

Critical day for sugar industry

Thursday of this week was the last day of mediation in the negotiations between the Belize Sugar Cane Farmers Association (BSCFA) and the Belize Sugar Industries Limited. Agriculture Minister Abelardo Mai says the sector is "at a crossroads."

by *Marco Lopez*

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Dec. 15, 2022

The last of three mediation sessions being carried out in an effort to broker an agreement between the Belize Sugar Cane Farmers Association (BSCFA)

and the Belize Sugar Industries Limited (BSI/ASR) took place today. It is a critical juncture, with the sugar crop scheduled to start on December 19—next Monday, and with every moment of delay in the resolution of the impasse between the two entities threatening to

cause lost days in the harvesting and milling of the crop, and lost revenues for the millers, the farmers and the country. The stakes today were very high as the representatives of BSI and the BSCFA sat at the table with counsel Julie-Ann Ellis Bradley, the mediator selected by both parties. In an interview today, Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Jose Abelardo Mai, said that BSI has indicated its preparedness to begin milling on Monday.

No milling start date has been set by the Sugar Industry Control Board (S.I.C.B.), as the law requires before the start of any crop, but according to Minister Mai, that old board reached the end of its term just one day ago, and he has appointed a new board which will set the date for the



Hon. Jose Mai, Minister of Agriculture

commencement of delivery and grinding of sugarcane—a date that could be as early as tomorrow, December 16.

“The sugar board term expired one day ago. This morning I have appointed a new board. That board is scheduled to meet tomorrow evening, and that date

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Fourth Supplemental Bill passed by the Senate

by *Kory Leslie (Freelance Writer)*

BELMOPAN, Wed. Dec. 14, 2022

On Monday, Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño presented the government's fourth Supplementary Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2022/23 at a special sitting of the House of Representatives. The apparent reason



Senators Eamon Courtenay and Beverly Williams

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Faber speaks of UDP "atrocities"



Hon. Patrick Faber

BELIZE CITY, Tues. Dec. 13, 2022
During interviews on Monday following the most recent meeting of the House of Representatives, Collet



Hon. Moses "Shyne" Barrow

area representative, Hon. Patrick Faber, and Leader of the Opposition, Hon.

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Covid-19 cases back on the rise



Dr. Mellissa Diaz Musa

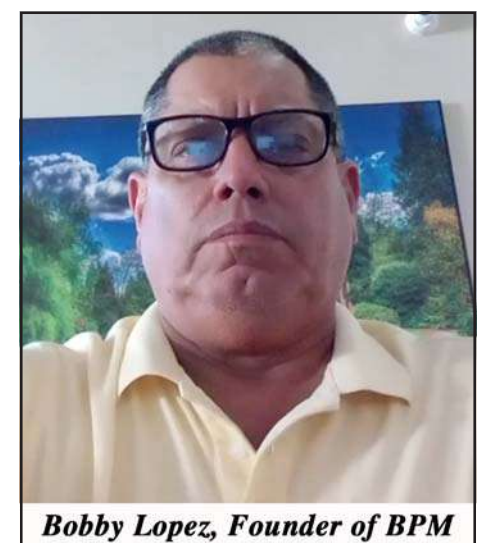
by *Kory Leslie (Freelance Writer)*

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Dec. 12, 2022

Following a weekend over which 259 new Covid-19 cases were reported, the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW) is once again encouraging Belizeans to be vigilant as the country faces another wave of the virus. To put

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Consent Order issued in Redistricting Case



Bobby Lopez, Founder of BPM

by *Marco Lopez*

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Dec. 14, 2022

The redistricting case initiated by the Belize Peace Movement (BPM), which has been ongoing for over three years, has effectively culminated with what is

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Consent Order issued...

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being seen as a clear victory for the BPM. This week, despite previous efforts by the current administration to have the case discarded because of what the government claims is a process that's already underway to commence redistricting, the BPM achieved what they sought: a way to monitor the process and ensure that it proceeds in a timely way, meets specific standards and reaches completion.

That became possible two weeks ago after the Supreme Court, presided over by Justice Chabot, issued a Consent Order which requires the Elections and Boundaries Commission to submit to the claimants (the BPM) by July 17, 2023, a report containing recommendations on how redistricting will be carried out across the country. Additionally, the recommendations from the Elections and Boundaries Commission must be used by the Office of the Attorney General as the basis for a draft bill (in line with section 90 of the Belize Constitution, to amend the first schedule for the Representation of the People Act) that is to be presented in the National Assembly by July 31 of next year.

The Consent Order has thus, in effect, established a sort of monitoring mechanism to ensure that key parts of the redistricting process are completed by specific deadlines. Additionally, the parties have agreed to consult the guidelines set out in the expert witness report of Sean Trende. The claim brought by the BPM has thus been stayed at the current time.

"This is the end of the beginning, but certainly not the beginning of the end, because from now until July 2023, claimants, the media, and the people of Belize must remain vigilant. We cannot let our guards down. We must hold the Government of Belize and the Elections and Boundaries Commission in particular to what they have agreed to do," Arthur Saldivar, attorney for the BPM, stated in a Zoom conference held on Tuesday morning.

As mentioned earlier, the case was brought prior to the 2020 general elections by members of the Belize Peace Movement—10 claimants in total—against the Ministry of the Attorney General and the Elections and Boundaries Commission, with the goal of ensuring equal distribution of voters across electoral divisions in Belize, as required by the Belize Constitution, which states that constituencies should "have as nearly as may be an equal number of persons eligible to vote."

Subsequently, Lord Michael Ashcroft entered the claim as an interested party, and he provided funding that made it possible for input to be submitted by an expert witness, who drafted a report that detailed the specific deviations in each constituency from the average number of voters that should be in each division—in other words, measuring the degree of what is referred to as "malapportionment" in the distribution of voters and quantifying its impact on the value of each vote, which should be equal across divisions.

The report concluded that the malapportionment across divisions is so severe that it "debases the weight of votes", making elections held with the current electoral map "undemocratic."

The report further contextualizes how skewed electoral representation is in the country by comparing the variations in the number of voters in different Belizean divisions to the types of variations in other countries. In a report dated October 14, 2020, the expert witness noted, "The degree of malapportionment present in Belize far exceeds any threshold suggested in other

countries or by international organizations. ..For example, an elector in... Fort George... casts a vote that has five times the value of the vote cast by an elector in the Stann Creek West electoral division. Using the 10% deviation standard suggested by international organizations, only four of Belize's current electoral divisions are not severely malapportioned... 71% of Belize's electoral divisions are severely malapportioned... Malapportionment is particularly pronounced in the Belize District, where the most populous division (Belize Rural South) is 4.5 times the population of Fort George.."

"The overall deviation from the ideal population in Belize District is 152%," the report further states. Ideally, in a more evenly distributed voter landscape, there would be around 5,289 votes in each division, if 31 divisions remained and there was a voting population of 163,974 registered electors, according to the expert report. The reports state that in every district except Toledo, the combined within-district deviation between the smallest grouping of voters per division and the largest exceeds 29%—well over the 10% to 15% recommended maximum.

The Belize Peace Movement has noted that this has been the case since 2005, and is of the opinion that those prior elections were all held illegally. The court did not issue any declaration indicating such a stance, but instead ordered the current administration to utilize the expert witness report, which includes recommendations for re-drawing the electoral boundaries to ensure an ideal number of voters within each division. As just noted, according to international standards, the maximum deviation should not exceed 10 to 15%.

The expert witness concluded that the severe malapportionment was not confined to a particular area and could not be remedied by minor fixes in the electoral map, and thus outlined three alternate maps which could be utilized to achieve equitable distribution of the voting population across the divisions, or at least bring the current distribution in line with international standards.

The first map was aimed at strictly redistributing voters among divisions. That map, noted the report, would yield divisions with minimal deviations from the ideal number of voters, but "pays little attention to the consideration other than population equality. " The second map, which is considered the best option, reduces the number of divisions in the Belize District by 4, resulting in a total of 9 constituencies in that portion of the country, while Cayo would be given 8 divisions.

"This map preserves the Queen Square, Lake Independence, Caribbean Shores, Port Loyola, Collet, and Fort George Division, although the latter division will have a portion of Ambergris Caye added to it under this map. A new division is created based around Ladyville, " clause 151 of the expert report states.

The report further states that Belmopan "cannot remain [a] single division," and must be divided into two parts. The population growth in western Cayo was also taken into consideration in the drawing of this map, with Benque Viejo, San Ignacio, Santa Elena all receiving their own divisions.

"Besides relatively slight malapportionment, a major advantage of this map is that the Belize City divisions are largely over-apportioned, while the Cayo divisions are under-apportioned. This means over time, as the population continues to shift from Belize City to the other districts, the malapportionment on this map should improve," clause 155 of the report states.

Covid-19 cases back on...

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the data into perspective, the Director of Public Health and Wellness, Dr. Melissa Diaz, outlined the Health Ministry's findings at a press briefing this week.

In her briefing, Dr. Diaz stated that in a matter of one week, the positivity rate has jumped from 2% to 9.9%. While there are currently no Covid-19 -related hospitalizations, Dr. Diaz advised members of the community to be proactive in preventing transmission or contraction of the virus, especially if they interact with persons with pre-existing conditions or the elderly. Dr. Diaz further noted that the area in which the largest number of new cases is being seen is the Belize District, where there have been outbreaks among the inmates at the Belize Central Prison, as well as the residents of Sister Cecilia Home for the Elderly.

"We have not only been seeing an increase in COVID cases in homes, but we have had an outbreak at Kolbe, at the prison, and that has accounted for a significant increase for the Belize District. So, for the Belize District for COVID cases, we have gone up from about 2% to the last week going up to almost 16% or 17%. And so that is the reason why we have seen that significant jump. The prison had about 42% to 43% positivity rate last week," she said.

She noted, however, that since last week the number of cases at the prison has declined considerably. "... The medical team there, they've been able to isolate the positive cases and they've been able to contain the transmission. In fact, as of yesterday, they have had only two new positive cases, and today they do have some persons to test, but the majority have recovered. They've had no severe cases so far and no need for hospitalizations," she said.

Dr. Diaz also mentioned that there has been a spread of the virus at the Sister Cecilia Home for the Elderly which medical officials have successfully been able to contain. The Public Health and Wellness Director also spoke on the presence of the Omicron variant, which is still believed to be the most prevalent strain of the virus in Belize as opposed to the recently discovered

BQ.1 and BN.1. subvariants that are currently dominant in the U.S.:

"The last time that we geno-sequenced, it still remained as Omicron. A lot of these BQ, XBB, B.2. B.1, they are sub-lineages of Omicron. And the less severe illness and the decrease in hospitalizations holds true for Omicron variant, so more than likely that is still what we are seeing. At this point we are not currently doing geno-sequencing, but this will pick up again in January," she said.

The Health Ministry has assured the public, however, that it has an adequate stock of vaccines to provide Belizeans with the necessary defenses to face any upcoming Covid-19 surge. According to Dr. Diaz, there are currently over 150,000 doses of the Pfizer, AstraZeneca, and Johnson and Johnson vaccines to supply to the public. Likewise, the MOHW is urging persons to get tested and to inform employers if they are exhibiting any symptoms of the virus, especially at this time when the flu is still a public concern. Dr. Diaz made mention of the fact that Covid-19 symptoms and flu symptoms may overlap:

"Even if you think back to prior to Covid, if you have a really bad cold especially, if you have upper respiratory symptoms, you may feel very stuffy, you may not be able to smell like you used to. But the symptoms continue to be upper respiratory tract symptoms. People describing things like their sinuses hurting, severe headaches, body aches, fever—some people have fever worsening at night, cough, runny nose—these are the common symptoms that we're hearing from persons who are testing positive with Covid. But having said that, persons with other infections have similar symptoms as well, so the symptoms have definitely overlapped," she said.

Dr. Diaz also reminded the public that isolation days for those with mild symptoms or those who are asymptomatic is five days. Those with moderate symptoms or who have been hospitalized are required to isolate for a minimum of seven days, and those who came in close contact with an infected person must wear a mask at work and test at day 3 of exposure.

It states that map 2 is an "overall strong map", yet the difference between the smallest and largest division is 25.47%. He calls this an "unfortunate" inevitability.

The third map proposed is the minimum change map, which, according to the expert witness, would greatly reduce the current malapportionment without greatly upsetting the political dynamic of the country. The 10 divisions in Belize would be retained and the total number of divisions in Cayo would be 7 in this proposed configuration. Overall, however, the malapportionment across divisions would be greater than what would result if any of the two other maps were used as a basis for redistricting. With the use of the third map, the Cayo District divisions would be overpopulated while those in Belize would be underpopulated.

The expert recommended against the use of map 3, "except as a stopgap measure to allow the legislature more time to address the malapportionment present under Belize's current divisions."

The report states that a key point is that all three maps suggested are superior to the existing map, and "bring Belize more closely in line with international standards of democracy." It goes on to state that "an election held under these maps could be considered free and democratic, while an election held under the existing maps would

be much more difficult to be labeled as such."

An enormous amount of work will thus have to be undertaken by the Elections and Boundaries Commission in order to meet the mid- 2023 deadline laid out in the Supreme Court's Consent Order, but a Redistricting Task Force was instituted in February of this year by the government of Belize that is working on gathering information in order to carry out the redistricting process. While the task force's chairperson has said that the body has nothing to do with the case, the Consent Order handed down by Justice Chabot states clearly that the parties have agreed to follow the guidelines of the expert witness report.

Of note, a former member of that task force, Martin Aldana, had removed himself from that body via a public resignation, citing politicization of the process. There was also much controversy surrounding the appointment of Collet Montejo, a PUP senator, as the supervisor of all fieldwork for the task force. The attorney for the BPM, Arthur Saldivar, believes that the task force has no place in the process and calls it illegal.

"Ultimately, what is being done presently with this task force, is a blatant attempt to gerrymander, which is illegal, mind you," Saldivar said.

Faber speaks of UDP...

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Moses “Shyne” Barrow, were unrestrained in expressing their disregard, and in fact, animosity, toward each other. The two UDP parliamentarians have been at odds for over a year, with the tensions between them possibly starting in 2021 after Barrow supported an attempt to recall Faber from his then post as UDP leader, and certainly intensifying when Barrow, via a parliamentary maneuver that involved a submission of a letter to the Governor General, took Faber’s position as Opposition Leader in the House. A number of shakeups have taken place since then, with Faber briefly reclaiming his UDP leader position before having to resign because of domestic abuse claims and ultimately being replaced as the UDP’s standard bearer in the Collet division, but the jostling between Barrow and Faber has continued—with power plays from both sides to destabilize the standing of the other within the UDP. The result has been a deeply fractured party.

On Tuesday, we reported that Faber has indicated his willingness to run as an independent candidate if the UDP denies him the opportunity to represent the party in the Collet division, in which he has been elected as area representative five times. A former supporter, and subordinate of Faber, however, Ian Jones, has been endorsed as the standard bearer for the division in what Faber considers an illegal convention.

According to Faber, the process which led to the endorsement of Jones violated the UDP’s constitution and its by-laws for the holding of conventions, since it is the executive committee of a constituency that should call a convention for that division.

“The constitution of our party and the by-laws that governs constituency committees are very clear—that it is that committee, the executive committee that should decide when a convention is held and should preside over the convention. So they can’t call something at UDP office and claim that they will put something in place, a new committee—completely wrong, completely illegal by our party’s standards, but nobody cares,” he said.

Faber told local media that on November 10 the Collet executive committee sent a letter to UDP Chairman Michael Peyrefitte which indicated that the executive committee for the Collet division does not support the endorsement of Ian Jones. The letter was signed by 18 persons, Faber claims. But according to Faber, Peyrefitte did not reply to the letter, and the convention for Jones, and his subsequent endorsement, nonetheless took place.

What took place in the Collet constituency, according to Faber, is reflective of the way decisions are being made on other matters within the party. What he suggested is that things are being done arbitrarily, in violation of the UDP’s established procedures/laws, at the behest of the current UDP leader, Hon. Barrow. According to Faber, Barrow “does whatever he wants and the Chairman supports him in his nonsense.”

That approach, he said, is also being taken in other constituencies, where, he claimed, standard bearers are being chosen, after which “illegal conventions” are being held. In reference to the National Party Council, which will in a December 17 Zoom session be determining whether John Saldivar, recently designated as “significantly corrupt” by the US State

Department, will be given the chance to be the UDP’s Belmopan standard bearer, he said, “the whole system of the NPC is flawed, because the constituency leaders handpicked who they want, who they can manipulate and in this case, the people who support Shyne. Like what happened in the Collet constituency. The convention is completely illegal, because the committee was already in place and they manipulated that, but when this NPC meeting comes up, the chairperson and the secretary and their standard bearer will vote on behalf of Collet, and that’s a completely illegal. That’s just to show you one constituency, but they’ve been holding constituency executive committee conventions simultaneous with the endorse conventions that they’ve had across the country, which is absolutely ridiculous.”

Faber further indicated that the purported attempts by the party to carry out “due process” are thus a farce, and that the hastily scheduled NPC meeting has to be held to preserve Barrow’s leadership. “This is why the NPC is going to happen virtually like how it is going to happen soon, because he has to now preserve himself as leader, because you can’t tick off the Caucus [UDP Caucus for Change], carcass - whatever they are called. You can’t tick them off, because if they get ticked off, if Saldivar is not their candidate and it looks like it comes at the hand of the leader, he’s going to go next, and so that’s what’s happening,” he said.

Faber went on to call his opponent, Ian Jones, a fraud and commented on what took place in the Collet constituency in the aftermath of the landfall of Hurricane Lisa in early November. “My opponent wasn’t on the ground, my opponent piggybacked, side in, however you want to put it. I watched as he did that. When the CEMO people came and invited me to go and tour the area with them, he saw me when I passed his mother’s home and came to the office and just walked along and then made a post saying, ‘Ah, I’m walking hand in hand with Patrick Faber’, but this guy is just a fraud. And then later on put on a post, linked it to our constituency post saying ... anyways, he’s just a joke,” he said.

Leader of the Opposition, Hon. “Shyne” Barrow, for his part has concluded that Patrick Faber is effectively out of the race in the Collet division. He told local media that he considers Faber a distraction to the party.

“He’s out. I don’t know who tells you otherwise. He’s no longer the candidate for Collet, and so I have no concern nor consideration for anything that he has to say, and the reason he’s out as a candidate is for this type of behavior which is a distraction to what we have to do, which is, we are the oversight body of the government, and it is important that every opportunity we get, we focus on what may be going wrong with the government and what could be going better. These distractions are not conducive to being the constitutional government in waiting.” Barrow stated.

But Faber asserted that Barrow has not been an inclusive leader, and admitted that they do not even speak to each other.

“The leader is not very inclusive in trying to prepare for these House meetings. The leader doesn’t even speak to me, how do you want to lead a party and you don’t even speak? And every chance he gets on national TV he criticizes and condemns. You can’t lead me,” Faber said.

NOTICE

Our sellers, readers and advertisers are advised that for the holidays, our Friday printed issue will hit the streets as normal on Friday mornings. The Tuesday online issues for December 27 and January 3 will not be published due to the holidays.

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Happy Holidays

From the management and staff of Kremandala

Fourth Supplemental Bill passed by the Senate

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for this fourth introduction of a bill in the House to secure funding beyond what was allocated in this year’s budget is unexpected damage caused by Hurricane Lisa, which made landfall just south of Belize City on November 2—and the cost of repairs and recovery in the aftermath of that storm.

During his remarks in the House on Monday, the PM presented in itemized form the specific ways in which the additional funds will be used. According to Prime Minister Briceño, \$2.3 million will be used for additional grocery bag distribution, 3.2 million for NEMO-related emergency relief (including the purchase of supplies such as mattresses and other essentials, and the covering of the cost of fuel and other expenses related to the BDF’s emergency cleanup efforts), \$2.7 million for major repairs and construction works in Price Barracks in Ladyville and other national defence facilities, \$6 million for housing relief and construction and \$4.5 million for emergency cleanup and repairs to road infrastructure.

The Bill proceeded to the Senate on Wednesday, but not without some debate by its members. Senator Beverly Williams, in particular, expressed strong opposition to a bill she classified as “reckless” and to the GOB’s current spending:

“It seems to me, Madam President, that the Government of Belize has changed its approach to budgeting. Or

was it just a dressed-up budget of one-point four billion dollars for a nice IMF report? In April of 2022, all the nice things that you say, all the indicators that are pretty that the IMF love to hear – debt reduction, primary surplus, etc., etc. But, Madam President, there was almost two million dollars that were not considered in that IMF report. Let us see what the other report will bring. Madam President, a budget is a forecast of revenue and expenditure generally for a one-year period. A supplemental budget is one for urgent or unforeseen matters. And something unforeseen did happen. Hurricane Lisa. I am certain it’s not only me that is surprised. The Belizean people, I’m sure, were expecting a supplemental for hurricane relief. Sixty-six point five million dollars, and a mere sixteen percent of the funds has to do remotely with Hurricane Lisa,” she said.

Senator Williams went on to point out that the four million dollars allocated to healthcare was not included in the first set of papers submitted for review. Additionally, the Senator went on to question the additional need for the \$1.5 million allocated for the purchases of new vehicles, \$300,000 allocated for foreign travel and \$500,000 allocated to government rental costs.

PUP Senator Collet Montejo was the first to rise in the bill’s defense, and noted that the purchase of government

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EXPLORATION WELLS DRILLED IN BELIZE (1955 - 1997)

WELL	EASTINGS	NORTHINGS	COMPANY	YEAR	REMARKS	STATUS	DEPTH (ft)	AGE & LITHOLOGY AT DEPTH
ALSTON CENTRAL-1	284108		1915381 Central Resource	1990	Dead oil shows; abandoned	Show of oil	4737	Jurassic- Triassic
BASIL JONES-1	404000		2003000 Gulf	1958	Asphalt in numerous samples; no cap rock	Show of oil	7322	Paleozoic Schist
BELMOPAN-1	315000		1911000 Anschutz	1972	Live oil shows in DST	Show of oil	2760	Paleozoic Phyllite
BELMOPAN-2	311000		1911000 Anschutz	1973	Live oil shows; drilling terminated	Show of oil	2707	Paleozoic Phyllite
BELMOPAN-3	312000		1905000 Anschutz	1975	Live oil shows; scum oil in DST	Show of oil	2085	Paleozoic Phyllite
BELMOPAN-4	312000		1912000 Petro-Bze	1983	Live oil shows; recovered few barrels of oil on production testing	Show of oil	2633	Paleozoic Phyllite
BLUE CREEK-1	302000		1978000 Gulf	1958	Live oil shows; no production testing	Show of oil	10515	Paleozoic Shale
COCO PLUM-1	383000		1869000 Phillips	1962	Dead oil shows; no production testing	Show of oil	9860	Cretaceous Dolomite
DANGRIGA-1	383000		1879000 Anschutz	1982	Live oil shows; no production testing	Show of oil	6578	Paleocene Shale
DON QUE-1	363000		2041000 Spartan	1985	Dead oil shows; no production testing	Show of oil	4000	Cretaceous Anhydrite-Dolomite
EAGLE-1	310271		1908685 Eagle American	1984	Live oil shows; recovered few barrels of oil on production testing	Show of oil	2387	Paleozoic Phyllite
GARBUTT CAYE-1	386000		1876000 Phillips	1962	No production testing	Show of oil	5834	Paleocene Sandstone
GLADDEN-1	392880		1838255 Dover	1997	Dry hole	Dry hole	8000	Cretaceous
GLOVERS REEF-1	408000		1849000 Shell	1967	no production testing	Show of oil	3147	Paleozoic Phyllitic Shale
HILL BANK-1	324000		1952000 Gulf	1956	Live oil shows; no production testing	Show of oil	6550	Paleozoic Shale
LEMNAL-1	333000		1954000 Anschutz	1972	Live oil shows; no production testing	Show of oil	5775	Paleozoic Shale
LONDON-1	346000		1990000 Anschutz	1972	Live oil shows; terminated due to drilling complications	Show of oil	2222	Cretaceous Tertiary Carbonates
LONDON-2	348000		1989000 Anschutz	1973	Live oil shows; terminated due to drilling complications	Show of oil	5290	Cretaceous Anhydrite-Dolomite
LONDON-3	349000		1988000 Anschutz	1974	Live oil shows	Show of oil	6657	Paleozoic Granite
MACHACA-1	299000		1789000 Phillips	1959	Live oil show; no production testing	Show of oil	7872	Paleozoic Shale
MONKEY RIVER-1	343000		1815000 Esso	1979	Dead oil shows; no production testing	Show of oil	3507	Cretaceous Sandstone-Shale
NOH MUL-1	338000		2017000 Bright Hawk	1997	Aquifer encountered	Dry hole	8500	Anhydrite-Dolomite
NORTH COCO PLUM-1	385000		1870000 Phillips	1962	No production testing	Show of oil	5712	Paleocene Sandstone
ORANGE WALK-1	336000		2004000 Anschutz	1972	Live oil shows; no production testing	Show of oil	7970	Paleozoic Granite
ORANGE WALK-2	335000		2003000 Anschutz	1974	Live oil shows	Show of oil	4600	Cretaceous Anhydrite-Dolomite
PALMETTO CAYE-1	353000		1816000 Phillips	1961	Live oil shows; no production testing	Show of oil	16005	Cretaceous Anhydrite-Dolomite
PATCHACAN-1	345000		2037000 Placid	1981	Live oil shows; no production testing	Show of oil	8621	Jurassic-Cretaceous Red Shale
PATCHACAN-2	344000		2033000 Lucky Goldstar	1991	Live oil shows; no production testing	Show of oil	8193	Paleozoic
PUNTA GORDA-1	305000		1788000 Phillips	1959	Live oil shows; no production testing	Show of oil	10750	Cretaceous Limestone
RANCHO CREEK-1	354000		1989000 Placid	1981	Live oil shows; no production testing	Show of oil	6525	Paleozoic Granite
RANCHO DOLORES-1	328000		1939000 Anschutz	1972	Live oil shows; no production testing	Show of oil	5180	Paleozoic Shale
REMATE-1	354000		2040000 Placid	1981	Live oil shows; no production testing	Show of oil	7710	Paleozoic Granite
RETALIATION-1	341000		1925000 Gulf	1958	Dry hole; no cap rock	Dry hole	3800	Paleozoic Phyllite
ROARING CREEK-1	310000		1909000 Gulf	1957	Live oil shows; no production testing	Show of oil	2683	Paleozoic Phyllite
ROARING CREEK-2	309000		1906000 Petro Belize	1983	Live oil shows; recovered few barrels of oil on production testing	Show of oil	2550	Paleozoic Phyllite
SAN JOSE-1	281000		1800000 Phillips	1963	Gas in shale; no production testing	Show of gas	3453	Paleocene Shale
SAN PABLO	333000		2015000 Anschutz	1975	Live oil shows; abandoned due to H ₂ S	Show of oil	3455	Cretaceous Anhydrite-Dolomite
SAND HILL-1	356000		1950000 Gulf	1958	Live oil shows; no cap rock	Show of oil	5012	Paleozoic Phyllite
SEAL CAYE-1	348000		1780000 Esso	1977	Live oil shows; no production testing	Show of oil	10322	Paleozoic Shale
SHIPSTERN-1	375000		2023000 Placid	1982	Live oil shows; no production testing	Show of oil	6247	Paleozoic Granite
SNAKE CAYE-1	342000		1787000 Marathon	1984	Dead oil shows; no production testing	Show of oil	6843	Cretaceous Dolomite
SOUTH GARBUTT CAYE-1SGC-1	387000		1873000 Phillips	1962	No production testing	Show of oil	5520	Paleocene Sandstone
SPANISH LOOKOUT-1	386000		1918000 Anschutz	1979	Dead oil shows; no production testing	Show of oil	13023	Jurassic Shale
STANN CREEK-1	384000		1876000 Chevron	1975	Dead oil shows; no production testing	Show of oil	6081	Cretaceous Limestone
SUSAN-1 MR	343000		1815000 Belexco Inc.	1990	Re-entry of Monkey River-1	Show of oil	11152	Sand and Shale
TEMASH-1	273000		1768000 Esso	1977	Live oil shows; no production testing	Show of oil	9274	Cretaceous Limestone
TOWER HILL-1	335000		1988000 Gulf	1957	Live oil shows; no production testing	Show of oil	7298	Paleozoic Granite
TOWER HILL-2	339000		1985000 Gulf	1958	Live oil shows; no production testing	Show of oil	7102	Paleozoic Granite
TURNEEFE-1	415000		1912000 Shell	1967	No production testing	Show of oil	7004	Basic Extrusives
YALBAC-1	299000		1920000 Gulf	1956	Live oil shows; no production testing	Show of oil	9005	Paleozoic Shale



Oceana standing guard with Belizeans over the Belize Barrier Reef

In 2012, thousands of Belizeans, without the prompting of the major political parties, turned up at polling stations across the country to vote in a “People’s Referendum”, after the government’s Geology and Petroleum Department released a map which showed that we were about to embark on major oil exploration offshore, even in national parks. 96% of the individuals who voted in the referendum, which was organized by Oceana and its vice-president in Belize, Ms. Audrey Matura, overwhelmingly, resoundingly, said *no, we should not drill for oil in or near to our reef.*

Oceana had lobbied for an official referendum, and after that had failed, the organization turned to the “People’s Referendum” to send the message to government. Having seen the pollution caused by oil extraction in other parts of the world, a graphic example being the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in April 2010 which killed and injured a number of people and leaked over 200 million gallons of crude oil in the Gulf of Mexico, Belizeans balked when the government announced its intentions to aggressively explore for oil offshore.

The Belize Barrier Reef, which is the largest section of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System, had been designated a World Heritage Site in 1996 by UNESCO, but it had been placed on the list of endangered World Heritage Sites in 2009, “due to the destruction of mangroves and marine ecosystems, offshore oil extraction, and the development of non-sustainable building projects.” After the people’s declaration against drilling, and the government’s subsequent acquiescence to a moratorium on oil exploration in our marine areas in 2017, in 2018 our World Heritage Site status was restored in full by UNESCO.

Belizeans have also seen countries like ours exploited while getting little reward. Oil powers the big engines that generate electricity and the ships/planes/ trains that travel around the world, and oil is the energy source for luxury vehicles. Oil has made countries and corporations and individuals who control it mighty rich. But it hasn’t worked out that well for all. Most of the wealth flows back to the powerful countries, and many weaker countries haven’t been better off for finding it. There are a few in the less powerful countries who have become wealthy, but for the most part “our” share has been a little “trickle down” and a whole lot of pollution.

Companies that explore for oil haven’t reported that much success on our land. There have been numerous oil finds in Belize, but only one has been reported as being commercial: the one at Spanish Lookout. Belizeans at Spanish Lookout have received royalties from the wells drilled there. Belizeans in Toledo West also expect to collect royalties if oil is found in that district, even though their lands are held communally, not privately.

The oil find at Spanish Lookout was a savior because our “luck” came at a time when our citrus and shrimp industries were in near collapse after serious disease infestations. Having had little

success on land thus far, and excited over the oil find at Spanish Lookout, the government didn’t give up readily after the “People’s Referendum” declared that exploration was off limits when it came to the sea. In fact, some oil exploration in the sea had been carried out when we were a colony, but with the knowledge of hindsight, the independent Belize had become wary.

In 2016 the GOB announced that it would be participating with the US and Mexican governments in a deep-sea survey which included our marine area outside of the Belize Barrier Reef. This announcement wasn’t greeted favorably. Our marine conservation organizations rallied against this action, and were successful in getting the government to back off from conducting seismic testing in our waters. Subsequent to this, the GOB, in 2017, made the historic announcement that it was introducing legislation to place an indefinite moratorium on offshore oil exploration/extraction in our marine territory.

Fast forward to 2022, and the new GOB has floated the idea of conducting seismic testing in our waters, to, the Prime Minister said, find out what we have under the sea. In a recent interview the PM said “if we get to the point where there could be potentially oil in our exclusive economic zone, again not by the Barrier Reef, then we can take that and leverage it...go to the other countries or to these international NGOs and say ‘okay, we will leave it there but pay us for it so that we can use that money’”.

This GOB interest in just finding out what lies under the sea in our marine areas set off alarm bells in the head of present Oceana Vice President in Belize, Ms. Janelle Chanona. She told the press that the only reason she knows about for seismic studies is if you want to explore for oil, and that she hasn’t seen anyone create a weapon and not use it.

Preemptively, Oceana Belize launched a signature-collecting drive to ensure that a referendum mechanism is in place for Belizeans to decide on all offshore oil-related matters. The GOB responded via a press release in which it stated that Oceana’s actions are regrettable, and that GOB hadn’t entered into any agreements for seismic studies offshore. The PM followed that up with a letter to the president of the board of directors of Oceana, in which he declared the signature-collecting drive to be wholly unnecessary. PM Briceño said that in two years his government had done more for marine conservation than any other administration, that his government supported the law that prohibits offshore oil exploration, and that any change to that could only come by way of a referendum.

Seismic testing could be more a slippery slope than firm ground. It is mature to want to know, but what happens afterward? If there isn’t anything valuable in our seabed, we lose leverage, and if we have massive reserves of oil and gas in our seabed, sure we could leverage that to the conservationists around the world, but how do we stop a government from getting excited and killing the goose, the Belize Barrier Reef, to get the golden egg?

The Belize Barrier Reef is a living thing of awesome beauty, an underwater forest rich with colors and life. Our reef system has yielded wealth for our people for generations. The World Wildlife Fund estimates that 40% of our people depend on our coastal ecosystems for their livelihood, and that combined, the support our reef provides “for commercial fisheries, tourism, and protection from erosion and storm surges – are worth up to US\$559 million per year.” Although oil exploration/extraction wouldn’t be likely to destroy all that, it would certainly come with a cost, and a spill could be disastrous.

The Belize Barrier Reef is sacred turf. The National Environmental Appraisal Committee just voted against a port project in Belize City, twice, for fear that its dredging operations would damage the reef.

There are marine areas in other parts of the world that are nearly barren. Like salt marshes, swamps, and extremely heavy clays, they yield little wealth in the form of food and beauty. We wouldn’t endanger the rich lands in Chunox, San Carlos, the Stann Creek Valley, and other parts of our country. For Belize, in regard to oil exploration/extraction in the sea, how do you do it/contemplate it when you are blessed with the Belize Barrier Reef?



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CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT

FOR RENT: Furnished 1-bedroom apartment w/ utilities, \$1500/month; 1-bedroom unfurnished apartment w/ water, \$700/month. Both in Belama Phase II. Contact 630-4499 for serious inquiries.

VACANCY

Vacancy: For registered pharmacist at Tania's Pharmacy #74 4th Avenue, Corozal District. For more information please call at 6105881.

WANTED

WANTED: General kitchen help at 4 St. Thomas Street, Belize City - Peppers Pizza. Interviews Fri 16th, Sat 17th and Sun 18th between 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

NOTICE

NOTICE: We, **Southern Environment Association**, state that we have lost our original Vessel Registration Certificate. Name of Vessel: Laughing Gull. Registration Number: SC-0859

LIQUOR LICENCE NOTICE

LIQUOR LICENCE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Mark Meana** is applying for a Restaurant Liquor License to be operated at Mangos Beachfront Bar, Lot 32 Phase 4, Sittet River, Stann Creek District, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENCE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Catarina Ah** is applying for a Malt and Cider Liquor License to be operated at Moma's Shop, #93 Old Well Road, Lords Bank, Ladyville, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENCE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Princess International Belize Ltd. (Casino)** is applying for a Night Club License, to be operated at Princess International Belize Ltd. (Casino), 129 Newtown Barracks, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENCE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Michelle Vaccaro** is applying for a Liquor License, to be operated at The Road House Restaurant, 18 Miles, Sandhill Village, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENCE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Carolyn Jones/Ernie Pratt** are applying for a Restaurant Liquor License, to be operated at Garden Restaurant & Cocktail Lounge, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENCE NOTICE

LIQUOR LICENCE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Chirley Orellana and Carlos Gutierrez** are applying for a Restaurant License, to be operated at Mama Fide Restaurant and Bar, 3862 Coney Drive, Belize City, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENCE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Hussein Assaad** is applying for a Beer and Wine License, to be operated at Sahara Grill Restaurant, 3 ½ Miles Philip Goldson Highway, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENCE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Dharmendra I Surtani** is applying for a Shop Liquor License, to be operated at Charishma Grocery Store, 65 Market Square, Belmopan, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENCE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Belize Brewing Company Ltd., Orange Walk Sale Centre** is applying for renewal of a Publican General License, to be operated at Tower Hill, Orange Walk District for the year 2023 under the intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENCE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Belize Brewing Company Ltd., Corozal Sale Centre** is applying for renewal of a Publican General License, to be operated at Santa Rita Hill, Corozal Town for the year 2023, under the intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENCE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Belize Brewing Company Ltd., Cayo Sale Centre** is applying for renewal of a Publican General License, to be operated at Esperanza Village, Cayo District for the year 2023, under the intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENCE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Belize Brewing Company Ltd., Caye Caulker Sale Centre** is applying for renewal of a Publican General License, to be operated at Calle al Sol in Caye Caulker for the year 2023, under the intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENCE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Belize Brewing Company Ltd., Dangriga Sale Centre** is applying for renewal of a Publican General License, to be operated at Mile 1 ½ George Price Drive in Dangriga Town, Stann Creek District for the year 2023, under the intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENCE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Belize Brewing Company Ltd., San Pedro Sale Centre** is applying for renewal of a Publican General License, to be operated at Coconut Drive in San Pedro

LIQUOR LICENCE NOTICE

Town for the year 2023, under the intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENCE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Belize Brewing Company Ltd., Belize City Sale Centre** is applying for renewal of a Publican General License, to be operated at Slaughterhouse Road in Belize City for the year 2023, under the intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENCE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Belize Brewing Company Ltd., Ladyville Sale Centre** is applying for renewal of a Publican General License, to be operated at Old Airport Road in Belize District for the year 2023, under the intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENCE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Belize Brewing Company Ltd., Toledo Sale Centre** is applying for renewal of a Publican General License, to be operated at Big Falls, Toledo District for the year 2023 under the intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENCE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Belize Brewing Company Ltd., Santa Cruz Sale Centre** is applying for a new Publican General License, to be operated at 1-Mile, Placencia Road in Santa Cruz Village, Stann Creek District for the year 2023 under the intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENCE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Belize Brewing Company Ltd., Belmopan Sale Centre** is applying for a new Publican General License, to be operated at Mile 44 Belmopan, Cayo District for the year 2023 under the intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENCE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Maria Antonia Ramirez** is applying for a Shop Liquor License, to be operated at El Pedregal, St. Matthews Village, Mile 38, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENCE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Bernard Adolphus** is applying for a Publican Special Liquor License, to be operated at Belize Ex-Services League, #158 Newtown Barracks, Belize City, Belize, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENCE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Fatima Saldivar** is applying for a Publican Special License, to be operated at Barefoot Carib Restaurant, Caye Calker, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENCE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **NICHOLAS NUESSEN** is applying for a Publican Special liquor license for the year 2023 to be operated at NICH'S SPORTS PUB & GRUB, Placencia Village Stann Creek District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Act Revised 2000.

LIQUOR LICENCE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Buca Shell Service Station** is applying for a Convenient Store License, to be

LIQUOR LICENCE NOTICE

operated at Buca Shell Service Station, 2 ½ Miles, Philip Goldson Hwy., under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENCE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Robert S. Garcia** is applying for a Restaurant Liquor License for the year 2023 to be operated at Habanero Restaurant and Bar, 19 ½ Miles Placencia, Stann Creek District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Act Revised 2000.

LIQUOR LICENCE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Robert S. Garcia** is applying for a Restaurant Liquor License for the year 2023 to be operated at The Grove Restaurant and Bar, 19 ½ Miles, Placencia, Stann Creek District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Act Revised 2000.

LIQUOR LICENCE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Steve Schroeder** is applying for a Liquor License, to be operated at Caribbean Beach Cabanas, Placencia Sidewalk, Placencia Village, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENCE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Goodview Restaurant** is applying for a Restaurant Liquor License, to be operated at Goodview Restaurant, #3896 Mountain View Boulevard, Belmopan, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENCE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Orlando Martinez** is applying for a Convenient Store/Gas Station Liquor License, to be operated at Puma Roundabout S/S, 2 ½ Miles George Price HWY, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENCE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Trevor Roe** is applying for a Restaurant Liquor License, to be operated at Hidden Valley Inn, Mountain Pine Ridge, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENCE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Elvira & Dennis Tillet & Abarea** are applying for a Publican Special License, to be operated at Dennis Cool Spot, Market Square, City of Belmopan, Cayo District, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENCE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Jose E. Vasquez** is applying for a Publican Special License, to be operated at Tress Estrellas, Valley of Peace Village, Cayo District, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENCE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Island Adventures Campground** is applying for a Hotel Liquor License, to be operated at Island Adventures Ltd., SouthWest Caye Glovers, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENCE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Tobacco Caye Paradise Cabins** is applying for a Hotel Liquor License, to be operated at Tobacco Caye Paradise Cabins Ltd., North Tobacco Caye, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

DFC receives funding for loans to students and MSMEs

The Development Finance Corporation (DFC) will be the beneficiary of the two loan facilities passed in the Senate.



Senator Chris Coye

BELMOPAN, Wed. Dec. 14, 2022

Today, two loan motions were passed in the Senate for the channeling of funds to MSMEs and tertiary-level students via loans from the DFC.

The DFC student loan program, specifically, will be bolstered by additional financing amounting to BZD 7 million and BZD 5 million.

“Loan amount: an amount equivalent to seven million, or in U.S., three point five million for O.C.R., and five million (or) U.S two point five million from S.F.R. Repayment terms: sixty-eight equal or approximately equal and consecutive quarterly installments, commencing five years after the date of the loan agreement. Interest rate: variable rate on the O.C.R. portion disbursed in outstanding from time to time at a fixed rate of point seven five per annum, on the S.F.R. portion disbursed in outstanding from time to time. Payment frequency: quarterly; commitment fee: point zero two five percent per annum on any amount of the O.C.R. portion disbursed from time to time,” Senator Eamon Courtenay explained in his remarks on that loan.

The UDP senators supported the motion and called on the current administration to ensure that the dispensing of the funds is not politicized and that loans will be available to all those students who are qualified.

The other loan motion passed in yesterday’s Senate meeting (the last for this year) was the facility to provide financing through the DFC for MSMEs. This loan, of \$30 million, has been issued by the International Development Bank to support the sustainability of MSME’s. This line of credit from the IDB will be accompanied by an additional \$10-million facility provided by the International Cooperation and Development Fund of Taiwan (ICDF) and will focus on green financing and on providing funding for MSME’s owned by women.

A grant component is also annexed to the loan. It involves an allocation of BZD 1 million that will be given by Taiwan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the DFC to advance the digitization of its operations.

Senator for the business community, Kevin Herrera, rose to strongly support the loan motions and remarked, “I think that post-COVID and the economic difficulties the economy has undergone over previous two years – I think this time that any facility that would be

available to the private sector I think is extremely timely. Similar to the motion before with respect to education.”

Senator Chris Coye, who also rose to support the motion, gave a breakdown of loan distribution over recent years at the DFC and noted that provision of loan facilities to women-owned MSMEs has been sparse over the years. He said these loans are creating an opportunity to address that inequality.

“In terms of MSMEs, over the past

couple of years the DFC has issued over 767 loans, amounting to roughly 28 million to date. Of that, 164 loans have been to rural borrowers and 603 to urban, so certainly that shows an opportunity for the rural community to look to DFC for more loans.... In terms of male vs female, what we have seen is that 564 of those loans have been to males versus only 200 loans to females, so overall 70 percent of the loans have been to males,” Senator Coye said.



Atlantic Bank

Christmas Holiday Opening Hours

December 23, 2022:

All Branches and Drive Thrus close at 3:00PM

December 30, 2022:

All Branches and Drive Thrus close at 1:00PM

Happy Holidays

from the Management & Staff of Atlantic Bank



CENTRAL BANK
of **BELIZE**

www.centralbank.org.bz

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Central Bank Deregisters Evangel Credit Union Limited

Belize City, 14 December 2022: The Governor of the Central Bank of Belize (Central Bank), in his capacity as Registrar of Credit Unions, advises that pursuant to section 63 (2) of the Credit Unions Act, 2011, Chapter 314 of the Laws of Belize, Evangel Credit Union Limited has transferred its engagements to Holy Redeemer Credit Union Limited.

The public is hereby notified that effective 7 December 2022, Evangel Credit Union was dissolved, and its registration cancelled. Consequently, pursuant to section 20 (3) of the Credit Unions Act, Evangel Credit Union shall cease to exist as a body corporate effective 7 December 2022.

- ENDS -

ISSUED BY:
THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
CENTRAL BANK OF BELIZE

1 GABOUREL LANE.
BELIZE CITY, BELIZE
T: +501 223 6194
E: communications@centralbank.org.bz



Oceana hace guardia con los beliceños sobre la barrera de coral de Belize

En 2012, miles de beliceños, sin la incitación de los principales partidos políticos, se presentaron en las mesas electorales de todo el país para votar en un “Referéndum del Pueblo”, luego de que el Departamento de Geología y Petróleo del gobierno publicara un mapa que mostraba que estábamos a punto de embarcarnos en grandes exploraciones petroleras en alta mar, incluso en parques nacionales. El 96 % de las personas que votaron en el referéndum, que fue organizado por Oceana y su vicepresidenta en Belize, la Sra. Audrey Matura, de manera abrumadora y rotunda dijo que no, que no debemos perforar en busca de petróleo en o cerca de nuestro arrecife.

Oceana había presionado para un referéndum oficial, y después de que eso fracasó, la organización recurrió al “Referéndum del Pueblo” para enviar el mensaje al gobierno. Habiendo visto la contaminación causada por la extracción de petróleo en otras partes del mundo, un ejemplo gráfico siendo el derrame de petróleo de Deepwater Horizon en abril de 2010 que mató e hirió a varias personas y filtró más de 200 millones de galones de petróleo crudo en el Golfo de México, los beliceños se resistieron cuando el gobierno anunció sus intenciones de explorar agresivamente en busca de petróleo en alta mar.

La Barrera de Coral de Belize, que es la sección más grande del Sistema de Barrera de Coral Mesoamericano, había sido designada Patrimonio de la Humanidad en 1996 por la UNESCO, pero había sido incluida en la lista de Patrimonio de la Humanidad en peligro de extinción en 2009, “debido a la destrucción de manglares y ecosistemas marinos, la extracción de petróleo en alta mar y el desarrollo de proyectos de construcción no sostenibles”. Después de la declaración del pueblo en contra de la perforación, y el posterior consentimiento del gobierno a una moratoria sobre la exploración petrolera en nuestras áreas marinas en 2017, en 2018 nuestro estatus de Patrimonio de la Humanidad fue restaurado por la UNESCO.

Los beliceños también han visto países como el nuestro explotados y obteniendo poca recompensa. El petróleo alimenta los grandes motores que generan electricidad y los barcos/aviones/trenes que viajan alrededor del mundo, y el petróleo es la fuente de energía para los automóviles y SUV de lujo. El petróleo ha enriquecido enormemente a países, corporaciones e individuos que lo controlan. Pero no ha funcionado tan bien para todos. La mayor parte de la riqueza regresa a los países poderosos, y muchos países más débiles no han estado en mejores condiciones por encontrarlo. Hay unos pocos en los países menos poderosos que se han vuelto ricos, pero en su mayor parte “nuestra” parte ha sido un pequeño “goteo” y mucha contaminación.

Las empresas que exploran en busca de petróleo no han reportado tanto éxito en nuestra tierra. Ha habido numerosos hallazgos de petróleo en Belize, pero solo uno ha sido reportado como comercial, el de Spanish Lookout. Los beliceños en Spanish Lookout han recibido regalías de los pozos perforados allí. Los beliceños en Toledo Oeste también esperan cobrar regalías si se encuentra petróleo en ese distrito, aunque sus tierras sean de propiedad comunal, no privada.

El hallazgo de petróleo en Spanish Lookout fue un salvador porque nuestra “suerte” llegó en un momento en que nuestras industrias de cítricos y camarones estaban al borde del colapso después de graves infestaciones de enfermedades. Habiendo tenido poco éxito en tierra hasta el momento, y emocionado por el hallazgo de petróleo en Spanish Lookout, el gobierno no se rindió fácilmente después de que el “Referéndum del Pueblo” declarara que la exploración estaba prohibida cuando se trataba del mar. De hecho, se habían llevado a cabo algunas exploraciones petroleras en el mar cuando éramos una colonia, pero con el conocimiento retrospectivo, el Belize independiente se había vuelto cauteloso.

En 2016, el Gobierno de Belize anunció que participaría con los gobiernos de EE. UU. y México en un estudio de aguas profundas que incluía nuestra área marina fuera de la barrera de coral de Belize. Este anuncio no fue recibido favorablemente. Nuestras organizaciones de conservación marina se manifestaron en contra de esta acción y lograron que el gobierno se abstuviera de realizar pruebas sísmicas en nuestras aguas. Posterior a esto, el Gobierno de Belize, en 2017, hizo el histórico anuncio de que estaba introduciendo legislación para poner una moratoria indefinida a la exploración/extracción de petróleo en alta mar en nuestro territorio marino.

Avancemos rápido hasta 2022, y el nuevo Gobierno de Belize ha planteado la idea de realizar pruebas sísmicas en nuestras aguas, para, dijo el Primer Ministro, identificar qué tenemos bajo el mar. En una entrevista reciente, el primer ministro dijo: “si llegamos al punto en que podría haber petróleo en nuestra zona económica exclusiva, repito, no cerca de la Barrera de Coral, entonces podemos tomar eso y aprovecharlo... ir a otros países o a estas ONGs internacionales y decir ‘está bien, lo dejaremos ahí pero págenos por ello para que podamos usar ese dinero’”.

Pero este interés del Gobierno por saber qué hay bajo el mar en nuestras áreas marinas encendió las alarmas en la cabeza de la actual Vicepresidenta de Oceana en Belize, la Sra. Janelle Chanona. Ella le dijo a la prensa que la única razón que conoce para los estudios sísmicos es si se desea explorar en busca de petróleo, y que no ha visto a nadie crear un arma y no usarla.

De manera preventiva, Oceana Belize lanzó una campaña de recolección de firmas para garantizar que exista un mecanismo de referéndum para que los beliceños decidan sobre todos los asuntos relacionados con el petróleo en alta mar. El Gobierno respondió a través de un comunicado de prensa en el que afirmó que las acciones de Oceana son lamentables y que el Gobierno no había firmado ningún acuerdo para estudios sísmicos en alta mar. El primer ministro siguió eso con una carta al presidente de la junta directiva de Oceana, en la que declaró que la campaña de recolección de firmas era totalmente innecesaria. El primer ministro Briceño dijo que en dos años su gobierno había hecho más por la conservación marina que cualquier otra administración, que su gobierno apoyó la ley que prohíbe las exploraciones petroleras en alta mar y que cualquier cambio a eso solo podría venir a través de un referéndum.

Las pruebas sísmicas podrían ser más un suelo resbaladizo que un terreno firme. Es maduro querer saber, pero ¿qué pasa después? Si no hay nada valioso en nuestro fondo marino, perdemos influencia, y si tenemos reservas masivas de petróleo y gas en nuestro fondo marino, seguro que podríamos aprovechar eso frente a los conservacionistas de todo el mundo, pero ¿cómo evitar que un gobierno se entusiasme y mate a la gallina de los huevos, la Barrera de Coral de Belize, para conseguir el huevo de oro?

La Barrera de Coral de Belize es un ser vivo de una belleza impresionante, un bosque submarino rico en colores y vida. Nuestro sistema de arrecifes ha producido riqueza para nuestra gente durante generaciones. El Fondo Mundial para la Naturaleza estima que el 40 % de nuestra gente depende de nuestros ecosistemas costeros para su sustento y que, combinados, el apoyo que brinda nuestro arrecife “para la pesca comercial, el turismo y la protección contra la erosión y las marejadas ciclónicas, tienen un valor de hasta US\$559 millones por año.” Aunque no es probable que la exploración/extracción de petróleo destruya todo eso, sin duda tendría un costo, y un derrame podría ser desastroso.

La Barrera de Coral de Belize es un territorio sagrado. El Comité Nacional de Evaluación Ambiental acaba de votar dos veces en contra de un proyecto portuario en la Ciudad de Belize, por temor a que sus operaciones de dragado dañen el arrecife.

Hay áreas marinas en otras partes del mundo que son casi áridas. Al igual que las marismas, los pantanos y las arcillas extremadamente pesadas, producen poca riqueza en forma de comida y belleza. Nosotros no pondríamos en peligro las ricas tierras de Chunox, San Carlos, el valle de Stann Creek y otras partes de nuestro país. Para Belize, la exploración/extracción de petróleo en el mar, ¿cómo se hace/contempla cuando uno es bendecido con la Barrera de Coral de Belize?

Sunday Review News Review Talk Show

On Krem TV & Krem Radio

Live-streaming on Krem Television Face Book Page

Host: YaYa Marin Coleman

Date: Sunday, December 18, 2022 **Time:** 10:30 a.m. to noon

Guest: Our guests are 2 frequent Sunday Review followers: **Bredah Dara Robinson** and **Sista Penelope Casasola**.

Last Sunday Review edition for 2022

Sunday Review will be repeated at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 18, 2022

From the Publisher



Evan X Hyde

A little over two weeks ago, a Belizean soldier was shot (in the buttocks) somewhere near the Belizean border with Guatemala. From the beginning, the story was severely “low-keyed” by the local authorities. It was said that they had to do extensive forensics on the slug, which was still lodged in the Belizean soldier’s body, to determine who did the shooting, the relevant question for the Belizean populace being, whether the shooter was Belizean or Guatemalan. It was said that the forensics would take time. An official silence on the matter has set in.

A vaguely similar incident occurred about six or seven years ago. A Belizean guard at the Caracol tourist site in the Chiquibul, a young man named Danny Conorquie, was shot and killed by several men. There was some video footage of the incident. It was reported that just previous to Conorquie’s murder, Belizean soldiers had confiscated a horse belonging to Guatemalans from across the border.

A United Democratic Party (UDP) government was in power, and the UDP Foreign Minister told the media that it

was not known whether Guatemalans had killed Danny Conorquie. But most Belizeans, I think, thought that that was the case. The Foreign Minister’s was the official take on the matter, and the UDP administration tried to have the story die a natural death. “Wahn lee breeze ...”

Kremandala, for its part, struggled to keep the story alive. Danny Conorquie was shot late one September, and every year we would go over the incident via our media outlets. Conorquie’s Georgeville (Cayo) family appreciated our efforts. But in 2022 no one ever mentions Danny Conorquie.

It is said that the population of Guatemala is fifteen to seventeen million. Belize’s is perhaps 400,000. Guatemala’s military forces are much more powerful than Belize’s. If there were a straight-up war, it would be no contest. But it should be noted that Guatemala remains a very divided country: there was a bloody civil war there from 1960 to 1996. So a war between Guatemala and Belize would not be a “straight up” war, if you understand what I’m trying to say.

Before I proceed, let me say this. I

have the world of respect and admiration for Wil Maheia and all those Belizeans who have travelled to the Sarstoon along with him over the years. The Guatemalans they have to face down in the Sarstoon are armed with modern automatic rifles. The Belizeans are unarmed. As a gambler, I do not like the odds.

Now we have gone over some of the history of our country in this column over the years. Some relevant points include the 1823 declaration of the Monroe Doctrine by the United States government, and the 1859 border treaty between Great Britain and Guatemala, which I have described as “godfathered” by the United States. In effect, the U.S. was “tolerating” Britain’s ownership of Belize.

Around the 1930s, when Hitler was becoming a threat to Britain, a Guatemalan government, headed by Jorge Ubico I believe, began to renounce the 1859 treaty as bogus, and ever since then there has been increased tension, threatening flareups even, on the border between Guatemala and British Honduras/Belize.

General Ydigoras Fuentes, who was president of Guatemala from 1958 to 1963, claimed that the United States government led by President John Kennedy had promised to support Guatemala’s claim to Belize in return for Guatemala’s allowing a coffee plantation in Guatemala to be used as a training ground for the invasion of Fidel Castro’s Cuba by Cuban exiles, an invasion which took place in April of 1961.

In Puerto Rico the following year (1962), the United States hosted a meeting between representatives of Great Britain and Guatemala to discuss the Guatemalan claim to Belize. Belizeans were invited only as observers, and only from the ruling People’s United Party (PUP), none from the Opposition National Independence Party (NIP), led at the time by Hon. Philip Goldson.

The Belizeans present at the Puerto Rico conference were Rt. Hon. George Price, Hon. Albert Cattouse, Hon. Louis Sylvestre, and House Speaker, Sir W. H. Courtenay. The Englishman present from the British Honduras colonial office was one Michael Porcher.

That 1962 conference is never mentioned in the Belizean media. Never. Was it organized by the Americans to placate Ydigoras for his training facilities agreement? Please remember that when Fuentes allowed Guatemala to be used against Cuba, it sparked a nationalistic rebellion in the Guatemalan army in late 1960, a rebellion which some scholars consider the beginning of the civil war I mentioned before, from 1960 to 1996.

Belize was granted self-government by the British in 1964, and the Americans promoted another conference in 1966 between the British and the Guatemalans, with an American attorney mediator named Bethuel Webster, to prepare proposals for a settlement to the claim which would allow Belize to proceed to independence. The difference between that and the 1962 Puerto Rico conference was that the Opposition NIP was invited, in the person of Hon. Philip Goldson. Although sworn to secrecy, Goldson was so alarmed by Webster’s proposals that he revealed them to the Belizean people, who revolted in the population center.

What is the point of all this? The point is that the United States of

America has a substantial interest in preserving the peace between Guatemala and Belize. This is no longer Britain’s baby. The Guatemalan claim to Belize is now Washington’s child. So there is American-derived pressure on Belize’s authorities, whether they be PUP or UDP, to “low-key” any kind of insult or incursion from the Guatemalans. This is because the geopolitical reality of Belize’s situation is tricky, precarious. That is why we have amnesty, extended amnesty, and so on and so forth.

This here is big people business. Oil business too. I used to think, as a young man, that I was moving up from “British subject” to Belizean manhood. I don’t know anything any more.

FROM THE PUBLISHER en Español

Hace poco más de dos semanas, un soldado beliceño recibió un disparo (en las nalgas) en algún lugar cerca de la frontera de Belize con Guatemala. Desde el principio, la historia fue severamente minimizada por las autoridades locales. Se dijo que tenían que hacer un extenso análisis forense de la bala, que todavía estaba alojada en el cuerpo del soldado beliceño, para determinar quién disparó, siendo la pregunta relevante para la población beliceña si el tirador era beliceño o guatemalteco. Se dijo que el informe forense tomaría tiempo. Se ha establecido un silencio oficial sobre el asunto.

Un incidente vagamente similar ocurrió hace unos seis o siete años. Un guardia beliceño en el sitio turístico Caracol en Chiquibul, un joven llamado Danny Conorquie, fue asesinado a tiros por varios hombres. Hubo algunas imágenes de video del incidente. Se informó que justo antes del asesinato de Conorquie, soldados beliceños habían incautado unos caballos pertenecientes a guatemaltecos del otro lado de la frontera.

Un gobierno del Partido Demócrata Unido (UDP por sus siglas en inglés) estaba en el poder, y el Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores del UDP dijo a los medios que no se sabía si los guatemaltecos habían matado a Danny Conorquie. Pero creo que la mayoría de los beliceños pensaron que ese era el caso. La del Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores fue la versión oficial del asunto, y la administración UDP intentó que la historia muriera una muerte natural. “Una pequeña brisa...”

Kremandala, por su parte, luchó por

mantener viva la historia. A Danny Conorquie le dispararon a finales de septiembre, y todos los años repasábamos el incidente a través de nuestros medios de comunicación. La familia de Conorquie de Georgeville (Cayo) agradeció nuestros esfuerzos. Pero en 2022 nadie menciona a Danny Conorquie.

Se dice que la población de Guatemala es de quince a diecisiete millones. La de Belize es quizás 400.000. Las fuerzas militares de Guatemala son mucho más poderosas que las de Belize. Si hubiera una guerra abierta, no habría competencia. Pero cabe señalar que Guatemala sigue siendo un país muy dividido: hubo una sangrienta guerra civil allí desde 1960 hasta 1996. Entonces, una guerra entre Guatemala y Belize no sería una guerra “directa” si entienden lo que estoy tratando de decir.

Antes de continuar, permítanme decir esto. Tengo un mundo de respeto y admiración por Wil Maheia y todos los beliceños que han viajado al Sarstún junto con él a lo largo de los años. Los guatemaltecos a los que tienen que enfrentar en el Sarstún están armados con modernos fusiles automáticos. Los beliceños están desarmados. Como jugador, no me gustan las probabilidades.

Ahora hemos repasado algo de la historia de nuestro país en esta columna a lo largo de los años. Algunos puntos relevantes incluyen la declaración de la Doctrina Monroe de 1823 por parte del gobierno de los Estados Unidos y el tratado fronterizo de 1859 entre Gran Bretaña y Guatemala, que he descrito como “patrocinado” por los Estados Unidos. En efecto, Estados Unidos

estaba “tolerando” la propiedad de Belize por parte de Gran Bretaña.

Alrededor de la década de 1930, cuando Hitler se estaba convirtiendo en una amenaza para Gran Bretaña, un gobierno guatemalteco, encabezado por Jorge Ubico, creo, comenzó a renunciar al tratado de 1859 como falso, y desde entonces ha aumentado la tensión, amenazando incluso con estallidos en la frontera entre Guatemala y Honduras Británica/Belize.

El general Ydígoras Fuentes, quien fue presidente de Guatemala de 1958 a 1963, afirmó que el gobierno de los Estados Unidos encabezado por el presidente John Kennedy había prometido apoyar el reclamo de Guatemala sobre Belize a cambio de que Guatemala permitiera que una plantación de café en Guatemala se usara como campo de entrenamiento para la invasión a la Cuba de Fidel Castro por los exiliados cubanos, invasión que tuvo lugar en abril de 1961.

En Puerto Rico al año siguiente (1962), Estados Unidos organizó una reunión entre representantes de Gran Bretaña y Guatemala para discutir el reclamo guatemalteco sobre Belize. Los beliceños fueron invitados solo como observadores, y solo del gobernante Partido Unido del Pueblo (PUP), nadie del opositor Partido de la Independencia Nacional (NIP por sus siglas en inglés), dirigido en ese momento por el Honorable Philip Goldson.

Los beliceños presentes en la conferencia de Puerto Rico fueron el Muy Honorable George Price, el



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“Tour-isms”

A Trade-Up for Travel Trade

Travel Trade has traded up since Covid-19. It often sounds like a term from the past involving strategies and ideas that have long since become obsolete. Traditionally, Travel Trade in tourism refers mainly to tour operators, travel agents, and travel products that are sold directly to consumers or to other buyers. Working Travel Trade involves attending workshops and seminars that bring opportunities for sharing information. Essentially, Travel Trade is often old-school talk and walk in the marketing component of tourism. However, during the Covid-19 pandemic, a new appreciation was realized for this line of business. When so many people found themselves stuck in foreign countries during the early days of the pandemic or when they decided to venture out again in the highly altered post-pandemic world, they realized they needed someone to talk to. Many travelers are now seeking out trustworthy, human-to-human sources to get information, access, and help. What people have realized is that anything can happen, including a virus that can shut the world down and bring global travel to a screeching halt. Travel Trade in 2022 elevates the importance of creating long lasting connections with international agencies and local stakeholders. Travel Trade got a trade-up since Covid-19. Travel agents have become more like travel consultants. At the Belize Tourism Board (BTB) the Travel Trade team and Marketing Department foster relationships with international partners throughout North America, Europe, and South America.

At BTB, Deborah Arana, better known as Debbie, is the lead on Travel Trade and she believes that “you have to know your country to speak intelligently on it”. Debbie and the travel trade team have kept several fingers on the pulse of local and international tourism. Beyond seminars, expos, and virtual meetings, Travel Trade is about creating opportunities that can bring local and international intermediaries together. The BTB recently hosted its second virtual trade show where they rented an online space, helped local hotels and tour operators to set up their virtual boots, and even created incentives for international agents as they visited the various computer simulated rooms. BTB’s virtual trade shows are an incentive to help local stakeholders who are unable to travel abroad and make those important connections. Covid-19 pushed everyone and everything online. The BTB was aggressive in its virtual efforts during the pandemic. During lockdown, the travel trade team attended more than 50 different virtual events. This level of dedication has helped to keep the Belize Tourism Product relevant and on top of mind in the international travel arena. Some people may think that trade shows and travel trade are things of the past. The BTB travel trade team has seen firsthand that the human connection is an element of tourism that will only continue to be more pertinent in the seasons to come. As the world drifts into a post Covid-19 state, travel trade relationships are vital for feeling safe anywhere in the world.

If traveling were a human condition, travel agents would be your physicians. This new appreciation is the trade-up for those in the Travel Trade business. The BTB’s travel trade team feel rewarded for the local and international relationships and respect they have worked to create for the Belize tourism industry. This week we high light *phenomenalism* for the comfort of the human element found in dealing with real people in all traveling. Travel, global or local, allows us to experience a host of different human and natural phenomena. Travel Trade and travel agents keep us informed of, excited about, and prepared for all phenomena, planned and unplanned for.

See you next week.

The Belize Tourism Board



Watch out for that disease called head tek

by Colin Hyde

We all remember, I know for sure I do, how the PUP caught the entitlement disease, how dehn kech head tek after they saw all that money rolling in after they sold all our major assets. I don't have any details, but I yer that they were so smart they were even playing the stock market in the Far East with our money. Somehow, for some reason, the PUP saw themselves as geniuses, and got to feeling that we owed them something for their selling off our things. The salary we paid them wasn't enough; they began to play in our money.

This government, another PUP, is boasting about all the great things they have done since taking office. Indeed, they inherited a bad thing, and they have done some good things on the macro front. We are still starving to death, poverty hasn't gone anywhere, but the big numbers don't look nearly as bad as they did before.

Having been bitten before, we have to be worried. These savings, this is what we hired those bohgaz for. Don't forget, we the people could have given the UDP bohgaz another run. Whoa there, if you don't like our salary, please don't apply for our job.

Wow, Krismos Cheer!

For a while there I thought, no, no, it can't be, but then I checked out KREM News, and wow, hurray, our wonderful government is, ehm, splurging all of \$2.5 million on Krismos Cheer this year! May every penny of this Cheer find its way into the stockings of families who are most in need! I support drinking, in, ehm, moderation, but no, it's not for that; it's all for the ham and turkey, and the aaplz, and toys, toys, toys - paint sets, junior chemistry sets, balls, Krismos lights, tea sets, dolls, and water guns.

Putin should have gone to the ICJ

Oh, I forgot, he has the largest nuclear arsenal under his thumb!

I've noticed that my brother columnist, Clinton Canul Luna, is pretty gung ho on Russia, and that's no surprise, because that country has been helping our Caribbean brother, Cuba, survive the US's cruel embargo. I hope that Brother Clinton has noticed that when the time came to vote, Cuba abstained from supporting the Russian invasion of Ukraine. We can give the US some points for not sending its mighty military across the Straits of Florida.

I think we have to get something clear about the media. Because Russia is a dictatorship, I give them the fine-tooth comb. I expect that news coming out of Cuba, and Venezuela too, are slanted, because those nations are under terrible embargoes. Some people talk sometimes like they don't know what a US embargo means. That is terrible economic warfare. Those nations absolutely cannot allow for information to flow freely inside their borders. If they did, they would crumble. There are many Belizeans who express strong feelings against Cuba and Venezuela. I advise them to check themselves. They are very unfair.

Russia is another story. That nation has the largest nuclear arsenal in the world. It is also the largest country in the world, its land mass being greater than 10% of what there is on the planet. Contrast that with Europe, which, according to one Wikipedia page, sits on 2% of the world's land mass. No one on the planet is capable of threatening Russia militarily. Ukraine certainly couldn't threaten Russia.

I see President Putin said some good things. But what are words when you just invaded your neighbor, in fact obliterated it? I don't buy the arguments for the invasion. Starting with the invasion of Crimea in 2014, there is this

story about Ukrainians herding Russians into a building in that district, and burning it down. I have read other reports, some of them which say that Russia is misrepresenting the truth.

I buy this 2020 story by Steven Pifer, "Crimea: Six years after the invasion", which can be found at the website brookings.edu. Pifer said Ukraine wanted to join the European Union.

Pifer said that the Crimean Supreme Council voted to accede to Russia on March 6, 2014, and there was a referendum scheduled for March 16 "which offered two choices: join Russia or return to Crimea's 1992 constitution, which gave the peninsula significant autonomy. Those who favored Crimea remaining part of Ukraine under the current constitution had no box to check."

Pifer said "local authorities reported a turnout of 83 percent, with 96.7 percent voting to join Russia", but "the numbers seemed implausible, given that ethnic Ukrainians and Crimean Tatars accounted for almost 40 percent of the peninsula's population. (Two months later, a leaked report from the Russian president's Human Rights Council put turnout at only 30 percent, with about half of those voting to join Russia.)"

On March 18, 2014, Russia annexed Crimea. Pifer said Russia's invasion violated "the UN Charter, the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, the 1994 Budapest Memorandum of Security Assurances for Ukraine and the 1997 Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership between Ukraine and Russia."

Now there is this story that Ukraine wanted to break a treaty and join NATO, and that is what terrified the poor Russians into invading Ukraine again. This 2022 story in *The Conversation* by Gavin EL Hall, "Ukraine: the history behind Russia's claim that NATO promised not to expand to the east", disputes that. Hall said that NATO story is a myth, that on the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, the former

leader of the Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev – a great, great man in my estimation - said NATO's enlargement wasn't discussed. But Gorbachev did say that he thought "enlargement was a 'big mistake' and 'a violation of the spirit of the statements and assurances made' in 1990."

This war isn't really about Ukraine joining NATO and becoming a military threat to Russia; this is about Russia wanting to flex with all its artillery, and its expansionism, and its terror of Western ideology, aka Western decadence. This same decadence, an example of which is forcing a cake maker to serve a gay couple, has caused a deep divide in the US.

Properly, Putin should have gone to the ICJ with the Crimea matter. There, where they have veto power, they should have made their sales pitch. Russia had the means to get its message out. See, even in Belize, way over here, there are people who are in solidarity with their cause. Some are grateful for Russia's support of Cuba – I am too, for the help they give our brothers and sisters on that heroic island to weather the pressure of the embargo. And there are those who think we should be allies with Big China instead of Little Taiwan, an anti-US stance.

Look, I respect talk. But Jesus said to watch those fruits. Russia should never have invaded Ukraine.

Awaiting an African president

I won't go too much into what the other side says about President Kagame of Rwanda, because if you're from a country that experienced the turmoil of a civil war, you will have enemies, legions of them. Britannica says a French judge wanted President Kagame to face trial on the allegation that in 1994 he and the leaders of his group ordered the shooting of the plane in which the then president, Habyarimana, was traveling. The shooting led to the crash that killed the former president, and sparked the genocide.

Kagame denied the accusation, and charged the French with arming and advising the rebels responsible for the genocide. In 2007 a formal investigation of the crash was conducted by the Rwandan government, and in 2010 it returned with the verdict "that Hutu extremist soldiers were responsible for shooting down the plane, in an effort to derail Habyarimana's peace negotiations with the Tutsi rebels."

It's no easy task to hold the fabric of Rwanda together, after a civil war, after the genocide, and with all that ethnic division. It is for certain that the peace wasn't won in that nation by any rolling over for the dictatorship.

Paul Kagame has been president of Rwanda for about two decades now, and all indications are that he wants to be president of Rwanda for some more years. I like leaders who groom successors, but because of European interference and a serious ethnic divide, I can't opine that a "good" dictatorship isn't best for Rwanda at this time. It isn't easy for Rwanda to have a true democracy so soon after falling apart.



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PRESS PREDICTIONS

The sports psychic speaks

BOLEDO

“Press” Predictions: 47-10-03
Boledo stats thru 16th to 23rd Dec. 2022

In Boledo news, 97 numbers played already. These are my lucky numbers for this week: 47-10-03-28-82-91. These are my lucky Jackpot numbers: 6429-7946-2599. These are my lucky PICK-3 numbers: 985-203-147-632-487. Get ready, Belize! Some dinero will be coming our way for the Pascua holidays. The public needs their ham and turkey. There are only 3 numbers left to play for the entire year: 00-18-47. 00 is still out since the 24th of November 2021; that’s just 1 year and 3 weeks now. Then 47 refuses to play since the 22nd of April last year; that’s over 1 year 7 months 3 weeks and 2 days now. Then 18 will complete 1 year on the 29th of December. The seventies series played some 15 times on a Sunday out of the 50 times numbers played on the Sundays. These doubles made a new record - played 46 times already. Doubles will play at least 3 more times before the year is over. 22 and 33 played 9 times each already, 88-68-52-74 all played 7 times each already; then there are 7 numbers that played 6 times each. Remember to read your Psalms: 91-72-63. Good luck to all buyers! Next week, more stats.

LOCAL FOOTBALL

Altitude FC are the new champions

Local football Finals results and update

In local football action, the PLB Final had the longest penalty shootout in the Belizean history of football.

Altitude FC and Verdes FC were equal after 2 hours of action, 1 goal apiece; then the shootout got started for 12 players each. Tremayne “Pepper” Harris kicked his penalty over the cross bar, so Altitude FC prevailed as the champions for the very first time. Andres Orozco was the MVP of the regular season; Charlie Slusher was the coach of the year for Progresso FC; Jordan Zabaneh was the manager of the



Andres Orozco

year. Dalton Eiley deserves the best defender of the year. The game was well attended at the Isidoro Beaton Stadium in Belmopan. There were 6 buses of fans from Mango Creek, Independence, and the Zabaneh family was in full effect. TNC brought the game live. The other season will be in early February. Altitude FC has a 5-point lead on Verdes FC towards the Concacaf run. In the next season Verdes has to overcome the 5-point lead plus win it all for them to go to Concacaf again. Next season will be bigger.

CYCLING

There will be at least 8 station prizes for a thousand dollars

The 32nd Krem New Year’s Day Cycling Classic predictions

In cycling action, the 32nd Krem New Year’s Day Cycling Classic will attract over 100 cyclists in the 4 different categories.

The Females, the Juniors, the Masters and the Elites. There will be over 8 different station prizes of a thousand dollars each; only the Krem Classic has those thousand-dollar station prizes for the last 5 years and more. Team BTB Valvorine 501 has the strongest team right now. They have the defending champion in Brandon Cattouse alongside the Chavarria brothers in Joslyn and Derek, plus Oscar Quiroz, the best cyclist in the country. Team Digicell still has Giovanni Lovell and his brother Gregory. Team Benny’s Byron Pope will always be a contender to be reckoned with. There will be some foreigners from the USA, Guatemala, Mexico and from the Caribbean islands. The race will be very competitive and very fast and furious. Krem Radio will bring the race live and direct. Marlon Castillo, one of Belize’s Top cyclist, Krem Classic’s youngest Champion ever at age 16 years. Enuff respect to Money Mike and the sponsors who make this classic a very big success. Next week some predictions get started.



Marlon Castillo



by Gilroy “Press” Cadogan

last 14 games. LeBron James is closing in on Kareem Abdul Jabbar’s scoring record very quickly. He needs only 700 points to



Anthony Davis

eclipse the record of 38,387 points. The Philadelphia 76ers beat the L.A Lakers in OT, Joel Embiid had a big game with 20 points alone in the first quarter. Chris Paul and Devin Booker are rolling. Luka Donicic still leads the league in scoring. Steph Curry and the Warriors are struggling a bit. The Sacramento Kings are playing very well. The Dallas Mavericks are struggling after a good start. The League has real parity right now. Next week, more stats.

World Cup FOOTBALL

Argentina will go to the final and win it all

World Cup 2022 in Qatar results

In World Cup action in Qatar 2022, final 8 results: Morocco shocked Portugal and Cristiano Ronaldo, 1-nil. The game was very thrilling. It is the first time an African country has gone to the final 4; but France, the defending champion, will beat them 2 goals to nil. Kylian MBappé will get his 6th goal of the tournament and go to 10 goals overall. France beat England, 2 goals to 1. Harry Kane missed a penalty at the end of game to send it in extra time. Then Argentina beat Netherlands in a penalty shootout, 4 goals to 2, after they had a 2-nil lead. Lionel Messi converted a penalty and had an assist on the first goal. Then Croatia upset Brazil in a penalty shootout, 4 goals to 3, after Brazil had a 1-nil lead in extra time with only 3 minutes left in the game. Argentina will crush Croatia, 2-nil; then France will beat Morocco, 3 goals to 1; then Argentina will beat France to become a 3-time champion after 6 years with Spain.



Lionel Messi

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NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

The LA Lakers are getting their act together

NBA results and predictions

In NBA action, the Boston Celtics and the Milwaukee Bucks have the best record in the East. The Phoenix Suns and the Denver Nuggets have the best record in the West. Anthony Davis and the Los Angeles Lakers are getting their act together. They have won 8 of their

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THE FRAUD of CHRISTMAS



by *Hart Tillet*

“He’s a fraud; a big, fat fraud.”

That was Houston Morrisett, my sister’s 9-year-old son who was into his fifth month with our family of three—two boys, Junie and Jeffrey, and our 7-year old daughter, Judith (Juds), the youngest. They had been talking about Christmas, and when Juds mentioned Santa Claus, Houston had shaken his head.

“What d’you mean?” challenged Junie, the older of our two boys. And that’s the answer they got.

Houston was living with us while his parents were in Chicago, where his dad, Jim Morrisett, had gone for medical treatment.

Jim was the Guyanese director of research & development at a sugar refinery in Orange Walk. An agronomist by training, he had met and married my

sister Eileen when he was hired to work on a 6-month consultancy with the *Belize Extruders Society, Inc.* (BESI). Eileen was the company’s secretary. They migrated to Guyana and then went to Barbados as Jim broadened his experience in research. There he got his Master’s in Finance. When BESI changed ownership, the new stockholders decided to bring him back and offered him the board-level position.

They lived in a 4-bedroom company house, and Jim became a household name in that part of the country. He played golf, loved to party, and the customs guys on both sides of the border knew the meaning of the outstretched arm (done to look like he was displaying his driver’s permit but was in fact a signal that he had beer on board). He was thinking of running for the job of mayor when his physician diagnosed a cancer of the prostate and he had to go abroad.

That’s when I got a call from Eileen. We hardly ever spoke other than the times when there was a death in the family or there was some event they were celebrating. And there were many of those, but their crowd was not ours, and only rarely would we attend. So I felt uneasy on learning she was the caller. I pointed to the phone and motioned to Hazel, my wife, to listen in and pressed the “speaker” button.

Eileen had developed the annoying habit of speaking on an issue as if she was just checking off an agenda item for a board meeting.

“Listen, Jesse,” she began, “I need your help.” Hazel’s brow furrowed meaningfully. “Jim has prostate cancer and has to go to the States for surgery. Should be done and over in about three months.” She paused for me to say something. When I didn’t, she continued. “As you know, our two older boys are abroad in college, but we don’t want to take Houston from

school that long. Could you keep him for us till we get back? Like I said, not more than three months—that’s what the oncologist told us.”

My eyebrows framed a question for Hazel, and she nodded.

“Sure thing,” I gurgled.

They brought Houston the following day, got him enrolled in our children’s school, and took Hazel and me for dinner.

“Any problems we should know of?” asked Hazel conversationally.

“Well, he doesn’t sleepwalk or wet his bed, or anything like that,” guffawed Jim, knocking back his third beer. “He’s a bright kid,” he added, “and tends to stand behind his opinions.”

“We’ve had the specialists in Louisiana see him about his temper,” put in Eileen, “and the medication they’ve given him is working wonders.” She paused, stole a quick glance at Jim, then said: “Like I told you on the phone—three months at the most. We should be back before Chris...the holiday season.” The way she corrected herself sounded odd, but Hazel was clarifying her question, and the moment to make a timely query passed.

“I was thinking more of his eating preferences,” Hazel explained, “and any favorite soap or deodorant he might have,” she pressed. “And bedtime,” she added when there was no reply.

“You’ll not have to worry about any of that,” Jim said, then noted, “He’s a pretty disciplined kid and mature for his age.” There was pride and some puff in his voice when he added: “Houston has his own ATM card and only needs an occasional ride to the supermarket. Bedtime will be your decision, and we’ve told him he needs to follow your house rules.”

Well, that was five months ago, and Jim and Eileen were still in Chicago. We spoke often, so we knew that following their examination the surgeons decided against surgery and advised radiation instead. There were to be 45 blasts of the cancer-killing “beams” at two per week, followed by three weeks of observation. A minimum of six months. The radiation was moving along fine.

Meanwhile “mature-for-his-age” Houston had been a good companion and team-player. He helped with the dishes, ran errands with Joey and Junie, took out the trash and was adjusting well to the new school environment. He even seemed to like going to Sunday worship/service, something he admitted Jim never approved of. Things only began to fall apart after the realization set in that Jim and Eileen would be away longer than originally planned.

“They could’ve taken me,” he once complained to Hazel; “And why can’t Eileen [which was the way he addressed his mother], come to me while Dad’s getting the radiation?” This was another rant we would hear—Hazel, myself and Junie. We did our best to persuade him that it was better with her being there by his side.

“There’re times, Houston,” I had to tell him, “when all you want is a hand to hold. Someone who is near to you.”



Public Utilities Commission

Press Release

On December 10, 2022 in accordance with Section 33 2(c)(a) of the Electricity Byelaws, S.I. 145 of 2002 as amended by S.I. 116 of 2009, Belize Electricity Limited (BEL) made a submission of a new forecast for the cost of power 2022-2024.

BEL submits to the PUC that there is an estimated \$28.5M revenue shortfall over the Reference Cost of Power up to the period ending June 2024.

The PUC will be reviewing BEL’s submission and, in accordance with applicable byelaws, within 15 days from submission, will publish a **Draft of the amendment to the Final ARP Decision 2022** for public consultation.

A copy of the submissions can be found on PUC’s website www.puc.bz

END



Happy Holidays!

from the Board of Directors, Management and Staff of Belize Water Services

Our Holidays Office Hours

Offices Close	Offices Re-open
Friday, December 23, 2022— 1:00 PM	Tuesday, December 27, 2022
Friday, December 30, 2022— 1:00 PM	Tuesday, January 3, 2023

****NB: The Belize City Office will be closed on Saturday, December 24, 2022 and Saturday, December 31, 2022.**

Have a safe and blessed holidays!

No arrest yet for Byron Herrera's murder

by Charles Gladden

ORANGE WALK, Tues. Dec. 13, 2022

On Saturday night, sometime between 10:00 and 11:00 p.m., Byron Herrera, 27, was reportedly sitting on his motorcycle underneath a wooden home (believed to be his residence) in his neighborhood on San Narciso Street not far from the People's Stadium in Orange Walk Town when he was shot as many as 10 times. His wounded body was later found lying near his motorbike, and eight expended shells were reportedly found by police at the scene of the shooting. Herrera was pronounced dead when he was transported to the Northern Regional Hospital.



Byron Herrera, deceased

Police are not still not certain why Herrera, who was unemployed at the time of his death, was killed, although, according to the communications director of the Police Department, ASP Fitzroy Yearwood, a number of theories have been circulating in the community. Some have been claiming that the killing might have been drug-related, while others have been speculating that a love triangle involving a female might have led to Herrera's death. It has been confirmed, however, that previous attempts had been made to kill Herrera. Reportedly, about three weeks ago, gunmen went to the home where the murder occurred and fired shots, so police have been asking the public to provide any information that

could be of assistance to the investigation.

"We have since launched several operations in that area and still canvassing that maybe somebody in that area may have security cameras up. Right now, we are just appealing to the public for any assistance that could be rendered to the police for us to try to solve this latest murder. As usual, a lot of people have their own street side theory, but our officers are trying to establish what was the motive, and then hopefully, we will know exactly what direction to look for suspects," Yearwood said.

ASP Yearwood noted that Herrera was not known to the police.

Man dies four days after being shot in Griga

Two brothers have been detained in connection with the murder of Douglas Alexander Menjivar Gonzalez, 21, of Aranda Crescent in Dangriga Town, who was gunned down over a week ago.

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Tues. Dec. 13, 2022

On Tuesday, December 6, Douglas Alexander Menjivar Gonzalez, 21, a construction worker who was residing on Aranda Crescent in Dangriga Town, passed away in the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital four days after he was shot multiple times while walking with a companion in Dangriga Town.

According to reports, on Friday, December 2, Gonzalez, a Salvadoran national, was walking with a friend near the South Riverside bridge when two men approached them from behind and fired a number of bullets in their direction, which severely wounded Gonzalez. He was able to reach his residence, where he collapsed, and he was later transported to the Southern Regional Hospital, then to the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital, where he passed away on Tuesday, December 6.

According to the communications director of the Belize Police Department,



ASP Fitzroy Yearwood, Communications Officer, Belize Police Department

ASP Fitzroy Yearwood, two brothers along with another individual were detained in connection with Gonzalez's death. The homes of the brothers were searched, said Yearwood.

He continued by noting that Gonzalez was indeed the target of the shooting; however, no solid motive for the shooting has yet been established.

Gonzalez's companion, with whom he had been walking when the shooting occurred, was not injured.

BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM

COUNTRYWIDEPUBLIC AUCTION SALES: PROPERTIES

Orange Walk Town, Guinea Grass Village, Orange Walk District

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. Heritage Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following properties. **Sales currently running until 6th February 2023. Public Auction Sales will expire fortnightly on the dates and times listed on the website until these properties are sold.**

1. Parcel No. 141 Honey Camp Street, OrangeWalkTown:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
OrangeWalk Town	4	141

(Being an incomplete two storey concrete house(30ft.X45ft.) Ground Floor: three bedrooms, bathroom, living/dining/kitchen; First Floor constructed up to belt beam; Additional Storeroom/Laundry (10 ft. X 20 ft.), the freehold property of Mr. Noel F. Blanco & Ms. Celia A. Blanco)

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



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
GuineaGrass Village	4	47

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

"FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PHOTOGRAPHS PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE"

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH

KEVIN A. CASTILLO

TELEPHONE 223-4488

Website: belizepropertyauctions.com

E-mail: kevinacas@yahoo.com

Facebook: [BelizeAuctions](https://www.facebook.com/BelizeAuctions)

Bowen | We're Hiring!

Design and Civil Engineer

Belize City, Belize

The position is to:

- Provide civil and architectural engineering projects and investments.
- Interpret requirements and produce calculations, review arrangement drawings and construction drawings.
- Schedule, execute and control projects and work activities.

The position requirements are:

- Civil Engineering or Architectural degree, or equivalent certification
- Experience in Design Engineering or Architecture
- MS Office Suite- Strong independent user; proficient in MS Project, AutoCAD 2014, and other design software

Application Deadline: December 23, 2022

Shortlisted applicants will be contacted for interviews. If you are not contacted three (3) weeks after the application deadline, we welcome your application for any other vacancy.

Join our Bowen & Bowen Family of 1,200+ who are united in Pursuing Excellence for a Stronger Belize.

Apply: bowen.bz/resources



Business & Advertising email: amandalapress@gmail.com

MADISON'S

AUCTIONS AND APPRAISALS LLP

 www.madisons.bz

BY ORDER of the Mortgagee, Messrs. Ascendancy Belize Limited, Licensed Auctioneer, Sylvano Guerrero, is selling by way of ONLINE AUCTION via www.madisons.bz the following properties with reserved prices. The online public auctions will expire bi-weekly on December 22, 2022, January 4, 2023, January 17, 2023, and January 31, 2023 until a sale is determined within this period.

TERMS: 10% DEPOSIT. BALANCE IN 14 DAYS

Lot 63, Pomona Village Stann Creek



All that piece or parcel of land being Parcel #63 Pomona Village, Stann Creek District; comprising of a total area 461.849 square meters together with all buildings and erections thereon being a concrete building approximately 20 feet by 40 feet and elevated 11 feet above the ground with 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, kitchen, dining and living room, a front porch approximately 5 feet by 10 feet and a side porch approximately 7 feet by 15 feet.

The property is held as a Minister's Fiat Grant No. 178 of 2006 in the name of Roy Sylvester Tillett.

Block 7, Parcel 1988/1 San Pedro



All that piece or parcel of land being Parcel #1988/1, Block #7, Boca Del Rio Area, San Pedro Town. Building 1 is 2 storeys with 7 one bedroom units with an area of 1795sq.ft. Building 2 is a single-story building with 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, living, dining and kitchen with an area of 520 sq. ft. Building 3 is an external lavatory with an area of 64sq.ft. The entire property has a total area of 416.67 sq. yds.

The property is held by a Leasehold title (Freehold Interest) in the name of Tomasito Paz.

Block 3, Parcel 604, Sarteneja Village, Corozal



All that piece or parcel of land being Block #3, Parcel 604, Sarteneja Village, Corozal District, Belize; comprising of 1,519.8 sq.m. together with a concrete bungalow having 2 bedrooms, 1 shared bathroom, living, kitchen, and dining rooms, and a large front porch. The building has an area of 1,475 sq. ft., porch of 5 ft by 25 ft and a back section with dimensions of 12 ft by 22 ft.

The subject property is held as a Land Certificate Interest in the name of Carol Cobb.

Block 1, Parcel 224 San Pablo/San Jose, Orange Walk



All that piece or parcel of land being Block #1, Parcel #224, San Jose/San Pablo Registration Section, Orange Walk District; comprising a total area of 1635.8 sq.m. together with all buildings and erections thereon being a concrete bungalow with 4 bedrooms, a shared bathroom, kitchen, dining room, and living room with external dimensions of approximately 22 ft by 47 ft inclusive of an enclosed front porch of 9 ft by 10 ft and a back verandah of 7 ft by 12 ft.

The property is held as a Land Certificate Interest in the name of Alfredo Samuel Cabrera and Josue Cabrera.

Lot 184 Hummingbird Community, Stann Creek



All that piece or parcel of land being Lot #184, Hummingbird Community, Stann Creek District; together with all erections thereon. On the property is a bungalow with two bedrooms, one bathroom, a living room, a dining room, and a kitchen. The property is in fair condition and measures 1,092 square feet.

The property is held in the Freehold Interest in the name of Pedro Guerra.

Block 4, Parcel 1493/1 Ann Gabourel Registration Section



All that pieces or parcels of land being Parcel #1493/1, Block #4, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District, Belize, totaling 416.67 sq. yds. The property has a single-story building with one bedroom, one bathroom, a living room, a dining room, and a kitchen. The floor area of this building is 657 sq. ft.

The subject property is held in Leasehold Interest in the name of Rosalba Rosado.

Block 1, Parcel 57/1, Buena Vista Village



All that piece or parcel of land being Block #1, Parcel #57/1, Buena Vista Village, Corozal; comprising of a total area of 1280.44 sq. yds together with all buildings and erections thereon being a two-story building having a large open area, a bedroom, and a storeroom on the lower level, with an area of 1882 sq. ft.

The subject property is held as a Leasehold Certificate interest in the name of Florencia Pott.

Block 42, Parcel 100, Hopeville, Punta Gorda



All that piece or parcel of land being Parcel #100, Block #42, Punta Gorda Town, Toledo District, Belize comprising of a bungalow residence with four bedrooms, one bathroom, living, dining, kitchen, and utility, with a large porch in front. The house has an area of 850 sq. ft. The porch is 224 sq. ft. This land has a total area of 657.25 sq.yds.

The property is held in the Freehold Interest in the name of Maria Roches.

Lot 246 Silk Grass Village Ext, Stann Creek



All that piece or parcel of land being Lot #246, Silk Grass Village, Stann Creek District, Belize; together with all erections thereon. The property is 833.33 square yards in total, with all structures being an elevated residence with two bedrooms, one bathroom, living, dining, and kitchen. It is in fair condition and measures 624 square feet.

The property is held in the Freehold Interest in the name of Felix Galeana.

Block 1, Parcel 134, San Pablo/San Jose, Orange Walk



All that piece or parcel of land being Block #1, Parcel #134 San Jose/San Pablo Registration Section, San Pablo Village, Orange Walk District; comprising of a total area of 4,195.7 square meters together with all buildings and erections thereon being a concrete bungalow residence with 2 bedrooms, a small living room area and a kitchen with dimensions of 18 ft by 24 ft and a front porch of 5 ft by 24 ft.

The property is held as a Land Certificate Interest in the name of Alfredo Samuel Cabrera and Josue Cabrera.

Block 42, Parcel 420/1, Punta Gorda



All that piece or parcel of land being Block #42, Parcel #420/1, Punta Gorda Town, Toledo District, Belize; comprising of 450 sq. yds. together with all erections thereon being a single storey residence having three bedrooms, two bathrooms, living, dining, kitchen, utility room, and an enclosed garage. The building has an area of 1,588 sq. ft.

The subject property is held as a Leasehold Interest in the name of Maria Roches.

Block 42, Parcel 793, Punta Gorda



All that piece or parcel of land being Block #42, Parcel #793, Punta Gorda, Toledo; comprising a total area of 893.33 sq. yds together with all buildings and erections thereon being a 2 storey building, having on the ground floor 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, living, dining and kitchen, and on the upper level, 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, living, dining, kitchen and 2 large porches with an area of 3,728 sq. ft. and porch of 686 sq. ft.

The subject property is held in the Freehold Interest in the name of Aurelio Oliva.

Lot 143 Maya Mopan Village, Stann Creek



All that piece or parcel of land, Lot #143, Maya Mopan Village, Stann Creek District, Belize; together with all erections thereon, totaling 825.22 sq. yds. The structure is a single-story structure with two bedrooms, a living room, and a dining room.

The property is held in the Freehold Interest in the name of Narciso Tush.

AUCTIONEER: SYLVANO GUERRERO
TELEPHONE: +501-610-3916
EMAIL: SG@MADISONS.BZ
FACEBOOK: MADISONSAA

ALPHA BUSINESS CENTRE
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BELIZE CITY, BELIZE

MADISON'S
AUCTIONS AND APPRAISALS LLP

Multipolarism—the way to go for a better world



by Clinton Canul Luna

When Belize acquired its independence in 1981, most of its inhabitants thought that they were going to see big changes for the good of the community. It turns out that after 41 years, everything has been a dream, since wealth remains in a few hands while the majority remain in disgrace. It is still believed, and there is hope, that this coming year there will be the changes that they have longed for so much, but for that to happen, it will first be necessary that there not only be changes in this country, but also in the world, for it is the First World countries— those that control the economy and the large transnational companies—the ones

that make the decisions.

It has been seen that we have two types of ideologies, one that is already called the Old/New World Order and the other that is the New World Order, that is, the end of unipolarism and the beginning of multipolarism. The one that forms unipolarism is the United States, Great Britain, NATO, the European Union, among others. For many years they have dominated the countries of the world. For them, they want a single country to be the one that decides the cultural, economic, financial system and the control of society, while the other wants equality for all nations and their peoples. The war that started in Ukraine 10 months

ago is to break this system that is planned to be implemented worldwide by Russia, China, India, and many other countries. Billions and billions of dollars have been spent, and the Western countries have invested, apart from money, war devices, that is, powerful and sophisticated weapons with the belief that with this they will be able to destroy Russia's economy and its weapons. Something that is not going to be achieved, since they have the support of other great nations to be able to reach their objectives.

So, if we wait for the necessary changes for a better Belize, that is already a dream that will not come

true, because all the prices of both basic necessities and luxury items will rise in price. It is expected that by the year 2023, that is, next year, the minimum wage will be raised, but that salary will not be enough for families to be able to sustain themselves, since goods and services are too expensive. What the people need, they will not be able to achieve with that small salary. We realize that people do not even have enough to buy medicines to cure their loved ones, and that is one of the reasons why people die. Regardless of the lack of food, education, housing, and many other things that the people need, those who have wealth will continue to hold onto it in well-guarded banks. The system will continue to be as it has always been, a few rich and the majority poor; in other words, we will continue to have modern slaves, since it is not possible to maintain them with such a miserable salary. On the other hand, it is nice to see that there are people who are trying to organize with other individuals to fight against corruption, oppression, in favor of human rights, in favor of the social justice that the Belizean people so much need.

It will be a very difficult fight, because the elite class will not allow to be taken away what they have already managed to obtain over the years, be it legal or illegal. Illegal in the sense that there is no control over how finances are managed, and it is an open secret that they have abused the money of the people, of the workers, the people who have always given their labor almost for free, poorly paid, both by government leaders and corporations. Throughout the history of this country, there have always been people who have fought for a better life for Belizeans. Other organizations that are called third parties have tried to break the chains of power but have not been able. Hopefully, this new organization may achieve their goal, but for that they need the support of the people, since the numbers are what count. By this, I mean that the intellectuals who have just started their movement, should not forget that to win they need those from below, although they will not be able to participate actively because they need to take bread to their families. In short, I wish you the best for the well-being of Belize.

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

FORTIS BELIZE

FORTIS BELIZE LTD
 Mile 68 George Price Hwy
 San Ignacio Town
 Cayo District
 Belize, Central America
 Telephone: 501-824-3016

PRESS RELEASE

FORTIS BELIZE LTD (formerly BECOL), in collaboration with the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO), the Department of Environment (DOE), and the Ministry of Health (MOH) will host a virtual public discussion for communities downstream of the FORTIS BELIZE hydroelectric facilities and the general public on Tuesday, December 20th, 2022. The virtual public meeting will take place from 2pm to 4:00pm and will be live-streamed on the Government of Belize Press Office Facebook page, the Love FM Facebook page, and on Love TV. This interactive discussion is aimed at educating and informing residents and stakeholders on issues such as the Early Warning System (EWS) and related emergency procedures, mercury-in-fish data, water quality of the Macal, and other topics that may be of concern to stakeholders.

This exercise is an ongoing effort by FORTIS BELIZE LTD/NEMO/DOE/MOH to inform and educate the public and to safeguard the wellbeing of the communities along the Macal River. All stakeholders and the general public are encouraged to tune in to the live broadcast.

END

BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM COUNTRYWIDE PUBLIC AUCTION SALE: PROPERTY

Privassion Creek, Mountain Pine Ridge, Cayo District

BY ORDER of the Supreme Court of Belize, Licensed Auctioneer Christiana R. Castillo is selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following property. Sale currently running until **1st February 2023**. Within this period, a Public Auction Sale will expire on Monday 19th December 2022 and thereafter fortnightly on the dates and times listed on the website until this property is sold.

11.90 ACRES along Privassion Creek, Mountain Pine Ridge, Cayo District:



ALL THAT piece or parcel being **11.90 Acres** of land (Minister's Fiat Grant No. 1135 of 2000) along Privassion Creek, Mountain Pine Ridge Area Cayo District TOGETHER with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon. (Being 11.90 acres of land situate along Privassion Creek, Mountain Pine Ridge, Cayo District, the freehold property of Messrs. Robert's Grove Limited)

"FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PHOTOGRAPHS PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE"

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH

KEVIN A. CASTILLO

TELEPHONE 223-4488

Website: belizepropertyauctions.com

E-mail: kevinacas@yahoo.com

Facebook: [Belize Auctions](https://www.facebook.com/BelizeAuctions)

Visit us at
www.amandala.com.bz

NOTICE

GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE TREASURY BILLS ISSUE NUMBER 1/2023

Tenders are invited for an issue of Government of Belize Treasury Bills. The amount of the issue will be \$83,200,000.

The Bills will be issued in electronic form only evidenced by an electronic book entry in the Central Securities Depository of the Central Bank of Belize in multiples of \$200 and will be repayable at par 91 days after issue. They will be issued on Wednesday, 4 January 2023 and will be redeemed on Wednesday, 5 April 2023.

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

Members of the public who wish to participate in the auction must submit their bid to the Central Bank of Belize electronically to bids@centralbank.org.bz or at the designated drop off box no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, 30 December 2022.

The Auction in the Central Securities Depository System (CSD) will be opened from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on Wednesday, 4 January 2023.

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

Bank: Central Bank of Belize
Account: GL1CORP0402627

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

CENTRAL BANK OF BELIZE

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

17 November 2022



VACANCY NOTICE – FUND MANAGER GOB ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT FUND, DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to fill one (1) vacant post of Fund Manager of the GOB Environmental Management Fund, Department of the Environment, Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change, and Disaster Risk Management.

1. INTRODUCTION:

The Environmental Management Fund was established through the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, (EPA) 2009, Chapter 328 of the Substantive Laws of Belize. Part VII of the EPA has provisions for the governance and general operations of the Fund. The main purpose of the Fund is to assist the Department of the Environment (DOE) to address environmental matters and enforce the legislation which also guides the DOE's roles and functions. The specific objectives of the EMF are to cover all costs associated with the response and clean-up of oil spills and other chemical spills, to carry out programs to prevent and reduce pollution; to provide support for laboratory analysis of samples collected for environmental monitoring; to support its environmental monitoring and enforcement programs; to promote environmental public awareness and research; to encourage local environmental initiative; to publish reports and publications on the environment; to promote, support and encourage activities relating to the protection and management of the environment; and to plan and implement other initiatives important for the effective and efficient management of our natural and environmental resources.

2. PURPOSE OF POSITION:

The Fund Manager is responsible to execute the activities related to the coordination, oversight and implementation of the objectives of the Environmental Management Fund (EMF) through the activities outlined in the EMF Budget and the Department of the Environment (DOE) Strategy and Policy Document. The Fund Manager is primarily responsible for ensuring excellence in the maintenance, control, management and reporting of financial information of the EMF in a timely manner.

The Fund Manager will support the Executive Director and work under the overall supervision of the Chief Environmental Officer.

3. ANALYSIS OF POSITION

This person will be required to handle several responsibilities associated with the general operations of the Fund, and provision of support towards the Executive Director. **(Details of these responsibilities of this post are listed in the Terms of Reference)**

4. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS AND EXPERIENCE

Associates degree in Accounting, Management, Business administration or other related field PLUS 5 years of work experience in accounts and/or financial resource management, procurement, and reporting. **(Details of the skills set required for this post are also listed in the Terms of Reference.)**

5. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Applicants can obtain a copy of the terms of reference at www.doe.gov.bz or by requesting a copy from the Department via email: doe.ceo@environment.gov.bz or office number: 822-2548 or 828-4846

Applicants are asked to submit a hardcopy of the complete application package containing a cover letter, resume, and 2 reference letters, no later than 4:00 pm, December 22, 2022 addressed to:

Chief Environmental Officer
Department of the Environment
1st Floor, Green Building Complex
7552 Hummingbird Highway
Belmopan, Cayo District
Belize



Financial Analyst Belize City, Belize

The position is to:

- Consolidate and analyze financial data (budgets, income statement forecasts, etc.).
- Monitor and report key performance indicators and financial performance by analyzing actual results in comparison with forecasts.
- Drive process improvement and policy development initiatives that impact the function.

The position requirements are:

- Bachelor degree in Business Accounting/Finance or other related field
- Experience with financial and accounting software applications
- Ability to work with little to no supervision

Application Deadline: December 30, 2022

Shortlisted applicants will be contacted for interviews. If you are not contacted three (3) weeks after the application deadline, we welcome your application for any other vacancy.

Join our Bowen & Bowen Family of 1,200+ who are united in **Pursuing Excellence for a Stronger Belize.**

Apply: bowen.bz/resources

Corporate Greed!

I consider myself middle-of-the-road, not left or right or radical or a pacifist! I believe that human rights, gay rights, environmental and all social rights should be respected. I believe that religion should play no part in politics. I believe in law and order and think that one should pay for one's crimes, regardless of their stature in society. I believe in freedom of expression, women's rights to choose and have total autonomy over their bodies, and their rights as human beings. It is so sad that I have to say that, seeing how some men think that they own their women, totally! I believe in open and fair elections, that we

should decide how and by whom we are governed, and not have government imposed upon us. I believe, and sometimes I'm lulled into believing, that all this is possible. But is it?

Brother Rufus X, a true revolutionary in every sense of the word, passionately reminded me that we are not masters of our fates—that how we think, what we eat and wear and how we live, is all decided by the unseen faces, the corporations that rule the world! I thought about that a lot over the weekend, and having a very curious and open mind, I have to mostly agree with him. Not totally, we still are allowed little freedoms, as in whom we love, mostly

where we live and work, our choices of friends and sports and whom and where we worship! Not always, but most of the time.

Let's just for a minute imagine that governments aren't in charge anymore. Would that be a stretch of the imagination? That Facebook, Apple, Twitter, Google, Microsoft, Nike, and all the other brands, too numerous to mention, tell us what to think, how to act, how to live! Put us all in our separate bubbles, making it much easier to confuse and distract us from the alarming and unbelievable zombie land we are living in. Zombie land was Rufus's description of our current state

of being.

They, the corporations, make and break governments, and have done so for as long as I've been alive and for much longer than that. The United Fruit Company, way before my time, determined who governed most of Latin America! These days, they are kinder and gentler, but the aim is the same: profit and control over our individual freedom! It doesn't matter now if it's the United States, China or India, governments are the useful tools of Corporations, and corporate greed and corruption! Boy, all I need is a little

Please turn to  Page 22



VACANCY: JOB OPPORTUNITY

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to fill the following post in the Operations Department. In the Port's continued effort to promote diversity, both females/males, are encouraged to apply for the available post.

ASSISTANT OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR

Reports to: Cargo Operations Manager

Summary of Responsibilities: The Assistant Operations Supervisor will report to the Cargo Operations Manager and will assist with the supervision of all container movement and operations personnel. He or she will be responsible for preparing vessel worked forms to Accounts Department for billing and statistical/Operational reports. Able to check reefer plugins, read and calculate charges. Learn newly implemented Octopi Terminal Operating System, *training to be provided*. Assist COM with preparing gang order for vessels and reefer cargo information. This post is fun and challenging, come prepared for a new venture.

Job Responsibilities:

Summary of Responsibilities: The Assistant Operations Supervisor will report to the Cargo Operations Manager (COM) and will assist with the supervision of all container movement and operations personnel. He or she will be responsible for preparing vessel worked forms to Accounts Department for billing and statistical/Operational reports. Able to check reefer plugins, read and calculate charges. Utilize newly implemented Octopi Terminal Operating System (TOS), inhouse training and opportunity for ongoing self-development to be provided.

Assist COM with preparing gang order for vessels, berth planning, staff scheduling and reefer cargo information.

Leadership Responsibilities:

- Attract, develop, grow and retain the best talents and fill the leadership pipeline.
- Organize, balance and schedule workloads within the department.
- Prioritize, delegate, and set performance objectives.
- Follow-up on performance, provide quality feedback, and objectively appraise differentiated performance levels.
- Empower and inspire staff to achieve high levels of motivation and employee engagement.
- Ensure zero harm, improve safe working processes.
- Provide timely reports for all accidents, incidents and disciplinary incidents.
- Understand Customer requirements and drive the department to achieve these on a consistent basis.
- Track and manage variable expenditure to avoid all cost waste and reduce costs to the bare minimum.
- Continuously lean, streamline, and improve processes.
- Leverage relevant technology to automate processes.
- Maintain high levels of data quality for data and information and reports provided to other functions.

Duties & Responsibilities:

- Remain vigilant and immediately take action in the event any personnel, customers or visitors to the terminal are not wearing PPE and/or any unsafe acts are witnessed.
- Assist with supervising of the movement of inbound and outbound of all containers and break bulk/bulk cargoes.
- Assist with supervising of personnel working in the port compound, container yard and pier.
- Assist with the input, processing and verification of correct and complete upload of vessel and cargo information into the TOS in preparation of vessel arrival. Reconcile planned and executed work prior vessel departure. Provide relief at Gate-In and Gate-Out processes as required.
- Develop and implement a systematic yard plan to accommodate perform cargo flows into and out of the yard; modify as required to meet actual vessel cargo fluctuations.
- Plan, sequence, execute and monitor cargo discharge and load, into and out of the yard in an optimized manner.
- Generate and execute work queues for yard stacker operators; discharge and load; monitor execution.
- Assist with the preparation of gang order for vessels.

- Assist with the preparation and daily maintenance of the staff roster; aligning anticipated operations manning requirements with projected vessel movements, distributing regularly (daily if required).
- Assist with the preparation and daily maintenance and distribution of the Berth Plan.
- Provide relief at Gate-In and Gate-Out processes as required.
- Provide relief at Front-Desk release processes as required.
- Check and sign delivery orders for authenticity to load direct delivery containers.
- Assist with the supervising of the loading and unloading of containers and break-bulk vessels in compound/pierhead.
- Provide reports of vessels worked to Accounts Department for billing.
- Provide reports (work logs) of vessels worked for operations statistics.
- Check and prepare reefer cargo information. Check reefer plug-ins, reading and calculate charges.
- Develop and maintain operational data and operational reporting.

Innovation & Productivity Improvements

- Learn "Octopi" Terminal Operating System (TOS). Initial basic training is to be provided and an inquisitive mind is required to continually learn, adopt and implement new features released within the TOS software on an ongoing basis. Strive to realize both the TOS's and the organization's full potential.
- Proactively drive efficiency and productivity and provide suggestions and recommendations to the Supervisors for continuous improvements.
- Develop and maintain updated processes and procedures for all tasks so that work is 100% standardized.
- Actively seek opportunities to drive innovation and realize efficiencies in the standardized work.
- Ensure all general work areas in a clean, tidy and hazard free condition.
- Any other duties and functions, of a related nature that may be assigned from time to time by the Cargo Operations Manager.

Requirements:

- Demonstrable supervisory and leadership skills required
- Proactive in addressing safety issues, hazardous practices and operational emergencies
- Ability to challenge standard practice and drive operational improvements
- Ability to work independently
- Able to work flexible hours
- Strong mathematical and analytical skills, critical thinking
- Microsoft office proficiency required
- Computer literacy including familiarity with data base entry and reporting, TOS utilization.

Job qualifications/Requirements:

- Experience in Cargo & Container Operations, Production or similar would be an asset.
- Associates Degree or higher
- Math & English CXC passes would be an asset.
- Experience supervising a blue-collar team would be an asset.

Skills/Competencies:

- Ability to work independently
- Ability to work flexible working hours
- Math and analytical skills required.
- Supervisory and leadership skills required.
- Pro-activeness required.
- Microsoft office proficiency required.

Compensation Package: Will be commensurate (in accordance with the Company's Salary Structure).

To apply: Provide updated resume, cover letter (addressed to Human Resource Manager), copy of valid social security card, Valid police record, name and phone number of two (2) previous employers and a copy of COVID vaccination card.

Applications should be emailed to:

jobapplication@portofbelize.com

Closing date for receipt of applications is Friday, December 16th, 2022



**MINISTRY
OF
INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT
AND
HOUSING**



INVITATION TO CONSULTING FIRMS TO SUBMIT EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Operation Data

Country: BELIZE
 Operation: Expansion and Rehabilitation of the Philip Goldson Highway
 Operation No: Loan Agreement No. 2295

Consulting Data

Name of the Consultancy: Consultancy Services for Construction Supervision of the Expansion and Rehabilitation of the Philip Goldson Highway
 Selection Method: Quality and Cost Based Selection
 Reference number: PGHUP-CAB-001

The Government of Belize – Ministry of Infrastructure Development & Housing has received financing from the Central American Bank for Economic Integration for the Expansion and Rehabilitation of the Philip Goldson Highway, and it is intended to use a portion of the funds for consulting services contracts.

The Consulting services (“the services”) include: A two phased assignment. Phase #1, is to assist the GOBZ in reviewing the existing (November 2017) detailed design and make adjustments to its content and cost estimates reflecting conditions that have changed since its completion and current cost escalations due to various national and international factors. Phase #2, of this consultancy is to assist the GOBZ in providing project management of those road works, including contractor supervision and contract administration throughout the project implementation process, inclusive of the defects liability period.

The Government of Belize – Ministry of Infrastructure Development & Housing invites eligible consulting firms to express their interest in providing the requested services. Interested consultants shall provide information indicating that they are qualified to provide the services and may partner with other firms in the form of a Joint Venture (JV) or subconsultants to improve their qualifications. The criteria for shortlist selection are found within the respective Terms of Reference.

Interested Consulting Firms can obtain the Terms of Reference at no cost by requesting them by email: peu@midh.gov.bz

Consultants will be selected using the method of Quality Cost-Based Selection described in the Regulations for the Application of the Procurement Policy available in www.bcie.org.

Interested consultants can obtain more information at the address indicated at the end of this invitation, during business hours.

One electronic copy of the Expression (s) of interest together with the information indicated in the Terms of Reference must be submitted to the address below. The file(s) containing each submission should include the name and address of the applicant and shall be clearly marked “**Expression of Interest - Consultancy Services for Contract Supervision of the Expansion and Rehabilitation of the Philip Goldson Highway**”) and shall be received by no later than **(10:00 a.m. local time on Monday 31 January 2023)**.

The burden of proving receipt of the e-mail will be on the applicant and will not be met solely by a read receipt or sent items report generated by the applicant’s computer. Confirmation of receipt can be requested at the address listed below.

Ministry of Infrastructure Development & Housing - Project Execution Unit

Mr. Evondale Moody

Engineering Coordinator

Ministry of Infrastructure Development & Housing
 Power Lane, Belmopan, BELIZE Tel: +501-828-5220
 Email: peu@midh.gov.bz

Letters to the editor

SAVE THE SUGAR CANE INDUSTRY SALVEMOS LA INDUSTRIA AZUCARERA AHORA

Dear Editor,

It is with concern and urgency that I write to you to kindly ask that your publishing house see the importance to help our cane farmers by following through with the publishing of our Belize Sugar Cane Farmers Association (BSCFA) approved Resolution at our AGM held 27th November to petition our Government to incorporate the following Clauses into our Sugar Industry Act (SIA):

1. Sugar Industry Marketing Committee (SIMC)
2. The Default Mechanism

Belize Sugar Cane Farmers Association
San Antonio Rd.
Orange Walk Town

27th November 2022

Chairman Committee of Management

Resolution

Dear Mr. Alfredo Ortega,

Kindly allow us to present this resolution on the BSCFA annual general meeting to be held on the 27th November at Escuela Secundaria Tecnica Mexico, San Roman village for the floor's consideration and approval.

In view of the present long ongoing controversy surrounding the inconclusive negotiations for a commercial agreement between the B.S.C.F.A and B.S.I/A.S.R, it has become an urgent necessity to establish protective provisions or clauses in the Sugar Industry Act. We make a final call to G.O.B to place priority on our urgent needs as cane farmers to pass appropriate legislation to protect the interest of all the Cane Farmers and the good future of the sugarcane industry of Belize.

Considering that the contents documented of both the default mechanisms and the Sugar Industry Marketing Committee were delivered at a joint divisional director meeting of the BSCFA with the then minister responsible for the sugar industry, Hon. Gaspar Vega, held at the Sugar Industry Control Board conference room, on the 21st October 2013 where a verbal formal request was made to the UDP government to amend the SIA and place into law these two protective measures. The government refused because under the content of the Sugar Industry Marketing Committee it forbids BSI/ASR to continue to be the sole seller of all our sugars. an established Sugar Industry Marketing Committee which states in segments the following 15.(1) Establishment: There shall be and is hereby established for the purposes of this Act a Committee to be known as the Sugar Industry Marketing Committee (hereinafter referred to as the SIMC which shall, subject to the provisions of this act, be an autonomous committee, with the general objective of promoting the most

marketing and sale of all sugar and its byproducts produced from sugar cane by manufacturers. 4(1): Subject to the provisions of this Act, the SIMC shall bear overall responsibility for all aspects of sugar marketing and sale, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, shall perform the following functions: 4(a) to conduct regular market surveys to review and determine the most lucrative local, regional and global markets for Belizean sugar and the most cost-effective methods to market and sell Belizean sugar, bagasse and any derivative of sugar cane both at home and abroad. Without this prohibition the UDP government was free to grant BSI/ASR the 10-year unrestricted right to sell alone all our sugars, and all tax exemptions. Time to stop corruption.

NOW, be it resolved:

The introduction of the Default Mechanism into law, should become the legal instrument to compel the Miller and Cane Farmer to commence, to negotiate and conclude a beneficial agreement between both parties. The Default Mechanism was introduced at an earlier date but was finally analysed and debated by the Task Force Members on October 14th 2010 at the Sugar Industry Control Board conference room. The full support to this valuable instrument is recorded in the minutes of that meeting according to 4.1.8. It reads as follows: It was agreed on payment based on quality and it was also agreed that a Default Mechanism be put in place whereby the authority (proposed new name SICB) comes to mediate and find a solution in the event that the entities cannot reach to an agreement prior to the commencement of Crop.

Following 4.1.9 reads as follows: Mr. Waight requested that all members make a submission to the chairman in regards to the default mechanism by 22nd October, 2010. I submitted my submission on 18th October, 2010.

This default mechanism, when put in the act, shall be a permanent binding clause that the board (SICB) can legally enforce its compliance when requested by a manufacturer or by any cane farmer's association within a reasonable time frame of only 105 working days. 45 days only to commence negotiations, 30 days only for mediation, 30 days only for arbitration.

The Task Force members fully dedicated ourselves to fulfil the request given to the task force and in less than ten months of work, we managed to conclude four drafts of recommendations and started a fifth draft. During this time, the former PM requested the Task Force Chairman to present him with the recommendations proposed so far. When the PM reviewed the recommendations, he informed the Task Force Chairman and the SICB Chairman, his total disagreement with most of the said recommendations and stated he was not

Please turn to  Page 22



REQUEST FOR BIDS

BELIZE

MINISTRY OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

Contract Title: *Supply and deliver one water bowser for Ministry of Sustainable, Development and Disaster Risk Management*

Reference No:

1. The Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) are collaborating with the European Union to build climate change resilience through the "Building Climate Change Resilience and Social Integration of Displaced People in Settlements of Western Belize" project.
2. The Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management acting on behalf of the *Government of Belize* intends to equip settlements surrounded by pine savannahs and threatened by fires with one fire bowser and invites sealed quotations from eligible suppliers for the following item:

No.	Description of Goods	Quantity	Final Destination
1	<p>Water Bowser Truck General: Year: 2016 and newer Condition: New or Certified pre-owned Mileage: Below 150,000 miles G-2500-gallon epoxy coated tank 2 Spray heads in front, side spray and 2 spray heads in rear 1 ½ " Cox hose reel with 50 ft of hose Backup camera Water level gauge with monitors installed in cab 1r 22.5's sized tires with great tread Ice cold A/C Serviced, washed, and detailed</p> <p>Engine Fuel Type: Diesel Powertrain Transmission: Manual 6 speed Drive Side: Left Hand Drive</p> <p>Category Specific Water Type: Non-Potable Tank Composition: Steel Fill Type: top fill / PTO pump Attachments Spray System: Yes Front Spray: Yes Side Spray: Yes Rear Spray: Yes Hose Reel: Yes Hose Reel Type: Manual Backup Camera: Yes PTO Pump @225 gallon per Minute</p>	1	Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management

3. The Request for Bids is in accordance with Open Tendering Procedure as specified in the Finance and Audit (Reform) Act, Chapter 15 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2011, and is open to all eligible potential suppliers.
4. Interested potential suppliers may obtain further information from the *International Organization for Migration*, email creyna@iom.int or snovelo@iom.int.
5. The Bid document will be sealed with three hard copies to the IOM office and an electronic copy by interested, eligible suppliers upon submission to the email address provided above and below.
6. Bids are to be accompanied by Letters of Good Standing from the Belize Tax Service, Belize Companies Registry, and the Belize Social Security Board.
7. This is to ensure you are getting bids from reputable bidders.
8. Quotations must be delivered or emailed to the address below on or before **4:00 pm on Monday January 3rd, 2023**. Late quotations will be rejected. Quotations will be opened in the presence in of the selection committee **on Monday, January 9th, 2023 at 2:30 pm**.
9. The address referred to above is:

376 Bay Street, Suite 4 Buttonwood Bay
Belize City,
Belize,
Phn #223-9500

SAVE THE SUGAR CANE INDUSTRY

Continued from **Page 21**

willing to endorse them into law. Therefore, the Task Force decided not to continue the revision on the SIA because they considered it to be a waste of time and concluded to discontinue our participation on the review of the SIA of 2001. All these good recommendations are now idling on the shelves of the Ministry of Agriculture and the SICB. As a former member of the 2010 task force on the review of the SIA, I got the support and approval of two key recommendations to be made law in the SIA in conformity with recommendation (b) by the experts, that states should contain clauses of a regulatory nature to enhance the economic and financial feasibility of the industry. One of the two key elements urgently needed to be made law in the SIA is the establishment of a Default Mechanism. Whenever this default mechanism is made into law it will put in equal footing the northern Belize

Cane Farmers Associations with BSI/ASR the manufacturers to conclude in a reasonable time frame a Commercial Agreement beneficial to both parties.

The second key clause that will also enhance the economic and financial feasibility of the industry, is the establishment of the Sugar Industry Marketing Committee in law. It will ensure accountability in all sugar sales, local, regional and international markets, including the sale of our Belizean baggash. It will further ensure joint partnership with the BSCFA and other associations in the sales of our sugars. This joint partnership in the sales of our sugars will forbid the renewal of the present 10 years of unrestricted right by BSI/ASR to sell alone all our sugars granted by the past UDP government. We cannot allow the renewal of any future or present government to water down our sacred rights as hardworking northern caneros. If we are denied these rights by the Government it will follow the steps of the past UDP government

and will stand in favour of the transnational BSI/ASR granting an eternal unrestricted right to BSI/ASR.

We the northern caneros do declare today and tomorrow this is an act of high treason. Copies of this Default Mechanism and the Sugar Industry Marketing Committee will be provided in a letter addressed to the relevant authority. The content of the Sugar Industry Marketing Committee is the legal wording of the Solicitor General. We the members of the BSCFA gather here today to request the government to intervene on our behalf, to amend with due diligence the SIA and to insert these two recommendations to become with immediate effect. It is of immediate and pressing importance for the BSCFA and the survival of the sugar industry and the good future for all cane farmers of northern Belize. We invite the government to listen to us cane farmers and to act in good faith for us. The Government has intentionally delayed the urgent amendments to

include two vital clauses in the SIA, (1) the Default Mechanism, (2) the Sugar Industry Marketing Committee, but has passed hundreds of amendments in other laws, including the passage of the Marijuana Bill to be agreed or rejected in a referendum. We ask the question: Is the Marijuana Bill more important than the Sugar Cane Industry, where thousands and thousands of people depend on it for their livelihood? How can the Marijuana Bill be superior where not one hundred people depend on it for their livelihood? This government must reverse its actions and do the right thing for the northern caneros.

For too many long years, the clamouring and pleas of the BSCFA have been ignored; our requests have been kept in deaf ears by the past government to enact these essential two protective clauses in the SIA. Therefore, we are now requesting this new government not to forget to intervene on our behalf, not to delay, not to ignore but to keenly listen to our call, our plight, listen to our concerns, our needs and to serve expeditiously as the true servants of the people with our urgent requests.

In view that there is a locked door between the BSCFA and BSI/ASR that needs to be opened, and this default mechanism is the key to unlock the door to finalize a commercial agreement between the BSCFA and BSI/ASR. We call Government to pass with urgency this Default Mechanism and the strengthening of the Board power to conclude this controversy that is hurting the interest of all sugar cane farmers through a statutory instrument.

Hoping for a prompt and positive response on behalf of our government within two weeks' time.

Corporate Greed!

Continued from **Page 19**

nudge, and the mind starts to wander, and the blindfolds are lifted, and then what? I'll tell you what: nothing! Nothing changes. The power they wield over us, all of us, is constant, unrelenting and here to stay!

Someone else has to come up with a solution to this problem, or maybe it's not a problem, just the reality of life, that we have to accept, for our own personal comforts, our own little worlds. Somehow I suspect it will only get worse. There's no country on this entire planet not beholden to corporations, not even Neverland! Robots? We don't need no stinking robots; we are the robots!

Do your eyes blink? Do you lick your lips sometimes? Do you frown, or scratch your head, or wiggle your toes? We have a cure for all that! Corporations. Peace and love!

Glen

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www.amandala.com.bz



CENTRAL BANK of BELIZE



CAREER OPPORTUNITY

SYSTEMS ANALYST

The Central Bank invites qualified individuals to join its Information Technology Department.

The Systems Analyst (SA) is responsible for the development, analysis, implementation, and maintenance of information systems in accordance with the Central Bank's development standards and tools. The SA ensures data confidentiality, integrity, and accuracy. The SA will also implement information systems software packages in support of core organizational functions following established guidelines.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Information Systems Development and Implementation:** Implements information systems according to established development standards and methodology.
- **Information Security:** Responds to security alerts and addresses information security infractions and violations; provides preventative and corrective actions.
- **Information Systems Maintenance:** Implements authorized changes to systems in production.
- **Disaster/Recovery:** Implements, tests, and maintains suitable backup and recovery measures for information systems.
- **Maintenance & Support:** Provides support for information systems and utilities, and level one support for system software, security software, data backup systems, and hardware.
- **Training:** Provides training on application and end-user software.

The applicant should possess the following:

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

- Minimum qualification of a bachelor's degree in computer science or a related field from a recognized university. Relevant experience will be considered.

TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE

- Possesses, applies, and maintains a high degree of knowledge in information technologies to deliver quality work; remains informed of the latest trends and developments in the discipline; knowledge of business and management principles, project management, information auditing, and information security; proficient in diverse software applications and operating systems; demonstrates cross-functional ability and desire for continuous self-improvement.

COMPETENCIES

- Managing Change; Fostering Innovation; Analytical Thinking; Diagnostic Information Gathering; Results Orientation; Flexibility/Adaptability; Conceptual Thinking; Attention to Communication.

Submit the following documents by **Friday, 30 December 2022:**

- Central Bank Employment Application Form (available online)
- Curriculum Vitae
- Three references (one must be from previous employer)
- Copies of school transcripts, degrees, and any other personal certificates

Applications should be addressed to:

Manager, Human Resources Department
Central Bank of Belize
P O Box 852 or Gabourel Lane
Belize City, BELIZE

Ref: Systems Analyst – Information Technology Department

Email: hr@centralbank.org.bz or online at www.centralbank.org.bz
(All applications will be held in strict confidence)

Connect with us on
Linked in
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/central-bank-of-belize/>

All countries should demand equitable World Cup slots from FIFA

by
Wellington
C.
Ramos
Former
Belize
national
football
player



FIFA should increase the amount of slots given to the other regions in the world to make it

comparable to the European continent. This will allow their World Cup tournaments, to give all the regions a fair chance of winning the cup. For this year 2022, there are thirty-two teams vying for the championship in Qatar. Thirty-one teams come from all the regions, and the host country Qatar obtained an automatic spot.

According to FIFA's rules, the 31 teams must earn qualification from their respective continental governing body: Africa (CAF), Asia (AFC), Europe (UEFA), North America/Central America/Caribbean (CONCACAF) and South America

(CONMEBOL). Those spots are divided by regions: The continent of Africa has 54 countries, yet they are given (5) slots. The continent of Asia has 48 countries, and they are given (4) slots. The continent of Europe has 44, countries, and they are granted (13) slots. The continent of North America has three countries, which are Mexico, the United States and Canada, but they are grouped in with Central America and the Caribbean region, which have a total of 29 countries. The region is only granted (3) slots and South America, which has a total of 13 countries, is granted (4) slots.

It is clear that the continent of Europe is being granted more slots than the other regions in the world. The continent of Africa has the most countries in the world. Yet, the number of slots that they are given is less than Europe.

This gives the European continent a greater advantage for one of their countries to win the World Cup, and this needs to be changed. The only way this can change is for all the countries in the world to demand it.

The Europeans and many countries in the world consider football to be their number-1 sport. Because most countries in Europe are better off economically than the countries in the other continents, they invest a lot of money into this sport. Europe also

has tournaments in which foreign football players are paid more money than their native countries could give them, so the players from the other countries are desperate to go to Europe and play.

Even though these players play in Europe, they are still obliged to play for their respective countries in the World Cup. This gives them a dual obligation to their football clubs and their country. Most of these players only join their national teams during qualification matches and when the World Cup season is about to begin. This places most of the teams from the other countries at a big disadvantage. It isolates them from developing team work and communication skills with their national team.

Football is my number one sport, and it will always be, because I have a passion for it and I am addicted to this sport. In Belize they call players like me "BALL PER". My friends and I played football late in the evening into the night. This is when I was growing up by Logan Field in Dangriga Town, Belize. We had no equipment, uniform, football, coaches, yet with our determination we were able to become great players.

I watched most of the games played in this 2022 World Cup and the two teams that impressed me the most are France and Croatia. These

two teams have the potential to win it all. They played against each other in the last World Cup that was played in Russia in 2018. That was when France defeated Croatia 4-2. I think Croatia learnt from that defeat, and they are coming for some revenge. I am leaning Croatia for this World Cup.


Morocco has surprised many people, because most of them did not expect its team to reach this far. In football, many times the style of play that the team uses can make a big difference in the game. I am a player and coach who prefers playing with these techniques; running, passing shooting and man-to-man attack football.

In some of the games I was watching, there was excessive dribbling by some players and teams. They were also lagging in their defensive zones and bringing pressure on their goalkeeper. Some players brought the ball back to their goal too many times. The goal area that a team wants to score in is at the other end of the field, so move the ball there. Some coaches were playing defensive football instead of defense offense football. If a team does not score, they will only "draw" a game, while the overall objective is to win. A majority of those teams lost their games. Losing is tough, because of the amount of work that players and teams have to do to win their games.


NOTICE
BELIZE CITY
Estate of **STEPHAN THOMAS ODLIVAK**, deceased.
STATUTORY NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Pursuant to Section 36 of the Administration of Estates Act, Chapter 197 of the Laws of Belize, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all creditors and other persons having any claims or demands upon or against the Estate of **STEPHAN THOMAS ODLIVAK**, late of No.1 Colgate Drive, Smithtown Town, New York, U.S.A., are required to send particulars in writing of their claims or demands to the Administrator of the said estate, **KIMBERLY CHRISTINE HANSON** of Bermuda Beach D7, San Pedro Ambergris Caye, Belize District, Belize, c/o **COURTENAY COYE LLP**, Attorneys-at-Law situate at 15 A Street, Belize City, Belize, and to send such particulars not later than the 5th March 2023, AND NOTICE IS HEREBY ALSO GIVEN that at the expiration of the last mentioned date, the Administrator will proceed to distribute the assets of the said Stephan Odliak, deceased, amongst the parties entitled thereto, having regard only to the claims or demands of which particulars have been delivered and the Administrator will not be liable for the assets or any part thereof so distributed to any person or persons of whose claims or demands it shall not then have had notice.

DATED the 5th December 2022.


Courtenay Coye LLP
Attorneys-at-Law

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
CONSTRUCTION SERVICES FOR THE PLACENCIA AND
INDEPENDENCE VILLAGE FIRE STATION BUILDINGS**



Institution: BELIZE NATIONAL FIRE SERVICE
Country: BELIZE
Project: PLACENCIA AND INDEPENDENCE VILLAGE FIRE STATION BUILDINGS PROJECT
Project ID Nos.: NFS-2022/PL01 & NFS-2022/IND02

Deadline: Wednesday 28th December, 2022

The Government of Belize has committed funding to contract an experienced and qualified contractor **FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FIRE STATION BUILDING** to be located in Placencia and Independence Villages.

General requirements of the Bidders:

- 1) Bidder's Company must be incorporated in the country of Belize a minimum of five years;
- 2) Bidders must have experience in works of a similar size, scope and nature;
- 3) Bidders must present two references from projects recently completed in the last two years
- 4) Bidders must confirm access to minimum resources (technical, financial, human resources)
- 5) Bidders are required to present Certificates of Good standing from the Companies Registry, the Belize Tax Service and the Belize Social Security Board.

Interested contractors please note that above requirements are mandatory, and this information must be included within any final submitted bid. Note the deadlines below:

- a. The deadline for submission of **Expression of Interest** is **Wednesday, 28th December, 2022.**
- b. The deadline for the submission of **your final bid** is **January 25, 2023.**

Interested contractors may obtain bidding documents scope of works electronically at the email address below from Monday to Fridays starting **Monday December 12th 2022** between the hours of 9:00 am and 3:00 pm. Printing of documents is at the intended Bidder's expense.

Belize National Fire Service
Attn: BID DOCUMENTS
#3578 Sunrise Avenue, Belize
Tel: 501-223-1183
E-mail: seniorsec@fire.gov.bz

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

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

Position Name: Administrative Management Assistant (International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs)
Vacancy number: Belmopan-2022-22
Closing date: December 23, 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.

MEGA AUCTION SALE

Licensed and Certified Auctioneer, Sheldon N. C. Arnold will sell the following properties with reserve prices.

SAN PEDRO PROPERTY -TO BE AUCTIONED AT HUMMINGBIRD FURNISHINGS COMPOUND BELMOPAN CITY ON THURSDAY DECEMBER 22ND. 2022 AT 10:00AM



Location: Block 7, Parcel 2112, San Pedro Town, Ambergris Caye, Belize District.
Description: Lot - 500.2 square yards with a 7040 sq.ft building. The main floor is a business unit. Second Floor has 5 apartments and third floor is the main residence with 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, living, dining & kitchen areas, being the fee simple property of Thomas Santos.

ORANGE WALK DISTRICT PROPERTIES -TO BE AUCTIONED AT HUMMINGBIRD FURNISHINGS COMPOUND BELMOPAN CITY ON THURSDAY DECEMBER 22ND. 2022 AT 10:00AM



Location: Block 4, Parcel 3091/1, Orange Walk Town.
Description: On the property is a single storey building having 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, living, dining and kitchen. It has reinforced concrete foundation. Land measures 555.56 sq.yds and building floor measures 727 sq.ft. being the freehold interest of Kenis Garcia.



Location: Block 4 Parcel 140/1, Yo Creek Village, Orange Walk District.
Description: On the property is a single storey residence having 4 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, living, dining and kitchen, the floor area 1313sq.ft, lot measures, 1599.27 sq.yds, being the leasehold interest of Florentino Cal.



Location: Block 4, Parcels 514/515/516, situated in Indian Hill East, Orange Walk District.
Description: The subject properties have a total area of 2055.94 sq.yds (1719.01sq.m), Lot 514 - 334.79 sq.yds, Lot 515 - 832.86 sq.yds, Lot 516 - 888.29 sq.yds. Being the freehold interest of Ishwar Mahbubani.

COROZAL DISTRICT PROPERTIES -TO BE AUCTIONED AT HUMMINGBIRD FURNISHINGS COMPOUND BELMOPAN CITY ON THURSDAY DECEMBER 22ND. 2022 AT 10:00AM



Location: Block 3, Parcel 833/1, Sarteneja Village, Corozal District.
Description: The property has a single storey residence having 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, living, dining, and kitchen, floor area measures 743 sq.ft. Land measures 1041.67 sq.yds, being the leasehold interest of Guiermo A Rodriguez.

BELIZE DISTRICT PROPERTY -TO BE AUCTIONED AT HUMMINGBIRD FURNISHINGS COMPOUND BELMOPAN CITY ON THURSDAY DECEMBER 22ND. 2022 AT 10:00AM



Location: Parcel 11-100-246/1 situated in Belize Rural North 1, Maskall Village, Belize District.
Description: land contains 676.302 sq. m. being the leasehold interest of Ammon Alex Brackett.

CAYO DISTRICT PROPERTIES -TO BE AUCTIONED AT HUMMINGBIRD FURNISHINGS COMPOUND BELMOPAN CITY ON THURSDAY DECEMBER 22ND. 2022 AT 10:00AM



Location: Situated along the Mopan River, Paslow Falls area Cayo District.
Description: Lot - 9.75 acre parcel as per Entry no. 10732, containing a small two story house, used as a watchman room upstairs and a store room downstairs, being the freehold property of Mary K. Carridi.



Location: Situated along San Antonio Chiquibul Road, San Antonio Village, Cayo District.
Description: A concrete bungalow structure (1092. sq. ft.); a Two storey concrete house(1825 sq. ft.); An elevated timber structure (375 sq. ft.) and lot(0.563) being the freehold properties of Ruben Dario Lopez.

Sheldon N.C. Arnold
 P.O. BOX 666, Belmopan
 Cell # 624-5200 or 602-8308
 Website: www.arnoldenterprise.com
 Email: info@arnoldenterprise.com
Terms - Cash 10% Deposit, Balance in 14 days
Financing Available, Call Ahead For Details



Robbers steal over \$100,000 from Corozal ATM

by Charles Gladden

SAN RAMON, COROZAL DISTRICT, Tues. Dec. 13, 2022

At about 3:00 in the morning on Sunday, part of a Belize Bank ATM that reportedly contained over \$100,000 was stolen from Escuela Secundaria Tecnica Mexico in San Roman Village, Corozal District, by four robbers who held the two watchmen at the institution — Faustino Dominguez, 34, and Alfonso Castaneda, 55 — at gunpoint.

The robbers then proceeded to put into motion what appeared to be a well-



Belize Bank ATM at Escuela Secundaria Tecnica Mexico

laid-out plan. First, they stole a chisel, some electrical drills, a sledgehammer, and an electrical grinder from the shed

Please turn to Page 27

Police ask for public's help in solving double murder



(l-r) Kendale Ramirez and Cleon Smith, deceased

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Dec. 14, 2022

So far, no arrests have been made in connection with the double murder of

26-year-old Cleon “Tush” Smith of Placencia Village, Stann Creek District, and 30-year-old Kendale Ramirez of Seine Bight Village, Stann Creek District, which took place on Electric Avenue in the St. Martin De Porres area of Belize City shortly after midday on Sunday, December 4.

Smith reportedly traveled to Belize City to deal with a court matter and to see his 3-year-old son, and Ramirez had decided to accompany him on the journey. But when Smith, accompanied by Ramirez, arrived at his ex-girlfriend’s home on Electric Avenue, she told Smith that the child was not ready and he would have to return later. An argument had reportedly flared up between the two, in the presence of the current boyfriend of Smith’s child’s mother.

When the duo returned, they waited in a KIA Sorento SUV and parked on the left side of the street, but not long after, they were ambushed by a gunman who fired a torrent of bullets in their direction, killing them instantly.

Initially, police detained Smith’s ex-girlfriend along with her current boyfriend, but they have been released due to lack of evidence tying them to the shooting.

“They were released, and if needs be for them to be re-detained that will happen, but for us to say we have any update, no other new detainees, nobody has been charged so far, but hopefully we are following up some leads,” said the communications director of the Police Department, ASP Fitzroy Yearwood.

“... We must take all the factors into consideration, that this is in a neighborhood where people are usually tight-lipped,” he added.

ASP Yearwood has pleaded with the residents of that area for assistance in solving that murder.

“We are asking the general public to just help us, to cooperate with us. We can’t go on [a] hunch; we have to go on evidence gathered, or like I said, circumstantial could also work. We know that after eleven in the morning, everybody is up and around looking for dinner, looking for lunchtime. We are positive that people saw. We are just asking them to come forward,” he said.

MEGA AUCTION SALE

Licensed and Certified Auctioneer, Sheldon N. C. Arnold will sell the following properties with reserve prices.

STANN CREEK DISTRICT PROPERTIES -TO BE AUCTIONED AT HUMMINGBIRD FURNISHINGS COMPOUND BELMOPAN CITY ON THURSDAY DECEMBER 22ND. 2022 AT 10:00AM



Location: Lot 203, situated in Pomona Village Extension, Stann Creek District.
Description: Lot - 802.713 square meters with a 2,232 square feet single family bungalow residence, comprising of 3 bedrooms, 2 bathroom an open plan facilitating kitchen, living and dining areas, verandah and a room which serves as a small convenience shop, being the freehold property of Luis and Clemencia Perez.



Location: Lot 54, Hummingbird Community, Stann creek District.
Description: On the property is an elevated building having 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, living, dining, kitchen and a storeroom, the building has a floor area of 751sq.ft, the lot has a total area of 939.17 sq.yds being the freehold interest of Armando Coye.



Location: Lot 132, Hope Creek Village, Stann Creek District.
Description: The property has a total area of 1388.89 sq.yds, it contains a two-storey residence having having on the lower level 2 bedrooms, living and kitchen, the upper level

has a 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom apartment, the building has a total area of 1001 sq.ft, being the freehold interest of Edwardo Saravia.

TOLEDO DISTRICT PROPERTIES -TO BE AUCTIONED AT HUMMINGBIRD FURNISHINGS COMPOUND BELMOPAN CITY ON THURSDAY DECEMBER 22ND. 2022 AT 10:00AM



Location: Block 42, Parcel 577, Big Falls/ Golden Stream, Toledo District.
Description: The property has a total area of 2642.64 sq.yds (0.546 Acres). The property has 2 storey building having on the lower level three divided areas and a kitchen, the upper level has 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, living, dining and kitchen, the building measures 1743 sq.ft, porch 421 sq.ft and covered shed 280 sq.ft, being the freehold interest of Mariano Kus.



Location: Block 42, Lot 157, Forest Home, Punta Gorda Town, Toledo District.
Description: Total area of land is 1015.06 sq.yds. On the property is a single storey residence having 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a large living room, dining, kitchen and a large porch, there is a small upper

level that has a bedroom and porch, being the leasehold interest of David Duncan.

Sheldon N.C. Arnold
P.O. BOX 666, Belmopan
Cell # 624-5200 or 602-8308
Website: www.arnoldenterprise.com
Email: info@arnoldenterprise.com
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BIG NEWS
The newspaper with the greatest circulation in Belize!

From The Publisher

Reproduced from page 9 of the Tuesday, December 13, 2022, #3610 issue of Amandala

Christmas was supposed to be a religious holiday, but the power structure, I guess worldwide, transformed it into a commercial extravaganza.

In Belize, roots people went along with the program because the Christmas holiday coincided with the return to Belize Town of all the men who had been working in the Cayo and Orange Walk forests. These men had been in the bush for five, six months, they had just been paid, and they wanted to let loose. Christmas became a bram.

I met it like this when I was a child. When it started, I don't know. But things have changed somewhat, because the forests are no more.

The religious holiday of Christmas involved the birth of a Saviour child, who would be crucified when He became an adult in order to redeem us human beings from our sins. The Saviour child was the Son of God, but His mother was human.

When the Christ child became an adult, a descendant of King David of the Jewish people, he was crucified by the same people from whom He had sprung, the Jews, because they had originally thought He was the Messiah who had been prophesied to liberate them from the Roman Empire, which ruled Judea. Disappointed that Christ's kingdom "was not of this world," they told the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, that they preferred for the brigand Barabbas to be freed, instead of the meek and gentle Christ.

Who actually gave the order for Jesus

to be crucified? It seems that Pilate dodged responsibility for the order, and that the leaders of the Jewish people were blamed by the early Christians.

The Roman Catholic Church was established around the fourth century, at the Council of Nicea in Constantinople, and it spread all over the European and Eastern European world. A challenge to Roman Catholic hegemony came from Islam, led by the Prophet Muhammad, in the seventh century in an area now referred to as the Middle East.

Then in the sixteenth century a challenge to the Roman Church and the Pope of Rome arose in Europe itself, first in Germany with a monk named Martin Luther, followed by England, where King Henry VIII retained almost all the rituals and ceremonies of the Roman Catholic Church, but declared himself and his successors the leaders of this new Church of England, instead of the Pope.

Two brothers, John and Charles Wesley, later led a rebellion against the Church of England, and they established the Methodist Church, which, it seems to me, is quite powerful in the British Caribbean. In the United States, there is an Ethiopian Methodist Church, which is black-conscious.

Then there are the Baptists, who comprise the majority of African-American religious practitioners. That is how it appears to me. African-American Baptist churches are very musical in their worship, and they include dance.

The Roman Catholic Church was staid and stiff in its rituals, which were all using the Latin language until the coming of Pope John XIII in the later 1950s/early 1960s.

Now the vast majority of Belizean practise some Christian religion or the other. So-called Evangelical churches have emerged in our region which are more soulful and roots than the Catholics and the Anglicans.

The bottom line is that all the Christian churches rely on writings which are referred to as the Holy Bible. Islam relies on the Koran, ascribed to the Prophet Muhammad, whereas the Holy Bible, which has an Old Testament and a New Testament, was written by many evangelists, some before the time of Christ, and others who wrote after Christ had been crucified.

There is a question about how areas of Africa fit into the Christian narrative, because, for example, the Old Testament Jewish leader/prophet Moses married an Ethiopian woman, the Jewish King Solomon had a relationship with the Queen of Africa, Sheba, and Jesus Christ Himself spent his first twelve years in Egypt, which was an African kingdom and the country

from which Christ apparently gained a great deal of His insights and wisdom.

Islam became very powerful in parts of Africa, especially East Africa, but there are areas of Africa, especially in central and south Africa, where neither Christianity or Islam dominate the religious practices of the people. The problem for Belizeans is that we know nothing of our ancestors' religions before slavery was imposed on us by the Europeans, and it is an undeniable fact that slavery imposed by the Europeans came inextricably tied to Christianity.

Today then, to be a blindly devoted Christian, to my mind, involves some kind of compromise with European slavery. Blindly devoted Christians totally reject any religious beliefs which are African in origin. It is only the Garifuna people who have made a breakthrough in the sense that they have forced the leaders of Christianity in Belize to accept major aspects of the religious beliefs they brought from St. Vincent, religious beliefs which you may describe as Indigenous and/or you may describe as African. But for sure, those religious beliefs are not European.

Power to the people.

From The Publisher en Español

Reproducido de la página 9 del martes 13 de diciembre de 2022, número 3610 de Amandala

Se supone que la Navidad debía ser un feriado religioso, pero la estructura de poder, supongo que en todo el mundo, la transformó en una extravagancia comercial.

En Belize, la gente de la base siguió la corriente porque las vacaciones de Navidad coincidían con el regreso al municipio de Belize de todos los hombres que habían estado trabajando en los bosques de Cayo y Orange Walk. Estos hombres habían estado en el monte durante cinco, seis meses, les acababan de pagar y querían tirar la casa por la ventana. La Navidad se convirtió en una celebración festiva.

Lo encontré así cuando era un niño. Cuando empezó, no lo sé. Pero las cosas han cambiado un poco, porque los bosques ya no existen.

La festividad religiosa de la Navidad involucraba el nacimiento de un niño Salvador, quien sería crucificado cuando se hiciera adulto para redimirnos a los seres humanos de nuestros pecados. El niño Salvador era el Hijo de Dios, pero Su madre era humana.

Cuando el niño Jesús se hizo adulto, descendiente del rey David del pueblo judío, fue crucificado por el mismo pueblo del que había brotado, los judíos, porque originalmente habían pensado que Él era el Mesías que había sido profetizado para liberarlos del Imperio Romano, que gobernaba Judea. Decepcionados porque el reino de Cristo "no era de este mundo", le dijeron al gobernador romano, Poncio Pilato,

que preferían que el bandolero Barrabás fuera liberado, en lugar del manso y amable Cristo.

¿Quién fue el que realmente dio la orden de crucificar a Jesús? Parece que Pilato eludió la responsabilidad de la orden, y que los primeros cristianos culparon a los líderes del pueblo judío.

La Iglesia Católica Romana se estableció alrededor del siglo IV, en el Concilio de Nicea en Constantinopla, y se extendió por todo el mundo europeo y del este de Europa. Un desafío a la hegemonía católica romana provino del Islam, dirigido por el profeta Mahoma, en el siglo VII en un área que ahora se conoce como el Medio Oriente.

Luego, en el siglo XVI, surgió un desafío a la Iglesia Romana y al Papa de Roma en la misma Europa, primero en Alemania con un monje llamado Martín Lutero, seguido de Inglaterra, donde el rey Enrique VIII conservó casi todos los rituales y ceremonias de la Iglesia Católica Romana, pero se declaró a sí mismo y a sus sucesores los líderes de esta nueva Iglesia de Inglaterra, en lugar del Papa.

Dos hermanos, John y Charles Wesley, más tarde encabezaron una rebelión contra la Iglesia de Inglaterra y establecieron la Iglesia Metodista, la cual, me parece, es bastante poderosa en el Caribe Británico. En los Estados Unidos, hay una Iglesia Metodista Etíope, que es negro consciente.

Luego están los bautistas, que

Ve a página 27

MADISON'S AUCTIONS AND APPRAISALS LLP

PUBLIC AUCTION

BY ORDER of the Supreme Court of Belize, Sylvano Guerrero will sell the following property with a reserve price on **Thursday, January 5, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. onsite.**



Registration Section	Block	Parcel
San Pedro	7	3841 (H51)

All that piece or parcel of land being strata lot with Parcel I.D. 7-42-3841(H51) containing 1461 square feet (Unit Entitlement) situated in Royal Palm Villas, San Pedro, Registration Section, Belize District.

Condominium measures 41 feet by 41 feet and is situated on the ground floor and contains two bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms, an open space as kitchen/dining/living areas, half bath, and a utility room. In addition, it has a covered balcony overlooking the Caribbean Sea measuring 7 feet by 34 feet (238 square feet).

The subject property is held by Land Certificate in the name of James Janmohamed.

For more information and pictures visit www.madisons.bz or call 610-3916.

www.madisons.bz TERMS: 10% DEPOSIT. BALANCE IN 14 DAYS

AUCTIONEER: SYLVANO GUERRERO
TELEPHONE: +501-610-3916
EMAIL: SG@MADISONS.BZ
FACEBOOK: MADISONSAA

ALPHA BUSINESS CENTRE
2118 GUAVA STREET
BELAMA PHASE 1
BELIZE CITY, BELIZE

From The Publisher en Español

Continúa de página 26

comprenden la mayoría de los practicantes religiosos afroamericanos. Así es como me parece a mí. Las iglesias bautistas afroamericanas son muy musicales en su adoración e incluyen danza.

La Iglesia Católica Romana era seria y rígida en sus rituales, todos los cuales usaban el idioma latino hasta la llegada del Papa Juan XIII a fines de la década de 1950 y principios de la de 1960.

Ahora la gran mayoría de los beliceños practican alguna religión cristiana u otra. En nuestra región han surgido las llamadas iglesias evangélicas que son más conmovedoras y de la base que las católicas y las anglicanas.

Lo cierto es que todas las iglesias cristianas se basan en escritos a los que se hace referencia como la Santa Biblia. El Islam se basa en el Corán, atribuido al profeta Mahoma, mientras que la Santa Biblia, que tiene un Antiguo Testamento y un Nuevo Testamento, fue escrita por muchos evangelistas, algunos antes de la época de Cristo y otros que escribieron después de que Cristo fuera crucificado.

Existe una pregunta acerca de cómo áreas de África encajan en la narrativa cristiana porque, por ejemplo, el líder/profeta judío del Antiguo Testamento, Moisés, se casó con una mujer etíope, el rey judío Salomón tuvo una relación con la reina de África, Sheba, y Jesucristo mismo pasó sus primeros doce años en Egipto, que era un reino africano y el país del cual Cristo aparentemente obtuvo gran parte de sus conocimientos y sabiduría.

El Islam se volvió muy poderoso en partes de África, especialmente en África Oriental, pero hay áreas de África, especialmente en el centro y el sur de África, donde ni el cristianismo ni el Islam dominan las prácticas religiosas de la gente. El problema para

THE FRAUD of CHRISTMAS

Continúa de página 13

I let that churn in him a bit before adding: "This is one of those times as they wait on the process, not knowing what will happen."

When Houston started to attend Sunday school, he had a lot of questions about God, the church and so on. It appears that Jim was the source for many of those doubts, and any mention of the Bible would trigger some sulking. We had to choose the times when such allusions would be allowed into the conversation. I felt this was one of them because of the gloom that enveloped him.

"See, Houston," I began gently, "there's a line from the Bible that priests use in weddings which explains what I just said. *For this reason shall a man leave his mother and father and cling to his wife...that was God's idea for marriage—that someone whose hand you can hold when you needed to—he or she will always be there, in the good times and bad.*"

He was quiet for a moment.

To be continued

los beliceños es que no sabemos nada de las religiones de nuestros antepasados antes de que los europeos nos impusieran la esclavitud, y es un hecho innegable que la esclavitud impuesta por los europeos vino indisolublemente ligada al cristianismo.

Hoy entonces, ser un cristiano ciegamente devoto, en mi opinión, implica algún tipo de compromiso con la esclavitud europea. Los cristianos ciegamente devotos rechazan totalmente cualquier creencia religiosa que sea de origen africano. Solo el pueblo garífuna ha hecho un gran avance en el sentido de que ha obligado a los líderes del cristianismo en Belize a aceptar aspectos importantes de las creencias religiosas que trajeron de San Vicente, creencias religiosas que pueden describirse como indígenas y/o como africanas. Pero con certeza, esas creencias religiosas no son europeas.

¡Poder al pueblo!

Robbers steal over \$100,000...

Continúa de página 25

at the back of the school that housed a wood shop. They then removed the metal door of the school building in which the ATM was located, and after going inside that building, they disabled the alarm system, and damaged the security cameras and electrical lines before stealing a portion of the ATM that contained a large amount of cash.

The next part of their plan then went into effect, with a black SUV arriving at the scene and transporting the four men and the stolen money in the direction of Corozal Town.

It seemed like a well-thought-out heist, possibly carried out by someone with inside knowledge of the layout of the school. When one reporter made mention of this to the communications director of the Belize Police Department, ASP Yearwood, he said, "We do believe that it's someone or maybe persons that have knowledge of the whole operation. Some years ago, in Corozal also, they

did almost the same at the Belize Bank ATM. So they stole one hundred and sixteen thousand eight hundred and recovered one hundred and sixteen thousand dollars the same Sunday. I am hoping that these persons are not out and decided to repeat their crimes. I know they were arrested and charged. But usually, it is people who have knowledge of this whole operation that would try these things."

Yearwood further stated, "The Belize Bank ATM that was stolen also over the weekend from Escuela Secundaria Mexico in San Roman Village. We have spoken to a few persons, including the watchman. An estimate of the missing money was sent to us in the tune of in excess of a hundred thousand dollars. We are following up a lead that was relayed that these persons were all dressed in camouflage, four of them. And we are asking the general public to assist us if they may know or have any information that could help the police to detain these persons."



INVITATION TO CONSULTING FIRMS TO SUBMIT EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Operation Data

Country: Belize
Operation: Belize Integral Security Programme (BISP)
Operation No: 2147

Consulting Data

Name of the Consultancy: Final Infrastructure Design Consultancy
Selection Method: Quality and Cost-Based Selection
Reference number: No. CABI-CS 005-2147/2022

The Government of Belize has received financing from the Central American Bank for Economic Integration for the Belize Integral Security Program, and it is intended to use a portion of the funds for consulting services contracts.

The Consulting services ("the services") include: The Pre-Investment for the Final Infrastructure Design for the Belize Police Department and the Belize Defence Force:

The Belize Defence Force:

Fairweather Camp

- a) A Medical Centre;
- b) A Kitchen facility renovation;
- c) A Residual water system.

Camp Belizario

- a) Hurricane Shelter Reinforcement;
- b) A Battalion Headquarters;
- c) Renovation of one ablution structure and two bathroom blocks.

The Belize Police Department:

- a) Three Police Sub-stations;
- b) Two Police Stations;
- c) 911 Network Building.

The Ministry of Economic Development invites eligible consulting firms to express their interest in providing the requested services. Interested consultants shall provide information indicating that they are qualified to provide the services and may partner with other firms in the form of a Joint Venture (JV) or subconsultants to improve their qualifications. The criteria for shortlist selection are found within the respective Terms of Reference.

Interested Consulting Firms can obtain the Terms of Reference at no cost by requesting them by email: procurementofficerii.bisp@med.gov.bz or by accessing the electronic portal (<https://blz-cppnb.caricom.org> or <https://med.gov.bz>) before the deadline date indicated below. Consultants will be selected using the method of Quality and Cost Based Selection described in the Regulations for the Application of the Procurement Policy available at www.bcie.org.

Interested consultants can obtain more information at the address indicated at the end of this invitation, during business hours of 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Expressions of interest package together with the information indicated in the Terms of Reference must be hand delivered at the address below, no later than **Monday, January 23, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.**

Elvis Requena
Project Coordinator
Belize Integral Security Programme (BISP)
Programme Executing Unit
1904 Constitution Drive 2nd Floor, Unit #3
Belmopan City, Belize C.A.
projectcoordinator.bisp@med.gov.bz



KREM Television Program Guide

Shoa Wiself, Si Wiself, Bee Wiself!!!

Questions or comments may be forwarded via email to

Phone: 202-5848 kremtelevision@yahoo.com

Friday, December 16 to Thursday, December 22, 2022

FRIDAY

- 6:30 a.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (LIVE)**
- 9:00 a.m. **Morning Stew (LIVE)**
- 12:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**
- 1:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 2:00 p.m. Documentary: The Making of a Morehouse Man
- 3:30 p.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (repeat)**
- 6:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (LIVE)**
- 7:00 p.m. Documentary: Congolese Tin At the Heart
- 8:00 p.m. **Krem Krismus Night 5**
- 10:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**

SATURDAY

- 9:00 a.m. Documentary: A Case of Deadly Force (1986)
- 10:34 a.m. Belizean Legend: Audrey Matura Part2
- 11:07 a.m. Ted Talks: Body Language
- 11:21 a.m. Movie: Mahogany 1975
- 1:07 p.m. Documentary: Muslim Journal
- 1:10 p.m. Belizean Legend: Myrna Manzanares
- 2:58 p.m. Movie: Riverbend 1989
- 3:35 p.m. Documentary: Are you taking steam daily?
- 3:39 a.m. Movie: License to Kill (1984)
- 5:15 p.m. Documentary: The Missing Century of Black History
- 5:37 a.m. Movie: Guilty of Innocence - The Lenell Geter Story
- 8:00 p.m. **Krem Krismus Night 6**

SUNDAY

- 10:30 a.m. **Sunday Review (LIVE)**
- 12:00 p.m. Movie: Minions More
- 12:48 p.m. Documentary: Robert Miller Presentation - International Seminar on the Doctrine of Discovery
- 1:53 p.m. Movie: Sylvies Love
- 5:19 p.m. Documentary: Afro Indians - Forgotten Africans
- 5:30 p.m. **Sunday Review (repeat)**
- 7:00 p.m. Sunday Jazz
- 8:00 p.m. **Krem Krismus Night 7**

MONDAY

- 6:30 a.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (LIVE)**
- 9:00 a.m. **Morning Stew (LIVE)**
- 12:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**
- 1:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 2:00 p.m. Documentary: Reggae Britannia - Part, 1, 2 & 3
- 3:30 p.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (repeat)**
- 6:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (LIVE)**
- 7:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 8:00 p.m. Documentary: 2012 The Mayan Word
- 9:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**

TUESDAY

- 6:30 a.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (LIVE)**
- 9:00 a.m. **Morning Stew (LIVE)**
- 12:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**
- 1:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 2:00 p.m. Movie: Shazam
- 3:30 p.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (repeat)**
- 6:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (LIVE)**
- 7:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 8:00 p.m. Belizean Legend: Ras Indio
- 9:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**

WEDNESDAY

- 6:30 a.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (LIVE)**
- 9:00 a.m. **Morning Stew (LIVE)**
- 12:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**
- 1:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 2:00 p.m. Movie: Remember the Titans
- 3:30 p.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (repeat)**
- 6:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (LIVE)**
- 7:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 8:00 p.m. Documentary: Elephant King of the Kalahari
- 9:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**

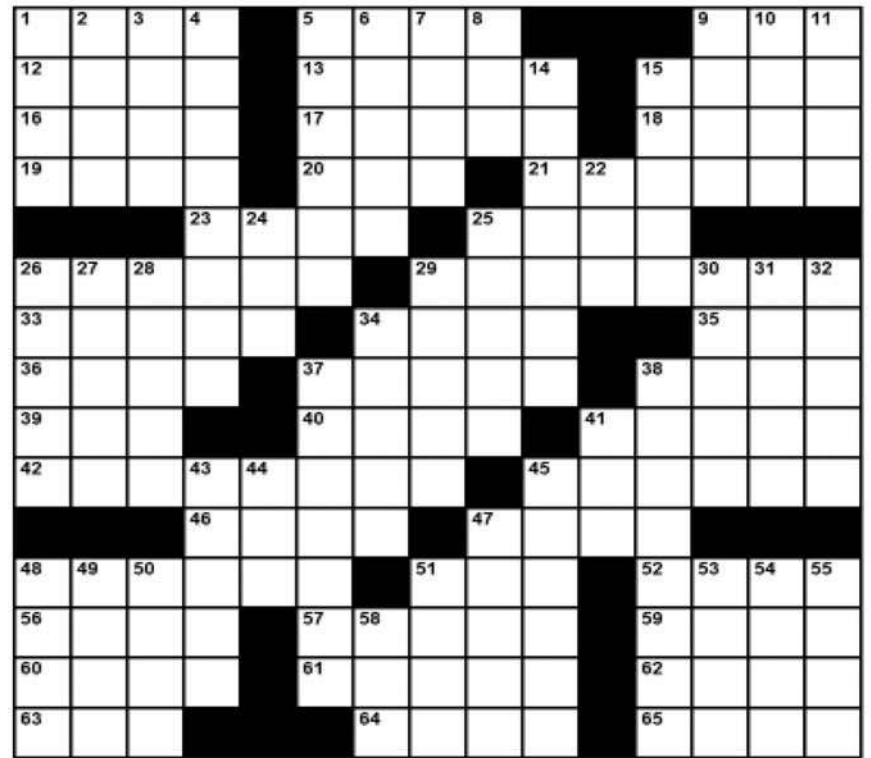
THURSDAY

- 6:30 a.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (LIVE)**
- 9:00 a.m. **Morning Stew (LIVE)**
- 12:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**
- 1:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 2:00 p.m. Movie: The Guardian (1984)
- 3:30 p.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (repeat)**
- 6:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (LIVE)**
- 7:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 8:00 p.m. Belizean Legend: Nelson Fuller
- 9:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**



NEW PUZZLE

Daily Printable Puzzle - 12-14-2022



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Across

- 1. Actor Sandler
- 5. Gauchos' weapon
- 9. A rival of ABC
- 12. Wine served warm
- 13. With dispatch
- 15. 100 cents overseas
- 16. Black cuckoos
- 17. Part of a step
- 18. Diagnostic aid
- 19. Bad reviews
- 20. Dead end job
- 21. Grownups
- 23. Bristle with
- 25. Autocrat of yore
- 26. Northern
- 29. Beating
- 33. Blow one's top
- 34. Baron, e.g.
- 35. River in Sweden
- 36. Botox recipients
- 37. Bring about
- 38. Erte's genre
- 39. Actor Marvin
- 40. Sea monsters
- 41. Comes close to
- 42. Grandeur
- 45. Prejudices
- 46. Curved doorway
- 47. Bagel or bialy
- 48. Cry of discovery
- 51. Romanian money
- 52. Blue flag, for one
- 56. Egg outline
- 57. Contending
- 59. Bar follower
- 60. Costner role
- 61. Blue planet
- 62. NAFTA's big brother
- 63. Con artist's target
- 64. A tense situation
- 65. Arrogant person

Down

- 1. Hurry-up letters
- 2. Actress Wynter
- 3. Related by blood
- 4. Errors
- 5. Falls transport
- 6. Morphine source
- 7. End of the line
- 8. Air hero
- 9. Lock of hair
- 10. Naughty child
- 11. Cover crop
- 14. Effacement
- 15. Region beyond a city
- 22. Apply gently
- 24. Absorb, as costs
- 25. Lock or curl
- 26. Ball attendee
- 27. College at Oxford
- 28. Currency of India
- 29. Card before tray
- 30. Brain waves
- 31. Mother-of-pearl
- 32. Lip cosmetic
- 34. Shriveled with heat
- 37. Curving inward
- 38. Transactions
- 41. Love, in a sense
- 43. Erse speakers
- 44. Aquatic zoo
- 45. Purchased
- 47. Budget items
- 48. Ages upon ages
- 49. Iris's place
- 50. Coarse file
- 51. Ankara dollar
- 53. Chestnut or bay
- 54. Centerward
- 55. Rectangular paving stone
- 58. Bark shrilly

Crossword answers for last edition

The answers below are for the puzzle appearing in last Friday's edition of the Amandala. The answers for the above puzzle will appear in next week's Friday issue of this newspaper.



Daily Printable Crossword Puzzle - 12-07-2022 - Answers



The Old but Constant Bogey- Belize and Guatemala in the 21st Century.

In this new fervour of anti-British monarchism sweeping through Belize and the Caribbean, have Belizeans soberly considered the fate of Belize should an ICJ ruling favour Belize against both Guatemala and Honduras? No one knows how the ICJ will rule, but it is likely to preserve the status quo. And, this may come at a time when instead of Belize being a parliamentary democracy with Britain's Constitutional Monarch as its titular head-of-state as is the situation currently, what we could have then is the "Republic of Belize" with an appointed or elected president. And, his or her ancestral antecedents may most likely be Latinx or Maya, or both.

ICJ decisions, as is well known, cannot be enforced, and in International Relations, the strong can invade and take over the territory and resources of the weak. Guatemala has the strongest military in Central America and has

powerful friends like Israel, and to a large extent the US. Belize has no military, but Britain has continued despite Independence in 1981 to maintain a form of military presence in Belize. Belize also has a very tiny Defence Force.

In case Belizeans do not realise this - even as some hold their collective noses at the British, strategic thinking is the name of the game in realpolitik - the cover of British head-of-state representation has always made a Guatemalan outright invasion highly unlikely. Granted, Belize isn't the Falklands!

However, once that cover is removed, and with a population that now consists in the majority of Latinx immigrants, as well as their descendants from Central America and Mexico, rather than the Creoles/Kriols who are now less than 25% of Belize's population, a Guatemalan takeover, not just of the 12,000 square kilometres or roughly the southern half

of Belize Guatemala now claims, could make Belize Guatemala's 9th Region. This is not farfetched, but both possible and likely. Interestingly, the descendants of the British and the Africans, known as Creoles/Kriols, who founded Belize, were until a few light years ago 80% of Belize's population.

As for the UN and CARICOM, the only thing Belizeans will hear from them is vociferous condemnation, but neither will come to its aid. No one should be too shocked when large swathes of our population welcome the invaders with open arms. Meanwhile, the bulk of Belize's Creole/Kriol population who are mostly US residents and citizens living in America will merely cry foul and undoubtedly move on with their lives, preferring naturally to holiday in the Bahamas, Mexico, (when it eventually becomes narco and crime free) or the DR, since Belize would definitely be a

no-go destination. This is not apocalypse by any stretch of the imagination, just a presentiment about a 21st century possible scenario as is being enacted now in Europe.

This contributor, Thérèse Belisle-Nweke, writes from Lagos, Nigeria

FROM THE PUBLISHER EN ESPAÑOL

Continúa de página 9

Honorable Albert Cattouse, el Honorable Louis Sylvestre, y el presidente de la Cámara, Sir W. H. Courtenay. El inglés presente de la oficina colonial de Honduras Británica era un tal Michael Porcher.

Esa conferencia de 1962 nunca se menciona en los medios de Belize. Nunca. ¿Fue organizado por los estadounidenses para aplacar a Ydígoras por su acuerdo de instalaciones de entrenamiento? Recuerden que cuando Fuentes permitió que Guatemala fuera utilizada contra Cuba, provocó una rebelión nacionalista en el ejército guatemalteco a fines de 1960, una rebelión que algunos académicos consideran el comienzo de la guerra civil que mencioné antes, de 1960 a 1996.

Los británicos otorgaron a Belize el autogobierno en 1964, y los estadounidenses promovieron otra conferencia en 1966 entre los británicos y los guatemaltecos, con un abogado mediador estadounidense llamado Bethuel Webster, para preparar propuestas para un arreglo al reclamo que permitiría a Belize proceder a la independencia. La diferencia entre eso y la conferencia de Puerto Rico de 1962 fue que se invitó al opositor NIP, en la persona del Honorable Philip Goldson. Aunque juró guardar el secreto, Goldson estaba tan alarmado por las propuestas de Webster que las reveló al pueblo beliceño, que se rebeló en el centro poblacional.

¿Cuál es el punto de todo esto? El punto es que los Estados Unidos tiene un interés sustancial en preservar la paz entre Guatemala y Belize. Este ya no es el bebé de Gran Bretaña. El reclamo guatemalteco sobre Belize ahora es hijo de Washington. Por lo tanto, existe una presión derivada de Estados Unidos sobre las autoridades de Belize, ya sean PUP o UDP, para que "minimicen" cualquier tipo de insulto o incursión de los guatemaltecos. Esto se debe a que la realidad geopolítica de la situación de Belize es complicada, precaria. Es por eso que tenemos amnistía, amnistía extendida, y así sucesivamente.

Esto aquí es un asunto de gente importante. El negocio del petróleo también. Solía pensar, cuando era joven, que estaba pasando de "súbdito británico" a la masculinidad beliceña. Ya no se nada.



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Belize Fund for a Sustainable Future (BFSF) is now accepting project proposals under the Grants Award Program (GAP) 2022 grant cycle. Proposals should focus on coastal and marine areas of Belize but can also target terrestrial areas, provided that there is a direct nexus between the funding and coastal and marine outcomes in alignment with the BFSF Strategic Objectives.

THE BFSF STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES (SO):

1. Protection for Biodiversity - to achieve effective protection for marine biodiversity focused on strategies and interventions that ensure full protection and prevents depletion or loss of biodiversity.
2. Sustainable Fisheries - to support fisheries management programs and initiatives that promote sustainable fishing and help rebuild depleted stocks.
3. Climate Resilience - building and strengthening the resilience of our ocean ecosystems to ensure a greater ability to adapt to and survive climate change impacts on our coastal and marine resources.
4. Blue Business Innovation - incubating and supporting the growth of the Blue Economy in Belize through innovative and sustainable Blue Businesses, including investment in fisheries, aquaculture, coastal tourism, renewable energy and maritime transport.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

BFSF invites the following organizational categories to apply under for the GAP, provided that (i) they are a registered non-governmental organization; (ii) have existed and is operational in Belize for a minimum of one (1) year prior to submission of the application; and (iii) can demonstrate successful project and financial management.

WHO CAN APPLY:

1. Universities, colleges, and Schools;
2. NGOs;
3. Private corporations or other companies;
4. Local community associations and other community bodies; and
5. Other appropriate local entities working toward the Vision, Mission, and Goals of the Belize Fund for a Sustainable Future (BFSF).

AWARD CATEGORIES

Three (3) categories of awards that may be applied for:

1. Small Grant - Awards up to BZ\$50,000 NOT exceeding one year.
2. Medium Grants- Awards over BZ\$50,000 but less than BZ\$150,000.00 NOT exceeding two years.
3. Large Grants - Awards over BZ\$150,000.00 NOT exceeding three years.

DEADLINE

Interested applicants are to submit a proposal to BFSF by the 31st of January 2023. For more details on the application process and how to apply for the grant, kindly visit our website at www.bfsf.bz or contact us for more information at:

BELIZE FUND FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE
15 Garden City Plaza, Mountain View Blvd
Belmopan City, Cayo, Belize
Ph: 501 672 3863
Email: projectofficer@bfsf.bz or info@bfsf.bz
Website: www.bfsf.bz



Belize Fund For A Sustainable Future

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

Human bones found buried on Cayo farm

by Charles Gladden

CAYO DISTRICT, Wed. Dec. 14, 2022

The skeletal remains of a male person were found buried on a farm located near Mile 41 of the Hummingbird Highway in the Cayo District at around midday on Tuesday, December 13.

When police arrived at the location at around 12:30 p.m. that day, they were directed to a spot at the far end of an orange orchard, where they discovered a shallow grave in which there were human bones. Police photographed the scene, and the bones were collected and transferred to the morgue of the Western Regional Hospital.

According to the communications director of the Belize Police Department, ASP Fitzroy Yearwood, the individual who led them to the remains told police that the bones likely are the remains of a man who was reported missing about two years ago. Yearwood then noted that police will be examining the department's records in an attempt to identify the individual whose skeleton was found.

ASP Yearwood also told local reporters that a post-mortem examination will be done on the remains to determine whether the unidentified person's death was the result of foul play or natural causes.

Police are investigating.

PUBLIC AUCTION SALE: PROPERTIES BELIZE CHOICE AUCTIONS & REALTY

615-1133

Bz.auctions.realty@gmail.com

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees, Messrs. National Bank of Belize Limited (NBB), Licensed Auctioneer Jonathan Mulligan, will be selling by way of Public Auction, the following properties:

COROZAL DISTRICT

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Concepcion, Aventura/Corozal District	1	200/1 & 202/1



Being two parcels of land totaling 20.96 acres, these properties provide an excellent opportunity for those looking to purchase extremely fertile, commercial size farmland in the sugar rich fields of Concepcion Village. Freehold Property of Faustino Moh. VIRTUAL AUCTION VIA ZOOM on Sunday December 18th, 2022 at 10:00am

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH

Meeting ID: 862 7374 1089 | Passcode: 9zg8WZ

BELIZE DISTRICT

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Queen Square West	45	1523



Located at #1523 Margaret Williams Street, Faber's Road Ext., Belize City measuring 383.84 square meters. This property consists of a fully fenced, gated, two-level concrete house, which benefits from 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, dining room, kitchen, and verandahs with stairways (upper & lower, back & front).

ON SITE On Saturday December 17, 2022 at 10:00am

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH

CAYO DISTRICT

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Kay Lay Out, Bullet Tree/ Cayo District	17	1



All that piece or parcel of land being 0.678 acres situate in Kay Layout Bullet Tree, Cayo District together with all buildings erections and developments standing and being thereon.

VIRTUAL AUCTION VIA ZOOM on Friday December 23rd, 2022 at 10:00am

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH

Meeting ID: 886 8606 5276 | Passcode: 5MEySJ

Muffles College

P. O. Box 64, Orange Walk Town, Belize, C.A.

TEL: 322-2033 or 322-0302

E-mail: principal@mufflescollege.com



The Board of Governors of Muffles College, Orange Walk Town, invites applications from suitably qualified persons for the following:

1. Teaching post in Spanish/Art for the period effective January 9, 2023

The teacher will be expected to:

- Interact effectively with a large and diverse student body, and with parents/guardians, and Administration of Muffles College.
- Work as part of a team
- Create an atmosphere conducive to the inculcation of Christian and Mercy values

The teachers will be persons who:

1. Advocate and exemplify the values of the Roman Catholic Church and the mission of the Sisters of Mercy
2. Have excellent communications and interpersonal skills
3. Demonstrate creativity and good virtual classroom skills
4. Possesses excellent instructional techniques using Google Classroom and other virtual platforms

Preference will be given to applicants who possess a Bachelor of Education degree in the subject or a Bachelor of Science in the subject area along with a Diploma in Education.

Remuneration will be in accordance with salary scales approved by the Ministry of Education.

Applications complete with resume, transcripts, and two letters of recommendation, teaching license, passport or birth certificate, and social security card are to be submitted by **December 29, 2022**

The Principal
Muffles College
PO Box 64
Orange Walk Town, Belize



Statutory Notice to Creditors

IN THE ESTATE of ROBERT BARTON HURLEY JR., Deceased, of Benque Viejo Road, Cayo District, Belize.

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 36 of the Administration of Estates Act, Chapter 197 of the Laws of Belize that all creditors and other persons including the beneficiaries and kin having any claims and demands upon or against the Estate of Robert Barton Hurley Jr., late of Benque Viejo Road, Cayo District, Belize, who died on the 10th day of June, 2020 in whose Estate a **Grant of Administration** has been granted to **Cornerstone Trust Corporation Limited** on behalf of **Angela Carolyn Hurley** of # 16306 Camino Del Sol, Houston, Texas, 77083 U.S.A. to lodge any claims or demands in writing to **Reyes Retreage LLP** of #122 Eve Street, Belize City, Belize, Lawful Attorneys for the Administrator of the estate of Robert Barton Hurley Jr. on or before the expiration of three months from the first publication hereof and notice is also hereby given that the expiration of the said three months the said administrators shall proceed to distribute assets of the said Robert Barton Hurley Jr., deceased amongst the beneficiaries entitled thereto, having regard only to claims and demands of which they shall then have had notice.

Dated the 15th day of December 2022.


Aldo G. Reyes
REYES RETREAGE LLP

Attorneys for Angela Carolyn Hurley

Executor of the Estate of

Robert Barton Hurley Jr.

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



We Salute..

THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE BELIZE DEFENCE FORCE AND THE BELIZE COAST GUARD

The Minister of National Defence and Border Security, **Hon Florencio Marin Jr.**, and Minister of State, **Hon. Oscar Mira**, salute the men and women of the **Belize Defence Force** and the **Belize Coast Guard** for their impressive dedication to duty during *Hurricane Lisa* relief efforts.

In times of natural disasters, our national security forces are the nation's primary emergency relief corps for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations.

The **BDF** and **BCG** are the first to respond and last to withdraw and we are immensely proud of the professionalism and compassion displayed by our troops and sailors during and in the aftermath of Hurricane Lisa.

#ShoulderToShoulder
#UtrinqueParatus - Ready for Anything



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	Amlitia Knowles (second) Barney Brown (first)		Hector Rangel (first) David Santos (second)
	(Ladies) Ann Marie Bennett (first)	(Ladies)	Alicia Thompson (first) Kaya Cattouse (second)
2003	Douglas Lamb (first) Frank Cannon (second)		Joel Adan Borland (first) Gregory Lovell (second)
	(Ladies) Fiona Humes Gonzalez (First)	(Ladies)	Alicia Thompson (first) Kaya Cattouse (second)
2004	Marlon Castillo (first) Mateo Cruz (second)		Ron Vasquez (first) Brandon Cattouse (second)
	(Ladies) Fiona Humes-Gonzalez (first)	(Ladies)	Alicia Thompson (first) Kaya Cattouse (second)
2005	Claudett Maheia (second) Michael Lewis (first)		Giovanni Lovell (first) John DeLong (second)
	(Ladies) Shane Vasquez (second)	(Ladies)	Alicia Thompson (first) Kaya Cattouse (second)
2006	Marinette Flowers (first) Scottie Weiss (first)		John DeLong (First) Clayton Travis (Second)
	(Ladies) Marlon Castillo (second)	(Ladies)	Kaya Cattouse (First) Nicole Gallego (Second)
2007	Marinette Flowers (second) Shane Vasquez (first)		Oscar Quiroz, Jr. (First) Joslyn Chavarria, Jr. (Second)
	(Ladies) Marlon Castillo (second)	(Ladies)	Alicia Thompson (First) Nicole Gallego (Second)
2008	Gina Lovell (first) Shalini Zabaneh (second)		NO RACE (DUE TO COVID)
	(Ladies) Neo German Camacho Villegas (first)		Brandon Cattouse (first)
2009	Edward Reyes (second) Shalini Zabaneh (first)		Derrick Chavarria (second)
	(Ladies) Shalini Zabaneh (second)	(Ladies)	Gabrielle Gabourel (first) Kaya Cattouse (second)
	Marlon Castillo (first) Gregory Lovell (second)		

BIFSA expresses support of new Online Business Registry System



BELIZE CITY, Tues. Dec. 13, 2022

Over the last few days, there have been expressions of concern coming from various quarters, including journalists, lawyers and even two Cabinet ministers—over what they believe is a reduction of transparency in the country as a result of a new online platform that merges information about most companies in the country with the International Business Companies Registry, which stores information about offshore companies. What has disturbed many Belizeans is the transfer of the system of non-disclosure of company information that

is a feature of the offshore banking industry to the information access protocol that will govern how information is accessed about any company in the new Online Business Registry System (OBRS)—whether that company is an offshore enterprise or not. It casts what, is, in effect, a cloak of invisibility that has made the identities (and other relevant information) about the owners of offshore companies unseeable by the public, over information about the owners/directors of the other 250 companies in the country.

The Tuesday issue of the AMANDALA stated “The issue which exists currently is that company searches for local companies will no longer yield the names of directors and shareholders, but simply a short extraction similar to those issued for company searches for IBCs. Only basic information on the registration of the company and a registered agent is provided in that document. Persons seeking information

from those registered agents may likely encounter difficulty, since those entities, typically law firms or lawyers, are not required to disclose that information under the law...”

“We had access to whatever information was in those folders and that information traces and tracks all the changes in directorship and shareholders, and that information is also necessary for us to know and have access to,” KREM news director, Marisol Amaya, said during a Zoom interview last week. And according to the Tuesday issue of the AMANDALA, Jules Vasquez, the news director at 7News, called the move the most deleterious and retrograde, anti-transparent public maneuver he has ever seen. Minister of Home Affairs, Kareem Musa, had stated last week, “I think that legislation will have to be looked at again to see how it could be amended to allow for that access... I think that we certainly have to create – as I said – that level of

access for you to determine the true, beneficial owners of companies. And so, as I said... if it is that you are not allowed that type of access, for you to determine true ownership – or beneficial ownership – that is something that we’ll have to look at, because that is something [that] even in the court system, it’s always asked. Who are the true, beneficial owners of these companies?” And Minister Francis Fonseca’s stance was similar. In a text message to 7News, he had stated, “I am in support of public disclosure of information regarding directors and shareholders of local companies. I believe the issue is worthy of further discussion and perhaps an amendment may be necessary to address some of the legitimate concerns that have arisen regarding disclosure and transparency.”

Prime Minister John Briceño has argued, however, that the move is necessary to salvage the offshore industry and to meet the standards being set by developed countries such as those in Europe. And Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, Hon. Chris Coxe, has emphasized a similar point. He told local reporters, “There is a constitutionally entrenched and protected right of privacy. The European Court of Justice, I think, just a few weeks ago ... [ruled] that government can’t compel the disclosure of beneficial ownership information on the basis of that right of privacy, so there is that, and there are other freedom of expression, so you have to have a balancing of those rights and those interests.”

The Belize International Financial Services Association (BIFSA) has now issued a release in which it indicates that it too is in support of the government’s move to amalgamate the company registries and facilitate online services through the new Online Business Registry System (OBRS). In the release, which was issued earlier this week, BIFSA stated that, unlike certain members of the community who fear that the new system will foster secrecy and corruption and reduce transparency, it believes that the decision “furthers Belize’s commitment to transparency in the global context.”

The BIFSA was formed in 1995 as a statutory body focused on representing the financial services industry in Belize. Members include professional agents, accountants, and attorneys, and the association has strong ties with the banking sector, real estate, and other related industries. They act as a liaison between the government and stakeholders on matters related to the Financial Services Industry (FSI), and the organization’s press release highlights the fact that the FSI has contributed significantly to the local economy for years.

According to the release, a study commissioned by the BIFSA and supported by the Financial Services Commission (FSC) shows that the financial services industry pumps at least USD 25 million dollars in foreign currency into the country annually. This amounts to 1.3% of GDP in annual economic benefits to the country, the release states, “with the lion’s share going to the Government”. Approximately 300 persons are employed within the industry.

The release states that Belize was prompted to remove “harmful” tax



The Life Company asks the below mentioned names to kindly get in contact with our Policy Service Department or visit our head office at Gordon House, One Coney Drive, Belize City. Should you have any query, give us a call at 221-5143.

Silas Lopez
Patrick Moody
Andy Dominguez
Luis Novelo
Faheem Elijio
Darrel Grant
Edgar Ah
Reid Edward
Maxwell Makin
Syme Christine

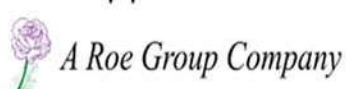
Raul Alvarez
Alberto Pelayo
Glenda Magana
Justine Trapp
Frank Saldano
Linel Cal
Bianca Narvaez
Shameika Franklin
Gloria Ramos
Ertha Martinez

Aldos Foreman
Zair Hernandez
Lisa Miranda
Leoner Dominguez
Raven Galvez
Maria Ke
Daron Flowers
Erroline Williams
Priscilla Mckoy

Gordon House

One Coney Drive | P.O. Box 1762 | Belize City, Belize

Ph#: 501-221-5143 | WhatsApp#: 501-671-5143 | www.rfglife.com



MS-13 gang members arraigned

BELIZE CITY, Tues. Dec. 13, 2022
 By Kory Leslie (Freelance Writer)
 Photos: Hilberto Ruiz, Nagel Antonio Ruiz, Abel Martinez
 The decision of El Salvador's president, Nayib Bukele, in March to

enact one of the most extreme states of emergency in Latin American history to combat the surge in gang-related crimes in the country received much global attention—both from news outlets around the world and the leaders

of various countries. This crime cleanup resulted in the arrest of over 58,000 Salvadorans and would eventually spark public outcries from human rights activists and institutions across the western hemisphere.

responsible for attacking some residents and setting homes on fire.

The Belize Police Department has been making an effort to identify these individuals and detain them, and on Tuesday, as a result of an investigation that, according to police, started in February 2018, three members of the NLS (Normandie Locos Salvatrucha), an MS-13 sub-group, were charged in court. The three men—Hilberto Ruiz, 35; Angel Antonio Ruiz, 30; and Abel Martinez, 20 – were formally charged for being members of the Normandie Locos Salvatrucha gang. The three are said to have been operating out of the Krooman Lagoon area on the southside of Belize City, based on intelligence gathered by the Gang Intelligence, Investigation, and Interdiction Unit (GI.3).

During their individual arraignments on Tuesday, Hilberto Ruiz reportedly entered a guilty plea, despite denying he was a gang member and claiming he

But beyond the criticism it has sparked due to what is being seen as human rights violations, the crackdown also has direct implications for countries like Belize, to which many of the Salvadoran gang members have been fleeing. Less than two months after President Bukele's decision was approved in El Salvador, the Belize Police Department had to ramp up border security efforts following the arrests of several MS-13 gang members trying to enter the country. There have also been several reports of violent crimes and community terrorism (including extortion) at the hands of MS-13 members in various parts of the country in which those gang members have been living, most notably the Krooman Lagoon area in Belize City, where they are believed to be

Please turn to **Page 39**

BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM
PUBLIC AUCTION SALES: PICKUP&VAN
Belize City, Belize District

BY ORDER of Messrs. St. John's Credit Union Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the below described vehicles. Sales currently running and will expire **14th February 2023**. First Public Auction Sales will expire on **Monday 19th December 2022** and thereafter fortnightly on the dates and times listed on the website until these vehicles are sold.




2014 Great Wall Wingle 5 2006 Suzuki Aerio

"FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PHOTOGRAPHS PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE"

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH
KEVIN A. CASTILLO
TELEPHONE 223-4488
 Website: belizepropertyauctions.com
 E-mail: kevinacas@yahoo.com
 Facebook: [Belize Auctions](https://www.facebook.com/BelizeAuctions)



**MINISTRY OF PUBLIC UTILITIES, ENERGY,
 LOGISTICS & E-GOVERNANCE**
Second Floor, West Block Building, Belmopan City
 Phone: 822-0810/822-0401 Fax: 822-2394



ENG/1/01/22 (90)

15th December 2022

TO: ALL STAKEHOLDERS

Dear Stakeholder,

The Ministry of Public Utilities, Energy, Logistics & E-Governance is steadily progressing in updating Belize's National Energy Policy. This policy update comes at a critical time against the backdrop of the broader energy transition happening across the globe. Furthermore, energy security, economic opportunities, technological innovation, and environmental awareness are critical factors required to fuel an energy economy that will continue to enable Belize's sustainable development.

Throughout the process, this Ministry has ensured proper stakeholder sessions and liaising with you to garner participation and harness your expertise. This process occurs every few years and for its success, it is vital that your feedback be heard and addressed as we move forward with the development of National Energy Policy. This is a critical moment for you to contribute to ensure a robust policy that addresses Belize's national energy needs.

The Ministry of Public Utilities, Energy, Logistics & E-Governance, through the Energy Unit, invites all stakeholders and the public to actively engage in this final round of call for comments. The draft Energy Policy can be found on the Energy Unit's website at <https://energy.gov.bz>.

You are asked to kindly submit feedback to energy.secretary@energy.gov.bz by 30th December 2022.

We thank you for your support and look forward to your continuous engagement in this process.

Sincerely,



**MR. JOSE URBINA,
 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER.**

Chief Executive Officer
 Ministry of Public Utilities, Logistics and E-Governance
 Belmopan

Scan the barcode below to access the Belize Energy Policy web page and copied of policy documents.



Scan the barcode below to access the Feedback Form for the Energy Policy.



Vacancy Notice

Control Room Operator

Suitable qualified applicants are invited to fill the vacant post of **CONTROL ROOM OPERATOR** at Belize Natural Energy Ltd.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities:

- Monitor and Review on a day-to-day basis all well site and facility parameters and security cameras.
- Communicate and coordinate with supervisors any observed issues that are to be resolved in a timely manner.
- Accurately log data entries to the system data base which includes well maintenance transactions, well schematic updating, downtime tracking and generate scheduled reports and on demand reports for Managers, Engineers, and Supervisors.
- Ensure daily production figures and daily volumetric reports are entered to the database and the subsequent reports distributed for each production and storage facility.
- Maintain regular consistent and professional attendance, punctuality and personal appearance by wearing appropriate personal protective equipment.

Requirements:

- Associates Degree or higher
- Experience/Degree in Computer Science is an asset.
- Computer literate (MS word, MS excel, Email) with the ability to learn new software applications.
- Have strong written and oral communications skills.
- Excellent work ethic.

Compensation:

- Salary is negotiable based on years of experience, training and certification acquired for Heavy Equipment Operator.

Applicants should submit: Letter of application, Curriculum Vitae, two letter of recommendation and a recent police record to below address:

CAO / HR Manager
Human Resource Department
3 Miles Spanish Lookout Road, Iguana Creek
Cayo District, Belize
P.O. Box 279 Belmopan
Email: info@bne.bz or gsmith@bne.bz

Deadline for application is Friday, January 06, 2023



BELMOPAN COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

VACANCY exists for the following post at the Belmopan Comprehensive School, for the school year 2022/2023:

- 1 Information Technology/Math Teacher - Temporary (6 Months)
- 1 Information Technology Teacher - Fulltime

Teaching qualifications: A Bachelor's Degree in the subject area with educational component. An Associates Degree with teaching experience may be considered.

Applicants for teaching post should forward:

- Letter of application
- Curriculum Vitae
- Certified copy of Qualifications
- Certified copy of Teaching License
- **Original** Transcript
- Copy of Social Security
- Copy of Birth Certificate
- **Original** Police Record – no later than 3 months
- Certified Medical Form – a medical assessment completed within the last two months
- Two letters of recommendation (1 each) from most recent supervisor or colleague - no later than 1 year

Deadline: **Wednesday January 4, 2023**

Address to: **Secretary
Board of Management
Belmopan Comprehensive School
Ring Road
Belmopan**



**UNICOMER BELIZE LIMITED
PUBLIC NOTICE**

Stolen Receipt Books

Thursday, December 15th, 2022

Unicomer Belize hereby informs the public that Courts Belize and Tropigas Belize Collection and Repossession receipt books were stolen on Friday, December 9th, 2022.

Collection Series numbers are 1040601-1040650, 1041101-1041150, & 4010701-4010750. Repossession Series numbers are 017601-017700 & 002851-002900.

If anyone has been issued receipt(s) bearing numbers within these series or an attempt is being made to issue from the said, for payments towards Courts Belize and Tropigas Belize, DO NOT ACCEPT.

We ask that you kindly contact Unicomer Belize at 223-3482 or visit any of our Courts Belize and Tropigas Belize Stores.

Please be further advised that Unicomer Belize WILL NOT HONOR any receipts bearing the above numbers.

Unicomer Belize thanks you for your cooperation.



Please turn to **B&B BEVERAGES**

Continued from Page 9

Sales Centre Holiday Hours

DECEMBER 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				01 Sales Centres Open Through Lunch 8 AM – 5 PM Regular Routes	02 Sales Centres Open Through Lunch 8 AM – 5 PM Regular Routes	03 Sales Centres 8 AM – 12 NOON Regular Routes
04	05 Sales Centres Open Through Lunch 8 AM – 5 PM Regular Routes	06 Sales Centres Open Through Lunch 8 AM – 5 PM Regular Routes	07 Sales Centres Open Through Lunch 8 AM – 5 PM Regular Routes	08 Sales Centres Open Through Lunch 8 AM – 5 PM Regular Routes	09 Sales Centres Open Through Lunch 8 AM – 5 PM Regular Routes	10 Sales Centres Open Through Lunch 8 AM – 5 PM Regular Routes
11	12 Sales Centres Open Through Lunch 8 AM – 5 PM Regular Routes	13 Sales Centres Open Through Lunch 8 AM – 5 PM Regular Routes	14 Sales Centres Open Through Lunch 8 AM – 5 PM Regular Routes	15 Sales Centres Open Through Lunch 8 AM – 5 PM Regular Routes	16 Sales Centres Open Through Lunch 8 AM – 5 PM Regular Routes	17 Sales Centres Open Through Lunch 8 AM – 3 PM Regular Routes
18	19 Sales Centres Open Through Lunch 8 AM – 5 PM Regular Routes	20 Sales Centres Open Through Lunch 8 AM – 5 PM Regular Routes	21 Sales Centres Open Through Lunch 8 AM – 5 PM Regular Routes	22 Sales Centres Open Through Lunch 8 AM – 5 PM Regular Routes	23 Sales Centres Open Through Lunch 8 AM – 5 PM Regular Routes Corporate 8 AM – 1 PM	24 Sales Centres Open Through Lunch 8 AM – 3 PM Regular Routes
25 MERRY CHRISTMAS	26 BOXING DAY CLOSED	27 Sales Centres Open Through Lunch 8 AM – 5 PM Regular Routes	28 Sales Centres Open Through Lunch 8 AM – 5 PM Regular Routes	29 Sales Centres Open Through Lunch 8 AM – 5 PM Regular Routes	30 Sales Centres Open Through Lunch 8 AM – 5 PM Regular Routes Corporate 8 AM – 1 PM	31 Sales Centres Open Through Lunch 8 AM – 3 PM Regular Routes
01 HAPPY NEW YEAR	02 NEW YEAR HOLIDAY CLOSED	03 Sales Centres Open Through Lunch 8 AM – 5 PM Regular Routes	04 Sales Centres Open Through Lunch 8 AM – 5 PM Regular Routes	05 Sales Centres Open Through Lunch 8 AM – 5 PM Regular Routes	06 Sales Centres Open Through Lunch 8 AM – 5 PM Regular Routes	07 Sales Centres 8 AM – 12 Noon Regular Routes



INVITATION TO BID

SEVENTH POWER PROJECT

CAYE CAULKER INTERCONNECTION

Installation of Submarine Cable and Design, Construction and Commissioning of Substation and Switching Station for the Caye Caulker Interconnection to San Pedro, Ambergris Caye; under the Seventh Power Project.

Belize Electricity Limited (BEL) has received financing from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) towards the cost of the Seventh Power Project and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this financing to eligible payments under a contract for which this invitation is issued. Payments by CDB will be made only at the request of BEL and upon approval by CDB and will be subject in all respects to the terms and conditions of the Financing Agreement. The Financing Agreement prohibits withdrawal from the financing account for the purpose of any payment to persons or entities, or for any services or works, if such payment, to the knowledge of CDB, is prohibited by a decision of the United Nations Security Council taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. No party other than BEL shall derive any rights from the Financing Agreement or have any claim to the proceeds of the Financing.

BEL now invites electronic bids from eligible bidders for the Installation of Submarine Cable and Design, Construction and Commissioning of Substation and Switching Station for the Caye Caulker interconnection to San Pedro, Ambergris Caye; under the Seventh Power Project. The works include, but are not limited to the following:

- **Lot 1: Installation of 34.5kV Submarine Cable between North Caye Caulker Substation and San Pedro Switching Station; and**
- **Lot 2: Design, Construction and Commissioning of North Caye Caulker Substation and San Pedro Switching Station.**

Bidders may quote on one or both of the two lots set out in the bidding document. Consideration will be limited to firms or joint ventures of firms which are legally incorporated or otherwise organised in, and have their principal place of business in an eligible country and are either:

- (a) More than 50% beneficially-owned by citizen or citizens and/or bona fide resident or residents of an eligible country or by a body corporate or bodies corporate meeting these requirements; or
- (b) Owned or controlled by the government of an eligible country provided that it is legally and financially autonomous and operated under the commercial law of an eligible country and otherwise meets the eligibility requirements of the CDB Guidelines for Procurement (2006).

Procurement eligibility is extended to include all countries which are not CDB Member Countries.

Eligible bidders will be required to submit full qualification information with their bids establishing their eligibility to bid and qualification to perform the contract if the bid is accepted. Tender and qualification information are to be submitted in the English Language on the prescribed forms inserted in the Bid Documents. Submissions that do not provide the information required, or do not demonstrate the prospective bidder's ability to perform satisfactorily, will not qualify and will not be considered for further evaluation.

Qualification requirements include, inter alia:

A Lot 1: Installation of 34kV Submarine Cable between North Caye Caulker and San Pedro Switching Station

i) Financial Situation

The Bidder shall furnish documentary evidence that it meets the following financial requirement(s):

- i) Financial Performance: Submission of audited balance sheets or if not required by the law of the Applicant's country, other financial statements acceptable to the Employer, for the last five (5) years to demonstrate:
 - (a) The current soundness of the applicant's financial position and its prospective long term profitability, and
 - (b) Capacity to have a cash flow amount of Two-Hundred and Fifty Thousand US dollars (\$250,000 USD) equivalent.
- ii) Average Annual Turnover: minimum average annual construction and design turnover of One Million US dollars (\$1,000,000 USD), calculated as total certified payments received for contracts in progress or completed, within the last five (5) years.

ii) Experience and Technical Capacity

The Bidder shall furnish documentary evidence to demonstrate that it meets the following experience requirement(s):

- i) General Construction Experience: Experience under construction contracts in the role of contractor, subcontractor, or management contractor for at least the last five (5) years prior to the application submission deadline, and with activity in at least nine (9) months in each year.
- ii) Specific Construction Experience: Participation as contractor, management contractor or subcontractor, in at least 3 contracts within the last five (5) years, each with a value of at least One Million US dollars (\$1,000,000 USD), that have been successfully and substantially completed and that are similar to the proposed works. The similarity shall be based on the physical size, complexity, methods/technology or other characteristics as described in Section V, Employer's Requirements of the bidding document.
- iii) Construction Experience in Key Activities: For the above Specific Construction Experience or other contracts executed within the last five (5) years a minimum construction experience in the key activities of:
 - (a) Installation of 34.5 kV submarine cable is required.

B Lot 2: Design, Construction and Commissioning of North Caye Caulker Substation and San Pedro Switching Station

i) Financial Situation

The Bidder shall furnish documentary evidence that it meets the following financial requirement(s):

- i) Financial Performance: Submission of audited balance sheets or if not required by the law of the Applicant's country, other financial statements acceptable to the Employer, for the last five (5) years to demonstrate:
 - (a) The current soundness of the applicant's financial position and its prospective long term profitability, and
 - (b) Capacity to have a cash flow amount of One Million US dollars (\$1,000,000 USD) equivalent.
- ii) Average Annual Turnover: Minimum average annual construction and design turnover of Four Million US dollars (\$4,000,000 USD), calculated as total certified payments received for contracts in progress or completed, within the last five (5) years.

ii) Experience and Technical Capacity

The Bidder shall furnish documentary evidence to demonstrate that it meets the following experience requirement(s):

- i) General Construction Experience: Experience under contracts in the role of designer for at least the last five (5) years prior to the Application submission deadline, and with activity in at least three (3) months in each year.
- ii) General Construction Experience: Experience under construction contracts in the role of contractor, subcontractor, or management contractor for at least the last five (5) years prior to the application submission deadline, and with activity in at least nine (9) months in each year.
- iii) Specific Design Experience: Participation as designer, in at least 3 contracts within the last five (5) years, each with a value of at least Two-Hundred and Fifty (\$250,000 USD), that have been successfully and substantially completed and that are similar to the proposed works. The similarity shall be based on the physical size, complexity, methods/technology or other characteristics as described in Section V, Employer's Requirements of the bidding document.
- iv) Specific Construction Experience: Participation as contractor, management contractor or subcontractor, in at least 3 contracts within the last five (5) years, each with a value of at least Two Million US Dollars (\$2,000,000 USD), that have been successfully and substantially completed and that are similar to the proposed works. The similarity shall be based on the physical size, complexity, methods/technology or other characteristics as described in Section V, Employer's Requirements of the bidding document.
- v) Design Experience in Key Activities: For the above (iii) Specific Design Experience or other contracts executed within the last five (5) years a minimum design experience in the key activities of:
 - (a) Design of substation with 34.5/6.6 kV transformation is required.
- vi) Construction Experience in Key Activities: For the above (iv) Specific Construction Experience or other contracts executed within the last five (5) years a minimum construction experience in the key activities of:
 - (b) Civil works including any earthworks or construction project; and
 - (c) Installation of major electrical equipment and supply and installation of substation bus-works are required.

Bidding Documents may be obtained by eligible bidders from the first address below for a non-refundable fee of One Hundred US Dollars (\$100 USD). Requests must be made by written application including email. Written applications must be clearly marked: **"Works for San Pedro Switching Station and North Caye Caulker Substation for Seventh Power Project"**, along with the name, address and contact information of the bidder for which Bidding Documents are being requested. Payment should be by wire transfer or bank draft made payable to: **Belize Electricity Limited**. Information to pay by wire transfer can be obtained from the first address below. Proof of payment is required before bidding documents are issued.

Documents will be promptly dispatched via registered email, but under no circumstance will BEL or their authorized agents be held responsible for late delivery or any other issue related to the issuance of the documents.

A pre-bid meeting will be held at **9:00 a.m. Belize time on Wednesday, January 11, 2023**, at the second address below and will be followed by a joint site visit conducted by BEL at **1:30 p.m. Belize time on Wednesday, January 11, 2023** at the fourth address below. Interested bidders should attend. All costs associated with a bidder's attendance will be at the bidder's own expense.

Electronic submissions via registered email with subject title **"Bid for Works for San Pedro Switching Station and North Caye Caulker Substation for Seventh Power Project"**, must be received at the third address below no later than **10:00 a.m. Belize time on Friday, February 10, 2023**. A virtual bid opening will take place at **11:00 a.m. Belize time on Friday, February 10, 2023** from a meeting link sent from the third address below in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend virtually.

1. Address for Correspondence

Email:
bidcorrespondence@bel.com.bz

2. Address for Pre-Bid Meeting

Training Room
BEL Corporate Headquarters
2½ Miles Philip Goldson Highway
Belize City, Belize

3. Address for Bid Submission

Email:
bidsubmittal@bel.com.bz

4. Addresses for Site Visits

Site Visit 1: Proposed North Caye Caulker Substation site
Site Visit 2: Proposed San Pedro Switching Station site

BEL reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the process and reject all bids, at any time prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected prospective bidder(s) or any obligation to inform the affected prospective bidder(s) of the grounds for BEL's action. BEL will not defray any costs incurred by any bidder in the preparation of bids.



Sagitun Girlz are NAWL 2022 Closing Season "A" Champions; Napoles FC are the NAWL "B" Champions

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Dec. 14, 2022

Championship games in both the "A" and "B" categories of the National Amateur Women's League (NAWL) 2022 Closing Season were played at the FFB Stadium on Saturday, December 10. It was straight to a one-game knockout final in Group A which fielded only 3 teams in the Closing Season regular competition, while knockout semifinals were held last Saturday for the 5-team Group B. In those Group B semifinals, Guardian FC blanked Millennium Fusion, 5-0, at the Marion Jones Stadium; and Napoles FC clipped Cayo Dreamers, 2-1, in extra time at the Isidoro Beaton Stadium after a 1-1 draw in regulation.

In the Group B championship final at 2:30 p.m. this past Saturday, December 10, at FFB Stadium, Guardian



Photo: William Ysaguirre

Sagitun Girlz – NAWL "A" Champions 2022 Closing Season



Photo: William Ysaguirre

Guardian FC – NAWL "B" Champions 2022 Closing Season

FC cruised to a 4-0 victory over Napoles

FC with goals coming from Shanay Nasario (7'), Shayamma Caliz (10'), Jinelle Pott (30') and Gianni Gomez (90+1').

It was also a convincing victory in the Group A championship final which followed at 5:30 p.m., as Sagitun Girlz crushed Verdes Rebels, 4-1, with a goal each from Surma Alfaro (10'), Jurshia Zuniga (21'), Olivia DaCosta (71') and Karisha Coe (90+3'). The lone goal for Verdes Rebels was by Jessie McLaughlin (18').

FFB president Sergio Chuc and members of the FFB executive committee were on hand to congratulate the NAWL "A" Champions – Sagitun Girlz, and Sub-Champions – Verdes Rebels; NAWL "B" Champions – Guardian FC, and Sub-Champions – Napoles FC; and all other teams for participating in the NAWL 2022 Closing Season Tournament.

Forward – Shanay Nasario (Guardian FC); Best Defense – Sarah Arzu (Guardian FC); Most Goals – Gianni Gomez (Guardian FC); Best Midfielder – Shayamma Caliz (Guardian FC); Best Coach – Adgar Adderly (Guardian FC); Best Manager – Norelli Cruz (Guardian FC); Best Young Player – Jania Arnold (Cayo Dreamers); Fair Play Award – Napoles FC.

(AMANDALA Sports Ed. Note: Before the start of the NAWL 2022 Opening Season, it was announced that the "Group B" champion would be promoted to "Group A" in the Closing Season. This did not happen, as Bay City FC of Corozal which won Group B in the Opening Season did not appear at all in the Closing Season. Only 3 Group-A teams participated in the Closing Season.)



Photo: William Ysaguirre

Jurshia Zuniga - MVP Group-A



Photo: William Ysaguirre

Shayamma Caliz - MVP Group-B

Mid-South rules the nation in football!

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Dec. 14, 2022

In an unprecedented sequence of championship football in various categories, all played in capital city Belmopan this past weekend because of weather conditions affecting play in other more turf-vulnerable venues, three teams from Mango Creek, Independence, designated as the Mid-South football region, walked away with the championship trophies in the National U13 Girls Elite, the National Amateur Women's League (NAWL) 2022 Closing Season, and the biggest of all, the Premier League of Belize (PLB) 2022-2023 Opening Season.

On Saturday morning at 9:30 at the FFB Stadium, Mid-South U13 Girls won the National U13 Girls Elite Championship

2022, defeating Cayo U13 in the final; and afterwards it was the NAWL final at the same venue, with Sagitun Girlz of Mango Creek emerging victorious over Guardian FC. Then on Sunday evening at the Isidoro Beaton Stadium, after a 1-1 draw in regulation and overtime, Altitude FC of Mango Creek outlasted reigning PLB champions Verdes FC in a record breaking penalty shootout that ended in sudden death, 11-10, in favour of Altitude FC, the new PLB champions.

There was a period during the latter 1980s when Belize City based teams (Coke Milpros and Duurly's) seemed to dominate senior male football at the highest level in the country. That time is long gone. Corozal's La Victoria, Orange Walk's Juventus, Dangriga's New Site

Erei and Revolutionary Conquerors, Toledo Ambassadors, as well as Belize City's Kulture Yabra and FC Belize, and BDF also, have all had their turns at the top of the ladder in the 1990s and the new millenium, until the last decade or so, when teams from the west, Belmopan Bandits FC and Cayo's Verdes FC became the real power houses. In fact, except for BDF which played their home games in Belize City, the old capital had been without its own team in the Premier League for nearly a decade, until just this year when a Caesar Ridge FC squad was allowed entry into the PLB tournament.

And while Belmopan (Bandits) and Cayo (Verdes) were sharing many national male championships, in the

newly emerging female category it was Belmopan's Jewel Fury that dominated the action with a string of national championships until this year when they were dethroned by Mango Creek's (Mid-South) Sagitun Girlz in the NAWL 2022 Opening Season. Jewel Fury did not enter the NAWL 2022 Closing Season, which saw Sagitun Girlz becoming back-to-back champions this past weekend.

It's a real celebration time in the Mid-South. There may not be a dynasty in the making, but for sure, 2022 is the Year of Mid-South in football. Mid-South is the boss! Congratulations to their three champions, Mid-South U13 Elite Girls, Sagitun Girlz of the NAWL, and Altitude FC of the PLB!

Mid-South are FFB National U13 Girls Elite Champions 2022

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Dec. 14, 2022

After both sweeping their home-and-away semifinals, Cayo U13 with 3-0 and 5-2 victories over Corozal U13, and Mid-South with 2-0 and 2-1 wins over Belmopan U13, the Football Federation of Belize (FFB) National U13 Girls Elite Championship was decided in a single match at the FFB Stadium on Saturday, December 10, where Mid-South U13 prevailed, 1-0, over Cayo U13.

In the preceding 3rd Place match starting at 9:30 a.m., it was 1-1 in regulation between Belmopan and Corozal, with Belmopan emerging 3-2 winners in the penalty shootout to claim 3rd Place. Angelica Lopez (1') had put Belmopan ahead very early, but Danna Hall (22') equalized for Corozal. Belmopan's 3 penalty conversions were by Angelica Lopez, Eliana Barrera

and Alexia Tillett; while the 2 for Corozal were by Aylin Zetina and Daasia Avilez.

The championship match which followed was also a low scoring affair between Cayo and Mid-South. After a

scoreless first half, the only goal of the match came from Deborah Gordon (51') to give Mid-South a 1-nil victory and the National U13 Girls Elite Championship 2022.

FFB president Sergio Chuc and other FFB executive members were on hand to congratulate the U13 Girls Elite Champions – Mid-South, Sub-Champions – Cayo, and all other Elite teams for participating in the first ever U13 Girls Elite Championship.

Individual awards were as follows: Best Goalkeeper – Marika Charlie (Mid-South U13); MVP – Deborah Gordon (Mid-South U13); Best Forward – Unique Green (Mid-South U13); Best Defense – Marcellie Mar (Cayo U13); Most Goals – Aneek Meza (Cayo U13); and Best Midfielder – Jahxann Waigt (Cayo U13).



Mid-South U13 Girls Elite - 2022 National Champions



Cayo U13 Girls Elite - 2022 National Sub-Champions

A World Cup of chaos has yielded a final for the ages: Argentina vs. France

Henry Bushnell

Yahoo!Sports

AL KHOR, Qatar, Wed. Dec. 14, 2022

The 2022 World Cup began amid controversy with chaos. It began here at the Al Bayt Stadium with a night all about Qatar, then quickly turned upside down. It pushed Argentina to the brink after less than 48 hours, and soon discarded Belgium and Germany. It continued, all the way to the semifinals, with Morocco and Croatia—and that, on Tuesday and Wednesday, at the feet of two giants, is where it ended.

That's where chaos gave way to order.

And that's where cute, inspiring underdog tales gave way to a clash of the titans.

It will be Argentina versus France, Lionel Messi versus Kylian Mbappé, after the French held off Morocco on Wednesday. It will be a dream final in a futuristic from-scratch city at a cavernous stadium rising out of

the desert. It all still feels a bit strange and cringey, a bit uncomfortable and morally complicated, but my goodness, it will be overflowing with sumptuous narratives. It seems almost incapable of disappointing.

It will be a battle of continents and vibes and generations. Either a torch will be passed, from a GOAT to the first potential challenger for his throne; or *the* GOAT will be christened. Mbappé, who has accomplished more before the age of 24 than perhaps anybody since Pelé, is well on his way to "all the records," as French teammates and coaches have said, but Argentina can put them on hold.

The 23-year-old French prince didn't score in Wednesday's semifinal, but in moments, in strings of mere seconds, he showed why he is so feared. He powered past Moroccan defenders without the ball. He also collected it, pushed it past them, and toggled on his



Sunday's World Cup final between Argentina and France is a clash of the titans of global soccer. (Graphic by Stefan Milic/Yahoo Sports)

turbo jets. He even channeled Messi's sorcerous dribbling to set up France's second goal.

For all the inevitable talk about individuals, though, about arguably the

most two talented soccer players on the planet, this will be team against team, unit against unit, sharp young coach against sharp World Cup-winning coach...

World Cup prize money 2022 table: How much will each country earn?

Joe Prince-Wright

NBC Sports, Tue. Dec. 13, 2022

Aside from the pride each nation generates for going on a run at the World Cup, each nation also earns World Cup prize money based on their performance.

FIFA will dish out \$440 million in prize money for the World Cup as cash is given out depending on which stage of the tournament they reached, plus each team received \$1.5 million just for qualifying for the World Cup.

Yes, the game is all about glory and winning the ultimate prize and to be crowned Champions of the World, but players are also playing to earn some nice bonuses which also helps to fund

their national teams and associations.

Below is a breakdown of the World Cup prize money table in full, with details on how much each team made from their run at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

How much prize money did the 2018 World Cup winner get?

The prize money has increased from four years ago, when a pot of \$400 million was dished out between the 32 teams.

That was up \$42 million from the prize money in 2014 and the winners in 2018 (France) were given \$38 million, while the winning team in 2022 will receive \$42 million.

Where does the prize money come

from?

FIFA distributes the prize money based on the finances they gain from hosting the tournament.

How much do World Cup players get paid?

It is down to the individual nations as to how much they pay their players from the prize money they receive. Some countries may distribute the money based on appearances, or others may split it evenly.

2022 World Cup prize money table in full

Teams who went out in the group stage earned \$9 million each - Qatar, Ecuador, Wales, Iran, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Denmark, Tunisia, Canada,

Belgium, Germany, Costa Rica, Serbia, Cameroon, Ghana, Uruguay.

Teams who reached the Round of 16 earned \$13 million each - USA, Senegal, Australia, Poland, Spain, Japan, Switzerland, South Korea.

Teams who reached the Quarterfinals earned \$17 million each - Brazil, Netherlands, Portugal, England.

Fourth place team will earn \$25 million.

Third place team will earn \$27 million.

Runner-up will earn \$30 million.

Winner will earn \$42 million.

(AMANDALA Sports Ed. Note: That's all U.S. dollars, of course.)

BIFSA expresses support of new Online Business...

Continued from Page 33

features from its ICB regime following a deadline set by the OECD's Forum on Harmful Tax Practices, and after an assessment in 2019 the country was found to be compliant. The country still has that status and is also generally compliant with the EU's minimum standards for tax transparency. The release goes on to state that the compliance "serves to increase Belize's overall global competitiveness and tax base."

The release further says, "The resulting amalgamation and modernization of the Companies Act and IBC Act, further Belize's commitment to transparency in the global context to promote good business, and now positions the Financial Services Industry for rebirth and new development into a world-class transparent and compliant jurisdiction. BIFSA supports these initiatives undertaken by the Government which includes a modern Online Business Registry System (OBRS)."

In regard to the media's concern about the possible lack of willingness of the licensed registered agents who will be representing the country's companies to provide requested company information, since registered agents are under no legal obligation to provide confidential client information, the BIFSA release points out that the Financial Services Commission, which is now in control of the amalgamated Companies Registry, is the regulatory body overseeing these registered agents and maintains that they are "subject to a high degree of integrity." The agents will be the direct point of contact for local companies, and according to the release, "have a duty and obligation to perform due diligence and anti-money laundering (AML) checks in an effort to ensure that clients acquiring the services are doing so for legitimate use."

As noted, however, they are not obligated to divulge client information and are instead "required to maintain the confidentiality of all client information within the confines of the law." That means that a simple request for information would not be sufficient for those registered agents to release client information to journalists or other professionals, including lawyers, who may need that data in the course of their work. Prime Minister Briceño, during an

interview, had suggested that some legal mechanism could be put in place to allow for the release of the data. Specifically, any companies entering a contract with the government might be required to make publicly known the identities of their shareholders and board members. Hon. Briceño explained to local reporters this week, "... I believe the media's concern is especially when it comes to government funding. I want ... to point out, that there was no sinister plan to try to hide, we don't want to hide things from anybody ... It was simply that we were forced to do what we are doing now. The OECD or the European Union, the countries from the European Union are trying to tighten up on the IBC's, international business companies, and so they are telling us that if we don't want to be blacklisted then we have to find a way how we can combine both registries, that you cannot have one that pays a certain tax rate and another that pays a different tax rate. So we figured, then, the best way is to amalgamate both registries as one. Now what we are proposing, we are proposing right now to present to Cabinet policy and law. Immediately, we want to start with the policy until we change the law, is to ensure that anybody that wants to do business with government, any company that wants to do business with government, cannot own a company with a registered agent. We have to know who are the members of the board, who are the shareholders, and who are the ultimate beneficiaries. If a private citizen wants to own a private company, that is their business, as long as they are not dealing with any government contract."

He added, "When it comes to government finances, we are making sure there is going to be openness and transparency ... I've already spoken to a number of ministers, and all of them agree with it, and secondly to change the law so that cannot happen. Now as to the issue of whether, if internationally there is a company that have a registered agent, I would have to take a look at it. I wouldn't want to just venture to answer, but I believe that there can be a court process of how to be able to get it, but I don't think that it should be allowed just to any and every body to go in and take a look ... I believe that people also have the right to some sort of privacy that they want as long as they're not breaking the law."

Fourth Supplemental Bill...

Continued from Page 3

vehicles is done to allow public officers to successfully do their jobs. Further, he defended the Briceño administration by pointing to its historic accomplishment in reducing Belize's national debt.

"This supplementary demonstrates the fiscal prudence of this Plan Belize Honorable John Briceño-led government. And every single international body will tell you – as a matter of fact, only just yesterday, and I must commend Senator Chris Coye and Financial Secretary Joseph Waight; they were highly commended again by the new U.S. Ambassador for their fiscal prudence and rescuing Belize from the cliff in two short years. Our Prime Minister stood right next to where I am

and emphasized that in two years, our debt to GDP went from 133% and now, two years later, 63%. Unprecedented. Unheard of. So when and if we attend the meetings where these things are carefully explained and questions can be asked so that we come to this honorable House informed, it will make for a better debate, Madam President," he remarked.

Ultimately the supplementary appropriations bill was passed by the Senate following calls from the majority of the members for a better approach to fund allocation. At the introduction of the bill, The Senator for Government Business, Hon. Eamon Courtenay, said that Senator Chris Coye did call a meeting for senators to query the bill, but he noted that the meeting was only attended by two unnamed senators.

Critical day for sugar industry

Continued from Page 1

will be set, by law. It is the sugar board that sets the date for the commencement of the crop," Minister Mai said in an interview today.

A letter was released by the chairman of the S.I.C.B., Marco Osorio, earlier today, reiterating what was pointed out by Minister Mai in his interview: that section 6(1)(e) of the Sugar Industries Act 2020 states that the function of the board includes, "Fixing in respect of each year, after consultations with the manufacturers and association, the period or period known as the grinding season during which manufacturers shall accept deliverers of sugar cane from growers and cane farmers."

There is no indication, however, if Osorio has been reappointed as chairman of the S.I.C.B. following the end of the board's term.

Minister Mai said that while BSI indicated its desire to start on the 19th of December, whether such milling will indeed start hinges on the outcome of the last mediation session ongoing today, and it is hoped that the parties will arrive at a fair and equitable consensus.

As previously reported, the two entities must agree on the terms of a new commercial agreement, and the sugarcane farmers have been demanding an adjustment in the revenue-sharing formula, with revenue being allotted to them before cost deductions. BSI has insisted that such an alteration would involve a transfer of several million dollars from the millers. It is a move that they believe would amount to subsidization of the farmers and could result, they say, in bankruptcy of the mill.

The mediation sessions have been kept *in camera* until the mediation process is complete, so Minister Mai says he himself is not aware of all that has transpired during the sessions, but after today's session, the details of the mediation will be made public, and an announcement will be made about the outcome, and what that will mean for the sugar industry and this year's sugar crop.

Following whatever decision is finalized between the parties, the BSCFA, the largest cane farmer association in the country, which produces more than 40% of the cane that is processed by the mill, will have to go back to its membership for a final vote on the matter. The worst-case scenario, Minister Mai said, would be a return to the state of affairs prior to the mediation.

"Which in my view is not good for the farmers. I think that they should have earned some ground, but I don't know that is the case yet. But again, I'm still optimistic about it," Minister Mai said.

He said that he has been hoping and praying that the impasse does not result in what took place last year—a delay of several days in the start of the sugar harvest, with a blockade being put in place by farmers in front of the Tower Hill factory. That standoff had resulted in decreased revenue for both the mill and the farmers. Mai noted that the losses incurred by the company are minor compared to the collective losses of cane farmers. (The price of sugar cane on the world market this year is notably high, so the losses would in

fact be more pronounced.)

"How much cane stayed out there, 124,000 tons, so the mischief has to stop. Look at the hard figures, right. So they are taking you to court because you lose millions of dollars because of three days blockade? I mean, come on, come on, three days. The mill was operating at half capacity at the time because they did not have a turbine," said Minister Mai, and he went on to claim that again this year, the mill is not fully functional, with a turbine just entering the country. He claimed this will take 10 days to install, thus the reason for BSI's announcement that it will be ready to start milling on December 19, he said.

"A turbine just came into the country from Mexico. It came in two days ago. They are installing it today and expect that to be up and running within 10 days. It takes 10 days for them, more or less, to install that turbine, so if they begin on the 19th, they would begin with that turbine. It will take until the 22nd, 23rd, 24th to get the turbine working," Minister Mai said, and he pointed out that the mill will not be operating during the Christmas holiday, giving BSI more time to fix any possible malfunction of its equipment.

"So, I understand the importance for them to select the 19th, for the 19th crank up, half crank up. You got problems, you close down 24th, 25th, 26th, and work on it, and that's why the 19th is important for them ..." Minister Mai said of the BSI/ASR.

He estimated, based on data that indicates that an average of three thousand tons of cane is milled daily, that the losses that resulted over the three or four days of the blockade totaled between 9 and 12 thousand tons of cane. However, 124,000 tons of sugar cane were left in the field this year, Mai pointed out.

BSI/ASR has, however, largely blamed last year's blockade for the losses incurred by the company and the cane farmers.

"How can you blame blockade? Let's be real," Minister Mai remarked.

MS-13 gang members...

Continued from Page 34

just wanted to bring the harassment to an end, but subsequently changed his plea after learning of the possible ten years of incarceration he could face if found guilty. His younger brother, Angel Antonio Ruiz, and the other accused gang member, Abel Martinez, both pleaded not guilty, and all three men were remanded to the Belize Central Prison until their hearing on February 13, 2023.

Notably, there is an ongoing state of emergency in neighboring Honduras as well. On December 6, a one-month SOE was put in place in 162 areas of Honduras' central district in which there have been escalating rates of crime and violence.



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