

Reporter

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\$15 MILLION AND COUNTING!

Excise on regular, diesel up, but tax-revenue losses continue

In the last four months, the Government of Belize lost an accumulative \$14.75 million in excise-tax revenues in an effort to stabilize regular and diesel fuel, and despite recent updates, GOB continues to mount up losses, Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance Christopher Coye told *The Reporter* Thursday.

Coye explained that excise tax on diesel and regular gasoline are now \$1.47 and \$3.07 per imperial gallon, respectively. Readers would recall that in June, the government had lowered the excise tax on the fuel products to \$0.01 and \$0.90 so as to keep diesel fuel and regular gasoline prices fixed at \$13.41 and \$13.50, respectively.

While the current rates are higher relative to where they were in June, they remain



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Human Rights Commission not on People's Constitution Commission?

By Michelle Sutherland

As the country is faced with one of the most important tasks to rewrite and modernize its constitution, we note

with great concern that one key group that is not sitting on the commission is the Human Rights Commission of Belize (HRC).

In fact, following several queries about the status of the HRC in this important process, the President of the Human

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President of Human Rights Commission Leo Bradley Jr.

Health Officials Raid Pharmacy Express

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Pharmacy Express Ltd's subsidiaries were raided by authorities.



Eight Pillars

Editor Sir:

Recently, we confined to the dust of our graveyards the human remains of perhaps two of the most important leaders of Belize. In my mind, I have lined up these two men alongside of the Founder of the Nation. The days between their passing and burial were historical moments of sorrow and sadness, because they represented to me not truth and HONOR, but the Creole political principle, “OGLY WIN BETTA DAN PRETTY LOSE.” With filthy lucre they bought the support of those anxious to enjoy the fruits of power.

Sometimes, I even turn against myself conceding that many boots of righteousness should kick me with a proper scolding: “Yes what does it profit to gain the whole world but suffer the loss...” You should have stood up for your belief!

Have you ever reflected how Almighty God in his merciful providence in the history of Western Civilization has allowed important and powerful kings to satiate their lustful flesh, causing unspeakable suffering but eventually bringing about the design of greater wisdom for his people.

Henry VIII of England wanted a new wife because his present one was not giving him a male heir... Instead, he got a girl who would become Elizabeth I. And what a great, long reigning sovereign she became!

Recently, our present reigning head of state celebrated SEVENTY YEARS of reign. Probably the longest reigning queen throughout Christendom ever!

Just some few months ago the Queen’s Chaplain and Anglican Bishop told the Queen he was going to become a Catholic! She approved of his leaving her service to serve HIS OWN CONSCIENCE.

Nearly five centuries ago Henry had the head of his Chancellor Sir Thomas Moor cut off for

refusing to approve his marriage to the mother of his daughter – Ann Boleyn!

Do you know what I keep on saying – MAN PROPOSES, GOD DISPOSES:

Actually, what I continue to write this morning is somewhat preparatory to the comments I wish to make to the CONSTITUTION REVIEW COMMISSION.

Could we make it be the most productive, well-reasoned intellectual exercise that will make Belize emerge as an intellectual leader not only in the Caribbean but also to the whole world. Therefore, let us restrain ourselves calling for the exclusion of this one or that one. Everybody must be heard.

Curiously, I would like to take back a suggestion made about three years ago...I suggested that in the appointment of the Chief Justice the legal term “with the concurrence of the Leader of the Opposition” be substituted for “after consultation”

Just think: we could spend the whole of One Term of Government with two men disagreeing:

Why not give the duty of choosing to the National Assembly, as is done for appointing the Ombudsman. Yes, the debate may highlight the sins of the CJ. Believe me: No One will be shocked! We are all mortal men and women – ALL IMPERFECT!

We shall also need to increase the numbers of PRINCIPLES in the PREAMBLE from SIX to EIGHT (6-8).

BECAUSE the main pillars of our nation are ALMIGHTY GOD. We need to start our new national life by obeying HIS COMMANDS the SECOND of which is LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR as yourself: This spells to me DIVERSITY – 7! This means to me TOLERANCE – 8!

Paul Rodriguez OBE

Human Rights Commission not ...

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Rights Commission in Belize Leo Bradley Jr. contacted The Reporter to say that the commission will be discussing the matter next week at a board meeting. While Bradley would not go into further details of what that discussion will center around, he said that until after that process is completed then he will be able to make a statement on the matter.

The Reporter also reached out to the Minister of Public Service, Constitutional and Political reform Henry Charles Usher who confirmed via a WhatsApp message that the HRC was in fact not one of the bodies that is sitting on the Commission. Usher, however, reiterated that like the previous Reform Commission of 1999, where the HRC was not listed as a member, it

nonetheless ended up playing a major role in the process. The minister opined that this current process will be similar.

“I think too much focus has been put on who is around the table. Remember, this is the People’s Constitution Commission. The views of the Belizean people are paramount, and the Commission’s mandate is to consult and incorporate those views,” Usher commented to the Reporter.

He added that while the HRC does not have a seat on the commission, “everyone and every group will have an opportunity to present their views.”

Presently, the People’s Constitution Commission Bill shows that the commission has 21 members seated at the table. This list includes political groups, the business community,

representatives from non-governmental organizations, the various unions, the village councils, the various ethnic groups, the legal community, the churches, the education sector, the health sector, media and the LGBTIQ+ community.

The commission will have a period of 18 months to conduct a comprehensive look at the Constitution, engage in national consultation, report back, and make recommendations to the Ministry of Public Service, Constitutional and Political Reform.

THE REPORTER

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\$15 MILLION AND COUNTING!...

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below their original levels. "We continue to incur mounting excise tax losses [due to the price stabilization program]," Coye underscored. "Recall that immediately before Government started the stabilization program, the excise tax on diesel was \$3.57 per imperial gallon and \$3.95 per imperial gallon for regular gasoline."

Consequently, the minister added, "Clearly, we are still continuing to suffer an excise loss of \$2.10 and \$0.88 per imperial gallon."

Coye explained that

all that has changed is that the "rate of loss has since as the government continues to accumulate revenue losses. In July alone, the government lost about \$6.5 million when the excises taxes were "nearing zero for the month."

The price stabilization program is the government's policy in which it has virtually fixed the prices for diesel and regular. Under the program, when the international prices and acquisition costs were climbing, the excise duty was cut in an effort to absorb some of the fuel cost

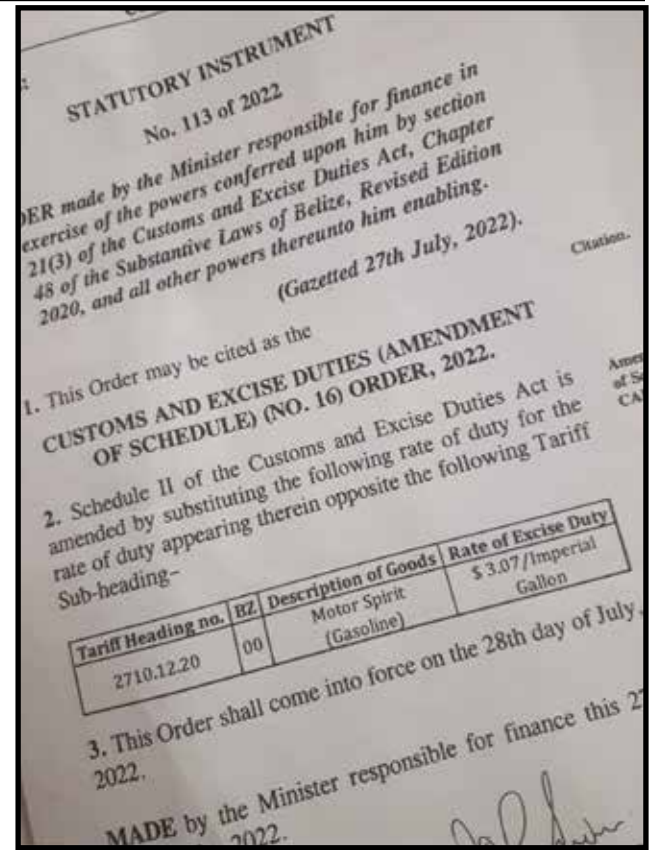
pass-through.

At present, global prices—while still volatile—have begun to show signs of declining. For instance, on Thursday, Reuters reported that the "average price of U.S. retail gasoline fell below \$4 per gallon... for the first time in months."

However, the stabilization program also works in the reverse. It was designed to help government minimize its overall revenue shortfall by keeping the prices of the two products fixed in the \$13 range even when acquisition costs began to decline. To put

this into perspective, if the excise duty on regular gasoline was still at \$0.90 (instead of the current \$3.07) the price at the pump would be closer to \$11.33. For Diesel, the June 2022 excise rate of \$0.01 would have had present pump prices closer to \$11.95.

However, it is also worth noting where the pump prices would have been if the original excise rates (\$3.57 for Diesel and \$3.95 for Regular) were maintained, and the price stabilization program was abandoned. For Regular gasoline, the price would have been



As of July 28th, excise on Regular is \$3.07

closer to \$14.38 per gallon. For Diesel, the price would have been more than \$15.00, all

Health Officials Raid Pharmacy Express

A large quantity of 'pharmaceuticals' was confiscated by health officials during a raid at four pharmacies located at Fort Street Tourism Village in Belize City. On Thursday morning, health officials descended on RX, Pharmacy Express, Pharmacy Save and Village Discount Pharmacy all under the umbrella company Pharmacy Express Limited which is owned by Julius and Angela Zabaneh.

Attorneys for

Pharmacy Express Limited told the Reporter that their client is "considering all avenues at the moment" when asked if legal action will be taken against the Government. Attorney Hector Guerra of Marine Parade Chambers LLP described the raid as "unlawful, arbitrary and clearly excessive" and confirmed that 'pharmaceuticals' were taken. Health officials were there to ensure that health regulations were being followed

after they received information that the four drugstores were distributing controlled drugs over the counter.

When officials arrived they were met with resistance from company employees who demanded that search warrants be produced. This is when police were called in with the warrants and a Justice of the Peace to witness the breaking of padlocks that were fastened. Medications from two of the stores searched were taken to the Central Health

Region offices for documentation and storage. The company was unable to provide proper documentation for the items confiscated. The raid ended after seven hours and after a high-ranking government official made a call, instructing health officials to stand down.

Health and Wellness Minister who is on personal leave said, "I know an inspection was to be done at the said location this week."

President of the Pharmacists Association of Belize Seleny Villanueva-Pott said she cannot comment on a matter that has not been discussed by the association.

Pharmacy Express Limited came under the magnifying glass

when the Social Security Board (SSB) published a notice on investment in which it said that it was proposing to lend \$7 million to Pharmacy Express Limited "for refinancing and inventory purchases". The proposal raised eyebrows including those from Minister Bernard. A brief release from his ministry says that it has some "concerns related to this loan and hopes to meet the autonomous SSB before it makes its final determination on this proposed loan." Health and Wellness CEO Dr. Julio Sabido met with SSB's Board of Directors on July 28 and shared the ministry's concerns.

In a Thursday evening press release,

SSB informed that Pharmacy Express Limited (PEL) had withdrawn their "loan application, to which the SSB responded by accepting [the] same." The SSB press release adds that PEL's withdrawal "brings the loan approval process and the inquiry, in relation to PEL matter, to an end."

The SSB release also informed that the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW)'s objection to the \$7 million loan application was based on the fact that "PEL is not in possession of a pharmaceutical license to operate and, therefore, the entity was operating without a license and should not be dispensing or supplying pharmaceuticals to the public."

RF&G LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY LTD.

Date: August 9, 2022

Darien Jesley Arzu of Pomona Village, Stann Creek District, Belize C.A. having made written declaration that Policy LTAN000039 under RF&G Life Insurance Company Ltd has been lost and having made request to the Company for a duplicate of the Policy, notice is hereby given that unless objection is raised within one month of the date herein, the requested duplicate policy will be issued.

Providence SDA High School
San Antonio Village, Toledo District, Belize C.A.
Phone: +501- 613-7585
Email: providencesda2010@yahoo.com or providencesda21@gmail.com

VACANCY

Qualified applicants are invited to apply for the following post:

1. POSITION: Vocational Teacher Full Time
2. POSITION: General Teacher (Spanish, Religion & Social Studies) Full Time

REQUIREMENTS:

- ◆ Minimum education level of an Associate Degree in Information Technology.
- ◆ Valid secondary school Teacher's License.
- ◆ Motivated towards personal and professional excellence.
- ◆ Must possess strong values and must have Seventh day Adventist beliefs.

Salary will be in accordance with the government pay scale.

Interested candidates are asked to submit an Application Letter, resume, two character reference letters, copies of Transcripts and Diplomas authenticated by a Justice of the Peace, recent Police Record, Marriage Certificate (if applicable), Birth Certificate and copy of a valid Social Security Card to providencesda21@gmail.com or drop off application packets at our campus in San Antonio Village, Toledo. Monday to Thursday between 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Deadline for application is Friday, August 26th, 2022.

"A Journey to Excellence!"

RF&G LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY LTD.

Date: August 9, 2022

Edgar Elias Puga of #27 West Canal, Belize City, Belize District, Belize C.A. having made written declaration that Policy WL00000059 under RF&G Life Insurance Company Ltd has been lost and having made request to the Company for a duplicate of the Policy, notice is hereby given that unless objection is raised within one month of the date herein, the requested duplicate policy will be issued.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

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

Weightlifting association calls on GOB for financial support

Sports Minister Rodwell Ferguson Sr was forced to defend himself on social media after it was insinuated that the Ministry of Sports offered no assistance to the Belize Powerlifting Association whose members leave the country on Friday to compete in the North American Powerlifting Championship in Panama.

The minister posted on his personal Facebook page at 6:39 pm on August 9th that “at no time the National Sports Council nor myself have received any letter of request from any weight lifting organization.”

The minister was responding to attorney Audrey Matura, whose son, Leo Matura, is one of the eight competing athletes. Matura had taken to Facebook to complain that the Association has received little to no support from the community and government agencies.

Nonetheless, Minister Ferguson said that he instructed the Director of Sports at the National Sports Council, Ian Cal, to make a donation.

Cal confirmed that a cash donation of \$1,500 was given to the association.

In a letter sent on August 10, the president of the association tells Cal that “at this stage, we need the financial support of the sum of \$30,000 to successfully facilitate not only the current NAPF Championships but also several upcoming international appearances.”

Cal said, “We cannot just give them \$30,000 overnight. That is impractical. That is unfair to those who are registered with us and this is an invitation that they got. We have to be very careful when we are dealing with public money and we have to ensure that everyone follows the guidelines in place.”

One of those guidelines includes being registered with the Council, something that Cal says the Association failed to do. “We are the



National Sports Council's Director Ian Cal

regulating body of sports in the country, however, there are certain things that you need to follow as an association or federation. One of them is reregistering every year at the National Sports Council because you need to submit your financials, a calendar of events and that is part of the requirements,” said Cal. He added that entities registered with the Council have certain privileges including funding and other forms of support.

In the August 10th letter, the association’s President Khalid Usher concedes that no letter was sent to the Council. Usher writes, “Unfortunately, we did not send a letter this year, but because of the history of being ignored by our governmental institutions, we felt that it would be another failed attempt at garnering the government’s support.”

While Cal agrees that the association received no support from the previous Council, he said that is not an excuse. Usher further explained, “We are registered and not aware that such registration had to be renewed for the 2022 period as we were routinely given notice of renewal before and got no notice to that effect from the NSC.” Cal rebutted, saying that it is not the responsibility of the Council to ensure that associations reregister. Cal is encouraging the Association to reregister this year.

In place of uniforms, the associations purchased five placeholder “uniforms” which will be

shared among the eight participating athletes. One of those athletes is

Leo Matura who will be competing in the 74 kg category. Matura says that he hopes to gain a lot of experience and return home with a medal. Robert Williams will be joining Matura and he

will compete in the 120 kg category.

Despite its challenges, the association was able to raise some funds through a raffle. The association also received financial assistance from

the Belize Tourism Board towards travel expenses.

The North American Powerlifting Championship begins on August 14th and ends on the 18th.

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

“Notice is hereby given to all interested parties that the below companies have been dissolved and struck off the International Business Companies Register.

Company Name

LEO CONSULTING INC.
BARNRIO Corporation
Xclusivads Limited
Baboon International Corporation
SeaSky Traders Ltd.
Black Crescent Ltd.

Date of Dissolution

28th July 2022
28th July 2022
28th July 2022
28th July 2022
28th July 2022
4th August 2022

Frontier International Business Services Limited
Registered Agent



MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

AND

HOUSING

INVITATION TO BID

PAVING OF 2.2 km of GUINEA GRASS VILLAGE ROAD ORANGE WALK DISTRICT

The Government of Belize via the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing (MIDH) intends to upgrade to paved standard a 2.2 section of Guinea Grass Village Road (section passing through Village), Orange Walk District with Double Chip and Seal Treatment.

The Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing now invites sealed bids from suitably qualified and experienced contractors for paving of the above-mentioned 2.2 km section road passing through Guinea Grass Village, Orange Walk District.

The scope of works will involve upgrading to paved standard a total of 7218 ft x 23 ft of roadway with Double Chip and Seal Treatment and will include the following:

1. Clean main road of all vegetation and deleterious materials and dispose of spoil within a 2 miles radius of project site.
2. Clean side drains –14,437 linear feet and dispose of spoil within a 2 miles radius of project site.
3. Drainage improvement & Culvert Installation works (Provisional item)
3. Scarify, shape and compact road surface (18,446 S.Y) as per crossfall on drawings.
4. Supply, transport, place and compact 6 inches of subbase type material as per specifications.
5. Supply, transport, place and compact 6 inches of crushed All-In as per specifications.
6. Supply all equipment, materials, and labour to apply 2 coats of chip seal treatment covering a total surface area of 18,446 S.Y.

Bidders who are interested must have the financial capacity, necessary equipment, technical expertise and experience to complete the works in accordance with the Bidding Documents.

Bidding will be conducted through national competitive bidding procedures and interested bidders may obtain further information and a copy of the bidding documents at the offices of MIDH at the address below as of Monday August 8, 2022 during normal office hours Monday through Fridays from 8.00 A.M – 12.00 Noon and from 1.00 PM – 4.00 PM.

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

All bids must be delivered to the address below by 10.00 AM local time on Tuesday, September 2, 2022 and they will be opened on the same day at 10.15 A.M, at the address below. Late bids will be rejected. A bid security of \$10,000 must be submitted and delivered to the address below at the same time of the bid submission.

1. Victor Espat
Chief Executive Officer
Ministry of Infrastructure Development & Housing
#1 Power Lane
Belmopan, Belize
Tel: 501-822-2136/39
Fax: 501-822-3282
E-mail: ceo.secretary@mow.gov.bz

2. Lennox Bradley
Chief Engineer
Ministry of Infrastructure Development & Housing
#1 Power Lane
Belmopan, Belize
Tel: 501-822-2136/39
Fax: 501-822-3282
E-mail: BradleyLE@midh.gov.bz

Rebel Returns to Request Paid Study Leave Abroad

By Michelle Sutherland

Several months ago, PUP City Councilor and former Deputy Mayor, Micah Goodin went down as a “Rebel Forever” after he opted to resign from his senior post as opposed to being voted out by his colleagues, but Goodin is back, this time requesting that his colleague support his request to go on study leave with full salary.

According to information, after Goodin ran afoul with the council, he managed to get a scholarship from the Government to pursue a law degree, reportedly in Barbados for a

period of three years. Since the incident, however, Goodin and Mayor Bernard Wagner have not been on good terms, so instead of requesting permission from his boss, Goodin penned an email to his colleagues seeking their support instead.

In that email, Goodin claimed that he has already been accepted to the Mona Campus of the University of West Indies in Jamaica, UWI’s Cave Hill Campus in Barbados, and the University of Guyana. He wrote, “I would be truly delighted if you would approve the motion for my study on legal studies. Through this medium,

I am humbly seeking your approval as it is the respectable thing to do before I book my flight.”

We have been reliably informed that in the first instance Goodin is requesting leave from September 1st, 2022 to December 15th, 2022 to attend his first semester abroad. Additionally, he is requesting that his leave be granted with pay so that none of his allowances are cut off and has also agreed to relinquish all of his portfolios, and attend City Council meetings virtually.

The problem with all this is that the Belize City Council Act states that only the mayor, along



Belize City Councilor Micah Goodin



MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

AND

HOUSING

INVITATION TO BID

BLASTING AND SUPPLY OF CRUSHED ROAD MATERIALS TO REPAIR EX-SERVICEMAN’S ROAD (BOOM CREEK VILLAGE ROAD) TOLEDO DISTRICT



The Government of Belize via the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing (MIDH) intends to repair various small sections of the Ex-serviceman’s Road (Boom Creek Village Road)), Toledo District with suitable crushed material.

The Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing now invites sealed bids from suitably qualified and experienced contractors to blast and crush road materials for use on repairs of small sections of Ex-serviceman’s Road, Toledo District.

The scope of works repair works on the road will include the following:

- 1 Clear Borrow Pit Location
- 2 Provide equipment and labour to drill Borrow Pit and Prepare site for Blasting
3. Coordinate all applicable safety measures for control blasting as required by the Belize Police Dept and the MIDH
- 3 Blast and supply the following crushed road materials:
 - 4,500 C.Y. of 1 ½ inch graded Limestone material
 - 4,500 C.Y of crushed graded 3” minus subbase material
 - 2,600 C.Y of crushed 4–8-inch graded material

Bidders who are interested must have the necessary equipment, financial capacity, a licensed blaster, technical expertise, and experience to complete the works in accordance with the Bidding Documents.

Bidding will be conducted through national competitive bidding procedures and interested bidders may obtain further information and a copy of the bidding documents at the offices of MIDH at the address below as of Monday August 8, 2022, during normal office hours Monday through Fridays from 8.00 A.M – 12.00 Noon and from 1.00 PM – 4.00 PM.

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

All bids must be delivered to the address below by 2.00 p.m. local time on Tuesday, September 2, 2022, and they will be opened on the same day at 2.15 p.m. at the address below. Late bids will be rejected. A bid security of \$10,000 must be submitted and delivered to the address below at the same time of the bid submission.

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Victor Espat
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Belmopan, Belize
Tel: 501-822-2136/39
Fax: 501-822-3282
E-mail: BradleyLE@midh.gov.bz |
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with the support of four members of the council, can grant a fellow councilor leave. That leave, however, can only be granted for a period not exceeding six months. With only 18 months remaining in their term and the fact that law degrees would usually take upwards of three years to complete, there are concerns about how this will affect the council's performance on a whole.

“I believe we have about 18 months remaining on our term. By law, if we would grant leave, it would be on a six-month segment,” said Mayor Wagner on Wednesday. “And so, you would be looking at a three consecutive rolling out of that six-month window for him to exercise that leave. So, all I would say is that it's up to the councilors. For me to move, I need the concurrence of four councilors. Again, with respect to leave with pay or leave without pay, we have never addressed that issue. All I'm told is that the councilor has requested that he be relieved of his portfolios during that time.”

Wagner also stated that Goodin should have written directly to him as opposed to writing to the secretary of the caucus. Additionally,

he claimed that as far as he is aware, Goodin has not been able to sway the support of four of his colleagues.

Reliable reports are that Goodin has not been able to gain that support because his colleagues are of the view that compensation should not be given to anyone that is not performing their duties at City Hall especially since that money is extracted from the public's purse.

“In terms of leave with pay, the council would have to determine if that is the route we want to go. There's no free ride here, you must earn every penny. This is the way Belizeans are. Belizeans are struggling each and every day out there to earn a living and how would it look for us as a council that we grant leave with pay,” ended the Mayor.

In early June of this year, Goodin was forced to resign from his post as deputy mayor following an early morning gunslinging in Belize City which left one person injured. While it is still unclear whether Goodin had fired any gunshot from his licensed firearm, he faced extensive public scrutiny for being among the group of men who were accused of firing several gunshots at each other.

Relative of deceased soldier who died by suicide calls on authorities to conduct a full investigation into her death



Micah Miguel's family demand a full investigation into the circumstances surrounding her death.

By Michelle Sutherland

What is the Ministry of National Defence and Border Security doing to address reports of sexual misconduct, sexual harassment, and sexual assault on female officers that have joined the rank and file of the Belize Defence Force? That is the question, that one grieving family is asking having recently lost one of their own who reportedly committed suicide after allegedly being physically and sexually assaulted by one of her superiors.

Following reports of the incident last week, The Reporter attempted to get those answers from the Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence Oscar Mira. He, however, indicated that he had spoken to his Minister Florencio Marin who had indicated that he has already given a statement and will refrain from offering any additional comment on the matter.

Marin was referring to an interview that he gave last week in which he had indicated that he would withhold his comments until after the funeral. He also confirmed that the Police Department was involved in the investigation while the BDF has also been in

communication with the family. Marin, however, refused to go into any other details but claimed that his ministry has been in constant communication with the BDF Commander to see how they could retain psychiatric assistance for their officers and improve their overall wellness.

On Monday, Assistant Superintendent of Police Alfonso Aban, officer commanding Crimes Investigation Branch (CIB), confirmed that the Belize Police Department was investigating claims surrounding the death of Micah Miguel, 23, who allegedly committed suicide sometime last week. Aban said that the investigation is pursuing claims made by the deceased family that she had been bullied, sexually assaulted and even physically assaulted by senior officials in the force. He added that authorities are seeking one individual for questioning and promised that when that person is detained and interviewed then he will brief the media on those developments.

Last week Thursday, the family of the deceased Sergeant identified as Micah Miguel, 23, called the media out to the Belize Medical College

on the Boom/ Hattieville Road to express their disappointment with how authorities mishandled their daughter's cases and even mistreated her body while it was in the morgue awaiting an autopsy. When the media met up with the family, they claimed that when they went to identify her at the morgue she was already in a decomposing state and apart from her tattoos she was unrecognizable.

Miguel's father Michael Miguel told the media that he had spoken to his daughter over the phone the day before she took her life and she had indicated that she was coming home to him at his home in Mahogany Heights Village. The

grieving father said that while he waited for his daughter the following day, he received the shocking news that she had instead gone to her aunt's home in Ladyville where she reportedly ended her life in one of the rooms.

Michael told the press that while he was aware that his daughter was going through depression, he never imagined that she would have committed suicide. He said that after he found out what had happened, he was informed that his daughter was placed on suicide watch but was released prematurely. He alleged that she was being bullied at camp and that at no point did the BDF call him as next

of kin and to inform him of all that was happening.

When asked whether he thinks that the counselor posted at the BDF camp in Ladyville provided his daughter with the required counseling, Michael responded, "I don't think so because the counselor from BDF right now is talking sketchy."

Miguel added, "I know she didn't get the real. Because they said, the two culprits that did this thing, it's a sergeant and a next high man. But that's the thing, right? They said they would deal with us, but that can't bring back my daughter. I want to see justice because I feel like one of the guys, they said did it, I hear how he even beat her up

on camp, belittled her on the camp, so I really want to get into this deeply and see what I could do for my daughter because it's not going like this."

In 2020, Miguel was among a list of recruits who had formed part of an investigation after allegations of sexual and physical assault had surfaced at the camp. Reports are that while Miguel was interviewed, the report said that while an inappropriate incident had happened between her and a corporal, "no signs of any sexual assault can be established based on an interview given by her." It is quite unclear what happened to that investigation and if anyone was ever criminally charged.

and stay safe

with Sagicor's Easy Online Options

WhatsApp

Chat with SIA on WhatsApp

Meet SIA - Sagicor's Intelligent Assistant. She's available whenever you need her on Sagicor's WhatsApp channel. You can chat with her 24/7. She can help you get a quote, make a claim, learn more about the latest offers and more.

Just add 1 (246) 467-7243 to your contacts.

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Book your virtual appointment with our Client Experience team with eConnect - Sagicor's new Virtual Client Experience Platform and connect with us from anywhere in the world.

Sagicor Go
Mobile App

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Taiwanese Ambassador Voices Concerns over China's Recent Show of Force

H.E. David Kuan-Chou Chien

The U.S. House Speaker congressional delegation, led by Nancy Pelosi, recently visited



We are hiring:

Administrative Assistant
Belize - Project

REQUIREMENTS:

- Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration or Accounting
- Minimum Two (2) years of experience in similar positions
- Good knowledge with the use of word processors and spreadsheets
- Immediate availability

Interested persons apply at the following link: <https://bit.ly/3PEQ9NH>
Help desk in WhatsApp if you have any question in applying: (506) 6224-2939.



Kuan-Chou Chien (David K.C. Chien)
Ambassador of the Republic of China (Taiwan) to Belize

Taiwan from August 2nd to 3rd. During her visit, Speaker Pelosi voiced strong support for Taiwan's democracy and raised the profile of Taiwan

internationally. Right after Speaker Pelosi's departure, however, China conducted large-scale military exercises and launched ballistic missiles in the waters surrounding Taiwan. We strongly condemn China's extremely irresponsible behavior.

China's targeted, large-scale military exercises are serious provocation. By using Speaker Pelosi's visit to Taiwan as a pretext, China pursues its true intentions in a number of ways. Firstly, China has threatened Taiwan militarily for years, and it continues to upgrade its efforts. China aims to now influence the international community's freedom of navigation in the waters and airspace of the Taiwan Strait by denying that it is an international waterway.

On this occasion, China tries to routinize its actions in an attempt to disrupt the long-term status quo across the Taiwan Strait.

Secondly, China has used the drills in its military playbook to prepare for the invasion of Taiwan. It conducts not only military exercises and missile launches, but also cyberattacks, disinformation, and economic coercion, in an attempt to weaken public morale in Taiwan.

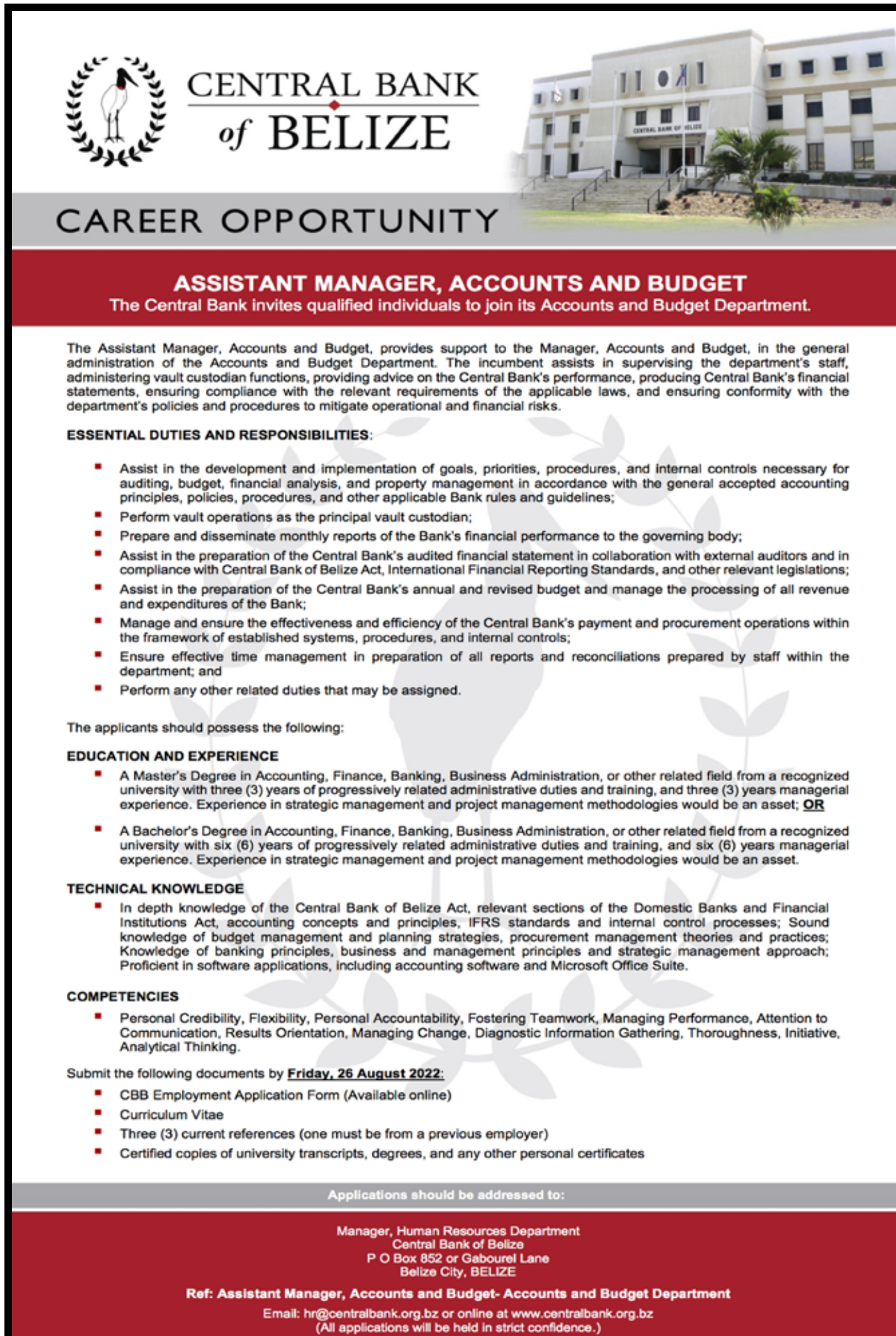
Thirdly, in terms of the range of its missile tests, China is clearly trying to

deter other countries from interfering in its attempt to invade Taiwan. In other words, China's real intention behind these military exercises is to alter the status quo in the Taiwan Strait and the entire region. This has already brought significantly unstable elements into the mix, threatening the regional and global security.

In facing China's military exercises, Taiwan's people, society, military and government have displayed resilience and confidence, and remained calm. Despite China's continued attempts to intimidate Taiwan, the Taiwanese people will not panic and are resolved to not be defeated.

Taiwan will continue to staunchly uphold its free and democratic way of life. Acting upon its beliefs with the same determination, Taiwan will continue to defend its sovereignty, freedom, democracy, and prosperity. We also call on the international community to support Taiwan in unison and put a stop to China's irresponsible threats and ambitious expansion, and jointly safeguard the value of freedom and democracy, to maintain a free, stable and prosperous world.

We would like to extend our appreciation to the Government of Belize, led by Hon. John Briceño, Prime Minister, for the prompt support and reaffirming to strengthen the strong and close bilateral relationship between Belize and Taiwan. As Belize and Taiwan share the values of democracy, freedom and human rights, and have enjoyed the rock-solid friendship and partnership for the past 33 years, Taiwan will continue to work together with Belize to consolidate our long-lasting partnership.



CENTRAL BANK of BELIZE

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

ASSISTANT MANAGER, ACCOUNTS AND BUDGET
The Central Bank invites qualified individuals to join its Accounts and Budget Department.

The Assistant Manager, Accounts and Budget, provides support to the Manager, Accounts and Budget, in the general administration of the Accounts and Budget Department. The incumbent assists in supervising the department's staff, administering vault custodian functions, providing advice on the Central Bank's performance, producing Central Bank's financial statements, ensuring compliance with the relevant requirements of the applicable laws, and ensuring conformity with the department's policies and procedures to mitigate operational and financial risks.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Assist in the development and implementation of goals, priorities, procedures, and internal controls necessary for auditing, budget, financial analysis, and property management in accordance with the general accepted accounting principles, policies, procedures, and other applicable Bank rules and guidelines;
- Perform vault operations as the principal vault custodian;
- Prepare and disseminate monthly reports of the Bank's financial performance to the governing body;
- Assist in the preparation of the Central Bank's audited financial statement in collaboration with external auditors and in compliance with Central Bank of Belize Act, International Financial Reporting Standards, and other relevant legislations;
- Assist in the preparation of the Central Bank's annual and revised budget and manage the processing of all revenue and expenditures of the Bank;
- Manage and ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of the Central Bank's payment and procurement operations within the framework of established systems, procedures, and internal controls;
- Ensure effective time management in preparation of all reports and reconciliations prepared by staff within the department; and
- Perform any other related duties that may be assigned.

The applicants should possess the following:

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

- A Master's Degree in Accounting, Finance, Banking, Business Administration, or other related field from a recognized university with three (3) years of progressively related administrative duties and training, and three (3) years managerial experience. Experience in strategic management and project management methodologies would be an asset; **OR**
- A Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, Finance, Banking, Business Administration, or other related field from a recognized university with six (6) years of progressively related administrative duties and training, and six (6) years managerial experience. Experience in strategic management and project management methodologies would be an asset.

TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE

- In depth knowledge of the Central Bank of Belize Act, relevant sections of the Domestic Banks and Financial Institutions Act, accounting concepts and principles, IFRS standards and internal control processes; Sound knowledge of budget management and planning strategies, procurement management theories and practices; Knowledge of banking principles, business and management principles and strategic management approach; Proficient in software applications, including accounting software and Microsoft Office Suite.

COMPETENCIES

- Personal Credibility, Flexibility, Personal Accountability, Fostering Teamwork, Managing Performance, Attention to Communication, Results Orientation, Managing Change, Diagnostic Information Gathering, Thoroughness, Initiative, Analytical Thinking.

Submit the following documents by **Friday, 26 August 2022:**

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

Applications should be addressed to:

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

Ref: Assistant Manager, Accounts and Budget- Accounts and Budget Department
Email: hr@centralbank.org.bz or online at www.centralbank.org.bz
(All applications will be held in strict confidence.)

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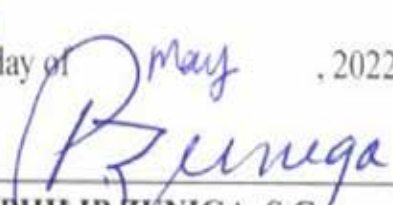
BELIZE CITY,

Estate of MARIA ALICIA MARTIN, 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 MARIA ALICIA MARTIN, late of 29 Clarke Street, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District, Belize, are required to send particulars in writing of their claims or demands to the Executor of the said estate MANUEL EFRAIN MARTIN (also known as MANUEL EFRAIN MARTIN SR.) of 29 Clarke Street, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District, Belize, and to send such particulars not later than the 3rd day of September, 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 MARIA ALICIA MARTIN, 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 he shall not then have had notice.

DATED this 30th day of May, 2022.


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

**Consultancy Services to Develop a Transport App for Smart Cities
(INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)**



Country: BELIZE

Project Name: E-Mobility

Period of assignment/services: 45 working days over a period of 6 months

Background:

UNDP Belize in partnership with the **Government of Belize, Ministry of Energy and the Belize City Council**, with funding from the **European Union (EU)** has launched a project on the decarbonization of Belize's Public transport sector through the introduction of electric vehicle technology. The EU funded E-Mobility project, pilots the inclusion of electric buses as a means of satisfying growing public transportation demands for sector efficiency and modernization. The Project focuses on demonstrating conditions and early experience for e-mobility integration into the national public transportation system, informing sector growth and investment planning. This **'Sustainable City'** initiative offers innovative, smart and technical solutions for urban challenges ensuring inclusiveness of action and improving accessibility of services to the city's population.

In support of the emobility pilot, the project hopes to introduce **"SMART"** governance systems aimed to positively impact all residents of Belize City particularly vulnerable groups such as women and youth, PWDs and the elderly.

UNDP Belize is seeking a mobile application developer to develop the transport mobile application for Smart Cities Within the framework of Smart Mobility, the project supports the development of a mobile application with real time tracking of electric buses and other participating vehicles. This is meant to address the current irregularity of city buses and the difficulty experienced by passengers to gauge bus wait time. The app is also meant to monitor seat availability and whether transportation option is accessible to persons with disabilities. This app will be launched through a smart cities app platform, but the information will also be displayed on screens staged in strategic areas in Belize City, as an interactive map for those who are unable to access the app through their phones. The initial phase of the app will focus on catering the need of the people regarding the irregularity of the bus schedule.

Objectives, Duties and Responsibilities:

The overall objective of the assignment is to develop:

1. A user friendly Mobile Application
2. Focus on Bus Schedule and support to a cashless public transport system Support capacity building, knowledge management, and documentation of lessons learned

Qualification, Experience and Skills:

- Master's Degree or equivalent Advanced Degree in Software Engineering, Computer Science, information technology, web developer, graphic designing or other related disciplines
- Progressive experience of working in the development of mobile applications;
- Capacity to understand the needs for the app development,
- the ability to communicate openly and integrate all feedback which is provided;
- A proven track record of developing successful mobile applications;
- Working experience in developing graphically designed products for UNDP or other organizations from the UN system.
- Experience working in a fast-paced environment managing and meeting multiple deadlines and priorities
- Fluency in English

Request for Proposal Package located:

Please download the RFP package at:

https://procurement-notices.undp.org/view_notice.cfm?notice_id=94182

or

<https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice/Index/179678>

Submission of Application Package:

Technical Proposals are required to submit by email clearly labeled **RFP: Consultancy Services to Develop a Transport App for Smart Cities**

United Nations Development Programme

Attn: Procurement Associate

3rd Floor, Lawrence Nicholas Building, Belmopan

Cayo District, Belize, C.A.

Tel: (501) 822-2688, 0467, 4228

Email: procurement.bz@undp.org

Deadline for Application: Monday, August 15th, 2022. UTC.

UNDP is committed to achieving workforce diversity in terms of gender, nationality and culture. Individuals from minority groups, indigenous groups and persons with disabilities are equally encouraged to apply. All submissions will be treated with the strictest of confidence.

UNDP does not tolerate sexual exploitation and abuse, any kind of harassment, including sexual harassment, and discrimination.

Alleged serial baby physical abuser remanded

By Michelle Sutherland

Accused baby physical abuser Troy Banner, 31, has been remanded to the Belize Central Prison on Tuesday, August 9th, 2022, following his arraignment earlier the same day on several charges relating to injuries that his two-week-old daughter sustained while in his care.

Banner, a resident of Camalote village, was arraigned in the Belmopan Magistrate Court on charges of Grievous Harm, Cruelty to a Child, and Wounding. He appeared unrepresented in front of the court where no plea was taken

from him, and he was remanded to prison until September 13th, 2022

On Monday, ASP Alfonso Aban, the officer commanding the Crimes Investigation Branch, briefed the media on what appears to be a shocking pattern of behavior on Banner's part. "Police was called to the Western Regional Hospital where a baby, 15 days old, who had injuries to her body. The baby was later on transported to Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital where she was treated and released."

Aban said that based on an investigation as well as a statement

given by the child's mother, Banner was immediately detained for questioning. That investigation later led to the charges being brought against him. Aban revealed that the department will also open an investigation into Banner's "pattern of behavior" and if needed will reopen previous "child abuse" cases against him. "If he's found to be at fault, then the police will deal with it," stated Aban.

Over the weekend, news of Banner's detention spread rapidly across the country.

Banner is said to have told authorities that he was taking care of the baby when she

accidentally rolled off the bed and onto the floor, causing her injuries.

In June of 2019, Banner was also accused of a similar incident, unfortunately, the baby, who was only two months old, died shortly after being treated for multiple fractures to his head and back.

An autopsy conducted on baby Trevane Banner later concluded that he died from multiple head trauma consistent with Battered Child Syndrome. Following an investigation, Banner was detained and charged with Manslaughter. A couple of days later



Troy Banner is remanded to prison.

he was also arraigned in the Belmopan Magistrate Court where he pleaded not guilty to the charge and was offered bail of \$10,000 plus a surety of the same amount which he was able to meet.

In that instance, Banner had alleged that he was at home with the baby feeding him through his baby bottle when the baby suddenly began to choke. Banner claimed that he patted the baby on the back and after realizing that the baby was having difficulty breathing he immediately rushed him to the hospital for treatment where he died shortly after. Of note is that the deceased child's mother Destiny Myvett is also the mother of the latest infant who was hospitalized over the weekend.

The Reporter spoke to one of Banner's ex-partner, Crystalee Garcia, who also happens to share a son with Banner. She alleged that back in 2012, when her son was only 5 months old, she went outside to do her laundry, but left the baby in Banner's care. Garcia said that when she heard her son's screams she rushed into the house and found her baby in his rocker and Banner standing beside it.

"When I ran in the room my baby head looked disfigured and I snatched him up and ran for help not even aware that Troy was

running behind me. A policeman rushed us to the hospital and while in the vehicle I asked Troy what he did to my baby and he said that the baby fell. But I remember that when I ran into the house the baby was in his rocker so that did not make any sense."

Garcia said that when the doctors inspected her baby, they found that he had bruises to the face and as many as three fractures to his head and bruises to his back. She claimed that doctors later indicated to her that the injuries were not consistent with a fall and appeared to have been deliberate.

Garcia also indicated that while Banner would occasionally physically abuse her, on the day of the incident they were not fighting. She says that, while Banner had threatened her, she got the courage to leave him after the incident with her son.

She is once more calling on authorities to conduct a proper investigation into the latest incident since she does not believe that it is a coincidence but rather a series of serious abuse against defenseless toddlers who are left in Banner's care. The young mother is also calling on Banner's common-law wife to assist her in ensuring that he is held accountable for his actions by assisting the police with their investigation.

**Bowen
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DEPENDENT
Scholar
Opportunity Through Education

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
10 August 2022



BOWEN & BOWEN SCHOLAR PROGRAMME WELCOMES 26 NEW STUDENTS

Pursuing Excellence through education

Bowen & Bowen expands the educational horizons of a new generation of leaders in communities across Belize through its Scholar Programme. Now in its 8th year, the Programme has awarded over 175 secondary, tertiary, and vocational merit-based scholarships to the children of its 1,300+ Members. It is the commitment of the company's Mission Statement of "Pursuing Excellence for a Stronger Belize."

On 6 August 2022, twenty-six new scholars joined the Programme. The scholarships cover the costs of tuition and textbooks and are available to the students throughout their years of study.

This year's Top Performer in the Programme was **17-year-old Mariel Aguilar Jr.**, who addressed guests at the award ceremony with words of inspiration. Mariel is now pursuing his Associate degree in Accounting & Economics.

President/CEO of Bowen & Bowen, Michael H. M. Bowen, expressed gratitude to the parents and guardians who nurture and support their students' educational pursuits. And to the scholars, he commented, "Your education is an investment in you; it will expand your minds, open doors, and can never be taken away."

###

Bowen & Bowen was established in 1932 by Belizeans and for Belizeans. Its mission, Pursuing Excellence for a Stronger Belize, has driven the creation of an innovative, customer-centric organization whose family of employees is its greatest strength. Bowen & Bowen encompasses an array of subsidiaries in food, beverage, transportation, hospitality, and other sectors and develops Belize ethically and responsibly and provides opportunities for all Belizeans.

Media Contact:

Bowen & Bowen

Rosanna Villanueva, Corporate Relations Manager

C. +501 610-1973; E. rvillanueva@bowen.bz

Weh Wi Ga Fi Seh

Kip op yu helt! Stay
pahn di lukowt!

Smaal bot Kakataari

Dis da moa fahn wahn shaat toari nayhn "Benksaid Bembeh" weh mee, Silvaana Udz, di rait. Too bombali, Klotilda ahn Raydyens, baas op di benksaid, bot da Klotilda da-mi di reel benksaid bembeh! Raydyens, ih baldoosh, kaal ahn Kloti. Wi mi kaal di fos lee pees a di toari wi mi shyaa "Oal-taihn Washin." Wi pik op di toari tudeh wen Kloti pul op langsaid Raydyens hoo mi-di wash pahn ih skrob boad.

Raydyens mi-di tek ih taihn, di ring owt di waata fahn wahn big blfoto pants weh mi bilanz tu ih big son. Ih mi-di ring owt az moch waata az ih tin lee han dehn kuda du. Wat a pyaa dehn mek! Soh Klotilda big ahn bregin, da rait soh Raydyens smaah ahn kakataari. In fak, da-mi fahn wahn lang lang taim abak, wen di too a dehn da-mi lee gyal ahn dehn doz waak tugea, priti no pus bak fut, eena dehn dandan goh choch evri Sondeh maanin—fahn den dehn da-mi aysdoos.

Bot az dehn groa op, soh Tilda geh biga ahn biga, soh Raydyens lee badi stay smaah ahn waiyari. Ahn mataz bee dat Raydyens badi mi soh smaah. Noh mek ih lee saiz fool yu. No-taal! Az yu maita don figa owt seh, eevn if Ah neva don tel yu bifo, soh Klotilda lowd ahn halari, soh Raydyens smaah bot kakataari. Wan ting di hoal vilij mi noa, doh, da dis: Owt a di too a dehn, da Klotilda mowt rool. Klotilda win di Benksaid Bembeh taikl evritaihn, enitaihn.

[Wi wahn shyaa moa fahn disya toari eena ada Kriol aatiki
"Weh Wi Ga Fi Seh" fahn taim tu taim.]

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

VACANCY

E-Mobility Project Manager

Location: Belmopan, Belize
Application Deadline: 23/08/2022, 21:59
Type of Contract: National Personnel Service Agreement (NPSA)
Pre-classified Grade: NB4
Expected Duration of Assignment: One Year with possibility of extension subject to performance evaluation



Background:

UNDP is committed to achieving workforce diversity in terms of gender, nationality, and culture. Individuals from minority groups, indigenous groups and persons with disabilities are equally encouraged to apply. All applications will be treated with the strictest confidence.

UNDP does not tolerate sexual exploitation and abuse, any kind of harassment, including sexual harassment, and discrimination. All selected candidates will, therefore, undergo rigorous reference and background checks.

Project Description:

Belize's e-mobility pilot, administered by the UNDP Belize Country Office and funded by the European Union, supports the implementation of Belize's raised ambition Nationally Determined Contributions to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and associated Low Emission Development Strategy (LEDS). In line with UNDP's Global Programme to Support Countries with the Shift to Electric Mobility and applying UNDP's Derisking Renewable Energy Investment approach the project addresses policy barriers faced in transitioning towards a low carbon transport sector and the enabling of a policy framework supporting e-mobility expansion in country. The project, in partnership with private sector and local government institutions, finances the piloting of e-mobility as a means of satisfying growing public transport demands for modernization; and focuses on demonstrating conditions and early experience for e-mobility integration into the national system, informing sector growth and investment planning.

Scope of Work:

In consultation with the Project Steering Committee, the Project Manager (PM) is responsible for day-to-day management, coordination and supervision of the implementation of the Project. Specifically, his/her responsibilities are but not limited to the following: 1. Ensuring effective project management of the assigned projects by maintaining the delivery of appropriate technical, operational, financial and administrative outputs, while tracking the project progress through monitoring, evaluation and reporting; 2. Maintaining collaborative working relationships among key project partners and donors, through effective communication, consultation and reporting which assures the timely involvement of local and international experts, organization of training and public outreach, purchase of required equipment etc. in accordance with UNDP rules and procedures;

Summary of Key Functions:

1. Ensuring effective project management of the assigned projects by maintaining the delivery of appropriate technical, operational, financial and administrative outputs, while tracking the project's progress through monitoring, evaluation and reporting.
2. Maintaining collaborative working relationships among key project partners and projects' donors, through effective communication, consultation and reporting

Required Qualifications:

Min. Education:

- Master of Science Degree in a subject related to development studies, engineering, economics, or environmental sciences

Or

- A Bachelor of Science Degree in a subject related to development studies, engineering, economics, or environmental sciences

Experience and skills:

- Two (2) years of relevant experience in managing projects, including demonstrated capacity to actively explore new, innovative implementation and financing mechanisms to achieve the project objective
- Alternatively, if in possession of Bachelor's degree, four (4) years of relevant administrative or project experience in managing projects, including demonstrated capacity to actively explore new, innovative implementation and financing mechanisms to achieve the project objective.
- Previous experience with public administration procedures in Belize is an asset.
- Project Management Certification or equivalent is an asset.
- Good understanding of national policies and institutional frameworks relevant to Belize's Energy and Transport sectors;
- Demonstrated experience in liaising and co-operating with government officials, municipal authorities, academic institutions, NGOs and the private sector;
- Good analytical and problem-solving skills and the related ability for adaptive management with prompt action on the conclusion and recommendations coming out from the project's regular monitoring and self-assessment activities as well as from periodic external evaluations;
- Experience in the UN or a development agency is an asset
- Excellent communications, report writing and analytical skills.
- Familiarity and prior experience with UNDP procedures would be an asset

Languages: Excellent written and oral communication and presentation skills are required in English. Knowledge of Spanish is considered an asset.

Applications: UNDP is an equal opportunity employer and, all qualified individuals are encouraged to apply.

To apply please go to:

E-Mobility Project Manager NPSA 9 - UNDP Careers (oraclecloud.com)



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST INDIVIDUAL CONSULTING SERVICES

Institution: Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing

Country: Belize

Project: Additional Financing for George Price Highway Rehabilitation Project

Sector: Infrastructure, Environment and Natural Disasters

Abstract: Individual Consulting Services – Preparation of Institutional Strengthening in Environmental Compliance

Loan/Credit/Grant No.: 4616/OC-BL

Deadline: August 25th, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. (Local Belize Time)

The Government of Belize has received financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), towards the cost of the Additional Financing for George Price Highway Rehabilitation Project (AFGPHRP) and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services ("the Services") include the contracting of an Individual Consultant for forty-five (45) days who will be responsible for designing and implementing a training program for the relevant stakeholders involved in the construction and supervision of the George Price Highway Rehabilitation Project. The training program will focus on environmental compliance and knowledge of other relevant permitting agencies involved with the project and should be designed to determine conformity with environmental laws and regulations.

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

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Inter-American Development Bank: **Policies for the Selection and Contracting of Consultants financed by the Inter- American Development Bank (GN-2350-15, January 2020)** – Section V, 5.2 Selection of Individual Consultants based on Comparison of Qualifications of National Individual Consultants.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours:

Program Management Unit

#1 Power Lane, Belmopan, Cayo

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

Tel: 501-822-0100/1942

Email: pmupcmow@gmail.com, gphrp.3344@midh.gov.bz

Or procurement.officer.midh@gmail.com

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by 2:00 p.m. (Local Belize Time) on August 25th, 2022.

Attn: Mr. Rolando Chan

Program Coordinator

Program Management Unit

#1 Power Lane, Belmopan

Cayo District, Belize

Tel: 501-822-0100/1942

E-mail: pmupcmow@gmail.com

gphrp.3344@midh.gov.bz

Or procurement.officer.midh@gmail.com

Central Banks Hike Interest Rates in Sync to Tame Inflation Pressures

By Tobias Adrian and Fabio Natalucci

During the pandemic, central banks in both advanced and emerging market economies took unprecedented measures to ease financial conditions and support the economic recovery, including interest-rate cuts and asset purchases.

With inflation at multi-decade highs in many countries and pressures broadening beyond food and energy prices, policymakers have pivoted toward tighter policy. As our Chart of the Week shows, central banks in many emerging markets proactively started to hike rates earlier last year, followed by their counterparts in advanced economies in the final months of 2021.

The monetary policy cycle is now increasingly synchronized around the world. Importantly, the pace of tighten-

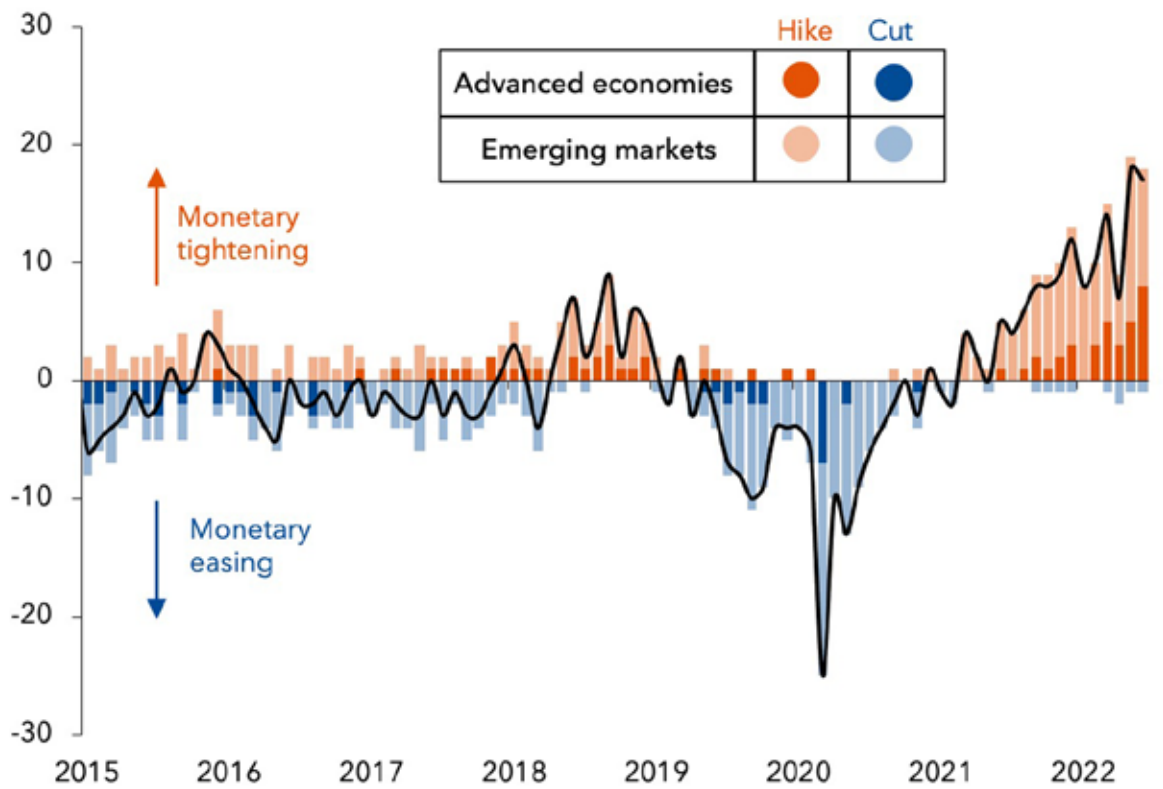
ing is accelerating in several countries, particularly in advanced economies, in terms of both frequency and magnitude of rate hikes. Some central banks have begun to reduce the size of their balance sheets, moving further toward normalization of policy.

Stable prices are a crucial prerequisite for sustained economic growth. With risks to the inflation outlook tilted to the upside, central banks must continue normalizing to prevent inflationary pressures from becoming entrenched. They need to act resolutely to bring inflation back to their target, avoiding a de-anchoring of inflation expectations that would damage credibility built over the past decades.

Monetary policy can't resolve remain-

Hiking peak

The number of central banks hiking interest rates has increased dramatically in recent months as inflation rose to fresh highs. (number of central banks, absolute value)



Sources: Bloomberg, and IMF staff calculations

Note: The AE sample consists of Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the countries in the European Union (under ECB jurisdiction). The EM sample consists of Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Hungary, Poland, Romania, South Africa, Turkey, Pakistan, Croatia, Russia, Ukraine, Egypt, and Ghana.



NOTICE OF COMMENCED DISSOLUTION

CMH LTD. ("the Company")

"Notice is hereby given to all interested parties that CMH LTD. A Company incorporated under the IBC Act of Belize commenced dissolution on August 08th 2022."

And

Ioannis Papapetrou, with address of Lord Byron Str. 61-63 5th Floor 6023 Larnaca, Cyprus is the liquidator of the company.

NORTHWESTERN MANAGEMENT SERVICES (BELIZE) LIMITED
Registered Agent

bottlenecks in global supply chains and disruptions in commodities markets due to the war in Ukraine. It can however slow overall demand to address demand-related inflationary pressures, so a tightening of financial conditions is the goal.

The high uncertainty clouding the

economic and inflation outlook hampers the ability of central banks to provide simple guidance about the future path of policy. But clear communication by central banks about the need to further tighten policy and steps required to control inflation is crucial to preserve

credibility.

Clear communication is also critical to avoid a sharp, disorderly tightening of financial conditions that could interact with, and amplify, existing financial vulnerabilities, putting economic growth and financial stability at risk down the road.

S U D O K U

Medium Puzzle

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

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

Answer to Puzzle

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

Lodgement of an EIA Report and Public Consultation

For

“PORT OF BELIZE CRUISE TOURISM FACILITY AND CARGO EXPANSION”

Located on Caesar Ridge Road, Port Loyola area, Belize City, Belize

The General Public is hereby advised that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report for the expansion of the Port of Belize cargo facility and the establishment of a cruise port terminal and cruise tourism village has been submitted by Port of Belize Limited & Belize Logistics Terminal Limited to the Department of the Environment (DOE). The EIA report was prepared by Nextera Environmental and Engineering Consultants and Piedroba Consulting Group LLC. The EIA report will be reviewed by the National Environmental Appraisal Committee (NEAC) before a final decision is taken by the DOE.

The General Public is hereby informed that the EIA report is available for public review, free of charge, since August 8th, 2022, and can be examined Mondays to Fridays during normal working hours (8:00 am to 5:00 pm) at the Port Loyola Library, National Library Service, Leo Bradley Library, Turton Library Center all located within Belize City, and at the DOE's Office located on 7552 Hummingbird Highway, Belmopan. The public is invited to submit their comments in writing on or before September 2nd, 2022, to the DOE Office in Belmopan or email: envirodept@environment.gov.bz; eiaunit@environment.gov.bz. The EIA report and its annexes are also available on the DOE's website at link: <https://doe.gov.bz/environmental-clearance/>

Considering the realities related to COVID19 virus, and while hard copies of the EIA report are available at the above-mentioned locations, you are encouraged to utilize the above link to access the EIA report. Please practice social distancing when viewing hard copies of the report and follow the recommendations of the Ministry of Health.

Kindly be informed that a hybrid public consultation session for the EIA will be held on **September 1st, 2022, commencing at 6:30pm sharp**. The in-person consultation will be held at the Best Western Biltmore Plaza Hotel and virtually via the Government of Belize Press Office Facebook Page.

The public is invited to participate in this consultation to make comments, ask questions, seek clarification, express concerns, or issues, or to make objections or representations to the DOE in relation to the possible effects of the proposed project activity on the environment.



GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE



INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK STRENGTHENING OF TAX ADMINISTRATION

Terms of Reference Project Coordinator

DUTY STATION: Belize City, Belize

PROJECT NUMBER: BL-L1031

• **BACKGROUND**

1.2 The Government of Belize (GOB) has entered into a US\$ 14 Million Loan Contract Agreement (BL-L1031) with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for the execution of a five-year tax modernization project entitled "Strengthening of Tax Administration". The main beneficiaries of the Project are: (a) the Government, which will have more revenues to implement its public policies; (b) taxpayers, who will have more support and a digital environment to fulfil their tax obligations; and (c) the population, from the government policies implemented.

1.3 The main objective of the Project is to contribute to Strengthening Tax Administration aimed at increasing revenue collection, through the following specific objectives: (a) increasing the effectiveness of the Government to collect taxes and (b) increasing tax administration efficiency. These objectives will be achieved by improving tax administration governance and operational processes, and by modernizing the technological infrastructure.

1.4 The MoF is the Executing Agency responsible for the implementation of the Strengthening of Tax Administration Project and, for this purpose, has established a Project Executing Unit (PEU) 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 Project Coordinator for the PEU under a contractual arrangement with the MoF, and as part of the BL-L1031 initiative.

• **OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE OF WORK**

2.1 The objective of the position is to provide the necessary strategic, governance, organizational and administrative leadership for Project implementation and, thereby, ensuring the effective allocation of resources, providing the financial and technical direction of the Project towards the attainment of the goals and targets, leading the physical and financial progress reporting, and serving as the main focal point of the Project with the BTS, the MoF and other public and private institutions.

2.2 The Project Coordinator is responsible for leading and guiding all matters pertaining to the effective, efficient and transparent implementation of the Project BL-L1031, through the technical, administrative and financial management of the PEU, in accordance with the procedures and stipulations contained in the Program Operational Manual (POM) and in compliance with the Loan Contract.

• **RESPONSIBILITIES/ACTIVITIES**

3.1 **The main responsibilities of the Project Coordinator include, among others:**

- (a) Implementing the intra- and inter-institutional coordination mechanisms with the BTS, the MoF and other public and private organizations related to and/or beneficiaries of the Project
- (b) Promoting and disseminating the Project among beneficiaries, public entities, and other stakeholders.
- (c) In close coordination with the pertinent technical and administrative personnel of the BTS and the MoF, guiding the strategic and operations planning activities of the Project.
- (d) Monitoring the activities of the Project in compliance with its global strategic objectives and those of its individual technical components, as well as the targets established in the Project.
- (e) Implementing the Programs' risk management mechanisms on the basis of the IDB tool Risk Management in Projects with Sovereign Guarantee (RMP), taking into consideration the assessment and evolution of the risk factors, the factors of probability and impact, and risk mitigation measures.
- (f) Guiding the preparation, the periodic physical and financial progress reports to be submitted to BTS, MoF, MED, and the Bank.
- (g) Presenting to the Bank the required data, reports and other documentation of the Project as a whole and its individual components, as established in the Loan Contract.

3.2 **Specific activities include:**

- (a) Lead the overall planning and reporting framework and activities of the Project, including the preparation and update of key planning tools including the PEP, AOP, PP and other, in direct coordination with the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer and other members of the PEU.
- (b) Monitor and ensure the Project's adherence to reporting requirements to the BTS, MoF, PSC, and the Bank.
- (c) Lead and coordinate timely implementation of all aspects of the Project based on the Project planning documents including the PEP, AOP, PP, supporting technical documents, and Monitoring and Evaluation Plan.
- (d) Ensure timely execution of all administrative, procurement, financial and technical procedures of the Project in compliance with the POM. In addition, ensure the strict adherence to administrative, Project management, and Bank and national financial rules and regulations, among others.
- (e) Ensure the necessary coordination between technical staff of the MoF (BTS and other) to provide the technical specifications and content for the preparation of terms of reference and technical specification as the basis for procurement actions and activities.
- (f) Provide for the timely monitoring and management of Project risks and lead the implementation of the mitigation measures as necessary.
- (g) Ensure the necessary coordination and control of all Project procurement activities and logistics with the Procurement Specialist and pertinent staff members of the MoF.
- (h) Support the information dissemination activities and advocate for the Project among key internal and external stakeholders, while maintaining the necessary and transparent lines of communication.
- (i) Ensure with the BTS, the establishment of the necessary and effective lines of internal communication with key stakeholders of the MoF (tax administration, systems administration, financial management, general administration, and other) to ensure the dedicated participation of such personnel in Project implementation and in direct coordination with the PEU.
- (j) Ensure the presence of an accurate Project filing system covering financial, procurement, technical and all activities of the Project, and following the internal control requirements established in the POM.
- (k) Provide timely and accurate reports to the Director General BTS, Financial Secretary, PSC and other agencies on the developments, progress and challenges of the Project.
- (l) Ensure the timely implementation of the monitoring and evaluation activities including the contracting of the mid-term and final evaluations.
- (m) Lead, in coordination with the Financial Specialist, the preparation of the Requests for Advance of Funds along with the expenditure justifications, as required by the Bank.
- (n) Lead the contracting of the independent external auditors of the Program in coordination with the Financial Specialist, the Procurement Specialist and the PMO, and following IDB procedures for this matter.
- (o) Lead the contracting of the consultancies for the execution of the mid-term and final evaluations.

- (p) Ensure the presence of the necessary control environment along with the capacities necessary for the application of a management by objectives framework.
- (q) Provide for the necessary human resources management capabilities for PEU personnel administration.
- (r) Communicate with Project stakeholders (MoF, PMO, PEU, other) to ensure awareness of any new developments in Project status, strategy, progress, deadlines, challenges, decisions and other aspects that may affect Project implementation and the attainment of its development objectives
- (s) Other.

3.2 The Project Coordinator shall undertake his/her work in direct coordination and with the supervision of the MoF/BTS, and in accordance with the Loan Contract and the POM.

• **DELIVERABLES**

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

- (a) Updates to PEP, AOP, PP, risk matrix, and other
- (b) Quarterly physical and financial progress/status reports.
- (c) Updates to POM
- (d) Staff performance appraisals.
- (e) Specific reports requested by the PMO, MoF or the PSC.
- (f) Allocation/provision of funds reports.
- (g) Fixed asset allocation reports.
- (h) External audit reports (prepared under consultancy engagements)
- (i) Mid-term and final evaluations (prepared under consultancy engagements).
- (j) Other.

• **QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE**

5.1 **Education:** Bachelor's Degree in Economics, Business Administration, Business Management, Project Management or related fields. Certification in Project Management or a Master's degree in a related field would be an asset. Participation in relevant courses/trainings in procurement, project management, time management, leadership, Microsoft Projects, or similar, would also be considered an asset.

5.2 **Work Experience:** A minimum of seven (7) years general working experience since obtaining the first academic degree. A minimum of (5) years of experience working in project management including administration, monitoring, control and evaluation. Previous work with investments projects funded by international development agencies is a plus.

5.3 **Skills: The following skills are highly desirable:**

- Knowledge of Records Management
- Experience supervising staff
- Experience in Report Writing
- Knowledge and experience working with Microsoft Office, QuickBooks or similar accounting software
- Excellent oral and written command of the English language
- Strong organizational and time management skills and ability to multi-task, with ability to adapt to changing needs and priorities
- Solid team management, leadership and delegation skills and ability to coordinate functional activities of multiple actors
- Strong team player
- Strong work ethics

• **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

6.1 The Project Coordinator of the PEU reports to the Director General of the Belize Tax Service. He/she shall work in close coordination with the staff of the MoF and especially the members of the BTS and the Finance Officer of the Ministry.

• **COMPENSATION**

7.1 The Project Coordinator 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.

• **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 in accordance with the selection of Individual Consultant based on Comparison of Qualifications method set out in the Contracting of 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 with the Individual Consultant's experience in the assignment of similar nature. Description of similar assignments specifying start and end dates of assignments. *Please provide dates, name of employing organization, titles of positions held, types of activities performed and location of the assignment.*
- (iii) Copy of degrees/certificates
- (iv) List of at least two references
- (v) Proof of nationality: copy of documentation of nationality

Qualified Individual Consultant must submit their Expression of Interest via e-mail to Michelle.Longsworth@bts.gov.bz no later than **4:00 p.m., Friday August 26th, 2022**, marked **STAP- Project Coordinator** in the subject header. In addition, applicants may also submit a hardcopy at the following address:

**Director General
Belize Tax Service
Strengthening of Tax Administration Project
Eleanor Hall Building
Lake I. Boulevard, Belize City**

For clarifications kindly contact:

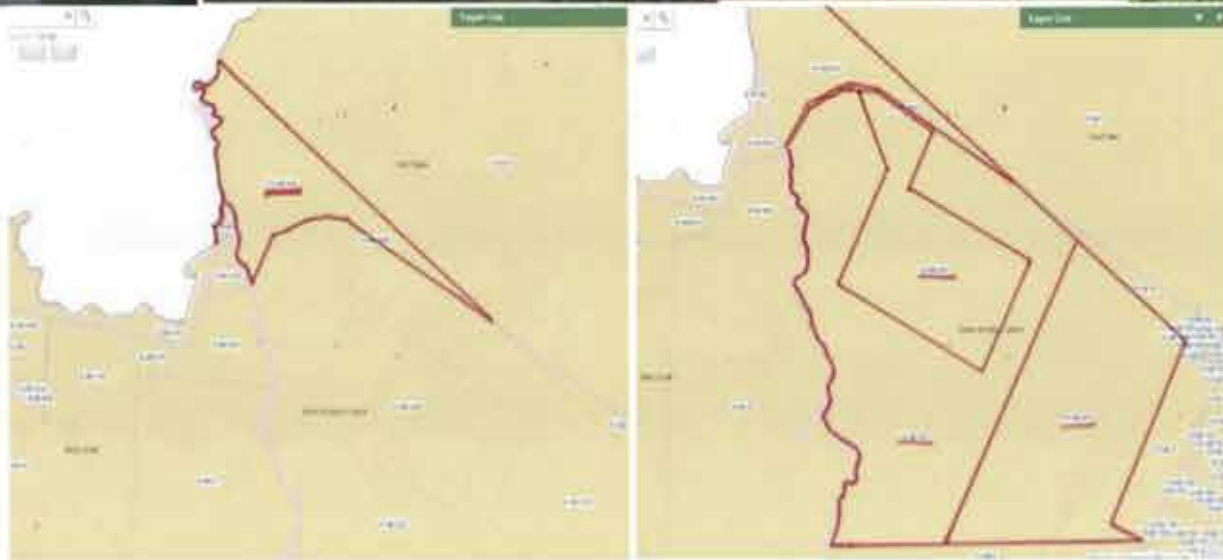
**Senior Economist
Ministry of Finance
Sir Edney Cain Building
Belmopan
E-mail: raquel.guerra@mof.gov.bz
Phone: 828-4100/828-4112**

BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM
COUNTRYWIDE PUBLIC AUCTION SALES: PROPERTIES

8,953.41 ACRES OF ALMOST FULLY DEVELOPED RICE FARMLAND, NEAR SAN FELIPE VILLAGE & BOOTH'S RIVER, ORANGE WALK DISTRICT

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. Atlantic Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following properties. **Sales currently running until 15th October 2022. Public Auction Sales will expire fortnightly on the dates and times listed on the website until these properties are sold.**

8,953.41 Acres Rice Fields West of San Felipe Village and Booths River, Orange Walk District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCELS
Sierra De Agua Central	13	120, 121, 122, 123 & 124

(Being five contiguous parcels of almost fully developed rice farmland containing aggregate 8,953.4 acres situate on the West side of San Felipe Village and along the Eastern side of Booths River, Orange Walk District, the freehold properties of Messrs. Hillbank Agricultural Company Limited/Dyck Brothers Company Limited)

“FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PHOTOGRAPHS PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE”

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH

KEVIN A. CASTILLO

TELEPHONE 223-4488

Website: belizepropertyauctions.com

E-mail: kevinacas@yahoo.com

Facebook: Belize Auctions

BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM
COUNTRYWIDE PUBLIC AUCTION SALES: PROPERTIES
BELMOPAN RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISION

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. Atlantic Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following properties. **Sales currently running until 15th October 2022. Public Auction Sales will expire fortnightly on the dates and times listed on the website until these properties are sold.**

BELMOPAN COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISION



REGISTRATION SECTION

Belmopan

BLOCK

20

PARCELS

9553 to 9558

(Being 6 vacant contiguous commercial lots – sizes available on website)

REGISTRATION SECTION

Belmopan

BLOCK

20

PARCELS

9559 to 9735

(Being 177 original lots – 20 lots sold = 157 remaining residential lots – sizes available on website)

REGISTRATION SECTION

Belmopan

BLOCK

20

PARCELS

9736 to 9743

(Being 5 large parcels of land – sizes available on website)



(Being a developing SUB-DIVISION of Commercial and Residential parcels of land situate 400 meters east of the intersection of the George Price Boulevard and the northwestern corner of the Piccini Residential Development, Belmopan, Cayo District, the freehold properties of Messrs. New Era Development Company Limited)

“FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PHOTOGRAPHS PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE”

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH

KEVIN A. CASTILLO

TELEPHONE 223-4488

Website: belizepropertyauctions.com

E-mail: kevinacas@yahoo.com

Facebook: Belize Auctions



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Women in Parliament Tells Louis Wade to Fix His Language

By Michelle Sutherland



The Parliamentary Women's Caucus says that the language used by Plus TV's owner Louis Wade was inappropriate.

Belize City, Aug. 11, 2022—The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Valerie Woods, who also happens to be the Chair of the Parliamentary Women's Caucus, has written to the Belize Broadcasting Authority asking for its intervention to address on-air comments made by veteran journalist and Plus TV owner Louis Wade, which he made two weeks ago referring to women's genitals.

Wade in a social media post, and in reference to the push back that he had been receiving for being elected as the media representative on the People's Constitution Commission had commented, "Nation building is for giants, nor for ***** and wussies."

In her letter to Evan Tench, chairperson of the Belize Broadcasting Authority, Woods accused Wade of violating the terms and conditions for ON Air Television, issued by the BBA, a board that Wade also happens to sit on. Woods wrote, "To have one of its own board members violate these terms and conditions, which clearly speak to

language that is offensive and revoltingly lewd, cannot be tolerated and must be addressed." Woods ended by calling on the BBA to immediately address the matter.

Similarly, the Caucus also issued a release on Monday of this week calling on Plus TV and by extension Wade to issue an apology. The Caucus said that while

meeting to discuss gender equality and its challenges, the issue of the comments made by Wade was brought up.

"The Caucus takes this opportunity to remind those in leadership roles that to use words associated with the genitalia of women to convey weakness or a cowardly man or "being less than a giant" is offensive, disrespectful,

discriminatory and continues the patriarchal narrative that women are weaker than men."

The caucus went on to say that the comments are misogynistic because it figuratively connects the female sex organ with weakness. Furthermore, the Caucus says that the

language is unacceptable to use toward the LGBT community and should not be the language or the message that is encouraged.

Wade is yet to respond to this latest blowback, and it remains to be seen whether he will issue an apology.

More Division within the UDP?

By Michelle Sutherland

For some time, factions within the United Democratic Party (UDP) have been silent, either keeping their party matters internal or simply trying to mend fences in the dark. However, that public display of unity was shattered on Tuesday night when Patrick Faber fired off a social media post aimed directly at UDP Party Leader Moses "Shyne" Barrow.

Faber, in his usual display of Facebook machismo, wrote, "PL, I don't appreciate your threats and those of your violent criminal circle. I am not now or not ever a PUP. All who demand you do things according to the constitution and don't agree with your wrong ways are not PUP! I am not for sale, so don't bet on me."

While it is still unclear, what might have triggered Faber's latest public outburst, we are reliably informed that after returning to the country last month both Faber and Barrow, along with Albert Area Representative Tracy Panton, had agreed to put aside their differences and work towards reuniting the party.

Prior to that post, things between the party had continued to go sideways as Faber shared a commercial that was produced by outspoken Delroy Cutkelvin, who was expelled from the UDP a couple of weeks ago for repeatedly producing ads criticizing Barrow's leadership. In that post, Faber had

captioned it, "Rescue our party, Save our country."

Faber said, "We've given unity a chance for the sake of the Party and the Nation. It is now clear that those running the Party insist on doing things their way and consistently violating the UDP constitution. For the sake of the Party and the Country, then, we must take a stand."

Backing up Faber's comment on her official "Tracy for Albert" Facebook account, Panton wrote, "We MUST respect our UDP Constitution. If the Party does not respect its governing rules and we don't respect each other, how can we forge a united front?"

In another post on her personal account Panton again reiterated the need for the party's constitution to be respected and adhered to. She said that failing to do so is a recipe for disaster and that the UDP can and must do better. She indicated, "Belize needs a viable opposition, one that is built on integrity, trust, and mutual respect for all parties concerned."

Based on Faber's remarks, it also seems that a group of UDP has also formed a group called the UDP Coalition for Unity & Reform which aims to "stand up" and "rescue" the party. It is yet to be seen whether this new group will buck heads with the UDP Caucus For Change, which was formed by UDP member John Saldivar, who also happens to be an avid supporter of Barrow.



MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

AND
HOUSING

INVITATION TO BID

**MAJOR REPAIRS TO HAWKESWORTH BRIDGE (563 FT IN LENGTH) SPANNING THE
MACAL RIVER, SAN IGNACIO TOWN, CAYO DISTRICT**

The Government of Belize via the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing (MIDH) intends to have major repairs done on the Hawkesworth Bridge which spans 563 feet across the Macal River in San Ignacio Town, Cayo District. The Bridge is approximately 48 feet above normal water level of the Macal River.

The Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing now invites sealed bids from suitably qualified and experienced Bridge contractors to undertake the proposed repairs of high-level Suspension type Hawkesworth Bridge.

The scope of works repair works on the road will include the following:

1. Replacement of various metal elements of the Main Deck, Towers and Pedestrian Sidewalk of the Bridge structure such as Metal I Beams, Wind Braces, and Guardrails.
2. Replacement of Nuts and Bolts on the Main Bridge Deck
3. Sand blasting of sections of the Bridge
4. Painting of the entire Bridge with a Primer and two coats of Rustoleum Paint

Bidders who are interested must have the financial capacity, necessary equipment, technical expertise, and experience as Bridge Contractor to complete the works in accordance with the Bidding Documents.

Bidding will be conducted through national competitive bidding procedures and interested bidders may obtain further information and a copy of the bidding documents at the offices of MIDH at the address below as of Monday August 8, 2022, during normal office hours Monday through Fridays from 8.00 A.M – 12.00 Noon and from 1.00 PM – 4.00 PM.

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

All bids must be delivered to the address below by 10.00 AM local time on Tuesday, September 7, 2022, and they will be opened on the same day at 10.15 A.M, at the address below. Late bids will be rejected. A bid security of \$10,000 must be submitted and delivered to the address below at the same time of the bid submission.

1. Victor Espat
Chief Executive Officer
Ministry of Infrastructure Development & Housing
#1 Power Lane
Belmopan, Belize
Tel: 501-822-2136/39
Fax: 501-822-3282
E-mail: ceo.secretary@mow.gov.bz

2. Lennox Bradley
Chief Engineer
Ministry of Infrastructure Development & Housing
#1 Power Lane
Belmopan, Belize
Tel: 501-822-2136/39
Fax: 501-822-3282
E-mail: BradleyLE@midh.gov.bz



66-year-old likely cured of HIV after stem cell transplant

After receiving a stem cell transplant, a 66-year-old man may be the fifth person to be cured of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, researchers reported Wednesday (July 27). The patient, who wishes to remain anonymous, is the oldest person yet to undergo the procedure and enter long-term remission from the disease.

The man — known as the “City of Hope patient” in reference to the medical center in Los Angeles where he was treated — was first diagnosed with HIV, the human immunodeficiency virus, in 1988, according to a statement shared by City of Hope. “When I was diagnosed with HIV in 1988, like many others, I thought it was a death sentence,” the patient said.

Just the year before, in March 1987, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the first antiretroviral therapy, or medication for HIV, called azidothymidine (AZT), according to the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. It wasn’t until the mid-1990s that combination therapies for HIV would come into use; these therapies combined two to three HIV drugs to boost the efficacy of the treatment and help prevent patients from developing resistance to the drugs. Such combination therapies are now the standard of care for the treatment of HIV.

The City of Hope patient took antiretroviral drugs for more than 31 years to control his HIV. At one point, the man’s condition had progressed to AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome), meaning his white blood cell count had fallen to critically low levels, NBC News reported. He took AZT and some of the other early HIV medications, which were prescribed individually, before switching to a highly effective combination antiretroviral treatment in the 1990s.

Several decades later, in 2018, the patient developed acute myelogenous leukemia (also called acute myeloid leukemia, or AML), a cancer of the blood and bone marrow. As a treatment for both the cancer and HIV, doctors performed a blood stem cell transplant with cells from a donor who carried a rare genetic mutation. This mutation, called homozygous CCR5 delta 32, renders its carrier resistant to HIV by altering the entryway that the virus usually exploits to invade the body’s white blood cells.

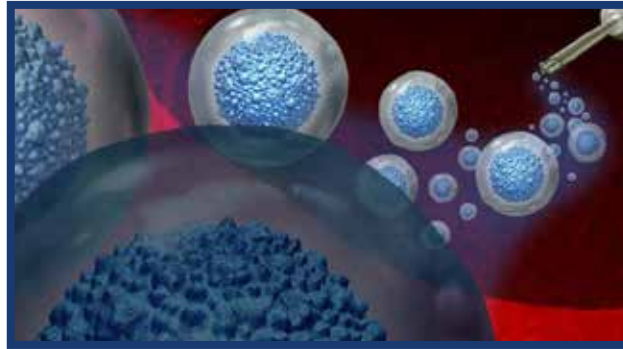
Following the man’s transplant, these mutant, HIV-resistant cells steadily took over his immune system. In March 2021, under the careful supervision of his medical team, the patient stopped taking antiretroviral medications, and to date, there have been no signs of HIV replication in his body.

The team describe the patient as being in long-term remission, as there’s been no trace of viable virus in his system for 17 months; they will continue to monitor his condition and may declare him officially “cured” at a later date, if his status remains unchanged, NBC News reported.

—Oldest ‘nearly complete’ HIV genome found in forgotten tissue sample from 1966

The City of Hope patient’s case is very similar to that of the so-called Berlin patient, the first person cured of HIV.

The Berlin patient, who later revealed his name to be Timothy Ray Brown, also developed AML and received a bone marrow transplant from a donor with an HIV-resistant genetic mutation. (Bone marrow contains blood stem cells.) Two others — the Düsseldorf and London patients — were cured using the same procedure, according to NBC News, and recently, one woman was cured after receiving a stem cell transplant that used cells from umbilical cord blood, Live Science



previously reported.

“[The City of Hope patient’s case] is yet another case that resembles Timothy Brown from years ago,” David D. Ho, one of the world’s leading AIDS researchers and director of the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center at Columbia University, told The Washington Post. However, given the risks of the transplant procedure and the rarity of

the HIV-resistant mutation, such treatments aren’t accessible to the majority of HIV patients, Ho said.

“While a transplant is not an option for most people with HIV, these cases are still interesting, still inspiring and illuminate the search for a cure,” Dr. Sharon Lewin, an infectious-disease specialist at the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity at the University of Melbourne in Australia, said at a news conference, according to NBC News. Some research groups are working to develop gene editing techniques that could introduce the HIV-resistant mutation into patients, The Washington Post reported.

Dr. Jana K. Dickter, a City of Hope associate clinical professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases, spoke about the City of Hope patient’s case Wednesday at the 2022 International AIDS Conference in Montreal.



MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT



AND
HOUSING

INVITATION TO BID

REPAIRS AND RESURFACING OF VARIOUS SECTION OVER A 7.5 MILES LENGTH OF EX-SERVICEMAN’S ROAD (BOOM CREEK VILLAGE ROAD) TOLEDO DISTRICT

The Government of Belize via the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing (MIDH) intends to repair and re-surface various small sections over 7.5 miles length of the Ex-serviceman’s Road (Boom Creek Village Road)), Toledo District with suitable crushed material.

The Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing now invites sealed bids from suitably qualified and experienced contractors for repairs and resurfacing of small sections of Ex-serviceman’s Road, Toledo District.

The scope of works repair works on the road will include the following:

1. Clean main road of all vegetation and deleterious materials and dispose of spoil within a 2 miles radius of project site.
2. Clean side drains –8,000 linear yards and dispose of spoil within a 2 miles radius of project site.
3. Drainage improvement & Culvert Installation works (Provisional item)
3. Scarify, shape and compact road surface (110,000 S.Y) as per crossfall on drawings.
4. Supply, transport, place and compact 6 inches of subbase type material as per specifications.
5. Supply, transport, place and compact 6 inches of crushed All-In as per specifications.

Bidders who are interested must have the financial capacity, necessary equipment, technical expertise, and experience to complete the works in accordance with the Bidding Documents.

Bidding will be conducted through national competitive bidding procedures and interested bidders may obtain further information and a copy of the bidding documents at the offices of MIDH at the address below as of Monday August 8, 2022, during normal office hours Monday through Fridays from 8.00 A.M – 12.00 Noon and from 1.00 PM – 4.00 PM.

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

All bids must be delivered to the address below by 11.15 AM local time on Tuesday, September 2, 2022, and they will be opened on the same day at 11.30 A.M, at the address below. Late bids will be rejected. A bid security of \$10,000 must be submitted and delivered to the address below at the same time of the bid submission.

1. Victor Espot
Chief Executive Officer
Ministry of Infrastructure Development & Housing
#1 Power Lane
Belmopan, Belize
Tel: 501-822-2136/39
Fax: 501-822-3282
E-mail: ceo.secretary@mow.gov.bz

2. Lennox Bradley
Chief Engineer
Ministry of Infrastructure Development & Housing
#1 Power Lane
Belmopan, Belize
Tel: 501-822-2136/39
Fax: 501-822-3282
E-mail: BradleyLE@midh.gov.bz

No Excuses

On Constitutional Reform

CONTRIBUTED:
SEDI

Two events in the year 2020 triggered the most profound changes in my life. The first was the Covid-19 Pandemic! The speed with which it spread across the entire world, and the massive extermination of life which it wrought in its wake in nations big and small was incredibly awesome. That virus unleashed a type of shock and awe the likes of which no person alive had ever experienced!

The second event occurred during the run up to the last General Elections. In my fifty plus years involvement in electoral politics I had never witnessed a more deliberate, methodical and systematic execution of a plan for subverting the democratic process and winning an election by fair means or foul than that which I witnessed during the 2020 electoral campaign. Those two events were watershed moments in my life. They signaled to me that the good old days in my country had gone forever. They also laid bare simultaneously the fragility and impotence of mankind in the presence of the forces of nature, and man's disdain and disregard for the Rule of Law in his quest to achieve his personal ambitions. The ongoing saga in the mighty United States of America emanating from the allegation of ex-President Donald Trump and his supporters that the 2020

Presidential Elections was stolen, and the reversal by that country's supreme Court of the landmark decision in the case of Roe v Wade, served to emphasize the latter observation. It has shaken and impaired my confidence, faith and trust in my fellow man, be he of noble rank or lowly status, and in judges and politicians in particular.

Closer to home, the fate which befell Central Bank Governor Manuel Vasquez, Director of Health Services Dr. Marvin Manzanero and madam Michelle Arana Acting Chief Justice at the hand of the Briceño Administration cast great doubt upon the integrity and the bonafides of the Administration. For that reason I simply cannot convince myself that its motivation for wanting to effect changes and reform to our constitution at this time is with a view to strengthen our state institutions and the protections which our constitutions provide to our public officers and to our citizens in general. I am inclined to the view that the true reasons are sinister, nefarious.

I am not surprised that it has fallen to the lot of the Hon. Henry Charles Usher, Minister of the Public Service, to spearhead the current initiative for Constitutional Reform. Minister Henry Charles is a rank political neophyte. He is one of the newest entrants on the Belize political scene. His knowledge and experience of politics in country is scant,

and superficial. He is not the typical Belizean politician. He has very little in common with the poverty stricken, ignorant and ethically challenged Belizeans who reside in the notorious ghettos of his Fort George constituency.

Minister Henry Charles was born into privilege and prestige, with the proverbial gold

Sadly but not surprisingly, too many of our Afro Belizean youths are now feral, savage, and brutal. This is the result of four continuous decades of discrimination, neglect, poverty, abuse and injustice.

spoon in his mouth. He has lived all his life to date, in that elevated status. Prior to his debut on the political scene in 2020 there is no record of his involvement in the public life of our country. Like most young persons Minister Henry Charles is idealistic. He is ambitious. He obviously wishes to emulate his father, grand uncle and grand aunt all three of whom were titans on the Belizean political scene.

However, despite their prominence, none of his predecessors, succeeded in transforming the reality of their constituents. Neither did they succeed in elevating the status of our nation as a whole. Indeed, forty-one years after Independence, our country may well be the least developed of the fourteen countries in CARICOM despite the fact that it is blessed with much more natural resources than the vast

majority of the other countries.

I have no doubt, that our constitution can benefit from some amendments. Unlike God's Ten Commandments, it is imperfect. It is artificial. It is man-made. It can certainly benefit, from time to time, from amendments to reflect the changing realities of our times.

But in life, timing is very important. So too is the need to prioritize.

We hear daily in reports of international news of the numerous catastrophes that are occurring in countries large and small across the globe in consequence of global warming. Mammoth conflagrations, droughts, hurricanes and floods are scouring and scorching the earth, and destroying vast swathes of land, sparing no living organism in their path, neither flora nor fauna, man nor beast!

Additionally, we know that The HIV Aids epidemic and the Covid-19 Pandemic are still decimating debilitating, incapacitating and killing people in large numbers worldwide, our country not excluded. And now we hear of the Monkey Pox which no doubt will shortly arrive on our shores.

On the economic front we are suffering from sustained high prices, from rising food prices, from inflation, and from rising interest rates. Every single one of these occurrences is impacting our country negatively because of our interdependence, the result of globalization. All these events demand more and more financial outlay on the part of both government and citizens. But neither our government nor the vast majority of our citizens are generating sufficient income to defray the cost of necessities, much less to set aside a portion for the inevitable rainy day.

And we are pursuing, as far as I am aware, no economic development plan designed to expand our national productivity and earnings.

As a survivor of Hurricane Hattie in 1960, I know firsthand of the utter devastation that a single category five hurricane can cause to multiple districts simultaneously. As a former Minister of Foreign Affairs, I know how painful it is to be sending out letters of request for assistance and relief to friendly and allied countries after a natural disaster. And, how frugal donor nations can be worldwide in the face of such requests. The experience and agony of Haiti is a living example.

I hear no call from any Minister of Government or from any other section of our society for any comprehensive disaster preparedness plan to deal with the truly catastrophic consequences of the natural disasters that are now being spawned by global warming. All indications are that these catastrophic occurrences are becoming much more frequent and much more devastating.

I find this silence to be very unsettling. The urgency on the part of Government at a time like this is not to trifle with the constitution! The urgency is to develop contingency plans for such eventualities as the washing away of portions of the Placencia Road or portions of the George Price Highway during a hurricane. The urgency is to develop a contingency plan to rescue and relocate the citizens of low lying areas who run the risk of seeing all their worldly possessions destroyed by a catastrophic hurricane and flooding. The urgency is to devise a contingency plan to house and feed the thousands of Belizeans who may be displaced by a cataclysmic drought or fire or hurricane. The urgency is to source, secure and earmark the necessary resources, materials, human and financial to commence building back after a catastrophic event. The

urgency is to train and prepare a search and rescue team to be deployed on short notice to stricken areas as soon as possible after a catastrophic event.

I find it truly incomprehensible that our Government should be spending the scarce resources that it is able to muster on regularizing the status of immigrants and on a constitutional amendment exercise when the repeated pleas of our Police Commissioner for manpower, vehicles and fuel for the police force in the face of escalating gang violence fall on deaf ears; when our judiciary is swamped by thousands of unheard cases and is desperately in need of resources both human and financial; when our hospitals are chronically short of necessary medical supplies for patients suffering from non-communicable disease and other maladies such as HIV/AIDS, Covid-19 virus and Monkey Pox, to name but a few, and when the price of all imports including fuel and food keeps sky rocketing and our scarce foreign exchange is under severe pressure.

Both the decision to legalize marijuana and to reform our constitution at this time is ill conceived. They betray, in my view, a dangerous absence of vision, maturity, and sense of priority in the Briceño Cabinet.

To paraphrase the prophetic words of the late UK Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, delivered on October 5th, 1938 in the House of Commons: "We are in the presence of disasters of the first magnitude... Our loyal, brave people... should know the truth."

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.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

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

Position Name: Bodyguard Coordinator

Vacancy number: Belmopan-2022-18-R

Extended closing date: August 18th, 2022

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

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

Note 1: This position is being re-advertised with a new closing date.

Note 2: 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 3: 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.



'Satisficing:' Small, positive steps forward on Trade Licensing Reform

Contributed by the Belize Chamber of Commerce & Industry

As regular readers of the Business Perspective column would likely recall, the Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI)'s position on the trade licensing (TL) regime is one that says the TL fee should operate as a genuine flat fee. Of course, there is always the question as to whether or not a TL regime is necessary at all, but if it is that it must exist, then it should abide—as much as possible—by international best practices that advise that such fees should only be utilized to cover administrative costs and not for revenue-generation purposes.

So, let's be clear. In our view, the international best practice for a "fee" would suggest the following structures. First, that the fee itself is minimal, covering, at most, administrative costs. Second, we continue to hold the view that the fee should, therefore, not be attached—like a property tax is—to the size of your property, market value, or annual rental value (ARV). Third, there should be no need for a Board to approve every TL applicant, especially if there are adequate zoning laws that already determine suitable areas for various business classifications. And, finally, it should be the task of local authorities to enforce the rules and regulations of other government, already-tax-funded agencies.

Additionally, when we wrote on this subject a few months ago, we made it a point to highlight the fundamental differences between a fee and a tax. Back then, we quoted Justice Michelle Gordon:

"The mere fact that something is labelled a 'fee for services' does not necessarily preclude it from being a tax. In other words, an imposition that must be paid, whether or not the relevant services are acquired and that has no discernible relationship to the value of the services, is unlikely to escape characterisation as a tax. ... The High Court held that for a 'charge' to be considered a 'fee for services', it must be 'exacted for particular identified services provided or rendered individually to, or at the request or direction of, the particular person required to make the payment'—Justice Michelle Gordon (2012).

Any business operating in Belize City or any of the other eight municipalities would be able to attest to the fact that the TL regime operates much more like a "tax" as it is—to use Gordon's words—"an imposition that must be paid, whether or not the relevant services are acquired and [it has] no discernible relationship to the value of the services."

There are businesses that pay thousands of dollars in TL "fees" and, when asked, are often hard pressed to pinpoint whether—again quoting Gordon—the charge was "exacted for particular identified services provided or rendered individually to [the business] or at the request or direction of [the said business]."

Ultimately, the TL regime—as it operates in the nine municipalities—is for general-revenue purposes; thereby, making it less analogous to fees such as the garbage fee and much more akin to imposts such as property or sales taxes.

'Satisficing' on Policy decisions

Now, the title of this entry contains the word "satisficing." The term could be defined in different ways, but its usage here signifies a decision or set of decisions that may sufficiently satisfy the minimum objectives even when recognizing that more optimal options are desirable. Originally applied as a challenge to the microeconomic concept of the rational consumer or the profit-

maximizing firm, the term can and has taken on a broader range of meaning within public policy circles.

In this TL context, the term is applicable as stakeholders are limited as it pertains to the full range of options that would have otherwise been available absent certain information asymmetries. Also limiting the range of options are fiscal constraints that cannot be easily overcome or ignored in the short term.

Acknowledging these conditions, the private- and public-sector stakeholders who make up the recently formed TL Working Group, which is tasked with reviewing the regime, ultimately end up agreeing to less-than-optimal options.

The Expansion of TL to Rural Areas

The first and probably the most salient proposal coming out of the working group is as it pertains to the Trade Licensing regime being expanded to the rural areas, where the system had not existed before.

The problem being addressed here is the fact that the village councils need revenues to better carry out their functions. Again, due to certain information asymmetries, the Ministry of Local Government looks to the Trade Licensing regime as the workable solution. Consequently, the Trade Licensing (Amendment) Bill 2022 was designed to essentially "export" to the villages—with a few minor alterations—the ARV-based system that would have operated in the nine municipalities (i.e. Belize City, San Ignacio/Santa Elena, Benque,

sqft. This latter adaptation has been walked back as per the working group's proposals. The recommendation is now for there to be seven productive-footprint ranges: the original three plus ranges of 1000 to 2000 sqft; 2000 to 4000 sqft; 4000 to 6000 sqft; and businesses greater than 6000 sqft.

Each of these categories would be assigned a specific flat fee that would be applicable to all business types evenly. While this proposal has received support within the working group, negotiations are still ongoing as it pertains to the precise amount to be charged at each ban. Clearly, the BCCI's position is that the fees should be as moderate as possible.

Nevertheless, while there are still finer points to clarify and agree to, this "middle ground"—in terms of its design—is viewed as being better than the ARV-based system that would have otherwise found itself in the villages.

To put this into perspective, let's return to our hypothetical resort example. Under the ARV-based model, that resort of 8,000 sqft would have paid \$16,000. If, however, it is agreed that the relevant category (those greater than 6,000 sqft) is only charged a fee of \$1300, this would mean that that resort would have been saved from paying \$14,700 more charges. This becomes even more important given that there is still ambiguity as to precisely how the definition of productive footprint shall be applied to certain business classifications, including

Ranges (Productive Footprint)	Flat fee
< 600 sqft	No Fee
600 to 800 sqft	\$100
800 to 1000 sqft	\$250
1000 to 1999 sqft	Negotiation ongoing
2000 to 3999 sqft	Negotiation ongoing
4000 to 5999 sqft	Negotiation ongoing
Greater than 6000 sqft	Negotiation ongoing

Corozal Town, Orange Walk Town, Dangriga, Punta Gorda, Belmopan, and San Pedro).

If, of course, one understands how the ARV-based system works, it becomes clearer as to why this had to be resisted by the BCCI. For example, if it is calculated that the cost per square foot for accommodations (resorts, etc.) operating in the villages is \$2.00. And let's say there is a resort that has a "productive footprint" of (for argument's sake) 8,000 sqft. That single business would find itself with a new charge of \$16,000 per year. It is that and more that moved the BCCI to object to the Bill at the House Committee held earlier this year.

This brings us to the TL Working Group's proposal. The proposal emanating from the group now puts forward a design that we could dub "semi-flat fee." Within the Bill (2022), it was already set that, within rural areas, businesses with productive footprints below 600 would have been exempted. Also, it was agreed that firms with productive footprints of 600 to 800 sqft and 800 to 1,000 sqft would have been charged \$100 and \$250, respectively. The ARV-based adaptation was reserved for businesses with productive footprints greater than 1000

accommodations.

Understandably, it could be said that paying anything more (even if it is marginal) is "too much," and that is a fair point to be made. The unfortunate reality, however, is that policy matters are hardly ever so linear, as there remains on the table the legitimate concern as to how to get the village councils more resources to conduct their work. Naturally, the BCCI has its own ideas for a long-term solution that promises to be superior to relying on the TL regime; however, that, again, hits (at least temporarily) the wall that is information asymmetries.

Of course, the changes regarding the rural areas are not the ONLY proposals coming out of the working group. In subsequent installments of the Business Perspective column we will look at other key proposals that the BCCI has put forward and has, thus far, received the support of the working group.

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.





We are hiring
Occupational Safety Officer
Belize - Project

Responsible for advising and supervising compliance with the processes related to Occupational Safety and the Working Environment in a Project setting.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Certification as an Occupational Safety Technician
- Minimum One (1) year of experience in similar positions in the Construction Sector
- Immediate availability

Interested persons apply at the following link: <https://bit.ly/3c1rzz0>
Help desk in WhatsApp if you have any question in applying: (506) 6224-2939





We are hiring
Electromechanical Engineer
Belize - Project

REQUIREMENTS:

- Bachelor's Degree in Electromechanical Engineering
- Minimum Seven (7) years of work experience in similar positions
- Experience in high-end hotel projects is desirable
- Experience in remote projects is desirable
- Experience in negotiating with contractors and suppliers will be an asset
- Experience in construction execution and inspection scenarios will be an asset
- Immediate availability

Interested persons apply at the following link: <https://bit.ly/3PEI.gnP>
Help desk in WhatsApp if you have any question in applying: (506) 6224-2939.



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

VACANCY
E-Mobility Project Associate

Location: Belmopan, Belize
Application Deadline: 23/08/2022, 21:59
Type of Contract: National Personnel Service Agreement (NPSA)
Pre-classified Grade: SB3
Expected Duration of Assignment: One Year with possibility of extension subject to performance evaluation

Background:
UNDP is committed to achieving workforce diversity in terms of gender, nationality, and culture. Individuals from minority groups, indigenous groups and persons with disabilities are equally encouraged to apply. All applications will be treated with the strictest confidence.

UNDP does not tolerate sexual exploitation and abuse, any kind of harassment, including sexual harassment, and discrimination. All selected candidates will, therefore, undergo rigorous reference and background checks.

Project Description:
Belize's e-mobility pilot, administered by the UNDP Belize Country Office and funded by the European Union, supports the implementation of Belize's raised ambition Nationally Determined Contributions to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and associated Low Emission Development Strategy (LEDS). In line with UNDP's Global Programme to Support Countries with the Shift to Electric Mobility and applying UNDP's Derisking Renewable Energy Investment approach the project addresses policy barriers faced in transitioning towards a low carbon transport sector and the enabling of a policy framework supporting e-mobility expansion in country. The project, in partnership with private sector and local government institutions, finances the piloting of e-mobility as a means of satisfying growing public transport demands for modernization; and focuses on demonstrating conditions and early experience for e-mobility integration into the national system, informing sector growth and investment planning.

Summary of Key Functions:

1. Support management of project in ATLAS/ QUANTUM
2. Support in project implementation and financial management of the project.
3. Provide event and meeting organization support for assigned events.
4. Take care of internal communication and updates of project-related information on project platforms and social media.
5. Administrative and operational support to project implementation, ensuring quality of business processes

Required Qualifications:
Administration & Operations, documents and records management- Overall document (hard or electronic) management; registry and retention policy including storing and archiving

Min. Education: High school Diploma
Desirable: Bachelor's degree in public administration, business administration, finance management, economics or associated field


Experience: Six (6) years of relevant administrative or project experience.
Alternatively, if in possession of Bachelor's degree, three (3) years of relevant administrative or project experience is required.

- Demonstrated track record in the preparation of technical and financial reports, and accounts management of international projects is an asset for this position;
- Experience in the usage of computers and office software packages (MS Word, Excel, etc) and experience in handling of web-based management systems (i.e. ERP, Atlas).
- Familiarity and prior experience with UNDP procedures would be an asset

Languages: Fluency in English (Spanish would be an asset).

Applications: UNDP is an equal opportunity employer and all qualified individuals are encouraged to apply.

To apply please go to:
[E-Mobility Project Associate NPSA 6 - UNDP Careers \(oraclecloud.com\)](https://www.oraclecloud.com)



IMPORTANT CLOSURE NOTICE

Dear Users of the Port of Belize Ltd.

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

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

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

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

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

Thanks
Andy Lane
Chief Executive Officer

NOTICE

GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE TREASURY BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER 9/2022

Tenders are invited for an issue of Government of Belize Treasury Bills. The amount of the issue will be \$67,408,200.00.

The Bills will be issued in electronic form only evidenced by an electronic book entry in the Central Securities Depository of the Central Bank of Belize in multiples of \$200 and will be repayable at par 91 days after issue. They will be issued on Wednesday, 17 August 2022 and will be redeemed on Wednesday, 16 November 2022.

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

Members of the public who wish to participate in the auction must submit their bid to the Central Bank of Belize electronically or at the designated drop off box no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, 12 August 2022.

The Auction in the Central Securities Depository System (CSD) will be opened from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on Wednesday 17 August 2022.

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

Bank: Central Bank of Belize
Account: GLICORP0402627

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

CENTRAL BANK OF BELIZE

Notices are placed on Central Bank of Belize Website (www.centralbank.org.bz)

The Righters Write

Article 16: Right to Marry and to Found a Family

By The Human Rights Commission

Taken from: "Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 70: 30 Articles on 30 Articles - Article 16, 25 November 2018"

Most of the 30 Articles in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) begin with gender-free language: "Everyone," "All" or "No One. But Article 16 states that "men and women" have the right to marry, with the women drafters of the UDHR succeeding in their determination that it should spell out clearly that women had equal rights in marriage, given there was still very widespread discrimination in matters relating to marriage at the time.

Some subsequently interpreted the wording as limiting marriage rights to heterosexual couples, although nowadays it is increasingly interpreted as simply referring to both sexes having an equal right to marry, rather than stipulating they must marry someone of the opposite sex. Various UN human rights mechanisms have urged all States to legally recognize same-sex unions – whether by making marriage available to same sex couples or through other arrangements, such as civil partnerships – and have also called for the same benefits and protections for all. And an increasing number of states are bringing in legislation along these lines.

Article 16 delves into the intimate lives of humans. It says every adult has the right to marry and have a family if they want to. Women and men also have the same rights during their marriages, and if they divorce. In addition, for the only time in this document, it explicitly invokes the duty of the State to provide protection, underscoring the high regard the drafters had for the family.

"Denying people access to marriage ...it's denying them the status and dignity of being ordinary citizens in society."

– South African Judge Albie Sachs, in Constitutional Court decision striking down statute defining marriage as "between one man and one woman."

As Pakistani drafter Begum Shaista Ikramullah put it, "it was imperative that the peoples of the world should recognize the existence of a code of civilized behaviour which would apply not only in international relations, but also in domestic affairs."

These rights have cascaded down and been amplified in a number of other UN instruments: The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as well as the Conventions that protect women, people with disabilities and migrant workers.

The drafting of Article 16 involved reconciling different world views (the Communist bloc was critical of what it saw as U.S. restrictions on women's rights at the time) and overcoming religious objections. World War II, just ended, "had shown the equality of the sexes," said Polish drafter Fryderyka Kalinowska, and it was important to reflect that.

The Article was also a response to Nazi laws prohibiting inter-racial marriage, bestowing the right to marry and to found a family on "men and women of full age without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion." Equal rights are guaranteed "during marriage and at its dissolution." This was a milder word for "divorce," which had caused heated debate during the drafting. Some argued including

it would send a signal to the general public that the UN "approved of divorce on the same footing as marriage." In the end, divorce was treated as an issue of non-discrimination rather than as a basic human right. As one commentator put it: "No one has to contract marriage, but once one is in that state, certain rights become operative."

Paragraph 2 of Article 16 says "marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses." This, together with the phrase "of full age" in Paragraph 1, amounts to a ban on child and/or forced marriage because children may not be in a position to give free and full consent. However, child marriage continues to be a problem affecting huge numbers of girls, with around one million girls under 18 getting married every month.

Closely related is the issue of forced marriage, where girls are married off to a man, often much older, for a "bride price." Faced with international outrage, in June 2018, Sudan overturned the death sentence on Noura Hussein for killing her husband, who was some 16 years older than her. The man had approached her parents when she was just 15 and in Grade 8. On their "honeymoon," the court heard, the husband raped her while three of his male relatives pinned her down. When he tried to rape her again, she killed him with a knife – in self-defence, she argued.

In neighbouring South Sudan, in November 2018, the father of a 16-year-old girl auctioned her off to the highest bidder on Facebook. The sale provoked a storm of condemnation, including against Facebook, with many people afraid the record amount paid for the girl would stimulate more sales of child brides via social media.

"That a girl could be sold for marriage on the world's biggest social networking site in this day and age is beyond belief."

– George Otim, director of Plan International in South Sudan

A recent ruling by the International Criminal Court (in the case against Dominic Ongwen of the Lord's Resistance Army) that forced marriage, when part of a widespread or systematic attack against civilians, may amount

to a crime against humanity was, for many, a welcome development in jurisprudence.

In a 2018 report on the Kyrgyz Republic, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women concluded the Government had failed to protect women and girls from abduction for forced marriage and related sexual violence, thus violating their right to enter into marriage only with their free and full consent. It also found that the Kyrgyz Republic had knowingly failed to take effective measures to address discriminatory stereotypes and norms that legitimize bride kidnapping, as well as to enforce existing laws criminalizing the practice alongside child marriage.

On another topic, Article 16's language on the "right to found a family" reflects the prevailing morality of the time associating families with marriage. Since then, it has been argued that the right to "found" a family implies a conscious decision, so it should extend to rights to plan births and control one's reproduction – and even to a "right" to in-vitro fertilization, as the Inter-American Court of Human Rights held in the 2012 case of *Artavia Murillo v. Costa Rica*. Also more recently, the rights laid down in Article 16 have been re-interpreted to try to ensure equality and non-discrimination for all people who want to marry, and all families, however they are constituted.

In 2012, then UN Human Rights Chief Navi Pillay discussed how sexual violence and denial of contraception are frequently used against women. "Ensuring that women have full autonomy over their bodies is the first crucial step towards achieving substantive equality between women and men," she said. "Personal issues – such as when, how and with whom they choose to have sex, and when, how and with whom they choose to have children – are at the heart of living a life in dignity."

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MINISTRY OF HEALTH & WELLNESS VACANCY NOTICE

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to fill the post of
Chief Drug Inspector, Ministry of Health & Wellness.

Salary Pay Scale: 23 of \$36,554 × 1480 -\$64,674

Qualification: Recognized Master's Degree in Pharmacy or related field. Must be a
registered Pharmacist with five (5) plus years' experience as a pharmacist.

Deadline: August 19, 2022
Application with two (2) references and copies of qualifications to be submitted to:

**Chief Executive Officer
Ministry of Health & Wellness
3rd Floor, East Block Building
Belmopan**

(N.B. complete details on this position can be viewed at <https://jobs.publicservice.gov.bz/>)

BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM
COUNTRYWIDE PUBLIC AUCTION SALES: PROPERTIES

San Pedro, Ambergris Caye; Belize District; Little Belize Settlement, San Antonio Village, Corozal Town, Xaibe Village, Consejo Village, Corozal District; Shipyard Settlement, August Pine Ridge Village, Hill Bank Area, Trial Farm Orange Walk Town; Lord's Bank, Los Lagos, Hattievillage, Belize District; Belmopan, Georgeville Village, Camalote Village, Cayo District; Bella Vista Village, Toledo District

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. Atlantic Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following properties. **Sales currently running until 15th October 2022. Public Auction Sales will expire fortnightly on the dates and times listed on the website until these properties are sold.**

A: San Pedro, Ambergris Caye, Belize District:

1. Vehicle:



1999 Toyota Rav 4
 VEHICLE: Available for viewing prior to sale

2. Parcel No. 7854 Ambergris Bay Area on the Western Portion of Ambergris Caye, San Pedro, Belize:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
San Pedro	7	7854
Freehold property of Mr. Pedro Valeriano Vasquez.		

3. Parcel No. 6824 Colonia Diego, San Pedro Ambergris Caye, Belize District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
San Pedro	7	6824
Freehold property of Mr. Pablo Sosa.		

4. Parcel No. 2601 San Pedro Ambergris Caye, Belize District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
San Pedro	7	2601
Freehold property of Mr. Pablo Sosa.		

5. Parcel No. 9412 approximately 13 miles northeast of San Pedro Town in Bracelette Caye on the west coast of Ambergris Caye, Belize District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
San Pedro	7	9412
Freehold property of Messrs. Pair of Aces Limited, surety for Mr. Keith Alan Zielaskowski.		

B: COROZAL DISTRICT:

1. Parcel No. 799 Waree Bight Area, near Little Belize, Corozal District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Waree Bight/Freshwater Creek	3	799
Freehold property of Mr. David Neufeld of Little Belize Com Mill.		

2. Parcel No. 130 San Antonio Village, Corozal District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Corozal North	36	130
Freehold property of Mr. Carlos C. Elvir & Blanca Elvir.		

3. Parcel No. 929 8th Avenue, Corozal Town, Corozal District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Corozal Central	1	929
Freehold property of Mr. Abraham Nicholson.		

4. Parcel No. 178 Xaibe Village, Corozal District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Xaibe	1	178
Freehold property of Mr. Abraham Nicholson.		

5. Parcel No. 418 Consejo Village, Corozal District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Consejo	1	418
Freehold property of Mr. Antonio Gutierrez		

C: ORANGE WALK DISTRICT:

Farm equipment: FARM EQUIPMENT: CAMP 18 SHIPYARD COMMUNITY - Available for viewing



Combine Harvester Sprayer

1. Parcel No. 1124 August Pine Ridge Village, Orange Walk District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
August Pine Ridge	9	1124
Freehold property of Mr. Jacob Freisen.		

2. 726.969 Acres Indian Creek Community, Hill Bank Area, Orange Walk District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCELS
Sierra De Aqua	23	68,69,70,71,72,73,75,76,77,78,79,80, & 81
Freehold properties of Mr. Jacob Freisen & Mr. Bernhard Freisen.		

3. Parcel No. 396 Trial Farm Village, Orange Walk District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Trial Farm	4	396
Freehold property of Mr. Jesus Pena.		

D. BELIZE DISTRICT:

1. Lot No. 58 situate in Lord's Bank Village Extension, Belize District:



ALL THAT lot piece or parcel of land being Lot No. 58 situate in Lord's Bank Village Extension, Belize District comprising 1066.42 square yards TOGETHER with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon. (Freehold property of Mr. Norman Augustine Jr.)

2. Lots Nos. 43 & 44 Fred Hunter's Subdivision, Mile 13 Phillip Goldson Highway, Belize District:



ALL THOSE pieces or parcels of land being Lots Nos. 43 and 44 situate Southwest of the Phillip Goldson Highway at Mile 13, Belize District, Belize being a portion of land comprised in Minister's Fiat Grant No. 15 of 1989 date 23rd February 1989 TOGETHER with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon. (Being 2 vacant lots situate in the Fred Hunter Subdivision near Mile 13 on the Northern Highway, South of Los Lagos in the Belize District, the freehold properties of Mr. Gildardo Cardona and Mrs. Rocio Aguilar Cardona)

3. Lot No. 307 Hattievillage Village, Belize District:



ALL THAT piece or parcel of land being Lot No. 307 situated at Belizean American Site near Mile 17 1/2 South of George Price Highway, Hattievillage Village, Belize District comprising 613.44 square meters TOGETHER with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon. (Freehold property of Mr. Sean Delroy Nicholas)

E: CAYO DISTRICT:

1. Parcel No. 3173 Western Side Hummingbird Highway, Belmopan, Cayo District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Belmopan	20	3173
Freehold property of Ms. Su Ti Liang.		

2. Lot No. 193 Georgeville Village, Cayo District:



ALL THAT piece or parcel of vacant land being Lot No. 193 Minister's Fiat 606 of 2013 of Georgeville Village, Cayo District, comprising of 1026.481 Square Meters, TOGETHER with all buildings and erection standing and being thereon. (Freehold property of Ms. Tanesha Salazar)

3. Parcels Nos. 2286 & 2287 Camalote Village, Cayo District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCELS
Society Hall	24	2286 & 2287
Freehold properties of Mr. Ron Waight & Ms. Karina Waight.		

F: STANN CREEK DISTRICT

1. Parcel Nos. 440 Dangriga, Stann Creek District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Dangriga South	31	440
Freehold property of Messrs. Dangriga Cable Vision.		

2. Parcel Nos. 618 Dangriga, Stann Creek District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Dangriga South	31	618
Freehold property of Messrs. Dangriga Cable Vision.		

G: TOLEDO DISTRICT:

1. Lot No. 2 Bella Vista Village, Toledo District:



All That piece or parcel of land known as Lot #2 located in Bella Vista Village, Stann Creek District comprising 445.892 square meters Together with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon. (Freehold property of Mr. Robert Andrew August and Ms. Roselia E. Lizama)

"FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PHOTOGRAPHS PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE"

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH
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