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BELIZE

FRIDAY ISSUE

NO. 3614

BELIZE CITY, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2022

(28 PAGES)

\$1.50

Gunshot kills man, 61; 77-year-old wounded

by Charles Gladden

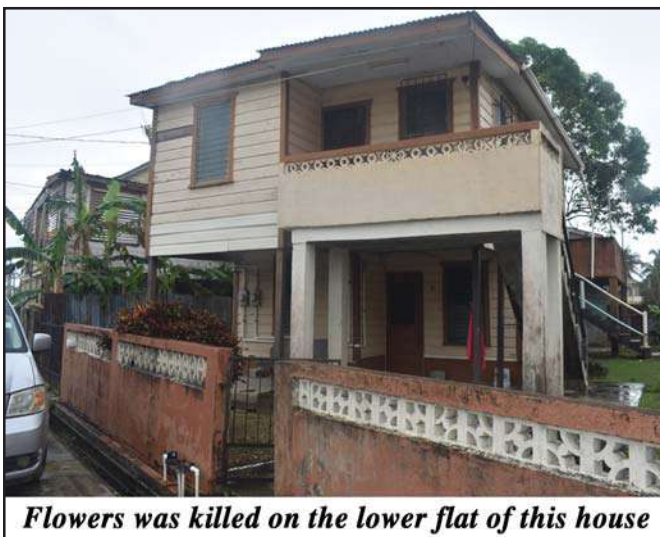
BELIZE CITY, Wed. Dec. 28, 2022

Two elderly men—a 61-year-old and a 77-year-old—who were sitting in a yard on Racecourt Street on Tuesday were wounded when shots were fired in their direction. The 77-year-old—Dusseldore Waight, a laborer of Ferrel Lane—was injured, but not fatally. However, 61-

Please turn to ▶ Page 26



Emert Flowers, deceased



Flowers was killed on the lower flat of this house



Kyle Latchman, missing

Caves Branch tour guide dies during flash flood



Julio Escobar, deceased

by Kory Leslie (Freelance Writer)

BELIZE CITY, Sat. Dec. 24, 2022

Rainy weather over the weekend resulted in flash floods that caused the tragic death of one tour guide and trauma for hundreds of tourists who were being taken on cave tube tours along Belize's rivers. While forecasts did indicate that heavy rainfall was expected during the long weekend, bookings had been made for various river and cave tours in certain portions of the country such as the Cayo District.

Julio Escobar, 39, a tour guide who

Please turn to ▶ Page 2

Waterloo appeals DOE's decision ... again!

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Dec. 29, 2022

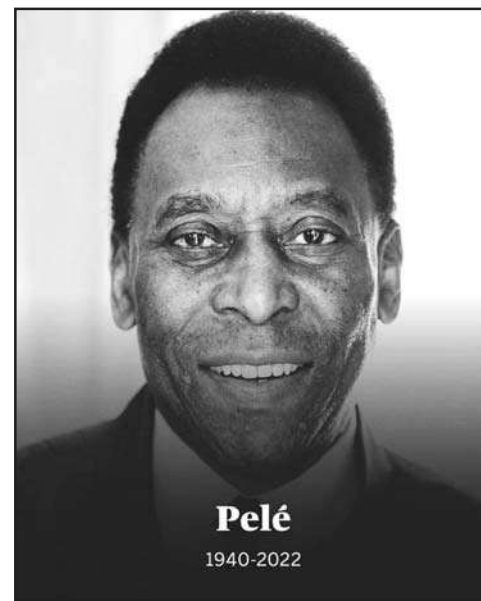
An appeal process is underway that could lead to the overturning of the decision of the Department of Environment to reject Waterloo Investments Holdings Limited's (WIHL) proposal to construct a cruise terminal at the Port of Belize Ltd. The proposal was initially denied approval last year by the National Environmental Appraisal Committee (NEAC) based on what was described as the developers' failure to answer key questions (related to environmental concerns) that had been posed by the NEAC. In late November of this year, a second ESIA (Environmental and Social Impact Assessment) submitted by the company,

Please turn to ▶ Page 2



Orlando Habet, Minister of Sustainable Development

Football legend, Pelé dies at 82



Pelé
1940-2022

Weekend rains impede cane deliveries

ORANGE WALK, Wed. Dec. 27, 2022

A persistent drizzle over the weekend resulted in wet conditions that prevented cane farmers from the northern districts from carrying out the necessary fieldwork on their plantations and getting enough sugar cane stalks ready for delivery at the Belize Sugar Industries' (BSI) mill on Tuesday—the scheduled date for the start of milling after the signing of an interim agreement between BSI and the Belize Sugar Cane Farmers



Olivia Avilez, Manager of Cane Farmer Relations, BSI



Marco Osorio, Chairman, SICB

BATSUB soldier remanded for harming ex-fiancé



Perry Stratford at Supreme Court

by Kory Leslie (Freelance Writer)

BELIZE CITY, Sat. Dec. 24, 2022

This week, a transnational love affair ended, not only in heartache, but in an outburst of violence by a British soldier who has been charged for assaulting and kidnapping his Belizean fiancé. The incident reportedly occurred at about 3:00 a.m. on Saturday, Christmas Eve.

Stratford, who is serving in the British Army Training and Support Unit of Belize (BATSUB), reportedly found text messages on the phone of his fiancée, 28-year-old Gabriela Vanutterbeeck, and after he questioned her about it and she admitted that she had cheated on him, he became enraged—reportedly throwing many of her belongings through the window of

their home, which is located beside the river. Vanutterbeeck has claimed that he also attempted to throw her dog out the window and that he kicked her and dragged her by the hair. She said that he then forced her into her vehicle, a Toyota RAV 4, with the purported intention of taking her to Belmopan, but that he stopped and put her out the vehicle near the Burdon Canal Bridge. She then

hitchhiked and went to the police station. Her injuries were classified as harm, and police detained Stratford shortly after.

When he appeared in the Magistrate Court on Tuesday before Chief Magistrate Sharon Fraser, he was charged with harm, damage to property, theft and kidnapping, and Fraser informed him that, because of the serious nature of the kidnapping charge, she could not offer him bail, and he would be remanded to the Belize Central Prison. It is at that point, when Stratford learned that he would be taken to the Belize Central Prison, that he began to weep. If he had been offered bail, it would have been possible for him to spend his time on remand at the BATSUB facility at Price Barracks in Ladyville, and it is possible that Stratford had been hoping that would be the case. Fraser told him that he would have to return to court on February 17, 2023.

Immediately after the hearing, however, Stratford's attorney, Orson "OJ" Elrington, launched an emergency bail application process—one not previously

carried out in Belize, to secure bail so that his Stratford could be transferred to the BATSUB facility. The application was submitted on the grounds that, according to international standards, law enforcement officers are not to be placed in the general population of any prison.

By the following afternoon, on Wednesday, Supreme Court Justice Ricardo Sandcroft had granted bail, and he was released into the custody of military personnel from BATSUB, where he will remain until next February. He is not to leave Price Barracks, and must report daily to military police. Justice Sandcroft also stipulated that he is to receive six months of anger management counseling.

Elrington told reporters after the hearing, "The learned justice was particularly perturbed about the fact that military and law enforcement officers at all costs, so long as they have not been convicted, should have alternative places for them to reside until their bail can be heard at least."

Stratford must also refrain from contacting his ex-fiancé.

Caves Branch tour guide dies during flash flood

Continued from Page 1

had been employed at the Ian Anderson Caves Branch Jungle Lodge for almost twenty years, was conducting one of those tours on Christmas Eve (Saturday) near Mile 41 on the Hummingbird Highway when a flash flood occurred, and he was flung from his tube. Some reports have suggested that it was a fallen tree trunk that set in motion the sequence of events that led to his being dislodged from the tube and swept away by the river's current, which led to his drowning. That, however, has not been confirmed.

What the communications director of the Belize Police Department, ASP Fitzroy Yearwood, has indicated, however, is that Escobar had been attempting to lead the tourists to a more shallow section of the river, but while crossing the river he was overpowered by the river's currents. In a press briefing on Tuesday, Yearwood explained, "About 11:30 a.m., Julio Escobar and two other

tour guides and some guests were in that area somewhere upstream in the river that began to rise rapidly. The tour guides attempted to move towards a more shallow area that they believed they could have crossed the river, but Escobar disappeared, and he was flung from his tube where he disappeared in the water."

According to Yearwood, when attempts to locate Escobar failed, Astrum helicopter services was contracted to hover over the water and try to pinpoint the spot in the river where Escobar could be found. Yearwood said that at about 8:00 that night, "the pilot of that helicopter and the search party believe they saw a body in the river not too far from the area where Mr. Escobar disappeared. They managed to retrieve him from the river and he was transported to the Western Regional Hospital, where he was pronounced dead by a medical officer around 9:30 p.m."

Similar incidents reportedly occurred during other tours in the district, although

no other lives were lost. Two hundred tourists and tour guides had been taking a tour through the Actun Tunichil Muknal (ATM) Caves in the Roaring Creek River, but when they emerged from the river, they found that the level of the water had risen a few feet. The tour guides responded by joining their efforts and using some emergency routes. They had also deployed ropes to keep the tourists and themselves secure as they crossed the river, and had also received canoes from the Chaa Creek resort to transport some scared tourists across the river.

One tour guide, Oscar Carbajal, told 7News, "It started normal. Water was low, nice and clear, and everybody went and did their tour. Coming out is when we, because you have to cross this river three times before you get to the cave. As we came out, flash flood. Luckily for us, we have a, what you call emergency trail, so it goes around the hillside and it boycotts two crossings. This last one here, you can't dodge. Luckily too we

have a brotherhood of guides, and we all pool our resources together when it comes to things like that, and so we started to get our canoes and life vests, and some were strong swimmers and some struggled, but luckily we all got out safe."

Another tour guide, Francisco Raymundo, further explained, "I had a good knowledge what to do. I was calm, keep guests calm, and help the guys to bring people across the stream. It was easy for me. We had to cut through a big part of the trail since Hurricane Lisa. The trail was not visible, so we had to cut down a nice part of the trail until we met the trail we normally cross, and we got here and the other guides were all waiting for us on the other side waiting for assistance. People were already crossing, the rope that was attached, it was easy. Just some challenges with guests that were uncomfortable. We made sure they had jackets and everything was normal, calm."

Waterloo appeals DOE's decision ... again!

Continued from Page 1

which purportedly addressed the grave environmental concerns, was again rejected by the NEAC—a decision that was followed by the Department of Environment's (DOE) confirmation in the first week of December of the validity of the NEAC's reasons for denying Waterloo's much-sought project green light.

That decision by the DOE to accept the NEAC's recommendation came at the end of a consultation and review process which was preceded by questions among members of the public about how many times an entity such as Waterloo could attempt again to get approval for a project deemed to be an environmental risk. The second decision by the DOE thus seemed to be final. But it was not. Waterloo has triggered an appeal of its decision and the formation of a tribunal to preside over that appeal. (After the DOE had made its decision, it was announced that Waterloo could submit an appeal within 21 days.) Three persons who are selected by

officials at the highest levels of the public and private sector (the judiciary, the government and the business community) will now make a decision that could subvert a years-long process of public consultation and scientific review. And it is a process that, unlike the process which ended in a denial of Waterloo's project, will take place largely outside of the public eye by a trio that will include only one person with technical/scientific understanding of the risks the project could pose, and that will require only two of those three to agree in order for a final ruling to be made. In other words, just two persons can say yes, and thus overrule the decision of countless others who said no. If that is indeed the case, all public consultations and science-based assessments by various committees could be disregarded—overruled by the decision of a tribunal of three.

Notably, this is the second time that the company has started an appeal process—with the first being last year when the Cruise Port Terminal and Cargo Expansion project proposed by the

Waterloo was first denied. At that time, the appeal process (allowed for by section 27 of the Environmental Protection Act, Chapter 328) was aborted after the company was allowed to submit a new ESIA on the project.

Significant pushback from the environmental community, which highlighted the extensive damage that could be caused to the Belize Barrier Reef and the country's marine areas by the dumping of millions of cubic meters of dredged material nearshore; the signing of 20,000 signatures by Belizeans who opposed the project; and references to the inadequacies of the developers' proposed method of containing dredge spoils, as well as unanswered questions about how the mechanisms to be used would hold up if a hurricane hit the country, were just some of the factors that led to the ultimate rejection of Waterloo's proposal by the National Environmental Appraisal Committee (NEAC), which made its decision on the basis of a scientific review of the technical information submitted by

the company. The DOE ultimately accepted this decision by the NEAC and rejected the project.

But now, Waterloo has invoked section 27 of the Environmental Protection Act, which empowers a three-person tribunal to reverse the DOE's decision, and either accept or reject the project.

Under that section which governs the appeals process, the developers are able to submit an appeal directly to the Minister of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management, Hon. Orlando Habet. Hon. Habet confirmed to KREM NEWS that an appeal was submitted by the company and that a tribunal will be established and will "hear and determine the appeal" and report their findings to him.

According to the March 2007 amendment, a Magistrate appointed by the Chief Magistrate or Judge nominated by the Chief Justice will be appointed as Chair of the tribunal. The other two

Please turn to Page 27

PM aims to settle 27-year debt to public officers

by Kory Leslie (Freelance Writer)

BELIZE CITY, Fri. Dec 23, 2022

In the first week of December, the AMANDALA had reported that “retired public workers who had endured a wage and increment freeze between 1995 and 1997 and who were compensated by the government with shares in what was then the Belize Telecommunications Ltd.,” had publicly decried the fact that they still hadn’t received the dividends from those shares, which were placed in a trust, and they were intent on receiving a payout from that fund, which reportedly now totals \$8 million.

The article further explained that, “The Manuel Esquivel administration, during the 1995-1997 period, had implemented the freeze on the salaries of all teachers and public officers—a move which reportedly saved the then GOB \$7 million in expenses. Esquivel later compensated those hundreds of workers by allotting them 450,000 shares of BTL. The dividends generated by those shares, however, were placed in the control of the Public Sector Workers Trust—a source of frustration for those workers, many of whom are now retired, who claim they have still not received a payout.”

After the public workers banded together to take litigative action in 2017 against the Public Sector Workers Trust (PSWT), who they said had failed to provide them their compensation, the

Supreme Court had ruled that the GoB and the retired public workers were to engage in consultations and that the funds were to be used to benefit the designated public workers.

But the Association of Beneficiaries and Retired Public Officers (ABRPO), an advocacy group formed a few years ago (in 2019) is claiming that that is not what has taken place. The group, in a press release issued at the end of November, urged GoB to take decisive action to address the failure to issue a payout of the funds to the public workers, and asserted that the 2017 Supreme Court ruling has yet to be honored.

“... Beneficiaries of the Trust became concerned about decisions taken by the Board of Trustees of the PSWT, directed by the Unions, which engaged in spending that did not benefit those public sector workers who were entitled to do so,” the association claimed in its release. And it pointed to the particular urgency of the situation by noting that a growing number of retired workers have passed away before receiving the benefits that were due to them. “ABRPO has written the Prime Minister and the Attorney General requesting the government’s intervention. A growing number of beneficiaries are passing away without the benefit of their entitlement. It has drawn attention to the abject incompetence and failure of the PSWT

Board of Trustees to ensure that beneficiaries’ needs are satisfactorily attended to,” the release from the association had said.

Now, nearly a month later, there are indications that the Prime Minister may indeed provide a payout to those retired workers who were affected by that 1995-1997 increment freeze. Hon. Briceño has made public statements which suggest that he is contemplating the sale of the shares that had been set aside for the workers and the direct distribution of the monies collected. In reference to the trust that had been established, PM Briceño said that “it may be time to wrap it up and give people – the ones that are part of that – what is due to them.”

The ABPRO, following those remarks by the PM, has issued a press release in which it stated that it welcomes this move that the Prime Minister is planning to make.

“The Association of Beneficiaries and Retired Public Officers (ABRPO) congratulates Prime Minister John Briceño on his announcement that it is the intention of his government to move early in the New Year to dissolve the Public Sector Workers Trust, and to distribute its assets among beneficiaries



PM John Briceño

of the Trust. This has been the overwhelming call made by the vast majority of beneficiaries who had to endure the hardships caused by the double salary increment freeze as well as other austerity measures imposed upon them at the time,” the ABPRO’s release states.

The association also acknowledged how challenging this task of dissolving the Public Sector Workers Trust will be for the GOB and said that close engagement with the ABRPO Executive Committee and advisers as well as participation from the beneficiaries will be needed. It expressed its hopes that, through these efforts, “all beneficiaries, including the families of those who are deceased, will be fully compensated for the losses which were incurred”.

Missing man’s family fears for his life

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Dec. 28, 2022

The family of 27-year-old Akeem Augustine, also known as “Cummings,” is trying to locate him after receiving news that he may have been murdered and dumped near Mile 8 on the Western Highway. Augustine went missing on Christmas Day after reportedly going into the Jane Usher Boulevard area of Belize City to socialize with some friends.

He has not been seen since, and a string of calls have been made to his family, and several rumors have arisen, since his disappearance. His family has filed an official missing person report at the Police Department, and a police search is ongoing for the young man.

According to his girlfriend’s sister, Nirice Mejia, he had told the family that he would be joining his friends at a party in the Jane Usher area and had assured them that he would be returning home as usual.

“... He said he was going to a friend, and I’m like ‘okay which area?’ And then he was like, ‘Well, sis, it’s just boring here. I just want to go out so’. And so I said to be safe and thing, because he was going to an area where he doesn’t usually go. So, I was like ‘what are you going to do there?’ and then he was like it’s just a party for all of his friends and that he would come home”, Mejia told reporters.

She further explained, “... My sister came home around 9:00 and asked me if her boyfriend had already come home, and I was like no. So, we got news that he was killed, but we are not



Akeem Augustine, missing

sure, so we don’t want to falsify anything, but she is calling, texting, calling, texting and nothing, so his sister contacted my sister and told her that is what she heard. So, we told her don’t think like that, and they are still calling and texting, calling and texting, and anonymously someone called in and said that he is at 8 Miles, and we aren’t sure if anyone has gone to look for him as yet, but that is what we are hearing.”

He is said to be around 5’6” in height and of a dark complexion. He has a bald head and mustache and was last seen wearing a red T-shirt, black knee-length pants, and a pair of red and black Jordan slippers. Augustine, who was recently shot in the mouth while in Hopkins, is reportedly employed with the Leadership Intervention Unit in Belize City. He has one young son.

Pitter Street man shot by gunman who shouted “police”

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Tues. Dec. 27, 2022

Early on Tuesday morning, December 27, a Pitter Street resident, Lindon Mark Hinds, 30, was killed by a gunman who lured him out of his house by shouting “police” at his door.

It is being reported that around 1:45 that morning, Hinds was at home sleeping with his common-law wife at his home on Pitter Street when they heard knocks at his front door, and someone yelled “police”. Hinds, who had been charged previously for violent crimes, probably found the claims that police officers were at his door so early in the morning to be credible, so he got up and opened the door. When he did, a gunman shot him several times.

Hinds’ motionless body was transported to the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital (KMH), where he was pronounced dead at 3:55 a.m. His body lies at the KMH morgue, where it will undergo a post-mortem examination.

Hinds, also known as “Monsta”, was, known in his neighborhood as a gunman, and was believed to be responsible for previous shooting incidents, including the death of a 5-year-old girl who was killed in 2020 on the same street on which Hinds resided and on which his own murder occurred. The child—Kia Herbert, an infant one student at the Unity Presbyterian Primary School—had been fatally wounded at about 2:00 in the morning in March of that year while sleeping with



Lindon Hinds, deceased

her mother, Frances Herbert. The shots that penetrated the walls of the bedroom and wounded little Kia had been fired by a gunman who was standing outside the house on Pitter Street.

The child’s grandmother had told reporters, “All ah we mi di lay down on the floor last night, and we gone sleep and like after 2:00 we just wake up to gunshot. We mi feel like dehn just shot up the house. We neva know anybody get shot. Dah when my daughter jump up and ih see the blood and say ‘Mommy, mi baby get shot’. Then she lift up and scream and say ‘Mommy, Mommy’ two times, and from there ih just gone. Ih close ih eye, and my daughter say, ‘Mommy, call the ambulance for mi. Mi baby get shot and ih look like ih di dead’.” (News5 transcripts)

Baby Kia had been wounded in the abdomen, back, and leg and was declared dead after being taken to the

CLASSIFIED ADS

VACANCY

VACANCY: Belcove Hotel in Belize City is looking for a Front Desk Clerk, MUST have experience. Kindly submit resumé, Copy of Social Security card, Police Record and two references to belcovehotelbz@gmail.com or can drop off at our office at #9 Regent Street West.

NOTICE

NOTICE: I, Wilferd Lauriano, state that I have lost the original registration papers for my vessel, # BZ 2793.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **La Cosina Restaurant** is applying for a Publican Special Liquor License to be operated at La Cosina Restaurant and bar, 4193 Constitution Drive, City of Belmopan, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **La Chamba Restaurant** is applying for a Publican Special Liquor License to be operated at La Chamba Restaurant and Bar, 1541 Constitution Drive, City of Belmopan, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **WILLIAM HEWITT** is applying for a Malt Cider Liquor License to be operated at Uno Mas Bar, at Seaside Cabanas Hotel, Caye Caulker Village for the year 2023, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Amir A Vargas** is applying for a Restaurant/Bar Liquor License to be operated at El Establo Roadside Grill, Indian Hill Estate, Orange Walk District, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENSE 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 LICENSE 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.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Stephanie Sebastian** is applying for a Publican Special Liquor License to be operated at Empress Cool Spot, Cotton Tree Village Mile 42, Cayo District, under the Intoxicating Liquor License

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE

Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Karen Bain** is applying for a Liquor License to be operated at Bain's Quick Stop, 59 Kelly Street, Belize City, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Terressa Moore** is applying for a Publican Special Liquor License to be operated at Strange Brew, Placencia Road, Placencia, Stann Creek District, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Itzana Resort** is applying for a Hotel Liquor License to be operated at Itzana Resort, Seine Bight Village, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Ingrit Borland** is applying for a Publican Special Liquor License to be operated at Hillview Restaurant and Bar, St. Margaret Village, Cayo District, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **MARK RICHARD PRICE** is applying for a Publican General Liquor License to be operated at "Premium Wines & Spirits", #166 Newtown Barracks, Belize City, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Helen Perez** is applying for a Restaurant Liquor License to be operated at Santo Taco, 1.5 Miles Philip Goldson Highway, Belize City, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Marlon Espat** is applying for a Shop Liquor License to be operated at Omar Store, 7079 Pelican Ext., Belize City, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Heena Bhojwanj** is applying for a Malt Cider Liquor License to be operated at The Living Room, 1 Mile, Philip Goldson Highway, Belize City, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Vildvca International Ltd.** is applying for a Restaurant Liquor License to be operated at Dibary Restaurant, 29 Albert Street, Belize City, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Jerardo Samayoa** is applying for a Restaurant Liquor License to be operated at Las

10 Haitian tourists wrongfully detained

The group of tourists from our CARICOM sister nation included students.



Arthur Saldivar, Attorney for detained Haitian Nationals

LADYVILLE, Belize District, Tues. Dec. 27, 2022

What is appearing to be a breakdown in procedure at the Philip Goldson International Airport on Monday, December 26, led to the overnight detention of 10 tourists, all Haitian nationals, at the Ladyville Police Station, even though they met all the requirements for legal entry.

They arrived in the country at about 6:30 a.m. that day, according to attorney Arthur Saldivar, who was retained by a family member of one of the detainees. But, Saldivar said, they were not interviewed, as is typically done. It was a deviation from the usual process, and it is being reported that it was three junior officers who decided to not adhere to the procedure that is to be followed when dealing with visitors/tourists at the PGIA.

"... They were not interviewed upon landing by Immigration...", Saldivar explained. He went on to state, "... They were simply brought over arbitrarily and locked down. We have six women and four men. Four of the women are university students; one speaks 5 languages. There are professionals among them, but they were never asked any questions. Their documents were taken from them, and those documents would have revealed that they have return tickets to their country; they have reservations at hotels in Belize—in Belize City, in particular; they have monies to spend, as is the requirement."

He further decried the treatment of the visitors by stating, "They are students, a number of them. Others are professionals, and they have not even been allowed to eat. One of my clients is going through her cycle as a female and has not been allowed to change. This is inhumane, the treatment that has been meted out to them. On what basis

are they being considered suspicious travelers by three junior officers?"

Saldivar further noted that all the detainees are CARICOM nationals and went on to suggest that the way they have been treated is possibly a breach of the protections and rights afforded to such persons under the Treaty of Chaguaramas. He said that the entire Immigration Department is not to blame, however, and went on to speculate on the chain of command at the Immigration Ministry, and at what level in that chain the decision was made to take such a course of action—suggesting that possibly directives from the Director of Immigration may have overridden authority of the on-the-ground supervisors.

"I want to say that, this is something that I do not believe the entire Immigration Department is complicit with, nor do I believe that this has anything to do with the Minister of Immigration, whom I know, knows very well what the rule of law requires, and certainly has a very intimate relationship with the Treaty of Chaguaramas and the whole CARICOM, CSME, relationship. So, I do not think that he would be one to be sanctioning this kind of action on behalf of three junior officers at Immigration who have actually taken it upon themselves along with the Director to do this to these people," Saldivar said.

He said that the community of Haitians living in Belize and the 250-member Haitian association in the country have been notified of the incident. And he pointed to the possibility of litigative action which could result from the violation of the rights of the visitors.

"My understanding of things is that only these junior officers dealt with these people and brought them here arbitrarily, and in that regard, their human rights and their constitutional rights have been violated. We have women, young women, who have committed no crime at all, locked up and being made to suffer indignity here in our country as CARICOM nationals... We have never been given this kind of treatment when we land at our sister country's port of entry. For us now, as Belizeans, who require the support of CARICOM in our plight, to do this on our own," he pointed out.

While Saldivar was talking to reporters, representatives from the Immigration Department arrived at the

Please turn to **Page 27**

Palapas Restaurant, Armenia Village, Hummingbird Hwy., under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Prizm International Ltd.** is applying for a Shop Liquor License to be operated at Prizm International Ltd., 8 Fort Street, Belize City, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Joel**

Alejandro Diaz is applying for a Restaurant and Bar Liquor License to be operated at Isaura Restaurant and Bar, Camalote Village, Cayo District, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Ruicela Jimenez** is applying for a Malt Cider Liquor License to be operated at Elba's Little Kitchen, Marion Gainey St., Caye Caulker, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.



Our economy on the eve of 2023

Our economy is not where we need it to be, but on the eve of 2023 we are in a better place than we were on the eve of 2022. On the eve of 2022, the BSCFA and ASR-BSI were locked in an industrial dispute that had forced a delay of the start of the harvest. On the eve of 2023, there is every sign that the industry will be firing on all cylinders, at least until the eve of 2024, and that's because the BSCFA and ASR-BSI agreed last week to kick the "difference between them" down the road for another year. It's a win for the millers, ASR-BSI, though not of the duration they aimed for. It's a victory for the country, and the thanks go to the farmers of the BSCFA, who decided to "suck it up" while continuing to negotiate for a better price for their cane.

On the eve of 2023, citrus and farmed shrimp are still being plagued by the diseases that hit them more than a decade ago; the banana and marine products industries remain relatively stable, just as they were on the eve of 2022; and oil production remains a trickle.

Our biggest engine, tourism, is doing well on the eve of 2023. Because of the pandemic, cruise tourist arrivals in 2021 were the lowest in over a decade, and the number of overnight tourist arrivals was a little more than 40% of what it was in our best year, 2019. On the eve of 2022, it appeared that the pandemic would soon be behind us. On the eve of 2023, we still have to be on guard, but the ships and planes are coming again, though not yet as many as were arriving before the WHO declared Covid-19 a global pandemic.

Where would Belize be without Business Process Outsourcing (BPOs), the call centers? The eve of 2023 is as bright as the eve of

2022 in the call center industry, which started back in 2005. In May this year Hon. Christopher Coye, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment, stated that the call centers continued to bring in the foreign exchange for our country and to provide critical employment for our people. In 2019, about 3,500 Belizeans worked in the industry; in 2022, that number has grown to almost 8,000.

Beltraide says the industry is a specialized "niche" area for Belize, that it is "on a strong growth trajectory owing to the advantages of a young population, natural flair of a service-based economy, a competitive business environment, world class telecom infrastructure, specialized incentives and strong active government support." We are also "a great value destination due to [our] high workforce availability [and] salaries that are 60-80% lower than US locations."

On the eve of 2022, our public debt had fallen from around 130% of GDP (on the eve of 2021) to around 110%. On the eve of 2023, the GOB says that our debt-to-GDP ratio has been further

reduced, to less than 70%. While in office during the first frightening months of the pandemic, former prime minister, Dean Barrow expressed the hope that the International Financial Institutions (IFIs) would give some debt relief to Belize and the other struggling, heavily indebted countries in the world, and said that debt restructuring would be a necessity for our survival. Indeed, on the matter of our international debts, even prior to the pandemic we had been faltering on our payments to the holders of the so-called Super Bond.

We are still waiting on the IFIs to reduce our pain, but through major debt restructuring we have received much ease on the macroeconomic front. Firstly, the Super Bond became the Blue Bond in November 2021. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) said it is "the world's largest debt refinancing for ocean conservation to date", that it "enabled Belize to repurchase USD 553 million, a quarter of the country's total public debt, from bondholders at a 45% discount through a 'Blue Loan' arranged by TNC."

Just this month the Prime Minister, Hon. John Briceño, announced that Venezuela had agreed to a restructuring of the massive debt we owed under the Petro Caribe program, and the result was the wiping off of another quarter billion dollars of debt.

After the Blue Bond agreement, the Financial Secretary, Mr. Joe Waight, had warned that the deal wouldn't lead to "any additional cash flow for the government and the country in the short term", and that we remained on "the cliff of financial peril." On the eve of 2023, the debt-to-GDP ratio is greatly improved, but our country is still in the grip of poverty.

On the eve of 2023, we are hours away from a promised increase of the minimum wage, to \$5 per hour. Inflation has eroded the purchasing power of the Belize dollar, in some areas by as much as 30%, so the little extra on the paycheck of the lowest paid Belizeans is timely.

On the eve of 2023, the cost of fuel is higher than it was on the eve of 2022, and Belizeans are straining their pockets to pay the bills at the fuel pumps. Belizeans scream for relief, and there has been a drop in the cost of fuel in the latter part of December, but the GOB has indicated that fuel prices won't go back to pre-pandemic levels until a new Petro Caribe arrangement with Venezuela is rolling our way again.

Belizeans see the price of fuel in the US in news stories on American television, but we really can't compare ourselves to them. The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) says "federal taxes include excise taxes of 18.3 cents per gallon on gasoline and 24.3 cents per gallon on diesel fuel, and a Leaking Underground Storage Tank fee of 0.1 cents per gallon on both fuels." While US states apply additional taxes on fuel, at the end of the day the taxes on fuel in the US don't come close to what we Belizeans have to pay. The truth is that our GOB is heavily dependent on the taxes from fuel to run the country.

In July this year the GOB Press Office said the acquisition cost of fuel had gone up 300% since November 2020. In that same release, the GOB said that "at November 2020 and continuously for years before that, excise tax on diesel and regular gasoline was \$2.97 and \$3.29 per gallon, respectively" and that to ease the fuel pain the taxes on diesel and regular gasoline had "been reduced by virtually 100% and 77% respectively down to less than one cent, and 75 cents per gallon."

On the eve of 2023, we are still very much a "third world" country, from slavery to colonialism to neocolonialism. There is so much need in our land. But, on the balance sheet, our country is better off than it was on the eve of 2022. We are grateful for the improvement. Happy New Year to all Belizeans, from the Hondo to the Sarstoon, from Benque Viejo del Carmen to Halfmoon, and those living in countries abroad!

AMANDALA
Belize's leading newspaper

(estb. 1969)

Business and editorial offices:
3304 Amandala Drive
(formerly Partridge Street),
Belize City, Belize, Central
America
is published twice weekly by
Amandala Press.
Telephones: 501-280-4703/
501-202-4477

Publisher: Evan X Hyde
Editor-in-chief: Marco Lopez
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Printer: Kent Brooks

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Belize City, Belize

Amandala's website:
amandala.com.bz



2023 KREM RADIO'S 32nd New Year's Classic Day



Corozal to Belize City Male

- 1st Prize \$2,500.00 + Round trip ticket to USA + Trophy
- 2nd Prize \$1,500.00 + Trophy
- 3rd Prize \$1,000.00 + Trophy
- 4th Prize \$ 500.00
- 5th Prize \$ 350.00
- 6th Prize \$ 275.00
- 7th Prize \$ 200.00
- 8th Prize \$ 175.00
- 9th Prize \$ 150.00
- 10th Prize \$ 100.00
- 11th Prize \$ 75.00
- 12th Prize \$ 75.00
- 13th Prize \$ 50.00
- 14th Prize \$ 50.00
- 15th Prize \$ 50.00
- 16th Prize \$ 25.00
- 17th Prize \$ 25.00
- 18th Prize \$ 25.00
- 19th Prize \$ 25.00
- 20th Prize \$ 25.00

Orange Walk to Belize City Junior Male

- 1st Prize \$1,000.00 + Trophy
- 2nd Prize \$300.00 + Trophy
- 3rd Prize \$200.00 + Trophy

Masters 35+

- 1st Prize \$500.00 + Trophy
- 2nd Prize \$200.00
- 3rd Prize \$100.00

Masters Cat 4&5

- 1st Prize \$500.00 + Trophy
- 2nd Prize \$200.00
- 3rd Prize \$100.00

Female

- 1st Prize \$1,000.00 + Round trip ticket to USA + Trophy
- 2nd Prize \$300.00 + Trophy
- 3rd Prize \$200.00 + Trophy



2023 KREM RADIO'S 32nd New Year's Day Cycling Classic

Station Prizes

Elite Male

Tony's Hotel, Corozal Town	\$100.00	Pollard & Reneau Family
San Joaquin Village, Mile 79 3/4	One night accommodation with lunch for two persons	Cahal Pech Village Resort
San Roman Village, Mile 72	\$1,000.00	Freetown Drugstore
(Government House was located)		
Shell One Stop, O.W.	\$1,000.00	Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño & Jaime Briceño
Mile 35	\$300.00	brothers Habet Ltd.
Crooked Tree Junction	\$100.00 & one bucket of wine	Steve "Groove" Perriot
		(In memory of Jean & George Reynolds)
		Papa Jeff Meat Products
		SMART
Smart Tower, Mile 30	Papa Jeff smoked salt beef product, value \$50.00	Papa Jeff Meat Products
Biscayne Village	Gift package, value \$1,000.00	Mystical Oaks Bar & Grill
Mile 23 1/4	Papa Jeff smoked salt beef product, value \$50.00	Papa Jeff Meat Products
Gardenia Village	\$100.00	Dario's Meat Pies
Mile 20	Papa Jeff smoked salt beef product, value \$50.00	Claude Hyde & Family
Hyde's Welding Service, Mile 19 1/4	One dozen meat pies	Papa Jeff Meat Products
Maskall Junction	\$100.00	Papa Jeff Meat Products
Maxboro Junction	Papa Jeff smoked salt beef product, value \$50.00	Holy Redeemer Credit Union
Eagle JEM Estate, H.R.C.U. Community	\$500.00	Papa Jeff Meat Products
Burrell Boom Junction	Papa Jeff smoked salt beef product, value \$50.00	Mark Velasquez & Family
Mile 13 1/2	Sheep, value \$100.00	Delmart Hardware, Lumber
Los Lagos	Construction supplies, value \$1,000.00	& Construction Supplies
		National Concrete Products
		(In memory of Earnest "Jawmeighan" Meighan)
National Concrete Products	\$1,000.00	DIGI
Compound, Mile 11	\$1,000.00	Dr. Amin Hegar & Belize Vision Center
DIGI Store, Old Airport Road, Ladyville	\$100.00	Hon. Anthony Mahler
Airport Junction, Ladyville	\$1,000.00	SOL Belize Ltd.
Mile 5	Fuel, value \$100.00	Belize Electricity Ltd.
SOL Belize Compound	Gift certificate to Ordonez Bike Shop & gift basket, value \$1,000.00	Supercuts Barber Shop
BEL Corporate Headquarters	Two haircuts	Neal & Gordon Gym
1st Round-A-Bout	Two months weight lifting & toning	Santos Diaz & Sons
	\$100.00	(In memory of Alpheus Williams)
		Santiago Castillo Ltd.
Entrance to City (Overpass)	Campari package	

Elite Female

Toll Bridge, O.W.	One night accommodation for two persons, value \$600.00	Dream Valley Resort
Mile 45	Gift certificate, value \$75.00	Flowers by Alma
Mile 40	Pedicure & paraffin	Sharon's Point of Beauty
Crooked Tree Junction	Gift certificate, value \$50.00	Belize Medical Associates
Mile 35	One night accommodation with breakfast for two persons	Black Orchid Resort
Mile 30	Dinner for two	Bird's Isle Restaurant
Mile 20	\$200.00	brothers Habet Ltd.
Maskall Junction	Seven Seas package	Santiago Castillo Ltd.
Los Lagos	\$500.00	Mayor Bernard Wagner & Family
Lake Garden Entrance	One dozen meat pies	Dario's Meat Pies
Usher Family Residence	\$500.00	Holy Redeemer Credit Union
Grace Kennedy Pedestrian Cross	Food hamper	Grace Kennedy Belize Ltd.
SOL Belize Compound	Fuel, value \$150.00	SOL Belize Ltd.
Entrance to City (Overpass)	Two months weight lifting & toning	Neal & Gordon Gym
	Two haircuts	Supercuts Barbershop

Junior Male

Crooked Tree Junction	Gift certificate, value \$50.00	Belize Medical Associates
Maxboro Junction	Dutch Lady package	Santiago Castillo Ltd.
Los Lagos	One dozen meat pies	Dario's Meat Pies
1st Round-A-Bout	Two haircuts	Supercuts Barbershop
	Two months weight lifting & toning	Neal & Gordon Gym
BEL Corporate Headquarters	Gift certificate to Ordonez Bike Shop & gift basket, value \$1,000.00	Belize Electricity Ltd.
Entrance to City (Overpass)	\$200.00	brothers Habet Ltd.

Build Belize Inc. would like to acknowledge all donors and partners who supported our Hurricane Lisa Relief Efforts.

Donations have been generously received from the following organization.

- Access Financial Life
- Aim Belize Freight
- Belize Association of Central Florida
- Belize Association of Florida
- Belize Day Dallas
- Belize Freight
- Belizean Queen Freight Services
- Bow's Taste of Belize
- Bread of Life, Inc.
- Consulate of Belize in Florida
- Embassy of Belize in Washington
- Friends of the Consulate of Belize in Chicago
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- Proud Belize
- Sidasheari Freight
- Strengthening Families
- The Loyal and Patriotic Order of the Baymen of Belize
- Transforming America Through Interaction
- Vibes Alive

Donations have been generously received from the following individuals

- Ambassador Lynn Young
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- Sylvia Mclead
- Tameka Skeeta
- Tara Myers
- Tracy Gomez
- Victor Usher (Turkey)
- Windel Vernon
- Yessenia Zetina
- Yolanda Patt
- Zeidy Garcia
- Zinnia Iglesias

We also thank the following Ministries and Volunteers that helped make our plan a reality.

- Ministry of Tourism and Diaspora Relations
- Ministry of Human Development, Families & Indigenous People Affairs
- Our amazing Volunteers

We thank everyone who contributed their time, resources, and services. You have touched the lives of over 500 families affected by Hurricane Lisa with much needed food and supplies.



Nuestra economía en vísperas de 2023

Nuestra economía no está donde necesitamos que esté, pero en vísperas de 2023 estamos en un mejor lugar que en vísperas de 2022. En vísperas de 2022, BSCFA y ASR-BSI estaban enfrascados en una disputa industrial que había obligado a retrasar el inicio de la zafra. En vísperas de 2023, todo indica que la industria estará trabajando a toda máquina, al menos hasta la víspera de 2024, y eso se debe a que BSCFA y ASR-BSI acordaron la semana pasada retrasar la “diferencia entre ellos” un año más. Es una victoria para los molineros, ASR-BSI, aunque no de la duración que esperaban. Es una victoria para el país, y el agradecimiento es para los agricultores de la BSCFA, quienes decidieron “aguantarse” mientras continúan negociando por un mejor precio para su caña.

En vísperas de 2023, los cítricos y los camarones de cultivo siguen estando plagados de enfermedades que los afectaron hace más de una década; las industrias bananera y de productos marinos se mantienen relativamente estables, tal como estaban en vísperas de 2022; y la producción de petróleo sigue siendo un goteo.

Nuestro mayor motor, el turismo, está funcionando bien en vísperas de 2023. Debido a la pandemia, las llegadas de turistas de cruceros en 2021 fueron las más bajas en más de una década, y el número de llegadas de turistas de una noche fue un poco más del 40% de lo que fue nuestro mejor año, 2019. En vísperas de 2022, parecía que la pandemia pronto quedaría atrás. En vísperas de 2023, todavía tenemos que estar en guardia, pero los barcos y aviones están llegando de nuevo, aunque todavía no tantos como antes de que la OMS declarara el Covid-19 como una pandemia mundial.

¿Dónde estaría Belize sin las empresas de outsourcing de procesos de negocios (BPO por sus siglas en inglés), los centros de llamadas? La víspera de 2023 es tan brillante como la víspera de 2022 en la industria de los centros de llamadas, que comenzó en 2005. En mayo de este año, el Honorable Christopher Coye, Ministro de Estado en el Ministerio de Finanzas, Desarrollo Económico e Inversión, afirmó que los centros de llamadas continuaron trayendo divisas para nuestro país y brindando empleo crítico para nuestra gente. En 2019, alrededor de 3500 beliceños trabajaban en la industria; en 2022, ese número aumentó a casi 8000.

Beltraide dice que la industria es un área de “nicho” especializado para Belize, que está “en una fuerte trayectoria de crecimiento debido a las ventajas de una población joven, el estilo natural de una economía basada en servicios, un entorno comercial competitivo, infraestructura de telecomunicaciones de clase mundial, incentivos especializados y fuerte apoyo activo del gobierno”. También somos “un destino de gran valor debido a [nuestra] alta disponibilidad de mano de obra [y] salarios que son entre un 60 % y un 80 % más bajos que en las ubicaciones de EE. UU.”

En vísperas de 2022, nuestra deuda pública había caído de alrededor del 130% del PIB (en vísperas de 2021) a alrededor del 110%. En vísperas de 2023, el Gobierno de Belize dice que nuestra relación deuda-PIB se ha reducido aún más, a menos del 70%. Mientras estuvo en el cargo durante los primeros meses aterradores de la pandemia, el ex primer ministro, Dean Barrow, expresó la esperanza de que las Instituciones Financieras Internacionales (IFI) brindarían algún alivio de la deuda a Belize y a los demás países del mundo en dificultades y muy endeudados, y dijo que la reestructuración de la deuda sería una necesidad para nuestra supervivencia. Efectivamente, en el tema de nuestras deudas internacionales, incluso antes de la pandemia veníamos flaqueando en nuestros pagos a los tenedores del llamado Súper Bono.

Todavía estamos esperando que las IFI reduzcan nuestro dolor, pero a través de una importante reestructuración de la deuda hemos recibido mucha tranquilidad en el frente macroeconómico. En primer lugar, el Súper Bono se convirtió en el Bono Azul en noviembre de 2021. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) dijo que es “el refinanciamiento de deuda más grande del mundo para la conservación de los océanos hasta la fecha”, que “permitió a Belize recomprar USD 553 millones, una cuarta parte de la deuda total del país, de los tenedores de bonos con un descuento del 45% a través de un ‘Préstamo azul’ organizado por TNC”.

Justo este mes, el Primer Ministro, el Honorable John Briceño, anunció que Venezuela había accedido a una reestructuración de la enorme deuda que teníamos bajo el programa Petro Caribe, y el resultado fue la liquidación de otro cuarto de billón de dólares de deuda.

From the Publisher



Evan X Hyde

In Dean Barrow's first run as leader of the United Democratic Party (UDP) in March of 2003 (he had replaced the late Manuel Esquivel following the UDP's 1998 general election defeat), the UDP was badly beaten by Said Musa's ruling People's United Party (PUP).

By late 2003/early 2004, the UDP was still on its hands and knees, figuratively speaking. When Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition is in shambles, the English parliamentary system, which we inherited from our former colonial masters, does not work well. The government is given free rein (so to speak) when the

Opposition is quarreling within itself, and institutions like the media come in for special criticism and attacks by the incumbent administration.

As publisher of the nation's leading newspaper, I made it my business to offer some advice to Mr. Barrow's UDP. For such daring, I was publicly censured by Mr. Barrow's right-hand man, Hon. Michael Finnegan, then the area representative for the Mesopotamia division, and told, in no uncertain terms, that the UDP didn't need any advice from me, and could take care of its business very well.

I think in early 2004, February if I remember correctly, the UDP tried to demonstrate against the financial excesses of the PUP administration, where people like Ralph Fonseca and Glenn Godfrey were running wild in financial institutions like the Development Finance Corporation (DFC) and the Social Security Board (SSB). That UDP demonstration, it appeared to me, was a bust.

So it was that things stumbled along until late July of 2004 when a major scandal broke in the SSB. It was for a group of PUP Cabinet ministers to take it upon themselves in early August to confront Prime Minister Musa. In effect, that so-called G-7 had to do the work of the Opposition. For this, there were Ministers like Mark Espat and Cordel Hyde who ended up as scapegoats, and Fonseca/Godfrey loyalists branded them disloyal to the blue.

Younger Belizeans who have heard talk about a so-called "Superbond" should be informed that the Superbond was the product of wild borrowing at commercial rates by Ralph Fonseca, and loose spending.

The upshot of the stand taken by the G-7 in early August was that the general public, led by the various trade unions as organized by the National Trade Union Congress of Belize (NTUCB), began to agitate on behalf of the working people of Belize. Barrow's UDP piggybacked on that popular agitation, and by late January/early February of 2005, the Musa government was in danger of collapsing when the unions organized a demonstration/march in Belize City, the nation's population center.

The coronavirus pandemic created a scenario in Belize where the PUP government elected in November of 2020 benefited from the fact that for a long time there was no public activity in the streets with reference to politics. Meanwhile, the UDP was organizing to choose a new leader, because Rt. Hon. Dean Barrow's career had reached its end, successfully one would say, because he had won three straight general elections for the UDP, in 2008, 2012, and 2015.

Hon. Patrick Faber, as UDP deputy leader, was supposed to succeed Mr. Barrow as UDP leader, but, for different reasons, Mr. Barrow had not facilitated that succession as energetically as he could have. One of those reasons was that the very powerful and wealthy Gaspar Vega, who had been forced to withdraw from the UDP Cabinet in late 2015 but retained his Orange Walk seat, disliked Faber with a passion.

Well, I don't know how the UDP's constitution works and all that, but what we saw was that the UDP held a leadership convention, and John Saldivar of Belmopan, supported by Vega no doubt, defeated Patrick to become UDP leader. Days later, Saldivar was forced to resign because of the Lev Dermen scandal. Since then, there has been a disunity in the UDP which is practically shocking.

I'm not sure how Hon. Moses Shyne Barrow, Dean Barrow's older son and Michael Finnegan's nephew, first became

UDP leader. I'm not sure if he defeated Faber in a convention, or Faber simply had to step down because of repeated domestic disputes. I know for sure that Shyne defeated Hon. Tracy Taegar Panton, the area representative for Albert, in a UDP leadership convention a few months ago.

Faber was sniping in television ads from the side all the while, however, and eventually he was disqualified from offering himself as the UDP's candidate in the Collet constituency, where he had won five straight general elections for the party.

Then the superpower United States of America "designated" John Saldivar and branded him as a corrupt politician, which forced the Shyne leadership to disqualify Saldivar from offering himself as the UDP's candidate for the Belmopan constituency, where Saldivar had won general elections in 2008, 2012, and 2015. (But, Saldivar had won the Belmopan seat before that, in 2003 or 2004, I'm not sure, in a bye-election following the death of the PUP incumbent, Agripino Cawich.)

Saldivar challenged the disqualification from Belmopan candidacy at the UDP's National Party Council (NPC) level, and recently he won the support of the NPC. This is another major complication for the Shyne Barrow leadership, following on Patrick Faber's announcement that he will run as an independent in the next general election.

Now, my opinion is that if the ruling PUP suddenly called a general election, all these feuding UDP politicians would quickly find a way to come together. We saw it happen in November of 1969 with the NIPDM coalition, and we saw it happen in June of 1993 with the UDP/NABR alliance.

In the meantime, however, Belize is without a strong opposition to the ruling PUP, and so more and more pressure will come on the trade unions, the media, and other interested parties, to challenge the ruling PUP executive on specific issues. The classic case recently involved the mobilization of the evangelical churches to derail the PUP Cabinet's legalization of marijuana initiative. This situation was confused by the fact that the UDP Leader supported legalization.

And, to repeat, UDP Leader Shyne followed the U.S. State Department's line in disqualifying Saldivar from the Belmopan candidate convention.

To top it all off, so to speak, UDP Leader Shyne is increasingly appearing to be a

Lord Michael Ashcroft crony. In 2003, it was his father's decision not to criticize Ashcroft's cruel telephone fees at BTL which led to the UDP's massive defeat.

These are personal opinions, you know. I am not a UDP hater, even though Dean Barrow victimized Kremandala from 2013 to 2020 because of our stance on the Elvin Penner/Citizen Kim matter. But the nature of the parliamentary system is such that every now and then, people like us in the media need a strong opposition to protect us from a Cabinet gone wild. This was the case in 2003/2004. The history is there for Belize's younger generations to examine.

FROM THE PUBLISHER en Español

En la primera carrera de Dean Barrow como líder del Partido Demócrata Unido (UDP por sus siglas en inglés) en marzo de 2003 (él había reemplazado al finado Manuel Esquivel luego de la derrota del UDP en las elecciones generales de 1998), el UDP fue seriamente derrotado por el gobernante Partido Unido del Pueblo (PUP) de Said Musa.

A finales de 2003/principios de 2004, el UDP todavía estaba de rodillas, en sentido figurado. Cuando la Leal Oposición de Su Majestad está en ruinas, el sistema parlamentario inglés, que heredamos de nuestros antiguos amos coloniales, no funciona bien. Al gobierno se le da rienda suelta (por así decirlo) cuando la oposición está peleando consigo misma, e instituciones como los medios de comunicación reciben críticas y ataques especiales por parte de la administración en funciones.

Como editor responsable del principal periódico de la nación, me propuse ofrecer algunos consejos al UDP del Sr. Barrow. Por tal osadía, fui censurado públicamente por la mano derecha del Sr. Barrow, el Honorable Michael Finnegan, entonces el representante de área de la división de Mesopotamia, y dijo, en términos muy claros, que el UDP no necesitaba ningún consejo de mi parte y que podía ocuparse muy bien de sus asuntos.

Creo que a principios de 2004, febrero si no recuerdo mal, el UDP trató de manifestarse en contra de los excesos financieros de la administración del PUP, donde personas como Ralph Fonseca y Glenn Godfrey se estaban desbocando en instituciones financieras como la Corporación Financiera de Desarrollo (DFC por sus siglas en inglés) y la Junta de Seguridad Social (SSB por sus siglas en inglés). Esa manifestación UDP, me pareció, fue un fiasco.

Así fue como las cosas marcharon a trompicones hasta finales de julio de 2004 cuando estalló un gran escándalo en la SSB. Un grupo de ministros del Gabinete PUP se encargó a principios de agosto de confrontar al primer ministro Musa. En efecto, ese llamado G-7 tenía que hacer el trabajo de la Oposición. Para esto,

hubo ministros como Mark Espat y Cordel Hyde que terminaron como chivos expiatorios, y los leales a Fonseca/Godfrey los tildaron de desleales al azul.

Se debe informar a los beliceños más jóvenes que han escuchado hablar sobre el llamado "Súper Bono" que el Súper Bono fue el producto de los préstamos salvajes a tasas comerciales por parte de Ralph Fonseca y el gasto a rienda suelta.

El resultado de la posición adoptada por el G-7 a principios de agosto fue que el público en general, encabezado por los diversos sindicatos organizados por el Congreso Nacional de Sindicatos de Belize (NTUCB por sus siglas en inglés), comenzó a agitar en nombre de los trabajadores de Belize. El UDP de Barrow se aprovechó de esa agitación popular y, a fines de enero o principios de febrero de 2005, el gobierno de Musa estaba en peligro de colapsar cuando los sindicatos organizaron una manifestación/marcha en la Ciudad de Belize, el centro poblacional de la nación.

La pandemia del coronavirus creó un escenario en Belize donde el gobierno del PUP electo en noviembre de 2020 se benefició de que durante mucho tiempo no hubo actividad pública en las calles con referencia a la política. Mientras tanto, el UDP se estaba organizando para elegir un nuevo líder, porque la carrera del Muy Honorable Dean Barrow había llegado a su fin, se diría que con éxito, porque había ganado tres elecciones generales consecutivas para el UDP, en 2008, 2012 y 2015.

Se suponía que Patrick Faber, como líder adjunto del UDP, sucedería al Sr. Barrow como líder del UDP, pero, por diferentes razones, el Sr. Barrow no facilitó esa sucesión tan enérgicamente como podría haberlo hecho. Una de esas razones fue que al muy poderoso y rico Gaspar Vega, quien se vio obligado a retirarse del Gabinete UDP a fines de 2016 pero retuvo su escaño en Orange Walk, tenía una aversión apasionada por Faber.

Bueno, no sé cómo funciona la constitución del UDP y todo eso, pero lo que vimos fue que el UDP celebró una


NOTICE

BELIZE CITY

Estate of WILLIAM J. FITCH, 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 **WILLIAM J. FITCH**, late of Independence Village, Stann Creek District, Belize are required to send particulars in writing of their claims or demands to **GAVIN H. COURTENAY**, the Administrator of the said estate, c/o Courtenay Coye LLP, Attorneys-at-Law, 15 "A" Street, Belize City, Belize and to send such particulars no later than the 19th day of 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 **WILLIAM J. FITCH**, deceased, amongst the parties entitled thereto, having regard only to the claims or demands of which particulars have been delivered and the Administrators 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 19th day of December 2022.



COURTENAY COYE LLP
 Per: Gavin H. Courtenay
 Attorneys-at-Law

Complacency!

Definition of the above is "feeling so satisfied with your own abilities or situation that you feel you do not need to try any harder." Being a politician is the only job where you don't need any qualifications at all, to make laws, to run a country, or to steal from and deceive your supporters, your voters, the country itself. In any other profession, you need to be qualified for the job you seek; even a driver needs a license! Maybe in the past you could skate through life on a minimal knowledge of your chosen profession, maybe. But now most jobs that afford you the luxury to take care of your family demand at least a high school diploma, and at most a degree from a university. If you are lacking any of those, you are sentenced to poverty and menial, insecure employment, not always, but in most cases.

Marshall Law; this is a congressperson, representing at least 800,000 voters. These illiterate idiots! Because I don't need to be sued, I won't mention any names of politicians in the Jewel, but they know who they are. Unqualified because of so many reasons, including greed, corruption, bribery, assault, and on and on.

I believe that the reason the world is in such turmoil, disarray, such dysfunction, is because its citizens are complacent. China, Russia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Nicaragua, and many more countries have absolute control over their citizens because of complacency. The United States of America is no exception! Complacency has given birth to an alarming growth in the worst instincts of a scary minority, which because of political, economical, religious and social polarization, is slowly becoming a force instead of just being fringe movements! Live and let live is not working anymore!

A person that runs for political office does not need any of those tools. All you need is charisma, an issue to run on, and the means to make your opponent less palatable than you. You can have a criminal record, be an abuser or a thief or swindler. You can lie and cheat and depend on your constituents to not care, because you belong to their party, or because your opponent is not as charismatic as you. Lauren Boebert, Majorie Taylor Greene and Congressman-elect George Santos, from New York, whose résumé is totally made up, are prime examples of unqualified opportunists who take advantage of voters' complacency. One of them spells martial law as

In the early 20th century, Ghandi stood up to the South African government and then to the British in India! His efforts produced people like Mandela, Tutu, Nehru, and Ali Khan in Pakistan! Before that, Bolivar and Jean-Jacques Dessalines changed the trajectory of their countries and a continent, through defiance of forces much more powerful than they! They refused to sit on their hands and believe in live and let live.

To me, the one thing that most people

Please turn to  **Page 22**

Final Notice of Dissolution under the Belize International Business Company Act Chapter 270, Revised Edition 2011

LV INVESTMENTS LTD

Company No. 80,249

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 102, subsection (6) (b) of the International Business Companies Act, Chapter 270 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2011, that the Company was dissolved and struck off the Register of Companies with effect from 8December 2022.

Dated 8December 2022

(Sgd.) Nigel L Massicot

Former Voluntary Liquidator

URGENT

The Department of Human Services is hereby asking for the following persons to report to the nearest Human Services Department, or 40 Regent Street, Belize City.

1. Karla Mejia – who resides in the country of Belize
2. Anna Xo - who resides in the country of Belize

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:

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, 3 bathrooms, living rooms, dining rooms, kitchens, and verandahs with stairways (upper & lower, back & front).

ON SITE On Saturday January 14th, 2023 at 10:00 am

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH



Public Utilities Commission

Public Notice

The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) hereby notifies the public that on December 10, 2022, BEL made a submission, reporting an estimated \$43.214M revenue shortfall over the Reference Cost of Power up to the period ending June 2023.

On December 23, 2022, the PUC issued its **Initial Decision** to the **Belize Electricity Limited 2022 Annual Review Proceeding Final Decision Amendment**, which provides for no amendments to the tariffs, fees and charges to be levied for electricity services for the period January 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023

The **Initial Decision** may be viewed in its entirety at the offices of the PUC or on its website at www.puc.bz. The general public should submit written comments by email to info@puc.bz or to PO Box 300, Belize City, Belize.

The deadline for submission is January 3, 2023.

END

Issued by the Public Utilities Commission on December 23, 2022

Cabinet foils Commissioner's plan to ruin Krismos

by Colin Hyde

If you ask my guess, a benign one would be that someone in the Commissioner's ancestral line couldn't hold their liquor. A more serious guess would be that his dislike for liquor is rooted in the 1961 Seine Bight tragedy. It has happened in other parts of Belize and all over the world, people drinking poison because of improper or damaged labeling, because wicked people adulterated their drink, or because of a faulty process.

There are other bad things associated with liquor – people driving drunk, people getting violent, and people acting real stupid. It's really very okay to hate liquor. But remember that others, in the millions, find joy in their bottle.

Oy, Chester Williams ruined the Agriculture & Trade Show for many people. In the old, good times, all the water holes were at the center of the grounds. Now Chester has pushed everything alcoholic to the very back of the grounds. That's so wrong. But people will fix that. Drinkers are intelligent people. I bet people started smuggling in their grog last year, just so they didn't have to go all the way to the back.

Well préhé, could you believe the move on Krismos? That's the real-life evidence to the lesson about giving inches and yards being taken. It happens as night follows day. He got over us at the Show Grounds. And then he came for Krismos. Congratulations to the Belize Cabinet for

stepping forward and putting the break on this berry-wine blocker.

I too have a person in my ancestral line who couldn't hold his liquor. That's my paternal grampa. Look, no one, absolutely no one likes a drunk. They are either a daam nuisance, or they fall asleep during the party. My grampa was guilty of the latter sin. His friends were very smart. My grampa had a lot of "color", the kind of guy who brought life to the celebration. So, his colegas devised a plan to keep him present. They came up with the *two fu we, one fu you* system. No, my grampa's friends weren't politicians.

Ah, my grampa must have been like some of these church types, blessed with a natural high. One drink was enough to get him to the good place, when his friends needed two.

Diki and Sedi railed about judges in 2022

We lay people are on our P's and Q's when talking about judges, and judgments handed down in the courts. But not some of these lawyers. It's simple: if they sue them, they pay themselves to defend themselves. You'll not attrition any lawyer. They can go and go and go at a case all the way to the highest court. Oho, they don't have to pay themselves a thousand dollars an hour, as they charge us. They can work for themselves gratis.

Maybe we should be thankful to Mr. R. Bradley and Mr. W. Elrington for all

the bad things they have said about the judges in our courts this year. That's because their badmouthing judges opens the door for us to hib words at them, which is just what they are going to get in this piece. Lawyers have been getting the better of us for generations, from Slack to Dragten, and on. They've done so many wiked things, it will take a lot more than a column from me, and venting from you, to even the score.

We are being told that our judges, mainly the foreign ones, are incompetent. I would want these brothers to show us, instead of tell us. Mr. Wilfred has a big beef about a case that went all the way to the CCJ. On that big beef, if I remember correctly Mr. Eamon flogged him about it. Mr. Eamon can say what he wants, and Mr. Wilfred can say what he wants too, but they're all hot air until they put these judgments on the table before us. Thank you very much, but we'll decide what's rancid and what's not.


One of Mr. Bradley's big beefs is about exorbitant bail. He needs to present some examples to us. There's a story about a man in PG who got bail for a whopping \$30,000. Okay, we all know that only lawyers, bankers, and doctors in Belize have that kind of money, oh, and the government, so that bail is saying to somebody, 'you had better go and cool your backside at Mr. Murillo's rehabilitation center'. Aha, the man was told that he needed to deal with anger management. Fair enough, tell us about

the exorbitant bail, but also tell us what the person was before the court for.

This beef about foreign judges in our courts, the story there is that local judges understand us so much better. Mr. W. Elrington should share with Mr. R. Bradley what he was thinking when he suggested that we draw our police commissioner from a foreign place. One rationale for that is the problem of familiarity in small countries. If I'm not mistaken, police officers are usually deployed outside of their home turf. I expect that's to prevent favoritism, and putting an officer in the difficult position of having to arrest family and friends.

I wouldn't beef about foreign judges. Our big beef has to be the extent of the local legal fraternity's adoration of the laws the Europeans gave us. We have watched our peaceful haven become one of the most violent places on earth. When Janus offered "A New Jurisprudence", not one of them answered him publicly. Of course, they weren't about exploring anything that challenged the European status quo.

We know what it took for the lawyers in power to tweak the system. It was after a lawyer and his wife were viciously murdered, and a law partner of a prime minister was shot, that we started getting murder trials by judge, instead of by jury. One victory from trial by judge is that local lawyers can no longer boast that

Please turn to  Page 22

"Tour-isms"

Revise – Transition- Repeat

With leftover ham and Christmas rice & beans safely tucked at the back of the refrigerator, most of us are already prepping for the big weekend ahead. The end of a year could feel like the end of a long project. We started it with a plan, logistics, and limited resources, optimistic to see how much we can achieve, and willing to give inevitable setbacks more patience. Perhaps one long-term lesson from the Covid-19 pandemic is *patience*. The old sage of "this too shall pass" resonates more profoundly now given the last three years. Change is constant and with time, progress is always possible. The projects, experiences, and lessons for the Belize Tourism Board (BTB) and the industry have been no different. Plenty of new projects were started this year while others seamlessly transitioned into new phases. The best lessons were learned the hard way and there is certainly new light at the end of the pandemic tunnel.

At the end of 2021, we were seeing mere streaks of sunshine through keyholes of possibilities. With mask mandates and Covid-19 restrictions still in effect, December of that year still managed to show promise for the industry. In early December 2021, Frontier Airlines began its once-weekly service to Belize from Denver, Colorado. Britney Spears travelled to The Jewel. With the help of Alaska Airlines, that commenced service in November 2021, our very own Joyjah Estrada was able to fly home to be with her family for the holidays. Let us not forget that Destiny Wagner bested over 80 competitors to win the coveted Miss Earth pageant in 2021. December, and all of last year, was a lesson of patience, timing, and coordination.

Looking back at 2022, the BTB coordinated a symphony of events and activities to keep the industry dancing and moving. Our Gold Standard Program was in full effect at the start of this year. Forbes Magazine featured Belize in an article entitled, "Where to Stay in Belize in 2022- 5 Anticipated Hotel Openings". Belize was also featured in National Geographic, CNN Travel, Elle, and Travel and Leisure, to name a few. As each month drifted one into the next this year, the masks came off, the restrictions were lifted. Before we knew it, we were back to Easter weekend, lobster fests, and concert season in September. The BTB worked diligently to match each shift and change in the industry with the appropriate stakeholder trainings, developmental programs, and strategic marketing collaborations. In 2022, our Frontline Hero awards demonstrated the dedication of industry workers, we launched our Work Where You Vacation Program, we welcomed the Viking Orion cruise ship's first call to our shores, we conducted numerous townhall meetings with the Belizean Diaspora in multiple US cities, our joint fuel subsidy program with the GOB helped tour operators see a bottom line, the first BTB Mundialito Tournament kicked off, and we hosted the first Belize International Music and Food Festival. There is so much more. 2022 taught us about limitations and that we can overcome them with creativity, authenticity, and love of what we do as an industry.

As we scrape our containers for the last of our Christmas dinner this week, we look back at 2022. It was a year of transitions. In the spirit of the New Year and the wisdom of the old, we highlight *revisionism*. This -ism is for our ability to revise our attitudes and to accept a new situation. We have had to revise to transition time and time again. At the BTB, we look now to the gaping holes of sunshine that 2023 seems to promise.

See you next week.

The Belize Tourism Board



PRESS PREDICTIONS

The sports psychic speaks

BOLEDO

“Press” Predictions: 70-52-30
Boledo stats thru 30th Dec. to 6th Jan. 2023

In Boledo news, 07 has played 3 times in the Sunday Jackpot lottery; that’s a record for one number to play so many times. These are my lucky numbers for this week: 47-03-30-88-70-52. These are my lucky Jackpot numbers: 2872-6855-9196. These are my lucky PICK-3 numbers: 758-312-909-895-460. Get ready, Belize! Some mucho dinero will be coming our way for the New Year 2023. Keep your eyes open for 03 and 30. Doubles production last year made a new record at playing some 47 times. 22 and 33 played 9 times each; they lead, followed by 6 numbers that played 7 times each in 07-88-42-74-52 and 68. Then 5 numbers played 6 times each in 19-25-70-23 and 97. Then the seventies series love to play on Sundays, especially 74, that played 4 times alongside 33 and 07. 47 refuses to play over 1 year 8 months 1 week and 4 days now; 00 is still over 1 year 1 month 1 week and 2 days now; 18 just completed 1 year on Thursday the 29th of December. Remember to read your Psalms: 91-92-72-63. Good luck to all buyers! Next week, more stats.

LOCAL FOOTBALL

Verdes’ Krisean Lopez is in El Salvador

Local football updates and predictions

In local football news, Verdes FC’s top striker Krisean Lopez will be playing for Platense of El Salvador in their next season. The country needs more players to go outside and develop their game, then the National Team will be much better. In the future, Altitude FC are the new champions; the Mid-South have the best set of players right now in both the females and the males. They won the big league, which is the PLB; they won the U-13 Girls tournament; and they won the Women’s tournament with Sagitun Girlz. They beat out the Cayo girls after losing game 1. The FFB must pay some serious attention to the Mid-South boys and girls. They are our farm system’s bright future. Next week, more stats on the new season in February.



Krisean Lopez

CYCLING

Team BTB Valvorine 501’s Oscar Quiroz will win this year’s race solo
The 32nd Krem New Year’s Day Cycling Classic predictions

In cycling action, the 32nd Krem New Year’s Day Cycling Classic is the second biggest race on our cycling calendar. This race attracts over 100 cyclists every year because of those 8 big one-thousand-dollars station prizes, plus many more. The race for the Elites gets started at the Corozal border, and then the Juniors, the Females alongside the Masters get started in Orange Walk - Sugar City. There will be some foreign competition. The Mexicans, the Americans, maybe a couple Guatemalans. But this race will be very fast and very furious. Byron Pope will be a favorite to win the race. Oscar Quiroz will be my prediction solo for Team BTB Valvorine 501. Giovanni Lovell for Team Digicell and his brother Gregory will be a slight threat down the stretch if the race comes to a sprint finish. In the females, Alicia Thompson has no competition;



Oscar Quiros, Jr.



by Gilroy “Press” Cadogan

she will win her fifth Krem Classic very easily. The juniors are always up for grabs. Kenroy “Smokes” Gladden and Herman “Rojo” Requena will be the 2 favorites alongside Vallan Symms for the Masters. Next week, those results.



Alicia Thompson

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

Jayson Tatum and the Boston Celtics are rolling

NBA results and predictions update
In NBA action, the Boston Celtics/

Please turn to Page 18

FORTIS BELIZE

Fortis Belize Limited (FBL)
P.O. Box 87
Mile 71.5 George Price Highway,
Cayo District, Belize

501-824-3016/824-2085
corporate@fortisbelize.com
www.fortisbelize.com

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

POSITION Health, Safety & Environmental Officer **LOCATION:** San Ignacio, Cayo District

FORTIS BELIZE LIMITED (Formerly BECOL) is accepting applications for the post of Health, Safety & Environment Officer. FORTIS BELIZE LIMITED is a leading renewable energy generation company that operates the Mollejon, Chalillo, and Vaca Hydroelectric Plants. The main function of the company is to provide clean and reliable energy to BEL and as an extension the entire country of Belize. The company’s foremost concern is the safety of its employees and the running of an environmentally sound operations by following the guidelines of the International Standards Organization, category ISO14001.

Summary of Primary Responsibilities

- Promote and lead occupational health and safety within the organization and help develop safer and healthier ways of working.
- Develop and implement occupational health and safety policies, procedures, and manuals.
- Conduct audits to ensure that safety policies and procedures are being implemented and enforced.
- Inspect work areas for potential accident and health hazards and implement appropriate control measures.
- Ensure that the organization is aware of, and complies with, all legislation relating to its workplace activities and the use of its plant, equipment, and substances.
- Carry out investigation of accidents and unsafe working conditions, study possible causes and recommend remedial action.
- Coordinate training sessions, emergency drills, and other capacitation activities for all staff.
- Conduct ongoing safety coaching and mentoring of employees at all levels to improve safety culture.
- Track and report on safety metrics, leading and lagging indicators, etc. and use this information to help improve safety performance.
- Review environmental and safety policies and procedures annually to ensure their effectiveness in the field.
- Communicate frequently with management to report on the status of the occupational health, safety, and environmental programs by providing a monthly report.
- Manage the Environmental Compliance Plan (ECP) and the Environmental, Health, Safety Management System (EHSMS) for all Fortis Belize facilities.
- Handle and investigate nonconformity and ensure corrective and preventive action has been taken to mitigate adverse impacts.
- Report on the performance of the EHSMS to top management for review and as a basis for improvement of the system.
- Maintain liaison with local government, environmental groups, and stakeholders.
- Coordinate water quality monitoring and other ecological studies in conformance with ECP.
- Organize and facilitate environmental and safety awareness events such as workshops, wellness programs, etc.
- Conduct public meetings in conformance with ECP and in support of community engagement efforts.

Education, Experience and Skills

- Minimum of Bachelor’s Degree in Environmental Science, Biology, Chemistry, or equivalent program
- A minimum of two years of experience in a management/supervisory role, preferably leading a team of safety professionals.
- Experience in managing health and safety programs, training, and presentations from conception to implementation
- Proactive with a high degree of initiative.
- Demonstrates professional written, verbal, and interpersonal communication skills.
- Excellent organizational and time management skills with the ability to manage multiple priorities and competing demands under pressure and tight timelines.
- Outstanding ability to build strong partnerships with all levels of employees and contractors through intuitive business insight and personal credibility.
- Proven ability to resolve issues by analyzing and evaluating possible solutions and negotiating outcomes with various stakeholders

Application Submission **Deadline: January 10th, 2023**

Applicants should submit letter of application, CV with copy of most recent qualification, 3 recent letters of recommendation, copy of social security card and recent police record (recent meaning not older than 6 months).

Applications can be submitted electronically to corporate@fortisbelize.com or addressed to

Human Resources Department
Fortis Belize Limited
Mile 71.5 George Price Highway
San Ignacio, Cayo, BELIZE

BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM

COUNTRYWIDE PUBLIC AUCTION SALES: PROPERTIES

Rumpoint, Beachfront Properties, Placencia, Stann Creek District

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. The Belize Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following properties in one lot. Sale currently running and will expire **Tuesday, 3rd January 2023 at 10:00 am.**

PLACENCIA BEACHFRONT: APPROXIMATELY 728 FEET

REGISTRATION SECTION
Placencia North

BLOCK
36

PARCELS
931, 2294, 932

Parcel No. 931 - (Being 4033.922 square metres of BEACHFRONT property containing 2 buildings) + Parcel No. 2294 - (Being 6.3 acres of BEACHFRONT property that spans both sides of the of the Placencia Road containing a two-storey concrete building) + Parcel No. 932 - (Being 1.59 acres of vacant BEACHFRONT property) ALL situate at Rumpoint within walking distance of the Placencia Airstrip, Placencia Road, Placencia Village, Stann Creek District, the freehold property of Messrs. Millennium Holdings Ltd.)

N.B. ALL THREE PROPERTIES WILL BE OFFERED IN ONE LOT.
“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)

LETTER TO THE Editor

Wellington C. Ramos responds to Mr. Ely Fabro's football article

Dear Mr. Ely Fabro,

I like the fact that you said something about football in Orange Walk Town, but you failed to mention some key facts. When I was transferred from Belize City to Orange Walk Town to be stationed as a police officer in 1974, there was no football taking place at the senior level in the town. I formed a team by the name of Caribbean Eleven that was supported by Mr. Pedro Cuello. Most of our players were police officers, along with some Garifuna football players from Guatemala and Honduras who were cutting cane in Orange Walk. We were practicing on the field by the Town Hall every evening from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

One day I went out there, and I saw another group of players, led by a

famous football legend, namely (Orvin) "Stud" Hendricks, practicing. He asked me if we would be willing to play against his team on a Sunday, and I told him yes, but we were working on raising funds for a set of uniforms, because we had no money. I went to Mr. John Loskot, who had a clothing store, and asked him to donate some cloth to our team, and he donated a roll of black and yellow cloth to the team. We became friends after he made that donation, because without him, we would not have had a team. Two of our players were tailors, and one was an artist. The tailors sewed our uniforms, and the artist painted the numbers behind our shirts.

We then arranged with Stud that we were ready to play against his team by the name of Santos. When that game was played on the field, it was packed with people from Orange Walk Town

and Orange Walk District. That was the game that resurrected football in Orange Walk Town and District. Prior to this, football was dead in Orange Walk Town that year.

The late Joe Briceño, the Orange Walk North area representative, and his friend Ramon Cervantes, the school teacher, came to me and asked if we would be interested to form a football league, and I said yes. That meeting was held at the Town Hall through the efforts of his brother, the then mayor, Leopold "Polo" Briceño, who loved and was passionate about football. Enrique Carballo had just returned from his studies in Honduras, and I asked him to play with us, but he did not. Later on he ended up playing for Riverside, the team that was sponsored by Amado Vasquez, which I later joined. At the time that football was resurrecting in Orange Walk Town, the

field by the Town Hall was being abandoned and permission was being sought from BSI to have the football competition on their grounds next to Trial Farm up the hill.

Teams from all over Orange Walk Town and District were enrolled in this tournament, and the team that won the first championship was "Spurs", sponsored by Mr. Nicholson from Douglas. Matthew Williams left our team to play for that team. We changed our name before the tournament started from Caribbean Eleven to Astros, because we received sponsorship from Mr. Coyock from Trial Farm, a football lover. In 1975, the second championship was won by Santos, sponsored by Stud Hendricks himself. Stud Hendricks should be given a lot of credit for his contributions to football in Orange Walk Town, not only as an exceptional player but also as a football legend. I have a lot of respect for him, even though we only played for the Orange Walk Selection together.

I won three championships with Greggie Jones, Matthew Williams and Enrique Carballo.

Orange Walk was developing talented football players all over the district. When the Inter-District Competition started in 1975, we formed a committee to select the Orange Walk Inter-District Selection players. Most of these players were from Orange Walk Town and came from the following teams: Spurs, Santos, Riverside, Astros, Belize Road, Trial Farm and San Jose Palmar.

Even though I must admit that there were some exceptional players from the other villages who were not selected to play, this was the first out-of-district team to convincingly defeat the All Belize Selection at MCC Grounds in Belize City. From there they continued to excel and ended up playing in the Inter-District Finals in 1975 and 1976, back to back. We lost to the Stann Creek Selection at MCC Grounds on both occasions.

I am writing this because for me history is very important for our children, grandchildren and generations to come. I want this article to be shared among the Orange Walk citizens who are still around so that they can give their versions of their stories.

Football is one of the loves of my life.

Best regards,

Wellington C. Ramos
Former All Orange Walk Selection player
Telephone: (718) 223-3193
Email: wellramos451@gmail.com

(AMANDALA Sports Ed. Note: Ely Fabro's article "Orange Walk Football – 40+ years back" appeared in the *Amandala* for Tuesday, December 6, posted online on Wednesday, December 7, 2022.)



Atlantic Bank

Happy New Year

2023

from our Board of Directors, Management & Staff

Opening Hours

December 30, 2022

All Branches and Drive Thrus close at 1:00 PM

For your shopping convenience, use your Atlantic Bank Visa Debit Card or Visa/Mastercard Credit Cards.

For quick cash, use any of our ATMs or AtlaXpress merchants located countrywide.

Visit us
at
www.amandala.com.bz





THE FRAUD of CHRISTMAS (Part 5)



Continued from page 22 of issue #3613, Friday, December 23, 2022.

by Hart Tillett

“We have a problem, Mr. Morrisett,” the finance officer said to him. “It has to do with your insurance,” she continued. “The company has denied your claim!”

“That’s impossible!” It was almost a shout, as Jim felt his gut tighten and his heart pound palpably. Before the start of his treatment, the insurance coverage had been confirmed by this very office, so while he felt there was a chance there was some mistake, he also feared the worst. “Wha...what happened?” he finally was able to say.

“You’ll need to call the company, sir!” she hesitated, then added: “The clinic has decided to terminate your treatment until this matter is resolved.

I’m sorry, Mr. Morrisett.” She handed him an envelope. “Your bill,” she said without emotion. Strictly business.

He pocketed the bill and left. Shirley was not at her desk when he passed reception. Seemed they all knew of his loss. When he reached his car, he sat motionless for several minutes before opening the envelope.

\$117,000.00. Almost a quarter million in Belize dollars.

Where would he get that kind of money? He owned no real estate, and his savings amounted to less than a third of the bill. The 20-foot Jeanneau outboard he owned was only insured for \$9,500.00. He was five years from retirement and knew that no bank would lend him that kind of money with no security and a short remaining work life.

When he bought the medical policy, the agent had assured him that he was covered for this very kind of eventuality. The word he used was “catastrophe,” and this was catastrophic by any measure. If the insurance had indeed

declined to pay, he was ruined.

Jim dropped the letter on the seat, leaned forward on the steering wheel, and sobbed loudly.

The insurance company confirmed that there was no cover. Their explanation used technical language he had not heard before; words like “lines,” “excess of loss,” “ceding company,” “retentions,” and on and on. The gist of it was that several companies were involved, and if one was unable to pay, none of the others would. It had happened only a month before to one of the companies located in Germany. The company in Belize that issued him the policy was only liable for BZ\$25,000!

His only recourse was legal action, but that would take years and there were no guarantees.

Eileen broke down completely when she heard the news.

“Our boys!” she moaned weakly. “What’s going to happen to them?” she asked.

“It’s the end of the road, seems like,” he said. “For all of us!”

Two agonizing days went by, followed by restless nights. They remembered the helpful Father Nicholas, but couldn’t bring themselves to talk about a play they regarded as pure fancy. Not real life stuff. Their problem was as real as it got. And the Christmas carols playing on the radio lost the magic they once had. Eileen thought of Houston and worried about how he would cope with this tragedy. It was time to go back home, but the joyful return she was anticipating had just dissipated. And this was not something about which she could just call Jesse and tell him.

She did her best not to let Jim see her sorrow, but inside, her world had crumbled. She often thought of the scene from the play when Otto’s children stood transfixed at the sight of their saddened parents. This was their season of suffering.

“Cheer up, big boy,” she said on day three of their misery. “Let’s go to the mall and just mingle with the world for a while. What d’you say, huh?”

And so they did.

For the first time in his life, Jim stopped at the Salvation Army kettle stand where two ladies smiled at them over their hanging kettle and tinkling bell. He gave them a large bill. It was the catharsis they sought, a new start to their changed circumstances.

“Thank you, Mister,” they both said. “And a Merry Christmas and God’s blessing on you both!”

“Merry Christmas to you too,” replied Eileen.

On every floor they went in the mall there was a Santa Claus. Eileen tugged at Jim’s hand, indicating a rather florid one near the men’s department. There were no kids about.

“Hello, Santa,” she greeted him brightly. “Got a question for you. We’re from Belize and we have a young son there.” She nudged Jim discreetly. “Think you’ll get his Christmas gift on time?”

“Ah, Belize,” he said, “I was there two summers ago.” He waved his arms reminiscently. “Nice country but much too hot for Mrs. Claus. Ho! Ho! Ho! What’s your boy’s name?” he asked, and his tone told them he had caught their cynicism.

“Houston,” said Jim, joining the fun of this cut and thrust with ‘Santa.’ “Houston Morrisett,” he finished.

“I’ll make sure he does.” Santa rose and embraced them both. “And you be sure to be back home with him for Christmas. Ho, Ho, Ho!” He patted his ponderous paunch as he sat. “And put out a local beer for me instead of cookies.” He smiled and added, “Great tasting beer you have there.”

“Why’d you do that?” It was a question from Eileen as soon as they were out of earshot. Her surprise arose from the way Jim had chatted with Santa, whom he was usually dismissive of as that big fat fraud.

“Something is happening to us, Eileen.” He sounded contrite, broken but not forlorn. “Like waking from a dream and suddenly realizing it was just

Request for Expression of Interest HYDRAULIC ENGINEER CONSULTANT



Institution: Ministry of Economic Development

Country: Belize

Project: Resilient Rural Belize Programme

Loan No.: 2000002301

Deadline for Submission of Expression of Interest: January 17, 2023 at 10:00 AM.

Project Background:

The Government of Belize (GOB), with financing from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Green Climate Fund, has embarked on a six-year Programme, Resilient Rural Belize (RRB), which aims to minimize the impacts of climatic and economic events on smallholder farmers while supporting sustainable market access for their produce. The Programme will help farmers employ climate resilient agricultural practices and technologies; integrate profitable smallholder participation into the development of select vegetable, fruit, and honey value chains; and support smallholder production capacity through investments in public and private climate resilient infrastructure and in the strengthening of smallholder farmer Producers Organizations and relevant GOB Departments.

Scope of Service:

Under the direct supervision of the Programme Manager, the Hydraulic Engineer Consultant will be responsible for the Integrated Water Resource Management and all water related investments under the Climate Resilient Rural Infrastructure (CRRIA) component and those irrigation and drainage investments as identified in the Producer Organization business plan under Component 1. The Hydraulic Engineer Consultant is expected to abide by the Programme Implementation Manual (PIM), and regulations and procedures for supervision of design and civil works as per the applicable legislation of Belize. The contract for this consultancy will span 12 months (12 working days per month).

Academic Qualification:

The Hydraulic Engineer Consultant must possess:

- A minimum of a BSc. in Hydraulic Engineering, Irrigation Engineering or related field.

Specific Experience:

The Hydraulic Engineer Consultant must possess the following experience:

- Demonstrate experience in at least two (2) projects similar in nature to that being implemented (irrigation, drainage, water catchment, etc.). Experience with projects funded by an international funding agency would be an asset.
- A minimum of one (1) year experience in engineering design, design review, and its related aspects for small-scale irrigation and drainage systems. Specific experience in irrigation works supervision would be an asset.
- At least two years’ experience in implementing irrigation and drainage systems construction or rehabilitation works.

Individual Consultants interested in receiving the **Request for Expression of Interest (REOI)** document for this consultancy should register their interest by sending an e-mail (with subject: **Request for REOI – Hydraulic Engineer Consultant**) to the Procurement Officer at nvernon.rrb@med.gov.bz giving full contact details of the Consultant. This will ensure that the Consultants receive updates regarding this consultancy.

The REOI must be delivered to the following address on or before **January 17, 2023, at 10:00 AM** (Local time) via e-mail to the following e-mail address:

Email: geraldo.flowers@med.gov.bz

CC: nvernon.rrb@med.gov.bz

Resilient Rural Belize Programme

Attn: Geraldo Flowers

Resilient Rural Belize Programme

National Agriculture Showgrounds

Belmopan City, Cayo, Belize



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**



VACANCY AT JULIAN CHO TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL



Julian Cho Technical High School invites suitably qualified persons to apply for the following post:

1 English Teacher – Permanent

Qualification for Teacher:

- a) Bachelor's Degree or Higher in the subject area with pedagogical training preferred, however, an Associate Degree in the subject area may be considered.
- b) Teaching experience at the secondary level would be an asset.
- c) Good communication skills and a willingness to uphold the mission of Julian Cho Technical High School.

Application package must include:

- A letter of application and resume
- Certified copies of diplomas and certificate/s
- Sealed transcript from all post-secondary institutions attended
- Birth certificate or Passport
- Certified copy of Social Security Card
- Recent Medical Certificate
- Recent Police Record
- Valid Teacher's License (Secondary level)
- Two recent letters of recommendation

***ALL COPIED DOCUMENTS MUST BE CERTIFIED BY A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.**

Salary:

Salary will be in accordance with the government pay scale based on qualification.

Application packages must be addressed to: Secretary

Board of Governors
Julian Cho Technical High School
P.O Box 171
Toledo District
Belize, Central America

ELECTRONIC PACKAGES CAN ALSO BE EMAILED TO: jcths.secretary2@yahoo.com
principaljctech@gmail.com

PLEASE NOTE THAT A HARD COPY OF APPLICATION PACKAGE MUST BE PRESENTED ON DAY OF INTERVIEW IF SHORTLISTED.

Deadline for applications is Monday, January 9, 2023.



Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital Authority

TENDER NOTICE

Date: December 9, 2022

To: SUPPLIERS OF LAUNDRY SERVICES

Tender Invitation –The Supply of Laundry Services for two years.

Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital Authority invites interested and reputable Suppliers with suitably references relevant to the specific laundry services listed below to participate in this tender exercise:

Scope of Services:

The Supplier shall collect, wash, clean dry and deliver all linen (sheets, pillowcases, towels, washcloths, and any such articles made of fabric or cloth used by the Hospital in the ordinary course of its operations) for the hospital in accordance with the standards of the Infection Control and Quality Assurance Unit of KHMHA. In order to ensure that they are well laundered and ensure that there is no exposure to patients, hospital staff or third parties of any harmful germ or particles, so as to maintain the sanitary operation and clean environment of the hospital.

Service Requirements:

1. Wash all linen at a minimum temperature of 180°F using adequate blood remover, stain, grease remover and bleach, such as detergents, cleaners and solutions being of sufficient quality.
2. Provide at its own expense four (4) sets of linen, each set being comprised of two (2) flat sheet, one (1) draw sheet, one (1) pillowcase for each of the hospital's Two Hundred Eleven (211) beds, including for cribs, specialist clinics, physiotherapy, and emergency medical, technician services at the hospital. The said four (4) sets of linen for each bed will be divided so that one (1) set will be for current use at any given time on the Two Hundred Eleven (211) beds, while the other three (3) sets will be used for rotation by the supplier.
3. Pick up and return all linen sent seven (7) days per week twice per day.
4. Conduct a monthly bi-partisan sheet count with representatives of the KHMHA.
5. Replace at its own expense linen that the hospital identifies as deteriorate due to normal wear and tear or stains. For this purpose, "normal wear and tear" shall mean the inevitable physical decline of the condition of the linen resulting from normal hospital usage over time.
6. Transport all linen between the hospital and the Supplier's place of business in covered carts at all time to prevent contamination.
7. Use only transportation and carts approved by the Infection Control and Quality Assurance Units of KHMHA to transport all linen used by the hospital.
8. Facility must be approved by the KHMHA's Infection Control and Quality Assurance Units.

Any queries that the interested suppliers may have, will be addressed at a pre tender meeting to be held on 30 December, 2022 at the KHMHA main conference room at 2:00pm. This meeting is a pre-requisite to submit a valid Tender. In addition, a detailed service requirement will be disseminated at the meeting mentioned above.

Qualified Bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "KHMHA Laundry Services" addressed to Director of Operations, Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital, Princess Margaret Drive, Belize City, Belize C.A. on or before January 6, 2023 at midday.

KHMHA reserves the right to reject any or all Tenders.



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST INDIVIDUAL CONSULTING SERVICES

Institution: Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing

Country: Belize

Project: Additional Financing for George Price Highway Rehabilitation Project

Sector: Infrastructure, Environment and Natural Disasters

Abstract: Individual Consulting Services – Production of a Video on the Process of Conducting an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Department of Environment

Loan/Credit/Grant No.: 4616/OC-BL

Deadline: January 5, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

The Government of Belize has received financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), towards the cost of the Additional Financial under the George Price Highway Rehabilitation Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services (“the Services”) include the contracting of an Individual Consultant for a minimum of thirty (30) days for the Production of a Video on the Process of Conducting an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Department of Environment.

The Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing now invites eligible Individual Consultants to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Inter-American Development Bank: [Policies for the Selection and Contracting of Consultants financed by the Inter-American Development Bank](#) (GN-2350-15, January 2020) – Section V, 5.2 Selection of Individual Consultants based on Comparison of Qualifications of National Individual Consultants.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours:

Program Management Unit
#1 Power Lane, Belmopan, Cayo District
Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.
Tel: 501-822-0100/1942
Email: pmupcmow@gmail.com, gphrp.3344@midh.gov.bz or procurement.officer.midh@gmail.com

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by **10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time) on January 5, 2023.**

Attn: Mr. Rolando Chan
Program Coordinator
#1 Power Lane, Belmopan
Cayo District, Belize
Tel: 501-822-0100/1942
E-mail: pmupcmow@gmail.com, gphrp.3344@midh.gov.bz
or procurement.officer.midh@gmail.com



VACANCY

The British High Commission, Belmopan has a vacancy for a Climate Change, Environment and Energy Officer (Caribbean Regional Lead).

Main purpose of the job:

The role will be at the centre of our climate change, environment and energy work in Belize and the Caribbean more widely. The main purpose of the role is to support the British High Commissions in the region in the delivery of the UK’s climate change objectives.

Roles and responsibilities:

- To drive implementation of the COP26/27 commitments and goals in Belize, and the region, working closely with Heads of Post and relevant colleagues.
- Policy and project delivery that support long-term energy efficiency (building, transport, and power), conservation work and resilience & adaptation objectives in Belize and the region, which includes clean growth, energy transition, nature-based solutions and green finance.
- To understand and support regional countries in work on access to climate finance and carbon credits – (forest, mangroves, seagrass).
- To support the Caribbean region and Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (5Cs) and UK Government colleagues on engagement with the region, through reporting on climate change developments.
- To support the High Commissioner/Deputy High Commissioner in liaising with officials across the Government of Belize on operational / logistics elements of implementing measures on climate action, environment and energy.
- To assist engagement with non-Government actors, through stakeholder mapping and building working level contacts with representatives of businesses, and civil society throughout Belize and the region.
- To support Ministerial and official visits from the UK to Belize related to climate action. This will include organising visit agendas and supporting events as required.
- To work with the High Commission’s political and media team to amplify the climate work of the High Commission
- To be the focal point at the High Commission for the Ocean Country Partnership Programme (OCPP) and the Biodiverse Landscape Fund (BLF) in Belize.
- Take a holistic approach by highlighting links and conservation activity under previous programmes such as the Commonwealth Litter Programme (CLiP) and the Commonwealth Marine Economies Programme.
- Hold a corporate responsibility objective (such as on Learning and Development, Reward & Recognition, or Wellbeing) which contributes to the wider agenda of the Post

Essential on arrival:

- Bachelor Degree in a relevant field, for instance, Climate and Environment Science or Public Policy.
- Experience working for an organisation in a relevant field, for example, working for/with national or state government, international organizations or agencies, preferably in climate change.
- Strong understanding of international climate change policy, with relevant experience including from university or previous professional work experience.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills.

Desirable:

- Experience of managing diverse and senior level relationships.
- Knowledge or experience of project management and relevant skills.

Salary will be BZ\$ 8,454.00.

Working Hours: 38 hours per week

How to Apply

Interested persons should use the preferred method of applying online at <https://bit.ly/3GcBAhX>

The Deadline for applications is 4.00pm on **Thursday, 19th January 2023**. Only those candidates who are short-listed will be contacted. Please be aware that all applicants must have a legal status to work in Belize. Confirmation of appointment is subject to the satisfactory completion of a probationary period and security clearance.

The British High Commission in Belize is an inclusive and diversity-friendly employer. We value difference, promote equality and challenge discrimination, enhancing our organisational capability. We welcome and encourage applications from people of all backgrounds. We do not discriminate based on disability, race, colour, ethnicity, gender, religion, sexual orientation, age, veteran status or other category protected by law. We promote family-friendly flexible working opportunities, where operational and security needs allow.

A Story of Miguel's Life (Part 1)



by Clinton Canul Luna

Miguel was born into a middle-class family. His father spoke both English and Spanish, his mother, French and Spanish. While Miguel was growing up, his parents each spoke to him in their native language. Eventually, Miguel started going to school. His teachers became concerned and called the parents to advise them not to continue talking to him in their foreign languages, because it jeopardized his studies in Spanish, which was the official language of the country they were living in. When Miguel turned 15, his parents died in a car accident, which left him alone, so, he could not continue studying and went to live with his grandmother, who was a sickly elderly lady, and the little money she had was spent on her medication and continuous doctor visits. One day the grandmother told him, "Miguel, I can't help you. My situation is difficult. I advise you please, son, find a job."

"Yes, Granny," Miguel told her. He started looking for work here and there, until he found one in a fancy restaurant. The general manager, Mr. Galaz, had allowed him to work in that restaurant as a janitor. He was in charge of cleaning the place, and he was working and fulfilling his obligations. One block from the restaurant, Mr. Galaz had his house, where he lived with his family, his wife and daughter. Every day he sent Miguel with food for his family. There Miguel met his

daughter, Erika, who was the same age that he was. One day, Erika came out to receive the food with a book in her hand entitled, "English for Beginners". Miguel asked, "Erika, are you studying English?"

"Yes."

"And how are you doing?"

"Well, not very well, because there are words that I don't know how to pronounce."

It was there that a friendship began between the two. Daily, Miguel would help Erika pronounce certain words. Little by little, they lost track of time, not realizing that he had stayed 10 - 20 minutes, sometimes up to an hour. On one of those occasions, Mr. Galaz inquired, "Miguel, why are you taking so long?"

Miguel answered by telling him the truth. With the passing of time, Mr. Galaz realized that his daughter was falling in love with Miguel. He didn't like that. So he addressed his worker, "Listen, you piece of sh*#. You are a nobody. You don't have any future. What makes you believe that you can have someone like my daughter? Look for someone from your class. Get out of my sight! YOU ARE FIRED!!!"

Miguel left in pain. Already on the street, tears poured like rain down his cheeks from the hurtful words of Mr. Galaz. He had hurt his feelings, because at no point did Miguel have in mind to fall in love with the girl, for it was simply a clean friendship,

based on his desire to help her learn English. Several years after, in a busy central square, they caught a glimpse of each other through the crowd and locked eyes; however, he didn't greet her, for Mr. Galaz's painful words were yet fresh in his mind. A few more years passed, and they met again. This time, it was Erika who approached him:

"Miguel, do you remember me?"

"Yes, of course I do. How are you?"

"Not very well."

"Why?"

"My father was deported to his country."

"For what reason?"

"Because he was involved in drug possession. The police arrested him and he was thereafter deported."

"And your mom?"

"My mom got together with another man."

"But what happened to your dad's restaurant?"

"It wasn't his. My dad just managed the restaurant."

"Ohhh...and you?"

"Well, being in a difficult situation, I got married, but it didn't work out. I got divorced and was left with a 2-year-old child. I'm looking for a job because I don't have one, and I need to support my son."

"I'm so sorry," Miguel said, "I didn't know."

Miguel reached into his pocket, extracted his wallet and took out a personal card. On the back of the card he wrote, "Mr. Rodríguez, the bearer of this card is a good friend. I have known her for many years. She is a very responsible person, a trustworthy person. I ask you to help her in whatever way is possible. I will be very grateful."

Miguel gave the card to Erika and told her, "Go to where I'm working and give this to Mr. Rodríguez." Erika asked, "So, where do you work?"

"I am an auditor for the Azteca textile factory, and they will help you there. Go see Mr. Rodríguez!" he said. Erika complied with Miguel's instructions. She went to see Mr. Rodríguez, and handed him the card that Miguel gave her. Mr. Rodríguez asked, "What do you know to do?"

"I am a secretary."

"Okay, I'm going to give you an opportunity of a 28-day contract. If you prove to be qualified, I will give you a permanent secretary post."

That was how Erika started working in such a factory and she did her job perfectly—was very responsible, early to work, obedient in everything they asked of her. In other words, she was a professional. Having Miguel so close by, she tried to seduce him by being so friendly and courteous. Miguel realized that Erika wanted to have a serious relationship with him, and one day, Miguel mustered up the courage and told her, "Erika, I'm not the right person for you. I'm not looking for a serious responsibility. Not right now. Let's be good friends, but nothing more. I don't think we could be good partners, and I don't want to hurt you. I'm not ready for a serious relationship. I don't want to have that kind of responsibility."

"So you have a girlfriend?"

"No"

"But do you have a wife?"

"Neither. I dedicate myself to my job, nothing more, and I have other plans, but you are not part of it. As I told you, I don't want to hurt you. Find another partner, a good man who can love you, respect you, and can give you everything you need."

It didn't last long, about a year later, Erika had found someone who had taken an interest in her, who fell in love with her. He was a good man, and they began to have a good relationship, so much so that they decided to get married. Erika sent Miguel an invitation to attend her wedding. Miguel saw the card and thought to himself, "I wish her the best, but I don't think I will attend." He began to analyze the situation and concluded that he should go live elsewhere. At work, he had gotten to know several other people who worked in other factories in other cities. In one of many, Miguel made a call to a friend and asked him if there was an opportunity to work where he was. The friend told him, "Yes, right now we need an operation manager. The pay is very good. So come over here and I'll recommend you to the general manager."

"Good. Thank you."

Miguel submitted his resignation at the Azteca textile factory and thereafter went to the other city to start his new job. Miguel was the type of person who did not talk about his personal life. So no one knew that he spoke 3 languages. While on his new job, Miguel met a beautiful lady by the name of Shakira who worked as a sales manager at another factory not far away from where he was working. They became friends, fell in love, had a relationship, and decided to get married. They both earned very good money; besides, Miguel had money saved in the bank, because he always dreamed of buying a house. So between the two of them, they bought a house, after which they got married. In that, Miguel began to enter another business, which was real estate. He got houses that were for sale, he sold them, he made a good commission, and since his wife was also a sales manager, well, he also shared the work with her. They were also buying houses for themselves, preparing for the future, for their old age. They had two children, and everything was going well. They had a good understanding, a very good relationship between the two of them. Their children grew up and time went by; they accumulated money for the future. Miguel was not the type of person who distrusted his wife, so he didn't care when she bought houses and put it in her name. He had a lot of confidence in himself. To him, that didn't matter.

(To Be Continued)

fincasolan@gmail.com

December 25, 2022

Finca Solana

Corozal Town

B&B BEVERAGES | We're Hiring!

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



VACANCY

The British High Commission, Belmopan has a vacancy for a part time Finance Officer.

Main purpose of the job:

To ensure the smooth running of the accounts section by providing efficient and timely day-to-day management of financial transactions and procedures.

Roles and responsibilities:

- Accounts payable and receivable.
- Reconcile transactions and identify and resolve accounting discrepancies.
- Process cash transactions – ensuring expenses are within assigned budgets, within approved limit and completion of the record of cash transactions.
- Prepare cash payments for UK Based Staff.
- Prepare accurate and timely monthly payroll – inclusive of payments to Income Tax, Social Security and Sagcor Life Inc.
- Maintain Salaries and Income Tax registers.
- Prepare annual Income Tax returns.
- Prepare monthly application for GST refund.
- Replenish residence imprest monthly.
- Administration of bank account – changes in signatories, deposits, withdrawals, monitoring for discrepancies and funding, reconciling payments.
- Prepare and submit forms for set up of new suppliers/ reactivations.
- Update internal systems with financial data.
- Prepare employment letters for staff.
- Assist Deputy Corporate Services Manager with funding profile – annual upload and any amendments.
- Assist with budget preparation, management and forecast.
- Monthly finance housekeeping – monitoring credit card expenses, invoices on hold, purchase orders, filing.
- Monitor utilities usage.
- Monitor rates of exchange and share with staff.
- Key relationship holder with local and FCDO finance providers and stakeholders.
- Supporting the Deputy Corporate Services Manager and Corporate Services Manager with finance projects and tasks when required.

Essential on arrival:

- Associates Degree or minimum of 2 years' experience in accounting.
- Strong ethics, with an ability to manage confidential information.
- Flexibility and adaptability.
- Excellent organisational skills and the ability to multitask.
- The ability to be proactive and take initiative.
- Ability to handle time-sensitive tasks.
- Excellent numerical skills.
- IT literacy, especially in Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Outlook & Teams).

Desirable:

- Good communication skills

Salary will be BZ\$ 1,165.69 per month.

Working Hours: 19 hours per week (mornings)

How to Apply

Interested persons should use the preferred method of applying online at <https://bit.ly/3VktqDM>

The Deadline for applications is 11.59 pm on **Sunday, 8th January 2023**. Only those candidates who are short-listed will be contacted. Please be aware that all applicants must have a legal status to work in Belize. Confirmation of appointment is subject to the satisfactory completion of a probationary period and security clearance.

The British High Commission in Belize is an inclusive and diversity-friendly employer. We value difference, promote equality and challenge discrimination, enhancing our organisational capability. We welcome and encourage applications from people of all backgrounds. We do not discriminate based on disability, race, colour, ethnicity, gender, religion, sexual orientation, age, veteran status or other category protected by law. We promote family-friendly flexible working opportunities, where operational and security needs allow.

PRESS PREDICTIONS

The sports psychic speaks

Continued from Page 12

Jayson Tatum is the top team in the East. The Milwaukee Bucks and Giannis Antetokounmpo are the only team that can beat them. The Brooklyn Nets/Kevin Durant are rolling right now; they have won 13 of their last 17 games. Kyrie Erving is still not playing as yet, but he will back very soon. The Miami Heat are struggling. Jimmy Butler will get his team back in the play-off picture still yet before the regular season is done. In the West, the Memphis Grizzlies and Ja Morant are the team to beat. Zion Williamson's New Orleans Pelicans are also

playing very well. The Denver Nuggets are at the third spot. The Phoenix Suns/Chris

Paul are struggling a bit, but Devin Booker will take his team on his back this New Year. LeBron James is just some 550 points away from breaking Kareem Abdul Jabbar's all-time scoring record of 38,387 points. The accomplishment will be 1 week before Michael Jordan's 50th birthday. Next week, more stats on LeBron James.



Jayson Tatum

THE FRAUD of CHRISTMAS (Part 5)

Continued from Page 14

a dream; that there was still life about, and it waited for your participation. Look at us, here in a mall at Christmas time when our world has just imploded, doing things we've never done before." He paused as if to clear his thoughts. "What does it mean?"

"It's why I asked you to do this mall thing with me, Jim," she responded. "The trajectory of our life has shifted. We need to adjust, and this outing beats crying, which I've been doing when you're not aware."

"I've heard you," he confessed, "and it's been tearing me apart."

They were silent for a while as they walked about. Busy shoppers swirled around them, and muted sounds of the carols of the yuletide engulfed them. He took her hand and gently squeezed it.

"Coffee?" he asked, as they neared a restaurant.

"Sure! Why not?" she said, smiling.

"Penny for your thoughts," Eileen broke into his reverie that held him captive as they waited for a waiter.

"Actually, I was thinking of that play at the church, you know, and comparing our situations?"

"I won't be traded to the slave market, buster," she giggled. "Not by a long shot!"

"And," he continued after letting her levity wisp for a moment, "how nice a bag of gold coins from Father Nicholas would be right now." He smiled wryly to let her know he was joking.

"Of course," she replied airily. Over coffee they discussed their return travel plans and settled on the Saturday, two weeks before Christmas.

With that settled she asked: "So, what will Santa be bringing Houston?"

"You know," he scratched a patch of hair, "I've been thinking about that too. Problem is we have him believing there's no Santa Claus. We can't just hit him with this now! Can we?"

"We could tell him that Santa sent his gift with us."

Before leaving Chicago, Jim had written the clinic thanking them for their services and requesting time to raise the funds. He also asked whether a payment plan could be worked out. His lawyer in Belize had already begun the lawsuit against the insurers and he promised that monies from that source would be paid to the clinic.

When they arrived in Belize, they said nothing to Jesse and Hazel about their ordeal, but the strain in their eyes didn't escape their notice. Jesse put it down to

perhaps having to do with Jim's cure and they didn't want to pry.

Christmas was only two weeks away, and Eileen plunged herself into getting the house ready while Jim had the backlog at the office to catch up on. In the meantime they talked in muted tones when discussing how to break the news to their two boys who would soon be home for the holidays. Preparing Houston for his gift from "Santa" was made easier by the lad himself. It happened at lunch a few days after settling back in Orange Walk.

"So, tell us again about the cutting of the Christmas tree," urged Jim as they were finishing the meal.

Houston did, but then added something that caught both parents off guard.

"Uncle Jesse said that gifts at Christmas are special." He had paused, and Jim and Eileen knew he had more to say. "Like the beggar in Ladyville?" he went on. "Know something, Dad? It made me feel good too seeing the way he helped the man."

"That was kind of him, indeed," put in Eileen. "And what did the beggar say?"

"He said 'Thank you, boss-man Santa.'"

Jim felt his face blanch and had a choking cough.

"Sorry, Dad," pleaded Houston. "I was only answering Eileen's question."

"No, no, son. I like what you said. It was just a bit of something in the wrong place."

"But I thought..." Houston began, but Jim cut him off.

"Let me tell you of a play, Eileen, and I went to see just before we came back."

Two days before their boys were due home, Jim got a call from the clinic. They had received his letter and had some good news for him. His case had been submitted to the Mercy Medical Foundation, a charity operated in memory of the clinic's founder. They couldn't tell him about it before, as the case did not meet all the guidelines of the trust and they didn't want to raise expectations that might not materialize. Now they had confirmation. The charges would be paid for from the trust, and the paperwork for his signature was in the mail.

"Merry Christmas, Jim!"

"And the same to you, Shirley!"

Father Christmas had visited the Morrisett's home for the first time and Christmas there would never be the same again. The next day, Jim and Houston headed south from Orange Walk in search of a real Christmas tree.

END

A Shame and a Damn Shame

by Wallace Ford

Much has been written, and will be written, about what happened on 1.6.21. It is truly a day of infamy in American history that will be remembered in the same category as 12.7.41 (Pearl Harbor), 11.22.63 (the assassination of President John F. Kennedy), 4.7.68 (the assassination of Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.) and 9.11.01 (the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon).

Of course, 1.6.21 was a historically unique event – it was the first time since the Civil War that armed Americans attacked the American government with the intent to overthrow the existing government. It was also unique because it was inspired and led by a sitting President of the United States.

That is why the report of the January 6th Committee has revealed the shame

of 1.6.21 as well as the damn shame of what has happened since that fateful day. The fact that the Committee referred four charges against Donald Trump to the United States Department of Justice for criminal prosecution is without precedent in American history.

One hundred years from now, if there is a United States, Donald J. Trump will be a name of a president that is remembered with shame along with the likes of Andrew Jackson, Andrew Johnson, Woodrow Wilson and Richard Nixon. He will have a permanent place in the Presidential Rogues Gallery, where his memory will always reside.

The fact that he is now reduced to selling NFT cards of himself along with renting out his faded Mar-a-Lago estate for Iranian weddings is only the

Please turn to **Page 27**



Continua de página **9**

convención de liderazgo y John Saldívar de Belmopan, sin duda apoyado por Vega, derrotó a Patrick para convertirse en líder del UDP. Días después, Saldívar se vio obligado a renunciar por el escándalo de Lev Dermen. Desde entonces, ha habido una desunión en el UDP que es prácticamente chocante.

No estoy seguro de cómo el Honorable Moses Shyne Barrow, el hijo mayor de Dean Barrow y sobrino de Michael Finnegan, se convirtió por primera vez en líder del UDP. No estoy seguro si derrotó a Faber en una convención, o Faber simplemente tuvo que renunciar debido a las repetidas disputas domésticas. Sé con certeza que Shyne derrotó a la Honorable Tracy Taegar Panton, representante de área de Albert, en una convención de liderazgo

UDP hace unos meses.

Sin embargo, Faber estuvo criticando todo el tiempo en anuncios de televisión y, finalmente, fue descalificado para presentarse como candidato del UDP en el distrito electoral de Collet, donde había ganado cinco elecciones generales consecutivas para el partido.

Luego, la superpotencia Estados Unidos de América "designó" a John Saldívar y lo tildó de político corrupto, lo que obligó a la dirigencia de Shyne a descalificar a Saldívar para que no se ofreciera como candidato del UDP a la circunscripción de Belmopan, donde Saldívar había ganado las elecciones generales en 2008, 2012, y 2015. (Pero, Saldívar había ganado el escaño de Belmopan antes de eso, en 2003 o 2004, no estoy seguro, en una elección parcial tras la muerte del titular del PUP, Agripino Cawich).

Saldívar impugnó la descalificación de la candidatura de Belmopan a nivel del Consejo Nacional del Partido (NPC por sus siglas en inglés) del UDP, y recientemente ganó el apoyo del NPC. Esta es otra complicación importante para el liderazgo de Shyne Barrow, luego del anuncio de Patrick Faber de que se postulará como independiente en las próximas elecciones generales.

Ahora, mi opinión es que si el gobernante PUP de repente convocara elecciones generales, todos estos enemistados políticos UDP encontrarían rápidamente una manera de unirse. Lo vimos suceder en noviembre de 1969 con la coalición NIPDM, y lo vimos suceder en junio de 1993 con la alianza UDP/NABR.

Mientras tanto, sin embargo, Belize no tiene una fuerte oposición al gobernante PUP, por lo que habrá más y más presión sobre los sindicatos, los medios de comunicación y otras partes interesadas para desafiar al ejecutivo gobernante del PUP en temas específicos. El caso clásico involucró recientemente la movilización de las iglesias evangélicas para descarrilar la iniciativa de legalización de la marihuana del Gabinete del PUP. Esta situación se confundió por el hecho de que el líder UDP apoyó la legalización.

Y, para repetir, el líder del UDP, Shyne, siguió la línea del Departamento de Estado de EE. UU. al descalificar a Saldívar de la convención de candidatos de Belmopan.

Para colmo, por así decirlo, el líder UDP Shyne parece cada vez más ser un compinche de Lord Michael Ashcroft. En 2003, fue la decisión de su padre de no criticar las crueles tarifas telefónicas de Ashcroft en BTL lo que condujo a la derrota masiva del UDP.

Estas son opiniones personales, ya saben. No soy un enemigo del UDP, a pesar de que Dean Barrow victimizó a Kremandala de 2013 a 2020 debido a nuestra postura sobre el asunto de Elvin Penner/Ciudadano Kim. Pero la naturaleza del sistema parlamentario es tal que, de vez en cuando, la gente como nosotros en los medios de comunicación necesita una fuerte oposición para protegernos de un Gabinete que se ha vuelto alocado. Este fue el caso en 2003/2004. La historia está ahí para que la examinen las generaciones más jóvenes de Belize.



UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR) INTERNAL / EXTERNAL VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Title of Post	Senior Administrative Assistant	Category/grade	LICA 5
Post Number	UNOPS	Type of contract	Contractor
Location	Belmopan, Belize	Date of Issue	27 December 2022
Effective date of assignment	16 January 2023	Closing Date	10 January 2023

PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENT:

Responsibility

Under the direct supervision of the Head of National Office at UNHCR Belize the Snr. Admin Assistant will:

- Assist in interpreting and processing of entitlements, issuance of contracts and maintenance of various personnel records and files.
- Attend meetings on day-to-day admin matters; administer the movement of UNHCR staff members and monitor their attendance records, leave plans, overtime and visa requirements.
- Search office files and records relating to a variety of topics for information and reference. Select information and records in specified format or on the basis of general instructions for use by others in preparing reports, correspondence, technical papers, project or programme plans and general reference documents.
- Assist in requisition of office supplies, equipment and arrange for distribution together with the appropriate inventory records.
- Assist in administrative formalities related to travel arrangements and issuance/ renewal of visas, licences, travel arrangements and other similar documents.
- Draft correspondence and reports, as required, on general administrative or specialized tasks which may be of a confidential nature within the assigned area of responsibility; Type correspondence, documents and reports, some of which may be highly confidential.
- Arrange appointments and maintain supervisor's calendar, receive visitors, place and screen telephone calls and answer queries with discretion; Keep lists of names, addresses and telephone numbers of ministers, government officials and members of the diplomatic corps.
- Assist the management to organise and run UNHCR Office and Residential (wherever applicable) compounds.
- Facilitate various official missions of UNHCR staff and other persons of concern to UNHCR.
- Prepare attestations and certificates required by the staff members for signature of senior officer.
- Assist in processing MIP and various other claims by UNHCR staff and other clients of UNHCR.
- Perform other related duties as required.

Essential Minimum Qualifications and Experience:

- Education: Completion of Secondary Education
- Minimum 2 years relevant experience with High School Diploma; or 1-year relevant work experience with Bachelor or equivalent or higher
- IT Computer Literacy is an asset
- IT- PeopleSoft Application is an asset
- Fluency in English and working knowledge of Spanish

Submission of Applications:

NOTE: The complete vacancy is available at the following link: <https://bit.ly/3Q2X410>

Closing Date: internal and external applications: **10 January 2023 (Midnight, Geneva Time)**

No late applications will be accepted; only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Shortlisted candidates may be required to oral interview. UNHCR does not charge a fee at any stage of the recruitment process (application, interview, processing or any other fees).

UNHCR strongly encourages qualified female applicants for this position. UNHCR seeks to ensure that male and female employees are given equal career opportunities. UNHCR is committed to achieving workforce diversity in terms of gender, nationality and culture. All applications will be treated with the strictest confidentiality.



INVITATION TO QUOTE– GOODS

Institution: Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing
Country: Belize
Project: Additional Financing for George Price Highway Rehabilitation Project
Sector: Transport
Abstract: Supply and Delivery of Laptops, Laptop Backpacks and Wireless Mouse for the Department of the Environment
Loan No.: Loan 4616/OC-BL
Deadline: **10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time) on January 19th, 2023**

- The Government of Belize has received loan financing from the Inter-American Development Bank toward the cost of the Additional Financing for George Price Highway Rehabilitation Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this financing to payments under the Contract for the Supply of **2 Laptops, 2 Laptop Backpacks and 2 Wireless Mouse** under the Additional Financing for the George Price Highway Rehabilitation Project.
- The Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing now invites sealed quotation from eligible and qualified suppliers for the supply of the following item: **2 Laptops, 2 Laptop Backpacks and 2 Wireless Mouse**.
- Bidding will be conducted through Shopping procedures specified in the Inter-American Development Bank's Policies (GN-2349-15, January 2020 – Section 3.6) for the Procurement of Works and Goods financed by the Inter-American Development Bank.
- Interested eligible suppliers may obtain the full Invitation to Quote for the required **2 Laptops, 2 Laptop Backpacks and 2 Wireless Mouse** from the Program Management Unit, Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing, located on the First Floor of the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing Soils Lab Building, Power Lane, Belmopan by emailing pmupcmow@gmail.com, gphrp.3344@midh.gov.bz AND procurement.officer.midh@gmail.com.
- Quotation must utilize forms provided in the invitation to quote. One (1) Original and two (2) copies are to be submitted in sealed labelled envelopes to the address indicated below. Quotations by email **WILL NOT** be accepted.
- Suppliers are informed that they can only quote for the type of **Laptops, Laptop Backpacks, and Wireless Mouse** specified, and quote for all items in this Invitation. Price quotations will be evaluated for all the items. Price quotations should be **Inclusive of General Sales Tax**.
- Your quotation(s) should be submitted as per the following instructions and in accordance with the Terms and Conditions of supply in the attached Quote Submission Sheet.
 - VALIDITY OF THE OFFER:** Your quotation(s) should be valid for a period of **90 days** from the date of receipt for quotation(s).
 - SUBMISSION OF OFFERS:** Offers will be submitted on the Quote Submission Sheet including a description of specifications offered, Price Schedule for Goods and Related Services. These templates are annexed in the full Invitation to Quote. All documents must be completed without any alterations in format, and no substitutes shall be accepted. All blank spaces shall be filled in with the information requested.
- The Purchaser shall award the Contract to the offer which complies substantially with the technical specifications and other requirements in these documents and represents the lowest price.
- Quotation must be delivered to the address below at or before **10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time) on January 19th, 2023**. Electronic quote **will not** be permitted. Late quote will be rejected. Your quotation should be in the English language in the required format or other similar, acceptable format should be addressed and submitted to:

Attention of (Name): **Mr. Rolando Chan, Program Coordinator
Program Management Unit**

Address: **Program Management Unit
First Floor – Soils Lab
Ministry of Infrastructure Development
and Housing
Power Lane, Belmopan
Cayo District, Belize**

Phone #: **822-1942/822-0100**

Email: pmupcmow@gmail.com,
gphrp.3344@midh.gov.bz AND
procurement.officer.midh@gmail.com

BEL gifts over 700 hampers to local families

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Tues. Dec. 27, 2022

BEL and its employees, during its 24th annual Christmas Hamper Drive this year, distributed over 700 hampers and care packages to deserving families and the elderly throughout the country.

Over the past two



weeks leading up to the Christmas holidays, teams of BEL employees partnered with several community organizations to deliver over 450

hampers containing ingredients that could be used to prepare a traditional Christmas meal, along with basic grocery items, to many deserving families. Additionally, 250 care packages were distributed to the elderly.

Notably, over 80 additional families who are still experiencing challenges as a result of the damages caused by

Hurricane Lisa or flooding over the past year, received hampers with essential household items and groceries.

4 women charged for shopping with stolen debit card

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Tues. Dec. 27, 2022

Four women who went on a pre-Christmas shopping spree at a number of stores using a stolen debit card appeared on Friday, December 23, in the Magistrate's Court in Belize City, where they were charged for the offense. The women, who together spent a total of approximately \$7,000 on items that reportedly included groceries and alcohol, are Candice Parham, 37; Kecha Miller, 35; Catherina Cadle, 32; and Deandra Parham, 21.

The debit card used by the women belonged to Symone Ogbujil, 29, who reportedly last had her purse in her possession on December 16, but did not notice that it was missing until three days later, on December 19. On that same day (December 19), she filed a report that her purse, which contained her Atlantic Bank debit card and her ID, was missing. Police then began an investigation, during which they found out that, since the reported disappearance of the purse, a number of purchases had been made at several stores with a debit card belonging to Ogbujil. They later identified the four women as the persons who had made those purchases.

Police first apprehended Candice Parham and Catherina Cadle, then on Thursday, December 22, Deandra Parham surrendered herself into police custody.

Last Friday, the four women appeared in court unrepresented and were charged with a single count of card theft. Only one of the four,



Deandra Parham, charged with card theft

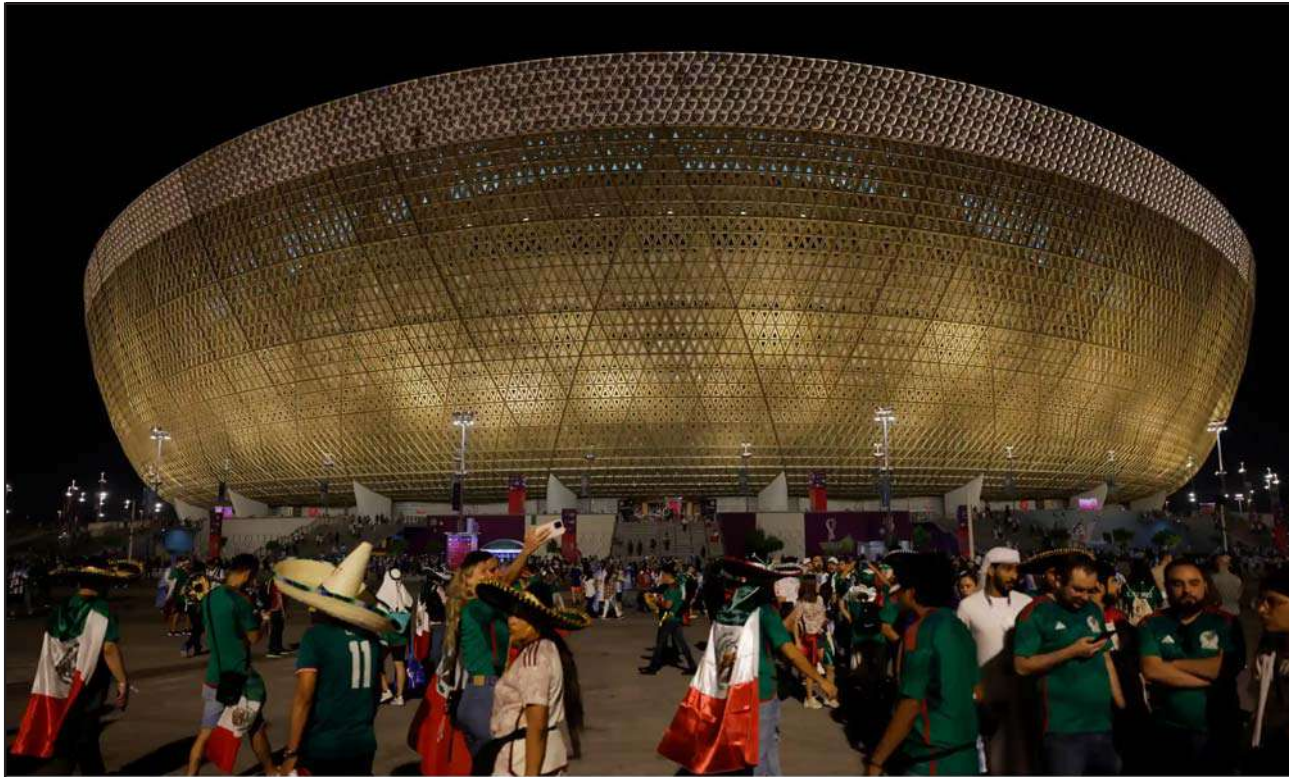
Deandra Parham pleaded guilty to that charge. According to Parham, who confessed to using the card to purchase a total of \$5,165.00 of goods, she had found the debit card. The other three women, however who reportedly used the card to make purchases totaling \$1,642.00, pleaded not guilty.

Deandra Parham, who apologized for what she had done, was not given a prison sentence, but was instead fined \$2,500 plus a \$5 court cost, which she will have to fully pay by March 31, 2023. Otherwise, she will have to serve four months in prison. She was spared a more severe sentence because, according to the magistrate presiding over the case, she was a first offender who seemed sorry for what she had done, and she promptly pleaded guilty, which saved the court time. The three other women were each granted bail of \$1,500 and one surety of the same amount. They are scheduled to return to court on February 20, 2023.

Reflections on the World Cup 2022

by Nuri Akbar

The World Cup 2022 epic final had all the elements one could desire in the battle for football's most prestigious prize: to be crowned world champion. The matchup between soccer giants France and Argentina began to take shape after 4-time winner Germany and 5-time winner and favorite Brazil shockingly made early exits in the first round and group stage, respectively. The competition was saturated with incredible, brilliant athleticism, and magical moments such as the tournament's most sensational one-of-two goal-scoring acrobatic scissor kick by Brazil striker Richarlison, which was



Mexico fans gather outside the Lusail Stadium, one of eight built for this World Cup amid huge controversy over the treatment of migrant workers. (pic by Tom Jenkins of The Guardian)

blasted against a stunned Serbian team.

Then came the tournament's unscripted seismic earthquake when Saudi Arabia humiliated Lionel Messi's Argentine team by defeating them 2 goals to 1 in their opening game. The win by Saudi Arabia was so earth-shaking, it reverberated across the Arab world, with the Saudis declaring a national holiday in celebration of their triumphant accomplishment and their King awarding a Rolls-Royce to each player on the squad. However, this was only the beginning of the toppling of some of the tournament's traditionally dominant teams. The challenge by smaller

nations to the hegemony of a handful of European countries is expected to increase as FIFA expands the roster from 32 to include 48 nations in the World Cup 2026.

Costa Rica couldn't replicate its 2014 magnificent performance and was demolished by Spain 7-0 in a game that was the tournament's most lopsided and painful to watch. Yet, Costa Rica rebounded and put up a gallant fight against a 4-time World Cup champion, Germany. The match ended with Germany winning 4-2, but the Germans were still eliminated based on points, and as a result of Japan's defeat of Spain in the group stage. In essence, the Costa Ricans assisted in sending Germany home in the first round of the World Cup. Costa Rica was the only country from the Central American mainland that qualified for the 2022 competition when they defeated New Zealand 1-0 in the intercontinental playoff. Costa Rica can hold its head high for its accomplishments.

Yet there was plenty of drama, controversy, and allegations to come as the games turned on their head and the tournament took shape. Black Africa was represented by the legendary Senegalese, Cameroonian, and Ghanaians. Despite their brilliance and athleticism, they continue to suffer from a kind of psychological disposition that affects performance even before they hit the field. The Arab North African team Morocco did not have superior players on the field against Spain as Senegal had against England. In their crucial game against England, Senegal, who had advanced to the group of 16, came out strong, played with high-quality tenacity, and attacked in the first 20 minutes, almost scoring a goal, then went to sleep for the remainder of the game. England's 1st goal came from a spectacular pass by the brilliant 19-year-old Jude Bellingham to an unguarded striker right in front of Senegal's goalie, exposing weak defense and tactical mistakes. Senegal never recovered.

Cameroon defeated 5-time World Cup winners Brazil 1-0 and Switzerland won 3-2 over Serbia. If Serbia had beaten the Swiss, Cameroon would have advanced to the final group of 16, as they did in their magical run in the 1994



UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR) INTERNAL / EXTERNAL VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Title of Post	Field Assistant	Category/grade	LICA 4
Post Number	UNOPS	Type of contract	Contractor
Location	Belmopan, Belize	Date of Issue	27 December 2022
Effective date of assignment	16 January 2023	Closing Date	10 January 2023

PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENT:

Responsibility

Under the direct supervision of the Head of National Office at UNHCR Belize the Field Assistant will:

- Assist in administrative tasks as required such as preparation of reports and meeting authorized personnel and assisting them during field missions.
- Act as interpreter in the exchange of routine information, contribute to related liaison activities and respond directly to routine queries.
- Collect data and other information relevant to UNHCR and report to the supervisor accordingly.
- Keep regular contacts with local authorities and implementing partners as requested by supervisor.
- In coordination with implementing partners, assist in the reception, registration and provision of assistance to persons of concern to UNHCR.
- Liaise with local authority counterparts, partners and populations of concern.
- Direct incidents and problems to the supervisor when they cannot be resolved at their level.
- Perform other related duties as required.

Essential Minimum Qualifications and Experience:

- Education: Completion of Secondary Education
- Minimum 1-year relevant experience with High School Diploma; or Bachelor or equivalent or higher
- IT Computer Literacy is an asset
- Fluency in English and working knowledge of Spanish

Submission of Applications:

NOTE: The complete vacancy is available at the following link: <https://bit.ly/3FSSssl>

Closing Date: internal and external applications: **10 January 2023 (Midnight, Geneva Time)**

No late applications will be accepted; only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Shortlisted candidates may be required to oral interview. UNHCR does not charge a fee at any stage of the recruitment process (application, interview, processing or any other fees).

UNHCR strongly encourages qualified female applicants for this position. UNHCR seeks to ensure that male and female employees are given equal career opportunities. UNHCR is committed to achieving workforce diversity in terms of gender, nationality and culture. All applications will be treated with the strictest confidentiality.

Refugees – who cares? We Do

Reflections on the World Cup 2022

Continued from ▶ Page 21

games, led by the unforgettable 42-year-old super striker Roger Milla. Cameroon was Black Africa's star at the '94 World Cup, and many had hope that they would rise again in Qatar. Both African countries had the potential and talents to have gone beyond the qualifiers. In Ghana's game against Portugal, they played passively in the first half with a little counterattack, but this tempo changed as Ghana equalized by tying the score 1-1. As Ghana became more confident, they struck again with a second goal. However, all of Ghana's midfielders and defense just sprinted alongside Portugal's incoming strikers with no attempts to disrupt the play and allowed 2 uncontested goals. At the end of a game they should have won, Ghana fell to Portugal 3-2. One of the major impediments for Black Africa is that many of their top players are recruited by Europe with promises of a big payday, fame, and glory. This saga was on spectacular display when Switzerland's 1st goal against Cameroon was scored by a native player from Cameroon. Striker Breel Embolo refused to celebrate with the Swiss team, as he was clearly torn and conflicted playing against his countrymen and colleagues. Despite these challenges, Africa is poised for preeminence in world soccer, as their quality continues to soar.

Some of the most controversial moments occurred when Brazil went from glory to agony against the former enclave of the now-defunct Yugoslavia, Croatia. Brazil, a favorite to win the World Cup title, failed to put the upstart Croatians to sleep in regulation and tied 1-1, which forced them to play the football penalty lotto. It was a shocking and fatal gamble; they lost 4-2, leaving



(l-r) England's Jude Bellingham, France's Kylian Mbappe, and Brazil's Richarlison De Andrade

fans stunned around the world. Also, highly controversial and questionable was why in heaven's name would Brazil bench its elite striker Richarlison De Andrade in such a crucial game. It remains a mystery.

Argentina vs the Netherlands was equally controversial. Antonio Mateu Lahoz, the referee from Spain, allowed several fake dives and gave free kicks and penalties to the Argentines. The Dutch came from behind and tied the game 2-2, forcing it into overtime. The game was determined by the infamous penalty lotto shootout that Argentina won 4-3. Most lovers of the game prefer to see winners determined in regulation by beating their opponents fair and square on the field. Yet, no other mechanism has evolved in the sport to replace penalty shootouts when no team can win in regulation.

Japan had a great run at the games by defeating two World Cup champions, Germany and Spain. They played Croatia to a tie 1-1, and forced them into overtime and an eventual penalty shootout. It appeared that the highly disciplined Japanese players were demotivated by not winning outright on the field and approached the penalty lotto completely nonchalantly. To this

end, Japan had no convictions in their penalty kicks and was thus eliminated by Croatia. Unfortunately for Korea, they had to contend with facing Brazil in the group stage, and the Brazilian did not disappoint by scoring 4 goals in 30 minutes against the dominated Koreans. The game ended with the Koreans managing a single goal, which resulted in a 4-1 win for Brazil.

Morocco vs. Spain. Nobody expected Morocco to topple Spain in their match. However, the Moroccan's strategy was to erect two walls of defense, combining mid-fielders with a defensive posture against the Spanish squad. It worked, and Spain, despite having several opportunities, could not execute and finish in regulation. The game went into penalties, and Morocco eliminated the 2010 World Cup champion. But Morocco's Cinderella ascendancy at the World Cup was indeed magical. They defeated both Spain and Portugal to claim a spot in the semifinal.

The other game of historical consequence was between France and England. England has some great individual players, such as their 19-year-old striker, Jude Bellingham, but despite being awarded 2 penalties, with one of them highly questionable, their aging forward Harry Kane scored one and completely missed the goal on the other. With this performance, they didn't deserve to be in the finals. There was no outcry and criticism from the British press and fans about Kane's abysmal penalty performance, like the racist attacks the Black players received who had missed penalty kicks in the Euro championship earlier.

Some have argued that the Argentine ascendancy to the final with France was orchestrated by FIFA in an epic farewell to the aging star Lionel Messi who had never won a World Cup title. There are many (real) reasons I am not a fan of Argentina, and to be explicitly clear the only legend I admire from that white supremacy culture is the remade and enlightened revolutionary Ernesto Che Guevara. The French are no different; however, their national team was

represented by the African diaspora, of which I am a member and supporter. In addition, they have one of the most explosive young forward strikers in the world, Kylian Mbappe.

The match between France and Argentina was the most epic I have witnessed in my lifetime. But it was not without controversy. Argentina appeared to dominate in the 1st half, then late in the second half, all hell broke loose in spectacular fashion. Kylian Mbappe

exploded with a sensational goal and assisted in tying the game in a convulsing conclusion at 3-3. With momentum on their side, France ran out of time and could not finish the game in regulation, thus forcing a penalty shootout. It was not how most wanted to see this epic game conclude, but it wasn't to be, and Argentina won by penalty 4-2. Messi won his World Cup, and the future belongs to Kylian Mbappe, who scored the most goals, 12, to be precise, in the World Cup 2022 and was awarded the Golden Boot trophy.

There were many players who dazzled us on the field, but for me, the three who left the most memorable performance are England's Jude Bellingham, Brazil's Richarlison De Andrade, and France's Kylian Mbappe.

In closing, I cannot complete this writing without paying respect to the thousands of slave workers who suffered and died building the infrastructure and elegant stadiums whose names we shall never know. The only reason Qatar was in the World Cup is that they are the host country. They were destroyed by Ecuador, one of the weaker teams in the tournament. Qatar played lazy and kept passing the ball around with zero strategies, as though they were winning the game. They took 4 years to prepare a national team, but stumbled out like the amateurs they are. One of the tragic human stories to hang over the World Cup 2022, is the amount of slave labor deaths in Qatar in preparation for the games. Racing to meet deadlines and building the infrastructure and giant soccer stadiums proved deadly. Most of the workers are imported from Africa and Asia, with passports confiscated, and are forced to work 12 to 14 hours a day under horrific conditions. According to FIFA and human rights organizations, upward of 500 to 6500 workers have perished in building beautiful Qatari stadiums and infrastructure. The sad reality is that these facilities will never be used again in this capacity. Hopefully, their families will be adequately compensated financially. May their souls rest in peace.

Cabinet foils Commissioner's plan to ruin Krismos

Diki and Sedi railed about judges in 2022

Continued from ▶ Page 11

they win all their cases.

You know who's the biggest European advocate? That title goes to Mr. Godfrey Smith. He goes to court to block a payment the government had made to the indigenous stevedores, and next thing we see him chalk in hand at a blackboard explaining to the indigenous MLA why the government should yield wholesale to their views. Bah, in both cases he is doing the bidding of his European boss. His boss sent him against the workers at the port, and in the case of the MLA, his boss sent him to try and salvage his credibility, so he has something to stand on when he goes against the indigenous stevedores. I would introduce some divide and conquer here, but I'll need a full column for that. I've been slammed for bullet points before, so now I'm twice shy.

These daam lawyers, they boast that they can argue two sides of a case. What does it matter if they can argue ten sides of a case, when all we want is equal rights,

and justice, and they are standing in the way of that? You see all these bad contracts that have turned tiger on the government and people of Belize? It was lawyers who were the architects of those things.

Argentina disappoints

I can't see anyone winning a penalty kick shootout and going on as wild in victory as Argentina has since they got over in Qatar. It's a victory to be in the finals, so they have every reason to celebrate, and somebody has to get the trophy, but madaz, a national holiday for winning on penalty kicks? I say no.

As for their portero, hasn't anyone told that guy that he plays football with his hands? Okay, somebody HAS to protect the goal. Of course, the young man deserves his points for his performance in the penalty shootout. And really, I should have a little partiality to him because for most of his professional career he has been with Arsenal in the English Premier League, my foreign favorite. But I can't countenance his rudeness. My, a goalkeeper hibernating words at real football players.

Complacency!

Continued from ▶ Page 10

don't realize, or are too complacent to realize, and accept, is that they are greater, stronger than those few who impose their wills on them! That at some point you have to say enough is enough! It will bend those tyrants, and eventually break them. Of course, it is never easy to dislodge systems that have forgotten you, disrespected and

disregarded you. They have levers in place to keep you grateful, afraid, and unwilling to fight the power! That is complacency, when you give up and just accept what is given you! The MAGA crowd in America are always chanting about taking back your country. If we are complacent enough, they will, and can we live with that?

Glen

Weekend rains impede cane deliveries

Continued from Page 1

Association (BSCFA) on Friday. BSI reps have indicated that the scale of machinery used for milling requires a threshold amount of cane to maintain a steady flow of production, and that the amount of cane that had thus far been delivered was not enough to meet that threshold. Olivia Avilez, Manager of Cane Farmer Relations at BSI, at a press briefing called by the company specified the minimal amount of cane that would have been needed to start the milling operations: 600 tons of cane. She also noted that an assurance of a consistent supply from the farmers is also needed prior to starting what is a large-scale, intensive milling process. Until the quantities of cane being delivered are sufficient and there is a steady, rather than halting, flow of such deliveries, the BSI has thus opted to delay grinding the sugar cane that has so far been delivered but has begun offloading the cane.

Deliveries, which had been scheduled to start at about 10:00 on Tuesday, December 27, reportedly started at about noon that day.

“We haven’t started grinding. We have started to receive the cane and offloading. We haven’t started grinding because, what is important is that when we start, we don’t stop. This is a big machine; of course, it’s an entire system. So, once we start grinding, we want a steady flow. So, we are awaiting information from the SCPC manager, who is confirming the numbers from the cane farmers... We estimate later today, maybe in the late afternoon, that we’re able to start grinding,” said Avilez.

During an interview with CTV3, Avilez said, “We understand that farmers are just taking a little bit longer on the field to load, and there is some already on the way.” She said that, although only one boiler has been active, due to modifications that were made to ensure that the air emissions from the factory are less harmful, the company aims to have the second boiler in operation before the January 2023 deadline.

“We will start with half the usual amount, because of the issue with cane supply, and so we are starting with that, and as we progress and we are sure about cane supply, then we can move forward, and move up the milling rate,” Avilez further explained.

Chairman of the Sugar Industry Control Board (SICB), Marco Osorio, said that they expected to have been notified earlier of the decision to delay milling due to insufficient cane.

“I just forwarded a message to Mr. Chavarria [BSI Director of Finance] asking him why the gates were not open if the time was 10 o’clock, and his response, was ‘there is not enough cane supply and we don’t want to start and stop’. It is understood, but that communication should have come earlier, you know, officially from their end,” Osorio said.

He agreed that given the weather conditions and the farmers’ limited ability to extract cane from their fields at that time, starting the mill at a 50% production rate was a practical decision, but as the harvest season progresses, full production levels will be needed.

“Well, at the end of the day, every day that we are not able to deliver at full capacity, it simply means that it is cane that is being delayed in the field, but also, being honest, we will have a pretty much of a difficult start, little challenging because of weather condition, we say, over the weekend, and field conditions are not optimum as yet – we still have water in the fields,” Osorio said.

According to him, the Sugar Cane Production Committee (SCPC) estimates that 1.34 million tons of cane can be milled this year. BSI has indicated that they expect to mill one million one hundred and fifty thousand tons of cane to produce one hundred and twenty-three thousand tons of sugar.

“The crop is expected to run from today to the end of July,” Osorio said. He said that with the water damage, pest damage, and quantity of stand-over cane, they are concerned about the cane quality.

“The mill issued a first price estimate indicating that starting with a TCTS of 9.39, and I recall at last crop which started with better conditions than we have today, and the TCTS back then was at 10, so we had questioned why 9.39 because of the condition we have today, which are far different from last year, and we definitely foresee that there will be a big challenge in terms of TCTS cane quality,” Osorio said.

Undelivered sugar cane that had remained in the fields since last year (or standover cane) will be a significant part of deliveries for this year. In an interview earlier this month, Minister of Agriculture, Jose Mai noted that around 125 tons of cane were left in the field last year.

Avilez said that ensuring that the maximum amount of sugar is extracted from the sugar cane is important. This will require that the milling target be met every day.

“The SCPC has made an estimate of around 1.3 million tonnes and a little bit more. Our perspective on that is, again, every year, we have an inflated production estimate. And again, this year, we think that there has been a lot of impacts from flooding and stand-over cane which will not yield production estimate. And we’ve also had some impacts from frog hoppers, which are one of the key pests in the industry. So, with all of that, our estimate is around 1.15 million tonnes of cane. When we lose, it’s not just days. We lose the amount of cane... What is worse, when you don’t have your crop in the cycle is that you’re losing sugar, and you’re also impacting the following crop. For example, right now, the cane is already impacted. You have the stand-over cane that we didn’t mill last year because we had a really late start again.... So, you have that cane that’s already impacted, that’s going to start to come into the factory. You have less sugar from the year before, and you’re also having those fields being able to ratoon... So, you don’t have that production. You don’t have the sugar content that should have come in, and you also don’t have the optimal time of that cane, because the maturity of that is long gone. So, when you’re calculating, or when you’re looking at the impact of not starting a crop season in time, you have to look at all of those factors,” she said.

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- Conduct quality assurance of the digital platforms and assess customer's digital experience.

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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 30, 2022 to Thursday, January 5, 2023

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. Theresa Maughan honored with Horace Mann Award for Teaching Excellence
- 2:02 p.m. Movie: The Jackie Robinson Story
- 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: Theresa Maughan honored with Horace Mann Award for Teaching Excellence
- 9:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**

SATURDAY

- 9:00 a.m. Movie: Second Sight
- 10:22 a.m. Documentary: Birds Isle
- 11:05 a.m. Belizean Legend: Talita Long
- 11:49 a.m. Ted Talks: Black History Matters - Don John
- 12:07 p.m. Movie: The Tiffany Rubin Story
- 1:34 p.m. Documentary: Stake Bank
- 2:09 p.m. Belizean Legend: Patrick Rogers
- 2:51 p.m. Movie: Separados mas iguais - Separate But Equal
- 6:03 p.m. Documentary: Belize SocioPolitical challenge: Farrakhan addressed inmates at Belize Central Prison
- 7:01 p.m. Belizean Legend: Jennifer Betson
- 7:48 p.m. Music Videos

SUNDAY

- 9:00 a.m. KREM NEW YEARS CYCLING CLASSIC 2023**
- 1:00 p.m. Movie: Foreign exchange Jamaican movie
- 2:32 p.m. **Documentary: Dr. Ivan Van Sertima African**
- 3:34 p.m. Movie: Gary Wills
- 4:38 p.m. Documentary: Americas Great Divide
- 6:33 p.m. Movie: All Gods Children
- 8:03 p.m. Documentary: Black Hairstyles in the 50s Until Today
- 8:07 p.m. Movie: License To Kill (1984)
- 8:00 p.m. Documentary: Belizeanizing History Decolonizing an Independent Belize
- 9:43 p.m. Music Videos

MONDAY

- 9:00 a.m. Documentary: Biography Lewis Latimer
- 9:04 a.m. Movie: Harriet Tubman
- 10:40 a.m. Documentary: Ida B Wells - Her Great Passion for Justice
- 11:34 a.m. Movie: Separados mas iguais - Separate but Equal
- 2:47 p.m. Documentary: 1804 - The Hidden History of Haiti
- 5:23 p.m. Movie: The Rosa Parks Story
- 6:52 p.m. Documentary: Homicide - Life on the Street
- 8:20 p.m. Movie: The Jackie Robinson Story
- 9:30 p.m. Music Videos

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. Documentary: Stake Bank Relationship Discussion
- 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: Another America - The First American Muslims
- 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. Documentary: Ma Jemison - First Female African- American Astronaut
- 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: Mark Usher
- 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: Riverbend
- 3:30 p.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (repeat)**
- 6:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (LIVE)**
- 7:00 p.m. Documentary: Stake Bank - Michael Gee Reid Discussion
- 8:00 p.m. Navel String Connections
- 9:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**



NEW PUZZLE

Daily Printable Puzzle - 12-28-2022

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
14							15			16				
17							18							
19						20	21			22				
23			24		25			26				27	28	
			29	30			31					32		
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38				39		40			41			42		
43					44				45		46			
47				48				49						
50		51	52				53				54	55	56	57
			58				59					60		
61	62					63			64	65	66	67		
68									69					
70					71				72					

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Across

- 1. Llamas' kin
- 8. Assembly of parts
- 11. Be contrite
- 14. Engine fluid
- 15. Candy centers
- 17. Armed group
- 18. Infuriates
- 19. Historic time
- 20. Promise
- 22. Brief farewell
- 23. Belgrade man
- 25. Census form question
- 26. Talked back
- 29. Bumbler's word
- 31. Dinner roll
- 32. Answerer's choice
- 33. Asian Monarch
- 36. Cramp
- 37. Even the slightest
- 38. Arctic surface
- 39. Long time imprisonment
- 42. Writer Grafton
- 43. Band's job
- 44. Formal address
- 45. Mischievous kid
- 47. That man
- 48. Fido's greeting
- 49. Old World duck
- 50. Garden scoop
- 53. Crime cartel
- 54. Creative inspiration
- 58. Thus, to Burns
- 59. Anthropology focus
- 60. Autumn abbr.
- 61. Fireplace noise
- 64. Christ's follower
- 68. Inhabitant of an African nation
- 69. More gauche
- 70. Dundee refusal
- 71. Addressee
- 72. Bohemian to an extreme

Down

- 1. Top points
- 2. French coal area
- 3. Antithetical
- 4. Aladdin prince
- 5. Alley prowler
- 6. Cuckoo
- 7. Keg parts
- 8. Had down pat
- 9. Atom fragment
- 10. Wound headdress
- 11. Maddens
- 12. Comanche kin
- 13. Ar chaser
- 16. Riants
- 21. Beast of burden
- 24. Animal squeezer
- 25. Marriage related
- 26. Give in
- 27. Boredom
- 28. Senior leader
- 30. Anomalous
- 31. Coal receptacle
- 33. Possibly will
- 34. Frostier
- 35. Beer barrel
- 36. Asphalt
- 37. Symbol tree
- 40. 18-wheeler
- 41. Bard's before
- 46. Mountain basin
- 48. News magazine, perhaps
- 49. Brahms piece
- 51. Indian or orange
- 52. City of Baylor University
- 53. A Kettle
- 55. Free, in a way
- 56. Boot bottoms
- 57. Chris of tennis
- 59. Cafe card
- 61. Certainly may
- 62. Carrier of genetic info
- 63. Certain Asian
- 65. Augusta stat.
- 66. 10th mo.
- 67. Do slaloms

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 - 12-21-2022 - Answers

C	O	W		S	T	U	N	S		E	B	B	S				
E	V	A		H	A	R	E	M		S	E	E	P	S			
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Will new CFB president Alicia Thompson ride in Krem Classic 2023?

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Dec. 28, 2022

With the days winding down to the Krem New Year's Day Cycling Classic 2023, speculation among cycling fans and enthusiasts surrounds the question whether the newly elected first-time female president of the Cycling Federation of Belize (CFB) and 6-time Krem Classic Female Champion, Alicia Thompson will be riding this time. Alicia is the woman with the most Krem Classic championships to date, followed by Shalini Zabaneh with 5 wins. Shalini retired a few years ago, and is now goalkeeper for NAWL football champions Sagitun Girlz. Alicia confirmed this morning with *Amandala Sports* desk that she will NOT be riding in the upcoming Krem Classic.

One does not have to play a particular sport to become a good administrator in it, but it does add some flavour and insight to the leadership when they can also boast of experience at the highest levels of competition, and the current CFB executive can certainly boast of such. In fact, Ms. Alicia Thompson, the new CFB president, won six Krem Classic championships, including four consecutive, over a period from 2006 to 2020 (2006, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2020), including the current record of 2:43:30 in 2018, a feat not likely to be surpassed any time soon, and she is also the first female president of any major sports federation in Belize. She is also a two-time Women Cross Country champion in 2015 and 2017.

Alicia will not be on the bike to start the new year, but as CFB president she will surely be "riding" with all the cyclists, young women and men, vying for the Krem Classic championship on New Year's Day 2023.



Female champion Alicia Thompson (center) with father Oliver "OT" Thompson (left), mother Martha Lino (right) and son Jaydon Miller (in front)
In the *Amandala* file picture above, Alicia returned after a 9-year drought to capture the 2015 Krem New Year's Day Female Classic championship.

Pedal by Pedal of Chief's Single Cien BAXING DAY Classic of 2022

by Chief – *Santino Castillo*

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Dec. 28, 2022

Despite cold and rain some, 30 Elites and 5 Juniors registered for their version of this race now in its 2nd year. Meanwhile, that number was doubled to 70 riders in the WW/GONS Category. There were 20 station prizes of \$50 and \$100 in this 62-mile race, which works out to about one every 5 miles.

The Elites took off at 8:15 while the WW/GONS Riders took off 10 minutes later.

In the Elite Category a break was quickly formed of 8 riders including 3 of the VALVOLINE/501 Squad in Oscar Quiroz, Joshua Fuller and Brandon Cattouse, while WESTRAC was represented by Wasani Castro and Eric Trapp. FAL had Derick Chavarria and newcomer Dylan Levy. Meanwhile, Henry Lee was the sole representative of the G-Flow team but rode a monster race. At the tape it was Joshua Fuller taking the big W, followed by Wasani Castro, Henry Lee, Oscar Quiroz and Eric Trapp who rounded out the top 5.

Meanwhile in the Weekend Warrior/Gons Category, 6 riders made good their escape in the first 5 miles. However, by the midway point 8 more riders connected to this front group making it a strong 14-man breakaway. Team Santino's had 3 riders in this front group including Mexican Gabriel Cardozo, who had recently won the GONS Hills Race on November 20th. He was accompanied by teammates Mexican



Elite winners, (l to r) Oscar Quiroz, Wasani Castro, Joshua Fuller, Henry Lee and Eric Trapp

David Balam and Belizean Daniel Cano. Team SPD had Smoke Gladden and Philip Leslie; Running Rebels had Athlee Lozano and Claude Young; while the remaining riders were single representatives of other teams including George Abraham Jr. of Imani's, Heno Moreira of VALVOLINE/501, Joey McKoy of Shattaz, and Ryne Bradley of Wateva Boyz, among others. Right after they sprinted for the \$100 at Prison on the return, the attacks commenced with a little more than 20 miles still remaining in the race. As they exited the Boom Road unto the Northern Highway, the attacks by the Mexicans were relentless, with Cardozo sweeping up most of the station prizes. As they jumped the Haulover Bridge fatigue started to show on many riders, and as they approached the station prize at Design Depot, Heno Moreira attacked and only the Mexican Gabriel Cardozo caught the move. Cardozo swept the final 3 station prizes. As the remaining riders caught these 2

front runners there was less than a mile left to the finish line at San Cas Plaza. Right after the Buca Shell Gas Station, the Mexican David Balam, who was doing the yeoman's share of the pacing, got a flat and that was it for him. As they went around the last roundabout with some 700 meters to the line, the other Mexican Gabriel Cardozo, 45 years of age, caught everyone by surprise with a massive attack, which he was able to hold to the line, giving him his 2nd victory in a row here in Belize.

Below are the placings in the different categories:

CAT-A - 1st Gabriel Cardozo/Santino's; 2nd Dejuan Hyde/Shattaz; 3rd Kenroy Gladden/SPD; 4th George Abraham Jr/Imani's; 5th Henry Moriera/VALVOLINE 501; 6th Athlee Lozano/Running Rebels; 7th Joey McKoy/Shattaz; 8th Ryne Bradley/Wateva Boyz; 9th Philip Leslie/SPD; 10th Claude Young/Running Rebels.



CAT-A, (l to r) George Abraham, Jr.; Dejuan Hyde; Gabriel Cardozo; Smoke Gladden and Heno Moreira

CAT-B - 1st Isaiah Willacey/Santino's; 2nd Mark Tasher/PMA; 3rd Darwin "Underdog" Lodge; 4th Gilberto Acosta/580; 5th Roydel Reneau/Unattached; 6th Kenneth Butler/Team Butler; 7th Paulita Chavarria/Gons; 8th Bumma/PMA; 9th Irfaan Nu'man/Digicell; 10th Hezekiah Shield/PMA.



CAT-B, (l to r) Beto Acosta; Mark Tasher; Isaiah Willacey; Underdog; and Butty

CAT-C - 1st Peter Jones/Fun & Fitness; 2nd Amir Gonzalez/Unattached; 3rd Kadisha Francis/Team Cor.

Female - 1st Kaya Cattouse/Team LA SWEAT; 2nd Paulita Chavarria/Gons; 3rd Kadisha Francis/Team Core.

First Over 50 - Barney Brown/Digicell.

First Over 60 - Isaiah Willacey/Team Santino's.

Thus ended Chief's Single Cien (Cien being 100 Kilometers) BAXING Day Classic 2022.



World reacts to death of Brazilian soccer king Pele

apnews.com, Thurs. Dec. 29, 2022

Reactions poured in from around the world to the death of Brazilian soccer legend Pele. He died of cancer in Brazil at age 82. His grace, athleticism and mesmerizing moves transfixed players and fans.

“A simple goodbye to the eternal King Pelé will never be enough to express the pain that hits the entire world of football at this moment. An inspiration for so many millions, a reference of yesterday, today, always.

The affection he has always shown for me was reciprocal in every moment we shared, even at distance. He will never be forgotten and his memory will last for ever in each and every one of us football lovers. Rest in peace, King Pelé.” — Cristiano Ronaldo, Portuguese soccer star.

“Your place is on God’s side. My eternal king. Rest in peace.” — 1970 World Cup winner Roberto Rivellino and teammate of Pele on the Brazilian national team.

‘Pele is eternal’: Neymar leads tributes to Brazil legend

Yahoo.com

AFP, Thurs. Dec. 29, 2022

Neymar led the tributes to Pele after the Brazil legend’s death on Thursday as the Paris Saint Germain star said his iconic compatriot had “transformed football into an art”.

Pele passed away aged 82 after suffering “multiple organ failure” following a long battle with cancer and the football world was quick to salute arguably the sport’s greatest ever player.

Nicknamed “O Rei” (The King), Pele scored more than 1,000 goals before retiring in 1977.

Brazil forward Neymar hailed Pele, a three-time World Cup winner, in a social media post alongside two pictures of himself with the legend.

“Before Pele, ‘10’ was just a number,” the heir to Pele’s famed shirt number wrote on Instagram.



“But that beautiful sentence is incomplete. I would say that before Pele, football was just a sport.

“He transformed football into an art, into entertainment... Football and Brazil gained status thanks to the King. He has gone, but his magic will remain. Pele is ETERNAL!”

Like Pele, France striker Kylian Mbappe shot to stardom after winning the World Cup at a young age.

Mbappe helped France lift the World Cup in 2018 and also scored a hat-trick in Les Bleus’ dramatic penalty shoot-out defeat against Argentina in the tournament’s 2022 final earlier this month.

“The king of football has left us but his legacy will never be forgotten. RIP KING,” PSG forward Mbappe tweeted.

Former England World Cup winner Geoff Hurst hailed Pele as the “greatest of all time”.

Hurst played against Pele in the 1970 World Cup, with Brazil winning a group stage match between the two countries 1-0, and rated the forward as the best he ever faced.

“I have so many memories of Pele, without doubt the best footballer I ever played against (with Bobby Moore being the best footballer I ever played alongside),” Hurst tweeted.

“For me Pele remains the greatest of all time and I was proud to be on the pitch with him. RIP Pele and thank you.”

Hurst’s record as the only man to score a World Cup final hat-trick — in England’s 4-2 victory against West Germany in 1966 — was equalled by Mbappe in Qatar.



A man walks his dog walk past a mural showing Brazilian soccer legend Pele and Argentina late soccer star Diego Armando Maradona in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Thursday, Dec. 29, 2022. Pele, who won a record three World Cups has died at the age of 82. (AP Photo/Natacha Pisarenko)

“Before Pelé, ‘102’ was just a number. I read that somewhere at some point in my life. But that line, beautiful, is incomplete. I would say that before Pelé football was just a sport. Pelé changed everything. He transformed football into art, entertainment. He gave voice to the poor, to the Black and above all he gave Brazil visibility. Football and Brazil elevated their standing thanks to the King! He is gone, but his magic will endure. Pelé is eternal!” — Brazilian soccer star Neymar.

“With the death of Pelé, soccer has lost one of its greatest legends, if not the greatest. Like all legends, the King seemed immortal. He made people dream and continued to do that with generations and generations of lovers of our sport. Who, as a child, didn’t dream of being Pelé? ... The King will remain the King, forever.” — Didier

Deschamps, former player and manager of the French national team.

“It will be very difficult to find another Pelé. Pelé had everything a player should have. Agile, jumped like no one, could kick with both legs, physically very strong and brave. There was no one like Pelé.” — Cesar Luis Menotti, Argentine coach and Pele teammate in the Santos football club in Brazil.

“Farewell to the King. The master of the beautiful game.” — Chelsea Football Club.

“Manchester City are saddened to learn of the passing of Brazil legend Pelé, one of the all-time greats who did so much for the beautiful game. May he rest in peace.” — Manchester City Football Club.

“Thank you for the joy you brought to football fans around the world.” — Manchester United Football Club.

Pedal by Pedal of Chief’s...

Continued from Page 25

After the race, prize presentations took place at San Cas Plaza including Belikin Beer donated by one of my sponsors, BELIKIN. Indeed, let me thank my main sponsors: Design Depot, Minister Anthony Mahler and the BTB, Mayor Bernard Wagner and the Belize City Council, Belikin, and of course, San Cas. Thanks also to Aisha and the San Cas Team, who did great work for the presentations, as well as the participants, service personnel, traffic officers, officials, live broadcasters Ordonez and Israel Gonzalez, photographer William Ysaguirre, and family members who supported this event despite the cold and rain.

See you May 20th and 21st 2023 for the International Masters Tour-de-Santino for riders 40 & Over including many foreigners. Hasta la Vista...

Gunshot kills man, 61; 77-year-old wounded

Continued from Page 1

year-old Emert Flowers, in whose yard the men had been sitting, sustained more severe wounds that caused his death, and many believe Flowers, who was a tour guide who had previously lived in the United States, was killed to send a message to his son.

According to initial reports, at around 10:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Flowers and Waight were sitting together in the gated yard when an unknown gunman forced his way onto Flowers’ property and unleashed several shots in their direction. Flowers died on the spot, while Waight, although wounded, fled.

The two men were later transported to the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital, where Waight was admitted in stable condition. Flowers, however, was pronounced dead on arrival.

It is being reported that Flowers, who owned a van that he used to take cruise ship visitors on tours, was killed by persons who wanted to send a message to his son, who is said to be a gang affiliate.

That son, Kyle Latchman, has, according to some sources, been missing for a few days. Flowers’ sister, Ana Flowers, who is currently on a visit to Belize from the US, told reporters, “My nephew is missing for the last three to four days, and I understand that he’s supposed to have gotten kidnapped, and whoever got him hold, I would ask for them to let him go, or... I don’t know. But they got him hostage and they turned around and killed my brother that don’t have anything to do with what my nephew do in Belize.”

Flowers, who was a father of 5, resided alone at his residence.

Waterloo appeals...

Continued from Page 2

persons to sit on the tribunal will be a person appointed by the Minister with academic training in an environmental field, and the Senator representing the Private Sector, in this case, Senator Kevin Herrera. (Notably, the Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry, had stated, following the NEAC decision, that its representative, despite not being present to receive a full briefing on the technical aspects of the project and the environmental risks of the project, would nonetheless have voted to support the Waterloo project).

The tribunal is empowered under the related legislation to make rules and regulations to govern the procedure for hearing the appeals. Section 27B (3) states that the “decision of the tribunal shall be by a majority.”

As previously noted, two of the three persons voting in favor of the project at the tribunal level can override the decision of the 16-member NEAC. It must be noted that the Sustainable Development Minister will not be a member of the tribunal, and any final decision will not rest with him, as was the case in a previous version of this legislation.

At this point, in a process that has veered so abruptly away from the previous procedures that involved public consultation and scientific review, the tribunal alone has the power to confirm, vary, amend or alter the decision made by the DOE. According to subsection 5 of the legislation, they have the power to reverse the previous decision by the DOE for “any decision which is just and equitable and which is in the interest of the protection and management of the environment.” It is not known how extensive the evidence/data (if any) presented by the tribunal to justify any claims that a “just and equitable” decision was made in the “interest of the protection... of the environment” will be

and how that reasoning will align with all data and scientific arguments presented by the DOE to explain why it could not approve the project of Waterloo.

After outlining its decision in writing, the tribunal may refer the matter back to the DOE for the preparation of an environmental compliance plan or to fulfill any other requirement.

An online advocacy group named Belize Marine Life made a poignant observation in a post which stated, “To Clarify: 2 of the 3 members are all that are needed **to change the outcome of a national decision to reject this project.** This seems like an **easy obstacle** for Ashcroft to **purchase a win. Who will be the three appointed tribunal members?**”

They also question whether the tribunal deliberation will be held publicly or en camera, and suggested that a unanimous decision by the tribunal, rather than a majority decision, be required to overrule any previous decision that was made.

“At the very least, this SI needs to be changed to require all 3 members to agree, a unanimous decision of 3 people to overturn the NEAC ruling of the 16-member panel (based on 2020 revision of EIA Regulations.),” the post on Facebook noted. They also pointed out that the appeal process is not very well-defined, with no timeline to ensure the completion of deliberations by the tribunal. It could be argued that those specifics are handled by the appointed tribunal’s chairperson and members.

“The DOE appears to legally be able to shelve this tribunal for decades if they chose to end this litigation-based strategy by Ashcroft to try and force Belize to swallow his dredge spoils and his project,” the group’s post suggested—meaning that the current administration could possibly put a pause on this derailment of the NEAC and DOE’s decision, if it so chooses.

All members of the tribunal must be present at the hearings of the appeal in order to establish a quorum.

Nuestra economía en vísperas de 2023

Continúa de página 8

Después del acuerdo del Bono Azul, el Secretario de Finanzas, el Sr. Joe Waight, había advertido que el acuerdo no conduciría a “ningún flujo de efectivo adicional para el gobierno y el país en el corto plazo”, y que permanecíamos en “el precipicio de peligro financiero.” En vísperas de 2023, la relación deuda/PIB ha mejorado considerablemente, pero nuestro país todavía está en las garras de la pobreza.

En vísperas de 2023, estamos a horas de un aumento prometido del salario mínimo a \$5 por hora. La inflación ha erosionado el poder adquisitivo del dólar beliceño, en algunas áreas hasta en un 30%, por lo que el pequeño extra en el cheque de pago de los beliceños peor pagados es oportuno.

En vísperas de 2023, el costo del combustible es más alto que en vísperas de 2022, y los beliceños están forzando sus bolsillos para pagar las facturas en las bombas de combustible. Los beliceños piden a gritos alivio, y ha habido una caída en el costo del combustible a fines de diciembre, pero el Gobierno de Belize ha indicado que los precios del combustible no volverán a los niveles previos a la pandemia hasta que un nuevo acuerdo de Petro Caribe con Venezuela este rodando hacia nosotros de nuevo.

Los beliceños ven el precio del combustible en los EE. UU. en las noticias de la televisión estadounidense, pero realmente no podemos compararnos con ellos. La Administración de Información de Energía de EE. UU. (EIA, por sus siglas en inglés) dice que “los impuestos federales incluyen impuestos especiales de 18,3 centavos por galón de gasolina y 24,3 centavos por galón de combustible diésel, y una tarifa por

fugas en el tanque de almacenamiento subterráneo de 0,1 centavos por galón en ambos combustibles”. Si bien los estados de EE. UU. aplican impuestos adicionales sobre el combustible, al final del día, los impuestos sobre el combustible en los EE. UU. no se acercan a lo que los beliceños tenemos que pagar. La verdad es que nuestro Gobierno depende mucho de los impuestos a los combustibles para el funcionamiento del país.

En julio de este año, la Oficina de Prensa del Gobierno de Belize dijo que el costo de adquisición del combustible había subido un 300% desde noviembre de 2020. En ese mismo comunicado, el Gobierno dijo que “en noviembre de 2020 y de manera continua durante los años anteriores, el impuesto especial sobre el diésel y la gasolina regular era \$2.97 y \$3.29 por galón, respectivamente” y que para aliviar el dolor del combustible, los impuestos sobre el diésel y la gasolina regular “se habían reducido prácticamente en un 100 % y un 77 %, respectivamente, hasta menos de un centavo y 75 centavos por galón”.

En vísperas de 2023, seguimos siendo en gran medida un país del “tercer mundo”, desde la esclavitud hasta el colonialismo y al neocolonialismo. Hay tanta necesidad en nuestra tierra. Pero, en el balance, nuestro país está mejor que en vísperas de 2022. Estamos agradecidos por la mejora. ¡Feliz año nuevo a todos los beliceños, desde el Hondo hasta el Sarstún, desde Benque Viejo del Carmen hasta Halfmoon, y aquellos que viven en países en el extranjero!

Pitter Street man shot...

Continued from Page 3

Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital. Hinds and another man had been charged for that heinous shooting which took the 5-year-old girl’s life and wounded her mother, whose injuries were classified as grievous harm.

While many believe that the murder of Hinds on Tuesday was an act of retaliation for his suspected role in the murder of the child, the communications director for the Belize Police Department, ASP Fitzroy Yearwood, told local reporters that the police must carry out an investigation before concluding that the two incidents are linked.

“One, we haven’t established the true motive as yet. So, we wouldn’t want to say at this early in the investigation what we believe. What we will do and we have done already is put measures into place to stop any retaliation from his group. As I said at this point, at this time we do not know the true identity of the assailant but we have everything in place to prevent any form of retaliation,” he said.

ASP Yearwood said that several persons have been detained for questioning in connection with Hinds’ murder.

A Shame and a Damn Shame

Continued from Page 19

beginning of his slipping down the slimy ladder of infamy. Even if he never is indicted or convicted of his many crimes, his name will be synonymous with shame, and that is well-deserved.

We can be sure that he will be wailing and moaning about “witch hunts” and “lynch mobs,” which will only energize his dwindling base, some of whom will follow him to the bitter end. And while we will probably never see him in an orange jumpsuit, we will see him diminished to the point of being a living synonym for words like “traitor”, “buffoon” and “failure”.

What is a damn shame is something far worse than Trump. What is a damn shame is the thousands upon thousands of Republicans who are following what they believe is the successful Trump playbook, employing bombast and insult and total disregard for the Constitution, equal rights and the rule of law. One can make the argument that Trump is a morally diminished individual who cannot help but dive into the deep abyss of hate and immorality. But the likes of Ron DeSantis and Josh Hawley and Mike Pompeo would never drink the

authoritarian and undemocratic Kool-Aid that they will gladly serve to the American public in a quest for power.

It is a damn shame that the Republicans in the House of Representatives who cowered in fear in the Capitol while the hordes unleashed by Trump warmed the building still support Trump and his message. They refuse to even censure him, much less demand that justice be meted out to the armed insurrectionist and quasi-fascist hordes that worship Trump to this very day.

It is a damn shame that the Republican Party will, in the wake of the Trump Tsunami, support Trump wannabe’s like Dr. Oz and Trump sock puppets like Herschel Walker, all in the name of “Making America Great Again,” when in reality they really want a return to a mythical America where Christian white male supremacy was the American Way of Life.

And finally, it is a damn shame that this may be the new normal when the opportunity for progress and true equity could be so close to being real.

And that is why the aftermath of 1.6.21 is both a shame and a damn shame.

<https://thewallaceford.com/2022/12/19/a-shame-and-a-damn-shame/>

10 Haitian tourists...

Continued from Page 4

police station, and the 10 detained tourists were eventually taken back to the PGIA, where the proper process of interviewing them and reviewing their documents was carried out, after which they were allowed to enter the country, without any charges.

It is to be noted that because a significant number of Haitian nationals have been traveling to Latin America as visitors in an attempt to enter the United States from these countries in the region (particularly Mexico), the Ministry of Immigration has put into place stringent policies regarding the entry of persons who arrive on flights coming out of Haiti. As part of that more hardline approach being taken by the country, chartered flights have not been allowed to land in the country for some weeks.

Saldivar has emphasized the fact that if persons come into the country legally, they should be protected under our Constitution, as is mandated.

“As far as I am aware, there is no law that prohibits any CARICOM national from visiting Belize, Haiti is a member of CARICOM, and certainly the Haitians ought to be afforded every right as any other CARICOM citizen to land in Belize once they show that they fulfill the requirements,” Saldivar said.



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!

