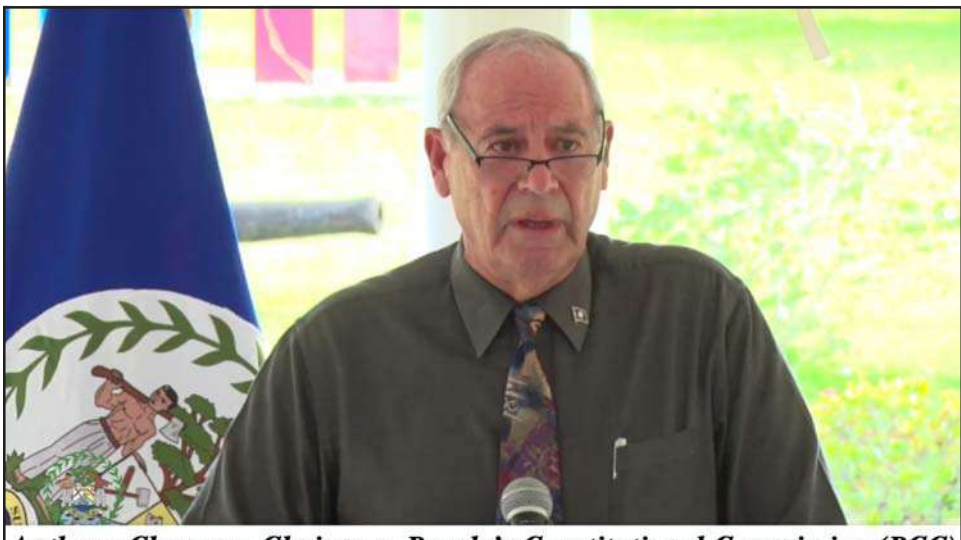


People's Constitutional Commission officially launched



Anthony Chanona, Chairman, People's Constitutional Commission (PCC)

BELMOPAN, Mon. Nov. 14, 2022
 Today, the process of modernizing the Belize Constitution officially began in earnest with the official launch of the People's Constitutional Commission (PCC), which took place on the steps of the National Assembly building in Belmopan this afternoon. Representatives from various groups across Belize were present for the launching of the commission; many of them will be appointing representatives who will sit as commissioners and, after consultation, will bring the collective view of their communities for inclusion in the final report that is to be drafted and handed

over to Prime Minister John Briceño and his executive.
 Ultimately, the Belizean people will decide whether they want an entirely new constitution, or if the current one can be amended to bring it in line with the present-day Belizean reality. Citizens represented across the various groups will be asked to share their views and desires in consultations that will be carried out prior to the drafting of the updated contemporary Belizean Constitution, a legal instrument that should reflect Belizean values and

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"Loss and Damage" formally placed on COP27 agenda

▶ See story on page 2 ▶



Young activists demand a Loss and Damage Fund to compensate developing countries for the impacts of climate change at the COP27 UN Climate Change Conference in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. (Dominika Zarzycka / NurPhoto via Getty Images)

Medical professionals give GOB ultimatum

by **Marco Lopez**

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Nov. 14, 2022
 A coalition of medical professionals has given the Government of Belize until November 17th to come to the table

in a meeting focused on addressing 7 key problem areas identified in the healthcare system by the frontline workers. Last Friday, a joint press release from the Karl Heusner

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3,000 damage assessments completed in aftermath of Hurricane Lisa

Deputy Chair of the Damage Assessments Committee, Tenille Hendy, says witnessing first-hand the extent to which families have been affected by the storm has been heartwrenching.

by **Khaila Gentle**

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Nov. 14, 2022
 The Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis Committee has been on the ground working since the day after

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Tenille Hendy – Deputy Chair, Damage Assessments & Needs Analysis Committee

L00 stands firmly behind Ian Jones' endorsement

Jones says he's not here to replace anyone and that he is not going to entertain constant back and forth with those in opposition to his candidacy.

by **Khaila Gentle**

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Nov. 14, 2022
 Endorsement convention season for the United Democratic Party was off



(l-r) Ian Jones and Hon. Moses "Shyne" Barrow

to a start on Saturday, with the

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Belmopan woman found on highway was choked to death

by Charles Gladden

BELMOPAN, Mon. Nov. 14, 2022

A post-mortem examination which was conducted on the body of Celia Florian, 35, a waitress of Mariposa Street, Belmopan, after her corpse was found on Saturday, November 5 on the Hummingbird Highway, has revealed that her death was caused by asphyxia due to strangulation as well as blunt force injuries to the head.

Florian, who was reported missing by her sister-in-law on November 2, was 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 was found, and her family members concluded, based on the clothing on the corpse, which was in an initial state of decomposition, that the deceased woman was, in fact, their missing loved one.

Initially, it had been reported that there were no obvious signs of foul play on the body, but the post mortem exam



Celia Celeste Florian, deceased

results, which indicated that Florian had been choked and hit on the head, proved otherwise.

Some media reports are suggesting that a police officer is a suspect in the crime.

Police are investigating the matter.

2 RTAs leave a child and an ex-police officer injured

by Khaila Gentle

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Nov. 14, 2022

On Sunday, November 13, at 4:30 p.m., a child was riding her bicycle on the Southern Highway when she was hit from behind by a vehicle. According to police reports, Kayla Tech was riding in the vicinity of Indian Creek Village, headed towards Big Falls Village, when a brown vehicle, allegedly driven by one Sarapo Chun, hit the bike from behind.

Tech was knocked off her bike and landed in a patch of grass on the side of the road, sustaining numerous scratches and bruises on her abdomen. Additionally, the rear wheel of her bike was extensively damaged.

When police began investigating the matter, they learned that the issue would be settled between Tech's

parents and Chun.

Several hours after Kayla Tech was knocked off her bike, at 10:45 p.m., police visited the Emergency Ward of the Western Regional Hospital, where they found a man lying unconscious and breathing heavily. That man was 39-year old Desmond Patrick Gordon, an ex-police officer who is a resident of Blackman Eddy Village.

Gordon had reportedly been sitting in the back of a truck when he fell out and landed on the pavement on the highway. He sustained several injuries, including wounds to the forehead, cuts to the top of the head and left eye, and abrasions on both knees.

He was eventually rushed to the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital, where he remains in a critical condition. The police are still investigating the matter.

"Loss and Damage" formally placed on COP27 agenda

Small island states and developing countries have successfully placed "Loss and Damage" on the COP27 agenda, but pushback from the US and EU will result in more delays to the creation of a dedicated fund to address impacts from climate-related disasters in vulnerable nations.

by Marco Lopez

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, EGYPT, Mon. Nov. 14, 2022

The creation of a climate finance facility to address loss and damage brought on by severe weather that has become more frequent and more forceful as a result of manmade climate change is a key goal for small islands and developing states at this year's COP27. Those countries have successfully put the issue of loss and damage on the formal agenda of the summit—a step forward in the creation of a new fund focused on compensation for the loss and damage caused by unpredictable and unstoppable catastrophes that are occurring on a more frequent basis across the world.

The United States and European Union (EU), two of the largest traditional greenhouse gas emitters, have, however, pushed for more dialogue without outlining any clear end goal following those discussions. Last year, when COP 26 was held in Glasgow, the two also blocked the proposal to create a dedicated fund for loss and damage and opted for further discussion. The new agenda item has now been agreed upon under certain conditions, with the issues of liability and compensation not being included in the discussion, according to the EU's chief advisor on international climate relations, Jacob Werksman.

While the EU has welcomed the increased support for addressing the challenge of loss and damage and has said that they are prepared to address the issues with more seriousness, they insisted that the process will not be focused on a single solution—which is largely considered to be the creation of a compensatory facility at this COP. Instead, discussions leading up to 2024 will involve "broad conversations,"

Werksman said.

US officials suggested mobilizing funds already given to multilateral banks and facilities such as the Green Climate Fund. Monica Medina, the US Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, suggested that the focus should be "getting some of that funding to where it's needed rather than trying to create another fund."

Loss and Damage, however, refers to the destruction caused by the impacts of anthropogenic climate change that cannot be avoided by either mitigation or adaptation, which is largely the focus area of multilateral banks and funds when allocating climate finance. The irreversible loss and damage caused by historic flooding, unprecedented periods of droughts, storms of record strength, fires, and extreme heat have resulted in the displacement of people and destruction of property, and it is being argued that the onus falls on the richest countries, with the largest share in carbon pollution, to provide finance to help those countries recover from the losses linked to climate change.

But whether this funding will come in the form of a compensatory fund, or be seen as reparation or even as a basis for liability, is yet to be determined. Large emitters have pushed back on the creation of the loss and damage fund with fears that any agreement and payment of funds would amount to an admission of guilt and open the door for legal liability.

Countries on the frontline are experiencing direct impacts and are acutely aware of the need for funds to address the issues of loss and damage, as the traditional loans and grant funding that trickle in following disasters in climate-vulnerable nations become more and more inadequate to execute recovery.

Belize and Taiwan sign agreement for banana fungus prevention/control

by Charles Gladden

CENTRAL FARM, Cayo District, Mon. Nov. 14, 2022

The Minister of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise, Hon. Jose Mai, and His Excellency the Ambassador of the Republic of China (Taiwan), David Kuan-Chou Chien, signed the Belize Cooperation Agreement for the execution of the "Regional Project for the Prevention and Control of Fusarium Tropical Race 4 of Banana in Central America" on Thursday, November 10.

The Fusarium Tropical Race 4 is a soil-borne pathogen that attacks the roots of bananas, causing the Banana Fusarium Wilt disease by clogging its vascular system. The fungus can survive for more than 30 years in the soil, and so far, no



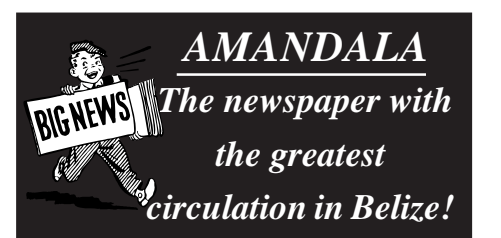
cure has been found.

An investment of 6 million BZD will be given to the participating countries – Guatemala, Honduras, and Belize – during the period of the project to advance studies and activities to prevent and deal with the Foc TR4 disease of

bananas, which includes international virtual forums with experts from Taiwan; face-to-face national fora; and technical training sessions for the 3 countries that will strengthen capacities in symptomatology and biosecurity measures.

"We will know the interest of this disease as early as possible and [importantly] the resistance variety. The variety was developed by Taiwan, but now we will import from South Africa, because that's a free area for diseases. As you know, in Taiwan, we have already survived this disease for many years, but it still affects us; that's why we imported the variety from South Africa," said the manager of the Regional Fusarium Prevention and Control Project, Miguel Chen.

The signing took place at Taiwan Technical Mission headquarters at Central Farm, Cayo District.



Min. Habet speaks on transparency in climate finance at COP27

During a side event organized by the Government of Nigeria, the ICAT, and the CCAP, Minister Habet said transparency improves climate finance decision-making, adding that developing countries “must be ready to be transparent.”

by Marco Lopez

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt, Mon. Nov. 14, 2022

This morning, a keynote address on the role of transparency in climate finance was delivered by Minister Orlando Habet at COP27 during a side event organized by the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT), the Center for Clean Air Policy (CCAP) and the government of Nigeria. Min. Habet outlined during the address that clarity and transparency on climate finance are key to driving the urgent implementation of climate action, and he referred to transparency in climate finance as a “360-degree phenomenon.”

Habet made a call for developing countries to be prepared to be transparent to make our financial needs clear in order to address financing gaps in vulnerable states, and noted that such transparency will guide decision-making and foster mutual trust as various stakeholders make efforts to urgently take action to address climate change impacts.

“We as developing countries must be ready to be transparent so that all stakeholders know our climate finance needs, how much we received, how we have used it, and the gaps in climate

finance. But it is also important that developed countries with historical responsibilities also step up with their transparency initiatives on delivering climate finance targets,” Min. Habet said during his remarks.

At COP27, discussions on climate finance are dominating the talks, and Min. Habet has been advocating for, “the definition of climate finance, the New Collective Quantified Goal, and commitments for long-term finance which are under negotiations during this COP.” He said during his remarks that, “alongside the negotiations, it is important that we have discussions, and deliberations, sharing our lessons and plans on climate finance transparency issues so that it reinforces the efforts.”

He drew attention to Belize’s case, and the highly vulnerable situation in which the country remains—pointing to the damage recently caused by Hurricane Lisa as just a “fraction of the impact” and highlighting how the extended drought in 2018 began to reduce our economic growth even before the COVID-19 pandemic.

“It also brought our economic growth to a negative trajectory, which was later amplified by the pandemic. Amidst all the economic hardships, Belize updated the NDC [nationally

The role of transparency in planning for and financing NDC implementation

H.E. Orlando Habet

Minister of Sustainable Development, Climate Change & Disaster Risk Management, Belize



climateactiontransparency.org



Minister Orlando Habet delivers a keynote address at a COP27 side event

determined contributions] targets with a higher ambition by broadening their coverage and depth. We have estimated the total cost of implementation until 2030 as US\$1.9bn, out of which we have secured finances of approximately US\$ 300 million. Belize has the daunting task of securing this broad gap in climate finance of US\$1.6bn. Moreover, this figure does not account for the potential incremental nature of climate change impacts, and human and institutional capacity enhancement requirements,” explained Minister Habet.

Despite this, he stated that Belize continues to strengthen its local institutional architecture and climate finance-related systems and partnerships on the climate finance frontier, collaborating with the ICAT since 2019, and other groups like the Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub on climate finance and transparency issues.

Minister Habet was joined by the Minister of Environment for Nigeria, Mohammed Abdullahi, and the CEO of his ministry, Kenrick Williams, also sat on the panel today.

OW man charged for having guns stolen from former COMPOL’s home

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Nov. 14, 2022

Curtis August, 22, a resident of San Jose Palmar Village, Orange Walk District, has pleaded guilty to handling stolen goods after being found with guns that were stolen by robbers who broke into the home of the former Police Commissioner, Allen Whylie, in LEMONAL Village, Belize District on Sunday, November 6. The former COMPOL was out of the country when the thieves entered his home, reportedly by prying open a metal door during a power outage, and stole four guns and ammunition.

August was arraigned on Friday, November 11, and was charged with two counts of handling stolen goods. He pleaded guilty to the charges, and was fined \$1,500 plus \$5 cost of court, which is to be paid by March 31, 2023; otherwise he will have to serve 6 months in prison.

“There was no accusation that my client himself conducted the burglary, but however, that he did admit to handling the stolen goods, and because of that he pleaded guilty. This was my client’s first offense. The fact that he assisted the police, he was very cooperative with the police - that at the earliest convenience he pleaded guilty to this matter, and therefore the



Curtis August, charged with handling stolen goods

court in its discretion granted a fine of \$1,500 and failure to pay that fine within the time period will result in imprisonment of 6 months,” explained “OJ” Elrington, the attorney for August.

It has been reported that there were a total of five guns in Whylie’s home, and four of those—specifically a 12-gauge shotgun, a 16-gauge shotgun, a .22 rifle, and a 9-millimeter Sig Sauer pistol—were stolen by the burglars.

Three of the four guns and ammunition were recovered in Orange Walk, and the other was found in Lemonal.

Garifuna Settlement Day celebrations already in full-swing

by Khaila Gentle

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Nov. 14, 2022

Despite the delay caused by the passage of Hurricane Lisa, the Garifuna Settlement Day celebrations, organized by the National Garifuna Council, are in full swing just five days ahead of the actual date.

This past weekend, festivities included the long awaited Battle of the Drums Competition, which saw the Hanigi Wagübürigu Team emerge victorious as the winner of the 17th annual competition. In second place was Liderebugu Familia from Seine Bight, while Ecumenical High School from Dangriga took third place. The competition was held at the Sporting Auditorium in Punta Gorda Town. A total of nine groups participated this year, including one from Honduras.

This Miss Garifuna Belize Pageant was one of the few events that had to be postponed due to Hurricane Lisa. It took place on Friday, and the winner of the pageant was Miss Dangriga, Jessilee Marin. Marin competed against five other young women, hailing from Belize City, Barranco, Seine Bight, Punta Gorda and Hopkins.

And on Sunday, the Garifuna community came together to honor the father of Garifuna Settlement Day



Hanigi Wagübürigu Team – 2022 Battle of the Drums winner; Jessilee Marin – Miss Garifuna 2022

himself, Thomas Vincent Ramos. The event was hosted by Ramos’ grandson, Punta legend Chico Ramos. A mass was also held in celebration of the Belizean National Hero. It took place at the Methodist Church in Dangriga Town and was attended by Hon. Dolores Balderamos Garcia, Hon. Dr. Louis Zabaneh and Dangriga mayor Robert Mariano. Today, the National Garifuna Council, Dangriga Branch, wrote that the presence of some of Belize’s leaders at the mass meant a great deal to both the council and the community.

Last week, the Belize Tourism Board donated \$10,000 to the National Garifuna Council for this year’s festivities. The donation, presented by Mr. Evan Tillett, Director of Tourism, was received by Ms. Sheena Zuniga, president of the National Garifuna Council.

Police officer charged with “perverting the course of justice”

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Nov. 14, 2022

Police Constable Herman Ramos, 28, of West Canal, Belize City, was charged for allegedly removing a licensed 9mm pistol belonging to taxi driver Marvin Domingo, 33, who fired several shots in the air after leaving Thirsty Thursday on Friday, October 28.

It has been reported that a group was leaving the popular nightclub in a van and heading in the direction of Midtown Restaurant when Domingo reportedly fired several shots. Shortly after, police intercepted the van, in which there were five passengers, at the corner of Freetown Road and Douglas Jones Street, and inside they found a few live rounds of ammunition.

Police later charged Domingo with discharging a firearm in public; however, it has been alleged that Ramos took the licensed weapon from the van and stashed it.

Two weeks after the incident, Ramos was charged with perverting



Herman Ramos, charged with perverting the course of justice

the course of justice, and when he appeared in court with his attorney, Ronell Gonzalez, no plea was taken. Ramos was then granted bail of \$2,000, plus one surety of the same amount, which he met.

Ramos must return to court on January 12, 2023, when the prosecution is expected to disclose the evidence against him.

Robbery on Amara Avenue

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Nov. 14, 2022

Police have detained two men who were involved in a robbery that took place on Friday, November 11 near the corner of Amara and Euphrates Avenues in Belize City. The two men—Troy Augustus, 27, a laborer of West Street; and Orlin Garcia, 22, an unemployed Iguana Street resident—have both been arrested and charged.

The victim of the robbery was reportedly approached by the two men, one of whom was armed with a gun, and was ordered to hand over his belongings, which included a Samsung A12 valued at seven hundred dollars. While the robbery was in progress, two police officers in the area saw the robbers and began pursuing them.

When police apprehended and



Superintendent Gerald Jones, Deputy Head of the National C.I.B.

searched the men, they found three cell phones, one of which was the stolen Samsung A12. An immediate search was done within the area, which led to the discovery of the firearm in a yard located beside a basketball court on Euphrates Avenue.

Charges have been brought jointly against the duo for keeping a firearm without a gun license.

3,000 damage assessments completed in aftermath ...

Continued from Page 1

Hurricane Lisa made landfall. For the past ten days, they have been assessing the levels of damage caused by Lisa countrywide, and according to the Committee’s Deputy Chair, Tenille Hendy, some 3,000 assessments have been completed, with 2,500 of those being in Belize City.

According to Hendy, public officers working with the committee have seen varying levels of damage, especially in Belize City. The assessment scale used includes four levels of damage: Damage 1, which means there was little significant damage; Damage 2, or Minor Damage; Damage 3, or Major Destruction; and Damage 4, or Total Destruction.

“We’re seeing a variety of structures being affected differently ... I would say that the wooden structures have taken a beating. We are seeing [structures] sized 10x10 going right up. Those are the structures that have taken a beating—made out of plycem or some combination of wood and concrete or wood itself,” she explained.

Of all the homes assessed in Belize City, Hendy says that 280 of them can be categorized as having undergone Total Destruction, and as assessments continue, that number may increase. The committee also found that many of the homes severely affected or completely destroyed by Lisa were wooden structures with zinc roofs.

“Since we started last week Thursday, every day we have had more than 40 public officers out conducting damage assessments, and they did not rest over the weekend. We also have the help of the BDF. It would be remiss of me to not mention them, because they have also been out with us doing foot patrols as well,” said Hendy.

And while the restless days on foot patrol may be tiring for the officers, witnessing the effects of Hurricane Lisa on families across the country has been emotional, to say the least.

“At 8 Miles, we had a family who thought that their home was safe, and throughout the storm, it just unfolded and they sustained broken limbs, and they don’t have any family, or anybody else, so they’re basically in dire straits.

The same in La Democracia, we had somebody just happy that they got a new home, and then the hurricane came and took it away. They are expecting a child, and they are living out of a car,” she said.

“You know we complain about not having water, or electricity in times like these. People don’t have clothes; they don’t have somewhere to stay,” she later added.

According to Hendy, the committee’s database is currently indicating that there are a total of 500 affected families, though this is not the official tally, as assessments are still ongoing.

The public officers who have been conducting assessments, Hendy says, have been stirred by what they’ve seen and have personally wanted to help out affected families, but for the time being, in their capacity as members of the Disaster Assessment and Needs Analysis Committee, the best they can do is pass their data onto the other NEMO committees that are responsible for providing disaster relief.

Along with the assessments, the committee has also been receiving reports from other committees and sectors of Government, all of which will ultimately be compiled to produce the official national report on the destruction caused by Hurricane Lisa.

“So all these different sectors—all of them, educational, government, everybody. As much data as is submitted to us, we include in that report as the national report, because that will be the report ultimately that says what was the impact the country sustained,” Hendy said.

The Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis Committee is one of thirteen special committees operating under the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO). Another such committee is the Relief Supply Management Committee. Last week, in an article dated Monday, November 7, we reported on the assistance that that committee has been providing to the residents of Belize City. In the article, Chairperson Ganesha Smith explained that the committee had already provided some 5,000 food and cleaning supply packages to families.

Medical professionals give GOB ultimatum

Continued from Page 1

Memorial Hospital Authority Workers Union (KHMHAWU), the Nurses Association of Belize (NAB), and the Belize Medical and Dental Association (BMDA) which are jointly referring to themselves as the Belize Coalition of Medical Professionals (BCHP), warned the government that if the meeting is not held before the specified date, the alliance would be “taking necessary action against the failing state of our healthcare system.”

Late last month, the KHMHAWU held a press conference at which it directed criticism at the government and the hospital following the postponement of a scheduled meeting at which pressing issues such as supply shortages and inadequate

compensation for healthcare workers were to be discussed with Health Minister Hon. Kevin Bernard. Hon. Bernard had indicated that the discussion was postponed until around mid-November, and this latest offensive from the healthcare workers is seemingly seeking to ensure that a meeting takes place.

The joint release states, “We demand that those with authority make the necessary changes within the health system to facilitate timely and efficient healthcare delivery.” They are calling for urgent and meaningful intervention from the government and stakeholders and are requesting various other ministries besides the Health and Wellness Ministry to be included in the discussion. Also called to the table is the Ministry of Public Service, the



Ministry of Labor, and the Financial Secretary, and seven key issues are to be addressed and discussed.

These include, “1. The extreme shortage of medical supplies, pharmaceuticals, and human resources, 2. A salary review for healthcare workers, clarification on pension status, and the exemption of income taken from the severance of KHMHA employees, 3. Reduction of income tax for all healthcare workers, 4. Revision and implementation

of the Belize Health Sector Strategic Plan 2014- 2024, the compendium of allowances, the nursing review document of 2007, circular 6 of 2012, and patient transfer standard policy., 5. Appointment of members of key medical associations on the MOHW tendering committee, 6. Provision for health insurance for all healthcare workers, and 7. Defining higher education and experience in a health-

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Lisa blows our "cover"

Monday, Nov. 14, 2022

It is almost two weeks now since Hurricane Lisa, a Category one hurricane, blew her way through Belize City and environs, and exposed the reality of living conditions for some residents that the rest of our society hadn't really grasped before. Like dusty glass windows that blur our vision, through all the economic hard times unleashed upon our citizens along with the advent of Covid-19, and again more recently with the inflation fallout from the Russia-Ukraine war, those of us who have been fortunate to earn a living wage and maintain a secure and comfortable home situation, had become complacent and somewhat numb to the repeated reports of violent crime, including murders, and complaints about the terrible living conditions that many of our citizens have had to endure. "It is an ill wind that blows no good," and this Lisa has left exposed in her wake the bare truth of the real impoverished situation being experienced on a daily basis by many Belizeans. Hopefully, this stark revelation will spark, not just some quick-fix hands-out and emergency food assistance, but a deeper and more fundamental reassessment of how our social economy is structured, and then hopefully we can see some sincere and radical changes to the "system".

In its pre-election campaign back in early 2020, one of the manifesto promises of the current PUP government was to institute a minimum wage of \$5.00 per hour. Already in 2020, some voices were raised suggesting that the figure was too low; but even after a couple years of Covid-19 and almost a year of economic shocks from the Russia-Ukraine war, which saw commodity prices surging upward, now in 2022 some members of the business community are still contending that \$5.00 an hour is too high a minimum wage, and that it will have the negative effect of forcing

businesses to cut staff in order to remain viable. There really is a problem in Belize if a hardworking head of family is being expected to provide food on the table, have access to water and electricity, and sustain rent or mortgage payments for a secure home structure, while clothing even one child and sending him/her to school, all on a weekly salary of \$225.00, which is what \$5.00 an hour amounts to. The only way that is possible is if our "system" provides major support for basic needs such as health care and housing.

In facing the massive destruction of low-cost, poorly-constructed homes that Hurricane Lisa laid to waste, Prime Minister Briceño was moved to lament that, "... I don't think anybody should be living under those conditions in 2022 anywhere in the world, especially in Belize." But if our P.M. is serious about providing decent and securely constructed homes for low-income Belizeans, then our government may have to assume the financial burden of this undertaking in order to fulfil its mantra of "social justice." There is no other way, except with a much higher wage earned, for a citizen to realistically go about securing adequate, safe housing.

And currently the government is stalling, even doing a consultancy, before moving to implement the meagre \$5.00-per-hour minimum wage, which will still not put any such wage earner in a position to rent or build his own secure home.

There is no doubt that the capitalist system has its merits, respecting private property and providing incentives and rewards to inspire and motivate citizens to apply great effort, creativity, bold risk-taking entrepreneurship, and energetic drive towards high productivity. Now, while a few exceptional individuals did manage to "lift themselves up from their bootstrap," it is undeniable that across the globe certain sectors of modern society received a head-start in the competitive capitalist world through generational wealth inherited as a legacy from the days of slavery and colonialism. So, some individuals have become multi-millionaires, and even billionaires. But it is also undeniable that every aspect of material wealth inevitably comes out of the earth that none of us made. The sun shines its energy, and plants grow, with help from farmers to realize big harvests. And all the basic elements and minerals come out of the earth, "God's goodness," to be "worked" and refined by human hands. Everything we build and make, from the cars to the skyscrapers, to all the chemicals and drugs and groceries in the supermarket, it all comes originally from the earth, to be "manufactured" and "modified" by the genius of human minds and the labor of human hands. And the "market forces" then have sway in determining the prices we will pay for the various "goods and services", from food to entertainment, to transportation, to communication, to education, to health care, to utilities (water, electricity, internet), etc. The capitalist system works, and the hardest working, most industrious, the smartest, and even the luckiest – as in lottery and Lotto, will make it big; and that's good.

But there is a problem. How big is too big? And doesn't the garbage still have to be disposed of? And the sewage? And the grass cut, and the streets swept clean; etc. etc.? Okay, fine; so just let the "system" continue working, and the rich keep getting richer. Fine. So, Mr. Big Man goes from millionaire to billionaire; and keeps getting bigger, and bigger. No problem? Well, there happens to be a large caravan at your border, sir. And what if those garbage collectors, and sewage plant workers, and grass cutters and street cleaners, what if these small people would reach a point where they "kyahn tek it no mo," and go on a massive unified strike? Your toilet can't flush; your garbage piles up; no water; no light. What then? And why? Because as hard as they work, they can't earn a week's pay that allows them to feed their families and secure their homes against a hurricane like Lisa.

In considering such a situation, the question must be asked: Where does the rich man's billions come from? Elon Musk (or Michael Ashcroft) did not sit in a chair, snap his fingers, and money just rolled down like a mighty stream. The wealth comes out of the earth; the genius of human minds and the labor of human hands turned the raw materials into things of value, and the entrepreneurship and wits of the rich man utilized the help of others to harness and multiply that value, and now he reaps the big reward. But he didn't do it alone. He couldn't. So, there is a problem.

Respecting the private property of the rich is one thing. But the rich must also respect the human rights of the poor. And that's the challenge of the ages, and the challenge for Belize. An aspiring third-party Belizean politician once stated categorically that the first priority if he achieved political power would be to drastically revamp the taxation system in Belize, so that the gush of wealth in the direction of the few at the top would slow down some, in order that the trickle—the meagerness of which has stifled the life of the masses at the bottom, could be increased to a liveable flow. Perhaps that's why he was considered "unelectable."

The United Nations acknowledges this problem in its "Universal Declaration of Human Rights." (See *The Reporter*, page 19, of Sunday, November 13, 2022.) Below are a couple extracts.

Former U.N. Human Rights Chief, Navi Pillay in *The Tunis Imperative*: "For the UN,

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15th Regional Conference on Women in Latin America & the Caribbean concludes

by Khaila Gentle

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, Mon. Nov. 14, 2022

Last week, from November 7th to 11th, women parliamentarians and other representatives from across the region attended the Fifteenth Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. At the end of the five-day forum, participating nations signed on to the Buenos Aires Commitment—agreeing to adopt regulatory frameworks that ensure the right to care.

The Commitment explains that the right to care refers to “a right to provide and receive care and to exercise self-care based on the principles of equality, universality and social and gender co-responsibility, and therefore, as a responsibility that must be shared by people of all sectors of society, families, communities, businesses and the State.”

Through their commitment, those participating nations will begin to adopt more regulatory frameworks that ensure the right to care by implementing policies and systems from a gender, intersectional, intercultural, and human rights perspective.

“We welcome the important political commitment agreed upon in Buenos Aires, which will allow us to move forward on concrete policies to make women’s rights and autonomy a reality, throughout the region and in all its territories, and which also enables us



to keep strengthening the Regional Gender Agenda, as we have done for the last 45 years,” said Raúl García-Buchaca, Deputy Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

According to García-Buchaca, the financing of care policies is essential for eliminating gender inequalities and guaranteeing the rights of all women.

The regional conference, organized

by ECLAC, is the main regional intergovernmental forum on women’s rights and gender equality within the United Nations system. One of the main functions of the conference is to identify the situation of women’s autonomy and rights at both regional and sub-regional levels. Additionally, at the conference, recommendations for public policies for gender equality are often presented.

During this year’s conference, Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, called on the region to develop comprehensive care systems and “redistribute time, power and resources” to achieve true gender equality, which requires adequate financing.

Delegates from a total of 30 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean took part in the forum.

People’s Constitutional Commission officially launched

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principles, Hon. Henry Charles Usher, the Minister of Constitutional and Political Reform, said during his remarks at the launch.

“Should we as a sovereign independent nation continue to be told what to think? Or how to govern ourselves? Or should we advocate for the ability to make decisions that we believe are in the best interest of Belize? Will we finally appreciate that sovereignty does not reside in an island thousands of miles away but rather is firmly entrenched in the Belizean people?” Minister Usher asked during his remarks.

A deepening of democracy and focus on giving every Belizean, even those in the diaspora, an opportunity to contribute to the making of our new Constitution, is a primary goal of the PCC, and the chairman of the PCC, Anthony Chanona, like Minister Usher, noted that removing relics of colonialism will indeed be an important part of the process. He called the move to start the process of constitutional reform, “bold and progressive” leadership on the part of the Briceño administration.

“History will record, that it was at the juncture of its 42nd year of independence, that the Government of Prime Minister Briceño boldly chose to initiate progressive leadership to form by the first ever statute, a People Constitutional Commission. This body

is mandated to conduct a comprehensive review of all 138 pages of the Belize Constitution and prepare and submit to the Prime Minister a final report on the findings of this review. Embedded in this consultative mandate is the suggestions to remove any relics of colonialism from within this document, in other words, to simultaneously soul search and modernize a new post-colonial constitution that reflects the will of the people and our collective future,” Chairman Chanona stated.

While the Constitution is known as the supreme law of the land, Chairman Chanona reminded those in attendance at the launch that the legal instrument was written by human beings and, as a result, is inevitably fallible.

“These documents are not sacred and should be subject to question, criticism, and change,” Chanona said.

He said that this launch of Belize’s PCC is a signal to the world that this is Belize’s second attempt at a review of its constitution. The 1981 Belize Constitution has been amended 10 times, and the question posed by Chairman Chanona is if that document fails to mirror the core values of the Belizean society.

“What, then, do Belizeans want to see in their constitution that is not there? If colonial relics are identified and recommended to be taken out, what are we to put in as our home-grown replacement remedies that would holistically address the needs, hopes



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health care, education, housing, and the fair administration of justice are not commodities for sale to the few, but rather rights to which all are entitled without discrimination.”

And in reference to a “Social Protection Floor Initiative,” which the UN agreed to in 2009, UN Human Rights Chief, Michelle Bachelet said: “We all want to see a world where all children and all adults have their basic needs met; where unemployment, injury, ill-health, old age or disability do not signal misery and hardship; where people are not left unprotected in times of crisis and disaster.”

The wealthy and the “big fish” can take care of themselves. In the aftermath of Lisa, after the emergency recovery and reconstruction, the task and the challenge of government is to look after “the least of these,” so that one illness does not condemn a family to dispossession of their land or home because of astronomical health-care costs. Our economic system is urgently in need of re-booting, where the new structure begins at the foundation with an adequate “Social Protection Floor”; and then, let the chips fall where they may for the big winners in our mixed economy. It is the only way for “everybody to win,” Honourable P.M.

and aspirations of our beautiful and peace-loving people?” Chanona asked.

The major task of the PCC will be to listen to and document the concerns and responses of Belizean communities on the various areas to be discussed during the constitutional reform process. This consultation should take place across the length and breadth of Belize and with the diaspora, according

to Chanona.

Hon. Francis Fonseca, Minister of Education, said during his remarks that the Belizean people have never taken true ownership of the creation of the Constitution due to tension between political parties at the time that the 1981 Constitution was being drafted. He said

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Gnashing of teeth!

I must say that I had trepidations about the elections last Tuesday. I didn't believe all the doom and gloom predictions that were flying all around, and I definitely did not believe in a red wave. But I did believe that the Republicans would win the House, by a larger margin than what is obviously just by the skin of their teeth. That is, if the results that are coming in are any indication. I still, and always, believed that the Democrats would keep the Senate, and still do, although again, it, like the House, remains undecided. The Democrats are happy, the Republicans sulking about, and many of the right wing papers are blaming der Fuhrer for the loss. Lots of finger-pointing all around, but the facts remain, they were hoisted on their own petard!

Now, it has been discovered that the Republican Party and some polling companies like Real Clear Politics, which is Republican in its leanings, were skewing the polls in hopes of dampening the spirits of Democrats, to try to convince them that it was over, it was hopeless. Why vote at all, Democrats? You have already lost; stay home and wallow in your misery. The rest of the media, lazy and lemming-like, started to spread this obviously false and absolutely inaccurate narrative! I don't trust polls, especially after they predicted that President Hillary Clinton was supposed to win by at least 20 points in 2016! Did I say President? I meant, also-ran Hillary.

My faith in the American voter has been renewed. In spite of record inflation, in spite of the unpopularity of Joe Biden, in spite of rampant crime,

the people came out in droves, in record numbers to say no, no to craziness, to a Republican Party out of control, ruled by the MAGA wing of their party. Most of the election deniers, the insurrectionists, the Trumpers who ran, were roundly defeated! The people saw their true colors and said no, not now, not as long as we have a voice. The Republicans tried to minimize the abortion issue; it didn't work. Women came out with a vengeance, and sent the vermin back to their hole in the ground, in the netherworlds of conspiracies and outright mendacity! Women saved the day, again!

We still don't know what the final results will be, but either way it goes, it will be a victory for democracy, for common sense, for American democracy! Donald Trump brought out the worst in the American psyche; he resurrected the worst instincts in those already believing that America was changing, for the worse. Inclusivity, freedom of choice, freedom of religion, immigration of people of "grosser blood," all these issues are kryptonite to his followers, his true believers. And boy, do they believe, with religious-like fervor!

America, I believe, is returning to some semblance of normalcy. She flirted with the crazies, until she saw or realized the dystopian future they were bringing with their election to positions of power, and rejected them. Not as firmly as I'd hope, but they did the right thing. This time.

Glen

L00 stands firmly behind Ian Jones' endorsement

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endorsement of former National Sports Council Director Ian Jones for the Collet constituency. Jones' endorsement has been controversial, to say the least, and last week there was an outright objection to his candidacy by the UDP's Collet Constituency Committee.

In a letter dated November 10, 2022, the committee wrote to UDP Chairman, Michael Peyrefitte, expressing concern about the party's decision to endorse Jones. In that letter, the Committee claims that they were never consulted about the move and adds that it is "a major disrespect to the UDP Collet Constituency Organization."

But Jones says that the committee has no one to blame for their lack of knowledge but themselves. Our colleagues at KREM News caught up with him and the Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Moses "Shyne" Barrow, on Saturday at the UDP Headquarters, where the endorsement convention was held. There, Jones explained that, had the members of the Collet Executive attended the National Party Council meeting that was held in August, they would have been aware of the fact that the party would be having endorsement conventions early this year.

"It's unfortunate that the choices were made by that Executive and the then area rep to not attend the NPC

meeting that we had in August...there was a decision made in terms of what would be the season for conventions. And I think I was one of the persons who said, 'listen, if you don't know by now that you want to represent the UDP, it won't change.' So we decided at that NPC to fast-track in terms of having conventions," he said.

Despite the letter of objection from the Collet Constituency Committee, the Leader of the Opposition is standing firmly behind the decision to endorse Jones. According to him, the endorsement of Jones for Collet—the UDP stronghold held by Hon. Patrick Faber for five terms—is a sign that the party is moving forward.

"This endorsement certainly is a reflection of the reality of the UDP, which is that we are moving forward. And the United Democratic Party has never been about one individual. The business of the United Democratic Party is the affairs of the people. And we need standard bearers, we need candidates who will focus on that work and not be a distraction to the rest of us, because we can't win one seat or two seats or three seats and lose the rest and end up in Opposition again. So the hope is that we have a set of candidates who are serving their constituents and are not going to cause any distractions to the party at large," he stated.

While he spent much of his political

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The U.S. Embassy Belmopan is seeking two eligible and qualified applicants for the following position:

Position Name: Procurement Agent (two positions)
Vacancy number: Belmopan-2022-21-R
Closing date: November 22, 2022

Interested applicants must submit their application via the Electronic Recruitment Application (ERA) system, a web-based system. To view and apply for this vacancy, visit the ERA site at: <https://erajobs.state.gov/dos-era/blz/vacancysearch/searchVacancies.hms>

Please visit the Embassy's website for instructions on how to apply via the ERA system: <https://bz.usembassy.gov/embassy/jobs/>

Note 1: Resumes **will not** be considered. Candidates must note all work experience when completing the ERA application. Insufficient or incomplete information will result in an ineligible application.

Note 2: Candidates **must** submit applicable required documentation by the closing date of this announcement. Failure to provide the required documentation will result in an ineligible application.

VACANCY: QUARANTINE PRE-INSPECTION OFFICER

Vacancies exist for the post of Quarantine Pre-inspection officer at an International Organization.

Work Station: Phillip Goldson International Airport, Ladyville, Belize City

Description of Work:

- Conduct quarantine pre-inspections to all incoming luggage from international passengers into the Country
- Register all pre-inspection of luggage's conducted
- Ensure X-Ray machine is functioning properly
- Assist in the preparation of weekly and monthly reports
- Keep workstation clean and implement work safety standard
- Safe guard the work tools and equipments of the Organization at all time.
- Other jobs assign from time to time.

Qualification:

Candidate must possess an Associate degree in General Agriculture or Natural Resources and Agriculture. Be a certified pesticide applicator is a benefit. Good command of the Spanish language is necessary.

Salary:

We offer a competitive salary with good benefit package.

Other:

Successful candidate should relocate to nearby work station since working schedule sometime require working on weekends and on Holidays.

Interested candidates please send curriculum vitae along with two recommendations, copy of education certificate along a recent police record to **P.O. Box 426, City of Belmopan, Cayo District** or email at vacancy2017bze@gmail.com no later than 24th November, 2022.

career working with Denise "Sista B" Barrow in the Queen's Square division, Ian Jones grew up in Collet and says he has been a registered voter in that constituency for most of his adult years. And while he has been an open supporter of former Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Patrick Faber, Jones says that his role as an ally of Hon. Faber in the past is not the reason for his successes.

"I'm not saying I don't credit him for anything. I have gained some experience from the Hon. Patrick Faber as a colleague of his in terms of being at the National Sports Council. I will not discredit the Hon. Patrick Faber for anything. I will never try to play him down to be less than what he was in terms of politics, but I'm just saying that my achievements in life have been

based on my knowledge, my experiences, and mostly my own input," he said.

"I'm not here to replace anybody. I'm here to represent the people of Collet. I'm here to maintain Collet as a UDP stronghold," he added.

Jones says that he has all intentions of working along with the people of Collet, and the executive of the constituency, to continue its legacy as a UDP stronghold, which it has been, according to him, long before Patrick Faber was the standard bearer.

"You know that saying 'no man is an island'? [Faber's] becoming a political giant was not done on his own. There were people, like my mother, who had been the chairperson for thirteen

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Lisa nos desenmascaró

Lunes, 14 de noviembre de 2022

Han pasado casi dos semanas desde que el huracán Lisa, un huracán de categoría uno, azotó la Ciudad de Belize y sus alrededores, y expuso la realidad de las condiciones de vida de algunos residentes que el resto de nuestra sociedad realmente no había comprendido antes. Como polvorientas ventanas de vidrio que empañan nuestra visión, a través de todos los tiempos económicos difíciles desatados sobre nuestros ciudadanos junto con el advenimiento de Covid-19, y nuevamente más recientemente con las consecuencias inflacionarias de la guerra Rusia-Ucrania, aquellos de nosotros que hemos sido afortunados ganando un salario digno y manteniendo una situación hogareña segura y cómoda, nos habíamos vuelto complacientes y algo insensibles a los repetidos informes de delitos violentos, incluidos asesinatos, y quejas sobre las terribles condiciones de vida que muchos de nuestros ciudadanos han tenido que soportar. “Es un mal viento que no trae nada bueno”, y esta Lisa ha dejado expuesta a su paso la pura verdad de la situación real de pobreza que viven a diario muchos beliceños. Con suerte, esta cruda revelación generará, no solo algunos arreglos rápidos y asistencia alimentaria de emergencia, sino una reevaluación más profunda y fundamental de cómo está estructurada nuestra economía social, y luego, con suerte, podremos ver algunos cambios sinceros y radicales en el "sistema".

En su campaña preelectoral a principios de 2020, una de las promesas del manifiesto del actual gobierno del PUP fue instituir un salario mínimo de \$5.00 por hora. Ya en 2020 se alzaron algunas voces que sugerían que la cifra era demasiado baja; pero incluso después de un par de años de Covid-19 y de casi un año de crisis económicas por la guerra entre Rusia y Ucrania, que provocó un aumento de los precios de las materias primas, ahora, en 2022, algunos miembros de la comunidad empresarial todavía sostienen que \$ 5.00 por hora es un salario mínimo demasiado alto, y que tendrá el efecto negativo de obligar a las empresas a recortar personal para seguir siendo viables. Realmente hay un problema en Belize si se espera que un trabajador cabecera de familia proporcione comida en la mesa, tenga acceso a agua y electricidad, y sostenga los pagos de alquiler o hipoteca para una estructura de vivienda segura, mientras viste incluso un solo niño y lo/la envía a la escuela, todo con un salario semanal de \$225.00, que es a lo que equivale \$5.00 la hora. La única forma en que eso es posible es si nuestro “sistema” brinda un apoyo importante para las necesidades básicas, como la atención médica y la vivienda.

Al enfrentar la destrucción masiva de viviendas de bajo costo y mal construidas que el huracán Lisa arrasó, el Primer Ministro Briceño se conmovió y lamentó que, “...No creo que nadie deba vivir en esas condiciones en 2022 en ninguna parte del mundo, especialmente en Belize”. Pero si nuestro P.M. se toma en serio la provisión de viviendas decentes y construidas de manera segura para los beliceños de bajos ingresos, es posible que nuestro gobierno deba asumir la carga financiera de esta iniciativa para cumplir con su mantra de “justicia social”. No hay otra manera, excepto con un salario mucho más alto ganado, para que un ciudadano asegure de manera realista una vivienda adecuada y segura. Y actualmente el gobierno se está estancando, incluso haciendo una consultoría, antes de pasar a implementar el magro salario mínimo de \$ 5.00 por hora, que aún no pondrá a ningún asalariado en condiciones de alquilar o construir su propia casa segura.

No hay duda de que el sistema capitalista tiene sus méritos, respetando la propiedad privada y brindando incentivos y recompensas para inspirar y motivar a los ciudadanos a aplicar un gran esfuerzo, creatividad, un audaz y arriesgado espíritu empresarial y un impulso enérgico hacia la alta productividad. Ahora, mientras unos pocos individuos excepcionales se las arreglaron para salir adelante por sí mismos, es innegable que en todo el mundo ciertos sectores de la sociedad moderna recibieron una ventaja en el mundo capitalista competitivo a través de la riqueza generacional heredada como legado de los días de la esclavitud y el colonialismo. Entonces, algunas personas se han convertido en multimillonarios e incluso billonarios. Pero también es innegable que cada aspecto de la riqueza material sale inevitablemente de la tierra que ninguno de nosotros hizo. El sol brilla con su energía y las plantas crecen, con la ayuda de los agricultores para obtener grandes cosechas. Y todos los elementos básicos y minerales salen de la tierra, “bondad de Dios”, para ser “trabajados” y refinados por manos humanas. Todo lo que construimos y fabricamos, desde los automóviles hasta los rascacielos, todos los

productos químicos, las drogas y los comestibles en el supermercado, todo proviene originalmente de la tierra, para ser "fabricado" y "modificado" por el genio de las mentes humanas y el trabajo de manos humanas. Y las “fuerzas del mercado” influyen entonces en la determinación de los precios que pagaremos por los diversos “bienes y servicios”, desde la comida hasta el entretenimiento, el transporte, la comunicación, la educación, la atención médica, los servicios públicos (agua, electricidad, internet), etc. El sistema capitalista funciona, y los más trabajadores, los más industriosos, los más inteligentes e incluso los más afortunados, como en la lotería y el loto, triunfarán; y eso es bueno.

Pero hay un problema. ¿Cuán grande es muy grande? ¿Y aún no hay que tirar la basura? ¿Y las aguas residuales? Y cortar la hierba, y barrer las calles; etcétera etcétera.? Bien vale; así que dejemos que el "sistema" siga funcionando y los ricos sigan haciéndose más ricos. Bien. Entonces, don señor grande pasa de millonario a billonario; y sigue haciéndose más y más grande. ¿No hay problema? Bueno, resulta que hay una gran caravana en su frontera, señor. ¿Y si esos recolectores de basura, trabajadores de plantas de alcantarillado, cortadores de césped y limpiadores de calles, qué pasaría si estas pequeñas personas llegaran a un punto en el que no pueden soportar más y se embarcaran en una masiva huelga unificada? Su inodoro no puede descargar; su basura se amontona; no hay agua; no hay luz. ¿Entonces que? ¿Y por qué? Porque por mucho que trabajen, no pueden ganar el salario semanal que les permita alimentar a sus familias y asegurar sus hogares contra un huracán como Lisa.

Al considerar tal situación, se debe hacer la pregunta: ¿De dónde vienen los miles de millones del hombre rico? Elon Musk (o Michael Ashcroft) no se sentó en una silla, chasqueó los dedos y el dinero rodó como un torrente poderoso. La riqueza sale de la tierra; el genio de las mentes humanas y el trabajo de las manos humanas convirtieron las materias primas en cosas de valor, y el espíritu empresarial y el ingenio del hombre rico utilizaron la ayuda de otros para aprovechar y multiplicar ese valor, y ahora cosecha la gran recompensa. Pero no lo hizo solo. No pudo. Entonces, hay un problema.

Respetar la propiedad privada de los ricos es una cosa. Pero los ricos también deben respetar los derechos humanos de los pobres. Y ese es el desafío de las edades y el desafío para Belize. Un aspirante a político beliceño de un tercer partido declaró categóricamente una vez que la primera prioridad si lograba el poder político sería renovar drásticamente el sistema tributario en Belize, de modo que el flujo de riqueza en dirección a los pocos en la parte superior frenaría un poco, para que el goteo, cuya escasez ha sofocado la vida de las masas en el fondo, pueda aumentarse hasta un flujo habitable. Quizás por eso fue considerado “no elegible”.

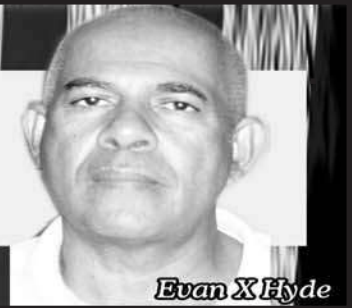
Las Naciones Unidas reconoce este problema en su “Declaración Universal de Derechos Humanos”. (Consulte The Reporter, página 19, del domingo 13 de noviembre de 2022). A continuación, se incluyen algunos extractos.

El exjefe de derechos humanos de la ONU, Navi Pillay en The Tunis Imperative: “Para la ONU, la atención de la salud, la educación, la vivienda y la justa administración de justicia no son mercancías para vender a unos pocos, sino derechos a los que todos tienen derecho sin discriminación.”

Y en referencia a una “Iniciativa del Piso de Protección Social”, que la ONU acordó en 2009, la Jefa de Derechos Humanos de la ONU, Michelle Bachelet, dijo: “Todos queremos ver un mundo donde todos los niños y todos los adultos vean sus necesidades básicas satisfechas; donde el desempleo, las lesiones, la mala salud, la vejez o la invalidez no sean señales de miseria y penurias; donde las personas no queden desprotegidas en tiempos de crisis y desastre”.

Los ricos y los “peces gordos” pueden cuidar de sí mismos. Después de Lisa, después de la recuperación y reconstrucción de emergencia, la tarea y el desafío del gobierno es cuidar de “los más pequeños de estos”, para que una enfermedad no condene a una familia al despojo de su tierra o casa debido a astronómicos costos de atención de la salud. Nuestro sistema económico necesita urgentemente un reinicio, donde la nueva estructura comience desde los cimientos con un adecuado “Piso de Protección Social”; y luego, dejar que las fichas caigan donde caigan para los grandes ganadores de nuestra economía mixta. Es la única manera de que “todos ganen”, Honorable P.M.

From the Publisher



Evan X Hyde

A few days ago an incident occurred which brought me back to a moment as much as a half century ago. In this recent encounter I was at a gas station and my eyes caught with those of a mature lady whom I am acquainted with, but we are not cordial. She was a little distance away, so I didn't recognize her immediately. When I did, I initiated a polite conversation, because I didn't want to look like a jerk. She pretended that I was talking to the person next to her, but after a while she responded, and we exchanged brief words.

There are some of us who cannot deal with rejection, so our personalities are relatively withdrawn, standoffish, shy, whatever. The first time I asked a girl to dance, it

was at the old Mina Grant Day Nursery, which was in Majestic Alley behind the Majestic Theater. I must have been 15 or 16. She had been flashing all over the dance floor, and caught my eye. When she rejected my invitation for her to dance, I felt embarrassed the rest of the day and most of the next day. I guess this is what they call "sensitive."

It so happened that a week or so later, a classmate and I were sitting behind her at a Sunday matinee at the Palace Theater, and she gave me her hand to hold. Can you believe it? I didn't. But, I was raised as if from despair to exaltation.

Last week Nuri Muhammad and Jerry Enriquez were on KREM Radio talking about the fact that substantially

more of our young girls/ladies are being educated than our young boys/men. A while back, one of my grandsons at a private school was being asked to be part of the cheering section for the school's girls volleyball team. That seemed weird to me.

Gender has become a big issue, a very controversial issue in the world between the United States and Belize. For sure this was not so when I was growing up: boys were boys, and girls were girls.

We go back to Genesis in the Holy Bible. It was written, and accepted ever since, that the woman, Eve, was approached and tempted by the Serpent. In turn, having accepted his lie, Eve convinced her husband, Adam, to go along with the program. That was

the so-called Original Sin. The woman was arbitrarily blamed. From whence did the evidence derive?

I have many stories to tell, but many are adult in nature, and Belize is a place which is not facing up to some dangerous sociological realities, and some of these are caused by the much ballyhooed tourism. But, let that be for now.

I feel that women are very, very powerful creations of the Almighty Jah. The phenomenon of slavery featured the use and abuse of black women by white men. Those of us who are products of these liaisons for centuries tried to emphasize how much we were like our European fathers.

The radicalism of the UBAD movement featured a desire to rescue the historical reputation of the black woman and place her on a pedestal. We said: "Black is beautiful." This was a truly revolutionary concept in British Honduras in 1969.

A couple weeks ago the CWU held a fundraiser, and a source told me there was a shortage of testosterone. In other words, there were not enough men for all the ladies who came to the event to party. But then, do you realize the sociological havoc which is being caused by the large amounts of our young men who are being killed or incarcerated? Put that in the category of things we don't want to talk about in Belize.

People like Tony Wright and I are sentimental for the 60s and 70s. The authorities brought in a foreign expert to figure out what had changed. They didn't have to do that.

The situation is a sensitive one, so much so that I heard Nuri, a man who is always under control, become a little "ticked off" about what he called the feminization of our youth.

The sexually perverted of the developed countries fly to poor countries like Haiti and Thailand to satisfy their sick desires. In Belize, this is totally under the radar. That is because we are living some real lies here. The MCC Grounds was my church. When you began to violate the Garden, you made it plain what your priorities are.

Anyway, my gas station and Mina Grant incidents were only the sparks for my column. There's a lady named Anne Macpherson who says UBAD repressed women. She's not from here, and she wasn't here. Who told her that? The truth is that UBAD was about the exaltation of the black woman. So, we didn't get the job done. But, you can come to Kremandala any day and see how powerful Kremandala women are. This is real.

FROM THE PUBLISHER en Español

Hace unos días ocurrió un incidente que me trajo de vuelta a un momento de hace medio siglo. En este encuentro reciente estaba en una gasolinera y mis ojos se cruzaron con los de una señora madura a quien conozco, pero no somos cordiales. Estaba un poco lejos, así que no la reconocí de inmediato. Cuando me di cuenta, inicié una conversación cortés, porque no quería parecer un idiota. Ella fingió que estaba hablando con la persona que estaba a su lado, pero después de un rato respondió e intercambiamos breves palabras.

Algunos de nosotros no podemos lidiar con el rechazo, por lo que nuestras personalidades son relativamente retraídas, distantes, tímidas, lo que sea. La primera vez que invité a bailar a una chica fue en la antigua Guardería Diurna Mina Grant, que estaba en el Callejón Majestic, detrás del Teatro Majestic. Debo haber tenido 15 o 16 años. Ella había estado brillando por toda la pista de baile y me llamó la atención. Cuando rechazó mi invitación para que bailara, me sentí avergonzado el resto del día y la mayor parte del día siguiente. Supongo que esto es lo que llaman "sensible".

Dio la casualidad de que una semana más tarde, un compañero de clase y yo estábamos sentados detrás de ella en una matiné dominical en el Teatro Palacio, y ella me dio la mano para que la

sostuviera. ¿Pueden creerlo? No lo hice pero fui levantado como de la desesperación a la exaltación.

La semana pasada, Nuri Muhammad y Jerry Enríquez estuvieron en Radio KREM hablando sobre el hecho de que sustancialmente más de nuestras niñas/señoritas están recibiendo educación que nuestros niños/hombres jóvenes. Hace un tiempo, le pidieron a uno de mis nietos en una escuela privada que fuera parte de la sección animadora del equipo de voleibol femenino de la escuela. Eso me pareció extraño.

El género se ha convertido en un gran tema, un tema muy controvertido en el mundo entre Estados Unidos y Belize. Seguro que esto no era así cuando yo estaba creciendo: los niños eran niños y las niñas eran niñas.

Volvemos a Génesis en la Santa Biblia. Fue escrito, y aceptado desde entonces, que la mujer, Eva, fue abordada y tentada por la Serpiente. A su vez, habiendo aceptado su mentira, Eva convenció a su esposo, Adán, para que siguiera la corriente. Ese fue el llamado Pecado Original. La mujer fue culpada arbitrariamente. ¿De dónde provino la evidencia?

Tengo muchas historias que contar, pero muchas son de naturaleza adulta, y Belize es un lugar que no se enfrenta a algunas peligrosas realidades sociológicas, y algunas de ellas son causadas por

el tan publicitado turismo. Pero, dejemos eso por ahora.

Siento que las mujeres son creaciones muy, muy poderosas del Todopoderoso Jehová. El fenómeno de la esclavitud se caracterizó por el uso y abuso de mujeres negras por parte de hombres blancos. Aquellos de nosotros que somos producto de estos enlaces durante siglos tratamos de enfatizar cuánto nos parecíamos a nuestros padres europeos.

El radicalismo del movimiento UBAD estuvo marcado por el deseo de rescatar la reputación histórica de la mujer negra y colocarla en un pedestal. Dijimos: "Lo negro es hermoso". Este fue un concepto verdaderamente revolucionario en Honduras Británica en 1969.

Hace un par de semanas, el CWU realizó una recaudación de fondos y una fuente me dijo que había escasez de testosterona. En otras palabras, no había suficientes hombres para todas las damas que asistieron al evento para festejar. Pero entonces, ¿se dan cuenta de los estragos sociológicos que están causando las grandes cantidades de nuestros jóvenes que están siendo asesinados o encarcelados? Pongan eso en la categoría de cosas de las que no queremos hablar en Belize.

Gente como Tony Wright y yo somos sentimentales sobre los años 60 y 70. Las autoridades trajeron a

The rivalry between the US and China



by Clinton Canul Luna

Permit me, our dear readers of this column, to present to you the following which I find to be of interest. It was published in RT Actualidad in Spanish under the heading: "FMI: La rivalidad entre EE.UU. y China fragmenta la economía mundial en bloques adversarios" dated November, 13, 2022. It is as follows:

IMF: The rivalry between the US and China fragments the world economy into adversary blocs

The director general of the organization foresees that the division will lead to a "poorer and less secure world". The world economy is dividing into adversary blocs due to the rivalry between the US and China, which could

lead to a new cold war, warned the general director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Kristalina Georgieva, in an interview with the newspaper *The Washington Post*. Georgieva recalled the efforts undertaken by Washington and the European Union to redesign global supply chains, eliminating dependence on a single supplier: China. In addition, the introduction of trade barriers in order to gain advantage in the context of geopolitical rivalry, can trigger a destructive cycle that would affect poor and middle-class households, leaving the rich unscathed. Diversifying supply chains after the Covid-19 pandemic made sense up to a point, the IMF chief noted. But when it goes "beyond

economic logic, it would be detrimental to the US and the rest of the world," she added.

"I am concerned about the growing fragmentation of the global economy," continued Georgieva, who believes that this trend will lead to a "poorer and less secure world."

Higher prices

In this sense, she stated that provoking a new cold war would be "very irresponsible." In a world economy fragmented into rival blocs, global activity would shrink by 1.5%, or more than \$1.4 trillion annually. The losses in percentage terms for Asia, the center of production of electronics, clothing and industrial goods, would be

double. Annual trade between the US and China remains considerable, exceeding \$600 billion. Their economies are so intertwined that, according to Georgieva, a complete breakup is impossible. Thus, she mentioned that the tariffs that Washington began to establish since 2018 on Chinese imports are an example of counterproductive policies. In this regard, the director of the agency stressed that the tariffs have not reduced the US trade deficit with China, but have left the US population paying higher prices for Chinese products. "It's important to think carefully about your actions and the responses they can elicit, because once you let the genie out of the bottle, it's hard to put it back," she added.

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November 13, 2022

Finca Solana
Corozal Town

From The Publisher en Español

Continúa de página 9

un experto extranjero para averiguar qué había cambiado. No tuvieron que hacer eso.

La situación es delicada, tanto así que escuché a Nuri, un hombre que siempre está bajo control, verse un poco enojado por lo que llamó la feminización de nuestra juventud.

Los perversos sexuales de los países desarrollados vuelan a países pobres como Haití y Tailandia para satisfacer sus deseos enfermizos. En Belize, esto está totalmente bajo el radar. Eso se debe a que estamos viviendo algunas grandes mentiras aquí. El Jardín MCC era mi iglesia. Cuando comenzaron a violar el Jardín, dejaron claro cuáles eran sus prioridades.

De todos modos, mis incidentes de la gasolinera y Mina Grant fueron solo las chispas de mi columna. Hay una señora llamada Anne Macpherson que dice que UBAD reprimió a las mujeres. Ella no es de aquí, y no estaba aquí. ¿Quién le dijo eso? La verdad es que UBAD se trataba de la exaltación de la mujer negra. Entonces, no cumplimos con el trabajo. Pero pueden venir a Kremandala cualquier día y ver lo poderosas que son las mujeres de Kremandala. Esto es real.



Available at:

BELIZE CITY

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

LADYVILLE

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

ORANGE WALK

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

COROZAL

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

BELMOPAN

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

CAYO

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

BENQUE

- * Eduard Cambranes, 6 Diaz St., Benque

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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Jimmy Carter on homosexuality, possible influence on Torrijos, and what brought him down

by Colin Hyde

Did I forget to congratulate the GOB for its decision to honor the great Jimmy Carter? The narrow-minded Americans call him their worst president. I guess he didn't increase their riches enough. The man the Americans call their worst president ever, he was the greatest, but when you're shallow and self-centered, you'll never see the bigger picture.

I think we need a preamble to kick off the ball, a beginning, and the best start I think is the story of civilization. It's artificial, a man-made thing that began in the Garden of Eden when two parties decided to cover up, because they were better than the other animals. Yap, sexual behavior, it is at the core of civilization. In the civilized world, the highest sexual behavior is a committed man and woman who're about perpetuating mankind. You'll have to be satisfied with that for an introduction. Yes, I think we're pulling out here, before we get into trouble.

It isn't new news that our hero, Jimmy Carter, supports civil unions between parties that are absolutely not interested in continuing mankind. In the 2020 story, "Did Jimmy Carter say 'Jesus Never Said a Word About Homosexuality'?", which can be found at the website snopes.com, David

Mikkelson said Carter said that "When we go to the Bible, we should keep in mind that the basic principles of the Bible are taught by God, but written down by human beings deprived of modern day knowledge."

Mikkelson's research showed it was absolutely true, a 2018 meme attributed to Carter which reported him saying, "Homosexuality was well known in the ancient world, well before Christ was born, and Jesus never said a word about homosexuality. In all of His teachings about multiple things ... [Jesus] never said that gay people should be condemned."

Bible scholar, Peter Goeman, in the piece, "Homosexuality was Added to the Bible in 1946", says the claim that the Bible doesn't speak against homosexuality because "the word 'homosexual' was not in any Bible prior to 1946" is incorrect. Goeman says it is just a matter of terms, that "the real issue is not whether the word homosexual was used in English translations, but whether the Bible speaks against the issue of homosexuality", and that it very clearly does. Goeman also cited a number of instances where the Apostle Paul, in the New Testament, condemned the behavior

Jimmy Carter, who teaches Sunday school at Marantha Baptist Church, is

so great you have to do a double take when he appears to be off base in his ideas. APNews says Marantha Baptist is small, and it was formed in 1976 when a larger Baptist Church that Carter belonged to wouldn't accept black people as members. I'm not going to question civil unions in the US, because those people are a very different breed from us. I'll say that Jesus didn't speak about many things in his 3-year ministry. I don't see why a matter like homosexuality would have come up without a gay lobby pushing things. And back then, noooo, for our friends in that crowd closet was best.

Jimmy Carter gets his pass from me for what he did for Belize and our neighbors, and I'm glad and proud that we are going to honor him. A GOB Press Office release during the recent September celebrations said he had "been nominated to receive the Order of Belize in recognition of his outstanding friendship and support to Belize, which will be conferred on a date to be announced." My gudnis, why did it take so long? We all know we'd still be the colony Belize, if not for the man in the US Oval Office between 1977 and 1981. It was he who took away the veto that was blocking our path to 1981 glory.

Belize.com says Panama's leader, General Omar Torrijos, was the first of the Spanish-speaking Americas to declare for Belize. Belize.com says we had been invited as a special guest to the Summit Meeting of the Non-Aligned Countries held in Colombo, Sri Lanka in August 1976, and Panama was present at that same summit to lobby for control of the Panama Canal. While "Panama had been previously committed in a signed declaration of Central American countries to support Guatemala's claim, General Torrijos became convinced of the justice of the Belizean struggle for Independence, and at the next United Nation's (UN) General Assembly session, Panama voted in favor of the Belizean resolution."

I'm not about stealing any of General Torrijos's thunder; he will forever hold a place of honor in our hearts, but I wouldn't rule out that Carter could have exerted some influence on him, to support Belize's liberation. Of course it could have been the other way around too. I will allow the experts to weigh in on that, so that I can direct the remainder of this piece to those fickle, ignorant Americans who fail to appreciate true greatness. And to share a little peeve I have with the Iranians.

I've not been pleased with Iran's leaders, since they helped sink Jimmy's reelection bid. Ronald Reagan would never have become president of the US if the Iranians hadn't held American hostages. And the world today would have been a better place, if Carter had gotten his well-deserved four more years.

The following about the Iran hostage crisis that changed the world for the worse is taken from a report by The White House Historical Association, which says the beginnings of the crisis "preceded Jimmy Carter's term by almost thirty years."

The US, to protect its oil interests, had propped up the Shah of Iran, whose regime had become brutal. "In January 1979, the shah fled into exile, and the theocratic regime of Khomeini took power." The US government had little understanding of the Ayatollah Khomeini, and the depth of Iranian resentment for the West for eroding their culture. The shah wanted to go to the US for cancer treatment, and Carter, even though he knew it was volatile to do so because at a previous time, 1953, the shah had fled Iran and later been returned to power by the CIA, accepted him on "humanitarian principle."

The Ayatollah's government did not approve. "Days later, on November 4, a mob of 3,000 militants invaded the American embassy in Tehran, taking sixty-six diplomats and military personnel as hostages ... In April 1980, after months of negotiations failed to result in the release of the hostages, the United States broke off diplomatic relations with Iran."

An attempt to rescue the hostages failed. "The abortive mission seemed to many Americans a symbol of U.S. military weakness in the post-Vietnam era. Carter's popularity plunged to 20 percent, even lower than Nixon's during the Watergate scandal." The media pounded Carter's administration over the hostage crisis. "Each night TV news commentators posted the number of days the hostages had been held in humiliating, terrifying captivity, their president impotent in finding a way to bring them home ... 'This is the 325th day of the Iranian hostage crisis,' the journalists would say, and on and on it went."

Jimmy Carter worked out a deal for the release of the hostages, but the Iranian leadership dragged its feet. It wasn't until Carter had left office that the US hostages were set free. Jimmy Carter received the news at 12:33 p.m., the day of the inauguration of Reagan as president of the US, that the first plane with freed hostages had left Tehran. "President Ronald Reagan got the word at an inaugural luncheon. It was the first official announcement he would make to the American people."

I have to feel Iran didn't know the greatness of the man who was president of the US when they took the hostages. Effectively, they undermined the humanitarian Carter and opened *picado* for the ultra-right wing Reagan. Carter handed over the Panama Canal. Reagan tried to overturn the liberating Sandinistas in Nicaragua. Carter supported the human rights of the Palestinians. Reagan threw his weight behind Israel.

A Collection of Ideas and Opinions 2007-2012
by C B Hyde

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SRC TRADING THOUGHTS – NOVEMBER 2022

Why the Bridgetown Initiative on Climate Finance is Good For Trade

by Dr. Jan Yves Remy

It was not so long ago, in March 2022, that Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley of Barbados went to the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Geneva seeking concrete answers on how the WTO was helping developing countries with one of their most pressing needs—financing their climate adaptation and mitigation efforts to transition to green economies and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs).

Fast forward just seven months, and so much has changed. The WTO's Director General, Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, has made sustainability and climate change action one of the central issues defining her administration, with her efforts to date culminating with the release of the World Trade Report 2022 on Climate Change and International Trade at the climate change negotiations in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt (COP27). In turn, PM Mottley has refined her thinking and broadened the appeal of her core message: that the “Bretton Woods” international financial institutions—the IMF and the World Bank—must be reformed to help developing countries fund adaptation and cope with the irreversible loss and damage from climate change. Dubbed the **Bridgetown Initiative**, PM Mottley's proposals have received the nod from influential friends at COP27, like French President Macron, and look set to unleash a new wave of thinking about the way global institutions are approaching risk and pricing capital for climate-resilient projects across the world.

In a powerful show of force then, both leaders seem intent on placing climate at the core of the international communities' attention; while different, their demands are inextricably linked. In this SRC Trading Thoughts, I ponder: is there a way that the Bridgetown Agenda and international trade can come together to solve the pressing needs of the global South?

What's in the Bridgetown Initiative?

The **Bridgetown Initiative**, named after the capital of Barbados where it was launched in July 2022 among high-level global finance thought leaders, aims to make green and development financing more fair, accessible and affordable so that developing countries can meet their climate obligations under the Paris Convention and fund their development agendas under the Sustainable Development Goals. As described by Avinash Persaud, Barbadian Special Envoy on Climate Finance and one of the Initiative's key proponents, there are three main pillars being advanced for reform of the current finance architecture:

First, the Initiative proposes a Global Mitigation Trust seeded with IMF Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), which are rights of IMF members to borrow specific amounts from another at low-interest rates. Many are held by developed countries and are worth over USD 1 trillion. If a portion of these SDRs – about USD 500 billion – were

offered to the private sector at 2.4% interest rates, they could be used to fund the mitigation projects and investments using technologies and incorporating high environmental standards such as those set out in the Just Energy Transition partnerships.

Second, it calls for more concessionary finance to be made available to governments by multilateral development banks – at better than commercial rates – to fund adaptation projects. Specifically, the multilateral development banks would work with the IMF to re-channel their SDRs to regional development banks. This financing would be made available even to high and middle-income countries of CARICOM – like St. Kitts and Nevis, Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago – that have been hard hit by Covid-19, inflation, and debt, but which are not always eligible to receive such funding under current criteria.

Third, and to address the chronic debt of some countries, especially those in CARICOM, the Initiative proposes Barbados-style natural disaster and pandemic clauses in all debt instruments – whether held by governments or private creditors. These clauses would ensure that debt service would be suspended for two years after a declared natural disaster, meeting a threshold, and would release liquidity to governments for spending on social programmes. Second, reconstruction grants would be provided to assist countries in circumstances where the loss and damage by a climate event are over 5% of GDP. This would trigger payment out of a fossil fuel compensation fund, to be financed by producers of fossil fuels, many of which have made windfalls from recent oil prices.

The Initiative adds to the creative approaches being taken by Caribbean entities to the climate financing issue like the Belizean Debt-for-Nature Blue Bond, the Caribbean Development Bank's Recovery Duration Adjustor, and ECLAC's Caribbean Resilience Fund.

How can the Bridgetown Initiative Benefit Trade?

The heightened global attention ushered in by the Bridgetown Agenda is bound to augur well for the sustainability agenda at the WTO. Not only can it revitalize topics like debt and trade financing within WTO circles that some countries like CARICOM, have been calling for, but it will also buttress the emphasis in the WTO's 2022 Aid for Trade Review on prioritizing climate financing by the donor community.

But it is also in line with the evolving core agenda of the WTO. Increasingly, the WTO has been carefully crafting an image of being more of a friend than foe in ongoing efforts to ensure that trade rules make the transition to green economies more

reachable. A key plank of that agenda rests on the financing community making available to governments and the private sector the funds for the investments and technologies that will undergird the transition to green industries, fuel green trade and increase the production of environmental goods and services that the developing world needs. If the developing countries cannot obtain financing to invest in the green economy, they will be left behind; their economies will remain uncompetitive and unsustainable, and they will be unattractive to investors.

For CARICOM countries beset with debt, high borrowing rates make it near impossible for their governments to access funds. If the reforms under the Bridgetown Initiative take hold, more private financing can be unleashed for encouraging investments like the one by a French company – HDF – that is set to take the lead in green hydrogen in Trinidad and Tobago. Equally, if regional development banks, like the Caribbean Development Bank, have more liquidity to borrow at concessional rates, they can fund the adaptation projects that favour regional needs, including financing of the tradable growth sectors like renewable energy, the blue economy, and training our people with environmental skills to make them more competitive. The third plank of the Bridgetown Initiative – creating a Loss and Damage Fund out of the windfall profits from fossil fuels – can also find a home at the WTO where plurilateral discussions have started to end fossil fuel subsidies. The creation and administration of Funds – including the one just established for Fisheries Subsidies negotiations to assist developing countries with new fisheries commitments – are not new to the WTO.

And the WTO DG, Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, is not taking any of these connections for granted. The DG – herself a former Finance Minister of Nigeria and Vice President at the World Bank – has called on better financing for Africa. Just as she did with the pharmaceutical sector at the height of COVID-19 pandemic through her associations with the GAVI Alliance, she is bound to see the WTO as a convenor of choice for bringing together the finance and trade

community. Alongside the heads of the other two trade institutions in Geneva, Rebeca Grynspan of UNCTAD and Pamela Coke-Hamilton of the ITC, she has also been taking front stage at COP27 in promoting the message that trade requires investment and finance to increase resilience and reduce vulnerabilities.

What's Next?

The precise connection between trade and finance – and the role of the WTO in bringing them closer together – still requires tweaking, but there is a real opportunity to make the agenda more concrete. At a 7 November event in COP27 hosted by the Government of Scotland and University College London under the theme, ‘When will leaders lead?’, DG Ngozi underscored that “you can have all the finance in the world, and if the trade policies are not right you will not get anywhere.” Equally, PM Mottley has said that to help countries transform their tradable energy, transportation, agriculture and manufacturing sectors, finance is essential.

While the Bridgetown Initiative was not necessarily directed at the WTO – the third of the Bretton Woods institutions – it can be a key supporting pillar for the trade community in mobilizing resources for the kind of reforms and transition needed to make economies more trade competitive and sustainable. With the current leadership in Geneva and the Caribbean, there is a real hope that the much-needed paradigm shift will actually finally happen.

Dr. Jan Yves Remy is Director of the UWT's Shridath Ramphal Centre for International Trade Law, Policy and Services (www.shridathramphalcentre.com). She is also part of the leadership team of the *Remaking Global Trade for a Sustainable Future Project* with Professor Dan Esty at the Yale School of the Environment and Yale Law School, Professor Diana Van Patten at the Yale School of Management, Professor Joel Trachtman and Dean Rachel Kyte at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.

Picture: COP27 session on “When Will Leaders Lead,” hosted by the Government of Scotland and UCL.





SJC and SCA win volleyball nationals



David Garbutt of SJC won the Most Valuable Player award

by Charles Gladden



Opening ceremony

BELMOPAN, Mon. Nov. 14, 2022
 Over the weekend, the National Secondary Schools Sports Association (NSSSA) held its 2022 national volleyball championships at the UB Gymnasium in Belmopan, where the four high school regional champions for males and females competed for the national title.
 In Game 1 on Friday afternoon, SCA defeated the southern champs, Toledo Community College Girls (25 - 8, 25 - 15, 25 - 16). The northern champs, Orange Walk Technical High School, beat the western champs, Sacred Heart College, in game 2 in four sets (25 - 18, 25 - 22, 22 - 25, 25 - 18). Game 3 saw SJC boys defeating TCC boys in three sets (25 - 15, 25 - 17, 25



Nisaan Martinez of SCA won the Most Valuable Player award

- 17), and Muffles College High School

edged past Belmopan Methodist High School in four sets (25 - 18, 20 - 25, 25 - 20, 25 - 17) in the final game of the day.
 After the victory against TCC, Sharlene Johnson, head coach for SCA, spoke to us about her team's victory.
 "I put in my strongest six, and that is how that score took place. For the other sets, I made a lot of changes, because I wanted to give playing time as well as keep the distance of the score so that is basically. Hence the reason, we end up winning by that score," she said.
 In the consolation game on Saturday

morning, TCC girls secured third place after defeating Sacred Heart College in four sets (25 - 18, 25 - 18, 22 - 25, 25 - 18), and TCC boys also claimed third place by defeating Belmopan Methodist High School in four sets (25 - 18, 20 - 25, 25 - 20, 25 - 17). Later that day, in the championship game, SCA girls defeated Orange Walk Technical High School in three sets (25 - 10, 25 - 5, 25 - 13), and SJC boys defeated their opponent, Muffles College, in three sets (25 - 9, 25 - 21, 25 - 8).
 The SJC team are repeat national champions, while the SCA team has won their 13th consecutive national title. David Garbutt of SJC and Nisaan Martinez of SCA received the Most Valuable Player award.

Tight scores in Leg 1 of PLB semi-finals

San Pedro 2-2 Verdes; Progresso 1-2 Altitude

by William Ysaguirre

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Nov. 14, 2022
 Thanks to technology and some good telecasts by TNC 10 and sports commentator Raynord Garbutt on Saturday night and Sunday afternoon, fans across the country got to view two very tightly contested first leg matches in the Premier League of Belize (PLB) 2022-2023 Opening Season home-and-away semi-finals. Both games went "down to the wire," and the final results this coming weekend are anything but academic, with no team having a commanding lead going into game 2.
 On Saturday night, November 12, at the Ambergris Stadium, #3 seed hosts San Pedro Pirates FC and #2 seed defending champions Verdes FC ended in a 2-2 draw, with each team scoring in injury time. Desmond Wade (60') gave Verdes the first half lead, but



Altitude striker Delone Torres (left) beats Progresso goalie Luisito Cunil (right) before collapsing with extended right knee.

Andir Chi (80') got the late equalizer for San Pedro. It looked like a 1-1 draw,

until San Pedro got what seemed the game winner from Mexican import Eric

Roman (90+3') in injury time. But it was seconds before the final whistle when Krisean Lopez (90+5') knotted the score again for Verdes with a low grounder from the top of the eighteen.
 On Sunday afternoon at the People's Stadium in Orange Walk, the young #4 seed Progresso FC hosts battled gamely against the seasoned league standings leader #1 seed Altitude FC, and seemed to have secured a draw ten minutes before regulation, only to concede a goal two minutes later and end up on the losing end of a 2-1 score. Altitude completely dominated possession throughout the game (72% to 28%) but couldn't get on the score card until second half when right wing Delone Torres (54') received a centering pass from left wing Miguel Garcia



Week 3 results in National Women's League Closing Season 2022

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Nov. 14, 2022

The National Amateur Women's League (NAWL) returned to action over the weekend with Week 3 games in its 2022 Closing Season. Group A consists of 3 teams – Verdes Rebels, Rumberas, and Sagitun Girlz; while 5 teams are in Group B – Cayo Dreamers, Napoles FC, Guardian FC, Millenium Fusion, and Wagiya SC.

In Group A, with kickoff time at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 12, at the Norman Broaster Stadium, home team Verdes Rebels prevailed, 4-0, over Rumberas from Mango Creek, Independence with one goal from Shantel Robinson (14'), and a hat trick from Jessie McLaughlyn (32', 39' & 64').

Also on Saturday, in a Group B match starting at 3:00 p.m. at the Marion Jones Sports Complex in Belize City, it was visiting Napoles FC coming away with the 2-0 victory over home standing Millenium Fusion, courtesy of a goal each from Marjorie Sanchez (24') and Marleny Rosa (77').

The only NAWL game on Sunday was a Group B encounter starting at 3:00 p.m. at the Norman Broaster Stadium in San Ignacio where Cayo Dreamers dropped Wagiya SC, 3-0, with goals from Natasha Tillet (49' & 85') and Daysi Paiz (73').

TABLE OF STANDING NAWL A

CLUBS	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	+/-	Pts
Sagitun Girlz	2	2	0	0	4	2	+2	6
Verdes Rebel	2	1	0	1	4	1	+3	3
Rumberas	2	0	0	2	2	7	-5	0

TABLE OF STANDING NAWL B

CLUBS	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	+/-	Pts
Cayo Dreamers	2	1	1	0	4	1	+3	4
Napoles FC	2	1	1	0	3	1	+2	4
Guardian FC	1	1	0	0	6	1	+5	3
Millenium Fusion	2	0	0	2	1	8	-7	0
Wagiya SC	1	0	0	1	0	3	-3	0

Upcoming NAWL Week 4 games:

Saturday, November 19

4:00 p.m. – (A) Verdes Rebels vs Sagitun Girlz – Norman Broaster Stadium

Sunday, November 20

3:00 p.m. – (B) Guardian FC vs Cayo Dreamers – Marion Jones Sports Complex

3:00 p.m. – (B) Napoles FC vs Wagiya SC – Isidoro Beaton Stadium

Former host Russia frozen out as World Cup begins in Qatar

The Associated Press, Mon. Nov. 14, 2022

Four years after Vladimir Putin hosted the World Cup party, Russia is off the guest list.

While the soccer world focuses on the opening game of the World Cup in Qatar on Sunday, Russia will be playing a friendly game in Uzbekistan.

Russia was kicked out of World Cup qualifying after it invaded Ukraine and now can only play friendlies against the few nations prepared to accept its invitations.

The Russian men's national team's only game of 2022 so far was a 2-1 win over Kyrgyzstan in September. Russian clubs are barred from the Champions League and the women's national team was removed from the European Championship.

Monday marked one year since the last competitive game of the Russian men's national team, a 1-0 loss at Croatia on a swampy, waterlogged field. That meant Russia didn't qualify for the World Cup directly and went into the playoffs. By the time those came around, Russia had invaded Ukraine.

Russia's scheduled opponent, Poland, refused to travel to Moscow to play, as did the other teams in the playoff bracket. That raised the prospect of Russia qualifying for the World Cup by default. In legal battles at the Court of Arbitration for Sport, FIFA argued that letting Russia compete could cause more boycotts and "irreparable and chaotic" damage to its tournament. CAS let the ban stand...

Medical professionals give GOB ultimatum

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related field as a pre-requisite for the appointment to the post of Minister of Health."

The coalition pointed out that while healthcare professionals remain committed to delivering high-quality care, the deficiencies in the healthcare system continue to pose challenges and demoralize staff, "putting patients' rehabilitation and even lives at risk," the release states.

The joint release states that while they

recognize the healthcare professionals' responsibility to provide quality healthcare services, they are also aware that, "the provision of resources to do so, as well as the development and practice of sustainable public health, is ultimately the responsibility of the government."

We've reached out to Minister of Health and Wellness Hon. Kevin Bernard to find out whether the meeting set for between the 12 and 16 of November will still take place within that designated time period, but have not yet received a reply. We will continue to follow.

People's Constitutional Commission officially launched

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that this PCC is an opportunity for Belizeans to do just that at this time.

"People's full and effective participation in this process will ultimately determine the credibility and viability of the final product we achieve," Hon. Fonseca said. He outlined that a widespread education campaign will surely be a key part of the process to ensure the Belizean people are fully informed of the issues placed before them during the consultative process.

"We must embrace this opportunity; we must make it meaningful. We have an opportunity to move from social media activism and armchair criticism to real

participation in constitutional reform, thereby determining how we are governed," Min. Fonseca said

Prime Minister John Briceño, during his keynote address, said that it is his administration's desire to have the Belizean people decide what sort of government and system they want, instead of just complying with something that was inherited.

"This Constitution Commission is intended to make good on this promise enshrined in our Constitution. It is our sincere desire to have the people determine the kind of government they want, not something they inherited. But a system that at its core is progressive, inclusive, and 100% Belizean," said PM Briceño.

L00 stands firmly behind Ian Jones' endorsement

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years, who made Collet a UDP stronghold even before the Hon. Patrick Faber was a representative for that," he stated.

Jones says that, as standard bearer, his focus will be not on a back and forth with the committee but on developing the constituency and securing a victory in the next general elections.

"It won't be a back and forth. That's not how I operate. If it is that the other side or any side decides to try to create opposition to my candidacy, then they will do so on their own. They will not get a response from me. I have this saying that I live by—that not every insult

deserves a response, and that is how I will maintain being in Collet," he said.

"Ian Jones is the candidate for Collet, the new standard bearer. I congratulate him. I congratulate the executive, and we have a lot of work to do in the Collet division so that we can deliver Collet for the UDP when the general elections have come," said Hon. Shyne Barrow.

Hon. Barrow says that he has no doubt in his mind that Collet will remain a stronghold for the UDP when the next general elections come around.

The UDP also held an endorsement convention for the Mesopotamia constituency on Saturday as well as for Port Loyola and Fort George on Sunday. Conventions are expected to conclude by January 2023.

Tight scores in Leg 1 of PLB semi-finals

Continued from Page 13

and volleyed from close range, only to extend his right knee on landing unevenly after the goal scoring shot, and having to leave the game immediately. (Delone will almost certainly be unavailable for the return match this coming Sunday in Independence.) Some confusion in the Altitude defense on a Progresso corner from the left side, and it was Progresso's Dedron Baptist (80') driving in an uncontested header at close range to tie the score at 1-1. But just two minutes later it was Altitude's Brazilian import Aloisio Teizeira (82') draining a left foot

grounder from a left-side cross-goal pass and it nicked the inside of the right goal post and into the net for the 2-1 Altitude win.

The decisive semi-final 2nd leg games this coming weekend will take the away-goal rule into consideration in case there is an aggregate tie in goals at the end of regulation.

PLB semi-finals Leg 2 schedule:
 Saturday, November 19
 7:30 p.m. – Altitude FC vs Progresso FC – M.A. Stadium in Independence
 Sunday, November 20
 4:00 p.m. – Verdes FC vs San Pedro Pirates FC – Norman Broaster Stadium

REGIONAL & INTERNATIONAL

Colombia's signing of Escazu accord brings hope to land defenders

Activists hope treaty is first step towards more protection in one of the most dangerous nations for environmentalists.



Embera Indigenous people clash with riot police while fighting for the right to land, in Bogota, Colombia on October 19, 2022 [Harry Furia Grafica/Reuters]

by Joshua Collins and Daniela Diaz Rangel

Bogota, Colombia, Fri. Nov. 11 (Aljazeera) – Sikuaní Indigenous leader Benilde Carreno likens the destruction of her community's native plants to "losing an arm or a leg".

Her people, located in the Colombian Orinoquia, an eastern region on the border with Venezuela, have suffered not only from the rigours of 50 years of civil war and its aftermath, but also environmental damage from poorly planned reforestation projects and the opening of drug trafficking routes by illegal armed groups.

Carreno is now displaced from her reservation, living in exile in the capital, Bogota, due to threats against her life resulting from her activism. But she hopes Colombia's ratification of the Escazu Agreement on the environment will usher in a new chapter.

The accord, she tells Al Jazeera, can be "a fundamental tool that will protect the leaders and caretakers of Mother Earth, of our environment, water and life". It will also allow her to qualify for state protection so that she can return to her community.

"The protections set out in the Escazu Agreement are fundamental for us," she says. "We fought for this agreement and we are going to push it forward because I believe that if it is not enforced, ongoing killings of the defenders of Mother Earth will continue."

The agreement

The Escazu Agreement, adopted in Costa Rica in March 2018, is a legally binding international treaty that aims to promote transparency in environmental decision-making. The first of its kind in Latin America and the Caribbean, it also includes protections for environmentalists like Carreno — a

welcome development in one of the most dangerous countries in the world for land defenders.

The agreement enshrined the rights of citizens to get information on industrial projects; ordered the creation of mechanisms for environmental justice and law enforcement, and required signatories to monitor socio-environmental conflicts and provide mitigation and resolution strategies for them.

"This law gives power to the citizens, in the function of the defence of nature, the defence of the planet, the defence of life," Colombian President Gustavo Petro said during a signing ceremony on November 5.

Colombia's Congress ratified the Escazu Agreement on October 11 — making it the 14th country in the region to do so — and Petro's signature, pending a review by the Supreme Court, enshrines the treaty into Colombian law. His predecessor Ivan Duque signed the accord in 2019, but Duque's administration never sought Congressional approval for formal ratification.

Claudia Vasquez, director of The Nature Conservancy, an NGO that advocates for the protection of biodiversity in Latin America, said the accord will be key to environmental protections in the country.

"The participation of our Indigenous peoples and local communities and the guarantee of their territorial rights must be an indispensable pillar of conservation efforts," she told Al Jazeera. "The Escazu Agreement strengthens guarantees of the rights of these communities so that both participation and land rights are more effectively recognised."

'A step towards peace'

Aida Quilcue, a senator with the left-wing MAIS party, which is part of Petro's "Historic Pact" coalition, and

Lula Travels to COP27 With an Agenda of Bilateral Meetings



Brazil's President-elect Lula da Silva (Photo: Twitter/ @AndreteleSUR)

Mon. Nov. 14, 2022 (TeleSur) He will hold meetings with the top representatives of some 10 countries, including China, Egypt, the U.S., the UK, and Germany.

On Monday, Brazil's President-elect Lula da Silva traveled to Egypt to take part in the United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP27).

"Brazil, which was diplomatically isolated during the administration of the far-right, climate-sceptic President Jair Bolsonaro, has new hope," the French outlet Les Echos commented on the Workers' Party leader, adding that "Lula is expected in Egypt as if he were a star."

On Wednesday, Lula da Silva will participate in the event "Charter from the Amazon: a common agenda for climate transition," in which he will be accompanied by several governors from the Amazon region.

At 5:15 p.m. local time that day, Lula da Silva will make a statement at the COP27 plenary, which is being held in Sharm el Sheikh, a hotel complex on the shores of the Red Sea.

On Thursday, the president-elect will

hold meetings with representatives of social organizations and will participate in an international forum on Indigenous Peoples and climate change.

During his stay in Egypt, Lula da Silva will also hold bilateral meetings with the top representatives of some 10 countries, including China, Egypt, the U.S., the UK, and Germany. He will also meet with World Bank President David Malpass and United Nations Secretary Antonio Guterres.

"I believe that Brazil is capable of playing a positive and constructive role during the summit to promote climate action at the international level," said Egypt's President Abdel Fattah El Sisi, who personally invited Lula to COP27 after congratulating him on his victory in the elections.

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a Nasa Indigenous leader from the region of Cauca, hailed the agreement's ratification. She said it is a crucial step towards protecting activists, as well as advancing real peacebuilding in regions long-neglected by the federal government.

For years, Colombia was ranked as the most dangerous country in the world for environmental activists. Global Witness, an environmental watchdog, said in a September report that 322 environmental activists were murdered in Colombia between 2011 and 2021.

And Cauca, where Quilcue is from, has emerged as one of the epicentres of such attacks, recording one of the highest rates of violence since a 2016 peace deal was signed by Bogota and Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) rebels. On October 29, Quilcue was the victim of an attack herself when unidentified gunmen fired on the government car she was travelling in.

"I strongly welcome the ratification," she told Al Jazeera. "If we do not protect Mother Earth, humanity will go extinct. We Indigenous people have been on the front lines of this struggle. But perhaps just as importantly, this is a step towards peace. Without real peace [in Colombia], we will not be able to achieve lasting solutions for saving the environment."

Petro has promised to reign in surging violence in the country through dialogue with armed groups, provide protection for social leaders, and make long-promised investments in areas racked by conflict as part of what he dubbed a plan for "total peace".

He also has promised to target deforestation, which rose considerably under the previous administration, and to find economic alternatives to oil and mineral extraction — both industries that will be subject to more oversight under Escazu.

Mayerly Lopez, an environmental leader and defender of the Santurban Paramo, an alpine wetland region in Santander, in eastern Colombia, described the new accord as a sharp departure from past policy.

"Under previous governments, the approval process [for extractive projects] was opaque and dominated by powerful industrial interests, and occurred with little public oversight," she said. "The process for creating environmental protections has been top-down and haphazard, rather than democratic, and heavily favoured large companies."

Full article can be found at: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/11/11/colombias-signing-of-escazu-accord-brings-hope-to-land-defenders>

From the border... to the Boulevard;



From the Hondo... to Mahogany!

Sugar and Cream

Corozal Town - Orange Walk Town - Belize City

New Year's Day

2023



Who will win?

32nd Annual kren FM

CYCLING CLASSIC

New Year's Day 2023!!



1991	Michael Lewis (first) Ernest Meighan (second)	(Ladies)	Lori Harkey (first)
1992	Francisco Flores (first) Fitzgerald Joseph (second)		Shalini Zabaneh (second) Carlos Hernandez (first)
1993	Derrick Mahler (first) Orlando Chavarria (second)	(Ladies)	Carlos Manuel Hernandez (second) Shalini Zabaneh (first)
1994	Douglas Lamb (first) Ronald Sutherland (second)		Anthea Sutherland (second) Marco Salas (first)
1995	Robert Mariano (first) Gustavo Carillo (second)	(Ladies)	Juan Rojas (second) Shalini Zabaneh (first)
1996	Nigel Matus (first) Ian Smith (second)		Patricia Chavarria (second) Geovanni Choto (first)
1997	Fred Usher (first) Michael Lewis (second)	(Ladies)	Byron Pope (second) Kaya Cattouse (first)
1998	Francisco Flores (first) James Frampton (second)		Shalini Zabaneh (second) David Henderson (first)
1999	Ernest Meighan (first) Skip Spangenburg (second)	(Ladies)	Gregory Lovell (second) Shalini Zabaneh (first)
2000	Ariel Rosado (first) Quinton Hamilton (second)		Patricia Chavarria (second) Byron Pope (first)
2001	Miguel Perez (first) Shane Vasquez (second)	(Ladies)	Carlos Lopez (second) Shalini Zabaneh (first)
	(Ladies) Karen Rosito (First)		Gabrielle Lovell (second)
2002	Amlita Knowles (second) Barney Brown (first)	2015	Hector Rangel (first) David Santos (second)
	Hugo Rostrain Monterosa (second)	(Ladies)	Alicia Thompson (first) Kaya Cattouse (second)
(Ladies)	Ann Marie Bennett (first)	2016	Joel Adan Borland (first) Gregory Lovell (second)
2003	Douglas Lamb (first) Frank Cannon (second)	(Ladies)	Alicia Thompson (first) Kaya Cattouse (second)
(Ladies)	Fiona Humes Gonzalez (First)	2017	Ron Vasquez (first) Brandon Cattouse (second)
2004	Marlon Castillo (first) Mateo Cruz (second)	(Ladies)	Alicia Thompson (first) Kaya Cattouse (second)
(Ladies)	Fiona Humes-Gonzalez (first)	2018	John DeLong (second) John DeLong (second)
2005	Claudett Maheia (second) Michael Lewis (first)	(Ladies)	Alicia Thompson (first) Kaya Cattouse (second)
(Ladies)	Shane Vasquez (second)	2019	John DeLong (First) Clayton Travis (Second)
2006	Marinette Flowers (first) Scottie Weiss (first)	(Ladies)	Kaya Cattouse (First) Nicole Gallego (Second)
(Ladies)	Marlon Castillo (second)	2020	Oscar Quiroz, Jr. (First) Joslyn Chavarria, Jr. (Second)
2007	Alicia Thompson (first) Marinette Flowers (second)	(Ladies)	Alicia Thompson (First) Nicole Gallego (Second)
	Shane Vasquez (first)	2021	NO RACE (DUE TO COVID)
(Ladies)	Marlon Castillo (second)	2022	Brandon Cattouse (first) Derrick Chavarria (second)
	Shalini Zabaneh (first)	(Ladies)	Gabrielle Gabourel (first) Kaya Cattouse (second)
2008	Neo German Camacho Villegas (first) Edward Reyes (second)		
(Ladies)	Shalini Zabaneh (second)		
2009	Marlon Castillo (first) Gregory Lovell (second)		