

Reporter

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Authorities confirm mental health patient had violent past with police



Francis Ramos was shot by police while wielding a knife at officers.

By Michelle Sutherland

Sources within the Belize Police Department, as well as the Belize Central Prison, have confirmed that Francis Ramos, the mental health patient that was fatally shot on Wednesday in downtown Belize City has had a very violent past.

Since the chilling shooting that transpired around midday on Wednesday, November 23rd, mental health advocates as well as those in the public have been questioning whether police use of lethal force was necessary to subdue Ramos and if they could have resorted to using other non-lethal means.

Following

the Incident Commissioner of Police Chester Williams briefed the media and said, "As far as I can see the police did what he could have done in the circumstances and we have since ordered a criminal and an internal investigation just to go through to look at all the evidence and everything and when the criminal investigation is done, the file will be sent to the DPP office for a determination to ascertain if in fact the DPP will be satisfied that the police acted in self-defense."

In fact, apart from defending the officer's action saying that the cop had no other choice but to use lethal force against the mental health patient who had been charging

violently toward him with a knife, Williams said that Ramos was known to police as a very violent mental health patient. Referring to the archives Williams pointed out that Ramos was convicted in 2013 for the attempted murder of someone on Banak Street whom he had stabbed. Then as recently as last year he was again charged with stabbing another individual and had even charged responding officers who went to detain him, with a machete. While Wednesday's incident culminated with a deadly end for Ramos as the Commissioner puts it, it would have either been Ramos's life or that of the Police Officer.

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Special committee to decide Saldivar's fate by December 9th



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UDP Party Leader Moses "Shyne" Barrow

Climate Change Minister in support of seismic testing decision



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Minister Hon. Orlando Habet agrees with seismic testing.



Five years ago the National Assembly of Belize approved legislation - the Petroleum Operations Maritime Zone Moratorium Act - promising to refrain from any exploration in the seas off the Belize mainland for the purpose of recovering petroleum deposits.

Belize wanted to give an assurance to the world that it would not become a polluter of our pristine Marine environment, and in doing so establish Belize as a global ocean conservation leader and a premier eco-friendly tourism destination.

Oceana Belize, under the leadership of Janelle Chanona, has worked tirelessly for this ambition to have Belize shine as a lover and protector of her extensive marine environment.

Oceana became understandably upset when it learned that the Briceño government was considering seismic surveys to determine whether Belize owned any sub-sea petroleum deposits.

Oceana concluded that the only possible reason for this curiosity would be to exploit these resources if they exist.

This is a reasonable point of view, but it is not necessarily the only point of view. Any decision Belize takes would have to be based on how much petroleum, if any, is discovered. At that juncture, a new decision would have to be made - to proceed or not to proceed.

The trouble with our world is that it is always changing. In 2017 when the PO Maritime Operations Act was passed, there was no Russia-Ukraine war and there was no petroleum famine in Europe.

Guyana, our Caribbean mainland sister country, had not become the rival of Venezuela with 15 billion barrels of underwater reserves.

If Belize, for the sake of conjecture, had one-tenth of this amount, or the hundredth part of this amount, it would become a factor influencing our resolve to keep our marine environment risk-free.

If on the other hand, it turns out that Belize is as resource-poor on the sea as we are on land, then there is good reason for us to stay with the recent policy.

But it would be unfair to the people of Belize to not try to find out where we stand. In this case, we have to agree with the Prime Minister that it is important to find out what's down there!

Once we know where we stand, the people of Belize will decide by referendum. But to ask them to do so now, without knowing what's down there, would in our view, be premature.



Duality

Dear Sir:

After all the I's have been dotted and T's crossed, will we be able to vote a resounding YES, or an angry NO?

It DEPENDS!

We Belizeans are a unique breed. Not many of us are yet BA's and MA's and Post Hole Diggers.

But if we took courses at the highest levels of Academia, the vast majority of us would be awarded A+ (A pluses) in philosophy, because COMMON SENSE thrives in the nooks and crannies everywhere in alleys, streets and avenues.

When the crisp pages of the NEW CONSTITUTION are presented to us, we will proceed to the jugular right away and rush to where we will see if the true vision and understanding of who and what MAN/WOMAN



truly is.

Is HE? Is SHE, only a collection of mixture, gathering of atoms but nothing else but ashes and dust here today but gone tomorrow in the endless, everlasting shadows of futility and nothingness?

Or is HE...

Or is SHE a glorious expression of intellect and reason, of will, of choice?

Is there an isolation and insulation of CONSCIENCE and CHOICE that set HIM and HER apart as the most glorious summit of creation?

THE NEW CONSTITUTION...will it have preserved the truth of the dual nature of man - both body and spirit.

Will the secularity of man's existence be enhanced by better laws and provisions for his/her doing and behaving???

Will his/her spirituality, be enhanced by the protection of CONSCIENCE... CONSCIENCE... CONSCIENCE?

Signed: Paul Rodriguez OBE

Authorities confirm mental health patient had violent past with police

Cont'd from pg. 1

When we checked in with the CEO of the Belize Central Prison Virgilio Murillo he confirmed that Ramos was also well known to prison officials as he had recently been released from the prison's special care building (mental health ward) in March of this year where he had served 8 months. Murillo indicated that Ramos had also served a 7-year sentence for attempted murder and was also recently granted bail for aggravated assault. "Unfortunately, he was a violent

person because even in prison he assaulted prisoners and officers whilst he was with us!" said Murillo.

During a previous interview that we had done with Yvette Quintanilla, the mental health coordinator for Belize she had explained to us that while mental health patients can be charged with a crime, the judge along with a mental health professional would decide whether the individual is fit to stand trial. If they are declared unfit to stand trial they would be referred to a forensic unit which

is a specialized unit that looks after patients who have committed crimes. The problem with that is that Belize does not have any such unit, and so if a patient is in need of medication or admission they are transported to the Acute Unit, where they are treated and stabilized before being released back into society or sent home.

The Commissioner explained that officers had responded to the scene, upon receiving complaints that a mental health patient

was seen wielding a knife in public. They had approached him in an effort to detain him, however, instead of complying with the officer's request to put down the weapon Ramos aggressively started to approach one of the officers, making stabbing motions as he proceed. The officer retreated, and fired two warning shots at Ramos's feet but when he continued advancing in an even more aggressive manner the officer fearing for his safety fired the fatal shot ending Ramos's 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 conmigo y los míos. (La persona debiera rezar esta oración 3 días seguidos sin decir el pedido. Dentro de tres días será difícil que sea. Publicar en cuando se reciba la gracia.

Gracias Espíritu Santo.

R.M.L.

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Special committee to decide Saldivar's fate by December 9th

By Michelle Sutherland

A Special Committee, consisting of seven UDP members, is expected to arrive at a final decision by December 9th, concerning John Saldivar's fate in the UDP, after he was designated to be involved in "significant corruption" by the United State's Department last week.

The timeline was confirmed by UDP's leader Moses "Shyne" Barrow at a press conference with the media earlier this week.

Barrow confirmed that the seven-member

committee was set up last week as soon as the news of Saldivar's designation was made public. Their job will be to examine, consider and decide not just on legal guilt or innocence but on a myriad of factors involved. Those involve pouring over whatever evidence they could get their hands on as Barrow has indicated that he has been in contact with the US State Department and has already requested that they share any evidence or information that they may have on Saldivar. Upon completion, Barrow promised that Saldivar would not be prevented from being

granted due process to clear his name from the allegations against him.

He explained, "Mr. Saldivar will have the opportunity to appear before the special committee on December 2nd, and, thereafter, the special committee will make a determination on this matter no later than December 9th."

Barrow agreed that the US Secretary of State's designation of Saldivar as significantly corrupt is a very serious matter and one that the UDP cannot get around. Barrow also admitted that he does not believe that the decision was

made arbitrarily but that it had undergone a rigorous process. The party leader also agreed that the collective party also needs to consider whether Saldivar's image, which has been constantly haunted by a myriad of controversies, is beneficial to the party in any way or if it is time to say final goodbyes.

"I do believe the history of the allegations could serve as a distraction and I am certainly not happy about having a potential candidate that has been dogged by allegations of corruption. It's not good for the party," said Barrow. "I'm

being truthful and I am addressing the situation in its fluid form... These accusations, these allegations that have dogged him since he was minister, since he was expelled from the cabinet, since he had to resign as party leader - if now with a designation from the Secretary of State, have we reached that point that enough is enough? That is a very valid question that I don't want to prejudice the deliberation of the special committee, but that is a question that they will have to ask themselves."

One such UDP member who is not waiting for the UDP to

make up their mind on Saldivar's fate is the UDP's former legal advisor Steve Perrera. Just minutes after he had been named as part of the committee, acting in the party's legal interest, Perrera immediately withdrew his name from the committee, explaining that he would not be part of a committee that would speak against or challenge the decision of the State Department.

Following Perrera's hasty departure, Barrow referred to his actions as unacceptable and selfish and confirmed that Perrera is no longer the party's legal advisor.

Climate Change Minister in support of seismic testing decision

By Michelle Sutherland

Minister of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management Orlando Habet has joined in the national discussion surrounding seismic testing in Belize, saying that he supports Prime Minister John Briceño's decision to test for oil wells in Belizean waters.

While Habet told *The Reporter* that he has had his personal position on seismic testing and wouldn't want to see offshore drilling, he shared, "I have always supported finding out what we really have and so seismic testing would be able to do that. If we know what we have on the surface of the ocean, and we know what we have in our

inland territory, knowing all that is advantageous for us."

Habet said that as it stands Belize currently has declared 39 percent of its territory as a protected area, while 50% of its land mass has forest cover. This, according to Habet, is a stellar example of Belize's effort to promote conservation compared to larger countries that have used and exploited its natural resources for development. Belize's effort to remain as clean and as green as possible, however, comes at a cost, Habet explained. He also lamented the fact that it is smaller developing countries such as Belize that would usually foot the brunt of climate change. It is those bigger countries, according to Habet, who should be

responsible for paying smaller countries for loss and damage.

"And so my response to it is if seismic testing would be able to tell us what we have and finding out what we have that can give us some leveraging and some compromising capacity so that we can negotiate with countries that can pay," he explained. "If they don't want to pay us in cash, we need new hospitals; we need new schools; one of the largest cost in the manufacturing sector is electricity, and so if they are willing to donate solar panels for the next 25 years, so we can build our own renewable energy then fine, that is the way I look at it."

Leader of the Opposition Moses "Shyne" Barrow, during

a press conference held earlier this week, has also gone on the record to say that he is in agreement with Briceño's decision to conduct seismic testing in Belizean waters, but only if the prime minister's explanation and reasoning behind it are true.

"The idea that he presents is reasonable and it is one that I am inclined to support and many of my colleagues in the UDP are inclined to consider seismic testing in the vein of letting us see what we have. Do we have \$100 billion worth of oil. .. Whatever it is, we can leverage that in our negotiations with the G20 and these other

entities. I believe that it is a reasonable opinion, and I would be inclined to support seismic testing for that purpose to see what it is we have so that we could get more for not engaging in offshore drilling. That is my personal view."

Last Thursday, Oceana's Vice President Janelle Chanona held a press conference to announce and launch a petition aimed at triggering a referendum for the public to decide on seismic testing. However, over the weekend, while the prime minister had confirmed that he had held a meeting with Chanona, he said, "At no time were we talking

about going behind the Belizeans' back to go and do any kind of offshore drilling."

Briceño, apart from maintaining that he has minutes of that meeting as proof of his conversation with Chanona, said that he had told her that while a seismic exercise would be conducted it would be done in Belize's exclusive economic zones and would only be done as a means of finding out what is under the ocean bed. If any oil is found, then that would be priced and then used to approach rich countries and ask for them to pay for it to remain there.

RF&G LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY LTD.

Date: November 22, 2022

Karen Carbis for Rosalind Papillon of #5908, 3rd Avenue, Belize City, Belize District, Belize C.A. having made written declaration that Policy G7535712 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.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Maria Catalina Abrego** of Independence Village, Stann Creek District is hereby applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** for **Kafun Restaurant**. Situated in **Independence Village, Stann Creek District** for the year **2023**. Under the Intoxicating Liquors Act (Revised Edition) of 2000.

NOTICE OF COMMENCED DISSOLUTION

TUAG Ltd. ("the Company")

"Notice is hereby given to all interested parties that **TUAG Ltd.** a Company incorporated under the IBC Act of Belize commenced dissolution on **21st October 2022**.

And

Mr. Jaufre Rouanet, of Office 901, Al Saqr Tower, Sheikh Zayed Road, Dubai- United Arab Emirates is the liquidator of the company.

Frontier International Business Services Limited
Registered Agent

NOTICE OF COMMENCED DISSOLUTION

Red dot Corporation ("the Company")

"Notice is hereby given to all interested parties that **Red dot Corporation** a Company incorporated under the IBC Act of Belize commenced dissolution on **21st October 2022**.

And

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

Frontier International Business Services Limited
Registered Agent

Sports Guild

World Cup 2022 Battles that make up the war

By Leon C. Guild

The world cup has kicked off with the group competitions. As usual the thirty three teams who made it through the qualifiers are split into 8 groups labeled A-H. This will leave us with sixteen teams to be pitted against each other after a single match each for in the quarter finals resulting in 8 teams making it to the semifinals.

Once again, each team plays a single match, resulting in a final four. After another single match for each team we will then be left with two teams vying for first place and two more going for third and fourth place. Third and fourth place of course, take place after the overall champion has been decided in the finals. These final teams already have enough reason for rejoicing as win or lose they are basically, in the money reward zone already.

Four years ago the World Cup was held in South Africa and France came out victorious with much scrutiny as a great majority of the team members were of African descent. I mean, in the off season bigger wealthier countries, of course, have enough money to scour the planet and purchase talent from any urban, suburb or rural nook or cranny they can find it, and it is definitely not called cheating (don't hate the player hate the game).

Though the cup is held every four years, landing the bid to host the World Cup can be a decade-long process. A country must submit a bid proposal that lists why it makes financial sense for the international soccer governing body, as well as how it will serve its goal of improving the sport's global reach. This time, however, Qatar having won the last bidding event, is hosting the giant competition on home soil. There are immense amounts of money kicking around an event like this, from ticket and merchandise sales to corporate sponsorship, prize money and tourism

let's also not forget tourism, foreign trade, jobs and the potential for new development.

But some host countries, which do not have the necessary infrastructure or stadiums to support the world's largest soccer tournament, incur huge debt loads and are left with so-called "white elephant" structures after the tournament ends. Consider Brazil: The cost of the 2014 World Cup there ballooned as the country needed to construct new roads, transit lines, stadiums and hotels. Estimates suggest that \$11.6 billion was spent on that tournament. But now, the Mane Garrincha Stadium in Brasilia, which cost almost \$1 billion to build, is being used as a bus depot. Meanwhile, protesters criticized both FIFA and local government officials, saying that funding would have been better spent on social services for people rather than on soccer stadiums.

Even as energies are escalating on the largest stage for football on the planet the career of star player Cristiano Ronaldo of Portugal who is considered the best player on the planet has come to a bitter end with dream team Manchester United. This was, however, by mutual consent following a disturbing interview between the star player Ronaldo and Piers Morgan of Talk TV where Ronaldo said he felt "betrayed" by the club and has "no respect" for manager Erik ten Hag.

His statement is that it was a decision to end the relationship was back up by United who issued its own 67-word release on evening of Tuesday 22nd November 2022 announcing they had reached a mutual agreement with the 37-year-old forward to terminate his contract. The story is trending in all media houses worldwide. But is the young player worried? I think not. As the headlines of another article is rightly suggesting 'Seven destinations for Cristiano Ronaldo after Manchester Utd contract terminated'.

But what does this all mean for the World Cup? In short, absolutely nothing. Great players come and great players go. He will now be looking for a new club to join in the January transfer window, though it is not yet known how much interest there will be in him. Ronaldo is currently playing for his home country in a different league and is not too concerned at the moment about how the recent turn of events in his career will shape out his future. One thing for certain is his fans will follow him wherever he goes and as for the largest



single sport stage on the planet, history suggests that fans will continue to tune in with hopes and aspirations of their country winning the cherished World Cup.

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.



24 November, 2022

PRESS RELEASE

Food Assistance Project

The Public Sector Workers Trust hereby announces the start of its **Food Assistance Project**. This project is aimed at providing groceries and food supplies to a maximum value of \$150.00 to all beneficiaries of the PSWT. The need for this project arose due to the fact that nearly four in every ten respondents in an ongoing PSWT online survey indicated that food/grocery items are dominant among their largest expenditure items. Moreover, there has been a steady increase in the prices of goods and services since the start of 2022. Coupled with this fact, there were two natural disasters recently which affected the country in the form of flooding caused by Hurricane Julia and the devastation caused by Hurricane Lisa, both of which affected beneficiaries.

The **Food Assistance Project** has now commenced with the signing of MOUs with supermarkets in Belize City, Cayo, Belmopan, Orange Walk and Seine Bight. These are Publics Supermarket and Bottom Dolla in Belize City, Cayo with News Flags Supermarket, Belmopan with Sunny City Supermarket, Orange Walk with People's Store and Publics Supermarket in Seine Bight.

Any PSWT beneficiary wishing to access the **Food Assistance Project** is first required to contact the PSWT office at phone numbers 223-7798/ 223-2877, via WhatsApp at 673-7798 or visit its office at #5620 Meighan Avenue to obtain the required official form. Having obtained the official form, the beneficiary then visits the supermarket of his/her choice where he/she is entitled to a total of \$150.00 worth of groceries and food items excluding alcohol and cigarette products.

This project is to be extended countrywide including the Cayes and the PSWT is in the process of negotiating with and signing MOUs with supermarkets in the other district locations.

Finally, the PSWT wishes to remind its beneficiaries countrywide the Health Project remains ongoing and a total of 18 MOUs have been signed with health service providers in all six districts. Beneficiaries who have not yet accessed the health project can do so by contacting the offices of the PSWT to start the process.

-: End: -

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

New hospitality industry standards to be implemented by CARPHA

By Britney Gordon

CARPHA launches the first ever CARICOM-approved hospitality standards to improve health, safety, and environmental quality in the region.

The new health safety and environmental sanitation (HSE) hospitality standards were developed as a part of the continued partnership between the tourism and health industries to improve quality in the regional hospitality sector.

The initiative, funded by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), includes Food Safety and Sanitation;

Energy Management; Water Treatment and Management; Sewage Treatment and Management; Solid Waste Management; Integrated Pest Management; and Environmental Management Systems.

Dr. Joy St. John, CARPHA's Executive Director, stated that these seven standards are necessary for assuring travelers about a company's commitment to health, safety and towards avoiding or mitigating health threats to the Caribbean.

Companies will be eligible to receive

CARPHA's Tourism Health Program (THP) Healthier, Safer Tourism Award after completing an assessment checklist for each standard and receiving verification from CARPHA.

In an effort to overcome the challenges presented by the pandemic, CARPHA trained 7,000 hospitality professionals in preventing and



controlling COVID-19 in the tourism sector in 2020 and 2021. Additionally, an agreement between CARPHA and

CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ) was signed earlier this year to further develop

industry standards.

Acting CTO Secretary General, Neil Walters, stressed the value of implementing these standards in order to secure the future prosperity of the sector, "I believe we are laying the foundation for a more sustainable, world-class, regional tourism sector as this very important sector moves forward in its recovery."

UNICEF plans launch child-focused climate program

By Britney Gordon

UNICEF is launching a new climate financing initiative with a focus

on protecting children from the impacts of future climate-related disasters and enhancing countries' climate



resilience and disaster preparedness.

The initiative, currently titled 'Today and Tomorrow', is an integrated climate change finance strategy that plans to combine the funding for immediate climate resilience and risk prevention programs aimed towards children with innovative use of risk transfer finance provided by the insurance market for cyclone disasters tomorrow.

For the first time, these programs have been combined in order to assist countries with addressing the devastating impacts of the climate crisis while simultaneously preparing the youth for future emergencies and rapidly responding to them when they occur.

UNICEF intends to center the program around children and youth as they remain one of the most critically vulnerable population groups affected by disaster risk and climate change. According to UNICEF's Children's Climate Risk Index calculated last year, about 400 million children are currently highly exposed to cyclones.

UNICEF's Today and Tomorrow program plans to focus on eight countries in four

global cyclone basins-Bangladesh, Comoros, Haiti, Fiji, Madagascar, Mozambique, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu in its initial three-year pilot. In order to move forward with the initiative and expand the overall reach, UNICEF is raising \$30 million calling for additional private and public partners to assist in closing the "intensifying humanitarian financing gap for disaster protection for children and youth."

The program has already garnered support from German and UK governments under the newly launched G7-V20 Global Shield against Climate Risks. "We strongly support bringing pre-arranged and trigger-based financing to the humanitarian sector, and I'm delighted that the Facility will expand its work as part of the Shield, including this new grant to UNICEF to enable them to protect up to 15 million children, young people and their families across Africa, the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific and respond rapidly if tropical cyclones hit," stated Rt. Hon. Andrew Mitchell, Minister of State in the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office.

What *if* I get seriously ill?

What *if* I'm the 1 in 3 with cancer?

What *if* it ruined more than my health?

What *if* it ruined my financial stability?

What *if*?

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Renewable energy expected to bring 400,000 jobs to the Caribbean



CARICOM Sec. Gen. Dr. Carla Barnett

By Britney Gordon

CARICOM member states have committed to a target of 47 percent electricity generation from renewable energy by 2027 and predict that huge economic benefits are to be reaped from the transition.

Recently, at the Caribbean Investment Forum (CIF), a case was made on the abundance of opportunities that would arise in the Caribbean should the region make the transition to renewable energy usage.

CARICOM Secretary-General, Dr. Carla Barnett, expressed the importance of tackling the climate crisis issues in vulnerable nations in the Caribbean that remain economically threatened. "To combat it we are required to build environmental and economic resilience urgently."

She explained that building a robust renewable energy sector would present opportunities for economic transformation. According to Barnett, the transition would

liberate the region from energy dependency; lessen its exposure to

energy price shocks; create fiscal space, lessening the burden on countries' foreign exchange reserves; provide new and more flexible energy to commercial and industrial consumers; provide new avenues for investors to receive stable returns on infrastructure development; and create new energy services companies.

She predicts that in the process of fostering these goals, new employment opportunities would be cultivated. Caribbean Export Executive Director Deodat Maharaj, reiterated this sentiment, stating, "...the transition has the potential to spur economic growth by lowering the marginal cost of energy for the private sector as well as lowering overall energy intensity."

He also noted that a 2020 report jointly published by the International Labour Organization and the Inter-American Development Bank, "estimated that a green economy transition will help create approximately 400,000 jobs, a big boost to our economies."

Additionally, the International Renewable Energy Agency estimated

that for every US dollar invested in energy transition, an additional US93 cents of GDP growth will occur above the business-as-usual scenario in the region.

After questions as to how this transition will be financed arose, a Renewable Energy Roundtable was held at Caribbean Investment Forum, entitled 'Energy transition: Making renewables attractive for private sector investment' on November 11. It was organized by the Caribbean Export

Development Agency (Caribbean Export) in collaboration with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, CARICOM, the Caribbean Development Bank, and the Caribbean Association

of Investment Promotion Agencies with the support of the European Union.

Vernon Paltoo, President at National Energy Corporation T & T (NEC), emphasized that populations needed

to understand that energy transition was needed "to ensure continuity of life as we know it," stressing that education was critical, from early childhood to university, to achieve this.

Equus Holdings Business Ltd.

(In Voluntary Liquidation)

Company No. (1668904)

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 204, subsection (1)(b) of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that the Company is in voluntary liquidation. The voluntary liquidation commenced on **17th November, 2022**. The Liquidator is **Raphael Baumann of Talstrasse 83, 8001 Zurich, Switzerland**.

Dated 17th November, 2022

(Sgd.) **Raphael Baumann**
Voluntary Liquidator



CENTRAL BANK
of BELIZE



CAREER OPPORTUNITY

SYSTEMS ANALYST

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

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

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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

The applicant should possess the following:

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

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

TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE

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

COMPETENCIES

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

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

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

Applications should be addressed to:

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

Ref: Systems Analyst – Information Technology Department

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

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**FAMILY
VIOLENCE**

IT'S NOT OK

Belize fishermen need new markets

By William Ysaguirre

Belizean fishermen need to find new export markets in Europe and the Middle East, and to diversify into value added products such as canned conch soup, lobster soup and fish stock, recommends consultant David Signa of the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Signa was speaking to fishermen at a consultation to validate a value chain assessment for sustainable fisheries, at the Best Western Biltmore Plaza Hotel in Belize City on Wednesday morning, November 23.

Signa's recommendation came from a review

of the value chain from producer to buyer for lobster, conch and finned fish; as he has spent the last three months in public consultations with fishermen in coastal communities in Caye Caulker, Dangriga, Placencia and Belize City. This study was part of the "Enhancing adaptation planning and increasing climate resilience in the coastal zone and fisheries sector of Belize" project funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF), which the Ministry of Blue Economy and Civil Aviation implemented in partnership with the FAO.

Reviewing the way lobster is marketed in Belize and abroad,



Fisheries value-chain validation stakeholders

and the present export price of Bze\$30.00 per pound (USD\$12.00/lb) which Belizean lobster tails fetch in the United

States, Signa suggested that fishermen would be well served to export to Europe, noting that imported Canadian lobster sells for USD\$60/lb in Italy. He also recommended that they export whole lobster, even live lobster, as the market is very profitable. He lamented that overfishing had depleted domestic lobster stocks in Italy, until there is no longer any Italian lobster catch.

The stumbling block in the past for Belize to export to the European Union has been complying with the EU phytosanitary regulations. The EU requires that all seafood imports must have been processed in all stainless steel facilities, which can be steam-cleaned to meet the highest hygiene and HACCP standards, to be verified by the Belize Agricultural Health Authority. The EU also stipulates that the fishing grounds where the marine products are harvested must also meet certain health standards, and this requires that all fishing vessels must have onboard toilets. But the capital investment to make these would be well worthwhile, as Belizean fisheries exports would then earn up to triple the value they currently get in U.S. markets.

Signa also considered how waste is handled and suggested that significant income could be earned from byproducts. In the case of lobster, producers primarily sell the tails, and they extract the meat from the claws and antennae. But there is also meat in the head, and even the chest of the lobster could be boiled to make a stew,

which could be canned for export. Fishermen presently discard the shells or carapace, which he suggested could be processed into fertilizer, with the objective to use every part of the catch, with no waste.

He recommended that the coops start an incentive system to reward fishermen who land high quality, fresh lobster, as the quality of the meat deteriorates when the meat is not properly preserved on ice, such as happens when the fisher's ice melts after a week at sea. In other countries, buyers pay a premium price based on the firmness and quality of the meat.

Considering conch fisheries, he suggested that while the cooperatives export cleaned or market-ready conch, it would profit the fishers to invest in the equipment to make value-added products, such as canned conch soup, which has a much longer shelf life without refrigeration for export and the local markets. Conch balls or fritters could be made from the trimmings, and the remaining waste could be processed into fertilizer.

Even the shells have a use. Visitors presently encounter obstacles such as need for proper documents indicating full compliance with the UN Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), when they seek to take local conch jewelry back home. Signa recommended that the proper procedures be put in place to make it easier for visitors to get CITES certification of their conch jewelry, so that local artisans could

maximize the use of conch shells to make mother of pearl necklaces and other souvenirs that are authentically Belizean.

Even finned fish, for which Belizean fishermen do not have an export market, could be better marketed. He suggested value-added products such as breaded fish fillets, smoked fish, fish burgers from the fillet trimmings, and canned fish soup or fish stock from boiling the fish heads and bones. Again the object is to minimize waste and to use every part of the fish, such as the colorful jewelry made from Lionfish spines; tourists like such handicrafts which have a story.

The stainless steel processing plant, the canneries and upgraded fishing boats would all require a capital investment, but would allow fishermen to double or triple their earnings, without increasing their catch, without overfishing. The long term goal is to fish sustainably and preserve fish stocks for the future.

The objective of the to take stock of the sustainable fish value chain for priority fish species, to identify sustainable fishing practices and technologies through stakeholder and community consultation. Identify the root causes and barriers hindering the adaptation of sustainable fishing practices and the development, deployment and diffusion of priority fishing technologies and to develop a sustainable fisheries practices and technology handbook.



VACANCY NOTICE

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

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

Organization Background:

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

Position Summary:

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

Key Position Responsibilities:

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

Minimal Requirements:

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

The position is permanent, the selected candidate will be required to work at an **Orange Walk** location on a daily basis

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

Closing Date: 12th December 2022

GOB 'Laiting Up' Belize

By William Ysaguirre

Belizeans' access to energy is key to their economic development, and the Ministry of Public Utilities, Energy, Logistics and E-governance (MPUELE) is extending electricity service to more remote rural communities through the Lait UP Belize project.

Affordable and reliable access to clean, sustainable energy is a key factor to human well-being, as recognized by Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7, Minister of Energy Hon. Michel Chebat acknowledged at an energy access seminar at the Best Western Biltmore Plaza Hotel in Belize City on Wednesday, November 23. The ministry's Energy Unit hosted the seminar to celebrate CARICOM Energy Month. The World population has grown to 8 billion, but the International Energy Agency Commission reports that 770 million people still live without access to electricity, and in Belize, 8 percent of the population or 30,000 citizens in 35 villages still do not have electricity.

The Government of Belize is working to connect more rural communities by building mini-grids with the Lait up Belize project. Energy consultant Devon Gardner PhD of the Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CCREEE) announced that access is coming soon to the village of Otoxha, Toledo District near the Guatemala border. There, 80 households will soon have access to a peak supply of 120 kilowatts of electricity, with 600 kilowatts of battery storage. The project has built a minigrid with poles, conductors, transformers,

cables, safe wiring to the houses and Smart meters for pre-paid access to energy. Customers pay for electricity in advance, so they will only have access to the energy they have paid for, just like a prepaid cell phone. The grid also provides some street lighting for security. Gardner noted that access to power goes hand in hand with a clean water system, as it also often offers the opportunity to deliver safe, potable water to a community, by a rudimentary water system that can pump clean water into their houses.

The aim is to make energy affordable, as energy cost should not exceed 5 percent of household income, Gardner said. Energy access also gives customers access to its uses for lighting, refrigeration, heat, information technology – computers for education and online access to e-government services, television for entertainment, etc.

Employing locals to help build the system also created jobs and gave them a sense of ownership of the system, noted Deon Kelly of the Energy Unit as he described the lessons learnt from building the pilot project in La Gracia Village.

The Statistics Institute of Belize is also taking stock of Belizeans' energy access by monitoring about 270 indicators, for accurate information to help decide policy, Israel Zambrano of the SIB explained. The European Union funded this initiative under the 11th European Development Fund agreement with the Government of Belize. The aim is to develop an institutionalized Energy Access indicator to guide energy planning for all interested parties.



Minister of Public Utilities, Energy Hon Michel Chebat

Energy access also helps to reduce poverty, as having access to power

creates new jobs, new economic opportunities with new industrial

uses, attested Norwell Hinds of the University of Guyana. Shevon

Wood of the Guyana Energy Agency also shared the Guyanese experience of piloting energy projects in unserved rural communities, with the issue of free prior and informed consent for indigenous communities.

Jeans Jaeger of the Alliance of Rural Electrification in Brussels also presented the global perspective on building renewable energy systems, as the association has 200 member agencies in 55 countries, mostly in the South: in Africa, Asia and South America.



MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

AND
HOUSING



GENERAL NOTICE

REGISTRATION OF CONTRACTORS

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

This notice aims to attract contractors from the following discipline:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

History-changing deal to compensate poor countries secured at COP27

By Britney Gordon

World leaders struck a historic “loss and damage” agreement at COP27, which will hold rich countries accountable financially for the climate-related damages done to vulnerable countries globally.

The agreement, which has been in negotiation for three decades, finally materialized with nearly 200 nations agreeing to establish the new fund for donors to contribute to climate change



CENTRAL BANK
of BELIZE



CAREER OPPORTUNITY

STRATEGY and ENTERPRISE RISK ANALYST

The Central Bank invites qualified individuals to join its Office of Strategy Management.

The Strategy and Enterprise Risk Analyst will assist the Manager, Office of Strategy Management (OSM), in coordinating strategy management and enterprise risk management (ERM) activities. The Strategy and Enterprise Risk Analyst will support the annual strategy re-fresh exercise, monitor, assess, and report on the execution of Central Bank's approved strategic programme, and support the planning, organizing, and executing of the ERM framework.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

- To support the Manager, OSM, in the annual review of Central Bank's strategy**
 - Collects and analyses the historical performance-against-targets data
 - Documents the proceeding and outcomes of the strategy review exercise
 - Assists in designing and implementing the required measurement and reporting systems
- To monitor and assess the timely execution of Central Bank's strategy and strategic programmes**
 - Reviews action/project plans for Central Bank's strategic programmes
 - Liaises with management to determine causes and corrective actions for operational and programme performance variances
 - Reports on progress of strategic programme execution and overall strategy execution
- To assist the Manager, OSM, in managing ERM activities**
 - Assists in maintaining and operating Central Bank's ERM framework in accordance with leading practices
 - Prepares materials to communicate ERM requirements to all divisions and departments
 - Assists in prioritizing and integrating functional plans into overall ERM plan for the Central Bank
 - Assesses and reports on the adequacy of ERM Plans, including Business Continuity Plans and Disaster Preparedness Plans
 - Periodically assesses and reports on enterprise-wide compliance with ERM framework, including Business Continuity Plans and Disaster Preparedness Plans

The applicants should possess the following:

Education and Experience

- A Master's Degree in Business Administration, Management, or a related field from a recognized university with three (3) years relevant experience, or
- A minimum of a bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Management, or a related field from a recognized university with at least six (6) years' relevant experience.

Technical Knowledge

- Knowledge of the Central Bank of Belize Act and other banking legislation; Knowledge of strategy management and the balance scorecard; Ability to engage with stakeholders to gather various types of performance measures and targets; Knowledge of ISO 31000:2018 and ability to define and apply risk prioritization and develop, implement, and maintain benchmark standards or scoring; Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite.

Competencies

- Strong Communication Skills; Results Orientation; Initiative; Thoroughness; Analytical and Critical Thinking; Managing Change; Performance Management; Building Collaborative Relationships; Strategic Thinking; Personal Credibility/Integrity.

Submit the following documents by **Wednesday, 7 December 2022**:

- CBB Employment Application Form (available online)
- Curriculum Vitae
- Three (3) current references (one must be from a previous employer)
- Certified copies of university transcripts, degrees, and any other personal certificates

Applications should be addressed to:

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

Ref: Strategy & Risk Enterprise Analyst – Office of Strategy Management

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

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

relief. It also included a recommitment to the pledge made in 2019 to keep the 1.5°C target for global temperature rise.

Discussions of the agreement will proceed next year at the COP28 climate summit in November 2023 where a “transitional committee” will make recommendations for countries. The agenda for the summit includes topics such as “identifying and expanding sources of funding”, which will seek to answer the question of which countries should pay into the new “loss and damage” fund.

As per the agreement, funding is to be drawn from contributions from developed countries and other private and public sources such as international financial institutions. Financial pledges were made for loss and damage from multiple countries during the summit, including from Austria, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, and New Zealand, joining Denmark and Scotland, which had made pledges previously.

Major emerging economies such as China would not initially be required to contribute to the fund as they are currently classified as developing countries. Regardless,

arguments from the European Union and the United States stressed that countries such as China are not only large polluters, but are capable of contributing financially to the fund.

The “loss and damage” fund was fought by developing nations to be excluded from the agenda, but countries such as Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean and South Pacific were relentless in their pressure campaign. These affected nations argued that while they had little part in contributing to the crisis, they have suffered more greatly than any of the leading polluters.

Despite the triumph of securing the deal, disappointment rang amongst some attendees that no further commitments on phasing out fossil fuels and cutting greenhouse gas emissions were included in the summit's overarching agreements such as the UN Secretary General António Guterres who said it did not address the need for drastic reductions. According to Guterres, the planet is still “in the emergency room”. Although nations pledged to strive towards a 1.5°C global temperature rise, experts say current policies set us on track for a rise of about 2.7°C.

DG Okonjo-Iweala: "We need multilateral cooperation and solidarity more than ever"

In a lecture delivered to the Lowy Institute in Sydney, Australia, on 22 November, Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala warned that the multilateral trading system was under growing threat from fragmentation and decoupling, which "would not just be economically costly: it would leave all countries more vulnerable to the global commons problems that now represent some of the biggest threats to our lives and livelihoods." The text of her lecture is below.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

It's really an immense pleasure and honour to join you this evening. Thank you to Steven Lowy, Michael Fullilove and the Lowy Institute. Thank you to the Australian government and all those who were instrumental in bringing me to Australia this time. And thank you for inviting me to deliver this year's lecture.

Of course I feel no pressure whatsoever knowing this is the most important lecture in Australia. Everywhere I went, people said "oh you're going to give the Lowy Lecture!" So that just ratcheted up the pressure, let's see how we'll do.

Earlier today I was in Canberra, where I had a series of very productive meetings with Prime Minister Albanese and members of his cabinet, including Trade Minister Don Farrell and Foreign Minister Penny Wong and Treasurer Jim Chalmers. I also met Simon Birmingham.

I was grateful to hear them emphasize Australia's enduring commitment to a strong and effective World Trade Organization, and to our ongoing reform efforts.

Their words very much echo what I heard in Fiji just a few days ago, when I met with Pacific Island trade ministers. And before that, what I heard from leaders at the G 20.

At the same time that there is this showing of support to the WTO, I hear concerns about the future of the global trading system in light of rising geopolitical tensions - not least the tensions between Australia's two biggest trading partners, China and the United States, and of course tensions between Australia and China itself. A week ago, Minister Farrell set out many of these concerns - and reiterated Australia's commitment to a strong, rules-based multilateral trading system - in an important speech ahead of the recent APEC summit in Bangkok.

These risks to the trading system - and the imperative to find a cooperative, multilateral path forward - will be at the centre of my remarks this evening.

But first I want to also thank Ambassador George Mina, Australia's permanent representative to the WTO, along with his team in Geneva, for everything they did to help me prepare for my visit. George is one of the hardest working ambassadors we have at the WTO. And he is making sure we keep our noses to the grindstone during this Australian visit - I've had meetings in three different cities in the past 24 hours.

A few weeks ago, Ambassador Mina sent me an ABC radio interview to help me get a better sense of the current trade debate here. Jeffrey Wilson, director of research and economics at the Australian Industry Group, described the critical role trade had played in this country's prosperity and the remarkable run of growth that came after liberalizing reforms in the 1970s and 80s. At least until recently, he said, Australian businesses could just assume they'd be able to sell their goods and services into other markets, or source from overseas. The GATT/WTO system had been so effective that governments and market actors took the open global economy for granted, like water.

One important lesson I learned as a child in my village in Nigeria, during daily trips to the stream, is that water is something we cannot - and should not - take for granted.

The same is true for the multilateral trading system which for varying reasons is getting its fair share of knocks these days. But I hope to persuade you this evening that we are in danger of throwing the baby out with the bathwater. Instead of addressing specific and often reasonable concerns about exclusion, unfairness, and fragility, we run the risk of stepping away from a shared system of rules and norms that has served the world well for 75 years.

Over the next fifteen or so minutes, I will look back at why that system was created in the first place, what it has achieved, and what it continues to deliver for people



WTO Director General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala

around the world. I will argue that history suggests fracturing economic ties is more likely to heighten geopolitical tensions than to soothe them.

I will make the case that fragmentation and decoupling of the Multilateral Trading System would not just be economically costly: it would leave all countries more vulnerable to the global commons problems that now represent some of the biggest threats to our lives and livelihoods.

As the world navigates the polycrisis - climate change, pandemic, the war in Ukraine, economic slowdown, inflation, food insecurity, monetary tightening and debt distress - we need multilateral cooperation and solidarity more than ever.

Finally, I will offer an alternative vision for the future of trade. Interdependence without overdependence. Deeper, more diversified, and deconcentrated international markets - or what we at the WTO are calling re-globalization. And I hope you leave this room with this word firmly in your head, re-globalization, not de-globalization.

If governments are willing to use trade constructively to solve problems rather than amplify them, the WTO can help foster not just supply resilience amid ever more frequent exogenous shocks, but also geopolitical resilience.

I want to start my case by putting a few facts on the table.

For all the talk about the end of globalization, about re-shoring and friend-shoring, trusted trade, the data show that global merchandise trade volumes are at record highs, and have been since early 2021.

In value terms for exports and imports, Australian merchandise trade was higher last year than ever before.

Also at record highs in 2021: two-way trade between the United States and China, worth US\$693 billion; between China and the European Union, at US\$818 billion, with both exports and imports at record levels.

In the first half of this year, global services trade surpassed pre-pandemic levels, with strong growth in transport and digitally delivered services more than offsetting continuing weakness in travel.

These trade flows are the products of millions of choices by businesses and households. It is hard to overstate how disruptive it would be to try to undo those choices.

Nevertheless, it is an inescapable reality that with the end of our post-Cold War holiday from history - apologies to Francis Fukuyama - trade has emerged as an arena for geopolitical rivalry. Over the past decade, governments have in several instances, unfortunately, weaponized trade and economic interdependence as a way of handling big and small power rivalries and disagreements.

In Australia today you are living this reality in your region. Weaponization of trade is problematic, not least because it creates some challenges for the rules based

multilateral trading system, but also because it could slide down the slippery slope beyond a few targeted products or sectors to wider economic disruptions.

And of course, when viewed as economic coercion it could become a tit for tat exercise, with the possibility of slipping out of control, leading to broader and more painful repercussions - economic, political and social.

Ladies and gentlemen, we would be naïve to rule out the possibility that our era could meet the same end an earlier episode of power shifts and global integration did in 1914: with fear and mistrust giving way to strategic miscalculation, misjudgement, aggression, and, ultimately, a world war. This time with nuclear weapons.

Historians have likened our predecessors from a century ago to sleepwalkers who blundered into a catastrophe no one truly wanted. We must make better choices.

The years from 1914 to 1945 provide the modern world's principal experience with deglobalization. The global trade to GDP ratio fell from 29% in 1913 to 10% in 1945. Far from ushering in domestic prosperity and international harmony, this period was bookended by the two World Wars, and marred by the Great Depression, a protectionist breakdown into isolated trade blocs, and political extremism.

It is instructive that during each of the two horrific conflicts, people turned to trade as part of their vision for lasting postwar peace and order.

In 1918, "Equality of trade conditions" was one of Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points proposed as a basis for peace negotiations to end World War One.

In 1941, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Winston Churchill issued the Atlantic Charter calling for, "the enjoyment by all States, great or small, victor or vanquished, of access, on equal terms, to the trade and to the raw materials of the world which are needed for their economic prosperity."

The political and economic disasters of the 1920s and 30s profoundly shaped the multilateral trading system created after the Second World War.

The 23 governments that signed the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade in October 1947 - Australia among them - were seeking to foster peace and prosperity through trade and interdependence.

After delivering several rounds of trade liberalization and new rules, the GATT transformed into the WTO in 1995. Membership steadily rose to the current 164 members, with another 24 countries working towards accession.

While the GATT/WTO system has certainly not been perfect - and I will come back to that - it can hardly be described as a failure.

It steadily unwound protectionist barriers and gave rise to a more open and predictable world economy.

Businesses had the confidence to invest in export-oriented production.

Average applied tariffs fell from 50% in the 1930s to single digits today.

Global trade boomed, bringing with it higher productivity, greater competition, lower prices, and improved living standards.

Most fundamentally, the past 75 years of increasing interdependence were marked by the absence of war among great powers - and it is this historically rare 'long peace' that now looks increasingly fragile.

The multilateral trading system has delivered major gains for people around the world.

As large developing economies like China embraced market-oriented reforms and started tapping into world markets, growth accelerated, lifting over a billion people out of poverty. Close to 40% of the world population lived in extreme poverty in 1980. By 2019, it was less than 10%, before the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine, and increased climate impacts began to derail this progress.

Businesses and households in advanced economies gained as well, in choice and purchasing power.

According to a joint report by the WTO, the World Bank, and the IMF, trade has cut the price of the household consumption basket by two-thirds for low-income families in advanced economies - and by one-quarter for high-income families, which tend to consume

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DG Okonjo-Iweala: "We need multilateral cooperation and solidarity more than ever"

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more non-traded goods and services.

Open global markets allowed Australia to ride shifting economic tides.

In 1963, the UK was Australia's biggest export market for merchandise and by far its largest source of imports.

By 1970, Japan, then in the midst of its economic miracle, had become Australia's top export destination. The US had become the leading source of imports. Both countries would occupy these spots for decades, until being replaced in the 2000s by China.

The composition of Australia's export basket shifted as it grew, with wool and other farm products now far surpassed by minerals and metals and the share of manufactured exports and machinery significantly lower than in the 1970's.

Global markets continue to deliver in other ways as well.

Consider the experience with COVID-19. Most people remember the medical supply shortages and export bans early on. Frequently overlooked is that cross-border supply chains subsequently became an engine for manufacturing and distributing masks, personal protective equipment, and later, vaccines. COVID-19 vaccines are made in supply chains cutting across as many as 19 countries. Trying to scale up production within purely national supply chains would have left all countries worse off: production volumes would have been lower, and costs higher.

Trade is critical for access to food, particularly in countries with insufficient water and arable land. One in five calories consumed around the world is traded across borders, according to the FAO and the OECD, and this share has been rising. At this time of rising food and energy prices, trade plays an important role in accessibility and affordability. Put it this way: the recent opening of the Ukraine Black Sea Grain Corridor, and the way it brought prices down, shows us that situations can be more often than not worse without trade.

Trade is also an essential part of a just and ambitious response to climate change, since it is vital for diffusing green technology, cutting the cost of getting to net zero, and helping countries mitigate and adapt. I encourage you to check out our new flagship World Trade Report, which is on trade and climate and which we launched at COP27 in Sharm El Sheikh earlier this month. One finding is that 40% of the decline in the cost of solar panel systems over the past thirty years is attributable to scale economies made possible in part by international trade and value chains.

In sum, trade delivered, the GATT and the WTO delivered. The Dartmouth economic historian Doug Irwin recently said that if we allow the multilateral trading system disintegrate or to erode, we might find that we miss it very much.

Having said all this, we also need to look at the problems with how the trading system has been working.

There are challenges of socioeconomic exclusion. Many poor countries, and poor and lower-middle-class people in rich countries, have not shared enough in the gains from trade.

There are practical problems: the pandemic and the war in Ukraine pointed to genuine vulnerabilities in supply chains. Shortages and disruptions exposed the risks of excessive concentration in the production of things like pharmaceuticals, semiconductors, and some industrial inputs.

There are gaps in the global trade rulebook. For instance, several members of the WTO feel that existing WTO subsidy rules do not adequately constrain certain kinds of state support, allowing China in particular, in their view, to benefit unfairly. Many western governments have also now introduced new industrial policy and subsidy schemes to encourage semiconductor or other critical types of products. Such subsidy schemes have to be approached with care as we do not want to have destructive competitive subsidization. Poorer countries cannot afford to play this game.

Another example of a gap is that in the year 2022, we still don't have a set of global rules for digital trade, at a time when such trade is growing in leaps and bounds,

encouraged by the pandemic-driven shift online.

An additional challenge (which is not a problem per se), is the geopolitical implications of the trade-enabled convergence between rich and emerging economies.

Most consequentially, China has - after a gap of about two hundred years - returned to global economic prominence.

When China joined the WTO in 2001, it accounted for 3.9% of global GDP in current dollar terms, compared to 31.3% for the US. By 2022, China's share had risen to 18% of global GDP, compared to 24.7% for the US.

In 2001, China's per capita income, in purchasing power parity terms, was \$3200 - about one-twelfth the \$37,000 of the US. By 2021, China's per capita income was over \$19,000 - well below the \$69,000 figure in the US, but now only three-and-a-half times lower).

China's share of world merchandise exports rose from 4.3% in 2001 to 15.1% in 2021. Over that period, the US's share declined from 11.8% to 7.9%.

Rapid shifts in the balance of economic and political power can be destabilizing.

In fact, the Harvard political scientist Graham Allison documents that rivalry between a rising power and an established one has resulted in a violent clash more often than not. He warns that China and the US risk following this pattern into 'Thucydides' trap' - a reference to the ancient historian's observation that "the growth of Athenian power and the fear that this caused in Sparta" led to the war that devastated classical Greece's leading city-states 2500 years ago.

Kevin Rudd shares this concern. He fears a new Cold War could trigger a hot one, and is calling instead for "managed strategic competition."

Going further, I would say that clear-headed recognition that we need global cooperation to solve certain problems of the global commons like pandemic disease and climate change should lead us to a model of co-existence that accommodates strategic cooperation alongside strategic competition.

In the face of these challenges, one response currently gaining currency is re-shoring, friend-shoring - the idea that you can relocate supply chains at home or to friendly countries that share your values.

On the surface, this makes sense in light of the supply chain vulnerabilities now evident, and some relocation of investment in highly sensitive sectors is likely inevitable - we must recognize that. The issue is one of balance, as we all know that subsidizing one industry or sector to relocate in a particular area on the basis of its priority or criticality is a slippery slope. Trading and investing only with friends could lead to fragmentation. And wider fragmentation would be economically costly for all economies.

Looking at one key sector, semiconductors, Boston Consulting Group estimates that achieving full-scale self-sufficiency by region would require \$1 trillion in upfront investment and result in chips that cost 35% to 65% more.

WTO economists estimate that if the global economy decouples into two self-contained blocs, long-term global GDP would decrease by at least 5% - worse than the damage from the financial crisis in 2008-09. The IMF has furthered this work, and its modelling shows growth prospects for developing economies under that scenario would darken, with some facing double-digit welfare losses. This would enhance socioeconomic exclusion and political anger, not soothe it.

Large-scale reshoring could end up defeating its own purpose by making supply security worse instead of better. Locally concentrated supply chains would be more exposed to localized shocks, which are becoming more frequent with extreme weather events.

Politically speaking, policy-induced decoupling designed to build resilience and security could end up feeling like an own goal. Taken too far, it could be dangerous for coordination around basic security interests, and unlikely to foster the kinds of international cooperation we need for effective collective action on global commons problems like climate change, pandemics, or sovereign debt distress.

There is also the important reality that many countries don't want to have to choose between two blocs. Maybe for Australia as a strong middle power it is different, but

for the Pacific island countries, I am sure it is not.

In a recent speech, Singapore's Foreign Minister, Vivian Balakrishnan, said ASEAN Member States want to maintain good relations with the US and China, and called for them to have overlapping circles of friends. "We tell both the Americans and the Chinese do not make us choose," he said. "We will refuse to choose."

I know Minister Balakrishnan's view is widely shared among many poor and developing countries. Even for rich ones like Australia, I guess there must be times you wonder about this.

So let me outline an alternative path for the future of trade: Re-globalization. Deeper and more diversified markets would enhance supply resilience in a world of more frequent exogenous shocks. Reduced concentration in sourcing would make trade harder to weaponize.

We should acknowledge there are tradeoffs - we would lose some of the efficiency gains that come with scale and agglomeration, but we would gain in terms of resilience and adaptability.

To some extent, this would simply extend trends we are already seeing. Firms are already moving to diversify risks by adding sourcing and investment locations. We see evidence that source market concentration is diminishing, even for products like rare earths.

By taking these dynamics further - by bringing countries with good macro environments in Africa, Asia, and Latin America from the margins of global production networks to the mainstream - we can make trade more resilient whilst bolstering growth and poverty reduction. In other words, we can kill many birds with one stone.

So what I am saying? I'm saying let businesses manage risks and diversify in a sensible manner, but if governments seek to intervene, to encourage this through subsidies or other incentives, then push for a broader, wider diversification to many more geographies, wherever the investment environment is appropriate. This would contribute to the re-globalization which we seek.

Ladies and gentlemen, we can tackle the challenges facing the multilateral trading system head-on. We can address level playing field issues at the WTO, encouraging transparency and mitigating negative spillovers. We can foster greater inclusion by agreeing on new rules for digital trade enabling more women and micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises to tap into international markets. We can leverage trade in service of building greener economies and creating better jobs. In short, we can tackle the shortcomings that seem to weaken the multilateral trading system.

This might sound like a tall order. But WTO members proved at our Twelfth Ministerial Conference this past June that they can work across geopolitical differences and deliver results. All 164 members - Russia and Ukraine, China, the US, Japan, Brazil, Australia, everyone - signed on to the agreements we reached, some of them legally binding. And there was one particular one on curbing harmful fisheries subsidies, and responding to the pandemic and the food security crisis, which they all signed on.

We need to keep building on these successes. As my friend and co-author former Prime Minister Julia Gillard said in another context, "reform is never easy - but reform is right." We need to ensure the WTO reforms and continues to provide a framework for peaceful, competitive economic engagement for all members.

Strategic competition is a reality. But like I said earlier, we can - we must - have strategic cooperation alongside it. Engagement at institutions like the WTO can help build confidence, even trust, managing the multiple tensions of today and the challenges of tomorrow.

The world has changed a lot in the past 75 years, but we can still make trade a force for peace in the 21st century, as it was in the second half of the 20th.

I'm sure you're all getting hungry, so let me close with something Martin Luther King said that's just as relevant today as it was in 1964: "We must learn to live together as brothers - or perish together as fools." Brotherhood might be a lot to hope for today. But cooperating on trade, not retreating from it, can help us learn to live together.

Thank you.

Major crimes up 18%

By Michelle Sutherland

Major crimes are up 18 percent relative to last year, recent data from the Belize Crime Observatory (BCO) informs.

According to the BCO's "Crimes Comparative" released last month, there are a total of 882 major crimes reported. Last year's figure for the first ten months of the year was 746.

That data shows that

crime is up in all major crimes categories, except murder, which has decreased by seven percent with 93 murders recorded up to October 2022. That same period last year had already recorded 100 homicides.

Percentage wise, the largest increase was for rape, which climbed to 19 from last year's eleven, a 73 percent jump. However, in absolute terms, the number of burglaries,

reported at 482 between January and October 2022, represents a 21 percent increase over 2021.

On the law enforcement side, it is noteworthy that the BCO data also indicates that arrests are up 34 percent. Arrests for Murders are up nine percent, arrests for burglaries are up 34 percent, and arrests for theft are up 175 percent (22 this year relative to last year's eight).

ITEM	October		Total	
	2021	2022	2021	2022
CRIMES				
Murder	9	7	100	93
Rape	1	3	11	19
Robbery	12	25	139	150
Burglary	43	64	397	482
Theft	4	9	62	83
Unlawful S.Int.	2	6	37	55
Total	71	114	746	882

Inflation pushing local hotels' rates



Tourist arriving via the Philip Goldson International Airport

By Michelle Sutherland

Stakeholders in the tourism industry say that they are feeling the effects of inflation locally and are currently considering an increase in the price of their goods and services as a means of surviving the tough times.

Belize Hotel Association (BHA)'s Past President Alino Saldivar told The Reporter that members have been expressing their concerns about the ever-changing prices of products that they utilize in their restaurants such as cooking oil, flour, wines, butane, and fuel. This, according to her, is causing stakeholders to consider an increase, as they must constantly be conducting costing exercises to determine what their profit margins are with the current inflation.

President of the Belize Tourism Industry Association (BTIA) Stewart Krohn also told The Reporter, "Like any other industry, our pricing will reflect the cost of our inputs. So, when the price of our inputs is raised that must be reflected in the prices we charge. The problem for hotels and tour operators is that because our clients make reservations well in advance, we set our prices a year or more in advance and must honor those prices. So yes, the industry is raising prices for the future but it is taking a hit now having to honor prices set long ago. Note that the recent BTB fuel subsidy for tour operators was helpful but ended in October."

Minister of Tourism and Diaspora Relations, Anthony Mahler also

confirmed with The Reporter that average daily rates have shot up considerably within the past few months. He said that this is noted in tax revenues suggesting that some hotels have already gone ahead and increased their prices as many others in varying sectors have done.

"I have advised them about pricing ourselves out of the market. But it is a global thing. If inputs go up, so does the cost of goods and services," said Mahler.

While that is the Minister's advice, Krohn said that visitors understand the stakeholders' plight as they too are paying the highest airfares ever. Krohn said that because the effects of inflation are currently being felt worldwide and are not only confined to Belize, Belize is not at a disadvantage.

Africa's Growing Crypto Market Needs Better Regulations

Habtamu Fuje, Saad Quayyum, Tebo Molosiwa

The collapse of the world's third largest crypto exchange FTX, and subsequent plunge in the prices of Bitcoin, Ethereum, and other major crypto assets, is prompting renewed calls for greater consumer protection and regulation of the crypto industry.

Regulating a highly volatile and decentralized system remains a challenge for most governments, requiring a balance between minimizing risk and maximizing innovation. Only one-quarter of countries in sub-Saharan Africa formally regulate crypto. However, as our Chart of the Week shows, two-thirds have implemented some restrictions and six countries—Cameroon, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, and the Republic of Congo—have banned crypto. Zimbabwe has ordered all banks to stop processing transactions

and Liberia directed a local crypto startup to cease operations (implicit bans).

Africa is one of the fastest-growing crypto markets in the world, according to Chainalysis, but remains the smallest, with crypto transactions peaking at \$20 billion per month in mid-2021. Kenya, Nigeria, and South Africa have the highest number of users in the region. Many people use crypto assets for commercial payments, but their volatility makes them unsuitable as a store of value.

Policymakers are also worried that cryptocurrencies can be used to transfer funds illegally out of the region and to circumvent local rules to prevent capital outflows. Widespread use of crypto could also undermine the effectiveness of monetary policy, creating risks for financial and macroeconomic stability.

The risks are that much greater if crypto is adopted as legal tender—as the Central African Republic recently did. If crypto assets are held or accepted by the government as means of payment, it could put public finances at risk.

The Central African Republic is the first country in Africa, and the second in the world after El Salvador to designate Bitcoin as a legal tender. The measure has put the country at odds with the Bank of Central African States (BEAC)—the regional central bank that serves the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC), which the Central African Republic is a member of—and violates the CEMAC Treaty. BEAC's banking sector supervisory body—Central Africa's Banking Commission—has banned the use of crypto for financial transactions in the CEMAC region.

Weh Wi Ga Fi Seh

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

Disemba 10 da di big Kriol Meetn!

Satideh, Disemba 10, 2022:
Kriol Jenral Meetn
 da Birdz Ailan (Bird's Isle) eena Yaabra, Bileez Siti.

Mek wi meet op da Birdz Ailan, Bileez Siti, fahn 10 a.m., fi di Kriol meetn fi chooz di Nashanal Kriol Kongsl leedaz fi di neks 2 yaaz. Da pahn Satideh, Disemba 10, fahn 10 da maanin. Di meetn meetn da fahn 10 da maanin tu noon. Afta dat, da wahn lee KRIOL BRAM wid sohn faymos Kriol myoozishan laik "Bredda David + di Tribal Vibes" myoozik, ahn sohn faymos faymos Kriol jromaz! Kohn jomp sambai, ahn link op wid fren ahn kompni ... Luk owt fi moa infamayshan neks week.

Yu da Kriol er yu sopoat Kriol langwij ahn kolcha? Yu waahn help spred di werd bowt wi Kriol hischri? Yu waahn put een yu too sens bowt how fi help Kriol Bileezhan moov faawad?

Jain di Kriol Kongsl tudeh tudeh tudeh:
<https://forms.gle/yJnwTSzJjXfUC7Wf6>

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

MOHW to take steps to combat critical nursing shortage

By Michelle Sutherland



The Ministry of Health and Wellness is taking a second look at ways to recruit and retain its workforce due to an ongoing worldwide shortage of nurses, which has been causing Belizean nurses to leave the country in search of greener pastures.

Those greener pastures are in the United States, Canada, and even the United Kingdom, all of which Prime Minister John Briceño has said are coming into the country and “courting” the local nurses and offering them better incentives and even salaries. This has resulted in several doctors and nurses packing their bags and heading for the door in search of a better life. A life which, according to the prime minister, is the result of taxpayers' money which in many instances has put them through primary school, high school, sixth form, and even nursing school.

While the prime minister agreed that he understands of the nurse's plight, he pointed out that these bigger countries are now the ones that are reaping and benefiting from the investments that Belize has made even as the country is struggling locally to fill the huge gaps in

the nursing sector. Minister of Health and Wellness Hon Kevin Bernard agreed with Briceño's sentiments. Bernard, however, indicated that with the impending worldwide nursing shortages, his ministry has begun to take a more serious look into how the situation can be addressed. One of those included the proposal the bonds, which applies to public servants whose training was supported by the government, be applied for a period of five years.

“We really have to start looking at how the bond is working. We need to bond our people that we are putting out there to train so that that we can retain these people but at the same time offer a better incentive to them,” reiterated the minister.

He also touched on the need for the revision of allowances for nurses and says

that he will be having further discussions with the nurses' association to see how best to accommodate them.

“We are very committed to fixing

the problem, and while we are aware that we cannot do it overnight, we are a forward-thinking people that want the best for the country, just as we want the

best for our people that serve others across the country. We are very much concerned just like them and we want to ensure that we make their lives better and that their environment is better, so we are pushing at every angle, ended the minister.”

Bernard also refuted claims that there is a shortage of jobs for nurses in the country and said that over the past month his ministry has been putting out advertisements in the public all in an effort to attract health care professionals.

While the global

nursing workforce was already in a precarious position prior to the pandemic, the effects from that dealt it another deadly blow, one which according to the World Health Organization was already experiencing a shortage of 5.9 million nurses. With an estimated 4 million nurses expected to retire in the next 10 years, as well as a projected increase in nurse fatigue and burnout, that figure is expected to increase to up to a 13 million. Nurses currently make up 59% of the global healthcare workforce.

Free HPV testing now available nationwide

By Britney Gordon

The Ministry of Health & Wellness is encouraging women across the country to take advantage of the life-saving HPV test being offered at public health facilities.

The human papillomavirus (HPV) infection in women can develop into cervical cancer if left untreated. Although not all HPV infections develop into cervical cancer, as early cases may not cause noticeable signs or symptoms, women are advised to have yearly check-ups. This includes



a pap smear to check for abnormal cells in the cervix. Women ages 25 to 65 are the target population for HPV testing, particularly

those who have never done cervical cancer screening and those who were last screened more than three years ago.

Although cervical

cancer is the second most common type of cancer among women in Belize, it is a slow-developing disease that can be prevented through the HPV vaccine and regular screening and is curable when detected early.

Previously, Belize did not have the resources to conduct these tests as one can cost up to BZ\$ 300; however, the test is available free of cost to the public. It is a self-administered swab test that is then sent to a lab for analysis. Women can expect results as soon as one week after testing.

S U D O K U

Medium Puzzle

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

Answer to Puzzle

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

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



FUN FACTS!

Food Staples: Corn, Rice and Wheat

Staple foods are those that constitute the majority of a particular diet, and generally supply virtually all or most of the total intake of energy and nutrients. People usually consume these staple foods daily or multiple times a day. Culture, climate, and trade are all factors that determine the popularity of a certain food. Over 50,000 plants are edible, but very few of them make any significant contribution to the human food supply. The overwhelming majority of global staple foods are grains. Corn, rice, and wheat together make up 51% of the world's caloric intake. Below is a look at these important food staples.



Corn has been spread throughout the world and now makes up a major source of food in Africa, Europe, and the US. People boil and eat it whole, dry and pulverize it to make flour, and cook it in sweetened milk for dessert. It can be processed for other uses that include as ingredients in sweeteners (corn syrup), alcohol (whiskey), and cooking oil. Globally, humans get 19.5% of their calorie intake from corn.

Rice is the predominant source of nourishment each day for more than 1.6 billion people around the world, from Asia to Latin America. First domesticated in India and Southeast Asia, people have been growing it for thousands of years. Research shows that Japan first began consuming rice around 100 BC. During Portuguese trade expeditions, it was brought to South America. Rice requires a warm, humid climate for survival and flourishes in floodplains. China, Indonesia, and India are the biggest cultivators. Today, rice makes up 16.5% of global caloric intake.

Wheat is typically dried and pulverized to make flour. This flour is used to make bread, crackers, pasta, breakfast cereals, and pastries. Its nutritional value is higher, however, when it is consumed whole. Approximately 15% of the world's caloric intake comes from wheat. Wheat is typically dried and pulverized to make flour. This flour is used to make bread, crackers, pasta, breakfast cereals, and pastries. Its nutritional value is higher, however, when it is consumed whole. Approximately 15% of the world's caloric intake comes from wheat.



Fossilized Dino Nest!

DID YOU KNOW?
A 10-year-old Chinese boy accidentally found a 66 million years old fossilized dinosaur egg in China while playing near a lake and this led to the very rare discovery of an entire dinosaur nest.



Scorpion Power!

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

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The health benefits of a random act of kindness

Spreading kindness not only helps others feel better about themselves — it can also boost the giver's health and happiness, according to research. It's a win-win for all.

Putting the well-being of others before our own without expecting anything in return — or what is called being altruistic — stimulates the reward centers of the brain, studies have shown. Those feel-good chemicals flood our system, producing a sort of “helper's high.” Volunteering, for example, has been shown to minimize stress and improve depression.

Longer life, anyone?

4444 students from 25 schools in Gwalior stand together and form a smiley face by holding coloured cloths in Gwalior on February 8, 2012 in an attempt to break the Guinness Book World Record of the largest human smiley face.

Being happier will help you live longer, so learn how to be happier

That's not all: The same activity can also reduce the risk for cognitive impairment and even help us live longer. One reason for this, experts say, is because kindness contributes to our sense of community and belonging. And that, studies have found, is a key contributor to a healthy, longer life.

Lower blood pressure

Giving donations to others, or “prosocial

spending,” has been shown to reduce blood pressure and improve heart health. One study asked a group of hypertensive people to spend \$40 on themselves, while another group of people with high blood pressure were told to spend the money on others.

Why being an optimist is good for your heart

They found that those who spent money on others had lower blood pressure at the end

of the six-week study. In fact, the benefits were as large as those from healthy diet and exercise.

Pain reduction

Giving seems to lessen our pain. A recent study found that people who said they would donate money to help orphans were less sensitive to an electric shock than those who declined to give. In addition, the more helpful people thought their donation would be, the less pain they felt.

How could this happen? The study found

that regions of the brain that react to painful stimulation appear to be instantly deactivated by the experience of giving.

Happiness

In the UK, researchers found that being kind could boost happiness in as little as three days. The study assigned people to three groups: the first group had to do an act of kindness each day; the second group tried a new activity; and the third group did nothing. The groups who were kind and did novel things saw a significant boost in happiness.

Spreading kindness

doesn't have to be complicated.

You'll experience even greater joy if you're creative with your acts of kindness. Happiness researchers Sonja Lyubomirsky and Kennon Sheldon found that people who did a variety of acts of kindness

throughout the week showed greater increases in happiness than those who performed the same activity over and over again.

And here's the good news: It seems acts of kindness can be anonymous or visible, spontaneous or planned, and can be as simple as giving a compliment or opening a door for someone.

Kindness suggestions

OK, you're convinced and want to jump right into being a kinder and more helpful person. There are literally hundreds of ideas on the internet, but here are a few to get you started:

While driving, make room for the car that wants to enter your lane.

Give a genuine compliment to a family member, friend or colleague.

Let go of a grudge and tell that person you forgive them (unless telling them makes it worse).

Be there for a friend having a tough time. Don't try to fix it; just listen.

Leave your mail carrier a thank-you note.

Overtip your delivery person.

But I'm so tired

That's more than fair. Many people are struggling economically and are often overcome with balancing the needs of family, work and community. Consider being kind to yourself (in whatever way that means to you) as well as others. We all need a break.

Want more ideas? The Random Acts of Kindness Foundation, which promotes kindness all year, has lists of kindness ideas, organized by work, community, environment, animals, strangers, kids, seniors and more.

“You're making the world a better place,” the foundation says. But don't forget — any kindness you give to others is also a gift to yourself.



VACANCY

The Social Security Board invites applications from suitably qualified persons to fill the role of **MANAGER, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC POLICY** in its Policy, Research and Actuarial Services Division, SSB Headquarters, Belmopan.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

Advanced university degree (Master's Degree or equivalent degree) in Sociology, Economics, Public Policy or other Social Science or related field, with five (5) years' experience in any one or combination of the following areas: economics; policy formulation and implementation; social and economic development planning; mathematics and statistics; economic and financial monitoring; social security systems; preparation of socio-economic plans; impact assessment of social security programs; statistical and econometric software and programs; supervisory experience.

Visit our website at www.socialsecurity.org.bz/vacancy-announcement/ to view further details and requirements on this position.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

Application packages containing application letter, resume, two (2) recent letters of recommendation, copies of degree, certifications and other relevant academic credentials and current police record or receipt for record may be submitted via email to:

Manager, HR Strategies, SSB Headquarters at: dlindo@socialsecurity.org.bz
HR Advisor, Policy & Strategy, SSB Headquarters at: fphillips@socialsecurity.org.bz
Copy emails to General Manager, Human Resources, SSB Headquarters at: odakers@socialsecurity.org.bz

Email Subject Line: "Application for Manager, Social and Economic Policy"

APPLICATION DEADLINE: December 6th, 2022



JOB VACANCIES

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER

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

Responsibilities:

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

Requirements:

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

Deadline for applying December 2nd, 2022.

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

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

AUDITOR

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

Responsibilities:

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

Requirements and skills:

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

Deadline for applying December 2nd, 2022.

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

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

DEBT COLLECTOR/BAILIFF

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

Responsibilities:

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

Requirements and skills:

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

Deadline for applying December 2nd, 2022.

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

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

TELLERS

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

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

Major Duties and Responsibilities:

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

Qualifications & Requirements:

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

Skills:

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

Deadline for applying December 2nd, 2022.

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

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



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
Individual Consultant
Monitoring and Evaluation Officer

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

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

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

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

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

Qualification and Experience Requirements:

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

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

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

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

Experience if the following would be an asset

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

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

Consultants will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Inter-American Development Bank: **Policies for the Selection and Contracting of Consultants financed by the Inter-American Development Bank GN-2350-15** section 5 – individual consultants and is open to all eligible candidates as defined in the IDB policies.

Expression of Interest package should contain:

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

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

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

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



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
INDIVIDUAL CONSULTING SERVICES

Institution: Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing
Country: Belize
Project: Climate Vulnerability Reduction Program (CVRP)
Sector: Infrastructure, Environment and Natural Disasters
Abstract: Individual Consulting Services – Climate Risk Financing Strategy for the Tourism and Agriculture Sectors
Loan/Credit/Grant No.: 4616/OC-BL
Deadline: December 1st, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)

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

The consulting services ("the Services") include the contracting of an Individual Consultant for a four (4) month period who will be responsible for developing a Climate Risk Financing Strategy for the Tourism and Agriculture Sectors in Belize. The overall objective of the consultancy is to a.) assess opportunities for introducing climate risk financing strategies in Belize's tourism sector to strengthen resilience to climate change and to formalize a strategy and implementation plan that will reduce financial vulnerability of the sector in the face of climate change and b.) design a climate risk management financial product geared specifically to small and medium-scale farmers as part of the country's climate risk financing strategy for the agricultural sector.

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

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Inter-American Development Bank: **Policies for the Selection and Contracting of Consultants financed by the Inter-American Development Bank** (GN-2350-15, January 2020) – Section V, 5.2 Selection of Individual Consultants based on Comparison of Qualifications of International Individual Consultants. Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours:

Program Management Unit

#1 Power Lane, Belmopan, Cayo

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Tel: 501-822-0100/1942

Email: pmupcmow@gmail.com, cvrp.4426.3@gmail.com

Or procurement.officer.midh@gmail.com

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

Attn: Mr. Rolando Chan

Program Coordinator

Program Management Unit

#1 Power Lane, Belmopan Cayo District, Belize

Tel: 501-822-0100/1942

E-mail: pmupcmow@gmail.com, cvrp.4426.3@gmail.com

Or procurement.officer.midh@gmail.com

MEGA AUCTION SALE

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

SAN PEDRO PROPERTY -TO BE AUCTIONED AT HUMMINGBIRD FURNISHINGS COMPOUND BELMOPAN CITY ON WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 30TH, 2022 AT 1:00PM



Location: Block 7, Parcel 2112, San Pedro Town, Ambergris Caye, Belize District.

Description: Lot - 500.2 square yards with a 7040 sq.ft building. The main floor is a business unit. Second Floor has 5 apartments and third floor is the main residence with 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, living, dining & kitchen areas, being the fee simple property of Thomas Santos.

ORANGE WALK DISTRICT PROPERTIES -TO BE AUCTIONED AT HUMMINGBIRD FURNISHINGS COMPOUND BELMOPAN CITY ON WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 30TH, 2022 AT 1:00PM



Location: Block 4, Parcel 3091/1, Orange Walk Town.

Description: On the property is a single storey building having 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, living, dining and kitchen. It has reinforced concrete foundation.

Land measures 555.56 sq.yds and building floor measures 727 sq.ft. being the freehold interest of Kenis Garcia.



Location: Block 4 Parcel 140/1, Yo Creek Village, Orange Walk District.

Description: On the property is a single storey residence having 4 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, living, dining and kitchen, the floor area 1313sq.ft, lot measures, 1599.27 sq.yds, being the leasehold interest of Florentino Cal.



Location: Block 4, Parcels 514/515/516, situated in Indian Hill East, Orange Walk District.

Description: The subject properties have a total area of 2055.94 sq.yds (1719.01sq.m), Lot 514 - 334.79 sq.yds, Lot 515 - 832.86 sq.yds, Lot 516 - 888.29 sq.yds. Being the freehold interest of Ishwar Mahbubani.

COROZAL DISTRICT PROPERTIES -TO BE AUCTIONED AT HUMMINGBIRD FURNISHINGS COMPOUND BELMOPAN CITY ON WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 30TH, 2022 AT 1:00PM



Location: Block 3, Parcel 833/1, Sarteneja Village, Corozal District.

Description: The property has a single storey residence having 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, living, dining, and kitchen, floor area measures 743 sq.ft. Land measures 1041.67 sq.yds, being the leasehold interest of Guiermo A Rodriguez.

BELIZE DISTRICT PROPERTIES -TO BE AUCTIONED AT HUMMINGBIRD FURNISHINGS COMPOUND BELMOPAN CITY ON WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 30TH, 2022 AT 1:00PM



Location: Parcel 11-100-246/1 situated in Belize Rural North 1, Maskall Village, Belize District.

Description: land contains 676.302 sq. m. being the leasehold interest of Ammon Alex Brackett.

CAYO DISTRICT PROPERTIES -TO BE AUCTIONED AT HUMMINGBIRD FURNISHINGS COMPOUND BELMOPAN CITY ON WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 30TH, 2022 AT 1:00PM



Location: Situated along the Mopan River, Paslow Falls area Cayo District.

Description: Lot - 9.75 acre parcel as per Entry no. 10732, containing a small two story house, used as a watchman room upstairs and a store room downstairs, being the freehold property of Mary K. Carridi.



Location: Situated along San Antonio Chiquibul Road, San Antonio Village, Cayo District.

Description: A concrete bungalow structure (1092. sq. ft.); a Two storey concrete house(1825 sq. ft.); An elevated timber structure (375 sq. ft.) and lot(0.563) being the freehold properties of Ruben Dario Lopez.

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



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LUBRICANTES



It's CHRISTMAS Time

This year the first presents came from **UNO**

And they are some of the happy winners.



You can participate today and win
#ChristmasTime
#WeAreUNO



MEGA AUCTION SALE

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

STANN CREEK DISTRICT PROPERTIES -TO BE AUCTIONED AT HUMMINGBIRD FURNISHINGS COMPOUND BELMOPAN CITY ON WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 30TH, 2022 AT 1:00PM



Location: Lot 203, situated in Pomona Village Extension, Stann Creek District.
Description: Lot - 802.713 square meters with a 2,232 square feet single family bungalow residence, comprising of 3 bedrooms, 2 bathroom an open plan facilitating kitchen, living and dining areas, verandah and a room which serves as a small convenience shop, being the freehold property of Luis and Clemencia Perez.



Location: Lot 54, Hummingbird Community, Stann creek District.
Description: On the property is an elevated building having 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, living, dining, kitchen and a storeroom, the building has a floor area of 751sq.ft, the lot has a total area of 939.17 sq.yds being the freehold interest of Armando Coye.



Location: Lot 132, Hope Creek Village, Stann Creek District.
Description: The property has a total area of 1388.89 sq.yds, it contains a two-storey residence having having on the lower level 2 bedrooms, living and kitchen, the upper level has a 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom apartment, the building has a total area of 1001 sq.ft, being the freehold interest of Edwardo Saravia.

TOLEDO DISTRICT PROPERTIES -TO BE AUCTIONED AT HUMMINGBIRD FURNISHINGS COMPOUND BELMOPAN CITY ON WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 30TH, 2022 AT 1:00PM



Location: Block 42, Parcel 577, Big Falls/ Golden-Stream, Toledo District.
Description: The property has a total area of 2642.64 sq.yds (0.546 Acres). The property has 2 storey building having on the lower level three divided areas and a kitchen, the upper level has 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, living, dining and kitchen, the building measures 1743 sq.ft, porch 421 sq.ft and covered shed 280 sq.ft, being the freehold interest of Mariano Kus.



Location: Block 42, Lot 157, Forest Home, Punta Gorda Town, Toledo District.
Description: Total area of land is 1015.06 sq.yds. On the property is a single storey residence having 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a large living room, dining, kitchen and a large porch, there is a small upper level that has a bedroom and porch, being the leasehold interest of David Duncan.

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





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



CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE PEER REVIEW OF DESIGN DOCUMENTS

REQUEST FOR TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL PROPOSALS

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

The objective of the consultancy is to:

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

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

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

The Key Experts required are as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

BELIZE CITY,

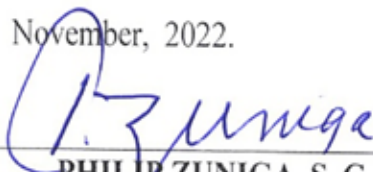
Estate of EUGENE FELIX HERNANDEZ

also known as EUGENE HERNANDEZ, deceased

STATUTORY NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Pursuant to Section 36 of the Administration of Estates Act, Chapter 197 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2011, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all creditors and other persons having any claims or demands upon or against the Estate of EUGENE FELIX HERNANDEZ also known as EUGENE HERNANDEZ, late of Dangriga, Stann Creek District, Belize, are required to send particulars in writing of their claims or demands to the Administratrix of the said estate, IRIS MYRTLE PALACIO of 57-58 Green Estate, Lord's Bank Village, Belize District, Belize, and to send such particulars not later than the 26th day of February, 2023, AND NOTICE IS HEREBY ALSO GIVEN that at the expiration of the last mentioned date, the Administratrix will proceed to distribute the assets of the said EUGENE FELIX HERNANDEZ also known as EUGENE HERNANDEZ, deceased, amongst the parties entitled thereto having regard only to the claims or demands of which particulars have been delivered and the Administratrix will not be liable for the assets of the deceased or any part thereof so distributed to any person or persons of whose claims or demands she shall not then have had notice.

DATED this 23rd day of November, 2022.


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

NOTICE OF COMMENCED DISSOLUTION

LuzCorp Limited
 (“the Company”)

“Notice is hereby given to all interested parties that LuzCorp Limited a Company incorporated under the IBC Act of Belize commenced dissolution on 09th November 2022.

And

Mr. Jaufre Rouanet, of Office 901, Al Saqr Tower, Sheikh Zayed Road, Dubai- United Arab Emirates is the liquidator of the company.

Frontier International Business Services Limited
 Registered Agent

NOTICE OF COMMENCED DISSOLUTION

Benhar Management Limited
 (“the Company”)

“Notice is hereby given to all interested parties that Benhar Management Limited a Company incorporated under the IBC Act of Belize commenced dissolution on 21st October 2022.

And

Mr. Jaufre Rouanet, of Office 901, Al Saqr Tower, Sheikh Zayed Road, Dubai- United Arab Emirates is the liquidator of the company.

Frontier International Business Services Limited
 Registered Agent

NOTICE OF COMMENCED DISSOLUTION

ARTRADING Limited
 (“the Company”)

“Notice is hereby given to all interested parties that ARTRADING Limited a Company incorporated under the IBC Act of Belize commenced dissolution on 21st October 2022.

And

Mr. Jaufre Rouanet, of Office 901, Al Saqr Tower, Sheikh Zayed Road, Dubai- United Arab Emirates is the liquidator of the company.

Frontier International Business Services Limited
 Registered Agent

VACANCIES

Dr. Megan Ryan’s Dental Clinic, San Ignacio,
 Cayo District

Positions: Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon, and Endodontist

Would you like to work for a dentist who has an excellent reputation in the community and is known for her integrity? We are seeking qualified individuals who know what’s expected of them when they show up for work, in a professional and respectful environment. Applications are invited from suitably qualified individuals.

Summary of Positions

Oral and Maxillofacial surgeon

Perform surgery and related procedures on the hard and soft tissues of the oral and maxillofacial regions to treat diseases, injuries, or defects.

Primary Responsibilities

- Assume quality care of patients with wide spectrums of oral and maxillofacial health problems while adhering to the highest standard of dental practice ethics and professionalism.
- Perform the diagnosis and surgical treatments of diseases, injuries and defects involving both the functional and esthetic aspects of the hard and soft tissues of the head and mouth.

Qualifications and Requirements:

- Must have DDS or DMD from an accredited school.
- Must have a Postgraduate degree in Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery from an accredited school.
- Must have more than 5 years working experience.
- Must be licensed to practice in Belize.

Endodontist

Diagnose and treat various conditions that affect the tooth pulp as well as the nerves and tissue in and around the tooth root.

Primary Responsibilities

- Assume quality care of patients with wide spectrums of conditions that affect the tooth pulp, nerves and surrounding tissues while adhering to the highest standard of dental practice ethics and professionalism.
- Diagnose and perform non-surgical root canal treatments, endodontic surgery and apicoectomies as needed.

Qualifications and Requirements

- Must have a DDS or DMD degree from an accredited school.
- Must have a Postgraduate degree in endodontics from an accredited school.
- Must have more than 5 years working experience.
- Must be licensed to practice in Belize

Application Process, Contact Information, and Submission Deadline

Resume along with proof of qualifications, copy of licenses and two letters of recommendation can be sent to mryan@belizedentistry.com. The deadline to apply on Monday, December 5th, 2022 at 5:00pm



JOIN OUR
TEAM



Belize Electricity Limited (BEL) is the primary distributor and the only licensed public provider of electricity in Belize. Our Mission is to deliver safe, reliable and sustainable energy solutions to enhance the quality of life and the productivity of enterprise and to support national development.

We are looking for a highly motivated, goal oriented, responsible and committed person to join our Company in the role of:

**LOSS REDUCTION
 REPRESENTATIVE**

in the Metering & Revenue Protection Unit of our Commercial & Retail Services Division at our Corporate Headquarters in Belize City.

View details at www.bel.com.bz
 or scan QR code



Submit application to:
career.opportunity@bel.com.bz
 by Friday, December 2, 2022

The Righters Write

Article 24: Right to Rest and Leisure

Contributed By *The Human Rights Commission*

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

In 19 crisp words, Article 24 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights presents the flip side of the right to work articulated in Article 23 – the right not to be over-worked. It enshrines the right to limited working hours and paid holidays, but as Cuban drafter Pérez Cisneros said in the late 1940s, it should not be interpreted as "the right to laziness."

Article 24: Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay.

Even in the 19th century, there was recognition that working excessive hours posed a danger to workers' health and to their families. Limitations on working hours and the right to rest are not explicitly mentioned in any of the core human rights Conventions, but had been enshrined in the very first treaty adopted by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in 1919, which applied an eight-hour day and 48-hour week to industry.

Article 23 owes much to the contributions of Latin American countries to the drafting process between 1946 and 1948. In the mid-1940s, almost all countries in this region had democratic governments, and their constitutions were rich with social and economic rights, including provisions for annual holidays and other forms of paid leave.

These constitutions were examined as inspiration for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), and they met with the approval of the Communist bloc. As the Yugoslav drafter Vladislav Ribnikar said, "the right to rest without pay meant nothing."

Linked to reasonable working hours, leisure time and paid vacations is the right of each person to self-development and education. This provision is one of many places where the UDHR aims to ensure the full development of people's personality.

Safeguarding workers' physical and mental health is not only compassionate, it helps to ensure high productivity. On the other hand, over-work – too many hours and past one's capacity – can be fatal.

"When a father puts in long hours at work, he's praised for being dedicated and ambitious. But when a mother stays late at the office, she's sometimes accused of being selfish, neglecting her kids."

– Michelle Obama

In Japan, there is a word for "overwork death" – Karōshi – first identified in 1969. Not only confined to Japan, karōshi deaths are most often caused by heart attacks and strokes due to stress and a starvation diet.

The ILO reports the case of a man working in a major snack food processing company in Japan, who put in as many as 110 hours a week, and died from a heart attack at the age of 34. In another case, a widow received workers' compensation 14 years after the death of her 58-year-old

husband, an employee of a large Tokyo printing company, who had worked 4,320 hours a year, including night work -- the equivalent of 16 hours out of every 24.

In addition to over-worked employees, there is another group who, in many countries, work harder than they ever thought possible – often in unsafe or unhealthy conditions – and still find themselves sinking into debt and poverty. These are migrants, regardless of their status: both undocumented and those with residence rights.

A 1990 treaty, the Convention on the Protections of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, aims to protect the labour and related rights of non-nationals, including their right to rest and leisure. However, it has so far only been ratified by 54 states – mostly those which are producing migrants, rather than those that receive them.

However, important regional bodies are also working to uphold the employment rights of migrants. In the case of an undocumented Mexican worker in the U.S. who was fired for attempting to organize workers, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights stated that he should still receive the back pay owed to him, and affirmed that governments have the obligation to ensure the rights of everyone within their jurisdiction, including labour rights.

"The idea that the poor should have leisure has always been shocking to the rich."

– British philosopher Bertrand Russell In Praise of Idleness (1932)

Governments everywhere have a legal obligation to ensure the right to safe and healthy working conditions, the right to limited working hours and paid holidays, but these rights have been under assault in some countries since the global recession of 2008.

In a number of developed countries, steady jobs – with benefits, holiday pay, a measure of security and possible union representation – are increasingly giving way to contracts.

As one expert put it, in today's world, workers seem like "nothing so much as teenagers lending

a hand in an affluent family business." Instead of old-fashioned employment with full labour protections, "there is now getting some experience, earning a bit of money, or helping out when the orders come in."

The concept that employees are trying to earn a living wage, and that their employers have obligations toward them, is being steadily eroded in some countries where it was well-established, even as it advances haltingly in others where it has never fully taken hold.

Companies themselves have a responsibility to respect the right to leisure as part of their responsibilities under the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. This responsibility applies throughout their supply chains, and it means that, as part of its 'human rights due diligence,' a company should consider whether any of its activities or operations are resulting in excessive working hours for employees.

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.

PUBLIC AUCTION SALE - PROPERTIES

Belmopan, Teakettle Village, Cayo District

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. Heritage Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following properties. Sales currently running and will expire on Monday 5th December 2022 at the times listed on the website.

Parcel No. 2362 situate between Hibiscus & Poinsettia Streets, (near U.S. Embassy) Belmopan, Cayo District:



REGISTRATION SECTION BLOCK PARCEL
Belmopan 20 2362

(Being a concrete bungalow dwelling house [5436 sq. ft.] 5 bedrooms + 3 ½ Bathrooms + kitchen + dining room + den/family room + foyer + sitting room alongside foyer + study and atrium center of building with swimming pool and lot [2466.842 S. Y], the freehold property of Ms. Elizabeth Gill)

59.481 acres 4.5 kilometers North of George Price Highway, Teakettle Village, Cayo District:



REGISTRATION SECTION BLOCK PARCEL
Society Hall 24 3893

(Being 59.481 acres of land used as a gravel pit situate 4.5 kilometers North of the George Price (Western) Highway at the Village of Teakettle, Cayo District, the freehold property of Mr. Ephriam Usher)

"FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PHOTOGRAPHS PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE"

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH

KEVIN A. CASTILLO

TELEPHONE 223-4488

Website: belizepropertyauctions.com

E-mail: kevinacas@yahoo.com

Facebook: Belize Auctions

'An Easy Decision'

How Call Centers Can Reduce Employee Stress Brought on By Hurricanes

By André Habet

In the first week of November 2022, Hurricane Lisa made landfall in Belize, becoming only the fifth hurricane to hit the country in November since record-keeping began. According to Prime Minister John Briceno, the Government of Belize estimates the hurricane caused 20 million BZD in damages, primarily to Belize City and the surrounding communities. As climate change influences the frequency and intensity of storms, the country is in the process of adapting to mitigate harm and destruction of property.

One manner where Belize has tackled this is through the use of the state of emergency declaration called by the Prime Minister for the Belize and Stann Creek districts in advance of Lisa's arrival on November 2. With this declaration, people were required to remain indoors from 3 pm through the following day. However, in some cases, the murkiness of work policies and productivity demands put people in tenuous positions where they had to choose between securing their homes and family or ensuring they receive their full compensation. This was a predicament faced by many call center workers in the lead-up to the storm's arrival, with several memes circulating online demonstrating call center workers' frustration with those expectations.

Call centers are commonly thought of in Belize as a place where employees go into the industry expecting poor treatment from management. Once sold to Belizeans as a catalyst of a new 'knowledge economy' when the first call center company was established in 2006, call centers have since built a word-of-mouth reputation throughout the country for unprofessional conduct and being what in Kriol people would call 'haad

a pay.'

Call center workers often complain about either receiving their payment later than scheduled or not receiving complete compensation for hours worked. Even the day the storm hit, there was already a story circulating about a woman whose daughter was fired from a call center after her mother called into a morning show to complain about the company's expectation that her daughter should work through the storm. The memes therefore didn't seem extraordinary to those familiar with the industry's reputation as the expectation to work while a Category 1 hurricane lashed at service agents' office buildings or homes was just another in a series of exploitative acts.

Despite being a country with a documented susceptibility to storms, several call center employees from different companies said that their company lacked an emergency plan when Lisa began its approach. One Belize City call center employee (most employees chose to remain anonymous for this article, either fearing retaliation or concerned for their privacy) stated that even though service agents began asking about the company's hurricane emergency plan from the Friday before the hurricane hit, the company failed to come up with a response as late as Tuesday.

Agents asked on Monday, October 31 whether they could be paid that day as opposed to November 1 to avoid any delays with the transaction due to the storm, but those requests were not met. Instead, several employees found themselves late Tuesday night receiving cash payments delivered to their homes by management staff. Others living further from the city didn't receive bank transfers until after the storm. Those that received the cash payment felt it

arrived too late for many, forcing them to scramble to make purchases the following morning prior to the storm's landfall later in the afternoon. Agents from at least two call centers were also upset about the initial expectation to work at the office, citing that the company had done nothing to secure the building.

Another call center employee working in Corozal said that although the northern district was unlikely to be affected by the storm that he and many of his coworkers were concerned about the hurricane. Like the Belize City call center employee, his organization also lacked an emergency plan and when the operations manager was sought after for directions on Tuesday, the manager was nowhere on-site until late in the afternoon. It was not until Wednesday that the organization finally resigned to allow employees to work from home during the storm.

However, this process also brought its own delay as employees had to wait at the office while computer systems were prepared to function off-site. Only after waiting several hours was the employee allowed to leave work, and by that time public transportation was no longer available and heavy rainfall had commenced. Begrudgingly, the organization provided transportation for its employees although management complained to them about the expense. Management representatives had earlier also complained to employees about their unwillingness to weather the storm at the office, comparing them unfavorably to their counterparts at a branch in another town in Belize supposedly accustomed to working straight through storms.

A third call center employee that typically works from home said that his company didn't have an emergency plan and didn't provide paid time off for the period



during the storm. A service agent that usually worked fifty-eight hours a week, he was expected to work until 2 pm before shutting down his system and storing it for the storm's duration.

With these various complaints about call centers' handling of the hurricane, the industry seemed to once again confirm the validity of its reputation. However, a series of conversations with several employees from another Belize City call center demonstrated how differently they can manage an emergency.

CustomerHD is a relatively new company in Belize's call center industry. Started in May 2021, CustomerHD was founded by two Americans Jonathan Keane and Joe Smith who, according to a team lead, visited Belize and fell in love with it, hoping to provide high-quality jobs to Belizeans. The second of its two call center branches (the first in Raleigh, North Carolina, USA) CustomerHD received several notes of appreciation from its employees for how it handled the storm.

Coincidentally, the company's founders were visiting the Belizean branch just prior to the storm's projected landfall. Determined to learn about the impacts of hurricanes on Belizeans, the founders decided to remain in Belize with their employees. What the company did next stood in stark contrast to its competitors as employees were provided paid time off Wednesday and Thursday while those

who were able to work during the storm and in its immediate aftermath were paid double their usual hourly rate. Additionally, all employees received a \$100 cash bonus and the option to receive a pantry of requested items for those that registered. 'It was an easy decision,' said Director of Client Services, Cheryl Rodriguez.

Employees of CustomerHD spoken to for this article all repeated the company motto 'People helping people' when asked why the culture at CustomerHD was so distinct from many of its competitors. 'Management has an open door policy,' one team lead member said, facilitating a culture of care in the company. 'We want to provide Belizeans more than just an hourly wage. We want to provide them with a way to a successful career. We want to help Belize,' said Rodriguez. Speaking of her extensive work experience in the call center industry, she further contrasted CustomerHD with others in regard to its communications and emphasis on professionalism. When asked how they negotiated the unavailability of agents during the storm, she stated that clients were informed about Belize's susceptibility to storms prior to any agreement. The result of this was that clients were understanding of agents' needs to evacuate and potentially be unable to provide service for the duration of the storm. This contrast with reports from other call center workers

who said management claimed they could not interrupt service to their US clientele who were not aware of the storm or its potential impact.

What CustomerHD's emergency planning and response to Hurricane Lisa shows to Belizeans is that companies make active decisions about whose interests to prioritize in any circumstance, and that neglecting employee needs is one such choice. Rodriguez believes CustomerHD's competitors will have to similarly adapt high employee care policies if they hope to recruit high-quality personnel and attract top-tier clients. As opposed to leaving employees to flounder in the wake of a natural disaster, CustomerHD intervened and provided much-needed support. With hurricanes becoming a greater threat with each passing year, it'll soon become apparent which companies heeded the warning of Lisa and which will proceed to the next storm without a lesson learned.

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