

# Reporter

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## Global Recession in 2023?

### IMF Director: There is a 25% risk of global downturn next year

"We think that the risk of global recession is now 25 percent," International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said to the media Thursday.

Responding to journalists' questions following her statements made at Thursday's press conference to highlight the Fund's Global Policy Agenda (GPA), Georgieva explained, "The probability of a recession has gone up. We [The IMF] estimate that one third



IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva (r) provides overview of the Fund's latest WEO report.

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## Police officer shot to the head, critical

A female police constable was admitted to the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital (KMH) in critical condition this week after she was shot twice to the head in Dangriga.

On Wednesday, October 12, around 7:00 p.m., 27-year-old PC Lorry Arzu was with 45-year-old Lionel Rowland, on St. Martin Street, when Rowland reportedly had an exchange of words with another man.

Subsequently, both Arzu and Rowland entered Rowland's vehicle when the other man pulled out a .9mm pistol and opened fire, hitting Arzu in the head and hitting Rowland three times in the face and once to the back.

They were both treated at the Southern Regional Hospital (SRH) but Arzu was



Police Constable Lorry Arzu

later transferred to the KMH where she underwent brain surgery. She remains in the Intensive Care Unit on life support.

Commissioner of Police Chester Williams stressed that Arzu, who joined the department in December 2021, was collateral damage in the incident as Rowland was the intended target.

"It just so happened that some of the bullets passed him and hit Ms. Arzu," Williams said.

Williams said that the police department is seeking the best medical advice and treatment options for her, while a joint team of the Special Patrol Unit (SPU) and Mobile Interdiction Team (MIT) to find the shooter.

## Poultry Association: Avian Influenza never confirmed in Belize



Belize Poultry Association's Manager Mr. Armando Cowo

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## Code Caribbean Project sparks outrage over invasive questions

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## MAD

**Dear Sir:**

There is no way this letter, this quiet message would directly find its way into the hands of Mr. Putin, the great, fearsome leader of Russia.

I am a little old man striving to be heard, a little fish, in this tiny speck of land, housing a miniscule citizenry of less than half a million. But here in this nanosecond of time, mercifully granted, I make bold to blurt out this message of good sense and humble sanity, ALMIGHTY FATHER, spare us from this lunacy of lunacies, this madness of M.A.D. – the mutually assured destruction of PUTIN'S MADNESS.

Dear Russian brothers and sisters, you know that FATBOY dropped by America in 1945 upon Hiroshima, in the blink of an eye vaporized thousands upon thousands of civilians. The Hydrogen bomb of now of which Russia and America each have arsenals of thousands would each kill...each bomb, would kill a thousand more than Fat Boy.

Honourable Citizen of the Russian Republic

do you think that the pulling of the NUCLEAR TRIGGER would be only ONEWAY?

Do you really believe that the most powerful military of the world would allow you to get away with that?

No! No! No, my friend! It would be THE END TIME – of Human Civilization!

Though I stand in fear and trembling at the thought of coming face to face with the King of Kings, I fervently believe that millions upon millions around this globe of ours keep on praying for peace – but not at any price. Our prayers continue to be: GIVE ME LIBERTY or GIVE ME DEATH.

Sir, with your leave, may I add one more sentiment. Monday 10th October was my mother's (RIP) birthday! I recently learned that upon that date seventy-three years ago (1949) TAIWAN proclaimed its INDEPENDENCE. Henceforth this day will be for me a double day of liberty. Besides my mother's liberation unto glory, I shall with a double toast of champagne celebrate democracy and personal freedom of a whole nation of Asian peoples.

**Signed: Paul Rodriguez OBE**

## Poultry Association: Avian Influenza never confirmed in Belize

*By Michelle Sutherland*

While Cabinet has given the all-clear for Avian Influenza, in Belize, the Belize Poultry Association has told The Reporter that the virus was never formally detected in the country.

Late on Thursday evening, Armando Cowo, the manager of the Belize Poultry Association, said, "I am not too sure how to say this but the Avian Flu suspected case was never confirmed, and though we had that suspected case, we took proactive measures to contain the virus in the event that it was there."

Cowo added, "With the assistance of BAHA and the Ministry of Agriculture, we conducted the necessary depopulation at the time and quarantined the area, and all other measures necessary to keep the possible virus contained."

He explained that samples were sent to the National Veterinary Services Laboratory, which is the World Animal Health Organization reference lab for the confirmation of diseases. "We sent a lot of samples to them, and they have all come back negative," Cowo shared. "Therefore, the disease is not present in the county as we speak."

Cowo explained that while they were aware that the birds were having difficulties with some type of disease, they were not able to pinpoint exactly what it was. Cowo also noted that they were also distracted by the possible A-I + test and the need for them to implement the containment measures as soon as possible. Since the birds have been depopulated and the barns sanitized, Cowo said that they will now have to wait until whatever it was rears its head again so that they can retest.

"We have not finished tallying the numbers yet because we were waiting for the all-clear from the government because all measures were in place until the government gave the all clear. Now that they have given that we can go in and do the tallying of numbers of all the costs and the losses. So hopefully by next week, we should have that for you," explained Cowo.

In total, Cowo said that over 30 thousand birds, some only three weeks old, were killed

during the depopulation exercise. One of the barns had 24 thousand birds while the other had over four thousand and a smaller farm had about 1,500. The Association is expected to meet on Tuesday at which point it will decide whether losses will be determined by the cost of loss or cost of income. Once that determination is made then a field assessment will be conducted.

Also on Thursday evening, a Cabinet release stated, "The Minister of Agriculture notified Cabinet that the quick response by government and poultry producers to address the outbreak of the Avian Flu in Belize was successful. All tests conducted by Belize Agricultural Health Authority show Belize is completely free of the avian influenza virus. As such, quarantine measures have been discontinued."

In mid-September of this year, the Belize Agriculture Health Authority reported what appeared to be a suspected case of Avian Influenza on a farm in Blue Creek Village. While samples were sent abroad for confirmation, depopulation exercises and quarantine measures were carried out at three farms, almost immediately in an effort to stop the spread of the suspected virus.

### THE REPORTER

Phones: 501- 227-2503 / 227-1767

Fax 501-227- 8278 P.O. Box 707

e-mail: [reporternewspaper@gmail.com](mailto:reporternewspaper@gmail.com)

website: <http://www.thereporter.bz>

**Publisher** Harry Lawrence  
**Editor** Dyon A. Elliott  
**Financial Controller** Rosa Maria Lawrence

**General Manager** Lisbeth Ayuso  
**Lithographer** Rodolfo Castro  
**Journalists** Michelle Sutherland  
Britney Gordon

**Desktop Publisher/**  
**Graphic Designer** Jackie Fuller  
**Accounts/ Advertising** Rodolfo Castro  
**Chief Printer** Leroy Bood  
**Office Assistant** Misael Muñoz

**T**ropical Storm Julia was not expected to amount to much!

It started up closer to the equator than most other storms and it pushed resolutely to the west, which is unusual for tropical storms, which at some point tend to tilt toward the north west.

It closed in on Nicaragua last Sunday, barely a hurricane, with winds of 75 miles an hour.

But this storm was a demon. It avoided the mountains of Nicaragua and raced across Costa Rica to the Pacific.

The rain which Belize received, up to 10 inches in some places, came as a surprise to most. This was a fast-moving storm - small but impactful.

It did considerable damage to middle Belize, causing flash flooding from the coastlands of Stann Creek to most of the Cayo District and affecting some of our best farming lands including pastures. The rains caused three key Belizean rivers - the Sibun, the Macal and the Mopan to overflow.

Water from the Mollejon Dam had to be released to relieve pressure on the dam wall, and all this water came thundering down into the central plains.

Belize City was spared because of the many lakes and lagoons which traditionally absorb and store excess water from the mountains, and so low-lying Belize City escaped much of the deluge. Belmopan too was spared, because of its strategic location and good drainage.

San Ignacio and Santa Elena absorbed the brunt of the deluge and many households were affected. There appears to have been no loss of life, from the storm, although there were a few close calls.

With only six weeks of the hurricane season left to play out, Belizeans are keeping their fingers crossed.

Hurricane Julia could have been catastrophic for us if it had moved just one half degree higher (35 miles) in latitude.

So we give thanks to God that our country was spared from a heavier blow.



# Global Recession in 2023?

## IMF Director: There is a 25% risk of global downturn next year

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of the world economy equivalent will experience two or more consecutive quarters of negative growth.”

It must be noted that the response during the question-and-answer session was less measured than the words of Georgieva’s prepared statement, in which she suggested that the “outlook shows ...[a] 25 percent chance that global growth could drop to a historic low of 2 percent next year.” According to the Fund’s World Economic Outlook (WEO) database, the global economy—save only for recession years 2009 and 2020—has not seen global growth below 2.5% since 2001.

The projected pace of growth is slowed in large part by record-breaking inflation levels not seen in the world economy for several

decades. “The cost-of-living crisis, tightening financial conditions in most regions, Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, and the lingering COVID-19 pandemic all weigh heavily on the outlook,” summarized the Fund in its WEO report for October 2022.

Among the policy priorities highlighted, Georgieva advised policymakers to prioritize “protecting the vulnerable, the vulnerable households, the vulnerable businesses that are so important for the economy to function.” Acknowledging the fact that governments have limited fiscal buffers, the Fund’s managing director reminded that policy measures should be temporary and targeted towards the most vulnerable.

“Steer away from across-the-board



fiscal support that is neither effective nor affordable,” cautioned Georgieva. “If we are to help people and fight inflation, we must ensure that the fiscal and monetary policy go

hand in hand.”

Global average inflation is forecast to rise by 8.75% for 2022 and by 6.5% in 2023. The last time the world economy experienced inflation beyond six

percent was in 2008, when it was recorded at 6.3 percent.

Closer to home, the forecast for Belize’s average (year-on-year) inflation rate for 2022 has been revised up to

6.6 percent, and at 4.7 percent in 2023. Within the last two decades, the last time Belize’s inflation was above 6 percent was likewise in 2008, when it had reached 6.39 percent.

### Death Announcement



**Tina Shahida Pou**

It is with profound sadness that **Pou & Bennett families** announces the on timely passing of a dearly beloved wife, mother, daughter, sister, aunt, niece, cousin and friend **Tina Shahida Pou**. Who pass away suddenly on **Monday, October 10th, 2022**.

She is predeceased by her grandparents: William “Bill” Pou Sr. & Ernestina Rodriguez, Mother: Lillia Pou Young, Aunts: Rosa Pou Perez & Solangel Pou Carias, Brother-in-laws: John “Johnny P” Bennett & Denton Bennett.

She is survived by her husband of many years **Amos Bennett**, Children: **Brianna & Matthew Bennett**.

Father: **Malcolm Young**, Sisters: **Kristy Pou & Adrienne Young**, Niece: **Jahmia Lodge**, Aunts: **Maria Pou Jex, Anita Pou, Consuelo Jex, Ernestina Pou Reneau & Minelia Cleland**, Uncles: **William & Joel Pou**, Mother-in-law: **Roselinda Lino Bennett**, Father-in-law: **Winston Bennett**, Sisters-in-laws: **Angela & Lydia Bennett**, Brother-in-law: **Floyd Bennett** and numerous cousins, relatives and friends.

The funeral date will be announced at a later date.  
May she rest in peace & rise in glory

## Cabinet approves sargassum removal project

By Britney Gordon

The mission to Trid Belizean shores of sargassum pollution is set to begin as the Cabinet has approved the signing of the memorandum of understanding between Belize and Variodin.

The relationship between the German technology company and Belize began back in September when the Prime minister and a delegation were invited to Germany by Variodin. The Prime minister attended with hopes to find technological solutions to Belize’s sargassum plight.

Variodin specializes in processing



GOB teams up with Variodin to find solutions to address Sargassum

waste and residual materials of all kinds into electrical, thermal, cooling, and hydrogen energy. Their main objective is to produce green energy, and biodiesel and to supply green heating and cooling from waste. With the approval of their operations, Belize gains hope for a sustainable source of energy as well as an increase in tourism as the beaches are restored to their former state.

For decades, Belize has been in need of a viable solution to counteract sargassum pollution. Not only does sargassum deter visitors from the beaches across the nation, but it also poses various health concerns for those forced to inhabit the area surrounding them. Studies show that long exposure to it can cause heart palpitations, shortness of breath, dizziness, vertigo, headaches, and skin rashes.

Variodin now adds Belize to its list of partners as it has completed projects with countries such as South Africa, China, Denmark, Norway, and Afghanistan. The details of such an endeavor are yet to be released. However, the MOU will set the conditions for capitalizing on and mitigating the growing threat of sargassum to the region’s critical tourism industry by using it to produce energy.

## 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:** Vacancies exists for **Warehouse Assistant** at **Cosmetic Corner**. And for a **Female Cook (Indian Cuisine)** for staff. Please Call : **227-0145**.



# Code Caribbean Project sparks outrage over invasive questions

By Michelle Sutherland

Parents of students in Belize have joined parents in Barbados in their outcry and opposition to the Code Caribbean Project survey, which despite being deemed invasive to underage students, was distributed in schools without parental consent.

The backlash started over the weekend resulting in the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science, and Technology issuing a press release. The ministry confirmed that the survey, consisting of the Child Behaviour Checklist Youth Self Report is a part of the Code Caribbean Project. The survey, according to the Ministry, which was administered in both Belize and Barbados on September 26th, is a general assessment instrument used in a variety of settings, including by pediatricians and hospitals.

The Ministry confirmed that five participating schools in Belize were asked all the questions on the survey while students in the remaining participating schools did not answer the questions in the CBCL sections. The Ministry concurred that “while these questions are deemed

56. I feel too young for my age	0	1	2	75. I feel that no one	1	2	145. I swear or use dirty language	0	1	2
57. I drink alcohol without parents' approval	0	1	2	76. I feel others are o	1	2	146. I think about killing self	0	1	2
58. I argue a lot	0	1	2	77. I feel worthless or	1	2	147. I like to make others laugh	0	1	2
59. I fail to finish things I start	0	1	2	78. I accidentally get	1	2	148. I talk too much	0	1	2
60. There is very little that I enjoy	0	1	2	79. I get in many fight	1	2	149. I tease others a lot	0	1	2
61. I like animals	0	1	2	80. I get teased a lot	1	2	150. I have a hot temper	0	1	2
62. I brag	0	1	2	81. I hang around wit	1	2	151. I think about sex too much	0	1	2
63. I have trouble concentrating or paying attention	0	1	2	82. I hear sounds or think aren't there	1	2	152. I threaten to hurt people	0	1	2
64. I can't get my mind off certain thoughts	0	1	2	83. I act without stop	1	2	153. I like to help others	0	1	2
65. I have trouble sitting still	0	1	2	84. I would rather be	1	2	154. I smoke, chew, or sniff tobacco	0	1	2
66. I am too dependent on adults	0	1	2	85. I lie or cheat	1	2	155. I have trouble sleeping	0	1	2
67. I feel lonely	0	1	2	86. I bite my fingern	1	2	156. I cut classes or skip school	0	1	2
68. I feel confused or in a fog	0	1	2	87. I am nervous or t	1	2	157. I don't have much energy	0	1	2
69. I cry a lot	0	1	2	88. Parts of my body movements	1	2	158. I am unhappy, sad, or depressed	0	1	2
70. I am pretty honest	0	1	2	89. I have nightmare	1	2	159. I am louder than other kids	0	1	2
71. I am mean to others	0	1	2	90. I am not liked by	1	2	160. I use drugs for nonmedical purposes (don't include alcohol or tobacco)	0	1	2
72. I daydream a lot	0	1	2	91. I can do certain kids	1	2	161. I like to be fair to others	0	1	2
							162. I enjoy a good joke	0	1	2
							163. I like to take life easy	0	1	2
							164. I try to help other people when I can	0	1	2
							165. I wish I were of the opposite sex	0	1	2

to be a measure of mental health and well-being, this ministry shares the concern of the public regarding the nature of the questions, which have been removed. The ministry hereby assures the public that the practice of seeking parental consent will continue to be observed.”

The Code Caribbean Project is a two-year computer science program designed to build both socio-emotional and entrepreneurial skills in students. It will introduce students to coding

and develop math, comprehension, and writing skills. The main objective is to expand technological skills that will spark innovation and diversification for young people by the time they have completed secondary school.

The project which was being implemented in Belize and Barbados through funding from the Inter-American Development Bank asked students questions about their sexual identity, sexual urges, drug use, suicidal thoughts, and self-

harm among others. We attempted to contact the CEO of the Ministry of Education Dian Maheia for further information on the survey and whether the Ministry was aware of the questions, among several other concerns but she responded that she was out of the country and that the ministry had already issued a press release

on the topic. In Barbados, the Ministry of Education had accepted responsibility for what it claimed was the “unfortunate exposure” to some of its secondary school students. The ministry alluded to the fact that the Inter-American Development Bank had failed to honor a prior commitment by the ministry to remove the offending questions before

administering the survey to students. The ministry, however, took responsibility and apologized for failing to vet the final survey before it was administered to the students. The ministry also assured parents that the offensive scripts would be destroyed and that no further use of the survey would be conducted without their full scrutiny.

**NOTICE OF COMMENCED DISSOLUTION**  
**MODIFY GROUP LTD.**  
 (“the Company”)  
 “Notice is hereby given to all interested parties that **MODIFY GROUP LTD.** a Company incorporated under the IBC Act of Belize commenced dissolution on **12th October 2022.**  
 And **NORTHWESTERN MANAGEMENT SERVICES (BELIZE) LIMITED** of New Horizon Building, Ground Floor, 31/2 Miles Philip S.W. Goldson Highway, Belize City, Belize Central America, is the liquidator of the company.  
**NORTHWESTERN MANAGEMENT SERVICES (BELIZE) LIMITED**  
 Registered Agent

**RF&G LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY LTD.**  
 Date: October 12, 2022  
 Kadeem Banks of #67 Euphrates Avenue, Belize City, Belize District, Belize C.A. having made written declaration that Policy G7568579 under RF&G Life Insurance Company Ltd has been lost and having made request to the Company for a duplicate of the Policy, notice is hereby given that unless objection is raised within one month of the date herein, the requested duplicate policy will be issued.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BELIZE A.D. 2018  
 (DIVORCE)  
 ACTION NO: 330  
 (MARCOS GUERRA) PETITIONER  
 BETWEEN ( AND  
 ( ROSA GUERRA) RESPONDENT  
 TO: ROSA GUERRA Somewhere in the United States of America  
 TAKE NOTICE that a petition for dissolution of marriage dated the 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2018 endorsed with a Notice to you to appear and answer the charges therein has been filed in the Supreme Court of Belize by **MARCOS GUERRA** of Eden Drive, Hillview Area, Santa Elena Town, Cayo District, Belize, AND THAT you are required within twenty eight (28) days after the second publication herein, inclusive of the day of such publication, to enter an appearance either in person or by your Attorney-at-Law, at the Registry of the Supreme Court, should you think fit so to do and thereafter to make answer to the charges in this petition, AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that the default of your so doing, the Court will proceed to hear the said charges proved and pronounce judgment, your absence notwithstanding.  
 The Petition filed and this Notice to appear is issued by Orlando A. Fernandez of No. 4B Richard Street, Belize City, Attorney-at-Law for **MARCOS GUERRA**, the Petitioner.  
 DATED the 26 day of July, 2022.  
 [Signature]  
 REGISTRAR  
 SUPREME COURT OF BELIZE  
 NOTE: Any person entering an appearance must at the same time furnish an address for service two miles of the Supreme court of Belize.



# MOHW: Plans in the pipeline to address mental patients loitering Belize City streets

By Michelle Sutherland

For several years, there have been questions and concerns from the public about the loitering of mentally ill patients on the main streets of Belize City and the potential impacts that it could have on

being a major tourist attraction as well as safety concerns for residents and students who traverse these areas.

It has been a long-standing issue that The Reporter has been monitoring for some time, and last week

Quintanilla, mental health coordinator for the Ministry of Health and Wellness, said, “Definitely there has been a directive in terms of addressing the current situation with the homeless in Belize City. ... It is something that is being looked at

While Quintanilla refrained from going into any other details, she assured us that the situation would be addressed soon. She also told our newsroom that while it might seem that there aren’t any systems in place for the homeless and mentally

seen around Belize City, she indicated that they could access assistance from the Port Loyola Health Clinic. Those include access to hot meals, clean clothes, baths, and any other hygienic, health needs that they might require.

“Unfortunately, I think because of the distance in going over there these patients are not accessing it that much, because it is just easier to be downtown and beg for food and get it, so I guess that is what happens.”

Quintanilla, however, stressed that while it might seem like the issue is only limited to Belize, she pointed out that other countries such as the US and even the UK are grappling with the issue as well. The problem with that she said is that once they are not causing any harm to themselves, or to the public then they cannot be forcefully

moved. “They are entitled to being out there free just like anybody else. Those are their human rights and that is why it happens in the bigger countries like the UK and the USA. So yes, while I understand that it is not the best sight for tourists for the public itself whom they tend to bother, in terms of asking for money or for food and being out there dirty, it is not something that we can fix overnight,” Quintanilla indicated.

Recently, concerns from the public had arisen after a suspected mental patient had attacked a female student in Belize City and sliced her cheek with a knife. That prompted concerns from the public about the safety of other students who traverse the Queen Street area where many persons with mental health patients and homeless persons loiter.



Belize’s reputation for when we spoke to Yvette presently.”

ill patients that can be

**PUBLIC AUCTION SALES: PROPERTIES & ASSETS**  
**ROBERT'S GROVE BEACH RESORT, Placencia Peninsula, Stann Creek District**  
 BY ORDER of the Receiver, Robert's Grove Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via [belizepropertyauctions.com](http://belizepropertyauctions.com) the properties known as Robert's Grove Beach Resort. Sale currently running until 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Public Auction Sale's will expire fortnightly within this period on the dates and times listed on the website until the resort is sold.

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCELS
Placencia North	36	136, 41, 42, 3641, 3642, 3257, 3259, 3260, 3261, 3262, 3263, 3264, 3265, 3266, 3267, 3268, 3269, 3271, 3281, 3284, 3286

(Being the following improvements/developments:  
 Main Two Level Administration/Studio Building, Ocean view Apartment Suites (A, B & C), Workers Quarters, Habanero Restaurant and Bar, Outdoor Bar & Patio, Swimming Pool and Court, Beachfront Spa and massage parlor, Laundry House, Back Office Building/Bedroom, Marina Generator House, Bicycle Shed, Gazebo, Gymnasium Building, Sweet Mama's Restaurant, Beachfront Pier, Staff Quarters, Dive Shop Building, Office/Storeroom Timber Building, Main Warehouse, Garage Shed Building, Carpentry Shop Building, Staff Quarters, The Marina, RG Generator House, Manager Residence, Fuel Station & Storage Tanks

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**Character:**

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**Considered a Plus:**

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NO WALK-INS PLEASE.  
 Application forms can be picked up from Benny's at 2.5 Miles Philip Goldson Highway, Belize City, & 43 Mls. George Price Hwy., Cotton Tree Village, Cayo  
 Visit [WWW.Bennys.bz/careers](http://WWW.Bennys.bz/careers)  
 or Call 223-6236

MAIL TO:  
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 Benny's Homecenter, P.O. Box 215,  
 Mile 2.5 Philip Goldson Hwy., Belize City  
 or E-mail: [jobs@bennysonline.com](mailto:jobs@bennysonline.com)



# BTB Expo elevates Tourism professionals' skills

By William Ysaguirre

Over a hundred tourism professionals from across the country learnt international best practice, when the Belize Tourism Board hosted the Elevate Expo training seminar at the Best Western Biltmore Plaza Hotel in Belize City on Thursday and Friday, October 13-14.

The BTB partnered with the Florida International University (FIU) to offer the training program in a effort to elevate the quality of the Belizean tourism product and services, so that the participants might connect, scale up their skills, improve taste, ensure the safety of their guests and become Ambassadors for the industry. Participants included hotel managers, catering staff, tour guides and operators, hospitality and sales personnel.

Training courses were offered simultaneously with



Tourism professionals learnt international best practices for several tourism-related activities.

FIU's Christopher Muller instructing tour guides about storytelling and Destination Branding, while Brian Connors and Gabriel Urrutia of FIU's Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management instructed beverage managers and bar staff about the finer points of wine tasting: the bouquet, color and

flavor.

Urrutia also explained the art of mixology, tools and trends. FIU's Alec Dalton expanded on the theme of building executive leadership and hospitality ambassadors, through calm and crisis.

Tour guides learnt all about the birds that bring experienced birders to Belize in

the hopes of catching sight of over 400 species, with an introduction to birding tours by Dareece Chuc, the Belize Audubon Society's (BAS) Environmental Education and Communications Director. BAS Conservation Director Dominique Lizama explained

the many physical characteristics used to identify the many bird species. BAS Director of Field operations Roni Martinez suggested how to build an itinerary to maximize the visitors' experience of what they would encounter at the seven wildlife conservation parks and protected areas managed by BAS, this

included a field trip on the second day.

Business advisor Lorraine Herrera and Monique Usher, the manager of BELTRAIDE's Small Business Development Center (SBDC), proposed solutions for costing and pricing for small tourism businesses and how to exploit WhatsApp for business marketing. Recruitment officer Marcelli Richards of the Belize Training and Employment Center (BTEC) instructed participants on the fundamentals of food presentation, while BTEC manager Sarita Bejerano spoke about the art of tourism sales. BTEC's curriculum development officer Denae Fairweather instructed about telephone and email etiquette for frontline personnel.

Sensei Raymond Kelly of the House of Shotokan in Belize City instructed park rangers on safety and defensive tactics.

## NOTICE

### GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE TREASURY BILLS ISSUE NUMBER 11/2022

Tenders are invited for an issue of Government of Belize Treasury Bills. The amount of the issue will be \$64,391,800.00.

The Bills will be issued in electronic form only evidenced by an electronic book entry in the Central Securities Depository of the Central Bank of Belize in multiples of \$200 and will be repayable at par 91 days after issue. They will be issued on Tuesday, 25 October 2022 and will be redeemed on Tuesday, 24 January 2023.

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

Members of the public who wish to participate in the auction must submit their bid to the Central Bank of Belize electronically to [bids@centralbank.org.bz](mailto:bids@centralbank.org.bz) or at the designated drop off box no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, 21 October 2022.

The Auction in the Central Securities Depository System (CSD) will be opened from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on Tuesday, 25 October 2022.

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

Bank: Central Bank of Belize  
Account: GL1CORP0402627

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

CENTRAL BANK OF BELIZE

Notices are placed on Central Bank of Belize Website ([www.centralbank.org.bz](http://www.centralbank.org.bz))



## WESLEY COLLEGE VACANCY FOR PRINCIPAL

The Board of Management of Wesley College invites applications for the post of PRINCIPAL.

### Academic Qualifications:

- Master's Degree in Educational Leadership or its equivalent.
- Bachelor's Degree in Secondary Education or its equivalent.

### Professional Qualities:

- Minimum of five (5) years of experience in administration.
- Hold a Full Secondary level Teacher's License.
- Capacity to provide moral and ethical leadership.
- Ability to motivate and encourage team spirit among faculty and staff.
- Superior communication skills.

### Duties/Responsibilities will include (but is not limited to):

- Furthering the Mission, Vision and Values of Wesley College.
- In collaboration with the Board, guiding the formulation of school policies, rules and programs.
- Overseeing the daily administration of the school as well as the admission, placement and graduation of students.
- Fostering and maintaining a safe school environment and culture conducive to teaching and learning.
- Providing educational leadership in areas of pedagogy, curriculum and assessment.

### Salary:

Commensurate with educational qualification and in accordance with Government Pay Scale.

### Prospective applicants must submit the following documents:

- Cover Letter with resume
- Valid Teacher's License
- Qualifications (Original transcript)
- Social Security Card (Certified copy)
- Birth Certificate/Passport
- Medical Certificate
- Police Record (Original)
- Two (2) recent character references
- Work Permit (where applicable)
- Marriage/Divorce Certificate (where applicable)

**ALL** Documents must be certified and any documents in a foreign language must be accompanied by an official English translation. Only applicants who qualify will be invited for interviews. Interested candidates should submit application packages on or before **October 28th, 2022** to:

Chairman, Wesley College Board of Management  
c/o Methodist District Office  
75 Albert Street, Belize City



# COMPOL dismantle checkpoint following extortion claims

By Michelle Sutherland

Commuters and drivers traversing the George Price Highway will have one less obstacle to worry about, that is after the Commissioner of Police Chester Williams moved to shut down a police checkpoint that was erected in Hattievillage amid consistent claims of extortion by cops.

According to the Commissioner, the decision to close the checkpoint comes on the heels of reports earlier this month that an officer had extorted US\$100 from someone. On Tuesday, Williams explained, "Just this morning I ordered that the checkpoint at Hattievillage be taken down for the simple fact that we are getting too many complaints of extortion from that checkpoint. While we want to do road policing, it must not be at the expense of the Belizean people being shaken down by police officers at the



Commissioner of Police Chester Williams

checkpoint."

Williams further commented that the persistent reports are an "embarrassment" to the Belize Police Department. In fact, Williams said that on that day there had been two complaints of extortion at the checkpoint. However, in one instance, the other individual chose not to file an official complaint on the matter.

"Certainly, it is frustrating. We try our best to rebrand the police to reform and provide better service to the people and certainly, not all police in Hattievillage are like that. There is

a majority, and I can say 90% and over are honest police, but when you have that one in the bunch who is just so dishonest and does these sorts of things, it makes the entire department look bad," Williams indicated.

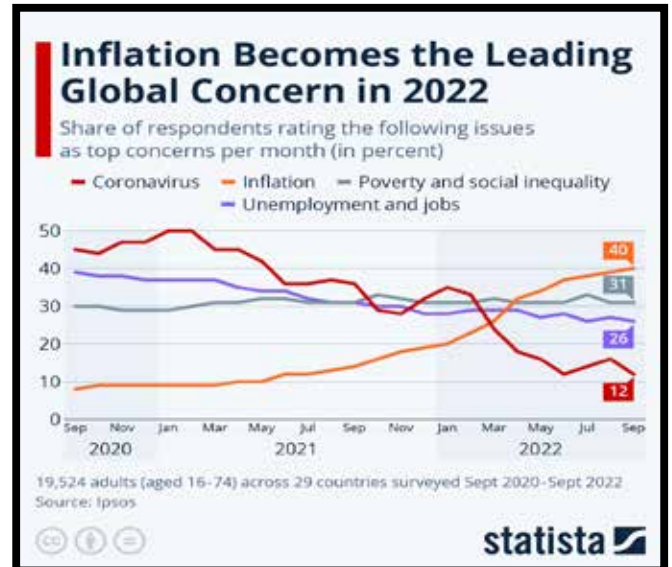
Williams said that while the checkpoint has been dismantled, he has instructed his officers to conduct highway patrols, but not so much on traffic violations. The highway patrols, according to Williams, will be more of an enforcement unit that deals with human trafficking, firearm trafficking, and human smuggling.

# Inflation Becomes the Leading Global Concern in 2022

by Anna Fleck

It appears that corona has somehow become a concern of the past, at least for the time being. This perhaps speaks more to the rapid change of new, mounting crises rather than anything else, as the past months have seen droughts, famine, the war in Ukraine, an ensuing energy crisis and skyrocketing inflation.

This chart visualizes just how much can change in the space of two years. According to a survey of nearly 20,000 adults conducted by Ipsos, as many as 50 percent of respondents considered the pandemic a chief concern in January 2021. It has now fallen to a primary worry of only 12 percent - the joint lowest level since the coronavirus pandemic was added to the monthly survey. Inflation follows an opposite trend, however, with only 8 percent of adults stating it was a main concern in September 2020, rising to 40 percent saying it



was a worry last month. The countries where most people consider it a major concern for are Poland (67 percent), Argentina (65 percent), Turkey (56 percent) and the UK (56 percent).

The latest data shows that poverty and social inequality come second on the list of concerns as of September 2022, with around one in three respondents around the world selecting it. Hungary (46 percent), the Netherlands (46 percent), Brazil (42 percent), Indonesia (40 percent) and Thailand

(40 percent) recorded the highest share of people citing it as a top concern.

When asked whether respondents' countries were headed in the right direction or not, two thirds of adults said that their country was on the wrong track. Where Saudi Arabians (95 percent) and Indonesians (81 percent) gave the most positive answers, Peruvians (10 percent) and Argentinians (10 percent) were the least optimistic. Meanwhile, the UK and France saw the biggest drops (-9 p.p.).

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to fill the position of **Retail Manager-San Pedro** with one of our multinational clients. This position offers an attractive remuneration package, excellent benefits, and a great opportunity for career development. Come join the team!

## RETAIL MANAGER – SAN PEDRO

### Essential Duties and Responsibilities, but not limited to:

- Develop and execute a competitive store level, retail sales plan in support of revenue achievement and strategic business development in order to achieve the company's goals.
- Collaborate with Sales Leadership team to deliver or exceed revenue, profit and other key metrics.

### Education/Skills and Work Experience:

- Bachelor's Degree in Business Management.
- Minimum of three (3) years experience in retail management, preferably of a medium to large store.
- Experience with reviewing and understanding financial reports.
- Ability to analyze productivity metrics and adjust to ensure achievement of indicators.
- Ability to coach teams to drive rapid growth.

Closing date for applications: **21 October 2022**

Please send resumes to:

**Executive Selection and Search**

E-mail: [eallp@btl.net](mailto:eallp@btl.net)  
Belize City, Belize

**APPLY NOW**

## ONSITE AUCTION SALE

Licensed and Certified Auctioneer Sheldon N.C. Arnold



PROPERTY SITUATED NEAR MILE 38 ALONG GEORGE PRICE HIGHWAY AND BEAVER DAM CREEK, FRANKS EDDY SUBDIVISION LAYOUT, ST. MATTHEW'S VILLAGE, CAYO DISTRICT

- 4 Bedrooms / 2 Bathrooms
- Land Size: 1895.43sq.m / 2266.93 sq.yds
- Building size: 2947 sq.ft (ground floor), 1658 sq.ft (second floor)
- Reinforced concrete strip/traditional foundation
- Reinforced concrete floor slab with ceramic
- Corrugated galvalum roofing
- 110/220 volts electrical connected to power lines
- Standing Showers
- Timber hardwood panel doors
- Reinforced concrete & sheetrock/drywall ceiling
- Two reinforced concrete stairs

**Friday**  
**October 21st. 2022**  
**11:00AM**

For Viewing Contact us:  
Phone #: 624-5200, 602-8308  
Email Address: [info@arnoldenterprise.com](mailto:info@arnoldenterprise.com)  
Website: [www.arnoldenterprise.com](http://www.arnoldenterprise.com)



# Bowen & Bowen Corporate Citizens Committee Plants Three Hundred Mangrove Seedlings

On October 3rd, 2022, Bowen & Bowen's Corporate Citizens Committee partnered with the Coastal Zone Management Authority & Institute (CZMAI) to plant 300 mangrove seedlings in the shallows behind Wesley College on Yarborough Road.

The Corporate Citizens Committee (CCC) is a team of Bowen & Bowen employees who volunteer their time and efforts for projects that benefit the community. The Company supports the CCC, whose members suggest the project ideas. This initiative was chosen as Wesley College has been affected by erosion due to mangrove loss.

CCC members and science students from Wesley College received a crash course in mangrove planting from Allie Ifield of Caye Caulker Strong. Under the guidance of CZMAI personnel, the group was divided into teams and planted the red mangrove seedlings by dropping them into lengths of PVC pipe inserted into the seabed.

The Wesley



The Bowen & Bowen team planted red mangrove seedlings.

science students will monitor the growth of the plants as a part of their learning plan.

When the mangrove plants have matured, they will ensure the long-term stability of the shoreline, protecting the school grounds and residents in the area. Eventually, the plants will also serve to capture and store large amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

The project also aligns with the Coca-Cola System's Circular Seas initiative, which seeks to make a difference

in the communities where it operates by reducing waste in marine environments and improving the general health of our seas and the environment.

The CCC hopes to work along with the CZMAI on similar projects in the future.

**Thank You!**  
Reporter advertisers help to promote a Free Press

**STATUTORY NOTICE  
TO CREDITORS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 36 of the Administration of Estates Act, Chapter 197 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020 that all creditors having any claims or demands upon or against the Estate of Marcel Palma, deceased, of Punta Gorda Town, Toledo District, Belize, who died on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2021 in whose estate Grant of Administration has been granted to Joan Natalie Beverly Palma of #5 Brookside Street, Punta Gorda Town, Toledo District, Belize, and Freida Consuelo Palma of Mile 39, St. Matthew's Village, Cayo District, Belize, should lodge such claims or demands with the said Joan Natalie Beverly Palma and Freida Consuelo Palma, c/o Marin Young & Co LLP, Attorneys-at-Law, No. 828 Coney Drive, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Belize City, Belize District, Belize on or before the expiration of three months from the first publication hereof AND NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at the expiration of the said three months the Administrators shall proceed to distribute the assets of the said Marcel Palma, deceased, amongst the parties entitled thereto having regard to all the claims and demands of which particulars are lodged and the Administrators shall not be liable for the assets of the deceased or any part thereof so distributed to any person or persons whose claims or demands they shall not then have had notice.

DATED the 4<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2022

Marin Young & Co LLP  
Attorneys-at-Law for the  
Estate of Marcel Palma

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Vacancy exists for a Chef to work at the residence of U.S. Ambassador Michelle Kwan.

Successful candidate will be required to obtain a security clearance and undergo a medical examination.

**BASIC FUNCTION OF THE CHEF POSITION:**

Duties include but are not limited to planning, budgeting, shopping, preparing and presenting a variety of meal services for the residence and for events of 2 to 200 guests. With an understanding of nutritional balance and essential elements, the Chef's repertoire must include a diverse and wide range of cooking styles and meal types, including appetizers for receptions, baked goods, desserts, and the ability to create vegetarian/vegan meals and cater to gluten sensitivities. The Chef will also be required to maintain expense records for each event or function, create menus, manage inventory, and assure the highest standards of safety, cleanliness, and proper food preparation and storage. The Chef is required to plan menus in advance and carry out the actual purchasing of supplies and ingredients necessary to produce the dishes reflected in the set menus. All responsibilities shall be completed on time, with integrity and honesty, and in a manner representing the highest U.S. standards of customer service.

**QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED:**

- At least three years of culinary experience in a hotel/restaurant setting is required
- Associate Degree or completion of culinary/catering certificate program or in the absence of an Associate Degree, five years of culinary experience in a hotel or restaurant setting
- Must have a fluent command of reading, writing, and speaking English, and the ability to follow recipes and cooking instructions of varying complexity
- Must have initiative, good interpersonal skills and flexibility

**WHO MAY APPLY:**

Applicants must be in possession of a Belize social security card valid for employment and/or a resident/work permit, and be eligible for appointment under Belize's local laws.

**HOW TO APPLY:**

Interested candidates must submit a letter of application, current résumé, two references and all other applicable supporting documentation by email to [BelmopanJobs@state.gov](mailto:BelmopanJobs@state.gov).

All applications must include in the subject line the position they are applying for (eg: **Employment Application for Chef position**). Incomplete applications will not be considered. For a complete copy of the position description listing all duties and responsibilities, please send an email to [BelmopanJobs@state.gov](mailto:BelmopanJobs@state.gov) or call at 822-4011, Ext. 4231. The deadline for submitting applications is Sunday, October 30th, 2022.



# Thousand-year-old Mayan Architecture unearthed all over Belize

By Britney Gordon

Several ancient Mayan architectures dating back over to 1000 years have been unearthed in several locations across Belize.

Merely one month after archaeologists from the Belize Institute of Archeology, alongside students from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, discovered a Mayan settlement determined to be over 1000 years old, a new discovery has been made. A



Archaeologists find Maya architectures dating back over 1,000 years

paper published by Cambridge University details the findings of these archeologists.

According to the paper, 1,500-year-old Mayan structures were found at Ta'ab Nuk Na, the largest of 110 Maya sites submerged underwater in Paynes Creek National Park in Belize. The salt work site was discovered to also host large residential buildings along with three salt kitchens.

As evidenced by the hundreds of wooden posts that define the walls of classic Mayan poles and thatch wooden buildings, the structures were determined to be the remains of rare ancient architecture. In a statement from Dr. Elizabeth Sills, co-author of the study, said the structures were rare in nature due to the tendency of wood to decay in the tropical landscape of the Maya area.

Underwater archeologists used red flags to distinguish key points of interest, which were later determined to be the remains of the ancient buildings. Over 600 flags were placed during the excavation, which was later plotted digitally.

Examinations of the structures revealed that the buildings date back as far as the 6th century C.E. during the Late Classic Maya era. Salt kitchens and a large residence were later added to the structures in 650 C.E.

Mayan homes often worked to produce salt from their backyards, first ensuring that

the household was adequately supplied before trading any surplus with neighboring communities. Being that salt was scarce in the inland where Mayan communities were growing, most communities were supplied with salt from salt kitchens on the coast. In total, around 24,000 people could have been supplied with salt from the sites at Ta'ab Nuk Na and elsewhere in the lagoon. Several artifacts were also discovered at the sites. These included a ceramic spindle whorl, cooking instruments, wood carving tools, incense burners, and a ceramic whistle.

These are among some of the remarkable discoveries unearthed in Belize within recent months.

In September, a Mennonite farming community in Central Belize was revealed to host the remains of collapsed Maya dwellings. Unassumingly, the settlement appeared as white mounds that pocket the landscape.

By observing the ceramics found within, it was determined that the dwelling dates back to AD 250 and AD 600. This period, known as the Classic period, is considered by many to be the height of Maya civilization, as this time marked the peak of large-scale construction and urbanism, the recording of monumental inscriptions, and demonstrated significant intellectual and artistic development across the Maya world.

**CAREER OPPORTUNITY**

**ASR GROUP | BELIZE SUGAR**

**Belize Sugar Industries Ltd.**  
Invites qualified and self-motivated individuals to submit applications for the post of:  
**Machinist**  
at Tower Hill, Orange Walk

The **Machinist** is responsible to fabricate new machinery parts, repair, and refurbish damaged machinery. This position will also be responsible for maintaining equipment in excellent working conditions, ensuring its' efficiency and cleanliness to restore and provide longevity of all equipment.

**Qualifications and Experience:**

- Tertiary level education with studies in Math and Physics or ITVET/ Vocational Certificate in related field
- Minimum 5 years' experience working in a Machine Shop or related field

**Skills and Competencies:**

- Ability to work flexible working hours (shift)
- Knowledge of tool usage/handling in a safe manner
- Able to work in indoor/outdoor working conditions i.e. manual labour & heavy lifting
- Excellent communication skills
- Team oriented
- Ability to interpret and apply instructions

**Roles and Responsibilities:**

- Adhere to company Environment, Health and Safety policies/ regulations of machinery
- Ensure cleanliness of the machine shop department by promoting good housekeeping practices
- Engage in the day-to-day machining programs, and ensure these are carried out in a safe and timely manner
- Assist the Fabrication Technician in all aspects of the required machining operation processes for an efficient running of the Machine Shop
- Work to achieve the housekeeping goals and hazard elimination in the machine shop area and strive to constantly improve on these goals
- Be proactive and work with minimal supervision
- Any other duties which may be assigned by your Supervisor

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

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



DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION FORM AND ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS IS OCTOBER 19, 2022.

**Kick back  
Relax and  
Enjoy**



**The Reporter**

Independently serving Belize since 1970



# The Caribbean celebrates International day of the Girl child

By Britney Gordon

As the world observes International Day of the Girl Child, the organization Caribbean Women in Leadership commemorated the day by highlighting young women's accomplishments across the region.

International Day of the Girl Child, observed on October 11th, was declared by the United Nations in order to spotlight the accomplishment of young women worldwide and bring attention to the challenges they face regularly.

Caribbean Women in Leadership (CIWIL) is a non-partisan and independent, flagship networking organization committed to advancing women's transformational leadership, and increasing the numbers of women in leadership and decision-making in political and civic life. The organization took its platform to highlight some accomplished young women across the Caribbean.

According to data from the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) 2021 report, Girls in the Caribbean have been high performers at examinations such as the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) Examination. The report also revealed that girls dominated 4 out of the 5 award categories. They were shown to have the most outstanding Performance in Humanities, Sciences, Technical and Vocational Studies, and Creative and Expressive Art.

CIWIL also underscored the challenges young women face as a call to action for policymakers regionally. The Reporter spoke to Seraiah Romero, the communication, advocacy, and engagement officer, at CIWIL. Romero noted that one of the major



challenges to overcome is the lack of safety and protection for young girls. Gender-based violence continues to affect Caribbean households.

A study observed in five Caribbean nations indicated that across the countries, on average, nearly 46 percent of ever-partnered women aged 15-64 have experienced one or more of the four types of intimate partner violence (IPV) in their lifetime- (physical, sexual, psychological and/or economic violence).

Romero also mentioned the wage gap that still affects women all across the globe in several industries. Despite often excelling academically, females are still overlooked in their field of work in favor of their male counterparts. "When it comes to employment opportunities, young women struggle to find jobs within the field that they studied for that they would like to contribute to that will

pay them the same as men for doing the same work," Romero stated.

CIWIL affirms that in order to start closing some of these gaps and tackling the issues, awareness of the significance of women in the Caribbean needs to be spread- highlighting the statistics of the success stories as well as the challenges they must first overcome. "We really call on policy and decision makers to re-examine the policy and laws that currently exist to protect women and girls as well as the effectiveness of them and to ensure that they are being reinforced adequately."

CIWIL invites all Caribbean nations to advocate for the safety and protection of girls as well making an effort to amplify their voices. They regularly host web conferences and online initiatives in order to regularly reinforce their commitment to seeing girls have equal opportunities in all spheres of life.



## Oración al Espíritu Santo

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

Gracias Espíritu Santo.

R.M.L.



## VACANCY JOB OPPORTUNITY

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

### ASSISTANT OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR

#### Reports To: Cargo Operations Manager

**Summary of Responsibilities:** The Assistant Operations Supervisor will report to the Cargo Operations Manager and will assist with the supervision of all container movement and operations personnel. He or she will be responsible for preparing vessel worked forms to Accounts Department for billing and statistical/Operational reports. Able to check reefer plugins, read and calculate charges. Learn newly implemented Octopi Terminal Operating System, *training to be provided*. Assist COM with preparing gang order for vessels and reefer cargo information. This post is fun and challenging, come prepared for a new venture.

#### Job Responsibilities:

**Summary of Responsibilities:** The Assistant Operations Supervisor will report to the Cargo Operations Manager (COM) and will assist with the supervision of all container movement and operations personnel. He or she will be responsible for preparing vessel worked forms to Accounts Department for billing and statistical/Operational reports. Able to check reefer plugins, read and calculate charges. Utilize newly implemented Octopi Terminal Operating System (TOS), inhouse training and opportunity for ongoing self-development to be provided.

**Assist COM with preparing gang order for vessels, berth planning, staff scheduling and reefer cargo information.**

#### Leadership Responsibilities:

- Attract, develop, grow and retain the best talents and fill the leadership pipeline.
- Organize, balance and schedule workloads within the department.
- Prioritize, delegate, and set performance objectives.
- Follow-up on performance, provide quality feedback, and objectively appraise differentiated performance levels.
- Empower and inspire staff to achieve high levels of motivation and employee engagement.
- Ensure zero harm, improve safe working processes.
- Provide timely reports for all accidents, incidents and disciplinary incidents.
- Understand Customer requirements and drive the department to achieve these on a consistent basis.
- Track and manage variable expenditure to avoid all cost waste and reduce costs to the bare minimum.
- Continuously lean, streamline, and improve processes.
- Leverage relevant technology to automate processes.
- Maintain high levels of data quality for data and information and reports provided to other functions.

#### Duties & Responsibilities:

- Remain vigilant and immediately take action in the event any personnel, customers or visitors to the terminal are not wearing PPE and/or any unsafe acts are witnessed.
- Assist with supervising of the movement of inbound and outbound of all containers and break bulk/bulk cargoes.
- Assist with supervising of personnel working in the port compound, container yard and pier.
- Assist with the input, processing and verification of correct and complete upload of vessel and cargo information into the TOS in preparation of vessel arrival. Reconcile planned and executed work prior vessel departure. Provide relief at Gate-In and Gate-Out processes as required.
- Develop and implement a systematic yard plan to accommodate perform cargo flows into and out of the yard; modify as required to meet actual vessel cargo fluctuations.
- Plan, sequence, execute and monitor cargo discharge and load, into and out of the yard in an optimized manner.
- Generate and execute work queues for yard stacker operators; discharge and load; monitor execution.
- Assist with the preparation of gang order for vessels.
- Assist with the preparation and daily maintenance of the staff roster; aligning anticipated operations manning requirements with projected vessel movements, distributing regularly (daily if required).
- Assist with the preparation and daily maintenance and distribution of the Berth Plan.
- Provide relief at Gate-In and Gate-Out processes as required.
- Provide relief at Front-Desk release processes as required.
- Check and sign delivery orders for authenticity to load direct delivery containers.
- Assist with the supervising of the loading and unloading of containers and break-bulk vessels in compound/pierhead.
- Provide reports of vessels worked to Accounts Department for billing.
- Provide reports (work logs) of vessels worked for operations statistics.
- Check and prepare reefer cargo information. Check reefer plug-ins, reading and calculate charges.
- Develop and maintain operational data and operational reporting.

#### Innovation & Productivity Improvements

- Learn "Octopi" Terminal Operating System (TOS). Initial basic training is to be provided and an inquisitive mind is required to continually learn, adopt and implement new features released within the TOS software on an ongoing basis. Strive to realize both the TOS's and the organization's full potential.
- Proactively drive efficiency and productivity and provide suggestions and recommendations to the Supervisors for continuous improvements.
- Develop and maintain updated processes and procedures for all tasks so that work is 100% standardized.
- Actively seek opportunities to drive innovation and realize efficiencies in the standardized work.
- Ensure all general work areas in a clean, tidy and hazard free condition.
- Any other duties and functions, of a related nature that may be assigned from time to time by the Cargo Operations Manager.

#### Requirements:

- Demonstrable supervisory and leadership skills required
- Proactive in addressing safety issues, hazardous practices and operational emergencies
- Ability to challenge standard practice and drive operational improvements
- Ability to work independently
- Able to work flexible hours
- Strong mathematical and analytical skills, critical thinking
- Microsoft office proficiency required
- Computer literacy including familiarity with data base entry and reporting, TOS utilization.

#### Job qualifications/Requirements:

- Experience in Cargo & Container Operations, Production or similar would be an asset.
- Associates Degree or higher
- Math & English CXC passes would be an asset.
- Experience supervising a blue-collar team would be an asset.

#### Skills/Competencies:

- Ability to work independently
- Ability to work flexible working hours
- Math and analytical skills required.
- Supervisory and leadership skills required.
- Pro-activeness required.
- Microsoft office proficiency required.

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

**To Apply:** Provide updated resume, cover letter (addressed to Human Resource Manager), copy of valid social security card, Valid police record, name and phone number of two (2) previous employers and a copy of COVID vaccination card.

Applications should be emailed to:

[jobapplication@portofbelize.com](mailto:jobapplication@portofbelize.com)

Closing date for receipt of applications is Friday, October 28th, 2022



## PUBLIC AUCTION SALE: AQUACULTURE HATCHERY

BY ORDER of the Chargees, Messrs. Alpha Gamma Financial Services Limited, Licensed Auctioneer, Fernando Molina, will sell ONLINE via [beacon-auctions.com](http://beacon-auctions.com) the following properties: Block Nos. 212A, 214A, 217A and 221, situated north of the Dangriga Town Municipal Airstrip, approximately 0.17 miles north of San Jose Road, in the land formerly known as Carib Reserve, Stann Creek District, being the freehold property of Aquablue Farms Ltd., TOGETHER with all buildings and erections thereon in one lot by way of public auction online to conclude **Monday, 17th October 2022 at 4:00 pm**



**Total Land Area: 127 acres**

**For full legal description of property please visit website.**

Buildings & improvements: 3 buildings (a. 12,750 sq ft. reinforced concrete structure w/ upper portion constructed with steel frame with aluminium sheeting walls. b. 12,750 sq ft. reinforced concrete structure w/ upper portion constructed with steel frame with aluminium sheeting walls. c. 2 storey, 1,600 sq ft. building containing office space on the Ground Floor and Second Floor containing an apartment with 1 living, dining, and kitchen area, 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom and a laundry.) suitable for aquaculture hatchery / commercial use.

### TERMS: STRICTLY CASH

**Bids are to be submitted via email by no later than 17th October, 2022 at 4:00pm For further particulars on the properties, please contact:**

**Email: [bids@beacon-auctions.com](mailto:bids@beacon-auctions.com)**

**Tel: 610-0919**

**Website: [beacon-auctions.com](http://beacon-auctions.com)**

# Fiscal Policy Can Help People Rebound From Cost of Living Crisis

Vitor Gaspar, Raphael Lam, Paolo Mauro, Roberto Piazza

Governments confront difficult trade-offs amid sharp increases in food and energy prices. Policymakers must protect low-income families from large real income losses and ensure their access to food and energy. But they must also reduce vulnerabilities from large public debts and, in response to high inflation, maintain a tight fiscal stance so that fiscal policy does not work at cross-purposes with monetary policy.

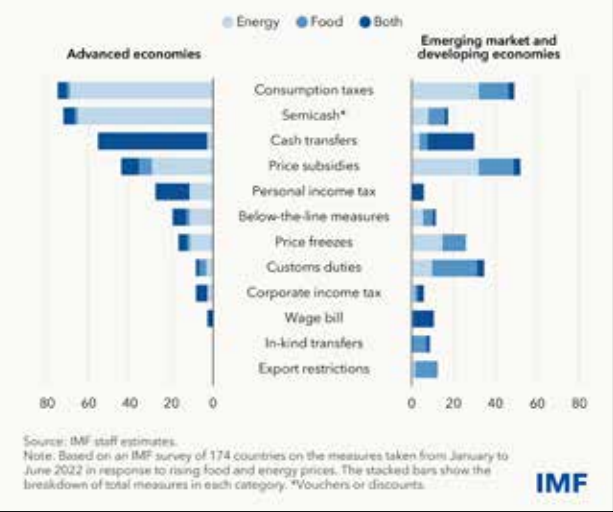
Food prices have been up by half since 2019 and supply disruptions have persisted in both food and energy markets. Higher prices threaten people's standard of living everywhere, prompting governments to introduce a variety of fiscal measures, including price subsidies, tax cuts, and cash transfers. We estimate the median fiscal cost of such measures at 0.6 percent of national gross domestic product, on top of pre-existing subsidies, among countries for which estimates were available.

Most governments face further pressure on public finances already strained by the pandemic. Rising inflation, weakening currencies, and climbing interest rates have led to surging credit spreads in many countries and higher interest expense going forward. Global public debt is projected to remain elevated at 91 percent of GDP in 2022—after receding from a historic high in 2020—and remains about 7.5 percentage points higher than prepandemic levels. Low-income countries are particularly vulnerable: nearly 60 percent of the poorest economies are in debt distress or at high risk of it.

In our latest Fiscal Monitor, we discuss how policymakers can approach these trade-offs, helping people bounce back from the current crisis and better cope with future challenges.

**Food and energy response**

**Responses to high energy and food prices**  
Countries have taken multiple steps to mitigate the impact of prices on people, with some more effective than others.  
(share of surveyed countries as of July 2022)



Facing high debt levels and rising borrowing costs, policymakers should prioritize targeted support through social safety nets to the most vulnerable people. In some countries, this might entail providing discounts on utility bills (for basic usage) to vulnerable low- and middle-income families. Allowing energy prices to adjust is crucial to preserving broader incentives to curb energy use and increase supply. Faced with long-lasting supply shocks and broad-based inflation, governments should not attempt to limit price increases through price controls, subsidies, or tax cuts. Such a move would be costly to budgets and ultimately ineffective. With limited resources, many low-income countries will need greater global efforts in humanitarian assistance and emergency financing.

In a time of high inflation, policies to address high food and energy prices should not add to aggregate demand. Demand pressures force central banks to raise interest rates even higher, making it more expensive to service government debt. A tightening fiscal stance sends a powerful signal that policymakers are aligned in their fight against inflation.

### Fostering economic resilience

Our report highlights that governments need to build resilience over time to a range of adverse shocks. The pandemic and the global financial crisis, beyond country-specific natural disasters and other

adverse events, have shown that governments must prepare for rainy days. Building fiscal buffers gradually would eventually allow policymakers to respond swiftly and flexibly to crises.

Several fiscal tools that have proved useful during the pandemic can be made part of a more permanent toolkit, depending on countries' capacity and available fiscal space. Job-retention schemes, for example, proved effective during the pandemic by stabilizing more than 40 percent of individual income loss in the European Union. Exceptional financial support to companies can prevent widespread bankruptcies. But such support should be reserved for severe crises as it exposes governments to sizable fiscal risks.

More generally, social safety nets help people bounce back from unemployment, sickness, or poverty, making them more resilient to a broad set of challenges. Such systems can be made readily scalable and better targeted with the help of digital technology.

We have seen how major global crises during the past decade-and-a-half have led to innovative and forceful fiscal responses, against the backdrop of rising debt and constrained monetary policy. Countries should rethink the role of fiscal policy in a shock-prone era—how it can better buffer against losses during crises and build resilience—and learn from experiences across the world.



# Taiwan Expo promotes Trade with Belize

By William Ysaguirre

More than 30 Taiwanese companies showed off new and innovative products to expand trade with Belize at a Taiwan Trade Expo, which opened at Caribbean Motors showroom in Belize City last Friday, October 7 and ran until Sunday, October 9.

The Embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan) hosted the Expo to coincide with its celebration of Taiwan's National Day, their "Double Ten", which was officially celebrated in Taiwan on October 10.

Established 111 years ago, Taiwan's democracy has remained undaunted by military threats from mainland China, for its hard-working people have remained strong, united and resilient, advancing Taiwan as a responsible member of the international community to contribute to regional peace, stability and prosperity, Ambassador H.E. David Kuan-Chou Chien cited. The Taiwanese government's economic policies and investment in education have helped to transform the island of 23.5 million people into a beacon of democracy, innovation, creativity and economic miracles.

Belize has partnered with Taiwan over the past 33 years in development in infrastructure, agriculture, climate resilience, information and communications



Taiwan's 111th National Day celebration.

technology (ICT), education and public health, ever since Belize established diplomatic relations with Taiwan on October 13, 1989. Belize's Economic Cooperation agreement with Taiwan took effect in January, facilitating bilateral trade between our two countries. Belize is now also cooperating with Taiwan on national security issues, through a Coast Guard agreement which the Belize Ministry of National Defense and Border Security signed with the Ocean Affairs Council of Taiwan. Our two countries have signed numerous bilateral agreements in the past year to further strengthen cooperation in e-government, Climate Change, health, education and trade. Ambassador Chien also thanked Belize for its support for Taiwan's participation at the United Nations and other international forums, as he raised a toast to our

continued partnership and prosperity.

Governor General H.E. Froyla Tzalam echoed these sentiments as she cited the words of former U.N. secretary general Kofi Anan addressing the UN General Assembly in 2002, when he said the people of the World must work together for their common good; as today's challenges transcend territorial and political boundaries, and must be tackled through global, regional and national cooperation.

Deputy Prime Minister Hon. Cordel Hyde congratulated the Taiwanese people on their independence, unity, strength and national resolve in the face of external challenges, and cultural diversity, as he thanked them for their continued friendship and cooperation with Belize.

Computer giant ASUS showed off its latest VivoBook 360-degree flip laptop, Zen Beam portable projector and

Vivo watch, while MSI displayed its latest gaming monitor. The weary Belizean worker can relieve fatigued muscles, ease tension and regenerate in the luxurious Tokuyo electric massage chair, while In-Trust Technology offers AURAI "Vision Plus", a water-propelled eye massager. The iSmart trash bin opens automatically when its sensor detects the owner's approach. Health fanatics can monitor their body weight with a cardio scale from Oserio, manufactured by Charder Electronics Ltd of Taiwan. TATUNG offers a multi-functional rice cooker and steamer for preparing all sorts of dishes, from fish chowder and succulent lamb stew, to jambalaya! Victoria Nature Co. Ltd presented its line of kitchen knives, knife sharpeners, garden shears and a diamond cutter that can cut through glass and tile like butter!

Belizeans can beat the heat with electric fans

from Campus Corp. of Taipei City and from Fen Lan Ltd of Belize City. Homes can be rendered that much safer with surveillance cameras and security monitors from SpotCam and Mega-Ling Technology Company Ltd, both from New Taipei City. All this technology can be powered by solar panels, battery packs, solar powered security lights, and renewable energy systems offered by both Speedtech Energy and Fortune Winds Co. Ltd of Taiwan.

Unique Co. Ltd of Taiwan offered amazing new furniture designs in wooden furniture, and not to be outdone, the Art Box of Belmopan displayed its range of wood products, art and handicrafts.

Build Up Hardware Co of Taichung City offered industrial steel sheets, rods and channels for a host of applications, while Heng Ta Hardware Co. Ltd of Taichung offers caster wheels and rollers for

industrial and domestic use. Mega Skincare Biotech manufacturing presented a range of skin care lotions, creams and sprays, while the taste of Taiwan came in the form of ChampThé Sparkling Tea, jellies and white gourd drinks from San Pin Tian International of Taipei. Shi Chen Foods Co. of Taichung presented the more mundane Bubble Tea mix, for making tea latte, rose tea and other exotic teas. Ji Zhi Management Consulting presented its line of health foods.

The Overseas Engineering Construction Company of Taiwan also displayed a model of a new bridge which will replace the ferry at Laguna Seca. OECC began the \$50 million contract to upgrade 27 miles of road from Corozal Town to Sarteneja in November 2019, which includes building new steel bridges at Laguna Seca and Pueblo Nuevo. The project is expected to be completed in 2024.

## S U D O K U

Medium Puzzle

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

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

Answer to Puzzle

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





# 'Love hormone' oxytocin may help mend broken hearts (literally), lab study suggests

Oxytocin, sometimes called the “love hormone,” may help heal broken hearts — literally. In a new study of zebrafish and human cells, scientists found that the brain-made hormone may help heart tissue regenerate after injury and, in theory, could someday be used in the treatment of heart attacks, according to the researchers.

Because the new study was conducted in fish tanks and lab dishes, however, this theoretical treatment is still far from realization.

Oxytocin has been nicknamed the “love” or “cuddle” hormone for its known role in forging social bonds and trust between people, and its levels often rise when people cuddle, have sex or orgasm. However, the so-called love hormone also serves many other functions in the body, such as triggering contractions during childbirth and promoting lactation afterward. Oxytocin also helps guard the cardiovascular system from injury by lowering blood pressure, reducing inflammation and diffusing free radicals, a reactive byproduct of normal cell metabolism, according to a 2020 review in the journal *Frontiers in Psychology*.

VisionaryProfit

The new study, published Friday (Sept. 30) in the journal *Frontiers in Cell and Developmental Biology* (opens in new tab), highlights yet another potential benefit of oxytocin: At least

studies suggest that after an injury, like a heart attack, a subset of cells in the heart's outermost membrane, called the epicardium, don a new identity. These cells migrate down

into the layer of heart tissue where muscles reside and transform into stem-like cells, which can then turn into several heart cells types, including cardiomyocytes.

This process has largely been studied in animals and there's some evidence to suggest that it may also occur in adult humans. Unfortunately, if the process does occur in people, it seems to unfold too inefficiently and in too few cells to result in meaningful tissue regeneration after a heart attack, the study authors said in a statement (opens in new tab). By somehow encouraging more epicardial cells to



in zebrafish, the hormone helps the heart replace injured and dead cardiomyocytes, the muscle cells that power heart contractions. Early results in human cells hint that oxytocin could stimulate similar effects in people, if delivered with the right timing and dose.

The heart has a very limited ability to repair or replace damaged or dead tissue, the study authors noted in their report. But several

morph into cardiomyocytes, the authors theorize, scientists could help the heart rebuild itself after injury.

The study authors found they could jump-start this process in human cells in a lab dish by exposing them to oxytocin. They also tested 14 other brain-made hormones, but none of the others could coax the cells into the desired stem-like state required to make new cardiomyocytes, according to the statement.

The team then conducted follow-up experiments in zebrafish, a fish in the minnow family known for its impressive ability to regenerate tissues in its body, including the brain, bones and heart. The team found that, within three days of a cardiac injury, the fishes' brains began pumping out oxytocin like mad, producing up to 20 times more than they had prior to the injury, the team found. The hormone then traveled to the heart, plugged into its receptors and kicked off the process of transforming epicardial cells into new cardiomyocytes.

These experiments provide early hints that oxytocin may play a key role in heart repair after injury, and by boosting its effects, scientists could develop new treatments to improve patients' recovery after heart attacks and reduce the risk of future heart failure, the authors concluded. These treatments might include drugs that contain oxytocin or other molecules that can plug into the hormone's receptors.

“Next, we need to look at oxytocin in humans after cardiac injury,” senior author Aitor Aguirre, an assistant professor in the Michigan State University Department of Biomedical Engineering, said in the statement. “Overall, pre-clinical trials in animals and clinical trials in humans are necessary to move forward.”

## Public Notice of Investment



Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the Social Security Act, Chapter 44 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2003, that the Social Security Board, as per its Investment Framework, Section 49, has proposed to place a **Term Deposit** in the amount of **BZ\$3,000,000 (Three Million Dollars)** at the Spanish Lookout Credit Union. Duration will be for a period of one year and interest will be paid at the rate of four (4.0%) percent per annum.

*Social Security Board: Safeguarding You, Your Family, Your Future!*



# Policymakers Need Steady Hand as Storm Clouds Gather Over Global Economy

## One-third of the world economy will likely contract this year or next amid shrinking real incomes and rising prices

Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas

countries accounting for about one-third of the

global economy poised to contract this year or next. The three largest economies, the United States, China, and the euro area will continue to stall. Overall, this year's shocks will re-open economic wounds that were only partially healed post-pandemic. In short, the worst is yet to come and, for many people, 2023 will feel like a recession.

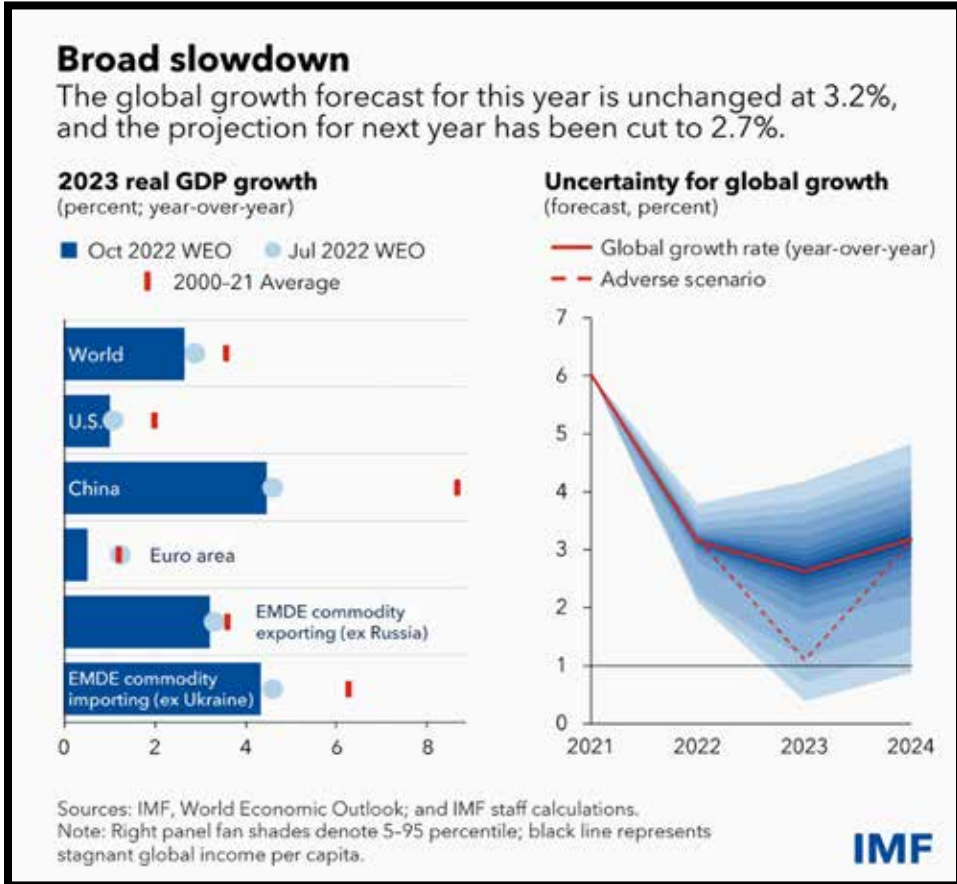
In the United States, the tightening of monetary and financial

beyond food and energy. Global core inflation rose from an annualized monthly rate of 4.2 percent at end-2021 to 6.7 percent in July for the median country.

Downside risks to the outlook remain elevated, while policy trade-offs to address the cost-of-living crisis have become more challenging. Among the ones highlighted in our report:

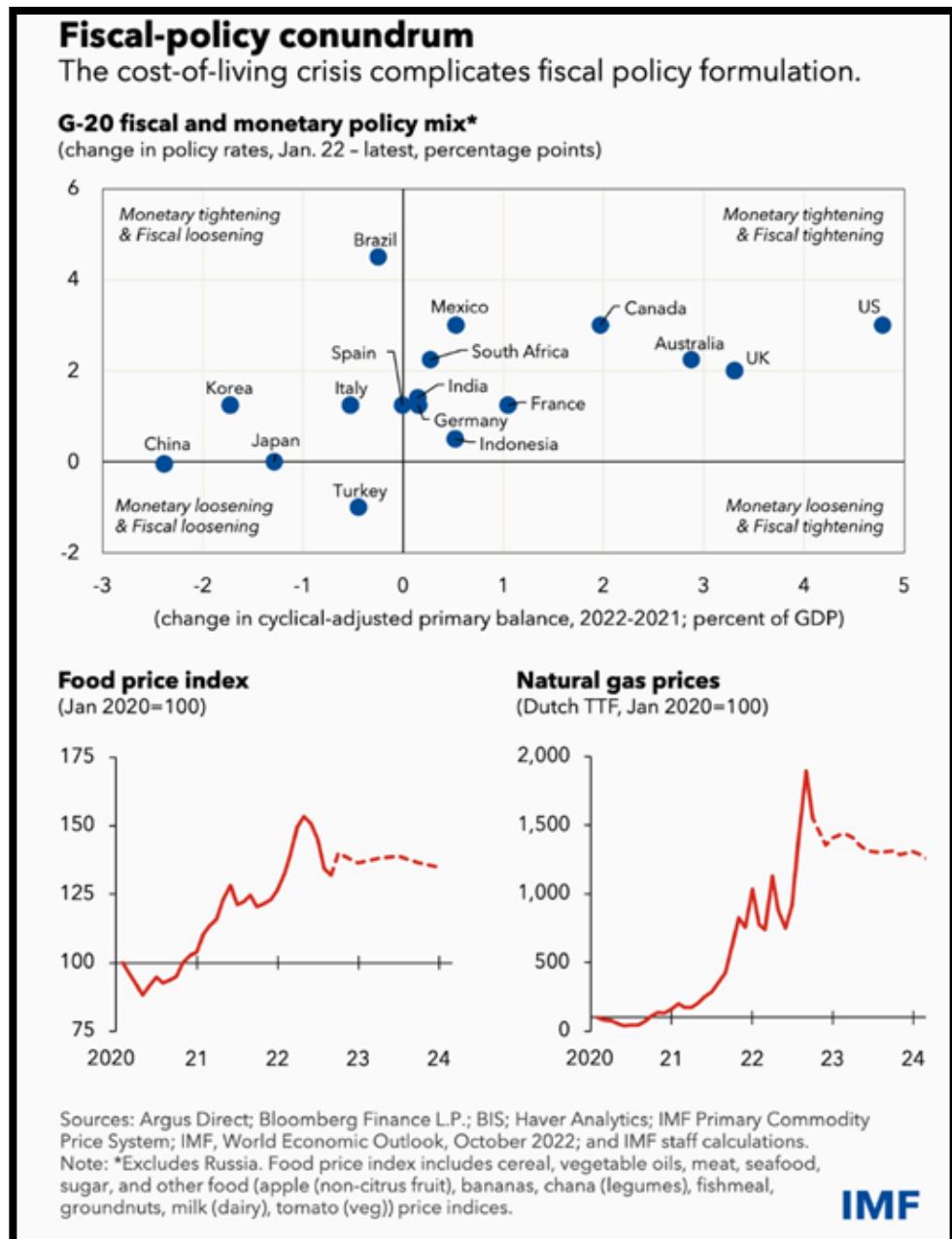
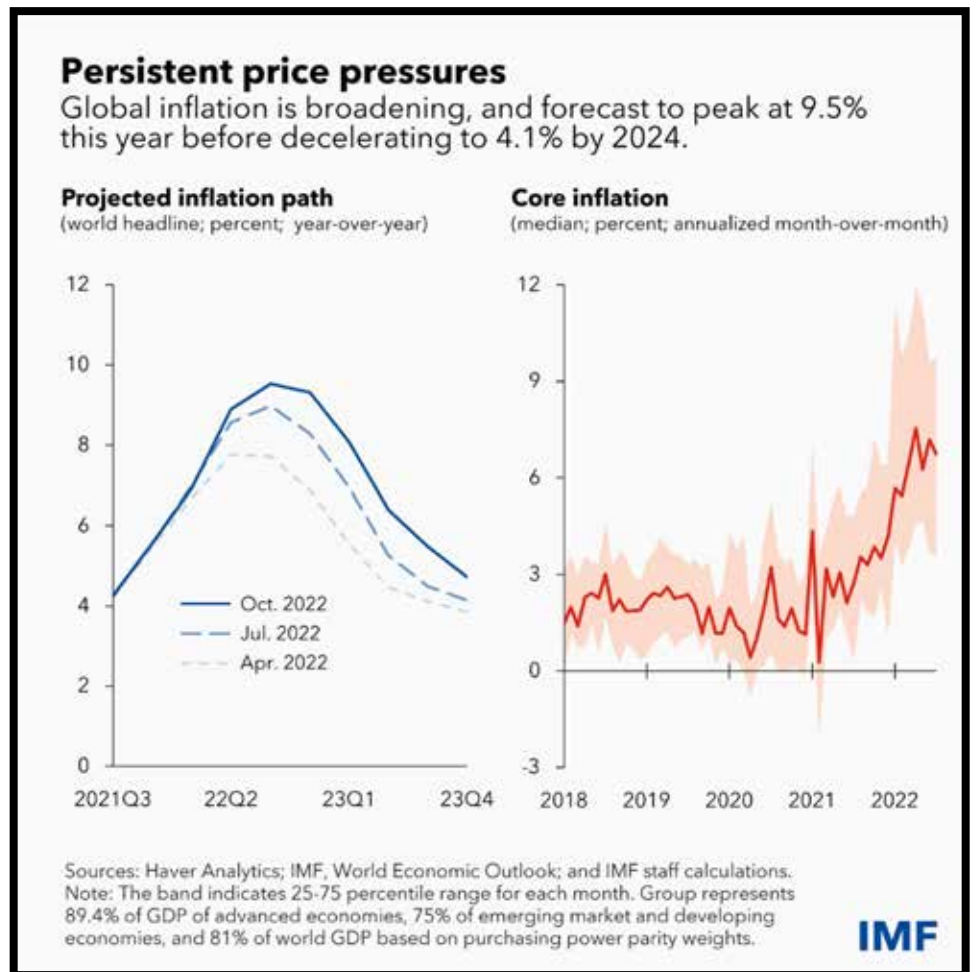
The risk of monetary, fiscal, or financial policy miscalibration has risen sharply amid high uncertainty and growing fragilities.

Global financial conditions could deteriorate, and the dollar strengthen further, should turmoil in financial markets erupt, pushing investors towards safe assets. This would add significantly to inflation pressures and financial fragilities in the rest of the world, especially emerging markets and developing



October 11, 2022  
The global economy continues to face steep challenges, shaped by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, a cost-of-living crisis caused by persistent and broadening inflation pressures, and the slowdown in China. Our global growth forecast for this year is unchanged at 3.2 percent, while our projection for next year is lowered to 2.7 percent—0.2 percentage points lower than the July forecast. The 2023 slowdown will be broad-based, with

conditions will slow growth to 1 percent next year. In China, we have lowered next year's growth forecast to 4.4 percent due to a weakening property sector and continued lockdowns. The slowdown is most



pronounced in the euro area, where the energy crisis caused by the war will continue to take a heavy toll, reducing growth to 0.5 percent in 2023.

Almost everywhere, rapidly rising prices, especially of food and energy, are causing serious hardship for households, particularly for the poor.

Despite the economic slowdown, inflation pressures are proving broader and more persistent than anticipated. Global inflation is now expected to peak at 9.5 percent this year before decelerating to 4.1 percent by 2024. Inflation is also broadening well

economies.

Inflation could, yet again, prove more persistent, especially if labor markets remain extremely tight.

Finally, the war in Ukraine is still raging and further escalation can exacerbate the energy crisis.

Our latest outlook also assesses the risks around our baseline projections. We estimate that there is about a one in four probability that global growth next year could fall below the historically low level of 2 percent. If many of the risks materialize, global growth would decline to 1.1 percent with quasi stagnant income-per-capita in 2023. According to our calculations, the likelihood of such an adverse outcome, or worse, is 10 percent to 15 percent.

Cost-of-living crisis  
Increasing price pressures remain the most immediate threat to current and future prosperity by squeezing real incomes and undermining macroeconomic stability. Central banks are now laser-focused on restoring price stability, and the pace of tightening has accelerated sharply.

There are risks of both under- and over-

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# Policymakers Need Steady Hand as Storm Clouds Gather Over Global Economy

One-third of the world economy will likely contract this year or next amid shrinking real incomes and rising prices

Cont'd from pg 14

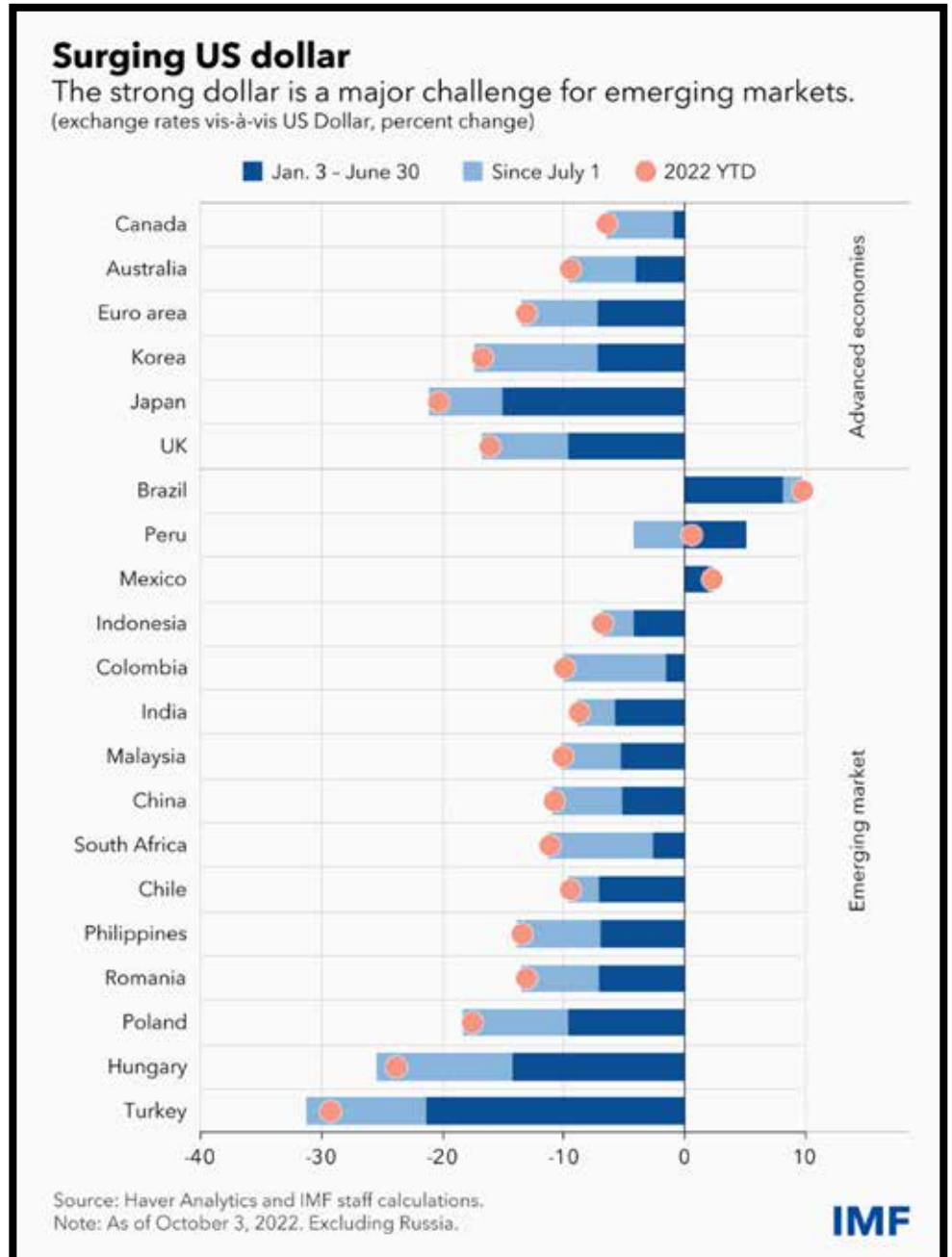
tightening. Under-tightening would further entrench inflation, erode the credibility of central banks, and de-anchor inflation expectations. As history teaches us, this would only increase the eventual cost of bringing inflation under control.

Over-tightening risks pushing the global economy into an unnecessarily severe recession. Financial markets may also struggle with overly rapid tightening. Yet, the costs of these policy mistakes are not symmetric. The hard-won credibility of central banks could be undermined if they misjudge yet again the stubborn persistence of inflation. This would prove much more detrimental to future macroeconomic stability. Where necessary, financial policy should ensure that markets remain stable. However, central banks need to keep a steady hand with monetary policy firmly focused on taming inflation.

Formulating the appropriate fiscal response to the cost-of-living crisis has become a serious challenge. Let me mention a few key principles.

First, fiscal policy should not work at cross-purpose with monetary authorities' efforts to bring down inflation. Doing so will only prolong inflation and could cause serious financial instability, as recent events illustrated.

Second, the energy crisis, especially in Europe, is not a transitory shock. The geopolitical realignment of energy supplies in the wake of the war is broad and permanent. Winter 2022 will be challenging, but winter 2023 will likely be worse. Price signals will be essential to



### Latest World Economic Outlook Growth Projections

(real GDP, annual percent change)

	2021	2022	2023
<b>World Output</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>2.7</b>
<b>Advanced Economies</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>1.1</b>
United States	5.7	1.6	1.0
Euro Area	5.2	3.1	0.5
Germany	2.6	1.5	-0.3
France	6.8	2.5	0.7
Italy	6.6	3.2	-0.2
Spain	5.1	4.3	1.2
Japan	1.7	1.7	1.6
United Kingdom	7.4	3.6	0.3
Canada	4.5	3.3	1.5
Other Advanced Economies	5.3	2.8	2.3
<b>Emerging Market and Developing Economies</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>3.7</b>
<b>Emerging and Developing Asia</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>4.9</b>
China	8.1	3.2	4.4
India	8.7	6.8	6.1
ASEAN-5	3.4	5.3	4.9
<b>Emerging and Developing Europe</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.6</b>
Russia	4.7	-3.4	-2.3
<b>Latin America and the Caribbean</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>1.7</b>
Brazil	4.6	2.8	1.0
Mexico	4.8	2.1	1.2
<b>Middle East and Central Asia</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>3.6</b>
Saudi Arabia	3.2	7.6	3.7
<b>Sub-Saharan Africa</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>3.7</b>
Nigeria	3.6	3.2	3.0
South Africa	4.9	2.1	1.1
<b>Memorandum</b>			
<b>Emerging Market and Middle-Income Economies</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>3.6</b>
<b>Low-Income Developing Countries</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>4.9</b>

Source: IMF, World Economic Outlook, October 2022

Note: For India, data and forecasts are presented on a fiscal year basis, with FY 2021/2022 starting in April 2021. For the October 2022 WEO, India's growth projections are 6.9 percent in 2022 and 5.4 percent in 2023 based on calendar year.

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND IMF.org

curb energy demand and stimulate supply. Price controls, untargeted subsidies, or export bans are fiscally costly and lead to excess demand, undersupply, misallocation, and rationing. They rarely work. Fiscal policy should instead aim to protect the most vulnerable through targeted and temporary transfers.

Third, fiscal policy can help economies adapt to a more volatile environment by investing in productive capacity: human capital, digitalization, green energy, and supply chain diversification. Expanding these can make economies more resilient to future crises. Unfortunately, these important principles are not always guiding policy right now.

Effects of a strong dollar

For many emerging markets, the strength of the dollar is a major challenge. The dollar is now at its strongest

since the early 2000s, although the appreciation is most pronounced against currencies of advanced economies. So far, the rise appears mostly driven by fundamental forces such as tightening US monetary policy and the energy crisis.

The appropriate response in most emerging and developing countries is to calibrate monetary policy to maintain price stability, while letting exchange rates adjust, conserving valuable foreign exchange reserves for when financial conditions really worsen.

As the global economy is headed for stormy waters, now is the time for emerging market policymakers to batten down the hatches.

Eligible countries with sound policies should urgently consider improving their liquidity buffers, including by requesting access to precautionary instruments from the Fund. Countries should also aim to minimize the impact of future financial turmoil through a combination of preemptive macroprudential and capital flow measures, where appropriate, in line with our Integrated Policy Framework.

Too many low-income countries are in or near debt distress. Progress toward orderly debt restructurings through the Group of Twenty's Common Framework for the most affected is urgently needed to avert a wave of sovereign debt crisis. Time may soon run out.

The energy and food crises, coupled with extreme summer temperatures, are stark reminders of what an uncontrolled climate transition would look like. Progress on climate policies, as well as on debt resolution and other targeted multilateral issues, will prove that a focused multilateralism can, indeed, achieve progress for all and succeed in overcoming geoeconomic fragmentation pressures.





# FUN FACTS!

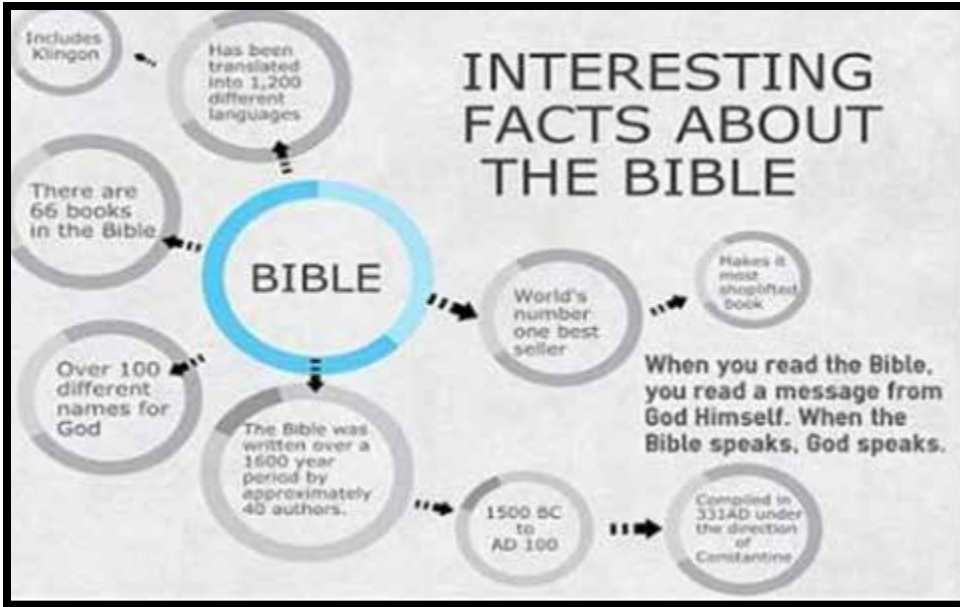
## World's Number One Best Selling Book - The Bible

There's a lot of really interesting stuff to learn about the Bible beyond its core message. I'm keeping a running list of really interesting facts that I've learned about the Bible—feel free to comment with some that you think should make the list!

The Bible was written in three languages. Those languages are Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. Most of our Old Testament was written in Hebrew, which was the language the original readers spoke. A few bits of the Old Testament were written in Aramaic (looking at you, Ezra and Daniel). The New Testament was written in Greek, the commonly-spoken language of the time.

The Bible is about 611,000 words long. In those original languages, the Bible's word count is about 611,000.

That word count is not going to line up with your Bible though, for a few reasons:



When translating the Bible from its original languages to English, translators tend to use more words to get across the original author's point.

Different translations word passages differently, which results in a variation in word count.

But even so: it's interesting to think that while the Bible is longer than Moby Dick, it's nowhere near as long a read as the Harry Potter saga. You can learn more about just how long the Bible is here.

The longest book of the Bible is Jer-

emiah This prophet had a lot to say. Granted, Jeremiah is the longest book based on how we currently arrange the books of the Bible. If we did it the old school way, the two-part book of Kings would be the longest book.

And if we did it really, really, really old school, the five-part Torah (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy) would dwarf all other contenders. This mega-book alone makes up about one fifth of the whole Bible!

The shortest book of the Bible is 3

John.

You can read this book in about one minute. The book right before it, 2 John, is the second-shortest book of the Bible. You can learn more about the shortest books of the Bible here.

The Bible was written by more than 40 traditional authors. The books of the Bible are traditionally attributed to heroes of the Jewish and Christian faiths. Moses is given credit for the first five books of the Bible, most of the prophets are given credit for the books named after them, etc.



**Bible Facts!**

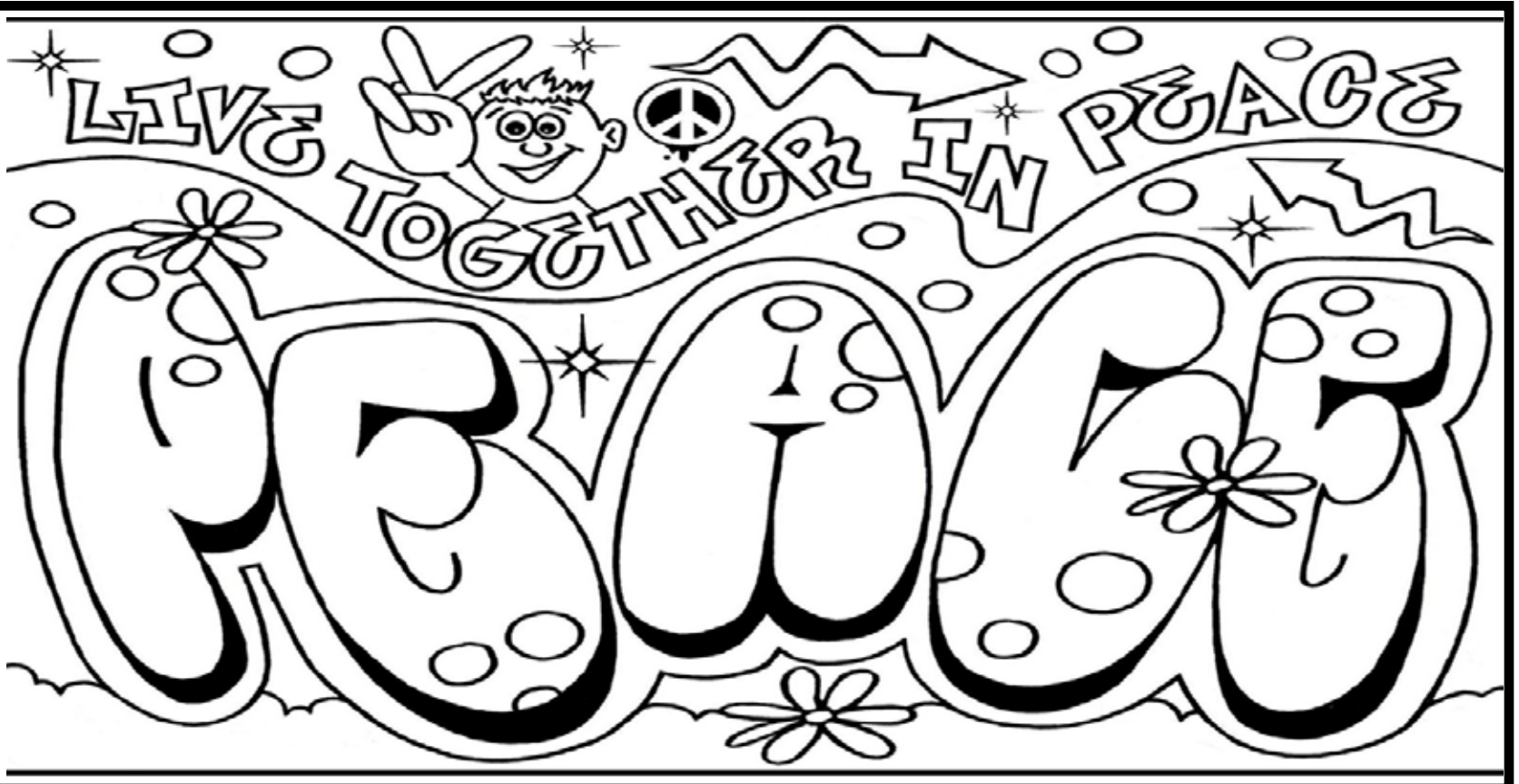
The word "AND" appears **46,277 times** in the Bible.



**Chameleon Champs!**

A chameleon can move its eyes in two directions at the same time.

**COLOR ME**





# Sports Guild

## A Ministry of Sports Looking & Sounding like it Gives A Damn!!

By Leon C. Guild

About a week ago, every national sporting federation of Belize received an email from the National Sports Council (NSC) that called for 2pm impromptu meeting on the 12th October, 2022, at the conference room of the National Sports Council. There was representation from 21 different organizations both registered and unregistered with the Ministry of Sport; and why you ask?

Well, I can personally recall that the last time such a meeting was called, there were several things off with it from the get go. First, it was called on a Tuesday; second, it was set for 2pm; and, third, much to the dismay of everyone, the minister incumbent himself was not present. Instead, we

were presided over by the then chairman who just wanted to tell us in the most diplomatic manner that the ministry has now given his administration to authority to hold us by the 'you know what' and squeeze if necessary.....let's all just try to work together. And that was it!! Really! And we would not have mind at all but there was no follow up talk of 'money'. You know that thing that makes the world go round and around?? Maybe you've heard of it.

It was basically a meeting that could have been a memo.

This time, was different, however! The big cheese himself was there and on time too. We were welcomed by Director of NSC, Mr. Ian Cal, along



with current Chairman of National Sports Council Mr. Linsford Castillo, who spoke dynamically. The Honorable Gilroy Usher also graced us with his presence and a

few very warm words.

Remarks were shared by Minister of Youth, Sports & Transport Hon. Rodwell Ferguson who pledged his commitment to leave the ministry he has

inherited in a better state than the one he found it in. An interesting fact was disclosed when the Honorable Minister proceeded to elaborate that some years ago there was

an unnamed politician who decided to turn the Ministry of Sports into a quasi-government department. This means it was supposed to sustain itself

Cont'd on pg. 18



### Belize Family Court

P.O. Box 1185

Telephone Numbers: 501-227-4114, 4107, 6021

#### VACANCY NOTICE

Suitably qualified applicants are invited to fill the position of: **DIRECTOR OF THE BELIZE FAMILY COURT-ATTORNEY GENERAL'S MINISTRY**

The Director is responsible for the overall supervision of the operations of the Family Court. The Director shall be answerable to and supervised by the Chief Justice.

**Applicant Must:**

- Be a qualified Solicitor/ Lawyer, or Attorney at law and have been call to the bar in a Commonwealth jurisdiction; and
- Be in possession of Bachelor's in Law (LLB)
- Be in possession of a Certificate in Legal Education (CLE)

Pay Scale 25 (\$42,862 x 1,480 - \$70,982)

Ministry/Department/Unit: Belize Family Court

**Position Title:** Director

**Salary Pay Scale:** 25

**Age Limit:** 30 years and above

**Years of Experience in Related Field:** 5 years

**Analysis of position:**

**(a) Essential Duties and Responsibilities:**

1. Supervise the Magistrates and Coordinators.
2. Establish operational policies for the day-to-day operations of the Court.
3. Establish collaborative networks between the Court and other agencies.
4. Sit as a Magistrate.
5. Liaise with the Chief Magistrate to establish standardization of Family Court policies and practice in District Magistrate Courts.
6. Conduct performance appraisals for senior staff, Magistrate, Coordinator and the Clerk of Court.
7. Oversee the monitoring and evaluation of court services.
8. Supervise the preparation and advocate for the annual budget for the Family Court.
9. Develop continuous professional development training for Magistrates and Coordinators of the Family Court.
10. Recommend the hiring and termination of staff.
11. Facilitate the preparation of reports required by the Chief Justice.
12. Address client's complaints where necessary.

Interested persons may applied in writing to:

The Secretary,  
 Judicial and Legal Services Commission  
 Ground Floor, Sir Edney Cain Building  
 Belmopan City, Cayo District  
 Belize, Central America  
 Telephone Number: 822-2204 or 822-2235  
 Email Address: [ceo@mps.gov.bz](mailto:ceo@mps.gov.bz)

Deadline for receipt of applications: **December 20th, 2022**

**Please Note:** Only suitable qualified applicants will be acknowledged.

The Judicial and Legal Services Commission does not bind itself to make an appointment from among those persons who apply.

[BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM](http://BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM)

COUNTRYWIDE PUBLIC AUCTION SALES: PROPERTIES

*Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District*

1. BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. Heritage Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via [belizepropertyauctions.com](http://belizepropertyauctions.com) the following property. Sales currently running and will expire on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 9:00 am.

Corner Egret & Kiskadee Streets, Otro Benque Area, Orange Walk Town:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Orange Walk North	4	109

(Being a two-storey concrete dwelling house [36 ft. X 44 ft.] consisting: Ground & First Floors: 3 Bedrooms + 2 Bathrooms + Living/Dining/Kitchen and laundry room and lot [0.254 acre or 1229.36 S.Y.] situate at the corner Egret & Kiskadee Streets, Otro Benque Area, Orange Walk Town, the freehold property of Mr. Earl Nicholson)

*Guinea Grass Village, Orange Walk District*

2. BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. The Belize Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via [belizepropertyauctions.com](http://belizepropertyauctions.com) the following property. Sale currently running until 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Public Auction Sales will expire fortnightly on the dates and times listed on the website until this property is sold. Parcel No. 632 Guinea Grass Village, Orange Walk District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Guinea Grass	4	632

The freehold property of Ms. Melissa Westby

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TERMS: STRICTLY CASH

KEVIN A. CASTILLO

TELEPHONE 223-4488

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E-mail: [kevinacas@yahoo.com](mailto:kevinacas@yahoo.com)

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# A Ministry of Sports Looking & Sounding like it Gives A Damn!!

*Cont'd from pg. 17*

independent from the funding of GOB. (Seems to me that sports must have been showing real potential back in the day.)

Well, we all know that the budget for sports over the years has largely been used for maintaining facilities around the country and paying salaries with not

much left over to pump into the development of sports itself. In any case, the minister informed that he has asked his government for an additional \$2,000,000 to be added to the budget in order to begin to make an impact in the sporting department.

He has already received the first part of his petition but

was short \$700,000. Therefore, he went back to Cabinet and, once again, adamantly requested that he be given the amount requested. Now, there must be something in the air, because I have never heard of any minister of sport in the past actually seeming like they gave a damn about the ministry. So if you ask me this is a movie worth watching as it is about transition. And if transition is involved then it is bound to get ugly.

The floor was then open for remarks from the different leaders of the different federations who all spoke very knowledgeably not only about their own sport but across the board about the issues

we face in developing sport in Belize. And what was even more remarkable is that every sport leader who got up to speak also brought solutions. That was definitely not a room full of people who like to complain. It's largely because in Belize you actually have to love sports to be involved in it because the main mechanism behind getting it to move is volunteerism. That's right folks. Despite what you may think, nobody is getting paid. But as leaders in our own discipline we know what practicing sports has done for us in our lives and we want to share that experience with any and everybody who

is willing to learn and participate. But it is an uphill struggle when as coaches we are unable to support our athletes beyond a certain point. While many factors play into why athletes give up sports we mainly lose them to the thug of society as they become a part of the work force or we also lose them to relationships.

As the minister has stated that he will need the help of all the federation to move forward, the seemingly very fruitful meeting (only time will tell) ended with an agreement for a symposium scheduled November 29th and 30th where a group of volunteers from the same national

federations will come together with the ministry to thrash out the best way to move forward. There is also the goal of getting the Ministry of Education on board to avoid having it appear the sport's ministry and education ministry are not collaborating. Good things on the timeline!!

**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.**

## Patrick Faber Strikes Again?

By Michelle Sutherland

Several months ago, UDP Collet Representative Patrick Faber had vowed to stay out of the spotlight and seek counseling following a slew of domestic abuse allegations, but this week another recent video of Faber engaged in a similar scenario made its way on social media.

The repeated actions of the former UDP Party Leader did not escape the prying eyes of the UDP's National Organization for Women who issued a short press release expressing their "firm no tolerance of gender-based violence." The organization says that the video shows evidence of domestic violence being witnessed by a child, which is unacceptable and is in fact everyone's concern though it is between two adults.

"We are even more appalled that in this instance and for a second time, the person involved is an elected official whom many of our young people look up to. We appeal to the individuals involved to seek help as this issue can possibly lead to further and more severe consequences," indicated the release.

The video which was reportedly taken in May of this year shows Faber in what appears to be a scuffle with a woman. The video, which also happens to be part of a political ad, also shows a child later identified as Faber's daughter, at the edge of the frame witnessing the ordeal.

The video was recorded by the child's mother Nickiesha

Polanco who took to social media shortly after the ad aired and wrote:

"The incident that is circulating on social media of a most recent domestic issue involving my daughter's father and his fiancé; in the presence of my child during one of our most recent trips home this past summer is very frightening and regrettable. I too have lived through my nightmare with the said man and that is why I decided to step away, for my daughter's safety and mine."

Faber did not waste any time responding to Polanco's post. He accused her of taking the video and selling it to his political enemies. He further accused her of being jealous that he chose another woman instead of her.

In January of this year, Faber had stepped down from his post as party leader amid calls for his resignation, following an incident in which he had allegedly assaulted his, then, fiancée and damaged a laptop belonging to her. While the victim had later requested that the charges be dropped against Faber, the damage to Faber's political career had already been done, resulting in him leaving the country to access therapy.

Faber had only just started to attend House Meetings in July of this year and appeared to have been gaining political mileage once more despite being recently kicked out of the UDP Central Executive and then rejected from running as a Standard Bearer for the Collet Constituency.

### PUBLIC AUCTION SALE: PROPERTY

BY ORDER of Chargees, Messrs. Alpha Gamma Financial Services Limited, Licensed Auctioneer, Fernando Molina, will sell the following properties:

Registration Section	Block	Parcel	Being the freehold properties of
San Pedro	7	5906 (915.37 sq. yds.)	5906GOA3208 Inc.
San Pedro	7	5907 (899.22 sq. yds.)	5907GOA4209 Inc.
San Pedro	7	5908 (416.67 sq. yds.)	5908GOA4210 Inc.
San Pedro	7	5909 (416.67 sq. yds.)	5909GOA4211 Inc.

TOGETHER with all buildings thereon in one lot by way of public auction online to conclude Monday, 17th October 2022 at 4 pm.

Total Land Area: 2,647.93 SQ. YDS.

Buildings & improvements: Parcel #5906 – 4 Buildings, two-storey - 887 sq. ft. & 140 sq. ft. of external porch, each.  
Parcel #5907 – two-storey building – 3,926 sq. ft. & 737 sq. ft. of external porch.  
Parcel #5908 & #5909 – two-storey building – 5137 sq. ft. and a single storey building – 983 sq. ft.

All these parcels of land are a portion of Mahogany Bay Subdivision situated on Ambergris Caye, Belize. The development has a series of canals with each lot having canal frontage.



**TERMS: STRICTLY CASH**

**Bids are to be submitted via email by no later than 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2022 at 4:00pm**

**For further particulars on the properties, please contact:**

Email: [bids@beacon-auctions.com](mailto:bids@beacon-auctions.com)

Tel: 610-0919



# Monkey River locals expect the worst and hope for the best

By Britney Gordon

For decades, Monkey River residents have battled against the erosion plaguing their shores. Recent flooding has whisked yet another house to sea, but the people say they have come to anticipate such events.

Eloydia Cuevas, the chairperson of Monkey River village, told The Reporter that this is not the first house lost to the waters creeping onto the land. "Honestly, it was expected. For years, we've been dealing with this issue," Cuevas recalled, while underscoring the multitude of houses residents have been forced to abandon lest end up living with the sea under their doorsteps.

In the past, residents have expressed their pressing need for assistance but feel that those calls have landed on deaf ears. Small conservation efforts have been put in place previously; however, none has



Some residents have lost homes to flooding

shown any lasting results. "Tires and tubing were placed on the shoreline, which did help but those were only temporary fixes," Cuevas explained. She also spoke of families partnering to create a barrier of sandbags in their attempt to remedy the situation.

The residents believe that Monkey

River can be restored if the right initiatives were enacted. In addition to the land erosion concern, the inaccessibility of the road to Independence village has been a mounting issue. In light of recent weather conditions, people needing to travel to Independence have found themselves

unable to do so.

This matter is a pressing issue as noted by Cuevas, who recalled the instances in which the van responsible for taking children to school was unable to make the journey to the village, and NEMO was contacted for assistance. "We have children that need to get to school. At times,

children cannot make it back into town. Phone calls and tough decisions were made by parents, with some children being forced to spend the night in Independence."

Cuevas expressed her disquiet about the challenges villagers must face to receive a high school education. She states that it shouldn't be

this difficult to get to school. Although the village is small, relocating is not an option. Being that Monkey River is a fishing village, many residents depend on it to make their livelihood. "These are these people's lives. They cannot just pick up and leave everything. There is a future here."

## San Jose Palmar fetes Indigenous Peoples' Resistance Day



Children sung Belize's National Anthem in Yucatec Maya.

By William Ysaguirre

Unbeknownst to most Belizeans, the history of northern Belize was not always peaceful, and the Yucatec Maya defeated the British at the Battle of San Pedro Yalbac in western Orange Walk district in 1866.

The British Army torched many of their villages in 1867, but they continued to resist European occupation of their land for the next 60 years, until the British Honduras Company forcibly relocated them in 1939.

The colonial administration granted the remnants, some 200 villagers led by their Alcalde Maximo Perez, a piece of land by where they were resettled in what became the village of San Jose Nuevo Palmar in Orange Walk district. In celebration of Indigenous Peoples Resistance Day, observed worldwide on October 12, the Ministries of Human Development, Families and Indigenous Peoples and Education and Culture joined the Yalbac descendants and the Northern Maya Association of Belize in hosting the 21st Fiesta del Pueblo in the village on Sunday, October 9.

The Yucatec Maya

contributed greatly to the development of northern Belize, cited Minister of State Hon. Elvia Samos Vega, not least of which was they brought sugar cane, which founded the sugar cane industry, which became the engine that helped develop the Belizean economy in the 1960's through the 1980's. She also acknowledged the contributions of all indigenous peoples including the Mopan Maya, Quetchi Maya and the Garinagu to Belize's ethnic and cultural diversity and knowledge of traditional medicine.

Education is important to preserve our history and cultural heritage for future generations, noted Chief Education Officer Yolanda Gongora, deputizing for Minister of Education Hon. Francis Fonseca. Other guests included Minister of State Hon. Ramon Cervantes and Taiwan's Ambassador to Belize, H.E. David Kuan-Chou Chien

Arturo Cantun, a co-founder of the Fiesta, recognized the efforts of Doña Genara Cano, Teodora Orellana, Don Margarito Medina, Hugo Carrillo Cocom, Felicita Cantun, Roy Rodriguez, Don Gary

Cantun, Ms. Libertad Cal, Javier Magaña and Ms. Helaria Uh in preserving the Maya's language, art, music, dance, traditional dress, cuisine, religious beliefs and cultural values. Chief Executive Officer Tanya Santos-Neal presented the awards.

The festival began with the children of the Juul Kin (Sun Rays) group singing the national anthem in Yucatec Maya.

The fiesta continued with traditional Mayan cultural dances, such as the Deer Dance, the Bottle Dance and Las Chiapanecas, performed by Maya Naay group of Yo Creek Village and the Folkloric Ballet Group of Quintana Roo, and a demonstration of the traditional Mayan ball game Pok-ta-pok, in which the solid, natural rubber ball may only be struck with the hip. The Ek-Balam team of Yo Creek are the three-time world Pok-ta-pok champions of the Mundo Maya region, and will host the next pok-ta-pok world cup in Belize in 2023. Visitors were also treated to many Yucatecan gastronomic delights such as tamales and cochinito pibil tacos.



### 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 28<sup>th</sup> to August 05<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**September 01<sup>st</sup> to 09<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**October 06<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>, 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



# Taiwan's participation can strengthen international cooperation to fight transnational telecommunication fraud in the postpandemic era

*Li, Hsi-ho*  
**Commissioner**  
**Criminal Investigation Bureau**  
**Republic of China (Taiwan)**  
*September XX, 2022*

## Fraud is disrupting people's livelihoods in the postpandemic era

The internet is very much part of daily life in the postpandemic world. Working, studying, shopping, and conducting other transactions online have become commonplace. But the digital financial services that have developed from these activities are an easy target for criminal organizations and have also made investigating crime more complicated for the police. In 2021, Taiwan reported fraud-related losses of NT\$5.61 billion (equivalent approximately to US\$186 million), indicating that fraud has seriously damaged national economic development. There is little doubt that fraud poses a formidable challenge to countries worldwide.

In recent years, fraud has become more diverse and sophisticated and scammers are working in new and constantly evolving ways. Schemes involving cryptocurrency—recently a hot commodity—have inflicted heavy losses on victims. When Taiwan's police investigate cases, they often encounter difficulties arising from the fact that servers, recipient accounts, and cryptocurrency exchange platforms used by perpetrators are based overseas. This prevents officers from stopping the transfer of money in time to help the victims and makes it more difficult to track down suspects.

The inflow of profits from fraud and other illegal activities involves money laundering, tax evasion, and other crimes that undermine domestic financial regulatory systems and erode the sovereign authority of governments. Police cooperation between Taiwan and other countries would help reduce the number of fraud cases and contribute to the administrative efficiency of governments worldwide.

### International cooperation is needed to combat the use of virtual currencies for money laundering

Virtual currencies are a high-risk-high-reward commodity. They have grown increasingly popular in investment markets. As the average person does not fully understand how virtual currencies work, these investments have become a common instrument of organized fraud. Taiwan police have recently discovered that money laundering by criminal groups using virtual currencies mostly involves proceeds from investment fraud. Victims are lured into registering with a fake investment platform and when they try to withdraw funds after making a profit, the customer service system—operated by the criminal group—requires them to pay additional taxes of 10 to 20 percent before the withdrawal can be approved. Even if the payment is made, the criminal group continues to fabricate further demands that the account be replenished in order to cover, for example, transaction fees.

Criminal organizations have shifted their tactics from buying mule bank accounts to using virtual currency wallets, thus lowering the risk of police detection when funds are withdrawn. The gangs open phony accounts with virtual currency exchanges, where identity verification procedures are relatively relaxed. Once a victim makes a deposit into a designated account, the scammers quickly transfer the money multiple times, eventually moving it to a cold wallet. It is then switched



to another exchange where it is converted into legal tender. Crypto wallets that do not require user authentication and have no upper limit on transactions are a convenient tool for money laundering. The victim, perpetrator, and location of the crime are usually in different countries. Thus, transnational cooperation is needed to effectively crack down on the common practice of concealing illegal gains and converting them into legal assets.

### Taiwan's police strive to protect victims of organized human trafficking

Anticipating that the number of job seekers would increase due to involuntary unemployment driven by the pandemic, criminal organizations set up call centers in various parts of the world and recruited people on a large scale through online advertising. The scammers used attractive slogans like "easy job" and "fast financial freedom" and promised stable and legal employment in other countries. Victims only discovered after arriving that the jobs involved fraud or were not what they expected. Some even had their passports confiscated, were deprived of their freedom, and were beaten or sold to other unlicensed businesses if they refused to comply. If they asked to quit, they were forced to pay exorbitant fines or threatened with organ removal to compensate the gangs.

Human trafficking is a serious issue that needs to be addressed by the global community. Fraud rings take advantage of the convenience of the internet to recruit people of different nationalities through multiple channels to work in scam call centers around the world. Taiwan police have long spared no effort to crack down on this type of transnational crime. This year, they have received reports of Taiwanese citizens being held against their will and forced to engage in fraudulent activities in Cambodia, the Philippines, the United Arab Emirates, and other countries by illegal organizations set up by Chinese nationals. International cooperation is urgently needed to rescue the victims and fight such crimes.

In 2021, Taiwanese and Vietnamese police jointly cracked down on a fraud ring in Taiwan that was forcing Vietnamese migrants who had overstayed their visas to engage in scams targeting their fellow compatriots. The racket earned the criminals VND3.29 billion (equivalent to about US\$140,000). In cooperation with other foreign law enforcement agencies, Taiwan's police have uncovered several cases of organized crime outside Taiwan linked to cross-border fraud and human trafficking. They worked with Montenegro in 2020 and with Turkey in

2021 to clamp down on organized crime involving perpetrators, victims, and locations in multiple countries. In the joint operation with Montenegro, 92 suspects were arrested for defrauding more than 2,000 victims of a total of NT\$632.78 million (equivalent roughly to US\$21 million). These cases not only underscore the importance of cooperation among countries to combat crime but also highlight the need for concerted efforts to protect human dignity and values.

### Taiwan's contribution will benefit the world

Taiwan has a high regard for the rule of law and human rights. The Constitution of the Republic of China (Taiwan) upholds the ideal that national sovereignty resides with the people and explicitly provides for the protection of people's rights and freedoms. The government strictly prohibits any action that infringes on the rights of others. Transnational crime often involves multiple countries and areas, which can hinder investigations. In the postpandemic world, criminal tactics will continue to evolve and new methods will emerge. In investigating new forms of criminal activity, experience is invaluable. Taiwan is willing to share its experience in solving crimes. Today, telecommunications and cyber fraud are conducted across borders and transnational crime rings are organized and departmentalized. This poses a challenge to the sovereignty of nations and undermines livelihoods, economies, and law and order. Taiwan is keen to exchange intelligence with partners and assist other countries in staying off threats from overseas and combating organized crime within their borders.

Police officials are entrusted with the heavy responsibility of maintaining law and order. Their top priority is to protect people's lives and property. Given that crime has taken on increasingly diverse forms, police are facing even greater challenges. To fight modern crime, law enforcers need a firm understanding of the latest criminal developments so that they can prepare for the future and be ready to respond decisively. Looking ahead, Taiwan's police will continue to work with partners worldwide. No place should be overlooked in fighting the pandemic or tackling crime. The international community can count on Taiwan.

**Reporter**

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# Westline Bus Company issued with pollution abatement notice

By Michelle Sutherland

Westline Bus Company, which has its headquarters set up in Benque Viejo Town, has been issued with a Pollution Abatement Notice, for an oil spill that occurred on Wednesday which is said to have originated from their compound on George Price Boulevard and resulted in the contamination of a nearby drain and surrounding areas.

On Wednesday, October 12, personnel from the Department of the Environment were summoned out to Benque Viejo Town by concerned residents to assess the oil spill. The team moved quickly, and with the combined efforts of employees of the bus company was able to contain the oil spill to a drain that it had leaked into.

The Ministry said that the team will continue to oversee the clean-up activities in the upcoming days. In the interim, the department “has issued a pollution abatement notice to the company to ensure the necessary measures are implemented to avoid further environmental impacts, and subsequently seek legal advice in the prosecution of the offense and/or levying of applicable penalties under the EPA.”

According to the Department of the Environment, an inspection of the site had revealed that a container having a capacity of about 1,100 gallons, and storing waste oil had ruptured, resulting in the oil spill. The department said that waste oil, which is classified as a hazardous substance under the Environmental Protection Act (EPA), was stored on a slope causing it to run off into a drain leading to the Mopan River. While an assessment is still ongoing, the department



indicated that there is no evidence at this time to suggest that the oil has entered the Mopan River, but that that scenario is possible once the floodwaters recede.

The department also claimed that the exact quantity of the oil spill is yet to be determined since the company has still not given any record of the amount of oil that was stored in the container. They also pointed out that Westline Bus Company has still not reported the spill.


The Benque Viejo Town Council has since come out to condemn what they refer to as the “negligent disposal of oil waste” by the company which they reiterated was avoidable. The Council indicated that

the spill has made its way into Coffin Creek which empties out into the Mopan River and called on the company to take immediate action to rectify the damages and clear the waste from the waterway.

On a similar note, the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change, and Disaster Risk Management issued a release reminding the public that chemicals such as industrial chemicals, pesticides, and other hazardous substances should be stored on high ground away from floodwaters. They reiterated the need for chemicals to be properly stored using best practices and standard requirements such as segregated storage, tightly sealed containers, and containment bunds.



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# WWF's Living Planet Report reveals a devastating 69% drop in wildlife populations on average in less than a lifetime

By WWF

(13 October 2022) - Monitored wildlife populations - mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles and fish - have seen a devastating 69% drop on average since 1970, according to WWF's Living Planet Report (LPR) 2022.

The report highlights the stark outlook of the state of nature and urgently warns governments, businesses and the public to take transformative action to reverse the destruction of biodiversity.

With its biggest dataset yet, featuring almost 32,000 populations of 5,230 species, the Living Planet Index (LPI), provided within the report by ZSL (Zoological Society of London), shows it is within tropical regions that monitored vertebrate wildlife populations are plummeting at a particularly staggering rate. WWF is extremely concerned about this trend given that these geographical areas are some of the most biodiverse in the world. In particular the LPI data reveals that between 1970 and 2018, monitored wildlife populations in Latin America and the Caribbean region have dropped by 94% on average.

In less than a lifetime, monitored freshwater populations have fallen by an average of 83%, the largest decline of any species group. Habitat loss and barriers to migration routes are responsible for about half of the threats to monitored migratory fish species.

Commenting on the findings, Marco Lambertini, Director General of WWF International, said: "We face the double emergencies of human-induced climate change and biodiversity loss, threatening the well-being of current and future generations. WWF is extremely worried by this new data showing a devastating fall in wildlife populations, in particular in tropical regions that are home to some of the most biodiverse landscapes in the world."

World leaders are due to meet at the 15th Conference of Parties to the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD COP15) this December for a once-in-a-decade opportunity to course-correct for the sake of people and the planet. WWF is advocating for leaders to commit to a 'Paris-style' agreement capable of reversing biodiversity loss to secure a nature-positive world by 2030.

"At the COP15 biodiversity conference this December, leaders have an opportunity to reset our broken relationship with the natural world and deliver a healthier, more sustainable future for all with an ambitious nature-positive global biodiversity agreement," said Dr Lambertini. "In the face of our escalating nature crisis, it's essential this agreement delivers immediate action on the ground, including through a transformation of the sectors driving nature loss, and financial support to developing countries."

Some of the species' populations captured in the LPI include the Amazon pink river dolphin population, which saw populations plummet by 65% between 1994 and 2016 in the

Mamirauá Sustainable Development Reserve in the Brazilian state of Amazonas; the eastern lowland gorilla, whose numbers saw an estimated 80% decline in DRC's Kahuzi-Biega National Park between 1994 and 2019; and South and Western Australian sea lion pups, which plunged by two-thirds between 1977 and 2019.

Dr Andrew Terry, Director of Conservation and Policy at ZSL, said: "The Living Planet Index highlights how we have cut away the very foundation of life and the situation continues to worsen. Half of the global economy and billions of people are directly reliant on nature. Preventing further biodiversity loss and restoring vital ecosystems has to be at the top of global agendas to tackle the mounting climate, environmental and public health crises."

Around the world, the report indicates that the main drivers of wildlife population decline are habitat degradation and loss, exploitation, the introduction of invasive species, pollution, climate change and disease. Several of these factors played a part in Africa's 66% fall in its wildlife populations over the period, as well as Asia Pacific's overall 55% drop.

The LPR report makes clear that delivering a nature-positive future will not be possible without recognising and respecting the rights, governance, and conservation leadership of Indigenous Peoples and local communities

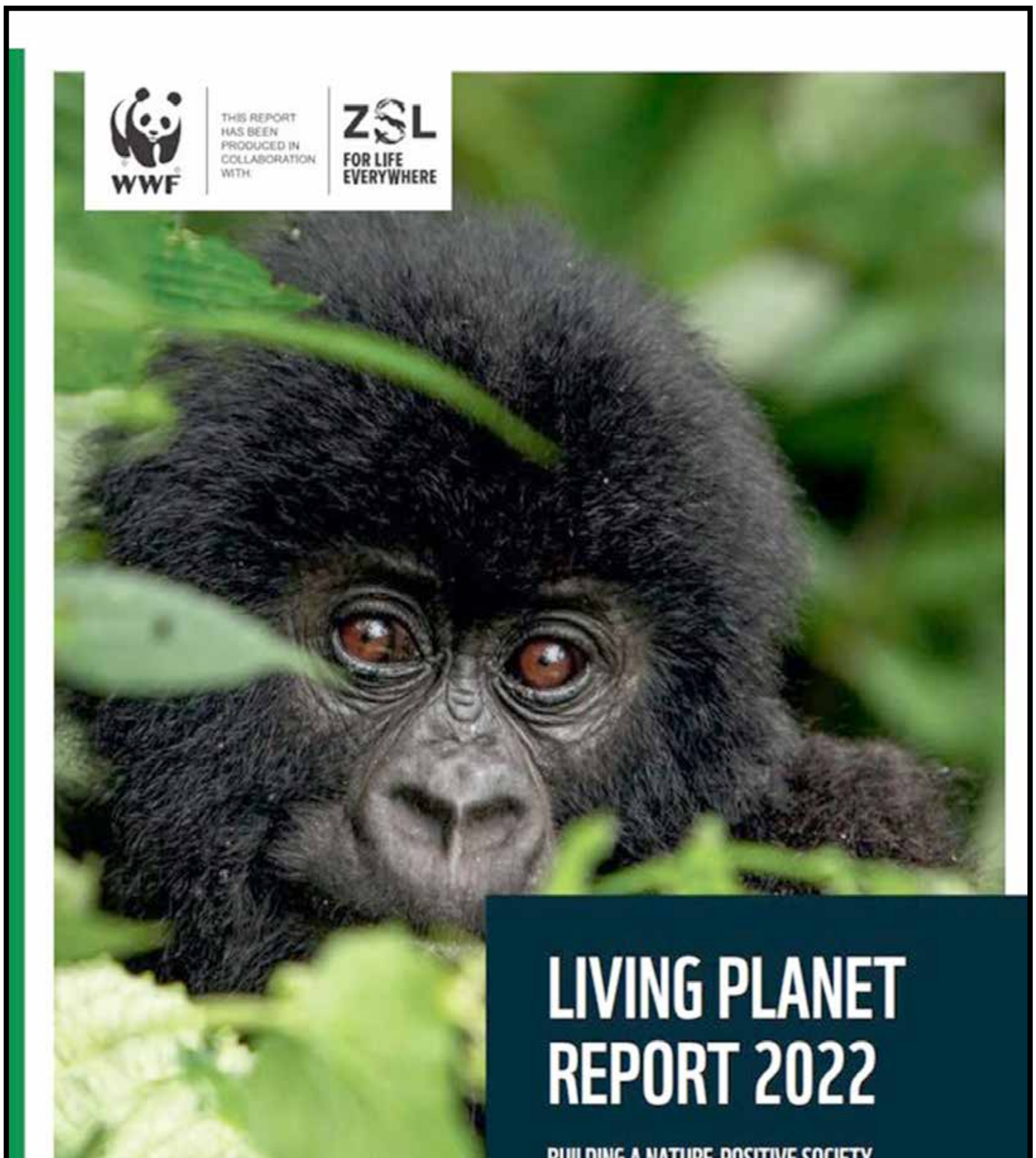
around the world.

Flor Delicia Ramos Barba said she has felt the loss of nature in the Indigenous community of Santo Corazon in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, where she lives. "The roar of the jaguar could be heard near the community three years ago, but not anymore. Compared with my childhood, I've witnessed a big difference. The animals in the community are now gone. We also feel this lack in the rivers. The people used to go fishing to support their families, but now there are no fish. Tree species have also been disappearing.

"As a community we have become aware of the difficulties that come our way year after year. The conservation of our territory is important to us."

The report argues that increasing conservation and restoration efforts, producing and consuming food in particular more sustainably, and rapidly and deeply decarbonising all sectors can mitigate the twin crises. The authors call on policymakers to transform economies so that natural resources are properly valued.

"The Living Planet Report contains shocking figures directly related to our interlinked climate and biodiversity crises and in response we must see transformative systems change if we're to halt and reverse nature loss and secure a flourishing future for people and nature," said Dr Lambertini. "Government leaders must step up at COP15. The world is watching."





# Latin America Faces a Third Shock as Global Financial Conditions Tighten

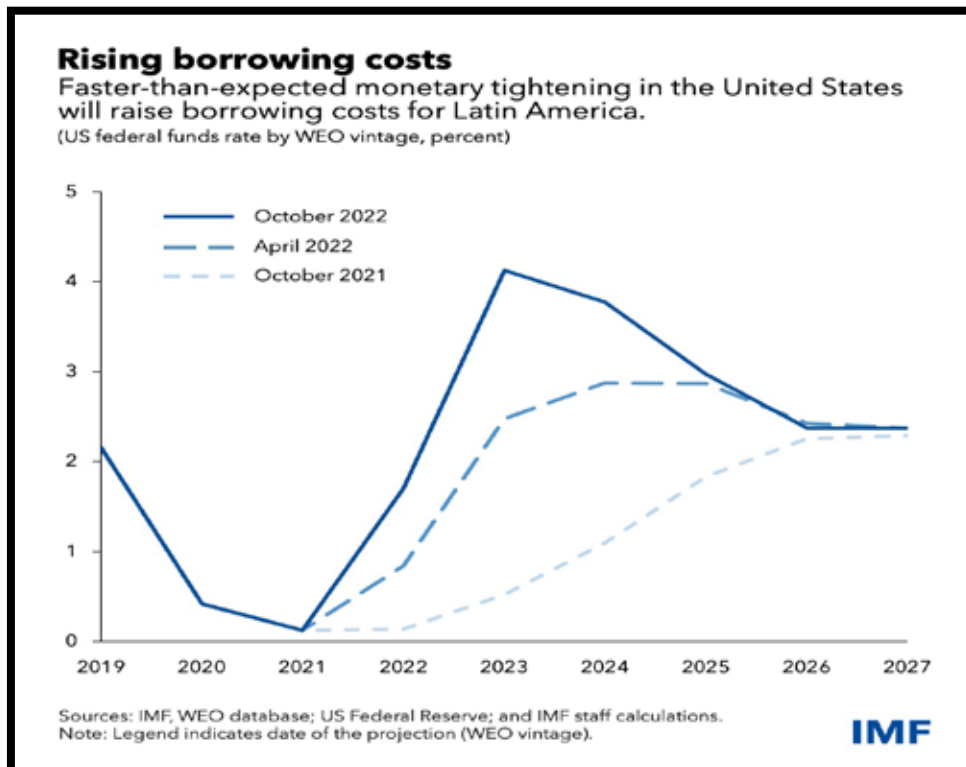
Santiago Acosta-Ormaechea, Gustavo Alder, Ilan Goldfajn, Anna Ivanova

October 13th, 2022

As Latin American countries continue to grapple with the effects of two previous shocks, the pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine, they face a third shock: the tightening of global financial conditions.

Growth momentum is currently positive, reflecting the return of service sectors and employment to pre-pandemic levels, and the overall support of favorable external conditions—high commodity prices, strong external demand and remittances, and rebounding tourism. This has led to several upward revisions to growth this year.

But financing is becoming scarcer and costlier as major central banks raise interest rates to tame inflation. Capital inflows to emerging



markets are slowing and external borrowing costs are increasing. Domestic interest rates in emerging markets are also rising as their central banks are hiking rates to battle inflation as well, but also because of reduced

investors' appetite for riskier assets.

For Latin America, these factors result in a deceleration in activity as higher borrowing costs weight on domestic credit, private consumption, and

investment.

Earlier this year, surging commodity prices and solid growth momentum helped offset the effects of tighter global financial conditions, as investors were attracted by a region that hosts major commodity exporters amid global needs for food and energy supplies. But higher interest rates are pushing commodity prices down as the global economy decelerates, reducing their cushioning effect. The slowdown may also reduce exports, remittances, and tourism to the region.

Uncertainty about global interest rates and whether inflation can be brought back under control smoothly—a so called 'soft landing'—means spikes in volatility and investor risk aversion are also possible. In other words, the transition to higher global interest rates may be bumpy.

#### Solid growth but deceleration

Amid positive surprises in activity, we have upgraded our growth projection for Latin America and the Caribbean this year to 3.5 percent from 3 percent in July.

But with the changing winds ahead, growth next year is poised to decelerate more rapidly than we projected in July, slowing to 1.7 percent.

Commodity exporters—South American countries, Mexico and some

Caribbean economies—are likely to see their growth rates halved next year, as lower commodity prices amplify the impact of rising interest rates.

The economies of Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic will also slow as trade with the United States and incoming remittances weaken, though they will benefit from lower commodity prices. Tourism-dependent Caribbean economies will continue recovering, albeit slower-than-anticipated in July amid weaker tourism prospects.

#### Fighting stubborn inflation

Despite slowing growth, Latin America will continue facing high inflation for some time.

The swift response of major central banks in the region, which hiked interest rates ahead of other emerging market and advanced economies, will help bring down inflation, but this will take time as monetary policy needs to exert downward pressure on prices.

Also, price pressures have recently broadened, affecting items of the consumption baskets beyond food and energy. This has been the case in Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru, where inflation recently reached a two-decade high of 10 percent and is testing the hard-won credibility of inflation targeting frameworks.

We have, therefore, raised our inflation forecasts. Price increases for those five countries will reach around 7.8 percent by year-end and remain elevated at about 4.9 percent—still above central banks' tolerance bands in most cases—by the end of next year.

#### Healthy banks, debt risks

Rising global interest rates will also test the resilience of private and public balance sheets. The region's generally healthy banking systems mitigate the risk of financial distress, and regulation and supervision have improved in many countries.

But pockets of vulnerabilities remain. For example, corporate debt has grown considerably over the last decade, especially outside the banking system. Monitoring these vulnerabilities will be key to identify potential sources of stress and take early action.

While the region's high levels of international reserves and strong central bank credibility will help mitigate the impact of tighter financial conditions, rising borrowing costs will test public finances through higher interest payments, as public debt and financing needs remain elevated.

#### Balancing act

Central banks in the region have acted fast and kept long-term inflation expectations anchored.

Going forward, monetary policy should stay the course and not ease prematurely. Setting monetary policy amid high uncertainty is challenging, but having to restore price stability later if inflation becomes entrenched would be very costly.

Fiscal policy should focus on rebuilding policy space, where needed. This will require reining in public spending, improving the design of the tax systems, and strengthening fiscal frameworks to secure sustained discipline.

With dire social needs in the region, however, policies to reduce debt and deficits can only be effective and durable if they are inclusive—that is, if they protect the poor.

Even where fiscal space exists, fiscal policy should also go hand in hand with monetary policy, focusing on supporting vulnerable groups, especially while high inflation persists and growth weakens, but without fueling domestic demand. This will require careful calibration to offset spending measures to protect the poor.

Getting this balancing act right is key to achieving inclusive and sustainable growth, and this is the best way to build resilience against future shocks.

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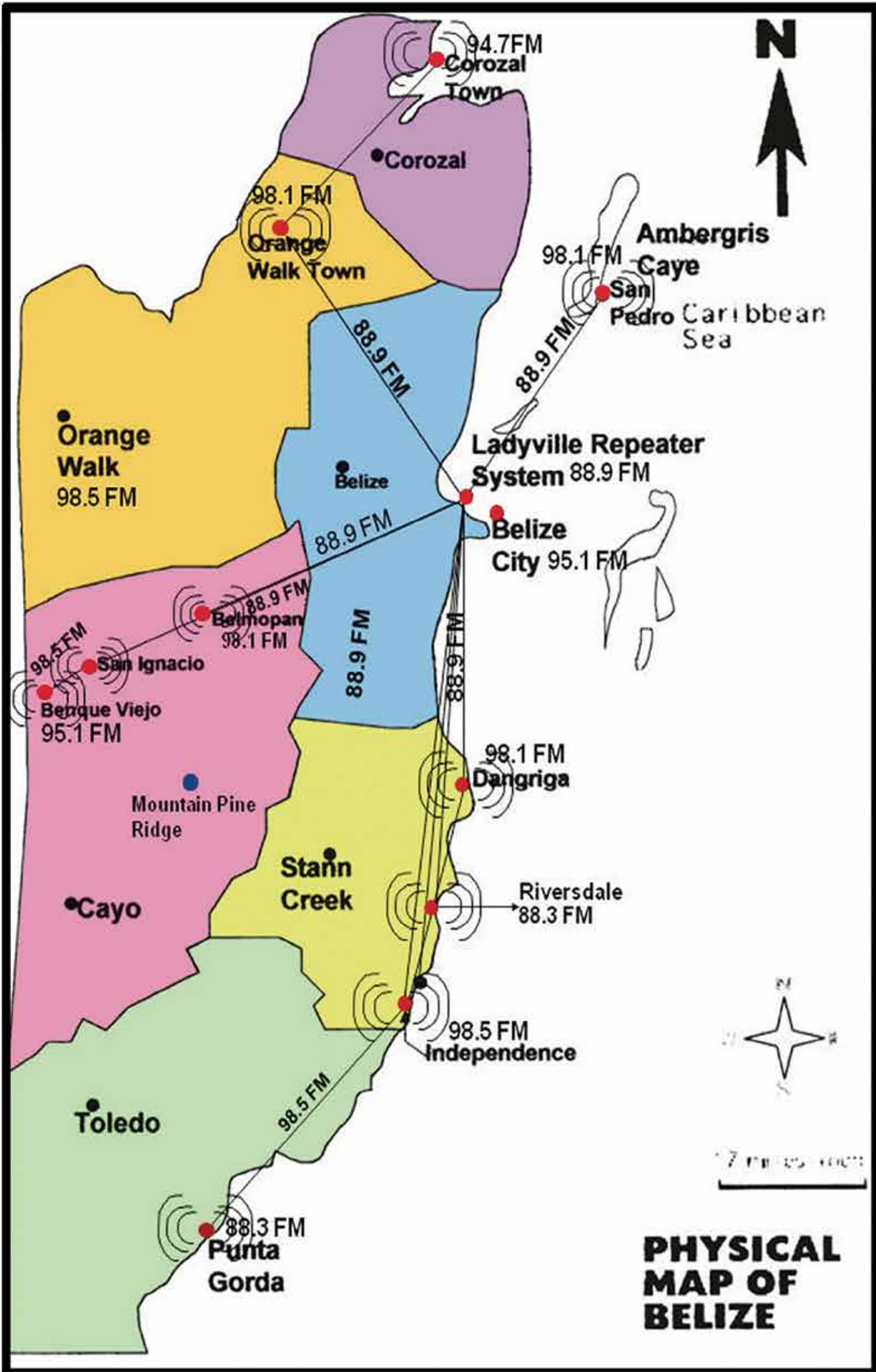
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