

Reporter

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Belize submit Honduras' claim over the Sapodilla Cayes to the ICJ

By Michelle Sutherland

The Government of Belize has submitted an application to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in the Hague seeking a final and binding resolution to Honduras' claim to the Sapodilla Cayes.

The announcement, which came by way of

a press release, dated Thursday, November 17th, informed that the application was officially filed on November 16th, with the registrar of the ICJ. This was done in accordance with international law in an effort to end the

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UDP to discuss Saldivar's future following USA's 'corruption' designation



UDP Chairman Michael Peyrefitte

By Michelle Sutherland

The United Democratic Party (UDP)'s leadership will be meeting to discuss ex-minister John Saldivar's future within the party, UDP Chairman Michael Peyrefitte told *The Reporter* this week.

The scheduled meeting follows Tuesday's U.S Department of State's announcement that they have designated Saldivar as a government official that had been engaged in "significant corruption."

Peyrefitte, via WhatsApp text, told *The Reporter*, "It's a designation that has to be taken seriously, but I would want John to respond first.

I think it's only fair to him." Peyrefitte also confirmed that the UDP will be meeting in the upcoming days to discuss Saldivar's future within the party.

The US Department of State's release, dated November 15th, 2022, informed, "The United States is designating former Belizean Minister John Birchman Saldivar for his involvement in significant corruption. Specifically, Saldivar accepted bribes for the improper acquisition of Belizean immigration documents and interfered in public processes for his personal benefit

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Peoples Constitution Commission launched

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PCC Chairman Anthony Chanona and Commissioners taking oath at the launch.

Oceana Belize launches Anti-Oil Referendum

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Oceana Belize's Vice President Janelle Chanona



There seems to be a great deal of frustration among the doctors, nurses and staff at the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital, the Government's premier medical and health institution, over what they describe as "the failing state of our health system".

They complain about the "extreme" shortage of medical supplies and equipment, and the government's cozy relationship with pharmaceutical suppliers. They protest about low salaries and pension problems and the lack of basic human resources. They want more transparency in the procurement of medical supplies and they want their Minister of Health to have at least some working knowledge of the intricacies and vital importance of the healthcare system.

The coalition accuses the Ministry of Health of putting lives at risk because of the "extreme" shortage of basic supplies, human resources and needed equipment.

They have given the government an ultimatum. Meet with us before the end of Friday, November 18 to discuss necessary changes in the health care system, or face unilateral action.

The group did not spell out what these "actions" would be, but medical professionals are too important a group to be ignored, and while the Essential Services Act does not allow medical professionals to go on strike, they have other resources at their disposal to cause Health Minister Mr. Kevin Bernard and the Briceño Government acute embarrassment. The group has strong support from the community which has to depend on the KHMH for survival in times of need. People can see for themselves without being told that healthcare in Belize has deteriorated to the point of frustration.

Now we all know that the COVID pandemic has put severe stress on the Belize health system and that GOB has had to divert scarce resources from other projects to control the pandemic. There is a broad consensus that the government has done a commendable job in saving lives and stopping the contagion.

But we cannot sit on our laurels. New challenges arise every day. KHMH desperately needs help. It is no longer something we can ignore.

GOB is not being called upon to find the millions it will need to fix the problem. The call is a call for discussion. Come, let us reason together!

It is a plaintive call. GOB must find the time to listen. The Ministry of Health has a clear responsibility to sit down with these health care professionals and do whatever is in its power to bring relief to this crisis. Therefore, *The Reporter* is encouraged that the Minister has since met with these most important stakeholders.



SERVE

Editor Sir:

Today, 2nd October, is about mid-term for the FIRST term of the Three (3) terms the People's United Party will have to serve going all the way up to 2035. Upon what ideas do I base my assessment?

So far, the PUP leader and leadership have been doing a darn good job! Belize, having been taken to the brink of bankruptcy, the UDP and the world was advising the new political leadership to accept an IMF solution. Instead of taking the UDP beaten path of drastically reducing public spending by decimating the Public Service, Mr. Briceno's government persuaded them to take a ten percent cut in salaries and emoluments right across the board including themselves, the political directorate.

Of course, the main focus of this letter is not to glorify the PUP, but to seek to move the UDP, and the country, including of course, the PUP, unto the new path that Belize must walk to be alive in the new realities that will play out before us, which have already started.

It should be abundantly clear that the People's Republic of China wants to supplant America as the leading force in the whole world. The boasting and bluster against TAIWAN have provided abundant evidence of this. But what we did not know is now being revealed to us.

We do not yet know what the deal with Nicaragua to build a Trans-Atlantic – Pacific Canal is. Does the agreement contain the crucial commitment to cede the canal if



Nicaragua cannot repay the loan?

This is the problem for all of us – we need investment capital to develop. However, should material progress necessarily entail loss of freedom and independence?

Hong Kong was a thriving free society under British Colonial rule. As a part of Communist China it is no longer a free people with a government that respects all human rights.

Compare the behavior of China with that of America. Germany was a conquered nation in 1945. Today, it is a free democracy – one of the top five economies of the world.

How about Japan?! Rising above the atomic dust of Hiroshima and Nagasaki for the past thirty years it has been vying against America to become the number-one world economy.

How about the United Kingdom and her former colonies India, Australia, Canada, New Zealand? India may soon surpass China as the leading economy in Asia.

I am an old man, thankfully now way above the pettiness of race, color, political ideas etc. However, because I am a human being, my greatest yearning continues to be a full experience of freedom. This means that I must have the capacity to make free choices, especially in the most important aspects of my life.

I must live with other people who accept that conscience, thine and mine is the greatest good in this life that I must not compromise.

So far I am unimpressed by the political leadership of the UDP. The last pronouncement of Mr. Barrow (Shall we call him MOSES or SHYNE)!?...

When will he tell the country that, like Mr. Price, the most important quality of leadership is to WIN TO SERVE...NOT SELF but OTHERS, NOT BECOME RICH!

Signed: Paul Rodriguez OBE

Belize submit Honduras's claim...

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dispute between both parties involved concerning the full sovereignty over both the Sapodilla Cayes, including Seal Cayes.

The entirety of the application as well as annexed documents is now available on the ICJ's website for viewing.

"The Government of Belize emphasizes that it has taken this measure to protect the vital interest of Belize in ensuring the full and final settlement of all outstanding territorial disputes to Belizean territory. It has done so in support and furtherance of its friendly relations with Honduras," the release states.

Following the Opposition's calls for a referendum on the Pact of Bogota last month, Foreign Minister and Attorney General Wilfred "Sedi" Elrington told

The Reporter that a referendum was not needed.

Elrington explained that the Pact of Bogotá is simply a multilateral compact among countries in the Americas that is aimed at peacefully settling disputes. Elrington went on to suggest that such a function is consistent and similar to what the Belizean public had already approved and agreed to via the ICJ referendum that was held in 2019.

For his part, Foreign Affairs Minister Hon. Eamon Courtenay explained that the 2019 referendum had charged the Government of Belize with a mandate to bring Guatemala's claim on Belize to an end and that the ratification of the Pact of Bogotá is merely a step in the execution of that overall mandate.

Courtenay had explained to the Senate

that it was anticipated that the Honduran Government, which has a claim to Belize's Sapodilla Cayes in its Constitution since 1982, may attempt to intervene in the Belize-Guatemala case, which is currently before the ICJ.

Courtenay had also expressed GOB's concern that should the

ICJ become aware of Honduras's claim there was a strong possibility they would not delimit the maritime areas that appertain to the Sapodillas, therefore, leaving a large portion of Belize's maritime entitlement unresolved and could even hinder the current process that is currently before the ICJ.

THE REPORTER

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Oceana Belize launches Anti-Oil Referendum

By William Ysaguirre

Oceana Belize has launched a nationwide drive to gather at least 20,000 signatures of registered Belizean voters to trigger an official referendum under the Referendum Act for a moratorium against offshore oil exploration or production.

Oceana Belize Vice President Janelle Chanona announced the start of the signature drive at Spoonah's Cafe in Belize City on Thursday afternoon, November 17.

With a little over 190,000 voters registered on the electoral lists, the minimum 10 percent required by law to trigger a referendum would be a little over 19,000, but Chanona said they hoped to gather enough signatures, so that even if some were to be rejected due to any irregularity, there would still be enough signatures to oblige the Government of Belize to call an official referendum on the issue of an anti-oil moratorium.

Chanona explained to *The Reporter* that she had met with the Prime Minister and CEO in the Office of the Prime Minister Narda Garcia on Friday, September 9th, 2022, to discuss the matter of offshore seismic testing.

She explained that at the meeting Prime Minister John Briceño had shared that his administration intend to allow offshore seismic testing to explore and detect underground and undersea petroleum deposits, which Oceana Belize had sought to ban by an unofficial referendum over 10 years ago.

Given such a significant policy shift—especially when it is recalled that the government had already enacted the Petroleum Operations (Maritime Zone Moratorium) Act 2017, which prohibits offshore drilling and exploration—Chanona informed that she advised the Prime Minister that the decision must first be put to the people via a referendum, and not after testing have been carried out.

The most alarming fact is that the Blue Bond “debt for nature swap” agreement between The Nature Conservancy and the Government originally contained a clause banning offshore oil exploration or production in Belizean waters, but the government had it removed, Chanona said.

The Government's Response

Via a late Thursday evening press release, the Government of Belize confirmed the September 9th meeting.

“In the meeting...the Prime Minister, among other matters, did discuss the issue of seismic surveys and the existing moratorium with Oceana,” the Government release explained. “The Prime Minister reiterated the need to understand the extent of Belize's offshore non-renewable economic resources in order to have an informed strategy on their potential for leveraging, given the national direction towards decarbonization and nature-based economy.”

The Government's statement also alluded to their views on the need for a referendum. “Furthermore, the government's commitment

to allow the determination of such an important policy to be people-centered was restated by the Prime Minister.”

The release also underscored that it has not “entered into any agreements for seismic studies nor for oil exploration in offshore areas.”

The Drive for Referendum

Chanona, in her discussion with *The Reporter*, indicated that the Prime Minister did say that the government would be willing to hold the referendum; however, the environmental NGO preferred to err on the side of caution.

Consequently, Oceana Belize has moved ahead with a signature drive to gather the requisite number of signatures, so that a referendum petition may be submitted to the Governor General H.E. Dame Froyla Tzalam, to trigger an official referendum on this issue.

Oceana Belize promises to abide by the result of this official national referendum, but they feel that a matter of this national

importance should be put to the people, to let the people of Belize decide by voting in the referendum. Chanona said the marine resources of Belize are too important to the tourism and fisheries sectors, to the lifeblood of the Belizean economy, to risk by any threat of offshore oil contamination, and Oceana is moving to preserve the beauty and health of Belize's marine environment for future generations.

More recent attempts to conduct a ‘geological’ study of Belize's offshore maritime areas in 2016 drew such opposition from the tourism sector and residents in San Pedro, Ambergris Caye, Caye Caulker and from fishermen and tour guides along the entire coast of Belize, that the study was scuttled and the exploration ship was escorted out of Belizean waters.

Peoples Constitution Commission launched

By Michelle Sutherland

The Government of Belize launched the People's Constitution Commission this week, officially kick starting the 18-month Constitutional review process.

At Monday's launch, held in Belmopan, Minister with responsibility for the Ministry of Public Service, Constitutional and Political Reform and Religious Affairs Henry Charles Usher reminded the gathering that rewriting the supreme law of the land is no easy task and can only be done at the right time and under the right circumstances. A mandate according to Usher can only come from the people of Belize, who need to be at the centre of that decision as well as the process.

According to Usher, the time has come for all that to happen as during the



Min. of Constitutional and Political Reform Hon. Henry Charles Usher

country's 42 years of Independence, Belizeans are finally taking a better look at the system and structures of governance. They are now thinking about new ways to solve problems, are graduating from representative government to participatory government, and are looking for a way to accelerate and hopefully complete the process of decolonization.

Usher's presentation also focused on the fact that in April of 1981, neither the then Prime Minister of the Country nor any of the opposition members was present in London when the current constitution was finalized.

The country was deeply divided, and

a state of emergency was in effect. Belizeans had no real say in making the constitution, other than hastily held and poorly attended town meetings where the majority of the time was spent deciding on national symbols. Very little information was presented to the people and as historian Assad Shoman recently said in a newspaper article, the consultation was just a formality, as people were never given the opportunity to change the colonial framework.

Since then there have been many amendments to the constitution, incremental reform, expanding rights, and curtailing government abuse, but as a people, we have been limited

in our efforts to expand substantive freedoms and create the conditions for genuine and sustainable development,” reiterated Usher.

Former Belmopan Mayor, Anthony Chanona has been named chairman of the PCC. Twenty-six members currently sit on the PCC.

The process is expected to take place over a period of 18 months. The Commission's findings will be compiled and presented to the Prime Minister before they are taken to a referendum for the ultimate decision.



CLASSIFIED ADS

JOB VACANCY: A vacancy exists for a **House Cook**. Requirements: 4-5 years experience in cooking **Asian Authentic Food**. **Job hours from 9:00am to 6:00pm**. Only shortlisted persons will be contacted. Send Application to: beautyessentials2010@gmail.com.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Ceiba Beach Limited** of Maya Beach, Stann Creek District is hereby applying for a **Hotel Liquor License** for **Mickey's At Ceiba Beach**. Situated in **Maya Beach, Stann Creek District** for the year **2023**. Under the Intoxicating Liquors Act (Revised Edition) of 2000.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Thomas Hudson** of Maya Beach, Stann Creek District is hereby applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** for **Mango's**. Situated in **Maya Beach, Stann Creek District** for the year **2023**. Under the Intoxicating Liquors Act (Revised Edition) of 2000.

UDP to discuss Saldivar's future following USA's 'corruption' designation

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during his tenure as a government official."

The release went on to say that acts such as those displayed by Saldivar undermine the integrity of Belize's democratic institutions and fuel perceptions of corruption and impunity, diminishing confidence in governance. As part of this action, and under Section 7031(c) which stipulates that any official or government minister along with their immediate family members are all ineligible for entry into the US if the US Department has credible information of their involvement in corruption or violation of human rights. In conjunction with this, the US Department of State

announced that Saldivar's wife and his four children, including a minor, would all be banned from entering the United States.

The press release ended by saying that designations such as these reaffirm the United States' commitment to combat corruption, which hampers countries' economic prosperity and curtails the ability of governments to respond effectively to the needs of its people.

"The United States continues to stand with all Belizeans in support of democracy and the rule of law and will continue to promote accountability for those who abuse public power for personal gain, regardless of their position or political affiliation."

140 homes destroyed by Hurricane Lisa: NEMO report

By Britney Gordon

Hurricane Lisa destroyed 140 homes, the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) informed Cabinet this week.

Via Thursday's Cabinet brief, the government announced that NEMO's preliminary assessment shows that "as of Tuesday, 15th November 2022...140 homes were destroyed, and more than 1,300 properties sustained varying levels of damage."

The damage ranges from water damage to loss of roofs due to the strong winds of the storm.

"In response to the reports, Cabinet recommended that a supplementary appropriations bill be presented for hurricane relief at the next sitting of the House of Representatives," the Cabinet brief



explained.

Previously, Prime Minister John Briceño stated that the government is working to provide affordable housing to those displaced as soon as possible.

"We want to be able to build as many houses as we possibly can for as many people as we can within these areas," Briceño said. "Then, for probably

middle-class families, see if we can get some low-cost funding interest rates so that they could also rebuild and rebuild better."

In order to complete his long-term plan of building houses strong enough to withstand future hurricanes, the Prime Minister calls on businesses and the community to lend a helping hand with the finances where

possible, while the greater donations from international aid are funneled into the housing project

The updated report to the Cabinet also detailed that more than 35,000 tons of debris was removed from Belize City. Belize City suffered extensive damage to infrastructure and houses, having taken the brunt of the storm.



VACANCY

The Board of Management of the Belize Adventist Junior College invites suitable qualified candidates to fill the full-time post of BURSAR effective January 2023.

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

- Associate Degree in business management or accounting
- Have at least 2 years working experience in business management or accounting

SKILLS & COMPETENCIES

- Strong Christian values
- Be knowledgeable of the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles
- Possess and promote excellent time management
- Demonstrate critical thinking, creativity, effective and efficient communication, and teamwork
- Work calm under pressure and can meet deadlines
- Be computer literate (Microsoft office applications)
- Multitasking
- Strong interpersonal skills
- Prudent decision-making skills
- Strong supervisory skills
- Problem-solving skills
- Be innovative

SUMMARY OF RESPONSIBILITIES AND FUNCTIONS

- Manage the school's computerized accounting system
- Prepare budgets and business proposals
- Process purchases, asset inventory, payroll, accounts receivable, accounts payable, and reconciliations
- Timely preparation and reporting of financial statements
- Render general administrative support

Interested applicants must submit the following certified documents in duplicate. Documents in a foreign language must be translated to English by an official translator. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Only applicants who qualify will be invited for interview.

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| • Personal statement | • Valid Police record (original) |
| • Resumé | • Birth certificate or biological data page of passport |
| • Valid Social Security Card | • Civil status certificate (except if single) |
| • Academic qualifications | • 1 recent professional referral from most current employer |
| • Transcripts | • 1 recent character referral |

REMUNERATION

Will be in accordance with Government pay scale.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Complete applications can be delivered to our office in a sealed envelope with the caption BURSAR VACANCY no later than Friday, November 25th, 2022, or mailed to the address below:

Dean
Belize Adventist Junior College
P.O. Box 257
Calcutta Village
Corozal District
Belize C.A.



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Submit application letter and resume to career.opportunities@bel.com.bz by Friday, December 2, 2022

Minister of Health meets with nurses' association

By Michelle Sutherland

The Minister of Health and Wellness, Hon. Kevin Bernard met with the Nurses' Association of Belize this week to discuss several issues that nurses across the country are faced with, including the issue of shortage of pharmaceuticals and other medical supplies.

Following the event, Minister Bernard hosted a short debriefing with the media, in which he referred to the meeting as a "fruitful" one during which several concerns from the various regions across the country,

including the KMHM were discussed. According to Bernard, during the meeting, the ministry found out that in many instances some of the lists of medications that were presented and deemed to be short were not. He indicated that those same medications were in excess at other hospital storage facilities across the country.

This, according to Bernard, also highlights another issue among the nurses, which is a glaring gap in communication between the Pharmacy Unit and nurses in the various



Health Minister Hon. Kevin Bernard

regions regarding what is available at the pharmacist and what is not available in the country.

"During the discussion, we had set out some clear goals, one of them being that we will have a follow-up

meeting with the Nurses Association in January. [Secondly] that we want to ensure that with the new timeline that we have put for ourselves, internally, at the ministry, that we want to ensure that we have received

all our supplies in the country so that when we go through the new tender cycle which we are working on right now so that we could put together within the budget cycle a proper, detailed listing of pharmaceutical and medical supplies that will be required for us in the next fiscal year," said the Minister.

Bernard also indicated that it was collectively agreed that that information would be shared with the Nurses' Association with the hope that by March of next year there should be some major improvements to the various issues. He said that all parties also agreed that it was a fruitful discussion and that he felt that they all left the meeting with the same focus and vision, with the promise that discussions will continue. He also claimed that prior to departing the meeting he reiterated to the association that under his leadership the Ministry of Health will always try its best to address the needs of its nurses and reminded them that he has always been a leader with an open-door policy.

As it relates to the shortages of medications Bernard explained

that tenders were signed in late August which he did agree was a bit of a late stage in the process, leading to several issues. One such is the fact that not only does supply chain disruptions known to be common in the months of September and October but that further delays are expected due to it being the Hurricane season. This he says was experienced recently with hurricanes Lisa and Nicole which hit Florida and caused major delays in the shipping industry.

To address these issues, Bernard revealed that he recently proposed to Cabinet to have the tender cycle in the month of June so that it cannot only be included in the budget cycle but also help to speed up the process. He also pointed out that for the past months and even within the past two years, Belize, like the rest of the world, has been dealing with COVID, which not only created shortages in medical supplies but created huge backlogs worldwide.


Bernard also denied claims that the meeting was brought about by the Coalition of Medical Professionals, which had given the government a seven-day ultimatum last week. Bernard clarified that while he and the Prime Minister had received an email from the Coalition, both he and the Prime Minister had agreed to that meeting on Monday; however, at the last minute, the Coalition informed that that "they weren't ready" to meeting on the aforementioned date.

The management & staff of
Simon Quan & Company Limited
 wish all a
HAPPY GARIFUNA SETTLEMENT DAY



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wishes everyone a safe & happy

Garifuna Settlement Day

Please be advised that all Atlantic Bank branches and drive thrus will be closed for business on Saturday, November 19, 2022 in celebration of Garifuna Settlement Day.

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

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




Photo credit: Belize Tourism Board

**Kick back
 Relax and
 Enjoy**



The Reporter

Independently serving Belize since 1982

International Men's Day 2022 being observed in Belize by National Parenting Taskforce

The National Parenting Task Force (NPTF) within the National Committee for Families and Children (NCFC) is marking its third celebration of International Men's Day (IMD), being held on November 19, through an awareness campaign.

The NPTF, as a part of its mandate to work with families, has prioritized the observance of IMD as one of several initiatives to engage Belizean men and boys. Arthur Usher, member of the NPTF and Manager at The Hub Resource Center, explained that for the past two years, there have been conferences focusing on men's issues; however, this year the approach is geared towards getting the public's buy-in to celebrate



men for their contributions to society.

"The event is being held locally under the theme 'Recognizing Belizean Men and Boys,' Usher said. "There are six pillars that are the focus of IMD: promoting male role

models, celebrating the contribution men make to society, focusing on men's health and wellbeing, highlighting discrimination against men, improving gender relations and promoting gender equality, and creating a safer

world for everyone."

Usher said that the observance of IMD precedes the dissemination of a questionnaire which will be disseminated to men and boys across Belize for feedback on the eventual formation of the National Men's Commission,

which will be a statutory body aimed at addressing men's issues.

IMD was coined in 1992 as a means of bringing global awareness to men's issues, particularly in the area of mental health. The event is being observed globally under the

theme "Helping men and boys."

Global statistics show that men are three times more likely to commit suicide than women; men are more likely to be killed by strangers and killed by someone they know accounting for more than 71 percent of all murders; and that boys who are excluded from school are 19 times more likely to commit suicide.

Coupled with the fact that boys are twice as likely to have a Special Educational Need and twice as likely to have literacy problems and four times more likely to be excluded from school, the observance of IMD and its surrounding issues becomes even more critical to societies who are serious about protecting boys.

TENDER



Uniformed Security Services 2023

Belize Electricity Limited Compounds

BEL invites tenders for Uniformed Security Services for the period January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023 at the below locations:

1. **Corporate Headquarters** located at 2½ Miles Philip Goldson Highway, Belize City.
2. **Belize City Power Station** located on Magazine Road, Belize City.
3. **Ladyville Storage Facilities** located next to the Phillip Goldson International Airport on Airport Road, Ladyville.

The bidding documents, which outline all the duties and responsibilities of the contract, and dates are available on BEL's website at www.bel.com.bz/Tender.aspx

Submit bids via email to bidsubmittal@bel.com.bz no later than 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 8, 2022.

A virtual pre-bid meeting is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 1, 2022. Request access to the virtual pre-bid meeting by sending an email to bidboxrequest@bel.com.bz.

The subject of the email to attend the virtual pre-bid meeting and to submit tenders should include the bid number and the name of the tender located on the respective bid forms.

For more information or queries, send email to bidboxrequest@bel.com.bz

Cost incurred for preparation of the tender document is the sole responsibility of the bidder. The lowest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.



Phone: 823--2535

Cell No.: 670-2535

Email: secretary@mchs.edu.bz

Our Lady of Mount Carmel High School

Applications are invited for suitably qualified persons for the following teaching position at Our Lady of Mount Carmel High School, a Roman Catholic High School, for the academic year 2022--2023.

1. English Teacher [Permanent]

Professional and academic requirements:

- Have a minimum of an Associate Degree in the Subject Area;
- Hold a valid license to teach in Belize;
- Possess a high standard of integrity and personal conduct;
- Be prepared to teach in a Catholic environment and to maintain a personal appreciation for Christian values and traditions.

Candidates who are shortlisted will be called in for an interview.

The successful applicant will be expected to participate in orientation and professional enhancement. He/she will be involved in teaching--related services, including spiritual, social and extra--curricular activities in and out of school.

Salary is commensurate with educational experience and in accordance with the pay scale established by the Ministry of Education.

Application forms should be requested from the Secretary/Registrar of Our Lady of Mount Carmel High School at email: secretary@mchs.edu.bz.

All completed applications should be received no later than Nov 18th, 2022 and be addressed to:

Secretary
Board of Management
Our Lady of Mount Carmel High School
Cors. Mount Carmel Lane & Jose Marti Street.
Benque Viejo del Carmen, Cayo District, Belize. C.A.



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST INDIVIDUAL CONSULTING SERVICES

Institution: Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing
Country: Belize
Project: Climate Vulnerability Reduction Program (CVRP)
Sector: Infrastructure, Environment and Natural Disasters
Abstract: Individual Consulting Services – Climate Risk Financing Strategy for the Tourism and Agriculture Sectors
Loan/Credit/Grant No.: 4616/OC-BL
Deadline: December 1st, 2022, at 10:00 a.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 an Individual Consultant for a four (4) month period who will be responsible for developing a Climate Risk Financing Strategy for the Tourism and Agriculture Sectors in Belize. The overall objective of the consultancy is to **a.)** assess opportunities for introducing climate risk financing strategies in Belize’s tourism sector to strengthen resilience to climate change and to formalize a strategy and implementation plan that will reduce financial vulnerability of the sector in the face of climate change and **b.)** design a climate risk management financial product geared specifically to small and medium-scale farmers as part of the country’s climate risk financing strategy for the agricultural sector.

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 International 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, cvrp.4426.3@gmail.com
Or procurement.officer.midh@gmail.com

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time) on December 1st, 2022.

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

BNTU scheduled to meet with MoECST to discuss grey areas in new curriculum

By Michelle Sutherland

The Belize National Teachers Union (BNTU) is set to meet with the Ministry of Education Culture Science and Technology (MoECST) next Monday to discuss several concerns that teachers have with the National Curriculum Framework that is scheduled to be implemented for the 2023-2024 school year.

Over the past few weeks, The Reporter has been receiving several reports from teachers that the new curriculum is not only hard to follow but that teachers are finding it hard to implement in their respective classrooms.

Teachers have even gone as far as to express their concerns about how they will now be able to grade students since traditional tests and quizzes will no longer be allowed. Teachers have explained that they are at a loss of how they will be able to effectively gauge whether students have been able to grasp the concept and how to differentiate between which group needs more assistance than the others.

This week, we followed up with the BNTU’s President Elena Smith and she did confirm that the BNTU has been receiving feedback from teachers on the new curriculum. She explained, “Some concerns have been setting up the timetable since the time allotted



BNTU President Senitor Elena Smith

for subjects has changed. The half-hour increase, the school-based project, and cross-curricular learning areas are confusing for teachers, including the insistence by some management to include the extra half hour now despite the Ministry saying it will be effective next school year, lack of supplies to properly do what is expected, lack of expertise in teaching the arts.”

Smith stressed that while these are only some of the many concerns among teachers, they have expressed their frustration at the timeline within which the transition is scheduled to take place since students have been unable to cope with what teachers are expected to deliver due to the impacts that COVID has had on teaching and learning.

While Smith said that she has already met with a team from the MOECS to discuss those concerns, she will also be meeting with BNTU’s Council and officials from the ministry on Monday regarding the said curriculum.

The framework for the National Curriculum was officially launched on July 28th, 2022. According to the ministry’s website, it will seek to guide a transition into competency-based education in Belize, at the pre- and primary-school level. The new curriculum focuses on “the development of competency-based unit plans and assessments, utilizing authentic student-centered pedagogies such as inquiry, discovery, cooperative, experiential, problem- and project-based learning.”

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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

Position Name: Procurement Agent (two positions)

Vacancy number: Belmopan-2022-21-R

Closing date: November 22nd, 2022

Interested applicants must submit their application via the Electronic Recruitment Application (ERA) system, a web-based system. To view and apply for this vacancy, visit the ERA site at: <https://erajobs.state.gov/dos-era/blz/vacancysearch/searchVacancies.hms>

Please visit the Embassy’s website for instructions on how to apply via the ERA system: <https://bz.usembassy.gov/embassy/jobs/>

Note 1: Resumes will not be considered. Candidates must note all work experience when completing the ERA application. Insufficient or incomplete information will result in an ineligible application.

Note 2: Candidates must submit applicable required documentation by the closing date of this announcement. Failure to provide the required documentation will result in an ineligible application.

WHO: Global vaccine distribution is unfair

By Britney Gordon

Low-income countries continue to struggle when it comes to accessing vaccines, a recent World Health Organization (WHO) report outlined.

The WHO report proceeds to call on governments, industry, international institutions and partners to improve sustainable and equitable access globally.

The report underscores how COVID-19 forced nations to acknowledge the global disparity in access essential inoculations.

Countries and regions with more financial resources such as the United States and Europe and with local manufacturers such as China and India were able to quickly secure supplies of the limited COVID-19 vaccines available.

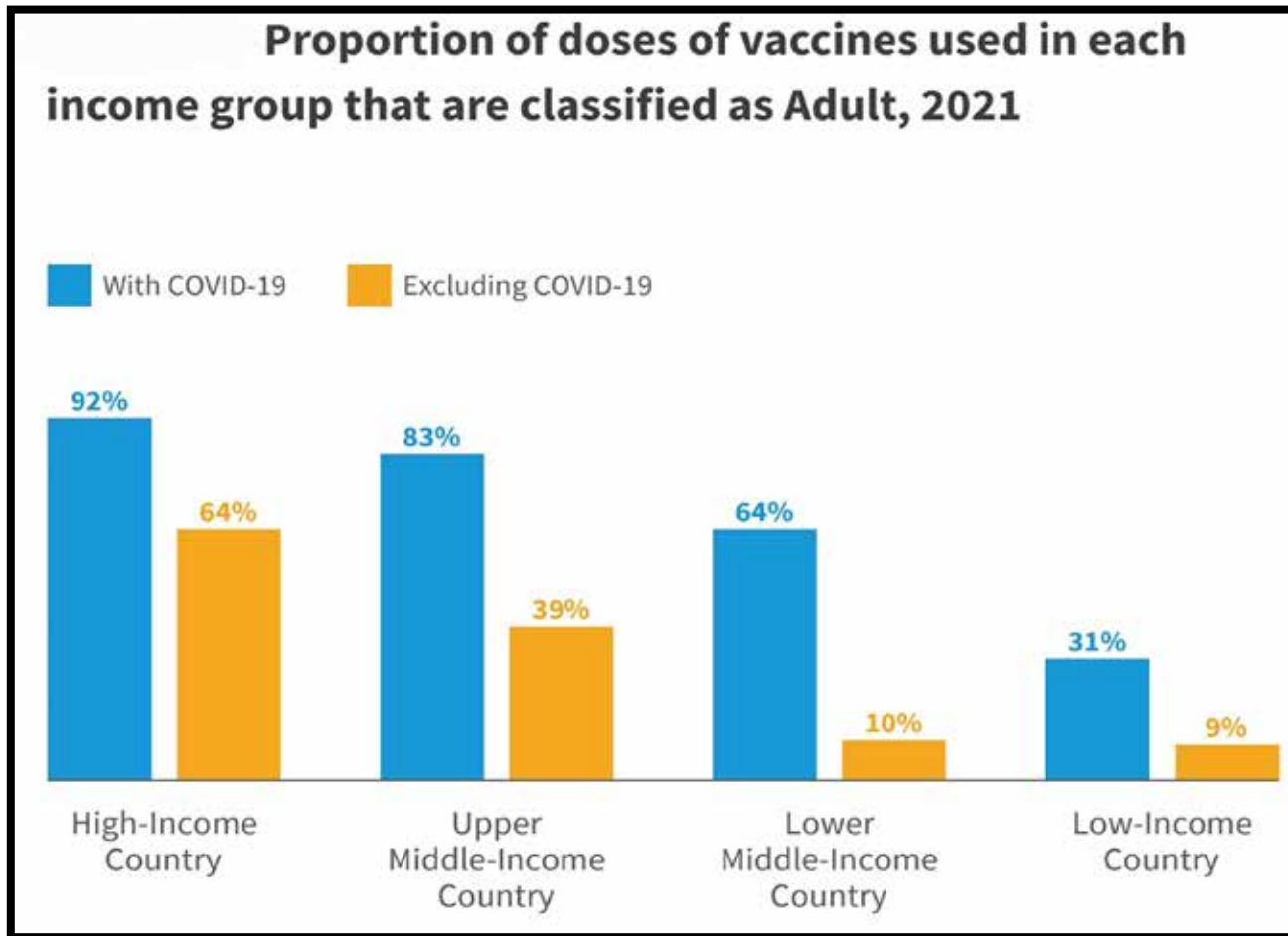
Data gathered by the WHO indicated that only 64 percent of adults in lower middle-income countries were administered the COVID-29 vaccine as opposed to the 92 percent of the adult population in high-income countries. Low-income countries showed a more significant imbalance as only 31 percent of adults were documented having taken the vaccine.

These dynamics were particularly

accentuated for COVID-19 vaccines, but are also seen for other vaccines. An example being the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, which according to the report, has been introduced in only 41 percent of lower-income countries, while 83 percent of high-income countries have access to it.

The report emphasizes that while prices tend to be tiered by income, further efforts are needed to alleviate pricing disparities. Regions without sizable manufacturing capacity of their own lose out while intellectual property monopolies continue to severely limit access to vaccines.

WHO's Director-



General at WHO Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus stated, "Ultimately, we need to strike a better balance between global health objectives, national interests and commercial incentives. This can be achieved by high level diplomacy between countries and predefined and binding rules for vaccine distribution in times of scarcity."

The WHO recognizes access to vaccines as a right to health and maintains that the free-market dynamics are depriving some of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people of that right.



**MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT
AND
HOUSING**



GENERAL NOTICE

REGISTRATION OF CONTRACTORS

The Government of Belize (GOBZ) through the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing (MIDH) is seeking to update its registry of contractors to undertake construction works for the ongoing MIDH Low-Income Modular Housing Project. It is expected that the updated contractor registry will provide for an efficient selection of reliable contractors. Having a centralized contractor registry creates opportunity for contractor employment across the public and private sector and affords confidence in utilizing qualified contractors.

This notice aims to attract contractors from the following discipline:

General Building Contracting: General contractors for building commercial and residential buildings capable of executing site layouts, piling, structural concrete, structural reinforcement, masonry, carpentry, drywall, plumbing, electrical, air-conditioning systems, and construction of roofing.

The notice also aims to attract General Contractors which satisfy the following construction work turnover criterion:

Annual Average Construction Turnover: Between BZ\$30,000 and BZ\$500,000 per year

Application forms are free of charge and can be obtained from the MIDH Housing Execution Unit in Belmopan or via email from the Housing Execution Unit. Applications are available and will be processed during the period November 21, 2022, to December 21, 2022. Further details about the registration process can be obtained by contacting either of the following:

1. Attention: Ms. Manuelita Tot
Procurement Control Manager
Housing Execution Unit
Ministry of Infrastructure Development & Housing
Power Lane
Belmopan
Cayo District
BELIZE, C. A

Tel: +501-828-6027
Email: manuelita.tot@midh.gov.bz

2. Attention: Mr. Colin Escalante
Project Engineer
Housing Execution Unit
Ministry of Infrastructure Development & Housing
Power Lane
Belmopan
Cayo District
BELIZE, C. A

Tel: +501-828-6023
Email: colin.escalante@midh.gov.bz



Oración al Espíritu Santo

Espíritu Santo. Tú que me aclaras todo, que iluminas todo mis caminos para yo alcance mi ideal; tú que das el don divino de perdonar y olvidar el mal que me hacen y que en todos los instantes de mi vida estas conmigo, yo quiero en este corto diálogo agradecerte por todo y confirmar una vez más que nunca quiero separarme de ti, por mayor que sea la ilusión material! Deseo estar contigo y todos mis seres queridos por tu misericordia para estar contigo y los míos. (La persona debiera rezar esta oración 3 días seguidos sin decir el pedido. Dentro de tres días será difícil que sea. Publicar en cuando se reciba la gracia.

Gracias Espíritu Santo.

R.M.L.

John Saldivar denies USA's 'significant corruption' designation

By Michelle Sutherland

Former UDP Minister John Saldivar has described the accusations made against him by the United States government as baseless and malicious and that he will be gearing up for a legal battle against the U.S.

Within minutes of the circulation of the U.S. State Department announcement that Saldivar along with his immediate family, including his wife and children, would

no longer be allowed entry into the United States, Saldivar took to social media and wrote, "The actions of the United States Department of State to today designate me as a corrupt official due to bribery in immigration matters is completely left field, baseless, and malicious."

Saldivar went on to say, "As a minister of government, I have conducted myself with absolute probity and integrity. I am at a loss as to why the State Department would want to target

me and my family without providing absolutely any evidence to explain their conclusion."

According to Saldivar, no due process was observed prior to his designation while no contact with him had been made whatsoever. He even argued that no evidence was provided to him before the US decided to impugn his character and malign his reputation. Saldivar said that he cannot begin to guess what or who



Former UDP Minister John Saldivar

is behind these latest allegations and

even wondered who could be so powerful enough to get the State Department to invoke such a declaration.

"I am consulting with local attorneys fully cognizant that I will need a US attorney to fight this in the United States if I so wish. I am also consulting regarding recourse for my wife and children who have been maliciously persecuted by this action. Some person or persons want me out of Belizean politics, and they seem to have powerful allies in the United States State Department," said Saldivar.

While Saldivar said that it appears that someone might be trying to drive him out of politics, with unfounded and malicious allegations he reiterated that his resolve to stay in the game is stronger now.


Those such as the United Democratic Party Vice Chairman Alberto August, however, are the first to publicly comment on the matter. August wrote on his Facebook account, "The UDP Party MUST now immediately disassociate itself from this DISGRACE!"

Not too long after, the Opposition also issued a statement on John Saldivar's designation saying, "We treat very seriously the allegations of


corruption being made by the U.S. State Department against former Minister John Saldivar. Notwithstanding our zero tolerance of corruption by public officials, we must be guided by the fundamental principles of due process and in the Belize Judicial system all are innocent until proven guilty."

The opposition said that they will now take additional steps to gather all the facts presented by the US and the accused in order to determine a way forward to implement its anti-corruption policy in a fair and just manner demonstrating to the Nation that they have zero tolerance for corruption.

Saldivar is a former Party Leader for the UDP and a former Minister of National Security. During his tenure as minister, he has been accused of having ties with criminals such as accused murderer William Danny Mason, and Lev Dermen. Those shady relationships, including allegations of monetary bribes, have forced Saldivar to resign from politics; however he has recently emerged to offer himself as a candidate for Belmopan under the leadership of Moses "Shyne" Barrow, who is considered to be one of his close allies.



CENTRAL BANK of BELIZE



CAREER OPPORTUNITY

SYSTEMS ANALYST

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

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

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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

The applicant should possess the following:

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

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

TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE

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

COMPETENCIES

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

Submit the following documents by **Wednesday, 30 November 2022:**

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


Applications should be addressed to:

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

Ref: Systems Analyst – Information Technology Department

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

Connect with us on



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

Caribbean rallies to adjust climate investment with focus on gender

By Britney Gordon

The Caribbean is making a stand for the future of climate-related funding, urging for investments to be made through a gender-focused lens.

As world leaders convene to negotiate the allocation of resources to combat the ever-growing issue of climate change, representatives of the Caribbean gathered to host a panel on 'Gender Lens Investing for Caribbean Resilience', hoping to influence nations to take gender into account when financing climate investments.

The panel was coordinated by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and UN Women Multi-Country Office Caribbean in the CARICOM Pavilion at COP 27, the United Nations' climate change conference currently underway in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt.

Vice-President of Operations at the CDB Isaac Solomon urged Caribbean nations to "rally as SIDs at COP27 to make development and private equity financing more inclusive, sustainable, and resilient".

Solomon maintains that not enough has been done to adequately funnel resources into gender inclusive climate finance. "The Climate Policy Institute estimated that fewer than 5 percent of private, public, and blended climate finance was gender-responsive in 2020. The data shows that globally and regionally, gender-responsive and socially inclusive climate finance is still too low [yet] gender-smart and socially inclusive public and private climate investing is a game-changer," he noted.

The notion was further backed up by Trinidad and Tobago's Minister of Planning and Development Hon. Penelope Beckles, who highlighted how heavily climate change impacts Caribbean nations and the link

it may have sustained to gender inequality. Beckles pointed out the fact that in many households across the region, women are expected to manage the finances, the cooking, child-rearing, and domestic chores, even during the aftermath of a natural disaster or when there may be no access to clean water.

"They have to protect families when shelter might be an issue and they themselves are in a vulnerable position and then they may also face challenges with matters we might not necessarily want to discuss, like hygiene and menstrual health," stated Beckles.

Beckles emphasized how important it is to consider these factors and incorporate them into the decision-making process when financing climate resilience investments. Further supporting that stance, was Anita Bhatia, Assistant Secretary-General, and Deputy Executive Director of UN Women who stated that incorporating gender would ensure that climate investments remain sustainable and long-lasting.

"The way investments stand the test of time is to not only be commercially viable, but it must be inclusive, it must deliver social impact at scale and that means reaching the most vulnerable in a meaningful way," said Bhatia.

Gender Lens Investing for Caribbean Resilience

Ms. Patricia Francis
Moderator

Hon. Penelope Beckles
Minister of Planning and Development,
Trinidad and Tobago

Mr. Isaac Solomon
Vice-President (Operations),
Caribbean Development Bank

Ms. Sumayyah Cargill
Strategic Development Manager,
Bahamas Development Bank

Mr. Daniel Best
Director of Projects,
Caribbean Development Bank

Ms. Anita Bhatia
Assistant Secretary-General and
Deputy Executive Director,
UN Women

Mr. Doug Hewson
Managing Director,
Portland Private Equity
Caribbean

What *if* I get seriously ill?

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What *if* it ruined more than my health?

What *if* it ruined my financial stability?

What *if*?

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REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Individual Consultant Monitoring and Evaluation Officer

Institution: Ministry of Finance
Country: BELIZE
Project: Strengthening of Tax Administration Project
Sector: Finance
Project No.: BL-L1031
Operation No.: 4839/OC-BL
Deadline: Friday, December 2nd, 2022, at 4:00 pm local Belize time

The Government of Belize (GoB) has entered into a US\$ 14 Million Loan Contract Agreement (No. 4839/OC-BL) with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for the execution of a five-year tax modernization project entitled "Strengthening of Tax Administration". The main beneficiaries of the Project are: (a) the Government, which will have more revenues to implement its public policies; (b) taxpayers, who will have more support and a digital environment to fulfill their tax obligations; and (c) the population, from the government policies implemented. The Ministry intends to apply a part of the proceeds towards payments for the services of Project Support Officer.

The Monitoring and Evaluation Officer is responsible for guiding and implementing the overall Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) strategy (i.e. the Project's Monitoring and Evaluation Plan) of the project BL-L1031 in coordination with key stakeholders of the MoF, the PMO, the PEU, the PSC, other ministries, and others, and for providing timely and relevant information to Program stakeholders.

The main responsibilities of the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer include, among others:

- In close coordination with the pertinent technical and administrative personnel of the MoF, undertake the strategic and operations planning activities of the Program, including the development and update of the Pluri-Annual Execution Plan (PEP), the Annual Operations Plan (AOP), the Procurement Plan (PP), the Financial Plan (FP), budget, and other documentation, in compliance with the requirements of MoF, Ministry of Economic Development (MED) and the IDB, and submission for non-objection and approval.
- Monitoring the activities of the Project in compliance with its global strategic objectives and those of its two technical components, as well as the targets established in the AOP.
- Implementing the Programs' risk management mechanisms on the basis of the IDB tool Risk Management in Projects with Sovereign Guarantee (RMP), taking into consideration the assessment and evolution of the risk factors, the factors of probability and impact, and risk mitigation measures.
- Preparing the periodic consolidated physical and financial progress reports to be submitted to MoF, PMO, MED, and the Bank.
- Preparing, for presentation to the Bank of the required data, reports and other documentation of the Project as a whole and its individual components, as established in the Loan Contract.

Qualification and Experience Requirements:

Education: Bachelor of Science Degree in Project Management, Development Studies, Statistics, Economics, Business Administration, Communications, Social Sciences or a related field.

General Experience: A minimum of five (5) years general working experience.

Specific Experience: A minimum of three (3) years of proven work experience in monitoring and evaluation capacity or other related fields.

- Participation in relevant courses/ training in M&E systems, logical framework, strategic planning, project management, time-management, Microsoft Projects, or similar, etc.

Experience if the following would be an asset

- implementation of monitoring and evaluation systems
- application of monitoring and evaluation methodologies and approaches (including quantitative, qualitative and participatory)
- experience with logical framework, results framework and other strategic planning methods
- information and data analysis and reporting

Skills: (a) good analytical and data analysis skills; (b) good report writing, presentation and computer skill (experience in data processing); and (c) leadership qualities, teamwork and management.

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** section 5 – individual consultants and is open to all eligible candidates as defined in the IDB policies.

Expression of Interest package should contain:

- Cover letter briefly explaining interest, experience, and competence of the consultant
- Comprehensive resume with the Individual Consultant's experience in the assignment of similar nature. Description of similar assignments specifying start and end dates of assignments. *Please provide dates, name of employing organization, titles of positions held, types of activities performed and location of the assignment.*
- Copy of degrees/certificates
- List of at least two references
- Proof of nationality: copy of documentation of nationality

Interested individuals may obtain further information and request the full Terms of Reference for this post at the address below during the hours of **8:00 am to 4:00 pm local Belize time, Monday to Friday.**

Qualified Individual Consultant must submit their expression of interest via e-mail to **Michelle Longworth@bts.gov.bz** copied to **tamara.tingling@mof.gov.bz** no later than **4:00 p.m., Friday, December 2nd, 2022**, marked **STAP- Monitoring and Evaluation Officer** in the subject header; or applicants may also submit a hardcopy at the following address:

Director General
Belize Tax Service
Strengthening of Tax Administration Project
Eleanor Hall Building
Lake I. Boulevard, Belize City
For clarifications kindly contact:
Procurement Specialist
Strengthening of Tax Administration Project
Ministry of Finance
Eleanor Hall Building
Lake I. Boulevard, Belize City
Email: tamara.tingling@mof.gov.bz

Diabetes cases increase at an alarming rate in the Caribbean



By Britney Gordon

The number of recorded diabetes cases in the Caribbean and Americas has more than tripled within the past three decades, a recent report by The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) informs.

As a part of World Diabetes Day (observed on November 14), PAHO's "Panorama of Diabetes in the Americas" report stated that at least 62 million people are documented to be living with diabetes in the Americas. However, forty percent of that number is likely are unaware they have the condition. The number is estimated to be far greater than recorded. PAHO projects that if current trends remain consistent, the number of people with diabetes in the region will reach 109 million by 2040.

Globally, there are an estimated 422 million adults living with diabetes in 2014, compared to 108 million in 1980, as reported by The United Nations. Factors attributed to the increase in

diagnoses include the high level of obesity sweeping across the region and the prevalent lack of adequate exercise. PAHO noted that "two-thirds of adults in the Americas are overweight or obese, and only 60% get enough exercise."

However, the report also highlights the "alarming trend among young people in the region," revealing that over 30 percent are now considered to be obese or overweight, almost double the global average.

Diabetes is the sixth leading cause of mortality in the Americas and was responsible for over 284,000 deaths in 2019 alone. It is the second highest cause of disability in the region, preceded only by ischemic heart disease.

Diabetes is a major cause of blindness in people aged 40 to 74, kidney failure, heart attack, stroke, and lower limb amputation.

It is known to triple the risk of death by cardiovascular disease, kidney disease, or cancer and put people at higher risk for severe forms of COVID-19 and

death, highlighting the importance of integrating diabetes care into preparedness and response plans for emergencies.

Despite the prevalence of the disease, the report indicates that just 12 countries in the region have the six basic technologies needed to sufficiently manage diabetes in public health facilities. This includes equipment for measuring blood glucose, tests for the early diagnosis of complications, and urine test strips for glucose and ketone analysis.

Dr. Anselm Hennis, director of the Department of Non-Communicable Diseases and Mental Health at PAHO emphasized that countries in the region need to focus on preventative methods and the promotion of healthy lifestyles. Additionally, Hennis affirmed the necessity of ensuring early diagnosis and good disease management, stating that these "are key to controlling diabetes and preventing diabetes-related disability and poor health."

FOR SALE

25 Acres Land Parcel No. 61 Freehold Title situated in the Frank Eddy Agricultural Area, Cayo District. Interested contact 610-1242 for more information.

The Caribbean, Africa future green-energy producers

By Britney Gordon

Following the opening ceremony of the inaugural Caribbean Investment Forum, European Union Ambassador Peter Cavendish stated that he believes the Caribbean and Africa can be the green hydrogen producers of the future.

The ceremony for the Caribbean Investment Forum was organized by the Caribbean Export Development Agency (Caribbean Export) in Trinidad and Tobago. Following the event, Cavendish opined that he believes sustainable energy is an area in which both the Caribbean and Africa have significant competitive advantages and could significantly impact the world.

According to Cavendish, Europe has long operated under the belief that it was energy secure and independent. However, he notes that a shift has occurred which reveals it to be energy-dependent. “The Middle East, the Norwegians, the Americans, and the Nigerians stepped in to help us with our energy needs in times of crisis. This



The Caribbean and Africa the possible future of green energy

heralded a gigantic change that has taken place in European psychology and I think both the Caribbean and African nations will be able to benefit from that,” He explained.

Cavendish maintains that the Caribbean has several resources from which one can draw energy, such as the winds, rivers, 19 volcanoes, and ample amounts of sunlight for solar energy. “You have a gigantic energy advantage that will last through the lifetimes of you,

your children, and your grandchildren,” he assured.

Both in his Keynote Address and at the press conference, Secretary-General of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Wamkele Mene highlighted a common obstacle blocking growth and development in both the Caribbean and Africa. According to Mene, both regions needed to retain a much greater percentage of the value created from their primary resources.

Additionally, Caribbean Export

Executive Director Deodat Maharaj pointed out that studies indicate that less than 10 cents of every tourism dollar spent in the Caribbean are retained in the Caribbean.

In an effort to further advance engagement between Africa and the Caribbean, The African EXIM Bank has made \$900 million USD available to the region. Mene stated that he hopes Africa and the Caribbean will work together to align their strategies in order to increase trade and investment between the regions. According to him, the Caribbean is already regarded as “the sixth region” in AfCFTA.

Post-hurricane recovery donations pour in from foreign allies

By Britney Gordon

In order to assist with damages caused by hurricane Lisa, foreign allies Taiwan, Japan, and the United States, as well as several multilateral agencies have gifted thousands of dollars in monetary donations.

Taiwan, a long-time ally and friend of Belize, pledged to donate US\$200,000 to Belizeans affected by Hurricane Lisa. The donation was allocated to help Belizeans who have been displaced due to the hurricane resettle and rebuild their homes, as stated by Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

According to Dr. Osmond Martinez, the chief executive officer of the Ministry of Economic Development, multiple organizations have agreed to aid Belize in the restoration of the country. He stated that the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) also agreed to make a US\$200,000 donation. The Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) approved a US\$ 1 million donation and the Caribbean Development Bank (CBD) pledged US\$750,000.

An additional US\$97,000 worth

of supplies were gifted to the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) from the U.S. Embassy. The donation was funded by the U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) Humanitarian Assistance Program. It includes supplies, first aid kits, and construction materials to aid with the severe industrial damages suffered.

Similarly, Japan, a more recent ally of Belize, pledged to make a recovery donation of emergency relief goods such as heating pads, generators, blankets, and sleeping pads.

Wildlife Conservation Society **VACANCY NOTICE**

Position: Regional Accounting Analyst, Latin America and the Caribbean
Reports to: Regional Controller, Latin America and the Caribbean
Location: Orange Walk Town, Belize
Country Program/Sector: Latin America and the Caribbean Regions
Position Type: Full-Time
Expected travel: Regular travel to WCS offices in the regions

* Latin America and the Caribbean Regions include MesoAmerica, Patagonia and Andes Amazon Orinoco countries (Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay, and Peru).

Organization Background:

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) is a US non-profit, tax-exempt, private organization established in 1895 that saves wildlife and wild places by understanding critical issues, crafting science-based solutions, and taking conservation actions that benefit nature and humanity. With more than a century of experience, long-term commitments in dozens of landscapes, presence in more than 60 nations, and experience helping to establish over 150 protected areas across the globe, WCS has amassed the biological knowledge, cultural understanding and partnerships to ensure that vibrant, wild places and wildlife thrive alongside local communities. Working with local communities and organizations, that knowledge is applied to address species, habitat and ecosystem management issues critical to improving the quality of life of poor rural people whose livelihoods depend on the direct utilization of natural resources.

Position Summary:

The main purpose of this role is to support the Regional Controller to ensure the financial integrity of the Latin America and the Caribbean Regions and to be the lead on financial compliance, policy, and procedures for WCS. The role assists the Regional Controller in the audit and compliance function, as well as building the capacity of the country finance teams by providing appropriate financial management training where necessary. S/he also provides financial assessment and reports for management in the region and headquarters.

Key Position Responsibilities:

- Finance: Responsible for key financial management accountabilities in the region.
- Audit and Compliance: assist the Regional Controller to perform regular operational reviews of each office assigned to the position.
- Capacity building: Motivate, coach and develop country finance teams
- Perform other duties as determined by the Regional Controller.

Minimal Requirements:

- Minimum Bachelor Degree in Accounting, Finance, or related area
- 3 - 5 years of experience, INGO sector or audit firm experience highly preferred
- SAP experience would be helpful
- Strong analytical, problem-solving and technical accounting skills
- Experience in consolidation accounting, external reporting skills, process/control documentation preferred
- Experience with the Microsoft Office tools (Word, Excel, Outlook, and PowerPoint)
- Excellent interpersonal skills with the ability to work independently and collaboratively; ability to work with others within the department and company; must be able to interact effectively with the leadership team
- Troubleshooting skills and must be an objective, fact-based decision-maker
- Can handle multiple tasks with different (tight) deadlines and stakeholders
- Excellent communication skills (written, verbal, and interpersonal) & strong facilitation and conflict resolution skills
- Excellent Spanish and English language skills are required (read, write, speak)
- Position is permanent and full time based in Orange Walk Town. Applicants should reside in or near Orange Walk or be willing to re-locate.

Please send cover letter and resume or CV to recruiting@executivealliance.bz, with the subject LACP Regional Accounting Analyst.

Closing Date: 12th December 2022

Slowing Global Economic Growth is Increasingly Evident, High-Frequency Data Show

By Tryggvi Gudmundsson

Global economic growth prospects are confronting a unique mix of headwinds, including from Russia's invasion of Ukraine, interest rate increases to contain inflation, and lingering pandemic effects such as China's lockdowns and disruptions in supply chains.

In turn, our latest World Economic Outlook, released last month, lowered our global growth forecast for next year to 2.7 percent, and we expect countries accounting for more than one third of global output to contract during part of this year or next. Moreover, as we discuss in our latest report prepared for the Group of Twenty, recent high-frequency indicators confirm that the outlook is

gloomier.

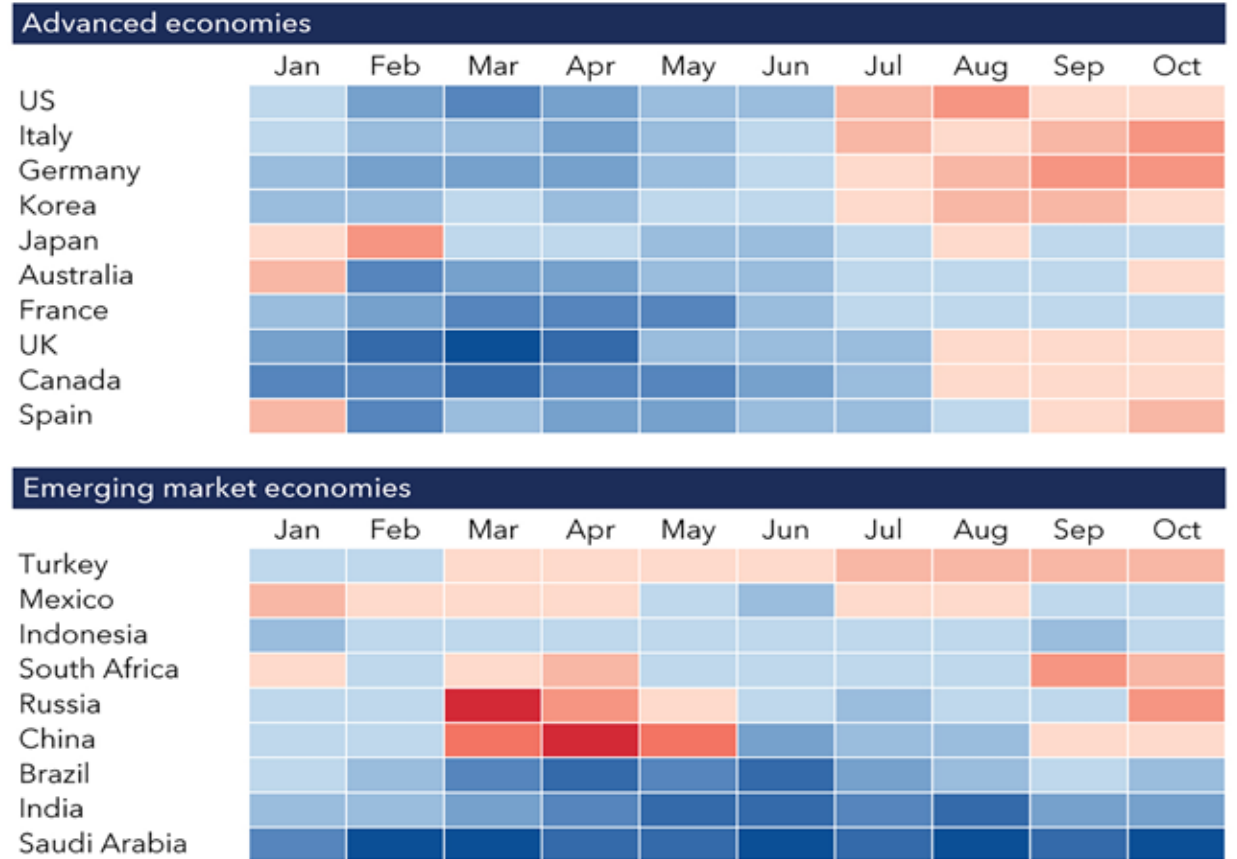
As the Chart of the Week shows, there has been a steady worsening in recent months for purchasing manager indices that are tracking a range of G20 economies. These survey-based measures gauge the momentum of manufacturing and services activity.

As the chart illustrates, readings for a growing share of G20 countries have fallen from expansionary territory earlier this year to levels that signal contraction. That is true for both advanced and emerging market economies, underscoring the slowdown's global nature.

While gross domestic product releases for the third quarter surprised on

Red zone

Indicators of economic activity confirm the gloomy outlook. (purchasing manager indexes, 2022: blue signals expansion, red signals contraction)



Source: Caixin, CIPS, CommBank, HSBC, Jibun Bank, RBC, S&P Global, via Haver Analytics. Note: Readings are composite except for Canada, Indonesia, Korea, Mexico and Turkey, which are manufacturing alone. Argentina is excluded due to data limitations.



Weh Wi Ga Fi Seh

Sat. Disemba 10: Kriol Jenral Meetn da Birdz Ailan (Bird's Isle)

Hapi Garifuna Settlement Day 2022

Yes ... harikayn seezn di don en a dis mont. Yes ... Krismos di kohn neks mont. Yes ... if yu da Bileez-Amerikan, maybi yu tink bowt Tanksgivin wid big terki dina. Bot noh mata weh els yu tink bowt, yu kyaahn noh memba seh dat dis mont sheshal sayka da Garifuna Settlement Day mont! YES! Soh tudeh, wi shyaa wid evribadi infamayshan yu ku fain pahn payj 42 a di buk bai Ken Decker, weh nayhn The Song of Kriol: A Grammar of the Kriol Language of Belize. Sohn a di bakgrong infamayshan aalso kohn fahn Sir Colville Young, eena fu hihn buk Language and Education in Belize. Da bowt sohn nayhn weh wi gi sohn kaina food eena Bileez. Dehnya wan wi di shyaa tudeh kohn schrayt fahn Garifuna langwij ahn kolcha. Pahn tap, langwij pipi tink seh sohn a dehnya ku chrays bak tu sohn a di Afrikan langwij dehn. Chree a dehnya food da: **baami**, **bambam**, ahn **fufu**. Pahn tap, az Sir Colville Young shyaa eena fu hihn buk, sohn ada werd dehn chrays bak dairek tu di Garifuna langwij:

- grupa** (wahn kaina fish fahn di oashan)
- taat** (wahn seet eena wahn doari)
- sorosi** (wahn kaina plaant yooz fu medisn)
- zinganga** (wahn dragonflai)

Enjai Novemba 19^t...Big op Garifuna kolcha ahn langwij!

the upside in some major economies, October PMI releases point to weakness in the fourth quarter, particularly in Europe. In China, intermittent pandemic lockdowns and the struggling real estate sector are contributing to a slowdown that can be seen not only in PMI data but also in investment, industrial production, and retail sales. This will inevitably have a significant impact on other economies due to China's large role in trade.

Despite growing

evidence of a global slowdown, policy makers should continue to prioritize containing inflation, which is contributing to a cost-of-living crisis, hurting low-income and vulnerable groups the most. As our G20 report emphasizes, the macroeconomic policy environment is unusually uncertain. However, continued fiscal and monetary tightening is likely needed in many countries to bring down inflation and address debt vulnerabilities—and

we do expect further tightening in many G20 economies in the months ahead. Nonetheless, these actions will continue to weigh on economic activity, especially in interest-sensitive sectors such as housing. The challenges that the global economy is facing are immense and weakening economic indicators point to further challenges ahead. However, with careful policy action and joint multilateral efforts, the world can move toward stronger and more inclusive growth.

VACANCY

Vacancy exists for a **Head Cook at Ochuna Restaurant.**

- **Two (2) years Experience**
- **Resumé**
- **TWO (2) references**

Please e-mail to: rhcasinotropicana@gmail.com

Deadline: Thursday, December 1st, 2022.



GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE
MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING
PHILIP GOLDSON HIGHWAY AND REMATE BYPASS UPGRADING PROJECT

**CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION
 SUPERVISION OF MINOR WORKS TO CREATE SAFE SCHOOL ZONES ALONG
 PHILIP GOLDSON HIGHWAY AND REMATE BYPASS**

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The Government of Belize (GOBZ) has received financing from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the United Kingdom Caribbean Infrastructure Partnership Fund (UKCIF) towards the cost of the Philip Goldson Highway and Remate Bypass Upgrading Project and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this financing to eligible payments under a contract for which this invitation is issued. Payments by CDB will be made only at the request of GOBZ and upon approval by CDB, and will be subject in all respects to the terms and conditions of the Financing Agreements. The Financing Agreements prohibit withdrawals from the Financing Accounts for the purpose of any payment to persons or entities, or for any import of goods, if such payment or import, to the knowledge of CDB, is prohibited by a decision of the United Nations Security Council taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. No party other than GOBZ shall derive any rights from the Financing Agreements or have any claim to the proceeds of the Financing.

The Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing (MIDH) through its Project Execution Unit (PEU), the Executing Agency, now wishes to procure consultancy services to conduct a Safe School Zone assessment which will identify and recommend up to five (5) schools most vulnerable to the risks of Road Traffic Incidents, for minor infrastructural works to improve road safety.

The objective of the consultancy is to identify, design, develop cost estimates and bidding documents, and provide construction supervision of appropriate, proven effective infrastructure improvements such as speed bumps, zebra crossings, sidewalks, bollards and signage for select schools along the PGH Miles 24.5 to 92 and the Remate Bypass.

Consultants should have the appropriate professional and academic qualifications and a minimum of 10 years' relevant experience in the areas of civil engineering design and construction supervision. Relevant post-graduate qualifications will be considered an asset.

The assignment is expected to be implemented over a period of **10 months**.

The MIDH now invites interested eligible individual consultants to submit Expressions of Interest indicating qualifications and experience required to provide these consultancy services.

Consultants shall be eligible to participate if:

- (a) the persons are citizens or *bona fide* residents of an eligible country; and
- (b) in all cases, the consultant has no arrangement and undertakes not to make any arrangements, whereby any substantial part of the net profits or other tangible benefits of the contract will accrue or be paid to a person not a citizen or *bona fide* resident of an eligible country.

Eligible countries are member countries of CDB. Consultants are advised to review the detailed eligibility criteria detailed in Section 4 and conflict of interest provisions in Section 5 of the *Procurement Procedures for Projects Financed by CDB (January 2021)*, as published on CDB's website.

In the assessment of submissions, consideration will be given to qualifications and experience on similar assignments.

Only electronic submissions are required and must be received at the first address below no later than **10:00am on Monday 19th December 2022**. An electronic copy must also be sent simultaneously to CDB at the second email addresses below. Each submission should include the name and address of the applicant and the subject should include "Expression of Interest - Consultancy Services for Design and Construction Supervision of Safe School Zones – Philip Goldson Highway and Remate Bypass Upgrading Project." All information must be submitted in **English**.

Following the assessment of submissions, the most technically capable and appropriately experienced applicant will be invited to negotiate a contract to provide the consultancy services. GOBZ reserves the right to accept or reject late applications or to cancel the present invitation partially or in its entirety. It will not be bound to assign any reason for not engaging the services of any applicant and will not defray any costs incurred by any applicant in the preparation and submission of Expressions of Interest.

Further information may be obtained from the first address below between 8:00am and 5:00pm local time Monday to Friday.

1. Attention: Mr. Evondale Moody
Project Coordinator
Project Execution Unit
Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing
Power Lane
Belmopan
BELIZE C.A.

Tel: +501-828-5220
Fax: +501-822-0563
Email: peu@midh.gov.bz

2. Procurement Officer
Procurement Policy Unit
Caribbean Development Bank
P.O. Box 408
Willey
St. Micheal
BARBADOS, W.I.

Tel: +1-246-539-1600
Email: procurement@caribank.org

All about The People

His Majesty's Loyal Opposition



Neri Briceno

and infighting that is unfolding in the United Democratic Party. It's sad, but something we have seen in the past in other parties. It's sad for the party, sad for the constituency that the elected officials represent, and sad for the people and nation of Belize. However, because a part of governing is about actual individual power, we can expect this battle to be protracted, bloody and sometimes just plan nasty.

This is the purging process that most modern political parties throughout the world have gone through and little Belize is apparently no different. I will not try to advise or give into

the conflict that currently surrounds the party, since I am neither a party member nor any type of political pundit for that matter. As an independent thinker, I have always

call a spade a spade and if your party is doing good, I will say it and if it is not, I will do so likewise.

The good news about this entire episode, and some might not be

... we must also realize when our motives are purely selfish and all about the power, perks, and the trappings of political office. The United Democratic Party owes it to themselves and the nation of Belize to get their act together and get it together rather quickly.

refrained from party politics because I do not believe in consensus of the masses. I want to be able to dissent even if it means going against the party line. That in itself does not make a good party member. I prefer to

able to see that today as arguments and disagreements continue to unfold, but the UDP will rebound. What it will look like after is anyone's guess and only time will tell. However, if you love democracy, our collective

hope should be that it emerges stronger, more determined, more vocal and a stronger opposition in the house.

A weak opposition is never a good thing for the democratic process because it allows the governing administration to run rough shod over the affairs of the nation and the people. For those People's United Party members that may get angry, trust me when I say that I would be saying the same thing if the UDP was in power.

As a Belizean citizen, there are three things that I love about my country. One, that regardless of what the critics may say, we still live in a democracy. Not a perfect one but a democracy, nevertheless. I can think of far worse places, Cuba, Venezuela, Iran, Afghanistan, Russia or North Korea. Just writing an article like this in most of these countries could land me in jail or as Salam Rushdie can attest, a death penalty.

Secondly, we can still dissent peacefully, there may be some name calling, but we can do so mostly peaceful and we still respect the right for each citizen to vote.

Thirdly, we respect the outcome of our electoral process with no violence. While we all agree that we can sharpen up the democratic process with things such as campaign finance reform and setting term limits for elected officials, democracy is still robust.

I am of the firm opinion that what the nation needs is a strong alternative to the two mass parties that currently exchange power. If a party has the potential to tip the scales of power from either party, it will incentivize them to do much better since winning an election is not guaranteed. As we currently stand, all the opposition has to do, is buy time and eventually their turn will come again. Belizean politics has therefore become a waiting game and while the waiting happens, a major part of the population suffers.

We are placed on this earth for a very short period of time. Before you realize it, your impact becomes less,

and your time passes. If we come to this earth and throughout our lifetime, we do nothing to make this piece of rock that we all share a better place or improve the life of one human being, then we would have failed a major part of our mission here on earth.

Politics, political parties, and the democratic process are a part of something larger and while we need to embrace it, we must also realize when our motives are purely selfish and all about the power, perks, and the trappings of political office. The United Democratic Party owes it to themselves and the nation of Belize to get their act together and get it together rather quickly.

They have a great and huge responsibility to this nation because they are the legitimate opposition. They were elected with a mandate to protect and to serve as the people's counterbalance in the house. Unfortunately, today they are failing at that and at representing the people who elected them. For some people this may be hard to grasp since they want uncontested, unbridled power, but if you love your country more than party, you will always want a strong opposition.

Belize is a young nation by international standards and there is much that can be admired about our nation. On the same hand there is much that is not. The task of building a nation is not an easy one. Even the great United States after over 246 years of independence, with all the resources at its disposal, still gets it wrong sometimes. However, we must learn from other nations' mistakes and trust me when I say that there are plenty of mistakes out in the real world.

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.

	<p>Headquarters British Army Training Support Unit Belize Price Barracks, British Forces Post Office 12</p> <p>Telephone 00 501 225 2209 Fax 00 501 225 2362 E-mail david.hannan347@mod.gov.uk</p>	
Our Reference: RC/02/22_R02		
Notice to General Public		Date: 05 Nov 22
Dear Sir/Madam		
Prior warning is to be given to the general public for training exercise taking place, by the British Army, in the following Training Areas:		
a. 1963 Line		
The training will take place during the period 12 Nov 22 – 28 Nov 22 with Live ammunition being used, along with military vehicles.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note LIVE Firing will be conducted at 1963 Line Training Estate – Sat 12 Nov – Mon 28 Nov 2022. 		
The general public should avoid the areas listed above and be aware of the presence of high numbers of British soldiers on the ground carrying weapons. At times loud explosions may be heard along with gunfire, this is normal in respect to the training being conducted.		
Should any member of the general public wish to enter the areas listed above they are to be advised all roads are safe unless marked with a red lamp at night or a red flag during the day light hours. British troops will also operate checkpoints along the roads entering danger areas and can give advice to areas of training activity.		
All enquires relating to British Forces training in Belize should be directed to RANGE CONTROL, BATSUB on 225 2209.		
Your continued support to BATSUB is vital to the British Army and its success in operations around the world.		
Yours faithfully		
D Hannan Maj Training Safety Officer for Commander BATSUB		



**MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT & HOUSING
GEORGE PRICE HIGHWAY UPGRADING PROJECT SECTION VI
(SAN IGNACIO TO SUCCOTZ VILLAGE)**



CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE PEER REVIEW OF DESIGN DOCUMENTS

REQUEST FOR TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL PROPOSALS

The **Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing (MIDH)** through its **Project Execution Unit (PEU)**, the Executing Agency, wishes to procure consultancy services for the **Peer Review of Design Documents for the George Price Highway Upgrading Project - Section VI (San Ignacio to Succotz Village)**.

The objective of the consultancy is to:

- Examine the Feasibility Study and Detailed Design
- Review & Update Topographic Survey and Designer's Survey Data
- Establish Road Reserve and Design Survey Information
- Review of Site Investigation & Materials information
- Review of Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Report
- Review & Update Structural and Drainage Design
- Review Geometric (Horizontal & Vertical alignment) and Pavement Design
- Review Detailed Design and Make Adjustments
- Review Cost Estimates and Make Adjustments
- Produce Design Review Report and Required Design Modifications

MIDH now invites interested eligible consulting firms to submit Technical and Financial Proposals for the peer design review as per the Terms of Reference.

In the assessment of submissions, consideration will be given to qualifications and experience on similar assignments. The consulting team should consist of persons having the appropriate professional and academic qualifications and a minimum of 10 years relevant experience in the areas of highway/transportation engineering, structural/bridge engineering, soils and materials engineering, environmental specialization, social specialization, and construction supervision. Post Graduate qualifications in the required fields as well as specific experience locally and in the Caribbean will be an asset.

The Key Experts required are as follows:

1. Position K-1: Team Leader / Highway Engineer
2. Position K-2: Geotechnical Engineer

It is the consultant's responsibility to ensure that their team has an appropriate mix of key and non-key experts to satisfy the requirements of the TOR.

All information must be submitted in English. Further information may be obtained from the address below between **8:00am and 5:00pm local time Monday to Friday.**

Proposals shall be submitted by email, in pdf format, to the email address below, no later than **10:00am local time on Monday 19 December 2022**. The e-mail subject line should state, "**TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL PROPOSALS FOR THE PEER DESIGN REVIEW OF SECTION VI OF THE GEORGE PRICE UPGRADING HIGHWAY PROJECT**" and the body of the email must state the name and address of the applicant. The Proposals will be deemed to have been received at the time they are received by the receiving office in the address below. The burden of proving receipt of the email will be on the applicant and will not be met solely by a read receipt or sent items report generated by the applicant's computer.

The Government of Belize reserves the right to accept or reject late applications or to cancel the present invitation partially or in its entirety. It will not be bound to assign any reason for not engaging the services of any applicant and will not defray any costs incurred by any applicant in the preparation and submission of Proposals.

1. **Attention: Mr. Evondale Moody
Engineering Coordinator
Project Execution Unit
Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing
Belmopan
BELIZE, C.A.
Tel: +501-828-5220**



JOB VACANCIES

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER

Saint Francis Xavier Credit Union Limited (SFXCU) is seeking a **Human Resources Manager** who can develop effective relationships with line managers and provide a professional HR service to the Credit Union.

Responsibilities:

- Performance management – deliver performance management programs that drive a high performance culture.
- Recruitment and selection – direct and manage the recruitment and selection process, and engage with managers in interviewing and assessment procedures.
- Learning and development – implement and monitor effectiveness of training programs.
- Human resources policy – develop, implement and maintain human resources policies across the organisation, including training programs to educate and promote awareness of regulatory compliance.
- Reporting and management of human resources metrics – produce reports on key metrics, including remuneration and benefits, absenteeism and turnover.
- Leadership – mentor direct reports and provide coaching to help them reach their potential.

Requirements:

- Minimum a Bachelor's Degree in human resources management or business management and extensive knowledge of and experience within an HR environment.
- A demonstrated track record in developing and implementing strategic business and HR objectives within a complex, multi-business organisation
- Superior interpersonal, coaching, communication, negotiation and consultative skills at all levels.
- Ability to engage with and win the respect of leaders to successfully influence them on key change initiatives.
- Demonstrated commitment to health, safety and environmental policies and procedures, including development and training of staff in these areas.
- Flexible working hours, Driver License and willing to travel as required.

Deadline for applying December 2nd, 2022.

To apply for this exciting and rewarding opportunity, kindly forward your resume, cover letter, copies of qualifications, police record and two references to:

Rafael Dominguez Sr.
General Manager
Saint Francis Xavier Credit Union Limited
#79- Corner 5th Avenue & 1st street North
Corozal Town, Belize C.A.
Or via email to sfxavier@btl.net

AUDITOR

Saint Francis Xavier Credit Union Limited (SFXCU) is looking for an **Internal Auditor** to add value and improve our operations by bringing a systematic and disciplined approach to the effectiveness of risk management, control, and governance processes.

Responsibilities:

- To assist in the full audit cycle including risk management and control management over operations' effectiveness, financial reliability and compliance with all applicable directives and regulations
- Determine internal audit scope and develop annual plans
- Obtain, analyse and evaluate accounting documentation, previous reports, data, flowcharts etc
- Prepare and present reports that reflect audit's results and document process
- Act as an objective source of independent advice to ensure validity, legality and goal achievement
- Identify loopholes and recommend risk aversion measures and cost savings
- Maintain open communication with management and Supervisory committee
- Document process and prepare audit findings memorandum Conduct follow up audits to monitor management's interventions
- Engage to continuous knowledge development regarding policies, regulations, best practices, tools, techniques, and performance standards.

Requirements and skills:

- Proven working experience as Internal Auditor or Senior Auditor
- Advanced computer skills on MS Office, accounting software and databases
- Ability to manipulate large amounts of data and to compile detailed reports
- Proven knowledge of auditing standards and procedures, laws, rules and regulations
- High attention to detail and excellent analytical skills
- Sound independent judgement
- 3-5 years' experience
- Flexible working hours, driver license and willing to travel as required.
- BS degree in Accounting or Finance

Deadline for applying December 2nd, 2022.

Applicant must send their resume, cover letter, copies of qualifications, police record and two references to:

Supervisory Committee
Saint Francis Xavier Credit Union Limited
#79- Corner 5th Avenue & 1st street North
Corozal Town, Belize C.A.
Or via email to sfxavier@btl.net

DEBT COLLECTOR/BAILIFF

We are looking for a reliable **Debt Collector/Bailiff** to contact debtors and claim outstanding debts. You will be responsible for recovering the money owed in as little time as possible.

Responsibilities:

- Keep track of assigned accounts to identify outstanding debts
- Plan course of action to recover outstanding payments
- Locate and contact debtors to inquire of their payment status
- Negotiate payoff deadlines or payment plans
- Handle questions or complaints
- Investigate and resolve discrepancies
- Create trust relationships with debtors when possible to avoid future issues
- Update account status and database regularly
- Alert superiors of debtors unwilling or unable to pay when necessary
- Comply with requirements when legal action is unavoidable

Requirements and skills:

- Proven experience as debt collector
- Experience in working with targets and tight deadlines
- Knowledge of relevant legal requirements
- Working knowledge of MS Office and databases
- Excellent communication and people skills
- Apt in negotiating and persuading
- Ability to be polite and compassionate without lacking confidence
- Associate Degree in paralegal is preferred
- Driver License and willing to travel as required

Deadline for applying December 2nd, 2022.

To apply for this exciting and rewarding opportunity, kindly forward your resume, cover letter, copies of qualifications, police record and two references to:

Rafael Dominguez Sr.
General Manager
Saint Francis Xavier Credit Union Limited
#79- Corner 5th Avenue & 1st street
North Corozal Town, Belize C.A.
Or via email to sfxavier@btl.net

TELLERS

Saint Francis Xavier Credit Union is seeking to recruit highly motivated **Tellers** to join our team. The successful applicants will work as part of the member services team responsible for providing an excellent member services experience to both existing members and potential new members.

The successful candidate will be responsible for carrying out a range of operational and administrative duties that will contribute to the effective day to day running of the credit union.

Major Duties and Responsibilities:

1. Serve members by completing account transactions.
2. Effectively manage cash handling and balancing.
3. Comply with the CU operations and security procedures by participating in all training sessions, conventions, etc.
4. Answer questions to provide relevant information to members and/or refer members to other services as necessary.
5. Maintain member confidence and protect the CU operations by keeping information confidential.
6. Ascertain members' needs and inform the membership of new services and promotions.
7. Actively contribute to team effort by accomplishing related results as needed.
8. Work at all times in a courteous, friendly and professional manner, preserving confidentiality and adhering strictly to all policies and procedures of the Credit Union.

Qualifications & Requirements:

1. Associated degree in Business Administration
2. Working experience is a plus.

Skills:

- Customer Service Excellence
- Thoroughness and Attention to details
- Bi lingual (**English & Spanish**)
- Good communication Skills
- Integrity
- Documentation Skills
- Interpersonal Trustworthy

Deadline for applying December 2nd, 2022.

The application package should include: Application letter, Resume, Proof of Academic and Professional Qualifications, copy of social security card, two references, and recent police record to:

Rafael Dominguez Sr.
General Manager
Saint Francis Xavier Credit Union Limited
#79- Corner 5th Avenue & 1st street
North Corozal Town, Belize C.A.
Or via email to sfxavier@btl.net



1 billion young people are at risk for hearing loss

Turning down the racket isn't just for disgruntled parents — a new study has shown it could protect more than 1 billion people at risk for hearing loss.

When it comes to phones, music, movies and shows, it's common for adolescents and young adults to listen too loud and too long, according to the study published Tuesday in the journal *BMJ Global Health*.

"We estimated that 0.67 to 1.35 billion individuals aged 12-34 years worldwide likely engage in unsafe listening practices," and are therefore at risk for hearing loss, said lead study author Lauren Dillard via email. Dillard is a consultant to the World Health Organization and a postdoctoral fellow at the Medical University of South Carolina.

Exposure to sound at too high a volume can fatigue the sensory cells and structures in the ear, Dillard said. If that goes on for too long, they can become permanently damaged, resulting in hearing loss, tinnitus or both.

Researchers conducted a meta-analysis of scientific articles regarding unsafe listening practices published between 2000 and 2021 across three databases, the study said.

The unsafe practices were tracked according to use of headphones as well as attendance at entertainment venues, such as concerts, bars and clubs, according to the study.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention limits safe noise levels at around 85 decibels over 40 hours a week. If you are listening for only 2½ hours over a day, that is

the equivalent of about 92 decibels, the study said.

Plugged into a smartphone downloaded with MP3 audio files, listeners often choose volumes as high as 105 decibels, and venues often range from 104 to 112 decibels, the study said.

Fortunately, policies, businesses and individuals can put measures into place to encourage safe listening and protect hearing

the *International Journal of Audiology*. "The message is to enjoy your music but safely."

Whether listening on your own device or at a concert, Dillard cautioned that ringing ears is a good sign that the music was too loud.

There are ways to prevent the damage before you notice the effects, however. Some devices allow people to monitor their listening levels in the device settings, she said. Some even will

alert you when you've been listening too loud for too long.

"If your device says you are listening at unsafe levels, turn down the volume and listen to music for shorter periods of time," Dillard said via email.

Experts cannot conclusively say which headphones are the safest for listening, Dillard said, but she did recommend using ones that reduce background noise, which may help keep the volume at lower levels since you don't need to drown out the noise around you.

But you don't always have control of the volume dial. If you are at a loud concert or venue, you can protect your hearing by standing further away from speakers and taking breaks away from the noise, if possible, Dillard said.

And it always helps to use some ear protection — even the foam ear plugs will do, she added.

"Hearing is the sense that connects us to the people we love," Swanepoel said in an email. "Taking care of our hearing is key to maintaining healthy relationship(s) and general health and well-being. Primary prevention in early adults is critical to avoid earlier onset and accelerated age-related hearing loss."



from damage over time, Dillard said.

The analysis of the study was rigorous, and the evidence is compelling that hearing loss should be a public health priority, said De Wet Swanepoel, professor of audiology at the University of Pretoria in South Africa. Swanepoel was not affiliated with the study.

"Music is a gift to be enjoyed for a lifetime," said Swanepoel, who is also editor in chief of

S U D O K U

Medium Puzzle

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

Answer to Puzzle

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

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.

The Righters Write

Article 23: Right to Work

Contributed By The Human Rights Commission

Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 70: 30 Articles on 30 Articles, 2018

As First Lady of the United States, Eleanor Roosevelt told striking workers in 1941 that she had always “felt it was important that everyone who was a worker join a labour organization, because the ideals of the organized labour movement are high ideals.”

Five years later, when she headed the United Nations committee drafting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), she gave international labour organisations an important role in shaping the Declaration to reflect their vision of how the world should develop.

The American Federation of Labour had a full-time staff person at the UN while the UDHR was being drafted – Toni Sender, a politician and journalist who had fled Nazi Germany. Along with other labour representatives, she argued forcefully for the specific inclusion of trade union rights. Roosevelt also helped ensure that

Article 23 spelled out, in four paragraphs, the right of “everyone” to work, with equal pay for equal work, and without discrimination. The right to form and join trade unions is also clearly enunciated.

“I belong to the generation of workers who, born in the villages and hamlets of rural Poland, had the opportunity to acquire education and find employment in industry, becoming... conscious of their rights and importance in society.”

–Lech Walesa, head of the Solidarity trade union and subsequently President of Poland

In its third paragraph, Article 23 calls for “just and favourable remuneration” to ensure “an existence worthy of human dignity” for workers and their families, reflecting again a vision of a better world than the just-defeated Nazi Germany with its slave labour.

The drafters built on the work of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), one of the few institutions from the League of Nations to become incorporated into the United Nations, when it was created in 1945. Just as the UN was founded in the wake of the Second World War, the ILO had been set up in 1919 out of the ashes of the First World War. It pursued the vision that universal, lasting peace can be established only if it is

based on social justice.

Latin American delegates, along with those from the Communist bloc (whose ideology espoused full employment), were instrumental in formulating the final text of Article 23. The Soviet Union, in particular, wanted not only the final terminology of “protection against unemployment,” but greater obligations on states to prevent unemployment.

Over the past 25 years, the number of workers living in extreme poverty has declined dramatically, but unemployment is still a major issue, with more than 204 million people unemployed around the world in 2015.

Equal pay for equal work is still a dream in

“I belong to the generation of workers who, born in the villages and hamlets of rural Poland, had the opportunity to acquire education and find employment in industry, becoming... conscious of their rights and importance in society.”

–Lech Walesa, head of the Solidarity trade union and subsequently President of Poland

most countries. More generally, women face enduring obstacles in achieving economic empowerment. According to the World Bank, about 155 countries have at least one law that limits women’s economic opportunities, while 100 states place restrictions on the types of jobs women can do. In 18 states, husbands can dictate whether their wives can work at all.

Child labour also still exists in many countries. The ILO says 152 million children are engaged in mentally, physically or socially dangerous work that prevents them from getting an education. In Africa, one in five children is a child labourer, with smaller proportions in other parts of the world. Globally, around half of the victims of child labour are between five and 11 years old.

One of the UN’s 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is devoted to decent work and economic growth. The UN hopes to eradicate forced labour, slavery and human trafficking, and achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men by 2030.

Unfortunately, by many measures, the world is slipping back, not progressing, in protecting workers’ rights. The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) promotes and defends workers’ rights. In its 2018 Global

Rights Index, it says an increasing number of countries are chipping away at labour protection and persecuting advocates for workers’ rights in an effort to undermine trade unions and create a climate of intimidation among workers and unions.

In 2018, it reported, governments in three of the world’s most populous countries – China, Indonesia and Brazil – passed laws that denied workers freedom of association, restricted free speech and used the military to suppress labour disputes.

While workers have the right, on paper, to freedom of association, in 2018, 92 out of 142 countries surveyed by the ITUC excluded certain categories of workers (for example, part-time employees) from this right. At the same time, many consumers, largely as a result of sustained advocacy by civil society organizations, are becoming more aware of the issues covered in Article 23, such as being paid a living wage and working in safe conditions.

In addition to States, all companies, whatever their size or sector, have a responsibility to respect core labor rights such as the right to work, and the right to freedom of association and collective bargaining. This responsibility applies across a company’s global value chain and follows from the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations in 2011.

“There is no longer a choice for business to act responsibly.”

– John Ruggie, author of UN Guiding Principles on Business & Human Rights

UN Human Rights Chief Michelle Bachelet argues that there is a “colossal” cost to violations of economic and social rights. Excluding people with disabilities from the work force, for example, can cost economies as much as seven percent of GDP.

“Evidence from many business sectors indicates that respecting human rights can have a direct impact on a company’s bottom line,” she says. Consumers also have a role to play in examining the “human rights issues related to the goods they buy and the services they pay for.”

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.

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Date: November 17, 2022

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FUN FACTS!

Ice sheets and Glaciers

An ice sheet is a mass of glacial land ice extending more than 50,000 square kilometers (20,000 square miles). Ice sheets once covered much of the Northern Hemisphere during a series of Pleistocene Ice Ages. Now, Earth has just two ice sheets: one covers most of Greenland, the largest island in the world, and the other spans across the Antarctic continent. Ice sheets are constantly in motion, spreading out under their own weight in broad domes.

Together, the Antarctic and Greenland Ice Sheets contain more than 99 percent of the land ice and over 68 percent of the fresh water on Earth. Ice sheets are an important resource because they contribute vital ecosystem services, such as keeping fresh water frozen as ice—acting as global water towers. If global emissions continue at their current rate, Earth's ice sheets are vulnerable to massive ice loss that could substantially raise sea levels.

For example, the Antarctic Ice Sheet covers almost 14 million square kilometers (5.4 million square miles), roughly the area of the contiguous United States and Mexico combined. The Antarctic Ice Sheet measures nearly



4.9 kilometers (3 miles) at its thickest point and contains about 30 million cubic kilometers (7.2 million cubic miles) of ice. If the entire Antarctic Ice Sheet melted, sea level would rise about 60 meters (200 feet).

The Greenland Ice Sheet covers about 80 percent of the world's largest island, stretching across 1.7 million square kilometers (656,000 square miles)—an area about three times the size of Texas. At its thickest point, the Greenland Ice Sheet measures over 3 kilometers (1.9 miles) thick and contains about 2.9 million cubic kilometers (696,000

cubic miles) of ice. If the entire Greenland Ice Sheet melted, sea level would rise about 7.4 meters (24 feet).

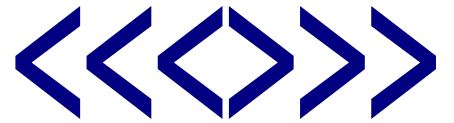
Is an ice sheet different from a glacier?

An ice sheet is a type of glacier. An ice sheet is a mass of glacial land ice, extending more than 50,000 square kilometers (20,000 square miles). During the last ice age, ice sheets also covered much of North America and Scandinavia. Now, Earth has two ice sheets: one covers most of Greenland, the largest island in the world, and the other spans across the Antarctic continent.

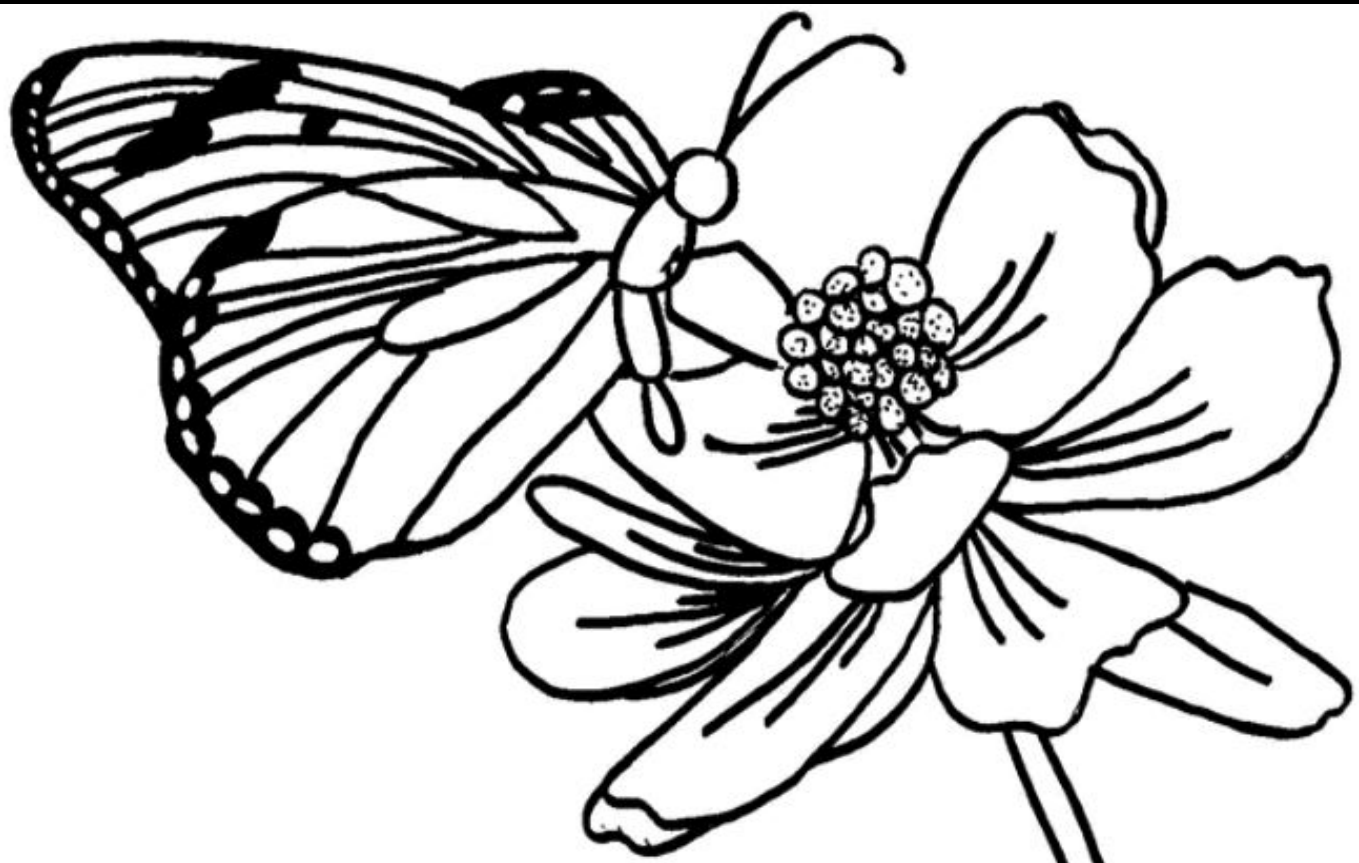
The Antarctic Ice Sheet

extends almost 14 million square kilometers (5.4 million square miles), roughly the area of the contiguous United States and Mexico combined. It also contains about 30 million cubic kilometers (7.2 million cubic miles) of ice.

The Greenland Ice Sheet contains about 2.9 million cubic kilometers (0.7 million cubic miles) of ice. The ice sheet extends about 1.7 million square kilometers (656,000 square miles), covering 80 percent of the world's largest island, and is equivalent to about three times the size of Texas. It contains about 2.9 million cubic kilometers (696,000 cubic miles) of ice.



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Sugar impasse threatens start of crop season



ASR/BSI's Shawn Chavarria



Prime Minister John Briceño



BSCFA's Alfredo Ortega

The impasse between the Belize Sugar Cane Farmers Association (BSCFA) and Belize Sugar Industries Limited (BSI) / American Sugar Refinery (ASR) is very much alive and is threatening the start of the new cane crop season. Both parties coming to an amicable agreement, at this point, seems

like an impossible situation. That is what Prime Minister John Briceño who is also a cane farmer told reporters earlier in the week.

Briceño said, "Both sides need to be able to sit down as adults and try to find a common ground to be able to move this thing forward. And, unfortunately, I believe in some

instances, they have pinned themselves in a corner and they can't find their way out of that corner."

On one corner you have the BSCFA- the largest cane farmers association in the north, wanting a different commercial agreement that would be more beneficial to its members. On the other corner, you have ASR/

BSI which says that the BSCFA's request for a 60-40 split on the price-sharing mechanism can plunge the company into bankruptcy.

BSCFA's Chairman of the Committee of Management Alfredo Ortega explained that "the net strip value that has been used for many years we want to change that as a gross revenue

and we have put to the table a 60/40 on which we are saying come to the table lets us negotiate, but that is the thing that BSI doesn't want to do this." Malcolm McLachlan, who is the Vice President for International Relations for ASR, established the company's position, saying that "the mill is not in a position to suddenly transfer a huge amount of money, and we've said all the way along. We can look at other formulas as long as it doesn't disadvantage either side. And that remains our position."

Shawn Chavarria, ASR/BSI's Finance Director, added that "the main difference between our proposal and the B.S.C.F.A's is that when it comes to export direct consumption sugar because they don't want a manufacturing allowance and to be sharing in that cost. ...We assume all the risks, all the shipping costs related to that, and we value that sugar as raw sugar – same sixty-forty, but they've also rejected that. So we're at the point now where really I think the B.S.C.F.A. keeps moving the goalpost."

However, Ortega says that ASR/BSI, "Does not want to change anything; they want us to accept what they are bringing to the table. We are not fools. We understand very clear. We know what the farmers need and that is why we are

calling them to the table to come and negotiate."

So with both the farmer and the miller sticking to their positions, the suggestion for a mediator to intervene to provide an amicable solution was accepted. And that's as far as it has gotten. A mediator has still not been appointed. Briceño who made the suggestion in August said, "At that time BSI was not prepared. Now, BSI said 'yes.' I gave a name. BSI accepted the name. But now the cane farmers are saying, well, we don't want to accept that name because BSI never gave in that name. It's just endless games that both sides are playing."

That game might very well go on beyond December 19, which is the date that ASR/BSI wants to start milling. The possibility that BSCFA again blocks the factory's entrances to prevent members of other associations to deliver cane is still a possibility especially if ASR/BSI decides to start the season without a commercial agreement with the BSCFA.

The government's intervention at this time is highly unlikely. The BSCFA is calling on Prime Minister John Briceño to intervene as he did in 2021. Briceño answered that call, saying "Well, we can't in a way because these are two private entities."

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Census 2022 preliminary report delayed due to Hurricane Lisa and other factors

The Statistical Institute of Belize (SIB) says that the preliminary report for the 2022 Population and Housing Census will not be ready until mid-2023.

The SIB explained this week that there were a number of challenges, but that the greatest setback in the conclusion for counting in the Belize District was the impact of Hurricane Lisa, which hit on November 2.

Acting Deputy Director General of the SIB Miriam Willoughby said that the preliminary report is projected to be ready in June, noting that the census had kicked off with over 600 field staff but the number has been reduced to just over 100. Counting has concluded in the Corozal, Orange Walk, and Toledo districts, as well as areas such as Ambergris Caye and San Ignacio.



The Census' field staff has been reduced from about 600 to about 100 persons.

Counting in the Stann Creek district is set to conclude by November 20, and the counting in Belmopan

is expected to run until the end month.

"Belize City will be the last area," Willoughby said. "We

were mostly affected in the south side. We have several areas that we won't be able to access right

now, so we'll have to continue to monitor to see if we will be able to finish these areas by December. We're

looking at the first week in December now," Willoughby said.

She added that considerations are being made to scale down the level of questions in areas that were severely affected by Hurricane Lisa, to only capture only basic demographic information to lessen the time field staff spend with people in these areas.

"The important thing is that we want to make sure we get a complete count of the country right now," she added.

Preliminary estimates based on the current count hint at the possibility of the population being just above 400,000; however, with the level of counting yet to be concluded and the preliminary report not due until next year, estimates at this time will come with some level of inaccuracy.



Belize Agricultural Health Authority

The Belize Agricultural Health Authority invites applications from suitably qualified candidates to fill the following position:

Technical Director, Animal Health

Minimum qualification and skills:

1. A Master's Degree in veterinary medicine and surgery, and be a registered veterinary surgeon in Belize (DVM) with three (3) years management experience; OR
2. A Master's Degree in the field of Animal Health/Science with five (5) years management experience; OR
3. A first degree in veterinary medicine and surgery, and be a registered veterinary surgeon in Belize (DVM) with eight (8) years management experience;
4. Computer literate particularly in Microsoft word, Power Point and knowledge of other programs and software will be an asset;
5. Excellent public relations;
6. Experience working in Animal Health in the agriculture industry;
7. Good understanding of Animal Health regulations would be an asset.

Competencies:

1. Good management skills;
2. Strong professional work ethics;
3. Strong public relations, inter-personal and communication skills;
4. Fluent in written and spoken English and working knowledge of Spanish;
5. Highly motivated team player who takes initiative;
6. Strong leadership and negotiating skills;
7. Successful experience in policy development and implementation;
8. Valid class "A" driver's license.

The Technical Director of the Animal Health Department will be responsible for the administrative, managerial and technical functions of the Department in accordance with the relevant regulations.

Salary: BAHA Pay Scale 23: \$35,460.84 x 1,433.76 – \$62,702.28

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Interested persons may submit letter of application, résumé, proof of qualification, official transcript and two recent reference letters (within six months from application date) and a valid police record, no later than Friday, November 25, 2022 to:

Human Resource Director
Belize Agricultural Health Authority
P.O. Box 169, Cor. Hummingbird Hwy. & Forest Dr., Belmopan, Belize
Phone: 501-8220197, Fax: 501-8220271, e-mail: baha@bt.net, website: www.baha.org.bz



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Tropic Air flies to San Pedro Sula

By William Ysaguirre

Tropic Air inaugurated its new non-stop service to San Pedro Sula Honduras on Tuesday, November 19.

Tropic Air was founded to bring tourists to San Pedro, Ambergris Caye, affirmed Tropic Air Chief Executive Officer Steve Schulte. The departure time is a bit earlier than the Philip Goldson Airport is used to but the aim of the new route is to help grow the overnight tourism sector, by connecting to COPA, which does not fly to Belize regularly.

COPA presently only flies into Belize once a week. The service will be an expensive investment at first, until the flights are fully booked, and he anticipates that it



may take two years before Tropic begins to see any returns. But it was important to start somewhere, to grow the industry, to serve our neighbors who are also our friends, as Honduras has always welcomed Belizean airlines to fly there with very little formalities.

Minister of Tourism Hon. Anthony Mahler congratulated Schulte on the new service, on blazing trails to grow the Belize tourism industry and to build the resilience of the Belize tourism sector, helping it to rebound from the impacts of the COVID 19



Tropic Air CEO Steve Schulte

pandemic, the war in Ukraine and Hurricane Lisa.

Airlift into a country is the lifeblood of

the tourism sector, Mahler said, and the ministry has put a lot of effort to increase the number of flights

into Belize, and to support the local airline sector. The ministry considers regional travel important to grow the inflow of visitors to Belize, and it will continue to court

from Europe.

There are some 50,000 to 60,000 people in Belize with ties to Honduras, Mahler noted, and this is an important market for Belize tourism, just as there are many more with ties to El Salvador, to which Tropic Air introduced a non-stop service in February.

The Beechcraft 1900 twin-engine turboprop took 40 minutes to fly to the Ramon Villeda Morales International Airport in San Pedro Sula, where the company's agents welcomed their arrival with champagne. The service will begin with two flights per week, but Schulte said more flights would be added as demand grows.

This is the fourth route the Central America that Tropic Air has begun.

airlines from Central America and Latin America, with the hope to eventually introduce flights



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