

Reporter

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“Poverty up 10% in 3 years!” PM tells UN

Poverty in Belize, which was already reported at 52 percent based on 2018 data, has increased by ten percent within the last three years, Prime Minister John Briceño told the United Nations recently.

Speaking at the 77th United Nations’ General Assembly last Friday, Briceño said to the world community, “Poverty is on the increase. ... The lingering impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and persistent supply-chain disruptions have contributed to sky rocketing inflation.

“These economic realities exacerbate an already acute social situation in Belize. Poverty is estimated to have risen by 10% between 2018 and 2021. [And] 45.5% of



Prime Minister John Briceño tells international community that poverty has increased by 10% between 2018 and 2021.

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“NO COMMENT!”

Hon. Patrick Faber mum on Nomination Committee’s rejection of his Collet division application



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Hon. Patrick Faber says he will reserve comment at this time.

JIOC: Primary Radar ‘essential equipment’ to combat drug trafficking

By Michelle Sutherland

The Primary radar is a “very essential piece of equipment” that, when used properly, will help local law enforcement to be more effective in combating drug trafficking,

the head of Belize’s Joint Intelligence and Operation Center (JIOC), the unit responsible for tracking drug planes, told The Reporter Thursday.

Commander of the Belize Coast Guard Rear Admiral Elton Bennett,

who is also responsible for heading JIOC said the primary radar will enable authorities to best allocate their resources in a targeted way; thereby, ensure that resources are best deployed to the most appropriate location



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The primary radar will help authorities track illicit aircrafts.



Duty

Editor Sir:

Hours after publicly pledging to defend the religion of John Calvin in Scotland, King Charles III said that in his oath of office when he is crowned, he will pledge to be, not the defender of THE faith but of Faith – all expressions of faith. This was remarkable! But it means that it took some four centuries for Britain to move to religious toleration. His predecessor, Charles I had tried to restore the catholic faith in Britain and was rewarded with a trip to the tower where his head was cut off.

In the second half of the eighteen hundreds the colonial government of British Honduras gave a big boost to public education by inviting the Jesuits of England to establish public education. After sometime the Jesuits of the Missouri Province of America replaced the English. They contributed greatly to the network of public schools in Belize.

From 2008 to the present the education system has suffered a great setback because the Ministry of Education encouraged a system of containment by favoring support of Anglican Schools and restricting help to Catholic Schools. The freedom of Catholic

Education was severely curtailed by the promotion of an agenda of loose sexual morality repugnant to Catholics.

About two decades ago our Supreme Court gave a tremendous push to the destruction of enlightened sexual behaviour by ruling that Catholic Schools could not take an unmarried female out of the classroom if as a single person she became pregnant.

As a little nation of forty-one years, we have to review these past decades to try to understand how far we have traveled away from wholesome moral living and what concrete steps we need to make to seek to repair the damage we have done to ourselves.

What is the foundation of our nation and natural life? Are we just individuals or are we also members of families? Is the corner stone of our national life simply a collection of mighty women who birth, nourish, shape and discipline offspring?

What is the assignment of our males? Are they only planters of the fields who move on to plant more seeds in other fields but do no pruning and shaping?

Do we teach our pubescent teens, both females and males to be chaste, to develop self – control of all their affective feelings?

Whilst we promote the necessity of self-reliance, do we instruct the young to be dutiful and responsible?

Let us take up the task of teaching duties and responsibilities along with corresponding rights!

Signed: Paul Rodriguez OBE

JIOC: Primary Radar 'essential equipment'...

Cont'd from pg. 1 within the most reasonable time.

Bennett, however, did underscore that while the device is significant it is not a panacea. It will not be able to completely stomp out drug trafficking, he reminded. It will only improve efficiencies.

"To say that it is going to completely change what is happening now, we can't say that," said Bennett. "It now becomes an asset that the Government of Belize owns, so there is continuity in terms of having that equipment here. It will make us more effective in terms of going to the right location, and in terms of predicting where the aircraft is heading. I wouldn't say it will make our jobs easier, but it makes us more effective in determining where the aircraft is heading."

Bennett clarified that the primary radar is not owned by the Ministry of Defence or National Security but that it is the property of the Department of Civil Aviation and the Ministry of Blue Economy.

As part of the agreement, the Department of Civil Aviation plans to provide JIOC with a feed from the primary radar which will be fed into their tracking system as intelligence. That data is then processed based on trajectory, origination, distance, and speed which will then be sent out to the response teams on the ground for them to be dispatched.

In terms of how the new equipment will work, Bennett explained, "That feed that we will get from the primary radar will allow us to do tracking of all aircraft whether they are legitimate or suspected illegal aircraft. The difference between the primary and the secondary radar is that the secondary radar would only be able to track those aircraft that have their transponder on as though they are on a legitimate flight."

Bennett explained, "The primary radar will allow us to use electromagnetic waves to bounce off the radar itself and the aircraft and even if it does not have a transponder onboard, we will be able to locate that aircraft and then track it."

The United States Department of State's "International Narcotics Control Strategy Report 2021" ("the report") noted that Belize's primary threat is illicit aircraft. The report also lists Belize as a major transit for illegal drugs such as cocaine that originate from out of Central America.

It further indicated that Belize is vulnerable to exploitation by transnational criminal organizations due to its central location, porous borders, sparsely populated landscape, and accessible coastline dotted with hundreds of small islands and atolls. The report said that traffickers offload drugs at illicit airstrips or along

the coast using "go-fast" boats for further transshipment by land through Mexico or Guatemala to the United States.

While the report cited that Belize's police, military and coast guard share responsibility for drug interception they all face serious constraints because Belize "does not have any air defense system, maritime radar or primary radar capable of monitoring illicit air traffic."

Furthermore, there are significant equipment gaps, limited law enforcement response capability, and systemic investigative and prosecutorial limitations that inhibit Belize's ability to interdict shipments and prosecute traffickers, noted in the report.

"Belize has seen an increase in Belizean nationals involved in the logistics of landing drug-laden aircraft and assisting in the transshipment of cocaine to Belizean borders with further shipment into Mexico and/or Guatemala. However, Belize has yet to successfully prosecute many suspects," reiterated the report.

While Bennett told The Reporter that he has been told that the primary radar will also have the capability to monitor maritime activity out at sea, he reminded us that that will depend on the configuration and placement of the radar.

Last week, the Ministry of Blue Economy confirmed with The Reporter Newspaper that Belize has finally been able to secure a primary radar valued at \$US 8 million by way of a donation by the US South Command.

THE REPORTER

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NASA, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, has succeeded in smashing a 25 million dollar spacecraft into an asteroid seven million miles away in deep space, to see if the impact would affect the speed and trajectory of the asteroid.

The spacecraft, called Dart, was traveling at 15,000 miles an hour when it made head-on contact. The purpose was to hit the asteroid so that its orbit could be slowed and its trajectory altered.

Observations from Earth will tell if, and to what extent, the collision experiment was successful.

If the slowing was significant, NASA scientists will have the evidence they need to show that asteroids that threaten to smash into Earth can be deflected to avoid massive damage.

Sixty-six million years ago a giant asteroid smashed into the American continent's east coast to form what is today the Gulf of Mexico.

The NASA experiment has been hailed as an unprecedented scientific achievement of overriding importance for the defense of Planet Earth because the magical certainty is that one day - sooner or later, an asteroid will collide with our planet.

Twelve months ago the DART project came to life with a Saturn rocket taking off from Vandenberg Spaceforce Base in California. It traveled seven million miles for its rendezvous with Dimorphos, the target asteroid.

This has been a remarkable achievement. The first in human history, and a tribute to the United States of America, a nation that not only stands up in its support for democratic regimes around the world, but is now looking to protect the planet from the perils of outer space.

Taiwan and China

The People's Republic of (mainland) China has said many times that it intends to make Taiwan part of its national territory, by force of arms, if necessary.

Taiwan, a fully-fledged democracy, thriving on its own, has no desire to become part of mainland China, and is prepared to resist any military advances from her much bigger neighbor.

China has been trying for years to intimidate Taiwan, and has done everything short of war to take over Taiwan and it has taken over Hong Kong.

When the British handed over Hong Kong to China after their hundred year lease, they received China's solemn pledge that China would respect Hong Kong's democratic institutions and free enterprise system. But within a year this pledge was shamelessly broken, and Hong Kong became a vassal state of the People's Republic of China.

Taiwan knows what is in store for her if she ever becomes politically linked with China, and is determined to resist.

Last week President Joe Biden reversed decades of US foreign policy by declaring that the United States would support

Taiwan and come to her defense if China tries to use force to coerce her smaller neighbor.

Taiwan's modern constitution was promulgated in May, 1948. She celebrates her Independence Day on October 10.

Belize is one of only 13 countries that support Taiwan's independence.

The United States recognized Taiwan's independence for 30 years after the Chinese Civil War but switched to recognize mainland China in 1979.

Today, Taiwan is in a stronger position than ever to resist China, and many experts are of the view that China has lost her window of opportunity of ever taking Taiwan by force.

“Poverty up 10% in 3 years!” ...

Cont'd from pg. 1

Belizeans are estimated to be moderately to severely food insecure.”

CEO of the Ministry of Economic Development Dr. Osmond Martinez noted that the poverty rate can also be observed through the lens of the income per capita. The Income per capita was reported by the World Bank to have taken a sharp decline in 2019. An additional 16 percent decrease was attributed to the pandemic in 2020.

“We already had a fragile economy in 2019, with three out of four quarters showing contractions,” He noted, recalling that in

late 2019, Belize was already technically in a recession on account of drought conditions. Before Belize had time to recover from the downturn in 2019, the COVID-19 pandemic pushed the already fragile economy into a more than 16 percent decline in 2020.

Using 2018 data, The Statistical Institute of Belize (SIB) indicated that there were “about 52 percent or 201,616 persons were living in poverty.” At the time, Belize’s total population was approximately 388,000 persons. Based on SIB’s mid-year estimates for Belize’s population size in 2022, the Prime

Minister’s referenced ten-percent increase implies that close to 250,000 Belizeans—or 57.2 percent of 441,471 persons—are living below Belize’s national poverty line of \$7961 for the year.

In terms of measuring poverty, the SIB utilized the ‘Cost of Basic Needs’ Approach. This method estimates the cost of acquiring enough food for adequate nutrition plus the cost of non-food items such as clothing and shelter, among other things. A ten percent increase in poverty places the majority of the population without access to necessary resources.

UNICEF estimates that 49 percent, almost half, of all Belizean children live in poverty as of 2022.

The Regional Look

For its part, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), in January 2022, reported that “the prolonged health and social crisis stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic” had led to the extreme poverty rate in Latin America increasing “from 13.1% of the population in 2020 to 13.8% in 2021 –representing a 27-year setback.” According to ECLAC, this means that the number of persons living in extreme



CEO Dr. Osmond Martinez

poverty within Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region has increased from 81 million to 86 million.

The ECLAC study, however, also noted that the “overall poverty rate

is estimated to have fallen slightly, from 33.0% to 32.1% of the population.” This change signifies that the “total number of people in situations of poverty declined slightly from 204 million to 201

“NO COMMENT!”

Hon. Patrick Faber mum on Nomination Committee’s rejection of his Collet division application

By Michelle Sutherland

Belize City, Sept 29. — Despite the recently publicized decision by the United Democratic Party (UDP)’s Nomination Committee to reject his application for standard bearer in the Collet division, Hon. Patrick Faber has opted to remain silent on the issue.

“I have no comment at this time,” Faber replied, via WhatsApp, to *The Reporter*’s questions on his reaction to the Nomination Committee’s decision. “I will inform you as soon as I am ready.”

It is unclear whether Faber’s decision to reserve comment “at this time” is in an

effort to respect the UDP Constitution’s *Article 5(6)(d)* that stipulates that members should ensure that all “criticism and self-criticism must take place in private councils and committees of the Party.” However, at the time of writing, it is worth noting that the Facebook posts that the Nominating Committee cites as the grounds for their denial of his Collet division candidacy remains on his official social media page.

The most recent, critical post was uploaded on Saturday, September 17, 2022. Prior to that, there are the four for the

month of August that unambiguously and openly criticizes UDP Party Leader Moses “Shyne” Barrow’s decisions.

The Nomination Committee’s letter to Faber, dated September 20th, 2022, signed by the Chairperson of the Nominations Committee, Shirlette Martinez notified Faber, “We write to inform you and in accordance with *Article 12 (13)* of the Constitution of the United Democratic Party that the Nomination Committee of the Party has reviewed your application for Standard Bearer for the Collett Division. Regrettably, the Committee, at this

time, denies your application.”

The letter went on to inform Faber that the decision to deny his application is based on the fact that he has failed to comply with Articles 5 the UDP Constitution which addresses duties and rights of party members. The Committee also referred to a separate letter that the National Party Council had sent last month that called on all members to respect the UDP’s Constitution’s rules on public criticisms.

“Your actions are contrary to Article 5 and 8 and are evident in the public attacks against the Party which currently remains on your official Facebook Page,” the Committee reminded. The committee would go on to list seven instances in which Faber had published those posts.

Following the release of the Nominations Committee’s letter, Albert Area Representative Tracy Panton Desk wrote to the UDP Party Chairman asking whether the letter was authentic.

Apart from asking

for an explanation, Panton pointed out that the information contained in the letter goes against previous decisions made by the party which had stipulated that sitting parliamentarians would not be subjected to the same application process as new aspirants. Panton also noted her grave concern for the decision and asked for an urgent intervention to reverse such a decision.

Barrow wrote back to Panton, explaining, “Faber’s application has been denied due to his refusal to comply with the binding decision of the National Party Council (NPC) to immediately remove public attacks and criticism of the Party and its members and refrain from such acts in adherence to the Party Constitution.”

Barrow went on to tell Panton that the Nominations Committee had cited several instances of Faber’s defiance of the NPC and in violation of the Party’s Constitution, one such offense as recent as September 18th. Barrow also informed Panton that the Party Chairman

Michael Peyrefitte had written to Faber on several occasions regarding his continued violations against the party. Those requests, according, to Barrow have always been met with contempt and so he urged Panton to try and convince Faber to align his behavior with the party’s rules.

“This matter is not at all complicated. Once Hon. Faber cures his breaches of the Party’s Constitution and reaffirms his commitment to adhere to and respect the decision of the NPC, Hon Faber can reapply to be the UDP Candidate for Collet before the September 30th, 2022 cut-off. And I believe the Nominations Committee may reconsider his application favorably,” ended Barrow.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT: TWO-person apartment - located at the corner **West and Allenby Streets**, southside Belize City. Single bedroom, spacious living room and kitchen. Secure with concrete walls and floor. Hot and cold water & Internet. Electricity and water are separate. Kitchen sink installed. \$400.00 a month with payment in advance. **Call 672-4454 or 227- 2503 for more details or for viewing opportunity.**

FOR RENT: Two person apartment at corner **West and Basra Streets, Belize City.** Single bedroom, small living room and kitchen. Ground floor, secure with concrete walls and floor. Hot and cold water. Kitchen sink installed. \$400.00 a month with payment in advance. **Call 672-4454 or 227-2503 for more details or for viewing opportunity.**

VACANCY: A vacancy exists for a **Warehouse Attendant.** Please contact **Jitendra Nandwani** at **610-1122** for more information.

VACANCY: Vacancies exists for a **Store Supervisor** at **Cosmetic Corner.** Please call **227-0145** for more information.

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Excelsior students bridge Digital Divide

By William Ysaguirre

Fifty-four students of Excelsior High School have received new laptops from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology to help them bridge the digital divide and access worldwide learning resources. Minister of Education Hon Francis Fonseca presented the laptops to the students in a short handing over ceremony at the school in Belize City on Wednesday morning, September 28.

The laptops were from different manufacturers: Lenovo, ACER and Hewlett-Packard, with an important difference, they do not use a Windows 10 operating system. The machines are Chromebooks and need Internet access to function, as the entire operating system is in the "Cloud", as Chief Executive Officer Dian Castillo Maheia explained. She encouraged the students to create individual Google accounts to use the machines.

The ministry has partnered with DigCell to provide fiberoptic broadband internet at the school and is working to roll out Internet access to all schools across the country. She also reminded them "to pay it forward". She said the ministry was aware that several students at the school already owned laptops, and the ministry is actively seeking to acquire more laptops to provide a device for each student still in need.

Excelsior principal Dawn Watters explained the principle of "pay it forward" which does not mean the students will be providing laptops for others. Rather she meant to instill in all her students a sense of community responsibility, for them to respond in like manner to the generosity the ministry has bestowed



Minister Fonseca presents 54 laptops

upon them by extending this same kindness to others whom they may be able to help.

The 54 laptops equipped almost half the student body, as Watters said the current enrollment at Excelsior is 109 students. She invited any young person in need of a high school education to enroll at Excelsior, as the school has space for more students. She said the main objective is to get unemployed young people off the streets, and into a positive and constructive program that can set them on the path to success.

It was a proud day for the school's first principal Marshall Nuñez Sr, who also attended the ceremony. A group of concerned Belizeans first established Excelsior High at the Imperial Band Hall on Barrack Road in Belize City in the 1980's, to offer a high school education to any student who through financial need or academic grades might have not been able to enroll in other existing schools. Nuñez now mans the Disabilities Desk at the Ministry of Human Development, Families and indigenous Peoples Affairs.

PORT of BELIZE LTD
A Port with a Global Perspective
VACANCY:JOB OPPORTUNITY

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

SAFETY OFFICER

Reports to: Chief Executive Officer

Summary of Responsibilities: The SO will act as PBL's primary driver of the Safety Management System (SMS) to ensure that there is strict adherence to all safety policies, procedures, and best practices. Ensure that the safety capacity building plan is followed and that the appropriate members of staff receive the appropriate training at the right time. Conduct periodic Safety Assessments designed to ensure that risks to safety and health are identified, assessed, and eliminated or controlled. Lead the biennial audits of the SMS. Produce monthly Safety Status Report, to be submitted to the CEO during the first week of every new month.

Job Responsibilities:

1. Develop and maintain the Safety Policy, Safety Management System (SMS), Safety Manual and Safety Procedures
2. Lead the implementation of the SMS and ensure company-wide compliance
3. Be visible on the ground as the Safety Officer, ensure compliance to safe working practices and adherence to the wearing and use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
4. Implement, organize, arrange and schedule monthly/quarterly Management Safety Walks (MSW)
5. Ensure that an adequate capacity development plan is in place to maintain contemporary knowledge on safety management best practices in port environments
6. Maintain the appropriate registers for injuries, accidents, incidents and near misses across the Company
7. Structure and implement reporting templates
8. Record, analyse, investigate and take corrective actions related to all injuries, accidents, incidents and near misses
9. Coordinate PBL's Safety Committees (Staff and Stevedores) and ensure that they meet on a monthly basis to review and address safety matters. Document and circulate notes and actions from these meetings
10. Initiate Incident Investigation Hearings
11. Coordinate with the Department Safety Officers (DSO's), providing guidance and direction
12. Create relevant safety training material and conduct orientation and refresher and periodic safety training for all Staff, Stevedores, Contractors, and Visitors to the facility. Maintain a register of training conducted and scheduled, and issue certificates for completed courses
13. Ensure the establishment, at the appropriate place (s), of "right-to-know" stations and ensure that they are kept up to date
14. Conduct periodic Safety Assessments designed to ensure that risks to safety and health are identified, assessed, and eliminated or controlled
15. Become fully acquainted with the ILO and IMO safety directives, US-OHSA and Belize National Health and Safety at Work Act (once completed) as they are relevant to ports and terminal.
16. Any other relevant tasks as occasionally arising or assigned.

Key Results

- Zero workplace injuries, deaths, or illness
- Appropriate signs are installed (and updated as necessary) across the Company
- High level of safety awareness across the Staff and Visitors
- The SMS is implemented, continually reviewed, and updated as necessary

Qualification & Experience

- Bachelor's Degree in occupational safety & health, or port administration, or communications, or management, or related fields
- Minimum of at least 3-5 years of relevant work experience in an industrial setting
- Experience working with companies with staff of 100 or more is preferred
- Good working knowledge of Microsoft Office
- Excellent and demonstrable English language skills, both spoken and written

Knowledge, Skills & Attributes

Knowledge

- Strategic planning and implementation
- Sound understanding of Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) frameworks
- Knowledge of OSHA best practices in industrial environments
- Demonstrated expertise in policy formulation, program management and coordination

Skills

- Ability to organize and lead teams
- Excellent report writing skills
- Sound communications skills

Attributes

- Assertive, Compassionate, and able to positively influence outcomes
- Self-driven and Decisive
- Diligent

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

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

Applications should be emailed to: jobapplication@portofbelize.com
Closing date for receipt of applications is Friday, October 7th, 2022

Ministry of Agriculture and Taiwan ICDF Organize Sheep Management Workshop in Toledo

Belmopan. September 29th, 2022. 9:35 a.m.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise in collaboration with the Taiwan ICDF Breeding Sheep and Goat Production and Guidance System Enhancement Project (Sheep Project Phase II) held a Sheep Management Workshop at the Copal Tree Resort sheep farm in Toledo District on September 28, 2022.

Thirty sheep and goat farmers and restaurant and resort owners from Toledo District participated in the workshop,

which included presentations on the introduction of the sheep project, sheep health management and nutrition, sheep traceability system, pasture establishment, supplemental feeding, and lamb preparation demonstration.

The staff of Copal Tree Resort sheep farm and Mr. Istvan Metzger, field manager for the sheep project, demonstrated the daily management activities of sheep farming, fulfilling the objective of the project for farmers teaching farmers. They also

demonstrated sheep feeding, sheep breeds, and vitamin application.

The workshop is another commitment of the Sheep Project Phase II to help farmers learn from other farmers. The

Sheep and Goat Project includes a budget of US\$3 million for a four-year implementation of phase II, which was signed by the governments of Belize and the Republic of China

(Taiwan) in March 2020. The objectives of the project include assisting Belizean farmers in improving the quality of sheep and goats, promoting the domestic consumption of sheep and goat products

and exporting these products regionally, as well as strengthening the sheep and goat traceability system to improve value chain efficiencies in Belize.

Bad weather disrupting cruise itineraries all season

The 2022 hurricane season has seen various storms that have made it challenging for cruise ships to complete their desired routes without diversion.

According to the National Oceanic

and Atmospheric Administration, the 2022 Caribbean hurricane season has had an above-average level of activity, with at least 10 tropical depressions and four hurricanes. With the



Storms caused several ships to reroute

increasing number of storms that have cut across the region, the cruise industry has had no choice but to consistently reroute and cancel tours.

The tourism industry in the Caribbean has already suffered massive losses due to the Covid-19 pandemic. They saw a dramatic 58% collapse in the sector's contribution to GDP with over 680,000 jobs lost across the region. After travel bans and restrictions were lifted, the industry saw hope for the revival of tourism. Unfortunately, it has been brought to a slow pace, as bad weather persists.

As early as June, cruise ships were forced to reroute due to Tropical storm Alex, which arrived 5 days into hurricane season. Currently, with

hurricane Fiona and Ian raging in the waters, more stops have been canceled. Even though Belize has not been directly impacted by either hurricane, the reroutes directly impact what ships make it to the docks.

On the 25th of September, at least two vessels reportedly decided to skip the Belize docks. Both ships contained over 2000 passengers. A spokesperson for the Norwegian Cruise Line, one of the cruises set to redirect away from Belize, remarked, "The safety and security of our guests and crew is always our number one priority," They also noted that passengers with shore excursions booked through Norwegian at impacted ports would be refunded.

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Ministry of Natural Resources, Petroleum, and Mining

1. The Government of Belize (or GOB) acting through the Ministry of Natural Resources, Petroleum, and Mining, now invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified Bidders for the Services mentioned below in the table.

Contract No.	Name	Contract Period
60 of 2022/2023	Loading, Trucking, and Other Heavy Equipment Services for the Dangriga Solid Waste Transfer Station Facility	36 months

2. Procurement will be conducted through open tendering in accordance with the provisions of the laws governing public procurement within Belize.
3. This invitation is open to all eligible Bidders as described in the Bidding Documents.
4. Qualification requirements are provided in Section II of the Bidding Documents. Prospective Bidders' attention is drawn to the Instructions to Bidders in the Bidding Documents.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be obtained by interested Bidders by way of email application to the email address below.
6. The Bidding Documents will be emailed to the Bidder at the email address specified in the email application.
7. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before **October 14th, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. Electronic bidding shall not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected.** Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives, who choose to attend in person at the address below at **10:30 a.m. on October 14th, 2022.** Interested public/civil society entities and NGOs may also attend the Bid opening.
8. All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid-Securing Declaration as specified in the Instructions to Bidders.
9. The Government of Belize will declare a firm ineligible, either indefinitely or for a stated period, to be awarded a contract funded by the Government of Belize, if it at any time determines that the firm has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent, coercive, or collusive practices in competing for or in executing a contract.
10. The address referred to above for:
 - (i) Application for Bidding Documents,
 - (ii) Submission of Bids, and
 - (iii) Opening of Bids, is:

Belize Solid Waste Management Authority, 3013 Bougainvillea Street, Belmopan, c/o Ms. Lumen Cayetano, Director, 828-4864, cayetanolu@gobmail.gov.bz.

11. Bidders are required to submit as part of the bid "the Statement of Ethical Conduct and Fraud and Corruption". In case of misleading information or non-adherence to the Fraud and Corruption provisions of the Bidding Documents, the Bidder shall be pursued by the GOB.

Reporter

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SIB reports 7.4% Inflation

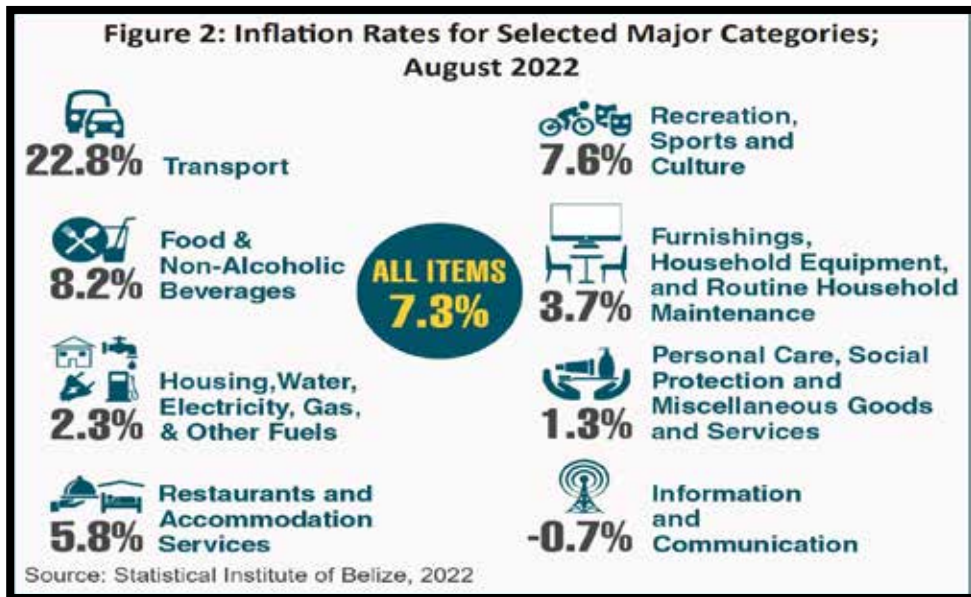
By William Ysaguirre

The cost of living in Belize increased by 7.4 percent in August 2022, compared to the same time last year, as a result of increases in fuel prices for vehicles and cooking, food, transportation, restaurant prices, household cleaning products and cinema entertainment, the Statistics Institute of Belize reported on Wednesday September 28.

Overall inflation for the first eight months of this year was 6 percent,

to \$17.65 per gallon, while diesel jumped from \$10.76 to \$13.52 and regular gasoline went to \$13.61, up from \$11.29 last year. Fares for taxis, buses and international flights went up 19.9 percent, with new cars costing 6.1 percent more. Liquid petroleum gas, also known as 'butane' went up 14.7 percent, from \$123.37 to \$141.54 for a 100lb cylinder

Food prices went up 8.2 percent overall last month compared to August 2021. Vegetable cooking oil went up 42.4 percent, from \$4.13 per liter to



compared to the same timeframe last year.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) compiled by the Institute was 112.2 for August 2022, up from 104.5 in August 2021. The CPI is based on the prices Belizeans normally pay for fuel, food, drinks, utilities and housing, which indicated the national inflation rate of 7.4 percent.

Fuel prices went up 31.9 percent in August compared to last year, increasing transportation costs by 22.8 percent. Premium gasoline went up 50 percent from \$11.75

\$5.87/lb. Watermelons went up 40.2 percent, from 60 cents to 85 cents per pound. Pineapples also went up 21.7 percent to \$1.47/lb, bananas went up 8 percent to 17 cents each, while oranges got 7.5 percent cheaper – 19 cents each.

All fresh meats went up, pigtailed went up 24.4 percent from \$5.72 per pound to \$7.23. Whole fish went up by 17.1 percent from \$6.85 to \$8.01 per pound as fishermen factored in their higher fuel costs when they landed their catch. Beef steaks cost 8.3

percent more - \$9.02 per pound, which was only \$8.33 last year. Whole chicken is up 5.2 percent to \$3.03/lb, and eggs went up 27.6 percent to 38 cents each, due to higher input costs for animal feed.

Natural milk shot up 10.1 percent to \$3.08/liter, and coconut milk went from \$3.40 to \$4.03 for 400 mls, an 18.4 percent increase. Soy sauce increased 17.3 percent to \$5.83 for a 10-ounce bottle, up from \$4.97 last year.

Rice is up 14.1 percent, from \$1.37 to \$1.57/lb, Irish potatoes went up

24.1 percent to \$2.59 per pound; while flour increased by 13.7 percent to \$1.22/lb. Onions increased by 9.7 percent to \$2.58/lb

Consumers got some relief from lower prices for sweet peppers \$4.35/lb – 9.5 percent less than last year, and tomato prices fell 9.8 percent to \$3.01 per pound. The price of red kidney beans fell 4.2 percent to \$1.94/lb, and black beans fell 5.3 percent to \$2.03/lb.

Construction materials cost 17.2 percent more, leading to higher household maintenance costs, as the prices for cleaning products increased 3.7 percent. Rents increased 0.5 percent. Restaurants prices went up 5.8 percent. Information and communication services got 0.7 percent cheaper, due to lower Internet rates.

Orange Walk Town is the most expensive

place to live with a 9.1 percent inflation rate. Belmopan had the lowest inflation rate of 5.7 percent with Corozal Town – 6.8 percent, and Independence Village – 6.9 percent. San Pedro, Ambergris Caye showed 7.1 percent inflation, with Dangriga at 7.2 percent, Belize City at 7.3 percent, Benque Viejo at 7.4 percent and San Ignacio – 7.8 percent. Punta Gorda Town showed a 7.9 percent increase.

Notice of Dissolution

Notice is hereby given that **SANBAYTRADINGLIMITED** has been dissolved and struck off the International Business Companies Register with effect from **22nd September, 2022.**

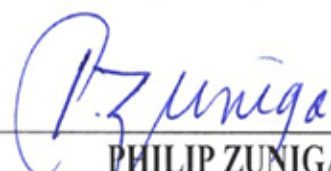
Interconsult Belize Limited
Registered Agent

BELIZE CITY,

Estate of TA CHUAN HO also known as DAVID HO, deceased STATUTORY NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Pursuant to Section 36 of the Administration of Estates Act, Chapter 197 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2011, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all creditors and other persons having any claims or demands upon or against the Estate of TA CHUAN HO also known as DAVID HO, deceased, late of Belize City, Belize, are required to send particulars in writing of their claims or demands to the Administratrix of the said estate, PI CHIU HO (also known as PATRICIA HO) of #3591 Joy Avenue, Buttonwood Bay, Belize District, Belize, and to send such particulars not later than the 24th day of December, 2022, AND NOTICE IS HEREBY ALSO GIVEN that at the expiration of the last mentioned date, the Administratrix will proceed to distribute the assets of the said TA CHUAN HO also known as DAVID HO, deceased, amongst the parties entitled thereto having regard only to the claims or demands of which particulars have been delivered and the Administratrix will not be liable for the assets of the deceased or any part thereof so distributed to any person or persons of whose claims or demands she shall not then have had notice.

DATED this 20th day of September, 2022.


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

68% of Business Owners are Very Concerned About Rising Inflation and Energy Costs, Research From Disruptive Technologies

OSLO, NORWAY, September 29, 2022 – As pressure grows on the global energy supply chain and energy prices continue to rise, new research commissioned by Disruptive Technologies, developer of the world's smallest industrial-grade wireless sensors, has shown that 90% of businesses are feeling the strain and actively trying to reduce their energy consumption. Almost seven in ten (68%) businesses are now very concerned about rising inflation and energy costs and what it will mean for them.

While there are nuances from sector to sector, the typical energy bill increase faced by US businesses has been in the region of 43% within the last 12 months.

*Cross-industry energy bills have risen by an average of 43% in the last year. 90% of businesses are actively trying to reduce their energy consumption. Almost 70% of young business owners are investing in technology to reduce energy use.

Many businesses are struggling, facing the cumulative effects of post-pandemic recovery, inflation, and the energy price hike. Finding ways to

control their energy use has become a priority, with more than a third (34%) of businesses considering reducing operating hours—that figure rising to 52% in New York—and 60% considering increasing customer prices to cover operating costs.

While increasing prices may seem an obvious solution, with customers already facing their own financial pressures, there are concerns about customer loss, with 41% of businesses expecting a reduction in growth. Other businesses said they may have to reduce staff numbers (25%) and initiate pay cuts

for staff (23%) simply to cut costs.

While 90% of business owners have been taking actions to reduce energy use, including changing to more energy-efficient products, e.g. more efficient lighting (70%), 40% still don't have an energy management system in their buildings due to unclear payback and a lack of budget.

Bengt Johannes Lundberg, CEO of Disruptive Technologies comments: 'Despite this interest in reducing energy consumption, 40% of small businesses surveyed did not have an energy

management solution in place. Technology has evolved at a rapid pace in the last five years. Sensor solutions capable of solving a wide range of building management challenges now allow businesses to take control of basic energy consumption. Enabling not just cost-effective climate control but reactive energy control, which considers environmental monitoring, space occupancy, property

damage, and feedback and service, and allows for the heating and cooling systems, lighting, and cleaning to be managed accordingly.

The energy price crisis isn't just local to America. It is a global phenomenon that is only predicted to get worse. Taking steps to better manage energy consumption in a way that can deliver rapid ROI without impacting the end customer will soon become integral for all business owners.

Belize Bus Association tell UNDP that electric bus pilot project will cause revenue loss



BBA says they want to be part of the pilot.

The Belize Bus Association (BBA) has written to the United Nations Development Programme expressing concerns over a pilot project which will see the importation of electric busses into Belize.

According to a memo leaked over the weekend, the BBA wrote to the UNDP's representative in Belize regarding the project, which is being done in collaboration with the Ministry of Transport and the Belize City Council.

The BBA said that the project goes against the UNDP's own mission that states that it "works in more than 170 countries and territories, helping to achieve the eradication of poverty and the reduction of the inequalities and exclusion."

The association stressed that, as current industry stakeholders, its members should have been included in the

discussion regarding the pilot given that those members have tangible investments in Belize's transport sector, extensive, real-life experience with managing bus fleets, and years of commitment to the development of the transport sector.

"To avoid an inequitable situation that inflicts financial harm to the stakeholders of the industry, we propose that the pilot be executed with the existing stakeholders. To avoid disputes, we can use a lottery system to grant Electric Buses," the BBA said. "We feel that Electric and perhaps even Hydrogen buses are the future. However, Belize (like most countries) is not prepared for such."

Thomas Shaw, President of the BBA confirmed that the leaked letter and its contents were authentic, but declined further comment until the UNDP has issued an official response.

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Ministry of Natural Resources, Petroleum, and Mining

1. The Government of Belize (or GOB) acting through the Ministry of Natural Resources, Petroleum, and Mining, now invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified Bidders for the Services mentioned below in the table.

Contract No.	Name	Contract Period
59 of 2022/2023	Loading, Trucking, and Other Heavy Equipment Services for the Belmopan Solid Waste Transfer Station Facility	36 months

2. Procurement will be conducted through open tendering in accordance with the provisions of the laws governing public procurement within Belize.
3. This invitation is open to all eligible Bidders as described in the Bidding Documents.
4. Qualification requirements are provided in Section II of the Bidding Documents. Prospective Bidders' attention is drawn to the Instructions to Bidders in the Bidding Documents.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be obtained by interested Bidders by way of email application to the email address below.
6. The Bidding Documents will be emailed to the Bidder at the email address specified in the email application.
7. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before **October 14th, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. Electronic bidding shall not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected.** Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives, who choose to attend in person at the address below at **10:30 a.m. on October 14th, 2022.** Interested public/civil society entities and NGOs may also attend the Bid opening.
8. All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid-Securing Declaration as specified in the Instructions to Bidders.
9. The Government of Belize will declare a firm ineligible, either indefinitely or for a stated period, to be awarded a contract funded by the Government of Belize, if it at any time determines that the firm has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent, coercive, or collusive practices in competing for or in executing a contract.
10. The address referred to above for:
 - (i) Application for Bidding Documents,
 - (ii) Submission of Bids, and
 - (iii) Opening of Bids, is:

Belize Solid Waste Management Authority, 3013 Bougainvillea Street, Belmopan, c/o Ms. Lumen Cayetano, Director, 828-4864, cayetanolu@gobmail.gov.bz.

11. Bidders are required to submit as part of the bid "the Statement of Ethical Conduct and Fraud and Corruption". In case of misleading information or non-adherence to the Fraud and Corruption provisions of the Bidding Documents, the Bidder shall be pursued by the GOB.

Belize acquires primary radar to aid in the fight against transnational drug trafficking

By Michelle Sutherland

Minister of Blue Economy and Civil Aviation Hon Andre Perez has confirmed with The Reporter Newspaper that Belize has finally been able to secure a long-awaited and much-needed Primary Radar system to assist in the fight against transnational drug trafficking.

Last Thursday, via a Whatsapp message, Perez told The Reporter, “A brand new radar has been acquired. Installation is set to start early next year.”

While the minister promised us a follow-up interview, the approval of the “new, top-of-the-line US \$8-million,” primary radar was finalized last week at the 244th Regional Board Meeting of Central American Corporation of Aero Navigation Services (COCESNA), which was hosted by Belize two weeks ago in San Pedro Ambergris Caye.

In a Government release, the Ministry of Civil Aviation stated that the “primary radar will be an upgrade to the Secondary radar that is presently operational. It will also have the



Hon. Andre Perez, Minister of Blue Economy and Civil Aviation

capacity to not only improve aviation safety in Belize but will also provide meteorological data and maritime surveillance. The radar will also be able to detect non-cooperating aircraft and assist in the fight against narco-trafficking in Belize and the region.”

During his Independence Day address to the nation, Prime Minister, John Briceño also referred to the acquisition of the primary radar

and how it would aid in the fight against transnational drug trafficking that Belize has been faced with.

The US South Command is responsible for the gifting of the state-of-the-art equipment which is a 3D radar that has the potential to provide aerial and marine surveillance beyond 265 nautical miles. It can also off-scale any of the metrological systems that are currently in use in Belize.

The donation also

comes with the committed support of COCESNA which has agreed to provide technical support and maintenance. A team of technicians will travel to Spain in the upcoming months to receive training on how to operate the new radar.

Earlier this year the Ministry of Civil Aviation announced that they were in the process of purchasing a \$6 million radar from Spain. Those efforts, however, were stalled when the

US South Command contacted the ministry and expressed their desire to gift one to the country as a way to assist in the fight against narco-traffickers.

While the Ministry of Civil Aviation is not responsible for tracking drug planes that make their way into the country and is only responsible for tracking legal flights into the country, they have committed to passing on the information to the Joint Operations

Intelligence Center (JIOC), which is currently heading that department.

Currently, Belize is only operating through the use of a secondary radar system, one that only has the capacity to detect legal flights that have their transponder on. The upgraded system will now allow civil aviation authorities to detect any flight whether legal or illegal that enters Belize airspace, including narco planes that have a habit of turning up undetected in Belize.

S U D O K U

Medium Puzzle

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

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.

Answer to Puzzle

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



Institution: Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
Country: Belize
Project: Solid Waste Management Project II (SWMPII)
Sector: Waste Management
Abstract: Project Engineer
Loan No.: 3684/OC-BL
Deadline: October 11th, 2022

The Government of Belize (GOB) has received financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), towards the cost of the Solid Waste Management Project II and intends to apply part of the proceeds towards to hiring of a Project Engineer.

The objective of the consultancy is to assist the Belize Solid Waste Management Authority in the supervision of (i) consultancy for the Preparation of Tender Documents and Supervision of the Design and Construction of the Additional Cell at the Mile 24 Sanitary Landfill and (ii) supervision of the consulting firm or individual consultant contracted for the intermediate berm at the Mile 24 Regional Sanitary Landfill.

The Belize Solid Waste Management Authority, the Executing Agency, now invites interested eligible individual consultant to submit Expressions of Interest indicating qualification and experience required to provide these consultancy services listed below.

A) SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibilities of the Project Engineer (PE) include, but are not limited to:

- a. Supervision of the consultant hired for the Preparation of Tender Documents and Supervision of the Design and Construction of the Additional Cell at the Mile 24 Sanitary Landfill, including professional review of all submissions and transmittal to the Director and other key stakeholders.

As part of the professional review the PE must:

- Acquaint him/herself with the tailored solution preliminary proposed by the supervision of design and construction firm.
 - Determine and acquaint him/herself with the format of the remediation cell proposed in the preliminary design: how the cell be made permeated; details on the clay barriers in the berms, porewater indicators, and hydraulic observation wells.
 - Partner with the supervision of design and construction firm in conducting the preliminary waste survey.
 - Review and approve the detailed site assessment generated by the supervision of design and construction firm.
 - Independently review the elevation contours and perimeter drawings that will be submitted by the field surveyor and presented by the supervision of design and construction firm.
 - Provide independent feedback on the supervision of design and construction firm's conceptualized design and editing.
 - Analyze the bill of quantities for the construction of the additional cell and request a detailed breakdown of items constituting the overall budget.
- b. Supervision of the consulting firm or consultant hired for the intermediate berm including professional review of all submissions and transmittal to the Director and other key stakeholders.
- c. Assist in the preparation of the tender documents for the intermediate berm and assist with the evaluation process.
- d. Management and administration of the consultancy and construction contracts for the additional cell and the intermediate berm.
- e. Keep track and document all relevant documents pertaining to the design and construction of both consultancies.
- f. Verify that the design generated for both consultancies are in compliance with the Bank's Environmental and Safeguards Compliance Policy and in particular with the ECP and local environmental laws and regulations.
- g. Establish and maintain a close working relationship with all key participants and stakeholders involved in the design and construction of the additional cell and intermediate berm (including contractors, consultants, Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing, Office of the Contractor General, Ministry of Natural Resources, Petroleum and Mining, Inter-American Development Bank, Ministry of Economic Development, Ministry of Finance) to assist in effective oversight of the processes.
- h. Assist in the evaluation of bids and recommendation for award of construction and supply contracts for the additional cell and intermediate berm.
- i. Establishment of a task force to assist in the thorough review of all submissions/deliverables/outputs for the additional cell and intermediate berm. Organizing all meetings and activities of the task force.
- j. Review, recommend/certify and submit all claims for payment by the consultant (s) for the additional cell and intermediate berm to the Financial Specialist/Director for timely payment.
- k. Preparation and submission to the Director monthly progress reports on the consultancies (additional cell and intermediate berm) and subsequent construction within one week after the end of each month.
- l. Conduct field inspection and participate in any formal discussions, site meetings related to construction and scheduling, or other meeting relating to the additional cell and intermediate berm and prepare and submit timely report of these meeting to the Director.
- m. Preparation and submission to the Director of a Construction Completion Report within one month after the date of issue by consultants of a Certificate of Practical Completion of each works contract.

B) QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

Education: Prospective candidate will have at least a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering, Construction Engineering, Environmental Engineering, Sanitary Engineering, Geotechnical Engineering, or another related field. A Master's degree in the above-listed fields will be considered an asset.

General Work Experience: At least seven (7) years of general work experience since obtaining the first academic degree.

Specific Work Experience:

- At least five (5) years work experience in earthworks/construction supervision.
- At least five (5) years of work experience in infrastructure project management, construction management and/or contract management.
- At least two (2) years work experience in solid waste management, design and/or operations would be an asset.
- Work experience with investment projects funded by IFIs would be an asset.

Skills: Experience using AUTOCAD would be an asset. Excellent oral and written command of the English language. Experience in Report Writing, Proficiency in Microsoft Office and MS Project.

The Ministry of Natural Resources, Petroleum and Mining now invites eligible individual consultants to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested individual Consultants must provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualification and relevant experience to perform the Services.

Consultants will be selected in accordance with the Selection of Individual Consultants method and other 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*, and is open to all eligible candidates as defined in the policies.

Further information can be obtained at the email address below during office hours: **Monday to Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. local time.**

Expressions of interest may be submitted by hardcopy or electronically. Submission must include a signed application letter, Curriculum Vitae (CV), copies of academic qualification, and the names and contact information of three professional references no later than October 11th, 2022, at 2:00 PM Belize local time. Email application **must be submitted via one consolidated PDF document. Only complete packages will be processed.** Packages must be sent to the address below:

Solid Waste Management Authority
Attn: Procurement Officer
3013 Bougainvillea Street, Orchid Garden Area
City of Belmopan, Belize, C.A.
Tel: (501) 802 1527 PO Box 285
E-mail: GladdenM@gobmail.gov.bz

Alliance formed between Belizean and Guatemalan businesswomen

By Britney Gordon

The first alliance between Belizean and Guatemalan women entrepreneurs was formed last Friday, when Belize Business Women partnered with the Chamber of Business Women and Entrepreneurs of Guatemala (CAMEEG).

The partnership began to take shape when a group of Belizean women were invited by BELTRAIDE to convene with members of the Center for the Promotion of Micro and Small Enterprises (CENPROMYPE). The International Network of Women in Business: Belize-Guatemala (NIME)'s Secretary Dr. Minerva Pinelo told The Reporter that, in 2021, a team began working on ways to form relations that transcended borders.

The mission was launched in order to create safe spaces for businesswomen to network with other women-owned companies and encourage the



Dr. Minerva Pinelo

participation of women in the business industry. "Our intentions are to look at a more targeted approach for supporting women," Pinelo explained. The International Network of Women in Business seeks to support business growth and development through alliances with other organizations in the region.

The goal is to benefit both countries through this alliance by fostering economic and social growth. There are no restrictions on age, ethnicity or size

of business to join the association. It is open to all Belizean and Guatemalan women as long as they are women in business. "It is important to bring women from informal to formal aspects of the business industry," Pinelo noted, shedding light on the abundance of small business owners who are unaware of legal obligations of running a business. She also stated that the organization is open to partnering with other countries as well, such as Mexico or the United States.



IMPORTANT CLOSURE NOTICE

Dear Users of the Port of Belize Ltd.

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

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

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

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

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

Thanks

Andy Lane
 Chief Executive Officer

BDF Captain reportedly takes his own life while on remand

By Michelle Sutherland



Captain Damacio Coc

BDF Captain Damacio Coc, 33, who was on remand at the Belize Central Prison for over a month, reportedly took his own life early on Sunday morning inside his cell.

While Police have chosen not to go into details of the incident, Police Press Officer ASP Fitzroy Yearwood confirmed with the media on Monday that police have since classified the incident as a suicide. “We will know which direction after a post-mortem has been conducted. Only a post-mortem would rule otherwise,” Yearwood had indicated at the time.

Prison officials, however, say that Coc, who was awaiting a bail hearing for reportedly breaching a protection order against his wife, was found hanging from a sheet inside a cell, situated inside the Tango 10 building. The discovery was made just after 10 a.m. on Sunday morning by one of the guards who was doing routine checks on prisoners.

The guard’s attention was reportedly drawn to Coc’s cell after noticing a sheet tied across the cell door, thereby, preventing anyone from seeing inside the cell. Because this practice

is against prison rules the guard immediately walked up to the cell and pulled the curtain aside, at which Coc’s lifeless body was found.

CEO of the Belize Central Prison Virgilio Murillo said that as part of the investigation prison officials were reviewing video footage of that area. Based on that, it has since been established that prison officers had conducted a routine patrol of the cellblock at 7:00 am and another at around 8:20 a.m. During one of those checks, one prison guard had allegedly interacted with Coc and asked him if he was “ok” to which he replied “yes.” “There was no indication to show that he was depressed or contemplating any bad thing for himself,” said Murillo.

“Well, to be very honest, I think he had a good demeanor. When prisoners don’t behave properly or are displaying any kind of depression or isolation ... we are quick to notice, because the guards that are interacting with them would typically make a report. ... But I was not hearing any complaints about this particular prisoner, so I would take it to mean that he was of pleasant demeanor,” indicated Murillo.

In fact, Murillo said that Coc’s suicide caught prison officials and guards by surprise since it wasn’t something that they had expected from him, because he had never displayed suicidal tendencies.

The last time the Belize Central Prison recorded a suicide inside their facility was in December 2019.



Institution: Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
Country: Belize
Project: Solid Waste Management Project II (SWMP II)
Sector: Waste Management
Abstract: Monitoring Specialist for the Solid Waste Management Project II (SWMP II).
Loan No.: 3684/OC-BL
Deadline: October 12th, 2022

The Government of Belize (GOB) has received financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), towards the cost of the Solid Waste Management Project II and a Non-reimbursable Technical Cooperation Agreement - Innovation in the Solid Waste Management Sector in Belize and intends to apply part of the proceeds for a Monitoring Specialist.

The Objective of the consultancy is to support the Belize Solid Waste Management Authority in the efficient and effective monitoring of the Solid Waste Management Project II.

The Belize Solid Waste Management Authority, the Executing Agency, now invites interested eligible individual consultant to submit Expressions of Interest indicating qualification and experience required to provide these consultancy services listed below.

A) SCOPE OF SERVICE

The responsibilities of the Monitoring Specialist include, but are not limited to:

1. Review and regularly update (monthly) the Program Operating Manual (POM) including the Environmental and Social Management Plan, Project Execution Plan (PEP), Annual Operating Plan (AOP) and other program documents to ensure complete and comprehensive understanding of the intended goals, activities and results of the program. The specialist shall undertake his/her work with the guidance of the POM and in accordance with the loan contract, Annual Work Plan and IDB policies;
2. Monitor the day-to-day program activities with the support from the Procurement Officer and Financial Specialist, and the Project Assistant.
3. Implement the Monitoring and Evaluation Operational Guidelines for the SWMP II among key stakeholders.
4. Assist the BSWaMA and the MoNRP&M so that their information needs on the execution of the SWMP II are satisfied.
5. Identify and prioritize relevant information needed to achieve the project’s goals.
6. Coordinate and assist in the collection and management of information and data produced and required by BSWaMA.
7. Prepare and distribute project reports regarding implementation progress and project’s achievements.
8. Ensure that the Director is kept abreast of all Project related updates and interventions
9. Contribute to the improvement of project implementation through feedback to executing entity.
10. Conduct field visits to project intervention areas and other relevant locations to the project.
11. Coordination support for the independent project evaluation at project close as necessary;
12. Monitor the deliverables due dates of each contract and follow up with the consultant as necessary.
13. Daily monitoring all project activities in order to detect and assist in resolving problems/bottlenecks that may arise during a process.
14. Disseminate project results to key stakeholders.
15. Identify and report the lessons learned during project execution.
16. Participate in all meetings regarding the execution of the project.
17. Prepare the following reports to facilitate the monitoring of the progress of SWMP II and the TC and the fulfillment of the indicators identified in the Results Matrix:
 - i) a minute after every executing team meeting/conference call, assessing project management and implementation matters.
 - ii) a semi-annual Progress Report within 30 days after the end of each six-month period.
 - iii) Pluri-annual Execution Plan (PEP)
 - iv) an Annual Operational Plan by November 15 of each year.
 - v) Portfolio Review presentation of results twice yearly as stipulated by the IDB.
 - vi) Progress Reports as required.
 - vii) Final report for the TC.
18. Responsible for the timely updating of all project planning tools (PEP, WBS, etc.)
19. Perform other related work as may be required.

B) QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

1. At least five (5) years general work experience.
2. Minimum of a bachelor’s degree in management, economics, engineering, public policy, Project Management or similar. Master’s degree in any of the above or related field will be considered an asset.
3. Knowledge in monitoring concepts and tools (MS Project or similar) for program implementation will be an asset.
4. Working experience with internationally funded projects, is a plus.
5. Knowledge in the use of MS Excel, MS Word, and MS Project.
6. At least three (3) years experience in monitoring social or infrastructure programs, including the gathering and analysis of data.
7. Managerial experience.
8. Speak and write fluently in English.

The Ministry of Natural Resources, Petroleum and Mining now invites eligible individual consultants to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested individual Consultants must provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualification and relevant experience to perform the Services.

Consultants will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Inter-American Development Bank: *Policies for the Selection and Contracting of Consultants financed by the Inter-American Development Bank* - GN-2350-15, and is open to all eligible candidates as defined in the policies.

The individual consultant will be selected in accordance with the Selection of Individual Consultants method set out in the Consultants Policies.

Further information can be obtained at the email address below during office hours: **Monday to Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. local time.**

Expressions of interest may be submitted by hardcopy or electronically. Submission must include a signed application letter, Curriculum Vitae (CV), copies of academic qualification, and the names and contact information of three professional references no later than **October 12th, 2022, at 2:00 PM Belize local time.** Email application **must be submitted via one consolidated PDF document. Only complete packages will be processed.** Packages must be sent to the address below:

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Attn: Procurement Officer
3013 Bougainvillea Street, Orchid Garden Area
City of Belmopan, Belize, C.A.
Tel: (501) 802 1527 PO Box 285
E-mail: GladdenM@gobmail.gov.bz

Notice of Dissolution

“Notice is hereby given to all interested parties that **SANBAY TRADING LIMITED** a Company incorporated under the IBC Act of Belize commenced dissolution on **August 24th, 2022.**

And

Paraskevas Zacharoulis with address of **Agou Pavlou 15, Ledra House, Agios Andreas, 1105, Nicosia, Cyprus** is the Liquidator, and any claims against this Company should be forwarded to the liquidator within 30 days from commencement.”

Interconsult Belize Limited
Registered Agent

Prime Minister calls for expansion of SDRs

“We need a long overdue expansion in quota allocations,” Prime Minister John Briceño told world leaders convened at the 77th United Nations General Assembly.

All members of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), according to a pre-determined quota, hold a certain amount of a supplementary “international reserve asset” known as the Special Drawing Rights (SDR). The SDR—while is neither currency nor a claim on the IMF—is an asset that can be “exchanged” among IMF member countries for any of the currencies that make up the SDR basket (i.e. the US dollar, the Japanese Yen, the Euro, the Pound, and the Chinese Yuan).

Given that it can be exchanged, the SDR serves as a means to bolster country’s reserve-asset positions, even though in recent times it tends to account for a relatively small portion of reserve-asset holdings.



Last August, the IMF had issued US\$ 650 billion (or SDR 456.5 billion) in new SDRs in an effort to help countries combat the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. As readers may recall, the newly issued SDRs were allocated according to country’s SDR quotas, which quota itself is related

to economic size. Consequently, almost 60 percent of the new allocation went to larger economies, and with just above US\$274 million (out of the total US\$650 billion) going to emerging and developing countries.

Belize, for its part and in accordance with the quota of SDR 26.7 million, received an

additional BZD \$73 million (or USD \$36.5 million) in SDRs. While the figure undoubtedly assisted in augmenting Belize’s reserve position, as a percentage of total approved external assets (AEA), the new SDRs only accounted for approximately nine percent.

Total SDRs, which prior to the new IMF allocation accounted for about eight to nine percent of AEA, now account for about 16 percent.

However, for small island developing states (SIDS) like Belize that suffered significant economic downturns and that lost most of the tourism sector’s foreign exchange inflows, the economic opinion among many analysts was the allocation was insufficient to truly aid SIDS.

The prime minister’s speech to the United Nations General Assembly echoed that

position. Fact is that during the heights of the COVID pandemic, the tourism sector, which contributes roughly 60 percent of Belize’s foreign exchange earnings, was effectively shuttered due to closed land borders and on account of the Center for Disease Control (CDC)’s “no-sail” orders for cruise lines. To preserve foreign currency, commercial banks also instituted various measures to curtail the use of their foreign asset holdings. This included policies such as limits on credit card spending.

During the economic nadir of 2020/21, a mere increase in SDRs of \$73 million—while welcome—was a far cry from bridging the foreign exchange shortfalls.

Instead, Belize employed a mix of strategies, which included the use of bilateral and multilateral grants and loans, as well

as support for key export (foreign exchange-earning) sectors.

Belize’s foreign asset position has since improved, with the country’s external asset ratio (EAR)—measured as AEA divided by total money in circulation in the Belizean economy—having increased from 51 percent in May 2020 to just over 60 percent as of June this year. Given the EAR’s central role in preserving the country’s currency peg, the Central Bank of Belize Act mandates that the EAR remains above 40 percent.

Consequently, the call for increased allocation is to have been expected. The prime minister also reiterated the call for other reforms, including for the overhaul of the debt architecture which tends to exclude developing countries like Belize from being able to access needed concessionary financing.

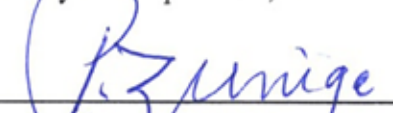
BELIZE CITY,

Estate of EVADNE ALBERTHA HERTULAR, deceased

STATUTORY NOTICE TO CREDITORS

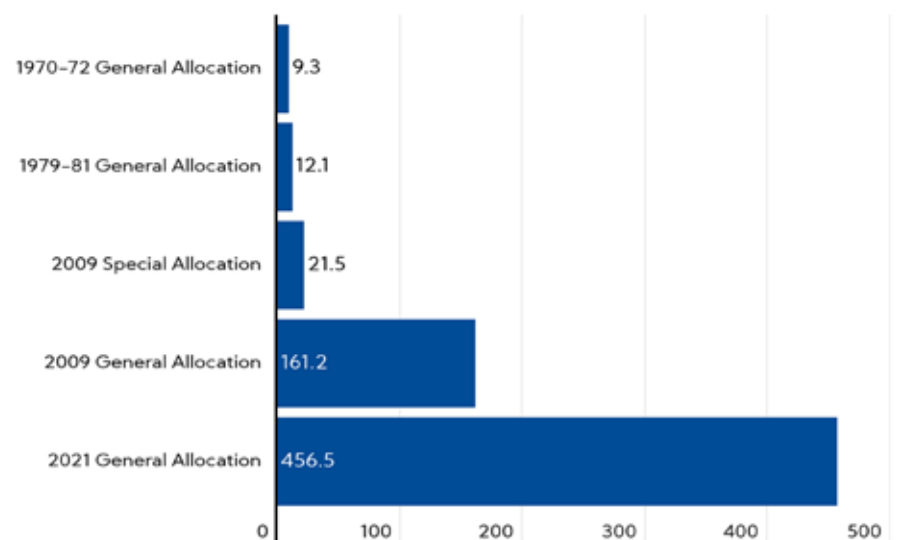
Pursuant to Section 36 of the Administration of Estates Act, Chapter 197 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2011, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all creditors and other persons having any claims or demands upon or against the Estate of EVADNE ALBERTHA HERTULAR, late of Ladyville, Belize District, Belize, are required to send particulars in writing of their claims or demands to the Executrix of the said estate SANDY TORRES of #336 Lake Gardens, Ladyville Village, Belize District, Belize, and to send such particulars not later than the 24th day of December, 2022, AND NOTICE IS HEREBY ALSO GIVEN that at the expiration of the last mentioned date, the Executrix will proceed to distribute the assets of the said EVADNE ALBERTHA HERTULAR, deceased, amongst the parties entitled thereto having regard only to the claims or demands of which particulars have been delivered and the Executrix will not be liable for the assets of the deceased or any part thereof so distributed to any person or persons of whose claims or demands she shall not then have had notice.

DATED this 20th day of September, 2022.


 PHILIP ZUNIGA, S.C.
 Attorney-at-Law for the Executrix

SDR Allocations: General and Special

(in billions of SDRs)



Source: IMF Finance Department.



Min.of Transport accuses BBA of jumping the gun, writing UNDP Over Electric Buses



Hon. Rodwell Ferguson
By Michelle Sutherland

The Belize Bus Association jumped the gun when they wrote the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) over the electric-bus project, Minister of Transport Hon. Rodwell Ferguson said this week.

Ferguson said that at no point did the Ministry ever indicate that they were going to completely control the electric buses and as it stands, they are aware that they will need to work with several entities from the private sector to be able to launch the project.

Ferguson also pointed out that the Ministry is still in the project's implementation stage and that the BBA should have approached the Ministry first to request any information or clarity that they needed concerning the project instead of writing the UNDP.

While we are being told that the UNDP had only gotten the BBA's letter on September 23rd and are still in the process of reviewing it to respond to the association, the letter from the BBA was dated September 5th, 2022. In their letter, the BBA told the UNDP that they were aware that the UNDP was in the advanced process of facilitating the Ministry and the Belize City Council with grants for the acquisition of electric buses for the national highways and Belize City, respectively.

The BBA then pointed out that the execution of the pilot project is not aligned with the UNDP's mission, which has to do with eradicating poverty and reducing inequalities and exclusion. The BBA raised the concern that they have not been invited to sit at the table with the UNDP, or the Ministry to discuss their participation in the project.

The BBA then went on to list several other concerns concerning the project, one of which they claim will seek to push out private-sector stakeholders within the industry who have tangible investments and corresponding financial obligations.

The BBA told the UNDP that the bus routes are already "oversaturated" and that for each electric bus that will be injected into the system, up to three bus operators will be directly impacted financially. The BBA brazenly pointed out that neither the Ministry of Transport nor the Belize City Council has the experience or the investment to carry out the pilot project.

The BBA ended by proposing that the project be executed with existing stakeholders such as BBA members by using a lottery system. While the BBA said that they feel that electric buses are the future, Belize like most countries is not prepared for such; however the proposed pilot project will provide data on whether future investments in electric buses will be viable.

PUBLIC AUCTION

BY ORDER OF THE MORTGAGEE, DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPORATION, CERTIFIED AND LICENSED AUCTIONEER MIGUEL A. ELLIS WILL SELL THE FOLLOWING PROPERTIES
On October 11, 2022

At: 9: 30 A.M. Zoom Meeting ID: 860 3539 2380 Password: b1B6qr

Parcel No. 3176/1, Block 24, Society Hall Registration Section, containing 693.911 S.M. situate in Ontario Village, Cayo District, Belize, held under a Certificate of Lease being the leasehold interest of **GILBERT RHABURN.**

Empty Lot - containing 693.911 S.M.



Parcel 3217/1, Block 4, Orange Walk Town Registration Section, containing 464.454 S.M. situate in Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District held under a Certificate of Lease, being the leasehold interest of **ENRIQUE A. CANTUN.**

An incomplete Two bedroom concrete bungalow house (624 SQ .FT.) which is covered by an overgrown bush.



Parcel 158, Block No. 4, Guinea Grass Registration Section containing 1010.6 S.M. situate in Guinea Grass Village, Orange Walk District held under a Land Certificate being the freehold interest of **ELOY SANTOS** surety for **ELOY SANTOS** and **JUANA SANTOS.**

Contains two structures: (1) One bungalow styled residence containing three bedrooms, one bathroom, one Kitchen, dining and living area (combined) attached to a veranda and a store room. (2) One two storey building: ground floor used as a storeroom and the first floor consists of an open area only.



Parcel No. 224/1, Block 1, Caledonia Village Registration Section, containing 1904.17 S.Y. situate in Caledonia Village, Corozal District, held under Certificate of Lease being the leasehold interest of **GUADALUPE CANTO.**

One (1) Two Bedroom, 1 Bath, kitchen, dining and living combined with an open verandah.



Parcel 1573, Block 45, Albert/Mesop Registration Section containing 483.794 S.M. situate on Dean Street, Belize City, Belize District, containing a four-storey concrete building held under a Land Certificate and being the freehold interest of **DARRELL CARTER.**

One Three (3) storey ferro concrete structure: Ground Floor is an empty space, 1st Floor can be used as office space, 2nd Floor - rental/living space.



Parcel 7731, Block 20, Belmopan Registration Section, containing 7.79 Acres situate in the Mountain View Area, City of Belmopan, Cayo District held under a Land Certificate being the freehold title of **MIGUEL ERNESTO ELENA-FUENTES.**

A recreation facility containing: Three (3) Food Court rooms, One (1) Pool, One (1) Jacuzzi, external Showers, Palapa Area, Restrooms.



Parcel No. 344/1, Block No. 1, San Jose/San Pablo Registration Section containing 2227.2 S.M. situate in San Pablo Village, Orange Walk District and held under a Certificate of Lease being the leasehold interest of **FRANK ALEXANDER BABB.**

Empty plot of land measuring 2227.2 S.M.



Miguel A. Ellis
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E-Mail: miguel_ellis@hotmail.com
Please contact DFC for financing

Statement by Hon. John Briceño, Prime Minister of Belize

General Debate 77th Session of the UN General Assembly

Mr President, I take this podium with a heavy heart. More pessimistic than I was last year.

More cynical and disappointed. We have come to depend on the multilateral system that has at its centre the Charter of this our United Nations. Where is the collective will to adequately address the challenges of our time?

Where is our shared conviction to work together for the betterment of mankind?

Where is the hope? Today there are conflicts on several continents; geopolitical tensions are heightened. The unjustified, unprovoked and illegal attack on Ukraine by the Russian Federation has shaken the foundations of the multilateral system. This is wrong!

The consequential crises we face are not confined to the battlefield in Europe; they are global and affect us all. Democratic norms and human rights, even where thought to be firmly rooted, are being rolled back.

Poverty is on the increase. The planet is being destroyed by climate change.

And international cooperation and solidarity have been supplanted by nationalism and unilateralism. Global market prices for food and petroleum remain volatile, reaching historic highs earlier this year. The lingering impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and persistent supply chain disruptions have contributed to sky rocketing inflation.

These economic realities exacerbate an already acute social situation in Belize. Poverty is estimated to have risen by 10% between 2018 and 2021. 45.5% of Belizeans are estimated to be moderately to severely food insecure. And homicides are again on the rise.

The post pandemic recovery we anticipated

is delayed. And the chorus of promises and commitments to pivot toward building back better, to getting the recovery right have yielded little. Instead, global action and inaction have only resulted in deepening the many crises that we are facing.

Global temperatures have already increased by 1.2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

Greenhouse gas emissions reached record highs in 2021 and continue to rise this year.

Fossil fuels are still dominant; while renewables account for an abysmal 15% of global energy sources. The current energy crisis in Europe has triggered more fossil fuels as a panacea, rather than a doubling down on energy transition.

Biodiversity is declining at a faster rate than ever before with profound and unknown consequences for our environment, health, productivity and wellbeing. These realities heighten climate risk, especially for vulnerable states. Belize is ranked 8th out of 183 on the Global Climate Risk Index. We are but one hurricane away from catastrophe.

Yet financing needed for climate adaptation remains woefully inadequate; only about a quarter of all climate finance goes to adaptation.

Global debt is at crisis levels. The Secretary General's latest report on the Sustainable Development Goals paints a dismal and disturbing picture of the state of play of the achievement of Agenda 2030. The SDGs are at real risk of not being achieved.

Our current systems and institutions, conceived for World War II recovery, are straining under the weight of today's crises. In truth, they are broken and stand impotent in the face of the 3Cs - COVID, climate, and conflict. And, yes, our people and our planet are paying the price.

How do we fix this? We need a full scale, bold reimagining of the global financial architecture.

No more tinkering at the edges to conceive of additional programmes that are based on the same false logic. It just doesn't work!

Mr President, Public sector expenditure on climate-caused "loss and damage" cannot continue to be classified according to fiscal orthodoxy. The IMF is largely devoid of ways to quantify consequential climate impacts on public debt and countries' capacity to pay. The IFI's obstinate focus on primary balances and debt to GDP ratios ignores the empirical evidence that nature is in revolt. Incredibly, a recent analysis revealed that of the 80 IMF-funded Country Programs around the world, climate was central to the country assessment in only a single case – Samoa.

We need a new global financial architecture that has the willingness and capacity to identify systemic threats like debt, like climate risk and devise tools that are commensurate to the challenge. We urgently need a new global financial architecture, dedicated to achieving the SDGs, net zero emissions and to build resilience.

We need a new global financial architecture that incorporates an effective global financial safety net with the capacity to respond to today's multiple, simultaneous and escalating crises.

We need a global financial architecture for today's challenges, that is responsive to the needs of states today, especially the vulnerable countries — many of which were not member states in 1940s.

Belize has within our limited fiscal space, tried to stimulate an economic recovery, while staying true to our social values. The Belizean economy grew by 5.3% in the first quarter of this



Prime Minister John Briceño at the 77th Session of the United Nations' National Assembly

year; the highest level of production for any first quarter on record. Through an innovative debt-for-nature swap, Belize reduced its debt to GDP ratio from 133% to 108% last year — resulting in over \$250 million in debt service savings.

My government has instituted an amnesty programme to enable those who qualify, up to 40,000 persons, to be regularized. We anticipate that by the end of the amnesty we would have regularized more migrants, per capita, than any other country. But forces at global level are determined to diminish our aspiration for our economic rebound, to underwrite our social and human development and resilience.

Three critical issues must be addressed by a new global financial architecture to achieve transformative and systemic solutions: The financing needs of developing countries have increased significantly since we adopted Agenda 2030.

IFIs and MDBs have failed to meet the needs of developing countries.

The figures don't lie. The truth is that the financing needs of developing countries is \$4.3 trillion — more than quadruple the lending capacity of the IMF; and well above the lending trends of the World Bank, which loaned only \$99 billion last year.

The availability of affordable, long term and dependable sources of financing is indispensable for the achievement of the SDGs and climate resilience. We need IFIs that will urgently align their policies and practices with

the achievement of the SDGs and climate goals and redistribute liquidity to developing countries. We need a long overdue expansion in quota allocations to expand the resources of the IMF.

We need MDBs and regional banks to provide considerably more longer-term financing, de-risk investment, support the development of capital markets, and integrate sustainability objectives to enable the use of innovative instruments. Financing must be accessible and affordable for vulnerable countries. Amazingly, in the last 7 years financial flows to SIDS have declined.

Net ODA declined from \$6.2 billion in 2016 to \$4.1 billion in 2018.

The paradox is that the countries most vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters and with the least fiscal capacity to adapt and recover do not qualify for grant and concessionary financing. And this paradox is magnified when you consider that since 2008, G20 nations have printed \$25 trillion in stimulus money.

We, therefore, call on IFIs, MDBs and development partners to use the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index after its finalization later this year.

This will unlock financing for vulnerable countries, supporting their efforts to achieve the SDGs, adapt to climate change and build resilience.

Public debt is at unprecedented levels globally. It has surpassed the 2008 financial crises levels.

Commercial banks and private investors hold about \$54 trillion in global sovereign debts of emerging markets. This debt deluge is attributable to: inaccessibility of concessional financing,

impact of the pandemic, costs of climate change and disaster recovery and other external shocks — and for SIDS, structural features related to small size.

The current tentative, reactionary and piecemeal approach to addressing the debt problem has proven hopelessly ineffective. We must break the pernicious cycle between debt and climate and disaster risk.

IFIs must incorporate climate risk into debt sustainability tools. We need a two-prong response.

One, debt relief is needed for all vulnerable countries. And two we need to rapidly mainstream innovative policies which tackle debt repayment capacity and avoid excessive indebtedness.

In the current circumstances, there is a compelling urgency to advance a multilateral sovereign debt restructuring mechanism.

Mr President, History, a cruel history, is repeating itself. For centuries, colonialism transported trillions in plundered wealth to the oppressors. Reparations are overdue. And now I ask, how much longer will this new "climate colonialism" punish the victims and spare the victimizers?

Speaking of injustices, it is shameful that a unilateral, illegal and immoral commercial and financial embargo continues to be imposed on Cuba in defiance of the international community and UN resolutions.

The cruel sanctions visited on the Cuban people were not eased as they suffered the wrath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

(Turn to page 15)

A Comedy of Ironies - KHMHA at 22

(Contributed by
Alvaro J. Rosado PhD.)

I listened with interest to the various Media last week celebrating the “27th Anniversary of the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital”. Upon further reflection realized that the hullabaloo was about celebrating the anniversary of moving into a new building instead of celebrating the anniversary of an institution. If the intention was to celebrate the institution (originally the Belize City Hospital) then it would have been the 202nd anniversary since the Belize City Hospital was established in 1820. I believe that it would have been more appropriate to celebrate the anniversary of the establishment of the KHMHA Authority which was a significant milestone in the provision of medical services in Belize – that would have been the 21st Anniversary since the KHMHA Act was signed into law in 2001.

By 1990 the venerable Belize City Hospital had outgrown the dilapidated buildings on Eve Street and the Government of Belize (under both the PUP and UDP, respectively) commissioned and oversaw the construction of the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital. The Belize City Hospital moved into the new building on Princess Margaret Drive in 1995 and the facility was renamed the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital. The renaming of the facility was done to recognize an outstanding Physician and the contributions he had made to the medical field in Belize.

The hospital had long been the victim of public criticism and outcry about the lack of care. In 1999 after the deaths of two babies in a short period of time the hospital was dubbed “Kill Him Murder Her” (KHMHA).

Shortly after the opening of the KHMHA the GOB with the support of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) initiated the Health Policy Reform Project. An extensive diagnosis was done of the health sector and in December 1998 the

consultants submitted their final report. The findings of this report would form the basis of the Health Sector Reform Project that was funded by the IDB to the tune of some Forty Million Belize Dollars. Cambridge Consulting Corporation, which was charged with specifically charting the way forward for KHMHA, found problems with the organization and management of the hospital, engineering and physical facilities, health services delivery, quality of the services delivered and the finances. The strict central control of the Ministry of Health limited the proper operations of the hospital by stifling whatever little room existed for innovative approaches, sound planning or quality management of the hospital services. The “de facto” national referral hospital (whether called the Belize City Hospital or KHMHA) until 2001 was a department of the Ministry of Health and was micro-managed via remote control by personnel from the Ministry of Health stationed first in Belize City then in Belmopan.

A Health Commission was set up to advise the Government on the administration of the Health System in Belize. One of the major recommendations of this commission was that the National Referral Hospital should be managed by a statutory Board and not by the Ministry of Health. The underlying principle was that the Ministry of Health should function as a regulatory body and not as a provider of health services.

The Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital Authority (KHMHA) Act was signed and passed into law on April 1, 2001. This gave the Board formal authority over the affairs of the hospital. The Board had control over the finances of the institution, but the Board did not have legal control over the employees whose terms and conditions were still governed by the Public Service Commission.

A comprehensive case study was done by Vanguard Consulting Firm in 2007 titled:

PUBLIC SECTOR

MODERNIZATION BELIZE ACOUNTRY CASE STUDY A CHRONICLE OF THE EVOLUTION OF THE KARL HEUSNER MEMORIAL HOSPITAL (KHMHA) THE JOURNEY

The powers-that-be seem to be more interested in financial savings than in providing for the welfare and goodwill of the employees . . . it is inconceivable that the administrators at the National Referral Hospital and their colleagues in the Ministry of Health would sit by quietly while the rights of the KHMHA employees are being trampled upon.

FROM “KILL HIM, MURDER HER” TO “THE PEOPLE’S HOSPITAL”

The opening paragraph of Vanguard’s Report reads as follows: This paper will attempt to chronicle the largely untold story of arguably the best example of a successful reform initiative in the larger Public Service Modernization efforts of Belize. It is the story of the transformation of the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital (KHMHA), derogatorily referred to in the past as the “Kill Him Murder Her” hospital, into the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital Authority (KHMHA), now regularly referred to as “The People’s Hospital”.

The following quote is taken from Page 3 of the above cited Case Study:

“As part of the transition process the Interim Board was also charged with appointing a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and establishing a management team as per the draft Bill. There was an intense debate on the Board as to whether the first CEO of the hospital had to be a foreigner trained in hospital administration to lead the way or if such a person should work along with a Belizean CEO. After much back and forth on this point the consensus was that Belize was in a reform mode and as a young country it should endeavor to identify local solutions for its problems. Hence the Board opted to search for a qualified and experienced Belizean administrator who had a proven track record and leadership skills

to bring order to a largely chaotic, crisis management situation. In November 2000, the Board appointed Dr. Alvaro Rosado PhD. as the CEO and charged him with establishing the senior management team as per the draft KHMHA Bill to guide

the development of the new Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital Authority. Dr. Rosado had previously served for more than nine years as the National University’s vice president for Finance and Administration and at times had acted as President of the University for prolonged periods. By January 2001 the newly appointed CEO had put in place a management team with the addition of a Director of Financial Services (Ms. Sandra Zuniga), a Director of Medical Services (Mr. John Waight FRECSed), a Director of Nursing Services (Matron Ivorine Bulwer-Hemans) and a Director of General Administration (Ms. Laurel Grant).”

At this point I think it is only fitting to recognize the pivotal roles played by the then Minister of Health (Hon. Jose Coye), the then CEO in the Ministry of Health (Mr. Henry Anderson), the then Chairman of the KHMHA Board (Mr. Norman Moore) and the then members of KHMHA Board. The aforementioned persons had the vision, the foresight and the political will to oversee the transformation of the National Referral Hospital. For those interested in the real story about the transformation of the KHMHA a perusal of the Case Study cited above would be informative.

But I digress so I will return to the celebration of the Anniversary of the KHMHA. During the ceremonies and in all events leading up to the celebration all speakers spoke in glowing terms about the hard work

and commitment of the KHMHA employees – and rightly so because the KHMHA employees deserve all the kudos and more for their dedication and the service that they provide to the entire country. Unfortunately, it is my opinion that these kudos are hollow and hypocritical – as one placard in a recent nurses demonstration stated: “Called Heroes but treated like Zeroes”!

During the transition from a Government Department to a Statutory Board KHMHA employees were promised that they would be no worse off as a Statutory Board than they were as a Government Department. The employees placed their trust in the promises made by the representatives of the Government and the representatives of the KHMHA Authority and they transferred en masse over to the KHMHA Authority. These promises were made based on the KHMHA Act which provided for Pension Benefits under the Pensions Act for all KHMHA employees.

Section 8 Subsections 4 through 7 of the KHMHA Act of 2001 reads as follows:

(4) The posts of Chief Executive Officer, Medical Chief of Staff, Director of Nursing and other posts of the professional, technical, administrative, clerical and secretarial staff shall be pensionable under the Pensions Act, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in that Act or any other enactment, and, without prejudice to the foregoing, persons holding ancillary posts of the semiskilled or unskilled category shall be entitled to retirement benefits under the Government (Open Vote) (Workers) Regulations.

(5) Where an officer in the public service is transferred to an office under the Authority and he retires or resigns on pension from, or dies while in service of, the Authority, his service in the public service shall rank as qualifying service, as the case may be, for purposes of determining eligibility for pension under the Pensions Act.

(6) Notwithstanding any contrary provision in the Pensions Act or any other enactment amending or replacing that Act, where a person employed in a pensionable office by the Authority is transferred to a pensionable office in the public service, his service under the Authority shall rank as qualifying service or pensionable service, as the case may be, for purposes of determining his eligibility for gratuity/pension under the Pensions Act.

(7) When making payment for a pension or gratuity in respect of officers referred to in subsections (5) and (6) above, the Government shall pay the whole pension or gratuity, but the Authority shall contribute to the Government for the portion representing the number of years of pensionable service rendered by the officer in the employment of the Authority.

The KHMHA Act was patterned after the UB Act which was signed into law in December 2000, four months prior to the signing of the KHMHA Act which was signed into law in April of 2001. Except for language pertaining to the specific functions of the institutions the Acts are identical – Chapter 28 of the UB Act makes provisions for Pensions for UB Employees identical to Section 28 of the KHMHA Act which makes provisions for pensions for the KHMHA Employees. Not a peep has been heard about UB employees not being pensionable under the Pensions Act and UB employees receive their pension benefits as a matter of course when they retire.

For some reason the matter of KHMHA employees pension benefits became an issue sometime after 2008. For the past 14 years KHMHA employees who retire are denied their pension benefits and only those who are willing to take the matter to court to receive their benefits.

This situation is a comedy of ironies:

1. The UB Act and the KHMHA Act make identical provision for pensions

(Turn to page 15)

A Comedy of Ironies - KHMH at 22

(Con't from page 14)

for employees but while upon retirement UB employees collect their pension benefits as a matter of course the KHMHA employees must individually take their claims to court to receive their retirement Pension Benefits.

2. K H M H A employees were promised that they would be no worse off under KHMHA than they were under the Ministry of Health but the powers-that-be have reneged on that promise and KHMHA employees are denied the Pension Benefits provided for their colleagues in the government institutions and in the University of Belize.

3. The biggest irony of them all is that Employees of Feeder Institutions (Regional Hospitals etc.) that rely on KHMH to provide specialized care for the cases that they cannot handle are pensionable but the employees of National Referral

Hospital who provide such specialized care are not.

The powers-that-be seem to be more interested in financial savings than in providing for the welfare and goodwill of the employees in what everyone acknowledges to be one of the most essential and critical institutions in the country. Whereas this position might be excusable coming from the bureaucrats in the Ministry of Finance it is inconceivable that the administrators at the National Referral Hospital and their colleagues in the Ministry of Health would sit by quietly while the rights of the KHMHA employees are being trampled upon. Perhaps they need to be reminded of the narrative in which "they came for the Jews but I did not object because I was not a Jew etc.". There are times when we must be our brothers' keepers even if only for

our own sake.

While I am at it may I suggest that the powers-that-be revisit the original intent of the KHMHA concept and allow the KHMH Board to run the institution without direct interference from the Ministry of Health AND I think it is past time that the KHMHA concept be extended to the Regional Hospitals which now suffer from the same ills that plagued the KHMH when it was a Government Department.

I end by admonishing the powers-that-be "For God's sake (and for the sake of the Belizean people) give the KHMHA employees their Pension Benefits to which they are legally and morally entitled" - get off the ego/power/turf trip and realize that decentralization of the Health System can only improve the delivery of Health Services to the Belizean public and by extension make YOU look better in an already dismal scenario!

Statement by Hon. John Briceño, Prime Minister of Belize...

(Con't from page 13)

as the effects of the fires in Matanzas cause hardship, there appears to be no possibility of easing. Belize repeats our call for the immediate lifting of the embargo and we salute the resilience and fortitude of the Cuban people. Estamos con ustedes.

Belize continues to be gravely concerned about the spiraling deterioration of the situation in Haiti. We call on the international community to advance a robust and comprehensive programme of support for the Haitian people.

Mr. President, Taiwan an exemplary nation in many respects, continues to be excluded from the international community, unable to participate and contribute to functional multilateral cooperation. The challenges confronting mankind today require the full participation of all countries and peoples in the struggle for development and prosperity.

The outdated policy imposed on Taiwan to promote its exclusion must yield to the greater good.

Belize calls for Taiwan to take its rightful place among the international community of nations.

I also reiterate Belize's full support for the realisation of an independent Palestinian state, within its 1967 borders, with all attendant rights, including the recognition of East Jerusalem as its capital and the right of return.

The people of Palestine continue to suffer the indignities of illegal occupation and apartheid.

The disturbing prospect that the world's sacred promise to deliver a two-state solution is slipping from their grasp.

Mr President, Justice is the cornerstone of peace.

And in that spirit, Belize and Guatemala have been pursuing the peaceful, just and final resolution

of Guatemala's Claim to Belizean territory before the International Court of Justice.

We continue to count on the support of the international community as the judicial process proceeds, and when it concludes, for the demarcation exercise to be carried out.

In the meantime, we must redouble our efforts to manage the daily challenges which arise along the border areas in accordance with the 2005 Confidence Building Measures.

Additionally, now more than ever we need to conclude a Sarstoon Protocol, a cooperation mechanism, to avoid unnecessary incidents in that area.

We had great expectations for COP26 in Glasgow. COP26 was considered a "make or break" moment for the world's leaders to make more ambitious pledges to keep 1.5 degrees Celsius within reach. We were wrong!

Rather than getting global commitments to keep 1.5 alive, we left Glasgow with commitments that will see global temperature increase by 2.7o Celsius by 2100. This is utterly unacceptable and morally unjust. Our people will continue to suffer for something we did not cause.

Rather than meeting their commitments to deliver a 100 billion dollars annually, we left Glasgow with a finance roadmap. Yet another paper promise. Rather than delivering a Loss and Damage Facility to help our countries deal with the losses and damages caused by climate change, we left with mas palabras! In the meantime, Belize continues to suffer from climate-related damages equivalent to 4% of its GDP annually, among the highest in the world. Let's try this again.

Less talk and more decisions at the next two COPs.

C O P 1 5 i n Montreal must agree an ambitious and

effective post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, to take account of the economic costs of biodiversity and provide financial support to developing countries efforts to deter biodiversity loss.

At COP27 in Egypt, the G20 must bring new commitments to close the emissions gap; bring the financing for adaptation and establish a financing facility to substantively address loss and damage.

We are extremely concerned that these expectations may be jeopardized by G20 dynamics.

But we cannot allow backsliding. Anything less is a failure. For Belize and SIDS, failure is not an option.

The COVID-19 pandemic, and the climate emergency, are the most catastrophic events since World War II. Then as now, new vision, frameworks, and instruments are required to achieve a sustainable and inclusive future which our people and future generations deserve.

The near term global economic outlook compels us to act with urgency to avert even worse humanitarian and development outcomes and to restore stability to the international system.

Mr President, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. Our failure to act decisively and urgently on COVID, conflicts and climate condemns humanity and our planet irreversibly to disaster.

History will not absolve us if we fail. Our collective destiny and future inspire us to action.

The aspirations of our people must be fulfilled. We know what to do. We have the resources to meet the needs of mankind.

We must find the political will to act. We must act now to avert disaster and to fulfill the promise of tomorrow. We ask for the guidance of our creator so that our work is not in vain.

I thank you.

Weh Wi Ga Fi Seh

Kip op yu helt! Stay pahn di lukowt!

En a Septemba Don Deh Ya!

terd *adj.* third. **Babzi da di terd wahn fahn di en a di lain.** Babsy is the third one from the end of the line.

dangl (var: **dengl**) *v.* dangle. **Di bokit midi dangl pahn di en a di roap.** The bucket was dangling on the end of the rope.

en *n.* end; last part of anything. **Wi gaahn layt soh wi mi hafu kech di en a di lain.** We went late so we caught the end of the line. —*v.* end, finish. **Unu en dis kwaaril er els Ah beet di too a unu.** You had better finish this quarrel or I'll beat both of you. *See:* **don, stap.**

en op *v.phr.* end up, result in being. **If yu jrink, yu wahn en op jos laik yu pa.** If you drink, you'll end up just like your father. *See:* **lan op.**

wahn lee en *n.phr.* part-time job. **Mi bredda midi luk fi wahn jab, ahn Misa Jo gi ahn wahn lee en da ih fakchri fi mek Krismos moni.** My brother was looking for a job, so Mister Joe gave him a part-time job in his factory to make some money for Christmas. *See:* **kech ahn kil.**

ful stap *n.* full stop; period (punctuation mark). **Yu fi put wahn ful stap da di en a wahn sentens.** You should put a full-stop at the end of the sentence.

fyaa³ *n.* fair. **Wi cherch di ga wahn big fyaa en a mont.** Our church is having a grand fair at the end of the month.

Aktoaba di enta...yu redi?



Belize Water Services Limited
and
The Belize Water Services Workers Union



Press Release

September 22, 2022-For Immediate Release:

Memorandum of Understanding signed between BWS and BWSWU

On Tuesday, September 20, 2022, Belize Water Services Limited (BWS) and Belize Water Services Workers Union (BWSWU) signed a Memorandum



of Understanding (MOU) to implement the newly revised Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA). The signing ceremony took place at BWS' Corporate Headquarters in Belize City.

Both parties, having recognized the expiration of the CBA dated November 1, 2018, embarked on the renegotiation of this agreement.

BWS and the Union have mutually and voluntarily agreed to the terms of the new CBA but recognize that it needs validation by the Labour Department before final signing. Once this is completed, the official signing of the new CBA will take place between BWS and BWSWU.

The terms of this new CBA will benefit over 250 employees for the next three years. This agreement aims to maintain and increase the good relations between BWS, Union and staff.

BWS – Delivering Water and More ...

For more information regarding this or any other BWS Release, please contact:

Public Relations Department at Tel: 222-4757 Ext. 1405

Or via e-mail at pr@bws.com.bz



FUN FACTS!

Facts About Stainless Steel That Will Surprise You



Stainless steel is a versatile metal that people around the world use for projects of all sizes, from buildings to watches. You likely use stainless steel every day without realizing it. Although you use this metal so often, how much do you really know about it?

Consider these interesting facts about stainless steel the next time you use this common metal.

1. Stainless Steel Was Discovered During a Weapon Experiment

In 1913, Harry Brearley, a metallurgist, performed experiments on metals in an attempt to produce a stronger material for weapons. After several months, he realized that a 13%

chromium steel hadn't corroded since he started his experiment. This combination later became known as stainless steel.

2. Stainless Steel Can Be Magnetic Depending on Its Structure

Many assume that stainless steel isn't magnetic, but the truth is more complex. Most stainless steel falls into two types based on its crystalline structure: austenitic and ferritic. Austenitic stainless steel, which contains more chromium and nickel to maintain its structure, is not magnetic. Ferritic stainless steel is magnetic.

However, over 70% of the stainless steel produced is austenitic, so

don't be surprised when a magnet won't stick to the front of your stainless steel refrigerator.

3. Many Famous Buildings Are Made From Stainless Steel

Many famous buildings use stainless steel, such as the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles, CA. This concert hall hosts various musical events, including performances from the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra. The outermost layer of this concert hall was constructed from stainless steel to produce a reflective exterior.

4. You Can Recycle Stainless Steel

Like other types of steel, stainless steel can be recycled. In fact, it

may be one of the most environmentally friendly metals to produce. At the end of its life, as much as 92% of stainless steel can be reused in new stainless or carbon steel. On average, 60% of any stainless steel product comes from this recycled content.

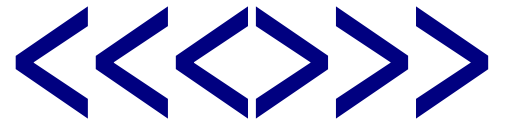
5. Stainless Steel Changes Shape in Different Temperatures

Stainless steel can change shape when exposed to extreme heat. Many industries use the ductile capabilities of stainless steel to create various products. They can form stainless steel into thin sheets, tubes, wires, or bars. Some companies use stainless steel in carpets or as soap as well.



The Incredible Scorpion!

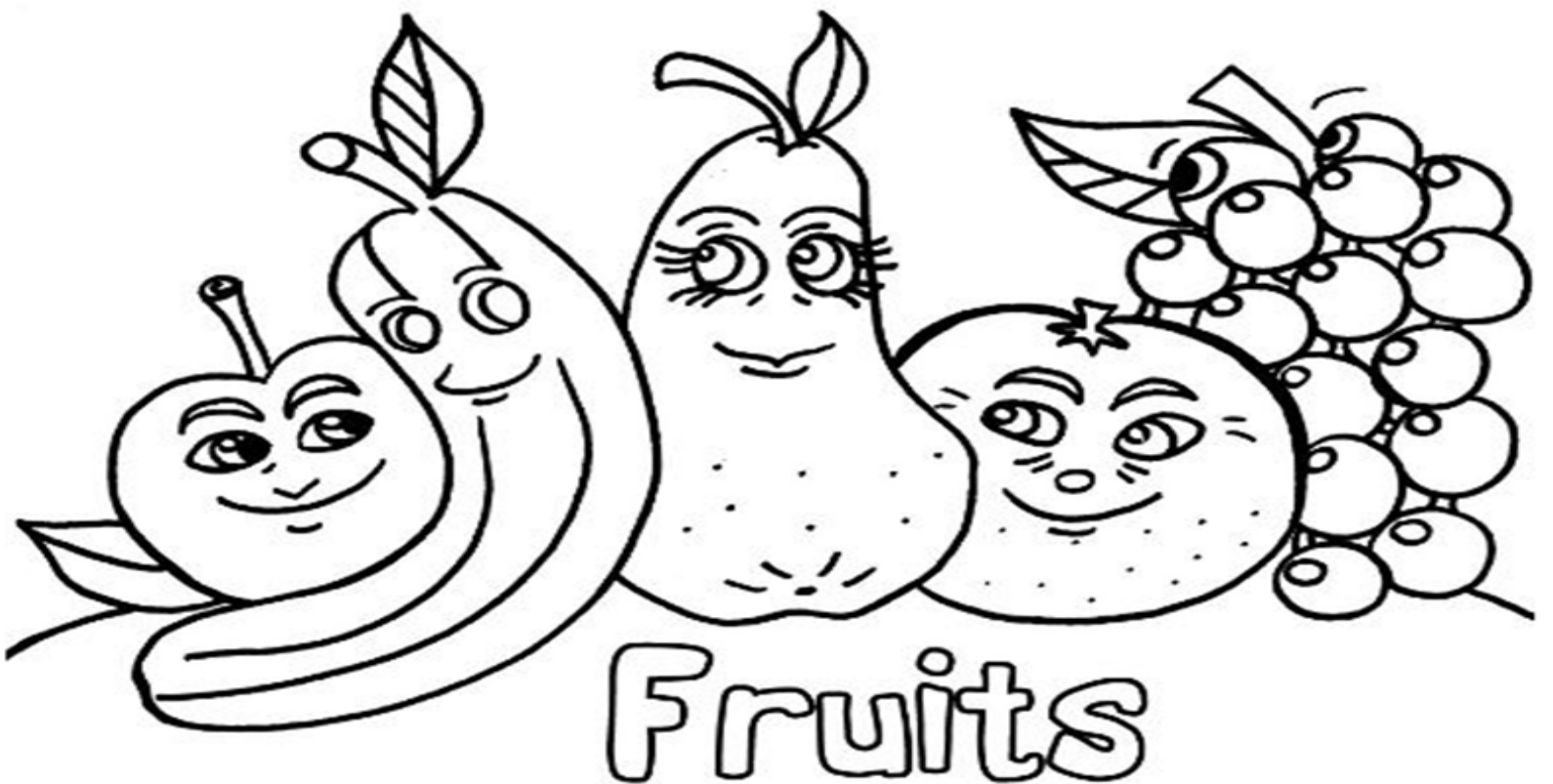
DID YOU KNOW?
A scorpion can hold its breath up to 6 days, can survive a whole year without food can climb almost any surface and it glows under ultraviolet light



Pronghorn Vision!

DID YOU KNOW?
PRONGHORN ANTELOPES HAVE 10X VISION WHICH MEANS THAT, ON A CLEAR NIGHT, THEY CAN SEE THE RINGS OF SATURN

**C
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Is bone broth good for you?

Bone broth has been used in cooking for centuries, and is made by boiling bones and the connective tissues of animals in water for a long time — but is bone broth good for you?

According to research published in the Food & Nutrition Research Journal (opens in new tab), the broth that's left behind contains a number of nutrients, including protein, calcium and collagen. These nutrients can have beneficial effects on your skin, bones and overall health and wellbeing. However, before you decide to savor this liquid, are there factors to weigh up first?

To find out, we spoke to Grace Derocha, a registered dietitian nutritionist and national spokesperson for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. We also turned to science to see what the latest research had to say.

WHAT IS BONE BROTH?

Bone broth is a liquid made from simmering animal bones, meaty joints and connective tissues in water for hours until it breaks down. The liquid that remains can be used in stews, soups, gravies or enjoyed by itself.

Some research dates bone broth back to the 17th century, but its resurgence has seen health aficionados drinking it for its nutritional benefits more so than its ability to add culinary excellence to a dish. Some believe the rise in popularity of bone broth could be down to the Paleo diet.

IS BONE BROTH GOOD FOR YOU?

According to Derocha, yes, bone broth is good for you — and it's for a number of reasons.

Derocha is a registered dietitian nutritionist at Marquee Health and owns a private practice providing nutrition counseling and health coaching. She earned Bachelor's degrees in dietetics and psychology from Michigan State University and a Master's degree from Wayne State University.

It's packed with nutrients

"Animal bones are rich in calcium, magnesium, potassium, phosphorus and other trace minerals — the same minerals needed to build and strengthen your own bones," says Derocha.

She adds that the connective tissue that's contained in bone broth provides the liquid with two natural compounds that are known to support joint health: this includes glucosamine and chondroitin. The marrow element provides vitamin A, vitamin K2, minerals like zinc, iron, boron, manganese and selenium, as well as omega-3 and omega-6 fatty acids.

But even if you're a pescatarian and drink broth made from fish bones, you can still reap the rewards. According to Derocha, fish broth contains iodine, which she says is critical to a "healthy thyroid function and metabolism".

"All of these animal parts also contain the

protein collagen," adds Derocha. "This turns into gelatin when cooked and yields several important amino acids."

It's a source of protein

Along with nuts, legumes and meat, the macronutrient protein can also be found in bone broth. But why is this a good thing?



"The protein content in bone broth may support your body as it builds bones, muscles, cartilage, skin, and blood," says Derocha.

If you're making bone broth yourself, it can be hard to tell how much protein is in each serving, especially because "every batch of bones is so different", says Derocha. However, one cup of beef bone broth contains around 5g of protein — this isn't bad considering the Dietary Guidelines for Americans puts the average recommended dietary allowance (RDA) of protein intake at 0.8g of protein per kilogram of body weight.

It can benefit your digestive health

Gut health is trending right now in the wellness world. And, according to Derocha, bone broth could help you achieve a healthier gut. But how?

"Research has shown that our overall health is impacted greatly by the good health of our intestinal tract," says Derocha. "Bone broth is easy to digest and may aid in the overall digestion of foods. The gelatin found in bone broth naturally attracts and holds liquids. When this gelatin binds to water in the gut, it helps it move through the intestinal tract more easily.

"Glutamine, which is an amino acid in gelatin, helps to maintain the function of the intestinal wall and has been known to prevent and heal 'leaky gut'. Leaky gut leads to inflammation as well. Hence why drinking bone broth may benefit those with leaky gut, irritable bowel syndrome and inflammatory bowel diseases, like Crohn's disease."

It could help aid sleep

The amino acids in bone broth could also support better sleep. At least that's according to research published in the Neuropsychopharmacology journal. Researchers said that the amino acid glycine has long been known as an "inhibitory neurotransmitter in the brainstem and spinal

cord" and can trigger "muscle atonia during rapid eye movement sleep". Researchers found that glycine therefore provides a "therapeutic option for improving sleep quality".

It may support your health

Joint health is another area in which bone broth could be beneficial. In fact, according to a research paper published in the Nutrition Journal — which tasked those with knee osteoarthritis to drink chicken broth — it showed positive results. Along with reducing stiffness and pain, those who digested the broth saw an improvement in joint function.

IS BONE BROTH SAFE FOR EVERYONE?

While bone broth has its positives, there are two particular factors to highlight. Derocha says that, according to some studies, bone broth may be high in glutamate. "Glutamate may cause adverse effects, such as anxiety, restlessness, low energy, mental exhaustion, sleeplessness and concentration problems, although there is no scientific evidence to prove this," she says. "Therefore, those with a glutamic acid sensitivity should be aware that bone broth may not be the best for them."

Plus, as published in a study in Medical Hypotheses, when bone broth is cooked, lead may be released. Researchers said: "Bones are known to sequester the heavy metal lead, contamination with which is widespread throughout the modern environment. Such sequestered lead can then be mobilized from the bones. We therefore hypothesized that bone broth might carry a risk of being contaminated with lead."

Which is why, if you are going to add bone broth into your diet, researchers recommend: "Doctors and nutritionists take the risk of lead contamination into consideration when advising patients about bone broth diets."



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 conmigo 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.

Sports Guild

Central American Games 2022 cancelled as host country Guatemala is suspended from the IOC

By Leon C. Guild

Every four years, the Central American Games (CAG) is a huge deal for Belizean athletes.

Organized by Central American Sports Organization (ORDECA) every single sport that is a member of the National Olympic Committee (NOC) of Belize called the Belize Olympic Committee (BOC) gets to send their top athletes to compete

against the best athletes in the region.

Belize has never hosted the CAG in its entirety as we still have quite a bit of developing to do as it pertains to hosting an event of that magnitude but in the past elements of it have been entertained on our soils.

This year, sporting federations in Belize were informed that the weight of the games were to be shared between Costa Rica and Guatemala. As

mention before, splitting up the games amongst different countries is not a new thing but coming out of the recent pandemic, it can be understood why a single country in the region may not be able to burden the entire load of the games by itself.

Now, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) prides itself on regulating autonomously in every country and also has a strict stipulation that NOC's must be free



Karatekas at 2017 Central American Games



MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

AND

HOUSING

INVITATION TO BID

RENOVATION OF THE CHARLES BARTLET HYDE BUILDING.

BELIZE CITY, BELIZE DISTRICT



The Government of Belize via the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing (MIDH) intends to renovate the Charles Bartlett Hyde Building in Belize City, Belize District.

The Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing now invites sealed bids from suitably qualified and experienced contractors to renovate the above-mentioned Building in Belize City, Belize District.

The scope of works will involve the retrofit of office spaces totaling more than 30,000 sq ft. which includes the following:

- 1 Creation of two main entrances to the building.
- 2 Demolishing and retrofitting spaces for office and multipurpose spaces.
- 3 Renovation and remedial work on walls, ceiling, and floors.
- 4 Upgrade of electrical, lighting, and plumbing in new and existing spaces.

Interested bidders must have the financial capacity, necessary equipment, technical expertise, and experience to complete the works following the Bidding Documents.

Bidding will be conducted through the national competitive bidding procedures and interested bidders may obtain further information and a copy of the bidding documents at the MIDH offices at the address below as of Tuesday, October 11, 2022, during normal office hours Monday through Fridays from 8.00 A.M – 12.00 Noon and from 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM.

Bidding documents are free of charge and may be picked up by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below.

All bids must be delivered to the address below by 10:00 AM local time on Tuesday, November 1, 2022, and they will be opened on the same day at 10:15 A.M, at the address below. Late bids will be rejected. Bid security of \$20,000 must be submitted and delivered to the address below at the same time as the bid submission.

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

from interference in their internal governance and operations with the principle of autonomy of the Olympic Movement established in the Olympic Charter. 'The Executive Board of the IOC received a full update on the situation of the NOC of Guatemala.

It was reminded that, further to the NOC elections that successfully took place in March 2022 in accordance with the IOC-approved NOC Statutes and the Olympic Charter, the Constitutional Court of Guatemala decided, in August 2022, to provisionally suspend a number of provisions of the NOC's Statutes and Regulations, relating in particular to the NOC election process, for unclear reasons, despite the warnings sent by the IOC reiterating that the NOC must be able to operate in accordance with its Statutes and the Olympic Charter.

The Court's decision was immediately challenged by the NOC. In light of these elements, and in order to protect the interests of the athletes of Guatemala, the IOC Executive Board, therefore, decided to suspend the NOC of Guatemala with effect as from 15 October 2022. The suspension of the NOC will automatically come into effect on this date if no solution is found'.

So what does this mean for the Belizean athletes who were grinding on

their Macro and micro cycle plans for training? Well it means that there will be no Central American Games this year.

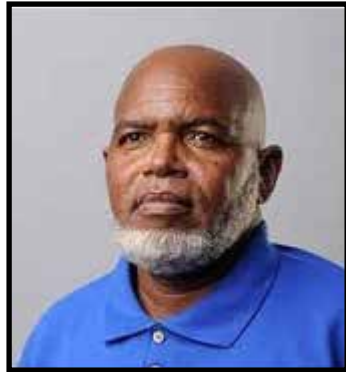
According to a release received from our very own NOC on September 11th 2022, "In order to offer Central American athletes the opportunity to compete in the Central American Games, in accordance with the ORDECA Statutes, the opening of applications of the host cities will start in 2023 and, therefore, have an extensive period of organization for the next edition of the Central American Games scheduled to be held in 2025.'

So that's it. The Games that were the highlight of the year are off. I can only encourage my fellow Belizean athletes to continue training themselves and sensibly push their limits in order to improve. Besides other small championships both locally and regionally the next big things on the calendar are the Central American and Caribbean Games which will be hosted next year.

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GRASSROOTS

Tribute to fallen Taxi operator Norris Flowers Jr.



By Hon. Gilroy Usher

“There are no goodbyes for us. Wherever you are, you will always be in our heart” – Mahatma Gandhi

On Wednesday September 28, 2022, Mr. Norris Flowers Jr. a hardworking taxi operator and dedicated family man of Corozal Town as well as a former police officer and employee of the Transport Department, was murdered in the line of duty in the community. Mr. Flowers was fatally shot in the Dominguez Layout area of the town by one or more assailants, who relieved him of his possessions and escaped in his taxi.

Taxi service is a necessary business for development in any country. Taxi operators enable persons to travel from point A to B immediately alone or with one or two other passengers maximum for a reasonable fare. Public transportation cannot provide such service quickly. Buses have to leave from a location at a specific time, and they have to follow a particular route, which leaves passengers at bus stops far from their intended destinations.

Taxi operators also provide valuable service in taking persons from home, work, or other places to desired rendezvous, when public transportation is no longer available especially at night and early in the morning.

Like many careers being a taxi operator comes with joys, challenges, and

sorrows. The vast majority of persons, who request taxi service are friendly, courteous, and respectful of others property. They all pay the fare happily, and a number of them offer taxi operators tips in appreciation for the excellent service provided.

A number of persons, however, take advantage of taxi operators. Some persons are disorderly, vulgar, or destructive in a taxi causing damage to the seats or doors. On reaching their destinations a few persons avoid paying the fare by claiming they forgot their money or by offering to pay the fare out of a large money knowing the taxi operator won't have change.

Worse a number of persons pay taxi operators every 15th or end of the month upfront the first few times for providing them service on credit until payday; however several of those same persons later “stiff” taxi operators by refusing to pay for the service provide to them for two weeks or longer on credit.

Like Mr. Norris Flowers Jr., many taxi operators across the country have paid the ultimate price in providing their service. That occurs when such persons are killed for their vehicles and the few dollars in their possession by criminal elements, who pose as genuine customers requesting their service.

I know Mr. Norris Flowers, Jr. personally. He is originally from the village Double Head Cabbage in the Belize District, and I am from the neighboring village of Bermudian Landing. The murder of Mr. Flowers by a criminal for his own property is, therefore, very painful to me. I also know about the

good times and bad times of being a taxi operator. Decades ago I operated a taxi at the Pound Yard Bridge and on Albert St. in Belize City for approximately five months.

Taxi operators in Belize are mostly marginalized persons. The majority of them own or operate a single

per day depending on the condition of the car or van with full responsibility for providing their own fuel. After deducting the rental and fuel cost from their revenue at the close of the workday, most of those taxi operators have very few dollars if any to take home for their families.

earned money.

Taxi operators do many things daily to help protect their lives. Some taxi operators only carry persons, who are known to them; others only operate during the day, don't accept job from suspicious looking persons, don't take passengers to known criminal areas, and

each other or family members where they are heading to provide a service. That is done to enable such persons to reach them or alert the police quickly if they observe anything out of the ordinary.

For greater safety it would be good if taxi operators have dash cam cameras in their vehicles to record who request their service and immediately convey the information to their family members, taxi association, or co-workers. Use of such technology would go a long way in preventing or solving crime against taxi operators throughout the country.

Respect to all taxi operators providing their invaluable service in Belize, and sincere condolence to the family of Mr. Norris Flowers, Jr. and all other taxi operators, who have lost their lives to criminals in providing the best possible service to the public.

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Norris Flowers, Jr.

car. To supplement their income for their families a number of persons also become taxi operators at the end of their regular workday.

A number of teachers, law enforcement officials, such as the late Mr. Flowers, Jr., public officers, and other persons also become taxi operators to supplement their pensions or other small income after they have reached the mandatory age of retirement.

A few taxi operators in Belize are also middle-class persons.

For many of taxi operators their service is a hand to mouth business. With lack of finance to purchase their vehicles, scores of persons in the business rent taxis for as high as \$40.00 or \$50.00

It's therefore unconscionable and heatless when persons disrespect taxi operators, damage their vehicles, use their service without paying for it, and worst of all kill taxi operators for their vehicles and hard

don't stop to pick up one or more persons at the side of the road even if a customer in their vehicle makes that request.

In looking after their safety a number of taxi operators also share their cell numbers with each other and inform

Notice of Dissolution

“Notice is hereby given to all interested parties that SONRIDGE HOLDINGS LIMITED is a Company incorporated under the IBC Act of Belize commenced dissolution on September 26th, 2022.

And

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

Interconsult Belize Limited
Registered Agent

All about The People

When Beast Become Men



Neri Briceno

For anyone who grew up in the south or in rural Belize in the 1970's, a dog and a cat in the household was a must. The relations between man and his beast was one of affection, dependence, and connection and was a mutual, symbiotic relationship between both parties.

Rodent control was primarily the cat's duties, but it was not below the dogs' pay scale to kill an intruding rat, attempting to enter the household. Of all the household pets, the dog reigned supreme.

Dogs were offered

the better and more abundant table scraps, as opposed to cats, who if food was not enough, would hunt lizards, insects and small birds in the yard. Yes, there was a time when our backyards were like a mini jungles.

All pets were special, but canines carried more responsibilities. They were there to dissuade unwanted visitors, sound the alarm when visitors arrived and where possible, attack any unwanted elements from the home. While their responsibilities were great, these tasks were seldom required, since home burglaries and invasions were rare. Most people slept with their front doors shut and unlocked.

The added fact that a dog could hunt and contribute to the table and family, made him a cherished animal.

For the most part of my childhood, my fam-

ily had both cats and dogs. We saw many cats and dogs pass through life and death cycles.

Some died naturally and some of the dogs died as a result of the yearly town council stray dog eradication program. With time we learned that if you

People will go through lengths to rescue, save, protect and nurture an animal that was born with the survival instincts that nature gave them, only to turn around and blatantly ignore homeless and poor human beings.

gave dogs lime juice immediately after they were poisoned, it actually saves their live. However, that was not always the case, since there were times when it was too late.

Poisoning and vehicle hits became the primary cause death. Cats were considered survivors since poisoning was not geared toward them and they seldom got hit by cars,

since they had no interest in chasing them. We cried when they died because there was always a special bond with them.

It is safe to say that pets were an integral part of our families but both humans and animals knew their boundaries. Dogs

People will go through lengths to rescue, save, protect and nurture an animal that was born with the survival instincts that nature gave them, only to turn around and blatantly ignore homeless and poor human beings.

stayed outside under the house or in their own houses. They were afforded entry into our living quarters only when they were sick, a hurricane was coming or as puppies and at that, the kitchen was as far as they went. Since most people had a detached kitchen, the rest of the house remained completely off limit.

We occasionally hit our dogs and cats - when they did something they were not supposed to do. That taught them what to do and what not to. It was never about cruelty or abuse. One of the quickest ways to get in a childhood fight was to hit someone's pet for no reason.

Pets were fed properly, as a matter of fact they ate what we ate, were wormed to time, and baths were a must. Any sign of disease was addressed quickly and effectively. In those days men were men and beasts were beasts and there was no confusion as to which was which.

Fast track to 2022 and the beast has morphed into a demi-human, with rights at that. In certain parts of Europe and the western World, you can actually serve prison time for hitting an animal. Animals wear clothing, ride around in designer strollers and sometimes are carried around like babies, which is a luxury that the animal's own mother cannot afford them and is incapable of carrying of doing.

To have animals live anywhere except inside is now unconscionable and cruel. Medical insurance for pets and

cemeteries where they can be buried now exist, and they even have their own pet stores.

Long ago someone came up with the idea of making them their own special foods because ours was not fit for them. If all this sounds like the world has lost its marbles, it probably is, and it is becoming no different in Belize.

Don't get me wrong, I love pets just as much as the next guy, but what I have not bought into, is the conversation of a beast having rights similar to those of humans. People will go through lengths to rescue, save, protect and nurture an animal that was born with the survival instincts that nature gave them, only to turn around and blatantly ignore homeless and poor human beings.

It's this alien mindset and the need to be like the rest of the modern world that has allowed something that is completely foreign to us to easily get massaged down our gullets.

This is why the people of Gales Point have been led to believe that saving part of a hill and the animals that inhabit that area are more important than jobs, better healthcare, better educational facilities, better roads, better sanitation and a better way of life for themselves and their families.

As a nation we have been fooled to believe that there is a need to conserve and protect everything. While I am all for conservation, Man was placed on this earth to dominate and to use the resources that exist on this planet for survival.

We need strike that critical balance between the environmental and national development in order to improve the standard of living of our people. We cannot continue to reject every development opportunity on the horizon because it will affect the environment. If you really look at things, everything affected the environment, but to what extent?

Sometimes we fail

to realize the resiliency of nature. Under the Milpa way of farming, the jungle completely reforests a "bald" spot, to the point where it is as though there was never any farming there in the first place.

The cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki are the only two cities that have been decimated by an atomic bomb. How come both countries are inhabitable today. These cities have actually rebuilt, and people are living there living normal, everyday life.

The city of Chernobyl in Ukraine which just 36 years ago experienced the greatest nuclear disaster in Europe, has been overtaken by the forest and is already starting to see a resurgence in plants and wildlife.

The modern extinction of the Dodo Bird and the Tasmanian Tiger both prove that conservation is needed globally but it also shows that extinction does not bring an end to nature.


Mauritius, Australia, Tasmania and New Guinea's flora and fauna have managed to continue almost unaffected, despite the loss of these extinct species.

As a nation we need to open our eyes and question everything and refrain from believing the popular narrative. I challenge the media to return to Gales Point in one year and see whose life or what in the community have benefitted in life as a result of protecting a hill. I guarantee improvements will be quite difficult to find.

Does Belize need a certain amount of conservation, of course it does and there is no denying that. But who gets to dictate that?

It's all about the people!

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VACANCY:JOB OPPORTUNITY

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

Procurement Clerk

Reports to: Chief Accountant

Summary of Responsibilities: The Procurement Clerk He/She is responsible for all local and international purchases for the Port. Accurately prepare payment for payables and post accounts payable invoices, assist in the tendering process. File all payment vouchers, receipts and arrange to pick up orders when delivered. He/she works under the direct of the Chief Accountant with the supervision of the Accountant.

Job Responsibilities:

1. Responsible for International Purchasing Process
2. Process and monitor quotations on a timely manner
3. Process and issue all Purchase Orders including change orders
4. Prepare job costing for all International Purchases
5. Responsible to liaise with Vendors for timely delivery of shipments to freight forwarder
6. Follow up with vendors to honor commitments
7. Responsible to liaise with Broker for clearing of shipments from customs and delivery to stores
8. Responsible for all local purchases
10. Process and monitor quotations on a timely manner
11. Process and issue all Purchase Orders including change orders
12. Drive tendering processes
15. Comparison of quotes and preparation of total cost of ownership analysis
16. Deliver tangible cost savings through alternate vendor sourcing
17. Participate in vendor selection strategy
19. Responsible for posting Accounts Payable Invoices
20. Reconcile Supplier monthly Statement
22. Prepare payment for payables
24. Post daily issue of inventory into QBs Accounting system
25. Responsible for market and product research and cost analysis
26. Provide weekly order status report
28. Responsible for Filing of Purchases Records

Job Qualifications/Requirements:

- Minimum of Associate's Degree in Accounting
- 2 yrs. of Procurement experience

Skills/Competencies

- Strong command of accounting principles
- Able to work under pressure
- Maintain Confidentiality
- High level of integrity

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

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

Applications should be emailed to: jobapplication@portofbelize.com
Closing date for receipt of applications is Friday, September 30th, 2022

The Righters Write

Trafficked by my sister

Contributed By *The Human Rights Commission*

It can be hard to imagine that your own sister would plot to entrap you into forced labor. This is what happened to a young woman from Guatemala.

Remaining anonymous, she, accompanied by a friend, shared via voice call how she was lured to Belize on the promise of a secure job. The young woman had established a small business for herself back in her home country. There she made and sold tortillas. It wasn't highly profitable, but it got her by. So, when her sister came around with the promise of a better opportunity in Belize, she decided to give it a try. She was promised a job at a restaurant. They came into the country legally.

Once here, the young woman settled into a small apartment and almost immediately was told she had to start working. She was never told that she would be working at a local bar. By the time she realized what she had to do, it was too late to turn back. Her sister had taken her passport away, the money she brought with her and told her she had to pay back the money that was used to get her to Belize and into the apartment. "It was frightening," she recalled.

Her friend, whom she met at the establishment and slowly befriended, recalls that on the first night at the bar, the young woman "was frozen, nervous. She did not know what to do or say because she didn't drink alcohol. She wasn't used to the night life. I remember a man approached her to order a beer and when he tapped her on the shoulder, she began trembling and crying.

Everyone who was there realized something was wrong. The owner of the bar came in and asked what was happening. She told the proprietor, with tears rolling down her cheeks, that she did not know she was going to work there, that she was told she would be paid to clean a restaurant, kitchen and apartments." The young woman said that when the proprietor saw how terrified she was, she agreed to have her do the cleaning and that she'd be paid for that work. She was also able to cook and sell food to the other girls at the bar. This is how she was able to pay back the sum she owed. Her friend recalls that it wasn't long after that she took off and left Belize without her passport. She went on to do community work back in Guatemala, eventually becoming a community leader. A few years later, she was able to go to the United States of America where she now lives.

A second story is that of a woman who came to Belize at the tender age of eighteen. The young Honduran national was residing and working in El Salvador at a café. She was also tricked into coming to Belize on the promise of a better job at a restaurant. When she arrived in Belize, she was quickly taken to San Pedro Ambergris Caye. At the time, she did not know she was pregnant. Once at the island, she was taken to a local bar and the proprietor held on to her passport.

She felt trapped and even though she wanted to run, she was told she had to repay

her traffickers back the money they spent to get her to Belize and her accommodations. She felt she had no other choice but to do as she was asked. She worked during her entire pregnancy, which she tried to hide as best as she could by banding her waist. She had her child on the island. About two years after she had a second child. She recalls that even though she once wanted to escape that lifestyle, over time she gave up and stayed.

These are just two stories of many persons who are brought to Belize and forced to work in brothels. Others are forced to work in farms or as housemaids with little to no pay and in terrible working conditions.

The United Nations earlier this month issued a report saying that forced labor and marriage have increased significantly around the world over the last five years. The latest Global Estimates of Modern Slavery, published by the International Labour Organization (ILO), International Organization for Migration (IOM) and international human rights group Walk Free, revealed that in 2021, about 50 million people were living in modern slavery - 28 million in forced labour and 22 million in forced marriages. This is 10 million more people in modern slavery when compared to figures in 2016, with those disproportionately vulnerable being women and children.

The report further explains that "Eighty-six per cent of forced labour cases are found in the private sector, with forced commercial sexual exploitation representing 23 per cent - almost four out of five victims of whom are females. State-imposed forced labour accounts for 14 per cent, of which nearly one in eight, or 3.3 million, are children. More than half are in commercial sexual exploitation."

According to the UN, "migrant workers are over three times more likely to be in forced labour than other adult workers. While labour migration has a largely positive effect on individuals, households, communities and societies, irregular or poorly governed migration, or unfair and unethical recruitment practices render migrants particularly vulnerable."

IOM Director-

General António Vitorino stated that the latest report "underscores the urgency of ensuring that all migration is safe, orderly, and regular," adding that, "Reducing the vulnerability of migrants to forced labour and trafficking in persons depends first and foremost on national policy and legal frameworks that respect, protect, and fulfil the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants - and potential migrants - at all stages of the migration process, regardless of their migration status".

ILO Director-General Ryder says, "Effective national policies and regulation are fundamental" to addressing this but emphasized that an "all-hands-on-deck approach" is needed. "Trade unions, employers' organizations, civil society and ordinary people all have critical roles to play," he said.

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.



Magistracy Department Attorney General's Ministry

1 Treasury Lane, Belize City Telephone: (501) 227-4587 or 227-6262

VACANCY NOTICE

Suitably qualified persons are invited to submit applications to fill the position of:

CHIEF MAGISTRATE

Applicants Must:

- be in possession of Bachelor's in Law (LLB)
- be in possession of Continuing Legal Education (CLE)

Salary: Pay Scale 25 (LLB and CLE)
\$47,624 x 1,644 - \$78,860

Age Limit: 21-50

Experience: 5 Years in Supervisory/Management level
10 Years in the Legal field

Analysis of the Position:

- (a) Adjudicate criminal, civil, family, and preliminary inquiries.
- (b) Serves as Coroner and Revising officer.
- (c) Financial Manager for all positions that fall under the Magistracy Department countrywide
- (d) Manage the Vote/Financial Matters of the Magistracy Department.
- (e) Prepare Memorandum of Reasons for Decisions in a timely manner.
- (f) Attends conferences, workshops, and training in relation to capacity building of the Magistracy.
- (g) Assists with the training needs of the department as required.
- (h) Prepares appeals as required.
- (i) Perform duties as the Accounting Officer for the Magistracy Department.
- (j) Prepares statistics and reports as required.
- (k) Must be computer literate with word processing proficiency.
- (l) Is accountable to the Chief Justice, Solicitor General and the Judicial and Legal Services Commission.

Interested persons are asked to apply in writing to:

The Secretary, Judicial and Legal Services Commission
Ground Floor, Sir. Edney Cain Building
Thru' the Office of the Solicitor General
Attorney General's Ministry
Belmopan City, Cayo District Belize, Central America
Telephone number: 822-2504 or 822-0519
email address: agsecretary@agm.gov.bz

Deadline for receipt of applications: February 24th, 2023

Please Note: Only suitable qualified applicants will be acknowledged. The Commission is not bound to make an appointment from among those persons who apply.

No Excuses

Our Endangered Judiciary

CONTRIBUTED:
SEDI

After a lapse of two plus years our judiciary once more has a substantive Chief Justice. She is Her Ladyship the Hon. Louise Esther Blenman. CJ Blenman is a native of the Republic of Guyana and a graduate of the University of the West Indies and the Hugh Wooding Law School. Her career includes a period of about four years in private practice in Guyana. She also served in a variety of Legal positions in the Eastern Caribbean including that of Justice of Appeal of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court.

The office of Chief Justice is the highest office of trust in our country. It is of equal status with that of the Prime Minister. It is the best remunerated office in our Public Service. And, it is one of the most secure. Intending no offence to our current Chief Justice with the greatest of respect to the new Chief Justice, it is this writer's conviction that only a Belizean whose character is

universally accepted to be beyond reproach, should hold that most powerful office of Chief Justice in our country. That was the promise of our Independence from Great Britain.

Our Judiciary and the common law are arguably the most precious legacies bequeathed to our country by the British. The Judiciary is one of the three equal branches of our government enshrined in our country's constitution. Its role is to administer justice throughout the length and breadth of our country. It does this through a network of courts which include magistrate courts, supreme courts, Courts of Appeal and the Caribbean Court of Justice, our Apex Court.

The Courts are the bastion of our rights, freedoms and justice. They are the cornerstones of our democracy. All are headed by professionally trained lawyers. All swear an oath before ascending to the Judicial Bench, to bear true faith and allegiance to Belize, to uphold the Belize constitution and the Law, to conscientiously,

impartially and to the best of their ability to discharge their duty as Magistrate or Judge and to do right, to all manner of people without fear or favour, affection or ill will! The Independence of every judge is also constitutionally protected.

Notwithstanding the crucial role our judiciary plays in protecting our

We cannot afford to entrust our Judiciary into the hands of foreigners who can easily flee the country when the rule of law is dethroned and violence and chaos becomes the order of the day. The forty Philippino nurses who fled our hospitals during the Covid-19 Pandemic is a cautionary tale.

rights and freedoms and in helping to ensure that the Rule of Law prevails in our country, it is presently in grave danger! It has always been the most neglected and under resourced arm of our government. That has been so notwithstanding the annual pleas of successive Chief Justices, made privately and publicly by substantive and acting.

Contrary to the promise of Independence only a single Belizean has

had the good fortune of serving in the high office of Chief Justice for upwards of two years. That Belizean is Sir George N Brown, a career public officer who served continuously as Chief Justice from 1990-1998.

Perennially starved of badly needed resources, human, financial and physical, and

overwhelmed by an ever increasing number of cases lodged annually for adjudication both in the Criminal and Civil Divisions of the Court, both the quality and quantity of decisions emanating for our Courts have been inexorably and drastically declining. Thousands of cases remain unresolved. And those finally resolved experience interminable delays in the process and not infrequently, totally perverse, untethered from law and the evidence.

The judges we have managed to attract to fill vacancies on our judicial benches have been of widely varying quality. Some have been bold, knowledgeable, fearless, first rate. Others have been obsequious, craven, unprincipled, dissolute, incompetent and unproductive. Given the disastrous performance of our judiciary over the last forty years the inescapable inference is that we hired a preponderance of incompetent judges.

Not unexpectedly the quality of our judges have negatively impacted the public perception of our judiciary. The concept of the independence of our Judiciary which was once taken as an article of faith as recently as the 1970's, no longer enjoy consensus in our country. On the contrary, the popular view is that extraneous considerations, other than merit and integrity, not infrequently taint the selection and appointment of our

Judges. Indeed, it is now more the exception than the rule to encounter wise and righteous Judges with strength of character, who look to their oaths in arriving at their decisions, and who spurn the blandishments, inducements, pressures and threats directed at them by prominent public officials as well as by violent criminal elements in the private sector. Incidentally, threats of violence to personnel serving in our judiciary by narco criminals are on the ascending!

No doubt spurred by the negative financial impact which the inexorable deteriorating down turn in the performance of our judiciary has been having upon their revenue streams, members of the Bar Association were recently provoked to take the uncharacteristically extreme measure of publicly threatening our erstwhile Chief Justice with legal action for intransigently refusing to complete and deliver inordinately long outstanding decisions. And, our newly appointed Attorney General also caused to be passed into law, as one of her very first acts as AG, legislation which imposed time limits upon the delivery of Civil Judgments by Supreme Court Judges. Not to be outdone, the President of the Bar Association was moved at the opening of the judicial year January last, to complain publicly and bitterly about the poor quality of the decisions that were being delivered in our Civil Courts. Never before in the history of our country was such a concerted attack launched upon our judiciary by the Private Bar.

Given the deplorable performance of our judiciary over the past forty one years, our New Chief Justice may well find it a worthy challenge to seek to enlist the support of the Bar Association in the fashioning of a transformative programme of training for promising young Belizean attorneys, who are fit and proper to ultimately assume the mantle of Superior Court Judges. The need for

same is great and urgent and will only continue to grow.

We cannot afford to entrust our Judiciary into the hands of foreigners who can easily flee the country when the rule of law is dethroned and violence and chaos becomes the order of the day. The forty Philippino nurses who fled our hospitals during the Covid-19 Pandemic is a cautionary tale.

History has revealed to us that the two most outstanding judges ever had received no legal training whatsoever. Their defining characters were wisdom, decency, and candor and love of justice. They are King Solomon and Shakespeare's Portia of Merchant of Venice fame.

An incompetent, corrupt, compromised and underperforming judiciary is exceedingly perilous, dangerous and harmful to any nation. Indeed, it is especially devastating to small fragile states when persons sitting at the pinnacle of those states are complicit in subverting justice. Currently unfolding events in the United States are revealing the extent to which rich powerful people in high places actively subvert the course of justice by packing the Courts with pliant judges. We would be naïve to believe that the self-same evil is not being perpetuated in our country as we read this article. Haiti did not devolve into the hell hole that it is by accident. Its cruel fate was caused by evil leaders both inside and outside that land. Our dearly beloved Belize can easily and quickly suffer a similar fate. The price of freedom is constant vigilance

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FOR SALE

37.7 acres

along the Philip Goldson (Northern) Highway

near Mile 17 1/2

suitable for an industrial
or housing project.

**Bordered by the BWS Feeder Road
and the Northern Highway.**

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

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for more details.**



Belize Water Services Limited

Corporate Communication Office
7 Central American Boulevard, PO Box 150,
Belize City, Belize. Tel: +501-222-4757
Website: www.bws.bz Email: pr@bws.com.bz

PRESS RELEASE

September 26, 2022 For Immediate Release

BWS and Cuban Entities Collaborates to strengthen cooperation



On September 16, 2022, BWS signed an official Memorandum of Understanding with the National Institute of Hydraulic Resources of Cuba (NIHR), that will strengthen the exchange and co-operation between Belize and Cuba on issues related to water and sanitation. Belize's Ambassador to Cuba Mrs. Annie-Lou Burns Martinez was very instrumental in coordinating the visit of our contingent who were able to visit some water facilities and to discuss a way forward.

After a series of meetings with key stakeholders, the following actions were agreed between BWS and Cuba:

- Provide technical advice and support on the use of groundwater as an alternative solution during periods of drought, this may include from research stage.
- Provide short and long-term training (at all levels) on topics of interest, including educational opportunities
- Cross training of technical and non-technical staff
- Sharing new Concepts and ideas for supply of water to tourist areas, especially for the Cayes in Belize.
- Scheduling of visits to Belize for the Cuban Delegates based on needs and agreements made during the mission, as well as the exploration of the hydraulic systems in Belize.
- To identify suppliers in the water and sanitation sector, evaluating the possible integration into the projects for both countries.
- Realization of laboratory analysis of water quality and characterization of residuals including advice for the accreditation of tests and laboratories.
- Assisting with the accreditation of the water and sanitation lab in Belize.
- To explore business relationships for the procurement of pipes, accessories, and other resources.
- Create alliances to work in other countries of the region with the possibility of obtaining financing and other benefits in the water sector of both countries.

BWS extends our gratitude to: our Prime Minister Hon. John Briceno for creating this collaboration and relationship between BWS and the relevant Cuban experts; to Belize' Ambassador to Cuba, H.E Ambassador Mrs. Annie-Lou Burns Martinez , who was key in the primary discussions leading to the visit and the formulation of the Memorandum of Understanding; to Ambassador of Cuba to Belize, Ms. Maria Caridad Balaguer Labrada; to Mr Alexander Argilagos Moreira, President of Gestion de Las Aguas Terrestres; to Mr. Ruben Ramos Arrieta, the Vice President of the Cuban Chamber of Commerce and also to the Management of Cubahidraulica, International Economic Association of Hydro Systems and Automation and Aguas de La Habana for taking time to meet with the BWS team. BWS also extends a special thanks to Ms. Mariana Verde who assisted tremendously with the preparation and execution of the visit.

We look forward to building this meaningful relationship between BWS and Cuba to ensure mutual benefit and to aid in the growth and development for Belize.

