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Belize welcomes Taiwanese President, Dr. Tsai Ing-wen

Belize, Taiwan solidify diplomatic ties

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Apr. 3, 2023

Having lost one more diplomatic ally with Honduras' People's Republic of China switch last month, the Republic of China (Taiwan)'s first female president, Dr. Tsai Ing-wen, embarked on a second Central America visit in less than five years. The objective of the trip is to solidify ties with Guatemala and Belize, its only two remaining supporters in the seven-country sub-region.

After a three-day stopover in Guatemala, Dr. Tsai and her delegation touched down at the Philip S.W. Goldson International Airport (PGIA) at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 2, in a China Airlines Airbus A350-

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Taiwanese President, Dr. Tsai Ing-wen and Governor General H.E. Dame Froyla Tzalam

Taiwan President honored with special joint sitting of Parliament

President Tsai: "Belize has helped give voice to the 23 million people of Taiwan"

BELMOPAN, Mon. Apr. 3, 2023

For a second time since assuming office in 2016, President of the Republic of China (Taiwan), H.E. Dr. Tsai Ing-wen graced the National Assembly in Belmopan for a joint sitting of Parliament on Monday, April 3. Prime Minister John Briceño gave President Tsai a warm welcome, asserting "our House is

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Robbery turned murder in Gracie Rock



Denver Montero, deceased

by Charles Gladden

GRACIE ROCK, Belize District, Mon. Apr. 3, 2023

A group of twelve persons, several of whom are minors, were captured by police after they allegedly were involved

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Bermudian Caitlan Conyers wins 32nd Women Cross Country



Caitlan Conyers

BELIZE CITY, Sat. April 1, 2023

Bermudian elite and world ranked cyclist Caitlan Conyers won the 32nd Puma Women Cross Country Cycling Classic in a time of 3 hours, 49 minutes and 24 seconds despite being knocked out of the race for several minutes while her Belizean service team

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Sinach to perform at Belize's Holy Week Revival Concert



(l-r) Sinach, singer, songwriter and worship leader and His Worship Bernard Wagner, Belize City Mayor

by Kristen Ku

BELIZE CITY, Tues. Apr. 4, 2023

Award-winning worship leader and singer, Sinach is scheduled to perform at the Belize City Council- sponsored "Holy Week Revival Concert" on Wednesday, April 5, at Digi Park on Newtown Barracks.

The international singer made

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Passports cost 400% more in 2023

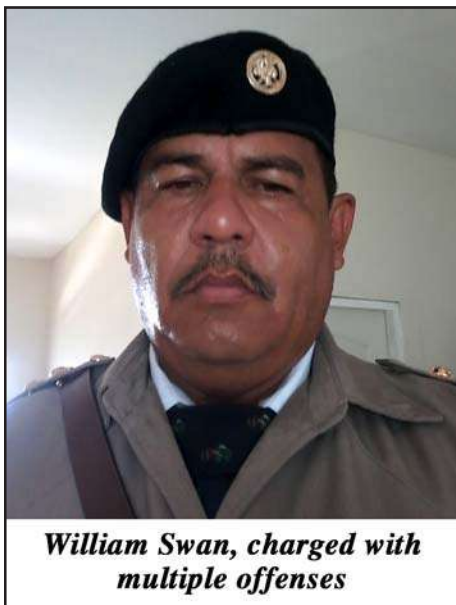
See story on page 2

Two men killed in separate RTAs



Adrian Usher, deceased

by Charles Gladden



William Swan, charged with multiple offenses

his pickup truck en route from Esperanza Village to Central Farm when a loud banging noise was heard and he noticed that the front portion of his pickup truck had hit a motorcycle that Usher had been riding.

Usher was flung off his motorcycle and landed on the pavement. He was severely injured in the head and body and died on the spot.

Garcia was detained by police and served a NIP (Notice for Intended Prosecution).

On Tuesday, April 4, Swan was arraigned at the San Ignacio Magistrate Court and was slapped with multiple charges – manslaughter by negligence, causing death by careless conduct, drove motor vehicle without due care and attention, failed to give way to another motor vehicle.

He was granted bail in the sum of \$6,000 plus two sureties. In addition to him on bail, Swan must surrender all his travel documents to the court and is required to appear for his court hearing until the case is concluded.

CAYO DISTRICT, Mon. Apr. 3, 2023

Over the weekend, two men lost their lives in separate road traffic accidents. The first occurred in the Good Living Ranch area of Camalote Village, and the other took place in the vicinity of Camp Belizario on Central Farm.

The first traffic fatality took place on Friday, March 30, at around 10:00 p.m., when Horace Poper, 31, of Silk Grass Village, Stann Creek District was struck by a car being driven by taxi driver Guillermo Garcia, 51, near Mile 51 and a half on the George Price Highway. An initial report is that Garcia was driving his vehicle in that vicinity but visibility was poor, and as a result his vehicle hit Poper, who sustained serious injuries that caused his death.

The second fatal accident occurred on Saturday, April 1, at around 7:30 p.m., and claimed the life of Adrian Usher, 27, of Georgeville.

According to reports, William Swan, 56, of Santa Elena Town was driving

Haylock wins, Shane loses

BELIZE CITY, Sun. Apr. 2, 2023

The United Democratic Party Queen’s Square constituency chairman, attorney Godwin Haylock, was today elected its standard bearer, polling 764 votes over competitor Shane Williams’ 119, in a contested convention.

The constituency, the nation’s third smallest, saw 870 of its 2,760 registered voters, or just over 31%, turn out for the partisan political contest. Haylock was immediately sworn in by UDP chairman Michael Peyrefitte on the grounds of the St. John’s Primary School after the voting had ended at 4:00 p.m. and the counting was completed.

Haylock not only becomes the first UDP Queen’s Square candidate not named “Barrow” since the division was created in 1984, but the first to win the party’s only contested Queen’s Square constituency convention in its history.

Former UDPL leader and prime minister, the Rt. Hon. Dean Barrow, served eight terms as its area representative before his sister and long-time constituency chairman, Hon. Denise “Sista B” Barrow, was chosen as its candidate and won in the November 2020 general elections.

She received 1,351 of the 2,431 votes cast at that time, and late last year it was reported that she did not intend to seek re-election.

Some observers and constituents were startled when she was seen visiting voters in support of Haylock’s campaign over the last few weeks, since she had hardly visibly participated in any party activities over the past 2 years, despite having been named to its shadow cabinet in December 2020.

While her prolonged absences from meetings of the House of Representatives since March 2021 have been called out as recently as a week ago by Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño, she has been consistently defended by her nephew, UDP leader Hon. Moses “Shyne” Barrow.

Any demitting by her or dismissal from the seat would pose a serious obstacle to Hon. “Shyne” retaining the constitutional post of Leader of the Opposition in the House. On Saturday he scored a veritable coup when the UDP’s National Party Council voted 102-16 to retain him and other executive officers in their posts unchallenged through to the 2025 general elections.



Godwin Haylock

He later said in media interviews that the party will now turn its attention to the selection of candidates and slates for the March 2024 municipal elections. In a telephone interview, the acting UDP general secretary Armead Gabourel said that the next contested standard bearer nomination convention would be held for the Corozal South West constituency on April 23rd.

It has not been officially verified, but it seems that 3 of the 5 serving UDP area representatives will be returning as candidates for re-election, while a fourth, their longest serving area representative and former party leader, Hon. Patrick Faber, continues to be at odds with the UDP leader. He was officially replaced as a candidate by the constituency’s chairman, Ian Jones, who may, or not, have resigned or relinquished the candidacy over the past 2 weeks.

Former area representatives in several divisions have reportedly been endorsed as candidates, while John Saldivar, the powerful chairman of the Caucus for Change, won re-election as the standard bearer for the Belmopan constituency 3 weeks ago. He and 3 other members of the caucus of former UDP area representatives were very much in evidence today supporting Haylock.

The Shane Williams campaign acknowledged and accepted the decisive defeat, noting that, while it spent between \$18k and 20K on its entire months-long campaign, inclusive of a large free live music concert, they estimated their opponent spent more than \$35,000 on voting day last Sunday alone.

Passports cost 400% more in 2023

by Kory Leslie (Freelance Writer)

BELIZE CITY, Tues. Apr. 4, 2023

Recent information leaked from the Immigration Office has caused major concern among the middle and lower classes. An S.I. signed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Immigration, Hon. Eamon Courtenay, began to circulate on various social media platforms on Monday, indicating a staggering increase in the cost of acquiring a Belizean passport.

According to the document, the new price for procuring a ten-year passport for anyone below the age of sixteen is now \$150.00 while the cost for those sixteen and older has been hiked to \$200.00. This represents a 500% increase when compared to the previous \$30.00 cost of the former, and a 400% increase when compared to the former \$50.00 cost of the latter.

Additionally, the price to acquire a temporary border pass has likewise been bumped up to \$100.00, while the price to receive a passport for a medical emergency will cost an additional \$100.00 added to the new fees, meaning

"SCHEDULE II Fees for Passport Services [regulation 9]	
Column 1 Passport Services	Column 2 Fee
1. Application for an Ordinary Passport (48 pages)- to a person 16 years of age or older	\$200.00
to a person below 16 years of age	\$150.00
2. Application fee for a Temporary Passport	\$100.00
3. Application for a passport in case of Medical Emergency (in addition to the fee applicable for service listed as items 1 and 2 above)-	\$100.00
4. Application for a passport where previous passport is lost, damaged or stolen (in addition to the fee applicable for service listed as items 1, 2 and 3 above)-	\$200.00
5. Application for a passport for expedition within 24 hours (in addition to the fee applicable for service listed as items 1, 2 and 3 above)-	\$300.00
4. These Regulations shall come into force on April 1, 2023. <small>Comments</small>	
MADE by the Minister responsible for passports this 31st day of March, 2023.	
 (HON. EAMON COURTENAY) Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Immigration (Minister responsible for immigration)	
<small>Printed in Belize by the Government Printer #1 Power Lane, Belmopan, Belize, C.A.</small>	

those over sixteen will need to pay a total of \$300.00 for this class of passport. In order to replace a lost, damaged or stolen passport, a fee of

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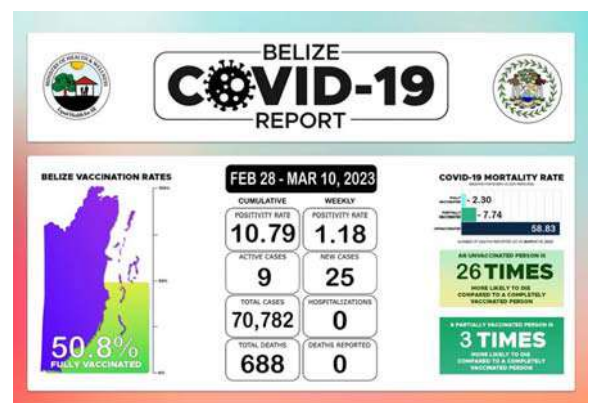
Last year of the COVID-19 pandemic?

“I am confident that this year we will be able to say that COVID-19 is over as a public health emergency of international concern,”
Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Chief of WHO stated.

by Marco Lopez

BELIZE CITY, Tues. Apr. 4, 2023

The last COVID-19 report by the Ministry of Health and Wellness in Belize was published on March 10, 2023 – a



little under a month ago. This is a far cry from the daily bombardment of numbers citing active and new cases, hospitalizations, and deaths that were

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6-year-old knocked down and killed

by *Kristen Ku*

BELIZE CITY, Mon. April 3, 2023

Armando Godoy, 6, an infant 1 student of Unity Presbyterian Primary School in Belize City, was on his way to the store from his home when he was knocked down and killed by a pickup truck on Saturday morning.

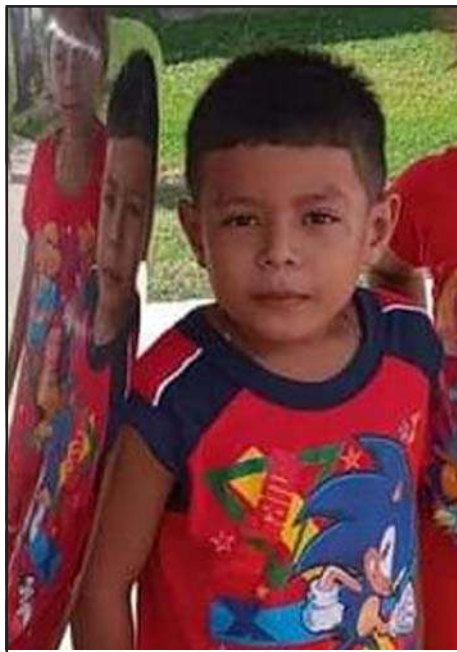
Police reported that on Saturday, April 1, they received a call from persons who were located on Antelope St. Extension regarding a road accident that had caused the death of a little boy.

According to some reports, around 11:45 a.m. that morning, little Godoy was playing with two other neighborhood friends, when his mother told him to go make a purchase for her at a store which is located across the street from their home. Armando, however, reportedly had a custom of bolting across the road, sometimes without checking to see if any vehicles were approaching.

Tragically, on that Saturday morning, there was indeed a vehicle heading down the street that he was crossing — a NexGen truck, which knocked him off his feet. After being hit, the child became trapped under the truck, and it is alleged that when the vehicle reversed, the wheel of the truck crushed a portion of his head, causing his immediate death.

Dion Logan, 44 years, has been identified as the driver of the truck, and a few persons who witnessed the incident believe he was consuming alcohol at the time.

However, according to A.S.P.



Armando Godoy, deceased

Fitzroy Yearwood, Communications Director for the Belize Police Department, Logan was unaware of the accident until he received a call on his mobile phone which alerted him that he had hit the six-year-old, but the person who informed him of the accident was unaware of the extent of the child's injuries.

After the incident, Logan immediately gave a statement to the police and has since then been cooperative, and has provided urine samples.

He has been detained and now awaits charges of manslaughter by negligence.

Gisela Cayetano, a close neighbor, family friend, and part-time tutor to Armando, told local media that she had just gotten back from taking her child to the clinic when her daughter, who had run to the store, came back crying, saying that her friend was hit and lying in the middle of the road in a pool of blood.

She said that Armando was accompanied by two other friends who, fortunately, saw the vehicle in time to stop running across the road.

And she said that after hearing the devastating news of the death of the young child, whom she at times viewed as one of her own, she could hear his mother's scream from next door and knew that he was gone.

Little Armando was very energetic, loved to explore, and was loved by all his friends and neighbors, and especially his mother, Cayetano said.

There has been much speculation following this incident, and also critical comments about the practice of sending out such a young child to the store instead of an adult.

Cayetano also says she does not agree with those persons who have made such comments.

"I do not agree with that. How will the child gain intelligence and practicality if they are not given a task? That's how training your child is like — go wash up, go clean, go sweep, go buy, go chop the yard. All of us grew up like that," said Cayetano.

A postmortem examination conducted at Belize Medical College by Dr. Mario Estradabran certified that the cause of death was Head and Chest injuries due to the vehicle collision.

Armando leaves behind his twin sister, mother, and an older sibling.

SJC student shot to death

by *Kristen Ku*

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Apr. 3, 2023

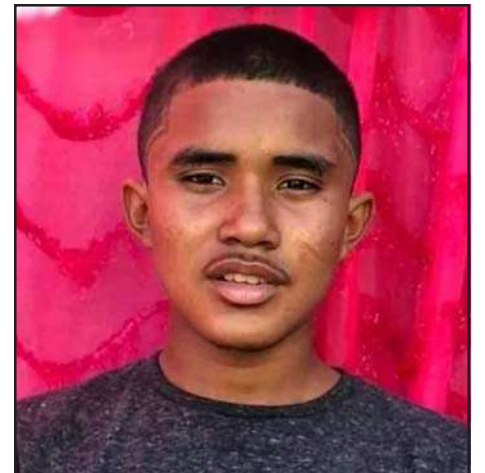
A 16-year-old Saint John's College (SJC) student was shot to death on Saturday, April 1, while delivering food on Central American Boulevard in the vicinity of the Port of Belize compound. The deceased teen was identified as Wellington Williams.

According to initial reports, at around 6:45 p.m. on Saturday, April 1, Williams was riding his bicycle on Central American Boulevard towards the Port of Belize compound to deliver food for his aunt, who regularly sells meals to workers in the area, and when he passed in front of a home, he was ambushed by two male persons on bicycles who reportedly fired 8 shots in his direction. The two gunmen would later flee from the scene in the direction of Helen Middleton Street.

Williams had attempted to escape and yelled for his aunt's help after he was wounded in his chest and abdomen area. He was rushed to the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital, where attempts were made to perform surgery to save his life, but he passed away before 8:00 p.m.

Florence Williams, sister of the deceased, told reporters that her family was completely devastated by the news of the shooting, since her brother, a third former who was reportedly looking forward to graduating next year, was not known to have any enemies.

"When I got the phone call I didn't know how to react. My whole body just went into total shock because we never



Wellington Williams, deceased

expect something like this to happen," said Williams.

"... I don't know him as that type of person. No one ever came to my mother's house or came to us to complain about him. He never mentioned anything to us; we just know that he has a lot of friends that love him," said Williams.

"Honestly, we want justice like everyone else; but we are not the type of people to ask for revenge or try to do revenge. We'll just leave it in God's hand. God will take care of everything," said Williams.

She said that the police have since been reviewing any camera footage that could have recorded the shooting, and the family is waiting to one day receive answers.

Wellington Williams reportedly aspired to run his own business in the future,

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Vehicle insurance prices increase



Andrew Roe, General Manager of RF&G Insurance Company and Secretary for ORINCO

by *Kristen Ku*

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Apr. 3, 2023

Earlier this year, the Organization of Insurance Companies of Belize Limited (ORINCO) announced through a press release that premium increases for vehicle insurance were to come into effect on March 1st.

According to the press release, the reason behind this is simply inflation, and what it could mean for their organization.

"The insurance industry collectively

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AMANDALA
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Easter NOTICE

Our advertisers, sellers and readers are advised that there will be only one issue of the newspaper for Easter week. The paper will hit the streets on Wednesday morning, April 5, 2023.

After the Easter holidays, there will be only the Friday issue of the Amandala, which will hit the streets on Friday, April 14, 2023.

Have a happy and safe Easter

Easter

from the management and staff of Kremandala

JCS/TAA: “We will not be distracted!”

SATIIM’s Executive Director, Maya Choc, has called on the Julian Cho Society and Toledo Alcalde Association to give an account of how US \$1.86 million granted by Tenure Facility to assist the Maya Land Rights struggle was spent



Santa Elena resident signs first official Village Delimitation Map

by Marco Lopez

BELMOPAN, Tues. Apr. 4, 2023

The first Village Delimitation Map (VDM) under the Delimitation: Principles and Methodology (DPM) agreed upon by the Government of Belize and the Maya people was officially created in Santa Elena Village just about five days ago. The government is to conduct a technical verification of the VDM as outlined in the DPM. This significant milestone was made possible in part through funding provided by a grant organization for indigenous peoples and communities, known as *Tenure Facility*. They granted the Julian Cho Society, the Maya Leaders Alliance, the Toledo Alcaldes Association, the Toledo Maya Land Rights Commission, and the University of Colorado Law, US \$1,860,000 in 2020. Maya Choc, the Executive Director of the Sarstoon Temash Institute for Indigenous Management (SATIIM), is now calling for a full account of those funds, which were to be used within the 41 Maya villages.

A release from SATIIM notes that they have not been informed of, nor have they received, any of the funds. We note, however, that that organization (SATIIM) was not one of the proponents which were granted the facility under the project: “*Securing and protecting tenure rights of the Maya People of Southern Belize*” that was approved for the JCS/MLA and TAA. The project is still ongoing, according to *Tenure Facility’s* website, which outlines goals of “demarcating and titling the estimated 1 million acres of Maya land and forest collectively owned by 41 communities in southern Belize,” among others.

Choc asserts that only one (1) of those communities has been fully demarcated since the start of the project, which, according to the grantor’s website, was to end on March 31, 2023. Choc, in an interview this week, said, “It is based on their methodology – it’s a cause of concern for us because, based on how we’ve seen it working right now, there is a reason why they have only been able to completely map one community; and this is why we ask about accountability

— it’s not just about the financial accountability, but it’s important to understand what happened to the project.”

The goals of the project were also to “develop legislation to guarantee Maya property and associated rights, and build the capacity between the Maya people and GoB to ensure proper implementation of objectives.” A release issued by MLA/TAA and JCS outlines that the grantee, TAA and JCS, have secured “another multi-year extension to continue to support the 2015 Consent Order” through a partnership with *Tenure Facility*. They stated that this was approved after a “full institutional and financial audit of the three-year project.”

Their release states that the three-year project involved developing a methodology for the delimiting of the boundaries, developing legislation for the protection of Maya rights, and conducting capacity-building within communities.

“In particular, TAA/JCS supported the community consent process with over 5,000 people (and), together with village leaders, elders, and expert knowledge holders, deployed the Maya Boundary Harmonization process with 25 communities. This resulted in multiple inter-boundary agreements in accordance with the agreed-upon process between the Government of Belize and Maya parties—the Delimitation: Principles and Methodology,” the release states.

The release further notes that the project enabled legal representation for several communities, including Jalacte, San Miguel, Santa Cruz, and others. Readers will recall a \$6.3 million dollar award granted to the village of Jalacte and two individual claimants in a case against GoB after a road was built by government through the villagers’ property.

An inventory of third-party interests that could affect Maya land was also created under this project through collaboration between the Toledo Maya Land Rights Commission and GoB’s Land Survey Department, the release states.

“The work we do, we do together. In

Electrician found guilty of rape of American tourist

by Roy Davis

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Apr. 3, 2023

The verdict was “guilty of rape,” for John Cus, 42, an electrician and air conditioning technician of San Pedro Town, when he appeared before Justice Antoinette Moore on Friday, March 31.

Cus will be sentenced on April 17.

He was convicted of having sexual intercourse with an American woman against her will at about 4:00 a.m. on February 9, 2018. The woman, who was 25 at the time, testified virtually that she and another American woman were vacationing in San Pedro Town when she met Cus, the boyfriend of another friend of hers who had invited her to Belize. She said she and her friend retired to their respective rooms at the house where Cus was staying, after they had spent the day sightseeing on the island with Cus as their guide. She testified that she awoke and found Cus on her bed and he forced her to have sex with him.

Cus, in his testimony during the trial,



John Cus

denied that he committed the offence. He said that he and his girlfriend, who was out of the country at the time, were ending their relationship, and that it was his girlfriend who persuaded the woman to concoct the rape story.

The trial, which was without a jury, began on March 13.

Cus was represented by the law firm of Musa and Balderamos.

Minister Bernard condemns OW importers of fake meds

by Kristen Ku

BELIZE CITY, Fri. Mar. 31, 2023

Last week it was reported that an Orange Walk couple is facing charges after being found with 25 boxes containing close to one million dollars worth of fake, contraband medication that, according to reports, were being taken to a local supplier.

German Antonio Lobos and Maribel De Leon were found with the meds while they were traveling on the San Antonio Road, just outside of Orange Walk Town, and the medication was immediately handed over to the Customs Department.

Officials at the department discovered, upon investigating, that this illicit process of bringing such meds into the country could be traced to individuals close to the former UDP administration, but also that they have been, and were in the process of distributing, the meds to well-known pharmacies in Orange Walk Town.

It is reported that some of the medications included Farmiver Infantil and Cyrus Misoprostol.

According to our research, Farmiver Infantil is used to treat infections of the nervous system caused by worms, debilitating them by the prohibition of sugar until they die.

The most common types of such diseases that are treated with this med include Parenchymal Neurocysticercosis, a disease that is caused by larval forms of the pork tapeworm, and Cystic Hydatid disease of the liver, lung, and peritoneum, caused by the larval form of the dog tapeworm.

Cyrus Misoprostol, on the other hand, is mainly used to protect the stomach lining by decreasing the levels of acid produced within the digestive system.

all activities, the TAA/JCS regularly reports back to our respective villages. Updates, reports, and feedback are shared and debated at the TAA assemblies, which have consistently



Hon. Kevin Bernard, Minister of Health and Wellness

When taken with Aspirin or a similar drug, it treats and prevents stomach ulcers. However, in other cases, when paired with Mifepristone, it could assist in ending a pregnancy.

Both drugs require a doctor’s prescription, and both need to have been vetted and certified as authentic, otherwise they can cause serious damage to health.

The specific charges to be brought against the couple are yet unknown, but the Minister of Health, Hon. Kevin Bernard, has made very strong public statements about how he believes the matter should be handled.

After receiving the news through a phone call, he told reporters, “We cannot allow people to get away. I don’t care who they are, I don’t care which political party they’re assigned to or favors. That is health you’re talking about. You’re talking about people’s life, because you cannot allow medications to come to this country without being inspected properly. This has never been approved.”

included the leaders of all 41 Maya villages. For us, a people united will never be defeated,” their release states.

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Taiwan prez was in Belize

H.E. Dr. Tsai Ing-Wen, the president of Taiwan, arrived in Belize on Sunday with a delegation that included that country's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of the Overseas Community Affairs Council. *KREM News* said that 40 international reporters were here to cover the brief visit. Since we established relations with Taiwan in 1989, we have never looked back. The relationship is good for Belize. We genuinely support Taiwan's right to self-determination. And our wealthy friend has been more than generous.

The new poverty assessment

The second decade of this century could have been some of our best years, because Belize was rolling in our share from the oil wells at Spanish Lookout and from extremely soft loans provided through the Alba Petro Caribe program. Unfortunately, though, two of our main industries, citrus and farmed shrimp, were near collapse, and payments to holders of the Super Bond, and to the Ashcroft Alliance for BTL after a disappointing deal in Miami, were a severe drain on the national treasury. Thus, instead of being financially strong, Belize was limping along when the pandemic struck at the end of the first quarter of 2020.

Our economy has improved since the worst of the pandemic, but Belizeans still struggle to find the cash to pay their bills. The pandemic and an ongoing war between the giant European powers have caused a massive increase in inflation, to levels not seen since the last world war. The high cost of fuel and groceries, everything, has hit the pockets of Belizeans extremely hard.

While there has been exponential growth in the BPO industry, the oil wells are flowing at a trickle, the Alba Petro Caribe program has been shut down since 2017, the citrus and farmed shrimp industries still haven't recovered, and production in the banana industry is down. Many of us are yet to "win," and that's why, despite being informed that the measuring tool for poverty was different, some were a little shocked when the Prime Minister declared in his recent budget presentation that "68,000 fewer Belizeans are poor."

There is still the cold fact that we are living in a capitalist country, meaning cash is king, but apart from monetary poverty, the new multi-dimensional poverty index (MPI) gives attention to health, education, employment, and living standards. A September 2021 MPI study found that 35.7 percent of Belizean households were multi-dimensionally poor, deprived in 39 percent of the 17 areas on the survey.

Poverty is indeed multi-dimensional. Our country is blessed with natural gifts, and stability. Many people drool over what we have. Many Belizeans, however, can't afford tertiary medical care. Reports are, though, that in the US, one of the wealthiest countries on the planet, despite most Americans having some form of insurance, one in five individuals struggle to pay for tertiary health care. But in Cuba, which is dirt poor if poverty is measured in terms of cash, tertiary health care is available to ALL its citizens.

Some decades ago, after a poverty assessment by an external agency had declared that Belizeans living in the Toledo District were dirt poor, an indigenous leader from the area remarked that prior to the assessment he had thought of himself and the others in his district as relatively well-off. During the Covid-19 pandemic, when thousands of urban Belizeans were dependent on grocery baskets provided by the government, the former executive director of SATHIM, Greg Ch'oc, told *KREM's* Mose Hyde that their way of life, living in harmony with the land, helped them to resist shocks, and that the significant contribution villagers make to our economy is discounted by the government because it is largely informal.

The MPI is a new tool, and like all new tools it will take some time to understand and use properly. There are grey areas. How much weight does money carry among the 17 indicators? A GoB release says "the highest levels of multidimensional poverty were seen in the Toledo

district, while the Belize district had the lowest", and that "persons living in rural communities were more likely to be multi-dimensionally poor than those in urban areas." The proof of the pudding is still in the eating, and poverty is supposed to breed crime. Why, then, is crime lowest in areas where we have the worst poverty? Urban Belizeans have more educational opportunities and access to medical care, but rural Belizeans live in far less stressful environments.

The release also said that "higher levels of multidimensional poverty were also seen among male headed households than among households headed by females." That's an interesting observation. There are usually two parents in households headed by males in Belize, while households headed by females are almost always single parent. Did the surveyors find the few single-parent households headed by males and compare them with those led by females?

The MPI is superior to the old poverty assessment. It will help those of us who are poor to better understand the system, and focus on what is important to us. And, as we mentioned in a previous editorial, the notion that "fewer" of us are poor will ease the tension in a country with a widening gap between the well-off and the financially poor.

Happy Easter!

On Sunday, Christians across the globe will celebrate Easter Sunday, the day the Christ rose from the dead three days after being crucified on a cross at Calvary. That is what the special celebration is about. Many Christians, about a quarter, don't believe that Jesus physically rose from the dead. There are those who say He survived the six hours on the cross, and that is how He came to appear to the Apostles.

What is certain is that Jesus's Apostles, those who were with Him when He was crucified, believed in the resurrection. What is also certain is that in the three-year duration of His ministry, He led an exemplary life and taught us many valuable lessons. Jesus called out all who take advantage of the poor and the sick, and those wealthy ones who followed Him shared their good fortune with their brothers and sisters. He left us two commandments—that we love our God with all our hearts and that we love our neighbors as we love ourselves.

Some Black and Brown Belizeans have trouble accepting Jesus because of the way He was used by the Europeans to subjugate the peoples of Africa and the Americas. The image that the Europeans present in their books is false. The fact is that Jesus was born in a Brown country, between Black Africa and White Europe. Because of 500 years of indoctrination, the European picture of Jesus comes to mind when we close our eyes and think of Him. It is no bother to some; some close their eyes tighter so no image appears and, unfortunately, some, unable to clear their vision,



(estb. 1969)

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CENTRAL BANK
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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Update on St. Francis Xavier Credit Union Limited

Belize City, 04 April 2023: The Governor of the Central Bank of Belize, in his capacity as Registrar of Credit Unions (the Registrar), updates the members of St. Francis Xavier Credit Union Limited (SFXCU) and the public that the Administrator to SFXCU, Mr. Martin Marshalleck, has reported that the operations of the credit union continue safely and without disruption.

The Administrator has met with staff, some members, and other stakeholders, to provide updates and respond to queries and concerns. The process of establishing the requisite governance framework to protect the equities of members has begun. Importantly, the Administrator has commenced weekly reporting to the Registrar as required under the terms of engagement.

Members of SFXCU are also advised that in accordance with section 61 (8) of the Credit Unions Act, 2011, Chapter 314 of the Laws of Belize, the Registrar has approved for the Administrator to call a special meeting of members in June 2023 to report on the affairs of the credit union and the steps taken by the Administrator to protect their equities. These steps include a subsequent audit into cash management practices and the continuing investigation into specific instances of suspected misappropriation of members' funds.

The Registrar thanks members of SFXCU for their commitment and understanding as the Administrator and the staff of SFXCU work arduously and honestly to protect their interests.

The Registrar takes this opportunity to wish everyone a blessed and happy Easter.

- ENDS -

ISSUED BY:
THE REGISTRAR OF CREDIT UNIONS

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Robbers raid Dangriga Subtreasury

by Charles Gladden

DANGRIGA, Stann Creek District, Tues. Apr. 4, 2023

The Dangriga Subtreasury, situated on St. Vincent Street in Dangriga Town, was robbed by an unknown number of thieves between Thursday night, March 30, and the following morning, and they escaped with an undisclosed amount of money.

Reports indicated that when an employee of the Subtreasury arrived at the building on Friday, March 31, he/she found that the office had been looted. It was later discovered that burglar bars in the bathroom were removed and four offices within the building had been scoured.

A police report noted that the burglars managed to locate a metal vault and stole the funds that had been collected by the Subtreasury that day. The Dangriga Subtreasury has confirmed to *Amandala* that the incident occurred, but could not



disclose the amount of money stolen, as the investigation into the robbery is ongoing.

This isn't the first time that the Dangriga Subtreasury was robbed. According to a previous *Amandala* article published in 2017, a reported \$1,700 was stolen in a bare-faced midday robbery.

The article mentioned that a single male person, armed with a sawed-off shotgun, entered the institution, demanding money and pointing the firearm at the clerks, then fled on a bicycle.

No one was hurt during that incident.

3 former constables convicted of manslaughter, to be sentenced on April 18



(l-r) Jahsimir Cob, Romelio Logan and Reydel Teck

by Roy Davis (freelance reporter)

BELIZE CITY, Tues. Apr. 4, 2023

Justice Ricardo Sandcroft on Thursday, March 30, deferred the sentencing of three former police constables, convicted of manslaughter,

until April 18. The trio are Romelio Logan, 27, Jahsimir Cob, 26, and Reydel Teck, 26.

Their conviction is for the death of Edwin Ixtapac, 29, a bartender of Progresso Village, Cayo District, who died on March 7, 2016, from injuries he received on March 4, 2016, that were inflicted by the three men in San Pedro Town. In a statement they gave from the dock they admitted that they beat the deceased, but said that they did not

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Happy Easter!

Continued from Page 5

reject Him.

Christians who believe the physical Jesus rose from the dead say anyone who doesn't believe in the risen Christ cannot be a Christian. Whether He was in the flesh or in the spirit, to all Christians He rose from the grave, and that is why all Christians sing on Easter Sunday, with all their hearts, *Alleluia! Our Triumphant Holy Day!*

Happy Easter to all Belizeans! And do be safe. Speed kills, so slow down on the highways! Follow the safety rules when you are on the water.



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PRESS RELEASE

Para Publicación Inmediata

Actualización sobre St. Francis Xavier Credit Union Limited

Ciudad de Belice, 04 abril 2023: El Gobernador del Banco Central de Belice, en su capacidad de Registrador de Uniones de Crédito (el Registrador), informa a los miembros de St. Francis Xavier Credit Union Limited (SFXCU) y al público en general que el Administrador de SFXCU, el Sr. Martin Marshalleck, ha informado que las operaciones de SFXCU continúan de manera segura y sin interrupción.

El Administrador se ha reunido con el personal, algunos miembros y otras partes interesadas para proporcionar actualizaciones y responder a consultas e inquietudes. El Administrador ha comenzado el proceso de establecimiento de gobernanza necesario para proteger el patrimonio de los miembros. Es importante destacar que el Administrador ha comenzado a informar semanalmente al Registrador según lo exigen los términos del compromiso.

También se le informa a los miembros de SFXCU que, de conformidad con la sección 61 (8) de la Ley de Uniones de Crédito (Credit Unions Act) del 2011, Capítulo 314 de las Leyes de Belice, el Registrador aprobó que el Administrador convoque una reunión especial de miembros en junio de 2023 para informar sobre los asuntos de la unión de crédito y las medidas tomadas por el Administrador para proteger los intereses de los miembros. Estos pasos incluyen una auditoría posterior sobre las prácticas de gestión de efectivo y la continuación de la investigación de casos específicos por sospecha de apropiación indebida de los fondos de miembros.

El Registrador agradece a los miembros de SFXCU por su compromiso y comprensión mientras el Administrador y el personal de SFXCU trabajan ardua y honestamente para proteger los intereses de los miembros.

El Registrador aprovecha esta oportunidad para desearles una bendita y feliz Pascua.

- FIN -

EMITIDO POR:
THE REGISTRAR OF CREDIT UNIONS

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GoB meets with Belize Chinese Association on price gouging

by Kristen Ku

BELIZE CITY, Mon. April 3, 2023

Everything “di go up”, and due to the impact of Covid-19 as well as the war between Russia and Ukraine, the globe, and especially our Belizean economy has seen an insane spike in prices for just about everything on the market.

From fuel to public services to goods sold at stores, Belizeans countrywide have felt the effects and have been voicing their concerns about what feels like an attack on their pockets.

And according to the Statistical Institute of Belize (SIB) report, the inflation rate has increased by 6.5% since last February.

On Friday, March 31, the Prime Minister of Belize, Hon. John Briceño, along with Minister of Agriculture, Food Security and Industry, Hon.



Johnson Ou, president of the Belize Chinese Association

Jose Mai, and Controller of Supplies Lennox Nicholson, scheduled a meeting at the Charter House in Belize City with one of the largest groups of retailers, the Belize Chinese Association, in hopes of addressing what many Belizeans claim has been



(l-r) Hon. Jose Mai, Minister of Food Security and Industry, and Lennox Nicholson, Controller of Supplies

taking place in numerous stores: price gouging.

Following the hour-long meeting, Minister Mai explained to the media that, based on the recent amendment

to the Supply Control Act, appointed public officers will be monitoring retail stores, and authorized to issue tickets to store owners if it is found that they have been engaged in price gouging.

The Chinese retailers who met with the government have agreed to submit invoices upon request to officers to prove there is no price gouging taking place.

However, the president of the Belize Chinese Association, Johnson Ou, explained to reporters that much of the price increases that are being seen are not due to retailers’ markups but are a result of the importation process.

“The most important part is that we are just the retailers. We are not the importer or not even the primary wholesaler. The max in my community is the secondary wholesaler and then the majority is the retailers. So, our prices are affected a lot, very much by the importers,” said Ou.

Minister Mai noted that he is in the process of meeting with wholesalers and importers next to see how they can work together.

“These essentially were retailers; some do wholesale, but there are people who do importing and many of them, as was explained to us today, they base their price based on what they receive the goods at. So, this first meeting was with the retailer, essentially, and now we meet with the wholesalers in the next coming weeks and with the importers. We are explaining to them what the law is and how we can work together,” said Mai.

There were even certain goods brought into the meeting for further demonstration and findings were presented by government on price increases that were the result of price gouging, as opposed to higher importation costs.

One uncertainty expressed about the new ticketing system that is to be deployed by GoB to penalize price gougers, was how would price gouging even be determined, and how those persons who are monitoring prices will be able to decipher where imported inflation ends and where price gouging starts.

Ou believes that it will be very tricky and probably result in disagreements and confrontations between store owners and the officers issuing tickets.

However, Nicholson said that there are ways to determine when store owners are crossing the line.



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La presidenta de Taiwán estuvo en Belize

La excelentísima Dra. Tsai Ing-wen, presidenta de Taiwán, llegó a Belize el domingo con una delegación que incluía al Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores y la Ministra del Consejo de Asuntos Comunitarios de Ultramar de ese país. Noticias KREM dijo que 40 reporteros internacionales estaban aquí para cubrir la breve visita. Desde que establecimos relaciones con Taiwán en 1989, nunca hemos mirado atrás. La relación es buena para Belize. Apoyamos genuinamente el derecho de Taiwán a la autodeterminación. Y nuestro rico amigo ha sido más que generoso.

La nueva evaluación de la pobreza

La segunda década de este siglo podría haber sido uno de nuestros mejores años, porque Belize estaba gozando nuestra parte de los pozos petroleros en Spanish Lookout y de préstamos extremadamente blandos proporcionados a través del programa Alba Petro Caribe. Sin embargo, desafortunadamente, dos de nuestras industrias principales, los cítricos y el camarón cultivado, estaban a punto de colapsar, y los pagos a los tenedores del Súper Bono y a Ashcroft Alliance por BTL después de un acuerdo decepcionante en Miami, significaron un gran agotamiento para el tesoro nacional. Por lo tanto, en lugar de ser financieramente fuerte, Belize estaba cojeando cuando la pandemia golpeó a fines del primer trimestre de 2020.

Nuestra economía ha mejorado desde lo peor de la pandemia, pero los beliceños aún luchan por encontrar el efectivo para pagar sus cuentas. La pandemia y una guerra en curso entre las gigantescas potencias europeas han provocado un aumento masivo de la inflación, a niveles no vistos desde la última guerra mundial. El alto costo del combustible y los comestibles, todo, ha golpeado extremadamente duro los bolsillos de los beliceños.

Si bien ha habido un crecimiento exponencial en la industria de EPE, los pozos de petróleo fluyen a cuentagotas, el programa Alba Petro Caribe ha estado cerrado desde 2017, las industrias de cítricos y camarones de cultivo aún no se han recuperado, y la producción en la industria bananera está abajo. Muchos de nosotros aún no hemos “ganado”, y es por eso que, a pesar de que se nos informó que la herramienta de medición de la pobreza era diferente, algunos se sorprendieron un poco cuando el Primer Ministro declaró en su reciente presentación presupuestaria que “68,000 beliceños menos son pobres”.

Todavía existe el frío hecho de que estamos viviendo en un país capitalista, lo que significa que el efectivo es el rey, pero además de la pobreza monetaria, el nuevo índice de pobreza multidimensional (IPM) presta atención a la salud, la educación, el empleo y el nivel de vida. Un estudio del IPM de septiembre de 2021 encontró que el 35,7 % de los hogares beliceños eran multidimensionalmente pobres, con carencias en el 39 % de las 17 áreas de la encuesta.

La pobreza es de hecho multidimensional. Nuestro país ha sido bendecido con dones naturales y estabilidad. Muchas personas babean por lo que tenemos. Sin embargo, muchos beliceños no pueden pagar la atención médica terciaria. Los informes indican que en los EE. UU., uno de los países más ricos del planeta, a pesar de que la mayoría de los estadounidenses tiene algún tipo de seguro, una de cada cinco personas lucha para pagar la atención médica terciaria. Pero en Cuba, que es muy pobre si la pobreza se mide en términos de efectivo, la atención médica terciaria está disponible para TODOS sus ciudadanos.

Hace algunas décadas, después de que una evaluación de la pobreza realizada por una agencia externa declarara que los beliceños que vivían en el distrito de Toledo eran extremadamente pobres, un líder indígena del área comentó que antes de la evaluación se había considerado a sí mismo y a los demás en su distrito como relativamente acomodados. Durante la pandemia de Covid-19, cuando miles de beliceños urbanos dependían de las canastas de comestibles proporcionadas por el gobierno,

el ex director ejecutivo de SATIIM, Greg Ch'oc, le dijo a Mose Hyde de KREM que su forma de vida, vivir en armonía con la tierra, los ayudó a resistir los impactos, y que el gobierno descuenta la importante contribución que hacen los aldeanos a nuestra economía porque es en gran parte informal.

El IMP es una herramienta nueva y, como todas las herramientas nuevas, llevará algún tiempo comprenderla y utilizarla correctamente. Hay áreas grises. ¿Qué peso tiene el dinero entre los 17 indicadores? Un comunicado del Gobierno de Belize dice que “los niveles más altos de pobreza multidimensional se observaron en el distrito de Toledo, mientras que el distrito de Belize tuvo los más bajos”, y que “las personas que viven en comunidades rurales tenían más probabilidades de ser multidimensionalmente pobres que las de las áreas urbanas.” La prueba del pudín todavía está en comer, y se supone que la pobreza engendra el crimen. ¿Por qué, entonces, el crimen es más bajo en las áreas donde tenemos la peor pobreza? Los beliceños urbanos tienen más oportunidades educativas y acceso a la atención médica, pero los beliceños rurales viven en entornos mucho menos estresantes.

El comunicado también dijo que “los niveles más altos de pobreza multidimensional también se observaron entre los hogares encabezados por hombres que entre los hogares encabezados por mujeres”. Esa es una observación interesante. Por lo general, hay dos padres en los hogares encabezados por hombres en Belize, mientras que los hogares encabezados por mujeres casi siempre son monoparentales. ¿Encontraron los encuestadores los pocos hogares monoparentales encabezados por hombres y los compararon con los encabezados por mujeres?

El IPM es superior a la antigua evaluación de la pobreza. Nos ayudará a aquellos de nosotros que somos pobres a comprender mejor el sistema y a centrarnos en lo que es importante para nosotros. Y, como mencionamos en un editorial anterior, la noción de que “menos” de nosotros somos pobres aliviará la tensión en un país con una brecha cada vez mayor entre los ricos y los económicamente pobres.

¡Felices Pascuas!

El domingo, los cristianos de todo el mundo celebrarán el Domingo de Pascua, el día en que Cristo resucitó de entre los muertos tres días después de ser crucificado en una cruz en el Calvario. De eso se trata la celebración especial. Muchos cristianos, alrededor de una cuarta parte, no creen que Jesús resucitó físicamente de entre los muertos. Hay quienes dicen que sobrevivió a las seis horas en la cruz, y así fue como vino a aparecerse a los Apóstoles.

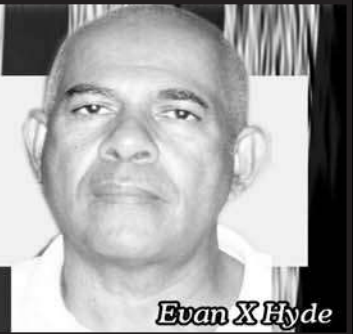
Lo cierto es que los Apóstoles de Jesús, los que estaban con Él cuando fue crucificado, creían en la resurrección. Lo que también es cierto es que en los tres años de su ministerio llevó una vida ejemplar y nos enseñó muchas lecciones valiosas. Jesús reprendió a todos los que se aprovechan de los pobres y los enfermos, y los ricos que lo siguieron compartieron su buena fortuna con sus hermanos y hermanas. Nos dejó dos mandamientos: que amemos a nuestro Dios con todo nuestro corazón y que amemos a nuestro prójimo como nos amamos a nosotros mismos.

Algunos beliceños negros y marrones tienen problemas para aceptar a Jesús debido a la forma en que los europeos lo usaron para subyugar a los pueblos de África y las Américas. La imagen que presentan los europeos en sus libros es falsa. El hecho es que Jesús nació en un país marrón, entre el África Negra y la Europa Blanca. Debido a 500 años de adoctrinamiento, la imagen europea de Jesús nos viene a la mente cuando cerramos los ojos y pensamos en Él. No es molestia para algunos; algunos cierran más los ojos para que no aparezca ninguna imagen y, lamentablemente, algunos, al no poder aclarar su visión, lo rechazan.

Los cristianos que creen que el Jesús físico resucitó de entre los muertos dicen que cualquiera que no crea en el Cristo resucitado no puede ser cristiano. Ya sea en la carne o en el espíritu, para todos los cristianos resucitó de la tumba, y es por eso que todos los cristianos cantan el domingo de Pascua, con todo el corazón, ¡Aleluya! ¡Nuestro Día Santo Triunfante!

¡Feliz Pascua a todos los beliceños! Y tengan cuidado. La velocidad mata, ¡así que reduzcan la velocidad en las carreteras! Sigán las reglas de seguridad cuando estén en el agua.

From the Publisher



Evan X Hyde

Peter “Chukku” Young, a friend I hold in the highest of esteem, became an accountant who lives in Jamaica and has worked for Bob Marley and his estate. Sometime in the ‘90s, I guess, Pete told me on a visit home that the one Vernon Alcoser had been the reason for Pete’s expulsion from St. John’s College. Chukku, an all-around athlete, went on to excel at Wesley College, but at the time the SJC expulsion had been very, very traumatic for him.

There was a street which used to run from Belize City’s eastern seafront past Gaol Lane to Eve Street. The old Her Majesty’s Prison was in front of the street in the south. The old Belize City Hospital was at the back. My maternal uncle, Buck “Jones” Belisle, his wife and family, were next-door neighbours to the Alcoser family in the 1950s and 1960s. (The senior Alcoser was a prison warder, and my uncle was teaching at Belize Technical College.)

My uncle, who had spent much of his childhood growing up in Sittee River village, was an enthusiastic and

outstanding fisherman. The younger Vernon Alcoser became a kind of trainee/crewman and fisherman in my uncle’s sailing boat on his fishing trips.

The first Belizean I knew of who became a war hero in the Vietnam War was Vernon Alcoser. This would have been after I travelled to the U.S. to school in 1965. On one of his trips home to Belize decades later, Vernon told me of his being shot in the groin in Vietnam, being terrified that it was his private parts, and packing the wounded spot with morphine on his own.

Vernon may have made two tours of Vietnam, but I know that he later worked in the New York Police Department before he died.

In the 1950s and 1960s, the area between Belize City, English Caye, and outside of the Barrier Reef abounded with fish. For a fishing family like ours, we ate only snapper, grouper, barracuda, cubali, mackerel, amber jack, rock fish, and kingfish. Everything else was trash. In those



The late Vernon Alcoser in our newspaper's printing room

days, can you believe it, we did not rate lobster.

I grew to see that the kingfish held a special fascination for my uncle. Unlike the barracuda, say, which usually hunts on the flats, the kingfish is a deep-water creature, and when it is hooked, there is a point when it finds an extra gear in strength and courage to fight for freedom. This was what fascinated my uncle. The cubali, for example, which hunts sprats in huge schools, will fight you hard from the get-go, but it has no secret, mysterious reservoir of

strength. The kingfish does.

There was a year, for some reason, when our family did not spend the Easter (a two-week break for schools) at Spanish Caye, but did so at St. George’s Caye, where one of our relatives, Tensie DeShield, had property. I was about 9 or 10, I would say, when I remember that my uncle captained a boat for a wealthy Belizean American, by the name of Trapp, I think, and they would go fishing outside the reef in the evening. My uncle, it seemed to me, returned every evening with huge kingfish. The island was amazed and impressed.

Anyway, there are basically two kinds of fishing — sport fishing and fishing for food. In my family’s case, our fishing was both for sport and for food. In those days, seine net fishing was beginning, it seemed to me, and these were Belizeans who were fishing for food, to make a living. Rods and reels did not come into the

Please turn to **Page 10**

“Tour-isms” Cultural Nourishment

Music and food go well together. Whether the food tends to be more scintillating because of the rhythm of the music or that the music feels more exciting because of the flavors of the food, is debatable. What is straightforward is that wherever music and food are combined, it is always a good time. The Belize Tourism Board (BTB) has combined foreign and local music with foreign and locally inspired cuisine to create the ultimate Belizean concert event. The 2nd annual **Belize International Music and Food Festival** is set to take place on July 29th and 30th 2023- Save the date! The venue this year is the Marion Jones Sporting Complex in Belize City. Those who attended the concert last year at the Saca Chispas Field in San Pedro, will remember that Jamaican reggae artist, Koffee, headlined the event after her Grammy win in 2020. In total 10 international artists, two international DJs, and a host of Belizean musicians performed on La Isla Bonita. Musical genres such as Reggae, Dancehall, Afro Beats, Soca, Punta, and Latin beats filled the audience’s hunger for performance while exciting foods satisfied culinary cravings.

Belizeans across the country will get the opportunity to prepare for this year’s festival – BTB’s countrywide, district to district, Pre-Fest Tour is in full effect. These events are meant to give Belizeans a taste and an earful of what they can expect this summer. The first stop was in culture capital, Dangriga Town. There were food vendors, DJs, and musicians who stirred the interest and wetted the appetites of those in attendance. Drums and Garifuna performances were a delight. When the Pre-Fest Tour made its way to Corozal a week later, Gilharry 7 Band shifted the rhythm but never the focus. Sharing and feeling proud of Belizean music and food is the point of all of this. The tour continues in Orange Walk on April 15th and follows through with stops in Punta Gorda Town, San Ignacio/Santa Elena, Caye Caulker, and finally Belize City on June 17th. At each stop, musical performers get a chance to win a professional music studio recording session. The BTB launched the new Reef Music Studio in February; these Pre-Fest Tours will help to ensure that the studio will be used by the people it was meant for. Each Pre-Fest Tour, in all of the seven locations, are mini-concerts that will hopefully create wide ripples to excite and enthuse Belizeans to come out this summer and enjoy the 2nd annual Belize International Music and Food Festival.

It is important that Belizeans continue to be exposed to the richness of local music and food. We must never doubt that what we create at home, how we serve our talented, and how we digest our culture together now, will be a deciding factor for the kinds of appetite our children will have for it later on. This week we dance to the tune of *expressivism* in our tourism. Our food and music are expressions of who we are and how we connect with each other. A feast of local music and food will combine again this summer to give Belizeans cultural nourishment.

See you next week.

The Belize Tourism Board



From the Publisher

Continued from  Page 9

picture until after Hurricane Hattie. That's how I remember things.

There are many fishing lodges in Belize, or were, which host sports fishermen from abroad during these wonderful months when the southeast breezes blow. I had an English professor at Dartmouth, Chauncey C. Loomis, who would come to Belize each year to fish, mostly for bonefish, I believe. I never saw him, but when he was here, a guide from the lodge would tell me: Professor is here.

Personally, I had a couple experiences with the fabled kingfish. As a child once on my dad's sailboat coming from the south, I saw my grandfather, Wilfred "Bill" Belisle; my father; and my father's good friend, Denzil Jenkins, fight a kingfish which was maybe five-feet long and gave them all kinds of problems. Remember, while you're fighting the fish, you have to manage the sailboat, and sometimes the winds are high.

Another time, maybe in the early 90s, I hooked a kingfish while trolling on a skiff behind Southern Reef (Homes Caye area). I was hauling in the fish, which didn't seem too big, when the fish just decided to take off and go on its own way. The nylon line ripped my office hands. That kingfish put me in my place, and underlined my uncle's perspective.

Anyway, my uncle told me the following story several times over the decades, of Vernon and himself trolling somewhere and hooking a kingfish. Vernon took on the assignment of pulling in the fish, and when the fish decided, as kingfish usually do, to go about its own business, Vernon wrapped the cotton trolling line around his hand to "Samson" himself. The fish ended up pulling Vernon almost overboard, so much so that his head was pulled into the sea several times, and everytime he managed to come up for air, he gasped, "Mr. Belisle, Mr. Belisle ..."

At the end of the struggle, my uncle said, Vernon was amazed at how modestly sized the fish was. Remember, Vernon went on to become a war hero. He was no pushover.

The sport fishing around the old city has been devastated by dynamiting for oil exploration, shrimp trawling, seine and gill net fishing, and overfishing. So the Belize Town/City waters that thrilled Baron Bliss so much in 1926, are really no more. They say progress brings problems. Today, the progress is called tourism. Life is real.

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HAPPY EASTER

"The resurrection gives life meaning and direction and the opportunity to start over no matter what the circumstances."

May your Easter be filled with all the blessings of the Risen Lord!

Hon. Henry Charles Usher

I never told Mr. Vic: "You're an awesome guy"

by Colin Hyde

Belmopan is a little sad this week at the news that Mr. Vic Bejos, a champion Lion, and husband of the wonderful Mrs. Elisa Awe Bejos, had taken the trip to the other side, his departure coming just months after the beloved Mrs. Bejos, popularly known as "Chata", had left us. I said "a little sad," because Mr. Vic was well clear of the three score and ten, and while his closest relatives and friends must have teared up a lot, the rest of us, while sad, are mostly about gratitude for his time here.

I am on a little guilt trip because I never told him I thought he was wonderful too. Everything was for Miss Chata, our Spanish teacher at *Compre* during that school's first years. Mrs. Bejos exuded love from every pore. Spanish wasn't the easiest subject to teach back in 1970. For many Kriols, not learning Spanish was an expression of defiance, our way to say "No Guatemala", in the face of that Spanish-speaking country's unjust claim on our territory. But we all looked forward to Spanish class, because our Spanish teacher was the loveliest person ever.

I remember the time I told Mr. Vic he was a lucky so-and-so. He laughed and said he knew, and that everyone told him that. I remember one time I met him, solo, in a shop, in an aisle. His eyes were twinkling before I finished my question: "Is she here?" Mr. Vic was a fun guy. We talked about the column sometimes, and we talked of other things too. But the good lady dominated our conversations.

The last time I met Mr. Vic, it was just after Mrs. Bejos died. He was outside of Brodies in Belmopan, just getting into his vehicle. I seldom go to funerals anymore, I seldom go anywhere anymore, so I was very glad for the opportunity to race over and catch him before he left, to give him my condolences. Whoa, my existence

under a rock is a long and complicated story, and I will leave that at that. I'm happy I got to talk with him. I regret not telling him that he lifted my spirits, that I thought he was an awesome guy. I hope many Belmopanese remembered to tell him that.

The humongous cost of spurning in Belize

It's worrying, this story about the former head of the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), Mr. Clare, that he is set to sue us because the GoB has decided to not give him a new contract. He seems a likeable guy, and for sure we never heard any story of him doing wrong with the national treasury. But this story about him suing us, well, that's kind of souring. If an employee has a gripe, by all means, gripe, but when it involves the people's money, we have to take notice. My gudnis, this getting spurned is some big business in this country.

We know that for decades there's been this *parados*, this invention of the PUP picked up on by the UDP, to leave their favorites something when governments change. We don't want politicians stealing our money and assets, but one perk we give them is filling the plum jobs with their people, the ones they choose to carry out their policies. The CEOs are not exactly or shouldn't have been their domain, but all the Goebbels' positions, and the Boards, are theirs to play in.

I don't know that this cap fits Mr. Clare, but you can't saddle another government with big people. When big people come into a job to carry out policy for the government, they should know that they go with the government. Has the PUP passed a law about terminations of political appointments yet? We shouldn't need one, but it has come to that.

Maybe the government, oh woes, is after some national treasury-depleting

hanky panky and they need someone compliant for the FIU job. But there's a reason why we give our leaders so much authority. We don't want any excuses. If tourism flops, we don't want Mr. Mahler to blame Miss Karen, the director that the UDP left there. If the BCC flops, we don't want Mr. Wagner to blame Miss Alamilla, the administrator the UDP left there. We have things in place, or should have things in place to minimize our risk. The buck doesn't stop with the leaders if they can't choose the team they want to work with.

The PM has said that things at the FIU were moving too slow, and whether he and his crowd are right or wrong in their assessment, it was their prerogative to hire someone else. Well, we thought it was PUP prerogative, until we heard this news that Mr. Clare had hired a lawyer to say his non-hiring was a foul. I heard a Vibes voice, Vaughan Gill, say that a claim being made by Mr. Clare is that the GoB had given him reason to believe that he would have been re-hired. *Amandala's* headline story on Friday said Mr. Clare said that three months ago the Financial Secretary had shown him a copy of a new contract that only needed the PM's signature.

Maybe, Mr. Clare, believing that he would be awarded another contract, went out and bought a top-of-the-line SUV. I would call that a wound, but in ABC we were taught that you don't count your chickens until they hatch. Sure, you have to buy feed, have it on hand for the expected chickens, but you are aware of the risk. And when it comes to a job, that one can't be sealed and delivered until it is signed.

I don't know that the former head of the FIU isn't rightly aggrieved. But there is no question about how Belizeans feel about this. It seems our national treasury is for unscrupulous political leaders to play in, and payouts to spurned public employees and their

lawyers.

They'll be crying in their *porque*

...since you're gone, how lonely each night...it's songs like those that will be mellowing the night out at the Ex-Servicemen's place on the Barracks on April 8. The announced hero of the night, Tim Chandell, he's not for that weed-smoking crowd. They have their own space. I heard a suggestion that Dara doesn't allow for alcohol at his events, but there'll have to be an exception here. This kind of music is no good without it. With Tim Chandell, people will be wanting, needing their *porque*. If there's none on sale, people will have to smuggle it in, in plastic bottles.

Many of these love ballads by these Caribbean artists are borrowed from foreign, but when our people sing them, the flavor is oh so different, oh so ours. A family member of mine who has lived in the USA many decades, he's acquired an American *sabor*. I was some surprised when he said he prefers the original *Sloop John B*, by Beach Boys, to the Caribbean sound of the immortal couple, Keith and Enid. I hope Dara and Kwame and Kenny Morgan give the crowd out at the Barracks just a few from that special couple. I think *John B* was a common sound, a tinny little thing until they gave it Caribbean soul. Ooh Judy Boucher; ooh Joyce Bond; ooh Cynthia Schloss; ooh Boris Gardiner; ooh Tim Chandell!

I couldn't find the title to that song on Google, the line I opened with didn't help. It might be a Chandell original. JC would know. Hmm, *I know I done you wrong, and I'm begging you, darling please forgive...* About the *porque*, it's not the Mexican drink, *pulque*. Belizean *porque* is local brandy and natural milk. Aha, my uncle, Roy Belisle, never drank without milk. He made 102. And god-uncle Simeon Ebanks, he smoked Independence cigarettes till his dying day, in his 90s. But he didn't inhale.

 **Atlantic Bank**
wishes everyone a safe and happy

Easter

Please be advised that all Atlantic Bank branches and drive thrus will be closed for business at 1:00 PM on Holy Thursday, April 6, 2023.

All branches and drive thrus will reopen on Tuesday, April 11, 2023.

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Camalote Village
and Caye Caulker

PRESS PREDICTIONS

The sports psychic speaks

BOLEDO

“Press” Predictions: 01-10-30-03-46-59

Boledo stats thru 7th to 14th April, 2023

In Boledo news, 10 finally played after almost a year. The nineties series finally played on a Sunday twice after 1 year and 2 weeks exact. These are my lucky Jackpot numbers: 9159-6234-8725. These are my lucky PICK-3 numbers: 108-269-354-772-969. Get ready, Belize! Some dinero will be coming our way for the Easter Holidays. 47 refuses to play for over 1 year 11 months 1 week and 1 day exact; that looks like a rake for 01. 50 will complete 1 year on the 3rd of April. 10

played twice last year, but 01 played some 4 times. 03 will complete 1 year on the 26th of May this year. Some doubles are long overdue. 00 took 1 year 3 months and 3 weeks exact; there are only 5 doubles left to play: 33-44-77-88-99; last year 33 played some 9 times with 22, those 2 numbers played the most in 2022. 77 played 4 times, 88 played 7 times, 44 played 3 times and 99 played twice. Remember to read your Psalms: 72-91 and 115. Good luck to all buyers! Next week, more stats.

CYCLING

A Guatemalan will win the 2023 Cross Country very easily

The 93rd Holy Saturday Cross Country prediction.

In cycling action, the 93rd Holy Saturday race will be this Saturday starting at 6 a.m. There will be over 100 top cyclists in the lineup. The



Caitlin Conyers

Guatemalans are coming for that \$10,000 prize alongside the 5 station prizes of \$1,000 dollars each. “Press” Cadogan says that they are cheaters of our Cross Country. There will be only 4 Belizeans in the top 10 finish: Derek Chavarria, Byron Pope, Oscar Quiroz, Giovanni Lovell; Wasani Castro will be



by Gilroy “Press” Cadogan

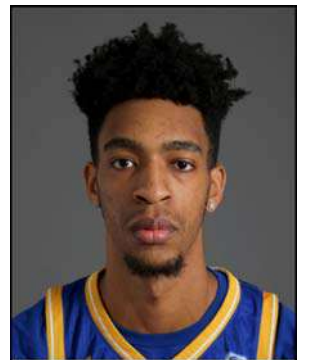
an outside chance. In the Female Cross Country Classic, there were only 10 cyclists. 2 of them abandoned the race. The Bermudian rider, Caitlin Conyers, the champion was first in 3 hours 49 minutes and 24 seconds. The Mexican Diana Valerio Rodriguez was second, and then the defending champion Katy Sorrel was third, Belizean Kaya Cattouse was 4th. The first-place finisher received \$3,000 plus a very big trophy, plus 2 gift baskets. The second place received \$1,500 plus 2 gift baskets also. Next week, the results of the race.

LOCAL BASKETBALL

The Benny’s Belize Hurricanes are still leaders at 6-2

Local basketball results and predictions

In local basketball results and predictions, the San Pedro Tiger Sharks blew out Belmopan Red Taigaz by some 25 points. The San Pedro Tiger Sharks’ import Kyle Stuart had 30 points and 13 rebounds. The Tiger Sharks are at the 4th seed in the playoffs. They will beat out the Belize City Defenders for that last playoff spot. There are 3 teams that have a playoff spot already. The Benny’s Belize Hurricanes at 6-2 are the number 1 seed, then the Orange



Kyle Steward

W a l k R u n n i n g R e b e l s will be at number 2 spot. The D a n g r i g a D r e a m B a l l e r s will be at the third seed. The League has real parity. The MVP award will be up for grabs; Nigel Jones, Kyle Steward, and Dominic Woodson will be the 3 best players for that award. The playoffs will have some real upsets. The Benny’s Belize Hurricanes are the favorites to win it all says “Press” Cadogan. Next week, more stats.

LOCAL FOOTBALL

The San Pedro Pirates are still leaders

Local football results and predictions

In local football action, Port Layola FC will be the team to beat in the playoffs. They have the most winning coach right now in Belizean football history, Mr. Marvin Ottley. He first won



MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING



PUBLIC NOTICE

Lodgment of an ESIA Report and Public Consultation For George Price Highway Upgrading Project (Belize City - Belmopan) by the Ministry of Infrastructure Development & Housing

The General Public is hereby informed that an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) report was submitted to the Department of the Environment (DOE) by the Ministry of Infrastructure Development & Housing for the George Price Highway Upgrading Project (Belize City - Belmopan). The ESIA report was prepared by Nextera Environmental and Engineering Consultants. The ESIA report will be reviewed by the National Environmental Appraisal Committee (NEAC) before a final decision is taken.

The public is hereby advised that the EIA-Report will be available for public review, free of charge, Mondays to Fridays, during normal working hours (8:00 am to 5:00 pm) from March 16th at the following locations: Hattieville Community Center, La Democracia Community Center, St. Matthews Village Government School, MIDH-Project Execution Unit and at the DOE’s Office located at 7552 Hummingbird Highway, Belmopan. Likewise, the EIA-Report and its annexes are all available on the DOE's website at link:

<https://doe.gov.bz/download/esia-george-price-highway-upgrade-belize-to-belmopan/and>
<https://doe.gov.bz/download/appendices-esia-george-price-highway-upgrade-belize-to-belmopan/>

The public is invited to submit their comments in writing on or before April 19, 2023, to the DOE Office in Belmopan or email: envirodept@environment.gov.bz; ciaunit@environment.gov.bz, or by link: <https://forms.gle/baFsATJBdvaLbUCh9>

Kindly be informed that a hybrid public consultation for the ESIA will be held on April 13, 2023, commencing at 6:30pm at St. Matthews Village – Basketball Court. An online link will be provided three days before the date of the Public Consultation.

The public is invited to participate in-person or virtually in this public consultation to provide comments/input, recommendations, and/or express their concerns to the DOE regarding this proposed project activity.

Cross Country tales

Sylvia's dad – Anselm Waight, the man most responsible for Cross Country changing from a days-long expedition to a one-day race



Anselm Waight on bike beside brother Cassian in 1931 when Anselm placed 2nd in that year's Cross Country Expedition

Sunday, April 2, 2023

Much has been said and written about our legendary Holy Saturday Cross Country Cycling Classic, from its inception in 1928 through the organizing efforts of Monrad Metzgen, and its historic first champion Elston Kerr, to its fabled history through the years and many great champions until today in 2023, when it remains the single biggest one-day sporting event in the nation. But it wasn't always that way, a one-day event. We are reminded by Belizean nationalist and sports enthusiast extraordinaire, Ms. Sylvia Waight, that it

was her dad, Anselm Waight, who was most responsible for the Holy Saturday Cross Country Classic becoming a one-day affair.

We have heard stories of the old days when there was not even a complete road to Cayo, and so the riders in those early years had to cross small creeks, where they would put their bikes on their shoulders and wade across before continuing their journey on picado trails that eventually led to San Ignacio, where a big celebration awaited them for the Easter, the riders then making the return journey a day or two later.

But we never fully understood how the change came about, only a note in the Cross Country annals that in a certain year, 1948, they began to make the journey going

and coming back to Belize City on the same day. Actually, a Wikipedia page on the topic simply comments that, "Toward the middle 1940s, Altreith Smith and Aston Gill emerged as the best cyclists. Smith won the first one-day event in 1948 and Aston Gill won four times between 1947 and 1951." That's all; no explanation.

The road to Cayo must have been improved by then, to make that change practical. According to the Wikipedia page: "Due to repair projects initiated on the Western Highway by Governor Alan Burns, some races were held on the Northern Highway. Donald Lightburn was the first winner on the Belize-Corozal circuit (in 1935 and 1936), followed by Jose Sosa in 1937 and 1938, Ben Sanchez in 1939, Goldburn Ferguson in 1942 and Aston Gill in 1947 (his 3rd victory). A few later races went to Orange Walk and back; this practice was discontinued after Mexico's Pablo Calderon won in 1971."

It would therefore appear that a return to the western road became attractive after "repair projects" were completed, and thus spawned the idea of a one-day effort. But, there must have been a proposal from someone, and discussions held, before the idea became a reality. According to Sylvia, her dad was the one who first proposed the idea, and whose impetus saw it become a reality, and for that he should be recognized and applauded, even if posthumously.

The idea of bringing this matter to the public was discussed some years ago, according to Sylvia, and the Cycling Association had even scheduled a radio (TV?) show to have this piece of Cross Country history publicly recorded and acknowledged. At the time, a highly respected veteran cycling coach, Lewis "Buck" Belisle, was approached, as he was an aficionado of the sport and had been a witness to (and perhaps even a participant in) the event being spotlighted, the very first one-day Holy Saturday Cross Country.

As Sylvia explained in a March 29, 2023, email, "In 1948, just a few weeks before the Expedition for that year, my father Anselm Waight met with several cyclists at home. He had calculated time and distance covered in past Expeditions and reckoned the race could be done in one day. Some cyclists present doubted it possible and others said it could be tried. Daddy put the suggestion to a vote and the majority voted for it."

Apparently, this fact was publicly verified on a couple radio sports shows, but never recorded in our newspapers for posterity. However, she asserts, due to a quirk of fate, there remains one written testimonial that should remove all doubt. "Mr. Buck was to have been on Mr. Smokey Joe's Show but he said he was too shy." Whatever excuse he gave to decline the invitation, it turns out that the legendary Buck Belisle, who was battling illness at the time, had opted instead to put his thoughts on paper.

Sylvia said that Buck Belisle's son, Michael, had in his possession his father's original hand-written testimonial



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Pursuant to section 34 of the Belize Building (Amendment) Act 2011, the Belize City Council hereby serves Notice on the owner of the following building to repair or otherwise pull down respective building within fourteen (14) days of the publication. After fourteen (14) days the council will seek a Court Order to remove the structure.



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NAME OF LAST REGISTERED OWNER

- LUCY WOODS

POSTAL ADDRESS OF LAST REGISTERED OWNER

- 118 EVE STREET
Belize City, Belize

The CWU!

Friday, March 31, 2023

I suppose that the time will come when Belize will begin to realize and recognize the absolute importance of national unity, especially when it involves a small, financially challenged union against a behemoth with all the money to challenge, to stymie, to cut the legs and power of the unions from under them. That the behemoth is foreign is in itself an insult to—I won't say the manhood, too misogynistic—but to the hardworking people of Belize. I know some will say that the Lord has a Belizean passport; so do many others, who have their money in foreign banks. They don't create anything; they just buy and improve, sometimes, institutions that were already there, and mostly created by Belizeans, and sold to these vampires who proceed to suck the blood out of an already anemic and budding economy!

We see this happening over and over with Ashcroft: from BTL, which he acquired for pennies, considering its worth, to the port and on and on. The one good thing the UDP did during their untethered 12-year reign was to nationalize BTL! Then he goes to court with his unlimited resources and will keep on sucking; we are down to the marrow now, until either we stand up and do something about it, or just remain a victim or a country in name only. There has to be some constitutional solution to hinder the selfish impulses of "investors" such as these. I know there are international business laws that democratic countries have to abide by, but maybe we should let those wishing to invest in Belize know that there will be limits to their avarice. They're taking advantage of our need to prosper, to see some light at the end of the tunnel. At this time, they're the only ones who prosper, while the little guy is getting the proverbial shaft, right up the wazoo!

What is really interesting and surprising to me, is how calm and reasonable the union leaders are in the middle of this fight for a better life, for survival for their members. It just makes my blood boil seeing the same act over and over again: submit or we'll sue you to kingdom come! I watched the president of the CWU discuss the lawsuit and the hard road ahead with legal fees, very calm and collected, while the opposing lawyer brought up "essential services"! That's exactly when you should strike! When you have them by the balls, squeeze them to no mo, no mo! WTF?

Glen



CENTRAL BANK of BELIZE



CAREER OPPORTUNITY

PROJECT ANALYST

The Central Bank invites qualified individuals to join its Office of Strategy Management.

The Project Analyst will provide direct or indirect project management services in the application of the Central Bank of Belize's Project Management (PM) methodology and effective use of PM and Change Management (CM) tools. The Project Analyst will perform direct services when assigned to a project in the role of project manager. Indirect services include supporting other project managers and teams to enhance their capability to successfully implement projects and contribute to the achievement of the Central Bank's strategic objectives.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Supports the Office of Strategy Management in the promotion of PM and CM best practices, methodology, standards, and tools in the execution of the Central Bank's projects.
- Applies the change management process and tools to support the adoption of the changes required by a project or initiative.
- Assists in training, mentoring, and guiding project team members throughout the project life cycle.
- Assists in identifying and utilizing of technology-based tools, especially Microsoft Project to facilitate project support and continuous development of project management skills.
- Assists in preparing project budgets and developing resource requirements.
- Reviews and reports on the project portfolio's performance, budget, and finances.
- Develops Service Level Agreements for indirect and direct project management services.
- Performs other related work required to ensure successful implementation of projects.

The applicants should possess the following:

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

- A master's degree in project management, management information systems, business management, or a related field from a recognized university, with two (2) years of experience in managing business-related projects. Knowledge and proficiency in project management software, preferably, Microsoft Project, or
- A minimum of a bachelor's degree in project management, management information systems, business management, or a related field from a recognized university, with four (4) years of experience in managing business-related projects. Knowledge and proficiency in project management software, preferably, Microsoft Project.

TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE

- Knowledge of Microsoft Project; Knowledge of Change Management tools and techniques; Knowledge of the strategic management approach; Excellent research and presentation skills; Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite.

COMPETENCIES

- Strong Communication Skills; Diagnostic Information Gathering; Analytical Thinking; Results Orientation; Initiative; Thoroughness; Flexibility; Fostering Teamwork; Performance Management; Building Collaborative Relationships; Managing Change; Self-Confidence; Organizational Awareness.

Submit the following documents by **Wednesday, 12 April 2023**:

- CBB Employment Application Form (Available online)
- Curriculum Vitae
- Three (3) current references (one must be from a previous employer)
- Certified copies of university transcripts, degrees, and any other personal certificates

Applications should be addressed to:

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

Ref: Project Analyst – Office of Strategy Management

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



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Interested crew couples should send an up-to-date resume containing reference contacts, certifications, together with a covering email stating why they should be considered for the positions to:

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Happy Easter

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

Please be advised that our offices country-wide will close at 12:00PM noon on Thursday, April 6, 2023 and will re-open for normal business hours on Tuesday, April 11, 2023.

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IN THE HIGH COURT OF BELIZE, A.D. 2022

CLAIM NO. 649 OF 2022

BETWEEN (BELIZE ELECTRICITY LIMITED ((AND ((DANGRIGA CABLEVISION LIMITED (FRANK ARZU JR.	CLAIMANT 1 ST DEFENDANT 2 ND DEFENDANT
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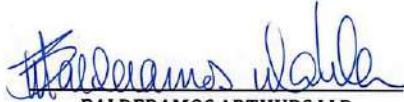
TO: FRANK ARZU JR.
Lakeland Area
Dangriga Town
Stann Creek District
Belize

TAKE NOTICE that a claim has been commenced against you in the High Court of Belize, Claim No. 649 of 2022 by BELIZE ELECTRICITY LIMITED of 2 ½ Miles Philip Goldson Highway, Belize City, Belize in which the Claimant's claim is for payment of the sum of BZ\$252,902.93, owed to the Claimant for the rental of electrical poles, arrears for energy consumption, and for interest upon money due plus costs.

AND it has been ordered that service of the Claim Form in the said claim be effected on you by this advertisement. If you desire to defend the said claim, you must, within fourteen days from the date of the second publication, file an Acknowledgment of Service at the office of the High Court.

TAKE NOTICE that in default of your so doing, the said Claimant may proceed, and judgment may be entered in your absence.

DATED the 29th day of March 2023.


BALDERAMOS ARTHURS LLP
Attorneys-at-Law for the Claimant
BELIZE ELECTRICITY LIMITED

BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM

COUNTRYWIDE

PUBLIC AUCTION SALES: PROPERTY

Beach Front Condo, Las Terrazas Resort, San Pedro, Ambergris Caye, Belize District

BY ORDER of the Supreme Court of Belize, Licensed Auctioneer Kevin A. Castillo is selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following property. Sale currently running until 31st May 2023. Within this period, a Public Auction Sale will expire fortnightly on the dates and times listed on the website until this property is sold.

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REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
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A Story of Miguel's Life (Part 15)



by Clinton Canul Luna

Miguel was not the same person anymore. His way of being with others began to change. His attitude was different. He was a respectful, kind and courteous person with his coworkers, as well as with other people he met at the company. However, behind his well-structured smile lay a person tormented by his past which had left very deep scars, traumas. One of the things that Miguel did not allow himself to do was have a close connection with his coworkers, since he did not want to make any mistakes; besides that, he did not trust women, for he believed that they were all prostitutes, just like the ones he knew from the Red Zone. That was going to haunt him all his life; he was a very distrustful man. He closed himself to everyone; he banned himself from

having friends.

Nevertheless, there were some new routines that he began to practice in his everyday life. He was human, and like every human being, he had certain needs. Miguel had known a hotel bar called Malibu, and every Thursday evening after work, he would go home, take a bath, change clothes and at around 10:00 p.m.. he would go to the bar. He didn't take a seat at any of the tables. Instead, he went to where the bartender was and would ask for a beer which he sipped on, taking his time, playing. He asked for another, did the same thing. After the third beer, he paid the bill and left. On Friday night, he repeated the same activities of the night before. He didn't pay attention to the clients that were there; the place was

full, but he didn't interfere or mingle with anyone. On Saturday night, he did the same, and surprisingly, a beautiful lady approached him asking, "Why so alone?"

"Hello, my name is Miguel. Yours?" he said. "I'm Rosa," she told him.

Obviously, Miguel didn't believe her. For him it was a fictitious name, but he didn't care. So, he told Rosa, "Would you like a drink?" She accepted, and they both started chatting, talking about different things. He then told her, "Would you like to go out to dinner?" She replied, "I would love to."

Of course, most of the people at the Malibu were tourists, both national and international. It was a well-known bar where many women would go

expecting some fun; temporary, obviously, nothing serious. Miguel kept doing this for a while; that was his technique to capture his prey. Now, Miguel would take his lady guests to a restaurant he knew which was built on the rocks on the shore of the Pacific Ocean. It had a view over the bay. Each hotel had a Mexican night (Noche Mexicana) which consisted of fireworks of different shapes and sizes; some were animal-shaped, some were simply exploding stars. So, every night, at midnight the sky would light up. Anyhow, Miguel and his companions would dine. From a menu of different exquisite dishes, his first option would always be a garlic medium-rare beef steak with a sizzle of Brandy. Sometimes, his partners would order the same dish, or something else. After dinner, he would order a bottle of Black Label, that is, whiskey. Miguel drank his in a long glass with a lot of ice; he put about an ounce of whiskey and filled the rest of the glass with mineral water. After enjoying the entire bottle, between talking and what's-not, and since they were both looking for the same thing, a night of excitement and passion, he invited her to a hotel.

Now, the manager of that hotel was another acquaintance of his. The hotel was bungalows. So, when Miguel would arrive in a taxi and as soon as the manager saw him, recognizing him, he gave Miguel a key to a bungalow. Sundays was his time off, so he woke up at any time, and if his companion liked, she would stay, but if not, she would ask Miguel to get her a taxi to take her to her hotel. He did not always pay the bill. On many occasions, mostly, the tourists would pay the bill; there were very few circumstances when he had to pay it. So, that was the new habit that he had taken. He realized that this trick of drinking 3 beers, retiring shortly after the third beer and repeating the same the following night, and on the third night a woman would approach him, searching for fun, excitement, pleasure. No one knew absolutely anything about Miguel's habit, for he was always alone. None of his coworkers had the knowledge, for they didn't go to that touristic zone. That was the new life he lived. On many occasions, his coworkers invited him to parties, be it birthdays, weddings, baptisms or an event organized by some of the families, Miguel would always look for an excuse not to attend. He had already become a very sickly, distrustful man, and he lived the rest of his life in that manner.

(To Be Continued)

fincasolan@gmail.com

April 2, 2023

Finca Solana

Corozal Town



CENTRAL BANK
of BELIZE



CAREER OPPORTUNITY

ASSISTANT MANAGER, FACILITY MANAGEMENT

The Central Bank invites qualified individuals to join its Administration Department.

The Assistant Manager, Facility Management is responsible for the leadership and management of the Facilities Management Unit (FMU) and reports to the Manager, Administration. The FMU is responsible for providing complete operations and maintenance service support to ensure that the Central Bank's facility is operated at peak performance; the building and grounds are kept in immaculate condition; and the working environment is comfortable, safe, and healthy and is conducive to high productivity.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Develops, implements, maintains, and oversees a comprehensive Operating and Maintenance Program in line with international standards and best practices.
- Develops, implements, and maintains Occupational Health and Safety Policy and Procedures.
- Plans for future development in line with strategic business objectives.
- Prepares, negotiates and oversees the performance of service contracts for the maintenance of the facility.
- Plans and oversees Energy Management efforts and provides monthly reports on energy and water utilization.
- Establishes and maintains files of as-built, schematic and engineering drawings of plant facilities, including specifications, operations and maintenance manuals.
- Oversees the maintenance, modification, and upgrade of computerized systems, such as computer-aided design and drafting (CADD) and building management system (BMS) and any other automated system deemed necessary to improve efficiency.
- Leads and coordinates projects involving spatial requirements, including re-organization of current premises, facility expansion, and identification of new premises and/or new construction.
- Participates actively in Business Continuity Planning to ensure quick recovery and resumption of critical business function.
- Responds appropriately to emergencies or urgent issues as they arise and be accessible on a 24-hour basis.

The applicants should possess the following:

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

- Master's degree in Facilities Management or any of the following engineering disciplines: Electrical, Mechanical, or Civil Engineering with at least four (4) years of industry experience in a management and/or maintenance field; **or**
- Master's degree in Management (MBA) and a Bachelor's degree in Electrical, Mechanical, or Civil Engineering with at least five (5) years of industry experience; **or**
- Bachelor's degree in Electrical, Mechanical, **or** Civil Engineering **or** Facilities Management with at least six (6) years of industry experience in management and/or mechanical, electrical, or civil maintenance and/or installation. A certificate or experience in Facilities Management would be an asset.

TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE

- Strong mechanical aptitude and a working knowledge of electrical and mechanical systems to deliver quality work, and keep informed of the latest trends and developments in the discipline; Knowledge of Occupational Health & Safety Standards and safe workplace practices, facilities management including civil, mechanical, and electrical applications, plumbing and air conditioning and building compliance codes; Proficient in software applications, including CADD software, CMMS, and Microsoft Suite; Proficient in strategic management and project management; Ability to read and interpret blueprints, plans, specifications, and detailed layout drawings.

COMPETENCIES

- Communications & Interpersonal Skills, Results Orientation, Flexibility/Adaptability, Leadership, Decision Making/Problem-Solving, Empowering and Developing Others, Project Management

Submit the following documents by **Wednesday, 12 April 2023**:

- CBB Employment Application Form (Available online)
- Curriculum Vitae
- Three (3) current references (one must be from a previous employer)
- Certified copies of university transcripts, degrees, and any other personal certificates

Applications should be addressed to:

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

Ref: Assistant Manager, Facility Management- Administration Department

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

Connect with us on
LinkedIn

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/central-bank-of-belize/>

Cross Country tales

Continued from Page 13

on the topic of the first one-day Cross Country, photo copies of which she shared with us, and the content of which we reproduce at the end of this article.

Sylvia continued, "There's also testimony to this deed on a sports show that used to be hosted by Miss NELLIE TRENCH on Sundays. Mr. Melford Ramsey was on this show. During the presentation, a caller inquired who is the person responsible for the Expeditions becoming a one-day reality and Mr. Ramsey replied, 'Anselm Waight'."

Furthering her argument in favour of her dad's name being recognized in the Cross Country annals as being most responsible for the change to the one-day event, Sylvia maintained that if we review "visual records of the Sunday Miss NELLIE TRENCH SHOW and the Wednesday Mr. SMOKEY JOE SHOW, on both shows you will hear the spoken testimony of Mr. MELFORD RAMSEY, Mr. ASTON DEAN GILL,

Mr. HERBERT GENTLE, Mr. ROBERT FERGUSON. The latter won in 1933, 1934 and ten years later 1944. Mr. Ferguson used to work at the gas-station we knew as Lelé's Gas Station on Freetown Road. At that time the Cycling Association had a criterion that the first cyclist to win three Expeditions, gets to keep the cup. Mr. Ferguson won three Expeditions before Mr. ASTON DEAN GILL's 1945, 1946 and 1947 victories. (Aston Gill also won a fourth in 1950.) Sadly, Mr. Ferguson is retired and also blind. He lives somewhere in the Fabers Road Extension area."

Sylvia jabs Popie

Of course, a true sports/cycling fanatic, Sylvia couldn't resist the opportunity to throw a few sporting jabs in relation to the upcoming 'Country, the subject being Elite cyclist Byron "Popie" Pope, who recently appeared on a sports show after winning a smaller local race.

"Before I leave, kindly do remind Popie that a cyclist can win several races throughout the year; BUT if he does not win the Holy Saturday Cross-Country Cycling Classic, he has not won anything yet and not in the big league.

"Popie, if you want the Belize flag, ride for it!"

Sylvia said, "We were to meet with Emil Moreno on the 24th October, 2010. The UCI had complained that the name of the race is too long for their IT system. Emil Moreno had asked if we had anything in writing. The only testimonial was Mr. Buck Belisle's writing. 1961 Hurricane Hattie (had) demolished our house and ALL records were sadly destroyed.

"The meeting did not come about, as man proposes and God disposes! Belize was struck by Hurricane Richard.

"Yes, Belize, our pride and (joy) should really have the name of its author, its originator, Mr. ANSELM PHILIP

WAIGHT, SR.

"Cheers for a born and bred Belizean victory this coming 8th April, 2023!"

Buck Belisle's testimonial

Following is our best verbatim reproduction of the written testimonial by Lewis "Buck" Belisle which he reportedly penned in 2008:

Buck Belisle's testimonial on first one-day Cross Country

Good night. My name is Lewis G. Belisle, better known as Buck Belisle. I was asked to comment on this inception of this non-stop Cross Country event.

At an Annual General Meeting held in 1948, the then president Anselm Waight came up with this idea of a non-stop Cross Country through the village of Burrell Boom. A lengthy discussion took place. Boom had a ferry and no bridge. What if the race broke up before reaching the ferry? Anselm, the president and former Cross Country cyclist, second to Donald Lightburn in 1931, was able to persuade us. It was agreed for all participants to cross the Ferry at the same time. If needs be, a short wait for any stragglers.

At about 10 minutes to five, my very good friend Aston Dean Gill and I went to the starting point. On reaching he realized that one of his wheels was soft, so he went back to fix it.

However, 5 o'clock came before his return and so Don Poly Smith decided to wait a few minutes for Gill.

The race started on North Front St. opposite to the place which later became the Eden cinema. The race went off like a *bat out of hell*. D. Lightburn, G. Gabourel, M. Ramsey, A. Smith, D. Graham and a no. 15, Graham helper took off. I was with them but after turning into Mapp St. I realized that Aston was not with us. I pulled up and waited to inform him of the flight.

At about Mile 8 no. 15 was caught. On reaching the ferry we found out that the other fellows had already crossed on skiffs. Robert Ferguson said not to worry, as they are disqualified.

Making it short, Graham, Lightburn and Gabourel were caught prior to reaching El Cayo. Smith won this race, Ramsey came in second. I could not win the Cross Country, so I trained winners. Anthony Hutchinson 1972, 1973 and Alpheus Williams '81, '82 and '84.

The second non-stop was won by Alvin Joseph and Aston Gill took second place.

(AMANDALA Ed. Note: The Holy Saturday Cross Country Classic has been a one-day race ever since.)



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The US Government-funded Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) has selected Belize as one of only two countries in the world for a five-year government to government grant to fund a program aimed at reducing poverty and stimulating economic growth.

The Government of Belize (GOB) through the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development, and Investment, have contracted a team of individual consultants to form a Compact Development Team in Belize that will work together with a U.S.-based MCC Team to conduct a diagnosis of the constraints to economic growth, prepare concept notes, develop project proposals, and plan for project implementation.

The Belize Compact Development Team will be led by a National Coordinator who will manage the team, engage key stakeholders across all sectors, and bear responsibility for the overall performance and work quality of the team. The Electricity Sector Specialist will be a member of BCDT and will work closely with the Program Coordinator and other members of the BCDT as well as the MCC team to develop the Electricity Project following the MCC's Investment Criteria.

Vacant Post

1. Energy Specialist

Remuneration: Competitive salary and benefits are offered, commensurate with academic level, work experience and other relevant strengths of the winning candidate. Kindly follow the below link for further details.

<https://med.gov.bz/>

Interested candidates are requested to submit ONE PDF File that shall include: **a)** Letter of Interest indicating the post being applied for; **b)** the curriculum vitae, **c)** copies of university degrees, and **d)** the names of 3 references.

Subsequently the top 3 applicants for the post will be interviewed.

Deadline for application is **14 April at 4:00pm**. Application can be sent via email to: econdev@med.gov.bz or hand delivered to the address indicated below:

Chief Executive Officer
Ministry of Economic Development
Sir Edney Cain Building
Ground Floor, Right Wing
Belmopan City, Belize C.A.

Any request for clarification should be sent via email no later than 20 April 2023. Responses will be provided within three days.

**KREM
PHONES
(OFFICE)**

280-4469

280-4299

(EMAIL)

**ON LINE LIVE:
www.krembz.com**



Central Information Technology Office
Ministry of Finance

Corner Dry Creek Mountain View Boulevard Belmopan

Telephones: 501 822-2406/08-20708 · Email: contact@cito.gov.bz

TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY OF MICROSOFT 365 LICENSES FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE

1. The Government of Belize, acting through the Central Information Technology Office, now invites Tenders for the supply of Microsoft 365 Licenses for the Government of Belize. The subscription period required is for one (1) year.
2. Procurement of the goods will be conducted through Open Tendering Procedure.
3. **Terms of Reference**
 - 3a. **Technical specifications**
The scope of work includes the provision of Microsoft Licenses for the products listed in the table below:

ITEM	QUANTITY
Microsoft 365 E3	3,250
Microsoft 365 F3	175
Microsoft Defender for Office 365 (Plan 1)	5,805
Microsoft Security E5 (has Defender for Office Plan 2, Defender for Endpoint Plan 2, and Azure Premium Plan 2)	150
Office 365 E1	1,150
Office 365 E3	1,000
Office 365 F3	200
Office 365 E5 without Audio Conferencing	30
Power BI Pro	20
Project Plan 3	200
Project Plan 5	15
Visio Plan 2	100
 - 3b. **Program of Works**
The program of work includes:
 1. Technical support with license provisioning.
 2. Activation of licenses and handing over to the Central Information Technology Office.
 3. Issue resolution for the duration of the contract period (12 months).
 - 3c. **Schedule**
The licenses are to be provisioned and activated no later than 30 June 2023.
4. Copies of this Tender document can be downloaded from the Ministry of Finance Procurement Portal <https://procurement.gov.bz/> or the CARICOM Public Procurement Notice Board <https://cppnb.caricom.org/epps/home.do>.
5. The currency exchange rate for regional/international bidders is USD 1.00 to BZD 2.00.
6. **Eligibility Criteria:** This invitation is open to all eligible Tenderers as per the eligibility criteria below:
 1. The Tenderer has an active membership in Microsoft Partner Network for Latin America and the Caribbean region and market (MPN ID) at the time of bid submission.
 2. The Tenderer must be an active Cloud Service Provider (CSP) that can sell CSP offers in Latin America and the Caribbean region and market
 3. The Tenderer should provide evidence of experience deploying Microsoft 365 Licenses for at least one (1) previous contract of a similar size and nature within the past three years.
 4. The Tenderer is required to provide a signed and dated banker's reference that should include the following information:
 - a. The name and contact information of the bank or financial institution providing the reference.
 - b. The name of the account holder and the account number.
 - c. The length of the banking relationship.
 - d. The monthly average balance of the account over the past 12 months.
 - e. Any other relevant information that the bank or financial institution deems appropriate.
 5. The Tenderer has availability of liquid assets through either:
 - a. Access to a line of credit of 100% of the bid price
 - b. Cash in a bank account of an amount at least 100% of the bid price
7. **Administrative Requirements:** All Tenders shall include the following additional documentation in their submission:
 1. Business certificates
 - a. **For local Tenderers:**
 1. Current copies of Certificates of Good Standing from:
 - a. Belize Tax Service within 6 months
 - b. Belize Companies Registry within 1 year
 - c. Belize Social Security Board within 1 year
 2. A valid copy of the entity's Trade License reflecting the name of the entity that is bidding within 1 year.
 - b. **For regional/international Tenderers:** Statement of compliance from Companies' Registry within 1 year.
 2. Bids must be accompanied by a notarized bid-securing declaration.
3. Power of attorney showing person signing the bid is authorized to do so.
4. Two references.
5. The bids should be valid for six months from the last date for submission of the bids.
8. The contract is subject to the following Income and Business Tax as per Government Policy as shown below:
 - a. 25% - for entities from non-Caricom countries
 - b. 15% - for entities from Caricom countries
 - c. 19% for entities licensed to provide telecommunication services that offer real-time voice services.
 - d. 6% for companies in Belize
9. Price should be inclusive of General Sales Tax (GST) payment of 12.5% for GST-registered agents.
10. **Questions and Replies**
Questions shall be type-written in English and shall be sent via email to the following address: MS365tenders2023@cito.gov.bz. The deadline for queries is 14 April 2023.

Responses from the CITO will be type-written in English and will be emailed to the requester and may also be made available to other Tenderers subject to confidentiality.
11. **Submission of Tenders** should be emailed to MS365tenders2023@cito.gov.bz with the subject TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY OF MICROSOFT 365 LICENSES FOR GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE.
 - a) To ensure confidentiality, the bid response shall consist of two password-protected files - one technical and one financial. This can be done on the file itself, using zip password protection, or some other means of password-protecting the file. The password will be requested at the opening of the tender.
 - b) Bidders shall submit a brief description of the documents contained in each of the password-protected files.
 - c) Any discounts offered should be clearly stated by the Tenderer.
13. **The deadline for Tender submission** is 10:00 am on 28 April 2023. Submissions received after the deadline will be rejected.
14. **Evaluation Criteria**
Tenders will be evaluated on technical merit and price based on the following criteria:

Evaluation Criteria	Weight (%)
Financial Offer	50%
Technical proposal	50%
Direct technical support from Microsoft.	20%
Access to the portal for managing licenses throughout the term of the agreement (1 year)	10%
Service delivery models for issue resolution must be with English-speaking technical support.	10%
Service delivery experience in provisioning and supporting Microsoft 365 for business comparable in the magnitude of this Tender	5%
The financial strength of the company demonstrated over the past three (3) years	5%
Total	100%
15. **Opening of the Tenders** will take place online on 3 May 2023 at 2 pm Belize Time and in the presence of the Tenderers or their representatives who wish to attend the Tender opening.
16. **Evaluation of the Tenders** will be conducted on 5 May 2023.
 - a) The selection of the successful Tenderer will be based on a competitive process that considers Technical and Financial Proposals.
 - b) The Technical file will be opened first, evaluated, and ranked. The Evaluation Committee will first check for administrative compliance and only those bids complying will have their technical proposal evaluated against the Evaluation Criteria to determine the technical capacity of the tenderer to provide the Microsoft 365 Licenses and Support services at the level being requested.
 - c) Only those Tenderers passing a minimum of 70% will have their Financial proposal opened and evaluated.
 - d) The financial proposal will count for 50% of the total points.
 - e) The Tenderer with the highest combined value (Technical + Financial) will be recommended for the award of the contract.
 - f) Incomplete tenders will not be accepted.
17. The Tenderer who offers the lowest price and who qualified in the technical evaluation, may not necessarily be awarded the contract for the supply of the Microsoft 365 Licenses to the Government of Belize.



REQUEST FOR BIDS

Belize

Supply and Delivery of Road Furniture for Maintenance

Loan # 4616/OC-BL

RFB No. 001of 2023

1. The Government of Belize has received a loan from the Inter-American Development Bank toward the cost of **Additional Financing for the George Price Highway Rehabilitation Project** and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the Contract for the Supply and Delivery of Road Furniture for Maintenance.

2. The Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing, Government of Belize now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the Supply and Delivery of Road Furniture for Maintenance. The number and identification of lots (contracts) comprising this Bidding are:

Lot 1 - Guard Rail System

- Guard Rail System (8 sections of 300 mts)
- Fish Tail Ends
- Energy Absorbent Ends
- Guard Rail Markers

Lot 2 - Thermoplastic Paints with Reflective Beads

- Color (Yellow) Center Line 64 kms
- Color (White) Edge Line 64kms
- Reflective Glass Beads – AASHTO M247 Type 2
- Reflective Road Studs (Cat Eyes)
- White
- Yellow

Lot 3 - Thermoplastic Pre-Melter Set and Thermoplastic Detail Striper

- Thermoplastic Pre-Melter Set (4,000 lbs. total melting capacity)
- Mini Mac Thermoplastic Detail Striper w/common replacement parts for 3 yrs.
- Training

3. The Request for Bids will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures specified in the Inter-American Development Bank's Policies (GN-2349-15, January 2020) for the Procurement of Works and Goods financed by the Inter-American Development Bank and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Policies.

4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Program Management Unit for the **Additional Financing for the George Price Highway Rehabilitation Project** pmupcmow@gmail.com, gphrp.3344@midh.gov.bz or procurement.officer.midh@gmail.com and inspect the bidding document at the address given below First Floor, Project Execution Unit Building, Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing, #1 Power Lane, Belmopan, Cayo District during working hours of Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Local Belize time).

5. Qualifications requirements include:

(a) For National Companies

- Certificates of Good Standing from the Belize Companies Registry, Belize Social Security Board and the Belize Tax Services.

For International Companies

- Certificate of Good Standing from the Companies Registry

For All Bidders

- Certificate of Incorporation
- Principal place of business of the Bidder
- Written power of attorney of the signatory of the Bid to commit the Bidder.
- Experience in supply and delivery of goods and equipment of a similar nature and value for each of the last five (5) years. Provide list of clients who may be contacted for further information on those contracts.
- Reports on the financial standing of the Bidder such as audited financial statements (inclusive of auditor's reports) for the past three (3) years (2019 to 2021).
- Information regarding any litigation, current or during the last three (3) years (2019, 2020 and 2021), in which the Bidder was/is involved, the parties concerned, and the disputed amounts and awards.

(b) If the Bidder is a manufacturer:

1.) Financial Capability

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

- i) Minimum average annual turn over in last three (3) years (2019, 2020 and 2021) shall be: Lot 1: BZ \$150,000, Lot 2: BZ \$150,000, Lot 3: BZ \$150,000
Calculated as total certified payments received for contracts in progress and/or completed within the last **Three (3) years**, divided by **Three (3) years**. Must meet **Fifty percent (50%)** of the requirement **for each Lot**.
- ii.) Provide audited financial statements for period 2019, 2020 and 2021.

2.) Experience and Technical Capacity

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

- i.) Have successfully completed at least 2 contracts of similar nature and value of the following to qualify for each lot: BZ \$75,000 for Lot 1; BZ \$75,000 for Lot 2 and BZ \$75,000 for Lot 3.
- ii.) Shall Possess skilled and technically competent team to carry out necessary warranty, support, maintenance and after sales services (training).

3.) Documentary Evidence

The Bidder shall furnish documentary evidence to demonstrate that the Goods it offers meet the following usage requirement: Documentary evidence to establish conformity of the goods to the technical specifications/standards in the bidding document.

If Bidder is not a manufacturer:

If a Bidder is not a manufacturer but is offering the Goods on behalf of the Manufacturer under Manufacturer's Authorization Form (Section V, Bidding Forms), the Manufacturer shall demonstrate the above qualifications (1), (2), (3) and the Bidder shall demonstrate that it has successfully completed at least **Two (2)** contracts of similar goods in the past **2019, 2020 and 2021** years.

(c) All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Securing Declaration

(d) And any other documents or information as stipulated in the Bidding Documents

7. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be requested by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below.

8. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before **10:00 am** (Local Belize Time) on **April 26, 2023**. Electronic bidding shall not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person or on-line at the address below at **10:30 am** (local Belize time) on **April 26, 2023**.

9. The address referred to above is:

Attention:

Mr. Rolando Chan
Project Manager
Program Management Unit
1st Floor, Project Execution Unit Building
Power Lane, Belmopan
Cayo District, BELIZE
Tel: 501-822-1942
Email: pmupcmow@gmail.com AND
cc: gphrp.3344@midh.gov.bz

Haiti: "The Truth Speaks for Itself"

by Robert Roth,
Haiti Action
Committee

haitisolidarity.net,
March 14, 2023

On December 16th, 2022, Fanmi Lavalas – the people's party of Haiti – released a statement commemorating the 32nd anniversary of the first democratic election in Haiti's history. In that election, the Haitian people chose Jean-Bertrand Aristide as their president, only to see their historic victory overturned seven months later as the result of a bloody U.S.-orchestrated coup d'état. Drawing on the lessons of that period, the Lavalas statement connected the events of 1990-1991 with the crisis facing Haitian society today:

"The truth speaks for itself: If there had not been a coup d'état, today many of the beautiful dreams of the Haitian



people would have already materialized. With justice, transparency, participation, there would be food for everyone, housing for everyone, schools for all and health care for all."

"32 years after the victory of December 16, 1990, we are witnessing how the anti-democratic forces have failed. They have failed because the country has become a hell on earth. Everywhere is kidnapping, insecurity, misery, hunger, excessive cost of living, corruption, economic crimes,

political crimes in a hell that is called a country."

Today, the situation in the country could not be more dire. The unelected and illegitimate *de facto* prime minister Ariel Henry remains in power despite continuous mass protests demanding his ouster. Henry was hand-picked by the U.S. and its allies in the so-called Core Group of foreign occupiers that exercises colonial control over Haiti. Like the series of U.S.-imposed governments that have infected Haiti since the 2004 coup against the second Aristide administration, the Henry government has proven to be a disaster for the Haitian people. Following the dictates of the IMF and its structural adjustment policies, the Henry regime removed government subsidies on fuel prices, resulting in dramatic hikes in the cost of gas, food and other basic necessities. In response, Haitians took to the streets by the tens of thousands in a series of militant and powerful protests.

With collapsing infrastructure and a defunded health care system, Haiti is once

again confronting a cholera epidemic. Food insecurity now threatens nearly 5 million people, including 2.4 million children, in a country of 12 million. Government-supported paramilitary groups continue to terrorize opposition neighborhoods, with kidnappings at an all-time high.

These crises have their roots in the 2004 coup and the subsequent imposition of foreign occupation, coordinated through the United Nations. And yet, without a trace of irony, the same foreign powers and corrupt rulers responsible for this situation are now asking Haitians to believe that more intervention and more elite anti-democratic rule will somehow change all of this.

Fearful that the Henry regime is on its last legs, the U.S. and the U.N. have been lobbying other countries, including Canada, Mexico and the CARICOM nations, to become the face of yet another round of military intervention to insure that

Please turn to **Page 27**



**Belize Fund For A
Sustainable Future**

Position Title: Communications Officer ("CO")

Background:

Established in March 2022, Belize Fund for a Sustainable Future ("BFSF"), is a Belizean, not-for-profit entity, established to undertake charitable and scientific activities that provide funding and other forms of support for conservation and climate change adaptation activities in Belize. These activities are identified and prioritized by relevant stakeholders including the government of Belize and includes other activities that may align with the achievement of the conservation commitments of Belize arising from or related to transactions associated with the formation of the BFSF, to help the people of Belize steward a sustainable future for the country of Belize. Its mission is: To create a transparent and inclusive financing mechanism that is successfully mobilizing investments for the conservation and responsible development of Belize's marine and coastal resources.

BFSF is now operationalizing the fund to support Belize's national marine and coastal conservation priorities, including establishing policies and procedures for the Fund's operations, the development of a Strategic Plan to guide the focus of its programs and investments, and implementation of its Grants Program. The BFSF seeks a Communications Officer who is motivated, well-organised, and creative to promote the work of the Fund, and build relationships and networks with stakeholders, the public and donors to support the effective implementation of the BFSF's mission and communicate our impact.

Key Responsibilities of the role:

Working under the direction of the Executive Director, the Communications Officer will be responsible to implement communications and public relations strategies that increase the public's awareness of the BFSF, its activities and initiatives; enhance its image among key stakeholders; and maximize media opportunities. This Officer will be responsible for developing and implementing strategic communications targeted to our key audiences with an aim to:

- Raise awareness of the BFSF as a fund dedicated to the conservation and responsible development of coastal and marine resources in Belize.
- Promote the positive impact of projects funded by the BFSF.
- Help support the promotion of all activities/events and the recognition of funders/fundraisers.
- Support BFSF's transparency and accountability practices to help build its credibility.

Responsibilities shall include, but are not limited to, the following tasks and activities:

1. Prepare a BFSF Communications and Marketing Strategy to guide all communications and marketing activities of the Fund, in alignment with the Fund's strategic plan.
2. Develop and deliver communications campaigns and products across Public Relations (PR), outreach, direct marketing, digital and social media.
3. Develop and manage content across all institutional communication channels, including digital and social media platforms (including website, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, LinkedIn, etc).
4. Develop materials to enhance donor communications including publications, audio/visual materials, fact sheet, case studies and fundraising packages.
5. Write press releases, organize press calls, respond to media enquiries and to any inquiries received through institutional communication channels.
6. Consult with program team to integrate and reflect project activities in communication channels.
7. Maintain a BFSF partner mailing list and database, with contacts of all partner organizations (including grantees, donors, partners and media).
8. Develop and periodically update BFSF branding guidelines and support grantees in the correct use of BFSF logo.
9. Prepare the content and oversee the design, production and copywriting of all printed material, including the BFSF Annual Reports.
10. Maintain a database of photos, videos, case studies and research/evidence to promote the BFSF's work.

11. Support a range of BFSF events – whether national and international events with different purposes, including fundraising, information sharing and knowledge exchange.
12. Respond to general enquiries via post, email, website and social media and acknowledge one-off donations.
13. Represent the BFSF at national and international meetings, forums, briefings, interviews, and public presentations, as appropriate.
14. Prepare high-quality written materials for Board review.
15. Oversee the design and production of any BFSF promotional materials, including stationary and merchandise (such as institutional gifts, uniforms, etc).
16. Develop and maintain updated institutional templates for documents (Word) and presentations (Power Point), so that all staff use materials with the correct BFSF's visual identity.
17. Support the launch of Calls for Proposals, connecting to communication vehicles of different regions and helping BFSF to achieve the targeted audiences.
18. Support all communication actions related to the results of Call for Proposals, including reviewing standard messages to applicants to ensure relationship building with selected and non-selected institutions.
19. Any other responsibilities/functions deemed necessary by the Executive Director to meet the objectives of BFSF.

Minimum qualifications:

All candidates for this position must provide evidence of the following skills and abilities:

- A Bachelors' degree in communications or marketing or a related field with at least 3 years' work experience in a communications environment.
- At least 3 years' experience in communications, marketing, fundraising, and institutional networking for donors.
- Excellent written skills with the ability to produce concise and creative content.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills and engaging presentation skills.
- Familiarity (or the ability to quickly achieve familiarity) with biodiversity conservation issues.
- Service-orientated, courteous, personable, and able to engage effectively and sensitively with all levels of staff and external stakeholders.
- Excellent computer skills, including working knowledge of the Microsoft Office Suite, photo editing and website development software, such as Lightroom and Word Press.
- Self-motivated and resourceful, with the ability to work effectively under pressure, on multiple tasks, including being comfortable with, and flexible to, changing situations and priorities.
- Strong strategic and analytical skills and creative problem-solving ability.
- Excellent organizational skills and judgment; ability to prioritize work, manage time and multiple priorities, and meet deadlines; attention to detail and accuracy; the ability to set realistic goals and objectives.
- Demonstrated ability to handle sensitive information effectively and confidentially.
- Ability and willingness to travel for work or work occasional weekends as required.

Desired Qualifications:

- Multi-lingual and multi-cultural or cross-cultural experience appreciated.
- Some data analysis experience in the context of digital media and using digital channels to generate support.

Remuneration:

Commensurate with the selected candidate's experience and suitability for the role.

To submit your application electronically:

Please provide a cover letter (of no more than two pages in length) addressed to the Executive Director – BFSF and a copy of your CV along with two references to jobs@bfsf.bz by the application deadline.

Application deadline:

April 21st at 5:00 pm.

Teakettle villager shot and beaten



Erwin Santos, shooting victim

by Charles Gladden

and also suffered a broken leg and arm. Family members of Santos told *Amandala* that he underwent surgery the following day for the fracture to his arm.

They also said that their brother had been given warnings from people around the village to be careful, as there were rumors about threats from two men who had a grievance against Santos and wanted him dead. It is suspected that these men were responsible for Santos' injuries.

This isn't the first time that Santos has been mentioned in local news coverage. In 2017, he was wanted by police in connection with two murders, the deaths of Markie Mendez of Teakettle and Jorge Lemus of Unitedville. He was also charged for possession of an unlicensed firearm.

Santos was acquitted of the murder charges but served 5 years behind bars for the firearm offenses and was released on July 6, 2022.

TEAKETTLE, Cayo District, Mon. Apr. 3, 2023

A man is lucky to be alive after he was viciously attacked outside of his mother's home in Teakettle Village, Cayo District, on Thursday night, March 30. He was identified as 30-year-old Erwin Santos.

Reports have it that Santos was inside the house helping his mother to make panades, then went outside and sat on a plastic chair under a tree. A short while after he went outside, the sound of two gunshots was heard, and when relatives came outside to see what had happened, they saw Santos injured. He went inside and was transported to the Western Regional Hospital by family members.

Reports suggest that he received two gunshot injuries and was also chopped, and beaten with a hammer to the head,

PRESS PREDICTIONS

The sports psychic speaks



Continued from Page 12

with Kulture Yabra 3 championships in a 4-year span with Norman "Tillyman" Nunez, the best player all time Belize has ever seen. Then he won 2 years with FC Belize, he won 2 with the BDF and 1 with Verdes FC, and he is seeking his 9th championship with Port Layola FC, a new franchise. He will become the only coach to win with 5 different teams in Belizean football history. This season has a lot of parity, all of the teams are well balanced off. Michael Palacio still leads the league in scoring with 8 goals. Horace Avila has 6 goals.

8 players have 4 goals each – Mario Chimal, Daniel Jimenez, Shawn Young, Andir Chi, Louis Valdez, Leston Garcia,



Andres Orozco

Andres Orozco and Leocadio Briceno. Verdes FC crushed Wagiya FC 4 goals to 0 in Cayo. Next week, more stats.

GoB meets with Belize Chinese Association on price gouging

Continued from Page 7

"We have access to certain administrative records, where we are able to determine the landed cost of goods. Cost, insurance, freight, taxes, duties, and taxes, actually in most instances the basic food items do not pay duties, right? So, the government actually has limited latitude in terms of what they can do by forgoing taxes on those products, so we are able to track landed costs for the goods; where the gap has always been is that intermediate step between importation and the retailer, and that is where the cooperation of the retailers and the Chinese community will be very key," said Nicholson.

The government and the Belize Chinese Community have agreed to continue to exchange information and work together, and if any store owner

is found guilty of price gouging, Ou has agreed that that individual should be penalized.

"The market controls the prices and the competition. So, from the time I heard gouging, I don't believe gouging is happening because the market does also and has done a lot. Any premises that want to keep their business going, they cannot just put any price they want, that is ridiculous," said Ou.

The next step will involve meeting with other members of the distribution chain in an effort to identify at what specific points unnecessary price hikes might be taking place in an attempt to control inflation as much as they can.

Visit **KREM** at www.krembz.com

TENDER NOTICE

Primary Healthcare Services

The Social Security Board invites Health Care Providers to submit expression of interest to participate in the tender process for the provision of National Health Insurance (NHI) Primary Care Services for Zone 2 within the Northern area of Orange Walk Town.

The forms for the expression of interest can be downloaded from NHI's facebook page (www.facebook.com/NHIBelize) or picked up at the SSB office in Orange Walk Town.

The forms must be submitted in a sealed envelope labelled "**INTEREST FOR TENDER OF NHI PRIMARY HEALTHCARE SERVICES**" and **Company Name**. Envelopes are to be received by the SSB Office in Orange Walk Town no later than 4:00 p.m. local time on **April 18th, 2023**.

Kindly address the envelope to:

**General Manager, National Health Insurance
Social Security Board, Bliss Parade
P.O. Box 18, Belmopan, Belize C.A.**

Social Security Board: Safeguarding YOU, your FAMILY, your FUTURE!

TENDER NOTICE

Ophthalmology Services

The Social Security Board invites Ophthalmologists to submit expression of interest to participate in the tender process for the provision of Eye glasses for school aged children, Diabetic eye examinations, cataract surgeries and laser surgery for Diabetic Retinopathy for the National Health Insurance (NHI) Rollout in the **Orange Walk District**.

The forms for the expression of interest can be downloaded from the NHI's Belize Facebook page (www.facebook.com/NHIBelize) or picked up at the SSB office in Orange Walk Town.

The forms must be submitted in a sealed envelope labelled "**INTEREST FOR TENDER OF NHI OPHTHALMOLOGY SERVICES**" and **Company Name**. Envelopes are to be received by the SSB Office in Orange Walk Town no later than **4:00 p.m. local time on April 18th, 2023**.

Kindly address the envelope to:

**General Manager, National Health Insurance
Social Security Board, Bliss Parade
P.O. Box 18, Belmopan, Belize C.A.**

Social Security Board: Safeguarding YOU, your FAMILY, your FUTURE!



INVITATION TO BID

SEVENTH POWER PROJECT

CAYE CAULKER INTERCONNECTION

Coastal Land Development of North Caye Caulker Substation Site and San Pedro Switching Station Site for the Caye Caulker Interconnection to San Pedro, Ambergris Caye; under the Seventh Power Project

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

BEL now invites electronic bids from eligible bidders for Coastal Land Development of San Pedro Switching Station and North Caye Caulker Substation for the Caye Caulker interconnection to San Pedro, Ambergris Caye; under the Seventh Power Project. The works include, but are not limited to the following:

San Pedro Switching Station (Parcel ID: 7-42-116)

- Applying and obtaining use of the reserve and permits for dock and seawall.
- Barge transportation of materials and equipment.
- Clearing of native vegetation.
- Backfilling of the property and the reserve with imported fill material to 3 ft above mean sea level.
- Construction of 60 ft of vinyl seawall.
- Construction of a 260 ft long x 8 ft wide boat timer dock.

North Caye Caulker Substation (Parcel ID: 12-11-1203)

- Applying and obtaining permit for clearing of mangroves and other native vegetation.
- Applying and obtaining dredging permit.
- Applying and obtaining use of the reserve and permits for dock and seawall.
- Barge transportation of materials and equipment.
- Clearing of mangroves and other native vegetation.
- Dredging earthworks for a barge/boat access channel of dimensions 60 ft wide x 500 ft long x 5 ft below the existing seabed to yield sand to complete the filling of the property and the reserve to 3 ft above mean sea level.
- Backfilling of the property and the reserve with dredge material to 3 ft above mean sea level.
- Construction of 240 ft of vinyl seawall.
- Construction of 60 ft reinforced concrete barge landing.
- Construction of a 260 ft long x 8 ft wide boat timber dock.

Consideration will be limited to firms or joint ventures of firms which are legally incorporated or otherwise organised, and have their principal place of business in an eligible country and are either:

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

Eligible countries are Member Countries of CDB.

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

Qualification requirements include, inter alia:

- (a) Average annual turnover (defined as certified payments received for works in progress or completed) within the last three (3) years of at least seven hundred and fifty thousand Belize dollars (BZD \$750,000.00).
- (b) Demonstrable cash flow, including access to credit, of one hundred thousand Belize dollars (BZD \$100,000.00).
- (c) Experience as prime contractor, management contractor or sub-contractor in the construction of at least two (2) assignments of a nature, scope, and complexity comparable to the proposed project activity within the last three (3) years (to comply with this requirement, the works quoted must have been successfully completed).

Bidding documents may be obtained by eligible bidders from the first address below for a non-refundable fee of One Hundred US Dollars (USD \$100.00). Requests must be made by written application including email. Written applications must be clearly marked: **"Coastal Land Development for San Pedro Switching Station and North Caye Caulker Substation for Seventh Power Project"**, along with the name, address and contact information of the bidder for which bidding documents are being requested. Payment should be by wire transfer or bank draft made payable to: **Belize Electricity Limited**. Information to pay by wire transfer can be obtained from the first address below. Proof of payment is required before bidding documents are issued.

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

A pre-bid meeting will be held at **9:00 a.m. Belize time on Thursday, April 13, 2023**, at the second address below and will be followed by a joint site visit conducted by BEL at **1:30 p.m. Belize time on Thursday, April 13, 2023**, at the fourth address below. Interested bidders should attend. All costs associated with a bidder's attendance will be at the bidder's own expense.

Electronic submissions via registered email with the subject title **"Bid for Coastal Land Development for San Pedro Switching Station and North Caye Caulker Substation for Seventh Power Project"** must be received at the third address below no later than **10:00 a.m. Belize time on Friday, April 28, 2023**. A virtual bid opening will take place at **11:00 a.m. Belize time on Friday, April 28, 2023**, from a meeting link sent from the third address below in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend virtually.

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

1. Address for Correspondence

Email: bidcorrespondence@bel.com.bz

2. Address for Pre-Bid Meeting

BEL Ladyville Stores
11 Miles, Philip Goldson Highway (In front of Philip Goldson International Airport)
Ladyville Village
Belize District
Belize City, Belize C. A.

3. Address for Bid Submission

Email: bidsubmittal@bel.com.bz

4. Addresses for Site Visits

- Site Visit 1 – Proposed North Caye Caulker Substation site
- Site Visit 2 – Proposed San Pedro, Ambergris Caye Switching Station site



**MINISTRY
OF
INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT
AND
HOUSING**



INVITATION TO CONSULTING FIRMS TO SUBMIT EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Operation Data

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

Consulting Data

Name of the Consultancy: Consultancy Services for Construction Supervision of the Expansion and Rehabilitation of the Philip Goldson Highway
 Selection Method: Quality and Cost Based Selection
 Reference number: PGHUP-CAB-002

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

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

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

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

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

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

One electronic copy of the Expression (s) of interest together with the information indicated in the Terms of Reference must be submitted to the address below. The file(s) containing each submission should include the name and address of the applicant and shall be clearly marked “**Expression of Interest - Consultancy Services for Contract Supervision of the Expansion and Rehabilitation of the Philip Goldson Highway**” and shall be received by no later than **10:00 a.m. local time on Friday 21 April 2023**.

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

Ministry of Infrastructure Development & Housing - Project Execution Unit
Mr. Evondale Moody
 Engineering Coordinator
 Ministry of Infrastructure Development & Housing
 Power Lane, Belmopan, BELIZE Tel: +501-828-5220
 Email: peu@midh.gov.bz

TOLEDO INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT (TIDE)

1-MILE SAN ANTONIO ROAD · P.O. Box 150 · PUNTA GORDA TOWN · BELIZE CA
OFFICE: +(501) 722 2274/2431 FAX: +(501) 722 2655
E-MAIL: info@tidebelize.org
VISIT US ON THE WEB AT <http://www.tidebelize.org>



VACANCY FOR Cayman Crown Site Manager

The Belize Fisheries Department, under the Ministry of Blue Economy and Civil Aviation, along with the Toledo Institute for the Development and Environment (TIDE) have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding for TIDE to partially manage the Sapodilla Cayes Marine Reserve (SCMR). The agreement designates TIDE as co-manager of Cayman Crown (CC) and established fish spawning aggregation (FSA) sites (Rise and Fall and Nicholas) within SCMR.

A vacancy exists for the post of **Cayman Crown Site Manager** based at Hunting Caye in the Sapodilla Cayes Marine Reserve, Toledo District, Belize. This position will oversee co-management of Cayman Crown and established FSA sites, which will contribute to the transition towards a full co-management agreement for the entire marine reserve. The selected person will be employed by TIDE and will work closely with the staff from the Belize Fisheries Department stationed at Hunting Caye.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

To request a full copy of the Terms of Reference for the position, please send an email to info@tidebelize.org or visit our Facebook page. The deadline for applications is Sunday, **April 23, 2023**.

To apply, please send the following to info@tidebelize.org or mail/hand deliver to Mr. Asad Magana, Executive Director, PO Box 150, Punta Gorda Town, Belize by deadline date:

1. A 1-2 page cover letter describing your previous experience
2. An updated Curriculum Vitae/
3. Three (3) professional references, including one from your most recent employer
4. A police record will be required if selected for an interview

We offer an attractive salary and benefits package that is commensurate with qualification including experience, training, and education. Should you have any questions, please call us at 722-2274 or 2431, or write to info@tidebelize.org.

Leading Community Participation in Conservation



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) invites applicants for the functions of National Consultant to support the Communications and Visibility, Road Crashes Project

Duty station: Belize City

Qualifications: *Essential:* A bachelor's degree in communication

Experience: *Essential:* At least three years of relevant experience in communications and promotion

Skills:

- Experience in developing and implementing communications plans.
- Experience in writing scripts, storyboards, video production, design, and layout of documents, print materials, web content and developing other communication material,
- Familiarity with taking and/or editing digital photographs or videos,
- Knowledge of using social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter.
- Experience in the field of mental health and psychosocial support.
- Strong public health and strategic thinking background showing resourcefulness, initiative, leadership qualities and skills to deal with difficult situations and sensitive areas.
- Ability to work collaboratively (in person or virtually) with other team members.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills and sensitivity to political and cultural issues
- Ability to meet deadlines.
- Demonstrated ability to effectively use a computer and utilize software programs such as Microsoft Office Word, Excel, PowerPoint, SharePoint, and Outlook.
- Familiarity with editing tools (Adobe photoshop, Adobe Premier Pro, other graphic design programs or video editing tools)

Languages: Very good knowledge of English and working knowledge of Spanish

Deadline: Letter of application, Curriculum Vitae, and two current letters of recommendation should be sent to blzmail@paho.org or to P.O. Box 1834, Belize City no later than **April 14, 2023**

For further details visit our website <https://www.paho.org/en/vacancies> An interview will be held for this position and only candidates under serious consideration will be contacted.

PAHO/WHO has a smoke-free environment and does not recruit smokers or users of any form of tobacco.



Invitation for Bids

Belize Water Services Limited
Belize
GRT/CF-19538-BL & GRT/MA-19539-BL

Advancing Water Disinfection in Urban & Rural Areas
International Competitive Bidding (ICB)
BWSL/BIF-27-2205



1. The **Government of Belize** has received financing from the **Inter-American Development Bank** toward the cost of the project "Advancing Water Disinfection in Urban & Rural Areas GRT/CF-19538-BL and GRT/MA-19539-BL", and intends to apply the proceeds of this financing to payments under the Contract for the "supply, installation and commissioning of OSG Disinfection Equipment".
2. **Belize Water Services Limited** now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the:
 - a) **Supply, install & commission of OSG Disinfection Equipment for Caye Caulker Village- Lot A**
 - b) **Supply, install & commission of OSG Disinfection Equipment for San Marcos Village- Lot B**
 - c) **Supply, install & commission of OSG Disinfection Equipment & Filtration System for Crooked Tree Village - Lot C.**
3. Bidding will be conducted through the **International Competitive Bidding (ICB)** procedures specified in the Inter-American Development Bank's **Policies for the Procurement of Goods and Works financed by the Inter-American Development Bank**, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Policies.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain an e-copy of bidding document by making a request to the below:

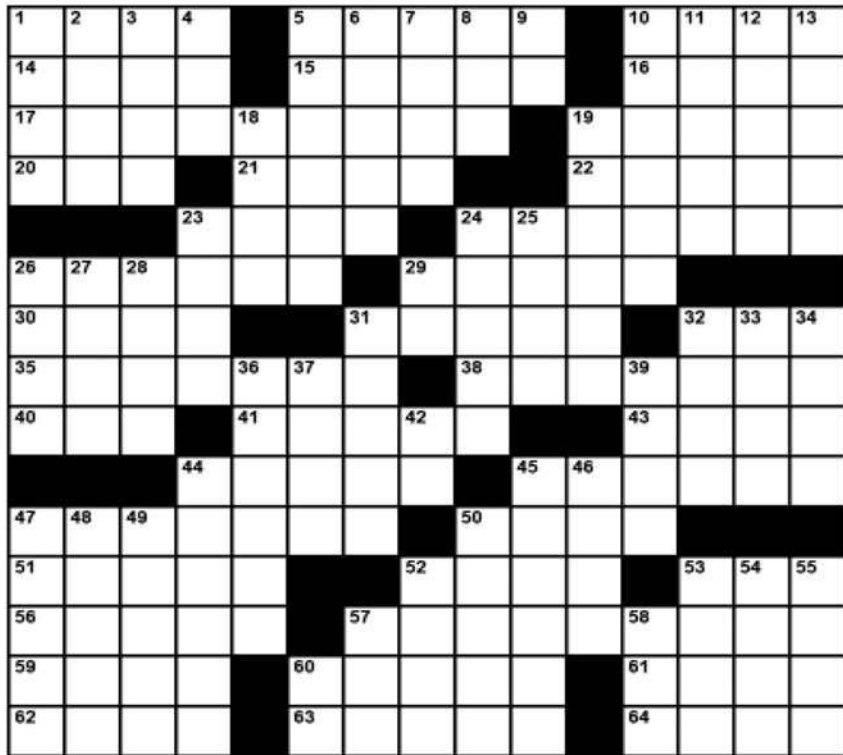
Ervin Flores, Resident Consultant Engineer
Belize Water Services Ltd.
7 Central American Blvd.
Belize City, Belize.
Email: rce@bwsl.com.bz
5. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before **2:00 pm, 18th May 2023**. Electronic bidding **shall not** be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened physically in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at the address below at **2:15 pm on 18th May 2023**.
6. All bids to be accompanied by a **Bid Security**, as specified in the bidding document and must be delivered to the address below by **2:00 pm local time on 18th May 2023**.
7. The address referred to above is:

Attention: Ervin Flores, Resident Consultant Engineer
Belize Water Services Limited
7 Central American Blvd.
Belize City
Belize



NEW PUZZLE

Daily Printable Puzzle - 04-04-2023



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Across

- 1. Con man's scheme
- 5. Clean the linoleum
- 10. Formerly, once
- 14. Angel's circle
- 15. Like salad greens
- 16. Appoint
- 17. By its very nature
- 19. Include
- 20. Art movement prefix
- 21. Comic strip penguin
- 22. Cave homes
- 23. Pond coating
- 24. Resembling a conger
- 26. Small stimulus
- 29. Drive forward
- 30. U.N. civilian aviation agcy.
- 31. Let off the hook
- 32. Arbiter, for short
- 35. Status with respect with people
- 38. Like most high schoolers
- 40. Mil. rank
- 41. Like blue cheese
- 43. Fail to include
- 44. Barbeque spot
- 45. Black Sea port
- 47. Searches for food
- 50. Baal or Mammon
- 51. Dwelling
- 52. Bookie terms
- 53. Homer's phooey
- 56. Back areas
- 57. Stonehenge location
- 59. Being, in Latin
- 60. Attack on all sides
- 61. As previously given, abbr.
- 62. Bulbs for planting
- 63. Burglar's crime
- 64. Ad sign

Down

- 1. Area of the leg
- 2. Ann or May
- 3. Besides
- 4. Barn sound
- 5. Dandy
- 6. Large intestine cavity
- 7. Charlie Brown's expression
- 8. Craft of sci-fi
- 9. Per unit
- 10. Ultimate conclusion
- 11. Diameter halves
- 12. Offensive smile
- 13. Future, e.g.
- 18. Meeting points
- 19. Offers as a plea
- 23. Assigned time
- 24. Devoid of content
- 25. Alternative to a saber
- 26. Drum's partner
- 27. Computer pix
- 28. Cambodian neighbor
- 29. Stylish
- 31. Jamaican citrus fruit
- 32. Butters
- 33. Sponsorship, var.
- 34. Chalky cheese
- 36. Mental visions
- 37. Commercial paper
- 39. Carol
- 42. Pull off
- 44. California team
- 45. Peculiar thing
- 46. Flophouse in London
- 47. Cab costs
- 48. Destined to diet
- 49. Bake
- 50. Ambitionless one
- 52. Hops oven
- 53. Dandy
- 54. Black-and-white cookie
- 55. Choir offering
- 57. Bigwig in D.C.
- 58. Coal receptacle
- 60. Live

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 - 03-30-2023 - Answers



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

Wednesday, April 5 to Thursday, April 13, 2023

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. Hon. Louis Farrakhan: The War Of Armageddon Has Begun
- 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: Sharks
- 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. Documentary: Banana Bullet
- 3:30 p.m. Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (repeat)
- 6:00 p.m. Krem TV Evening News (LIVE)
- 7:00 p.m. Ted Talks: How to Figure Out What You Really Want - Ashley Stahl
- 7:30 p.m. Navel String Connection (LIVE)
- 9:00 p.m. Krem TV Evening News (repeat)

FRIDAY

- 9:00 a.m. Movie: Son of God
- 11:18 a.m. Documentary: War of Insects
- 12:03 p.m. Movie: Jesus Christ Superstar
- 1:49 p.m. Documentary: The Chinese Hajj
- 2:36 p.m. Movie: Esther
- 4:06 p.m. Documentary: Naomi Klein - The Shock Doctrine
- 6:00 p.m. Cross Country Watch (LIVE)
- 8:00 p.m. Music Videos

SATURDAY

- 5:30 a.m. Cross Country Cycling Classic (LIVE)
- 1:00 p.m. Documentary: The Passion of Christ
- 3:06 p.m. Movie: Peter Rabbit 2
- 4:40 p.m. Documentary: 8 Centuries of Muslims
- 5:29 p.m. Movie: Their Eyes Were Watching
- 7:00 p.m. Music Videos

SUNDAY

- 9:00 a.m. Documentary: The Bible
- 1:00 p.m. Movie: The Day After
- 3:02 p.m. Documentary: The Ten Commandments
- 6:52 p.m. Movie: Deep in my heart
- 8:30 p.m. Music Videos

MONDAY

- 9:00 a.m. Documentary: Noah
- 2:00 p.m. Movie: 4 Little Girls
- 3:36 p.m. Documentary: The Islamic State
- 4:19 p.m. Movie: Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry
- 5:54 p.m. Documentary: Sahara Desert
- 7:00 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: H.I.M. Haile Selassie, The Lion Of Judah
- 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 Legends: JENNIFER BETSON WLLIAMS
- 9:00 p.m. Krem TV Evening News (repeat)

WEDNESDAY

- 6:30 a.m. Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (LIVE)
- 9:00 a.m. Morning Stew (LIVE)
- 12:00 p.m. Krem TV Evening News (repeat)
- 1:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 2:00 p.m. Movie: Unwanted Guest
- 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: The Lost Civilisations - Tibet
- 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. Documentary: Slavery By Another Name
- 3:30 p.m. Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (repeat)
- 6:00 p.m. Krem TV Evening News (LIVE)
- 7:00 p.m. Documentary: Black People We Need To Wake Up
- 7:30 p.m. Navel String Connection (LIVE)
- 9:00 p.m. Krem TV Evening News (repeat)

Haiti: "The Truth Speaks for Itself"

Continued from **Page 21**

Haiti's popular movement is kept from power. In a sign of things to come, the Canadian government, which was a key organizer of the 2004 coup d'etat, has just sent warships to patrol off the coast of Haiti. Speaking to a reporter from NPR, one Haitian activist made clear the anti-intervention sentiments of so many as he recounted the track record of the UN occupation that descended on Haiti in the wake of the 2004 coup: "All they brought was kidnappings and rape and cholera," he said. "If the U.N. sends troops to Haiti, the fighting will get even more intense."

Trotting out the familiar argument that "gang warfare" is the root of Haiti's problem, the U.S. and Canada are also ramping up funding and training for Haiti's notorious and corrupt national police force, including sending tactical and armored vehicles. The same militarized policing that has produced a wave of murders of unarmed Black people in the United States will continue to be exported to Haiti to bolster an already brutally repressive police force.

Just this past week, the people of Bele – a Lavalas stronghold that has been under constant attack for the past three years – have had to defend themselves against a paramilitary assault by the G-9 federation headed by Jimmy Cherizier, otherwise known as Barbecue. According to eyewitness reports, over 60 people were killed and more than 50 others disappeared. Similar to the Lasalin Massacre in 2018, community residents reported seeing three police armored personnel carriers shooting residents, burning homes and transporting G-9 members. All of this was accompanied by a deafening silence from the Henry regime. These crimes took place one day after a CARICOM delegation visited Haiti, promising increased support for the Haitian National Police.

As his government teeters on the brink, Ariel Henry has rolled out his own hand-picked transitional council, which would supposedly organize elections in 2024. Orchestrated by the U.S. State Department, this plan keeps in power the same dictatorship that has created the terror now engulfing Haiti. In the name of "transition", it maintains the same system in place, setting up the foundation for more stolen elections and



the further destruction of civil society. Fanmi Lavalas and other opposition parties have rejected the phony transition promoted by the Henry government and its imperial backers, with Lavalas calling for an authentic popular transition:

"The transition that the Haitian people want cannot take us from bad to worse. No. The transition that the Haitian people want is a complete break with this system of corruption to put an end to this ever-boiling cauldron of misery."

Adding fuel to the fire, the Biden Administration has just announced a new, draconian anti-migrant plan to be instituted when Title 42, Trump's Covid-19 era vehicle used to block refugees from seeking asylum, comes to an end on May 11. Biden's plan would summarily deport any migrant who comes across the Mexican border without hearing any claims for asylum. Haitians are a

primary target of the new directive, which Immigrant rights advocates have condemned as "Trumpism without Trump." Even a former Biden White House official, Andrea Flores, denounced the move, stating that, "the Biden Administration has resurrected a transit ban that normalizes the white nationalist belief that asylum seekers from certain countries are less deserving of humanitarian protections." More than 25,000 Haitians have been deported since Biden took office and those numbers will surely swell. As the U.S. stokes the flames in Haiti, it will have the Border Patrol and the Coast Guard standing ready to make sure that Haitians cannot flee the fire.

Nineteen years after the February 29, 2004 coup that overthrew democratic and progressive governance in Haiti, the Haitian popular movement remains powerful and dynamic. As the people of Haiti deepen their fight to end this oppressive system, the U.S. is orchestrating a new series of maneuvers to keep it squarely in place. The crisis is sharpening and the stakes could not be higher.

Support the popular movement in Haiti.

SJC student shot to death

Continued from **Page 3**

and was confident he would be successful due to the friendly and outgoing characteristics his family described him as having.

Police have not yet determined the motive for the shooting, and so far, no arrests have been made.

Wellington is now the third SJC student killed by gun violence, following two other fatalities upon Duane Gabourel, 15, on New Road, and Kasmaan Gill, 15, on Magazine Road, both in September 2021, two weeks apart from each other.

Demand an end to U.S. funding for the Haitian National Police and military.

Demand an end to the Biden Administration's unconscionable attacks on refugees.

Robert Roth is an educator and a co-founder of Haiti Action Committee



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- **IFRS 7** Financial Instruments: Disclosures

Day 2

- **ISA 220** Quality control from and audit engagements
- **ISA 315** Identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatements through understanding the entity and its environment (revised)
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The Toledo Institute for Development and Environment (TIDE), based in Punta Gorda Town, Toledo District, Belize, announces a vacancy for the position of **Senior Marine Biologist**.

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APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

The deadline for applications is April 23, 2023.

To apply for this position, please send the following to info@tidebelize.org or, Mr. Asad Magaña, Executive Director, PO Box 150, Punta Gorda Town, Belize by deadline date:

- ✓ A 1 -2 page cover letter describing your previous experience, and demonstrating your knowledge of TIDE's work,
- ✓ An up-to-date CV and
- ✓ Three (3) letters of professional references

Should you have any questions, please call us at 722-2274 or 2431, or write to info@tidebelize.org.



Peter "Chukku" Young, un amigo al que tengo en la más alta estima, se convirtió en contador que vive en Jamaica y ha trabajado para Bob Marley y su patrimonio. En algún momento de los 90, supongo, Pete me dijo en una visita a casa que Vernon Alcoser había sido el motivo de su expulsión del Colegio San Juan (SJC por sus siglas en inglés). Chukku, un atleta todoterreno, se destacó en el Colegio Wesley, pero en ese momento la expulsión de SJC había sido muy, muy traumática para él.

Había una calle que iba desde el paseo marítimo este de la Ciudad de Belize pasando por Gaol Lane hasta la Calle Eve. La antigua Prisión de Su Majestad estaba frente a la calle en el sur. El viejo Hospital de la Ciudad de Belize estaba en la parte de atrás. Mi tío materno, Buck "Jones" Belisle, su esposa y familia, eran vecinos de al lado de la familia Alcoser en las décadas de 1950 y 1960. (El mayor Alcoser era guardián de una prisión y mi tío enseñaba en el Colegio Técnico de Belize).

Mi tío, que había pasado gran parte de su infancia en el pueblo de Sittee River, era un pescador entusiasta y destacado. El joven Vernon Alcoser se convirtió en una especie de aprendiz/tripulante y pescador en el velero de mi tío en sus viajes de pesca.

El primer beliceño que conocí que se convirtió en héroe de guerra en la guerra de Vietnam fue Vernon Alcoser. Esto habría sido después de que yo viajara a los EE. UU. para ir a la universidad en 1965. En uno de sus viajes a casa en Belize, décadas más tarde, Vernon me contó que le dispararon en la ingle en Vietnam, que estaba aterrizado de que fueran sus partes íntimas y que él solo empacó el lugar herido con morfina.

Vernon pudo haber hecho dos giras por Vietnam, pero sé que más tarde trabajó en el Departamento de Policía de Nueva York antes de morir.

En las décadas de 1950 y 1960, el área entre la Ciudad de Belize, Cayo Inglés y fuera de la Barrera de Coral abundaba en peces. Para una familia de pescadores como la nuestra, solo comíamos pargo, mero, barracuda, cubali, caballa, bojala, pez roca y pez rey. Todo lo demás era basura. En aquellos días, ¿pueden creerlo?, no calificábamos la langosta.

Crecí para ver que el pez rey ejercía una fascinación especial para mi tío. A diferencia de la barracuda, por ejemplo, que suele cazar en los llanos, el pez rey es una criatura de aguas profundas, y cuando está enganchado, llega un momento en que encuentra un equipo extra en fuerza y coraje para luchar por la libertad. Esto era lo que fascinaba a mi tío. El cubali, por ejemplo, que caza espadines en grandes cardúmenes, luchará contra ti desde el principio, pero no tiene una reserva de fuerza secreta y misteriosa. El pez rey sí.

Hubo un año, por alguna razón, en que nuestra familia no pasó la Pascua (un descanso de dos semanas para las escuelas) en Cayo Español, sino en Cayo San Jorge, donde una de nuestras parientes, Tensie DeShield, tenía una propiedad. Tenía alrededor de 9 o 10 años, diría, cuando recuerdo que mi tío capitaneaba un bote para un beliceño

estadounidense rico, llamado Trapp, creo, y salían a pescar fuera del arrecife por la noche. Mi tío, me parecía, volvía todas las tardes con enormes peces rey. La isla quedó asombrada e impresionada.

De todos modos, hay básicamente dos tipos de pesca: la pesca deportiva y la pesca para la alimentación. En el caso de mi familia, nuestra pesca era tanto deportiva como alimentaria. En esos días, la pesca con redes de cerco estaba comenzando, me pareció, y estos eran beliceños que pescaban para comer, para ganarse la vida. Las cañas y los carretes no entraron en escena hasta después del huracán Hattie. Así es como recuerdo las cosas.

Hay muchos alojamientos de pesca en Belize, o habían, que albergan a pescadores deportivos del extranjero durante estos maravillosos meses cuando sopla la brisa del sureste. Tenía un profesor de inglés en Dartmouth, Chauncey C. Loomis, que venía a Belize todos los años a pescar, sobre todo macabí, creo. Nunca lo vi, pero cuando estaba aquí, un guía del hotel me decía: el profesor está aquí.

Personalmente, tuve un par de experiencias con el legendario pez rey. Una vez, cuando era niño, en el velero de mi padre que venía del sur, vi a mi abuelo, Wilfred "Bill" Belisle; mi padre; y el buen amigo de mi padre, Denzil Jenkins, luchar contra un pez rey que medía tal vez metro y medio de largo y les dio todo tipo de problemas. Recuerden, mientras se lucha contra los peces, se debe manejar el velero y, a veces, los vientos son fuertes.

En otra ocasión, tal vez a principios de los 90, enganché un pez rey mientras pescaba al curricán en un esquife detrás del arrecife sur (área de Cayo Homes). Estaba jalando el pez, que no parecía demasiado grande, cuando el pez decidió despegar y seguir su propio camino. La cuerda de nailon me desgarró las manos de oficina. Ese pez rey me puso en mi lugar y subrayó la perspectiva de mi tío.

De todos modos, mi tío me contó la siguiente historia varias veces a lo largo de las décadas, de Vernon y él mismo pescando en algún lugar y enganchando un pez rey. Vernon asumió la tarea de enrollar el pez, y cuando el pez decidía, como suele hacer el pez rey, ocuparse de sus propios asuntos, Vernon envolvía la línea de algodón alrededor de su mano para "Samsonarse". El pez casi terminó jalando a Vernon por la borda, tanto que su cabeza fue arrastrada al mar varias veces, y cada vez que lograba salir a tomar aire, jadeaba: "Sr. Belisle, Sr. Belisle..."

Al final de la lucha, dijo mi tío, Vernon estaba asombrado de lo modesto que era el pez. Recuerden, Vernon pasó a convertirse en un héroe de guerra. Él no era un pelele.

La pesca deportiva en los alrededores de la ciudad vieja ha sido devastada por los dinamitamientos para la exploración petrolera, la pesca de arrastre de camarones, la pesca con redes de cerco y de enmalle y la sobrepesca. Así que las aguas de la ciudad/municipio de Belize que tanto emocionaron al Barón Bliss en 1926 ya no existen. Dicen que el progreso trae problemas. Hoy, el progreso se llama turismo. La vida es real.



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BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. Atlantic Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following properties. Sales currently running until 31st May 2023. Public Auction Sales will expire fortnightly on the dates and times listed on the website until these properties are sold.

A: San Pedro, Ambergris Caye, Belize District:

1. Laguna De San Pedro Zone, San Pedro Town, Ambergris Caye, Belize District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCELS
San Pedro	7	4093, 4094, 4095, 4872, 4873, 4874
Freehold properties of Messrs. Casa Katerina Limited.		

2. Parcel No. 6824 Colonia Diego, San Pedro Ambergris Caye, Belize District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
San Pedro	7	6824
Freehold property of Mr. Pablo Sosa.		

3. Parcel No. 2601 San Pedro Ambergris Caye, Belize District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
San Pedro	7	2601
Freehold property of Mr. Pablo Sosa		

B: COROZAL DISTRICT:

1. Parcel No. 799 Waree Bight Area, near Little Belize, Corozal District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Waree Bight/Freshwater Creek	3	799
Freehold property of Mr. David Neufeld of Little Belize Corn Mill.		

2. Parcel No. 929 8th Avenue, Corozal Town, Corozal District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Corozal Central	1	929
Freehold property of Mr. Abraham Nicholson.		

C: ORANGE WALK DISTRICT:

1. Parcel No. 1124 August Pine Ridge Village, Orange Walk District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
August Pine Ridge	9	1124
Freehold property of Mr. Jacob Freisen.		

D. BELIZE DISTRICT:

1. 995 Acres situate at Intersection Potts Creek Road & Western Boundary of Salt Creek Work, Belize District:



ALL THAT lot piece or parcel of land containing 995 acres situated on the intersection of Potts Creek Road and the western boundary of Salt Creek Work TOGETHER with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon. (Freehold property of Messrs. Smuggler's Run Holdings Limited)

2. 5 Acres situate at Junction Potts Creek Road & north bank Potts Creek, Belize District:



ALL THAT lot piece or parcel of land containing 5 acres situate at the junction Potts Creek Road and the north bank of Potts Creek TOGETHER with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon. (Freehold property of Messrs. Smuggler's Run Holdings Limited)

3. Lots Nos. 43 & 44 Fred Hunter's Subdivision, Mile 13 Phillip Goldson Highway, Belize District:



ALL THOSE pieces or parcels of land being Lots Nos. 43 and 44 situate Southwest of the Phillip Goldson Highway at Mile 13, Belize District, Belize being a portion of land comprised in Minister's Fiat Grant No. 15 of 1989 date 23rd February 1989 TOGETHER with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon. (Being 2 vacant lots situate in the Fred Hunter Subdivision near Mile 13 on the Northern Highway, South of Los Largos in the Belize District, the freehold properties of Mr. Gildardo Cardona and Mrs. Rocio Aguilar Cardona)

4. Lot No. 307 Hattieville Village, Belize District:



ALL THAT piece or parcel of land being Lot No. 307 situated at Belizean American Site near Mile 17 1/2 South of George Price Highway, Hattieville Village, Belize District comprising 613.44 square meters TOGETHER with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon. (Freehold property of Mr. Sean Delroy Nicholas)

E: CAYO DISTRICT:

1. Lot No. 193 Georgeville Village, Cayo District:



ALL THAT piece or parcel of vacant land being Lot No. 193 Minister's Fiat 606 of 2013 of Georgeville Village, Cayo District, comprising of 1026.481 Square Meters, TOGETHER with all buildings and erection standing and being thereon. (Freehold property of Ms. Tanesha Salazar)

F: STANN CREEK DISTRICT

1. Parcel Nos. 440 Dangriga, Stann Creek District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Dangriga South	31	44
Freehold property of Messrs. Dangriga Cable Vision.		

2. Parcel Nos. 618 Dangriga, Stann Creek District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Dangriga South	31	61
Freehold property of Messrs. Dangriga Cable Vision.		

G: TOLEDO DISTRICT:

1. Lot No. 2 Bella Vista Village, Toledo District:



All That piece or parcel of land known as Lot #2 located in Bella Vista Village, Stann Creek District compromising 445.892 square meters Together with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon. (Freehold property of Mr. Robert Andrew August and Ms. Roselia E. Lizama)

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Belize welcomes Taiwanese President, Dr. Tsai Ing-wen

Belize, Taiwan solidify diplomatic ties

Continued from ▶ Page 1

900 aircraft. Awaiting her arrival on the tarmac were Governor General H.E. Dame Froyla Tzalam and Ambassador Amalia Mai. Thereafter, President Tsai Ing-wen hosted a dinner with members of the Belize Taiwanese community at the Belize Biltmore Plaza Hotel, where she delivered remarks in Mandarin.

On Monday at the Leigh Richardson Building in Belmopan, Belize Foreign Minister, H.E. Eamon Courtenay, and Taiwan Foreign Minister, H.E. Dr. Jaushieh Joseph Wu, signed a Technical Cooperation Framework Agreement which updates a 1996 cooperation agreement. The signing was witnessed by President Tsai and Prime Minister of Belize, Hon. John Briceño. As outlined by P.M. Briceño, the cooperation areas include agriculture, forestry, technology, education, climate change, youth and women, health, tourism, and other areas of mutual interest.

Two years after establishing diplomatic relations with Belize almost 34 years ago on October 11, 1989, Taiwan created a technical mission to assist the Jewel with the implementation of its different growth and development initiatives. Ongoing currently is the sheep and goat breeding project out of Central Farm, which President Tsai visited Monday afternoon.

Speaking at an opening ceremony for the breeding center tour, Belize's Minister of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise, Hon. Jose Abelardo Mai, emphatically declared, "... so long as I am a Minister of Government and have influence in Belize's diplomatic decisions, whether I'm in Government or in Opposition, I will be a strong advocate for Belize to remain steadfast in its support for Taiwan's sovereignty and independence." He expressed admiration for Taiwan's approach to agricultural development. Mai emphasized that Belize has "... much to learn about the ROC (Taiwan)'s path to economic independence, focusing first on developing its primary agriculture production, then moving into agro-processing, value adding and overall industrial development, while, at the same time, moving to small scale mechanization and modernizing its agricultural services. Taiwan's agricultural development was all guided by strategic decision-making and was built on a strong foundation of research, technology and a strong approach to local and international marketing." Minister Mai also credited Taiwan's intervention for the increase in the number of genetically improved head of sheep to 17,264 in 2022 by 474 farmers. The project is in a second phase of sheep breeding and goat production, and Mai revealed that they have submitted a project concept for funding from ICDF Taiwan for a third phase.

Another ongoing Belize-Taiwan initiative is the improvement of the medical imaging system in Belize. Meanwhile, a large-scale initiative designed to assist vulnerable populations, including women and youth impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, is the Women Economic Empowerment Project. To date, over 700 women have

benefitted from vocational training and financial support to pursue their entrepreneurial aspirations. Before her departure Tuesday, President Tsai viewed an exhibition prepared by beneficiaries of the initiative.

All the initiatives just mentioned are separate from the popular Taiwan scholarship opportunities for Belizean students. For students living in Belize, President Tsai, during her trip, donated 5,000 Taiwan-manufactured laptops destined for students in vulnerable communities. In her brief remarks at the handing over ceremony on Monday, President Tsai stated, "both our ongoing projects and future commitments are signs of bright futures for our bilateral ties. I look forward to working closely with Belize to achieve our shared goals. May our collaboration continue to flourish just as it has over the past 34 years."

Taiwan President honored with special joint sitting of Parliament

Continued from ▶ Page 1

your House." Citing a shared, deep appreciation for social, economic and environmental justice, Prime Minister Briceño averred, "... no force or ocean will keep us from working together for the advancement of these just objectives."

Pointing to Taiwan's contributions, not only to Belize's development but to that of other nations, PM Briceño remarked, "This is why we so desire to have Taiwan represented in world organisations like the United Nations, not only because the 23 million people who live in Taiwan deserve to be represented, but also so that together we can promote our shared values like democracy, the right of peoples to self-determination and respect for international law ... This is a historic day because you, Madam President, have crossed oceans to come to our shore to celebrate these values, strengthen this partnership, and reaffirm our commitment to prosperity for our people."

In her almost 12-minute presentation to the House and Senate, President Tsai expressed delight to be back in Belize. She described "expansionist threats from authoritarian regimes" as the greatest challenge for both nations. Referencing continued exclusion from international forums and Belize's advocacy for Taiwan's international participation, President Tsai proclaimed that Belize "has helped give voice to the 23 million people of Taiwan".

President Tsai stated that, "as a grateful friend, Taiwan is honoured to play a role in assisting Belize's national development ...," with bilateral cooperation having been stepped up in the last two years. She listed road upgrades, clean water provision in rural areas, a women's empowerment project, scholarships and internet access to schools as some projects embarked upon.

Looking to the future, President Tsai

Please turn to ▶ Page 31

Robbery turned murder in Gracie Rock

Continued from ▶ Page 1

in a robbery of a number of persons who were swimming in Gracie Rock Village, Belize District, during which one of the victims—Denver Montero, 26, a mechanic of Hattieville—was killed and another man was injured

According to police, at about 5:50 p.m. on Sunday, April 2, Montero and Ryan Kerr of Gracie Rock were swimming at a popular swimming spot in the village along with a number of other persons when a grey 2006 Dodge Caravan stopped near that spot and the occupants of the vehicle proceeded to rob them of their belongings.

It has been reported that one of the men was armed, and that he used the firearm to wound Kerr and Montero during the robbery, before the group escaped by jumping into the van and fleeing the scene.

However, the robbers were captured by authorities between Miles 14 and 15 on the George Price Highway in

Hattieville, and the items that were stolen were recovered.

When police arrived at the scene in Gracie Rock, they saw Montero's lifeless body lying face-up with chop and gunshot injuries along with Kerr, and both men were transported to the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital.

ASP Fitzroy Yearwood, Communications Director for the Belize Police Department, told reporters during a press briefing that the details of the robbery-turned-murder are yet to be ascertained, as the investigation is in its preliminary stages.

While the identities of the perpetrators have yet to be revealed to the public, there are reports that 5 minors were involved in the crime, with the youngest being 12 years old. Also, two of the robbers were 18-years old, while the others were in their early 20's, excluding the driver, who was 35-years old.

The robbers were held in police custody at the Hattieville and Ladyville Police Stations.

Sinach to perform at Belize's Holy Week Revival Concert

Continued from ▶ Page 1

her arrival in Belize City on Tuesday of this week, where she attended a special media press briefing at Vino Tinto Restaurant on Marine Parade alongside the Belize City Mayor, His Worship Bernard Wagner.

During Holy Week, an annually celebrated week in Belize, it is customary for families who are on break for the holidays to participate in festive activities, or at least that was the case before the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic..

This year (three years later) the Belize City Council held a "Hot Cross Bun Fest", that took place over the weekend and included a Kids' Easter Egg Hunt and a Splash Zone, and is also now hosting a Christian Concert.

Belize has hosted its share of concerts and celebrity artists throughout the years, which for the most part, has been a success.

"It's not the traditional way of concerts in the city. We've been through a lot as a city and as a country, and we wanted to have this forum or this phase where we could be ministered to as a city and as a country," said Wagner. "... We need to get back to our roots, because we are a God-fearing nation," he said.

Sinach is a Nigerian singer and songwriter and senior worship leader. She has made history by becoming the first female Christian artist to top billboard charts under *Christian Songwriter* for 12 weeks in a row. She has released 9 studio albums which have earned her multiple awards, including a GMA Dove Award.

Some of Sinach's hit songs include "Way Maker", "I Know Who I Am", "Great Are You Lord", "Rejoice", and "Awesome God."

Her scheduled performance has drawn the attention of the Christian community countrywide who have been anticipating her arrival with excitement.

Sinach has similarly been looking forward to this event, explaining to local reporters what she hopes to achieve during her time in Belize.

"We are not entertaining, but

ministering to the people, knowing that God has a plan for everyone in Belize. Belize is special, and if God would put it in your heart to put on this program, that means that it's their time for God to minister to them. I'm just looking forward to ministering the heart of God to the people, and to comfort them and inspire them and inspire their faith in God. I'm looking forward to that," said Sinach.

In regards to the concert location that can become pretty chaotic due to large businesses in the vicinity, Mayor Wagner has assured the public that appropriate measures are being put in place.

"We have a great working relationship with the police, and we control our traffic officers, our special constables, so we know we'll have a full-fledged team out here between tonight and tomorrow, really ensuring that there is smooth traffic flow in and out of the city," said Wagner.

The Revival Concert is a two-day free-admissions event that will take place Tuesday and Wednesday night of this week, and so far, will include a diverse set of performers, from English to Spanish to Garifuna groups.

And according to the Mayor, he is anticipating seeing an influx of Belizeans countrywide and internationally on both concert nights.

JCS/TAA: "We will not be distracted!"

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According to the Tenure Facility website, this project "seeks to secure and define land rights and legal structures for the 41 Maya communities in high-biodiversity forest in the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor." It is divided into three components, with an end goal to "strengthen the traditional governance system of the Q'eqchi' and Mopan, helping them adapt to a constantly changing natural and economic environment, maintaining the strength of rural communities."

Last year of the COVID-19 pandemic?

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presented in COVID-19 reports over the two years during which the pandemic raged. The worst of COVID-19 is behind us, it seems, with zero hospitalizations and deaths recorded in the February 28 - March 10, 2023 report. At that time, only 9 active cases, of the 25 new recorded infections, were recorded within the country. While this data suggests a greater level of normalcy, the number of total cases and deaths provides a stark reminder of the horrors brought by this pandemic.

In Belize, a total of 688 deaths have been recorded since the start of the pandemic, and 70,782 people are on record as having been infected. Vaccination in Belize is still below the population benchmark of 70% set by the WHO, with only 50.8% of our population having received inoculation despite free vaccination being available.

The district of Belize recorded the most cases, according to the last numbers, with 10 of the 25 new cases being detected within that area – 7 of which were found in Belize City. While the fear associated with the Covid-19 infection has for a large part dwindled, it is a virus that continues to cause deaths across the world. This, however, is no longer occurring at a pace that is disruptive to society and healthcare systems, leading officials from the World Health Organization to conclude that the Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) declared as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic will most likely be lifted this year.

“We declared a global health emergency to spur countries to take decisive action, but not all countries did. Three years later, there are almost seven million reported deaths from COVID-19, although we know that the actual number of deaths is much higher,” *Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus*,

Chief of WHO said in mid-March.

The vaccination of populations has had a significant effect in tempering the fallout of the pandemic and putting the world back on a path to normalcy. Vaccination hesitancy for a myriad of reasons continues to persist in populations within Latin America and the Caribbean, such as the Belizean populace.

Of recent, according to the most recent numbers, a total of 502,306 vaccine doses have been administered within the nation. On March 29, the country received a donation of Pfizer Pediatric Covid-19 vaccines for children in the 5–11 age category from the people and government of the Netherlands. When asked if Covid-19 fatigue has caused Belizeans to move on with their lives and put Covid-19 at the back of their mind, thus causing the donated vaccines to possibly go to waste, Minister of Health and Wellness, Hon. Kevin Bernard said, “We have to remember that Covid still is here, you know. We may think that it is not there; at the same time there are people who still want to get their booster shots, people who maybe had only 1 dose and still want to get their second dose, and that one of the reasons why when you look at the amount we did not – even though they offered thousand upon thousand, we only had requested and agreed to a certain amount.”

Minister Bernard noted that vaccination remains free.

With the upcoming holidays, and social distancing and mask-wearing mandates being things of the past, this Easter break will have a semblance of more memorable years, before the pandemic sent the world into lockdown. Notwithstanding this, the virus is still very much among us, and more deadly for some than others, making adherence to prevention measures on a personal case-by-case basis an important part of our lives.

Vehicle insurance prices...

Continued from Page 3

recognizes the challenges motor insurers are facing with the rapid inflation over the last 3-4 years of vehicles, replacement parts, and labor to repair motor vehicles. The rising costs have had a negative impact on the results of motor insurers, which if left unaddressed could undermine the stability of the industry,” the release stated.

As a result, the release explained, the decision to place a minimum value on insurance premiums for motor vehicles was crucial to ensure that “competition doesn’t create an environment where premiums are driven down below levels sufficient to service claims.”

For a bit of perspective, the basic Third-Party Act Private Use insurance will increase by \$50 from \$300 to \$350, while the highest increase will be a hike of \$130 to \$245 under the Motorcycle Act — almost doubling the rate.

Amandala spoke with the General Manager of RF&G Insurance and Secretary of ORINCO, Andrew Roe, who explained that after losing millions in 2022, the organization realized that their premium prices were no longer sufficient to sustain their claims paid out.

“We are aware that last year in 2022

all motor insurers made a collective loss of 4 million dollars. That means that they needed 4 million dollars more in premium to simply break even before making any kind of money. So, that’s a clear indication that the premiums that we are charging are no longer sufficient to cover the claims that are being paid out. So, the industry has taken a view that premiums need to be increased and that’s pretty much across the board,” said Roe.

The expectation is that the combination of the rising prices of vehicle parts and higher insurance premiums will force drivers to either increase the maintenance of their vehicles or turn to public transportation.

“Unfortunately, the economic system forced us to a drastic increase very rapidly ... I’m sympathetic to people, because it’s really challenging, you know. Life is getting very expensive, and the most unfortunate part, I feel, is that Belize lacks a good public transportation network, that if people were able to utilize that kind of public transportation network, like you see in other neighboring countries like Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, vehicle ownership isn’t a must. They can get on public transportation and move

Bermudian Caitlan Conyers wins 32nd Women Cross Country

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struggled to replace a rear flat half hour after the race started in San Ignacio Town, Cayo District.

Conyers and a field of 10 competitors, 4 Belizeans and 6 foreigners, started out after a speech by Mayor Earl Trapp in the western twin towns and soon trailed Kedisha Francis, a novice and mother of 4 who led the group until Georgeville.

Within 5 minutes of the start, a spill almost wiped out Paulita Chavarria and American Marianna Valadez on a borrowed bike. Both would resume racing, but Chavarria, the youngest competitor and one of two sisters in the race, would finish in 4:25:33, outside of the official time limit, whilst Valadez would be forced to drop out of the competition a few miles later because of a badly damaged bike.

Caitlin Conyers would begin to dominate the lead until she had to contend with a flat near Camalote Village and trailed the then leader Mexican Diana Valaria Rodriguez who led the race for nearly 30 miles before being caught. Rodriguez would finish second.

Defending champion America Katy Sorrell finished third, and Belizean Kaya Cattouse finished fourth.

Veteran American cyclist Jessica Chong took fifth, Belizean Patricia Chavarria edged Mexican Ana Laura Garcia for sixth, and Kedisha Francis eighth, rounding out the finish.

Conyers won almost BZ\$10,000 in cash and in-kind station prizes making it one of the most lucrative female races in Belize’s history.

Kaya Cattouse, who has dominated Belizean female cycling the past several years, won a \$1,000 cash for being the first Belizean cyclist across the finish line.

CFB Official finishers were: 1st BER Catilin Conyers (Winners Edge, 03:49:24); 2nd MEX Diana Valeria Rodriguez (Navecomp, 03:51:50); 3rd USA Katy Sorrell (Cardinals, 03:51:50); 4th BIZ Kaya Cattouse (LA Sweat, 03:51:50); 5th USA Jessica Chong (Bike Works P/B Fred Beans, 03:51:50); 6th BIZ Patricia Chavarria (Unattached, 03:51:50); 7th MEX Ana Laura Garcia (Navecomp, 03:52:08); and 8th BIZ Kedisha Francis (Unattached, 03:58:30).

Finishing outside the 30-minute time limit after the champion was BIZ Paulita Chavarria (Team Gonz, 04:25:33). And one rider, MEX Mariana Valadez (LA Sweat) did not finish the race.

Taiwan President honored with special joint sitting of Parliament

Continued from Page 30

remarked that as Belize’s 10th largest trading partner, the country looks forward to opening even more avenues for cooperation. She reported, “Since the Taiwan-Belize Economic Cooperation Agreement took effect last January, Belizean exports to Taiwan in 2022 increased to 317 percent of the amount in 2021, that is US \$3.24 million. One such example is Marie Sharp’s hot sauce, which is already very popular in Taiwan, and also one of my personal favorites. Steps are also being taken to realize the potential of Belize’s seafood industry. A letter of intent was signed last year between companies from our two countries for the import of US \$2 million worth of Belizean lobsters. Our government is working to facilitate and accelerate the import of marine products from Belize ...” Additionally, a coffee and cacao mission is exploring cooperation opportunities.

President Tsai affirmed that despite the distance between both countries, “... our connection is intimate and strong ...” and “While we recognize that there are countries that seek to insert a wedge into this friendship, we have remained close because of our common values and our shared vision for a more prosperous and peaceful future. We will also continue to work together to demonstrate that democracies help one another and we deliver.” In closing, President Tsai reiterated a pronouncement made in the National Assembly during her last visit in August 2018— that “the friendship between Taiwan and Belize is not built on empty promises or the political whims of our leadership.’ This is a friendship that, for the past 34 years, has led to results that have benefitted people from both our countries.”

Passports cost 400% more...

Continued from Page 2

\$200.00 will be added to the new cost for a passport, and expedited passports will come with a fee of \$300.00 added to the new costs of a passport as well.

The changes were to be implemented on April 1, 2023, without any public awareness campaign or public consultation exercise being carried out by the Ministry of Immigration, but instead, came into effect on April 4th.

3 former constables...

Continued from Page 6

use excessive force.

Ixtapac was staying at a hotel on the island and he was swimming in the sea nearby when he was detained by the officers. He was beaten by them while he was being taken in a golf cart to the police station. The beating continued while he was at the station, and a witness testified that he videotaped the beating at the station.

The three convicted men were represented by attorney Oscar Selgado. It was a trial without a jury.

around easily and efficiently and at a decent cost,” said Roe.

The increases in motor insurance premiums range from 20% to 50%, which they believe is enough to stabilize the provision of insurance coverage to motorists across the board.

ORINCO hopes to improve the insurance service by launching a software system that will monitor and potentially reduce the rate of policies for drivers later this year.

Happy
Easter



EASTER OPENING HOURS

THURSDAY APRIL 6th

Benny's Superstore, Benny's Cayo & BenQuip
8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Island Freight Forwarders (IFF)
8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Regent St. Benny's Homecenter
& Benny's Bargain Center
8:00 am - 2:00 pm

RE-OPEN

TUESDAY APRIL 11th
8:00 am



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www.bennys.bz



Easter

is meant to be a symbol of
HOPE, renewal & new life.

“We have this Hope as an
anchor for the soul”.
- Hebrews 6:19

Wishing all a Blessed, Safe &
Happy Easter!



From the Board, Management & Staff of Caribbean Shipping Agencies, Ltd. and
Hyde Shipping Corporation.

