto:eiaunit@environment.gov.bz)).

The first public consultation regarding Waterloo's proposed port project was held in 2020 and saw overwhelming objection from the people of Belize due to the anticipated negative environmental, health, and social impacts. Since then, the project has received a similar response during all subsequent consultations, with the most recent of such consultations having been held in September of this year.

In its two-page press release, the Ministry addressed the fact that returning to normal immediately following a disastrous event such as a hurricane is no easy feat, including for students. The Ministry says that it recognizes that many students have been impacted and some may not be able to attend school because they have

lost their home, clothing, or books and may even be suffering from trauma. Counseling and psychological services will be provided to any teacher or student in need.

“The ministry understands the importance of taking care of both physical and mental health, especially,” said the release.

## Over 1,000 damage assessments conducted in 3 days

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Nov. 7, 2022

When interviewed this week, Deputy Chairperson of the Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis Committee, Tennille Hendy said that over 1,000 damage assessments were conducted over 3 days – with the team from the committee cross-checking their data with the reports of distressed persons who have called in for assistance. A wide cross-section of damage was found across the city, with four levels of damages—ranging from not significant to structural damage—being recorded.

Significant damage was caused by the winds and the storm surge brought on by Hurricane Lisa. The areas of Caribbean Shores, Port Loyola, and the Albert division were left with thick mud that had been brought onshore by the sea's waves. The data gathered in this

assessment will be used as evidence that will be presented to international institutions in an effort to seek financial assistance, Hendy explained.

“It's used to leverage support or as evidence to support to financial institutions who would provide such financial support to countries who are impacted by natural disasters,” Hendy said.

In her role as Principal Hydrologist, Hendy said that some residual flooding from Tropical Storm Julia was seen, but so far no residual flooding from Hurricane Lisa has been observed. Any transboundary flooding is expected to be minimal, but is being monitored by the unit. At this time, according to the flood forecast for today, only Region 9, the Crooked Tree area, remains under a flood alert.



**Call us at: 202-4477**



# PM Briceño: businesses need to abide by labor laws when a hurricane warning is called

by Khaila Gentle

BELIZE CITY, Fri. November 4, 2022

During a press conference held shortly after the passage of Hurricane Lisa, Prime Minister John Briceño said that he was disappointed by the fact that some businesses and employers were requiring their employees to go to work on Wednesday just hours before the storm was forecasted to make landfall.

On Wednesday morning, a notice from a local call center began to make its rounds on social media. That notice informed call center agents and other employees that the centers would be working normal business hours since “there are no government mandates at this time to close business.”

The notice was heavily criticized by members of the public and led many to question whether Belize’s labor laws needed to be amended or revisited. According to the Prime Minister



Prime Minister John Briceño

however, there are laws already in existence that ensure employers send workers home when a hurricane is imminent.

“Once we call that there is a hurricane, people should, or businesses should allow their employees to go home. I think that’s the law right now. So I don’t think it’s about revisiting the law, I think it’s about ensuring that the law is carried out,” he said.

NEMO Coordinator, Colonel



Colonel Shelton Defour (NEMO Coordinator)

Shelton Defour, added to this, stating that “the law stipulates employers must release their employees to go and seek safety—go and look after their family and get out of harm’s way.”

The recent controversy has also sparked discussions surrounding whether call center workers should unionize.

Attorney-at-law Orson “OJ” Elrington also weighed in on the matter, writing that Belize’s labor laws need

“serious review.”

According to Elrington, under Belize’s current laws, employers are not required to give employees time off during times of natural disasters, but they also cannot force employees to show up for work if they feel it puts their safety in peril.

“The Belize Labor Act explicitly states the days on which employers shall not oblige employees to work. Section 115 of the act states ‘no worker shall be obliged to work on any public holiday or on any Sunday, if Sunday is the agreed rest day,’” he wrote, adding that if it is not a public holiday or an agreed rest day, employers are not legally obliged to give the day off. They are however, morally obliged to do so in cases such as this past Wednesday.

But Elrington, Colonel Defour and the Prime Minister all agree that when it comes to natural disaster, Safety and human life come first.

# Taiwan pledges US \$200K towards Belize's relief efforts

by Khaila Gentle

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Nov. 7, 2022

The Government and people of the Republic of China (Taiwan) have expressed their solidarity with the people of Belize during its time of recovery following Hurricane Lisa. The island nation has pledged US \$200,000 toward relief efforts

“We are confident that the people of Belize are resilient and will rebuild

following the disaster. The Government of Taiwan remains committed to assisting our ally Belize during these difficult times and wishes the people and country of Belize a speedy recovery,” stated a press release from the Embassy of Taiwan on Friday.

On Wednesday of last week, Lisa, a Category 1 hurricane, brought with it devastating winds that battered much of Belize City, damaging houses and commercial buildings alike, and leaving

much of the country in the dark.

So far, Belize has also received pledges of support from a number of regional and international organizations, including the CARICOM Private Sector Organization and the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association.

On Friday, Taiwan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) extended heartfelt sympathies to those affected by Hurricane Lisa, stating that both Taiwan’s government and people are standing shoulder to shoulder with their Central American ally in this time of emergency.

Along with Taiwan, Cuba also expressed solidarity with Belize earlier



Taiwan stands in solidarity with Belize

this week. Cuba’s Foreign Minister, Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla, made mention of Belize’s plight during a speech at the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 27).

“I express our heartfelt solidarity with the sister Caribbean nation of Belize that today suffers the ravages of a powerful hurricane,” he said.

# PM: Country's food security is intact



Hon. Orlando Habet

BELIZE CITY, Fri. Nov. 4, 2022

Yesterday during a press conference held by the Government of Belize, the Minister of Sustainable Development and Disaster Risk Management, Hon. Orlando Habet, informed the nation that 2,500 acres of various types of agricultural produce were destroyed following the flooding brought on by Tropical Storm Julia. When subsequent assessments were done by the ministry, however, it was discovered that a large portion of that produce had been already harvested. Despite this, between 7 and 8 million dollars in losses were recorded, with rice, corn, and some vegetables being among the spoiled crops.

Minister Orlando Habet said that the

country’s food security will, however, not be put at risk by the losses, since a bumper crop produced this year will provide enough food for the nation.

“While we saw plenty of it out there, some of it that we saw in the flyover, some of the material that was there was just the corn stubble, but the corn was already harvested. About half of it was in rice, and the next half was in corn and some vegetables,” Minister Habet said.

He went on to say that major producers such as those in Spanish Lookout have indicated that, despite the damage caused to 1500 acres of their crops, they will have enough produce to meet the needs of the country.

PM Briceño in his remarks said that at this time, only the importation of wheat remains strained by the war between Ukraine and Russia.

“The only thing that we import from them is wheat? When it comes to bread, we are one of the few countries, we are lucky, we produce enough of most of what we eat like the corn and the beans and the rice and chicken, eggs and vegetables. We are self-sufficient in most instances,” Prime Minister Briceño said.

As a result, at the current time, the government is expecting no shortages in the country’s food supply.

# Woman found dead on Hummingbird Highway

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Nov. 7, 2022

The body of a fully dressed woman was discovered on the Hummingbird Highway at Mile 40 in the Cayo District at around noon on Saturday, November 5. The deceased woman was identified as Celia Celeste Florian, 30, a self-employed Belizean of Mariposa Street, Belmopan, who was last seen on Monday, October 31, and for whom a missing person report had been issued a few days before.

Florian was reportedly wearing a black blouse and black and red short pants with a silver bracelet on her left hand and a black band on her right ankle when her body, which was in an initial state of decomposition, was discovered.

Luz Mejia, Florian’s sister-in-law,

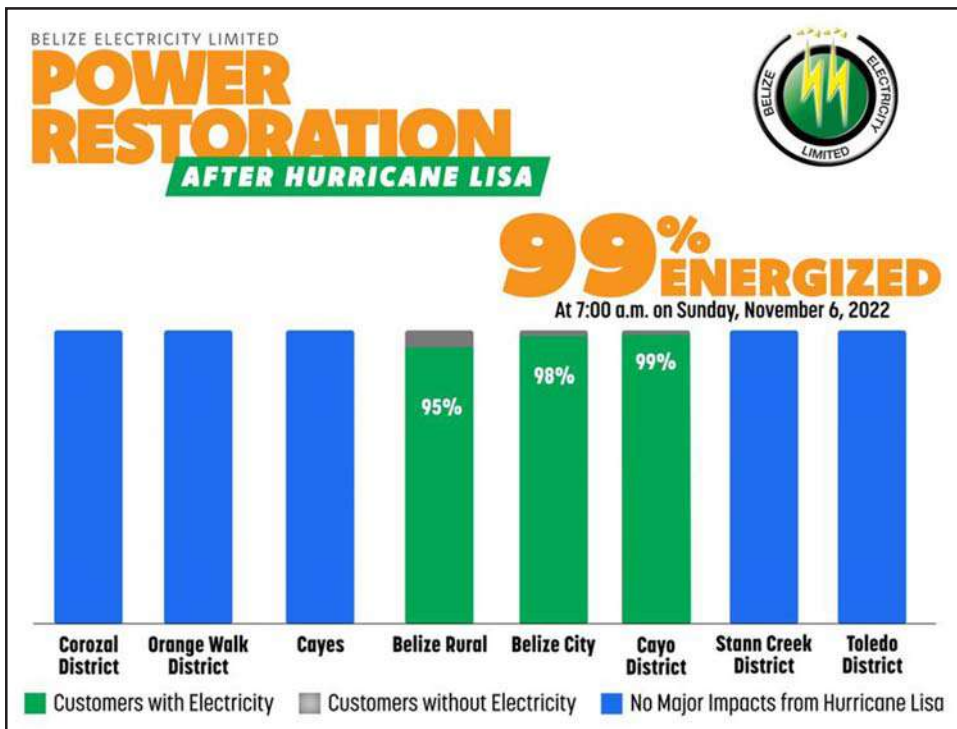


Celia Celeste Florian, deceased

who had reported her missing on



## BEL restores power for over 90% of Belize District



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the landfall of Hurricane Lisa, Belize Electricity Limited (BEL) has been working diligently towards the complete restoration of electricity services in the Belize and Cayo Districts.

Shortly before the storm made landfall on Wednesday, much of the Belize District found itself without power. That outage would eventually extend to other parts of the country, mainly western Belize, as winds of up to 85 miles per hour toppled utility poles and broke power lines.

Belizeans living in the direct path of Hurricane Lisa would have to weather the storm's passing with nothing but candles, flashlights, kerosene lamps, and, for a lucky few, gas-powered generators. But as soon as day broke, and the green flag signaling the "all clear" was raised, residents were notified that their local electricity provider would be working around the clock to restore power.

By Saturday morning, the majority of the Cayo District had its electricity restored. Parts of the Belize District, however, after having faced the brunt of the storm and suffered extensive damage, would have some hours to go. Among the lucky few in that district were the Philip Goldson International Airport and roughly 75% of Belize City residents.

Residents in parts of Belama and along the Philip Goldson Highway finally breathed a sigh of relief later on Saturday night, when power was finally restored after three seemingly unending days. Later, however, those areas

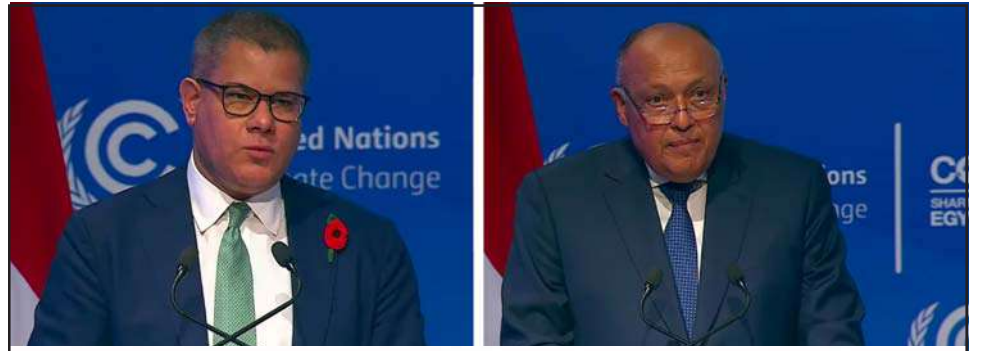
experienced intermittent power outages along with some other parts of the city. According to BEL, this was due to troubleshooting being done by the company to ensure the reliability of the power system.

Later on Sunday, BEL reached phase 6 of its power restoration process, which meant that only a few pockets of customers were still without power. That included areas in rural Belize, such as Hattieville, Ladyville, and the Belize River Valley as well as any areas faced with specific localized issues such as damaged transformers, low voltage lines, and customer service lines. A report from the company revealed that approximately 95% of customers in the rural Belize district had power restored, along with 99% of the Cayo District and 98% of the Belize District.

As power continues to be restored, many Belizeans have found themselves feeling extra grateful for the ability to turn on the lights and keep their foods fresh once again. BEL has continued to release updates, assuring residents that they will be implementing the most efficient and well-coordinated approaches necessary to provide customers with electricity.

Throughout this past weekend, citizens have commended Belize Electricity Limited and its employees for their hard work and efficient communication. Despite their frustration at being without power, many extended grace and understanding to the men and women who worked around the clock, moving from community to community in an effort to return the country to a state of normalcy.

## COP 27 starts with Egypt's Foreign Affairs Minister as prez



(l-r) Alok Sharma, outgoing COP26 president and President Sameh Shoukry, COP27 president

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system is making progress on the climate front, despite naysayers.

"Every major report published this year underscores the point that progress is being made and thanks to the commitment that we garner ahead of and at COP26 and indeed in our presidency, year emissions in 2030 are expected to be around 6 gigatons lower. That is the equivalent of 12 percent of today's global annual emissions", Sharma said. He added that with full implementation of all commitments, including NDCs and Net Zero targets, the reports indicate, "that we are headed to 1.7 degrees warming by the end of the century, not 1.5."

COP27 president Sameh Shoukry, an African national of Egypt, said that the current level of ambition is not in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement. He called for wider and more efficient participation of relevant parties—including non-state actors such as the private sector, banks, international finance institutions, civil society, youth associations, and indigenous associations—to meet these goals.

He drew attention to two facts: that efforts related to climate change adaptation have been polarized for the past decade, and that this has slowed the process of negotiations, and secondly, the current mobilization efforts remain inadequate, with the 100-billion-dollar pledge still not yet implemented. He noted that financing is being pumped into curbing emissions and not adaptation efforts.

"I call upon all of you to fully be aware that we are not just embarking on negotiations that are detached from reality," Shoukry said. "Our mission is much loftier than this. The implications and effects of our work will affect the lives and livelihoods of millions of people around the world... We cannot threaten the future of coming generations of our sons and grandsons and daughters," he said.

Simon Stiell, the new UNFCCC president, who was appointed in August of this year, called on countries to submit updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). To date, just 29 countries of the 194 nations that signed the Glasgow Agreement to submit updated 2030 climate plans have done so. He called for those countries to revisit and strengthen their national pledges this year.

"I found myself in an accountability chief role last week when we launched the NDC synthesis report, and I had to report that only 29 countries have come forward with tighter national plans since COP26. 29 is not 194, so here I am not looking out at 165 countries that are due to be revisiting and strengthen their national pledges this year," Stiell said during his remarks at the opening.

Climate activist, Leah Nahuguerwa, at the opening of COP27, saluted the working leaders at the conference and told climate crisis deniers and unbelievers, "we have stories to share."

"When I was 14 years old, I saw landslides killing so many people due to harsh weather conditions. These images have disturbed me and cannot allow me to rest until something is done about the changing climate," Nahuguerwa said.

UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, called for Universal Early Warning System coverage across the globe within 5 years. He asked governments across the world to tax the windfall profits of fossil fuel companies and redirect the money to people struggling with rising food and energy prices.

"On addressing loss and damage, this COP must agree on a clear time-bound road map reflective of the scale and urgency of the challenge, and this roadmap must deliver effective institutional arrangements for financing. Getting concrete results on loss and damage is a litmus test of the commitments of the governments to the success of COP27," he said.

## Lisa caused approx. \$20 million in infrastructural damages

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estimated so far about 20 million dollars in damages, said Prime Minister Briceño during an interview today. Today, some parts of the country are still without electricity and running water, but in the majority of areas these critical utilities have been restored, according to the PM. He said that over the weekend an intense cleanup campaign in Belize City resulted in the removal of over 250 truckloads of garbage and debris. Many communities in Belize City,

however, remain in the rubble.

"We have the Ministry of Housing that is going house to house, constituency to constituency, trying to look at what the exact number that we need to come up with, and again the initial number that the Ministry of Infrastructural Development and Housing has come up with is approximately 20 million dollars," PM Briceño outlined.

He said that this would include the rebuilding of the Phillip Goldson Highway from Belize City to the

Haulover Bridge approach, and the three buildings at the Supreme Court that were damaged by the storm, as well as some schools, as soon as they submit their damage assessment.

When speaking of providing housing for those citizens most in need of shelter following the destruction of their home by the storm, PM Briceño stated that the government wants to build as many houses as possible, but insisted that the focus must be on constructing high-quality, durable homes that can withstand the impact

of storms.

"We cannot continue giving them plywood houses, because we are not doing anything for them, because with the next storm, it's going to be blown away, and also you continue to perpetuate poverty – when you look at the conditions that our people living, I don't think nobody should be living under those conditions in 2022, anywhere in the world, especially here in Belize, so the job, the task ahead of us is huge, but we have to start somewhere," PM Briceño said.





# Law and Order after Lisa

“Ah hear ‘Putum BOOM!!’, and the crowd start to scatter!” —  
from “Ten To One Is Murder,” by The Mighty Sparrow

Sunday, November 6, 2022

On Thursday, November 3, a day after Hurricane Lisa had lambasted Belize City with over 90 miles-per-hour winds, Prime Minister John Briceño announced a “7:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. curfew ... on the entirety of the Belize District, with the exception of Ambergris Caye and Caye Caulker, from Thursday, November 3, until Sunday, November 6.”

He explained that it was Cabinet’s decision “to institute a curfew at night because certain areas of the city still do not have electricity,” and it was “to be able to keep things safe.” And as darkness enveloped almost the entire city after nightfall, there was rightly an air of understanding and appreciation of the decision among the general population. This is quite evident from the lack of any complaints about the inconvenience of the curfew from callers to local talk shows in the days following, as the multi-agency cleanup campaign continued daily at a frenetic pace. By the end of the curfew period tonight, Sunday, electricity and street lights as well as water had been restored to almost all of Belize City and surrounding villages.

The vast majority of Belizeans are law-abiding, and despite occasional complaints about police brutality or abuse of their authority, most citizens would much prefer to live in a society with law and order being enforced by police, than in a situation where there is no lawful authority, and those inclined to violent and boorish behavior can brazenly invade and disturb the peaceful coexistence of law-abiding citizens going about their daily business.

occupy the same space; we walk the same streets, shop at the same stores, attend similar recreational events; but every now and then the difference surfaces in the actions and behavior of those living in “another world.”

There are many hardworking Belizean citizens who go about their daily tasks with sincerity and hope for a better tomorrow. They live and work to provide the sustenance for their children by “the sweat of their brow,” whatever their honest occupations; and all in their own way make a positive contribution to the betterment of our Jewel.

Even those in “another world” who are engaged at various levels of the “parallel economy” also make their contribution to the nation through the sharing of their earnings with friends and relatives. Some poverty is also alleviated by the contributions of these “soldiers” whose only “heavy lifting” involves the movement of cash or illegal drugs.

However, one unavoidable aspect of this type of occupation that thrives on gang affiliations, is that it is currently illegal, and thus matters have to be settled “in house” rather than seeking assistance from the police. The murder rate is so high in Belize because in this category of individuals involved in this type of business, serious differences often lead to deadly violence rather than court action.

Moreover, the situation is compounded because “one thing leads to another”, and with the proliferation of small firearms in the illegal drug business, those weapons soon also become available for hold-ups, robberies, home invasions, and the like.

It is said that when the prophet Muhammad was “born in Mecca, the capital city of Arabia, about 570, He found Himself in the midst of a people consisting of a hundred warlike tribes, inheriting a tradition of polytheism, who had resisted all efforts at evangelization and who regarded battle as the only occupation fit for men. Such was the race whom Muhammad was to convert to monotheism and to unify into an unbreakable band of brothers, their unity being based on their religious faith.” (from George Townsends’s *Christ and Baha’u’llah*)

There is a time for everything, and a situation sometimes demands stern action.

Townsend quotes T.W. Arnold in “The Preaching of Islam,” where he said, “The Arab tribes were thus impelled to give in their submission to the Prophet, not merely as the head of the strongest military force in Arabia, but as the exponent of a theory of social life that was making all others weak and ineffective. Muhammad had succeeded in introducing into the anarchical society of his time a sentiment of national unity, a consciousness of rights and duties towards one another such as the Arabs had not felt before” (pp. 40-41).

In Belize, our politicians and police have tried many things to solve our crime and violence situation, which has much to do with poverty, and maybe more to do with illegal drugs, but a new approach may be needed. First, they must get the attention of this category of individuals who currently have no fear of “prison” and so are bold in their anti-social behavior.

In the middle of the street at the southern end of the Michael Finnegan market this past Saturday, some animosity had apparently developed between one young man and another person, and it involved the vicious throwing of a number of pint bottles, and then a bike being thrust at the adversary, and soon another young man was joining in the fracas, and another, and the madness of the two warring groups was hurtling down the street northwards toward the main market entrance where peaceful shoppers began retreating in awe, when suddenly, “BOOM, BOOM, BOOM!!!” The loud gunshots were from nearby, as market shoppers on the street began rushing for safety inside the market stalls, while one frightened combatant was tripping and falling down on the street and scrambling back to his feet, and running for his life. All was soon calm, as the warring factions disappeared to who knows where; and normalcy returned to the market. There was no blood on the street, as apparently no one was hurt. Warning shots they must have been, perhaps by a disgusted market vendor, as no uniformed police officer was visible.

In the modern, civilized world of 2022, much has been said about the rights of the child, and the negative effects of corporal punishment. The Bible says, “Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish them with the rod, they will not die” (Proverbs 23:13). But today’s experts have consistently equated corporal punishment with “violence”; and thus, with the influence of first world donors and the international human rights organizations, corporal punishment has been removed from our schools. This is a very controversial topic, and while it is generally acknowledged that “violence begets violence,” it can also be argued that breaking the cycle of violence may sometimes require stern physical measures.

The reality that we need to face in our “Third World” developing country, is that we currently have two co-existing social realities. Just as it has been said that we have a “parallel economy,” so we also have a category of individuals who exist in a world of illegal transactions where violent force or the threat of such is what maintains an apparent peace, that is occasionally broken with cold-blooded executions “for no apparent reason.” Both worlds



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# Belize City's Relief & Supply Management Committee assists thousands of affected families

*The Committee has been going from home to home to assess the needs of families and has so far provided some 5,000 food and care packages.*

by *Khaila Gentle*

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Nov. 7, 2022

The Belize City arm of the Relief and Supply Management Committee (RSMC) has been hard at work getting food, water, and other supplies to all those affected by Hurricane Lisa. The Committee Chair, Ganesha Smith, explained in an interview today the level of effort that goes into providing such large-scale humanitarian aid after a disaster.

The RSMC, which is a committee operating under the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO), has been on the ground working even before Hurricane Lisa made landfall. According to Smith, one of the committee's main roles is to ensure that hurricane shelters are fully stocked before those seeking refuge from the storm arrive at those shelters.

"So, for example, if we use All Saints'—if I am told that 200 persons can be held at All Saints'—then we

would stock that with food, water, and cleaning supplies prior to the storm coming," she said.

Since NEMO gave the all-clear on Thursday, the RSMC has been visiting areas throughout the city that were most affected by the hurricane. There, they conduct assessments to determine what residents are most in need of.

So far, says Smith, approximately 2,300 families have been assessed and some 5,000 food packages have been delivered to them. Some of those residents will also be receiving donations of mattresses.

It is a massive undertaking, and one that will see the committee traveling to each and every constituency within the Belize District to conduct their surveys. According to the Committee Chair, the task is not without its challenges.

"When assessments are completed, when the teams are going back to distribute, persons are not at home, and so it creates an issue when everybody

sees a truck and thinks that they are not getting, but they are not home to receive the items," Smith explained.

The RSMC is pleading with residents who have been assessed to ensure that there is either someone at home or someone who is able to receive their relief packages.

Smith, who is also the Human Development Coordinator at the Department of Human Services, has worked with the Relief and Supply Management Committee for some sixteen years. She says that while the assistance needed by families this time around is not as large as on previous occasions, there has been significant and widespread damage to a number of homes.

Relief efforts are being supported by the Belize Coast Guard as well as the Belize Defence Force, and a number of government ministries. The RSMC is hoping to assist every person



**Ganesha Smith – Chair of the Relief and Supply Management Committee, Belize City**

in need of some form of relief, and according to Smith, they are willing to be on the ground for as long as they are needed.

"We're just asking the general public to be patient with us. We are doing our utmost to reach every family that has been affected. But, like we mentioned earlier, the challenge is that persons are not home, because families think that 'if I go out, I can get better help. I can have them see me. I can have them hear me.' But what we would want them to do is to remain at their location and then we can have persons go in to see them," Smith said.

## Police intensify patrols during/after Hurricane Lisa

by *Charles Gladden*

BELMOPAN, Mon. Nov. 7, 2022

In preparation for the arrival of Hurricane Lisa last week, members of the Belize Police Department were one of the few personnel out on the frontlines patrolling the streets hours before and after the storm to ensure the safety of the Belizean people.

On Monday, October 31, Commissioner of Police, Chester Williams, told members of the local media

that the Belize Police Department (BDP) would be working along with the nation's other armed forces during the storm to conduct search and rescue operations and to ensure that hurricane shelters were manned.

Today, November 7, the COMPOL gave reporters an overview of the operations done by police officers in the wake of Hurricane Lisa.

"As you would know, with every disaster the police do have a role to play, and yes we know the National Emergency

Management Organization (NEMO) was leading the charge in terms of the different activities with public officers; manning of hurricane shelters [and] dealing with search and rescue, but the police, as usual, we had to ensure that we had put in place patrols to patrol the streets of this country until the very last hour before



## People's Constitutional Commission (PCC) to launch next Monday

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Nov. 7, 2022

Today, the Government of Belize announced that the People's Constitutional Commission (PCC) will be officially launched on Monday, November 14—in exactly one week. The legislation enacting the PPC was officially passed a few weeks ago, despite some objections from the community, due to the apparent exclusion of some groups, including the National Kriol Council.

Cesar Ross, Director of the Good Governance Unit, which serves as the secretariat of the People's Constitutional Commission, has confirmed, however, that a representative from the council will be given a seat on the commission.



**People's Constitutional Commission launch date**

The launch of the commission will take place at the steps of the National Assembly Building in Belmopan, starting at 2:00 p.m., the release from the Government Press Office states.



the storm would hit, and that was exactly what we did. After the storm was over, before NEMO gave the all-clear, the police were out on the streets making sure that we maintain [a] presence to avoid those persons who may have wanted to use the opportunity to go and burglarize places, and so the police were out there immediately after the storm," he said.

He added, "... we don't have [many] cases of looting. We do have a few cases of burglaries, but it's not at an alarming rate, I must say. That has a lot to do with the fact that the police maintained our presence on the street until the very last, and again, we're the very first to be on the streets after the storm was over, so that helped tremendously in terms of minimizing the [number] of burglaries."

He did note, however, that it has been difficult for police to prevent the removal/theft of pieces of zinc roofing that were torn off homes during the storm.

"We do have a number of complaints of roof being missing and several people lost their roof, and I don't know how you could determine which roof is yours, and again, that seems

to be an issue. You would see someone walking with zinc and [they say] my roof went, that's his zinc. It's extremely hard to tell which roof is from which building; after all, the zincs they all look alike and so that's not something we could control," he said.

The COMPOL also noted that the homes of several officers, especially those in Belize City, were damaged as a result of the storm. Williams said that he has directed the chair of the trust fund sub-committee to assist the affected officers with a grant of \$1,500.

Additionally, he noted that there was very minimal infrastructural damage to property belonging to the Police Department, besides the flooding of a few precincts.



# COMPOL on curfew after Lisa

**Commissioner of Police, Chester Williams, says many persons were arrested due to the curfew; however, many of them were without electricity due to Hurricane Lisa, so they were unaware of the curfew.**



**Chester Williams, Commissioner of Police**

by Charles Gladden

BELMOPAN, Mon. Nov. 7, 2022

Many residents of Belize City and neighboring communities in the Belize District were without electricity for several days following the landfall of Hurricane Lisa in Belize as a Category 1 storm.

To prevent criminal activity and victimization of persons during the nighttime when darkness covered large areas, a curfew was instituted from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. from Thursday, November 3, to Sunday, November 6, by the Government of Belize. However, a large number of Belize City residents were not aware of the curfew because they had no access to the internet and social media, and could not tune in to radio or television updates due to the power outage, which caused much frustration for Commissioner of Police, Chester Williams.

During an interview with local media on Monday, November 7, Commissioner of Police Chester Williams noted that a significant number of persons were arrested for curfew violations, but that more discretion should have been exercised by the officers who made the arrests in light of the circumstances.

“There were a number of persons who were arrested due to the curfew, and I have an issue with it, for the simple fact that, at the time of the curfew was called, many people were out of current. Some had no internet; they had no

access to social media, and so the information about the existence of the curfew was not widely received by the public, and so many persons were caught off guard, not knowing there was a curfew. That is where I have an issue. I think that the officers ought to have used more discretion considering the circumstance before just arresting people. Yes, I understand they’re doing their job, but there are times [when] we need to be more sympathetic towards the issues of people. These were not persons who were caught long after the curfew hours. It was just after the curfew began, early in the night. I think in the future we need to do better in terms of using our discretion not to criminalize people who were unaware of the existence of a particular law,” he said.

The Police Commissioner went on to state in regard to the task that lies ahead for the Police Department at a time when a number of residents are still without a home or have homes that are without a roof, secure doors or a fence: “We are able to carry out those tasks. We are stretched thin, but we are aware of our mandate to the people and we’re not going to cry and whine over the issue. We’re here to find solutions, and we’re doing just that ... we’re going to ensure that we’re going to patrol as much as we can, especially in those more vulnerable areas, to make sure we don’t give criminals the opportunity they may need to further violate those persons who are vulnerable at this time.”

# The Bahamas braces for sub-tropical storm Nicole

**Nicole is expected to strengthen into a hurricane in the coming days.**

by Khaila Gentle

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Nov. 7, 2022

The formation of sub-tropical storm Nicole has continued the trend of a relatively active November for the 2022 Atlantic Hurricane Season. The storm, forecasted to strengthen into a hurricane later this week, is expected to impact the northern islands of the Bahamas as early as Wednesday.

Acting Prime Minister of the Bahamas, Hon. Chester Cooper, issued a statement on Monday urging residents to not take the storm lightly.

“The late-season storm is a reminder that we’re not out of the woods yet as the Atlantic Hurricane Season continues through November 30th,” he said.

According to meteorologist Brian Shields of Orlando Florida’s WFTV, the entirety of the Bahamas is at risk of flooding. On Monday, the tropical storm watch that had been in effect for a number of the country’s major islands, including Abaco, Bimini, Grand Bahama, and New Providence, was officially upgraded to a hurricane watch.

“Nicole poses an imminent threat to the islands under the warning. Everyone must prepare for the worst. For those who cannot secure themselves at home, please make preparations to move to the nearest storm shelter,” added Hon. Cooper.

The Acting Bahamian Prime Minister has warned against going out to sea, especially in the areas expected to be most affected by the storm.

Along with the Bahamas, Florida’s east coast, where Nicole is expected to make landfall, is also under a hurricane watch. Florida’s governor,



**Acting Bahamian Prime Minister Chester Cooper**



Ron DeSantis, has issued a state of emergency for all counties that are in the potential path of the storm.

Nicole is the fourteenth named system of the 2022 Hurricane Season. Last year’s hurricane season produced a total of thirty named storms, while the previous year saw a total of twenty-one.

# Three men shot at Belize City street corner

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Nov. 7, 2022

On Saturday, November 5, three men were victims of a shooting that took place at the corner of Berkeley Street and Wagner’s Lane in Belize City. The three wounded men were Khalil Heusner, 27; Malique Humes, 26; and Ruben Usher, 21, who were all wounded in the body.

According to police reports, at around 6:55 a.m. that Saturday, the three men were socializing near the street corner when a lone gunman emerged from a nearby alley and fired a number of bullets in their direction.

All three men were taken to the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital, where they were listed in stable condition and later released.

The Deputy Head of the National Crimes Investigation Branch, Senior Superintendent Hilberto Romero,



**Hilberto Romero, Deputy Head, National Crimes Investigation Branch**

told local reporters during Monday’s media press briefing that the three men were the intended targets of the shooter, and it is believed that the shooting was gang-related and was the result of a dispute between the two groups in the area.

Several persons have been detained for the shooting.

## Law and Order after Lisa

**Continued from Page 5** For many years following the catastrophic Hurricane Hattie of October 31, 1961, Belizeans would refer to events in our lifetime as having occurred “before Hattie” or “after Hattie.” It had changed our lives so dramatically, that it had become a benchmark for any other occurrence, like B.C. and A.D. This Lisa was not as cataclysmic as Hattie, but coming as she did right on the heels of the dreaded Covid, the second November will likely be a benchmark in the lives of many young Belizeans, certainly those of Belize City. Give thanks for no loss of life from Lisa! But on the eve of Lisa, another cold-blooded execution occurred, this one in New Site, Dangriga. We do need to take stock of ourselves as a people, Belizeans, and seriously determine how we want to go forward in addressing the genocidal path on which we’ve been trodding over the past three decades.





# Ley y orden después de Lisa

**“¡¡Escuché ‘Putum bum!!’, ¡y la multitud comenzó a dispersarse!”  
– de “Ten To One Is Murder”, de The Mighty Sparrow**

Domingo, 6 de noviembre de 2022

El jueves 3 de noviembre, un día después de que el huracán Lisa azotara la Ciudad de Belize con vientos de más de 90 millas por hora, el primer ministro John Briceño anunció un “toque de queda de las 7:00 p.m. hasta las 6:00 a.m.... en todo el Distrito de Belize, con la excepción de Cayo Ambergris y Cayo Hicaco, desde el jueves 3 de noviembre hasta el domingo 6 de noviembre”.

Explicó que fue decisión del Gabinete “establecer un toque de queda en la noche porque ciertas zonas de la ciudad aún no tienen electricidad”, y fue “para poder mantener las cosas seguras”. Y a medida que la oscuridad envolvió a casi toda la ciudad después del anochecer, hubo un aire de comprensión y aprecio entre la población en general por la decisión. Esto es bastante evidente por la falta de quejas sobre la inconveniencia del toque de queda por parte de las personas que llamaron a los programas de entrevistas locales en los días siguientes, a medida que la campaña de limpieza de varias agencias continuó diariamente a un ritmo frenético. Para el final del período de toque de queda esta noche, domingo, la electricidad y el alumbrado público, así como el agua, se habían restablecido en casi toda la Ciudad de Belize y las aldeas circundantes.

La gran mayoría de los beliceños son respetuosos de la ley y, a pesar de las quejas ocasionales sobre la brutalidad policial o el abuso de su autoridad, la mayoría de los ciudadanos preferirían vivir en una sociedad en la que la policía haga cumplir la ley y el orden, que en una situación en la que no haya autoridad legal, y aquellos inclinados a un comportamiento violento y grosero pueden invadir y perturbar descaradamente la convivencia pacífica de los ciudadanos respetuosos de la ley que se ocupan de sus asuntos diarios.

En el mundo moderno y civilizado de 2022, mucho se ha hablado sobre los derechos del niño y los efectos negativos del castigo corporal. La Biblia dice: “No escatimes la disciplina del niño; aunque lo castigues con vara, no morirá” (Proverbios 23:13). Pero los expertos de hoy han equiparado consistentemente el castigo corporal con la “violencia”; y así, con la influencia de los donantes del primer mundo y las organizaciones internacionales de derechos humanos, el castigo corporal ha sido eliminado de nuestras escuelas. Este es un tema muy controvertido, y aunque generalmente se reconoce que “la violencia engendra violencia”, también se puede argumentar que romper el ciclo de violencia a veces puede requerir medidas físicas severas.

La realidad que debemos enfrentar en nuestro país del “Tercer Mundo” en desarrollo, es que actualmente tenemos dos realidades sociales coexistentes. Así como se ha dicho que tenemos una “economía paralela”, también tenemos una categoría de individuos que existen en un mundo de transacciones ilegales donde la fuerza violenta o la amenaza de la misma es lo que mantiene una paz aparente, que ocasionalmente se rompe con ejecuciones a sangre fría “sin motivo aparente”. Ambos mundos ocupan el mismo espacio; caminamos por las mismas calles, compramos en las mismas tiendas, asistimos a eventos recreativos similares; pero de vez en cuando la diferencia surge en las acciones y el comportamiento de quienes viven en “otro mundo”.

Hay muchos ciudadanos beliceños trabajadores que realizan sus tareas diarias con sinceridad y esperanza de un mañana mejor. Viven y trabajan para proporcionar el sustento a sus hijos con “el sudor de su frente”, cualquiera que sea su honesta ocupación; y todos a su manera hacen una contribución positiva al mejoramiento de nuestra Joya.

Incluso aquellos en el “otro mundo” que están comprometidos en varios niveles de la “economía paralela” también hacen su contribución a la nación compartiendo sus ganancias con amigos y parientes. Parte de la pobreza también se alivia con las contribuciones de estos “soldados” cuyo único “trabajo pesado” implica el movimiento de dinero en efectivo o drogas ilegales.

Sin embargo, un aspecto inevitable de este tipo de ocupación que se nutre de las afiliaciones a pandillas es que actualmente es ilegal y, por lo

tanto, los asuntos deben resolverse “en casa” en lugar de buscar la ayuda de la policía. La tasa de asesinatos es tan alta en Belize porque en esta categoría de personas involucradas en este tipo de negocios, las diferencias serias a menudo conducen a una violencia mortal en lugar de una acción judicial.

Además, la situación se complica porque “una cosa lleva a la otra”, y con la proliferación de armas de fuego pequeñas en el negocio de las drogas ilegales, esas armas pronto también están disponibles para atracos, robos, allanamientos de morada y similares.

Se dice que cuando el profeta Mahoma “nació en La Meca, la capital de Arabia, alrededor del año 570, se encontró en medio de un pueblo formado por cien tribus guerreras, herederas de una tradición politeísta, que habían resistido todos los esfuerzos en la evangelización y que consideraban la batalla como la única ocupación apta para los hombres. Tal era la raza a la que Mahoma debía convertir al monoteísmo y unir en un grupo inquebrantable de hermanos, cuya unidad se basaba en su fe religiosa”. (de *Christ and Bahá'u'lláh* de George Townsend)

Hay un momento para todo, y una situación a veces exige una acción severa.

Townsend cita a T.W. Arnold en “*The Preaching of Islam*” [La predicación del Islam], donde dijo: “Las tribus árabes se vieron así impulsadas a someterse al Profeta, no solo como jefe de la fuerza militar más poderosa de Arabia, sino como exponente de una teoría de vida social que estaba haciendo a todos los demás débiles e ineficaces. Mahoma había logrado introducir en la sociedad anárquica de su tiempo un sentimiento de unidad nacional, una conciencia de los derechos y deberes mutuos que los árabes no habían sentido antes” (págs. 40-41).

En Belize, nuestros políticos y la policía han intentado muchas cosas para resolver nuestra situación de delincuencia y violencia, que tiene mucho que ver con la pobreza y quizás más con las drogas ilegales, pero es posible que se necesite un nuevo enfoque. Primero, deben llamar la atención de esta categoría de individuos que actualmente no tienen miedo a la “prisión” y por lo tanto son audaces en su comportamiento antisocial.

En el medio de la calle en el extremo sur del mercado Michael Finnegan el sábado pasado, aparentemente se había desarrollado cierta animosidad entre un joven y otra persona, e involucró el lanzamiento vicioso de varias botellas de cerveza, y luego una bicicleta fue aventada al adversario, y pronto otro joven se unió a la pelea, y otro, y la locura de los dos grupos en guerra se precipitaba por la calle hacia el norte hacia la entrada principal del mercado donde los compradores pacíficos comenzaron a retirarse con asombro, cuando de repente, “¡¡BUM, BUM, BUM!!!” Los fuertes disparos provenían de cerca, mientras los compradores del mercado en la calle comenzaban a correr para ponerse a salvo dentro de los puestos del mercado, al mismo tiempo que un combatiente asustado tropezaba y caía en la calle y se volvía a poner de pie y corría para salvar su vida. Todo estuvo pronto en calma, ya que las facciones en guerra desaparecieron a quién sabe dónde; y la normalidad volvió al mercado. No había sangre en la calle, ya que aparentemente nadie resultó herido. Deben haber sido disparos de advertencia, tal vez por parte de un disgustado vendedor del mercado, ya que no se veía a ningún oficial de policía uniformado.

Durante muchos años después del catastrófico huracán Hattie del 31 de octubre de 1961, los beliceños se referirían a los eventos de nuestra vida como ocurridos “antes de Hattie” o “después de Hattie”. Había cambiado nuestras vidas tan dramáticamente que se había convertido en un punto de referencia para cualquier otro suceso, como B.C. y A.D. Esta Lisa no fue tan cataclísmica como Hattie, pero debido a que llegó justo después del temido Covid, el segundo noviembre probablemente será un punto de referencia en la vida de muchos jóvenes beliceños, ciertamente los de la Ciudad de Belize. ¡Damos gracias por ninguna pérdida de vida debido a Lisa! Pero en la víspera de Lisa, ocurrió otra ejecución a sangre fría, esta en New Site, Dangriga. Necesitamos hacer un balance de nosotros mismos como pueblo, beliceños, y determinar seriamente cómo queremos avanzar para abordar el camino genocida que hemos estado recorriendo las últimas tres décadas.



# Lisa raced through the West, but halved its speed over Belize City

by Colin Hyde

Strong winds and rain from Tropical Storm Lisa lashed Camalote and its surrounds for about three hours on Wednesday night, beginning a little after 5:00 p.m. That's right; when Lisa reached here it had lost hurricane strength, and on top of that the eye passed north of us, about 18 miles from Belmopan. Of course, it was still scary stuff; there's always the concern about surprise gusts that can make the best preparations look like *shish*.

The wind up here came mainly from the west, and briefly from the north. There's a much eroded awning on my porch that I didn't expect to make it. I nailed a sheet of zinc over a portion of it, but I needn't have. The wind didn't even touch it. I know coconut trees are no pushover, but I expected my in-laws' two to topple, because they are on the edge of a drain. They shed their nuts, but the fronds aren't even wind-damaged.

I didn't hear the howling baboons on Wednesday night. That's the way Hurricane Earl sounded when it barreled through here on the night of August 4, 2016. The Weather Underground (WU) archives say when Earl came through, it was still at hurricane strength, and the eye passed less than 10 miles from Belmopan. To add to its fury, Earl,

unlike Lisa, was edging to the south. Whoa, I'm making my calculations on an RF&G "hurricane" map, so please to give me an inch if I'm not entirely accurate.

According to (WU), Hurricane Lisa came fast and didn't leave Belize City and Belize Rural in a hurry. For much of its journey to shore, from tropical storm to hurricane, Lisa was traveling at a fairly rapid 12 to 14 miles per hour clip.

Using the (WU) tracker to follow the path of Lisa, at 6:00 p.m. on Monday it was tracking west and was a little over 600 miles from Belize. At 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, Lisa was about 260 miles from Belize, with a due west course taking her just south of Hopkins. But Lisa was veering north, and 15 hours later, at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, her eye was about 75 miles from land, with a due west course taking her just north of Gales Point.

Lisa continued edging north, and at noon on Wednesday her coordinates were 17.3 N and 87.7 W, which put her eye between Gales Point and Belize City, and less than 40 miles from the coast. By noon Belize City was already beginning to experience gusts from Lisa. A little after 3:00 p.m., her eye, still edging north, crossed the coast just 10 miles south of Belize City. Between 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Lisa slowed to

a cruel crawl, about 7.5 mph. The battering of Belize City would continue until around 6:00 p.m.

## A rare bad story about trees

The Father of the Nation was a tree man, like Joyce Kilmer, who penned a much celebrated poem about their virtues. We are all so dependent on trees, for the clean air we breathe, for their tasty fruits and nuts, and glorious flowers. But trees can become a menace when they are in the wrong place, or not properly cared for.

We know of trees that grow so big that their roots extend under houses and rip their foundation apart. We know of trees that break up in bad storms and become missiles that smash into houses and cars and electric poles. And we know of trees in neighbors' yards that lead to animosity which could erupt into fisticuffs if sturdy fences don't separate them.

Though the storm didn't linger in my village, a number of trees snapped like twigs or were uprooted. In the plant category, the cassava patch and apple bananas in my backyard got shredded, but my coco yam and sweet potato plants, it was like only a zephyr passed over them.

The damage caused by falling/breaking trees in Belize City and the villages in the Belize District was enormous. In the aftermath of Lisa, some laws will have to be made or revised. We have to change with the times. I believe no pigs or cows are allowed in Belize City. There was a time when my paternal family had cattle on land that is now called Collet, Port Loyola, and Lake I.

It would be good if an estimate is made of the damage directly related to trees breaking. When the full cost of letting trees grow as they will is presented, it will be easier for the authorities to get us to comply with rules that limit the height and girth of trees in populated areas, and their nearness to power lines.

## US tree laws and a mean neighbor

I was in a family member's yard some years back, and I took a mango from a tree that had its trunk outside of his fence, in a neighbor's yard. That having been established, that the tree didn't belong to my family member, we'll skip the part where the mango wasn't worth a daam, except when no mango noh deh. If you've had Hayden, Julie, Thundershaw (don't know if that's jos a local name), Alphonso, or

the awesome Blue, you'd hate it. If I'd known that mango was a dud I would have left it on the limb hanging over my family member's yard, to rot.

Can you believe the neighbor challenged me for harvesting "his" mango? I can't explain the hate in his heart. Maybe he thought he had planted a prize and after waiting five years for the first fruits, he was let down. He might have planned on winning some delightful girl's heart with a dozen of his select mangoes. I bet if he had given one to a young lady, she would have stoned him with it.

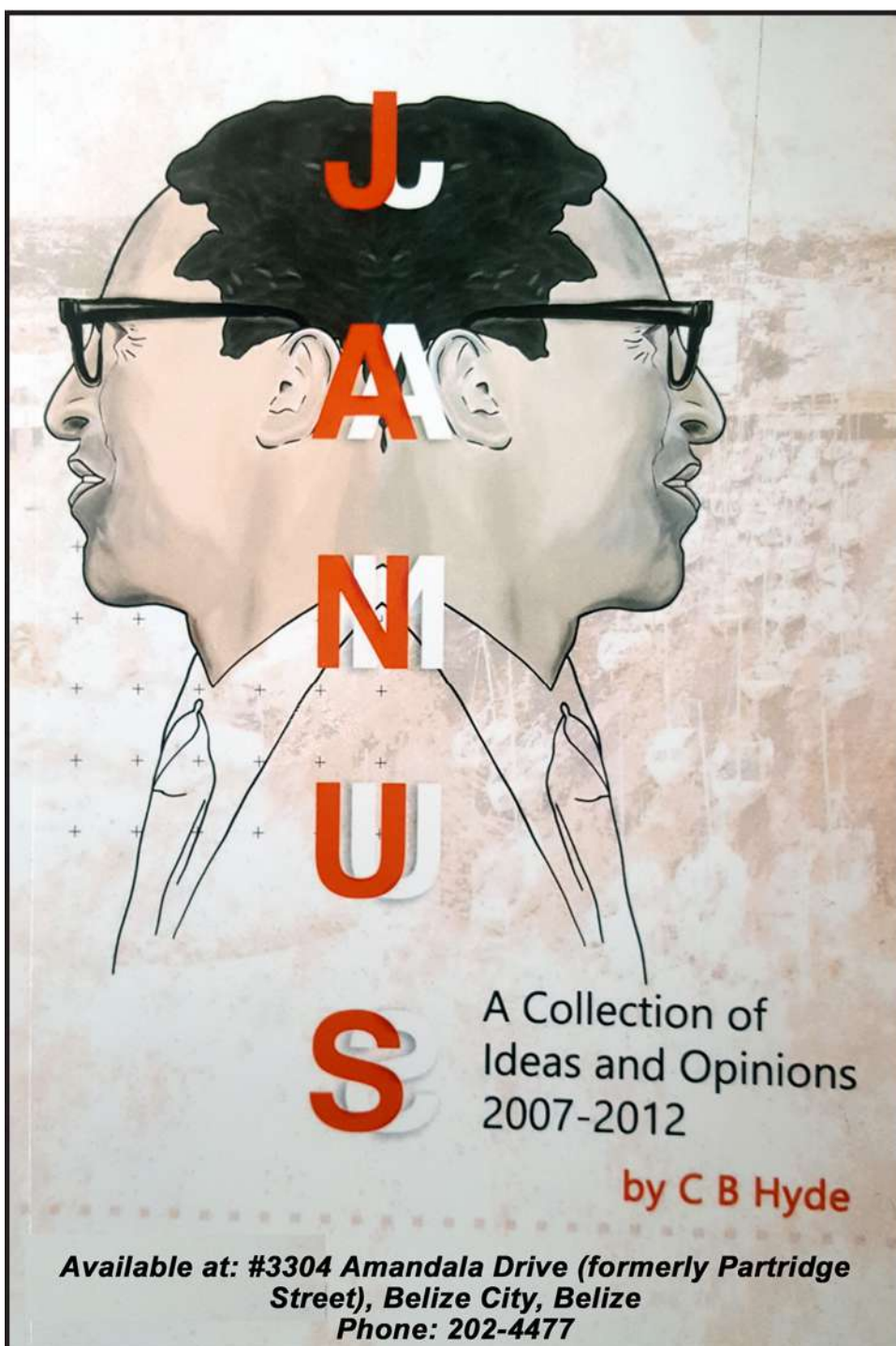
What's with that guy, his objection to my taking a mango off a tree with the trunk in his yard? My gudnis, HALF the tree and roots are in my family member's yard! People, sometimes it's hard to believe people.

Hmm, I know that like me, you think I was terribly wronged. Whoa there, can you believe that if I lived in the US I might have been flirting with jail? *FindLaw*, a US real estate legal aid on the web, said that when it comes to picking fruit from a tree hanging over your yard, the laws vary by state. What? Yap, in that country you need to "check your local laws to see if you can eat any fruit that falls off the tree."

If a neighbor's tree is a daam nuisance to you, you have license to trim it, up to the property line. If leaves from your neighbor's tree cause a nuisance, they are yours to pick up, because they are considered a "natural product." If the tree grows in the middle of the boundary, it belongs to both yards, and it cannot be removed without the approval of all concerned. If you do anything in your yard that causes your neighbor's tree to die, you are liable. You are responsible for trees that cause a threat to your neighbor, but if the tree is properly maintained and it breaks by an "Act of God", you might be off the hook.

You can file a nuisance claim if your neighbor doesn't properly maintain their tree. If the tree's roots threaten your property, you are allowed in most US states to trim them, and some states allow you to sue if you suffer any property damage.

The neighbor who got cross because I took a lowly common mango from a limb hanging in my family member's yard, I don't know if he had lived in the US, or there is some crazy law on our books that disallows harvesting from branches that hang over your yard. There is an old story in Belize City about a man who used to stop children from picking up kraabu that fell from his tree onto the street. My family member's neighbor must be his son.



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# CARICOM MINISTERIAL STATEMENT AHEAD OF COP 27

Ministers of the Environment and Sustainable Development of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), met at the One Hundred and Fifth Special Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) – Environment and Sustainable Development, on Friday 28 October 2022.

The Ministers considered the scientific and geopolitical context and the prospects of a global recession in 2023 which will have significant bearing on global action to address the polycrises of climate, energy, food, health, environment, development and security;

They reiterated that global warming represents an existential threat to CARICOM and reaffirmed their full commitment to limit the increase in global temperature to well below 1.5 degrees Celsius;

The Ministers recalled that even prior to the current ongoing geopolitical disruptions in Eurasia, temperatures were slated to increase by 2.7 degrees by 2050 or 3.1 degrees by the year 2100 which would cause higher seas, stronger storms, extinction of plants and animals and increased deaths from heat, smog and infectious diseases.

In this regard, they also recalled that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Report on Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability released earlier this year, confirmed that irreversible damage is already occurring to natural ecosystems, communities, and human rights, and will accelerate exponentially in terms of scale and pace if global temperature rise surpasses 1.5°C. The IPCC noted that the window of opportunity to correct course for 1.5 degree Celsius is narrow and constrained to the current decade. However, the recent UN Report on the Nationally Determined Contributions confirms that the world is off track, heading to an increase in emissions by 2030, and projecting end of century warming way beyond 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Ministers assessed the signals from major economies' responses to the current crises relative to their commitments under the Paris Agreement. They considered these signals to be dire. No major emitter has strengthened emissions targets pursuant to the call of the Glasgow Climate Pact (the Pact), and specifically the Paris Agreement long term temperature goal of 1.5°C. There is emergent information that fossil fuel subsidies have continued to increase amongst the Group of 20 as a whole and that the Group of Seven is considering new investments in coal and gas which represent a reversal of commitments under the Pact.

The Ministers expressed serious concern that halving emissions by 2030 will be compromised and that achieving net zero by 2050 will be missed. For CARICOM, any commitment delayed worsens its economic and climate reality. In this context, Ministers highlighted the region's top priorities ahead of COP27. They considered the Sharm El-Sheikh Conference as the last global political moment in 2022 to recover the 1.5-degree narrative and to mark a turning point for ambition and for action especially as the world confronts multiple crises all at once.

The Ministers welcomed the opportunity to meet in Sharm El-Sheikh and expressed solidarity with Egypt in hosting an "Africa COP". Appreciating

the similar challenges that Africa and CARICOM face in financing adaptation to the ever-accelerating human induced climate change crisis even as countries of the region transition to low carbon economies, the Ministers endorsed adaptation as a high priority for the region. Ministers further called for the COP27 to make remarkable progress on elevating ambition for adaptation on equal footing with increased efforts for mitigation action.

They also endorsed the importance of maintaining the pressure for developed countries to take the lead in increasing mitigation, ambition and associated action, and for other major emitters to join in the ambition for maintaining the Paris Agreement limit of 1.5 degrees. They also supported the calls for greater investment and collaboration for a Just Transition agenda.

The Ministers noted that financing for the Region's sustainable development and climate secure future is of paramount importance. As the Region's small and highly vulnerable states continue to adapt, building its social resilience is even more critical. Both public and private sectors are on the frontline of increasingly intense hurricanes, floods, longer periods of drought, and intense heatwaves. The Ministers highlighted the need to catapult increasing investments in more resilient public transportation systems, emergency and disaster preparedness mechanisms, water and sanitation sectors, public health systems, agriculture, renewable energy, housing, land use, education and training as well as social safety nets.

The Ministers noted that, domestic resources are being stretched to the limits as the Region confronts a constant cycle of financing disaster recovery and rebuilding, even as it endeavours to develop low carbon, climate resilient pathways.

The Ministers emphasized that it is therefore critical that developed countries deliver on their goal to achieve the US\$100 billion floor per year by 2023 and make a commitment to a transformative new climate finance goal in 2025. They reiterated the call for climate finance to be disbursed in addition to Official Development Assistance (ODA) and in the form of grants over loans so as not to adversely impact the debt profile of low-income and vulnerable countries.

Ministers underscored that the current climate and development finance architecture is not fit for purpose. It is exceedingly complex, does not operate efficiently, effectively, or fairly, neither at the speed and scale needed to address the urgent and pressing challenges faced by SIDS. Because many CARICOM Member States do not qualify for concessional funding due to a systemic reliance by international financial institutions and donors on GNI per capita for eligibility, they are forced to borrow to survive a crisis which they did not instigate. CARICOM considers that the application of GNI per capita undermines the global commitment to SIDS that have international status as a special case for sustainable development and the environment. CARICOM has been leading the charge to make the global development and climate finance architecture more responsive to the unprecedented needs of especially the most vulnerable such as the SIDS. To this end, CARICOM at the global level, through the United Nations, and regionally,

through the Caribbean Development Bank, is advancing alternative metrics which take account of the Region's vulnerabilities and susceptibilities to broaden access to affordable funding. Its Member States are also at the forefront of pioneering innovative approaches to public and private finance for building resilience and catalysing transformative climate action.

Ministers were gravely concerned for the cumulative impacts and compounding risks that are increasingly exacerbating loss and damage in the region. They reiterated their disappointment with the paucity of action at COP26 to respond to the SIDS demands to finally remedy the gap in finance for addressing loss and damage. They expressed with solemnity their firm resolve that COP27 must deliver on loss and damage finance.

The issue of loss and damage has for a long time been a priority of SIDS in general and CARICOM played a pivotal role in 2015, in Paris, to ensure that the issue was not lost from the Paris Agreement. Ministers also expressed their mounting concern about the absence of the requisite finding from the Developed countries in addressing the matter of Loss and Damage as dictated by the Climate Change Convention and the Paris Agreement. It is of significant concern that Loss and Damage has lagged far behind progress on mitigation and adaptation within the UNFCCC. To date, Loss and Damage has no specific funding stream, and has been found, through subsequent reviews, to be an area where the UNFCCC has much work to do. It remains a priority to the region and a pivotal axis for success in Sharm El-Sheikh.

CARICOM endorsed the following way forward for adoption at COP27: 1) a smooth adoption of the Finance agenda sub-item titled, "Funding arrangements to address loss and damage", before work begins; 2) acknowledgement of the gaps in existing funding arrangements, especially under the UNFCCC, as well as the urgent and immediate need for new, additional, adequate and predictable financial resources to assist developing countries to meet the cost of the ex-post responses to loss and damage; 3) an agreement to establish a new, fit-for-purpose multilateral fund designated as an operating entity of the UNFCCC Financial Mechanism; and 4) a commitment for the further design and operationalize the multilateral fund through an ad-hoc committee for intersessional work. The outcome of the Fund's design and set up would then be completed by COP28 in 2023. The UNFCCC must protect the most vulnerable states in a just transition, leaving no one behind, or risk being viewed as a critical failure in the system.

Specifically in relation to climate change, the IPCC has advised that the mitigation potential of SIDS relative to their contributions to global greenhouse gas emissions, remains limited while they are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of human-induced climate change. Additionally, the United Nations has stated that SIDS are being disproportionately and increasingly impacted by climate change while their special circumstances make them extremely vulnerable to other external shocks such as geopolitical tensions, market volatilities, supply disruptions and

the COVID-19 pandemic.

Finally, the Ministers recognized that COP 27 will mark the end of a four-year period of CARICOM's leadership of AOSIS. The region was privileged to witness and support the Chairmanship of Belize followed by Antigua and Barbuda and commend them for the excellent work done over the past four years. Going forward, CARICOM will continue to ensure that its voice remains strong within the AOSIS and the Group of 77 and China negotiating blocs. CARICOM looks forward to working with the incoming chairs of Samoa and Palau, respectively, to ensure that no opportunity is lost to make significant strides in the campaign to keep global warming well below the limits of 1.5 degree Celsius and to give us all a fighting chance to survive.

First published by CARICOM

## Woman found dead on Hummingbird...

Continued from Page 3

November 2, had indicated, based on the description of the clothing that the deceased woman was wearing, that the dead woman was likely Florian.

Florian's body was transported to the Western Regional Hospital, where she was pronounced dead, and it was later taken to the National Forensic Science Service (NFSS), where it will undergo a post-mortem examination to determine the cause of her death.

Police have listed the case as a death investigation based on the evidence they have gathered.

## Reopening of several schools delayed...

Continued from Page 4

Teachers Union (BNTU), has been putting together a list of those in need of support and assistance.

"Those teachers are also asked to communicate with their principals to be allowed days off to take care of their personal affairs. These teachers will not be required to apply for UPAs; permission will be given through principals and management," said the Ministry on Sunday.

In its two-page press release, the Ministry addressed the fact that returning to normal immediately following a disastrous event such as a hurricane is no easy feat, including for students. The Ministry says that it recognizes that many students have been impacted and some may not be able to attend school because they have lost their home, clothing, or books and may even be suffering from trauma. Counseling and psychological services will be provided to any teacher or student in need.

"The ministry understands the importance of taking care of both physical and mental health, especially," said the release.



# German MP says it was stupid to challenge Russia



by Clinton Canul Luna

Permit me, our dear readers of this column, to present to you the following report, which I find to be of utmost interest, that was posted on YouTube on September 6 by Noticias Mundo, under the heading in Spanish, “Alemania admite que es la mas estúpida por retar a Rusia”. It is as follows:

## German MP says that challenging Russia was stupid

“Germany is the stupidest for challenging Russia,” admits a German MP. A German parliamentarian has questioned her country’s hostile policies towards Russia at a time when energy prices continue to rise in that country. “Germany’s

government is the stupidest in Europe for having entered into a real economic war against the main supplier of energy, Russia,” criticized the left-wing German deputy Sarha Wagenknecht. “The biggest problem is his grandiose idea of launching an unprecedented economic war against our most important energy provider,” she said. Speaking in the course of a session of the German central parliament, Wagenknecht described the Ukrainian conflict as a crime and pointed out that anti-Russian sanctions from the West have had fatal consequences for Germany. Moreover, she demanded the end of the sanctions campaign against Russia and the resignation of Deputy Chancellor and Minister of Economy

of Germany, Robert Habeck. “The idea of punishing Russian President Vladimir Putin by impoverishing millions of families in Germany and destroying our industry while Gazprom is making record profits, how stupid is that?” she said. Since the beginning of the Russian military operation in Ukraine on February 24, the European Union and its Western allies have imposed several waves of restrictive measures and sanctions against the Eurasian country, including an embargo on Russian oil and gas, which has caused serious shortages of energy on the continent. Given this situation, the German left and different political parties in the country continue to show

their disapproval of the country’s economic situation. Moreover, Germany has recently been the scene of protests motivated by constant price increases in all areas of daily life. From another angle, Russia warns that Western sanctions are adding fuel to the fire of the conflict and causing a global energy and economic crisis.

[fincasolan@gmail.com](mailto:fincasolan@gmail.com)  
November 6, 2022  
Finca Solana  
Corozal Town

# Belize City’s Hurricane Lisa cleanup campaign continues

Continued from Page 1

In an interview with KREM News’ Marisol Amaya today, Mayor Wagner spoke on the devastation that struck the city last Wednesday with the passage of Hurricane Lisa. He noted that the assessments done by the Council show that many residents will be facing an uphill battle when it comes to recovering from the effects of the storm.

From the very moment that the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) first gave the all-clear on Thursday, the Mayor and his team at the City Council have been on the ground doing what they can to provide relief to residents.

“From this hurricane, it has been constant for us here at City Hall. Just last night, the emergency operations center was able to close down its operations, given the fact that all those that were in the shelters have now left. Those residents who lost their homes, through the Human Development Office, have been relocated via rent—they’ve been able to pay rent for them for, I believe, three months until they can get their homes back in order,” Mayor Wagner said.

The cleanup campaign was launched on Friday and was bolstered by the service of close to 300 Belize Defence Force soldiers, along with the support of an extensive list of public and private sector partners. Those included the Orange Walk Town Council, the San Pedro Town Council, the National Fire Service, the Department of the Environment, the San Ignacio/Santa Elena Town Council, Teichroeb & Sons Ltd, GEL Quarry Co. Ltd, the Belize Coast Guard, Belize Roadway

Construction Ltd., and Belize Water Services, to name just a few.

The campaign has been a display of solidarity that supersedes politics and partisanship, as pointed out by Mayor Wagner when asked about the show of support from UDP politicians such as Mayor Earl Trapp, the mayor of the Cayo District’s twin towns.

“We all serve the people. The people don’t want to hear about this red or this blue during disaster. The people want to hear what you will do for them ... and Mayor Trapp answered the [call],” he said.

As of Sunday, the Belize City Council and its partners had cleared debris and mud from more than thirty streets. But according to Mayor



donation drive being held Monday afternoon. Likewise, the Dangriga Town Council, in addition to being on the ground for the cleanup campaign, has provided the City Council with a large donation of clothing.

To add to this, Prime Minister John Briceño last week, during an emergency Cabinet meeting, committed to providing the city with food pantries, in addition to allowing local area representatives access to funds needed to bring relief to their constituencies. The Prime Minister, on Friday, joined the City Council for day two of its cleanup campaign.

“People have genuine needs. People are facing hard economic times, and it has become even harder with Lisa, and so we as leaders have to be there. I told the Prime Minister it’s very critical that we be at our best—that we move fast. We were able to do that. Within four days after Lisa passed, the mobilization of all this heavy-duty equipment and manpower to be able to take out over ten thousand tons of debris out of the city—that’s remarkable,” said the Mayor.

But while tons of debris have been removed from the city, Mayor Wagner says that there is still much more work to be done. He noted that while many of the city’s main streets have been

cleared, numerous side streets have yet to be tackled. The City Council has asked residents to exercise patience and to rest assured that their areas will be cleaned.

Elsewhere, many establishments damaged during the storm have begun their own cleanup and recovery efforts. That includes Sister Cecilia’s Home for the Elderly, whose roof is being rebuilt with the help of numerous volunteers, including Carpenter Woodworks in the Orange Walk District. Meanwhile, at Saint Catherine Academy, students and staff began their day with prayer before moving the accumulated dirt and mud from parts of the campus.

The Belize Zoo, which suffered extensive damage, will be closed for quite some time while they recover. Nevertheless, the zoo continues to provide care for all the animals that are housed there and is asking for monetary donations to aid their recovery and repair efforts.

The losses resulting from Hurricane Lisa have been tremendous. And according to Mayor Wagner, many City Council employees suffered significant losses and damages as well.

“The City will be here to help our staff to get their homes back in order and to provide relief, provide pantry wherever possible for our staff to get back on their feet,” he said.



## REGIONAL & INTERNATIONAL

### US charges Haitian gang leaders over kidnappings, offers reward

*US offers up to \$1m reward for information leading to the capture or conviction of 400 Mawozo and Kraze Barye gang leaders.*

The United States has announced charges against a total of seven Haitian gang leaders for their alleged involvement in the kidnappings of US citizens, as Washington heaps pressure on armed groups and others contributing to a security crisis on the Caribbean island.

The US Department of Justice said on Monday that it charged three Haitian citizens with “conspiracy to commit hostage taking and hostage taking” for their roles in the abduction of a group of Christian missionaries near Port-au-Prince last year.

Sixteen American missionaries and one Canadian were abducted in October 2021 by a powerful criminal gang known as 400 Mawozo after they visited an orphanage east of the Haitian capital, local authorities said.

Two leaders of 400 Mawozo – Lanmo Sanjou, also known as Joseph Wilson, and Jermaine Stephenson, also known as Gaspiyay – were charged, the US Justice Department said, along with the leader of the Kraze Barye gang, Vitel’homme Innocent.

“According to the indictment, Innocent worked together with 400 Mawozo in the hostage taking,” the department said in a statement, adding that four more Haitian citizens who lead three separate gangs were also charged in relation to two other kidnappings of US citizens in Haiti.

Meanwhile, the US Department of State offered a reward of up to \$1m each for information that will lead to the arrest or convictions of Sanjou, Stephenson and Innocent. The three men are believed to still be in Haiti, the Justice Department said.

“The United States supports the efforts of our Haitian law enforcement partners seeking to enforce rule of law in Haiti and combat transnational organized crime which continues to be a driving factor in worsening the humanitarian and security situation,” Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a statement announcing the reward.

“These actions are part of the United States’ commitment to support the people of Haiti as they bear the brunt of the crisis.”

Haiti has experienced a surge in violence in the political vacuum created by the July 2021 assassination of President Jovenel Moise, with armed groups battling for control of key roads and infrastructure.

In recent weeks, gangs have blockaded a key petrol terminal in Port-au-Prince, leading to fuel and water shortages, and complicating the nation’s



**Jimmy “Barbecue” Cherizier**

response to an outbreak of cholera.

On Sunday, the leader of the powerful G9 Haitian gang alliance, Jimmy “Barbecue” Cherizier, said that fuel trucks could approach the Varreux terminal without fear for their safety.

“Once again, the drivers and employees of the Varreux terminal can come down without fear,” Cherizier, who was recently sanctioned by the United Nations Security Council, said in a video circulating online. “We’ve decided among us ... to allow for the gas to be released.”

Haitian police on Friday said they had retaken control of the terminal after confronting the gangs in the area. It was still not evident when fuel would begin flowing.

The gang’s blockade cut off access to about 38 million litres (10 million gallons) of diesel and gasoline and more than 3 million litres (800,000 gallons) of kerosene, forcing gas stations to close, hospitals to cut back on critical services, and banks and grocery stores to operate on a limited schedule.

Haiti’s acting Prime Minister Ariel Henry last month asked the international community to help set up a “specialised armed force” to help quell the violence and restore security – a call backed by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

Haitian civil society groups have raised staunch opposition to the prospect of a foreign force coming into the country, saying such interventions have historically brought more harm than good.

But the situation on the streets of Port-au-Prince has continued to deteriorate, and the US has been holding talks towards setting up a “non-UN, international security assistance mission” in the country.

Meanwhile, US President Joe Biden’s administration has announced a series of measures it says aim to tackle insecurity in Haiti. Last week, the US and Canada sanctioned two Haitian politicians over their alleged involvement in gang violence and drug trafficking.

*First published by Al Jazeera*

### Bolsonaro tells protesting truckers to clear roads



**A long line of trucks take part in a blockade on a highway on the outskirts of Sao Paulo on 2 November**

*by Alys Davies*

**Brazil’s President Jair Bolsonaro has appealed to truckers protesting against Sunday’s election results to clear the roads and protest elsewhere.**

Supporters of the far-right president have erected hundreds of roadblocks across Brazil since it was announced that Mr Bolsonaro’s left-wing rival Lula won the election.

Mr Bolsonaro said blocking roads was not a part of “legitimate” protests.

He encouraged people to choose other ways of demonstrating.

Many hardcore Bolsonaro supporters have refused to accept the result of Sunday’s presidential run-off, which saw former president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva narrowly win with 50.9% of valid votes.

Angry with the result, lorry drivers set up blockades across the country. They have so far lasted three days and have caused considerable disruption to the transport of goods, including food and fuel.

Police have struggled to contain all of the blockades, although the federal highway police said more than 700 had now been dismantled.

Addressing the blockades in a video posted on his Twitter account on Wednesday, Mr Bolsonaro said: “I know

you are upset... Me too. But we have to keep our heads straight.

“I want to make an appeal: clear the roads,” he said, adding that blocking roads “obstructs our right to come and go, which is in our constitution”.

However, he encouraged protesters to find other means of demonstrating and welcomed the various rallies that have been held in his support, in which people have displayed Brazilian flags and chanted anti-Lula slogans.

Some have also called for military intervention to keep Mr Bolsonaro in power.

“This is very welcome and is part of democracy,” he said.

Although Mr Bolsonaro has still not publicly conceded defeat, in a speech on Tuesday, he did not contest the election result either.

He also agreed to the transition of power in the speech, which Brazil’s Supreme Court said shortly afterwards showed that he had recognised the result of the election.

Mr Bolsonaro’s term as president will end when Lula is inaugurated as his successor on 1 January.

Lula, who previously served as president from 2003 to 2010, is now 77 and will become the oldest person to assume the post.

*First published by BBC News*

### Peru: Police clash with protesters in capital Lima

*by James FitzGerald*

**Riot police used tear gas to disperse protesters in Peru’s capital Lima, as thousands of people took part in anti-government marches across the country.**

Demonstrators want embattled President Pedro Castillo to resign over allegations of corruption.

The left-wing leader, who unexpectedly won power last year, is the subject of six criminal investigations - but denies any wrongdoing.

Peru faces a number of economic issues, including spiralling living costs.

The country was disproportionately badly hit by Covid-19, and poverty levels are forecast to remain above pre-pandemic levels for the next two years,



**Protest in Peru**

according to the World Bank.

Mr Castillo won the presidency promising to narrow the gap between the rich and the poor, but a Congress dominated by opposition lawmakers has blocked many of his plans.

One of Saturday’s protesters told the Reuters news agency she was taking part for the sake of her children and grandchildren, because “this





## PLB home-and-away semi-final playoffs kick off this weekend

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Nov. 7, 2022  
 Postponed from last weekend due to Hurricane Lisa, the Premier League of Belize (PLB) 2022-2023 Opening Season semi-finals kick off this weekend with the 1st Leg of the home-and-away series.

PLB semi-final 1st Leg schedule:  
Saturday, November 12  
 7:30 p.m. – San Pedro Pirates FC vs Verdes FC – Ambergris Stadium  
Sunday, November 13  
 3:30 p.m. – Progresso FC vs Altitude FC – People’s Stadium

## SCA and SJC are Central Secondary Schools Volleyball Champions 2022

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Oct. 31, 2022  
 The Central Secondary Schools Sports Association (CSSSA) 2022 Volleyball Championship culminated on Thursday and Friday, October 27 and 28, at the Mexico Center courts where the female and male championships were held on successive days. And the SCA girls and SJC boys maintained their dominance over the sport in their Central Zone.

25-4, 25-13, 25-9; (M) SJC def. WES, 25-8, 25-7, 25-14.  
Tue. Oct. 25 - (F) BHS def. PHS, 25-12, 25-23, 25-14; (M) NHS def. EPY, 25-20, 25-15, 25-22.

Wednesday was a rest day for volleyball.

### FEMALE VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Thurs. Oct. 27 – (3rd Place Match) (F) PHS def. EPY, 25-15, 25-11, 23-25, 22-25, 16-14; (Championship Match) (F) SCA def. BHS, 25-10, 25-20, 25-17.

### MALE VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Fri. Oct. 28 – (3rd Place Match) (M) EPY def. WES, 25-10, 25-13, 25-16; (Championship Match) (M) SJC def. NHS, 25-9, 25-12, 25-16.

(Information courtesy Mrs. Barbara Cadle Lanza of National Sports Council.)

The regular season was wrapped up on Thursday and Friday, October 20 and 21, with the following results.

Thurs. Oct. 20 – (F) BHS def. EPY, 25-15, 25-19; (F) PHS def. NHS, 26-28, 25-19, 25-8; and (M) EPY def. GLH, 25-17, 25-18.

Fri. Oct. 21 - (F) SCA def. PHS, 25-7, 25-11; (M) SJC def. NHS, 25-17, 25-16.

### PLAYOFF RESULTS

Mon. Oct. 24 – (F) SCA def. EPY,

## SSBA Tournament bounces on with playoff games

by Mark O'Brien

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo District, Sun. Nov. 6, 2022

The San Ignacio & Santa Elena Basketball Association (SSBA) hosted 4 playoff games on Saturday at the Resilience Centre at Victor Galvez Stadium in San Ignacio Town. Below are the scores.

### Saturday, November 5

Game 1 – Habet Service Station has advanced to the Finals vs Codd’s Drug Store. (Under 10 – Coed) Habet Service Station (#1), 13-6, over Eskimo Ice (#4). Habet Service Station – Amid Juan 7 pts; Lucila Acosta, Tyler Lemus and Stephan Perriott 2 pts each. Eskimo Ice – Connor Smith 4 pts, and Joe Luis Pech 2 pts.

Game 2 – Tyre Center has advanced to the Finals vs Yute Expeditions. (Under 15 – Male) Tyre Center (#2), 32-17, over Tolacca Restaurant (#3). Tyre Center – Dylan Segovia 18 pts, Sheheen Urbina 8 pts, and Jadan Laurence 4 pts. Tolacca Restaurant – Rylan Rhaburn 9 pts, and Isaiah Ayuso 6 pts.

Game 4 – JDB has advanced to the

Finals vs Recino’s Imports. (Under 18 – Male) JDB (#3), 51-38, over Atlantic Bank (#2). JDB – Kishawn Usher 12 pts, Andre Harrison 10 pts, Jaheim Arnold and Israel August 9 pts each. Atlantic Bank – Christian Baeza 9 pts, Maleek Zetina 8 pts, Daniel Cornejo 6 pts.

Game 4 – 1st Leg of semi-finals in a best-of-three series. (Seniors – Male) Assassins (#1), 97-71, over NBB Pay Elites (#3). Assassins – Kyron “Tut” Molina 24 pts, Shemar White 16 pts, Santiago Clark 14 pts, and Jamie Carbajal 9 pts. NBB Pay Elites – Akeem Watters 16 pts, Kevin Brown 15 pts, Stephen Williams 12 pts, and Jayden Lopez 9 pts.

Below is the upcoming schedule. All games will be played at Victor Galvez Stadium.

### Friday, November 11

6:30 p.m. - (Under 15 - Female) Royal International (#1) vs San Ignacio Hotel (#2)

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

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

## The climate change crisis can be an opportunity

by Carlos Felipe Jaramillo

The 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference is underway in Egypt and an obvious question is: what does this matter to us in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region?

The short answer: a lot.

While climate change poses a big threat, tackling it offers a huge opportunity for the region. It can make people safer today and opens great opportunities for the future. But to achieve this, we need to act now.

Let’s talk first about the threat. Whether you live in a city or in a rural area, climate change is here and more of it is coming soon. Whenever I travel across the region, I see the effects on people through longer droughts and more frequent floods.

On a recent trip to Argentina, I visited communities in the Impenetrable Forest of Chaco and in the mountainous areas in Salta and saw them struggle with drought. On the same trip, I heard from staff in our office in Asunción in Paraguay, who could not return home because torrents of water from heavy rains made the streets impassable.

Unless addressed, the effects of climate change in LAC will threaten many more people. It is estimated that it could push up to 5.8 million people into extreme poverty by 2030, and by 2050 more than 17 million people could be driven from the countryside to cities to escape climate impacts. This is the equivalent of more people than the population of Costa Rica becoming extremely poor and more people than live in Guatemala fleeing rural areas.

It is tempting to delay action on climate change because there are so many other problems in the world. Some say we are in a so-called “polycrisis”, where multiple problems in different parts of the world add up to a giant threat to humanity.

But to delay action on climate change because of the competing problems of this polycrisis would be a mistake — these problems and their solutions are interwoven. Addressing them now can help the people of the region today and provide great future opportunities.

There are two main priorities:

Firstly, we must urgently address the effects of climate change on people.

We must prevent more suffering and stop the damage to livelihoods. Farmers will need help in making their crops more capable of surviving storms and droughts. Cities will need new infrastructure to protect people from flooding and hurricanes.

Countries in the region are already adapting. Many have shown the world

they are best in class on innovating to address the threat of climate change. Projects in agriculture from Brazil to Uruguay are showcasing advances in climate resilience. Caribbean nations such as Jamaica have set an example with innovative financial products to address climate risks from hurricanes and other natural disasters.

Secondly, countries in the region should take full advantage of the global shift toward decarbonization.

Polls show consumers increasingly want products that do not harm the planet or people. In the energy sector, the region can draw on its large deposits of copper and lithium, two materials crucial for electric vehicles and other clean technologies, to make itself a leader in the move away from fossil fuels. Already countries such as Chile are leading in the development of green hydrogen, a fuel of the future that could revolutionize everything from aviation to manufacturing.

The energy mix in the region is already more than 50 percent from clean, renewable sources such as hydro, solar and wind. Increasing this share can enable the region to export more products that it can sell for a premium as being made without burning fossil fuels. There are more opportunities. Improving supply chain monitoring and transparency to curb environmental abuses can enable the region to sell more products at a sustainability premium.

The LAC region’s unique contribution to the global shift toward sustainability should be through its forests. Agriculture, land-use change, and forestry contribute 47 percent of Greenhouse Gas emissions across the region.

The Amazon Forest is the world’s largest carbon sink and saving this iconic natural resource, with its rich biodiversity, would be an achievement worthy of rewards from a grateful world. Saving the region’s forests also makes good economic sense. The reforestation of lands degraded by cattle ranching and slash-and-burn agriculture can bring significant economic benefits to indigenous and vulnerable communities, in addition to serving as a carbon sink.

Addressing climate change in the LAC region will be good for its people and its economy. There is no tradeoff between tackling climate change and economic development. Action can protect people today and help everyone benefit from the great opportunities the future offers. Let us step up together to this challenge.

*The author is Vice President, Latin America and Caribbean, at the World Bank*

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

### Saturday, November 12

6:30 p.m. - (Under 10 - Coed) Habet Service Station (#1) vs Codd’s Drug Store (#2)

7:00 p.m. - (Under 12 - Male) Q & M Construction (#1) vs KG Equine/Oye FM (#2)

7:30 p.m. - (Open - Female) Western Queens (#2) vs Vegan Roots (#3) (Female)

Game 3 - if necessary

7:45 p.m. - (Open - Male) West Side (#2) vs Vegan Roots (#3) – Game 3 if necessary

OR Venom (#1) vs. West Side (#2)

9:00 p.m. - (Seniors - Male) Assassins (#1) vs NBB Pay Elites (#3) Game 3 - if necessary

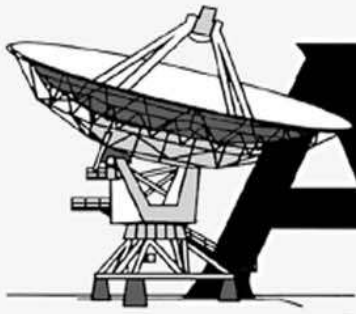
### Sunday, November 13

1:30 p.m. - (Under 15 - Male) Yute Expeditions (#1) vs Tyre Center (#2)

2:00 p.m. - (Seniors - Male) Game 2 – Loser vs Loser

2:15 p.m. - (Seniors - Male) Venom (#1) vs Winner from West Side/Roots





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# Key CDC Panel Recommends COVID-19 Vaccine Added to Regular Childhood Immunization Plan

by **George Citroner** on October 21, 2022 — Fact checked by Sheeka Sanahori

On October 20, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices Trusted Source (ACIP) voted unanimously to include COVID-19 vaccine on the list of routine immunizations for adults and children 6 months and older.

“It’s important to note that there are no changes in COVID-19 vaccine policy, and today’s action simply helps streamline clinical guidance for healthcare providers by including all currently licensed, authorized and routinely recommended vaccines in one document,” the ACIP, which is an advisory committee for the U.S. Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, said in a statement

ACIP is an advisory committee for the U.S. Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC.) Despite the ACIP’s recommendation, the CDC still has the authority to decide whether or not to add the COVID-19 vaccine to the agency’s list of recommended vaccines.

### What does the ACIP decision mean?

The CDC advisory committee schedule is meant to help guide physicians in determining when to administer important vaccinations for both children and adults.

“The decision by the CDC to add COVID vaccination to the schedule is not a mandate, but a recommendation for yearly vaccination,” Dr. Theodore Strange, chair of medicine, Staten Island University Hospital, part of Northwell Health in New York, explained. “It does not impact what vaccines are required for school entrance, which is controlled at the state, county, and municipal levels.”

Strange also emphasized that this immunization schedule is designed to provide the best protection for both children and adults.

“The immunization schedule is the ‘Gold Standard’ meant to help providers which vaccines should be recommended and when,” he said.

### Allows insurance companies to cover vaccination costs

Extended every 90 days since declared by the Trump administration, the U.S. public health emergency might end sometime in 2023, meaning the private market could take over the distribution of COVID vaccines and treatments.

However, the ACIP’s recommendation to include the COVID-19 vaccine in the immunization schedule may help ensure continued access for the uninsured. By adding this vaccine to the immunization schedule children will likely have access to the vaccine for free through the Vaccines for Children program Trusted Source.

The federally-funded program provides immunizations to children of families, who may not be able to afford vaccines or who do not have health insurance.

“This is an important step,” Christopher Calandrella, DO, chair of emergency medicine, Long Island Jewish Forest Hills in Queens, New York said. “As vaccinations have played a critical role in preventing deaths and hospitalizations caused by the virus.”

### A need to ramp up education efforts

“This is a very wily virus, and we’ve got to be vigilant,” Peter Pitts, Former FDA Associate Commissioner and president of the Center for Medicine in the Public Interest, told Healthline.

“We’ve got to be smarter than the



COVID-19 kids vaccine

virus and that means that we’ve got to be vaccinated on a regular basis – it’s the cornerstone of our strategy,” he added.

Pitts pointed out that there’s a problem with people not getting vaccinated “right now” against the current variant, and that’s not a good thing.

He emphasized the need to push awareness of how important it is to be vaccinated against the pandemic virus.

“I think the CDC needs to go beyond putting it on the schedule, and they really need to start ramping up the education effort about why it’s important not just right now for a younger age cohort, but for everybody on an annual basis,” Pitts said.

### Few Americans getting COVID-19 booster shots

According to the most current CDC data, less than half of Americans have gotten their first booster shot.

A Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) poll finds only 19% of parents of children aged 6 months through 4 years old report that their child has been vaccinated for COVID-19.

Pitts blames White House messaging about the pandemic.

“You know, on Monday the president says the pandemic is over, then on Tuesday he authorizes a COVID-19 emergency – there are no consistent messages coming out of the White House,” he said.

Pitts said he’s not surprised that people have decided to do nothing.

“Short of strong, consistent leadership, people are going to default to the most common denominator – which is nothing,” he said.

### The bottom line

The CDC’s advisory panel recently approved the inclusion of the COVID-19 vaccine in the immunization schedule for children for children as young as 6 months.

Experts say that this doesn’t mean the vaccine will be mandated for anyone in the U.S. But it will make it easier for people to have the vaccine covered by their insurance or to access the vaccine for free through certain programs.

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## Peru: Police clash with protesters in capital Lima

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government is becoming hell”.

Another told the AFP news agency that the country was “on the edge of the precipice; economically everything has stagnated”.

No injuries were reported immediately after police fired tear-gas canisters in Lima in an effort to stop demonstrators from reaching government buildings.

Protests were also reported in a handful of other Peruvian cities, while groups of Mr Castillo’s supporters organised a march of their own in a Lima square.

Following his 2021 victory in a highly polarised vote, Mr Castillo has survived two attempts to oust him from his job through impeachment.

The 53-year-old was also the subject of a **constitutional complaint last month from the attorney-general**, who accused Mr Castillo and his family members of being behind a criminal organisation.

The former schoolteacher and strike leader insisted he and his relatives had committed no offences, complaining that his rivals were attempting to unseat him.

On Saturday, Mr Castillo tweeted a **defiant message** aimed at “the usual enemies” who he blamed for “false accusations” - vowing to continue to fight to free people from inequality.

Peru has seen a number of presidents ousted from office in recent years. In 2020, it had **three heads of state in the space of five days**.

## Belizean businessman arrested with 9.95 kilo...

Continued from Page 1

reportedly found with 9.95 kilograms of suspected heroin at the Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi on October 30, 2022. The substance was seized, and he was arrested and charged, according to a piece of correspondence sent from the airport officials to the High Commissioner at the Embassy of Belize in India.

Some outlets have reportedly received confirmation from the Foreign Affairs Ministry of the report, but the ministry was unable to provide any update to *Amandala* when we reached out to them.

Gegg, a prominent Belizean businessman who was once a leader of the We the People Reform Movement, a minor political party formed in 2003, reportedly started his journey in

Johannesburg, South Africa, and took a connecting flight in Doha, Qatar, before arriving in New Delhi. The suspected heroin, described as an “off-white powdery substance,” was found in his possession and recovered by airport authorities in India.

The Joint Commissioner of Customs at the IGI airport requested that the authenticity of Gegg’s passport be verified and that his family be informed of his arrest as soon as possible. As mentioned, there is no indication whether authorities in Belize have reached out to the family of Gegg, since the Foreign Affairs Ministry was unable to verify reports of Gegg’s arrest and did not provide any additional information to us.

The heroin, totaling about 22 pounds in weight, is worth at least 16 million Belize dollars, some reports say.





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
- \* 1<sup>st</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Corozal Town
- \* Xiomara Alcala c/o Corozal Farmer's Supplies, #99 - 5<sup>th</sup> 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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