

Barrow, Briceño agree on reversing Dean-Barrow-era lottery-tax policy



LOO Hon. Moses Barrow and PM John Briceño

LOTTERY TAX		Pg. 2
6	Government Lottery	exempt from lottery taxes
7	National Lottery	12.5% (monthly on gross income)
8	Instant Lottery	12.5% (monthly on gross income)
9	Raffles	5% (total value of prize)

Schedule 4 as found in S.I. No. 88 of 2011

Brads to sue GOB over 12.5% lottery tax



By Javam Flowers

Brads Gaming Group Ltd. (BGGL) is suing the Government of Belize (GOB) for—as BGGL puts it—trying to “tax the company out of business.”

The legal action follows the government’s decision to impose a 12.5% lottery tax on Boledo, lottery and jackpot.

“BGGL filed an action in the Supreme Court to quash [Statutory Instrument] 51 of 2022. This new regulation was presented by the Government as a revenue measure but is designed to and will have the effect of taxing the company out of business,” explained the group in a release issued late this week.

BGGL asserted,

among other things, that GOB has never taxed its own lottery and, previously under government management, the lottery was generating approximately BZ\$1.2 million in sales, BZ\$800,000 of which went towards the Government after taking out the cost of printing books.

According to Prime

Minister John Briceño, S.I. 51 reverses what the Barrow Administration did in September 2011 with SI 88 of 2011, in which government lotteries were exempted from taxes. “The Lotteries Control Act, as the primary legislation, does not anywhere provide for the exemption of any lottery from the

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Threat on COMPOL and Magistrate Results in Heighten Security



COMPOL Chester Williams

By Michelle Sutherland

Security details belonging to both the Commissioner of Police Chester Williams and a magistrate have both been heightened this week following reports from underworld sources that a woman from one of the islands had reportedly placed a hit on both of them.

While speculations have been running high, on Monday the Commissioner, in an interview with Channel Seven's Jules Vasquez indicated, “Yes, I have received information yesterday and I am not moved by it. I have task CIB and commander operations to do certain things, because the person who

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Our Planet Earth has had to endure many scourges - from virus outbreaks, tsunamis, earthquakes, tornados, hurricanes, and wildfires.

But the greatest scourge has come from war. World War II caused the death of some 70 million people, most of them civilians.

After World War II, there have been various localized wars which included the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, the war in Afghanistan, and various wars targeting Israel.

With the exception of World War II, none of the other wars had any significant impact on Belize. During World War II Belize had to undergo martial law and there were shortages of food such as rice and flour

The newest war, which has come about as the result of Russia's unprovoked attack on Ukraine, is different. It has already led to significant increases in the price of fuel, and indications are that it will lead to a food crisis in many parts of the world.

Belize will feel the pinch. We will feel the pinch although we are can support ourselves with corn and rice and beans and meat and marine products. We still need to import flour for bread and pasta and fuel to run our vehicles and machinery.

Six of the biggest flour-producing nations of the world are involved either directly or indirectly. With the war in Ukraine, Russia, which is the biggest wheat producer, has already seen export restrictions because of sanctions.

China and India, which are also big wheat producers, have imposed strict control over their exports. Ukraine, another big producer, suffers from a Russian blockade of her Black Sea ports.

That leaves only Canada and the United States as significant free world suppliers.

The price of flour in Belize has already gone up, and it is likely to go up some more. The Government has been trying to hold the line on the price of bread, but the price of wheat, like the price of fuel, will not hold for long.

The war in Ukraine has already come to Belize in the form of higher prices.

There is a control on the price of bread, but there is no control on the price of corn tortillas. As a result, the cost of a pound of tortillas has gone quietly from \$1.00 to \$2.00 in less than a year!

The price of bread is similarly probing for a way up.

If there is a lesson to be learned here, that lesson is this: there are limits beyond which price controls do not work!

Belize needs to work harder to make itself more efficient in food production!

Anybody interested in setting up a processing plant to make Maizena?

Can we partner with producers in Mexico to make it work?

Fake News

Dear Editor:

Calling upon someone to do something, which you never tried to do, is hardly news.

But, at least the "caller" should tell you that the replaced group, at public expense, wined and dined the organized troublemakers enticing them to behave for a while to the credit of the RED.

Mind you, our region, seems to be developing a taste for real progress, like our neighbor wiping out their troublemakers.

Next time, Sir, instead of just saying that he is "calling," get some real news by asking "what would you suggest?" That would be news – real news, not a cheap shot for getting his picture on your front page!

Sir, please don't get into this fake news habit!

These are trying financial times, and you can't afford to reject commercials, like the AD for a new OMBUDSMAN; but be careful.

As you probably know, I am a bit acquainted with that animal, who everybody here and abroad was expected to grind to the purest dust every perception of corruption. Of course, we all know he did not and could not because his teeth were too tiny. Of course, he knew and said that others had the teeth, which he could not use, because they needed sharpening like insisting that you could go to jail, if you did not file your financial information when you sit on those exalted high chairs. You could be torn from it if after serving the first year your assets had doubled from one year to the next, which the comparison between first year and second would show.

Barrow, Briceño agree on reversing Dean-Barrow-era lottery-tax policy

By Javam Flowers

Leader of the Opposition (LOO) Moses "Shyne" Barrow supports the Briceño administration's 12.5% lottery tax to be paid by the "supposedly" UDP-affiliated Brads Gaming Group Ltd (BGGL).

Speaking at a press conference held this week, Barrow said, "I completely support the tax on Brads because this is an example of what I said earlier: taxing those who are making millions of dollars. Certainly, Brads Boledo would fall under that category. So, I have no difficulty implementing that tax that should have been implemented years ago."

The Lotteries Control (Amendment) Regulations, 2022 (or SI No. 51 of 2022)—which reverses a September 2011 policy

of the Dean Barrow Administration—reads: "The principal Regulations are amended in the Fourth Schedule..(b) in item 6, by deleting the words 'exempt from lottery taxes' and substituting the words '12.5% (monthly on gross income).'"

This change would bring the "Government Lottery" into alignment with the tax on other lotteries such as the National Lottery and the Instant Lottery, both of which are likewise charged 12.5%. The Instant Lottery was also further amended via S.I. No. 166 of 2020.

When presenting the S.I. in Parliament, Briceño pointed fingers at a well-known person connected to the former UDP Government who is "supposedly" affiliated with BGGL.

Briceño further cited that had the Dean Barrow administration

Sir, you in the MEDIA must lead the way!

Of course, we don't expect much from the PARTY owned. The public already knows what they support.

To speak more clearly, any government seriously concerned about really and truly cleansing GOVERNANCE must give the INTEGRITY COMMISSION real teeth: All those who sit on the highest thrones of public office must submit their financial statement of assets, or leave or be removed. We are talking about MUST, MANDATORY!

Otherwise, the poor Ombudsman at home and abroad will never be liked.

But real true friends will tell him: It IS GOOD YOU TRY BUT YOU NEED FEARSOME TEETH!

Finally, a friend with considerable public experience sympathized but asserted: the politicians will not want it. It won't happen as you wish.

Well, then, we must amend another law – the Representation of the People's Act. This must require the change of the NOMINATION Act. When politicians, aspiring candidates, present themselves to be nominated, the process must require that they swear an oath to completely submit to the GOOD GOVERNANCE requirement to file a statement of their assets before the expiration of THREE MONTHS of being elected. NON COMPLINACE shall cause EXPULSION from the National Assembly.

Harsh?... But necessary!

For we elect them to SERVE not to enrich themselves. Isn't that what the Honourable Founder of the Nation always promoted?

I rest my case.

Signed: Paul Rodriguez OBE

implemented the lottery tax on government lotteries back in 2011, the Ministry of Finance estimates that the Government would have collected approximately \$60 million in taxes.

This \$60 million in exempted taxes is what the LOO wants the current administration to pursue. Barrow said, "Before they [go]

after the peddlers with this trade license, I'd prefer them trying to get that 60 million that was exempt."

The reference to the trade license is in regards to the recently tabled Trade Licensing (Amendment) Bill 2022, which, among other things, adds entertainers and e-business operators to the list of businesses subject to the trade licensing fee.

THE REPORTER

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CLASSIFIED ADS

VACANCY: A vacancy exists for a Warehouse Attendant. Please contact Vinod Wadhvani at 600-1255 for more information.

RF&G LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY LTD.

Date: May 17, 2022

Rogel Aguilar of #259 Starfish Crescent, Belama Phase 1, Belize City, Belize District, Belize C.A. having made written declaration that Policy G7505823 under RF&G Life Insurance Company Ltd has been lost and having made request to the Company for a duplicate of the Policy, notice is hereby given that unless objection is raised within one month of the date herein, the requested duplicate policy will be issued.

Notice of Dissolution

“Notice is hereby given to all interested parties that **MVK INVESTMENTS LIMITED** a Company incorporated under the IBC Act of Belize commenced dissolution on **May 19th, 2022,**

And

Paraskevas Zacharoulis with address of **20A Agiou Athanasiou, P.C. 7102, Aradippou, Larnaca, Cyprus** is the Liquidator, and any claims against this Company should be forwarded to the liquidator within 30 days from commencement.”

Interconsult Belize Limited
Registered Agent

Brads to sue GOB over 12.5% lottery tax

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lotteries tax.”
He continued, “On September 17th, 2011, the Barrow Administration signed S.I. 88 of 2011. In this SI, government lotteries were the only of all lotteries completely exempt from taxes. All other lotteries were subject to the tax and remain so subject to date.”

Briceño also highlighted the irregular timing of the purported exemption, given that Boledo and other government lotteries were being privatized so that only one party, the concessionaire, would benefit from such exemption.

Briceño further

cited that had the administration of the day implemented the lottery tax on government lotteries charged at the rate of 12.5% on their gross monthly income, the Ministry of Finance estimated that the Government would have yielded taxes of BZ\$60,000,000 if it had been, over the period of the consecutive exclusive licenses, procured by the concessionaire.

During his remarks, which are protected by parliamentary privilege from defamation lawsuits, the Prime Minister pointed fingers at a well-known person connected to the former UDP Government.

BGGL, in their release, held that this action is motivated by a “political agenda” and will again result in unnecessary legal costs and losses to taxpayers.

Notably, though those were the sentiments of BGGL, the Leader of the Opposition Moses Barrow, in a press conference held this week, expressed his full support of the tax. “This is an example of what I said earlier - taxing those people that are making millions of dollars. Certainly, Brads Boledo would fall under that category. So, I have no difficulty with implementing that tax that should have been implemented years ago.”

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DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 2022

Interested applicants may submit application letter, résumé, and two reference letters to:

Chief Human Resources Officer
Human Resources Department
Atlantic Bank Ltd.

Cor. Cleghorn Street / Freetown Road, P.O. Box 481, Belize City, Belize

Threat on COMPOL and Magistrate Results in Heighten Security

Cont'd from pg. 1 actually put out the hit is known to us and those that we were told are the ones being hired to do the hit. We also know who they are and so they are being monitored by the police. What needs to be done will be done.”

While Williams would not divulge the details of the ongoing operation aimed at his safety, he said that the department is doing “certain things” to neutralize the threat, including seeking the suspect and her hired henchmen for questioning.

Williams said that while the investigation is still in its preliminary stage he is already aware of what is fuelling the hit. “Yes, we do understand the person's motivation as to why they may want to do certain things and with the hope to get me and the particular magistrate out of the equation things are going to be better for them, but that's not true. At the end of the day, like I said before, we have a job to do and we must do our duties to the best of our ability in terms of the threat, we'll do what needs to be done to neutralize that threat.”

Best information is that the suspect who is female contracted the services of a known Belize City gang to take out the Commissioner as well as the magistrate who is adjudicating a matter in which she stands to lose.

Despite the threat to his life, Williams said that as the Commissioner of Police he has a job to do and he will not be deterred from getting it done, because of someone who may be aggrieved by whatever may have been done to them. The woman is expected to be detained in the upcoming days to answer to these very serious allegations.



VACANCY NOTICE

MECHANIC

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

Reports to: Technical Manager

Summary of Responsibilities: Individual should be able to make adjustments on Brakes, Parking Brakes, Clutches under supervision. Remove/Replace Master Clutch/Breaks cylinders, Bleed Brakes, clutch, cooling system and cable rope.

Job Responsibilities:

- Able to remove and replace tires on all equipment's.
- Perform inspection checks/services oil & filter change.
- Assist in cleaning mechanical workshop.
- Remove & replace all equipment: starters, alternators, fan belts, radiators, Hydraulic hoses, cooling hoses, mirrors & shocks etc.
- Able to make adjustments on Brakes, parking brakes, and clutches.
- Remove/Replace Master Clutch/Breaks cylinders, Bleed Brakes, clutch, cooling system and cable rope.
- Any other duties that may be assigned of a related nature.

Job qualifications/Requirements:

- Minimum High School diploma with over 5 years' experience or Associates Degree in automotive technology or related field with 3 years' experience will be an asset.
- Must possess a valid driver's license.
- Basic knowledge to scan ECU (ECM), TCU and adjoining cabin electronics.
- Basic knowledge on propane fuel system

Skills/Competencies:

- Ability to work independently
- Able to work flexible hours
- Strong analytical skills
- Critical Thinker

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

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

Applications should be emailed to:
jobapplications@portofbelize.com

Closing date for receipt of applications is Friday, May 27, 2022.

S U D O K U

Medium Puzzle

	5							
						1		
		8				7	9	
8				1	5			2
		6	8		4			
2				6		4		1
					7			9
	1	9					5	
6	4	7						

Answer to Puzzle

8	1	3	2	6	5	7	4	9
7	5	2	8	4	9	6	1	3
9	4	9	7	3	1	2	8	5
1	8	4	3	9	6	5	7	2
3	7	5	4	2	8	9	6	1
2	9	6	5	1	7	4	3	8
9	6	7	1	5	3	8	2	4
5	2	1	9	8	4	3	9	7
4	3	8	6	7	2	1	5	9

Sudoku rules are extremely easy: Fill all empty squares so that the numbers 1 to 9 appear once in each row, column and 3x3 box.
Tip: Use a soft erasable pencil. Start with the easy puzzles, then move on to the harder ones. Make small pencilmarks to show which numbers are allowed in empty squares. This will come handy when analyzing techniques are used. Never guess! Only make moves based on logical deductions. There is only one unique solution for each puzzle.

What will SIB's 2022 Census reveal?

By Javan Flowers

After being postponed for almost two years, the Statistical Institute of Belize's (SIB) 2022 Census is finally underway; however, with the last Census being held 12 years ago, what will this latest census report reveal?

In lieu of the 2022 Census Report, numerous projections have been made as to the most current number of persons living within the borders of Belize. The 2010 Census revealed that there was a total of 324,528 persons living within the borders of Belize.

According to World Population Review, Belize's current population stands at more than 410,000, with

a diminished growth rate of 2.59% in 2010 to approximately 1.87% in 2022.

As highlighted in the 2010 Census, the population at the time saw an estimated undercount of about 3.6% (11,683) due to the unavailability of persons and the refusal of others to participate.

Hypothetically, if this percentage of "undercount" remained true for the 2022 Census, the report would yield an estimated undercount of 14,760 persons who were unavailable or opted not to participate.

The 2010 Census also revealed that, in 2010, about 3,000 children 5 to 13 years were not enrolled in school, which remains alarming

given that under the Laws of Belize, the mandatory school age begins at five years, and children are required to be in school as long as they have not attained their fourteenth year or have not completed primary school.

An examination of the educational achievement also found that in 2010 of the Belizean population 14 years and older, one in five persons (19.9 percent) had not completed the primary level of education; on the other hand, 73% of the working-age population had completed at least a primary school education - with both the Belize (87.7 percent) and Stann Creek (74.4 percent) districts exceeding the national



rate, while in Toledo, only about three out of every five persons (58.7 percent) of working-age that had achieved at least a primary level of education.

Over 500 field staff are currently deployed across the country and will visit and obtain information from all households, businesses, and institutions until approximately late July.

The public is advised that all field staff will be wearing a vest and ID card with the SIB

logo. In addition, some teams will be working in vehicles that will also have the SIB and Census logos displayed.

The Institute encourages residents to participate in the Census.

MoECST Receives \$600,000 worth of Laptops from BSIF



(l-r) Chief Education Officer Yolanda Gongora, Executive Director Carlos Tun

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Science, and Technology (MOECST), during a ceremony held at Sadie Vernon Technical High School in Belize City, received a donation of 260 laptops worth over BZ\$600,000 from the Belize Social Investment Fund (BSIF).

The laptops were procured in collaboration with the United Development Program (UNDP).

Each of the 260 devices comes pre-installed with Microsoft Office 2019, a minimum of one year warranty, a wireless mouse, a Dell-Pro briefcase suited for a 15.6" laptop, charging carts for up to 12 laptops per cart, an eight-outlet power strip surge protector and cable lock for the laptop.

The Ministry expressed that the Schools slated to receive the laptop computers and accessories are Belize Rural High School, Sadie Vernon Technical High School, Maud Williams High School, Gwen Lizarraga High

School, and Bella Vista High School.

The total value of the donation is exactly BZ\$679,393.95, with the Caribbean Development Bank and the Government of Belize contributing BZ\$645,424.25 and BZ\$33,969.70, respectively.

Receiving the donation on behalf of the MOECST was Chief Education Officer Yolanda Gongora, who expressed sincere gratitude for the contribution on behalf of the Ministry and praised the team's diligence at BSIF. Gongora further highlighted how the donation would bolster the Ministry's endeavors to promote technology use throughout schools across Belize.

Speaking on behalf of BSIF were Executive Director Carlos Tun, and Board Member Marcello Blake. They both stressed BSIF's ongoing commitment to the Ministry's efforts to enable an environment for expanded technology education and better student performance and preparedness of the students at the recipient institutions.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

ASR GROUP | BELIZE SUGAR

Belize Sugar Industries Ltd.

Invites qualified and self-motivated individuals to submit applications for the post of:

Payroll Specialist

Tower Hill, Orange Walk

Qualifications and Experience:

- Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, Finance or related field
- Three (3) years' experience working in the Payroll Department

Skills and Competencies:

- Professional experience in payroll modules
- Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite, specifically Excel.
- Strong Math and Numeracy Skills
- Personal Integrity and Trustworthiness
- Strong analytical and problem-solving skills
- Excellent interpersonal skills to work effectively in a team environment
- Strong writing and communication skills
- Ability to plan and prioritize
- Proactive, organized and dependable
- Experience and knowledge of pensions plans will be an asset

Roles and Responsibilities:

- Prepare and process payrolls meeting all deadlines
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- Process medical insurance and social security claims
- Process enrollments of new hires
- Request and submit monthly payments to regulatory bodies for statutory deductions
- Prepare monthly reconciliations of payroll-related General Ledger accounts
- File and maintain employment records
- Assist in the preparation of the annual payroll and fringe benefits budgets
- Reconcile and prepare year-end tax reports for submission to the Income Tax Department
- Provide support to the Treasury and Payroll Manager in other payroll and fringe benefit related processes
- Assure confidentiality and security of records and information

Letter of application accompanied by a Resume, Police Record, recent transcript and two letters of reference should be submitted to:

Human Resources Manager
P.O. Box 29, Tower Hill, Orange Walk
Or email
HR.Belize@asr-group.com

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION FORM AND ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS IS MAY 27, 2022.

Almost 60 Years, After Being Hanged, Nora Parham Pardoned

By Michelle Sutherland

Almost 60 years, after she was hanged by the state for the murder of her husband Ketchelle Trapp in Orange Walk, Nora Parham the 38-year-old mother of 8 children, who was the victim of domestic violence, finally received justice in the form of a posthumous pardon in the House of Representative, this past Friday.

Parham who is the only woman to have ever been hanged in Belize up to this day was put to death by hanging on June 5th, 1963, leaving her 8 sons to become orphans. In the aftermath of her death it was found out that Parham had been in an abusive relationship with Trapp for several years and that while she was accused of dousing him with gasoline and lighting him on fire, it was he who had lit the match that caused the fire, which later resulted in his death.

In a document sent to us at the Reporter, which was written by the deceased nephew Evan Trapp he said that his grandmother had told him on several occasions that the court had made a wrong decision at the time without any regard for the 8 children. Additionally, according to Evan, his grandmother had also told him that as her son lay dying on his hospital bed at the Belize Hospital, he had whispered in her ear, "I don't want Nora to be blamed," since he was concerned that she would be sent to prison for his accidental death.

But Nora, suffered an even worse fate than a prison sentence and 60 years later the government is attempting to reverse a historical wrong through a motion that seeks to move the Belize Advisory Council to advise the Governor-General to exercise the Prerogative of Mercy and to grant Nora Parham a posthumous pardon to have the sentence of death by hanging revoked.

The Hon. Dolores Balderamos Garcia,

Minister of Human Development, Families and Indigenous Affairs Presented the motion to the house, "59 years ago a grave injustice was done in the country of Belize, but we are here to shine a light, a spotlight on the issue of domestic violence and to correct in the way that we can the injustice and the stain on our history that that event caused. Let us do today what was not done by the governor Sir Peter Stallad back in 1963. It is the desire of the present government to correct the miscarriage of justice that resulted in the death by hanging of Nora Parham and bring closure to that stain on our history. Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Honorable House that: 1) Nora Parham be granted a posthumous pardon and, 2) that the sentence of death by hanging imposed on Nora Parham and executed on June 5th, 1963 be revoked."

And with that, five of Parham's sons who were in the gallery, along with their children and grandchildren, rose to their feet in memory of their mother, and with tears rolling down their faces they hugged each other, finally relieved that the family burden that they have been carrying for all these years has finally been lifted.

Outside the chamber, Parham, oldest son Harry spoke to the media and indicated that his family "feels much better" and that it is a great relief because now when the public look at their mother and what happened to her they will do so in a different manner, and recognize that what was done to her was a "great injustice."

Harry who was 15-years old at the time, said that he could recall when he was around 7 or 8 years old, having to get up out of his bed and run to the police station to get assistance for his mother. "We always talk about it and our children and grandchildren when they go to school when their peers meet them and talk to them, the first thing - oh,



you are grandson or granddaughter to the woman that was hanged, that murdered her husband. That stings. We don't bring it up deliberately, but if it comes up, we console each other. We know what happened

and we console each other and we hug each other."

The motion will now be taken to the Senate and then passed on to the Belize Advisory Council, who will then make a recommendation to the Governor-General.

According to reports Trapp, who was a special constable at the time had a reputation for drunkenness and domestic violence, something that Parham had complained about on several occasions. However, on February 6th, 1963 when Trapp caught fire in an outhouse that he and Parham shared, she was blamed for it. Trapp reportedly suffered third-degree burns to 90% of his body, with the exception of

his head and neck, and succumbed the following day at a Belize City Hospital. Parham at the time had admitted to police that she had thrown gasoline on her husband during one of their domestic disputes, but that he had gone to the outhouse and was using the restroom when he lit a cigar and accidentally set himself on fire in the process.

Despite those testimonies, Parham was arrested, charged, and remanded to the Belize Central Prison for murder. While she pleaded not guilty, an all-male jury later delivered a guilty verdict after only 4 hours of deliberation, and she was sentenced to death by hanging.



May 18 2022

Press Release

The Public Sector Workers Trust (PSWT) was created via an agreement between the Public Service Union, Belize National Teachers' Union and the Government of Belize to create projects for those individuals whose increments were frozen from 1995 to 1997. The Trust has launched its first project which is the Preventative Healthcare Project, which aims to provide a complete range of modern diagnostic tests to all its beneficiaries, inclusive of laboratory tests and a consultation with a physician to discuss the test results. For beneficiaries who opt not to access these services, an alternative option is a health care credit which provides a specific sum to their preferred medical provider to defray costs of services and medication.

The PSWT has now signed agreements with the Belize Healthcare Partners, Belize Medical Associates and Northern Medical Specialty Plaza.

All beneficiaries of the PSWT who would like to access the project to contact the PSWT at 223-7799/223-2877/ 673-7798 to set an appointment. A list of beneficiaries has been published on the PSWT website at <https://pswt.org.bz/new-publications/#>. Beneficiaries are asked to kindly review the list to determine if their names are there to access the service. In the event that a beneficiary's name is not on the list certified documents must be submitted to the office of the PSWT for verification before these services can be accessed.

Finally, the health project will be extended to the western and southern part of the country on a phased basis.

Ends

FOUR STEPS TO ACCESS PSWT HEALTH CARE

1. Check PSWT website at <https://pswt.org.bz/new-publications/#>. to ascertain if name if on the list
2. If name is on list, call PSWT Offices at 223-7799/223-2877/ 673-7798 to schedule appointment to obtain the required forms
3. After obtaining forms, visit the medical provider of your choice
4. If name is NOT of the list, certified documents are to be provided to the Trust Office including but not limited to an employment declaration provided by the Belize Social Security Board, years of service document signed by management/ ministry or any other documentation that provides proof you were working with GOB during the period 1995-1997.

A: NGO Crescent, Belize City
T: 223-7798 • F: 223-0977
E: publicsectorworkerstrust@gmail.com

GCF helps Fisheries and Coastal Communities adapt to Climate Change

By William Ysaguirre

Belize's fisheries and coastal zones are most vulnerable to Climate Change, for which fortunately the Green Climate Fund offers grants to help these sectors adapt and mitigate the impacts of global warming. Interested parties of the fisheries sector, coastal zone management, marine conservation agencies and coastal communities learnt more about accessing GCF financing, when the Ministry of Blue Economy and Civil Aviation hosted a seminar at the Radisson

Fort George Hotel in Belize City on Thursday, May 12.

Climate change impacts the marine environment in so many ways, that the ministry is implementing a project "Enhancing adaptation planning and increasing Climate resilience in the Coastal Zone and fisheries sector in Belize" through a \$1.2 million grant from the GCF. The GCF was established by the United Nations in 2010 to serve the needs of the Paris agreement, and it is the largest climate fund in the world; it has raised



Armando Aban, Kennedy Carrillo, Osmond Martinez

\$10.3 billion from 48 donor countries to date.

The greenhouse effect of more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is leading to warmer sea temperatures, causing fish populations to migrate to cooler waters

away from traditional fishing grounds. This is increasing the fuel costs for fishermen to bring home a catch, explained Ramon Carcamo of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. Higher

carbon dioxide levels have also produced 'acid rain' leading to ocean acidification, which makes it more difficult for crustaceans to form their shells, which is endangering coral reefs. The effects are seen as 'coral bleaching', as the colorful, living coral dies, leaving behind the whitened sepulcher that was once its home. Other threats such as sea level rise and increasing violent storms, as a consequence of climate change, all pose new challenges for coastal communities to adapt to or mitigate.




Fish are such a 'superfood', rich in iron, iodine, vitamin D, calcium, zinc and many other vitamins, that it is much in demand. Some 3.1 billion people in the world rely on seafood for at least 20% of their protein intake, and another 1.5 billion get at least 15% of their animal protein from fish. Recognition of the value of fish in meeting dietary requirements has led per individual consumption of fish to increase from 9 kg per capita in 1961 to 20kgs today.

Belize has 3,100 fishermen, and the industry benefits about 15,000 people, though not many women are fishers (200) though many are involved in the processing of the catch. They produce about 2.14 million pounds annually of marine products for export, primarily fish, lobster, conch and shrimp, with a value of USD\$17.5 million. Belizeans also consumed an estimated USD\$5 million worth of fish per year; so the total value of the annual catch was estimated at USD\$22.25 million in 2020, explained Fisheries officer Vivian Ramnarace.

Aside from ocean acidification, warmer temperatures have also led to lower dissolved oxygen levels, further reducing the suitable habitat for commercial species. Warmer sea temperatures have also led to algal blooms which resulted in incidence of ciguatera poisoning among some species. The proliferation of sargassum due to more nutrients from agricultural runoff and warmer temperatures have also posed new challenges for coastal communities.

Fortunately the GCF provides various forms of funding: grants, soft loans, equity, guarantees, other financing instruments and technical support to help vulnerable communities cope with the impacts of Climate Change. As the participants learnt, they may enlist the assistance of the GCF national designated authority for Belize, chief executive officer Osmond Martinez PhD of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, with further support from Carlos Pol of the director of the Climate Finance Unit and economist Leroy Martinez as the GCF Focal Point within the ministry. They are tasked to help Belizean public and private agencies to prepare and submit project proposals for GCF financing.

It is important to educate the coastal communities of the GCF assistance that is available, but the gender component is equally vital, for women to have equal participation in all adaptation and mitigation projects, explained chief executive officer Kennedy Carrillo of the Ministry of Blue Economy. The FAO guidelines also call for complete social inclusion of indigenous peoples, as recognized by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which Belize adopted in 2007, and by indigenous peoples rights, as enshrined in the Constitution of Belize, added GCF project support consultant Jeffy Gomez.

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
CONSULTING SERVICES
Legislative Drafter
Individual Consultancy**

Institution: Ministry of Youth, Sports and Transport
Country: Belize
Project: Capacity Building for Public Transport Reform
Sector: Public Sector
Abstract: This project aims to support the implementation of the short-term transportation reforms needed to strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Transport and enhance the public transportation industry as a continuation of the Comprehensive National Transport Master Plan (CNTMP). Developed in close coordination with the Economic Development Council and the Belize Infrastructure Limited, the project will aim to: (i) build capacity for public and private institutions to effectively plan and implement policy initiatives to improve the service quality and efficiency of public transport; (ii) make the public transportation services more efficient through the design of a Public Ground Transportation routing, scheduling and ticketing system, improved terminal facilities and an improved bus fleet with the necessary regulations and standards for the sector.

Loan/Credit/Grant No.: ATN/KR-17666-BL
Contract/Bid No.: IC6
Deadline: 17 June 2022; 10:00 Local Belize Time

The Government of Belize has received financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), toward the cost of the Capacity Building for Public Transport Reform, and will apply part of the Counterpart Funding for consulting services.

The consulting services ("the Services") includes an Individual Consultant as a Legislative Drafter. The key component of the consultancy is to provide Legislative Drafting for the Department of Transport based on recommendations derived from the other consultancies within the Transport Reform Project.

Objectives:
The core objective of this consultancy is to conduct a comprehensive legislative drafting update of the policy and legal framework, and regulations governing public transportation in Belize based on recommendation and legislative drafting notes and guidance provided by the Department of Transport. The outputs shall include a set of public policies and legislation to address the following specific objectives:

1. Update Chapter 230 - Belize Motor Vehicle and Road Traffic Act based on recommended legislative drafting notes;
2. Update Chapter 230 based on recommendation provided by the Department of Transport;
3. Ensure that all legal instrument drafted are in compliance with Belize standard legal drafting practices;
4. Provide update as it relates to Public Transport Laws and Policies in alignment with the CNTMP.

The Ministry of Youth, Sports and Transport now invites eligible Consultants from Commonwealth Countries 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.

Consultants will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Inter-American Development Bank: [Policies for the Selection and Contracting of Consultants financed by the Inter-American Development Bank GN-2350-15](#). A Consultant will be selected based on qualifications.

Further information, including the **template for the Expression of Interest and full Terms of References**, can be obtained via email or phone during the hours 8:00am – 5:00pm from Mondays to Fridays.

Expressions of interest must be sent in a written form as one document by email no later than 17 June, 2022; 10:00 am Local Belize Time.

Subject: Expression of Interest – Individual Consultancy – Legislative Drafter.

Attn: Trudy Joseph
Administrative and Procurement Assistant
Ministry of Youth Sports and Transport
Transport Planning and Project Unit
Melhado Parade, Nemo Building
Belmopan, Belize C.A.
Email: procurement.officer@transport.gov.bz
Phone: 501-672-0848

The Righters Write

Without distinction

Contributed by the Human Rights Commission

Not too long ago I lost a friend to cancer. Her plight was not too drawn out, but painful nonetheless. Painful not only because of the disease that slowly consumed her, but painful too because of how people ignored her for being a transgender woman. She lost her battle. Another story is that of a young man who was unable to receive the protection of the law because he was openly gay. Instead, he was mocked and a police officer even suggested further violating him after he tried to report being raped. Another is that of an intersex person who needed medical attention and whose privacy was violated by a nurse who stripped this patient's undergarments when she was unconscious because the nurse needed to verify what people said.

These stories are heart-breaking, and there are many more harrowing untold violations of people in Belize. They "face prejudice, discrimination, stigma, hostility, violence," says the UNFPA. Their basic human rights are stripped from them simply because of who they are. People around the world face inequality, discrimination and violence. Vulnerable groups that include women and girls, the disabled, the elderly, refugees, people living with HIV are especially prone to human rights violations and even violence. And there is another group, those within the LGBTQIA+ community. These persons are, more often than not, left out in the fringes of society without access to proper healthcare, protection under the law, education, employment and so much more.

To some degree it is understandable to question and even express concern about the differences in other people but to deliberately abuse, discriminate, to strip people of their humanity and dignity for being different is just cruel. LGBTQIA+ persons continuously face discrimination for

their sexual orientation and/or their gender identity. Besides personal attacks, they suffer from differences in treatment and legal status between them and heterosexual people especially in fields related to family, employment and freedom of association, writes the International Federation for Human Rights. They also face violence, torture and even death. The United Nations states that intersex persons, "face institutional violence within healthcare systems, with lifelong consequences to their physical and psychological health".

It is a pressing concern for human rights defenders. These concerns are especially highlighted on May 17th, International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOT), annually since 2005. It aims to raise awareness of LGBTQIA+ rights and the violations of these rights. This year's theme is "Our Bodies, Our Lives, Our Rights."

In a statement on the occasion this year, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet said, "LGBTIQ+ people are entitled to the equal respect for their dignity and equal respect, protection and fulfilment of their fundamental human rights, just like everyone else. And yet, widespread violations continue: killings, torture, sexual violence, criminalization, arbitrary detention. Harmful practices such as "conversion" therapy, forced sterilization, surgery and treatment on trans and intersex people, degrading examinations. Widespread stigma, harassment, bullying and discrimination at work, at home, in education, health, housing, sports and access to public services. And the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have only exacerbated exclusion and inequality."

Belizean LGBTQIA+ persons face so much prejudice in all sectors of society. LGBTQIA+

human rights defenders continue to work to champion their rights and there have been some positive changes. As always, though, there is more to be done. Among the organizations that work towards this goal is Our Circle. Managing Director Derricia Castillo-Salazar on the occasion of IDAHOT 2022 said, "Our Bodies, Our Lives, Our Rights" aligns perfectly with the work Our Circle does in regards to the lives and legal equality of LGBT-formed families in Belize.

This year's motto calls for the recognition of persons rights to make decisions regarding their sexual orientation or gender identity and expression (SOGIE) without fear, violence or discrimination. IDAHOT allows a state such as Belize, to reflect on how far we have come and where we want to go to ensure that legislation, service providers and key gate keepers are committed to the promotion of a society where persons with diverse SOGIE can live in dignity and be valued as human beings through

respect, protection and promotion of their human rights."

The first article in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights". LGBTQIA+ rights are human rights. "Everyone has the fundamental right to make decisions governing their bodies, lives and futures, yet too many marginalized people cannot take that right for granted. They cannot fulfil their full potential without exercising bodily autonomy, for it is that right upon which other human rights are built." - UNFPA.

Human rights are for all persons, without distinction. We echo the words

of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, "Tackling these issues does not just require changes in laws and policies – it also requires greater acceptance, support and celebration of LGBTQIA+ persons by everyone in society, including within the family."

Disclaimer: the opinions expressed by our columnists are theirs alone, and are not necessarily reflective of the newspaper's stance on the issues touched. We believe it is critical that our columnists be allowed freedom to generate discussion through their expressions on any number of topics.



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST INDIVIDUAL CONSULTING SERVICES

Institution: Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing
Country: Belize
Project: Climate Vulnerability Reduction Program
Sector: Infrastructure, Environment and Natural Disasters
Abstract: Individual Consulting Services - Technical Specialist
Loan/Credit/Grant No.: 4426/OC-BL
Deadline: May 26th, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. (Local Belize Time)

The Government of Belize has received financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), towards the cost of the Climate Vulnerability Reduction Program (CVRP) and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services ("the Services") include the contracting of a Technical Specialist for one year who will be responsible for leading the supervision of civil works activities for the Climate Vulnerability Reduction Program being executed by the Program Management Unit at the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing.

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

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

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

Program Management Unit
#1 Power Lane, Belmopan, Cayo
Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Tel: 501-822-0100/1942
Email: pmupcmow@gmail.com or cvrp.4426.3@gmail.com

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by 2:00 p.m. (Local Belize time) on May 26th, 2022.

Attn: Mr. Rolando Chan
Program Coordinator
#1 Power Lane, Belmopan
Cayo District, Belize
Tel: 501-822-0100/1942
E-mail: pmupcmow@gmail.com or cvrp.4426.3@gmail.com

First Tropical Wave of the season to enter the Caribbean

By Javan Flowers

Forecasters are tracking the first tropical wave of the Atlantic Hurricane Season, and models have been suggesting that the wave is likely to enter the Caribbean within the next few days.

With June 1st, the official start of the Atlantic Hurricane Season, still almost two weeks away, forecasters have already been monitoring the first tropical wave that originated off the coast of Africa.

At the time of that report, the system was not expected to traverse the seas long enough to pose a threat to any country;



however, this low-pressure system has since made its way

to the Caribbean, and forecasters have since warned that it may bring flooding rain to Central America. But, as projected in numerous weather models, its chances of spawning the first tropical depression or storm in the Caribbean Sea are meager – for now.

Following reports from WDSU 6 News Meteorologist Devon Lucie, "A large, broad area of low pressure is expected to form in the next few days over Central America, something meteorologists refer to as a Central American Gyre, or CAG."

These CAGs most often form from May through June and again in October through November but can occur at any time over the next six months.

As he further detailed, "Other forecast models, such as one from the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF), suggest the CAG could be centered farther west over Central America or the eastern Pacific Ocean, making development chances

higher in the eastern Pacific Ocean than over the Caribbean Sea."

While the system has a very slim chance of developing into a tropical depression as it further traverses the Caribbean, wind shear in the Gulf of Mexico and the northwest Caribbean Sea is strong; thus, this changing wind speed and direction with height typically rips apart tropical disturbances trying to organize. The other issue such a system would encounter includes a push of air originating from the Sahara Desert headed through the Caribbean Sea over the next few days.

In lieu of a forecast outlook from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) that is expected to be released in the coming weeks, Colorado State University released its first extended-range forecast for the 2022 Atlantic hurricane season, in which researchers are anticipating "above-normal activity" with an estimated 19 named storms, nine hurricanes, and four major hurricanes.

It is simulated that there is an above-average probability of major hurricanes making landfall along the continental United States coastline and the Caribbean.



CAREER OPPORTUNITY



ASR GROUP | BELIZE SUGAR

Belize Sugar Industries Ltd.

Invites qualified and self-motivated individuals to submit applications for the post of:

Security Officer
Tower Hill, Orange Walk

The **Security Officer** is responsible for ensuring compliance to all of the Company's Security protocols and policies. Observe and protect the Company's properties against various threats which, includes static, patrol, and escort security functions within the Company.

Qualifications and Experience:

- High School Diploma
- Holder of a valid Class A driver's license
- Be able to operate standard transmission and 4x4 type off-road vehicles
- Possess Security, Police or Military background and or equivalent skills
- Verbal and written Bi-lingual capabilities (English & Spanish)

Skills and Competencies:

- Excellent written & communication skills
- Team oriented/ possess interpersonal skills
- Able to work flexible hours (shifts, weekends, & Holidays)
- Be physically fit and able to stand long hours in all types of weather conditions
- Must be able to legally carry and use firearms during course of their duties

Roles and Responsibilities:

- Conduct patrols at the Company's properties within the Orange Walk area
- Report to assigned area and perform all duties diligently
- Respond quickly to all accidents/incidents that affect the company
- Written reports on all accidents/incidents to your supervisor or Chief of Security

Letter of application accompanied by a Resume, Police Record, recent transcript and two letters of reference should be submitted to:

Human Resources Manager
P.O. Box 29, Tower Hill, Orange Walk
Or email
HR.Belize@asr-group.com



DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION FORM AND ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS IS MAY 27, 2022.



BBS celebrates 30th anniversary

By Javan Flowers

The Belize Bureau of Standards (BBS), a government department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise, celebrated its 30th anniversary.

The BBS is the national center for promoting efficiency and competitive production of goods and services, with Quality Infrastructure serving as the foundation for achieving this objective.

Its purpose is to facilitate the development of national standards by promoting the use and harmonization of standards for sustainable production in the trade of goods and services.

The pillars of Standardization, Metrology, Conformity Assessment (sampling, testing,



(l-r) Minister Jose Mai, CEO Servulo Baeza, Director Jose Trejo

calibration, inspection, certification procedures), and Accreditation combined serve to ensure that goods and services, whether produced domestically or imported, meet established regulatory requirements, such as those relating to the health and safety of consumers and the environment.

The Bureau is sworn to protect, secure,

and safeguard the country's welfare; a function carried out through the Consumer Protection Unit.

Jose Trejo, Director of the Bureau, opened his presentation - during the celebratory event streamed via the Bureau's Facebook page - by reflecting on the Bureau's journey to 30, "While our celebration today is institutional, I believe it is only fitting to start by

reflecting on the men and women who have journeyed along with us."

"To carry a 30-year mandate such as ours represents nothing more than hard work, dedication,

commitment, and drive, not to mention talent and skills to arrive at this juncture," Trejo added.

While acknowledging all they've managed

to accomplish collectively, Trejo further emphasized that "while we have labored 30 years, our work has only just begun."

Minister of Agriculture, Food Security, and Enterprise, Jose Mai also shared his admiration of the 19 tenacious women and men employed by the Bureau and pointed to the significant growth and transformation that strengthens the Bureau's core mission to promote and support the competitiveness of goods and services, trade facilitation, and Consumer Protection.



VACANCY

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the post of **PRINCIPAL**, with effect from **September 1st, 2022** at **Mopan Technical High School**.

Qualifications:

- Master's Degree in Educational Leadership, Secondary Education or Education Administration, with at least 3 years experience in administration.
- Consideration will also be given to a Bachelor's Degree in Educational Leadership, Secondary Education or Education Administration, with at least 5 years experience in administration.

General Duties and Responsibilities (in accordance with the Education [Amendment] Rules, 2012) include but are not limited to:

1. Implement policies and decisions made by the Managing Authority to ensure that students at the school receive the best education possible
2. Oversee the day-to-day operations of the school and develop school rules and policies in consultation with the faculty, staff, parents and students
3. Provide education leadership in the area of pedagogy, curriculum, assessment and spearhead the school's development and improvement
4. Carry out the school's administration: oversee admission, placement, promotion and graduation of students; enforce school rules and maintain a safe environment conducive to learning; assign, direct and assess staff; organize registration of students in examination; maintain school records as prescribed by the Act and these Rules; monitor the state of facilities; prepare and adjust the school's annual budget, and supervise financial and other business transactions
5. Perform duties relating to duties on School Board, such as spearheading the implementation of school development plans, participating in recruitment, selection and disciplining of staff
6. Direct the organization and implementation of school curriculum, annual teaching plans, instructional schedules, annual activity plans and book lists
7. Undertake the clinical supervision of teachers and provide appropriate support for teachers in areas that include child-centered teaching strategies; relevant ongoing assessment of and for learning and effective classroom management practices
8. Invite the parent or guardian to meet the Principal, Vice-Principal and staff at least once in every semester to receive reports on school activities for the semester.

Salary:

Commensurate with education and experience and in accordance with Government Pay Scales.

Application Process:

All applications should be placed in a manila envelope, sealed and clearly marked "Application for Principal, MTHS" and addressed to:

**Secretary
Board of Management
Mopan Technical High School
1 Said Musa Street
Benque Viejo Del Carmen Town, Cayo District**

Documents Required:

- Cover Letter
- Curriculum Vitae
- Valid Teacher's License
- Letter of Release (where applicable)
- Valid Police Record
- Medical Certificate
- Marriage Certificate (where applicable)
- Highest Academic and Professional Qualifications
- Original Transcript of the highest educational degree obtained
- Birth Certificate
- Social Security Card
- Two letters of Reference from two most recent Employers

Deadline for Application:

The deadline for submission of application package is **Friday, June 17th, 2022 at 12:00 noon**.

Please note that all copies should be certified by a Justice of the Peace. No electronic application will be accepted.



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

For Immediate Release

April 12, 2022

Press Release

**Central America Regional Security Initiative (CARSI)
2022 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)**

The U.S. Embassy in Belmopan, Belize announces a notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) for Strengthening Government through Civil Society Engagement. For more information and eligibility requirements, please visit www.grants.gov and search for "Belmopan." All grant proposals **MUST** be submitted on the grants.gov website. **Closing date for proposal submission: June 2nd, 2022.**

Contingent upon the availability of funds and quality of proposals, U.S. Embassy Belmopan intends to issue two to three awards in an amount not to exceed \$500,000 USD in total funding. Each award will be for an amount between \$100,000 and \$250,000. Project periods should not exceed two years, and the anticipated start date for successful proposals is September 30th, 2022.

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) To develop and strengthen mechanisms that improve coordination and cooperation among key stakeholders to curb human trafficking and improve services to vulnerable and marginalized populations especially women and children. Proposals should focus on increased public awareness about the social impacts of human trafficking and building the capacity of individuals such as civilian frontline personnel and institutions to identify, respond to, and serve victims of human trafficking.
- 2) To support civil society efforts in working with government to institute reforms to reduce corruption and impunity. Proposals should support the reduction of corruption and the promotion of transparency and accountability across all levels to create strong, capable, and accountable governments.
- 3) To strengthen civil society and government collaboration to improve service delivery at the local, municipal, or national levels. Proposals should focus on activities by civil society organizations leveraging government, private and civil society resources, and network opportunities to jointly strengthen, expand or complement service delivery particularly in areas related to COVID response.

View the full 2022 CARSI-ESF NOFO under the "Related Documents" tab at www.grants.gov.

The U.S. Embassy in Belmopan will host a CARSI-ESF Grants Question & Answer Session on Facebook Live **Wednesday, May 4th, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.** Interested applicants are also encouraged to send any related questions or queries to BelmopanCARSI@state.gov.

Belizeans observed dazzling 'Blood Moon.'

By Javan Flowers

On Sunday night and the early hours of Monday, Belizeans across the country witnessed a "blood moon" due to a total lunar eclipse that saw the sun, Earth, and moon form a straight line in the night sky.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) detailed that "a lunar eclipse occurs when the sun, Earth, and moon align so that the moon passes into Earth's shadow."

Once the entire moon falls within the darkest part of Earth's shadow, called the "umbra," it will turn a reddish hue. Thus, lunar eclipses are often called "Blood Moons" because of this phenomenon.

Interestingly, the same phenomenon that makes our sky blue causes the

moon to appear red during a lunar eclipse.

According to NASA, "Rayleigh scattering" occurs as a result of light traveling in varying wavelengths, which causes different colors of light to have other physical properties. "Blue light has a shorter wavelength and is scattered more easily by particles in Earth's atmosphere than red light, which has a longer wavelength."

"Red light, on the other hand, travels more directly through the atmosphere. So when the sun is overhead, we see blue light throughout the sky. But when the sun is setting, sunlight must pass through more atmosphere and travel farther before reaching our eyes. So the blue light from the sun scatters away, and



The eclipse is often dubbed the "Blood Moon."

longer-wavelength red, orange, and yellow light pass through," NASA continued.

Thus, during a lunar eclipse, the moon appears red because the only sunlight reaching the moon passes through Earth's atmosphere,

and the more dust or clouds present in Earth's atmosphere during the eclipse, the redder the moon will appear.

Noah Petro, chief of NASA's Planetary Geology, Geophysics, and Geochemistry Lab explained that the

spectacular phenomenon would be visible to much of Africa, Europe, and South America, and most of North America with the people in South America and the eastern part of North America expected to have had the best view of the lunar eclipse.

About two lunar eclipses occur each year, and the next will be a total lunar eclipse in November, Petro further added.

NASA has projected that there will not be another total lunar eclipse until March 2025.

Belize featured on Sports Illustrated cover



By Javan Flowers

Belize made the cover of the 2022 issue of the internationally renowned Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Magazine, with the cover photo being taken in Placencia Village, featuring Maye Musk — supermodel, bestselling international author, and mother of billionaire Elon Musk.

Belize continues to garner international attention, with this latest feature being yet another instance of iconic Belizean destinations being recognized internationally.

The feature is part of a four-cover issue that also showcased other tropical destinations, including Barbados, the Dominican Republic, and Montenegro. The 59th issue of the magazine "celebrates 28 powerful women in an inclusive range of backgrounds and body types".

The models, Jasmine Sanders, Hunter McGrady, Kate Bock, Natalie Mariduena, Leyna Bloom, and Maye Musk, were all photographed at various locations across Belize by the world-famous photographer Yu Tsai.

Notably, Maye Musk is the mother of Elon Musk, a business

magnate, investor, and philanthropist. He is the founder, CEO, and Chief Engineer at SpaceX; Product Architect of Tesla Inc.; founder of The Boring Company; and co-founder of Neuralink and OpenAI.

According to the Belize Tourism Board (BTB), Sports Illustrated remarked, "Belizeans are proudly committed to preserving the country's unique charms and pristine natural landscape. But, beyond the natural wonders, archaeological marvels, and adrenaline-inducing adventures, it is truly the warmth of the Belizean people that makes Belize so special. The blending of cultures in Belize has resulted in one of the region's happiest and most peaceful countries and has garnered a widespread reputation as one of the world's friendliest destinations."

"Belize's feature in the magazine and on the cover represents an extraordinary success for the country," commented Hon. Anthony Mahler, Minister of Tourism & Diaspora Relations. "Furthermore, the feature is a part of the growing worldwide recognition of Belize's value as a unique and premier tourist destination."

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Belize Sugar Industries Ltd.
Invites qualified and self-motivated individuals to submit applications for the post of:
Chemical Engineer Trainee
Tower Hill, Orange Walk District

The **Chemical Engineer Trainee** works to make ideas come to life. Individuals are developed over a two year period to assist in continuous improvement of production processes for high sugar quality, to develop and maintain machinery and equipment and to design and construct factory infrastructure.

Skills and Competencies:

- High proficiency in computer and computer systems
- Must be a self-starter and highly motivated
- Must have the ability to read, analyse and interpret technical procedures and standards
- Able to write reports, business correspondence, and procedure manuals
- Able to effectively present information and respond to questions from managers, designers, and engineers
- Able to work with mathematical concepts, differential equations and advanced engineering calculations.

Qualifications and Experience

- Bachelor's Degree in Chemical Engineering
- Experience in the Food industry
- Fluency in English and Spanish will be an asset

Summary of Duties and Responsibilities:

- Perform chemical analysis and physical property testing of materials and products
- Collecting data required to make improvements and modifications
- Using and developing process simulation software to work out the best production methods
- Investigating and troubleshooting plant/process problems
- Assist in scheduling and coordinating work to tight deadlines and within financial budgets
- Liaise with installation/project engineers

Letter of application accompanied by a Resume, Police Record, recent transcript and two letters of reference should be submitted to:

Human Resources Manager
P.O. Box 29, Tower Hill, Orange Walk
Or email
HR.Belize@asr-group.com

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION FORM AND ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS IS JUNE 1, 2022.

NATS Committee recognizes Farmers of the Year

By Javan Flowers

The National Agriculture and Trade Show (NATS) Committee, under the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise, will celebrate the winners of the "Farmer of the Year Competition" during the opening ceremony of the National Trade Show – to begin on May 27th.

"The work, dedication, and commitment of our Belizean farmers, producers, agro-land developers, and agro-processors are critically important to our country's food security and survival," said the NATS Committee chairman Gary Ramirez to The Reporter.

Ramirez further highlighted that

"While there have been consistent threats from global shortages and increases in prices, the truth is that the basic fresh vegetables and fruits required to feed

ourselves and our families are readily at the various produce markets around the country. That is a direct result of the resilience of farmers and producers."

In recognizing the resilience and strength of Belizean farmers, the "farmers of the year" to be celebrated include Orlando Ek [Corozal District],

Norma Figueroa [Cayo District], and Darwin Orellana [Belize District].

The NATS 2022 Committee would also like to highlight a notable female farmer, Ms. Krystle Romero, from the Toledo District. Ms. Romero is the 2nd place finisher in the Female Farmer of the Year.

As the Chairman explained, the winners will be recognized by "sashing them during the official opening ceremony on May 27th at 3 pm."

Following the opening, on May 28th, the farmers will be celebrated during an award ceremony starting at 11 am, during which the distinguished farmers will be presented with monetary prizes by

the NATS committee and gift packages from various agro-companies. Ramirez further added that the NATS Committee in Belmopan would also host the farmers through the weekend.

The NATS Committee reminds the public that the National Agriculture and Trade Show 2022 will be held on May 27, 28, and 29, 2022, under the theme "Innovations in Technology: Driving a Climate Resilient and Competitive Agriculture and Food Sector."

The committee once again congratulates all winners for their hard work and dedication in ensuring the sector remains vibrant and valuable to Belize's resilience to climate and economic shocks.



The NATS will celebrate the winners of the "Farmer of the Year Competition."

COMPLIANCE OFFICER

JOB SUMMARY

The Compliance Officer will work with the Assistant General Manager (AGM) Risk and Executive Management to develop, implement and maintain a robust compliance framework including regulatory, Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) and funding agencies' terms and conditions compliance programs.

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

1. A Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Accounting, or other related quantitative field.
2. Five years of successful experience in the financial services industry as a Compliance Officer or Auditor, with in-depth knowledge of regulatory requirements and the law and practice of money laundering.
3. An accreditation with an International Certification Program in Compliance would be an asset.
4. Proven experience in drafting, interpretation and implementation of policies and procedures in the field of work, and contribute to decision-making at the Management level.

REQUIRED SKILLS & ABILITIES

1. Dynamic, competent, proactive, goal-oriented, detail-oriented and excellent organizational and time management skills.
2. Superior communication skills – written, verbal, and inter-personal. The incumbent must display a positive attitude and the ability to interact professionally and effectively with members of the Board of Directors, employees at all levels, and external stakeholders including high-level executives with IFIs, government agencies, and other local and international agencies.
3. Mature and independent in judgment, and able to deal with sensitive and confidential matters and situations with a high level of discretion, diplomacy and tact, and work effectively under pressure.
4. Conviction to stand by difficult decisions and be more influenced by policies and procedures. Willing to take the lead in setting the tone for corporate integrity.
5. Knowledge of DFC's role as a development bank and its contribution to national economic development will be an asset.
6. Familiarity with industry practices and professional standards.
7. Proficient in MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Outlook; and familiar with new channels used for mass communication.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Develop, implement and maintain internal systems, policies and controls for effective regulatory, AML/CFT and funding agencies' terms and conditions compliance programs.
2. Investigate reports of violation of rules, regulations, policies and procedures and develop and oversee a system for uniform handling of such violations.
3. Ensure proper reporting of violations or potential violations internally or externally to duly authorized enforcement agencies as appropriate and/or required.
4. Act as the liaison between the Corporation and regulatory, supervisory and other competent authorities and funding agencies in matters relating to regulatory, AML/CFT or funding agencies' terms and conditions compliance.

5. Provide reports to the Board and Senior Management on the operation and progress of compliance efforts.
6. Build risk awareness amongst employees by providing support and training to employees on regulations and industry practices-as it relates to compliance risk.
7. Contribute to the creation of business continuity plans to limit risks.
8. Contribute to the Human Resources Management Function of the Corporation by fostering an employee-oriented company culture that emphasizes quality, continuous improvement and high performance.
9. To represent DFC locally and internationally on AML/CFT related matters.

ACT NOW

1. Letter of Application
2. Curriculum Vitae
3. Copy of most recent qualification
4. Three (3) Letters of Recommendation (*no older than six months*) – two of which must be professional references
5. Copy of Social Security Card
6. Police record (*no older than six months*)

Submit application with reference Application for Vacancy:

COMPLIANCE OFFICER

to:

Manager

Human Resources and General Affairs

Development Finance Corporation

P. O. Box 40 | Belmopan | Belize, C.A.

Applications may be submitted electronically by email to:

vacancies@dfcbelize.org

DEADLINE:

MAY 31, 2022

VACANCY
Join our exciting team!





Central Information Technology Office Ministry of Finance

Corner Dry Creek Mountain View Boulevard Belmopan
Telephones: 501 822-2406/08-20708 • Email: contact@cito.gov.bz

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

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

ITEM	QUANTITY
Azure Active Directory Premium P2	100
Microsoft 365 E3	3,800
Microsoft 365 F3	175
Office 365 E3	750
Office 365 E1	900
Office 365 F3 (formerly known as Office 365 F1)	200
Microsoft Defender for Office 365 (Plan 1)	5725
Microsoft Defender for Office 365 (Plan 2)	100
Power BI Pro	10
Project Plan 3	60
Project Plan 5	7
Visio Plan 2	70

3b. Program of Works

The program of work includes:

- Technical support with license provisioning
- Activation of licenses and handing over to Central Information Technology Office
- Issue resolution for the duration of the contract period (12 months)

3c. Schedule

The licenses are to be provisioned and activated no later than 30 June 2022.

- Copies of this Tender document can be downloaded from the Ministry of Finance Procurement Portal <https://procurement.gov.bz/> or from the CARICOM Public Procurement Notice Board <https://cppnb.caricom.org/epps/home.do>.
- Currency exchange rate for regional/international bidders is USD 1.00 to BZD 2.00.
- Eligibility Criteria:** This invitation is open to all eligible Tenderers as per the eligibility criteria below:
 - The Tenderer has an active membership in Microsoft Partner Network for Latin America and the Caribbean region and market (MPN ID)
 - The Tenderer must be an active Cloud Service Provider (CSP) that can sell CSP offers in Latin America and the Caribbean region and market
 - The Tenderer should provide evidence of experience deploying Microsoft 365 for business of a comparable size within the past three years.
 - Audited Financial Statements for the past 3 years.
 - Bid-Securing Declaration in the amount of BZD 10,000.00
 - The Tenderer has availability of liquid assets through either:
 - Access to line of credit of 30% of the bid price
 - Case in bank account of an amount at least 30% of the bid price
- All Tenders shall include the following additional documentation:
 - Business certificates
 - For local Tenderers:**
 - Copies of Certificates of Good Standing from:
 - Belize Tax Service
 - Belize Companies Registry
 - Belize Social Security Board
 - Copy of current Trade License
 - For regional/international**

Tenderers: Statement of compliance from Companies' Registry

- Evidence of past jobs including a copy of the contract or agreement with the client including a copy of the TOR.
 - Two references.
- The contract is subject to Income and Business Tax as per Government Policy as shown below:
 - 25% - for non-Caricom states
 - 15% - for Caricom member states
 - 6% - for companies in Belize.

- Price should be inclusive of General Sales Tax (GST) payment of 12.5%

10. Questions and Replies

Questions shall be type-written in English and shall be sent via email to the following address: MS365tenders2022@cito.gov.bz. The deadline for queries is 9 May 2022. Responses from the CITO will be type-written in English and will be emailed to the requester and may also be made available to other Tenderers subject to confidentiality.

- Submission Tenders** should be emailed to MS365tenders2022@cito.gov.bz with the subject TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY OF MICROSOFT 365 LICENSES FOR GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE.

The bid response should consist of two password protected files - one technical and one financial. The Technical file will be open first and evaluated.

Only the top 4 bidders that meet the technical merit will have their financial file opened.

To ensure the confidentiality of the submission, the files should be protected via a password. This can be done on the file itself, using zip password protection, or some other means of password protecting the file. The password will be requested at the opening of the tender.

- The deadline for Tender submission is 23 May 2022.** Submissions received after the deadline will be rejected.

13. Evaluation Criteria

Tenders will be evaluated on technical merit and price based on the following criteria:

Evaluation Criteria	Weight (%)
Financial Offer	50%
Technical proposal	50%
Direct technical support from Microsoft.	20%
Access to the portal for managing licenses with the flexibility to increase or decrease licenses throughout the term of the agreement (1-year) at the guaranteed price.	10%
Service delivery models for issue resolution, preferably with English-speaking technical support.	10%
Service delivery experience in provisioning and supporting Microsoft 365 for business comparable in the magnitude of this Tender	5%
Financial strength of company demonstrated over past three (3) years	5%
Total	100%

- Opening of the Tenders** will take place online on 23 May 2022 at 2 pm Belize Time and in the presence of the Tenderers or their representatives who wish to attend the Tender opening.
- Evaluation of the Tenders** will be conducted on 25 May 2022.
- The selection of the successful Tenderer will be based on a competitive process that considers Technical and Financial Proposals.
- Incomplete tenders will not be accepted.**

UDP calls out Police on Micah Goodin's 'detention'

By William Ysaguirre

"Justice must not only be done, but must be seen to be done." This fundamental principle of English common law on which the Laws of Belize are based, became UDP Freetown aspirant Orson "OJ" Elrington's argument, when he protested the way the Police handled Deputy Mayor Micah Goodin, after he was involved in a shooting incident outside a Belize City nightspot on Saturday morning, May 16.

The official report from Police Commissioner Chester Williams is that Goodin was detained for 36 hours, while the Police confiscated three licensed firearms of three men involved in the altercation. The Police investigation determined that an occupant of Goodin's vehicle, a Belize City Council employee Tarique James, 25, had discharged his weapon, and that a City traffic warden Kenyon Tillett had allegedly shot at Goodin's vehicle, injuring another occupant. Tae Medina, 20, was lucky to escape with a graze to his neck, as Tillett could not see at whom he was shooting.

Elrington, who was retained to represent Tillett after he was charged with aggravated assault and wounding, challenged the veracity of the official report. James was charged for discharging a firearm in public. Williams' account was "truth impaired" at best, as Goodin was out of the Police station within six hours of the incident, and his presence at the station could hardly be called "detention" since "he was in and out of the station," Elrington said.

UDP Chairman and former Attorney General Michael Peyrefitte said his interpretation of "detained" meant the suspect or person of interest was held in a lock-up cell, commonly known as "Pisshouse". But Goodin was never behind bars, and Goodin was free to come and go as he pleased. Peyrefitte said there is no evidence, no written record in the Police logbook by any officer, that Goodin was detained. Goodin also reportedly had the free use of his cellphone to make a number of calls, while a detained person would be limited to one phone call. Strange "detention" indeed. Elrington argued that if Goodin was free to come and go, then the same courtesy should also be extended to his client, to go home with Elrington's assurances as his attorney, that he would present himself before the magistrate on Monday.

Goodin has had previous encounters with the law before he became a politician, and both Elrington and Peyrefitte say the Police tiptoed around him, and certainly did not handle him as they would have if he were an ordinary citizen, who would most likely have spent the whole weekend in lockup.

The third firearm confiscated belonged to Goodin, and ComPol Williams did say he would recommend that all three gun holders' licenses be revoked, for to be in possession of a firearm while consuming alcohol is a violation of the terms of a firearms license. Peyrefitte said Goodin's possession of a firearm while he was out socializing at a nightclub, where he possibly might have consumed alcohol, ought to have been sufficient grounds for him to be arrested and criminally charged, and for him to be remanded to prison, until he might apply to the Supreme Court for bail. For this is the way the law would have been applied, if it were anyone else!

In Peyrefitte's view, the Police handled Goodin with "kid gloves", and these irregularities are the reasons for which Peyrefitte has called for the Commissioner of Police to be replaced, and for the Minister responsible for the Police, Hon. Kareem Musa to also resign.

He said the authorities are giving only lip-service to the law, and this attitude has percolated out into the wider community, leading others to feel they can break the law with impunity.



**VACANCY
BRANCH MANAGER**



Atlantic Bank Ltd. is pleased to invite applications for the position of Branch Manager. The post offers solid career opportunities in a well-established financial institution, in a growing, modern, and dynamic working environment.

Applicants should be self-motivated individuals who possess excellent team and leadership skills, integrity, and are open to innovation. If you are desirous of joining the team of Atlantic Bank Branch Managers, please submit your application and resume no later than May 27th, 2022 to:

**Chief Human Resources Officer
Human Resources Department
smorales@atlabank.com
Email subject: Branch Manager Application
Atlantic Bank Ltd.
Cor. Cleghorn Street / Freetown Road,
P.O. Box 481, Belize City, Belize**

Weh Wi Ga Fi Seh

Luk owt: Vairoos di nak bowt agen! Tek kayr.

Bam Brigidim Buf

bam brigidim buf *ono.* sound of someone falling or colliding, or sudden occurrence of something. (Each word can be used alone. The addition of 'buf' means that whatever has fallen cannot be stood up again.)

Di big man faal dong – bam brigidim buf!

The big man fell down - kaboom!

[<Afr. Twi: 'bam' sound of striking or falling; 'biram' suddenly; Kikoongo: 'bufa' to strike with a stick]

bamsideh *ono.* Expression meaning 'see what happened' or 'just like that'.

Bamsideh! Ih neva don til ih tomb! See! He kept on until he fell down!

Jos wen wi mi-di tink seh dat di koroanavairoos mi-di tel wi gudbai, **bam brigidim buf!** Disya koroanavairoos stil di nak bowt di plays. Tank gudnis dis omikron kain a di vairoos noh di geh evribadi soh soh sik laik wen di vairoos mi fos staat op. Ahn tank gudnis wi ga vakseen now fi help wi noh kech it soh soh bad. Bot wi stil hafu di lisn tu weh di Minischri a Helt di tel wi, sayka disya vairoos ga wahn way fi weel ahn ton agen. **Bamsideh!**

Bamsideh! Disya koroanavairoos di weel ahn ton agen!

Mi sista mi geh di koroanavairoos (COVID-19), bot tank gudnis shee oakay now. Ih mi feel lee brok op, doh.

brok op *adv.* aching.

Flooz lef mi di feel brok op. The flu left me aching all over. *See also: payni op.*

brok op *v.phr.* break severely, destroy, smash. **Mi sista brok op di miro tu peesiz.** My sister broke the mirror to pieces. *See: dischrai, kandem.*

Silvaana Udz, Ed.D. da fahn Bileez. If yu waahn tel shee bowt sohnting speshal fu put eena dis Kriol aatiki, eemayl: sudz142@gmail.com Vizit: www.nationalkriolcouncil.org

University of Belize



**CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
FOR RENOVATION OF DORMITORY,
CENTRAL FARM CAMPUS**

The University of Belize intends to renovate four single storied, low-cost cement/steel roof building with the following specifications:

- 5,900 square feet
- Includes bedrooms, bathrooms, common area, kitchen area.

The University of Belize now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the construction works in the aforementioned area.

Bidding will be conducted through a Competitive Bidding Process and is open to all eligible bidders in Belize.

Interested, eligible bidders may obtain further information from the University of Belize at the following address:

Mr. Francis Burns
Director of Physical Plant
University of Belize
Hummingbird Avenue | P.O. Box 340 | Belmopan, Cayo District
Tel: 822-3680
E-mail: fburns@ub.edu.bz

A complete set of Bidding Documents in English Language may be purchased by interested bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of BZ\$100.00. (One Hundred dollars). Payment should be deposited to:

Account Name: University of Belize
Bank Name: Belize Bank Ltd.
Account Number: 134789010120027

Deposit slip must be shown when receiving Bidding Documents.

Deadline for bids submission is June 10, 2022, 4:00 pm. at the University of Belize, Hummingbird Avenue, P.O. Box 340, Belmopan Cayo District. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. The bid validity period is 90 days.



Sealed bids in a hand delivered, manila envelope must be addressed to:

Office of the President,
Hummingbird Avenue
City of Belmopan, Belize
P.O. Box 340

Contact: drobinson@ub.edu.bz, 822-3680 ext 193

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BY JUNE 10, 2022



VACANCY NOTICE

OMBUDSMAN

Applications are invited from suitable qualified persons to fill the vacant position of **OMBUDSMAN**.

Under section 3 of the Ombudsman Act, Chapter 5 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, the Ombudsman is a Parliamentary Commissioner who is appointed by the Governor-General, acting on the recommendations of both Houses of the National Assembly contained in resolutions passed in that behalf. The Office of the Ombudsman is not deemed to be an office in the public service.

Functions

The main functions of the Ombudsman are the following: -

- To investigate complaints received from the public under the Ombudsman Act about the administrative acts and decisions of the Central Government departments (including the Belize Police Department), local authorities, and other public statutory bodies and State-owned enterprises, involving official corruption or other wrongdoing;
- To make recommendations to the competent authorities for appropriate action against the person (s) responsible, where there is evidence of a breach of duty, or misconduct or the commission of a criminal offence;
- To review the decisions of the authorities in accordance with Part V of the Freedom of Information Act, where access to a document has been refused by a Government Department, or other prescribed authority;
- To perform all other functions assigned to the Ombudsman under the Ombudsman Act or any other law.

Minimum Qualifications and Skills

The candidates should possess the following qualifications and skills:

- Bachelor's degree in law, business or public administration or other related discipline;
- Experience in complaint investigation and resolution in the public sector;
- Ability to deal with persons from a wide variety of backgrounds and to maintain an objective understating of different perspectives;
- Professional demeanour and impeccable credentials;
- A thorough knowledge of the Ombudsman Act of Belize and the procedure prescribed therein for the investigation of complaints;
- If possible, familiarity with the workings of Ombudsman in other jurisdictions.

The Ombudsman must be non-partisan and a person of integrity and high national standing.

Disqualifications

Under section 5 of the Ombudsman Act, no person is qualified for appointment as Ombudsman if he (a) is a member of the House of Representatives or the Senate; or (b) is a member of a local authority; or (c) is an undischarged bankrupt; or (d) has at any time been convicted of any offence involving dishonesty or moral turpitude.

Age Limit

Candidates should be between 30 and 62 years of age.

Salary

Subject to negotiation and subsequent confirmation by the National Assembly.

Deadline for applications

Interested persons in possession of the requisite qualifications and experience should submit their applications to the Clerk, National Assembly, Belmopan, no later than **31st May 2022**.



Providence SDA High School

San Antonio, Toledo

VACANCY



Qualified applicants are invited to apply for the following post:

Position: PRINCIPAL ----- Full Time

Qualification:

- Bachelor's Degree in Higher in the subject area.
- Valid Teacher's License (**Secondary Level**).
- Must have excellent Christian values consistent with the Seventh Day Adventist goals, objective, mission and vision.

Salary is base on qualifications and in accordance with the government pay scale.

Interested person is asked to submit a letter of application, copy of their social security card, police record, resumé, two recommendation letter, certified copies of transcripts and diplomas to the email address providencesda21@gmail.com or call 613-7585 for more information.

Deadline for application is Tuesday, May 24th, 2022

"A Journey To Excellence"

STATUTORY NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE ESTATE of HERMAN UNRAU WOLFE (a.k.a. Herman U. Wolfe), Deceased, of Center Road, Spanish Lookout, Cayo District, Belize.

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 36 of the Administration of Estates Act, Chapter 197 of the Laws of Belize that all creditors and other persons including beneficiaries and kin having any claims and demands upon or against the Estate of HERMAN UNRAU WOLFE (a.k.a. Herman U. Wolfe), late of Center Road, Spanish Lookout, Cayo District, Belize, who died on the 2nd day of February, 2020 and in whose estate a Grant of Probate has been granted to Jacob Hein and Norman Dueck, Executors named in the deceased's Will, to lodge any claims or demands in writing to Jacob Hein and Norman Dueck c/o Arguelles & Company, Attorneys-at-Law of Suite 401, The Matalon, Coney Drive, Belize City, Belize, on or before the expiration of three months from the first publication hereof AND NOTICE IS ALSO HEREBY GIVEN that at the expiration of the said three months the said Executors shall proceed to distribute the assets of the said HERMAN UNRAU WOLFE (a.k.a. Herman U. Wolfe), deceased, amongst the beneficiaries entitled thereto, having regard only to claims and demands of which they shall then have had notice.

DATED the 16th day of May, 2022

Arguelles & Company
Attorneys-at-Law for the
Executors of the Estate of
HERMAN UNRAU WOLFE
(a.k.a. Herman U. Wolfe)








JOIN A GREAT TEAM!

We are looking for a strategic and innovative leader with strong commercial acumen to join us as:

SENIOR MERCHANDISE MANAGER

● WHAT WILL YOU BE RESPONSIBLE FOR?

Contribute to the development of the merchandise strategy to ensure sustainable, profitable growth and reinforce our leadership position within the Belize market. The incumbent will partner with the Country Managing Director and Regional Merchandising to develop annual merchandise strategies and targets to deliver the company plans.

● REQUIRED SKILLS & EXPERIENCE

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum of a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management or related field. Minimum of five (5) years experience in a managerial role in a medium to large retail operation. Ability to determine appropriate commercial strategies, including product life cycle management to achieve sales and business targets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to manage product category by determining price points and margins to maximize market share, gross margin and stock productivity. Sales and budget forecasting. Working knowledge of supply chain management particularly demand planning, purchase order management and inventory control.
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● APPLY BY SENDING YOUR RESUME TO:
human_resources_bz@unicomer.com by June 7th, 2022

Follow us




@groupunicomer Unicomer Group
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PUBLIC AUCTION SALE

Belmopan Civic Center

BY ORDER of the **Embassy of the United States of America**,
Licensed and Certified Auctioneer, Sheldon N.C. Arnold will sell the
 following items at the Belmopan Civic Center, Belmopan, Cayo
 District on **Saturday, May 21, 2022**, at 9:00 am sharp.

2015 Toyota Prado	Outdoor Fans
Household Furniture	Trailer
Household Appliances	Shipping Containers
Outdoor Patio Furniture	Medical & Automotive Equipment
Office Furniture	Pop Up Tents
Office Supplies	Flat Screen Televisions
Printers, Shredder & Copy Machine	Hospitality Supplies
Computer Parts	Chain Link Fence
Outdoor Gym Equipment	Security Scanner Machine

[And other attractive items...]

Buyers must load onto their vehicles/transport by 4pm the same day of the sale.

All items will be available for viewing on Friday, May 20, 2022 between the hours of 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Belmopan Civic Center.

*****All interested bidders must be 18 years or older and will be required to register using a valid (picture) identification card on the day of the sale. Please note that all Rules and Agreements regarding this sale will be available for those viewing the Lots. Final viewing will be permitted one hour prior to the sale. *****

*****CUSTOM DUTIES AND TAXES MUST BE PAID*****

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH OR CERTIFIED CHEQUES

Sheldon N.C. Arnold
P.O. BOX 666, Belmopan
Cell # :624-5200 or 602-8308
Email: info@arnoldenterprise.com
Website: www.arnoldenterprise.com





THE BUSINESS PERSPECTIVE



The Trade License Regime: A 'tax' by any other name

“The mere fact that something is labelled a ‘fee for services’ does not necessarily preclude it from being a tax. In other words, an imposition that must be paid, whether or not the relevant services are acquired and that has no discernible relationship to the value of the services, is unlikely to escape characterisation as a tax. ... The High Court held that for a ‘charge’ to be considered a ‘fee for services’, it must be ‘exacted for particular identified services provided or rendered individually to, or at the request or direction of, the particular person required to make the payment’—Justice Michelle Gordon (2012).

The opening quote from Justice Gordon, writing in the Melbourne University Law Review, draws a distinction between a “fee” and a “tax.” Gordon articulated a commonly

held position among legal and financial minds: That a fee is charge “exacted for particular identified services provided or rendered individually to...the particular person required to make the payment.” There is a type of proportionality inherent in a “fee”—That is, you get exactly what you pay for.

A tax, on the other hand, is viewed more generally and for general-revenue purposes. Gordon (2012) phrases it this way: “An imposition that must be paid, whether or not the relevant services are acquired and that has no discernible relationship to the value of the

Statements of Financial Performance Years ended 31 March

	Notes	2019 \$	2018 \$
REVENUES			
Property taxation		9,070,918	8,299,693
Traffic related revenue		6,029,061	4,551,683
Trade license fees		5,438,994	5,093,322
User charges -Tourism		1,938,001	979,037
Liquor license fees		511,091	498,813
Rent and concessions		595,461	622,199
Donations & contributions		179,557	213,932
Other income		162,305	260,944
Building permits		136,671	110,367
Cemetery		76,581	71,878
Interest income		33,047	57,910
Funding from Government	13	1,606,140	2,922,420
TOTAL REVENUES		25,777,827	23,682,198

services, is unlikely to escape characterisation as a tax.”

Put simply, the weaker the linkage between the “charge” (regardless if is nominally called a ‘fee’) and the services rendered, the more likely it is we are dealing with a tax by design. This is especially true when the imposition is clearly for general-revenue purposes.

General Revenue Purposes

It is no secret that the Trade License Regime—a vestige of our colonial past—has become a significant (albeit disconcerting) source of “revenue” for the nine municipalities; namely, Belize City, Belmopan, Dangriga, Punta Gorda, San Pedro, Corozal Town, Orange Walk Town, San Ignacio/Santa Elena, and Benque Viejo.

For example, in Belize City, the Trade License “fee” (“TL fee”) generated \$4.3 million, a figure that accounts for roughly 18% of the council’s total recurrent revenues (Belize Council’s Financial Report, 2020). A year early—in pre-COVID times—CitCo’s audited financials for 2019 placed the “fee” at \$5.4 million, which represented 21% of the council’s total recurrent revenue for that year.

It might surprise a few, but the TL fee far outstrips even the contribution from liquor licensing fees (plural given the different types of liquor licenses). In 2019, CitCo’s financials informs that liquor licenses generated just above \$500,000, or only about 2% of total recurrent revenue. That is, however, to be expected considering how and on whom the Trade Licensing regime is applied.

Under the current law, the TL fee is charged as a percent (25% by law) of a business’s annual (rental) value (ARV). Consequently, if a business has an ARV of \$30,000, the strict application of the Trade Licensing Act—as it currently stands—would imply a “fee” of \$7500. For a business with an ARV of \$50,000 the charge would be \$12,500.

Property-Tax by Design

Now, you may be sitting there reading this article and asking yourself: “But doesn’t a charge based on annual rental value sound awfully similar to a property-tax valuation methodology?” The short answer to your question would be a resounding “Yes!” Look up “Annual Rental Value” online and you are likely to find statements like this one:

“Annual rental value based property tax systems tend to be originally based on the British rating system and are most commonly found in the former
(Con’td on pg. 18)



MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING



INVITATION TO QUOTE

PROCUREMENT OF LUBRICANTS

The Government of Belize via the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing (MIDH) intends to procure various types of Lubricants necessary for maintenance of its equipment fleet stationed in all six districts.

The MIDH now invites sealed quotations from eligible and qualified suppliers for the supply of the following item: **Lubricants**. Bidding will be conducted through **National Competitive Bidding Procedures (Shopping Procedures)**.

Interested eligible suppliers may obtain the full **Invitation to Quote** for the required types of **Lubricants** as of **Monday May 13th, 2022** from the MIDH’s Offices located at **#1 Power Lane, Belmopan** from **Monday through to Friday 8.00 AM – 5.00 PM**.

Quotation must utilize forms provided in the invitation to quote. One (1) Original and two (2) copies are to be submitted in sealed labelled envelopes to the address indicated below.

Quotations by email WILL NOT be accepted.

Offers will be submitted on the Quote Submission Sheet including a description of specifications offered, Price Schedule for Goods and Related Services. These templates are annexed in the full Invitation to Quote. All documents must be completed without any alterations in format, and no substitutes shall be accepted. All blank spaces shall be filled in with the information requested. Suppliers are informed that they can only quote for the type of **Lubricants** specified, and quote for all items in this Invitation. Price quotations will be evaluated for all the items. Price quotations should be inclusive of **12.5% General Sales Tax**.

The Purchaser shall award the Contract to the Supplier who complies substantially with the technical specifications and other requirements in these documents and submitted the lowest evaluated price.

All sealed Quotes must be delivered to the address below by **2.00 PM local time on May 30th, 2022** and they will be opened on the same day at **2.15 P.M.**, at the address below.

Late bids will be rejected.

1. **Victor Espat**
Chief Executive Officer
Ministry of Infrastructure
Development & Housing
#1 Power Lane
Belmopan, Belize
Tel: 501-822-2136/39
Fax: 501-822-3282
E-mail: ceo.secretary@mow.gov.bz

2. **Lennox Bradley**
Chief Engineer
Ministry of Infrastructure
Development & Housing
#1 Power Lane
Belmopan, Belize
Tel: 501-822-2136/39
Fax: 501-822-3282
E-mail: chief.engineer@mow.gov.bz



THE BUSINESS PERSPECTIVE



The Trade License Regime: A 'tax' by any other name

(Con'td from pg. 17)

British colonies.”

At this point, you may ask another naturally following question: “But wait! Don't the municipalities already have revenues flowing from property taxes?” At this point, you'd be on a roll, because you would be right, yet again! Keeping with the Belize City Council's financials, the 2019 report shows that property taxation provided close to \$9.1 million (or 35% of CitCo's total revenues). This property tax, however, is based on Market Value (i.e. how much the property could be sold for) as opposed to ARV (how much it could reasonably be rented for).

International Best Practices for Fees

Having briefly summarized that status quo, it becomes useful to outline a few of the international best practices as far as “fees” are concerned.

First, international best practices have repeatedly advised that licensing fees—if we accept that any should be instituted at all—should be only sufficient to cover administrative costs. More precisely, benchmark calls for such charges to be flat fees, and thus, ought not to serve as a means of generating revenues for (local) government.

Second, business activity produces net-positive social benefits, and as such ought not to be subjected to a duty just in order “to establish and operate.” The duty or fee, therefore, should be for a legitimate public-interest purpose such as public safety and health. For this reason, one could comprehend the role of liquor licensing regime.

It is worth noting that the liquor licensing regime, as instituted under the Intoxicating Liquor Licensing Act's section 3, actually operates more appropriately as an actual fee system. For instance, the law sets a fee of \$750 for the “restaurant (liquor) license” for any restaurant operating in urban areas. If you are a restaurant with a single bar—regardless of the size of the physical location—the fee (under the Act) is set. For a nightclub, the liquor license is \$3,000. Both examples are more consistent with international best practice.

That said, here's an intriguing side-bar observation. In many instances, the flat-fee design of the liquor licensing regime makes obtaining a license to sell alcohol cheaper than the license to simply start at business. In Belize City, for instance, the average for the TL fee is about \$1,900, and it ranges from as low as \$25 to as high as more than \$100,000. There are close to 300 companies in Belize City that pay a TL “fee” of more

than \$3,000—that is, more than the nightclub (liquor) license fee.

That “side bar” observation (pun intended) raises some interesting policy questions. Alcohol is largely recognized for its harmful societal impacts. On the other hand, non-liquor-related business activity (e.g. Business Processing Outsourcing centers, law firms, convenience stores, gyms, food vendors, bakeries, and so on) are SUPPOSEDLY welcome additions to communities. If the latter is true, then one—from a public-policy vantage point—would have to rationalize and justify how it is possible have TL fees higher than a nightclub (liquor) license, for instance. This inadvertently sends mixed signals. Or better yet, it inadvertently sends the wrong signal: That non-alcohol-oriented business

activity is less desired than liquor sales.

Conclusion

In this Business Perspective Column, we opted to layout the general backdrop for this ongoing Trade Licensing discussion. In the second part of this piece which will be published next week, we will—with this background in mind—lay out the Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry's position as it pertains to the proposed amendments to the regime.

Disclaimer: the opinions expressed by our columnists are theirs alone, and are not necessarily reflective of the newspaper's stance on the issues touched. We believe it is critical that our columnists be allowed freedom to generate discussion through their expressions on any number of topics.



MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING



INVITATION TO BID

HOTMIX PAVING OF A 4000 L.F x 23 L.F SECTION OF SAN ESTEVAN VILLAGE ROAD, SAN ESTEVAN VILLAGE, ORANGE WALK DISTRICT

The Government of Belize via the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing (MIDH) intends to pave with Hotmix section of a 4000 linear feet of San Estevan Village Road, in San Estevan Village, Orange Walk District.

The Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing now invites sealed bids from suitably qualified and experienced contractors for Hotmix Paving of the above-mentioned section of road in San Estevan Village, Orange Walk District.

The scope of works will involve rehabilitating a total of 4000 linear ft (12000 square yards) of Roadway with Hotmix paving (HMA) and will include the following:

1. Clean main road of all vegetation and deleterious materials and dispose of spoil within a 2 miles radius of project site.
2. Clean open channels / drains – 9000 linear feet and dispose of spoil within a 2 miles radius of project site.
3. Drainage improvement works (Provisional item)
4. Scarify, shape and compact road surface (12,000 S.Y) as per crossfall on drawings.
5. Supply, transport, place and compact 6 inches of crushed All-In as per specifications.
6. Supply all equipment, materials and labour to apply 40 mm of approved Hotmix Asphalt covering a total street surface area of 12,000 S.Y.
7. Construction of Side Walks – 1000 L.F (Provisional Item)

Bidders who are interested must have the necessary equipment and technical expertise and experience to complete the works in accordance with the Bidding Documents.

Bidding will be conducted through national competitive bidding procedures and interested bidders may obtain further information and a copy of the bidding documents at the offices of MIDH at the address below as of **Monday May 13th, 2022** during normal office hours **Monday through Fridays from 8.00 A.M – 12.00 Noon and from 1.00 PM – 4.00 PM.**

Bidding documents are free of charge and may be picked up by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below. All bids must be delivered to the address below by **10.00 AM local time on May 30th, 2022** and they will be opened on the same day at **10.15 A.M.**, at the address below. Late bids will be rejected. A bid security of **\$10,000.00** must be submitted and delivered to the address below at the same time of the bid submission.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1. Victor Espat
Chief Executive Officer
Ministry of Infrastructure
Development & Housing
#1 Power Lane
Belmopan, Belize
Tel: 501-822-2136/39
Fax: 501-822-3282
E-mail: ceo.secretary@mow.gov.bz</p> | <p>2. Lennox Bradley
Chief Engineer
Ministry of Infrastructure
Development & Housing
#1 Power Lane
Belmopan, Belize
Tel: 501-822-2136/39
Fax: 501-822-3282
E-mail: chief.engineer@mow.gov.bz</p> |
|---|--|

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The Reporter
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All about The People It's Not a Toy



Neri Briceno

Cultural norms dictate a lot about a people and the nation that they build. Globally, probably the greatest influencer of neighborhoods, communities, people, and nations in the west. In other words, western culture and no more so than the United States. Love them, hate them,

or are indifferent towards them, but on the cultural scale, the Americans lead and set trends. There is probably not a single nation on this place we call Earth that has not been touched by western culture. Be it food, clothing, music, art, writings, culture, speech, governance, education, medicine, or religion - most countries have sold or given up a part of their identity to adapt or at least use a small portion of that western way of life.

In some cases, the move has been rather progressive and in other cases, plain disastrous. Switching from one's cultural norms, practices, attitudes,

beliefs, motivations, and actions are not always as adaptable as one may think. Because cultural norms and behaviors have sometimes taken centuries to adapt and hold, moving away from them sometimes is like traversing troubled oceans.

I grew up in southern

all accounts, lightyears away from Belize City, which was and still is the most cosmopolitan urban area in the country. The city was the part with the most urban setting, and what basically represented the pinnacle of western culture in the nation. It took one full day to get

Belize does not have a gun problem, it has a clash of culture problem fueled by societal ills that keep the bullets flying.

Belize in the 1970s and for most of us during that time, farming was a natural way of life. The south was impoverished, extremely rural and by

from the south to the city and during the rainy season, it could take several days or even weeks.

By the 1970s

transportation by sea up north ceased to exist and the movement of goods and food was done exclusively by trucks. The unrelenting monsoon-like rain of the south coupled with gravel roads and wooden bridges did not help the southern trucking industry and many times southern stores had to ration basic food items.

Farming and fishing essentially became the means of survival. With that came the survival kits made of wooden dorys, sails, fishing lines, stone anchors, Patakis, machetes, mattocks, forks, and good ole shotguns.

The use of the shotgun was never intended for offense or defense, but rather to supplement our protein intake with game meat, especially when the stores started to run out of the basic necessities due to road and weather conditions.

Without this useful tool, many families would have gone without meat for weeks or even months. A well-oiled and cleaned shotgun was the norm in many households. After returning from the farm, it was carefully tucked away, only to resurface again when heading back to the farm or on a hunting expedition.

By age 8 or 9, I learned its basic function and use. This was commonplace with most families that had one. Firearms were never a novelty to me and regardless of all the western Indian and cowboy movies that we feasted on, it never occurred to us to pull them out and use them for anything other than their tool-like purpose.

I first saw a handgun, well actually a Smith & Wesson revolver, around age 10. It was given to my neighbor by a pilot who made regular trips to rural southern Belize on marijuana runs. Teenaged boys were sometimes recruited to load planes and could be paid either in cash, weed, small firearms, or a combination thereof.

At heart was the arrival of the western drug trade, something that was relatively foreign to Belize and even more so to southern Belize. The clash of cultures was at

a critical starting point, and the rest is history.

The United States was built on violence, war, and revolution in more ways than one and firearms have always been a part of that equation.

Small arms are nothing strange to the American lifestyle and personally, I see nothing wrong with that. As a matter of fact, I am a huge proponent of the United States' second amendment which guarantees the right of citizens to bear firearms. For the Americans, this has worked and is normal because they come from a history of ingrained gun culture.


Belize does not. Belize is at that stage where the clash of cultures plus the introduction of something that is seen more as a fashion statement rather than something to respect, has exploded into bloodbath, carnage, and destruction. It has paralyzed a nation and rendered the idea of security powerless.

Everyone now seems to have licensed legal firearms and power influences and political connections seem to play a huge part in who can get and those that cannot get one. For the unfortunate masses who either cannot afford to get one or have the influence, the illegal market is as stocked as the legal market.


We have put legal firearms in the hands of young, immature boys who have neither the necessary weaponry knowledge, experience, training, attitude, nor the temperament to be legal firearm holders. Belize does not have a gun problem, it has a clash of culture problem fueled by societal ills that keep the bullets flying.

It's all about the people!

Disclaimer: the opinions expressed by our columnists are theirs alone, and are not necessarily reflective of the newspaper's stance on the issues touched. We believe it is critical that our columnists be allowed freedom to generate discussion through their expressions on any number of topics.



**MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT
AND HOUSING**



INVITATION TO QUOTE

PROCUREMENT OF DUMP TRUCKS AND A 15 SEATER VAN

The Government of Belize via the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing (MIDH) intends to procure **ten (10) Dump Trucks and One (1) 15 Seater Van to facilitate Ministry to undertake maintenance of the Public Road Network.**

The MIDH now invites sealed quotations from eligible and qualified Suppliers for the supply of the following item:

Ten (10) Dump Trucks - 15 cubic Yards and One (1) 15 Seater Van.

Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedures (Shopping Procedures).

Interested eligible suppliers may obtain the full Invitation to **Quote for the Ten (10) Dump Trucks and One (1) 15 Seater Van** as of **Monday May 13th, 2022** from the MIDH's Offices located at **#1 Power Lane, Belmopan from Monday through to Friday 8.00 AM – 5.00 PM.**

Quotations must utilize forms provided in the Invitation to Quote. One (1) Original and two (2) copies are to be submitted in sealed labelled envelopes to the address indicated below. Quotations by email **WILL NOT** be accepted.

Offers will be submitted on the Quote Submission Sheet including a description of specifications offered, Price Schedule for Goods and Related Services. These templates are annexed in the full Invitation to Quote. All documents must be completed without any alterations in format, and no substitutes shall be accepted. All blank spaces shall be filled in with the information requested. Suppliers are informed that they can only quote for the type of **equipment** specified, and quote for all items in this Invitation. Price quotations will be evaluated for all the items. Price quotations should be exclusive of both **Import Duty and 12.5% General Sales Tax.**

The Purchaser shall award the Contract to the Supplier who complies substantially with the technical specifications and other requirements in these documents and submitted the lowest evaluated price.

All sealed Quotes must be delivered to the address below by **11.00 AM local time on May 30th, 2022** and they will be opened on the same day at **11.15 A.M.**, at the address below.

Late bids will be rejected.

<p>1. Victor Espat Chief Executive Officer Ministry of Infrastructure Development & Housing #1 Power Lane Belmopan, Belize Tel: 501-822-2136/39 Fax: 501-822-3282 E-mail: ceo.secretary@mow.gov.bz</p>	<p>2. Lennox Bradley Chief Engineer Ministry of Infrastructure Development & Housing #1 Power Lane Belmopan, Belize Tel: 501-822-2136/39 Fax: 501-822-3282 E-mail: chief.engineer@mow.gov.bz</p>
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RF&G LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY LTD.

Date: May 17, 2022

Mary Mendez for Hipolito Mendez of *Calcutta Village, Corozal District, Belize C.A.* having made written declaration that Policy LTA0000365 under RF&G Life Insurance Company Ltd has been lost and having made request to the Company for a duplicate of the Policy, notice is hereby given that unless objection is raised within one month of the date herein, the requested duplicate policy will be issued.

RF&G LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY LTD.

Date: May 17, 2022

Rogel Aguilar of #259 *Starfish Crescent, Belama Phase 1, Belize City, Belize District, Belize C.A.* having made written declaration that Policy G7505816 under RF&G Life Insurance Company Ltd has been lost and having made request to the Company for a duplicate of the Policy, notice is hereby given that unless objection is raised within one month of the date herein, the requested duplicate policy will be issued.

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

“Notice is hereby given to all interested parties that the below company has been dissolved and struck off the International Business Companies Register.

<u>Company Name</u>	<u>Date of Dissolution</u>
PL Belize Ltd.	17th May 2022

Frontier International Business Services Limited
Registered Agent

NOTICE OF COMMENCED DISSOLUTION**Baboon International Corporation**
 (“the Company”)

“Notice is hereby given to all interested parties that Baboon International Corporation a Company incorporated under the IBC Act of Belize commenced dissolution on 17th May 2022.

And

Mr. Jaufre Rouanet, of Office 610, Opal Tower, Business Bay, Dubai- United Arab Emirates, P.O. Box 416634 Dubai is the liquidator of the company.

Frontier International Business Services Limited
Registered Agent



PUBLIC SERVICE UNION OF BELIZE
VACANCY
CLERICAL ASSISTANT

Vacant Post: Clerical Assistant
Location: Belmopan
Working Hours: Mondays to Thursday 8AM-12PM & 1PM-5PM and Fridays 8AM-12PM & 1PM-4:30PM

1. **PURPOSE OF POSITION:** We are looking for a detail-oriented individual to join our team as a **Clerical Assistant**. The individual will perform a variety of noncomplex, general clerical, typing, data entering and/or office support duties.

2. **ANALYSIS OF POSITION**I. **Essential Duties and Responsibilities:**

1. Answer and direct calls, taking messages, and making phone calls.
2. Check and compare data for accuracy and completeness.
3. Complete data entry and prepare reports in Excel.
4. Complete assignments and projects according to instructions from supervisors.
5. Enter data into computer system.
6. Gather specified information and compile routine reports.
7. Maintain inventory on office supplies.
8. Reconcile monthly membership, rebates, insurance & loans monthly
9. Sort, file and maintain alphabetical, numerical, and subject filing systems.
10. Type forms, correspondence, memos, and other materials.
11. Use office equipment to check emails, make copies, and update computer database.
12. Work with other team members/departments to carry out projects
13. Perform related job duties as required.
14. Hold over other desks when officer is out.
15. Any other related duties from time to time

II. **Requirements:****Qualifications/Experience**

1. Associate's Degree in Business or Accounting or relevant field
2. Advanced level knowledge & use of Quickbooks
3. Advanced level knowledge & use of Microsoft Office, especially Word, Excel, Powerpoint & Access
4. Advanced level knowledge & use of Google Workspace, Google Docs, Sheets, Drive, Forms etc
5. A minimum of 1 year office experience, including administrative and data entry preferred. Completion of an administrative course may be advantageous.

Skills/Competencies

1. Ability to follow processes and procedures, but conscientious about improving and creating more efficient and effective workflows
2. Ability to stay focused while doing repetitive tasks
3. Ability to work remotely with reliable internet access
4. Comfortable working with spreadsheets and workflow software
5. Competency with computers, physical and digital filing systems, and typing.
6. Excellent project management and organizational skills
7. Professionalism, discretion, and the ability to work with minimal supervision
8. Strong written and verbal communication skills
9. Other skills include Creativity, Critical thinking, Dependability, adaptability, Attention to detail, Resourcefulness, teamwork, flexibility, Good problem- solving skills, great computer skills, initiative, interpersonal, and math skills, Time-management skills

3. **REPORTING RESPONSIBILITY**

The Clerical Assistant reports to the Secretary General & the President.

4. **SALARY** - \$14,400.00 per annum

Deadline: Wednesday, June 1st, 2022

Kindly send application letter, resume and two (2) recent letters of reference to info@psubelize.org addressed to:

Mr. Dean Flowers
President
Public Service Union of Belize
South End, Governor General's Field
City of Belmopan, Cayo District



PUBLIC SERVICE UNION OF BELIZE
VACANCY
INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS OFFICER

Vacant Post: Industrial Relations Officer
Location: Belmopan
Working Hours: Mondays to Thursday 8AM-12PM & 1PM-5PM and Fridays 8AM-12PM & 1PM-4:30PM

1. **PURPOSE OF POSITION:** We are looking for a motivated individual to join our team as an **Industrial Relations Officer**. The individual will assist the union and its members in the coordination of all issues relating to Industrial Relations.

2. **ANALYSIS OF POSITION**I. **Essential Duties and Responsibilities:**

1. Attend Grievance Committee meetings, collective bargaining negotiation meetings and any other meeting on the request of the Council of Management.
2. Collaborate with the Union's Public Service Commission Member
3. Conduct training sessions on grievance handling among other things.
4. Consult with the Research Committee and provide advice to the Council of Management on legislation and regulations that can have adverse effects on members.
5. Drafting of collective bargaining agreements, negotiating and amending the collective bargaining agreement after each negotiation meeting.
6. Prepare a monthly report on grievances for submission to Council of Management.
7. Prepare a weekly itinerary of activities to be undertaken for each subsequent week.
8. Prepare an annual report on grievances for submission to General Membership.
9. Prepare information bulletins for circulation to members
10. Prepare an article for the Vanguard newsletter as required.
11. Receive and investigate all grievances from union members in all branches in consultation with the Branch Chairpersons.
12. Review and make recommendations on the grievance system and provide advice on industrial relations matters to enhance the overall efficiency of the grievance machinery.
13. Any other related duties from time to time

II. **Requirements:****Qualifications/Experience**

1. Bachelor's Degree in Human Resource Management (HRM), Public Sector Management, Industrial and Labour Relations or equivalent qualification and training;
2. Five (5) years' experience in an HRM/IR capacity;
3. Advanced level knowledge & use of Microsoft Office, especially Word, Excel, Powerpoint & Access
4. Knowledge of acts, regulations, procedures and policies governing the public service
5. Knowledge of preparing Case files and working knowledge of dispute resolution, arbitration and mediation would be an asset
6. Specialized training in industrial relations would be an asset.

Skills/Competencies

1. Ability to conduct investigations and produce reports accordingly
2. Ability to interpret & document information
3. Computer Literate in Microsoft Office Suite including Word, Excel, PowerPoint;
4. Research, Critical and Analytical skills
5. Demonstrate the ability to work independently
6. Excellent conflict management & interpersonal skills;
7. Excellent written and oral communication skills;
8. Good knowledge of Labour Laws and Industrial Relations practices;
9. Good time management, planning and organizing skills;
10. In depth knowledge of employment legislations
11. Prior experienced in employee relations or industrial relations
12. Professionalism, discretion, and the ability to work with minimal supervision
13. Proper command of the English Language
14. Strong problem solving, negotiation & influencing skills
15. Team Building Skills

3. **REPORTING RESPONSIBILITY**

The Industrial Relations Officer reports to the Secretary General & the President.

4. **SALARY** - \$33,400.00 per annum

Deadline: Wednesday, June 1st, 2022

Kindly send application letter, resume and two (2) recent letters of reference to info@psubelize.org addressed to:

Mr. Dean Flowers
President
Public Service Union of Belize
South End, Governor General's Field
City of Belmopan, Cayo District

**JL'S QUICK LOAN LTD., QUICK CASH CARD LTD.
AND
CREDIT MASTER SYSTEMS LTD.**

**WOULD LIKE TO INFORM THE PUBLIC THAT
STARTING MAY 23rd, 2022**

NEW OPENING HOURS

**MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY AND FRIDAY
8:00 AM TO 5:00 PM**

**WEDNESDAYS & SATURDAYS
8:00 AM TO 1:00 PM**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATRONAGE THROUGH THE YEARS!

VACANCY  **NOTICE**
Electro Mechanic

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

Reports to: Technical Manager

Summary of Responsibilities: Electro mechanical technicians are competent in combining mechanical technology with knowledge of electrical and electronic circuits. It includes applying the principles and theories of electronics to the mechanical systems. They utilize their knowledge to devise, test, maintain and repair the any and all electro-mechanical component and machines. The main purpose of the role is to undertake maintenance, repairs and installation to upgrade, maintain and commission mechanical and electrical installations for all Port of Belize equipment and auxiliary systems within the compound..

Job Responsibilities:

- Maintains releases and assists in developing electrical/mechanical drawings, systems designs or engineering documentation and data, by applying Company, Industry and governmental standards.
- Read blueprints, schematics, and diagrams to determine the method and sequence of assembly of a part, machine, or piece of equipment.
- Perform corrective, preventative and predictive maintenance on all equipment in regards to both electrical and mechanical.
- Independently performs set up and testing of digital and power electronics hardware.
- Responsible for troubleshooting and documenting test failures.
- Using design tools and prepares documentation and incorporates basic design changes.
- Creates, develops and maintains elementary systems designs.
- Supports engineering system design and functionality validation activities.
- Troubleshoot, maintain and install Mechanical, Electrical (PLC's), Pneumatic, and Hydraulic systems to provide maximum percentage of uptime possible.
- Supports the development and maintenance of moderately-complex product installation designs and part designs.
- Ensuring all maintenance and installation work is carried out cost effectively, safely and to the highest standard.
- Diagnosing, overseeing and rectifying electrical, electronic and mechanical faults on the port's container handling equipment as well as maintaining the crane lift assemblies, including routine inspection and testing on boat systems.
- Diagnosing, rectifying and repairing faults on the control and instrumentation and utility equipment including electrical control and distribution systems up to and including 440 volts on the port's compound, and handling equipment such as Container Stackers, Tractors, and other equipment within the Port compound include non-lifting light motor vehicles and boats.
- Ensuring compliance to all policies, procedures, standard operating practices with recommendations for action and continuous improvements.
- Maintaining the mobile elevating work platforms and other associated personnel carrying apparatus such as forklifts and man lifts.
- Any other duties that may be assigned from time to time

Job Qualifications/Requirement:

- Associates' degree in Electronics or Post -Secondary Technical Degree with over 5 years of experience in Electrical and Mechanical Marine and Heavy Equipment Repairs.
- Being prepared to undertake sufficient training to ensure familiarization with all equipment in service.
- Working Knowledge of Boats would be an asset.
- Having working knowledge of Control Systems, electronics and electrical systems.
- Intermediate Level knowledge of AutoCAD Studio.
- Computer literate and Intermediate Level Knowledge of Microsoft Office Systems.
- Self-starter, strong problem-solving, decision making and interpersonal skills. A high degree of diplomacy and tact is required to deal with depart heads, telephone requests and operators/office personnel in a pressure environment.
- High sense of responsibility, persistence and confidentiality with strong planning and organizing skills. Discretion in dealing with sensitive matters is of utmost importance and must be able to anticipate unusual situations and project solutions.
- Be able to operate under deadlines, and utilize personal initiative.
- Strong oral and written communication skills.

Required Skills, Knowledge and Characteristics: To be selected applicants must possess the following important characteristics:

- **Mechanical** — Knowledge of machines and tools, including their designs, uses, repair, and maintenance.
- **Computers and Electronics** — Knowledge of circuit boards, processors, chips, electronic equipment, and computer hardware and software, including applications and programming.
- **Engineering and Technology** — Knowledge of the practical application of engineering science and technology. This includes applying principles, techniques, procedures, and equipment to the design and production of various goods and services.
- **English Language** — Strong oral and written skills.

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

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

Email to:

jobapplications@portofbelize.com

Closing date for receipt of applications is Friday, May 27, 2022.

Belize Enters 4th COVID Wave, as New Variant Detected in the Country

By Michelle Sutherland

After months of relative calm, which saw the Ministry of Health and Wellness is once more on the alert, following the detection of the Omicron BA.2, which is expected to lunge Belize into its 4th Covid-19 wave.

The announcement was made on Thursday by the Ministry which informed the public via a press release that a recent batch of genome-sequencing of positive COVID-19 swabs, which was done by the Central Medical Lab confirmed that the predominant variant circulating in the country is the Omicron BA.2 which is up to 50% more transmissible than its original Omicron lineage.

According to Dr. Melissa Diaz Musa, of the Central Health Region, who spoke to the media via Zoom on Thursday, approximately 93% of those samples tested positive for the BA.2 variant while the remainder were the BA.1 Variant. Like the previous waves, Diaz said that the Belize District is currently experiencing the highest rate of infections, followed by the Cayo District.

This prompted health officials to focus their attention on these areas. This includes reopening testing sites, dispatching teams into the various areas, and going out to the various businesses to conduct swabbing in an effort to detect and isolate positive cases as soon as possible.

The Ministry further noted that the consecutive increase in daily positivity rate, which was 7.05 % on Monday, 10.1% on Tuesday, and 8.33% on Wednesday, had already alerted them that something was amiss. The Ministry said that the detection by the Central Medical Lab now officially confirms that "Belize is currently experiencing another wave of COVID-19," and they are once more calling on the public to work together as a community to control this latest outbreak.

According to Dr. Diaz's breakdown, that shift in the infection was first noted around May 6th, and around May 11th when it continued to increase, health officials had already suspected that a new variant was circulating. Diaz noted that because the BA.2 is a subvariant of the Omicron (BA.1), apart from being more transmissible there are minimal changes in symptoms, which still focuses on the upper respiratory tract. She said that persons are going into the health facilities complaining of sore throat, headache, fever, congestion, joint pains, and fatigue. A smaller percentage is complaining of pneumonia that requires hospitalization.

Diaz reiterated that while the situation remains fluid, at this point the Ministry will not be considering making any recommendations to the Government for the reinstatement of the health measures. "At this point, I think we will continue to reiterate personal responsibility, for ourselves and our families. We are asking persons to use their masks indoors and in public and to avoid crowds." The Ministry, however, according to Diaz will continue to do monitoring and meetings and only when various factors such as the positivity rate and hospitalization rate reach a certain point then the Ministry will consider making those recommendations if needed.

While they are not being legally restricted from holding events, Promoters are also being asked to consider the well-being of the public, and host their events in open spaces, with a limited amount of attendees, so that social distancing is possible.

The MoHW has now moved to increase its surveillance measures in businesses and other public places in order to identify and isolate positive cases early. They are asking that persons who have been in close contact with a positive case or persons who have any flu-like symptoms visit a health facility or testing site for swabbing.

Furthermore, they are also encouraging the public to once more follow the public health measures that were in place prior such as social distancing, avoiding large crowds, sanitizing and washing hands often, and wearing face masks when outdoors. Something which they say has proven to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the past. COVID-19 vaccines and boosters are also being recommended.



FUN FACTS!

If Eggs Could Talk



Eggs really are all that they're cracked up to be. They're a breakfast mainstay, baking essential, and snack staple. But despite

their widespread popularity, you may not be as familiar with the lesser-known facts about eggs. Between uncovering

why American eggs have to be refrigerated while other countries' ovules aren't and the reason why brown eggs are more expensive than white, you'll be blown away by these eggciting tidbits of info.

The yolk and the whites have the same amount of protein.

This fact certainly surprised us! Both the egg white and egg yolk contain 3 grams of protein each. So while we traditionally associate egg whites with protein, they don't really have an advantage over their yellow counterpart. The main difference, however, is in the calories. While a single yolk contains 3 grams of protein for 60 calories, a single egg white provides you with 3 grams of protein for just 15 calories. So, leaving out the yolk means you can get an equal amount of protein for fewer calories.

All eggs are hormone-free.

Even though many cartons promote that their eggs are free of hormones, this claim is nothing special. It's like saying that water is wet. That's because the FDA banned the use of hormones in all poultry production back in the 1950s. Therefore, no chicken eggs will ever contain hormones.

Egg shell color doesn't indicate nutritional advantages.

Blue, green, and brown eggs all look more unique and interesting than white eggs, but just because white eggs are lacking in color doesn't mean they're lacking in nutrition. The differences in eggshell color is solely due to genetics. Therefore, if a blue egg-laying chicken is raised under the same conditions as a white egg-laying chicken, there will be no difference in nutrition or taste between the different colored eggs.

Egg yolk color, on the other hand, does indicate nutritional differences.

Fried egg sunny side up egg yolk

Egg yolks will range in color—from pale yellow to deep orange to even a bright red—based on a hen's diet. Because free-range hens often eat more pigmented, nutritious foods that range from insects to grasses, eggs from these chickens often have richer-colored yolks. On the other hand, conventional, grain-fed chickens will produce lighter yellow yolks. As for those red yolks we mentioned? One chef—Dan Barber, executive chef of New York-based Blue Hill restaurants—worked with Cornell University researchers to develop a feed blend high in red peppers that allowed hens to produce strawberry-colored yolks.



Most Expensive Structure!

The most expensive structure in the world isn't actually on the planet, it circles it every 90 minutes. The International Space Station was built on Earth, but assembled in space at a cost of over 100 billion dollars.



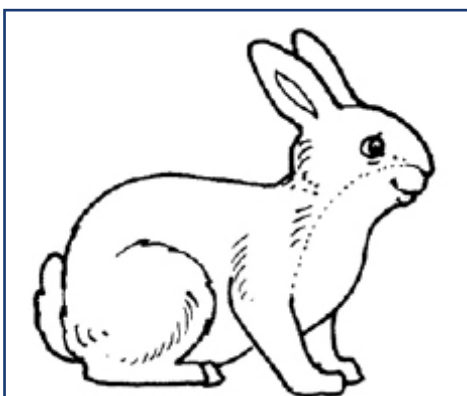
Universal Atoms!

Half the atoms in our galaxy— including the atoms in your body – likely came from outside the Milky Way. Basically, according to research, parts of you came from across the universe.



COLOR ME

Rabbits communicate using a secret code. Well, it's not actually a secret code, but you could be forgiven for thinking it is because their body movements are so subtle. Bunnies clench their facial muscles and change their body position when they are feeling worried; signs you wouldn't notice if you weren't looking out for them. This is one of the main reasons why they're so often misunderstood, particularly by children.



These masters of hearing can turn their ears 180 degrees. Wow. And that impressive rotation can pinpoint the exact location of a sound.

Pet bunnies may come in domesticated colours and breeds, but their perspective on the world remains ever so close to that of their wild relatives. Because they are a prey species, life is all about survival and they are in a constant state of alert. This explains why many rabbits don't like being

picked up and may nip if you try – your hands are not too dissimilar to a bird of prey swooping down to catch them.

Baby rabbits are called 'kittens'

A single bunny is a lonely bunny. Rabbits are social creatures and are happiest in the company of their own species. The best combination is a neutered male and neutered female. They can become extremely sad and depressed if kept on their own.



Vacancy exists at Mopan Technical High School for the following teaching post to commence duties on 1st September, 2022:

Position:

- 1. One Part-Time Agriculture Science Teacher (1st September – 30th November, 2022)

Qualifications:

- Minimum is a Bachelors Degree in Education in subject area. Associates Degree will be considered.
- Full Teacher's License
- Prior teaching experience would be an asset

Salary:

Commensurate with education and experience and in accordance with Government Pay Scales.

Application Process:

All applications must be complete to be considered. Deadline for applications is Friday, June 10, 2022.

Documents Required:

Application letter, along with a notarized copy of social security card, birth certificate, original transcripts, diploma, medical certificate, police record, curriculum vitae, two references, and where applicable, marriage certificate and letter of release. No electronic copy will be accepted.

Address Applications to:

Secretary
Board of Management
Mopan Technical High School
Benque Viejo Del Carmen
Cayo District
Tel: 823-2028

FOR SALE

37.7 acres

along the Philip Goldson (Northern) Highway
near Mile 17 1/2

suitable for an industrial
or housing project.

Bordered by the BWS Feeder Road
and the Northern Highway.

High Broken Ridge land
Water easily available
Clear Title Bze. 20,000 per acre

Call Lawrence at phone 610- 4454
for more details.

BELIZE CITY,

Estate of ISOLENE ROCHES also known as
ISOLINE ROCHES, deceased
STATUTORY NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Pursuant to Section 36 of the Administration of Estates Act, Chapter 197 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2011, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all creditors and other persons having any claims or demands upon or against the Estate of ISOLENE ROCHES also known as ISOLINE ROCHES, late of Dangriga Town, Stann Creek District, Belize, are required to send particulars in writing of their claims or demands to the Administratrix of the said estate, LOUISE BARBARA DIEGO of #111 Sawai Street, Dangriga Town, Stann Creek District, Belize, and to send such particulars not later than the 18th day of August, 2022, AND NOTICE IS HEREBY ALSO GIVEN that at the expiration of the last mentioned date, the Administratrix will proceed to distribute the assets of the said ISOLENE ROCHES also known as ISOLINE ROCHES, deceased, amongst the parties entitled thereto having regard only to the claims or demands of which particulars have been delivered and the Administratrix will not be liable for the assets of the deceased or any part thereof so distributed to any person or persons of whose claims or demands she shall not then have had notice.

DATED this 18th day of May, 2022.

Philip Zuniga
PHILIP ZUNIGA, S. C.
Attorney-at-Law for the Administratrix



IMPORTANT CLOSURE NOTICE

Dear Users of the Port of Belize Ltd.

The port needs to conduct essential maintenance on the trestle which links the pierhead to the land. This is required to preserve port operations for the next few years ahead. The repairs involve replacing three trestle girders, each one expected to take 8, 8 and 10 days to complete. During the period of the repairs, there will be no access to the pierhead and therefore vessel operations (discharge or load) cannot be conducted.

In our attempt to provide the earliest notice of the pierhead operation closures, we can advise that the following periods are presently the targeted dates for the repair works:

July 28th to August 05th, 2022
September 01st to 09th, 2022
October 06th to 16th, 2022

We very much regret and apologize for the potential supply chain disruption and inconvenience that these closures might cause you.

The Container Yard and Warehouse will remain open during these periods.

Thanks

Andy Lane
Chief Executive Officer



**HOLY REDEEMER
CREDIT UNION LIMITED**

78th AGM



**WILL BE HELD ON
SATURDAY, MAY 28, 2022
2:00 P.M. SHARP, BELIZE CIVIC CENTER**

**MEMBER-OWNERS PLEASE BE PRESENT
FOR YOUR “BUSINESS MEETING”.
COME LISTEN TO REPORTS ABOUT YOUR
CREDIT UNION**

**You must present HRCU passbook, valid picture ID,
and Covid-19 Vaccination Card to enter venue.
Face masks will be mandatory inside venue!**