

The Court says: two wrongs do not make a right. So, follow the money. UDP presided over "hotbed of corruption"; now Senior Counsel is rewarded against PUP government's attempt to undo the UDP's "breach". Is there any "moral guilt"?



BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Jan. 18, 2024 Earlier this month, High Court Justice, Geneviève Chabot ruled against the Minister of Natural Resources regarding his failure to approve the completion of

the sale of four parcels of national land totaling 1,922.19 acres in the Duck Run 111 area of the Cayo District. One parcel

Please turn to Page 35

Sugar crop progressing smoothly



Aerial view of BSI/ASR factory at Tower Hill

# Guatemala's reformist presidentelect sworn in after delays





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Prime Minister John Briceño greets Guatemalan President Bernardo Arévalo after his swearing in

GUATEMALA CITY, Wed. Jan. 17, 2024 Belize's Prime Minister, Hon. John Briceño was among the less than a dozen country leaders who hung around for the swearing in of reformist President Elect of Guatemala, Bernardo Arévalo de León who





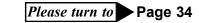
Primary Surveillance Radar

by Kristen Ku

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Jan. 18, 2024

The Government of Belize (GoB) and the Ministry of Blue Economy and Civil Aviation have put into operation Belize's first primary surveillance radar (PSR). This advancement, made possible through a BZ\$12-million-dollar investment, will considerably expand the surveillance capabilities within Belize's airspace.

The radar system, developed by Indra Sistemas and Central American Corporation for Air Navigation



Orson "OJ" Elrington

#### by Kristen Ku

BELIZE CITY, Thurs, Jan. 18, 2024

Orson "OJ" Elrington, a relatively prominent figure in the United Democratic Party (UDP) and Belizean attorney-at-law, has resigned from his position as the



## San Pedro businessman sentenced to life for murder of wife

by Roy Davis (Freelance Writer)

#### BELIZE CITY, Fri. Jan. 12, 2024

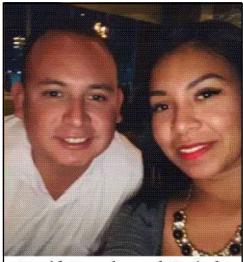
David Gonzalez, 32, the owner of a golf cart rental enterprise in San Pedro Town, Ambergris Caye, who was convicted of the murder of his wife, Marisela Gonzalez, 28, was sentenced to life imprisonment today by Justice Ricardo Sandcroft.

Justice Sandcroft stipulated that Gonzalez has to serve a sentence of 35 years in prison, less the three years that he had spent on remand, before he would be eligible for parole. He will thus be eligible for parole after serving 32 more years.

The sentencing was done virtually.

In determining the sentence, Justice Sandcroft said he took into consideration the aggravating factor that the deceased was Gonzalez's wife, and that there was an element of trust involved, which Gonzalez violated. He said that there were no mitigating factors, because Gonzalez chose to remain silent.

The murder occurred on October 11, 2020, in San Pedro Town. Evidence adduced by the Crown, represented by Crown Counsel Riis Cattouse, showed that Gonzalez, who is the son of a doctor



David Gonzalez and Marisela Gonzalez



on the island, fatally shot Marisela, the mother of his 6-year-old daughter, then drove her body in his van to a dumpsite and left it there. Her body, nude from the waist up, was found the following day, October 12, by a man who saw it when he was passing the dumpsite.

After he committed the murder, Gonzalez called a friend in Belize City, and told the friend, a tour guide, what he did. The tour guide appeared in court and testified.

Gonzalez gave a statement from the dock in which he denied that he killed his wife. He said that on October 11, he took the afternoon off from work and he and Marisela went to Secret Beach, where they stayed for a while. He claimed that when they were returning home, Marisela stopped off at a bar because she wanted to drink some more, and he left her there and he went home. He said that he did not think it unusual that Marisela did not come home during the night, which was why he did not report her missing to the police.

Justice Sandcroft did not believe his story, however, and on November 10, 2023, he found Gonzalez guilty of murder.

Gonzalez was represented by attorneys Oscar Selgado and Leeroy Banner.

# **First female CABEI president** visits Belize

#### by Kristen Ku

BELIZE CITY, Fri. Jan 12, 2024

After taking office on December 1, 2023, and becoming the first woman to lead the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), Gisela Sanchez Maroto made her first official visit as executive president of the organization to Belize.

During her visit, Sanchez Maroto participated in a series of events across Belize, the highlight being the signing of an agreement with Belize's Prime Minister, Hon. John Briceño.

Together, they signed a commitment granting Belize access to a BZ\$26million project grant.

This initiative, titled the "Use of Nature-Based Solutions to Increase **Resilience to Extreme Climate Events** in the Atlantic Region of Central America," not only benefits Belize, but also extends its reach to Guatemala and Honduras.

These countries, situated in a region particularly vulnerable to climate change's impacts, often face devastating tropical storms and hurricanes which have taken a toll on the region's ecosystems and the livelihoods of its people.

Through the grant, which is aimed at mitigating these effects, about BZ\$10 million is being allocated to Belize for community recovery from extreme weather events, including the restoration of vital mangroves in Monkey River Village.

The execution of this project is in the hands of the Climate Finance Unit within Belize's Ministry of Economic Development and the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change, and Disaster Risk Management.

Another event in which Sanchez Maroto participated was a ceremony on January 11 marking a 1.6 km rehabilitation of the Corozal Free Zone access road. This project was a collaborative effort involving the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise, and the Corozal Free Zone (CFZ).

The project was made possible



Gisela Sanchez Maroto, executive president of CABEI

through a non-reimbursable grant of BZ\$1,948,074.04 from CABEI, supplemented by a BZ\$1,036,457.27 contribution from the Government of Belize.

Additionally, Sanchez Maroto attended the inaugural ceremony for the installation of 50 Pan-tilt-zoom (PTZ) surveillance cameras in various parts of Belize City.

This initiative, a collaboration between the Ministry of Home Affairs and New Growth Industries and the Ministry of Economic Development, was made possible through the Belize Integral Security Programme (BISP), a BZ\$60million project funded by CABEI.

In an interview with reporters, Sanchez Maroto expressed her fondness for Belize, noting that it was not only her first visit to the country, but also it was her first official meeting as CABEI president.

"I'm falling in love with Belize ... I feel really grateful to meet all of these amazing people that you have, to see the amazing natural assets that you have. I strongly believe that I can retire here in Belize. I love it. I simply love it. And I feel I can have a really happy end of my life in this beautiful country," she expressed.

She also expressed her commitment to enhancing the quality of life for Belizeans, stating, "I have to be here because it shows my commitment to Belize, and I will do everything in my power to support your beautiful country and be partners in these new plans and initiatives."

Sanchez Maroto's visit marks the second time a CABEI president has visited Belize, following a visit by former president Dr. Dante Mossi in January 2022.

# Three die in string of RTA's over holiday weekend

#### by Kristen Ku

BELIZE CITY, Tues. Jan. 16, 2024 Over the long weekend, there were three major road traffic accidents which together claimed the lives of three persons and left several others injured.

Rivera was a passenger, swerved to avoid the oncoming truck, but hit it directly. Alcantara and his passenger, 27-year-old Tania Duran, also sustained injuries.

Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP), Hilberto Romero confirmed Rivera's death due to severe head and body injuries, and stated that all other persons who were involved in the accident are in stable condition. He assured the public that an investigation is underway to determine the cause of the accident and potential charges. A second incident occurred on the Hummingbird Highway near Mile 53 in the early hours of Sunday, January 14, when a Nissan pickup in which Elifara Vasquez, 31, and Moises Perez, 38, were traveling, collided with a Ford F-150 driven by Omar Cawich, 44.



On January 13 in Cotton Tree village in the Cayo District, 48-year-old Ana Rivera died in a head-on collision between a black Lincoln Navigator, driven by 51year-old Jose Aguilar, and a red pickup truck operated by 31-year-old Jerson Alcantara. The Navigator, in which

Perez, a passenger in Vasquez's Nissan pickup, had accompanied the pastor to



# Two persons missing from **Cayo District**

by Charles Gladden

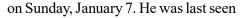
BELIZE CITY, Wed. Jan. 17, 2024

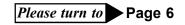
The Belize Police Department has issued posters for two persons from the Cayo District who have been reported missing.

One of them is 20year-old Arnold Gutierrez, a Belizean construction worker, from San Ignacio Town, Cayo District, who departed from his home



(1-r) Arnold Gutierrez and Virginia Hernandez, missing





# **George Price Day ceremony held in Orange Walk**



#### by Kristen Ku

ORANGE WALK TOWN, Tues. Jan. 16,2024

Belize observed the fourth Annual George Price Day on Monday, January 15, which would have been the 105th birthday of the Father of the Nation, and the first Prime Minister of Belize, Rt. Hon. George Cadle Price.

This year, a ceremony was held in Orange Walk Town in front of the Banquitas House of Culture, where there

was an official launch of the Let Belize Live: Speeches of the Premier Exhibit. The title of the exhibit was inspired by Price's speech that addressed the internationalization campaign for the country's independence.

The event was attended by a number of government officials, members of parliament, and the public.

"Forty-two years and four months later, we continue to live the indelible legacy of George Cadle Price, our most treasured Belizean independence. For Belize, Price lived his life for our peace, Price made the sacrifice. For our freedom and prosperity, Price paid the price. His unmatched discipline, his unbreakable tenacity, and his unyielding perseverance made us who we are today— the independent nation of Belize. We are all sons and daughters of George Cadle Price," said the area representative of Orange Walk North, Hon. Ramon Cervantes.

"Today as we celebrate George Price, let us not forget the great

sufferings he had. If we believe that we are stressed today, can you imagine the stress he underwent, being in a colonial country and being under colonial masters? He fought them with his brain, he fought them with his might, his willpower, and the will to do good for every single

Belizean," remarked Hon. Jose Abelardo Mai, Orange Walk South area representative.

"It is fitting that Orange Walk should host this esteemed event. Our connection to Mr. Price runs deep, as he visited our town and the surrounding villages on many occasions. The stories of his interactions with our people are numerous and telling of his character. I can always recall the stories told by elders in our community, across the district, and of course across Belize, of how the Rt. Hon. George Price interacted with these people," he stated.

The ceremony concluded with a



ribbon-cutting by Hon. Henry Charles Usher and Orange Walk mayor, Ladrick Sheppard, to mark the official launch of

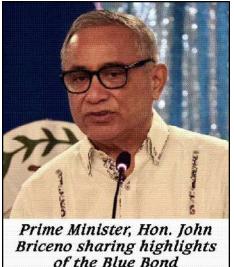
# **Belize Blue Bond turns** two!

#### by Kristen Ku

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Jan. 17, 2024

Today, January 17, at the Belize Biltmore Plaza in Belize City, the Government of Belize (GoB), through the Prime Minister's Blue Bond and Finance for Permanence Unit, held a ceremony to mark the completion (in November 2023) of the second year of the Blue Bond financing arrangement, which replaced Belize's \$1 billion Superbond debt to private foreign bondholders, and to celebrate the achievements in the implementation of the Belize Blue Bonds: Blue Finance for Nature and People initiative.

The Belize Blue Bond deal, first announced on November 4, 2021, was a historic step for the country. Prime Minister Hon. John Briceno, in his address at the ceremony, highlighted the profound connection that Belizeans have to their natural environment, particularly the Belize Barrier Reef system, the



of the Blue Bond

vears.

This translates to over BZ\$1.1 billion in savings.

Payments of almost BZ \$15 million have already been made towards marine conservation milestones, with plans to increase ocean space protection to 30% by 2026. Legislative improvements for mangrove conservation and the development of the Sustainable Ocean Plan are also notable achievements under this initiative. The initiative has involved collaboration among government, nongovernment organizations, and resource users. The Belize Fund for a Sustainable Future has allocated BZ \$14.6 million to various government and nongovernment organizations to fulfill conservation commitments. When asked about the alternative to the Blue Bond arrangement in a press conference, PM Bricen bluntly responded, "default." The initiative has not only saved Belize from defaulting on its debts, but also created opportunities for investment in marine



Hon. Kevin Bernard, the area representative of Orange Walk East, was also there and reflected on Price's time in the north of the country.

the exhibit.

The public is invited to visit the exhibit at the House of Culture, which will last for two months.

# Martinez declares it "ova" now, as recall petition surpasses threshold



largest in the Western Hemisphere.

The Blue Bonds initiative has been a debt restructuring tool as well as proof of Belize's commitment to leveraging its natural assets for financial and environmental sustainability.

In terms of tangible achievements, Belize has now protected 20.3% of its total ocean space, designated mangrove reserves within the Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System, and initiated the marine spatial planning process for the Belize Sustainable Ocean Plan.

The financial implications of the Blue Bonds deal have been substantial, with Belize seeing a reduction of approximately \$400 million in its total debt servicing requirements, and the establishment of long-term financing for marine conservation and responsible Blue economic development amounting to BZ \$360 million over the next 20



Anthony "Boots" Martinez, former Port Loyola area representative, submitting recall petition signatures to Governor General Dame Froyla Tzalam

#### by Kristen Ku

#### BELMOPAN, Wed. Jan. 17, 2024 Anthony "Boots" Martinez, the former area representative for Port

Loyola, after initiating a recall petition against the current representative, Hon.

Gilroy Usher, Sr., about six months ago with promises that he would garner signatures of over 50% of voters in that constituency, this week delivered over 1,700 signatures (amounting to a little



# Legal Year 2024 officially opened



Chief Justice, Hon. Madam Louise Esther Blenman

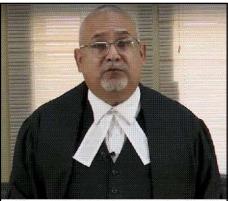
#### by Marco Lopez

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Jan. 17, 2024

The opening of the legal year is a tradition dating back to the Middle Ages. Judges in those times would attend a church service to pray for guidance in their deliverance of justice throughout the coming year. These days, the pomp and circumstance serves as a prelude to a series of sobering speeches on the state of the judiciary.

Madam Chief Justice Louise Blenman has been at the helm of the new Senior Courts of Belize for two years now. In her opening remarks, she lauded the reforms to the judiciary spearheaded by former Attorney General Magali Marin Young. Despite the progress, CJ Blenman noted that significant work must now continue to address major shortfalls that have long festered and fettered the effectiveness of the judiciary.

The "mountain of backlogged" cases presents significant impediments to providing timely, efficient, and effective access to justice, CJ Blenman said. This has resulted in what she described as "crippling morale" within the judiciary, which inevitably has spilled over to the



Edmund Andrew Marshalleck, President of the Bar



Anthony Sylvestre, Attorney General

public – equally crippling its confidence in the judiciary.

Dilapidated courtrooms and a lessthan-efficient court registry have compounded these issues. Immediate measures to remedy these shortfalls were put in place, starting with a more robust case management process in both the criminal and civil divisions.

Secondly, the increased use of sentencing indicators was encouraged, and has led to the disposal of more criminal matters without trial. In addition to this, a more stringent adjournment policy has led to an increased number

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# **2 women allege rape by attorney;** no charges yet

#### by Roy Davis (freelance reporter)

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Jan. 18, 2024

It's 5 days now since statements were given by two women, alleging that they were raped by a prominent UDP attorney, but no word has yet been given if charges will be levied.

The incident is alleged to have occurred on Thursday, January 11, and the report was made to the police on Saturday, January 13.

The attorney was contacted by the police, and he went to the police station and consented to an interview.

The UDP has since issued a release in which the party condemned any act of violence against women, and it implored the DPP to conduct a thorough investigation into the incident.

The Commissioner of Police, Chester Williams has also issued a statement in which he said that the report about the incident has been handed over to the DPP for her to make a decision.

Efforts to contact the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP), Cheryl Lynn Vidal, to whom the file containing the statements were given for her to make a determination, have up to press time proved futile.

The matter may eventually be taken up in court, where all the facts should be determined; meanwhile there are reports that have reached the public.

One of the alleged victims, a member of the Belize Coast Guard, is said to have reported that the incident

occurred at the home of the attorney, located in Belize City, on Thursday, January 11. She said that she was with a female friend from Belize City at Thirsty Thursday nightclub, located on Newtown Barracks, when they met the attorney who began to socialize with them and bought alcoholic beverages for them. She said that when it was closing time at the nightclub, the attorney offered to take them home in his vehicle. She said that they accepted the offer, and while he was taking them, he suggested that they go with him to his house for a final drink, and they agreed. She reported that while they were at his home they began drinking tequila, and she drank so much that she lost consciousness. She told police that when she regained consciousness, she found herself naked in the attorney's bed with the attorney lying half nude beside her. She said she could not remember what had transpired.

According to another report, her friend told police that while she was unconscious the attorney had sexual intercourse with her without her consent. Another version of the story is that both women were raped by the attorney, and that they were examined by a doctor who confirmed that they were carnally known.

An attempt was made to contact the accused by cell phone to hear his side of the story on the condition that his name would not be mentioned, but the attempt was unsuccessful.

# Amandala apologizes!

Grieving mother clears her son's name: Christian "Chris" Ramos, deceased, was NOT "known to police"; a case of mistaken identity



## **Reputed drug lord killed on Fabers Road; one charged**





Jose Matus, deceased

#### by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Jan. 18, 2024

A 48-year-old man who was reputed to be a prominent drug lord in the northern portion of the country was executed in the streets of Belize City just after noon on Friday, January 12. The victim, Jose "El Wapo" Matus, was driving in his GMC Envoy SUV on Rio Grande Crescent in the Fabers Road area, and had given a young lady a ride to her home in the area, when two men jumped out of a van and sprayed a shower of gunshots at close range at the window on the driver's side of his vehicle, which fatally wounded him.



Jimmy Rojas, charged

Matus reportedly bled profusely as he took his last breath behind the wheel of his car. He was not the only person wounded by the multiple gunshots, however. Two female bystanders at the scene of the shooting were also wounded, but their injuries were not life-threatening. Both those two women, and the young lady whom Matus had given a ride to her home along with a friend of hers, are believed to be innocent of any complicity in the crime. It has been reported that twenty-seven expended shells were found at the scene, with initial reports indicating that they were

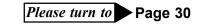


Kenecia Velasquez, mother of Christian "Chris" Ramos. Carl Ramos, father of Christian "Chris" Ramos and Christian "Chris" Ramos, deceased

BELIZE CITY, Tues. Jan. 16, 2024 Still mourning the death of her 18year-old son, Christian "Chris" Ramos, who was murdered in Belize City and his body found in a garbage drum on December 27 of last year, his biological mother, Belize City resident Kenecia Velasquez visited Amandala this morning to express the additional grief caused to her by an article in Amandala of Friday, December 29, which said that at "a recent police press briefing, the media was informed that Ramos was known by police, after having been a victim of violence on a previous occasion." The implication to readers was that

Ramos was a known criminal, which his mother emphatically denies. She told us that Chris's father in Seine Bight, Carl Ramos, had contacted her and also expressed great dissatisfaction and disagreement with the article.

Amandala hereby sincerely apologizes to all of Chris's relativesand especially his parents and stepparents: his mother Kenecia Velasquez and stepfather Artie Meyers in Belize City; and his father Carl Ramos and stepmother Kimisha Mena of Seine Bight, where Chris



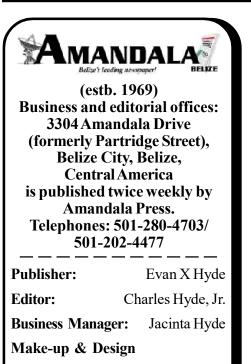


# Too eager to shoot, too much speeding

In a list of least desired locations anywhere on the globe, Belize City was ranked fourth, behind Guatemala City (Guatemala), Caracas (Venezuela) and Basseterre (St. Kitts & Nevis) in a 2014 report in *The Guardian* (UK) titled, "The 10 world cities with the highest murder rates in pictures." The report, by Nick Van Mead and Jo Blason, relied on data from the *UN Office on Drugs and Crime*. The data from Basseterre could have been uncharacteristic, a case of that city having a single extremely terrible year. The report on Basseterre said, "The total of 17 murders...in 2011, the year for which the latest data is available, was up from six the year before." There is nothing anomalous in the report on Belize. We have been living in a nightmare for more than two decades.

For the country, which has been in the grip of horrible violence, 2023 offered a glimmer of hope. The number of murders was down more than 20% last year, compared to 2022. The government of Belize deserves to be acknowledged for the decrease in murders. But our leaders can't boast. Just 70 years ago, Belizeans were alarmed by a single murder. Then, we weren't dreaming when we sang about our "tranquil haven." The number of murders in 2023 is still horrific, but murder numbers going down (85) is so much better than murder numbers being up.

Quite rightly, GoB isn't going overboard with self-praise for our "best" year in the past two decades. They instead chose to congratulate our police officers and Police Department, and that is in order, for every pat on the back we give this group that is in the teeth of the fight in our murderous nation, is good for their morale. They, the police, are like our "soldiers" in the public health hospitals who, in our country that has lost its soul and its respect for human law, experience trauma equaled or exceeded only by health personnel working in war zones.



The police help to suppress violence by deploying officers strategically. They spring to action when something has gone terribly wrong. They investigate crimes and present their findings to the office of the DPP, which then determines if they have enough evidence to proceed to court. Other contributors recognized by GoB for the reduction in murders are the activities of the Leadership Intervention Unit (LIU), certain special government programs, an increase in the minimum wage, the increased installation of surveillance cameras, and improved forensic capacity.

The consensus is that the LIU, which had other names in previous incarnations, achieved its greatest success under the leadership of Mr. William Dawson, who, sadly, died under the strain of the immense burden. In these inflationary times, the social programs give hope to the most despondent, and the increase in the minimum wage, by over 50%, has given some breathing room to the lowest wage earners. In respect to programs, the government gets a failing grade in two important areas. One program that has been neglected since we became an independent country is sports. It is disturbing and shocking that Belize invests so little in properly organized sports, the number one tool to harness the energies of youth, especially young men. By nature, males are warriors. Their warlike nature must be steered into activities that allow these energies to be harmlessly released. Another program that is woefully neglected is vocational education. It is unacceptable that there are so few schools for our young people to train to become electricians, plumbers, welders, mechanics, electronic engineers, so few schools that teach advanced fishing and farming techniques. But we do satisfy our need for waiters.

The placement of cameras in known hot spots, and improved forensic capacity, both played big roles in the decrease of murders in 2023. They helped greatly in bringing justice to a broken justice system that was a pushover for over three decades. *Where there is no vision, the people perish;* and where there is no justice, people with criminal minds are emboldened. Belize has paid a steep price for its failure to bring violent people to justice!

Until very recently, our murder clearance rate was no more than 7%. The cost to this nation for failing to solve murder cases - every failed prosecution, the cost to this nation for those more than two decades when the justice system was falling down, the grief and damage done to our economy during that age of "impunity", are incalculable. We became one of the most murderous nations on earth. We must spare no effort to make this reduced number of murders a trend, until that scourge is crushed and we are once again a tranquil haven.

As much as we are eager to shoot, we are also reckless on the highways. At some point this year the Police Department will tell us the number of Belizeans who were tragically lost in traffic accidents in 2023. It might be our worst year ever. Our little developing country just can't accept the carnage on our highways.

The human losses on the highways go beyond deaths. If the report is like the ones in previous years, no mention will be made of the number of individuals who survived serious injuries in traffic accidents, many who won't fully recover. But the SSB knows, because it has to pay, and the insurance companies know, because they have to pay. We shouldn't be puzzled when SSB has to raise more money, and insurance rates go up.

Traffic accidents can't be eliminated. The volume of vehicles on the roads, and the fact that we don't have the money to repair all of our roads which take a battering each rainy season, or mark them properly, increase the odds for accidents. But those shortcomings don't justify the extent of the mayhem. We can complain and blame, but when we are behind the wheel we must respect the conditions. The main reason for so many smashups is that many drivers exceed the speed limit.

The speed limit in the best of times, when our roads were just paved and properly marked, has been 55 mph. And our engineers didn't arrive at the 55-mph speed-limit in old, poorly maintained vehicles with worn tires, a very common type of vehicle in a country that is struggling financially. It is basic that if 55 mph is the speed limit in the best of times, and we are living in very difficult times, that we must reduce our speeds. The authorities must insist on it. Our leaders must work harder to prevent road mayhem. We don't know the number and percentage of accidents that occur after dusk, but without being presented with any data, we KNOW that most traffic accidents occur after the sun goes down. It is not possible to overstate failures that absolutely must be addressed. The reason we don't have this data is because Belize doesn't invest enough in research and education that is critical to our development and safety. We must aim to drive less at night, and if we must be on the road, we must reduce our speed. Poverty and not enough educational institutions to sharpen the skills of Belizeans in the various fields are serious issues our country has to tackle. But our resources are tied up fighting rampant violence, fighting people who are too eager to pull the trigger, and with tackling highway mayhem because our authorities are soft, lax, when they should be stepping down hard on drivers who are speeding.

Artist:Deshan SwaseyExecutive Secretary:Ayanna LeslieLithography:Clive SmithPrinter:Kent Brooks

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# **Justice in 2024!**

#### BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Jan. 18, 2024

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January 15 was celebrated a few days ago as George Price Day in Belize, but it also marked the completion of one year since the passing of Vivian Belisle-Ramnarace; and still, the case of her accused murderer and that of her husband David and his brother Jon, is still stalling, with one adjournment after another. When UNESCO released the below "In Memoriam" on their website a few days after her death, few Belizeans realized the impact Vivian had made at that renowned world organization. R.I.P., Vivian, David & Jon. January 15 was also the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., and we pray that the Belisle & Ramnarace families can remain strong through this ordeal, "until justice rolls down like waters..."

#### In Memoriam: Vivian Belisle-Ramnarace



*Vivian Ramnarace at the 4th World Heritage marine managers conference* | *UNESCO / Daniel Correia* 

#### whc.unesco.org, Wednesday, 18 January 2023

The UNESCO World Heritage Centre has learned with great sadness of the passing of Vivian Ramnarace, the National Focal Point for the Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System World Heritage site (Belize). A marine scientist, Ms. Ramnarace was the Fisheries Officer at the Belize Fisheries Department for the last 15 years.

The passing of Vivian Ramnarace is a significant loss for the conservation community in Belize and the World Heritage managers community. She participated in various UNESCO meetings, where she brightened the marine World Heritage community with her intelligence, warmth, and kindness, as well as her passionate drive to protect the ocean.

As we commemorate her life and work, and the way she touched each of us, we mourn alongside her family, friends and colleagues from the Belize Fisheries Department.

### Thieves terrorize mother of four

#### by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Jan. 18, 2024

A mother of four from the Fabers Road Extension area of Belize City is in a state of fear after being confronted by three



Conduce The anna conter usualized



### NOTICE

**NOTICE:** I, Wilbert Lambey, state that I have lost my original Vessel Registration Certificate. Name of Vessel: Wa wow. Vessel Registration Number: SC-0633.

**<u>NOTICE</u>:** I, Willam J. Poston, state that I have lost my original Vessel Registration Certificate. Name of Vessel: Royal Runner. Vessel Registration Number: SC-0399.

# LIQUOR LICENSE Notice

**LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE:** Notice is hereby given that **Artemio Huerta Ramirez** is applying for a Restaurant Liquor License to be operated at Mexican Tacos El Chapito, #78 Pigeon & Carpenter St, Ladyville, Belize District under the intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

**LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE:** Notice is hereby given that **Marlly Viviana Campillo** is applying for a Publican Special Liquor License to be operated at Five Fusion Restaurant & Bar, #4417 Nim li Punit St., Belmopan, Cayo District under the intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

**LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE:** Notice is hereby given that **Osmin Figueroa** is applying for a Restaurant Liquor License to be operated at Savannah View, Hopkins Village, Stann Creek District under the intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that Osmin Figueroa is applying for a Convenience Store Liquor License to be operated at Hopkins Service Center Limited, Hopkins Village, Stann Creek District under the intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000. LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE: National is hereby given that Albert

Notice is hereby given that Albert Garbutt is applying for a Publican Special Liquor License to be operated

### LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE

at Enjoyment Lounge, Roaring Creek, Cayo District under the intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that Cecilia Victoria Madrill is applying for a Shop Liquor License to be operated at Seel-Yah, 38 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> St. Matthews Village, Cayo District under the intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000. **LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE:** Notice is hereby given that Jasmin Garcia is applying for a Restaurant Liquor License to be operated at Mother Nature, Lester Richard Extention, Independence Village, Stann Creek District under the intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000. **LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE:** Notice is hereby given that **Heather** McIntosh is applying for a Restaurant Liquor License to be operated at Caribbean Shrimp Restaurant & Bar, 100 Marage Road, Ladyville, Belize District under the intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000. LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE:

**LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE:** Notice is hereby given that **Yolanda Trethewey** is applying for a Publican Special Liquor License to be operated at Yoli's Bar and Grill, Placencia Village, Stann Creek District under the intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

**LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE:** Notice is hereby given that **Loraine Unicie Longsworth** is applying for a Shop Liquor License to be operated at Country Wood Gift Shop, Rockstone Pond Village, Belize District under the intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

**LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE:** Notice is hereby given that **Wendy Aracely Herrera** is applying for a Restaurant Liquor License to be operated at La Rumba Almendares Restaurant & Bar, St. Margaret, Cayo District under the intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

masked thieves who invaded her home on Tuesday, January 16.

According to initial reports, sometime around 2:00 p.m. that day, three darkskinned males entered the home of 39year-old Sandra Thompson, a single mother, through the back window from some nearby bushes. Thompson had recently finished showering when she found herself facing three burglars in her home.

According to Thompson, the men's faces were all covered with masks, and one of them held her at gunpoint. While the most frightening experience of her life was happening, she noticed that the men weren't speaking to her, which has led her to believe that the men are persons with whom she is acquainted.

It has been reported that at some point during the robbery, Thompson attempted

#### sanara Thompson's newly renovated shop on Fabers Road

to resist the men, but one of them reportedly assaulted her by punching her in the face. They then fled through the front door into the bushes behind the house, after stealing \$4,000.00 US currency in different denominations which Thompson had placed under her pillow, as well as a necklace and other items. Thompson believes that she was targeted because she had recently renovated her small business that is located next to her home.

"I had my money saved over 2 years for my babies to take them in for their VISA so they could have an opportunity to travel for holidays. And they took all of that from me ... I just did everything brand new in there, over two weeks. I broke it down and built it back, because

### I WO PERSONS MISSING TROM CAYO...

#### Continued from Page 2

by his employer on Tuesday, at about 6:00 p.m. in Bullet Tree Village. Gutierrez is described as being 5 feet 6 inches tall with short, black hair and a brown complexion. He is slim built, and was last seen wearing a camouflage shirt and long grey pants.

The second person is a minor, 15year-old Virginia Hernandez of Belmopan, who was reported missing on Tuesday, January 16.

there is a team called BEST that helps us single women; so they gave a little \$1,400 grant, and I ended up spending like \$3,000 on it; but it's something I want to do for myself," Thompson told *7News*. Before her home was targeted, she According to information from the Belize Police Department, Hernandez is of Hispanic descent, slim built, and has long black hair, and dark brown eyes. She is listed as being 5 feet 6 inches tall and weighing 120 pounds.

Hernandez was last seen on Sunday, January 14, wearing a pair of creamcolored long pants, a blue blouse, black shoes, and reading glasses.

The Police Department is asking anyone who has seen these persons to kindly call 911 or 922.

said that her business was robbed as well, and she believes it is the same group of men who carried out that crime.

Currently, police are in search of a vehicle bearing license plate C-9524, which they believe was stolen.

# Lavender Street man sentenced to 8 years for rape

#### by Roy Davis (freelance writer)

#### BELIZE CITY, Wed. Jan. 17, 2024

Ignatius Williams, 30, a resident of Lavender Street who pleaded guilty to rape, was sentenced to 8 years and 3 months in prison today by Justice Candace Nanton.

Williams, who has previous convictions for dangerous harm and firearm and ammunition offences, pleaded guilty to rape when he appeared before Justice Nanton on December 12, 2023.

The rape occurred on August 17, 2019, during the day. The victim, a woman who was 33 years old at the time, was at home alone when two men, one of them armed with a knife, forcibly entered the house. Williams, who was the man with the knife, forced the woman at knife point into a room and raped her while his companion watched. After the ordeal, Williams gave the woman his Facebook name, which made it possible for her to find a photograph of him and show it to the police. Williams, who was on bail for a firearm charge, had his bail revoked and he was remanded to prison.

To determine his sentence, Justice Nanton took into consideration the aggravating factors, among them the victim's impact assessment statement, which was read in court by Crown Counsel Portia Ferguson. Justice Nanton said that there were degradation and humiliation in the commission of the offence, because it was a brazen attack



in broad daylight and the crime was committed in the presence of another man. She said that sexual offences are becoming far too prevalent in Belize. She put the starting point of the sentence at 14 years or 168 months, after which she deducted 56 months, a third of the sentence because he pleaded guilty and saved the court time, which resulted in a sentence of 112 months. She then deducted 13 months, the time he spent on remand awaiting trial, which left a remaining sentence of 99 months or 8 years and 3 months for him to serve.

The sentence is to take effect from today's date.

Williams was represented by attorney Arthur Saldivar.



### <u>Vacancy at Julian Cho</u> <u>Technical High School</u>



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

1 Spanish/Integrated Science Teacher- Temporary (February 1st to June 1st, 2024)

#### 1 Physics Teacher – Full time

#### **Qualification for Teacher:**

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

#### Application package must include:

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

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

#### <u>Salary:</u>

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

Application packages must be addressed to:

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

#### ELECTRONIC PACKAGES CAN ALSO BE EMAILED TO:

jcths.secretary2@yahoo.com principaljctech@gmail.com

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

Deadline for applications is Monday, January 29, 2024.



#### Vacancy Announcement - Assistant Manager

SMCU is seeking the services of a *suitably qualified* individual to fill the post of *Assistant Manager* who will be accountable to the General Manager of the credit union for carrying out a range of administrative and operational activities that contribute to the effective running of the credit union. This high contact person will require an ability to communicate effectively with prospective and current members as well as credit union staff, and to represent the credit union in a positive and professional manner by exemplifying the Core Values.

#### Key Responsibilities:

- Assist in monitoring business and financial performance.
- Assist in overseeing all administration and operational functions.
- Assist in the development of opportunities for new financial services and the provision of financial services to members.
- Carry out all duties and responsibilities of a human resource manager
- Provide training and assistance to staff to ensure efficient and effective delivery of products and services.
- Support management in the implementation of board policies and directives.
- Attend training programmes and workshops as required.
- Deputise in the absence of the General Manager.
- Ensure that all applicable laws, policies, and procedures are adhered to at all times.
- Undertake other duties as may be directed by the General Manager.

### SAN PEDRO HIGH SCHOOL



Vacancies exists at San Pedro High School for the following fulltime posts:

- Belizean Studies/History
- Language Teacher (English/Spanish)
- Business Teacher
- Vice Principal (Masters in Educational Leadership or Masters in Education with certificate in Leadership)

#### MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

- Bachelor's degree in business administration, Finance, or relevant field with at least three years proven work
  experience in similar field (at a financial institution preferably) OR an associate degree in relevant field with a minimum
  of 5 years proven work experience in similar field. Related work experience may substitute for education.
- Display leadership ability plus a professional attitude and appearance at all times.
- Can write reports and correspondence, speak effectively before employees, members, and other external persons.
- Has strong oral and written communication skills in English and strong oral communication skills in Spanish.
- Strong computer skills, especially in working with word processors, spreadsheets, and presentation software.
   Have a reasonable background in financial reporting, auditing, and internal controls.
- Familiar with products and services offered by other financial institutions.
- An in-depth knowledge of the credit union movement and services is a plus.

SALARY: negotiable based on previous experience and qualifications

#### APPLICATION SUBMISSION/DEADLINE:

- Qualified applicants should submit letter of application, resume or curriculum vitae, two letters of reference (one being from current or immediate past employer) and copy of ID (SSB or passport) by <u>Friday 02</u> <u>February 2024</u>.
- Submit application package via email to: hr@smcubelize.com OR by direct mail to: Human Resources

#### For additional information visit:

www.smcubelize.com www.facebook.com/SMCUbz www.instragram.com/smcu.bz Saint Martin's Credit Union Cor. Eve and Church Streets, San Ignacio Town, Cayo District Applicants must have excellent communication, interpersonal skills and be willing to work with students. Prior teaching experience would be an asset.

Applications should be submitted along with a Curriculum Vitae, 2 Recommendations, Medical Certificate, Valid Police Record, Copies of Certificates/Diploma, Transcript, and Teacher's License (must).

Salary will be in accordance with Government's pay scale, which is based on qualifications.

Applications must be addressed to:

Principal P.O. Box 23 San Pedro High School San Pedro Town A.C.

Deadline for Applications: February 1, 2024



# Demasiado ansiosos por disparar, demasiado exceso de velocidad

En una lista de los lugares menos deseados del mundo, la Ciudad de Belize ocupó el cuarto lugar, detrás de la Ciudad de Guatemala (Guatemala), Caracas (Venezuela) y Basseterre (St. Kitts y Nevis) en un informe de 2014 publicado en *The Guardian* (Reino Unido) titulado: "Las 10 ciudades del mundo con las tasas de homicidio más altas, en imágenes". El informe, elaborado por Nick Van Mead y Jo Blason, se basó en datos de la *Oficina de las Naciones Unidas contra la Droga y el Delito*. Los datos de Basseterre podrían haber sido atípicos, un caso en el que esa ciudad tuvo un año extremadamente terrible. El informe sobre Basseterre decía: "El total de 17 asesinatos... en 2011, el año para el cual se dispone de los últimos datos, fue superior a los seis del año anterior". No hay nada anómalo en el informe sobre Belize. Llevamos más de dos décadas viviendo una pesadilla.

Para el país, que ha estado sumido en una violencia horrible, 2023 ofreció un rayo de esperanza. El número de asesinatos bajó más del 20% el año pasado, en comparación con 2022. El Gobierno de Belize merece ser reconocido por la disminución de los asesinatos. Pero nuestros líderes no pueden jactarse. Hace apenas 70 años, los beliceños se alarmaban por un solo asesinato. En ese entonces no estábamos soñando cuando cantábamos sobre nuestro "refugio tranquilo". La cantidad de asesinatos en 2023 sigue siendo terrible, pero una disminución de las cifras de asesinatos (85) es mucho mejor que un aumento de las cifras de asesinatos.

Con toda razón, el Gobierno de Belize no se excede en los elogios por nuestro "mejor" año en las últimas dos décadas. En lugar de eso, eligieron felicitar a nuestros oficiales de policía y al Departamento de Policía, y eso es correcto, porque cada palmadita en la espalda que le damos a este grupo que está en la lucha en nuestra nación asesina, es buena para su moral. Ellos, los policías, son como nuestros "soldados" en los hospitales de salud pública que, en nuestro país que ha perdido su alma y su respeto por la ley humana, experimentan un trauma igualado o superado sólo por el personal de salud que trabaja en zonas de guerra.

La policía ayuda a reprimir la violencia desplegando agentes estratégicamente. Actúan cuando algo sale terriblemente mal. Investigan los delitos y presentan sus conclusiones a la oficina del Ministerio Público, que luego determina si tienen pruebas suficientes para proceder ante los tribunales. Otros contribuyentes reconocidos por el Gobierno de Belize para la reducción de los asesinatos son las actividades de la Unidad de Intervención para el Liderazgo (LIU en inglés), ciertos programas gubernamentales especiales, un aumento del salario mínimo, una mayor instalación de cámaras de vigilancia y una mejor capacidad forense.

El consenso es que la LIU, que tuvo otros nombres en encarnaciones anteriores, logró su mayor éxito bajo el liderazgo del Sr. William Dawson, quien, lamentablemente, murió bajo la presión de una inmensa carga. En estos tiempos inflacionarios, los programas sociales dan esperanza a los más abatidos, y el aumento del salario mínimo, de más del 50%, ha dado un respiro a los que ganan menos.

Con respecto a programas, el gobierno obtiene una calificación reprobatoria en dos áreas importantes. Un programa que ha sido descuidado desde que nos convertimos en un país independiente es el deporte. Es inquietante e impactante que Belize invierta tan poco en deportes adecuadamente organizados, la herramienta número uno para aprovechar las energías de los jóvenes, especialmente los hombres jóvenes. Por naturaleza, los varones son guerreros. Su naturaleza guerrera debe orientarse hacia actividades que permitan que estas energías se liberen de manera inofensiva. Otro programa que lamentablemente está descuidado es la educación vocacional. Es inaceptable que haya tan pocas escuelas para que nuestros jóvenes se formen como electricistas, fontaneros, soldadores, mecánicos, ingenieros electrónicos, tan pocas escuelas que enseñen técnicas avanzadas de pesca y agricultura. Pero sí satisfacemos nuestra necesidad de camareros. La colocación de cámaras en conocidos puntos conflictivos y la mejora de la capacidad forense desempeñaron un papel importante en la disminución de los asesinatos en 2023. Ayudaron en gran medida a llevar justicia a un sistema judicial roto que fue pusilánime durante más de tres décadas. Donde no hay visión, el pueblo perece; y donde no hay justicia, las personas con mentes criminales se envalentonan. ¡Belize ha pagado un alto precio por no llevar a las personas violentas ante la justicia! Hasta hace muy poco, nuestra tasa de resolución de asesinatos no superaba el 7%. El costo para esta nación por no resolver los casos de asesinato: cada procesamiento fallido, el costo para esta nación durante esas más de dos décadas en las que el sistema de justicia estaba cayendo, el dolor y el daño causado a nuestra economía durante esa era de "impunidad", son incalculables. Nos convertimos en una de las naciones más asesinas del mundo. No debemos escatimar esfuerzos para que este reducido número de asesinatos se convierta en una tendencia, hasta que ese flagelo sea aplastado y volvamos a ser un refugio tranquilo.

Por mucho que estamos ansiosos por disparar, también somos imprudentes en las carreteras. En algún momento de este año, el Departamento de Policía nos dirá la cantidad de beliceños que perdieron sus vidas trágicamente en accidentes de tránsito en 2023. Podría ser el peor año de nuestra historia. Nuestro pequeño país en desarrollo simplemente no puede aceptar la matanza en nuestras carreteras.

Las pérdidas humanas en las carreteras van más allá de las muertes. Si el informe es como los de años anteriores, no se hará mención del número de personas que sobrevivieron a lesiones graves en accidentes de tráfico, muchas de las cuales no se recuperarán por completo. Pero el Seguro Social (SSB en inglés) lo sabe porque tiene que pagar y las compañías de seguros lo saben porque tienen que pagar. No deberíamos sorprendernos cuando SSB tiene que recaudar más dinero y las tarifas de los seguros suben.

Los accidentes de tráfico no se pueden eliminar. El volumen de vehículos en las carreteras y el hecho de que no tenemos el dinero para reparar todas nuestras carreteras que sufren cada temporada de lluvias, o para señalizarlas adecuadamente, aumentan las probabilidades de accidentes. Pero esas deficiencias no justifican la magnitud del caos. Podemos quejarnos y culpar, pero cuando estamos al volante debemos respetar las condiciones. La razón principal de tantos accidentes es que muchos conductores exceden el límite de velocidad.

El límite de velocidad en el mejor de los casos, cuando nuestras carreteras apenas estaban pavimentadas y debidamente señalizadas, ha sido de 55 mph. Y nuestros ingenieros no llegaron al límite de velocidad de 55 mph en vehículos viejos, en mal estado y con neumáticos gastados, un tipo de vehículo muy común en un país que atraviesa dificultades financieras. Es básico que si 55 mph es el límite de velocidad en el mejor de los casos, y vivimos en tiempos muy difíciles, debemos reducir nuestra velocidad. Las autoridades deben insistir en ello. Nuestros líderes deben trabajar más duro para prevenir el caos vial.

No sabemos el número y porcentaje de accidentes que ocurren después del anochecer, pero sin que se nos presente ningún dato, SABEMOS que la mayoría de los accidentes de tránsito ocurren después de que se pone el sol. No es posible exagerar los fracasos que es absolutamente necesario abordar. La razón por la que no tenemos estos datos es porque Belize no invierte lo suficiente en investigación y educación que son fundamentales para nuestro desarrollo y seguridad. Debemos intentar conducir menos de noche y, si debemos estar en la carretera, debemos reducir la velocidad.

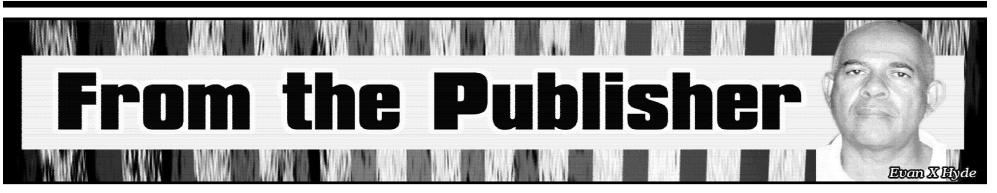
La pobreza y la falta de suficientes instituciones educativas para mejorar las habilidades de los beliceños en los diversos campos son problemas graves que nuestro país debe abordar. Pero nuestros recursos están invertidos en la lucha contra la violencia desenfrenada, la lucha contra las personas que están demasiado ansiosas por apretar el gatillo y la lucha contra el caos en las carreteras porque nuestras autoridades son blandas, laxas, cuando deberían

imponer medidas estrictas a los conductores que conducen con exceso de velocidad.



violence and abuse is normalised and played down. Where is accepted, excused, laughed off or not challenged enough by society as a whole".

Sunday Review will be repeated at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 21, 2024



Belizeans held their breaths as the dispute between the multinational owners of the Tower Hill sugar mill and the largest association of cane farmers became more and more confrontational this month.

In my lifetime, I cannot recall any situation where one of my Creole people gave his or her life for a cause. About fifteen years ago, a Mestizo or Maya/Mestizo or Maya cane farmer from the village of San Victor gave his life fighting for the cause of cane farmers.

As a society, we have found a way to gloss over and forget the courageous death of Danny Conorquie, a Creole young man, defending Belizean sovereignty at the Caracol tourist site some years ago. This occurred to me after I had written the first sentence of this column's second paragraph. Conorquie's bravery has been erased from our history by the powers that be in Belize, and their various collaborators.

Insofar as the cane farmers are concerned, and our Mestizo and Maya/ Mestizo and Maya citizens in Corozal and Orange Walk are concerned, however, we Belizeans of my generation have felt that these are Belizeans who are prepared to stand and fight for their cause, whenever and wherever.

The people who design the curricula and choose the books for the reading lists of our high schools, sixth forms, and universities have a great deal of power, when you stop and think about it. These people, and they are very much in the shadows, decide what those of our youth who reach these educational institutions will know, and what they will not know.

My generation grew up in the 1950s and 1960s, at a time when the country we know as Belize was a colony controlled by the United Kingdom. All the high schools and sixth forms in Belize were run by religious denominations, except for the Belize Technical College (established in 1952) and Belize Technical College Sixth Form. Our British colonial masters established BTC when they were in complete control of British Honduras, so they were the ones, we have to presume, who made the curriculum decisions. British Honduras became a self-governing colony in 1964. I have no idea if curriculum control was handed over to the native Belizean government immediately, or when it was.

But, as I have said, all the other

schools were run by religious denominations - Roman Catholic, Anglican, Methodist, Adventist, Baptist, Nazarene, and so on. As religions, their primary purpose was/is to propagate their specific religious beliefs, so this is the dominant consideration in their curriculum designs.

In the specific area of history, we students of my generation who went to high schools and sixth forms, studied British and, to a lesser extent, European history, in order to take the Cambridge certificate examinations at Ordinary and Advanced Levels. (There was no Belizean university in my time.)

No doubt there would have been cooperation, so to speak, between the British-run Education Department and the religious schools. At Roman Catholic St. John's College, where I attended both high school and sixth form, the textbooks we used were, I have to assume, biased in favor of the Anglican British, whose primary enemy in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries was Roman Catholic Spain. After all, the British were our colonial masters.

I remember very little of my year and a half doing British and European history

at the sixth form level. I remember more of my high school years where history is concerned.

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In any case, it has taken me all this time to reach the point: the point that, even though Belize became politically independent in 1981, nothing changed in the history curricula of our schools. In fact, when the University College of Belize, our first university, was established in the middle 1980s, history was not of primary concern. UCB's focus was on business and tourism hospitality courses.

My personal beef was that almost all the inhabitants of Corozal and Orange Walk, whether they were Hispanic, Mestizo, or Maya/Mestizo, were refugees or descended from refugees from a war called the Caste War in the second half of the nineteenth century in the Yucatan. The education powers here, colonial and self-government, did not feel it served their interests to teach us about that war. Instead, we Belizeans were taught about the fifteenth century War of the Roses between the British Houses of Lancaster and York, for instance.

Please turn to Page 23





On the tenth of September 1969, less than two months after the world had learned that man had landed on the moon, Premier George Cadle Price invited Belizeans to **"meet the greatest challenge of our history and to embark confidently on the tremendous adventure of a life time – an adventure to build a new nation of Belize with equal opportunities for all regardless of race or creed or colour"**. It was both a national vision and call to duty. He repainted this sentiment many times and in many different ways throughout the years leading up to independence. It would be another twelve years before he would be able to say, in his statement at the Flag Raising Ceremony on September 20, 1981, that **"It is our flag. May we keep it, love it and guard it. LONG LIVE BELIZE!"**. Even today the words inspire civic pride and duty. We recently celebrated George Price Day. May January 15<sup>th</sup> forever be the day that we remember his vision and may we strive to remain unified and determined in our adventure to build Belize. Tourism is a huge part of that adventure.

In 1969, Price also stated that income from tourism was "estimated at over three million dollars per annum". What might he say now to know that the tourism industry accounts for over 40 percent of Belize's GDP? What might he say now to know that a global pandemic knocked that same industry off of its upward trajectory in 2020 but in three years the resilience of the Belizean people has put it right back on its axis? Our latest tourism statistics show that when compared to numbers from 2019, overnight visitor arrivals are up 91.4 percent and cruise visitor arrivals has bounced back with a 74.35 percent recovery. Numbers are not as pretty as words but in this case, those numbers are as pretty as a peach. Noteworthy is that on the 10<sup>th</sup> of this month, Belize recorded the single busiest day in this cruise ship season with an astounding 16,000 passengers on board four ships in port. This fits nicely since Belize recently started its two-year tenure as pro-tempore president of the Mundo Maya Organization (MMO).

The Mundo Maya multi-destination project includes Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Mexico. The MMO was founded in 1992 as part of an initiative to sustainably develop tourism within the region and promote the conservation of cultural and historic heritage. Over the next two years, Belize will be integral in reshaping the organization's strategic agenda by focusing on critical issues for development such as climate change, digital integration, cruise tourism, and connectivity within the Mundo Maya region. The new statistics tell us just how important it is to preserve our Maya archaeological sites. Of the 81.3 percent of cruise visitors who disembarked at the Fort Street Tourism Village (FSTV), 52.1 percent went on tours. For November 2023, the statistics show that the top tour activity for cruise ship visitors was Maya archaeological site visits.



U.S. Embassy Belmopan, Belize Office of Public Affairs

#### **Press Release**

Central America Regional Security Initiative Economic Support Fund (CARSI-ESF)

2024 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

The U.S. Embassy in Belmopan, Belize announces a notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) for projects addressing strengthening government through civil society engagement. For more information and eligibility requirements, please visit <u>www.grants.gov</u> and search for "Belmopan." All grant proposals **MUST** be submitted on the grants.gov website. **Closing date for proposal submission: February 15, 2024.** 

Contingent upon the availability of funds and quality of proposals, U.S. Embassy Belmopan intends to issue four to six awards in an amount not to exceed \$1 million USD in total funding. Each award will be for an amount between \$150,000 and \$250,000. Projects should not exceed two years and the anticipated start date for successful proposals is June 1, 2024.

This funding will support U.S. Government objectives under the Central America Regional Security Initiative (CARSI) to support democracy and good governance efforts in Belize and is part of the Economic Support Funds (ESF) grants program. Project proposals should address **one or more** of the following project objectives:

- 1) Strengthen democratic institutions and processes to improve good governance and actively support an engaged civil society. Proposals should support collaboration between civil society and government to improve transparency, address systematic corruption and promote anti-corruption advocacy initiatives.
- 2) Enhance the capacity of government agencies to improve public service delivery by expanding the accessibility of public services to vulnerable, remote, and/or marginalized communities, integrating service delivery systems, or decentralizing their access. Proposals should also seek to promote citizen participation in decision-making processes and increase access to information.
- 3) Enhance support services available to victims and advocate for a coordinated national response among key stakeholders to combat human trafficking and gender-based violence. Proposals should seek to strengthen policies and protocols as well as provide adequate and efficient delivery of justice and access to government services.

View the full 2024 CARSI-ESF NOFO under the "Related Documents" tab at <u>www.grants.gov</u> or send us an email.

The U.S. Embassy in Belmopan encourages interested applicants to send any related questions or queries to <u>BelmopanCARSIESF@state.gov</u>. Please also feel free to visit our Embassy website for additional resources.



GEORGETOWN TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL GEORGETOWN VILLAGE STANN CREEK DISTRICT

Applications are invited from suitably qualified individuals to fill the following vacancies:

#### 2 English Teachers – Permanent

Qualifications for the teaching positions: Preferably a Bachelor's Degree in Education or the subject area. Interested persons in possession of an Associate's Degree may also apply.

Interested persons are asked to submit Letter of Application, complete with Résumé, Transcripts, Valid Teacher's License, Police Record, Medical Certificate and Two Letters of Recommendation.

In 1970, in an address in Michigan, USA, Premier George Price told his audience that our tourism had great potential as an important source of employment. He expressed that "the friendly nature of our people, the accommodating climate of Belize, its geographic position, its scenic attractions, fishing, hunting, wildlife, coastal and island resources offer untapped potential...". For this George Price Day, we can say that we continue to stay the course on that adventure to build Belize and as far as tourism development goes in 2024, we plan to keep it, love it, and guard it.

Chat again later.

Jasmine Anderson For the Belize Tourism Board Pay Scale will be in accordance with the scales approved by the Ministry of Education.

Applicants are asked to submit applications by January 31, 2024 to the:

Secretary Board of Governors Georgetown Technical High School P.O. Box 235 Dangriga Town

#### Page 11

# So then, Netanyahu apologists and that ilk

#### by Colin Hyde

It's hard to understand Belizeans who are full-blown supportive of Israel's massacre of children, women, and innocent men in Gaza. We are known the world over as a country that stands against military solutions. We are the only country on this earth that has put our entire territory at the mercy of a court, the ICJ. We could have avoided that humiliation by seeking allies to help us make a military stand if necessary. The leader I followed, Philip Goldson, though he was a man of peace, preferred that we become like Switzerland, ready to fight. But the majority chose the vision of George Price, the priest who became the Father of the Nation.

Not all Belizeans buy into the path of peace. God forbid that a Belizean who has access to weapons and influence over a few others, goes berserk and attacks Guatemala and injures or kills Guatemalans. Do our Netanyahu apologists and that ilk believe that would give Guatemala the license to retaliate against Belize a thousand-fold? Did the powerful British have the right to savage Guatemala after Sagastume and his band invaded Toledo in 1962?

Hamas is a violent bunch. Many argue that they are justified in their actions because Israel has had its foot

on the neck of Gaza for decades. Indeed, which young man wouldn't be prone to violence if they lived in Gaza? Hamas has minor military assets compared to Israel. What Hamas did does not give Israel license to murder and maim the children and other innocents in Gaza.

Does anyone have the right to blow up a hospital because they believe their enemy is hiding there? While we know that lawyers are daam arrogant when they say they are obligated to defend anyone who can afford their price, no one questions that doctors attend to everyone who is injured or sick. Are doctors to be blamed if crazed villains hide inside a hospital? Absolutely NO!!!!

#### <u>Belize went on a</u> limb, now lying low

The kindest, gentlest PUP now sits as Foreign Minister, after his predecessor made the bold move of chasing home the Israeli ambassador. The devout Catholic who now leads the foreign ministry has to condemn Israel's massacre of innocents in Gaza, but he will keep Belize in the background on this matter, though everyone knows Israel is on a genocidal path.

Israel complains about anti-Semitism. It has created a lot of anti-Semites with its savagery. Just as Russia lost massive points when it invaded Ukraine, the US loses massive points with its embargo of Cuba, and China looks uncivilized with its aggressive behavior toward Taiwan, Israel's leaders look like people who are unrepentant about murdering The Christ and His Apostles.

#### Commission of Inquiry dud

Clearly, the latest two to be interrogated, Almendarez and Brackett, should have been interviewed behind closed doors. Mr. Almendarez has a big doctorate, but on this matter, he was just a bit player, a man taking orders. Mr. Brackett, another of the educated elite, didn't know why he was there, and neither did we. Really, if anyone on the Commission wanted lessons about the processes at the hotbed of corruption, we have to feel that the Commissioner, a public servant, could have gotten a little private PowerPoint going. The one worthy question, if the parcels were private or public lands, remains in a fog. The numbers say they were public lands. The Commissioner should have been told they wanted an answer there.

Hon. Tracy Panton and Mike Peyrefitte, the first two invited to the Senate hearings, they should have faced the Commission for not more than 20 or 30 minutes. What's with all this repetition and UDP political campaigning? Ah, why all this waiting for the main players—Contreras, Patt, and Vallejos?

This Definitive Agreement, it was signed during the teeth of Covid. The UDP had corralled every asset in the country; every hiring and every contract given out was steered toward the interest of the party, and coming into 2020 they felt they had a good chance to form a fourth consecutive government. Some people were definitely ducking work because of the virus. But Contreras, Patt, and Vallejos weren't *lamping*. They had their boots on, in the swamps.

#### <u>White collar crime,</u> <u>immunity</u>

A long time ago, easily more than a decade, I wrote in a column that blue collar crime was worse than white collar crime. I don't have the article, but I know my point was that blue collar crime hits individuals, usually the poorest, while we bear the cost of white collar crime collectively. Someone countered that white collar crime is worse because it is the cause of blue collar crime. I believe a fair counter for that counter is that white collar crime isn't going anywhere. The story is that when a banker gets

Please turn to Page 27



A vacancy exists at Our Lady of Guadalupe R.C. High School, Belmopan, for the following post for the school year 2023-2024:

Teacher of Mathematics (Fulltime)

Teaching position may include extracurricular responsibilities (supervising athletic programmes, moderating student houses and clubs, mass preparation, etc.)

#### QUALIFICATIONS

### **PUBLIC AUCTION SALE** 2013 Chevy Equinox

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees, Messrs. St. Francis Xavier Credit Union Limited, Licensed Auctioneer Fitzgerald A. Joseph will sell the following vehicle on Site on Saturday the 3rd February, 2024 starting at 1:30 p.m.



- First Degree in the relevant field(s) preferred
- Associate Degree may be considered
- Ability to work and communicate effectively with students, staff and administration
- Knowledge, competence and expertise in using technology in teaching
- High motivation and commitment to teaching
- Must be in possession of a valid Teacher's license

#### SALARY

Based on qualifications and in accordance with the Government Payscale

The deadline for submission of applications is January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024. Application letters along with a current curriculum vitae, valid teacher's license, original transcript, certified copies of degrees, certified copy of social security card, marriage/divorce certificate, a medical report, Covid 19 vaccination card, letter of release and two recent letters of reference should be sent to:

Email: hrc@ologh.edu.bz Principal Our Lady of Guadalupe R.C. High School P.O. Box 479 CITY OF BELMOPAN One Black 2013 Chevy Equinox SUV at the offices of St. Francis Xavier Credit Union Limited situated at the Corner 5th Avenue & 1st Street North, Corozal Town, Corozal District, Belize.

> TERMS: STRICTLY CASH FITZGERALD A. JOSEPH TELEPHONE: 601-2039 Email: palas105@yahoo.com

#### **IN THE HIGH COURT OF BELIZE A.D. 2016**

CLAIM NO. 367 OF 2016

**BETWEEN:** 

(BANK OF MONTREAL

**CLAIMANT** 

(AND

(LAWRANCE BROWN ALSO KNOWN AS (LAWRENCE BROWN ALSO KNOWN AS (STEVEN R. REICHERT

DEFENDANT

#### **TO: LAWRANCE BROWN ALSO KNOWN AS LAWRENCE BROWN** ALSO KNOWN AS STEVEN R. REICHERT and JULIETTE NAYELI REICHERT

TAKE NOTICE that an Application for Sale of Land to recover the sum of CAN\$295,756.01 pursuant to a Judgment Order made against you on the 14th May, 2020 (perfected on the 5th June, 2020), has been filed in the High Court of Belize with respect to the following properties:

- 1. Parcel No. 298, Block 23, Benque Viejo Del Carmen Registration Section
- 2. Parcel No. 3112, Block 23, Benque Viejo Del Carmen Registration Section
- Parcel No. 3114, Block 23, Benque Viejo Del Carmen Registration Section 3.
- 4. Parcel No. 267, Block 23, Benque Viejo Del Carmen Registration Section

AND it has been ordered that THE NEXT HEARING of the said Application shall take place at the High Court of Belize, Old National Bank Building, Belize City, Belize on Friday the 19th of January 2024 at 11:00 a.m. before Her Ladyship Madam Justice Nadine Nabie.

IN DEFAULT of your appearance, the hearing of the matter will proceed without you and judgment may be entered against you for the sale of your properties.

DATED the 2nd day of January, 2024.

COURTENAY COYE LLP Attorneys-at-Law for the Claimant Per: Pricilla J. Banner Tel: 223-1478 PBanner@courtenaycoye.com

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Lodgement of an EIA Report and Public Consultation

For

AMAYA DEVELOPMENT BELIZE LLC & THE MW COLLECTIVE LLC

#### "CRAWL CAVE ECOTOURISM AND RESIDENTIAL **DEVELOPMENT**" Crawl Caye, Stann Creek District, Belize

The General Public is hereby advised that the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report for Amaya Development Belize LLC & The MW Collective LLC, a proposed ecotourism and residential development, located on Crawl Caye, Stann Creek District, has been submitted to the Department of the Environment (DOE). The EIA report was prepared by Nextera Environmental and Engineering Consultants with local and international scientific support. The EIA report will be reviewed by The National Environmental Appraisal Committee (NEAC), before a final decision is taken on the proposed development.

The General Public is hereby informed that the EIA report will be available for public review starting January 15th 2024; Mondays to Fridays during normal working hours (8:00 am to 5:00 pm) at the following locations: Hopkins Village Council Office; Seine Bight Village Council Office, Independence Village Council Office and Placencia Village Council Office and at the office of the DOE in Belmopan. The EIA report is also available on the DOE's webpage http://doe.gov.bz/environmental- clearance.

# PRESS PREDICTIONS

### The sports psychic speaks

# BOLEDO

"Press Predictions" 91-19-61 Boledo news thru 19th to 26th Jan. 2024

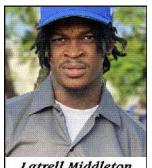
In Boledo news, these are my lucky numbers: 91-19-61-59-25-52. There are only 24 numbers left to play in 2024: 01-03-07-08-15-25-27-30-31-37-38-52-59-60-61-65-78-80-81-88-89-94 & 99. These are my lucky Jackpot numbers for this week: 8764-2608-9215. Get ready, Belize! Some dinero will be coming our way this New Year. There are only 2 doubles left: 88 and 99. The sixties series is the only series that left, and the ending series number left is the 8 ball; 68 will be out any time now. The system is much fairer than the previous machines; we have 40 balls to decide our fate. All of the balls are weighed on a consistent basis. Next week, more stats.



Verdes FC will shock the champion

Local football results and predictions In local football action, the opening season champion, Altitude FC of Independence, Mango Creek, edged Port Layola FC, the runners-up champ, 3 goals to 2. Andres Orozco, Rene Leslie and Ashton Torres scored for the champions; then Latrell Middleton and Orlando

"Bredda" Velasquez scored for Port Layola The FC. game was very exciting and was well attended. In



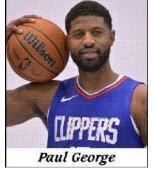
Latrell Middleton

Wagiya FC beat the Police United FC team, 1-nil. Veteran former national team player, Harrison "Cafu" Roches scored a spectacular shot from outside the 18-yard box. He will have a very good season for sure. Then Benque United edged the Progresso FC of OW, 1-nil. Then Verdes FC crushed Bandits Sports very easily. There are a lot of movements for this second round by all of the teams. Next



by Gilroy "Press" Cadogan

Los Angeles Lakers are struggling very badly at 20-21. Lebron James has one more season to play. The West is too



strong right now. The defending champion, the Denver Nuggets, and the former 2time MVP will be dangerous down the stretch because of Jamaal Murray. In the East, The Boston Celtics are the only team undefeated at home 20-0.

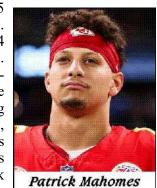


There will be some early upsets in the playoffs

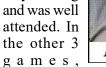
NFL playoffs results and predictions

In NFL playoffs action, the Dallas Cowboys lost to the Green Bay Packers in a blowout fashion in Dallas, 48 to 32. Dak Prescott was not productive, as Jerry Jones, the multi-billionaire, had speculated. Then in the other game, the Houston Texans blew out the Cleveland

Browns, 45 to 14. C.J. Stroud had 4 TD passes. Then the 2t i m e defending champion, the Kansas City Chiefs and Patrick Mahomes



beat the Miami Dolphins, 26 to 7. They will be very dangerous in the playoffs. The Detroit Lions edged the LA Rams, 24 to 23. Then the Tampa Bay Buccaneers beat the Philadelphia Eagles by some 23 points. The Baltimore Ravens and the San Francisco 49ers had a bye. The Green Bay Packers will beat the San Francisco 49ers by some 18 points very easily. Then the Baltimore Ravens and Lamar Jackson will advance to the final 4 teams down the stretch. Next week, more stats and Super Bowl predictions.



The public is invited to submit comments, objections, representations, questions, or queries to the DOE via emails: eiaunit@environment.gov.bz/ envirodept@environment.gov.bz by February 13, 2024. Additionally, it is possible for the public to submit their comments in writing, to the DOE at 7552 Hummingbird Highway, Belmopan City, or Tel.: 822-2548 / 2819; comments can also be sent through the public form link which will be provided through our website and Facebook pages.

Kindly be informed that a hybrid public consultation on the findings of the EIA will be held on February 8, 2024, commencing at 6:30 pm at the Seine Bight Community Center, Placencia Road, Belize. An on line link will be provided prior to the date of the public consultation. The public is invited to participate in person or virtually in this consultation to make comments, ask questions, seek clarification, express concerns, or issues, or make objections or representations to the DOE related to the possible effects of the proposed project activity on the environment.

week, some predictions get started: Port Layola FC will beat Wagiya, 2-nil. Verdes FC will shock Altitude, 2 goals to 1, in Mango Creek. Next week, more stats.

#### NATIONAL BASKETBA Association

LA Clippers are the team to beat in the West

NBA results and predictions and updates

In NBA action, the Los Angeles Clippers have a very big 4-headed monster in Kawhi Leonard, who has 3 NBA championship rings, 2 with the San Antonio Spurs and one with the only franchise championship in Canada all time with the Toronto Raptors; then Russell Westbrook, James Harden and Paul George. They will be my early favorite to go all the way. The



Third World edged University Jones by some 50 points Dominoes results at Brown's yard



# **Hierarchy!**

Friday, January 12, 2024

I believe that it is a loss, when more civic-minded people refrain from entering the political fray because of lack of name recognition, or because they don't believe that they can compete on a fair plane with those who are connected. This is a worldwide problem, and it is even more of a problem when politics becomes a family business. To me, there's no difference between this system and a monarchy, or a dictatorship. It says to those interested in entering politics, 'never mind, we already have the correct representation'. Entrenchment has become a problem in the Jewel, with all the little juniors taking over from their aged parents. George Price "begat" Jane Usher, who begat that vine that has spread. Joe Briceño begat John, the current prime minister. Said Musa begat a litter of politicians. Dean Barrow begat Shyne! Politics then becomes a society unto itself, controlling the purse of a nation and the masses, which invariably leads to corruption and stagnation!

I believe that emerging countries should have the best of the best to lead them into prosperity, with a population that is proud of its political system. Not the pained resignation in their voices when they talk about their leaders. Doesn't matter the party in power in the Jewel, the results are always the same. Some people get rich while the most of us get screwed. We vote democratically, but once they get elected and have that 5year term, look out! I know, we all know, politicians who have come into office poor and left rich; if not, much better off than what their circumstances were before they were elected. With the salaries they are paid as representatives of the people, it's impossible to get rich, to own various businesses and properties that usually are reserved for the elite among us. Nepotism and disregard and disrespect for the voters, allow politicians to indulge in schemes that the ordinary citizen couldn't get away with. They get away with it, without fear of prosecution or any consequences, whatsoever. PUDP!

I'm not pointing fingers at anyone in particular, but you know who you are. It's not that you invented this system; it's that you exploit it to the fullest, and have the balls to come back for more, through democratic elections! The former party in power abused the privileges accorded them by a patient constituency, until they grew tired of the raw and rampant corruption all around them. This PUP government has to be aware of the past mistakes they made in former administrations, and also of the glaring excesses of the last UDP administration, which was very enthusiastically removed from power. They have to know that as the electorate becomes more sophisticated, more aware of insincerity and graft and indifference, they will act inside the voting booth, curtailing those wossa instincts.

I believe that we need more, and easier access to that mostly closed off club, that hierarchy that should not exist; it should be that such persons earn their position, rather than inheriting it because of familial or political connections. The individuals occupying those positions should be people who will look at the difficulties facing the nation from a different perspective, not the same ole, same old! Young people who want to make sure that those at the bottom, who live in chronic poverty can have hope, and the means to rise up, to get an opportunity like everyone else, to succeed! To be more aware of the dangers of losing part, if not all, of our precious Jewel, to treat it as a national emergency! To protect the innocent from predators, pass laws that will deter the rampant crime that is becoming more common every day. Make it much more difficult for every Tom, Dick, or Harry to own firearms. Give all unions the same respect and support that the cañeros and the Mayas are given. Revamp the healthcare system, radically! And so much more.

But, the cycle will continue.....

Glen

# **Bowen & Bowen security** guard robbed of firearm

#### by Charles Gladden

LADYVILLE, Belize District, Tues. Jan. 16, 2024

An employee of Bowen & Bowen Ltd. was tied up and stripped of a company-issued





#### **PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT**

#### **Annual Balance of Payments Survey**

Each year, the Central Bank of Belize collects data to compile Belize's Balance of Payments. To carry out this exercise for 2023 and to make accurate revisions to our 2022 data, the Central Bank is once again conducting its survey of *business enterprises* and *nonprofit organizations* <u>resident in Belize</u>.

The Central Bank guarantees that all data submitted will be kept **strictly confidential**, and any published statistics will be aggregated so that individual enterprises cannot be identified. To contribute to the effectiveness of this exercise, please submit responses by Friday, 26 January 2024.

The Central Bank of Belize looks forward to your cooperation and working together toward a successful survey initiative.



### **STUDENTS ARE CENTRAL**

CXC<sup>®</sup> Student Central was designed to create a simple, user-friendly online interface where the information that matters most to students is easily accessible when preparing for CXC<sup>®</sup> examinations.

firearm while on duty at the Bowen & Bowen compound in Ladyville, Belize District, over the weekend.

According to initial reports, at around 11:50 p.m. on Saturday, January 13, Darren Hemsley, 44, a security guard at Bowen & Bowen, was seated on a crate outside the security booth at the back of the compound, when he was held at gunpoint by a man who was armed with a .38 revolver and was dressed in dark clothing, with his face covered by a shirt and cap.

Hemsley's attacker then placed the firearm to his head and demanded his company-issued firearm. Soon after, three more men arrived at the scene and dragged him into the security booth. The initial robber who was equipped with the firearm, then succeeded in getting a hold of Hemsley's loaded 9mm pistol, and also took his cell phone and wallet, which contained a small amount of cash.

Before fleeing the scene, one of the men tied up Hemsley's hands and feet.

Rosanna Villanueva, corporate relations manager at Bowen and Bowen, told AMANDALA, "We are still reviewing the incident and will make determinations based on the outcome."

Notably, there was only one security guard present at the time of the incident. Villanueva mentioned to *Amandala* that "the number of guards posted at any location is determined based on various factors. This would be another area that we will review post-incident."

No arrests have yet been made in connection with the robbery.

It is a dedicated web portal where students can access videos, timetables, candidate guidelines, demo e-tests, syllabuses, news, grading information and more in a central location, which promotes student success.



# **CABEI funds AI cameras**

### The Belize Police Department installed 50 new cameras courtesy of funding from CABEI.

#### by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Fri. Jan. 12, 2024

The Belize Police Department held a small ceremony yesterday at the Racoon Street Police Station to mark the installation of 50 new security cameras which were donated by the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), which falls under the Belize Integral Security Programme (BISP).

The donation is the result of a collaboration between the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Economic Development to strengthen the Police Department's capacity to effectively respond to incidences of crime, and to provide evidence that can lead to successful prosecutions through video footage.

"As a law enforcement agency, we are tasked with the responsibility of ensuring the safety of our people. Citizen



security is important, and while we all, as citizens of this country, have a responsibility for our safety, the government also [has] the most tedious task through the Police Department to ensure that we provide a lot of security for the people of the country," said Commissioner of Police, Chester Williams. "We certainly do not have the amount of police to be able to control or contain the amount of people who may want to perpetrate criminal acts in our communities. And so, when we do have the systems that can enable the police to be able to police the community more vigorously it helps us tremendously, and what better way to do it than to have the surveillance camera system that is effective in making sure that we provide the level of security to our people," he added.

In 2023, a contract was signed between the Government of Belize and Central TV and Internet Limited for the acquisition of 50 Pan-tilt-zoom (PTZ) surveillance cameras, which will be placed throughout Belize City, as well as mounting posts, fiber optic cables, two servers, two workstations, two monitors, two IPTZ controllers, two keyboards, two mouse devices, 50 video management systems and licenses, and four 65-inch TV screens, with everything valuing a total of \$1.1 million BZ.

"While we have accomplished another

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#### REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES – INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT SELECTION)

#### Belize

Climate Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture Project (CRESAP) Loan No.: <u>9347-BE</u> Project ID No.: <u>P172592</u> Assignment Title: <u>Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist</u> Reference No. (as per Procurement Plan): <u>CS 13</u>

The Government of Belize has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Climate Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services ("the Services") is for a suitable qualified fulltime <u>PROJECT</u> <u>STAFF- MONITORING AND EVALUATION SPECIALIST</u> as part of the Project Implementation Unit of the CRESAP within the Belize Social Investment Fund. The Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist will be part of the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) and will be in charge of the overall planning, monitoring and evaluation responsibility of the project during its execution, and will provide guidance and support to the PIU during the implementation phase so that the Project Development Objectives (PDO) and impacts are achieved in accordance with the Project Operation Manual (POM) and the Climate Smart Matching Grant Operation Manual (MGOM).

The GOB has appointed the Belize Social Investment Fund (BSIF) as the implementing agency for the project and the BSIF is seeking to recruit an individual to fill the position of **Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist**.

The consultancy is expected to be for an initial period of Twenty-four (24) months commencing February 2024. The Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist will be

\*If these minimum requirements are not met, the candidates will not be considered for the process\*

#### **Additional Requirements (Desirable)**

**Specific Experience** 

- At least three (3) years' experience in designing and implementation of M&E systems. (Max 15 points)
- At least three (3) years' experience in the application of M&E methodologies and approaches (including quantitative, qualitative and participatory) (Max 15 points)
- At least three (3) years' experience in the preparation and use of the logical framework/theory of change and other strategic planning approaches (Max 15 points)
- At least three (3) years' experience in training M&E systems and implementation (Max 10 points)
- At least three (3) years' experience in facilitating learning-oriented analysis sessions of M&E data with multiple stakeholders. (Max 10 points)
- At least three (3) years' experience in working with age and gender disaggregated indicators. (Max 10 points)
- At least three (3) years' experience in informative analysis and report writing. (Max 5 points)

Minimum total points required to be considered for the assignment is 75 points.

**Budget**: The total estimated price for this consultancy inclusive of taxes is **USD149,926.00** which represents the estimated amount for said position to cover

supervised by the Project Coordinator (PC) of the CRESAP.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be obtained by submitting a request in writing via e-mail to procurement.cresap@sifbelize.org.

The Belize Social Investment Fund now invites eligible individuals ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services (such as cover letter, Curriculum Vitae etc.).

#### Minimum Mandatory Requirements \*(Required)

#### Qualifications

Bachelor's degree in development studies, statistics, social science, agriculture, rural development, project management, or any other field related to the assignment.

#### **General Experience**

Three (3) years of proven working experience in planning, monitoring and evaluation from internationally funded projects (i.e., World Bank, CDB, EU, UNDP, FAO, IFAD, etc.) with reference to the agriculture sector. (Max 20 points)

the full implementation period of the World Bank loan is 5 years.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" July 2016 ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Selection of Individual Consultant method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours, i.e., 0800 to 1600 hours Belize Time.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by **January 26, 2024**, at 16:00 hours Belize Time.

Belize Social Investment Fund Attn: Ian Ramirez, Procurement Officer P.O. Box 459, 1902 Constitution Drive (3rd Floor), Belmopan, Belize Telephone +501-822-0239 Email: procurement.cresap@sifbelize.org

# **MEGA AUCTION SALE**

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

### BELIZE DISTRICT PROPERTY -TO BE AUCTIONED AT HUMMINGBIRD FURNISHING COMPOUND IN THE CITY OF BELMOPAN ON TUESDAY JANUARY 23RD. 2024 AT 11:00AM



<u>Location:</u> Lot No. 295, Mile 16, situated in Maxboro area, Belize District.

<u>Description</u>: On the property is a single storey residence having four bedrooms, two and a half bathrooms, living, dining, office, kitchen, utility, garage and storeroom. Building has a total area of 3772 sq.ft being the freehold interest of Rodolfo Gutierrez.



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

### ORANGE WALK DISTRICT PROPERTIES - TO BE AUCTIONED AT HUMMINGBIRD FURNISHING COMPOUND IN THE CITY OF BELMOPAN ON TUESDAY JANUARY 23RD. 2024 AT 11:00AM



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



Location: ALL THAT pieces or parcels of land being Parcel #1237, Block #4, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District. Description: On the property is a two storey building having on the lower level a store room, the upper level has a three bedroom, two bathrooms apartment. Being the Freehold Interest of Richard Vellos.

### STANN CREEK DISTRICT PROPERTIES - TO BE AUCTIONED AT HUMMINGBIRD FURNISHING COMPOUND IN THE CITY OF BELMOPAN ON TUESDAY JANUARY 23RD. 2024 AT 11:00AM





Location: Lot No.38 situated in Sarawee Village, Stann Creek Valley Road, Stann Creek District

<u>Description</u>: land comprising 928.135 square metres being the freehold property of Nicholi Fernandez.



<u>Location</u>: Lot #125, situated in Independence Village, Stann Creek District. <u>Description</u>: On the property is a two storey building having 2 bedrooms, one bathroom apartment on the lower level, while the upper level has a 3 bedroom, 1 bathroom apartment. The property is held in the Freehold Interest of Michael Hobbs.

### ONLINE BIDDING AVAILABLE AT WWW.ARNOLDAUCTIONSBZ.COM BIDS ARE OPEN FROM JANUARY 12TH UP UNTIL JANUARY 23RD. 2024

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





#### **GENERAL PROCUREMENT NOTICE (GPN)**

#### **Government of Belize Compact Development Grant Funding Agreement**

#### **Publication Date: January 16, 2024**

The United States of America, acting through the Millennium Challenge Corporation ("MCC") and the Government of Belize (GOB) have entered into a Compact Development Grant Funding Agreement to support the development and facilitation of a Compact. The grant is in the amount of Ten Million U.S. Dollars (\$10,000,000) ("MCC Funding"). The Government, acting through the Compact Development Team (CDT) – Belize, and later through a Millennium Challenge Account (MCA-Belize), intends to apply part of the funds to payments for contracts for goods, works and services. MCC's funding is appropriated by the U.S. Congress and obligated to its programs up-front, with no incremental or partial funding. When a contract is signed with a Compact Development Team, money is already available for use, and, for most contracts, invoices are paid directly to Contractors/ Consultants/Suppliers by the US Treasury.

The listed procurement will be funded under the Compact Development Funding Grant Agreement referenced above.

Contracts for goods, works and services financed under the program will be implemented according to the principles, rules and procedures set out in the MCC Accountable Entity (AE) Program Procurement Guidelines (AE-PPG), available at https://www.mcc.gov/resources/doc/010124-ae-programprocurement-policy-guidelines/.

These procurements are open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the MCC AE-PPG.

Specific procurement notices for contracts to be tendered under the competitive bidding procedures and for consultant contracts will be announced, as they become available, on United Nations Development Business (UNDB): http://www.devbusiness.com/, Development Gateway Market (dgMarket): http://www.dgmarket.com/, in local newspapers, Ministry of Economic Development website: med.gov.bz and other media outlets as appropriate.

#### Procurements Planned for the period January 16, 2024 to **December 31, 2024**

Estimated Total Value – USD 2,550,000

#### **Consulting Firms:**

Development of Student Assessment System

Electric Grid Flexibility Assessment

#### **Individual Consultants:**

Energy Efficiency and Integrated Utility Services Advisor

# **NOTICE**

#### **GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE TREASURY BILLS ISSUE NUMBER 2/2024**

Tenders are invited for an issue of Government of Belize Treasury Bills. The amount of the issue will be \$64,391,800.

The Bills will be issued in electronic form only evidenced by an electronic book entry in the Central Securities Depository of the Central Bank of Belize in multiples of \$200 and will be repayable at par 91 days after issue. They will be issued on Tuesday, 23 January 2024 and will be redeemed on Tuesday, 23 April 2024.

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

Members of the public who wish to participate in the auction must submit their bid to the Central Bank of Belize electronically to bids@centralbank.org.bz or at the designated drop off box no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, 19 January 2024.

The Auction in the Central Securities Depository System (CSD) will be open from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on Tuesday, 23 January 2024.

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

**Bank: Central Bank of Belize** Account: GL1CORP0402627

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

**CENTRAL BANK OF BELIZE** 

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

3 January 2024

# owen We're Gwen Hiring!

#### **Head Distiller**

Ladyville, Belize District

The position is to:

- Oversee all aspects of the distilling process from production start to end.
- Monitor quality control throughout the production process.
- Be responsible for the maintenance of distilling equipment.
- Maintain compliance with all relevant regulations.

**TVET Policy Advisor** 

Curriculum Development Specialists

Grid Code Advisor for grid modernization work.

Interested eligible contractors and consultants who wish to be included on the mailing list to receive a copy of advertisements, or those requiring additional information, should contact:

| Interim Procurement Agent:                            | Zenobia Maddy<br>zenobia.maddy@crownagents.co.uk               |
|---|--|
|   | Rusudan Gobejishvili<br>Rusudan.Gobejishvili@crownagents.co.uk |
| With copy to:<br>BCDT Interim Procurement<br>Director | Artemio Osorio<br>aosorio.BCDT@med.gov.bz                      |

#### The position requirements are:

- Bachelor Degree in Chemistry, Food Science, Brewing and Distilling or other related field
- Experience in craft distilling or related field, with a proven track record of producing high-quality spirits
- Strong knowledge of the science of distillation
- Familiarity with distillery equipment and maintenance

#### Application Deadline: February 02, 2024

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

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

Apply: bowen.bz

# **Teens shot in separate incidents** in Belize City

#### by Charles Gladden

#### BELIZE CITY, Fri. Jan. 12,2024

As reported in the Friday edition of the Amandala, one teen is recovering at the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital after being shot on Thursday night, January 11, while heading in the direction

of Antelope Street in Belize City. It was subsequently reported that another teen was shot on Iguana Street earlier that same night. Just a few hours after those shootings, a third shooting also took place in the city.

In the first shooting incident, Shemar Smith, 18, of Antelope Street was walking alone on Iguana Street after 7:30 p.m., when, as he approached a nearby football field, an unknown gunman-described to be of dark complexion and wearing grey clothing-emerged from behind him and began blasting gunshots at him.

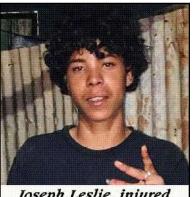
Smith immediately ran toward Dolphin Street then to Racoon Street into the Police Station compound, where he collapsed and was taken to the hospital with gunshot injuries to the right side of the abdomen and the right foot.

In the other shooting incident several hours later, Joseph Leslie, 19, of Laura Dunn Street, Belize City, was also walking in the direction of Antelope Street Extension when a gunman rode up on a

# Growing pains!

Tuesday, January 16, 2024

Belize, which is twice the size of Jamaica geographically, has an estimated population of about 400 thousand. If all those in the diaspora should return, the population would probably rise to about 800 thousand to a million! Of course, our infrastructure could never handle that amount of people. Every single department of government, every civic agency, would be overwhelmed! The health department, education, housing, electricity, our roads, our agriculture, police, courts, jails, everything! The only thing we have is land, a vast amount of real estate, and all that lies beneath and upon, unless we have to share with Guatemala! Wouldn't it be nice if the locals who own hundreds of thousands of acres could sell their land to our returning prodigal relatives and friends instead of giving it all away to foreigners? What a ting! The reason I bring this up is because I was reading about Southeast Asia. Myanmar, Cambodia, Vietnam all have populations of over 50 million; Vietnam has almost 100 million. Laos is the baby, with about 8 million. This is just Southeast Asia, not including India, China, and all those islands. These four countries have as many, if not more people, than Western Europe, maybe all of Europe (Western is a thing of the past). I don't include Russia and Turkey in my estimates. It is a fact that most of Europe became rich due to colonialism, even little Belgium and Holland with populations of 8 and 12 million, respectively, and are more



Joseph Leslie, injured

bicycle and fired shots at him, then fled on the bicycle.

An injured Leslie ran back to Laura Dunn Street before collapsing with injuries to the left hand, elbow, left side of the abdomen and right side of the abdomen. He was also taken to the hospital, where both he and Smith are recovering.

Leslie's mother, when interviewed by reporters (which was done in Spanish and translated into English), said that approximately nine shots were heard when her son was shot.

"He didn't see who did it, but his friends saw. I spoke to the police, and if they don't want to help to catch whoever did this, then I'm his mother, and more children will get hurt," she said.

Police have so far not determined the motive for the shooting, and have not yet detained any suspects.

Just hours later, another shooting took place in the city in the wee hours of Friday morning, January 12. The victim of that shooting, Shane Nolberto, 27, of Belize City, who was driving his car at the time of the shooting, survived the attempt on his life, but was injured after his vehicle crashed into a building.

According to reports, after 3:00 a.m. that Friday, Nolberto was driving in a Geo Prizm on Baymen Avenue with five other persons inside, and noticed that they were being followed by a white SUV. When Nolberto's car slowed down on approaching a speed bump near GS-COM, the SUV sped up and someone inside began firing several gunshots at them.

The SUV then sped away in the direction of Cinderella Plaza, but Nolberto, having been wounded by the bullets that were fired, lost control of his car, which rammed into a building on Kelly Street. Nolberto was transported to the hospital and is in stable condition. None of his passengers were injured.

During the weekly police press briefing, ACP Hilberto Romero, Regional Commander of the Belize Police Department's Eastern Division, told reporters that police are trying to locate a white SUV in connection with the shooting.

Reports from sources within the department, however, have indicated that a Belize City resident, one Roy Cox, a government worker, is suspected by police of being the driver of the SUV used in the drive-by shooting, and a relative of his is believed to be the shooter. Cox, however, has insisted that he is innocent and is upset about the accusations, which he says have harmed his reputation. Cox said that he was out doing taxi runs, and that his final run was before 3:00 a.m., the time when the shooting allegedly occurred. He also maintains that he had no one inside his car besides his customers. When ACP Romero was questioned about Cox, he replied, "I am not aware of that. If anybody was detained, probably for interviews, but so far no one has been charged." No motive has been ascertained yet for any of the shootings, and no one has yet been charged. Police continue to investigate.

### **BY ORDER OF THE MORTGAGEES**

Pursuant to The Belize Bank Limited Undertaking (Belize Bank Corporation Limited Operations) Vesting Act, 2021 and The Belize Bank Limited Undertaking (Belize Bank Corporation Limited **Operations) Vesting Act (Appointed Day) Order, 2021, THE BELIZE** BANK LIMITED, a company duly formed and incorporated under the Laws of Belize with registered office situate at Second Floor, Matalon Business Center, Coney Drive, Belize City Belize (the "Bank") acquired the undertaking of Belize Bank Corporation Limited (formerly Scotiabank (Belize) Ltd.).

The Bank thus hereby gives notice of its intention to exercise its power of sale under A Deed of Mortgage between Scotia Bank (Belize) of the one part and Denvor Deon Delbert Fairweather (hereinafter called "the Mortgagor") of the second part which was filed at the Land Titles Unit in Belmopan City on the 10<sup>th</sup> Day of April 2018 Instrument: LTU-201801319. The Bank will at the expiration of two months from the date of the first publication of this notice sell the property of the Mortgagors described in the SCHEDULES hereto.

ALL offers to purchase the said property must be made in writing to the Bank or to the undersigned from either of whom full particulars and conditions of sale may be obtained.

#### **THE SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO**

ALL THAT LEASEHOLD INTEREST IN ALL THAT piece or parcel of land being Lot No. 192 situate IN Hattieville Village, Belize District and bounded as follows:- On the Northeast for 74.99 feet by a street; On the Southeast for 99.99 feet by Lot No. 193; On the Southwest for 74.99 feet by Lot No. 201; On the Northwest for 99.99 feet by Lot No. 191, containing 833.33 square yards of land as shown on Entry No. 2299, Register No. 12 at the Office of the Commissioner of Lands and Surveys TOGETHER with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon.

Dated the 10th January, 2023

The Belize Bank Limited **Second Floor Matalon Business Center Coney Drive**, **Belize City** 

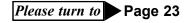


### VACANCY FOR THE POSITION OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Applications are invited from suitably qualified Caribbean Community (CARICOM) nationals for the position of Executive Director of the Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CCREEE).

The CCREEE is a specialised institution of CARICOM, established by Heads of Government with an energy-exclusive mandate. Headquartered in Barbados, it is the implementation hub for sustainable energy activities and projects within the Caribbean region.

As such, the Centre's vision is to transform the energy landscape into a climate resilient, sustainable, and affordable sector, placing people at the core of the



transition. In attainment of this vision, the CCREEE offers the Caribbean's public and private sectors a range of energy services.

#### APPLICATIONS

Full details for the position of Executive Director are available at https://www.ccreee.org/jobs/executive-director-vacancy/

Suitably qualified candidates are invited to submit their applications to the CCREEE at recruitment@ccreee.org by 11:59 PM (AST) on January 26, 2024.

Scan here to view the full job description:





Los beliceños contuvieron la respiración mientras la disputa entre los propietarios multinacionales del ingenio azucarero Tower Hill y la asociación más grande de cañeros se volvía cada vez más conflictiva este mes.

En mi vida, no recuerdo ninguna situación en la que uno de mi gente criolla diera su vida por una causa. Hace unos quince años, un cañero mestizo o maya/ mestizo o maya del pueblo de San Víctor dio su vida luchando por la causa de los cañeros.

Como sociedad, hemos encontrado una manera de pasar por encima y olvidar la valiente muerte de Danny Conorquie, un joven criollo, defendiendo la soberanía de Belize en el sitio turístico Caracol hace algunos años. Esto se me ocurrió después de escribir la primera frase del segundo párrafo de esta columna. La valentía de Conorquie ha sido borrada de nuestra historia por los poderes fácticos de Belize y sus diversos colaboradores.

Sin embargo, en lo que respecta a los cañeros, y a nuestros ciudadanos mestizos y mayas/mestizos y mayas en Corozal y Orange Walk, nosotros, los beliceños de mi generación, hemos sentido que estos son beliceños que están preparados para defender y luchar por su causa cuando sea y donde sea.

Las personas que diseñan los planes de estudio y eligen los libros para las listas de lectura de nuestras escuelas secundarias, preparatorias y universidades tienen un gran poder, si nos detenemos a pensar en ello. Estas personas, y están muy en la sombra, deciden qué sabrán y qué no sabrán aquellos de nuestra juventud que lleguen a estas instituciones educativas.

Mi generación creció en las décadas de 1950 y 1960, en una época en la que el país que conocemos como Belize era una colonia controlada por el Reino

# CABEI funds Al cameras

*Continued from* **Page 14** 

significant achievement, I assure you that we are far from finished. To support this surveillance system and further enhance public safety, we are also looking forward to the construction of police stations in predetermined areas across the country, and receiving the long-awaited 9-1-1 response system, which will also be made possible via this CABEI, Belize Integral Security Program," said Hon. Kareem Musa, Minister of Home Affairs. "This specific component is collaboration to provide more than 200 cameras in specific places within the city to improve the safety of the people so people can feel safer, people can feel with more peace to do whatever they want, study, work, everything; and on top of that we are planning to provide in the next few months a 911 system, mechanism, again, to improve safety," noted the CABEI president. The BISP is estimated to be worth 30 million USD.

Unido. Todas las escuelas secundarias y preparatorias en Belize estaban dirigidas por denominaciones religiosas, excepto el Colegio Técnico de Belize (establecido en 1952) y la preparatoria del Colegio Técnico de Belize. Nuestros amos coloniales británicos establecieron el Colegio Técnico cuando tenían el control total de Honduras Británica, por lo que debemos suponer que fueron ellos quienes tomaron las decisiones curriculares. Honduras Británica se convirtió en una colonia autónoma en 1964. No tengo idea si el control del currículo fue entregado inmediatamente al gobierno nativo de Belize, o cuándo lo fue.

Pero, como he dicho, todas las demás escuelas estaban dirigidas por denominaciones religiosas: católica romana, anglicana, metodista, adventista, bautista, nazarena, etc. Como religiones, su propósito principal era/es propagar sus creencias religiosas específicas, por lo que ésta es la consideración dominante en sus diseños curriculares.

En el área específica de la historia, los estudiantes de mi generación que fuimos a escuelas secundarias y preparatorias, estudiamos historia británica y, en menor medida, europea, para poder presentar los exámenes de certificación de Cambridge en los niveles Ordinario y Avanzado. (No había ninguna universidad en Belize en mi época).

Sin duda habría habido cooperación, por así decirlo, entre el Departamento de Educación dirigido por los británicos y las escuelas religiosas. En el Colegio San Juan, católico romano, donde asistí a la escuela secundaria y a la preparatoria, los libros de texto que usábamos, debo suponer, estaban sesgados a favor de los británicos anglicanos, cuyo principal enemigo en los siglos XVI y XVII era la España católica. Después de todo, los británicos eran nuestros amos coloniales.

Recuerdo muy poco de mi año y medio haciendo historia británica y europea en el nivel de la preparatoria. Recuerdo más de mis años de escuela secundaria en lo que respecta a la historia.

En cualquier caso, me ha llevado todo este tiempo llegar al punto: el punto de que, aunque Belize se independizó políticamente en 1981, nada cambió en los planes de estudio de historia de nuestras escuelas. De hecho, cuando se creó el Colegio Universitario de Belize (UCB en inglés), nuestra primera universidad, a mediados de los años 1980, la historia no era una preocupación primordial. La atención de la UCB se centró en cursos de hotelería empresarial y turística. Mi problema personal era que casi todos los habitantes de Corozal y Orange Walk, ya fueran hispanos, mestizos o mayas/mestizos, eran refugiados o descendientes de refugiados de una guerra llamada Guerra de Castas en la segunda mitad del siglo XIX en el Yucatán. Las potencias educativas aquí, coloniales y de autogobierno, no consideraron que fuera beneficioso para sus intereses enseñarnos sobre esa guerra. En cambio, a los beliceños nos enseñaron sobre la Guerra de las Rosas

# VACANCY Executive Associate

Location: Belmopan, Belize Application Deadline: 23/01/2024, 22:59 Type of Contract and Grade: National Personnel Service Agreement - 7 Expected Duration of Assignment: One Year

#### Background:

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion are core principles at UNDP: we value diversity as an expression of the multiplicity of nations and cultures where we operate, we foster inclusion as a way of ensuring all personnel are empowered to contribute to our mission, and we ensure equity and fairness in all our actions. Taking a 'leave no one behind' approach to our diversity efforts means increasing representation of underserved populations. People who identify as belonging to marginalized or excluded populations are strongly encouraged to apply. Learn more about working at UNDP including our values and inspiring stories.

UNDP does not tolerate sexual exploitation and abuse, any kind of harassment, including sexual harassment, and discrimination. All selected candidates will, therefore, undergo rigorous reference and backaround checks.

**Project Description:** UNDP is the leading United Nations organization in fighting to end the injustice of poverty, inequality, and climate change. Working with our broad network of experts and partners in 170 countries, we help nations to build integrated, lasting solutions for people and planet. UNDP has been engaged in Belize for over 40 years and the Country Office is led by a Resident Representative based in Jamaica with the Deputy Resident Representative functioning as the Head of Office.

#### **Duties and Responsibilities:**

Under the guidance and direct supervision of the Deputy Resident Representative (DRR), the Executive Associate ensures full confidentiality in all aspects of assignment, maintenance of protocol procedures, management of information flow and follow-up on deadlines and commitments made. The Executive Associate promotes a collaborative, client-focused, high quality and results-oriented approach in the operations of the DRR's office.

The Executive Associate to the DRR works in close collaboration with UNDP staff, UN Agencies, national authorities, international organizations, and other stakeholders and external entities to ensure efficient flow of information and follow through on actions, instructions, commitments, and agendas Broad duties include:

- Ensure effective and efficient functioning of the Deputy Resident Representative (DRR) office. Provide effective communications support to the office to facilitate essential flow of information.
- Facilitate knowledge building and management in the Country Office.
- Provide support for effective administrative and financial control in the Country Office.
- The incumbent performs other duties within their functional profile as deemed necessary for the efficient functioning of the Office and the Organization.

#### Required Education:

- Secondary education is required.
- University Degree in Social Sciences, Management, Business Administration, Public Administration, Finance, or equivalent will be given due consideration, but is not a requirement.

#### Experience and skills:

- Minimum of 7 years (with high school diploma) or 4 years (with bachelor's degree) of relevant progressively responsible secretarial, administrative, and/or programme experience is required at the national and international level
- Experience in the use of computers, office software (MS Word, Excel, etc), database packages, and web-based management systems such as ERP.
- Experience working with the United Nations or other international entity is an asset.
- Experience in the use of Quantum is an asset.

Languages: Excellent command of English languages. Knowledge of Spanish is an asset.

#### Applications: To apply please go to:

https://estm.fa.em2.oraclecloud.com/hcmUI/CandidateExperience/en/ sites/CX\_1/job/15669/?utm\_medium=jobshare

del siglo XV entre las casas británicas de Lancaster y York, por ejemplo. ¡Que evocador! Pero el poder es el poder, José.

Quizás no había textos adecuados sobre la Guerra de Castas disponibles en inglés. Parece que The Caste War of Yucatan de Nelson Reed, publicado en 1963 por Stanford University Press, fue el primer trabajo importante en inglés sobre la guerra. Personalmente, no leí el libro del Sr. Reed hasta 1993, cuando compré una copia durante un viaje a Mérida. (El Sr. Reed publicó una edición revisada de su libro en 2001).

La Guerra de Castas comenzó en Yucatán en 1847. El sacerdote mexicano Miguel Hidalgo encabezó una revolución en 1810 que buscaba independizarse de España. México se independizó en 1821, pero hubo un proceso de agitación interna entre entonces y 1847. Esa agitación incluyó la guerra con Estados Unidos. Hay que comprender algo de esa agitación antes de poder comprender las causas de la Guerra de Castas. Hubo una guerra entre el gobierno central mexicano en la Ciudad de México y el pueblo de Yucatán, principalmente Mérida y Campeche. Es complicado, pero algo similar a la Guerra Civil estadounidense, en la que el gobierno central de Washington buscaba una "unión más perfecta", un gobierno centralizado, mientras que los estados confederados del sur querían "derechos de los estados", un gobierno de tipo fed-Los yucatecos querían eral. independizarse de la agitación en la Ciudad de México que incluía personalidades volubles como el general Antonio López de Santa Anna. Después de sufrir derrotas tempranas, la clase gobernante ladina en Yucatán pidió el apoyo de la clase india oprimida. Los Mazehual demostraron ser muy buenos luchadores, y así nació la idea de luchar contra quienes los aplastaban en el mismo Yucatán desde tiempos inmemoriales.

Tendré que continuar esta narrativa en alguna otra columna(s). Cerraré este episodio con una cita de Mexico: Biography of Power de Enrique Krauze publicada en 1997 por Harper Collins:

"Después del surgimiento inicial de estos caudillos en 1810 vino un período efimero, trágico, pero significativo, lleno de tensiones políticas y religiosas, y luego una época (1831-1855) dominada por los típicos caudillos criollos latinoamericanos, parecidos a los que se encuentran en otras partes de las antiguas colonias españolas. Uno de ellos, aclamado como "el Hombre del Destino", se alzaba sobre su época como

un coloso melodramático: el monarca sin corona, Antonio López de Santa Anna.

"Pero había algo en la mentalidad criolla -en el propio Santa Anna y en otros caudillos y no sólo en comandantes militares sino también en intelectuales como Alamán y Mora- que les impedía consolidar una nación. Aunque tenían la capacidad y los poderes intelectuales para establecer una nueva orden algunos mirando hacia el futuro, ansiosos por un Estado que fuera republicano, secular, democrático y constitucional; otros mirando hacia el pasado, nostálgicos de una sociedad católica, jerárquica y centralizada-, ninguno de ellos pudo realizarlo. Y peor aún, presidieron una época de anarquía, empobrecimiento económico, pérdida de territorio nacional y, sobre todo, violencia: revoluciones, intervenciones extranjeras, luchas civiles".



### <u>PUBLIC AUCTION SALE</u> San Felipe Village, Ranchito Village, Corozal Town

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees, Messrs. St. Francis Xavier Credit Union Limited, Licensed Auctioneer Fitzgerald A. Joseph will sell the following properties on Site on Saturday the 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2024 starting at 8:30 a.m.



Being a galvalume two bedroom house with living, dining, bathroom and kitchen together with a lot containing 1,325.73 square yards situated in San Felipe Village, Orange Walk District, Belize the leasehold property of **Leonides Williams** at



Being a bungalow cement house having three bedrooms, bath, living, kitchen, dining, and a foyer together with a fully fenced yard containing 599.832 square yards situated in the Dominguez Layout Area in Corozal Town, Corozal District, Belize the freehold property of **Deborah Pitts** at **11:00 a.m.** 

8:30 a.m.



Being bungalow cement house having one bedroom, bathroom, living, dining and kitchen along with a cement roof. It has two parcels of land containing 599.821 square yards each situated in Ranchito Village, Corozal District, Belize the freehold property of **Chayann Tzul** at **10:00 a.m.** 



Being a two story cement house having three bedrooms, bathroom, kitchen, living, dining on the ground floor while having a two bedroom and bathroom on the first floor together with a three sided fence containing 555.559 square yards situated in the Altamira Area, Corozal Town, Corozal District, Belize the freehold property of **Ortencia Smith** at **11:30 a.m.** 

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH FITZGERALD A. JOSEPH TELEPHONE: 601-2039 Email: palas105@yahoo.com



#### Vacancy Announcement

United States Peace Corps in Belize

#### **Position Title:** Language and Cultural Facilitator (LCF)

#### Basic Function of the Position

The Language and Cultural Facilitator (LCF) is an integral part of Peace Corps Belize's Pre-Service Training (PST) team, responsible for language and cross-cultural instruction to new Peace Corps Trainees. The LCF plans and delivers daily language lessons; provides cross-cultural and project specific instruction to Trainees; and documents each Trainees' progress on language acquisition.

#### Required knowledge, skills & abilities:

- Associate degree in a field related to the position: Primary Education, English, General Studies, Biology, Mathematics or Science
- A minimum of one (1) year of teaching experience.
- Advanced level skills in speaking, reading, and writing Spanish or Native fluency in Kriol.
- Available to work 40 hours per week from April 2<sup>nd</sup>, start date, to July 19<sup>th</sup>, end date.
- If not from the training community, willing to be on duty in training community from May 13<sup>th</sup> – July 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Computer proficiency in Microsoft Office; online programs such as Canva or other media to create lessons, audios, and resources.
- Basic knowledge of using Moodle, Google meet, Microsoft teams, Zoom and other online platforms, etc.
- Able to pass a U.S. Embassy background security investigation.
- A citizen of Belize or has current valid authorization to work in Belize.

#### Compensation and duration:

- Compensation range starts at \$130.00 to \$150.00 per day, based on experience and qualifications.
- The anticipated contract will be for a base period of 4 months, commencing on April 2<sup>nd</sup> to July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- This contract is contingent on reference checks and background check.
- This is a short-term position, requiring a minimum working schedule of 40 hours per week.
- The duty station is located at Peace Corps Office (7069 George Price Boulevard, Belmopan City, Cayo District, Belize).

#### Application Package must be submitted to: <u>BZ-Vacancies@peacecorps.gov</u>

Interested applicants for this position must address each of the required minimum qualifications outlined in the Vacancy Announcement above and submit the following. Failure to provide a complete application package will disqualify applicants from consideration.

- 1. Current resume and cover letter.
- 2. Provide contact information of three references, one reference must be from a current or previous employer. (Email and telephone number)
- 3. A copy of a recent police record is required.
- 4. State specific language position that you would like to apply for, Spanish or Kriol in the subject line of the email (e.g. LCF Smith Kriol).
- 5. Include the minimum requirements highlighted in the knowledge, skills, and abilities section.
- 6. Indicate whether you have served Peace Corps as a Trainee or Volunteer (including Response), or a Staff member (USDH, PSC, or FSN), and if so, identify the position location, position type, title, and starting and ending date.
- 7. All documents must be in English.

#### Application Deadline is January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Applications will be accepted until position is filled.

#### Additional Information:

- For a complete scope of work, send a request to <u>BZ-Vacancies@peacecorps.gov.</u>
- Overseas Contracting Officers may give preference to personal services contract (PSC) candidates residing in Belize or who are Belizean citizens at the time of application.
- Peace Corps reserves the right not to evaluate or to withhold an offer of a personal services contract (PSC) to an individual that has a history of poor past performance or conduct as a Peace Corps Trainee, Volunteer, or staff member.
- Peace Corps reserves the right to withhold an offer of a personal services contract to an individual that is a relative or household member of a current Peace Corps

# Rehabilitation of Corozal Free Zone access road starts



#### by Kristen Ku

#### COROZAL, Fri. Jan. 12, 2024

The Government of Belize has initiated the rehabilitation of the Santa Elena Access Road to the Corozal Free Zone. A groundbreaking ceremony was held on Thursday, January 11, to mark the beginning of the project, which is being funded through the Central American Bank for Economic Development Integration (CABEI).

The Corozal Free Zone Access Road Project, which is to be executed at a total cost of BZ\$2,984,531.31, is being funded through contributions from both CABEI and the Government of Belize, and will involve the rehabilitation of 1.6 kilometers of vital roadway.

This strategic infrastructure improvement is expected to strengthen trade, investment, and overall economic growth in the area.

The Prime Minister of Belize, Hon. John Briceño, acknowledged the importance of this development, noting CABEI's support as

evidence of their confidence in Belize's potential and their dedication to promoting sustainable economic development.

Gisela Sanchez Maroto, president of CABEI, stated, "We are 100 % committed to driving economic and social growth in Belize by strengthening productivity, supporting tourism, of course, and by being more efficient in terms of connecting, and providing connectivity." productive hub and the importance of efficient access to the businesses in the zone. CABEI's support, she indicated, is part of a broader commitment to improving the country's sustainable competitiveness.

Hon. Jose Abelardo Mai, Minister of Agriculture, Food Security & Enterprise, was also at the event, and reflected on the project's journey from conception to reality.

"When we took office in November of 2020, the Free Zone was burdened by a huge debt and neglected facilities. The road from Santa Elena Bridge to the Corozal Free Zone was in terrible condition, hindering the flow of goods and people. We immediately took on the responsibility of finding a solution, and



CEO Ramirez and his team reached out with the task of getting something in line. Thus was born the collaboration with CABEI, and now we are here, about to make this dream a reality," he said.

He further highlighted the Free Zone's role in creating jobs and promoting cultural exchange. "This access road improvement is key to the success of the Free Zone and the image we transmit as a country to visitors," he said.

staff member.

- One or more positions may be filled from this announcement.
- Only those invited to an interview will be contacted.
- Individuals who have current or prior connections with intelligence activities or agencies through employment, related work, or even family relations may be ineligible for a personal services contract.
- Individual will be required to follow any workplace health and/or safety rules indicated for their position – including complying with any medical and/or training requirements specified for their position in accordance with public health and/ or occupational health or safety policies.

For additional general information regarding the Peace Corps, please visit our website at: <u>www.peacecorps.gov</u>.

The Peace Corps does not discriminate in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including

gender identity, sexual orientation, & pregnancy), national origin, age (40 or older, except when the

applicant is beyond the mandatory retirement age in the country of assignment), disability, or genetic information.

The Peace Corps is an Equal Opportunity Employer

She noted the significance of the Corozal Free Zone as a commercial and



Notably, the Corozal Free Zone employs over three thousand Belizeans

and has seen considerable growth, with over one million visitors in 2022 alone, marking a 20% increase from the previous year.

Due to the upcoming Tren Maya project in Mexico, Belize is expecting a further increase in visitor numbers to the Free Zone.

# The will of the people!

#### Monday, January 15, 2024

As anyone who knows me can attest, I am no fan of Guatemala, or of its very corrupt political system! And especially because of their very spurious claims on Belize's rights to its sovereignty or territory or dignity or self-determination or even of our right to exist! But the election of Bernardo Arevalo six months ago, and his well-deserved inauguration early this morning, Monday, January 15, is such a welcomed moment for that country. After so many years of supporting tyrants and dictators in Guatemala, the United States has finally decided to back the democratically elected, reformist leader! How reformist he will be is something that only time will tell. He has the entrenched establishment working against him, whittling down his powers to make substantive changes in favor of the

indigenous population who catapulted him into power. The Americans had to step in and start sanctioning these agents of corruption, of the status quo, who finally succumbed to the pressure and allowed, and I mean allowed, Arevalo to assume the presidency.

These are the same people who would love, are obsessed with, owning parts, if not all, of Belice! They have been in power for so long, controlling the economics, the courts, and the politicians. They have disenfranchised the indigenous populations forever, and let's not forget the slaughter of so many during the Reagan years with General Rios Montt leading the charge! Government after government have taken corruption and disenfranchisement to new levels. These are the people that want to own us, not govern us, but own us! What do you think they would do with us, to us? I won't even speculate; I'll leave that to your imagination. That they can exterminate their own is enough to make everyone scared about the prospect of the ICJ ruling in their favor! I believe we would become stateless, Gaza-like, or if we are lucky, secondclass citizens! Ok, I'm speculating. But this is serious business; this is about our survival.

So, the will of the people has prevailed, barely, and hopefully it will last! We also have to hope that this new president will see the folly of their illegal claim on the Jewel, and pursue other avenues of cooperation and peace with his hopeful and determined neighbor to the east.

I'm cautiously optimistic about his success in the guiding of his country in a new direction, and also hopeful that the Court will decide on our sovereignty sometime this year. Why don't we know when this issue will be settled? So annoying, as my kids would say.

Good luck, President Arevalo! I hope that you succeed in governing your country and giving your people the relief they so desperately need. I hope you will see the fallacy in pursuing this false narrative about your country's right to disrupt our sovereignty!

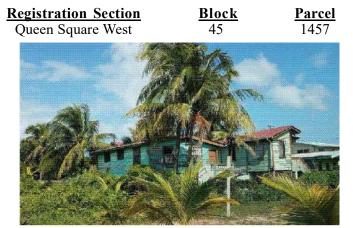
I hope you will demand that your armed forces refrain from terrorizing Belizeans inside our own borders! That you will give us the respect due to every human being on this earth. I hope that you will be the president that the people, the good people of Guatemala, voted for!

Power to the people!

Glen

### **<u>PUBLIC AUCTION SALE</u>** Belize City, Sandhill, Orange Walk Town, San Jaoquin Village

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees, Messrs. Heritage Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneer Fitzgerald A. Joseph will sell the following properties on Site on Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2024 starting at 9:00 a.m.



Being a property with two wooden houses. Building One: Ground Floor: Living room, bathroom, 1 bedroom. First floor: Living room, dining, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bath & entry porch. Building Two: Living, dining, kitchen, two bedrooms and entry porch together with a lot containing 447.221 square meters situated near Neal's Pen Road Ext. along Krooman Road, Belize City, Belize the freehold property of Keith Harris at 9:00 a.m.





Being bungalow cement house having three bedrooms, bath, living, kitchen, dining, and the storeroom having 308 square feet together with a fully fenced yard containing 416.61 square yards situated at the Cor. San Joaquin & Yo Creek Streets, Ann Gabourel Layout, North of Orange Walk Town, Belize the freehold property of Roberto Carlos Vasquez at **1:00 p.m.** 



Being Lot No. 6 containing 3,539.96 square yards situated in Sandhill Village, Belize District, Belize the freehold property of **Armando Moralez** at **9:30 a.m.** 



Being a three bedrooms bungalow house with two bathrooms, porch, kitchen, living, dining and laundry rooms together with a fully fenced lot being Lot No. 8 containing 2,193.79 square yards situated in Sandhill Village, Belize District, Belize the freehold property of **Armando Moralez** at **10:00 a.m.** 



Being a two storey cement house with the ground floor having bath, boutique, beauty salon, store room, laundry room and verandah and on the upper floor having three bedrooms, two baths, living, dining, kitchen, balcony and wooden deck together with a lot containing 1,372.79 square yards situated in San Joaquin Village, Corozal District, Belize the freehold property of Sylvia & Wayne Leonardo at **2:00 p.m.** 

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH FITZGERALD A. JOSEPH TELEPHONE: 601-2039



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



Ministry of Natural Resources, Petroleum and Mining Belmopan, Belize, C.A. ph: 501-880-0667

#### **First Registrations Notices**

#### CHAPTER 194, LAWS OF BELIZE NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13

In accordance with Section 13 of the Registered Land Act Chapter 194, I Patricia Robateau Blackett, Registrar of Lands, hereby serves notice that within one month from the date hereof, I intend to register the following parcels of land listed below for which application for first registration have been received.

The attention of the general public is hereby drawn to this notice. Any person whose rights and interest may be affected by the registering of these parcels must get in touch with me before expiry date of this notice between Mondays to Fridays at the Land Registry, Belmopan.

Patricia Robateau Blackett (Mrs.) Registrar of Lands

#### APPLICATION NO. LRS-202308876

This parcel of land is situated in the Registration Section LADYVILLE/LORD'S BANK Block No. 16 and being Parcel No. 5025 Formerly Lot No. 32, 0.444 Acres situate North of Northern Highway, Near Mile 13, Ladyville Area, Belize District.

This parcel of land is subject of a Deed of Conveyance No. 3299 of 2002 dated 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2002 and recorded in Deeds Book Volume 38 of 2002 Folios 1491-1496 in favor of LEROY SMITH AND MICHAEL WADE (JOINTLY).

#### APPLICATION NO. LRS-202312463

This parcel of land is situated in the Registration Section ORANGE WALK TOWN Block No. 4 and being Parcel No. 2866 Formerly Lot No. 236, 998.92 Square Yards situate at the corner of Flamboyant and Mahogany Street, Louisiana Farm, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District.

This parcel of land is subject of a Minister's Fiat Grant No. 97 of 2001 dated 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2001 in favor of EDNA AYUSO.

#### APPLICATION NO. LRS-202313446

This parcel of land is situated in the Registration Section CONSEJO Block No. 1 and being Parcels No. 789, No. 790 & No. 791 Formerly Lots No. 55, No. 56 & No. 57, 2276.16, 2102.414 & 2286.30 Square Yards (respectively) situate near the Village of Consejo, Corozal District.

This parcel of land is subject of a Deed of Conveyance No. 2536 of 1992 dated 14<sup>th</sup> September, 1992 and recorded in Deeds Book Volume 31 of 1992 Folios 457-472 in favor of LIN HOUNG-WEN AND LIN CHANG NIEN-PING (JOINTLY).

#### APPLICATION NO. LRS-202315807

This parcel of land is situated in the Registration Section BENQUE VIEJO DEL CARMEN Block No. 23 and being Parcel No. 2247 Formerly Lot No. 13, 533.33 Square Yards situate along the Benque Viejo-Arenal road, Cayo District.

This parcel of land is subject of a Deed of Conveyance No. 1651 of 1993 dated 16<sup>th</sup> August, 1993 and recorded in Deeds Book Volume 19 of 1993 Folios 1149-1154 in favor of MR. GEORGE MICHAEL HYDE (DECEASED).

#### APPLICATION NO. LRS-202316280

This parcel of land is situated in the Registration Section SAN IGNACIO NORTH Block No. 23 and being Parcel No. 1076 Formerly Lot No. 2069, 464.698 Square Meters situate in San Ignacio Town, Cayo District.

This parcel of land is subject of a Minister's Fiat Grant No. 1113 of 2002 dated 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2002 in favor of **KENNETH BATTY**.

#### APPLICATION NO. LRS-202316282

This parcel of land is situated in the Registration Section SAN IGNACIO NORTH Block No. 23 and being Parcel No. 1075 Formerly Lot No. 2068, 506.216 Square Meters situate in San Ignacio Town, Cayo District.

This parcel of land is subject of a Minister's Fiat Grant No. 417 of 2005 dated 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2005 in favor of **DENMARK LEWIS**.

#### APPLICATION NO. LRS-202316912

This parcel of land is situated in the Registration Section CAYE CAULKER Block No. 12 and being Parcel No. 683 Formerly Lot No. 2, 544.20 Square Yards situate in Caye Caulker Village, Belize District.

This parcel of land is subject of a Deed of Conveyance No. 0951 of 2006 dated 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2006 and recorded in Deeds Book Volume 12 of 2006 Folios 949-962 in favor of NONA ALBERTHA CRUZ-WRIGHT.

#### APPLICATION NO. LRS-202317018

This parcel of land is situated in the Registration Section **BIG FALLS/GOLDEN STREAM Block No. 42** and being **Parcel No. 276** Formerly **Block No. 10**, 10 Acres situate on the right ascending Rio Grande, Toledo District.

This parcel of land is subject of a Vesting Assent No. 898 of 1997 dated 13<sup>th</sup> March, 1997 and recorded in Deeds Book Volume 10 of 1997 Folios 1071-1078 in favor of JULIA MARTINEZ.

#### APPLICATION NO. LRS-202317043

This parcel of land is situated in the Registration Section SAN PEDRO Block No. 4 and being Parcel No. 7106 Formerly Lot No. 900, 466.161 Square Meters situate in the Ambergris Bay Area on the Western portion of Ambergris Caye, Belize District.

This parcel of land is subject of a Deed of Conveyance No. 1149 of 2010 dated 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2010 and recorded in Deeds Book Volume 18 of 2010 Folios 205-218 in favor of EMMANUEL CASTANEDA.

#### APPLICATION NO. LRS-202300095

This parcel of land is situated in the Registration Section BENQUE VIEJO DEL CARMEN Block No. 23 and being Parcel No. 2660 Formerly Lot No. 288, 549.98 Square Yards situate in Benque Viejo Town, Cayo District.

This parcel of land is subject of a Minister's Fiat Grant No. 1120 of 2006 dated 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2006 in favor of MARIA AURORA CONTRERAS.

#### APPLICATION NO. LRS-202400097

This parcel of land is situated in the Registration Section SAN PEDRO Block No. 4 and being Parcel No. 8452 Formerly Lot No. 441, 965.00 Square Meters situated approximately 3.5 miles North of San Pedro Town Centre, Belize District.

This parcel of land is subject of a Deed of Conveyance No. 1381 of 2006 dated 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2006 and recorded in Deeds Book Volume 18 of 2006 Folios 517-524 in favor of BEER WEST LIMITED.

#### APPLICATION NO. LRS-202400116

This parcel of land is situated in the Registration Section LADYVILLE/LORD'S BANK Block No. 16 and being Parcel No. 5665 Formerly Lot No. 127, 1172.22 Square Yards situate on the eastern side of the Northern Highway near Mile 10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, Belize District.

This parcel of land is subject of a Deed of Conveyance No. 445 of 1992 dated 7<sup>th</sup> March, 1992 and recorded in Deeds Book Volume 5 of 1992 Folios 919-926 in favor of SHELLEY M. YOUNG.

#### APPLICATION NO. LRS-202400126

This parcel of land is situated in the Registration Section BELIZE RURAL NORTH 11 Block No. 11 and being Parcel No. 620 Formerly Block No. 64, 13.413 Acres situate in Santana Village, Belize District.

This parcel of land is subject of Assent No. 900 of 2003 dated 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2003 and recorded in Deeds Book Volume 12 of 2003 Folios 189-194 in favor of FRANCISCO E. ALDANA SR.

#### APPLICATION NO. LRS-202400127

This parcel of land is situated in the Registration Section **BELIZE RURAL NORTH 1 Block** 

This parcel of land is subject of a Minister's Fiat Grant No. 64 of 2003 dated 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2003 in favor of **KENNETH BATTY**.

#### APPLICATION NO. LRS-202316633

This parcel of land is situated in the Registration Section SAN PEDRO Block No. 7 and being Parcel No. 8395 Formerly Lot No. 5, 1.31 Acres situate approximately 6 miles North of San Pedro Town, Ambergris Caye, Belize District.

This parcel of land is subject of a Deed of Conveyance No. 2678 of 2003 dated 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2003 and recorded in Deeds Book Volume 35 of 2003 Folios 1165-1174 in favor of **RICKEY A**. **VISORIA (DECEASED) AND KATHY S. VISORIA (JOINTLY)**.

#### APPLICATION NO. LRS-202316641

This parcel of land is situated in the Registration Section SAN FELIPE Block No. 13 and being Parcel No. 606 Formerly Lot No. 257, 1367.624 Square Meters situate San Felipe Village, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District.

This parcel of land is subject of a Minister's Fiat Grant No. 910 of 2003 dated 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2003 in favor of **RAMIRO PERALTA**.

#### APPLICATION NO. LRS-202316880

This parcel of land is situated in the Registration Section SAN IGNACIO SOUTH Block No. 23 and being Parcel No. 876 Formerly Lot No. 2040, 697.054 Square Meters situate in the Trenchtown Area, San Ignacio Town, Cayo District.

No. 11 and being Parcel No. 750 Formerly Block No. 523, 20 Acres situate east of the Belize Corozal Road, near mile 32, Belize District.

This parcel of land is subject of a Deed of Conveyance No. 2706 of 1999 dated 27<sup>th</sup> September, 1999 and recorded in Deeds Book Volume 31 of 1999 Folios 1015-1020 in favor of **FRANCISCO E. ALDANA SR.** 

#### APPLICATION NO. LRS-202300129

This parcel of land is situated in the Registration Section BELIZE RURAL NORTH 1 Block No. 11 and being Parcel No. 702 Formerly Block No. 7, 20 Acres situate on the Belize-Corozal Road, Santana Village Area, Belize District.

This parcel of land is subject of a Minister's Fiat Grant No. 540 of 1981 dated 27<sup>th</sup> October, 1981 in favor of FRANCISCO ALDANA SR.

#### APPLICATION NO. LRS-202400194

This parcel of land is situated in the Registration Section DANGRIGA NORTH Block No. 31 and being Parcel No. 907 Formerly Lot No. 132, 218.45 Square Yards situate in Lemon Street, Dangriga Town, Stann Creek District.

This parcel of land is subject of a Deed of Conveyance No. 31 of 1990 dated 21<sup>st</sup> December, 1989 and recorded in Deeds Book Volume 1 of 1990 Folios 675-680 in favor of EVAN LIONEL GUERRERO (DECEASED).



Ministry of Natural Resources, Petroleum and Mining Belmopan, Belize, C.A. ph: 501-880-0667

#### Lost Land and Lease Certificate Notices

Pursuant to Section 37(3) of the Registered Land Act, Chapter 194, Laws of Belize, Revised Edition, notice is hereby given of the loss of the following Land and Lease Certificates:

| Names   | Registration<br>Section, Block &<br>Parcel Nos. | Certificate Nos.                              |  |  |
|---|---|---|--|--|
| MOHAMMAD<br>KAMRUZZAMAN   | 16-49-1100                                      | Land Cert. No. LRS-200701507 dtd. 12/21/2007  |  |  |
| MOHAMMAD<br>KAMRUZZAMAN   | 16-49-1099                                      | Land Cert. No. LRS-200701508 dtd. 12/21/2007  |  |  |
| JOSE ERNESTO GIRON  | 20-29-16/1                                      | Lease Cert. No. LRS-201111756 dtd, 10/03/2011 |  |  |
| MAURICIA JUSTINA LOGAN  | 23-22-3057/1                                    | Lease Cert. No. LRS-201205277 dtd. 05/08/2012 |  |  |
| ROSALIND MARTINEZ   | 20-17-6366                                      | Land Cert. No. LRS-201007988 dtd. 08/02/2010  |  |  |
| VICTORIA MATUTE, STELLA<br>MARIE GILLETT and PATRICIA<br>ANN BEET                                       | 23-103-2916                                     | Land Cert. No. LRS-201204168 dtd. 04/10/2012  |  |  |
| LIONEL GILLETT (DECEASED)   | 20-17-1888                                      | Land Cert. No. 4251/2005 dtd. 06/09/2005      |  |  |
| NICOLE DIANE SALAZAR  | 16-49-1825                                      | Land Cert. No. LRS-201706382 dtd. 08/17/2017  |  |  |
| MALCOLM ZABANEH   | 31-106-783                                      | Land Cert. No. LRS-201707895 dtd. 10/11/2017  |  |  |
| ADELE FLORES NUNEZ  | 20-17-3110/1                                    | Lease Cert. No. 8119/2003 dtd. 11/13/2003     |  |  |
| FRANCISCO GUTIERREZ and<br>JORGE ANTONIO<br>POLANCO(EXECUTOR OF THE<br>WILL OF ERNILDA SALAZAR<br>DEC'D | 23-103-1544                                     | Land Cert. No. LRS-201509031 dtd. 08/13/2015  |  |  |
| WILWARD JONES   | 4-93-2105                                       | Land Cert. No. LRS-201911644 dtd. 10/22/2019  |  |  |
| ANNA VILLACORTA   | 20-17-3560                                      | Land Cert. No. LRS-201414438 dtd. 11/10/2014  |  |  |
| EDGAR PEDRO SALAZAR<br>(DECEASED)   | 7-42-3387                                       | Land Cert. No. 5816/2005 dtd. 07/27/2005      |  |  |
| KHALIL ADONIS LEWIS   | 23-22-3684                                      | Land Cert. No. LRS-201508485 dtd. 07/31/2015  |  |  |

The above Land/Lease Certificates after the expiration of twenty-one (21) days from the appearance of this notice. Any person in possession of the above-mentioned certificates is required to return it to the Belize Land Registry, Ministry of Natural Resources, City of Belmopan.

Patricia Robateau Blackett (Mrs.) Registrar of Lands

#### First Certificate of Title

APPLICATION No. FCT-202300031 Form 11 Rule 15) GENERAL REGISTRY ACT AND GENERAL REGISTRY RULES

Advertisement in "Gazette" of application for

First Certificate of Title to land, etc.

NOTICE is hereby given that GODFREY ARZU of Gales Point Village, Belize Creek District

has applied for the issue of a First Certificate of Title to the land, estate, interest, power or right described in the Schedule to this Notice.

# **From the Publisher**

#### Continued from Page 9

How quaint! But, power is power, Jack. Perhaps there were not adequate Caste War texts available in the English language. It seems that Nelson Reed's *The Caste War of Yucatan*, published in 1963 by Stanford University Press, was the first major work in English about the war. Personally, I did not read Mr. Reed's book until 1993, when I bought a copy while on a trip to Merida. (Mr. Reed published a revised edition of his book in 2001.)

The Caste War began in Yucatan in 1847. The Mexican priest, Miguel Hidalgo, led a revolution in 1810 which sought to gain independence from Spain. Mexico became independent in 1821, but there was a process of internal turmoil between then and 1847. That turmoil included war with the United States. You have to understand something of that turmoil before you can understand the causes of the Caste War.

There was a war between the central Mexican government in Mexico City and the people of the Yucatan, principally Merida and Campeche. It is complicated, but somewhat similar to the American Civil War, in which the central government in Washington sought a "more perfect union," a centralized government, whereas the southern Confederate states wanted "states' rights," a federal-type government. The Yucatecans wanted independence from the turmoil in Mexico City which featured mercurial personalities like General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna. Having suffered early defeats, the ruling Ladino class in Yucatan invited support from the oppressed Indio class. The Mazehual proved to be very good fighters, and thus was born the idea of fighting against those who had been crushing them in Yucatan itself from time immemorial.

I will have to continue this narrative in some other column(s). I will close this episode with a quote from Enrique Krauze's *Mexico: Biography of Power*, published in 1997 by HarperCollins:

"Following the initial emergence of these caudillos in 1810 came an ephemeral, tragic, but meaningful period filled with political and religious tensions, and then an age (1831-1855) dominated by typical Latin American creole caudillos, resembling those to be found elsewhere throughout the former Spanish colonies. One of them, acclaimed as 'the Man of Destiny,' loomed over his time like a melodramatic colossus: the uncrowned monarch, Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna.

"But there was something in the creole mentality — in Santa Anna himself and other caudillos and not only military commanders but also intellectuals like Alaman and Mora that prevented them from consolidating a nation. Although they had the capacity and intellectual powers to establish a new order — some looking toward the future, eager for a state that would be republican, secular, democratic, and constitutional; others turning toward the past, nostalgic for a Catholic, hierarchical, centralized society—none of them could carry it off. And worse, they presided over a time of anarchy, economic impoverishment, the loss of national territory, and, above all, violence: revolutions, foreign interventions, civil struggles.'

# **Growing pains!**

#### *Continued from* Page 17

developed than most of the aforementioned countries. These (Asian) countries were subjected to colonialism, some more than others, but you would think that because of their industrious nature, and a huge workforce, that they would be far ahead of Europe. Instead, they are still doing the work for their exmasters; whether in technology or fashion or manufacturing. That cheap labor that they provide enriches their old bosses and much of the western world more than ever! And the colonialism continues.

As a curious person of limited education but with a limitless mind, I'm puzzled as to why it is that brown and black people carry the white man's burden on our backs. This isn't about racism; it's about fairness and opportunity and equity. If you believe in your God or Allah or whatever name it goes by, you would have to believe that it did not create us all as equals. You would have to believe that it gave the white man the whips and the chains and means to subjugate us into serving him, leaving us to fight for the scraps that accidentally fall off the table. Where is the justice in all that? Then again, I don't believe we should pity our state, but we should do something about it. But then again, when we do, we become communists and socialists, maligned and marginalized by those who would keep us in our place. Coming back to the Jewel, Belize. We are very lucky to have been born here, those of us who have remained in our native land, and also those of us who

are prodigals and left for something better. I don't believe that most of us who left saw the potential that the Jewel had, and still does. We weren't resilient enough to stay and battle the odds and make our little country a better place! Having that pride that says, I'm a Belizean, and proud of it!

So, here we are, wandering in that desert of foreigners and foreign-ness, and we grieve for what could've been, for all those lost opportunities, because of not living in the land of our birth, which isn't ours anymore. Wondering what it would've been like to have stayed and failed or persevered! How different our lives would've turned out, our children's future, and what would be in store for them. That uncertain future that is both exciting and scary at the same time. So good to be alive in your own land, among your own people, living and breathing that Belize breeze and sunrise and sunset and sea and flora and fauna and beauty and familiarity. Living in that euphoric state of our own little universe. Imagine a world where we were really in charge of our destiny as a country, not having to rely on the whims and caprices of others. Where we could stand up to those who challenge our legitimacy, and make them back down because there would have been many more of us! Unfortunately, we left, some of us never to return. I forgot what this column was originally about; I just miss my Belize and all its limitless potential.

Glen

ANY PERSON who claims to be entitled as owner or otherwise to the said land, estate, interest, power or right, or who may be unlawfully prejudiced by the description of the said land, estate, interest, power or right may file in the Registry, and deliver a copy thereof to the applicant within fourteen days from the date hereof, a written notice of objection to the issue of a First Certificate of Title to the said land, estate, interest, power or right in accordance with the provision of the General Registry Rules, 1954, and thereafter proceed to have the said objection heard and determined in manner prescribed by the said Rules

Dated this 5th day of December, 2023

#### PATRICIA ROBATEAU BLACKETT (MRS.) REGISTRAR OF LANDS

This land is the subject of an Order of the Supreme Court (Claim No. 689 of 2021) dated 8<sup>th</sup> August, 2022 In favor of GODFREY ARZU.

#### SCHEDULE A

ALL THAT lot, piece or parcel of land being 5.09 acres being Block No. 5 being subdivided from a 67.5 acres of land by a Minister's Fiat Grant No. 517/1991 situated near Joe Taylor North of Punta Gorda, Toledo District.

# Teen boys, 18 and 16, arraigned for rape of girl, 14!

The girl told police she was forced into an abandoned house by four males, but that only three of them raped her!

#### by Anita Nembhard-Flowers

BELIZE CITY, Fri. Jan. 12, 2024

Two city youths, one 18 years old and the other 16 (a minor), are being accused of raping a 14-year-old high school girl near the river side in the Saint Martin De Porres area on Monday, January 8, 2024 inside an abandoned house.

After intense police investigation, followed by the apprehension of the suspects, who remained in custody for three nights, police have charged two of the persons believed to be involved in the rape.

They have been identified as 18-year-



old Ikwan Reneau, an unemployed resident of #20 Lizarraga Avenue, and a 16-year-old student. The arraignment stretched on throughout the day today, as deliberations took place on whether bail should be granted to the two accused persons.

In the end, Senior Magistrate of Court #3 denied bail to Reneau and he was remanded to the Belize Central Prison. The minor's case for bail consideration was adjourned for Wednesday, January 17, 2024, and he was remanded to the Wagner's Youth Facility in the interim.

The Senior Magistrate has tasked the Community Rehabilitation Department to find out first what security measures are in place at the school which the victim attends to ensure her safety, since the Crown had raised the issue of the safety of the girl, who attends a school on the Northside of Belize City, and who has to come in contact with the 16-year-old minor accused of raping her, due to the proximity between them during school hours, since the school she attends is located near to the accused minor's school.

And so, this morning, first to be arraigned was the 16-year-old minor, who



- 2. Assist in preparing annual work plan and budget for the management of the Chemicals Management Unit.
- 3. Assist in administer all licencing requirements respective to chemicals management.
- 4. Assist in the maintenance of all national registries (PCB, BAHA, DOE, MOHW) relating to chemicals management.
- 5. Coordinate the exchange of information related to chemicals and hazardous waste between different ministries and stakeholders.

saw the charge of rape of a child read to him in the presence of his mother and his attorneys, Norman Rodriguez and Andrew Bennett.

The allegations are that on Monday, January 8, 2024, the 16-year-old minor raped the girl, who is 14 years 10 months old, by putting his private part into her mouth.

Second to be arraigned was Reneau.

Reneau, however, who like the 16year-old has been charged with rape of a child, is accused of putting his private part into the victim's vagina.

The prosecutor, Sgt. Sharmaine Gillett, objected to bail being granted to the duo on the grounds that Section 16 of the Crime Control & Criminal Act makes reference to victims under the age of 16 in outlining offenses for which bail is not to be granted and that rape of a child is equivalent to carnal knowledge of a girl under the age of 16. She also asked the court to take into consideration the Criminal Code Section 73, where it speaks of evidence of rape and that just the least degree of penetration is required.

Attorney for the two accused teens, Norman Rodriguez submitted that his interpretation of the law is that rape is not included as one of those crimes for which no bail can be granted, and so he asked the court to consider granting bail to the minor and Reneau.

The matter was "stood down" until 2:00 p.m., at which point the court wanted to seek confirmation from the mother of the minor that her son was enrolled in a school that is located near to the school which the victim attends.

And so the Senior Magistrate of Court #3 stood down the matter until 2:00 p.m. for bail consideration.

At 2:00 p.m., the Senior Magistrate noted that, while rape is indeed not one of those offenses listed in Section 16 for which she would not be able to grant bail, the primary concern was the safety of the victim, and in balancing that she also looked at the minor, 16, whom she did not want to deprive of the liberty to attend school, so she adjourned the matter for Wednesday, January 17, 2024, for bail consideration for the minor only, as bail was denied today for Reneau, the adult.

The case against the minor and Reneau is set to continue in court on March 12, 2024.

Reneau's attorney, Norman Rodriguez will be making an application for bail on his behalf as early as next week.

According to a police report, on Monday, January 8, 2024 at about 9:50 p.m., the victim, 14, accompanied by her mother, visited the Precinct 2 CIB office and reported that earlier that night at about 8:50 p.m., she had been riding her bicycle on Oleander Street, in Belize City, when she was approached by four male persons who stopped her and forced her into an abandoned house, where three of the male persons had sexual intercourse with her against her will.

- 6. Assist in coordinating the harmonization of policies and position of Belize in the field of chemicals and waste in relation to the MEAs (BRSM) and regional and international initiatives.
- 7. Assist in coordinating and facilitating training along with other stakeholders in chemicals waste management.
- 8. Receive report of accidents/incidents involving chemicals and review/make recommendations as required.
- 9. Recommend measures for maintenance and improvement of chemical safety and environmental risk management.

For Terms of Reference which lists further Tasks, Scope of Work, Qualifications, Organizational Requirements, and process of bid submission, kindly request via email at <u>projects@environment.gov.bz</u> or download from DOE website: www.doe.gov.bz

The Request for Bidding is in accordance with the Open Tendering Procedure as specified in the Finance and Audit (Reform) Act, Chapter 15 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020 and is open to all eligible potential suppliers.



### BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM COUNTRYWIDE PUBLIC AUCTION SALES: PROPERTIES Progresso Village, Consejo Road, Corozal Town, Corozal District; Guinea Grass Village, San Lazaro Village, San Estevan Village, August Pine Ridge, Orange Walk District; San Pedro, Ambergris Caye, Caye Caulker, Burrell Boom Village, Belize District

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. Development Finance Corporation, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following properties. Sales currently running until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. Public Auction Sales will expire fortnightly on the dates and times listed on the website until these properties are sold.

#### A: COROZAL DISTRICT:

1. Parcel No. 716 Progresso Village, Corozal District:



| REGISTRATION SECTION  | BLOCK | PARCEL     |
|---|-------|------------|
| Progresso   | 1     | 716        |
| The freehold property of Ms. M<br>surety for Norlan Absolon Lan |       | garet Lamb |

#### 2. Parcel No. 315/1 Progresso Village, Corozal District:



REGISTRATION SECTIONBLOCKPARCELProgresso1315/1The leasehold property of Ms. Marion Margaret Lamb<br/>surety for Mr. Norlan Absolon Lamb.1

3. Parcel No. 899 Consejo Road, Finca Solana Area, Corozal Town, Corozal District:



| REGISTRATION SECTION         | BLOCK      | PARCEL      |
|------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| Consejo Road                 | 1          | 899         |
| The freehold property of Ms. | Joanna Ale | xis Guerra. |

#### **B: ORANGE WALK DISTRICT:**

1. Parcel No. 158 Guinea Grass Village, Orange Walk District:



| REGISTRATION SECTION           | BLOCK       | PARCEL     |
|--------------------------------|-------------|------------|
| Guinea Grass                   | 4           | 158        |
| The freehold property of Mr. E | Eloy Santos | surcty for |
| Mr. Eloy Santos and Ms. Juana  | a Santos.   |            |

#### 2. Parcel No. 333/1 San Lazaro Village, Orange Walk District:



| REGISTRATION SECTION            | BLOCK       | PARCEL    |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-----------|
| San Lazaro                      | 4           | 333/1     |
| The leasehold property of Mr. I | Pablo Tun S | urety for |
| Mr. Roger Pablo Tun & Mr. Pa    | blo Tun.    |           |

3. Parcel No. 603/1 San Estevan Village, Orange Walk District:



4. Parcel No. 732/1 August Pine Ridge, Orange Walk District:



| REGISTRATION SECTION          | BLOCK      | PARCEL |
|-------------------------------|------------|--------|
| August Pine Ridge             | 9          | 732/1  |
| The leasehold property of Mr. | Glenford R | owley. |

#### C: SAN PEDRO, BELIZE DISTRICT:

1. Parcel No. 6776 Colonia San Diego Area, San Pedro, Ambergris Caye, Belize District:



| REGISTRATION SECTION           | BLOCK       | PARCEL     |
|--------------------------------|-------------|------------|
| San Pedro                      | 7           | 6776       |
| The freehold property of Mr. D | erick Ismae | el Garcia. |

2. Parcel No. 6777 Colonia San Diego Area, San Pedro, Ambergris Caye, Belize District:



| REGISTRATION SECTION           | BLOCK       | PARCEL     |
|--------------------------------|-------------|------------|
| San Pedro                      | 7           | 6777       |
| The freehold property of Mr. I | Perick Isma | el Garcia. |

3. Parcel No. 3544 San Pablo, San Pedro, Ambergris Caye, Belize District:



| REGISTRATION SECTION           | BLOCK       | PARCEL       |
|--------------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| San Pedro                      | 7           | 3544         |
| The freehold property of Mr. I | David Augus | to Gonzales. |

#### **D: CAYE CAULKER, BELIZE DISTRICT:**

1. No. 46 Travellers Palm Avenue, Caye Caulker, Belize District:



| REGISTRATION SECTION           | BLOCK        | PARCEL          |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Caye Caulker                   | 12           | 1738            |
| The freehold property of Mr. C | Irlando Mate | o August surety |

for Mr. Alberto Luis August & Ms. Valerie Rushell August.

E: BELIZE DISTRICT:

| REGISTRATION SECTION                                  | BLOCK       | PARCEL            |
|---|-------------|-------------------|
| San Estevan   | 1           | 603/1             |
| The leasehold property of Ms.<br>Rosendo Melvin Chan. | Hortencia Y | anella Chan & Mr. |

1. Parcel No. 188 Ridge Lagoon Estate, Burrell Boom Village, Belize District:



| REGISTRATION SECTION           | BLOCK       | PARCEL     |
|--------------------------------|-------------|------------|
| Ladyville/ Lord's Bank         | 7           | 188        |
| The freehold property of Mr. P | ablo Enriqu | e Vasquez. |

"FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PHOTOGRAPHS PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE" TERMS: STRICTLYCASH KEVIN A. CASTILLO TELEPHONE 223-4488 Website: belizepropertyauctions.com E-mail: kevinacas@yahoo.com Facebook: Belize Auctions

Financing from the DFC is available on a case-by-case basis.

### **INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

# **Reclaiming Baliceaux, resurrecting** history in the 'Valley of Dry Bones'



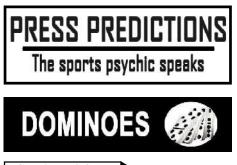
SEARCHLIGHT EDITORIAL

www.searchlight.vc, Jan. 12, 2024

Baliceaux is a valley of dry bones. In the language of the great Bunny Wailer, they are dry bones crying in the wilderness. Because for more than 200 years the bodies of Garifuna men, women, and children have lain there, fallen heroes in a 300-year war waged by indigenous Vincentians to defend their ancestral rights against the genocidal onslaught of European aggression.

Today, however, those bones shall cry no more. For in a monumental decision made by the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the Prime Minister, Dr. Ralph Gonsalves has announced that by March 2024, less than three months from this writing, Baliceaux will return to the bosom of the Vincentian people, secure, inalienable, and forever dedicated as sacred space.

Understanding the full sweep of this historic decision means coming to grips with a central reality of Vincentian history, and indeed the broader Caribbean, that very few people have understood, namely, that St. Vincent and the Grenadines was indeed the last battleground of these epic battles between European imperialists and the indigenous Caribbean people. In fact, it was only after the defeat of the Garifuna and their banishment to Baliceaux, and later



Continued from Page 12

In dominoes action, there were 3 teams in a one-day tournament. Third Belize, that the British were able to bring St. Vincent and the Grenadines under the full umbrella of British colonial rule so that they could create a Vincentian slave society.

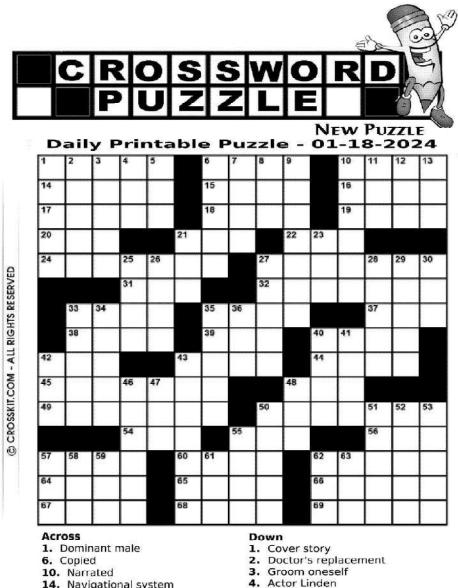
What this means is that in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. enslaved Africans spent a shorter time living in a slave society than enslaved Africans virtually anywhere else in the Caribbean. This was precisely because indigenous Vincentians gave their lives to

delay the imposition of a slave society here. Baliceaux therefore represents the inextricable ties that bind the Garifuna and enslaved Vincentians in a single history of oppression. Baliceaux was the doorway to genocide and the deportation of the Garifuna. And genocide on Baliceaux was also the doorway to the most intense period of African enslavement in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The duality of this history has been lost to most Vincentians. But 3,000 years ago, in the Valley of Bones, the Prophet Ezekiel heard a question, "Son of Man, can these bones live?' And he heard a voice saying to the bones, "I will put breath in you, and you will come to life." The proclamation that the Vincentian government will reclaim Baliceaux is nothing less that the resurrection of the dual history of the Garifuna and the enslaved Africans whose fates were sealed on Baliceaux.

The consequence this action holds for how Vincentians today, and even more crucially, Vincentians in the future, engage Vincentian history and identity are immense. Modern Vincentians are custodians of a history that goes back more than 5,000 years. Baliceaux tells us that. We are the only country within the Caribbean that has an entire island dedicated to the interment of indigenous peoples. Baliceaux tells us that too.

But above all, the Vincentian sacralization of Baliceaux opens a window on the meaning of reparations that is unique to us. For whereas the debates on reparations necessarily centre on "Britain's Black Debt," and by extension, the debts owed to us by all of the slave trading and slave holding powers, the Prime Minister has demonstrated that we have the capacity to conceptualize and implement a regime of reparatory justice independent of Europeans. Our moral autonomy is unblemished. In a single stroke we can elevate Baliceaux into a supreme monument of the Vincentian national conscience. And the bones in Baliceaux will crv no more. (AMANDALA Ed. Note: The above article was shared with us by frequent Amandala contributor, Wellington Ramos, who remarked on Monday, January 15: "This is important news for all the Garinagu people worldwide, and we should commend Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, his Government and the Members of Parliament for making this bold decision." And on a personal note, he continued: "This is a dream come true, and it is line with the phrase that the pen is mightier than the sword. Since 2007, I have written many articles advocating for this action to be done by the SVG Government. God answered my prayers. The press is needed to keep Governments in check.")



- 14. Navigational system 15.
- Body of knowledge 16.
- Type of organic compound 17. With aloofness
- 18. Moslem prayer leader
- Galactic time period 19.
- 20. Hobo
- 21. Chance
- 22. Anvil setting
- 24. Momentum
- 27. Insistence
- 31. Appreciation for beauty
- 32. Falls on the border
- Star Trek speed factor 33.
- 35. Cigar stub 37. Alcoholic drink
- 38. Top on a string
- 39. Altdorf's canton
- 40. Do a garden job
- 42. Blackball
- 43. Excellent
- 44.
- 45. Wholly
- Coat rack piece 48.

- 55.
- Archaic 56.
- 57. Be up and about
- 60. A chorister
- 62. Fall as ice
- 64. Bring home the bacon
- 65. Rub out
- Hair color 66.
- Aspen, for one 67. 68. Ugh!
- 69. Careless hurry

ABC spy series 6. 7. Magnificence 8. Historic time

5.

- Bad mark
- 10. Saharan tribe member

Even the slightest

- 11. Bauxite bonanza
- August one
- Actor Akroyd
- Colorization Arab noble
- Inducing gooseflesh 25.
- 26. Key blunder
- 27. Free, in a way
- 28. Breathing passages
- 29. Roughly made
- 30. Candied item
- Earp brother Big vessel
- Harbor markers 35.
- 36. Cineraria
- 40. Have a baw
- 41. As a result
- Clear tables 42.
- 43. Even as we speak
- 46. For all time, in poetry
- 47. Big argument 48. Block of paper
- Heavy dull sound
- 51. Bar Mitzvah boys
- Calendar item 52.
- 53. Stiff bristles
- Ear related
- Adjust for proper functioning 57.
- 58. Asphalt 59.
- Angry state 61. Babe's teammate
- Librarian's order 62.
- 63. Actress Thompson

## Crossword answers for last edition<sub>®</sub>

The answers below are for the puzzle appearing in last

- - - Celtic

    - 49. Turbine parts
  - 50. Long, hooded cloaks
  - 54. Cote cutie
  - A memorable Arden

World, Flyin and University Jones. Those games went to 3,000 points. Third World got the bye because it was a picking system. In game one, University Jones crushed Flyin by some 1,200 points. Sharon Hertular and my brother Eric "Chepe" Cadogan - the best checker player, best has ever produced - were very productive against myself, his baby brother, "Press" Cadogan. But down the stretch they faltered. Nuff respect to Mr. "Gaga" Maheia and David "Caliba" Jones, the owner of the Jones team. Big-up Mr. Sam and Mr. Tulcey, the cable man. Big-up Miss Geraldine and her brother, Mr. "Dread" Conorquie, two of the best players right now. "Planters" rest in peace, Mr. Daniel Conorquie! Enuff respect to Mr. Brown and yard space - every Sunday the action gets started at 3:00 p.m. sharp.

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 - 01-11-2024 - Answers



# So then, Netanyahu apologists\_

#### Continued from Page 11 White collar crime, **immunity**

greedy and steals from a bank, there is a massive cover-up; matters are settled internally. The argument forwarded for the larcenous banker escaping public scrutiny, and jail, is that banks have to inspire trust. Bankers want people to believe the bank's vaults are impregnable, so that they (the people) dig up their money and put it in their care. Maybe these banks have the perfect punishment for a dishonest banker, and all's well that ends well. We'll never know, because they don't talk.

There's this accusation that in our system the biggest of the white collars, the people we elect to run government, no matter their crime, the only possible punishment for them is in the popularity contest, which takes place every five or three years. The vision goes that if we could only jail one of those teefing bohgaz, thenceforward kit and caboodle would straighten up and fly right.

Aha, they say the culprit, the insulator for these criminals, is this, ehm, monarchial system we got from England. Oh, if we only had a republican system, transparency and accountability would rule in our land.

These republican enthusiasts always put forward the USA as their Exhibit-A for the virtues of this system. Now pray, since right next door, to our west, is a republic, why do they have to go 3,000 miles away for their demonstration, for their example of the system we ought to be following?

Last week we saw why they don't want us to know about the republic, Guatemala. My, we pass the baton election after election as smoothly as the best trained relay team, while these past few months it was some esteh in Guatemala after the people spoke in their last election. For weeks things teetered on the edge of becoming a full blown bosko. On the final lap, Sunday, our PM and FM must have gone through bottles of wine as they sweated out those last hours with the rest of the world.

But what's happening right now in the vaunted Republic up north, three thousand miles away, makes Guatemala look like "a angel". Can you believe that one-third of Americans believe their president should operate with impunity while in office? Anyone want to talk about the real monarchy?

I read in the Miami Herald, in a story by Brendan Rascius titled, "Should Trump be immune from criminal prosecution? What Americans said in a new poll", that a little more than 1/3 of Americans believe their former president, Donald Trump, should be immune from prosecution, after Trump's lawyers "argued that ... he cannot face criminal charges related to official actions he undertook as president." Drawing much of his story from an Associated Press report, Rascius said 3 judges, 2 of whom were appointed by their present president, "expressed doubt that the nation's founders intended ex-presidents to have total immunity." There are some grey areas in this discussion, but the fact they are having it says a heck of a lot. There, you see why I've never visited the US. What kind of country is that, Braa? Here, a PM or GoB minister could hide behind lies and bribes, never behind immunity. I say, if any big government fish could find cover behind Cabinet, then we should close down the country.

#### BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM **COUNTRYWIDE PUBLIC AUCTION SALE: PROPERTY** San Pedro, Ambergris Caye, Belize District

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. Atlantic Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizeproperty auctions.com the following property. Sale currently running until 31st March 2024. Public Auction Sale will expire fortnightly on the date and time listed on the website until the property is sold.

Parcel No. 2609 San Pedro Ambergris Caye, Belize District:



| REGISTRATION SECTION       | BLOCK       | PARCEL  |
|----------------------------|-------------|---------|
| San Pedro                  | 7           | 2609    |
| The freehold property of M | Mr. John Gr | cif IV. |

### "FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PHOTOGRAPHS PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE"

TERMS: STRICTLYCASH **KEVIN A. CASTILLO TELEPHONE 223-4488** Website: belizepropertyauctions.com E-mail: kevinacas@yahoo.com Facebook: Belize Auctions



### **INVITATION TO BID**



MINISTRY OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE, AND Institution: DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT, GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE.

**Tender:** 

#### CONSULTANCY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER, NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CHEMICALS AND WASTE CONVENTION, **DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

#### Deadline: January 31, 2024

The Government of Belize (GOB) acting through the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change, and Disaster Risk Management through the Department of the Environment is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the position of an Environmental Officer to support the Chemicals Management Unit toward the "National implementation of the chemicals and waste conventions"

#### Below details few of the roles and responsibilities to be assigned to the Environmental Officer:

- 1. Maintain supervisory oversight for the management of all activities related to the Chemicals Management Unit.
- 2. Perform duties as secretariat of the Integrated Chemicals Management Regulatory Body/Authority in carrying out its mandate.
- 3. Liaise between the authority and its individual institutional members and stakeholders.
- 4. Prepare annual work plan and budget for the management of the Chemicals Management Unit.
- 5. Administer all licencing requirements respective to chemicals management.
- 6. Support the establishment and maintenance of all national registries (PCB, BAHA, DOE, MOHW) relating to chemicals management.
- 7. Coordinate the exchange of information related to chemicals and hazardous waste between different ministries and stakeholders.
- 8. Coordinate the harmonization of policies and position of Belize in the field of chemicals and waste in relation to the MEAs (BRSM) and regional and international initiatives.
- 9. Coordinate and facilitate training along with other stakeholders in chemicals waste management.
- 10. Receive report of accidents/incidents involving chemicals and review/make recommendations as required.

For Terms of Reference which lists further Tasks, Scope of Work, Qualifications, Organizational Requirements, and process of bid submission, kindly request via email at projects@environment.gov.bz or download from DOE website: www.doe.gov.bz

The Request for Bidding is in accordance with the Open Tendering Procedure as specified in the Finance and Audit (Reform) Act, Chapter 15 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020 and is open to all eligible potential suppliers.

#### BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM COUNTRYWIDE PUBLIC AUCTION SALE: PROPERTIES

<u>Consejo Village, Corozal District; Chan Pine Ridge</u> <u>Village, Orange Walk District; Belmopan, Cayo District;</u> <u>Burrell Boom Village, Belize District; Pomona Village,</u>

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. The Belize Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following properties. Sales currently running until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. Public Auction Sales will expire fortnightly within this period on the dates and times listed on the website until the properties are sold.

#### 1. Parcel No. 514 Consejo Village, Corozal District:



| REGISTRATION SECTION | BLOCK | PARCEL |
|----------------------|-------|--------|
| Consejo Village      | 1     | 514    |

#### 2. Parcel No. 32/1 Chan Pinc Ridge Village, Orange Walk District:



| REGISTRATION SECTION | BLOCK | PARCEL |
|----------------------|-------|--------|
| Chan Pine Ridge      | 4     | 32/1   |

#### 3. Parcel No. 4631 Leigh Richardson Street, Belmopan, Cayo District:



| BLOCK | PARCEL |
|-------|--------|
| 20    | 4361   |
|       |        |

#### 4. Parcel No. 1095 Mcville Rd., Queen Square West, Belize City:



| 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 | PARCEL            |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 45                                    | 1095              |
|                                       | 45<br>r. Deon Lon |

#### 5. Southside of Burrell Boom- Mussel Creek Road, Burrell Boom Village, Belize District:



ALL THAT piece or parcel of land situated in the Mussel Creek Road area, Belize District being a portion of Grant No. 3 of 1911 and situated along a road reserve on the Western boundary of Grant No. 3 of 1911 and containing 0.68 acres and more particularly described as follows: Commencing from point on the western boundary of Grant No 3 of 1911 and which point is at a distance of 424.39 feet and on a bearing of S 42 27 W from a found concrete pillar at the Northwest corner of Grant No. 3 of 1981 thence S 42 27W for a distance of 192.53 feet to a point thence East for a distance of 258. 75 feet to another point thence N 19 07 45 E for a distance of 131. 81 feet to another point thence N 84 06 25 W for a distance of 172. 59 feet back to the point of commencement TOGETHER with all buildings and erection standing and being thereon. (Being a vacant tot situate on the Camp Oakley Road near the Mussel Creek Road, the freehold property of Mr. Anselm V. Gillett Jr.)

#### 6. Mussel Creek Road, Burrell Boom Village, Belize District:



ALL THAT piece or parcel of land situated at Burrell Boom Pineridge and bounded on the North where it measures 80 feet or thereabout by Mussel Creek Road and on the South where it measures 80 feet or thereabout by the property of Inese Smith and on the East where it measures 262 feet or thereabout by the property of Dalton Gillett and on the West where it measures 100 feet or thereabout by the property of Alison Gillett and where it measures 162 feet by the property of Crecencia Wilson TOGETHER with all buildings and erection standing and being thereon. (Being a round concrete residential dwelling house situate opposite the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in the Village of Burrell Boom, the freehold property of Mr. Anselm V. Gillett Jr.)

# Three die in string of RTA's over holiday weekend

#### Continued from Page 2

carry out a churchrelated activity in Bella Vista, Toledo. When the Nissan pickup had passed a junction near La Cabana restaurant in Belmopan on their return from Toledo, Cawich's pickup reportedly drove onto the road and the two vehicles collided. Perez, a father of four, succumbed

to his injuries at the Western Regional Hospital, while both Vasquez and Cawich are currently in stable condition. ACP

Romero told reporters that Cawich has been arrested and charged with manslaughter by negligence, causing death by careless conduct, and driving without due care and attention.

Further adding to the tragic toll, a motorcycle accident on Monday, January 15, resulted in the death of 40-year-old Elvis Tzib. Reportedly,

Tzib, who was not wearing a helmet, crashed into the sidewalk near the Cristo Rey football field, which caused him to suffer severe head trauma. He was pronounced dead upon arrival at the hospital.



Commissioner of Police, Chester

Williams, in an interview expressed deep concern over the recent spike of road traffic fatalities.

"We are losing a number of persons to traffic incidents along our highways," he stated. As a response to the spike, joint operations that will extend to late hours have been initiated between the Department of

Transport and the police to enhance highway safety.

Williams highlighted the need for legal

a m e n d m e n t s , particularly regarding the use of speed guns and breathalyzers. "The way how the law is structured, it calls for one specific type of speed gun which is no longer in commission," Williams explained, and he pointed to the need to include other types of speed guns.

Additionally, he

called for legal changes to be made to allow printed receipts from breathalyzer tests to be admissible in court as prima facie evidence against individuals charged with driving under the influence.

# Martinez declares it "ova" now, as recall petition surpasses threshold

Elvis Tzib, deceased

#### Continued from Page 3

over 30% of those voters) to Governor General Dame Froyla Tzalam, The number of signatures gathered, if all are deemed valid, meets the necessary legal threshold to trigger the recall process.

In July of last year, Martinez held a press conference at which he alleged neglect by Hon. Usher of Port Loyola constituents, and described what he claimed was widespread dissatisfaction among Port Loyola residents under Usher's leadership.

Martinez then announced that he would collect 1,500 signatures (in support of a recall of Usher) by September 9, coinciding with Usher's that the aim was always to achieve the legal requirement of 30% ignoring his earlier aspirations for 50%.

Meeting the threshold sets the stage for a possible by-election, and many believe that Martinez's sole objective is to offer himself as a candidate and regain his position as Port Loyola area rep. He told reporters that he will once again represent his constituency if his people so desire. "I am a creature of instruction. If that is what the people want, well, let's do it," he said.

There has been no official statement from Hon. Usher since the submission of the recall petition. Martinez said he is not surprised by that. "What would he want to say? I am the mover of the petitions; I am a voter in Port Loyola. He is doing nothing; and apart from that, that is the motion of the people. So, I don't expect to hear from him. The last time, I saw him put out a press release about thanking the people at Port Loyola. Well, I want to thank the people at Port Loyola for supporting a petition for a better representative," he said. Notably, UDP standard bearer, Philip Willoughby was among the petition's supporters. What comes next is left up to the Elections and Boundaries Department, which is now tasked with verifying the signatures, a process expected to take up to a month. Amandala reached out to Hon. Usher for comment, but up to press time he has not responded to our messages or calls.



#### 7. Lot No. 162 Pomona Village, Stann Creek District:



ALL THAT piece or parcel of land situated in Pomona Village, Stann Creek District, the said piece, or parcel of land comprising 762.842 Square Meters being described as Lot 162 as shown on Entry 5828 Register No. 2 recorded at the Lands and Surveys Department in Belmopan City TOGETHER with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon. The freehold property of Mr. Manuel Esquivel.

"FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PHOTOGRAPHS PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE" TERMS: STRICTLYCASH KEVIN A. CASTILLO TELEPHONE 223-4488 Website: belizepropertyauctions.com E-mail: kevinacas@yahoo.com Facebook: Belize Auctions birthday.

After Usher issued a statement on September 13 pointing to Martinez's failure to deliver those signatures by the date he had set, Martinez announced on September 14 that not only had he met his goal, but he had exceeded it.

He announced an extension of his petition, claiming that he aimed to collect signatures of 2,500 constituents

-50% of the total constituency.

This week, as Martinez emerged from the Governor General's office in Belmopan, after finally submitting his petition four months after his initial deadline, he faced reporters with a sense of triumph.

"We submitted over 1,700 signatures and the threshold is 1,485," Martinez stated. He claimed that the delay was due to legislative timelines, and noted

# **Belizean doctors awarded Cuban scholarships**

#### by Kristen Ku

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Jan. 18, 2024

Four Belizean doctors were awarded scholarships for advanced medical training in Cuba this week. Ambassador María Caridad Balaguer Labrada, representing the Cuban Government, presented the scholarships on Wednesday, January 17, in Belmopan.

These scholarships will focus on crucial specialties in Belize's healthcare sector, including Gynecology and Obstetrics, Nephrology, and Pediatrics.

This initiative, integral to the Belizean public health system's development, is part of the broader Cuba-CARICOM Agreement and underlines the ongoing educational collaboration between Cuba and Belize.

"Economically speaking, we are not a rich country. We are facing the same situation that developing countries face. But as part of our historic bilateral relationship, we want to help the people of Belize with the formation of their human resources; it is always a pleasure to do that," stated Ambassador Labrada in an interview with Amandala.

Cuba has consistently been an important partner for Belize and continues its ongoing collaboration in providing students with medical and



Belizean doctors receiving Cuban scholarships for medical school

health scholarships, with over 200 Belizean students already having graduated from medical schools in Cuba.

Due to the limited number of slots for this scholarship, the embassy aimed to include doctors from different regions within the country.

The scholarship recipients, chosen for their dedication and potential impact in their respective fields, include:

- Dr. Elugardo Gutiérrez from the Northern Regional Hospital, Orange Walk, who will be specializing in Nephrology.
- Dr. Hugo Cervantes from the

Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital, Belize City, will be focusing on Nephrology.

- Dr. Hamir Castañeda from the Cleopatra White Polyclinic, Belize City, will be studying Gynecology and Obstetrics.
- Dr. Reyna Young from the San Ignacio Community Hospital, who will specialize in Pediatrics.

Dr. Castañeda, a recipient, shared with us his enthusiasm and the need for such specialties in Belize by stating, "I'm very excited about it. It's very crucial for me and well part of the health system

in Belize because there are not a lot of gynecologists, especially obstetricians in our country. And obstetrician is part of the main primary sector, you know, dealing with pregnant ladies."

Castañeda's decision to pursue his field was influenced by his extensive work with pregnant women since his return from medical school in Cuba in 2011.

Selected through a competitive process by the Ministry of Health, Dr. Castañeda is set to begin his four-year postgraduate studies in February.

Upon returning, he plans to contribute significantly to the public health sector, focusing on hospitals and primary care centers.

These doctors will undergo

their specialized training in Santiago de Cuba, furthering their expertise to address critical healthcare needs in Belize.

These scholarships will have a transformative impact on Belize's health sector and the quality of care available to Belizeans, and the Ministry of Education expressed its gratitude to the Cuban government. "The Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology (MoECST) extends gratitude to the government and people of Cuba for their longstanding commitment to education in Belize," they told us.

men began to walk

away toward the end

of Maskall Street.

However, one of the

men pulled out a

firearm and fired

several shots in the

direction of the

vehicle, injuring

McDonald and one of

The shooter then fled on foot in the

direction of Neal Pen

his passengers.

# **Duo charged for shooting** at police

by Anita Nembhard-Flowers

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Jan. 17, 2024 Tonight, two men who police brazenly say opened fire on officers in the Ladyville area when those officers went to the after scene receiving reports of a fight in progress, are both bars, behind



Allen Anderson, Jr. and Joshua Jones, Jr.

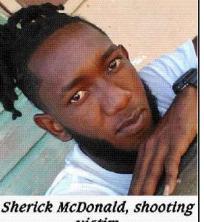
# **Shooting on Maskall Street**

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Jan. 18, 2024

Two persons are currently being treated for gunshot wounds at the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital after being shot before midnight Wednesday, on January 17. According to

reports, after 10:30 p.m. that Wednesday, Sherick McDonald, 27, of Belize City, was driving a Range Rover SUV in the company of two female passengers from Maskall Street to Neal Pen Road when they saw a group of men



victim

Road, while McDonald and his female passenger were taken to the hospital for treatment.

Reports are indicating that neither of the two victims are cooperating with investigators; however, police are seeking one suspect in connection with this shooting, as their investigation continues.

following their arraignment today in court.

The two men—Allen Anderson, Jr., 23, an employee of the Ministry of Development and Housing (MIDH), who lives at Mile 8 on the George Price Highway, and 24-year-old Joshua Jones, Jr, a construction worker and a resident of #219 Parakeet Street, Ladyville,appeared late this evening before the Chief Magistrate, Javani Wegodapola, in Court #1, where they were jointly read a charge of aggravated assault with a firearm, upon police officer PC Kerian Bowen.

The incident occurred on Sunday night, January 17, on Perez Road in Ladyville.

In the courtroom of the Chief Magistrate, Jones, Jr. pleaded guilty, while Allen Anderson, Jr. chose to plead not guilty.

Jones, Jr., who has no previous convictions for a similar offense, was fined \$1,000 plus \$5.00 cost of court, which he must pay by March 2024, or else he will have to serve 10 months in prison.

A87

It was after Jones, Jr. had pleaded guilty, and was given a fine and not jail time, that Anderson, Jr. asked to change his plea.

And he was doing just that when his attorney, Richard "Dickie" Bradley arrived in the courtroom to represent him.

According to Bradley, he had just been retained by Anderson, Jr.'s father, and after he spoke briefly with Anderson, Jr., he entered a plea of not guilty.

Due to the nature of the offense, he was denied bail and remanded to the Belize Central Prison until March 18, 2024.

However, Bradley will be making a bail application at the High Court for Anderson, Jr., who shed tears in court when he heard that he would be remanded to prison.

socializing at the corner of the street. As the vehicle approached them, the

Jones, on the other hand, still ended up in jail after it was discovered that he owed the court \$360 for a previous offense.

The Chief Magistrate ordered that he pay the outstanding fines immediately before he could go free today, and up until 4:00 o'clock this evening when the court closed, Jones, Jr. was unable to do so.

According to a police report, on Sunday, January 14, 2024, at about 7:00 p.m., CIB police officers, acting upon information received of shots fired at the corner of Perez Road and Plunkett Street in Ladyville, visited the area, where PC Kerian Bowen, Cpl#1569 attached to the Quick Response Team, and the officers with him (responding to reports of a fight in progress in front of 198 Woodpecker Road) were fired at by two male persons,

identified as Allen Anderson, Jr. and Joshua Jones, Jr., who were standing at the corner of Woodpecker and Plunkett Street.

Fearing for his life, PC Bowen returned fire, whereupon Anderson, Jr. and Jones, Jr. ran into Plunkett Street.

No one was injured during the shooting. PC Bowen and the other police officers then set chase behind the men. Anderson, Jr. was caught on Plunkett Street, but Jones, Jr. managed to escape into the nearby bushy area.

Police say they escorted Anderson, Jr. to the Ladyville Police Station, and the next day, Monday, January 15, they conducted a search at #219 Parakeet Street, the home of Jones, Jr., where he was found.

### Legal Year 2024...

Continued from Page 4

of trials and hearing dates in both divisions.

A focus on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) is also being emphasized to reduce the caseload – especially within the civil division, where it is already widely used. Also, a policy of zero tolerance for long-standing judgments is in place. All judgments are now expected to be delivered within six months.

There was a high attrition rate in 2023, and the inability to attract quality judicial officers created difficulty in filling those vacant positions. CJ Blenman, in her remarks, noted that the government recognized this and took steps to improve the conditions of the judiciary, resulting in the courts being able to attract a full complement of suitable justices.

Since then, four additional judges have been added to the bench.

CJ Blenman outlined that the court formulated and implemented a threeyear strategic plan to enhance judicial services. She shared that, once the courts are properly resourced, she is satisfied that the backlogged cases can be cleared within two years.

A full digitization of the Senior Courts will support these objectives, and the courts are aiming to roll out digitized systems within the first few months of 2024. In addition to this, a new website is being developed for the judiciary.

Of note, the first Judicial Education Institute in Belize was initiated to train and educate judicial staff within the legal year 2023.

Going back to the backlogs, CJ Blenman said that over the past year over 200 dormant ordinary claims were uncovered and disposed of. Judges are undergoing more rugged case management to filter their caseload and eliminate non-viable cases.

Most of the judges have succeeded in reducing their case load by 50%, CJ Blenman noted. The urgent need for more defense attorneys was highlighted as a significant obstacle, however.

"Justices of the criminal division are working assiduously to clear cases that are older than two years. They are hearing cases and delivering judgments in a timely fashion, but they cannot do it alone; both the prosecutions and the defense bar must play their part. There are too few lawyers at the defense bar, "CJ Blenman said.

The slow pace of justice delivery is reflected in the remand population at the Belize Central Prison, CJ Blenman went on to point out. The courts are moving towards a paperless system, and additional administrative support within the registry and IT section will be important for an effective rollout.

#### From the Bar

President of the Bar Association of Belize, Andrew Marshalleck began his presentation by reminding the court of the importance of the independence of the judiciary and its role as interpreters of the law.

To this end, he noted the myriad new legislation passed by the National Assembly last year in the hope of meeting all the requirements of the Financial Action Task Force.

He also highlighted that these and other laws are merely ink and paper without the independent judiciary to support and enforce them.

He further spoke on the deficiencies in the salary structure for judicial officers, and said that the time has come for full financial independence to be afforded the judiciary.

"The need to address salaries and benefits to judicial officers is well known, and indeed is reflective of a more insidious problem confronting the administration of justice in Belize. That is the need for financial independence. The time has come to treat the financial needs of the administration of justice with the prominence it deserves. It is long time for the judiciary to manage its own budget and to seek required appropriations directly from the National Assembly, without the need to become entangled with Executive bureaucracy or policies. The Judiciary is an independent arm of the state, and judicial independence requires not only the decision to make a decision free from executive interference, but also ready access to the financial resources to do so," Marshalleck said.

#### <u>AG Anthony Sylvester, Jr.</u> <u>moves adjournment</u>

Moving the adjournment, Attorney General, Anthony Sylvester took time to laud the work of his predecessor, senior counsel Magali Marin Young, on the reforms undertaken during her tenure. He noted that the positive measures are already bearing fruit.

He further mentioned that an interim law revision to compile the laws enacted since the last full revision in 2020 has taken place and that the law revision unit has started work on the complete revision.

Legislative tools to address the backlog of cases will be introduced, he said. These include Plea Discussion and Plea Agreement legislation – which are geared toward allowing suspects to make pleas in the presence of legal representation. He noted that prosecutors cannot engage with an unrepresented accused person or suspect.

## Amandala apologizes!

#### Continued from Page 4

resided—for not adequately clarifying the insinuation in that police report.

In police jargon, when the police say that someone is "known to" them, it generally means that the person referred to has had some run-ins with the law. In the report mentioned in the first paragraph above, our story said the media was informed by police that Ramos was "known by police", which is different from "known to" police. And, truly, they knew of a Christian Ramos because of a case in 2020 when a 15-year-old by the same name was reportedly shot and injured in his neck in Ladyville. Because of the advanced state of decomposition, police could not match the face of the body found in December with that of the individual by the same name who was shot in that 2020 incident. Kenecia said it was she who identified her son's body for police because of a tattoo he had.

Whoever it was in 2020, "My son was never shot in his neck," Kenecia declared, refuting the report referred to in the *Amandala* story.

We researched Amandala online. and in that November 15, 2020 article, it can be seen how the confusion could have developed. That article, titled, "Teenager shot in the neck in Ladyville", stated clearly: "The victim, Christian Ramos, 15, was admitted to the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital in a stable condition." However, it went on to state that: "Superintendent Alejandro Cowo said in an interview with the press corps, 'I know the other person that was accompanying him (the minor) was a person well known to police and we suspect that he was the intended target'...", which clearly implies that the 15-year-old victim of the shooting was NOT the one "known to police". Clearly, therefore, whichever 15-year-old Christian Ramos it was who was shot in the neck at that time, he was not "known to" police; and as Kenecia reiterated, her son Chris had never had a police record.

There are many instances in Belize of two individuals, sometimes three, bearing the same first and last names; there have even been instances where the ages are similar, with the individuals with identical names being born only weeks or months apart.

It is hard enough to deal with the death of her son, but Kenecia maintained that she could not rest until his name is cleared, and we hope that this article serves to accomplish that. She insists that her son had never been charged with any crime, and in fact did not even like to stay in Belize City, but lived with his father and stepmother in Seine Bight, where he was buried. He had only visited the city to spend Christmas with his biological mother.

Even Commissioner of Police, Chester Williams, in a media interview, said that he is also from Seine Bight and would certainly have known if the Christian Ramos who lived in Seine Bight was involved with anything that would have made him "known to police". According to the Compol, Chris was certainly "no gang figure", and like many youths may have occasionally gotten into some "mischief", but he was definitely NOT "known to" police.

Once again, from *Amandala*, our sincere apologies and condolences to the parents and family of young Christian "Chris" Ramos, R.I.P.

# **Belize Blue Bond turns two!**



"I visited the Central Prison and noted that several young people are among detainees there. In Belize, it is not unusual for persons to have to wait in excess of 8 years for a trial. This is highly unsatisfactory, and is being addressed as a matter of priority," she said.

The commitment of the judiciary now is to ensure that no case remains in the system longer than two years. The dormant cases identified were distributed among civil and criminal judges.

In the Court of Appeal, lack of transcripts and poor recording of High Court proceedings has led to the backlog. There is an urgent need for more stenographers and a need for a more efficient system to record proceedings in the High Court. Alternative sentencing options, like custodial sentences, and community service orders for lesser offenses will be put in place.

He ended by noting the advancements within the Family Court Division, currently being housed at the Charles Bartlett Hyde Building. That court is now specialized and is separated from the Magistrates' Court. Also moved to that building were the Legal Aid Clinic and Vital Statistics Unit.

#### Press conference addressing the media

Continued from Page 3

#### conservation.

The Resilient Bold Belize Initiative is another innovative venture, codesigned by the government and international partners. It aims to raise BZ \$160 million for conservation, effective management, and livelihood security in marine and coastal areas.

The PM emphasized the importance of this initiative in securing livelihoods and balancing national development with the protection of Belize's marine and coastal ecosystems.

In response to inquiries about the rejection rate for funding applications, it was clarified that, while there is no outright rejection, proposals are being strengthened through various programs. This ensures that community-based organizations can develop robust proposals and gain the capacity to implement them effectively. The Shark Fishers Association and the Barranco Village Council were cited as beneficiaries of these initiatives.

The Marine Spatial Plan, a key component of Belize's conservation strategy, was also discussed. This fiveyear process, launched in 2022, involves extensive community and stakeholder engagement across various sectors. It aims to address every use within Belize's ocean space, ensuring sustainable practices and fostering a sense of ownership and pride among local communities.

# Visiting Baliceaux and Saint Vincent will always be a painful experience for a Garifuna person.



#### by Wellington C. Ramos

Tuesday, January 16, 2024

From the time our people were forcefully removed from Baliceaux, St. Vincent & The Grenadines (where they were imprisoned, tortured, killed and buried in 1797) to Roatan, Honduras, their lives have never been the same in the countries of Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Belize and the United States of America, where they live today.



A map of the island of Baliceaux, the place where our Garifuna people were unlawfully imprisoned, tortured, killed and buried.

The genocide that was committed by the British against us has never been addressed and forcefully challenged by our government in Saint Vincent & The Grenadines. This is a challenge not only for the government in Saint Vincent but for all of us as Garinagu people, and we must organize ourselves to take on this challenge. Otherwise, months, years and decades will pass and no action will be taken against France and Britain for their genocidal acts.

Due to the fact that they failed to enslave, colonize our nation and subjugate us as slaves, they became full of hate towards us. We fought against these two powerful nations and were victorious in some of our wars against them, which led to treaties that were signed.

Afterwards, the British decided to dump us in a far isolated place by the name of Roatan, on April the 12th 1797, which is now a part of Honduras in the Bay Islands. They collaborated with the Spanish, to change our original names and gave us Spanish names, which we bear up to this day. This was done deliberately to change our identities so that we could not trace our families back to our motherland, Saint Vincent & The Grenadines.



A map of Roatan, Honduras. This is the island where the British



This is a picture of the Prime Minister of Saint Vincent, Honourable Milton Cato, accepting Independence from Great Britain on behalf of his people and country on October the 27th 1979.

This human rights violation is happening in all the diaspora countries, especially in Honduras, where they continue to kill our people who are advocating for our land and human rights. The government of St. Vincent has a legal obligation to its removed citizens, but has never condemned the way that their citizens are being treated in Honduras and the other diaspora countries.



This is a picture of four Garifuna men—Alberth Sneider Centino, Milton Joel Martinez Alvarez, Suami Aparacio Mejia Garcia, and Gerardo Mizael Rochez Caliz—who were kidnapped and taken out of their homes in the village of Triunfo De La Cruz on July the 18th 2020, and their whereabouts are still unknown up to this day.

This is not the way for a nation to treat their sons and daughters from our soil. The only way for this problem to be resolved, is for our brothers and sisters in St. Vincent & The Grenadines to apply public pressure on their government to grant us our citizenship rights in our motherland. Visiting St. Vincent & The Grenadines is no remedy for the ordeal, pain and suffering we have endured in the countries where we currently reside.

For me, it was seeing many people who look like myself and did not know how we were related to each other. You can visit the cells up the hill where they were imprisoned before they were removed to the isolated island of Baliceaux. Also, to visit Baliceaux and see some of my ancestors' human skeletal remains surfacing from their burial ground as if they were animals.

#### dumped about 2,500 of our people and left them there to die.

Yet, despite this, when I visited Saint Vincent and was moving around in the country, I saw so many people who look like myself and my relatives in Belize and the other countries where we live. What the French and the British failed to realize, is that our physical removal from our motherland, did not separate us from the souls and spirits of our ancestors who were left behind, and which travelled with us and remain with us up to this day.

When St. Vincent & The Grenadines became independent on the 27th of October 1979, they had the power to declare that the descendants of those who were removed from St. Vincent by the British, who mostly live in the diaspora countries of Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Belize and the United States, are citizens of our nation and must be recognized as such.

All Garifuna people, from the time they were removed, continue to tell their children that St. Vincent is their motherland. It is not too late for the government of St. Vincent & The Grenadines to take this necessary and justifiable bold action in their parliament. This will be highly appreciated by their brothers and sisters who were all left homeless and nationless by the British.

When our people were removed from their homeland, Saint Vincent & The Grenadines, their citizenship status in the diaspora countries was not determined. When these countries started to partially acknowledge us, they treated us like strangers, despite the fact that we were born there.



Wellington Ramos and Joseph Guerrero at a rally held in Greiggs, Saint Vincent & The Grenadines in 2015, where they interacted with many of their Garifuna people.

My people at home have lost their history, language and culture, and some of them, like some of us, believe most of the lies that the British taught us in their schools after they

Please turn to
Page 32



# PLB kicks off its 2023-2024 **Closing Season**

#### BELIZE CITY, Wed. Jan. 17, 2024

The Premier League of Belize (PLB) kicked off its 2023-2024 Closing Season with 4 games this past weekend, 3 on Saturday night and 1 on Sunday afternoon; and already, fans are keeping an eye on the race to Concacaf, which berth will be decided between the champions of the Opening and Closing Seasons, the nod going to the winner who garners the most regular season points over the two seasons combined. Verdes FC, who have started the Closing Season with a win, finished the Opening regular season at the top of the standings, and are hoping to maintain the aggregated points lead through the end of the Closing regular season; but it all comes to naught unless they can win the season. Opening Season champions, Altitude FC are also keeping their eyes on that aggregate points tally, in which they trail Verdes by a 6-point margin. (See the Standings and Road to Concacaf totals below.) As the tally indicates, there are really only a few teams in the Concacaf race, but it will still be decided only between two champions.

At the People's Stadium in Orange Walk on Saturday night, January 13, the visiting Benque United FC prevailed, 1-0, over home standing Progresso FC, courtesy of a second half goal from Izon Gill (70').

Meanwhile, at the Marshalleck Stadium in Benque Viejo, it was also the visitors, last season's cellar dwellers, Wagiya SC coming away with the 1-0 road win over Police United FC, the loan goal coming early from the veteran Harrison "Cafu" Roches (7').

And in the other Saturday night encounter, at the M.A. Stadium in Independence, Opening Season finalists Altitude FC and Port Layola FC were tied at the half, 2-2; but the champs, Altitude got the late game winner for the 3-2 final score. Altitude took a 2-nil lead with goals from Andres Orozco (12') and Rene Leslie (28'), before Port Layola replied through Latrelle Middleton (30') and new recruit Orlando Velasquez (36'). The game winner for Altitude came from Ashton Torres (79').

In in the Sunday afternoon clash at the Norman Broaster Stadium, Bandits Sports managed to keep the score low against Verdes FC, who only led by a 1-0 margin until near the end of the ninety, before adding 2 quick goals to come away with the 3-0 victory. Verdes got a goal apiece from Matias Veron (39'), Felix Martinez (89') and Evral Trapp (90').

| PLB 20           | 23-2 | 024   | Clo  | sing  | g Sea | ison  |      |     |
|------------------|------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|------|-----|
| Standings at V   | Veel | s #1, | , Su | n. Ja | an. 1 | 3, 2( | )24  |     |
| TEAM             | GP   | W     | D    | L     | GF    | GA    | Diff | Pts |
| Verdes FC        | 1    | 1     | 0    | 0     | 3     | 0     | 3    | 3   |
| Altitude FC      | 1    | 1     | 0    | 0     | 3     | 2     | 1    | 3   |
| Benque United FC | 1    | 1     | 0    | 0     | 1     | 0     | 1    | 3   |
| Wagiya SC        | 1    | 1     | 0    | 0     | 1     | 0     | 1    | 3   |
| Port Layola FC   | 1    | 0     | 0    | 1     | 2     | 3     | -1   | 0   |
| Progresso FC     | 1    | 0     | 0    | 1     | 0     | 1     | -1   | 0   |
| Police United FC | 1    | 0     | 0    | 1     | 0     | 1     | -1   | 0   |
| Bandits Sports   | 1    | 0     | 0    | 1     | 0     | 3     | -3   | 0   |

Upcoming Week 2 schedule:

Saturday, January 20

7:30 p.m. – Altitude FC vs Verdes FC – M.A. Stadium in Independence 7:30 p.m. – Benque United FC vs Police United FC – Marshalleck Stadium 7:30 p.m. – Bandits Sports vs Progresso FC – Isidoro Beaton Stadium Sunday, January 21

4:00 p.m. - Port Layola FC vs Wagiya SC - Marion Jones Sports Complex Looking ahead to Week 3:

# **OJ resigns from UDP posts**

#### Continued from Page 1

party's legal counsel and relinquished all other party posts.

This bombshell news from the UDP is notable, especially given Elrington's influential role and family legacy in the party, being the son of former UDP grandee Hubert Elrington. The younger Elrington emerged as a key figure after winning the UDP standard-bearer convention in the Freetown constituency in November 2018, defeating former UDP Minister of State, Dr. Carla Barnett and Freddy Cantilliano by a significant margin.

However, despite his initial victory within the party, he faced defeat in the 2020 general elections against the long-standing area representative,

Francis Fonseca of the People's United Party (PUP).

This loss continued what some have termed the ¡Aikman curse; a reference to Derek Aikman, who famously unseated George Price in 1984, but was later declared ineligible due to bankruptcy, leading to a PUP takeover in subsequent elections.

Elrington's decision was reportedly announced during a party meeting on Tuesday night (January 16), signaling a withdrawal from future electoral contests in the division.

When Amandala sought comment from him, Elrington stated simply, "I don; t want to comment on that. If the party has a comment, then they can give you a comment.

The UDP has yet to release a statement on the matter.

## **Visiting Baliceaux and Saint** Vincent will always be a painful experience for a Garifuna...

Continued from Page 31

committed genocide against us. Let us all come together as one people to reconnect for justice on behalf of our Garinagu people. We must commit ourselves to making sure that the heinous crimes they committed against us do not go unpunished.

Our people in St. Vincent & The Grenadines, along with our people who live in the diaspora, must all come together to seek justice for this gross human-rights violations. Included in the resolution must be a proposal to make Baliceaux a Garifuna memorial site, with an ongoing cultural exchange program among the Garinagu people from the diaspora countries to meet there annually.

Baliceaux can be constructed to be a place where it can bring residual revenues to the people and nation of Saint Vincent with the following programs: anthropological and arhaeological research program, history research program, cultural exchange program, Garifuna language workshop, Garifuna arts & crafts workshop, farming workshop program, student exchange program, Garifuna spiritual reconnecting healing program, a museum, tourism program and other programs that will generate revenues for maintenance, management and to sustain the annual cost of the island.



Wellington Ramos and Joseph Guerrero giving a report about Garifuna life in their country Belize and in the other diaspora countries, at Sandy Bay, St. Vincent in 2015.

The island will give our people the opportunity to reconnect with themselves, and

#### Saturday, January 27

7:30 p.m. – Police United FC vs Port Layola FC – Marshalleck Stadium 7:30 p.m. – Bandits Sports vs Benque United FC – Isidoro Beaton Stadium 7:30 p.m. – Progresso FC vs Altitude FC – People's Stadium Sunday, January 28

4:00 p.m. – Wagiya SC vs Verdes FC – Carl Ramos Stadium

| Road to Con       | icacaf Po   | ints Tally  | y     |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-------|
| Closing Season WI | c. 1 at Sur | n. Jan. 14, | 2024  |
| TEAM              | Opening     | Closing     | Total |
| Verdes FC         | 29          | 3           | 32    |
| Port Layola FC    | 27          | 0           | 27    |
| Altitude FC       | 23          | 3           | 26    |
| Benque United FC  | 22          | 3           | 25    |
| Progresso FC      | 24          | 0           | 24    |
| Police United FC  | 16          | 0           | 16    |
| Bandits Sports    | 8           | 0           | 8     |
| Wagiya SC         | 5           | 3           | 8     |

our ancestors' spirits for healing. I witnessed and felt the spiritual impact our ancestors who were buried there have on myself. Proposing to sell this historical site will bring more problems to the people and nation of St. Vincent, because our ancestors are unhappy with the way they were treated prior to and after their deaths.

Some of our people must stop engaging themselves in trivial activities and plan real fundamental and significant activities to tell and live the true story of our resilient Garifuna nation. How much longer must we wait for this injustice to end? We have gone from being an independent and resilient self-sufficient people, to a people who are now dependent on some of our governments.

Many of our Garifuna people are hoping for our conditions to improve, while we are being deprived of the opportunities to acquire the basic necessities of life to survive daily. This unrealistic hope and dream will never materialize, unless, we get a hold of our own destinies and futures and make each and every one of us independent.

Dependency is a recipe for failure and poverty, while independence is a plan for success and wealth. I am more than confident that my people will not continue to endure these pains and sufferings for too long, and will take some action to better their future.

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# Haulze, lookout guy in robbery/murder, sentenced to life

by Roy Davis (freelance writer)

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Jan. 17, 2024 Leroy Haulze, 28, who was convicted of the murder of Belize City businessman, Jose Hilario Diaz, was sentenced to life imprisonment today by Justice Nigel Pilgrim.

Diaz, who operated a clothing and shoes store at the corner of Cemetery Road and Mosul Street, was shot and killed at about 5:43 p.m. on July 14, 2019, inside his store.

Haulze apparently was the "lookout" man who told the shooter where to find Diaz. Nonetheless, although he was not the triggerman in the robbery/murder, Justice Pilgrim pointed out to him that the



upholder is as bad as the offender. Haulze was convicted mainly due to the fact that he was positively identified in the video footage of the incident. His co-defendant, Emerson Garnett, who was accused of actually carrying out the murder, was not identifiable on the footage, and he was found not guilty.

To give Haulze a fixed sentence, Justice Pilgrim used 30 years as the starting point. He added 3 years for the aggravating factors, and he subtracted 1 year for the mitigating factors, which resulted in a sentence of 32 years. Then he subtracted 8 months for the time Haulze spent on remand, which led to a final time period of 31 years and 8 months, which is the time

Haulze has to serve in prison before he will be eligible for parole. This sentence will not take effect until April 29, 2026, because Haulze is currently serving a 5year sentence for robbery.

The Crown was represented by Crown Counsel Romey Wade, who held brief for Senior Crown Counsel Sheneiza Smith.





### LADYVILLE

\* Naybaz - 9 3/4 Miles, Ladyville by Medinas \* Puma Service Station \* Shell Service Station \* Low's Supermarket

### **ORANGE WALK**

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

### INDEPENDENCE

\* G N J Mart

### PUNTA GORDA

\* King's Texaco \* NJV Pharmacy



\* Rocks Shopping Center

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# Sugar crop progressing smoothly

ORANGE WALK, Thurs. Jan. 18, 2024

Belize Sugar Industries Ltd. (BSI) officials today confirmed to Amandala that the 2023/2024 sugar crop season up north is "in full swing" and progressing smoothly. In 21 days of crop since the start of the zafra on December 28th, first with only one boiler, but now with both, a total of 82,964 tonnes of cane have been milled, and 6,287 tonnes of sugar have been produced. The second boiler was brought on stream after BSI and the largest cane farmer association, the Belize Sugar Cane Farmers Association (BSCFA) signed an interim commercial agreement of two years on the evening of January 8, 2024. Therefore, all four cañero associations are currently delivering cane to the mill. The only time that production was paused was toward the end of 2023 due to weather conditions and then for scheduled maintenance which takes place every two weeks.

Olivia Carballo-Avilez, BSI's Manager of Cane Farmer Relations, shared that the quality (11tc/ts) is typical for this time of the year, and there are not any significant concerns regarding mud. They also welcome that the weather is holding up, though the fields are still moist and farmers therefore need to take note of harvesting practices. As fields continue to dry up and cane matures, cane quality is expected to improve.

One concern is the labour factor. According to Carballo-Avilez, farmers are facing challenges because the availability of cane cutters has decreased by about 20% compared with the start for previous crops. Carballo-Avilez says BSI is assessing how conditions can be improved for cane cutters so they are retained and productivity is improved. William Neal, BSI's Communications & Government Affairs Officer, explained that cane cutting is back-breaking work, and they are exploring the introduction of programs of rest and shade, and switching cane cutting to an earlier time to reduce sun exposure.

Along with the Sugar Cane Production Committee, BSI is also looking at the possibility of accessing migrant labour. Another option being reviewed is a switch to mechanical harvesting. Carballo-Avilez revealed that currently in country is an expert from Australia working with three farmers from the different associations who are using mechanical harvesters. They are also exploring the use of a long stick cane cutter currently employed in Mexico which Carballo-Avilez says "looks very well adapted to our conditions and the smaller cane fields."

#### BSI has disposed of over 50% of imported sugar; Santander asks to sell locally

As to the local sugar shortage impacting Belize since the second half of 2023, Neal confirmed that upwards of 50% of the 250 metric tonnes the company imported in December 2023 has left their warehouse. When the remainder is depleted, the locally produced sugar will be made available at the controlled price of 75 cents per pound as opposed to the current \$1.50/\$1.60 per pound for the imported white sugar.

While BSI says it did not apply a markup on the imported sugar which is equivalent to a week's supply, Santander Sugar Group out of the Cayo District is saying that there is no reason why the Belizean public should pay such high costs for imported sugar when they can fill the gap in meeting local demand. Currently, the company operates under a Designated Processing Zone license (previously an EPZ) and is only allowed to export the sugar it produces. In a release, it calls on the Government to grant the company a quota saying its 2024 harvest season started January 8 without a hitch, and it can supply both white and brown direct consumption sugars for the local market. Santander says, "During the sugar shortage in the country, Santander was unofficially called upon on numerous occasions for the provision of white sugar ..." Today, Beverly Burke, Santander's Compliance, Government Affairs and Public Relations Manager, told *Amandala* that it appears the sugar shortage will last some time, and the Government need not go outside to find a solution, especially when "Belize is the country that is producing the most sugar in the entire Caribbean." Burke said they can provide the supply at a lower price



Santander Sugar Group factory located in the Cayo District

than the imported cost, but above the current controlled price of 75 cents.

Burke affirmed that it is not a matter of the company's inability to find a market for its sugar abroad, but rather, that as a Belizean company, it should be allowed to have a local presence. She is calling on the Government to begin formal discussions with them.

Asked about allowing Santander to sell sugar locally, Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Jose Mai said there should be a clause that would allow the Government to pursue that avenue if it must, but he was uncertain about the specifics.

This week, Prime Minister John Briceño reiterated the point that they are hesitant about increasing the controlled price of sugar because they realize that "many Belizeans are going through a difficult time because of the high cost of living ..."

#### Sugar Commission of Inquiry not vet constituted

The addendum to the commercial agreement between BSI and BSCFA, which was signed on January 8, 2024, speaks to an Inquiry being conducted into the sugar industry. However, the Commission has not yet been constituted. Based on the timelines set, its work must get underway by the week of February 5th. Today, the Minister of Agriculture said that they have names from Mauritius, but ASR has said it wants to add two more people to the "cocktail of experts." The Minister says they are awaiting the names, as they need to move on. He said a chairman for the Commission is about to be named.

### Reputed drug lord killed on Fabers Road; one charged

#### *Continued from* Page 4

fired from two types of firearms—one of which was reportedly an assault rifle. Those reports were later confirmed by the rental. It was rented from an individual here in Belize City. We have the information [about] the person who rented the van, and that's the person we are seeking at this time ... At this time, we

# Belize deploys first primary\_

#### Continued from Page 1

Services (COCESNA,) was officially handed over to the government on Wednesday, January 17, at the Philip Goldson International Airport compound communication. "It allows for them to make better decisions in so far as ensuring the safety of aircraft navigating within our airspace," Carter noted.

"We are presently experiencing the coming together of a fantastic,

in Ladyville.

The PSR, known for its ability to detect and report the position of aircrafts, will cover the entirety of Belize's airspace.

Nigel Carter, the country's Director of Civil Aviation, commented on the radar's importance in the context of Belize's booming aviation sector. "With the growth of tourism, we're seeing more and more aviation activity. With more aircraft flying, our domestic operators are continuing to purchase aircraft, and they're continuing to invest, and as such we're seeing more operations on a daily basis," he said.

The primary radar, which will be deployed alongside the secondary surveillance radar, will enable air traffic controllers to monitor all aircraft in Belizean airspace, including those without transponders or radio magnificent dream for Belize," Kennedy Carrillo, Chief Executive Officer in the Ministry of Blue Economy and Civil Aviation, remarked.

She noted that the new radar strengthens, not just aviation surveillance, but also national security, linking Belize with Central America.

The PSR is a crucial tool in enhancing Belize's national security infrastructure. By providing thorough coverage of Belize's airspace and syncing with other regional radars, it creates a network capable of alerting air traffic controllers to any incoming aircraft.

"The modern primary radar will allow our security forces to better track illicit activities," stated Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño, also pointing out that the radar extends beyond Belize's borders. Commissioner of Police, who told the national media that they were fired from a 9mm pistol and a .223 rifle.

Previous attempts had been made to take Matus's life—the most recent of which occurred in October of last year on Morning Glory Street in Belize City, when it was believed he was in an opposing group's territory.

"The truth is, for the past three times [before] his death, every time that he would come into the city he would be pursued by those who may have wanted him dead. We had warned him on numerous occasions to try and stay away from the city. Seemingly, he still came in, and those who were in pursuit of him, managed to [have] caught up with him, and he was eventually killed," said ComPol Williams.

The Commissioner of Police, Chester Williams told reporters, "The van is a

believe that the motive may be drug-related."

Commissioner Williams also mentioned that measures have been taken by police to prevent any acts of retaliation. "Since Friday, we had put in place certain things to avert any possible retaliation. That is holding so far, and we continue to maintain our presence on the grounds and do whatever else we need to do to try and prevent any retaliation," he said.

At the time when ComPol Williams spoke to the media, he noted that the department was seeking the person who rented the van, as they have the van in their custody and no one had yet been detained. Today, Thursday, the Belize Police Department announced that they have arrested and charged one person in connection with the murder – he is 27year-old Jimmy Rojas, a maintenance worker of Peter Seco Street, Belize City.

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# Guatemala's reformist presidentelect sworn in after delays



Belize's Foreign Minister, Francis Fonseca and Prime Minister John Briceño held bilateral talks with Guatemalan President Elect, Bernardo Arévalo before Arévalo's swearing-in in

#### Continued from Page 1

was scheduled to be sworn in on Sunday, January 14 – the day mandated in the Constitution for the accession of power. After 9 hours of delay, some leaders, like the King of Spain, Felipe VI, simply could not stay any longer to catch the swearingin set to happen at the National Theatre beginning at 3:00 p.m.

The day's events were to get underway promptly at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday with the pomp and circumstance of the outgoing 9th Congress (Guatemala's legislature) overseeing the election of the new Board of Directors which administers the work of the congress. That was to be followed by the swearing-in of the 10th Congress and then Arevalo's installation. However, there was a first delay of an hour and a half due to ongoing negotiations among the political parties for Board of Director slates to be presented.

It would not be until 12:21 a.m. on the morning of Monday, January 15, that Arévalo would be administered the oath of office. PM Briceño was among the government leaders who was able to stay to witness the very late swearing-in. Hon. Francis Fonseca, who accompanied the Prime Minister along with his CEO, Amalia Mai, would later comment on his Facebook page, "As we pursue a final resolution of the unfounded claim at the ICJ, it is important for Belize and Guatemala to maintain cordial and respectful relations, particularly in the areas of trade and security. The experience in Guatemala reminds us why it is important to never take democracy and free, fair elections for granted." He noted that there came a point on Sunday when word was that there would be no inauguration. Eventually, at around 6:30 p.m., they were told it would happen at 8:30 p.m. Fonseca also confirmed that during the trip, apart from holding bilateral meetings with representatives of Canada and Mexico, he and PM Briceño had an opportunity to speak with both Arévalo and his Foreign Minister elect. It was expected that the accession to power would have been completed by 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. Instead, Arévalo's opposition was accused of employing delay tactics in an attempt to weaken his authority. The 9-hour delay even led political pundits to question whether there would be legal trouble for Arévalo if the swearing-in was not completed before midnight. At the end of the day, today, Wednesday, January 17, Guatemala's highest court, the Constitutional Court ruled that the swearing-in of Arévalo and his vice president, Karin Herrera, stands. However, after five actions for

injunctive relief were sought, the Court ordered that the vote for the new Board of Directors for Congress be redone.

Since August 20, 2023, when he resoundingly won the second round of presidential elections against Sandra Torres, the "establishment" candidate of the Unidad Nacional de la Esperanza (UNE) party, Arévalo and his Semilla (Seed) Movement faced continuous attempts to prevent him from taking office. Though these threatened to drive Guatemala to the brink of a governance crisis, with thousands of demonstrators spilling onto the streets in support of Arévalo, the old guard did not desist until the end and after. The outgoing parliamentarians were accused of employing last-minute delay tactics on Sunday, leading to angry protests from the thousands who had gathered to witness the day's events at the Constitution Plaza. Since the Constitutional Court had ruled that Semilla would be temporarily suspended, a Credentials Commission of the 9th Congress decided on Sunday that Semilla candidates could only be sworn in as independents, and, as such, they would not be able to form part of any slate for the Board of Directors. This and other decisions adverse to Semilla were adopted by the outgoing Congress. The process would eventually erupt into chaos, riling up demonstrators who barged through a police line in the periphery of the Congress. Semilla subsequently managed to have the decisions of the 9th Congress overturned, and presented a multi-party slate for the Board of Directors. Heading the slate was Semilla's 31-year-old Samuel Pérez. Sandra Jovel, former Foreign Minister under former president Jimmy Morales, accused the U.S. delegation attending the ceremony of meeting with deputies supposedly to exert pressure on them not to vote for her. In the end, her slate received 75 votes while Pérez's obtained 92 votes. After the 10th Congress of 160 deputies had been sworn in, Jovel told the media that the entire process had been fraught with illegalities, and that they would consider legal recourse for violations of the Constitution. She insisted that the country ought to make its own decisions free from outside interference. After his swearing in after midnight Sunday, Arévalo and Herrera moved over to the Constitution Plaza to greet supporters. Arévalo, deemed an anticorruption crusader, in his swearing-in speech pledged not to forget the indigenous population of Guatemala whose support he enjoys. They comprise over 40% of the country's 18 million people. He has also promised sweeping reforms to tackle corruption. It is expected that he will

# Fleecing of Belizeans'...

#### Continued from Page 1

in particular (Parcel E19560-B1) totals 1,850.42 acres. The full purchase price for the four pieces of land (a total of \$266,894.50) was paid by Fowler Works Enterprises Ltd. on October 22, 2020, just days before the general elections of November 11, 2020.

The average Belizean knows only too well the high cost of a piece of land, even for a simple house lot, which is usually less than a quarter of an acre. The arithmetic above tells us that the buyer paid our government approximately \$139.00 for each acre of that land in Duck Run. Belizean, would you like to buy some? Is it coincidental that this deal took place "just days before the general elections"?

The current PUP government was apparently trying to right the perceived UDP government wrong by refusing to proceed with the purchase on various grounds. But the court is saying that the government (UDP) did wrong and the damage is done, so they must face their commitments; only that it is now a PUP government that is facing that commitment; while - how sweet it is - it is the UDP attorney/former P.M. who wins again and comes out smelling like roses.

According to the judgment, the Minister of Natural Resources argued that the company failed to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) prior to its determination of its application for lease as required by the National Lands Act, and that the sale of more than 500 acres was never authorized by the National Assembly as required under the Finance and Audit (Reform) Act (FARA). He therefore affirmed that the sale agreements are not valid and are contrary to public policy. The Defense added that Fowler Works "cannot hide behind the veil of an assertion that FARA is a legislation which is concerned with the responsibility of the state. The onus is on both parties to an agreement to be certain that the scope of their agreement is legal."

This argument was not accepted by the Judge, as section 22(1) of the FARA states that "The Government shall, before disposing of any public assets with an aggregate value of or above two million dollars, obtain the approval of the National Assembly..." The Judge went on to extract from Section 22(2) the following: "Provided that the sale or lease of any national land in excess of five hundred acres, or any caye of whatever size, by Government shall first be authorized by a resolution of the National Assembly [emphasis added]." Fowler Works is now seeking damages for the breach of the sale agreements dated August 6,2020. During the trial, Calvin Reimer, Manager of Fowler Works, testified that in 2018 he sought to develop a large-scale sustainable farming/homesteading project in Duck Run, and he and others then applied for permission to survey parts of the national land they had identified. Their application, filed in December 2018, was approved by the then minister in May 2019. That same

year, Fowler Works was incorporated to proceed with the transactions. The company applied anew for permission to survey and was given the greenlight on June 24, 2020. According to the judgment, the survey was completed on July 16, 2020, and on August 6, 2020, four separate applications were submitted to purchase the surveyed parcels. However, after the November 2020 general elections, Reimer says the new Government refused to grant title for the land.

In the case of the EIA requirement for the large parcel, it was accepted that none was carried out, but the Court also determined that an EIA must be done BEFORE a lease application, and in the case of Parcel E19560-BI, while a lease was approved, no lease agreement was issued, only a sale agreement. The Judge notes that the latter does not carry the EIA requirement. She also declared that "there is no statutory requirement for an applicant for the purchase of national lands to first lease that land from the Government, and no such policy or requirement has been prescribed by the Minister." Furthermore, she pointed out that the National Lands Act does not provide that a lease be invalidated if an EIA is not carried out. What it allows is for a cease order to be issued. Justice Chabot also made the observation that 'The defendants failed to explain why Fowler Works' application for a lease was granted in the face of an obvious failure to comply with section 9(4) of the NLA."

Justice Chabot likewise found that Section 22(2) of the FARA was breached, as Parcel E19560-B1 required a resolution from the National Assembly. Nonetheless, she affirmed that "Control of the process and the decision whether to grant the sale of national land to Fowler Works was always in the hands of the Ministry. Failure to comply with the requirements was for the Minister and his officials to flag, and it was for the Minister to decide whether to proceed with the sale notwithstanding the omissions." She therefore declared that the breach of the FARA was the defendant's breach, and so the sale agreements should not be invalidated. She also took into consideration that the FARA does not specify a sanction for a breach of its provisions, and, making reference to a court case, she states in her judgment: "where Parliament intends a breach of the FARA to result in the invalidity of a contract, it specifically says so." This is separate from the law providing for an offender potentially being criminally charged.

Of further note is that Justice Chabot also cited a Caribbean Court of Justice ruling in which she says it "took a strong stand against rewarding the Government for its own breaches of its legal obligations." Damages must now be assessed, and legal costs were awarded to the claimant. The Government has not yet confirmed if it intends to appeal the judgment. Fowler Works was represented by Senior Counsel Dean Barrow and Adler G L. Waight, while the Government was represented by Imani Burgess, Israel Alpuche and Jhawn Graham.

continue to face an uphill battle. The contract for the Attorney General, Consuelo Porras, who was instrumental in the challenges against Arévalo, doesn't end until 2026. However, Arévalo had indicated that he would meet with her to seek her resignation.

Notably, also today, Wednesday, the United States Department of State designated former president Alejandro Giammattei Falla "as generally ineligible" for entry into the United States due to his/ involvement in significant corruption. The State Department claims to have credible information indicating/ that Giammattei/ accepted bribes in exchange for the performance of his/ public functions during his/ tenure/ as president of/ Guatemala./ actions it says undermined the rule of law and government transparency.



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