

Reporter

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HIGH 'STEAKS'

Cattle exports 'beef up' local meat prices



Pg. 3



Belamarío Esquivel

By Michelle Sutherland

The price of beef has increased due to an ongoing price war between Mexican and Guatemalan cattle buyers that was triggered

Increased demand is pushing up prices

by the Mexican government's recent decision to remove the import duty for select export commodities.

Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador (AMLO), on May 16, 2022, issued a Presidential Decree to exempt 66 tariff items from import duties. The list—which includes live animals—

covers cattle and meat products. The resulting hike in cross-border demand and competition has left a handful of local meat processors feeling the effects of the price increase.

Belamarío Esquivel, principal agriculture officer in the Ministry of Agriculture with responsibility for coordination and

Cabinet Walks Back on Taxing Entertainers, For Now

Pg. 2



By Michelle Sutherland

Twelve days after the Trade License Bill 2022 was tabled in the House of Representatives, aiming to tax entertainers and more, on Thursday, May 26th, the Government via a Cabinet release informed the nation that they would be holding off on the proposed fees for entertainers.

INSIDE BOX Pg. 3

CDC's places Belize at Level 3 Travel Warning

COVID-19 Levels

- Level 4: Special Circumstances
- Level 3: High
- Level 2: Moderate
- Level 1: Low
- Level: Unknown

INSIDE BOX

The Trade License Regime: A 'tax' by any other name (Part 2)



Private-sector representatives voiced their concerns at the Committee on Monday Pg. 18



A DEAL?

Dear Editor,

The big news on Tuesday was that Mariupol had surrendered to the Russians.

So far that seems to be the very best that the much-vaunted army of mighty Russia has been able to achieve in eighty days! Were they not supposed to completely conquer Ukraine? It seems that the Awesome Bear has lost its claws and its teeth!

Well, I hope and pray that Mr. GREAT WALL is learning a most important lesson. If you think that conquering a people is slaughtering the innocent and unarmed, you still have not learned the most important lesson of war and civilization!

Have your historical lessons of warfare not shown you how three hundred Spartans held at bay thousands of Persians killing them to block the passage to delay their invasion?

In a few days FREEDOM lovers throughout the world will celebrate the SEVENTY-EIGHTH anniversary of D-Day when the Allied Forces stormed the beaches of Normandy to begin the liberation of Europe from Nazi Tyranny!

As far as I know, no Belizarian (Belizean) was

engaged in that mighty assault. My now deceased friend Jim Murphy was in Canada learning to fly aircraft to engage and resist the Nazis in the air; but just as he was ready, the war was won by the mighty warriors of the Alliance.

Unfortunately, our young folks know nothing of Dicky Fairweather who died in the air in a bombing raid over one of the German cities – maybe Dresden. Pity! Our nation needs to celebrate all of our other heroes! Are they too few? Or, is our failure to appreciate the lessons of heroism and how a dynamic culture must have persons qualified with the values of the heroic?... Is this our great lack? A great lacuna?

Anyhow, at this time when the Alpha and Omega seems to be counting the last pages of human history, I sincerely beseech the Lord of History to inspire world leaders to learn that the human spirit can never be conquered. You may try to scare him with boastful bombast, but he will defy you, and as his blood fertilizes the earth; he will proclaim: GIVE ME LIBERTY... or give me death.

Even if you have millions of soldiers to use as canon fodder, consider that their booted feet must touch the land and rush to possess and hold it.

Leave the sons and daughters of Chiang kai Shek alone in peace!

Signed: Paul Rodriguez OBE

Cabinet Walks Back on Taxing Entertainers, For Now

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In their release, the Government referred to the House Committee Meeting which was held in Belmopan on Monday where stakeholders, including a handful from the entertainment industry, the Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry, as well as the Belize City Council had all presented and voiced their concerns.

As a result, the Government noted, "Noting the fragile state of the entertainment industry caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Cabinet agreed to defer any fee for local entertainers while consultations continue with stakeholders in the entertainment industry."

Cabinet also promised that they will also consult with the relevant stakeholders to develop incentives for the creative sector. They also said that all other recommendations that were presented and highlighted at the House Committee Meeting on Monday will be "duly considered" before the revised bill is presented to the House of Representatives for consideration.

While we attempted to get a comment from the chief executive officer in the Ministry of Local Government, Valentino Shal, on this latest development, he told our newsroom via WattsApp: "That [referring to the Cabinet statement] is the official position. Nothing else to add."

Earlier this week, however, following the House Committee Meeting, Shal had told us that he was pleased to see the various stakeholders using the medium available to address any concerns that they were having regarding the Bill. Shal said that several key points were raised by members of the entertainment sector as well as others who were present. "We want to assure them that we will take their concerns into account and these will be addressed," he said.

While the Bill had covered several aspects of the new trade license regime, entertainers

were primarily in opposition to Schedule VII, which outlined the fee for concerts, local onstage performers, and entertainers. That fee not exceeding \$200 would have been charged per event and would not have been applicable to free and charitable performances. The Government argued that the Trade License Board would use the \$200 fee as a guide to declaring fees, the final of which would be made after the respective boards determine the most appropriate quantum, which may be less.

The entertainers, however, said that they were not consulted in the first place and that the amount per performance was outrageous, since the fee is not conducive to the type of income that is being made in the entertainment industry.

THE REPORTER

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It has come as a surprise to many that the Brads Gaming Group Limited, the group which hosts the government lottery, has not been paying the relevant lottery tax, which for most other lotteries is 12.5% its earnings. However, back in 2011, via *Statutory Instrument No. 88 of 2011*, this particular lottery was listed as "exempt from lottery taxes."

The Briceño Government has been making allowances for businesses devastated by the COVID pandemic which has plagued the economy of Belize for the past 30 months. But it expects those who are able to make the payments to do so. As far as we can tell, Brads Gaming Group is a privately owned company that managed to secure a sweetheart deal under the Barrow administration.

Of course, with the advent of Statutory Instrument No. 51 of 2022 (or The Lotteries Control Amendment Regulation, 2022), the Briceño administration has opted to bring this "sweetheart deal" to an end. The new law reads:

"The principal Regulations are amended in the Fourth Schedule...in item 6 [Government Lottery] by deleting the words 'exempt from lottery taxes' and substituting the words '12.5% (monthly on gross income).'" This change has motivated the company to announce that it has "filed an action in the Supreme Court seeking to quash Statutory Instrument 51 of 2022."

Like the casinos, it pays a specified lump sum of money each year for its license to operate this money machine.

At the time the deal was made, the yearly fee appeared to be adequate and fair. But this company and the lotteries it manages have grown to be immensely popular among Belizeans and it is an exclusive franchise.

Of course, we do not know what proportion of the company's intake is paid out as cash prizes. Nobody knows this because it is a company secret.

But there are many, including this newspaper, who are of the view that prizes are still small in relation to the volume of tickets sold countrywide. Therefore, by requiring the company to pay the lotteries tax of 12.5 percent on earnings, the company will lose its special status and be required to reveal its true earnings to the government, which will put it in league with all the other companies paying their appropriate taxes. This is fair. It is not an imposition! If you are making the money, you should pay the tax.

HIGH 'STEAKS'

Cattle exports 'beef up' local meat prices

Cont'd from pg. 1

development of livestock in Belize, explained the higher prices had nothing to do with shortages.

"I don't believe that there is a shortage, it is more of a price war that is going on," he shared. "Please note that Mexico recently waived the 15% tariff and there is more interest from other companies coming into Belize to look for the beef that we have. The Guatemalans, after hearing of the waiving of that tariff, have increased their prices from \$2.10 to \$2.30 and in some instances to \$2.35. ... The local meat processing facilities

are paying ... about \$2.15 or \$2.10. So that is basically what the situation is; it's not really a shortage. We are self-sufficient in beef."

Esquivel further explained that obviously the cattle producers will do business with whoever is paying more for their products, which will translate to more money in their pockets, even in the midst of price increases in grains and other products needed to sustain their livestock.

While Esquivel noted that the ministry has a responsibility to ensure that there is food security in the

country, he said that they cannot manage everything. Esquivel said that the Ministry will keep an eye on the situation as it develops over time; however, he added that the local meat processing facilities have three options. They could get in on the competition, wait until the prices fall back down, or reestablish contract agreements with local farmers.

Mindy Garcia, general manager of the Belize Livestock Producers Association, also clarified that the ministry has also communicated with the different livestock farmers and processing facilities

across the country, all of whom have reported that there is no shortage.

"We have always mentioned that we have enough beef to supply to our country and maintain for our local consumption," reiterated Garcia. "There has been a recent increase in cattle prices and that is due to the recent announcement of the tariff removal for the Mexican export. This has brought competition among buyers; Guatemalan buyers, and Mexican buyers. So farmers are now starting to benefit from a slight increase in cattle prices and farmers will sell to buyers that pay them the

most," ended Garcia.

She said that while slaughtering facilities would usually have their animals ready for slaughter, that doesn't appear to be the case at this point. They have reported back that due to the ongoing drought in the country some of their animals are not ready for slaughter and so they have resorted to depending on products from local farmers, who are now locked in the price war between the Mexicans and Guatemalan buyers.

Currently, Belize has a national herd of 170,000 cattle spread across the country. Experts say that the country has over

30,000 cattle that are readily available annually for local consumption and export. To date, the country has already exported a little over 12,000 animals, which is not even half the amount that is intended for export. Currently, an additional 15,000 to 20,000 cattle stand ready to be potentially exported out of the country.

The situation was highlighted earlier this week when Running W Brand Meats issued a release saying that they would skip this year's National Agriculture and Trade show due to a scarcity of beef and pork on the market.



CDC's places Belize at Level 3 Travel Warning

By Michelle Sutherland

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), announced this week that due

to its recent surge in Covid-19 cases it was once more moving Belize up to Level 3 of its travel warning due to the "high" risk for Covid-19.

The Level 3 warning is now at the top rung in terms of risk level, this

is after the CDC overhauled its rating system for assessing COVID-19 risk for travelers in April of this year. Level 2 is now considered "moderate" risk while Level 1 is considered "low" risk.

Level 4, which is now the highest rank on the CDC's measuring stick is now reserved only for special circumstances where high case counts exist, there is the emergence of new variants of concerns, and there is fear that the healthcare infrastructure is collapsing.

The CDC via their notice asked travelers to ensure that they are up to date with their vaccines, prior to leaving for Belize. If they are not the CDC is asking them to avoid travelling to the country. The CDC also informed travelers that even if they are updated with their vaccine, when in Belize they may still be at risk of

getting and spreading COVID-19. They further asked that anyone two years and older should wear a well-fitted mask in indoor spaces. They ended off by asking travelers to follow all requirements and recommendations that are currently in place in Belize.

According to the CDC website Level 3, applies to countries that are recording more than 100 cases per day per 100,000 residents in the past 28 days.

Belize was among five other Countries such as the Bahamas, Eswatini, Montserrat and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines that were moved on to the "high" risk column.

Last week, health experts in Belize confirmed the existence of the BA.2 variant in the country, which had accounted for 93% of the samples that were taken. For this week daily positivity rate has been fluctuating between 9 and 14%.

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How Grab Life will add life to the Belizean experience

By Javan Flowers

During the Belize Tourism Board's (BTB) Building On Our Momentum (BOOM) Forum, representatives from BTB's partner agencies shared promising initiatives to enhance how tourists interact with and experience Belize and Belizean culture.

One such initiative is Grab Life 2.0, which, as detailed by the Zimmerman Agency's Chief Creative Director Liz Paradise, aims "to position Belize as an adventurer's paradise and in the process of doing that, de-position other places – [as] it is our goal to make them look boring."

During Paradise's presentation, much emphasis was placed on the new ads that were made to provide a glimpse of what it's like to be in Belize and "in the moment."

However, she noted, "When you have a brand idea like Grab Life, one of the big things you want to make sure it does is live beyond just the everyday advertising and live out in the world in some experiential way."

An idea that Paradise pitched follows the BTB releasing its own marine life inspired Non-Fungible Token (NFT) collection. "Imagine we partnered with a famous artist to

create a collection of [for instance] 10,000 unique pieces of marine life art; then have the BTB drop the collection on 'OpenSea' or 'Rare.com'. People will pay for these images [and that money could be used] to protect the reef and other protected areas."

NFTs are digital assets created to track

ownership of a virtual item using blockchain technology. Such unique items could be artwork or sports trading cards. Each NFT is unique and can't be replicated and accrues value independently, stored in digital wallets as collectors' items.

Looking abroad, companies worldwide have been capitalizing on this emerging digital market. For

example, Nike, the prominent American shoe manufacturing brand, launched its first collection of shoes known as CryptoKicks, which is being auctioned off as an NFT on the online marketplace OpenSea.

As reported by CBSNews, customers are paying between \$4,000 and \$9,500 in crypto-currency for the shoes, but some

pairs have sold for well over six figures. Nearly 9,000 of the Nike Dunk Genesis NFTs have been sold, according to OpenSea.

Paradise further stressed that "the truth of the matter is young adventurous people are getting into things like this. It is the new wave. The new form of art and it is a way also to experience culture," adding that web 3.0

would provide us with the opportunity to have visitors experience Belize "in deeper ways than you can on web 2.0."

Grab Life 2.0 opens the door to the myriad of ways Belize can "activate what's next in a way that is incredibly authentic to Belize" by utilizing the most current cultural phenomena.

Belize Participates in the Green Climate Fund Technical Dialogue with the Caribbean

By Javan Flowers

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) held its 32nd Board of Governors meeting in Antigua and Barbuda, which saw Belize being represented by Director Carlos Pol and Leroy Martinez – an Economist from the Climate Finance Unit (CFU) in the Ministry of Economic Development.

The four-day event brought together National Designated Authorities (NDA), Direct Access Entities (DAE), other funding agencies, and GCF stakeholders to discuss the prioritization of accessing and mobilizing climate finance and technical assistance for transformative

projects that will facilitate the transition to a low-carbon and more climate-resilient Caribbean region.

The event also allowed for the CFU representatives to hold bilateral meetings with high-level officials from the GCF, the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), the Central American Bank for Economic Integration, Global Environmental Fund, and other NDAs and DAEs to discuss projects in the pipeline and accreditation of national entities such as the Belize Social Investment Fund and the Ministry of Economic Development.

The event presented

an opportunity for participants to understand better what the GCF acknowledges as "climate rationale" to enhance the quality of their projects and programs. The meeting also examined the various approaches to create a climate rationale and identify the support needed for NDAs and Accredited Entities to include this

component in any project or program.

Speaking at the ceremony, Director Pol noted that "[The] partnership among SIDS serves as the right platform to present a Caribbean perspective to the GCF on the actual needs of our vulnerable countries. In addition, having key players in one setting allows for better cooperation

and collaboration."

Pol, on behalf of the CEO in the Ministry of Economic Development and NDA for the GCF, Osmond Martinez, thanked the GCF and the Government of Antigua and Barbuda for the invitation and excellent hospitality and further reiterated GOB's commitments to developing a climate-resilient Belize.

NOTICE OF COMMENCED DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given to all interested parties that the company

NAFDER INTERNATIONAL LTD.

("the Company") incorporated under the IBC Act of Belize commenced dissolution on the 19th day of May 2022; and Herschel Alonso of PDC building, 13th floor, Samuel Lewis Avenue & 56th Street Obarrio, Panama, Republic of Panama is the Liquidator of the Company, and any claims against the Company should be forwarded to the Liquidator by 30 days from commencement.

ILH TRUST LTD.
Registered Agent

S U D O K U

Medium Puzzle

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

Answer to Puzzle

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

MOHW to begin immunizing children 5-11 years

By William Ysaguirre

The Ministry of Health and Wellness is about to begin rolling out its national child immunization program for children of ages 5 to 11 years old. Immunologist Dr Natalia Largaespada – Beer and COVID-19 survivor, paediatrician Dr Cecilio Eck, explained the details of the program at a media breakfast at the Radisson Fort George hotel in Belize City on Thursday morning, May 26.

MOHW will receive its first shipment of 124,800 doses of the new Pfizer paediatric vaccine especially suitable for young children on Saturday, May 28. The shipment is a gift from the Government of Slovakia; the vaccines are valued at USD\$20.78 per dose!

Population census numbers for 2021 from the Statistics Institute of Belize indicate this target population is 73,013 children,

most of whom are enrolled in schools, so the Ministry will begin inoculation schoolchildren with the full support and cooperation of the Ministry of Education. Most of these children, 19,757 live in the Cayo, 19,615 in the Belize district and 8,754 in the Orange Walk district. Another 8,652 live in the Stann Creek district, 8,322 in Toledo and 8,019 in Corozal.

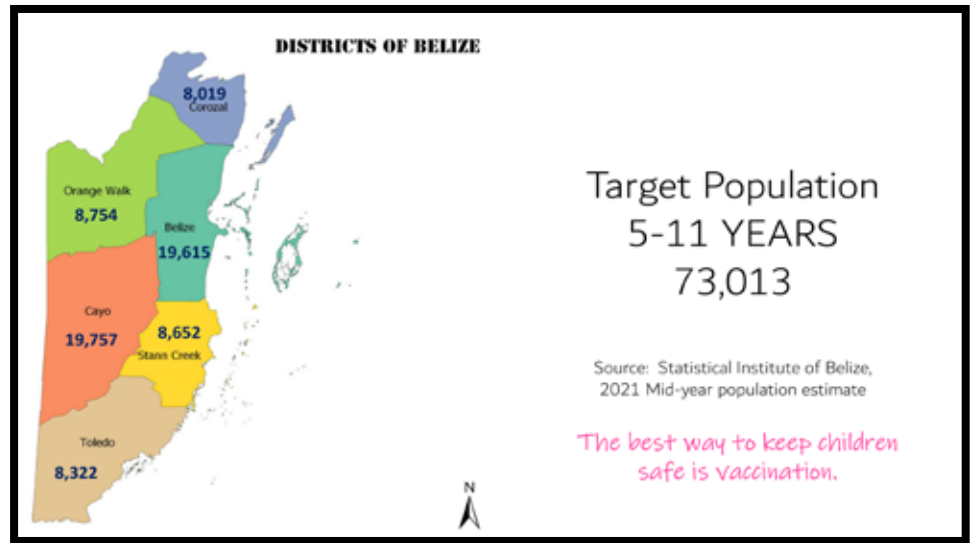
The plan is to begin vaccinating schoolchildren on Monday, May 30. The immunization program recognizes children's rights to good health and to be protected against disease. Parental consent will still be required, so the ministry has begun a public education campaign to inform parents and expand their awareness of the advantages of having their child vaccinated. The children will each need to present a signed consent form

from their parent or guardian, before they may receive the vaccine.

This vaccination program will closely parallel the ongoing immunization program which the Ministry of Health began in 2016, to vaccinate 10-year old girls and boys against the human papilloma virus (HPV), which causes cervical cancer.

The technology used to formulate this new paediatric vaccine is by messenger Ribonucleic Acid (mRNA), with a individual dosage of 10 micrograms diluted in a 0.9 percent saline solution, for 0.2 milliliters of vaccine per inoculation. This infant-compatible vaccine is identifiable by the orange cap on the phials or bottles. Prior to this, the Ministry only had vaccines suitable for children 12 years of age or older.

There remains about a month to the school year, so the Ministry



Drs Natalia Largaespada-Beer and Cecilio Eck

hopes to inoculate all schoolchildren with their first dose. The second dose can be administered after 21 days, when most of the students should still be in school. Those who don't receive their second dose before school closes, may still visit any of the vaccination centers for their second shot. In the case of children whose immune system is severely compromised, a waiting period of 4 weeks is recommended before the second dose. Some children with an underlying disease may have their immune system compromised, the CDC estimates that about 2.6 percent of children may be immuno-

compromised. The Ministry will also publish hotline numbers to call in the event that a child suffers and adverse reaction to the vaccine. They may experience local reactions around the injection site such as pain, redness and swelling. They may also experience more generalized reactions like tiredness, headache, muscle pain, chills, fever or nausea. The ministry is recommending that all children 5 to 11 years old get vaccinated, as unvaccinated persons are 24 times more likely to die when they become infected with COVID-19, and even partially vaccinated persons have three times the mortality

rate of fully vaccinated persons. There will also be fixed vaccination centers at all hospitals and polyclinics throughout the country. These include: Corozal Community Hospital, Northern Regional Hospital, Former Nursing School – Belize City, Matron Roberts Polyclinic, Dr Otto Rodriguez Polyclinic, Caye Caulker Health Center, Belmopan Civic Center, San Ignacio Community Hospital, K & K Guerra Polyclinic, Bullet Tree Health Center, Dangriga Polyclinic, Independence Polyclinic, Punta Gorda Community Hospital and the Isabel Palma Polyclinic.

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

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

DATED this 18th day of May, 2022.

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

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

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

Position Name: Gardener
Vacancy number: Belmopan-2022-13
Closing date: June 8th, 2022

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

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

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

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

US Baby Formula shortage unlikely to affect Belize

By Javan Flowers

Abbott Nutrition, one of the largest infant formula manufacturers, has reportedly seen significant underproduction due to one of its factories being scrutinized by both the FDA and CDC – which has led to a shortage of Similac baby formula in the US that doesn't seem to be affecting Belize.

Supplies of baby formula first started to experience constrictions across the US in the early stages of the pandemic as a result of panic buying and supply chain challenges; however, the problems were exacerbated when in February, Abbott Nutrition recalled several significant brands of powdered formula and shut down its Sturgis, Michigan, factory when federal officials began investigating four babies who suffered bacterial infections after consuming formula from the facility.

Abbott is one of only a handful of companies that produce the vast majority of the US formula supply, so their recall wiped out a large market segment.

While Abbott's production of their Similac products has been significantly slowed, other manufacturers have been scrambling to ramp up their own.

One such manufacturer, Mead Johnson, which produces Enfamil at three locations in



the US, told Reuters that it has granted "unlimited overtime" to staff in order to boost production.

While Similac is hard to come by on shelves in the US, in Belize, major stores across the country carry an assortment of baby formulas by Nestle, Mead Johnson as well as Abbott Nutrition.

Regionally, the Supermarket Association of Trinidad and Tobago (SATT) recently assured the public that there is no shortage and will not likely be unless the global supply chain experience dramatic changes.

Notably, Mead Johnson, which produces Enfamil at three locations in the US, now represents half the US formula market, up from roughly a third before the shortages began.

Overall, Caribbean governments see the issue as minute, but some have expressed worry about increases in prices for essential items, including baby formula, in the wake of supply

shortages caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and recalls on at least one brand on the US market owing to safety concerns.

Despite this, in the unlikely event that such a shortage of Abbott Nutrition's Similac formulas was to affect Belize, thus Belizean

parents would be safe knowing most regular baby formulas contain the same essential ingredients and nutrients, so there

should not be much hesitation in buying a different brand if they are having trouble finding their regular one.



May 18 2022

Press Release

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

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

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

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

Ends

FOUR STEPS TO ACCESS PSWT HEALTH CARE

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

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

Reporter

If you see news happening

Call us at: 227-2503

BTB hosts BOOM Forum

By Javan Flowers

The Belize Tourism Board (B.T.B.) this week hosted the Building On Our Momentum (B.O.O.M) Forum at the Best Western Belize Biltmore Plaza in Belize City, which saw significant achievements, opportunities, and the future outlook for Belize's tourism industry being discussed with a wide selection of hoteliers, tour operators, and industry partners, from across the country.

In his opening presentation, Minister of Tourism



Tourism Minister Anthony Mahler hosted the Building on Our Momentum (BOOM) Forum.

VACANCY NOTICE

MECHANIC

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

Reports to: Technical Manager

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

Job Responsibilities:

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

Job qualifications/Requirements:

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

Skills/Competencies:

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

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

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

Applications should be emailed to:

jobapplications@portofbelize.com

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

and Diaspora Relations Hon. Anthony Mahler remarked, "The reality is that this momentum is not happening by chance or organically. It is a result of working hard and smart. It is a result of dedication. And most importantly, it is due to our collaboration with you, our stakeholders, large, small, and micro."

Representatives from B.T.B.'s partner agencies, the Zimmerman Agency (U.S.A.) and Development Counsellors International (Canada), also shared vital highlights, results, and insights, on targeted marketing efforts in their respective niche markets.

These included the Grab Life Campaign, as well as Belize having been featured on the cover of Sports Illustrated. There were also various video shoots, travel publication features, and trade shows. The partners also highlighted campaign ideas

and travel trends to complement stakeholder marketing efforts in 2022-2023.

Alfredo Gonzalez, international sales manager for Frontier Airlines, informed stakeholders to the airline's offering. This was complemented by a giveaway of five USD\$250 travel vouchers won by Kendis Ferguson (Tour Operator, Foolish Dreams), Karen Waight Canul (Owner, Ambergris Divers), Edson Dubon (Krem Television), Judy Muñoz (Owner, One South Place Hotel), and Chelsea Johnston.

In the second half of the forum, participants went into break-out sessions, which gave stakeholders a chance to analyze and seek further information on discussed topics such as influencer marketing, business intelligence, strategic decision-making, public relations, and the importance of the Travel Belize website.

**Kick back
Relax and
Enjoy**



The Reporter

Independently serving Belize since 1967

Exports drop 13.2%, trade deficit widens - SIB

By William Ysaguirre

Belize's trade deficit grew 82 percent from April 2021 to April 2022 as exports shrunk by 13.6 percent to \$39.2 million while imports grew by 53.3 percent to \$233.5 million in April 2022, \$8.2 million more than the \$152.3 million imported in April last year, the Statistics Institute of Belize (SIB) reported on Wednesday, May 25.

Higher world prices on fuel and lubricants in April this year, led to a \$54.7 million cost for imported fuels, 150 percent more than the \$21.5 million imported in April 2021. Our imports of food processing machinery and aviation equipment almost doubled to \$56.2 million, which was \$26.8 million more than the \$29.4 million imported in 2021. Imported wheat, baking powder and seed corn increased from \$20.2 million in April 2021 to \$26.7 million this April.

Other manufactured imports of truck tires, galvalume steel coils, and face masks increased by \$6.4 million, to \$29.9 million this year. Commercial Free Zone imports such as perfumes, slippers and processed cheeses increased by \$5.9 million in April, from \$15.4 million last year to over \$21.3 million this April. Other imported manufactured items such as beer, plastic bottles and air quality monitors increased from \$8.6 million last year to \$12.5 million this April. Imports of whiskey, wine and cigarettes fell from \$9 million in April last year to \$5.7 million this year.

Considering the first four months of the year, the agglomerated imports were valued at \$856.2 million which was 43 percent for than the \$598.7 million imported in the first four months of 2021. Fuels and lubricants almost doubled from \$73.3 million last to \$141.9 million so far this year. Imported machinery and transport equipment also cost 61 percent more - \$177.1 million, compared to \$109.8

million imported in the first four months last year. Commercial Free Zone imports of tennis shoes, cigarettes, and bags also grew by \$55.3, from \$75.9 million last year. Belize bought \$23.8 million more fertilizer in the first four months this year - \$88.2 million worth, compared to \$64.4 million last year. Food imports in this 4-month period increased from \$75.7 million to \$92.5 million, primarily for wheat, canned meats, and salted pigtails.

Belizeans imported \$22.1 million more of tubes, cement clinkers, and galvalume steel coils: \$119.3 million in these first four months compared to \$97.2 million last year. Belize also bought more medical supplies, beer cartons and plastic bottles, which increased from \$45 million last year to \$56.4 million this year. Imports of disassembled drums, European oak and shrimp feed for designated processing areas increased to \$14.7 million this year compared to \$10.4 million last year. Cooking oil imports also grew from \$7.1 million for the beginning of last year to \$9.5 million this year.

Belize's exports in April fell far short of the value of imports. Sugar exports earned \$6.5 million, down from \$23.8 million last year, as no bulk sugar was shipped this April of this year, compared to two shipments last year. Banana exports

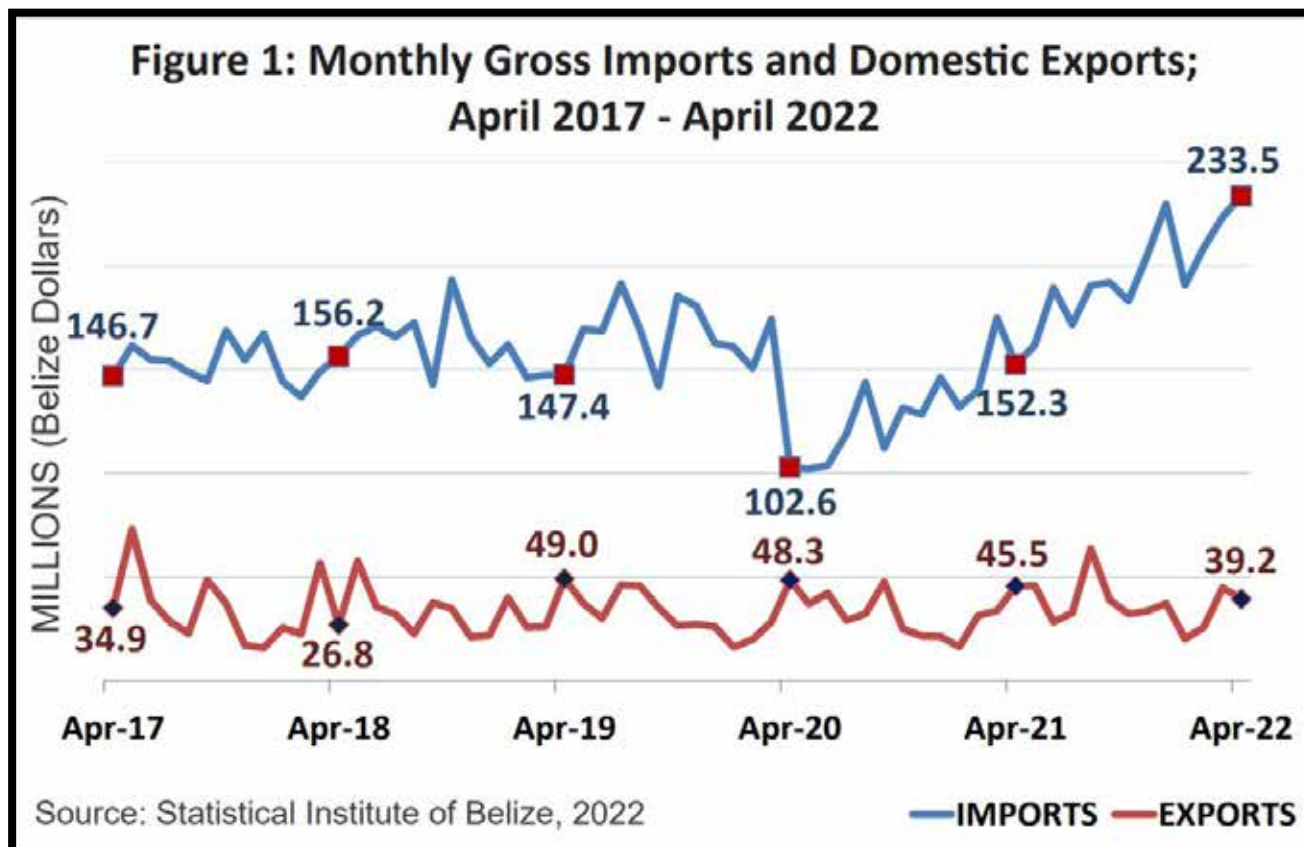
also fell to \$7.3 million this April, compared to

\$9.1 million in April last year. Similarly

pepper sauce exports fell to \$800,000 from

\$1 million last year.

Fortunately, molasses exports grew by \$4.7 million, from a measly \$30,000 last year. Lobster tails and lobster meat fetched better prices this year, causing marine product exports to grow from \$2.1 million in April 2021 to \$3.5 million this April. More exports of orange and grapefruit concentrate, earned \$1 million more, up from \$2.7 million last year. Red kidney bean exports grew to \$1.7 million, a \$700,000 increase over last year. Exported crude oil increased in value to \$200,000 this April, compared to a mere \$40,000 exported in April last year.



VACANCY



NOTICE

Electro Mechanic

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

Reports to: Technical Manager

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

Job Responsibilities:

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

Job Qualifications/Requirement:

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

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

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

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

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

Email to:
jobapplications@portofbelize.com
 Closing date for receipt of applications is Friday, May 27, 2022.

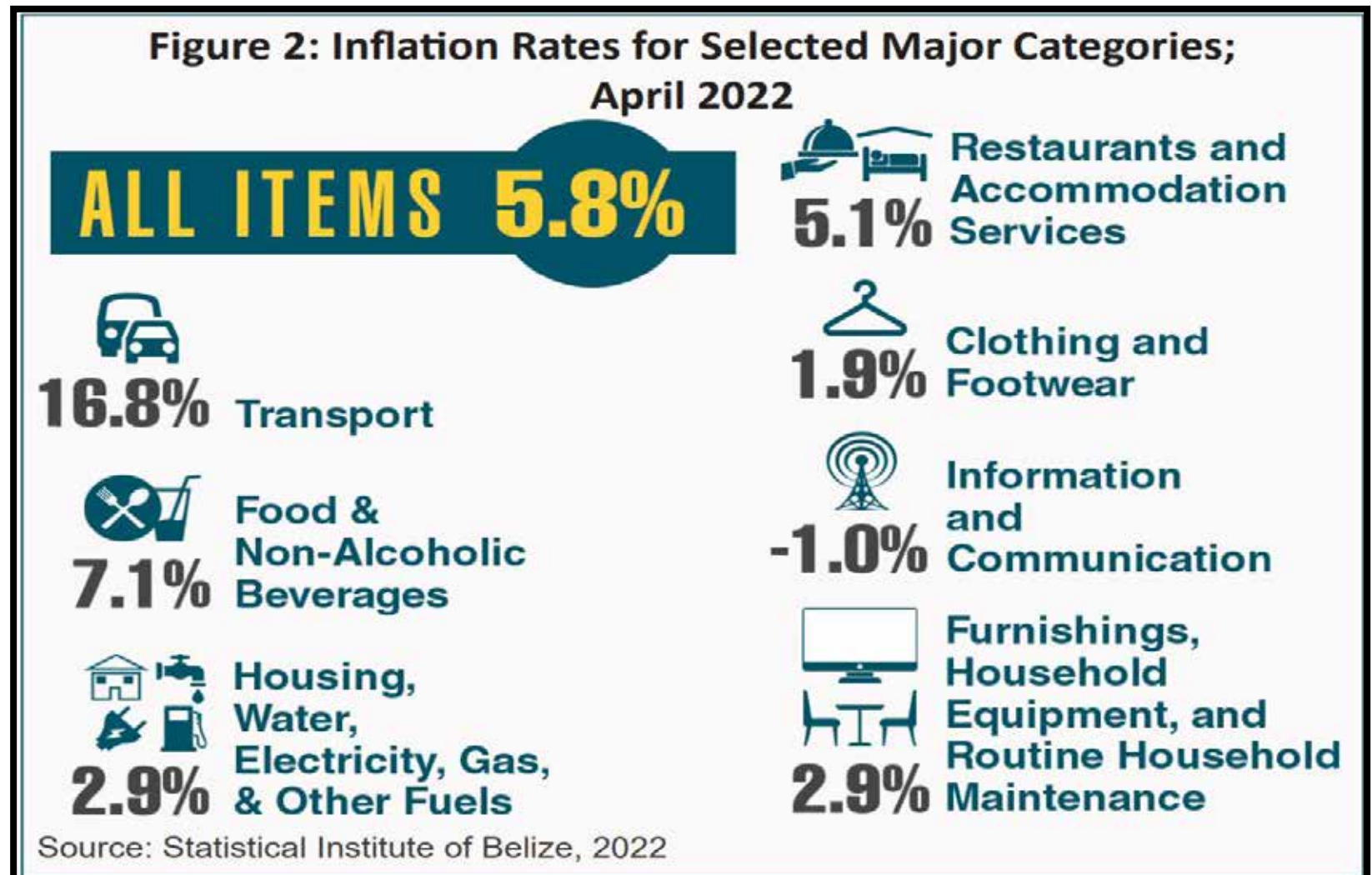
Inflation 5.8% in Cost of Living - SIB

By William Ysaguirre

The cost of living has gone up 5.8 percent in April 2022, compared to 2021, driven by higher fuel and food prices, the Statistics Institute of Belize (SIB) reported on Wednesday, May 25.

The Institute compiles the prices Belizeans normally pay for fuel, food, drinks, utilities and housing into the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which went up 5.8 percent from 103.0 in April 2021 to 108.9 for April 2022.

Transportation costs increased 16.8 percent up for April 2022, compared to last year, as vehicle fuels went up 25 percent, with diesel up 35 percent! Diesel went up by \$3.54 per gallon, from \$9.99 last year to \$13.53 this April. Premium gas increased by \$2.69, from \$11.73



to \$14.42, and regular gasoline went up by \$2.81 from \$10.77 to \$13.58. The price on

a new car went up 8.1 percent and bus fares increased 5.6 percent. Butane also went up

29 percent this April compared to last year, by \$33.93 on the price of a 100lb cylinder. This cost went from \$115.66 last year to \$149.59 this April.

Food and beverages prices went up 7.1 percent over last year, with tomatoes more than doubling in price from \$1.24 per pound to \$2.78, a 124.6 percent hike! Cabbages went up 72.6 percent, from \$1.19 to \$2.06 per pound. Pigtail prices jumped up 56.4 percent to \$7.55 per pound, up from \$4.83. Vegetable oil went up by 36.8 percent to \$4.82 per liter, and coconut oil by 17.7 percent to \$14.92 per liter. Irish potatoes went up 38.1 percent, from \$1.73 to \$2.38 per pound. Rice increased 10.7 percent from \$1.37 to \$1.52

per pound, while whole chicken went up by 3.5 percent to \$2.98/lb. Watermelons went up 26.8 percent to 78 cents/pound, flour by 5.5 percent and pineapples by 6.1 percent. Fresh fruits like oranges were slightly cheaper, by 1.6 percent, and red kidney beans came down 4.4 percent to \$1.98/lb, and black beans were 4.5 percent cheaper at \$2.02/lb.

Household maintenance costs went up 2.9 percent, mainly due to higher prices on cooking fuel, while construction materials for household maintenance went up 14.2 percent. Rent and utility rates fell off slightly by 3.5 percent for electricity. Laundry soaps and detergents increased 7.2 percent. Restaurant

and accommodation rates went up 5.1 percent. Clothing and shoes for women went up 2.9 percent, but information and communications costs came down one percent.

Orange Walk Town is still the most expensive place to live with a 9.4 percent inflation rate as food prices, detergents, soaps and home rental costs all went up. Belize City was second with 6.0 percent inflation, and Corozal - 5.8 percent inflation. Benque Viejo cost of living increased 5.7 percent and Independence - 5.6 percent and Dangriga 5.4 percent. Punta Gorda Town saw a 5.2 percent increase. San Pedro Town reported the lowest inflation rate of 4.2 percent.

Weh Wi Ga Fi Seh

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

Di 2022 Harikayn Atlantik Seezn

Geh redi. Memba seh dat harikayn seezn da Joon tu Novemba. Bai now, en a May, yu don fi mi-di pripyaa gud gud-wan. Pahn tap, noh figet bowt di koroanavairoos eevn if yu don geh yu vaksinayshan! Disya vairoos di nak bowt agen, soh lisn tu weh di Minischri a Helt seh fi du, ahn tek gud gud kayr a yusef, yu famili, ahn yu faamli.

Wi don noa seh dat Joon tu Novemba da da wen di chrapikal wayv dehn start op aaf a di koas a Afrika, ahn staat chravl kraas di Atlantik. Atlantik Oashan di bobl ahn bail. Pahn tap, di koroanavairoos stil noh don wid wi eena 2022. Yes, datira vairoos mait noh soh bad now, now dat vakseen deh tu. Bot noh tek yu yaay aaf a it! Pahn tap, wi pray seh dat no staam kong kong kech wi da Bileez fi dis 2022 Harikayn Seezn. Ahn memba, wi fi geh redi shud-in-kays wahn harikayn kohn vizit wi. Harikayn ga wahn way fi krash op wi plays, ahn sohntaih brok op wi plays, di fling bowt aal wi ting dehn—wi shoar noh waahn no harikayn kong kong vizit wi. Dat, langsaid di vairoos stil di nak bowt, uda noh gud ataal! Dehnya da di nayhn dehn fi di 2022 Atlantik harikayn seezn:

2022 Atlantik Harikayn Seezn

Alex (Alex)	Hermine (Hermeen)	Owen (Oawen)
Bonnie (Boni)	Ian (Ihyan)	Paula (Paala)
Colin (Kalin)	Julia (Joolya)	Richard (Richad)
Daniel (Danyel)	Karl (Kaal)	Sharly (Shaali)
Earl (Erl)	Lisa (Leesa)	Tobias (Tobaiyas)
Fiona (Fiyoana)	Martin (Maatin)	Virginie (Virgini)
Gaston (Gaston)	Nicole (Nikoal)	Walter (Walta)

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

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

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

Position Name: Custodial Supervisor

Vacancy number: Belmopan-2022-12

Closing date: June 8th, 2022

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

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

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

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

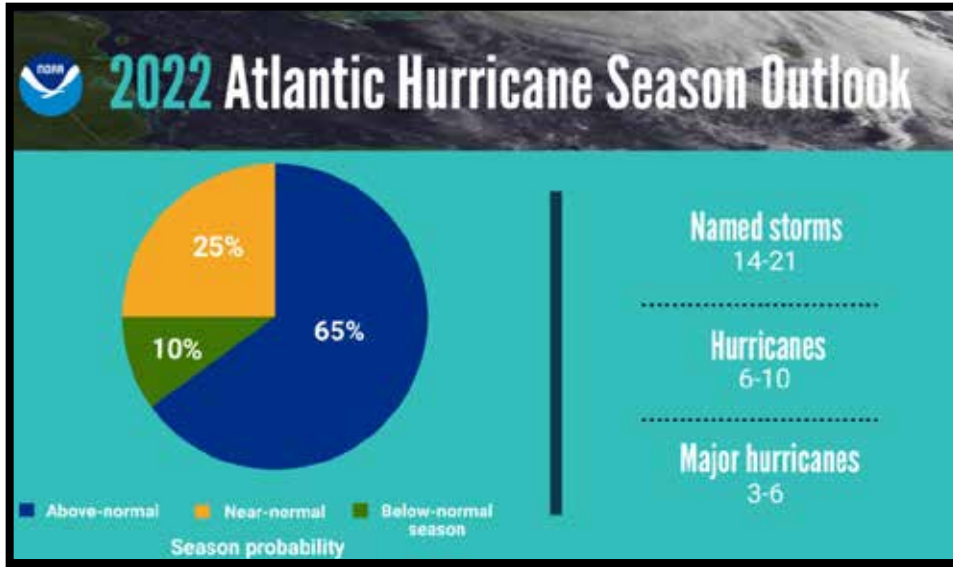
NOAA predicts abnormal Atlantic Hurricane Season

By Javan Flowers

Forecasters at National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) are predicting above-average hurricane activity this year, which would make it the seventh consecutive above-average hurricane season.

For the 2022 hurricane season, NOAA is forecasting 14 to 21 named storms, of which six to 10 could become hurricanes, including three to six major hurricanes.

This hurricane season's increased activity is attributed to several climate factors, including



the ongoing La Niña that is likely to persist throughout the hurricane season, warmer-than-average sea surface temperatures in the Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean Sea, weaker tropical Atlantic trade winds, and an enhanced west

African monsoon.

NOAA emphasized that an enhanced west African monsoon supports stronger African Easterly Waves, seeding many of the strongest and longest-lived hurricanes during most seasons.

Last year, NOAA

updated its definition of a typical hurricane season to reflect the new normal of climate change. It now considers hurricane seasons that are "above-average" to have more than 14 named tropical storms instead of 12.

Matthew

Rosencrans, NOAA's leading hurricane season outlook forecaster, cited that "There are certain ingredients that drive the intensity and frequency of hurricanes, including how much dust is in the air, how windy it is, and how warm the water on the surface of the ocean is."

Unfortunately, humankind has no control over some of those ingredients and are thus unrelated to human-caused global climate change. For example, the natural climate variation known as La Niña has been happening for multiple years, and it drives ocean and wind conditions that support the formation of tropical storms in

the Atlantic.

However, though we might not have control over those natural phenomena, certain actions can be done to curb climate change, thereby, removing the possibility of intense storms forming due to hotter ocean water and hotter air, which create perfect conditions for hurricanes to construct, enlarge and cause devastation to countries that are already under sea level.

NOAA further stressed that though the outlook simulates the number of anticipated storms that would have the potential to form, it is not simulating that all of them will make landfall.

Obituary



Michael Stacie Tewes

March 9th, 1951 - April 13th, 2022

Dr. Michael S. Tewes, devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend passed away **April 13th, 2022 in Belize City, Belize.**

He is survived by his wife, **Natalia Tewes**, two children **Shawn and Stacey Tewes**, four grandchildren **Scott, Casey, Robert and Christian**, sister **Shelley Trifone** and brothers **Ronald and Robert Tewes** and one maternal uncle, **Dr. Dennis Hoy**, as well as many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Mike was preceded in death by his parents **Carlton Vance and Berta Mary Tewes (nee Hoy)** and **Stepfather, Edwin P. Astle.**

He was a graduate of St. John's College and went on to receive an agronomy degree from Zamorano in Honduras. He then received a Bachelor of Animal Sciences from the University of New Mexico in Las Cruces, NM and a Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine from the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada, followed by a post doctorate in Pathology from the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. Mike served his country for almost 40 years in a number of private and public sectors as an agronomist, a Veterinary surgeon and Pathologist, and a CEO to several Government Ministries.

Funeral services were held at **Holy Redeemer Church** with interment in the Columbarium at the **Homeland Memorial Park in Belize City.**

May you rest in eternal peace, Mike.

You will be sadly missed by all who were fortunate enough to have known and loved you.



CENTRAL BANK
of **BELIZE**

www.centralbank.org.bz

PUBLIC NOTICE

Discontinuation of the Foreign Exchange Approval by the Ministry of Finance

Belize City, 25 May 2022: The Central Bank of Belize (Central Bank) advises that effective, **Monday, 13 June 2022**, all requests that require the Central Bank's approval for **foreign exchange approval** must be submitted via email.

The Ministry of Finance will no longer be an authorized agent to approve foreign exchange requests. Applications must be submitted to the Central Bank via email to

currenttransactions@centralbank.org.bz

Electronic forms are available for download at:

<https://www.centralbank.org.bz/financial-system/exchange-control-approvals>

These changes are expected to facilitate the application process and centralize applicants' data. The Central Bank remains committed to its role in regulating foreign exchange in Belize and easing the application process.

- ENDS -

ISSUED BY:
THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
CENTRAL BANK OF BELIZE

1 GABOUREL LANE.
BELIZE CITY, BELIZE
T: +501 223 6194

E: communications@centralbank.org.bz



INVITATION TO QUOTE – GOODS

Institution: Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing
Country: Belize
Project: Additional Financing for George Price Highway Rehabilitation Project
Sector: Transport
Abstract: Printing of Banners, Installation of Banners on Billboards and Rental of Billboards
Loan No.: Loan 4616/OC-BL
Deadline: 2:00 p.m. (Local Belize Time) on June 9th, 2022

- The Government of Belize has received loan financing from the **Inter-American Development Bank** toward the cost of the additional Financing for **George Price Highway Rehabilitation Project**, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this financing to payments under the **Contract for the Printing of 4 Banners for Billboards, Installation of 8 Banners (4 old + 4 new) on Billboards (Including Mileage) and Rental of 8 Billboard Frames** as part of the **Additional Communication Strategy (Visibility) under the George Price Highway Rehabilitation Project**.
- The Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing now invites sealed quotations from eligible and qualified bidders for the supply of the following items: **Printing of 4 Banners for Billboards, Installation of 8 Banners (4 old + 4 new) on Billboards (Including Mileage) and Rental of 8 Billboard Frames**.
- Bidding will be conducted through the Shopping procedures specified in the Inter-American Development Bank's Policies for the Procurement of Works and Goods (GN-2349-15, January 2020) – Section 3.6) financed by the Inter-American Development Bank, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Policies.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain the full Invitation to Quote for the required services from the **Program Management Unit, Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing**, located on the **First Floor of the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing Soils Lab Building, Power Lane, Belmopan** by emailing pmupcmow@gmail.com AND mow.project3344@gmail.com.
- Quotations must utilize forms provided in the invitation to quote. One (1) Original and two (2) copies are to be submitted in sealed labelled envelopes to the address indicated below. Quotations by email **WILL NOT** be accepted.
- Suppliers are informed that they can only quote for the type of service specified, and quote for all items in this Invitation. Price quotations will be evaluated for all the items. Price quotations should be Exclusive of **General Sales Tax**.
- Your quotation(s) should be submitted as per the following instructions and in accordance with the Terms and Conditions of supply in the attached Quote Submission Sheet.
 - VALIDITY OF THE OFFER:** Your quotation(s) should be valid for a period of **90 days** from the date of receipt for quotation(s).
 - SUBMISSION OF OFFERS:** Offers will be submitted on the Quote Submission Sheet including a description of specifications offered, Price Schedule for Goods and Related Services. These templates are annexed in the full Invitation to Quote. All documents must be completed without any alterations in format, and no substitutes shall be accepted. All blank spaces shall be filled in with the information requested.
- The Purchaser shall award the Contract to the offer which complies substantially with the technical specifications and other requirements in these documents and represents the lowest price.
- Quotations must be delivered to the address below at or before **2:00 p.m. (Local Belize Time) on June 9th, 2022**. Electronic quotes will not be permitted. Late quotes will be rejected. Your quotation should be in the English language in the required format or other similar, acceptable format should be addressed and submitted to:

Attention of (Name): Mr. Rolando Chan, Program Coordinator
 Program Management Unit

Address: Program Management Unit,
 First Floor – Soils Lab
 Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing
 Power Lane, Belmopan
 Cayo District, Belize

Phone #: 822-1942/822-0100

Email: pmupcmow@gmail.com AND

Libertad villager charged with murder following fatal machete attack on his host

By Michelle Sutherland

Corozal Police have moved swiftly to arrest and charge a man who is suspected of hacking a resident of Concepcion Corozal to death and allegedly chopping the victim's cousin several times to her face.

On Tuesday, May 24th, police announced that a single charge of murder was leveled against 36-year-old Jermain Dion Zuniga, a Belizean construction worker of Libertad Village, in relation to the death of Juan Mendez, 47.

While authorities did not provide information as to whether Zuniga will be charged for the horrific injuries he caused to Mendez's cousin Wendy Mendez, 34, they say that their investigation into the incident remains ongoing.

Neighbors living in the village reported that just after midday on Sunday, May 22nd they heard screams coming from inside a cement bungalow house in the neighborhood. While the screams intensified, the neighbors said that they heard a group of people cursing at each other while the sound of a machete being scraped and lashed against the concrete wall drowned out the voices. After about half an hour, there was silence, and the residents say that they saw a dark complexion male person emerge from the house, and rode off on a bicycle.

Shortly after, according to the neighbour's accounts, the man returned, went back into the house and emerged a second time. This time he walked to a pipe that was situated inside the yard, stooped down and washed what appeared to be bloodstains from off of his face, and hands before jumping on his bike and riding off once more.

The neighbors said that they waited for family members to arrive first and when



Wendy Mendez left in critical condition following incident



Libertad Villager Jermain Dion Zuniga, 36

they went inside the house they found Mendez, lying face down on the ground already dead with multiple chop wounds to his back, shoulders and neck. Nearby on a bed, they found Mendez's cousin Wendy Mendez laying on her stomach, partially nude and bleeding profusely from multiple chop wounds to the face.

Police were called out to the scene where they confirm that Mendez was dead while Wendy was alive but unconscious. She was immediately transported to the Corozal Community Hospital and then to the Northern Regional Hospital where she remains fighting for her life.

An investigation launched by the police revealed that Mendez had reportedly offered Zuniga lodging at

his house, but while socializing, Zuniga had reportedly attempted to force himself onto Wendy which prompted Mendez to request that he leave the residence. Zuniga, police say did not respond well to Mendez's request and he reacted by pulling out a machete and chopping Mendez several times to his body before turning the machete on Wendy who he sliced several times to her face.

Residence says that when police were processing the scene, Zuniga returned, with the machete strapped on his bicycle and joined the group of spectators, even asking at one point what had occurred inside the house. That is where he was identified and immediately detained by police and taken into custody for questioning.

Fake cops 'confiscate' 130k from Dangriga resident

By Javan Flowers

Fake cops robbed a 57-year-old Dangriga resident of \$130,000 in cash this week.

According to reports, three men, disguised as police officers carrying handguns and handcuffs, entered the home of Esther Crispia. The pretend



officers claimed that they were conducting a search.

Police Communications Officer ASP Fitzroy Yearwood explained that Crispia reported that she was at home when three men dressed in military attire arrived at her residence.

The men then identified themselves to be police officers and instructed Crispia to comply as they were there to search for narcotics and illegal ammunition.

Upon complying with the pretend officers, they escorted her to her bedroom, where they "found" a crocus bag stuffed with more than BZ\$130,000 in Belize and U.S. currency.

Crispia was then informed that the discovered crocus bag would be confiscated and taken to the nearest police station as it is suspected the money was generated from "the sales of illegal drugs."

The men, thereafter, exited Crispia's residence, escaping in a white pickup truck.

After much contemplation, Crispia then concluded that the "officers" were, in fact, crooks disguised as personnel from the police department. This prompted her to file a report.

During the press conference, ASP Yearwood further advised the public that police officers are expected to have their police-issued IDs

available to prove that they are legitimate lawmen and law-women.

"They have their name tags that were issued. So if the police come to your house not displaying or showing you their ID card, then you know that they are not police officers," said Yearwood.

ASP Yearwood further detailed that the recently issued IDs are "signed by the Commissioner of Police, Chester Williams. It [also] has the officer's personal information on it, down to the date of enlistment and the date of birth."

As of this report, the police are looking for two persons known to be involved in crimes of this nature.

MoHW issues Recall for Jif Peanut Butter Products



By Javan Flowers

The Ministry of Health and Wellness advised that the J.M. Smucker Company voluntarily recalled select Jif Peanut Butter products due to potential Salmonella contamination.

MoHW has since commenced a thorough investigation at major supermarkets countrywide as a precautionary action as Belize imports the product in question.

Senior Public Health Inspector Lisa Marin confirmed that while persons internationally who ate it contracted salmonella, "so far we haven't received any such

information of people being ill from the Jif Peanut Butter [here in Belize]."

Healthy persons often experience fever, diarrhea (which may be bloody), nausea, vomiting, and abdominal pain.

The Ministry further cited a list of recalled products along with lot codes 1274425 – 2140425, which are included alongside the best-if-used-by date.

Marin advised the public that in "the event they have a product with these lot numbers and the UPC number - contact the nearest public health inspector office or the Ministry of Health at 828-

5257 so that we can assist you as best as possible in removing this product from the market."


The FDA reported that it collected an environmental sample containing a strain of salmonella at Smuckers' Lexington, Kentucky facility in 2010 and that genetic analysis has determined that the strain of salmonella connected to this outbreak matches that previously collected sample. "Epidemiologic evidence indicates that Jif Brand Peanut Butter produced in the J.M. Smucker Company facility located in Lexington, KY, is the likely cause of illnesses in this outbreak," the agency wrote.

Notice of Dissolution

Notice is hereby given that the following company have been dissolved and struck off the International Business Companies Register with effect from the date indicated below:

<u>COMPANY NAME</u>	<u>DISSOLUTION DATE</u>
CAMBURY SERVICES LIMITED	18-May-22

Interconsult Belize Limited
Registered Agent



VACANCY

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

Qualifications:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Documents Required:

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

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

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

BTB invests \$750,000 in 1st Belize International Music and Food Festival

By William Ysaguirre

The Belize Tourism Board is investing \$750,000 to help promote local musicians and artists onto the international stage by hosting the first Belize International Music and Food Festival (BIMFF) to be held at the “Saca Chispas” football field in San Pedro Town over the Emancipation Day weekend of July



Belize artists and Minister of Tourism Anthony Mahler

30 – 31.

The concert event is intended to attract visitors to Belize during what is regarded as the

Cas, several of whom thanked the BTB for providing them this opportunity to showcase their talent.

RATINGS BOOST

AM BEST HAS REAFFIRMED MASSY UNITED INSURANCE'S A- (EXCELLENT) RATING WITH A POSITIVE OUTLOOK

AM Best has reaffirmed Massy United Insurance's A- (Excellent) rating, with an improved outlook of 'positive', moving from the 'stable' designation the company has maintained for several years. The company's rating was placed 'under review' by AM Best pending the completion of the sale of Massy United Insurance to the Coralisle Group (CG), which closed on May 04, 2022.

This positive outlook means that AM Best expects market trends to have a positive influence on the company over the next 12 months.

“We are not at all surprised by the recent assessment of Massy United Insurance by AM Best and the upgrading of our outlook,” said Chief Executive Officer, Massy United Insurance, Randy Graham. “Our team has worked tirelessly to implement a strategy to grow the company in the right way, respond to our clients' claims, and generate value for our shareholders. This rating affirms our success at implementing our strategy

and our success really is down to the great staff members we have regionally. The acquisition by CG is now complete, and we are very excited about our future. We are now a hulk of an insurance company, and we are going to use insurance to improve the lives of people in the Caribbean.”

Earlier this year the company announced that for the fiscal year ended September 2021, they recorded a notable US\$10.7 million in profit before tax. This represented 17% growth over the previous year, and a second year of double-digit growth for the company, while generating significant value for shareholders.

The A- (Excellent) rating is an indication of the company's financial strength and stability, which is a result of appropriate enterprise risk management. What this means for customers is that the company can continue to pay claims during their time of need and maintain its operations.

‘slow season’, to put heads in beds, explained Minister of Tourism Hon. Anthony Mahler, when the BTB launched the festival at the Best Western Biltmore Plaza Hotel in Belize City on Monday morning, May 23. The BTB hopes to recoup a handsome return on the investment in the form of ticket sales for the concert which will showcase several music genres, from reggae, Afrobeats, dancehall, Soca, Punta and Latin music.

Minister Mahler introduced concert promoter John Marsden, whom the BTB hired as a consultant to organize the event at short notice. Marsden introduced each of the Belizean artists as they signed their employment contracts for the event. These include Ernestine Carballo, Papa John, King Rome, the TLC Band, Brithney Starr, Dajah, Den Z, Don Doe, Yas Thalia, Stig, Flako Leslie, TR Shine, Supa G “The General”, Denise Castillo and J

The concert will also feature several international artists: artists Koffee, Patrice Roberts, La Sonora Dinamita, Demarco, Timaya, Barrington Levy, Ricardo Drue, Teddyson John, Farmer Nappy, Lil Natty and Thunda, DJ International Stephen, and DJ Supa Twitch.

BTB's Director of Tourism Evan Tillett explained that the San Pedro Town council will be coordinating the food festival, which assembles the best chefs in the country to create special local dishes to delight the palate, as well as our many cultural and ethnic dishes. The concert is also expected to generate a lot of spinoff business for the restaurants, bars and nightclubs on the island.

The aim is for the concert experience to captivate visitors with our music and culture, and to promote Belize as a destination. The concert will also serve to showcase Belizean artists that they may network with the visitors, and perhaps make connections which may lead to other opportunities to perform internationally.

Minister Mahler explained that the BTB will also be establishing two recording studios in Belize City and Orange Walk to help local artists create musical projects which can be marketed internationally to stimulate interest in Belize as a cultural destination. To this end the Ministry of Tourism will be hiring a team of consultants from the U.K. to help draft a national entertainment policy, to develop this “music diplomacy” to promote Belize's music as part of the cultural package which will attract visitors from Europe and around the globe.



Belize Insurance Centre Ltd.
212 North Front Street
Belize City
Belize
T: 227-7310



Rated A- (Excellent) by

The Insurance Information Source
For the latest rating, access www.ambest.com

'Running W' to skip National Agriculture and Trade Show

By Michelle Sutherland



The National Agriculture and Trade Show (NATS) 2022 is set to kick off this weekend and one major company whose name is almost synonymous with the weekend festivities, Running W Brand Meats, says it's not going.

On Monday, May 24th the Company via a short press release informed the public that unfortunately, they would not be attending NATS 2022. "This is due to the current short supply locally of Beef and Pork, and the rise in Covid Cases," the company stated.

Following their announcement, several social media fans expressed their

disappointment at the last-minute changes. The majority of them stated that over the years Running W's free samples of its big-bone pork chops, baby back ribs, and free sample of sausages and other meat delicacies, are the main reason why they

have been returning almost every year to the grounds.

"We are disappointed that we cannot be there this year, but we want to thank our valued customers for your continued support," said the company.

A deeper check into

the situation revealed that there is not necessarily a shortage of beef or pork in the country, instead, there is an ongoing price war at play.

In this situation, Principal Agriculture Officer and Director of Livestock in the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise Belarmino Esquivel says that it is more a matter of supply. He explained that while the export market is offering cattle farmers

up to \$2.40 per pound, local buyers are paying less.

Currently, according to Esquivel, the cattle export business is booming as both Guatemalan and Mexican buyers are offering a higher price to cattle producers when compared to what local Belizean buyers are offering. It, therefore, comes as no surprise, said Esquivel, that the cattle producers will want to sell their products to anyone who offers them a better deal.

That, however, while a good thing for the cattle producers, spells trouble for the local meat processing companies, who are now forced to compete with the high prices for meats which on a daily

basis keep fluctuating, even while they are striving to meet profits and overhead cost.

That is where Running W Meats Escander Bedran, owner and manager, says that the company finds itself. That situation is compounded further by the effects of the ongoing dry season on cattle, leading to a shortage of cattle that are ready for slaughter.

Bedran explained that it is because of these factors that the company decided not to attend the National Agriculture and Trade Show. Apart from incurring a loss, he would only be risking the health of his employees at the event amid the rising COVID cases.

COMPLIANCE OFFICER

JOB SUMMARY

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

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

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

REQUIRED SKILLS & ABILITIES

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

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

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

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

ACT NOW

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

Submit application with reference Application for Vacancy:

COMPLIANCE OFFICER

to:

Manager

Human Resources and General Affairs

Development Finance Corporation

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

Applications may be submitted electronically by email to:

vacancies@dfcbelize.org

DEADLINE:

MAY 31, 2022

VACANCY
Join our exciting team!





Central Information Technology Office Ministry of Finance

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

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

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

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

3b. Program of Works

The program of work includes:

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

3c. Schedule

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

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

II. Evidence of past jobs including a copy of the contract or agreement with the client including a copy of the TOR.

III. Two references.

- The contract is subject to Income and Business Tax as per Government Policy as shown below:
 - 25% for entities from non-Caricom countries
 - 15% for entities from Caricom countries
 - 19% for entities licensed to provide telecommunication services that offer real time voice services
 - 6% for companies in Belize

9. Price should be inclusive of General Sales Tax (GST) payment of 12.5% for GST registered agents.

10. Questions and Replies

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

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

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

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

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

12. **The deadline for Tender submission is 10:00 am on 30 May 2022**. Submissions received after the deadline will be rejected.

13. Evaluation Criteria

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

Evaluation Criteria	Weight (%)
Financial Offer	50%
Technical proposal	50%
Direct technical support from Microsoft.	20%
Access to the portal for managing licenses with the flexibility to increase or decrease licenses throughout the term of the agreement (1-year) at the guaranteed price.	10%
Service delivery models for issue resolution, preferably with English-speaking technical support.	10%
Service delivery experience in provisioning and supporting Microsoft365 for business comparable in the magnitude of this Tender	5%
Financial strength of company demonstrated over past three (3) years	5%
Total	100%

14. **Opening of the Tenders** will take place online on **30 May 2022 at 2 pm Belize Time** and in the presence of the Tenderers or their representatives who wish to attend the Tender opening.

15. **Evaluation of the Tenders** will be conducted on **31 May 2022**.

16. The selection of the successful Tenderer will be based on a competitive process that considers Technical and Financial Proposals.

17. **Incomplete tenders will not be accepted.**

Belize represented at 75th World Health Assembly



Minister Kevin Bernard represented Belize at 75th World Health Assembly

By Javan Flowers

Minister of Health and Wellness Kevin Bernard is representing Belize at the 75th World Health Assembly, the first face-to-face assembly since the onset of the pandemic, in Geneva, Switzerland, from May 22nd to 28th.

The World Health Assembly (WHA) is the decision-making body of the World Health Organization (WHO). It is attended by delegations from all WHO Member States and focuses on a specific health agenda prepared by the Executive Board. The main functions of the WHA are to determine the policies of the Organization, appoint the Director-General, supervise financial policies, and review and approve the proposed program budget.

Minister Kevin Bernard and Director of Public Health and Wellness Dr. Melissa Diaz-Musa represent Belize. They will join other member states to discuss various topics, including strengthening WHO preparedness for and response to health emergencies; an implementation road map 2023–2030 for the global action plan for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases; and an Intersectoral Global Action Plan on epilepsy and other neurological disorders 2022-2031; prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment; poliomyelitis; and the Global Health for Peace Initiative.

Also on the agenda is the ever-increasing conflict between Ukraine and Russia and the assembly's initiative to provide humanitarian assistance.

The Health Assembly is open to Member States, Associate Members, Observers, invited representatives of the UN, and other participating inter-governmental organizations and non-State actors.

Regrettably, after much support from Belize, the United States, and other states, Taiwan, a critical partner contributing constructively to global health, lost its bid to take part in the WHO's annual assembly. The rejection followed diplomatic pressure from China to isolate the island, which it considers to be one of its provinces.



VACANCY - SALES OFFICER BELMOPAN BRANCH

Interested applicants must possess the following skills and qualifications:

Education and Experience:

- Bachelor's Degree or Associates Degree in Business Administration, Marketing or Accounting or other business-related fields with three years experience in banking or a similar financial discipline.
- Marketing experience is an asset.

Knowledge, Skills, and Competencies:

- Maintain good relations with the team leader, team members, and customers.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills.
- Excellent customer service, time management, and interpersonal skills.
- Knowledge of the Bank's products and services.
- Highly dedicated, motivated, and proactive.
- Work well under stressful conditions.
- Good use of discretion.
- Possess a valid driver's license.

General Responsibilities:

- Educate customers on all the bank's products and services.
- Analyze and inform customers on the best options that are beneficial to their business.
- Prepare and conduct presentations of the bank's products and services to customers and non customers.
- Receive and review all customers' queries and complaints and respond with a solution in a timely manner.
- Research best possible solutions for implementation to retain and increase customer base.
- Train all staff members about the current and new products and services.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 2022

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

**Chief Human Resources Officer
Human Resources Department
Atlantic Bank Ltd.**

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



JOIN A GREAT TEAM!

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

SENIOR MERCHANDISE MANAGER

WHAT WILL YOU BE RESPONSIBLE FOR?

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

REQUIRED SKILLS & EXPERIENCE

- Minimum of a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management or related field.
- Minimum of five (5) years experience in a managerial role in a medium to large retail operation.
- Ability to determine appropriate commercial strategies, including product life cycle management to achieve sales and business targets.
- Ability to manage product category by determining price points and margins to maximize market share, gross margin and stock productivity.
- Sales and budget forecasting.
- Working knowledge of supply chain management particularly demand planning, purchase order management and inventory control.

APPLY BY SENDING YOUR RESUME TO:

human_resources_bz@unicomer.com by June 7th, 2022

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UNIVERSITY OF BELIZE



JOIN OUR TEAM

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

DUTY STATION: Belmopan Campus

SUMMARY OF RESPONSIBILITIES

The Marketing and Communications Director is responsible to create and lead the implementation and execution of a strategic communication plan that presents, maintains and promotes a positive image of the University of Belize both internally and externally. The Marketing and Communications Director acts as the University's primary contact for all communications media and public relations matters and, under the direction of management, is the University's chief spokesperson.

JOB QUALIFICATIONS:

- Master's Degree in Business, Marketing, Communications, Public Relations, or a related field.
- Five (5) years' experience directly related to the duties and responsibilities specified.
- Persons with a Bachelor's Degree in the related field and 5 years' experience in a Marketing management position can be considered.

SKILLS/COMPETENCIES

- Excellent written, verbal and interpersonal communication skills.
- Possess working experience or knowledge of social media and content marketing.
- Robust copywriting skills.
- Possess a highly developed capacity to produce written promotional material in English (Ability in Spanish is preferred).
- Proactive, highly motivated, and sensitive to the potential impact of issues.
- Possess a full understanding of media needs and media relationships and a solid knowledge of current affairs.
- Proactive, reliable, responsible and possess a wide degree of creativity and latitude.

INTERESTED PERSONS ARE INVITED TO APPLY AND VIEW FULL JOB DESCRIPTIONS:

Online: <https://www.ub.edu.bz/work-at-ub/> | Email: ubjobs@ub.edu.bz

Please upload a cover letter, curriculum vitae, the names and addresses of three referees (including present or past employers and work colleagues), transcript of highest degree, copies of relevant degrees and certificates, and a valid police record.

Queries may be addressed to:
ubjobs@ub.edu.bz

DIRECTOR OF REGIONAL LANGUAGE CENTRE

SUMMARY OF RESPONSIBILITIES:

The University of Belize maintains a Regional Language Centre at its Belmopan Campus. Currently the Centre focuses on the teaching of English to speakers of other languages, mainly Spanish, and to a much lesser extent, to providing document translations. The Director of the Regional Language Centre designs and implement phased programmes to realize the following development objectives, while maintaining the Centre's ongoing programmes:

- Expand offerings of the Centre to cover the teaching of English to native Spanish-speakers to Level C in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).
- Offer as well instruction to enable native Spanish-speaking teachers to be able to teach English at the Primary and Secondary School levels.
- Offer Spanish language instruction to its staff members who do not currently speak Spanish.
- Convert the Regional Language Centre into a profit-centre for the institution.

JOB QUALIFICATIONS:

- Master's degree in the teaching of English as a second or foreign language or in a related area in linguistics.

- Minimum 5 years' experience both in teaching adult professionals, and in teaching English to non-native English speaking adults.

SKILLS/COMPETENCIES

- Excellent leadership skills;
- Proactive, creative, cooperative and results-driven in working with people from different cultures and in working with the management of the University;
- Committed to excellence, and would be expected to offer, on an ongoing, basis, suggestions for improving the operations of the Centre and its product offerings;

Deadline to Apply

June 10, 2022

Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.

The Righters Write

The Police at your home

Contributed by the Human Rights Commission

This week the Police Department's Press Office, through a media briefing, informed the public about new identification cards that each officer has been issued. Perhaps the more important message that came from this announcement is that a police officer must identify him/herself before entering your yard or home.

On the surface, it may seem like fluff news or for some it may even be insignificant. We believe though that this is an important announcement in the strengthening of the department's relationship with the public. How? It is a step in the right direction in upholding human rights standards and principles in law enforcement. It is respecting and pro-

tecting human dignity and maintaining and upholding the human rights of all persons while executing their duties.

The Belize Police Department has been heavily scrutinized in the court of public opinion for the mistakes of a few. In some areas in Belize City, the police/community relationship can be tense and the overall trust in the department is not at its highest. The lat-

est announcement is very welcomed.

"Each officer has been issued with an ID like this. They have their name tags that were issued. If the police come to your house not displaying or showing you their identification card then you know they are not police officers," said Assistant Superintendent of Police, Fitzroy Yearwood.

Generally, police officers do not have

the right to enter a person's house or private premise without their permission but there are exceptions.

These would include when officers are in pursuit of someone, to sort out a disturbance, if they hear cries for help or of distress, or to enforce an arrest warrant.

Referencing the latter, ASP Yearwood said that even with the strength of a warrant their protocol requires officers to identify themselves.

"You the general public have to be made aware of what you can ask for. When you ask an officer for his name, that person must identify himself to you before gaining access to your premises. Yes, we can go and search without a warrant for drugs and ammunition, but at the same time they must identify themselves properly to you before gaining access to your premises," Yearwood said.

The IDs "recently issued" are the "latest edition" Yearwood added. The IDs show information about the officer including their date of birth and even the year they enlisted into the force. They are all signed by the Commissioner of Police, Chester Williams.

Encounters with the police can be a stressful experience and there is always that possibility that it goes bad and quickly. It is important for the public to assert their rights. While the responsibility to deescalate a tense situation falls on the police, past incidents have shown that officers do not always conduct themselves in a professional manner that places the citizen's safety

first. In such situations, asserting your rights is not enough but people must understand their rights and the rights of the police. This, and staying calm can go a long way in reducing risk to their safety.


Among these rights are the right to remain silent; you do not have to consent to a search of yourself but you can make a timely, respectful objection even if the officer decides to carry out the search; and if arrested, you have the right to an attorney.

People can also do their part to reduce risk to their safety by remaining calm, not trying to escape or run, resist, or obstruct the officer. Lying is also a bad idea as providing false information or documents to the police can result in a criminal charge. Additionally, you must always keep your hands where the police can see them.

The Department's efforts are commendable and it is encouraging to see that measures are being taken to ensure police officers respect and obey the law at all times and that they serve the community protecting all persons with the highest degree of responsibility required by their profession.

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.

VACANCY



**PORT of
BELIZE LTD**
A Port with a Global Perspective

NOTICE

Security Officer

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to fill the following post in the Security Department. In the Port's continued effort to promote diversity both males/females, able/differently abled are encouraged to apply for the available post.
Reports to: Chief Security & Safety Officer

Summary of Responsibilities: Ensuring the safety and security of designated properties, assets, personnel, and visitors. Responsibilities include patrolling the premises, setting up security controls, monitoring property access, investigating suspicious behavior, and enforcing company policies.

Primary Responsibilities:

- Patrol of Pier, Transit Sheds, Compounds, Office, Low Berth etc. as instructed
- Control of Entry and exit points of Facility
- Surveillance of cargo from ship to delivery
- Deposits to the banks
- You are to be verse with the Port of Belize Limited Surveillance System & Security Manual
- Any other duties of a related nature assigned from time to time.

18.2 of the ISPS – Code Port facility personnel having specific security duties should have knowledge and receive training in some or all of the following, as appropriate:

- knowledge of current security threats and patterns;
- recognition and detection of weapons, dangerous substances and devices;
- recognition of characteristics and behavioral patterns of persons who are likely to threaten security;
- techniques used to circumvent security measures;
- crowd management and control techniques;
- security-related communication;
- operations of security equipment and systems;
- testing, calibration and maintenance of security equipment and systems;
- inspection, control, and monitoring techniques, and
- methods of physical searches of persons, personal effects, baggage, cargo, and ship's stores.

Job Qualifications/Requirement:

- A High School diploma, with 3 years experience in Security Officer field.
- Must possess a valid driver's license.
- Computer literate.
- Knowledge of Laws & regulations
- Working Knowledge of public safety
- Security operation & procedures

Skills/Competencies:

- Ability to work independently.
- Team oriented, ethical, and punctual (On Call)
- Good communication skills
- Strong reporting skills

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

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

Email to:
jobapplications@portofbelize.com
 Closing date for receipt of applications is Friday, June 10th, 2022.



The Trade License Regime: A 'tax' by any other name (Part 2)

Contributed by the Belize Chamber of Commerce & Industry

In the immediately preceding Business Perspective (BP) Column entry, we had delineated the distinction between a “tax” and a “fee.” More precisely, we had looked at the fact the trade license regime (TLR)—which is based on a percentage of a business’s annual rental value (ARV)—functions much more akin to a property tax than the “fee” it proposes to be. And as far as “fees” are concerned, we had underscored that TLR breaches several international best practice principles.

For those reasons and more, the Belize Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCCI) had to take a mixed position when it comes to the Trade Licensing Bill 2022 (“the Bill”) that was tabled before the National Assembly recently. On Monday, May 23, the BCCI presented its position to the Public Service, Labour, Industry, and Trade Standing Committee (“The Committee”). Fundamentally, our position can be divided into two general categories: The Short-to-Medium Term and the (Medium to) long term.

Revenue Neutrality & The Short-to-Medium Term

Let’s begin with the short-term. As the BCCI communicated to The Committee, our position has been one of “compromise with the local government’s need to preserve a center level of revenue.” This compromise, however, has been limited to only the nine municipalities that currently rely on trade license regime. It is for this reason that the reform process—again, which dates back to at least a decade—has revolved around five principles: *Revenue-Neutrality, Predictability, Accountability, Administrative Ease, and Transparency.*

Most of the other four principles are somewhat self-explanatory, but *Revenue Neutrality* demands some special attention.

Let’s start here. Across the nine municipalities, the regime generates approximately \$9 million, with Belize City accounting for almost 60% of that amount. The balance is split among the remaining eight localities; namely, Belmopan City, Corozal and Orange Walk towns, Punta Gorda, Benque, Dangriga, Santa Elena/San Ignacio, and San Pedro.

For Belize City, as we discussed last week, the revenue from trade license represents approximately 20% of CITCO’s total income. The other municipalities have likewise—although to varying degrees—come to rely on this source of cash in order to carry out their function. As a result, it would be deemed irresponsible for the business community to advocate for the complete and immediate eradication of the regime, even though—as we’ve previously highlighted—the trade license’s design deviates from international best practice.

To that end, we have worked along with the Ministry’s proposal for a new, ARV-based methodology that would satisfy all five principles mentioned above. For this reason, we had accepted that—IN THE SHORT-TO-MEDIUM TERM—adherence to revenue-neutrality would essentially entail preserving the property-tax-like design of the trade license regime, with the understanding that it is gradually phased out.

Enter the Ceiling

However, even with the new ARV approach, the reality existed that while some businesses may have seen notable decreases, several companies would have witnessed sharp jumps in their “fees.”

The word “sharp,” in some cases, would have been an understatement, when it is considered that some firms might have incurred increases in the so-called trade license fee of an average of more than 1,200%—and no, there isn’t a misplaced decimal

place. One company, for instance, would have seen its current fee jump from less than \$1500 to more than \$30,000—a more than 3,000% hike. Try to imagine that is supposedly a “fee” for just starting and operating a business.

Observing these vast increases, the BCCI—during our consultations with GOB—had advocated for a “ceiling”. The Government, to its credit, agreed, and ultimately chose to implement a 10% ceiling, which is captured in section 53 of The Bill.

Of course, the government, in an effort to preserve the local authorities’ revenues, also put forward a “floor.” Consequently, a company that is paying, for example, \$20,000 in trade license tax, and would have otherwise been reduced to \$10,000, would only be allowed to save \$2,000. The new tax—with the floor in place—would be \$18,000.

Clearly, this is an imperfect system. However, it was one that the BCCI was ready to work along with in the short term, on the condition that the government incrementally TRANSITIONED




towards a flat fee with the next five to ten (or even 15) years. This was consistent with the Revenue-Neutrality principle. This transition phase was to allow the local authorities the time to identify alternative sources of income, so as to become less reliant on a system that is in clear breach of international best practice.

Regimes’ Expansion to Villages Breaches ‘Revenue-Neutrality’

With the above in mind, then it should become easier as to why certain parts of the Bill were met with far less support from the BCCI. Predominantly, those offending areas violated revenue-neutrality which the parties to this reform process had initially agreed to.

Remember what we said. We opted to compromise with a dysfunctional system in the municipalities that already had the regime, because those nine local governments had already become dependent

Cont’d on pg. 19

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Ministry of Youth, Sports and Transport now invites eligible Consultants from Commonwealth Countries to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

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

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

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

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

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



THE BUSINESS PERSPECTIVE



The Trade License Regime: A 'tax' by any other name (Part 2)

Cont'd from pg. 18

on the trade license revenues. The idea was to wean them off this cash cow over a period of time, acknowledging that that time period may span several years.

Therefore, the idea to export the already dysfunctional regime to the villages could not be countenanced, and benefited from absolutely no support from the BCCI when it came to businesses with square footage ABOVE 1,000 square feet. Of course, this requires some elaboration.

Let's start here. Section 2 of the Bill expands the definition of "licensing district" to include "the limits of each village as defined under the Village Councils Act." Despite repeated objections to this concept when it was presented to us during the consultations, this change still found its way into the Bill.

Section 21 of the Bill creates certain agreeable carve outs. Businesses located in the villages with

area below 600 sqft would be exempt. That's fine. Firms with square footage between 600 and 800 sqft would be charged a flat-fee of \$100. That's also fine, as that's a flat-fee. Businesses between 800 sqft and 1,000 sqft, would be charged a flat fee of \$250; this is also okay.

The problem enters when the businesses have an area greater than 1,000 sqft. The Ministry's idea is that companies located in the rural areas with square feet GREATER than 1,000 sqft would fall under the same Annual Rental Value (ARV) system that currently exists in Belize City and the other eight municipalities.

If the only reason (the only reason) the existing dysfunctional system was largely being preserved in the nine municipalities was due to revenue-centric reasons, how then can there be any justification for expanding it to areas where it previously did not exist? And if the goal is to transition us away from that ARV-based system over time, why, then, would it be acceptable for the same system to be

exported to the rural areas? That is the very opposite of phasing something out, or moving towards best practice.

Furthermore, it offends revenue-neutrality because the would-be expanded regime would now surpass the earlier mentioned \$9 million in takings from the regime. Even the more acceptable flat-fee approach for rural-area businesses below the 1,000 sqft threshold would offend revenue-neutrality, but at least that would have been an actual fee, as opposed to a property-tax by another name.

Of course, some stakeholders would argue that it best to expand the ARV-based regime to the villages to, as the saying goes, "equal the playing field," especially when the villages in question are contiguous to cities or towns. The operative question, here, is this: If the goal is to eventually phase out the licensing regime, why would it be deemed appropriate to expand it to even those contiguous localities. The risk, here, would be getting the villages accustomed to a certain revenue source only to eventually try and remove it in the future.

But, most importantly, the Trade Licensing Bill did not limit itself to villages contiguous to urban areas such as in the case of Ladyville bordering Belize City. Instead, the Bill targeted all villages throughout the entire country.

Furthermore, how can it be deemed as "equalizing the playing field" between businesses in the rural and urban areas? Cities and towns—especially Belize City—enjoy greater infrastructure and access to consumers than do their less developed village counterparts.

For example, when discussing potential consumer base, going by the 2010 census, Belize City had a population of 57,169, while Crooked Tree had only 805. Double Head Cabbage had 406 residents. Ladyville had 5,458, and Hattieville was reported at 2,344. Clearly, a lot has changed in 12 years, but the ongoing census is needed to confirm exactly the nature of those changes. However, if things remain relative—and they most likely will—then idea of "equality" may need to make way for "equity."

On a final note, there is also a public policy consideration that should be weighed. Yes, it is true that some businesses do leave the urban areas for the villages. And, of course, the revenue-centric paradigm leads the local authorities to view this departure as "bad for council business".

Consequently, to "stop" or "slowdown" this migration of economic activity from urban areas to the villages, the councils consider the regime's expansion as being necessary. However, this is somewhat contradictory from a rural development standpoint, as one would think that the default economic-public-policy position would be to encourage increased economic activities in otherwise poor communities.

Other Matters

Once again, the Trade Licensing Bill matters are too intricate to have been covered completely in one piece. We are still yet to speak to the concept of the productive footprint, and there is still the matter of Schedule VII.

For now, the government has indicated that they will conduct review the Bill, following the interventions made at The Committee; however, it still remains necessary for these issues to be illuminated. For this reason, we will finalize this discussion in the next Business Perspective column.

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.

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

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

Skills and Competencies:

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

Qualifications and Experience

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

Summary of Duties and Responsibilities:

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

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

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

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



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PR#134-22

PRESS RELEASE

Cabinet Brief

Belmopan. 26th May 2022. 9:00 a.m.

The Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño, met in regular session on 24th May 2022.

- The Minister of Blue Economy and Civil Aviation informed Cabinet of a constructive meeting with the leaders of communities in southern Belize to address the issue of erosion on Silk Caye. After meeting with relevant stakeholders, a task force was established including the leaders of communities in southern Belize, technical advisors from the Ministry of Blue Economy and Civil Aviation, Ministry of Natural Resources, Petroleum and Mining, Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management, and the Belize Coast Guard. Based on the findings of the assessment, the Fisheries Department will be giving approval for the community to proceed with the work started to address the erosion with the support of the technical experts.
- Cabinet noted that at Monday's House Committee meeting, stakeholders presented their concerns regarding the Trade License Bill 2022. Noting the fragile state of the entertainment industry caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Cabinet agreed to defer any fee for local entertainers while consultations continue with stakeholders in the entertainment industry. In addition, Cabinet will consult to develop incentives for the creative sector. All other recommendations presented at Monday's House Committee Meeting will be duly considered before the revised bill is presented to the House of Representatives for consideration.
- Cabinet gave its recommendation for a motion to be presented at the next sitting of the National Assembly for a loan motion from the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) for US\$24 million to finance the upgrading and rehabilitation of 16 miles of the Phillip Goldson Highway, from mile 8 1/2 to 24 1/2. The rehabilitation of this 16-mile section of the Phillip Goldson Highway is expected to reduce transportation costs and accident rates, increase access to services, increase employment opportunities and improve climate resilience.
- With a view to fast-track private sector investment and further stimulate economic growth, Cabinet approved certain policy and legislative adjustments to reduce turn-around time and streamline processes and provide additional incentives for various investment incentives programs including the small business (MSME) enhancement program, the designated processing areas program used by BPO's, agro-processing, aquaculture and manufacturing, and the fiscal incentives program used by tourism and other business ventures.
- Cabinet approved the development concept of a Government Administration Campus in Belize City in the Lake Independence Development Area using a public-private partnership vehicle. It is intended that such a campus will consolidate government departments scattered across the city including the various courts of the judiciary and enable the more efficient provision of government services to the public.
- Cabinet took note of the report from the Inter-Ministerial Committee on measures that would improve the effectiveness of garbage disposal as well as recommendations on the sustainable practices to promote a clean environment, climate protection and zero waste for the health, aesthetics and well-being of the country. Recommendations include a review of the current environmental protection regulations, amendments to the Returnable Containers Act, strengthening the institutional capacity of the Department of the Environment, and new actions on plastic and waste disposal and an awareness campaign on cleaner communities and on recycling.
- On COVID-19, As of 23rd May 2022, 216,474 or 50.32% of the total population have received at least one dose of the vaccine, 211,693 or 49.21% of the total population two doses and 47,671 or 11.09 % of the total population had received booster shots. As of 23rd May 2022, 31,803 or 54.56% of the target population (58,292) of children ages 12 to 17 years have received at least one dose of the vaccine and 26,628 or 45.68% of the target population have been fully vaccinated. Since the start of the pandemic, the cumulative number of deaths up to 20th May 2022 is 677.
- The Ministry of Health & Wellness reminds the public that an unvaccinated person is 24 times more likely to die compared to a vaccinated person and statistics show that the adjusted mortality rate for every 10,000 people is 1.99 among fully vaccinated, 6.35 among partially vaccinated and 48.42 per 10,000 unvaccinated individuals.
- Finally, Cabinet advises all Belizeans to continue to adhere to COVID-19 prevention safety measures including wearing a face mask in public, maintaining physical distance where possible and washing hands regularly. Cabinet also encourages all those not yet vaccinated to do so. Vaccines save lives.

Ends



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

Position:

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

Qualifications:

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

Salary:

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

Application Process:

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

Documents Required:

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

Address Applications to:

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

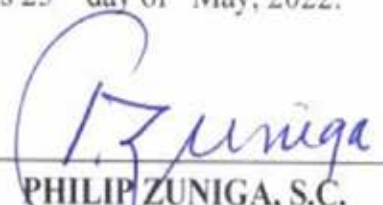
BELIZE CITY,

Estate of PAMELA MARY HASTINGS, 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 PAMELA MARY HASTINGS, late of Flat 2 South Park Court Park Road, Beckenham, Kent BR3, 1 PH, United Kingdom, are required to send particulars in writing of their claims or demands to MR. PHILIP ZUNIGA, S.C., Attorney-at-Law, 7 Cor. Saint Peter & Third Streets, King's Park, Belize City, Belize District, Belize, and to send such particulars not later than the **28th day of August, 2022**, AND NOTICE IS HEREBY ALSO GIVEN that at the expiration of the last mentioned date, the Executor will proceed to distribute the assets of the said PAMELA MARY HASTINGS, deceased, amongst the parties entitled thereto having regard only to the claims or demands of which particulars have been delivered and the Executor 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 the Executor shall not then have had notice.

DATED this 25th day of May, 2022.


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



The **Port of Belize Limited** hereby gives notice to all those concerned that all vehicles listed below that is not legally removed from the **Port of Belize Limited** by **Wednesday, June 15th, 2022** shall be sold at a **Public Auction** on **Saturday, June 18th, 2022 at 9:00am sharp** at **Port of Belize Ltd. facility**.



VESSEL	ARR DATE	VOYAGE	BL No.	CONSIGNEE NAMES	D/R#	UNIT	DESCRIPTION	VIN #
CARIBE MARINER	23-05-21	609	PEVBZ185428	ALBERT BAILEY	237780	VH	1997 INTERNATIONAL BUS	1HVBFBAM9VH465556
TROPIC LURE	04-06-21	2512	TSCW14828566	CORDELL'S AUTO	9741246	VH	2015 CHRYSLER PACIFICA RED	2A8GM68X38R662706
TROPIC LURE	24/12/21	2495	TSCW14553871	HUGH BOWDEN	9408903	VH	2005 FORD EXPLORER WHITE	1FMZU63K45UA37561
TROPIC LURE	24/12/21	2495	TSCW14624029	CHARLES MCCOY AUTO SALES	9492235	VH	2009 NISSAN VERSA WHITE	3N1BC11E59L396123
TROPIC LURE	22/09/20	2480	TSCW14486323	BROWN DOLLAR AUTOS	9327780	VH	1995 FORD RANGER GRAY	1FTCR14U2STA42676
JAN CARIBE	19/09/20	443	PEVBZ178377	M & J IMPORTS	236270	VH	2012 FORD FOCUS	1FAHP3K27CC271046
CARIBE MARINER	31/10/21	629	PEVBZ190279	M & S AUTOSERVICE	238878	VH	2004 TOYOTA CAMRY	4TBE32K74U329301
CARIBE MARINER	31/10/21	629	PEVBZ190276	SOUTHERN WHEELS	238877	VH	2012 FORD FUSION	3FAHPOHAXCR407667
CARIBE MARINER	31/10/21	629	PEVBZ190278	SOUTHERN WHEELS	238881	VH	2009 FORD FOCUS	1FAHP36N79W128173
VANQUISH	20/09/21	174	PEVBZ189043	M & S AUTOSERVICE	238482	VH	2000 LEXUS GS 300	JT8BD6850Y008745
TROPIC LURE	11-09-21	2566	TSCW15203833	M & S AUTOSERVICE	10200587	VH	2001 TOYOTA COROLLA	2T1BR12E71C397
TROPIC LURE	24/08/21	2548	TSCW15070757	CORDELL'S AUTO	10038554	VH	2009 NISSAN PATHFINDER	5N1AR18U49C612104
TROPIC MIST	27/07/21	4747	TSCW14975580	CORDELL'S AUTO	9922714	VH	2009 DODGE JOURNEY	3D4GG57V69T133678
TROPIC MIST	06-08-21	2521	TSCW14919433	CORDELL'S AUTO	9854155	VH	2007 FORD EXPEDITION	1FMFU18557LA35187
TROPIC LURE	06-08-21	2521	TSCW14919421	HUGH BOWDEN	9854137	VH	2010 VOLKSWAGEN TOUREZ	WVGFK7A95AD000236
TROPIC LURE	06-08-21	2521	TSCW14923435	HUGH BOWDEN	9858925	VH	2006 BMW X5	5UXFB535X6LV22648
TROPIC MIST	16-11-21	4775	TSCW151863	CORDELL'S AUTO	10179531	VH	2010 FORD ESCAPE	1FMCUOEGOAKC99885
TROPIC LURE	22-09-21	2553	TSCW151187	GARCIA MOTOR	10097299	VH	2020 CHEVROLET EQUINOX	2GNAXUEV7L6139007
TROPIC MIST	22-07-21	4747	TSCW149968	M & S AUTOSERVICE	9947893	VH	2021 KIA SELTOS	KNDETCA25M7049626
TROPIC LURE	01-06-21	2520	TSCW149276	EMILIO LEIVA	9863836	VH	2005 DODGE CARAVAN	2D4GPZ4R15R308731
CARIBE MARINER	18/4/20	573	PEVBZ174675	SOLECITA CIMASOSA	235542	VH	07 FORD ESCAPE	1FMYU03155KA25852
CARIBE MARINER	18-11-17	490	PEVBZ144522B	AL BROWN AUTO	225929	VH	05 FORD ESCAPE	1FMYU03127KA63025



Heart • Mind • Soul

Healthy snack ideas to keep you feeling full

If you're looking to improve your snacking habits, these 14 healthy snack ideas can help you to boost your energy levels, and even help with weight loss.

Snacks can be an important part of a healthy diet. But so much depends on what you reach for at that moment when your stomach growls with hunger, or you experience a dip in your energy levels. Opting for a healthy snack, like one of the best protein bars, as opposed to fast food, candy, or a salty snack, can affect your weight, and your overall health.

This article takes a closer look at whether snacks can be a healthy option between meals, whether morning or evening snacks are better, and what healthy options you can build into your overall eating patterns to get the most from your snacks. Plus, we speak to a registered nutritionist to get the lowdown on what and when to eat.

New statistics gathered during the coronavirus pandemic found that working from home accelerated snack consumption even further.

Snacking between meals can give you a much-needed energy boost. It can also help to control your blood glucose levels, and curb your appetite to avoid overeating during main meals. They can also be a source of extra nutrients or calories if you find it hard to schedule, or finish, a main meal.

Registered nutritionist for ProYouth Nutrition, Rachel Akuffo agrees. "Small snacking that consists of healthy choices may be helpful to keep your energy levels up and could prevent you from becoming overly hungry and overeating at your next meal," she says.

But she adds a word of warning: "Ultimately it's about calories consumed versus calories expended. Whether snacking is beneficial or not depends on why you are snacking, the snack choices, and how much."

As we all know, poor snacking choices, or too many snacks, can reduce how hungry we feel at mealtimes, leading us to skip out on essential nutrition, changing our eating behaviors for the worse, and increasing our urge to eat salty, sugary, or fatty foods that are detrimental to our health.

Bad habits can stick too, as Akuffo points out: "If you are simply responding to snacking habits, brain simulation of temptation by chocolates and other unhealthy snacks, then snacking can lead to weight gain and other issues."

Harvard School of Public Health says that the ideal snack should be "enough to satisfy, but not so much that it interferes with your appetite for a meal or adds too many calories". They suggest aiming for a snack that has around 150-200 calories. However, if you're trying to lose weight, the British Heart Foundation suggests cutting this to around 100 calories.

WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO SNACK?

A 2019 study into snack times in Seattle workplaces looked at the relationship between obesity and the timing of snacks. Researchers found that evening snacks were

more associated with being overweight than any other snack time.

The researchers also found that mid-morning snacks tended to be healthier than at any other time, and typically involved more fruit and vegetable consumption. Evening snacks were more likely to be French fries, fast food, and soft drinks. People who snacked in the evening were also more likely



to be distracted during eating, which can result in consuming more food.

A 2017 study in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition also found that eating food during the evening and night was more likely to result in a higher body fat percentage and body mass index (BMI). The upshot? The



later you snack, the more likely you are to make unhealthy choices, and eat too much.

So when is the best time to snack? This seems to be harder to pin down. Much of it depends on what you reach for, as opposed to when you eat your snack. However, a 2020 study into the effects of having a low-sugar mid-afternoon snack of hummus found that it reduced subsequent snacking on sweet and sugary foods later in the evening by 20%.

Eating more food earlier in the day, rather than at night, is also good for you, say researchers. A 2019 study into the relationship between circadian rhythms and eating, found that taking in more energy early in the day reduced inflammation, improved sleep and increased the body's ability to cope with stress. It also improved gut health.

Given that we know late night eating can increase obesity, it appears that keeping your snack times to morning or afternoon is better for you, both in terms of weight loss, and overall health.

However, it's not always a choice. Working patterns and busy days can disrupt our schedules from time to time, so if you find

you have to have a snack at night, don't sweat it too much. As Akuffo says, "Whilst it's good to give your body a break at night times, if your body hasn't had adequate calories, or you are a shift worker, then your snacking pattern needs to be altered."

HEALTHY SNACK IDEAS

- A sliced apple and a tablespoon of peanut butter: Apples are a great source of fiber, vitamin C and potassium, while peanut butter is packed with protein, fiber, and vitamins and minerals.
 - String cheese with whole grain crackers: String cheese contains calcium, while the wholegrain crackers will provide fiber to fill you up.
 - Crunchy veg crudites such as peppers, carrots and celery, topped with a light dressing of zero-fat Greek yogurt, parsley, mint and a squeeze of lemon: Add a scattering of pine nuts for extra protein.
 - Trail mix with chopped dates or fresh fruit: Makes a satisfying snack with plenty of protein and heart-healthy fats.
- Protein bar: A protein bar can help to curb appetite. Choose one packed with natural, unprocessed sources of protein, such as nuts and yogurt.
- Air popped popcorn (2 cups): Popcorn is packed with fiber, helping to fill you up without the calories. Be sure to choose plain popcorn rather than a flavored brand.
- One cup of plain, low-fat Greek yogurt and ½ cup of fruit, such as blueberries, strawberries or apricots: Greek yogurt is an excellent source of calcium and protein, while fruit can provide a boat to your daily vitamin and fiber intake.
- Half a cup of edamame beans: These are high in protein and rich in vitamins and minerals, such as iron, magnesium, folate and vitamin K.
- Two tablespoons of cottage cheese and six cherry tomatoes on a rice or oatcake: This low-calorie cheese is high in protein and nutrients, and is often used in weight loss plans. The cherry tomatoes are packed with antioxidants, and the oat or rice cakes provide fiber.
- One sliced banana on a slice of wholemeal toast: Bananas are a filling source of fiber, and antioxidants, while wholemeal bread contains iron, folate, potassium, and magnesium.
- A sliced red pepper and three tablespoons of low-fat hummus: Peppers are loaded with antioxidants and low-fat hummus is rich in calcium, iron, and magnesium.
 - A quarter of sliced avocado on a wholegrain crispbread: Avocado is packed with healthy fats and nutrients, such as vitamin K and folate. The crispbread adds fiber, which will help you to feel fuller for longer.
 - A boiled egg: Eggs are an excellent source of protein, healthy fats, and vitamins, plus they're low in calories.
 - A small handful of mixed nuts, such as walnuts, Brazil nuts, cashews and pistachios: Eating nuts in moderation can help you lose weight, and they are a rich source of fiber, protein, and healthy fats.



FUN FACTS!

How the Colors Pink and Blue Became Associated With Gender



It might seem to people today that baby boys have always been gifted with blue things and little girls pink, but as with most things in life, those associations are much more modern than one might imagine.

It wasn't until after WWI that pink and blue became gender signifiers. Until then, like I mentioned, children up to the age of six or seven were usually dressed in gender neutral clothes that could be easily bleached clean,

and that allowed parents to use the same clothing for any and all subsequent children.

Pastel colors like pink, blue, and yellow were introduced in the mid-1800s and were widely used, but were considered "baby and child" colors, not assigned to one sex or the other.

Then in June of 1918 Ladies Home Journal published an article that claimed, out of the blue, that "the generally accepted rule is pink for the

boys, and blue for the girls."

Which is, of course, the opposite of the generally accepted rule today. At the time, pink was associated with red and considered too harsh for girls, who should be dressed in the more muted colors of sky and sunshine.

It was likely a marketing strategy to begin associating colors with sex in the first place. After all, why sell only one set of baby and toddler clothes when you

could sell two?

By assigning colors to boys and girls, clothing manufacturers and retailers could double their sales, and by 1927, department stores all over America had jumped on the growing trend. Time magazine even printed a chart showing appropriate colors for each sex (though boys were still being assigned pink).

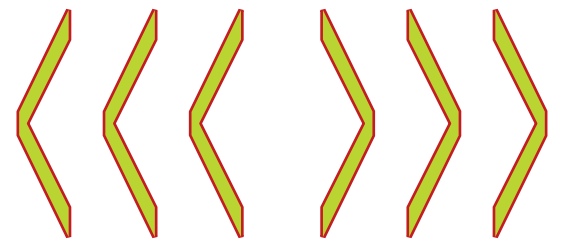
In the 1940s, the assigned colors flipped – blue for boys, pink for girls – but the popularity slowed with the advent of the women's lib movement. For awhile, unisex clothing made a comeback that remained strong until the 1980s – around the time ultrasounds became clear enough for parents-to-be to learn their child's sex while still in the womb.

Most experts expect the focus on the gender of unborn and newly-born babies to wane in the coming years, as our society evolves to accept the idea that gender is an ever-evolving social construct, and more nonbinary people insist on recognition within the system.



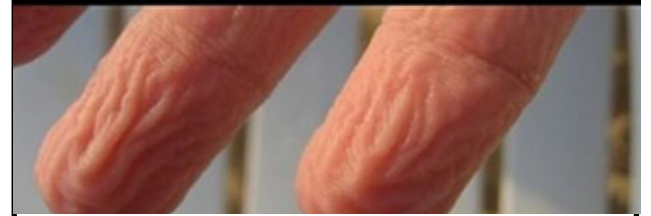
Sarcasm Emoji?

Scientists say the best way to convey sarcasm in your text messages is to use a winky face. Without it, your jokes are often completely misinterpreted.



Why the Wrinkly Fingers?

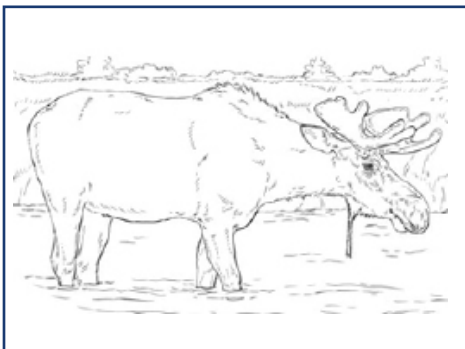
People with nerve damage in their hands don't get wrinkly fingers when they're soaked in water. This discovery helped scientists learn how water causes skin wrinkles, which occur due to an involuntary nervous system reaction, but they still have no idea why it happens.



COLOR ME

- Moose are the largest of all the deer species in the world.

- Only male moose (bulls) have antlers. The particular shape differs from animal to animal and they are shed every year around November, being replaced with larger ones the forthcoming spring. The primary function of antlers is for display during the competitive mating season. • They can grow up to 1.8 m long end-to-end.



- Moose are peaceful animals which very rarely become aggressive. They will however defend themselves if threatened and males can become more highly strung during the mating season. The most common "aggressive" behaviour is however bluffing to charge, so that they remain safe without the need for combat.

- Females (cows) often give birth to twins, and even sometimes triplets. They are very attentive and protective mothers. Calves are able to browse alongside their

mothers after around 3 weeks and are weaned at about 5 months. They however stay with their mothers for at least a year.

- A male moose has a 'dewlap', a dangling flap under the chin. The size and shape of the dewlap may indicate dominance level. Males also use the dewlap to scent mark females by rubbing it against them during the mating season.

- Moose can travel at speeds up to 35mph, and can trot steadily for 32 km in just an hour.

- Despite their size and weight, moose are very adept swimmers. They are able to swim for several miles and can even be totally submerged under the water for around 30 seconds.



GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE
INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
STRENGTHENING OF TAX ADMINISTRATION
(BL-L1031)



PROCUREMENT OFFICER

DUTY STATION: Belize City, Belize

PROJECT NUMBER: BL-L1031

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 The Government of Belize, through the Ministry of Finance (MOF) is embarking towards the modernisation of the tax administration by merging the existing **Income Tax Department (ITD)** and the **Department of General Sales Tax (DGST)** into a single function-based tax administration, and procuring and implementing a new **Integrated Tax Administration System (ITAS)**.

1.2 In order to facilitate the process, the Tax Modernization Program was initiated and comprises of five main projects/components including: (a) Communication and Change Management; (b) Organization/Human Resources (HR)/Infrastructure; (c) Business Processes Re-engineering; (d) Legislative Framework; and (e) Information Technology. These will be implemented in phases, with the existing core areas of the ITD and DGST operating as the new, consolidated functional organization, the Belize Tax Service (BTS).

1.3 To support this endeavour, the GoB has requested the support of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to fund a five-year project “**Strengthening of Tax Administration**” (BL-L1031). The main objective of the Project is to strengthen Belize’s tax administration aimed at increasing tax revenue collection, through the following specific objectives: (a) increasing the effectiveness of the Government to collect taxes, through improvement in the tax administration governance and; (b) increasing tax administration efficiency, through improvement in the operational processes and modernization of the technological infrastructure.

1.4 A Program Management Office (PMO) supports the implementation of the Program along with the consolidation of the BTS. The MoF is the Executing Agency (EA) of BL-L1031. For this purpose, a Project Executing Unit (PEU) will be established in the PMO with concrete technical, administrative, financial, control and planning, monitoring and evaluation responsibilities for the IDB-funded initiative.

1.5 In this regard, a vacancy exists for the Procurement Officer for the PEU under a contractual arrangement with the MoF, and as part of the BL-L1031 initiative.

2. OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE OF WORK

2.1 The objective of the position is to lead the execution of the procurement activities of the PEU in accordance with the provisions of the Project and the Bank’s procurement rules and procedures and the MoF procurement guidelines, when applicable. In particular, the Procurement Officer is responsible for the overall and day to day activities for the procurement of goods, services and works of the Project subject to IDB policies and requirements and in accordance with the Project Operational Manual (POM).

3. RESPONSIBILITIES/ACTIVITIES

3.1 The main responsibilities of the Procurement Officer include, among others:

- (a) Review all documentation relating to the Project; and, be informed on the Program Operation Manual (POM), the Loan Contract, the Procurement Plan (PP), the Annual Operational Plan (AOP), the Project Execution Plan (PEP), and the initial Disbursement Projection Table.
- (b) Prepare and update the Annual Procurement Plans.
- (c) Participate in the preparation of the AOP and prepare and update the PEP in MS Project.
- (d) Prepare necessary bidding documents, prepare the Terms of References (ToRs) and review specifications prepared by Technical Staff, organize and execute all bid openings and evaluation processes, prepare evaluation reports and corresponding draft contracts.
- (e) In coordination with the Project Coordinator and Financial Officer, prepare the ToRs and bidding documents for the annual audits.
- (f) Ensure contracting of consultants, suppliers and contractors is in accordance with IDB procurement policies and GoB policies, laws and regulations.
- (g) Ensure that prospective contractors, suppliers and consultants are duly constituted and are ongoing concerns.
- (h) Issue contracts for signature by relevant parties.
- (i) Manage the validity of contracts during their execution.
- (j) Assist the Project Coordinator in the submission of monthly activities reports and prepare the quarterly procurement reports following a pre-approved Bank format.
- (k) Maintain an up-to-date registry of consultants hired and goods and services purchased under the Project.
- (l) Monitor executed contracts through contract completion, liaising with technical personnel of the MoF, PMO and PEU and the Financial Specialist of the PEU to ensure payments/disbursements are made according to contract.
- (m) Maintain appropriate files of procurement functions and provide information as needed by the Executing Agency and the Bank.
- (n) Participate in the update of the POM taking responsibility for the procurement section and ensuring its alignment with the procurement guidelines of the Bank.
- (o) Execute other tasks as required to enable transparent, efficient and timely implementation of procurement activities and program deliverables.
- (p) Liaise with GoB officials (MoF, PMO, PEU and other) on procurement matters aimed at ensuring and effective discharge of the Project’s procurement/contracting activities.
- (q) Publish procurement notices in the newspaper, IDB website, UNDB platform and the National Procurement Portal.
- (r) Publish the procurement plan in the IDB website, MOF website and the National Procurement Portal.
- (s) Prepare requisitions on a timely basis.
- (t) Provide the necessary training to Government officials.
- (u) Other duties assigned

4. REPORTS/DELIVERABLES

4.1 The Procurement Officer will be responsible for preparing/updating the following reports which are considered recurrent deliverables or responsibilities:

- (a) Annual PPs.
- (b) Quarterly procurement reports.
- (c) Updates to POM and PEP.
- (d) Procurement documents (bids, ToRs, requests for proposals, invitations, etc.)
- (e) Minutes of procurement meetings.
- (f) Other.

5. QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE

a. Education:

- A Bachelor of Science Degree in Procurement, Management, Accounting, Finance, Business Administration, Auditing, Law, Public Administration or other related field.
- A specialized certification in procurement and supply chain management or contract management is considered a plus.

b. General Experience:

- Three (3) years minimum working since obtaining academic degree

c. Specific Experience:

- At least three (3) years of relevant experience in procurement administration in the private or public sector, as part of overall project management.
- One (1) year experience working with international or national development agencies is considered an asset
- One (1) year experience working in Microsoft Project is considered an asset

5.1 Skills, Knowledge and Abilities:

- (a) Excellent computer skills using Microsoft Office,
- (b) Knowledge of procurement policies and procedures of the IDB or similar organizations would be considered an asset.
- (c) Task orientated and able to prioritize projects, multitask and meet tight deadlines;
- (d) Fluent in written and spoken English with the ability to express data in a concise and clear manner;
- (e) Team player and possess strong self-motivation and initiative;
- (f) Sound decision making skills and objectivity with the proven ability to act with confidentiality and discretion;
- (g) Professional, honest and display strong business ethics and integrity; and
- (h) Experience with the Government of Belize Procurement/administrative platforms will be of significant benefit.

6. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

6.1 The Procurement Officer reports to the Project Coordinator of the PEU. He/she shall work in close coordination with the staff of the MOF and especially the members of the PMO, the BTSD.

7. COMPENSATION

- 7.1 The Procurement Officer will be paid a monthly salary to be established during the contracting process.
- 7.2 Given the staff-like tasks and responsibilities of the PEU personnel, reports (deliverables) do not apply. Instead, performance assessment reports from the supervisor.

8. APPLICATIONS

8.1 CRITERIA for SELECTION

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. The individual consultant will be selected based on their experience and competence relevant to the assignment and most appropriate qualifications and references in accordance with the Comparison of Qualifications method set out in the Consultant Policies.

8.2 APPLICATION PROCEDURES:

Expression of Interest package should contain:

- (i) Cover letter briefly explaining interest, experience, and competence of the consultant
- (ii) Comprehensive resume
- (iii) Copy of degrees/certificates
- (iv) List of at least two references
- (v) Proof of nationality: copy of documentation of nationality

Qualified Consultant should submit their application via e-mail to Michelle.Longsworth@bts.gov.bz marked STAP- Procurement Officer in the subject header, or submit hardcopy on or before **Friday, June 10th, 2022, by 3:00 p.m.** to the following address:

Director General
Belize Tax Service Department
Strengthening of Tax Administration Project
Charles Bartlett Hyde Building
Mahogany Street, Belize City
Tel: 501-222-5114

For clarifications kindly contact:

Project Coordinator
Project Executing Unit
Strengthening of Tax Administration Project
Charles Bartlett Hyde Building
Mahogany Street, Belize City
Tel: 501-222-5114/E-mail: Gisel.Correa@mof.gov.bz