

Reporter

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Cops: Kidnapping Story Fake!

By Michelle Sutherland

The Belize Police Department has reported that an in-depth investigation conducted into the reports of attempted kidnapping of two students in the Orange Walk and Belize District revealed that the reports were not true and that both students have since come forward to admit that they were lying to their parents.

On Thursday afternoon, the Belize Police Department Superintendent Gerald Jones told the media, "We have investigated both matters and we have found that they were not true as to what we expected."

Jones continued, "The investigation is leading us to believe that they

were fabricating both stories, both the one in Orange Walk and in Belize City. When we received the information, we took it very seriously and immediately investigated both matters."

He added that a part of the investigation also included the reviewing of surveillance cameras in surrounding areas where the minors, both females ages 6 and 12 alleged that they had been kidnapped.

Jones, however, claimed that while investigations into both matters remain ongoing, another similar report of a black van going around the San Ignacio and Santa Elena area earlier



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BSI clarifies sugar industry concerns



Cane Price Notice to Farmers



Third payment made today, November 7, 2022, is based on final cane price of **\$70.78**, an improvement of **\$16.22** from 2021 third payment of **\$54.56**. This represents a **30% increase** in cane price for farmers.

The total cane price increase is largely due to the investments by BSI to improve raw sugar and molasses efficiencies, increased DC sugar production and improved sugar prices. Improved cane quality demonstrated by better Tons Cane/Tons Sugar (TC/TS) ratio of 9.28 compared to 9.78 in the 2021 crop also played a factor.

	2021	2022	Increase
First Cane Payment	\$36.40	\$40.50	\$4.10
Second Cane Payment	\$8.59	\$16.91	\$8.32
Third Cane Payment	\$9.57	\$13.37	\$3.80
Total Cane Payment	\$54.56	\$70.78	\$16.22

Cane Price Comparison for the Last Five Years



The current commercial agreement between BSI and the farmers continues to be fair and favorable. Both value-added earnings and improved logistic savings are shared with farmers and reflected in the improved cane price. This year's cane price payment is the highest since the 2017 EU market changes removed Belize's preferential pricing and fourth highest since 2000.



ASR/BSI's Country Manager Mac McLachlan

By William Ysaguirre

Should the Belize Sugar Cane Farmers Association (BSCFA) agree to resign the current commercial agreement that all other three cane associations have accepted, farmers can benefit from an

initial first payment that is \$4.00 more than last year's price, ASR/BSI officials explained today.

"We have just presented the cane price estimate for next year, which is \$4.00 higher than the year that was just

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The November midterm elections in the United States are emphatically not what the Republicans were expecting.

Traditionally, mid-term elections favour the party in opposition, and it was widely expected that the Republicans, currently led by Donald Trump, would emerge ahead of the Democrats.

But the Democrats are holding their own! They appear poised to win the Senate, the all-important Upper House of 100. The Senate is the legislative body which has the power to approve or reject presidential appointments. It has a veto power over budgets and military proposals.

And only the Senate can impeach and censure a president.

There are 35 Senate seats up for grabs in these midterm elections.

If Republicans cannot take back the Senate, it will represent a collapse of Republican influence, even if they manage to re-take the House of Representatives. To re-take the House they will need to win a majority of the 435 seats of the Lower Chamber.

The fortunes of the Democratic Party hang heavily on the shoulders of President Joe Biden, the 79-year-old man who former president Donald Trump calls "Sleepy Joe". But Joe Biden has proven himself to be not only alert, but perceptive as well.

Under his leadership, the countries of Europe, tortured and afflicted by the Russian aggression in Ukraine, have come together as one, to stand up to Russia. President Biden has united the free world and has made the United States a bulwark of protection not only for fuel-starved Europe, but also for Taiwan and South Korea, Australia and the rest of Southeast Asia, who face a different challenge of aggression coming from China and China's ally, North Korea.

President Joe Biden has brought hope and resolve to the democratic nations of the world to face the looming military alliance of Russia and China, side-stepping the minefield of a nuclear war, exercising patience and perseverance and firmness to contain both Russia and China.

In this newspaper's view, President Joe Biden will be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his leadership and decisive action in defense of democracy around the world, no matter the outcome of these midterm elections.

It is a prize he richly deserves!

Cops: Kidnapping Story Fake!

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this week had not reached his desk. He assured us that the department will also be investigating that report and, in the interim, will also be visiting both children and their parents to speak with them and remind them that making a false report is a crime that can lead to charges.

Jones said that the department is still contemplating whether to level any charges against the parents. Community policing officers will also be visiting the various schools to raise awareness and sensitize students on looming dangers in the public and how to respond in a similar situation if the need

arises.

"We are also resorting to the media outlet to put it out there to ask members of the general public, parents, guardians, and even school wardens, if any of this situation may occur at any point that we channel this information directly to the police and have the police be able to investigate the matter immediately and then we will see where it goes from there. I know that these two incidents had created a public alarm, but we want to assure the public that the police department will do its best to investigate in a timely manner so that we can have some form of safety and reassurance within the public," said Jones.

He is also asking parents and even students to continue to be on the lookout and not to let their guard down if a similar situation might occur. Jones reiterated that the picture of a black van with Chicago license plate that has been circulating on social media is also fake and that the image was pulled from an online source.

Earlier this week, a parent in the Orange Walk District was the first to report that her 6-year-old daughter had gone missing after school. After half an hour of searching, the mother reported that she found her daughter at the park playing. She said that the child had told her that a dark complexioned

female had lured her to the park by offering her an ice cream. The minor alleged that the woman had fled at the last minute leaving her behind.

In the second instance, on Tuesday, a 12-year-old Belize City minor also reported to her parents that while walking near 88 Shopping Center on Central American Boulevard in Belize City, a black van, with tinted windows, had crept up behind her. The minor said that when the van suddenly stopped beside her, a dark complexion man opened the side door and attempted to drag her inside. She claimed that the man was forced to let her go after a passerby had noticed the commotion.

Health in the Caribbean declines as temperatures rise

By Britney Gordon

The significant impact on human health from climate change in the Caribbean is projected to continue and worsen both through direct pathways such as storms, floods, droughts, and heatwaves as well as indirectly through changes in water quality, air quality, food security, and vector-borne disease patterns.

In a report released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), it was determined that global surface temperature will continue to increase at least until the middle of the century, resulting in the increase of extreme weather events such as heat waves, heavy precipitation, regional droughts, as well as the increased intensity of storms.

The spread of diseases will also be notable as the increasing frequency of floods and rising sea levels can contaminate drinking water with fecal-oral

pathogens leading to an increase in waterborne diseases as well as creating a breeding ground for insects that carry diseases. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) projects that air quality is likely to deteriorate globally and account for 3.6 million deaths annually by 2050. It is likely that these conditions will affect people living in tropical, low-lying, coastal communities, such as the Caribbean.

The poor conditions also present a struggle for the agriculture sector as droughts, contamination, and flooding hinders the flourishing of crops within many countries.

In 2018, the United Nations established World Food Safety Day to raise awareness about food safety to be observed on June 7. World Food Safety Day initiatives are held to highlight how to prevent food borne illnesses, caused by bacteria, viruses,

parasites, or chemical substances that enter the body through contaminated food or water.

The Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) maintains that in order to adequately address the issue, better data is needed to understand the far-reaching impacts of unsafe food and document the capacity of Caribbean countries to respond to, and in turn, develop climate-resilient food safety plans.

"While the body of evidence is

slowly growing on an international scale, work on climate change and food safety risks has not been well documented in the Caribbean Region, nor has the Caribbean's ability to respond to climate-driven outbreak events been assessed. With such scarcity of information, the Caribbean will continue to remain vulnerable to the effects of climate change on food safety and security," underscored Dr. Joy St. John, Executive Director at CARPHA.

THE REPORTER

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BSI clarifies sugar industry concerns

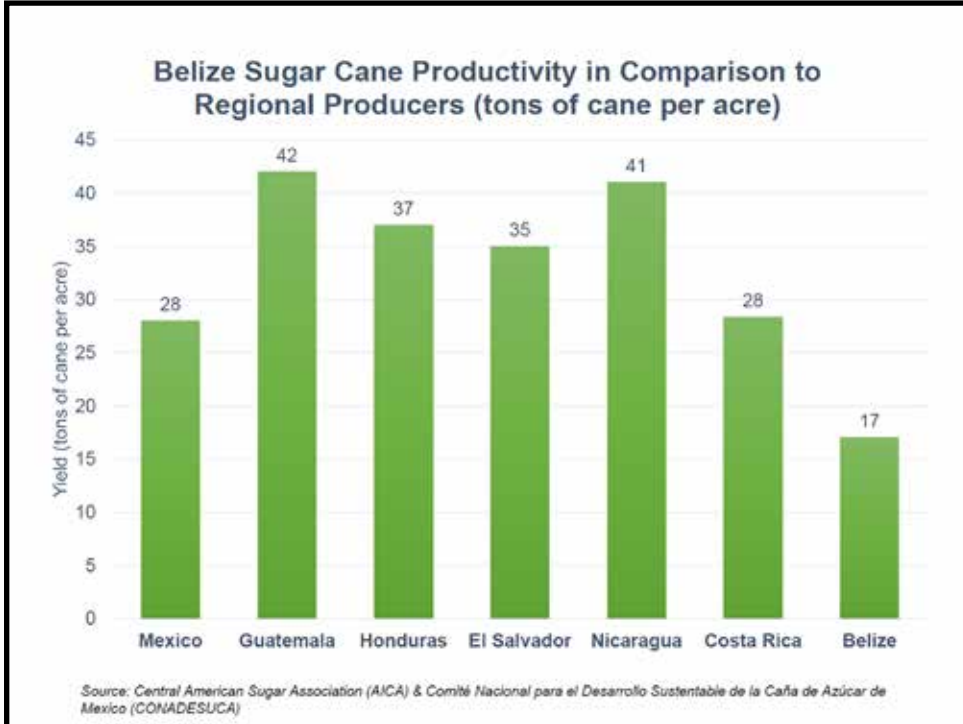
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passed," American Sugar Refining/Belize Sugar Industry (BSI)'s Managing Director Mac McLachlan explained to the media on Thursday. "[This is] record-high cane prices, the highest since we lost the preferences back in 2017 and the fourth highest since 2000."

ASR/BSI called the press briefing to clarify certain claims and allegations made by the spokespersons of the Belize Sugar Cane Farmers Association (BSCFA) in other sections of the media earlier this week. According to ASR/BSI, the company prefers to make the most of its weather 'window' during the dry season to harvest as much cane as possible before the onset of the rainy season, when the mud in the fields and the muddy roads will make harvesting more difficult.

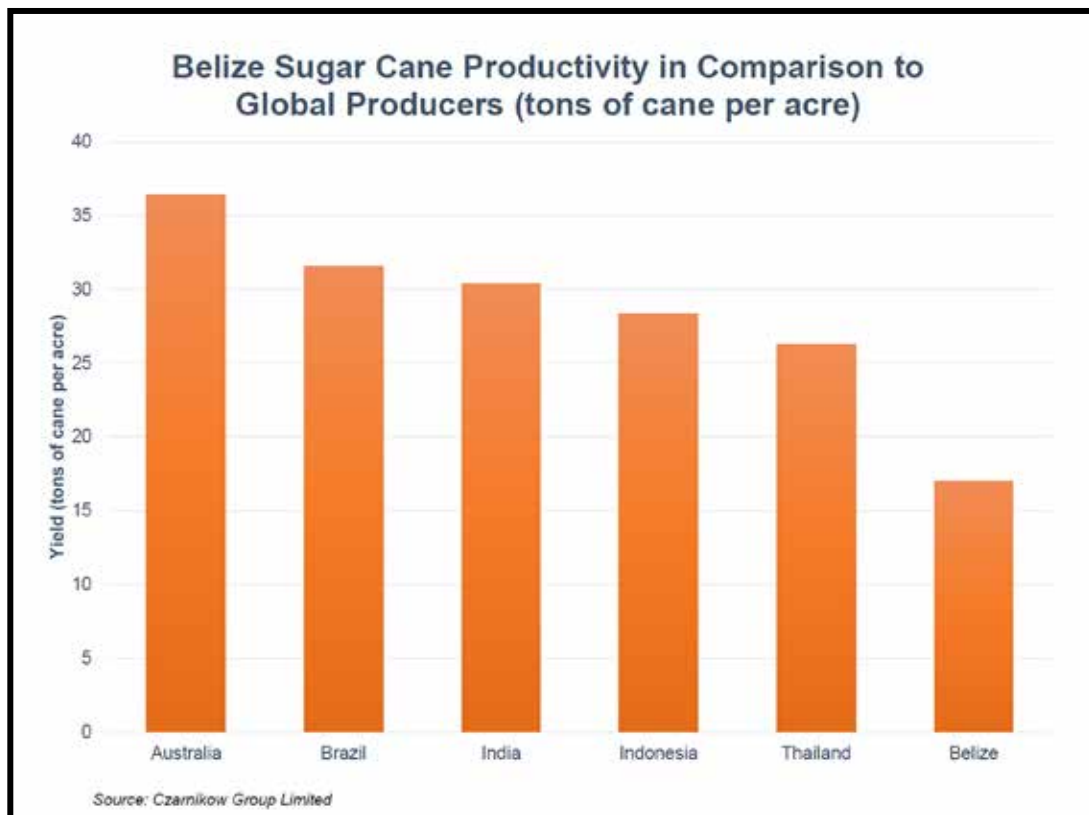
In terms of mediation, the name of a mediator who would be acceptable to the company has already been circulated to the farmers, and the company is not "dragging its feet" in the mediation process, which could have already started, if the farmers were in agreement, McLachlan said.

ASR/BSI does not want any interruptions to the crop, as the company



has made a lot of investments over the years to 'grow the pie', which the mill shares with the farmers, McLachlan underscores. But the cane farmers' demand for a 60 - 40 percent split, which would transfer \$20 million more from the mill to the farmers, a change that McLachlan says is simply not doable at this time, as it would make the company go bankrupt. Without the mill, there would be no sugar industry.

Earlier this week, the company published a chart comparison of sugar cane prices that farmers have received over the past four years, which was \$47.90 per tonne of cane in 2018, \$50.50/tonne in 2019, \$55.24/tonne in 2020, \$54.56 in 2021 and \$70.78 for the crop just completed in 2022. This was a \$16.22



per tonne increase over last year, and the projected cane price is \$4.00 more per tonne this year than last crop.

But the reality is that Belize's sugar exports are 80 percent exposed to world market prices, as Belize only has preferential markets for about 20 percent

of its production. For this reason, the company has invested USD\$30

deducted from the overall export earnings from sugar sales, before the

also put forward a demand for a \$5.00 payment per tonne of cane on bagasse, which McLachlan says has no economic rationale, as the BELCOGEN has been losing money for the last five years. He said the company has even offered the BSCFA audited financial statements from BELCOGEN for them to see the true state of affairs for themselves.

The comparison drawn to sugar cane prices paid across the border in the the Mexican sugar industry was misleading, explained McLachlan, because the Mexican sugar industry produces sugar for their domestic market and for export to the United States, at a price of USD 32 cents per pound, which is almost double the world sugar price. There's just no comparison.

He said ASR has invested heavily to improve the sugar industry, not just in the mill, but also in the logistics of shipping

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.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that David Cal of Red Bank Village, Stann Creek District is hereby applying for a Shop Liquor License for Maya Mountain Grocery. Situated in Red Bank Village, Stann Creek District for the year 2023. Under the Intoxicating Liquors Act (Revised Edition) of 2000.

NOTICE: Be it known that PROLAT TRADING COMPANY S.A., a Belize International Business Company, is now dissolved and has been struck off the IBC Register. Global Formations and Management Ltd.

NOTICE: Be it known that LATINAMERICAN SUPPLIERS CORP., a Belize International Business Company, is now dissolved and has been struck off the IBC Register. Global Formations and Management Ltd.

ASR BELIZE SUGAR GROUP

First Cane Price Estimate

Notice to Farmers (2022-2023 Crop)

BSI has issued a first cane price estimate of BZ\$54.54 per ton of cane for the 2022-2023 crop season. 80% of this price, equivalent to BZ\$43.63 per ton of cane, will be paid as first payment after delivery. The first cane price estimate serves as a start which then sets the first payment to farmers and is lower than final price for the crop given the unknown variables such as market price and ocean freight at the beginning of the crop. As BSI contracts volumes and ship sugar, there is more certainty over these variables and these are brought into the monthly cane price updates. Farmers will note that the first payment of \$43.63 per ton cane is \$3.13 higher than last crop and one of the highest paid in the past 20 years.

Year	Cane Price Estimate	First Cane Payment
2019	\$41.38	\$35.17
2020	\$41.59	\$35.35
2021	\$43.95	\$36.40
2022	\$50.52	\$40.50
2023	\$54.54	\$43.63

million since 2013 to expand the plant to produce direct consumption, "Plantation White" sugar which fetches

traditional split with farmers, where the mill gets 35 percent and the farmers get 65 percent.

The BSCFA has

through Big Creek Port, which resulted in a \$3.1 million in savings on freight to

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BSI clarifies sugar industry concerns

Cont'd from pg. 3

the farmers just last year alone.

ASR/BSI has also invested in helping the farmers to improve productivity in sugar cane production, in tonnes of sugar cane per acre of land, which lags far behind the world average for the industry, and even for the region.

ASR shared another chart this week, comparing Belize's sugar cane yield of 17 tonnes of cane per acre with the regional average of 35 tonnes per acre. Neighboring Guatemala achieves 42 tonnes per acre, Nicaragua - 41 tonnes per acre, Honduras - 37 tonnes, El Salvador - 35 tonnes, while Mexico and Costa Rica produce 28 tonnes per acre. Australia achieves

36 tonnes of cane per acre, Brazil - 32 tonnes, India - 30 tonnes, Indonesia - 28 tonnes, and Thailand - 26 tonnes/acre.

The farmers and the company should be working together to ensure the future viability of the industry. The company already has long term agreements with three other cane farmers associations. The company hopes to begin this year's harvest by December 19 as the projected start, he said. With the No.2 boiler coming online, the mill will have more steam for a faster grinding rate to grind more cane as long as the farmers can deliver.

Through the Sugar Industry Research and Development Institute (SIRDI),

the company has introduced 11 new cane varieties which should be more resilient to disease, pests and drought for greater resilience to climate change. McLachlan said he felt that the farmers should be working more on increasing their yield per acre, to minimize the logistics cost of their delivery to the factory.

A larger sugar cane yield from their fields would allow farmers to increase their income, without any increase in the size of their land, McLachlan said. This should be the way to go, to improve yield and harvesting efficiency, to lower the cost per tonne of delivery to the mill. Lowering their production costs would improve the farmers' profits.

United States Provides Another Donation of Emergency Hurricane Relief Assistance to Belize

Ladyville – The U.S. Embassy is working closely with the Government of Belize to provide critical humanitarian aid to Belizean communities devastated by Hurricane Lisa. Today, on behalf of the American people, Chargé d'Affaires, a.i. Leyla Moses-Ones met with Chair of the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) Foreign Assistance Committee Ambassador Amalia Mai and NEMO Coordinator Retired Lieutenant Colonel Shelton Defour to deliver over US \$97,000 in essential items to support local recovery and relief efforts. This donation is funded through the U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) Humanitarian Assistance Program and includes hygiene and cleaning

supplies, first aid kits, and construction materials to contribute to the repairs of structures damaged during the hurricane. This is one donation of ongoing U.S. assistance. Chargé Moses-Ones reaffirmed the commitment of the U.S. government in its support for Belize, "Weathering a natural disaster means it's time for action. The United States stands with Belize to support Hurricane Lisa recovery and meet to the immediate needs of impacted families. Today's targeted donation puts into action our enduring commitment to the U.S.-Belizean bilateral partnership. We are friends and partners through and through – whether there be sun or turbulent storms: Belize can always count on the United States. Ambassador Mai underscored,

"The government and people of Belize extend their sincere gratitude for the supplies being generously donated by the U.S. government to Belizeans impacted by Hurricane Lisa. The donation is timely and practical as it will contribute to the rebuilding of homes/houses lost and damaged during this latest climate event. This assistance is a testament to the strong bilateral relationship between our two countries." In 2022, the U.S. Government USSOUTHCOM Humanitarian Assistance Program has funded free medical clinics, donated medical supplies and ventilators, and secured the construction of three school buildings and a fire station in Belize.

ENDS.

Ministry of Agriculture and Taiwan ICDF Inaugurate New Sheep Barn



Belmopan. November 10, 2022. 5:00 p.m.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise (MAFSE), in collaboration with

the main achievements so far of the Sheep Project Phase II.

In his remarks, Hon. Jose Mai, Minister of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise, spoke about the growth

generosity in helping agriculture grow in Belize.

The ceremony not only marked a historic milestone of the Breeding Sheep and Goat Project in Belize but also gives evidence of the strong ties between Taiwan and Belize. The governments of Belize and the Republic of China (Taiwan) are committed to working closely together to strengthen the sheep and goat industry of Belize by further



the Taiwan ICDF Breeding Sheep and Goat Production and Guidance System Enhancement Project (Sheep Project Phase II), held an inauguration ceremony for the newly completed sheep barn at the National Sheep and Goat Breeding Center in Central Farm, Cayo District on November 10, 2022.

The facility will improve the function of the National Sheep and Goat Breeding Center by increasing the capacity of barn infrastructure from 400 to 650 sheep. In addition, the related components of the new sheep barn, such as the gutter system (also known as a water harvesting system), will enhance the management and sustainability of water utilization. It is one of

of the sheep and goat



livestock sub-sector and the success of the Taiwan Breeding Sheep and goat program thus far with increases in the quality of lamb and goat meats available for consumption due to better breeds and higher local production. He said there is much more to achieve as Belize keeps an eye on export market opportunities. Minister Mai also thanked the people and Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) for their

bilateral cooperation in agriculture which will enhance the welfare of the Belizean people.

Also present at the ceremony were H.E. David Kuan-Chou Chien, Ambassador of the Republic of China (Taiwan) and representatives from the Belize Livestock Producers Association, OIRSA, CARDI, IICA, the University of Belize, BAHA and the Pesticides Control Board.

Ends

Notice of Dissolution

"Notice is hereby given to all interested parties that **DANBURG HOLDINGS LIMITED** a Company incorporated under the IBC Act of Belize commenced dissolution on **November 09th, 2022.**

And

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

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Authorities team up to deliver aid to Belize City following Hurricane Lisa

In the wake of Hurricane Lisa, authorities have coordinated a massive campaign to deliver humanitarian aid to affected Belizeans, particularly in Belize City, which was one of the areas most affected. The National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO), the Ministry of Human Development, Belize Police Department, Belize Defence Force, and the Belize Coast Guard, partnered with volunteers from the public and private sectors since the all-clear was given on November 3, removing debris and meeting with affected families to determine their needs. The Reporter spoke



Various emergency teams collaborate to provide assistance to Belizeans.

with Ganesha Smith, the chair of the Relief and Supplies Committee for Belize City, Ministry of Human Development, who explained that the committee partially activated on November 1, when hurricane shelters opened, to

stock the shelters with dry rations, food, and water. After the all-clear was given the committee deployed between 200-250 people to visit areas all over Belize City to conduct needs assessments.

“In Belize City the damage is tremendous. What we’ve seen is a lot of physical damage aside from the humanitarian needs. A lot of people lost homes, roofs, walls, windows,” Smith said. Assessment teams

initially conducted interviews using pen and paper, but plans are in the works to move over to using tablets so data upload can be automatic. The Committee has an entire unit dedicated to data analysis which informs where interventions are most urgently needed and what resources need to be deployed to those areas.

Smith noted that areas closer to the sea such as the Port Loyola and Albert divisions were hit considerably harder than other inner city areas, requiring greater recovery efforts and a greater pool of resources.

“We have people who have been displaced. Those people we have been able to coordinate with them, relocation

to family members but for those who do not have access to family support, we have been sourcing housing for them,” Smith added. “We have been getting a lot of support from the public in terms of landlords willing to partner with us by way of a commitment letter that either NEMO or the Department will pay [for those lodgings].”

NEMO held a press briefing on Wednesday, explaining that damage assessments for Belize city have been estimated in the range of \$9 million. An estimated 392 homes received varying levels of damage, with 108 of them deemed unsalvageable. NEMO has submitted those damages estimates to Cabinet

Belize Joins the High E-Government Development Index Group

Belmopan. November 10th, 2022. The E-Governance and Digitalization Unit under the Ministry of Public Utilities, Energy, Logistics, and E-Governance, celebrates, alongside its partners in development, Belize’s recent increase in its rating within the United Nations 2022 E-Government Development Index (EGDI) survey. In 2020, Belize was ranked 136 out of 193 countries, demonstrating slow progress and initially placing the nation within the Middle EGDI

group of countries. As of 2022, through the advancement of Belize’s National Digital Agenda and sector initiatives, Belize’s position has now improved to a ranking of 133 out of 193 countries, being one of only three countries within the Americas region to advance due to significant progress in E-Governance implementation. Belize’s increased ranking firmly establishes the country’s new placement within the High EGDI group for the first time in history, now sitting alongside countries like Mexico, South Africa,

and Egypt. The United Nations E-Government Development Index assesses and ranks countries at the national level against three main factors. These factors include Telecommunications Infrastructure, Human Capital, and Online services. Belize’s ranking improved due to national progress in delivering online services and other key achievements relating to: . The launch of Belize’s first National Digital Agenda and Action Plan in 2021 supported by the Inter-American Development Bank

Group. The execution of sector transformation projects and technology adoption such as: o The Strengthening of Tax Administration Project led by the Belize Tax Service o The Belize Electronic Licenses and Permits System (BELAPS) led by the Supplies Control Unit and the E-Governance and Digitalization Unit The Department of Environment Online Permitting Application led by the Department of the Environment and the E-Governance and Digitalization Unit. The Temporary Employment Permit Application led by the Ministry of Rural Transformation, Community Development, Labor, and Local Government. The successful enactment of six (6) E-Governance-related legislations, making Belize a pioneer in digital law in CARICOM: (i) Digital Government Act, (ii) Data Protection Act, (iii) Public Sector Data Sharing Act, (iv) Electronic Transaction Act, (v) Electronic Funds Transfer Crime Act, and (vi) Electronic Evidence Act. The Compete Caribbean Partnership Facility, the Economic Development Council, and the United Nations Development

Programme supported the development of these legislations.

- The launch of online payment for government services using mobile wallets (Temporary Employment Permit Pilot) in partnership with the Ministry of Rural Transformation, Community Development, Labor, and Local Government.

- In partnership with the Attorney General’s Ministry, the launch of the Strengthening Civil Registry Programme to support the modernization of the Vital Statistics Unit.

- The initiation of the National Digital Inclusion Program which seeks to provide Digital Access and Digital Training to citizens. This program is supported by the United Nations Development Programme Belize and ICDF-Taiwan.

- The launch of the National Identification Project to design and pilot a National Identification Management Strategy. This is set to be a strategic accelerated action plan that will guide the development of Belize’s National ID system and pilot a digital ID for online services by 2025.

- Development of an online Government Integrated Cashiering System.

- Modification and upgrade to the Office of the Supervisor of Insurance online application.

These efforts are supported by our partner ministries and development partners such as the Inter-American Development Bank Group, the United Nations Development Programme, and ICDF-Taiwan.

Beyond Belize’s progress in E-Governance projects and programs, the country is recognized as only one out of four countries in the Americas to have a female in E-Governance leadership. Today, women account for only 11.01% of E-Government leaders globally. Belize’s achievements reinforce not only our dedication to creating public value but also our commitment to do so inclusively.

Ends

For more information: Contact the E-Governance and Digitalization Unit under the **Ministry of Public Utilities, Energy, Logistics, & E-Governance** at **828 9061** or **info@egov.gov.bz**.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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

Position Name: Procurement Agent (two positions)

Vacancy number: Belmopan-2022-21-R

Closing date: November 22nd, 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: Resumes will not be considered. Candidates must note all work experience when completing the ERA application. Insufficient or incomplete information will result in an ineligible application.

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

'Getting back into routines is key to preserving mental health after Hurricane Lisa,' says Ministry of Health

The Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW) is encouraging Belizeans to safeguard their mental health following the trauma and stressful situations that may have been brought on by Hurricane Lisa.

The Hurricane made landfall in Belize on November 2, bringing massive wind and water damage to several areas in the country, particularly Belize City.

Iveth Quintanilla, Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner and head of the MOHW's Mental Health Programme, told The Reporter that feelings of sadness and hopelessness are a normal response following a natural disaster and that effective way to address these feelings is to, where possible, return life to a state of normalcy.

For those who have been displaced or suffered considerable loss that may not be able to return major aspects of their lives to a sense of normalcy, Quintanilla recommends starting small, using things that can be controlled such as meal time and bed time, to begin the process.

"It will definitely take a longer time for some people,



we have people who their entire lives have changed because of the disaster-, but that does not take away from them trying to establish routines at this time," Quintanilla said. "It does not have to be on a large, scale. Sometimes it's the little things that we do that can be that first step to regaining that sense of normalcy."

She followed up by cautioning adults to refrain from consuming drugs and or alcohol at this time, noting that doing so will provide a short period of reprieve up front but can have longer lasting negative consequences later on. While she encouraged Belizeans to

keep informed, Quintanilla cautioned against prolonged exposure to news, photos, and even conversations relating to the storm and the destruction that is has caused, explaining that doing so can also negatively impact mental health.

Parents are urged to closely monitor their children, looking for signs such as thumb sucking and bed wetting for smaller children, and symptoms such as becoming withdrawn or frequent crying for those that are older. Quintanilla said that these may be signs that children are having trouble coping following the disaster and may need additional

support.

Belizeans are also urged, in the event that feelings of sadness or hopelessness relating to the disaster persist for

a prolonged period, to seek mental health support from the ministry's Mental Health Programme, at any mental health clinic country wide. There are mental

health clinics at all district hospitals, as well as one at the Cleopatra White Heath Center and Port Loyola Health Center in Belize City.

Notice of Dissolution

"Notice is hereby given to all interested parties that **WHITESHELL HOLDINGS LIMITED** a Company incorporated under the IBC Act of Belize commenced dissolution on **November 07th, 2022.**

And

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

Anacton Consult Group Limited
Registered Agent



INVITATION FOR BIDS

Ministry of Natural Resources, Petroleum, and Mining



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

Contract No.	Name	Contract Period
117-2022/2023	Loading, Trucking, and Other Heavy Equipment Services for the Caye Caulker Solid Waste Transfer Station Facilities	36 months

2. Procurement will be conducted through open tendering in accordance with the provisions of the laws governing public procurement within Belize.

3. This invitation is open to all eligible Bidders as described in the Bidding Documents.

4. Qualification requirements are provided in Section II of the Bidding Documents. Prospective Bidders' attention is drawn to the Instructions to Bidders in the Bidding Documents.

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be obtained by interested Bidders by way of email application to the email address below.

6. The Bidding Documents will be emailed to the Bidder at the email address specified in the email application.

7. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before December 1, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. Electronic bidding shall not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives, who choose to attend in person at the address below on December 1, 2022, at 10:15 a.m. Interested public/civil society entities and NGOs may also attend the Bid opening.

8. All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid-Securing Declaration as specified in the Instructions to Bidders.

9. The Government of Belize will declare a firm ineligible, either indefinitely or for a stated period, to be awarded a contract funded by the Government of Belize, if it at any time determines that the firm has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent, coercive, or collusive practices in competing for or in executing a contract.

10. The address referred to above for:

(i) application for Bidding Documents, (ii) submission of Bids, and (iii) opening of Bids, is:

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

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



JOIN OUR TEAM

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

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

MECHANICAL TECHNICIAN

In the Energy Supply Department of our Energy Supply & Transmission Division in Caye Caulker.

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



Submit application letter and resume to career.opportunities@bel.com.bz by Friday, November 25, 2022

Minister of Agriculture Revokes Order of Areas Infected with Avian Influenza (H5) Disease

Hon. Jose Mai, Minister of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise, has revoked the Order of Areas Infected with Avian Influenza (H5) Disease, 2022 upon the recommendations of the Belize Agricultural Health Authority (BAHA) and the Avian Influenza Task Force set up by Minister Mai.

An infected area was declared by Order on September 15, 2022, upon suspicion of low pathogenic Avian Influenza, and after samples taken from a farm in the Blue Creek community in the Orange Walk District were sent to an accredited laboratory abroad and tested positive for Avian Influenza in a screening serological test. A few days later, Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests on the same sample and at the same laboratory indicated that the Avian Influenza detected was of the H5 type.

Following the declaration of the infected area, the Avian Influenza Task Force was activated, an active surveillance programme was

implemented, and BAHA immediately engaged stakeholders on prevention, control and eradication measures. Eighty-six (86) farms in the Blue Creek and Shipyard communities were sampled, and 8 farms had weak positive tests for antibodies in the screening serological tests conducted by BAHA.

These results triggered the activation of the Avian Influenza Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan, and actions were taken to further investigate the suspected low pathogenic Avian Influenza disease outbreak. Both BAHA and the private sector agreed to put into effect preventative measures for disease containment, in the event that the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) of the USA, a World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) Reference Laboratory confirmed that the disease was present.

Further testing of a total of 141 flocks, in the declared infected area, yielded negative results. The National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) conducted advanced serological and

molecular tests on the eight farms that had tested positive on the screening serological tests. All results were negative.

The results from the WOA Reference Laboratory, received on November 4, 2022, confirmed that Belize remains free of Avian Influenza.

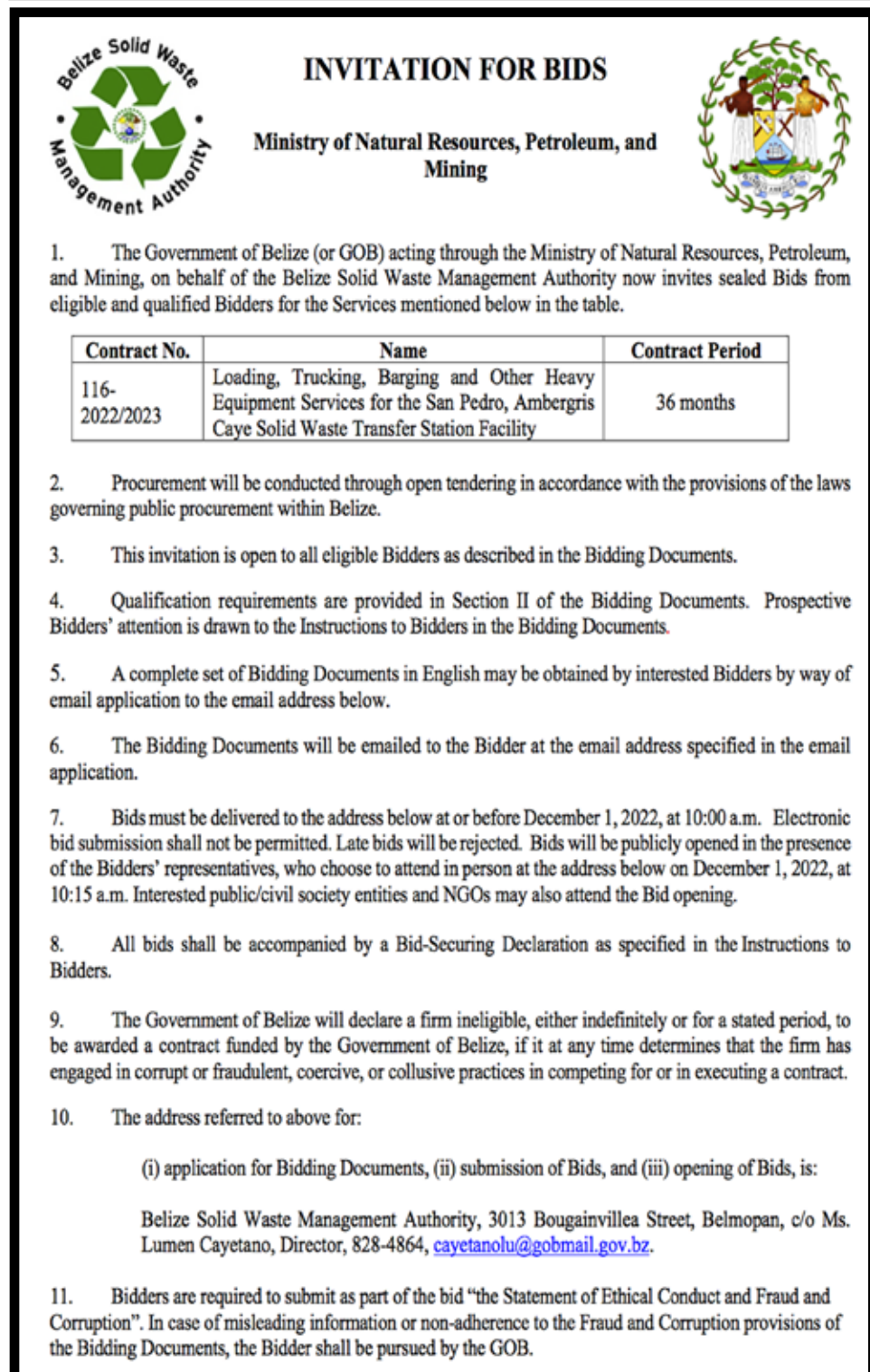
Hon. Jose Mai extends his deepest appreciation to:

BAHA for their quick response and implementation of measures for disease prevention, control and eradication;

the Belize Poultry Association, especially the poultry industry in Blue Creek and Shipyard, for their support in disease investigation and measures applied; and

the Avian Influenza Task Force 2022 for their diligent response to address the suspected Avian Influenza disease.

Belize last reported Avian Influenza in 2015 - Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (H5N2). Since then, there have not been any confirmed cases of Avian Influenza in Belize. Belize continues to be free of Avian Influenza.



INVITATION FOR BIDS

Ministry of Natural Resources, Petroleum, and Mining

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

Contract No.	Name	Contract Period
116-2022/2023	Loading, Trucking, Barging and Other Heavy Equipment Services for the San Pedro, Ambergris Caye Solid Waste Transfer Station Facility	36 months

2. Procurement will be conducted through open tendering in accordance with the provisions of the laws governing public procurement within Belize.

3. This invitation is open to all eligible Bidders as described in the Bidding Documents.

4. Qualification requirements are provided in Section II of the Bidding Documents. Prospective Bidders' attention is drawn to the Instructions to Bidders in the Bidding Documents.

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be obtained by interested Bidders by way of email application to the email address below.

6. The Bidding Documents will be emailed to the Bidder at the email address specified in the email application.

7. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before December 1, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. Electronic bid submission shall not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives, who choose to attend in person at the address below on December 1, 2022, at 10:15 a.m. Interested public/civil society entities and NGOs may also attend the Bid opening.

8. All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid-Securing Declaration as specified in the Instructions to Bidders.

9. The Government of Belize will declare a firm ineligible, either indefinitely or for a stated period, to be awarded a contract funded by the Government of Belize, if it at any time determines that the firm has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent, coercive, or collusive practices in competing for or in executing a contract.

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

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

NOTICE OF COMMENCED DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given to all interested parties that the company

Viliatta Business Inc.

("the Company") incorporated under the IBC Act of Belize commenced dissolution on the **27th day of October 2022**; and **Mr. Michel Andrew Brutus of P.O. Box 1136, Foret Noire, Mahe, Seychelles**, is the Liquidator of the Company, and any claims against the Company should be forwarded to the Liquidator by 30 days from commencement.

Alpha Consulting (Belize) Ltd.
Registered Agent

NOTICE OF COMMENCED DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given to all interested parties that the company

Ilania Commerce Ltd.

("the Company") incorporated under the IBC Act of Belize commenced dissolution on the **12th day of October 2022**; and **Dmytro Dovgaliuk of 7 Derevoobrobna str., 101013, Kyve, Ukraine**, is the Liquidator of the Company, and any claims against the Company should be forwarded to the Liquidator by 30 days from commencement.

Alpha Consulting (Belize) Ltd.
Registered Agent

Bus Load of Cane Farmers Bring Machetes to Clean Up Belize City

The Belize Sugar Cane Farmers Association (BSCFA) is the latest group to come to Belize City's aid post-hurricane Lisa.

Like the entire country, cane farmers saw the devastation that Lisa left behind. "As Belizeans and as humans with the little we have we said that we suppose to come to the city to give a helping hand", said Fred Ortega, the BSCFA's Chairman of the Committee of Management. Fifty-five persons, including staff members, travelled in buses and cars this



Belize City residents clean up the city," said Minister Mai.

The city is being cleaned up by groups and entities on a pro-bono basis. Mayor Wagner explained, that "most of the heavy-duty equipment you see here is being done on a pro bono basis but we are still able to quantify it and we know up to last week Sunday if they were charging us funds for the removal of debris it would have been in the neighborhood of \$243,000."

The Council's target is to extract 200 loads of debris every day and if that is done, the city should be cleaned in 12 days.

Cane farmers assist in Belize City clean up

"Everybody has hands because they want to help the a machete in their



More than 20,000 tons of garbage have been removed.

morning from the Orange Walk District to assist in the cleanup efforts. Cane farmers including women were deployed to areas where fallen trees and debris remain.

So far, more than 700 loads or over 20,000 tons of garbage have been removed from the City's streets.

Belize City Mayor Bernard Wagner welcomed the assistance, saying, "We are so glad to have the BSCFA here with us today to really accelerate our efforts."

Joining the group was Minister of Agriculture Jose Mai who is also a cane farmer. Mai assisted with transporting the

farmers to Belize City. He said, "The farmers understand the situation that the Belize City people are in and they came out here today without any pay. All we did is provide fuel for the trucks and the loaders. Nobody is getting paid out here today." Four loaders were brought as part of the help.

Notice of Dissolution

"Notice is hereby given to all interested parties that HAVENIN FINANCE LIMITED, CANBURG HOLDINGS LIMITED, LUMBERTON HOLDINGS LIMITED and ROSMAN INVESTMENTS LIMITED are Companies incorporated under the IBC Act of Belize commenced dissolution on November 1st, 2022.

And

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

Anacton Consult Group Limited
Registered Agent

Read, lets get inspired!

NOTICE

GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE TREASURY BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER 12/2022

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, 16 November 2022 and will be redeemed on Wednesday, 15 February 2023.

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

Members of the public who wish to participate in the auction must submit their bid to the Central Bank of Belize electronically to bids@centralbank.org.bz or at the designated drop off box no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, 11 November 2022.

The Auction in the Central Securities Depository System (CSD) will be opened from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on Wednesday, 16 November 2022.

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

Bank: Central Bank of Belize
Account: GL1CORP0402627

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

CENTRAL BANK OF BELIZE

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

DG Okonjo-Iweala: Make trade and investment a key part of delivering on climate action

By WTO

At a high-level forum held on the sidelines of the COP27 in Sharm-El-Sheikh, Egypt on 9 November, WTO Director General Okonjo-Iweala highlighted the need to develop climate-smart policies to promote international trade and investment in mitigation and adaptation projects. She added that fostering cooperation to develop common approaches to carbon pricing was critical to driving new transformations.

“We need to build a coherent framework of trade and investment policies supported by roadmaps that can accelerate the energy transition and boost re-investments,” the Director-General said. “Climate change adaptation requires significant infrastructure investment to increase resilience and reduce vulnerabilities, and

the transition to a low-carbon global economy will generate enormous investment, employment, and growth opportunities.”

The Global Investment and Trade for Climate Transformation forum, convened by the WTO and the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), addressed what the international trade and investment communities could do to advance the Paris Climate Agreement.

UNCTAD Secretary-General Rebecca Grynspan told the forum that recent research showed the number of new climate change investment projects announced in the last two quarters had decreased, indicating the need for climate funding, particularly in developing countries.

“We must ensure that trade and investment policies are an integral part of nationally determined



WTO Director General Okonjo-Iweala

contributions,” she said. “That is not always the case, and we need to change that.”

Grynspan also discussed the role that trade can play in climate adaptation, highlighting the need to maintain a policy environment conducive to the cross-border flow of climate financing in order to promote international investment in mitigation and especially adaptation.

ITC Executive Director Pamela-Coke-

Hamilton underlined that the voice of small businesses must be heard in the talks on transitioning to a low-carbon economy.

“It's clear that climate change has a disproportionate negative impact on developing countries,” she said. “But by extension, it's going to have even more negative impact on small businesses, so this year, we determined that there needed to be a presence and advocacy for their voices to be heard.”

Speaking on the role of public-private partnerships

in climate financing, Egypt's Minister of International Cooperation Rania A. Al Mashat said that financing was critical in the launch of a recent green hydrogen project in Egypt aimed at reducing emissions.

“The key word here is financing. How can we avail financing to countries who want to actually trade with each other through a cleaner method?” she asked.

Secretary General of the International Chamber of Commerce John Denton noted the effects of trade facilitation in greening supply chains and

reducing the impact of climate change.

“Let's not forget that trade facilitation, in enabling the movement of goods across borders, actually can, if it's done properly, reduce emissions,” he said.

CEO of the World Federation of Exchanges Nandini Sukumar stressed that trade formed a significant part of the solution to climate action.

“As we come out of the pandemic and as we build back better, trade as an engine of growth, as an engine of just transition, and as an engine of inclusivity, is going to be more important than ever before.”

Outlining the role of the financial sector in assisting society toward net zero, Jean Paul Servais, Chairman of the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO), said the “only way the financial sector can play a role in financing the transition is through transparent capital flows to where they are needed.”

DG Okonjo-Iweala: Trade is critical in global response to climate change

By WTO

Countries need to have the right trade policies in place to be able to respond to climate change, Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala said on 7 November at a world leaders event during COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh. The event — entitled “When will leaders lead? The state role

in mobilising and directing finance for climate and health” — was organised by University College London in collaboration with the governments of Scotland and Barbados. The session included keynote remarks from Mia Amor Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados, and Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister of Scotland.

In her opening remarks, Mia Amor Mottley said: “If this COP is to be about action, then we need to be able to understand what restrains and constrains us from being able to achieve progress.”

Prime Minister Mottley stressed the need to reform international financial institutions

Cont'd on pg 11



Director General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (left) says right policies needed.



Phone: 823-2535

Cell No.: 670-2535

Email: secretary@mchs.edu.bz

Our Lady of Mount Carmel High School

Applications are invited for suitably qualified persons for the following teaching position at Our Lady of Mount Carmel High School, a Roman Catholic High School, for the academic year 2022--2023.

1. English Teacher [Permanent]

Professional and academic requirements:

- Have a minimum of an Associate Degree in the Subject Area;
- Hold a valid license to teach in Belize;
- Possess a high standard of integrity and personal conduct;
- Be prepared to teach in a Catholic environment and to maintain a personal appreciation for Christian values and traditions.

Candidates who are shortlisted will be called in for an interview.

The successful applicant will be expected to participate in orientation and professional enhancement. He/she will be involved in teaching--related services, including spiritual, social and extra--curricular activities in and out of school.

Salary is commensurate with educational experience and in accordance with the pay scale established by the Ministry of Education.

Application forms should be requested from the Secretary/Registrar of Our Lady of Mount Carmel High School at email: secretary@mchs.edu.bz.

All completed applications should be received no later than Nov 18th, 2022 and be addressed to:

Secretary
Board of Management
Our Lady of Mount Carmel High School
Cors. Mount Carmel Lane & Jose Marti Street.
Benque Viejo del Carmen, Cayo District, Belize. C.A.

Prime Minister Pledge to Build Better Homes for Victims of Hurricane Lisa

By Michelle Sutherland

Prime Minister John Briceño said that his administration will be working around the clock to see how best and fast they could construct affordable homes for those affected by Hurricane Lisa.

Speaking with the media on Monday, Briceño said, "Most of the houses that were destroyed were these plywood houses or houses that were just quickly put together. So, the idea is that we want to be able to build as many houses as we possibly can for as many people as we can within these areas. Then, for probably middle-class families, see if we can get some low-cost funding interest rates so that they could also rebuild and rebuild better."

Briceño stressed that his government will not be building back plywood houses, due

to the fact that those can be easily toppled over and destroyed once more. Briceño opined that the idea of giving back plywood houses would translate into "perpetuating poverty." Moving forward the Prime Minister said that the long-term plan is to rebuild with concrete and other materials that can withstand future hurricanes.

"When you look at the conditions that some of our people live in, I don't think anybody should be living under those conditions in 2022 anywhere in the world, especially here in Belize," he said.

While Briceño is calling on the business community to lend a helping hand with the finances, it is also expected that international aid will start to trickle in. The Prime Minister assured the public that all will be done to ensure that the funds are put where they are needed the most



Prime Minister John Briceño says the government will build better homes for Belizeans.

and reckless spending will not prevail.

"Well, the temptation has been there from day 1. I mean because we all are elected and there is so much work to do, but we have to remember that this is the people's money and we're not going to waste it. With the constituency

development fund, the monies that we have given them so far, they have to account for every single dollar that is spent. They have to give invoices and they have to give signatures from the people that received what we are giving them."

He also referred to

the glowing report that the IMF has since given Belize for their rebounding efforts and the exceptional job that has been done so far. In the same vein, the Prime Minister also pointed to the fact that it is about the people of Belize and how his government can help to

make their lives better. One aspect that has been observed through the years in helping to make that happen is by providing decent homes to poor families, and hurricane Lisa, according to the Prime Minister, has provided the perfect opportunity to get that done.

Weh Wi Ga Fi Seh Sat. Disemba 10: Kriol Jenral Meetn da Birdz Ailan (Bird's Isle)

Harikayn Leesa Du Wahn Ting

Soh ... Harikayn Leesa mash op sohn peopl hows an yaad. Az Ah di rait dis, govament stil di finish tek noat bowt aal di damij Harikayn Leesa kaaz. Rait now, di amonk a moni da bowt 10 milyan dalaz a damij. Bak wen, harikayn sezn mi don en a Aktoaba. Tudeh day, da sotay en a Novemba dat harikayn seezn don.

Wel, Bileez mi geh lik jos az Novemba staat disya 2022! Ahn sohntaihn, di staam nat eevn hafu reech harikayn saiz: Neks ting yu noa, chrapikal dipreshan kohn bowt, ton intu chrapikal staam ... den hairkayn! Bot eevn chrapikal staam widowtn ih reech da harikayn saiz...eevn dat ku du nof damij. Memba seh dat da sotay en a Novemba dat harikayn seezn don fu chroo fu chroo!

1. Lisn tu ofishal ripoat fahn NEMO; noh stodi weh Taam, Dik, ahn Hari di seh.
2. Ga wahn plan: Noa weh yu wahn goh if yu hafu moov, weh shelta deh.
3. Ga yu provizhan redi, nof waata ahn kyan ting ahn medisn fu laas 3 dayz.
4. If yu ga pet, noa weh yu wahn du; memba yu kyaahn tek dehn da shelta.

Jain di Kriol Kongsl tudeh tudeh tudeh:
<https://forms.gle/yJnwTSzJXfUC7Wf6>

Satideh, Disemba 10, 2022: **Kriol Jenral Meetn ahn Bram da Birdz Ailan (Bird's Isle) eena Bileez Siti, fahn 10**

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

#DoYourShare
to reduce mental health stigma and discrimination.

We need to talk about mental health, it can't be solved in silence.

Millions of people live with mental health conditions. Stigma and discrimination towards mental health conditions are causing people to suffer in silence and prevent them from the care they need.

But, if we can start a movement of sharing openly, the momentum can inspire people to speak up.

#DoYourShare by joining the conversation and welcoming others to share their experience.

Scan the QR code for resources that can help you make a difference.

PAHO

Hurricane Lisa leaves \$20 million in damages behind for Belizeans

By Michelle Sutherland

Hurricane Lisa ravaged the coast of Belize City on Wednesday leaving widespread damages in its wake, toppling trees, ripping off roofs, and flattening houses, leaving what Prime Minister John Briceño and his team are estimating to be \$20 million in damages.



Hurricane Lisa's strong winds destroyed several homes.

During a virtual press briefing on Monday, Briceño explained, "We took a guess estimate ... the initial numbers that the Ministry of Infrastructure and Housing came up with is approximately \$20 million."

That figure, according to the Prime Minister, will also cover the cost of rebuilding the portion of the Phillip Goldson Highway from the Haulover Bridge into the city. This, according to Briceño, is after Hurricane Lisa caused it to sink even more with portions of it already falling apart. The prime minister reiterated the urgency of fixing the highway due to it being used on a regular basis by motorists entering and exiting the city. The money will also be used to rebuild the Supreme Court after three of its buildings were destroyed by the hurricanes, as well as several schools that sustained damages.

Over the past few days, the prime minister and his team have been going into the affected

areas, taking in the damages and assessing the needs of those affected. He has even gone on a flyover of the Belize District as far as the Santander

farms in the Cayo District. During that trip, Briceño indicated that several roofs were damaged in the Belize district, while substantial damages

were also noted in both Hattieville and Ladyville. The areas of Belama Phase IV and V were also under water.

"I've been on the

ground. You have a different perspective flying at 500 feet than when you are actually on the ground and then you can see the destruction that took place, especially in our most vulnerable areas on the southside of Belize City," explained Briceño. "It breaks my heart to see what has happened to some of these people, their small homes being knock down or washed away, the amount of debris that we have to be cleaning up. Pretty much the entire city was underwater for a number of hours."

Even as Belize is

still recovering from \$3 million in flood damages caused by Hurricane Julia, which made landfall in Nicaragua on October 8th, Prime Minister Briceño is, once more, pointing to the threat of climate change. He reiterated the call on richer, developed nations to do more in the fight against climate change. It is now the opportune time, according to Briceño, for these developed countries to step in and offer aid in an effort to lessen the financial burden in the wake of natural disasters such as hurricane Lisa.

DG Okonjo-Iweala: Trade is critical in global response to climate change

Cont'd from pg 9

so that they can do more for countries in the global South in their response to climate change. The multilateral development banks need new instruments that will allow them to make resources available to poor countries for their climate adaptation efforts and to address the impact of climate change, she added.

DG Okonjo-Iweala warned that countries should learn from experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic, where some trade policies such as export restrictions and prohibitions prevented vaccines and other inputs from

reaching countries that needed them the most.

She stressed that in the climate change context, trade policies can help unblock the technology or goods and services that will help countries adapt after an event or mitigate before an event. The Director-General noted that national action plans often do not incorporate trade policy and trade. "This is the missing element," she stressed.

DG Okonjo-Iweala noted that global supply chains for products necessary to help countries adapt to climate change and to transition to a low-carbon economy are

very concentrated. She highlighted that work can be done to help countries, particularly in the South, diversify their economies, moving the manufacturing of these products into those countries and bringing them into global value chains. She added: "We kill two birds with one stone. We build resilience for the world, but at the same time we include those who have been left out."

The Director-General noted that trade policies put in place to tackle climate change should not be discriminatory. She also underlined that there are around 70

fragmented systems for carbon pricing in the world and that different countries have different carbon taxes, prices and regulatory frameworks. This will have an impact on businesses and developing countries who have to deal with them, she stressed.

The Director-General continued: "We are advocating under the WTO for a global pricing framework, which will take into account the target we want of limiting the global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees, as agreed under the Paris Agreement."

Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister of Scotland, said: "We

need to think about and reform the role of multilateral financial institutions. And just as we need to consider the obligation of the developed world toward the developing world, we need to consider how companies that have contributed to climate change should contribute to helping us address this issue."

Ms Hala El Said, Minister of Planning and Economic Development, of Egypt also participated in the session, which was moderated by Mariana Mazzucato, Professor at the UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose.

S U D O K U

Medium Puzzle

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

Answer to Puzzle

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

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.

PUBLIC AUCTION

BY ORDER OF THE MORTGAGEE, LA INMACULADA CREDIT UNION LTD. (LICU),
CERTIFIED AND LICENSED AUCTIONEER MIGUEL A. ELLIS WILL SELL THE
FOLLOWING PROPERTIES
On November 15, 2022

At: 9: 30 A.M. Via: Google Meet Link: meet.google.com/cju-vewk-ubv



Parcel No. 1079, Block No. 4, San Jose Palmar Registration Section containing 1.05 Acres situate in Orange Walk District held under a Land Certificate and being the freehold interest of ANGELICA MARIA LESLIE. Development: *This empty parcel of land is found in Palmar Village which is located west of the Come & Go Gas Station. It has no access to utilities but it is located in a developing area.*



Parcel No. 491, Block No. 4, Trial Farm Registration Section containing 1,356.786 Square Meters situate in Trial Farm Village, Orange Walk District held under a Land Certificate and being the freehold interest of ANGELICA MARIA LESLIE. Development: *One concrete (1) bungalow type structure containing 1 bedroom, 1 kitchen, dining, living & 1 bath attached to a front porch.*



Parcel No. 1107/1, Block No. 3, Sarteneja Registration Section containing 725.3 Square Meters situate in Sarteneja Village held under a Certificate of Lease and being the leasehold interest of EXEQUIEL IGNACIO VERDE. Development: *The subject property is located near the Sarteneja Village airstrip & the La Inmaculada School as well as the bus terminal. Amenities within proximity are few or none.*



Parcel No. 733, Block No. 4, Trial Farm Registration Section containing 1,227.67 Square Meters situate in Trial Farm Village, Orange Walk District held under a Land Certificate and being the freehold interest of JESUS L. PENA surety for NEGABI FRANCISCO PENA. Development: *An incomplete two storey structure; Ground floor contains 1 bedroom, 1 kitchen, dining & living and 1 bath. First floor contains only 1 bedroom. The property is located in the village and about 1 block away from the village's football field. Access to amenities is high.*



Parcel No. 758, Block No. 1, Douglas North Registration Section containing 686.836 Square Meters situate in San Pablo Village, Orange Walk District held under a Land Certificate and being the freehold interest of VANESA LUCELI CANUL. Development: *This empty parcel of land is found off the San Juan and Douglas road and 0.5 miles away from San Pablo Village, Orange Walk. District. It has no access to utilities.*



Parcel No. 743, Block No. 4, Trial Farm Registration Section containing 435.387 Square Meters situate in Trial Farm Village, Orange Walk District held under a Land Certificate and being the freehold interest of EFRAIN CAMPOS. Development: *One (1) two bedroom concrete bungalow type structure containing 1 kitchen, dining, living & 1 bath attached to a verandah and a grocery shop area that is not operational.*



Parcel No. 2050, Block No. 4, Orange Walk Town Registration Section containing 484.261 Square Meters situate on Smithsonian Street, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District held under a Land Certificate and being the freehold interest of ROAMIR EDUARDO GONZALEZ. Development: *The empty lot is located near the far end of Smithsonian Street, Orange Walk Town.*



Parcel No. 3217, Block No. 4, Ann Gabourel Registration Section containing 696.697 Square Meters situate in Black Water Creek Area, Trial Farm Village, Orange Walk District held under a Land Certificate and being the freehold interest of NERY LEONARDO SOSA & JOSSELIN JAN-NETHE ALVARADO surety for NERY LEONARDO SOSA. Development: *One slightly elevated (2) two bedroom wooden structure containing 1 kitchen, dining, living & bath. The property is located in walking distance from the Trial Farm Village burial site and in close proximity of the San Lorenzo Housing Site, Orange Walk Town.*



Parcel No. 305, Block No. 4, Miller's Bight Registration Section containing 1140.611 Square Meters situate in the Honey Camp Lagoon Area, Orange Walk District held under a Land Certificate and being the freehold interest of ELEONORA JOVITA LEIVA surety for DWENDY JUDITH CHAN. Development: *This empty lot is classified as a beachfront parcel as it is situated near the Honey Camp Lagoon being approximately 12 miles from Orange Walk Town with no access to utilities.*



Parcel No. 2949, Block No. 7, San Pedro Registration Section containing 445.685 Square Meters situate in San Pedro Town, Ambergris Caye, Belize District held under a Land Certificate and being the freehold interest of LEON LEVI ANDERSON. Development: *This empty lot is found near a man made canal and said piece or parcel of land is fairly well elevated but currently undeveloped. It is located within access of utilities including electricity and telephone.*

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Please contact LICU for financing

Hurricane Lisa did not severely hurt poultry sector, no price increase expected

By Michelle Sutherland

The Belize Poultry Industry has not suffered any major damage from Hurricane Lisa; therefore, consumers should not expect any post-hurricane price hikes, the Belize Poultry Association assured this week.

“There will be no additional price increase,” Armando Cowo, the manager of the Belize Poultry Association,



Armando Cowo

explained. “While we suffered some structural damages, it was not anything major that could impact the production figures or would impact the economic figures.

So, I don’t foresee any price increase until the next grain crop, which is when we will see how the fertilizer prices play out. ... It’s basically the inputs that go into the grains which make the feed that affect us.”

Cowo classified the damages caused by Hurricane Lisa as minimal and that majority of the damages were structural, with several roofs being blown off. Fortunately,

according to Cowo, none of the chickens were injured and in some cases some of the barns were empty.

Additionally, most of the damages occurred in the Spanish Lookout Community, which seemed to have been in the path of the hurricane. Other barns in other parts of the country did not sustain any damage. While Cowo said that he is hoping that the farmers

will be able to access some form of assistance for their losses, he says that he also knows that the Spanish Lookout Community would usually work as a community to assist each other, especially out of a disaster.

Cowo also explained the factors that contributed to the 6.5% price increase in poultry just last week. He explained that the increase was triggered by the imported inputs that

go into the production of chicken feed. According to him, in April of this year, the price of corn was hovering a little above 30 cents, compared to 38 cents, currently. That represents an increase of eight cents for a pound of corn. In April, the price of soybean was 48 cents compared to its current price of 60 cents. In some instances, the price has climbed to 65 cents per pound.

PUBLIC AUCTION

BY ORDER OF THE MORTGAGEE, LA INMACULADA CREDIT UNION LTD. (LICU), CERTIFIED AND LICENSED AUCTIONEER MIGUEL A. ELLIS WILL SELL THE FOLLOWING PROPERTIES On November 15, 2022

At: 9: 30 A.M. Via: Google Meet Link: meet.google.com/cju-vewk-ubv



Parcel No. 2837, Block No. 23, San Ignacio South Registration Section containing 491.53 Square Meters situate in the San Ignacio Town, Cayo District held under a Land Certificate and being the freehold interest of ALBERTO ISIAS BOBADILLA. Development: Found in the outskirts of San Ignacio Town, Cayo District. This empty plot of land is located in a developing area.



Parcel No. 1173, Block No. 4, Carmelita Registration Section containing 1,042.9 Square Meters situate in the Carmelita Village, Tower Hill Area, Orange Walk District held under a Land Certificate and being the freehold interest of JOSE ANTONIO LAHERA. Development: The property is located in the outskirts of Carmelita Village, Orange Walk District near the Smart Tower and is a low lying area. This empty lot is located in a rural undeveloped area.



Parcel No. 824, Block No. 4, Miller’s Bight Registration Section containing 1,100.87 Square Meters situate in Petville Area, Orange Walk District held under a Land Certificate and being the freehold interest of EVRIT STEVEN MATUTE surety for VANINA TASHA MARCHAND. Development: This empty lot is found near San Estevan Village and currently located in a rural area and has little or no access to utilities.



Parcel No. 370/1, Block No. 4, Miller’s Bight Registration Section containing 1,499.670 Square Meters situate in the Honey Camp Lagoon Area, Orange Walk District held under a Certificate of Lease and being the leasehold interest of CARLOS GARCIA surety for JULIE LINDA GARCIA. Development: This empty lot is classified as a beachfront parcel as it is situated near the Honey Camp Lagoon being approximately 12 miles from Orange Walk Town with no access to utilities.



Parcel No. 1802, Block No. 4, Ann Gabourel Registration Section containing 555.56 Square Yards situate in the San Lorenzo Housing Site, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District held under a Land Certificate and being the freehold interest of MARK GLENFORD MEIGHAN. Development: One concrete (1) bungalow type structure containing 3 bedrooms, 1 kitchen, dining, living & 1 bath attached to a storage area.



Parcel No. 672, Block No. 4, Ann Gabourel Registration Section containing 500.02 Square Yards situate in Trial Farm Village, Orange Walk District held under a Land Certificate and being the freehold interest of MARIA ELENA DIAZ surety for LEONARDO DANIEL DIAZ. Development: The property houses two buildings: Building 1: is concrete and contains 2 bedrooms, 1 living & dining combined and 1 bath. Building 2: Partial incomplete roof, incomplete concrete structure with wall frames build for a 1 bedroom, kitchen, living & dining combined.



All that piece or parcel of land being Lot No. 184 situate in St. Mathew’s Village, Cayo District being held under a Deed of Conveyance as seen recorded on Plan No. 2146 at the Lands & Survey Department in Belmopan and being the freehold interest of MIRIAM JANET QUEVEDO surety for ABNER JONATHAN QUEVEDO. Development: The property is located in a developing and populated area of the village and is in close proximity to schools and the highway. The elevated bungalow type structure has only an exterior wooden frame.



Parcel No. 212, Block No. 4, Guinea Grass Registration Section containing 1,250.835 Square Yards situate in Guinea Grass Village, Orange Walk District held under a Land Certificate and being the freehold interest of EDISON ALBERT JOHNSON & ROSITA JOHNSON surety for EDISON ALBERT JOHNSON. Development: One (1) bungalow type structure containing a bedroom, kitchen and a bath area.



Parcel No. 3642, Block No. 4, Orange Walk Town Registration Section containing 464.454 Square Meters situate in Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District held under a Land Certificate and being the freehold interest of RODRIGO RODRIGUEZ surety for CAROLICE CORDELIA R. RODRIGUEZ & RODRIGO RODRIGUEZ. Development: One concrete (1) bungalow type structure containing 3 bedrooms, 1 kitchen, dining, living & 2 baths attached to an office/storage area.

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All about The People

Build our Human Capacity



Neri Briceno

Just watch the local news and you will get an idea of what I am talking about. Unfortunately, what we see is the brutal reality of what our nation and by extension our people face every day. Worse of all is the violence that most people have gotten sensitized to.

The worse part, is the violence happening against honest, hard-working people who are just trying to make a living. However, there is violence against women, against children, against law enforcement officers, against the communities we live in and in some cases against our own families taking place.

There must be a breaking point and I believe that one of the only ways we can break this cycle is by showing to ourselves and the world what we can achieve. I am of the firm opinion that with the right environment, mindset, drive and positive conditions, every person has the potential to do great things. While there are no guarantees, since a lot depends on the individual themselves. They must want and have the desire to succeed and do better despite all the negative influences that surround them.

This is tough even for the adults but especially more so

for the young person who knows nothing different. This week, Belize High School became a shining example to the world and this should be something that we should be proud of.

The achievement of Belize High School can be rep-

If you dislike injustice, do something. Tired of corruption, do something. Whatever the situation or the problem is, do something. Stop offering lip service and coming up with a myriad of way to solve problems and then take no action. Get up and just do it.

licated at all levels of our society, and it has nothing necessarily to do with resources. Back in the 1960's and 70's when the idea of private school was nonexistent, our public schools produced some of the best pupils, some who are in Belize and others who have since moved and are working in the diaspora in Government, medicine, technology, engineering, agriculture, construction, education, environment and even the aerospace industry. Some of these people were the product of family poverty and primary and secondary educational institutions with limited to no resources and yet they were able to produce exceptional students.

What has changed? We have become convinced of the

idea and notion that the solution to every problem is to throw money at it. But that is not necessarily the answer.

The biggest example of this is the size of our government service. While it continues to grow and get more re-

sources, the quality of service offered is worse or has remained stagnant in recent years. While resources are a natural part of most problems, it is not a catch all answer. If we truly care about this nation and the generations of our children and our grandchildren that will come after us, we must do something to reverse the status quo. Waiting for government to change the trajectory of this nation is but a pipe dream. It simply will not happen, not in my lifetime, in our children's lifetime or in the next immediate to long term generations.

If you want crime to stop, do something. If you to stop poverty, do something. If you want your child to get a quality education, do something. If

you dislike injustice, do something. Tired of corruption, do something. Whatever the situation or the problem is, do something. Stop offering lip service and coming up with a myriad of way to solve problems and then take no action. Get up and just do it.

Belize needs to put political, economic, cultural, racial and class issues aside and galvanize its population to address those key issues that affect the entire population. If you allow this deterioration of our nation, a year from now we will look and see a Belize that's a far cry from the potential it could have been.

Take a look at neighbouring Haiti or far-flung Somalia, Yemen and Syria and you will see where the seeds that we are planting today leads. If we continue to display this outright national propensity of selfishness, partisan political allegiance, all about self attitude and this dying desire at all cost to family, community, society and the nation to garner money, the catastrophic results are not far away.

For those of us living in the diaspora and who will one day return, the urgency is even more pressing since we are not there physically and have that direct influence as opposed

to those who live in Belize. However, we in the diaspora also have a role to play despite the fact that we have been denied our legitimate birthright to be able to cast a vote. A vote for the future of our nation that we too are helping to build, develop and invest in.

Our beloved nation has reached the age of 40 and only the good Lords knows what it will look like at 80. What I can guarantee is that every aspect of it will look completely different from what it looks like today, whether good, bad or otherwise. That end result rests totally in our hands.

No one government, industry, businessman, NGO, educational institution or least of all political party, will change Belize. The power to do that rests solely in the hand of the individual citizens and I pray that we exercise that potential.

It's all about the people!

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.



#DoYourShare
to support mental health

Mental health can't be solved in silence, the more we speak about it, the more we reduce the stigma. Share this message with a friend who may need it or snap a pic and help us spread the word on social media.

Show your friends you're open to share by using a green ribbon on your social media display picture.



Scan this QR code to find out how you can download the green ribbon filter and join the movement.





Heart · Mind · Soul

Is sleeping too much bad for you?

Good quality sleep is linked to overall physical and mental health, but is sleeping too much bad for you? Put simply, it can be. Oversleeping, as well as a lack of it, has been linked to a higher risk of chronic illnesses including coronary heart disease, type 2 diabetes, anxiety and obesity in adults aged 45-plus, according to a study published in PLoS one.

But why is sleep important? Theresa Schnorbach, a psychologist and sleep scientist specializing in Clinical Psychology and Cognitive Neuropsychology, tells Live Science that it's critical to maintaining our physical and mental wellbeing.

"It is essential for regulating the body's metabolic and hormonal processes," she says. "It also serves a restorative purpose by flushing out the toxins accumulated in the brain. Sleep also strengthens our immune system by enabling specialized immune cells to work more efficiently at fighting off infections.

Not to mention, it can also help us to heal emotional wounds. "During the rapid eye movement (REM) sleep state, which usually occurs around 90 minutes into the sleep cycle, concentrations of the stress-related, anxiety-triggering chemical noradrenaline are shut off within the brain," Schnorbach says. "Simultaneously, the brain's emotion and memory-related structures are reactivated, helping us to process upsetting memories or experiences."

You can monitor your sleep using one of the best fitness trackers or sleep apps, but ironically, if you spend too much time asleep you will probably still wake up feeling tired and lethargic. This is because any significant deviation from regular sleep patterns can upset the body's internal rhythm and increase daytime fatigue. Here, we'll find out more about what happens when you oversleep, and just how much sleep you should be getting.

HOW MUCH SLEEP SHOULD YOU GET A NIGHT?

Dr. Guy Meadows, clinical lead and co-founder at Sleep School, says that sleep is our natural way to recharge, repair and even detoxify our body and mind from the previous day's efforts and stresses, preparing us to perform at our best again and again.

But how much sleep you need depends on your age, activity level, general health and lifestyle, and this figure will change over the course of your life.

Generally, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends seven to nine hours for adults, eight to ten hours for teenagers and 14-17 hours for new-borns. During times of stress or illness you may feel you need more sleep than usual.

Dr. Guy Meadows, PhD, is a U.K. sleep expert and co-founder of Sleep School. Meadows has been studying human physiology for 25 years, 20 of which have been devoted to sleep research and the prevention of sleeping disorders. He has worked with thousands of insomnia sufferers over the last 10 years and set up Sleep School to help insomniacs with an evidence-based solution.

Meadows says: "People often think that we can train ourselves to need less sleep, but as convenient as this would be, it's sadly not true. Science tells us that we just can't change the amount of sleep we need.

"Contrary to popular belief, elderly people don't in fact need less sleep; their sleeping patterns may change, and so may the structure of their sleep, but their need for sleep remains the same."

Unfortunately, however, a rise in sleep-disturbing medical conditions such as night-time pain or increasingly frequent toilet trips makes it harder to achieve unbroken sleep. According to Meadows, if you want good mental health, make sleep a priority and aim to get the right amount for you.

Diabetics often experience fatigue because of high or low blood sugar levels, so to stabilize them they should aim for at least seven hours sleep a night.

The CDC says signs of poor quality sleep include not feeling rested even after a lot of sleep, waking up repeatedly in the night and experiencing symptoms



of sleep disorders (such as snoring or gasping for air).

CAN YOU GET TOO MUCH SLEEP?

Sleep is a time when the body repairs and restores itself, and similarly to not sleeping enough, oversleeping can lead to a host of health issues. Meadows says: "Sleep regulates our appetite hormones, helping us to manage a healthy weight. Research also suggests that while we sleep, our brain flushes out all the toxins that have built up during the day, reducing our risk of Alzheimer's disease.

Sleep also plays an important role in maintaining our blood glucose levels and therefore our diabetes risk. "A good night's sleep is also known to have a therapeutic effect defusing stress from the day and helping us to wake up happier," adds Meadows. "It also preserves our prefrontal cortex, the area of the brain responsible for many of our higher order executive functions such as focus, problem solving and decision making."

But can you get too much sleep? Yes, says Schnorbach. "There will be times when you may need to sleep more than others, such as when your body is battling illness but, by and large, you can think of the relationship between sleep and health or performance on a graph as an inverted U shape; there is a sort of "golden ratio" and neither too little nor too much is advisable."

Theresa Schnorbach

Theresa Schnorbach is a psychologist and sleep scientist, specializing in clinical psychology and cognitive neuropsychology. She has completed a post-graduate training in cognitive behavioural therapy for insomnia (CBT-I) with the German Sleep Society, endorsed by the European Research Society.

WHEN IS OVERSLEEPING A PROBLEM?

The 'right' amount of sleep can be a little subjective – with some people feeling fantastic after having seven hours, while others might need a bit more.

According to the Sleep Foundation, oversleeping (also known as long sleeping) is defined as sleeping more than nine hours — a length of time that most experts agree is excessive for adults.

Sleep disorders

"Oversleeping is often associated with physical or mental disorders, such as sleep apnea, depression, or side effects of medications, and effects that may be linked to over-sleeping including diabetes, heart disease, obesity, and mental illness," Schnorbach tells Live Science.

Hypersomnia – the opposite of insomnia – is a condition where you both oversleep and feel excessively sleepy during the day. Narcolepsy and other sleep disorders commonly cause hypersomnia.

Meadows says: "Hypersomnia is characterized by excessive daytime sleepiness whereby you might feel the urge to sleep for longer than you need and yet still wake tired. Hypersomnia can be both primary and secondary. Primary means that there is usually no identifiable cause; secondary suggests that other medical conditions, mental health issues, drugs, sleep disorders or a lack of sleep due to shift work could be the cause."

Impaired brain function

Sleeping too much – more than eight hours – could have a detrimental effect on the brain, according to the world's biggest

sleep study published in the journal *Sleep*. Neuroscientists at Western University's Brain and Mind Institute found that too much shut-eye could reduce cognitive ability and reasoning skills.

Weight gain

Research published in *Sleep* found that people who slept for nine to 10 hours a night were 21% more likely to become obese over a six-year period compared with those who slept for seven to eight hours. The link between sleep time and obesity was the same even when food intake and exercise were factored.

Depression and mental health

Oversleeping is a possible symptom of depression and anxiety and can make things worse. A study published in *Sleep Medicine Reviews* found that long sleepers had a higher rate of depression.

Lifestyle factors

If you don't get enough sleep because of lifestyle factors, such as drinking too much alcohol or taking certain prescription medicines, your body tries to make up for it by oversleeping. Studies have found that having too much sleep can play a role in increased inflammation in the body, which is connected to an increased risk of a ton of health conditions from diabetes to Alzheimer's.

"Poor lifestyle habits that negatively affect sleep quality and duration include excessive consumption of caffeine, alcohol, sugar and nicotine, as well as lack of exercise," says Meadows. "Live a healthy lifestyle that promotes sleep. Aim to drink no more than two to three caffeinated beverages per day and switch to herbal or decaf alternatives at midday. Be active everyday, opting for aerobic type exercise such as walking, dancing or jogging versus weight training or sprinting. Aim to leave at least two hours between your workout and bedtime to allow your core body temperature to cool.

If you are sleeping too much, Schnorbach suggests looking at your lifestyle to see if there are any habits that could be impacting the quality of your sleep, and leading you to oversleep.

"I would also recommend speaking to a doctor or healthcare professional as oversleeping could be a symptom of a physical or mental health issue," she says.



FUN FACTS!

How well do you know your Kitty?

There's no getting away from the truth that cats are mystical and fascinating animals. 'Hoomans' have been obsessing over them for more than 6,500 years and guess what, we still are! Maybe that's why we're always looking for more facts about cats - fun cat facts, random cat facts, amazing cat facts, mind blowing cat facts!

A lot of that is because there are amazing stories about the things cats can do, the abilities they have or the amazing escapes they have managed to pull off.

When you start to dig deeper you can find incredible and fun facts about cats. As you research you find interesting facts or just weird facts about cats are all over the internet.

We took a look at a bunch of these fun facts about cats and have tirelessly compiled this list of seemingly cat facts that will blow your mind. As you already know, cats really are remarkable creatures!

Once you've read through the list you'll find that I've added a little section at the bottom where I've put a few interesting facts about cats of my own that I



have come to know and learn about our feline friends. Not necessarily the most scientific cat facts but those we all know to be true!

Let's dig into these mind blowing facts about cats:

Cats are the most popular pet in the USA. There are 88 million cats kept as pets!

They have over 30 muscles that control their ears.

Cats sleep 70% of their lives, and in some pretty crazy positions.

A cat fact you've probably noticed in your feline, your kitty has the ability to rotate their ears

180 degrees.

A cat's nose is as unique as a human fingerprint.

Cats have 3 eyelids.

Unlike humans, cats cannot detect sweetness - which explains why they are not drawn to it.

A cat has the power to heal themselves by purring. A domestic cat's purr has a frequency of between 25 and 150 Hertz. This happens to be the frequency at which muscles and bones best grow and repair themselves.

Cats only use their meows to talk to humans, not each other.

There are cats who

have survived falls from over 32 stories (320 meters) onto concrete.

The only time cats meow to communicate with other felines is when they are kittens signalling their mother.

Amazingly, studies indicate that cats are actually lactose intolerant and should avoid milk entirely.

The longest living cat on record according to the Guinness Book belongs to the late Creme Puff of Austin, Texas who lived to the ripe old age of 38 years and 3 days!

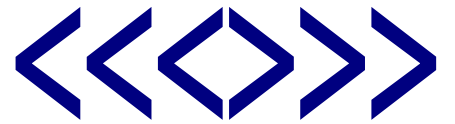
There are 44 recognized breeds of cats.



Smart AIs!

DID YOU KNOW ?

Facebook had shut down a pair of it's AI Robots nicknamed Alice and Bob, after they started talking to each other in their own language.



After-paste Taste!

Orange juice tastes bad after brushing because toothpaste blocks your sweet taste receptors due to a foaming agent that changes the permeability of your tongue cells.

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Climate change kills more than just the ecosystem

By Britney Gordon

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that between 2030 and 2050, climate change is expected to cause approximately 250,000 additional deaths per year from malnutrition, malaria, diarrhea, and heat stress.


With the 27th United Nations Climate Change Conference currently underway, the WHO urges world leaders to keep health at the core of these critical negotiations, bearing in mind the grim reality that the climate crisis continues to make people sick and

jeopardize the lives of people all over the globe.


According to the 2021 World Malaria Report, nearly half the world's population lives in areas at risk of malaria transmission in 87 countries and territories. In 2020, malaria caused an estimated 241 million clinical episodes and 627,000 deaths. Climate change affects the spread of the disease in multiple ways. In dry climates, heavy rainfall can provide good breeding conditions for mosquitoes; increased humidity and droughts may turn rivers into



WHO estimates that about 250,000 more persons will die from preventable causes due to climate change



PUBLIC NOTICE



Public Utilities Commission (PUC)

In exercise of the powers conferred upon it by the Public Utilities Commission Act, Chapter 223 of the Laws of Belize, and the Electricity Act, Chapter 221 of the Laws of Belize, and all other powers thereunto enabling, the Public Utilities Commission (hereinafter referred to as "the Commission") hereby notifies the public that: the Commission intends to consent to the revision of the **Power Purchase Agreement (PPA)** between the **Belize Electricity Limited (BEL)** and **SS Energy Limited (SSEL)**.

Purpose to amend the PPA between BEL and SSEL:
 SSEL is desirous of adjusting its operational regime to allow for more efficient utilization of its sugarcane production and processing assets (105 days of harvesting to 160 days per year), with the resultant extended energy production period. Therefore, SSEL undertook a series of negotiations with BEL. SSEL and BEL (the "Parties") filed an amended and restated Power Purchase Agreement ("amended PPA"), with the Commission on September 7, 2022. The Commission having reviewed the amended PPA intends to consent to the amended PPA, which makes provisions for enhanced forecasting of capacity and associated energy, and a revised tariff structure for the supply of electricity to BEL. The PUC is of the view that the Parties, having agreed on electricity exports for up to 47,000,000 kWh per annum as opposed to the original proposal of some 20,636,000 kWh per annum, it is in the public interest to facilitate this new commercial arrangement.

Summary of amended PPA between BEL and SSEL:

- Capacity declarations shall be 2 days ahead + daily availability target of > 90% , which replaces 1 day ahead + annual availability target of 90%;
- The Minimum Annual Production (MAP) target is being increased from 18,572,000 kWh up to a maximum of 32,900,000 kWh per annum by 2032;
- The tariff structure is being retroactively set from January 1, 2020 as follows:

<u>Current Tariff Structure</u>		<u>Revised Tariff Structure</u>	
0 – 20,000,000 kWh	BZ\$0.18	0 – 20,000,000 kWh	BZ\$0.17
Above 20,000,000 kWh	BZ\$0.10	Above 20,000,000 kWh	BZ\$0.16

Comments on amended PPA between BEL and SSEL:
 Interested Parties and members of the public may submit written comments on the amended PPA between BEL and SSEL by November 25, 2022.

Viewing of the amended PPA between BEL and SSEL:
 The amended PPA may be viewed in its entirety at the offices of the Public Utilities Commission at 2nd Floor Marina Towers, #4 Princess Margaret Drive, Belize City, or on its Website at www.puc.bz.

Issued by the Public Utilities Commission on November 10, 2022

strings of pools, the preferred breeding sites of mosquitoes. While in some areas, heavy rainfall can wash out the breeding sites and reduce the incidence of malaria.

Humanitarian organizations estimate one person dying of hunger every four seconds. Between 7,745.7 and 19,701.7 people die daily as a result of acute hunger and between 5.39 and 13.69 people die per minute. That translates to one person dying every 4.25 to 12 seconds. The global hunger crisis has been fuelled by a deadly mix of poverty, social injustice, gender inequality, conflict, climate change, and economic shocks, with the lingering impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the crisis in Ukraine further driving up food prices and the cost of living. However, much can be attributed specifically to climate change due

to droughts leading to a decrease in food production while floods are causing outbreaks of diseases like cholera. Action Against Hunger, a global humanitarian organization committed to ending world hunger, estimates that by 2050, the risk of hunger and malnutrition could rise by 20 percent if we fail to reduce and prevent the adverse effects of climate change.

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General declared, "Climate change is making millions of people sick or more vulnerable to disease all over the world and the increasing destructiveness of extreme weather events disproportionately affects poor and marginalized communities. It is crucial that leaders and decision-makers come together at COP27 to put health at the heart of the negotiations."

**Kick back
Relax and
Enjoy**



The Reporter

Independently serving Belize since 1987

Lisa leaves behind \$13 million damage in the agriculture sector

By Michelle Sutherland

One week ago, Hurricane Lisa made landfall in Belize as a category one hurricane, packing winds of 85 miles, destroying homes, disrupting the livelihood of Belizeans, and resulting in millions of damages to farmers who were in its path.

\$13 million at the moment,” Canto explained. “That is expected to change because the assessment is still ongoing and up to this morning, we were getting reports that the Mennonite also lost eight of their barns. When we did the initial assessment, we only valued the barns, but we also found

out in the fields to harvest their grains. If that wasn't done, Canto said, the damage to that particular sector would have been excessive. In the vegetable sector there were severe losses where vegetables such as cabbages, sweet peppers, and tomatoes were blown away.

“The losses have been mostly related to wind damage, when we look at the entire industry the biggest industry that got affected was the sugar cane sector. Santander

for example, lost somewhere in the vicinity of \$6 to \$7 million worth of damages in that sector alone and when we compare it with the one in the north that assessment is indicating that they have a little over two million dollars worth of damage to the Northern sugar belt. So when we collate both data it is around the vicinity of 9 million dollars in damages in just that industry itself,” stated Canto.

While that assessment is still ongoing and is estimated to be about

80% completed, Canto revealed that the majority of those complaints and damages were recorded in rural communities in the Cayo District, Gales Point Manatee, Gracie Rock, the Belize River Valley area and portions of the Corozal District where he reported that a tornado had completely dismantled a green storage facility. There were also isolated areas in the Corozal District where damages were also reported. Extension officers are still waiting to

get into areas such as Maypen, Blackwater and Crooked Tree, which is still inaccessible due to flooding.

Once the assessment is fully completed, the Ministry will commence the rolling out of assistance to farmers who are registered under the Belize Agriculture Management System. This will be done in conjunction with World Bank, which is currently activating emergency response assistance for farmers who were affected.





Gregorio Canto, a statistical analysis in the Ministry of Agriculture, told The Reporter on Wednesday that since the passage of the hurricane, extension officers have been out in the field working alongside the National Emergency Management Organization to conduct a damage assessment. Canto indicated that this is being done in communities that were in the hurricane's paths in an effort to get a dollar figure as it pertains to the damages and losses that the agriculture sector and by extension farmers have endured.

“So far with all the data that we have compiled for the livestock, the vegetables, and the grain sector, we are seeing somewhere in the vicinity of

out that they lost poultry, so with this now we must add additional value to that particular loss. Therefore, we are foreseeing further increase as the day progresses.”

He explained that, so far, the assessment has revealed that there were mostly wind damages, where some farmers reported losing roofs, fences, and damages to their pastures but overall the cattle industry seems to have been spared. In the fruit industry, particularly the banana and papaya sector, majority of those plants that are by nature brittle were completely flattened by the excessive winds.

Then in the grain sector, there wasn't much damages since after the passage of Hurricane Julia in early October, farmers had immediately went

	<p>Headquarters British Army Training Support Unit Belize Price Barracks, British Forces Post Office 12</p> <p>Telephone 00 501 225 2209 Fax 00 501 225 2362 E-mail david.hannan347@mod.gov.uk</p>	
Our Reference: RC/02/22_R02		
Notice to General Public		Date: 05 Nov 22
<p><i>Dear Sir/Madam</i></p> <p>Prior warning is to be given to the general public for training exercise taking place, by the British Army, in the following Training Areas:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a. 1963 Line</p> <p>The training will take place during the period 12 Nov 22 – 28 Nov 22 with Live ammunition being used, along with military vehicles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note LIVE Firing will be conducted at 1963 Line Training Estate – Sat 12 Nov – Mon 28 Nov 2022. <p>The general public should avoid the areas listed above and be aware of the presence of high numbers of British soldiers on the ground carrying weapons. At times loud explosions may be heard along with gunfire, this is normal in respect to the training being conducted.</p> <p>Should any member of the general public wish to enter the areas listed above they are to be advised all roads are safe unless marked with a red lamp at night or a red flag during the day light hours. British troops will also operate checkpoints along the roads entering danger areas and can give advice to areas of training activity.</p> <p>All enquires relating to British Forces training in Belize should be directed to RANGE CONTROL, BATSUB on 225 2209.</p> <p>Your continued support to BATSUB is vital to the British Army and its success in operations around the world.</p> <p>Yours faithfully</p> <p>D Hannan Maj Training Safety Officer for Commander BATSUB</p>		

The Righters Write

Article 22: Right to Social Security

Contributed By *The Human Rights Commission*

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

After spelling out a long list of civil and political rights, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) now turns to economic, social and cultural rights with Article 22 and the six following Articles. These rights, mostly developed in the 20th century, include the right to work, an adequate standard of living, education, maternity and childhood, social security, and the right to take part in cultural life.

Inclusion of these economic and social rights give effect to one of U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt's "Four freedoms" – freedom from want, which is mentioned explicitly in the preamble of the Declaration.

"For the UN, health care, education, housing, and the fair administration of justice are not commodities for sale to the few, but rather rights to which all are entitled without discrimination." – Former UN Human Rights Chief, Navi Pillay, in *The Tunis Imperative*

Article 22 spells out the qualities of the modern welfare state that are almost universally accepted today. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), in 1900, only 17 countries had social protection systems to support individuals and families through pensions for the elderly, disability payments for injured workers, benefits for mothers, health insurance and many other programs. Social assistance can include cash transfers, and is often referred to as a "social safety net" that helps people, especially the poor and vulnerable, cope with life's shocks, find jobs and educate their children.

According to ILO, the number of countries with social protection systems had increased to 104 by 1946 and 187 by 2015. Around the world, about 45% of people had access to at least one social protection benefit in 2017,

while 29% had access to comprehensive social security systems.

The division between economic, social and cultural rights on the one hand, and the civil and political rights on the other, has always been artificial. Without a basic education, can you effectively make use of the right to free speech? The right to work may well be undermined if you are not able to assemble in groups and have the space to voice your opinion about working conditions. And any form of discrimination can have a highly corrosive impact on a whole range of social, economic and cultural rights of the group of people discriminated against.

Interestingly, the head of the UDHR drafting committee, Eleanor Roosevelt, a long-time rights activist, did not want to impose obligations on States. The Declaration, she said, "should enunciate the rights of man and not the obligations of States."

This view was opposed by the Soviet bloc, and Canadian delegate Ralph Maybank said that if the rights in the Declaration were achieved, "the social and international order would be good, whether it came within the framework of capitalism, communism, feudalism, or any other system."

The issue of states' obligations to uphold the rights set out in the Universal Declaration was in effect gradually sorted out later via the elaboration of the nine core international human rights treaties, which created binding law: in particular, the two overarching Covenants covering all rights -- the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights – adopted 18 years after the UDHR in December 1966.

Article 22 asserts that economic, social and cultural rights are indispensable for human dignity and development of the human personality. This phrase appears again in Article 29, underlining that the

UDHR drafters wanted not just to guarantee a basic minimum, but to help us all become better people.

That promise has not been fully realized. UN Human Rights Chief Michelle Bachelet has pointed out that "71 percent of the world's population lacks access to full social protection. In other words, in two-thirds of the globe, societies have not been able to guarantee their people the basic means to live without fear and without feeling discriminated against or ostracized." She added that almost two-thirds of the world's children, 1.3 billion children, are without coverage.

In 2009, the United Nations agreed to a "Social Protection Floor Initiative" that encouraged countries to build comprehensive social security systems. Since then improvements have been seen not only in developing countries, but also many middle- and low-income countries.

Mongolia has introduced a family benefits scheme. Argentina is expanding a successful program to support pregnant women and new mothers who do not have health insurance. Thailand, Colombia, Rwanda and China have all made progress in ensuring universal access to health care.

A large number of other countries are making headway on programs to guarantee an income to senior citizens: Azerbaijan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Cape Verde, China, Cambodia, Kosovo, Lesotho, Mongolia, Georgia, Namibia, South Africa, Thailand, Nepal, Trinidad and Tobago, and Ukraine.

Social protection floors, laid on a firm foundation of human right standards and principles, can help create a better world for all of us, says Bachelet. "We all want to see a world where all children and all adults have their basic needs met; where unemployment, injury, ill-health, old age or disability do not signal misery and hardship; where people are not left unprotected in times of crisis and disaster," she says.

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Sports Guild

Belizean karatekas represented in Honduras

By Leon C. Guild

The benefits of training martial are many ranging from an activity for fitness to all the way to therapeutic. Yes, if you have a kid with inertia in the body (lazy) then martial arts training is an excellent therapy to bring back activity in the body without traumatizing that individual and making them never want to return.

On October 27th, 2022 a delegation left Belize to San Pedro Sula, participate in the II Open OIKJ. Now if you know anything about Honduras you would that just about ten years ago in 2011 it had the title of murder capital of the world, with at homicide rate of 93.2 per 100,000 inhabitants. And if you think the distrust of Belizeans to the Police force is bad, theirs was at 78.5%.

In the years 2011 to 2015, however, the government implemented measures to halve that homicide rate and from there it kept trickling to present Honduras as a safe place for tourism and sport tourism, specifically. There is absolutely no organization in any country on the planet that would want to have an international incident on their soil.

The group of 7, headed by long time Karate Coach Leon Guild, was comprised of Jayden Tillett, Malachi Garcia and Anthony Lino who currently St. John's College, Shyheim Tablada who is a former graduate of the same institution, Ishmael Castro former graduate of Nazarene High School and Nelson Contreras who is currently enrolled in Standard Six at Trinity Methodist Primary School. Seven athletes and

nine medals is quite the accomplishment by the high spirited delegation. The event had every category ranging from 4 years old to the Master's category which is thirty years and older and participants from Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras to fill them.

With the notoriety of the seas between the two countries, traveling to Honduras by boat is not a task for the faint of heart. But having made the trip around the same season back in 2007, Coach Leon preferred to try the luck of the team here for an hour and half ride from Placencia, Belize, to Puerto Cortez Honduras then a fifty-minute ride to the capital as opposed to a twelve-hour trip by connecting buses going through Guatemala.

Making the trip possible was not without its challenges, but the Martial Arts Federation of Belize takes this opportunity to thank all school as they facilitated the attendance of the delegation. A collaboration showing sports and education as not opposed to each other but complementing each other. Also gratitude goes out to the families and players of the team who did their part in fund-raising, communication, keeping their grades up at school, showing up to training and just over all being good students, athletes and citizens of Belize.

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ECLAC helps Belize manage climate risk

Belize City, November 10, 2022

Belize has become better equipped to manage the risk of Climate Change impacts and natural disasters, with an environmental information system (EIS), which the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) is helping the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management to develop.

Conservationists joined officials from government agencies and non-governmental organizations to develop this database to generate Climate Change and disaster indicators which will help the government to decide appropriate policy measures, at a national consultation hosted by the Sustainable Development Unit at the Radisson Fort George Hotel in Belize City on Wednesday to Friday,

November 9-11.

The aim was for the participants to develop this information system from selected indicators of change in the environment and our climate, from the mass of raw data collected by different government agencies, as ECLAC's Francisco Jimenez explained. But while the artificial intelligence of a computer database can generate indicators for recommended decisions, it is up to humans to actually decide what actions to take. Jimenez pointed out. Together they conferred to identify gaps in the data and manpower skills to develop the system and build a platform to buffer the region against climate risks.

The consultation also helped participants better understand how giving a geographic context to indicators of environmental and climate change can help the government make more effective decisions, as



ECLAC conference participants become better equipped to manage climate change risk.

Alberto Malmierca of ECLAC detailed.

The United Nations maintains a basic framework of environmental statistics in an online database, which is available in all official UN languages, including English, Spanish, French, Portuguese and French, as Robin Carrington of the UN Statistics Division explained. These monitor and report on environmental and economic indicators which may impact Sustainable Development Goals 2030, to which Belize has ascribed. These include food and freshwater

resources and land use, crop and livestock information, soils, mineral and energy resources, air quality, greenhouse gas emissions and wastewater management, among others.

Deputy director Edgar Ek of the Department of the Environment led discussions focused on Belize's total primary energy production from fossil fuels, urban populations as percentage of the total population, temperature records, and renewable energy production as a percentage of total energy production. This raw

data needs to be processed and weighed for importance and impact on climate scenarios, as Janet Geoghagen-Martin of ECLAC noted.

The consultation aimed to produce at least five indicators with top priority to monitor climate change and natural disasters. The indicators most relevant to Belize were selected from a global set of climate change indicators. The national focal points from the Statistical Institute of Belize and the Ministry also agreed

on follow up steps to build other indicators.

ECLAC's Statistics Division through its sub regional office for the Caribbean helped Belize to produce and use these key indicators for monitoring Climate Change and its impacts, so that Belize's Environmental Information System will help to implement policies in line with the Escazú Agreement, the revised St. George's Declaration (SGD 2040), the SAMOA Pathway, the UNFCCC Paris agreement, and the Sendai framework.



Belize Agricultural Health Authority

The Belize Agricultural Health Authority invites applications from suitably qualified candidates to fill the following position:

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2. A Master's Degree in the field of Animal Health/Science with five (5) years management experience; **OR**
3. A first degree in veterinary medicine and surgery, and be a registered veterinary surgeon in Belize (DVM) with eight (8) years management experience;
4. Computer literate particularly in Microsoft word, Power Point and knowledge of other programs and software will be an asset;
5. Excellent public relations;
6. Experience working in Animal Health in the agriculture industry;
7. Good understanding of Animal Health regulations would be an asset.

Competencies:

1. Good management skills;
2. Strong professional work ethics;
3. Strong public relations, inter-personal and communication skills;
4. Fluent in written and spoken English and working knowledge of Spanish;
5. Highly motivated team player who takes initiative;
6. Strong leadership and negotiating skills;
7. Successful experience in policy development and implementation;
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Belize Agricultural Health Authority

P.O. Box 169, Cor. Hummingbird Hwy. & Forest Dr., Belmopan, Belize

Phone: 501-8220197, Fax: 501-8220271, e-mail: baha@bt.net, website: www.baha.org.bz

Florida and the Caribbean take another hit this hurricane season

By Britney Gordon

A mere few weeks after the devastating hurricane Ian tore through the state, Florida gets hit with yet another as tropical storm Nicole assaults the east coast, resulting in much damage to neighboring countries.

On Thursday, tropical storm Nicole made landfall on Florida's east coast as a category one hurricane before weakening back to a tropical storm. Despite the intensity of the storm waning, it has still wreaked havoc on the coast. The storm sustained winds of up to 50 miles per hour and extended up to 175 miles from its center.

At least four people were reported to have died as a result of the storm and Almost 330,000 persons were left without power. Multiple coastal homes have collapsed and hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of infrastructure has been severely damaged. Mike Chitwood, a local sheriff, stated that most bridges to the beachside



Tropical Storm Nicole wreak havoc in Florida

properties had been closed to all but essential personnel, and a curfew was put into effect. To counteract the erosion occurring as a result of hurricane Ian, \$240,000 was spent on temporarily rebuilding the seawall. That too, has been destroyed.

Before the storm made landfall in Florida, it ripped through The Bahamas as a category one hurricane on Wednesday rampaging through the West Indies archipelago nation with howling winds and raging surf while moving closer to Florida's Atlantic shoreline.

Hurricane Nicole sustained winds of up to 75 miles per hour as it made landfall on Grand

Bahama Island. hours after hitting Great Abaco island as a tropical storm.

The storm caused extensive flooding across much of the Bahamas, including the islands of Grand Bahama, Eleuthera, Andros, and the Abacos. The Bahamas Department of Meteorology reported a nearly four-foot storm surge north of the town of Treasure Cay on Abaco. Waves flooded at least one road in Nassau, the capital, officials said.

Officials note the storm is an unusual occurrence this late into the hurricane season and the first storm to hit the Bahamas since Hurricane Dorian, a category five storm that devastated the archipelago in 2019.

65% of Belizean Children experience violence at home

By Britney Gordon

According to UNICEF, 65 percent of Belizean children experience violent discipline at home. Of these, six percent experience severe forms of punishment, and 52 percent up to the age of 14 are subjected to psychological aggression.

UNICEF estimates that every seven minutes, somewhere in the world a young person aged 10 to 19 years old dies a violent death while millions of children are physically abused in their homes and at school. In Belize, the number of children experiencing violence is alarmingly high as three in four small children, as young as two to four years old, experience violence from caregivers. It was also revealed that one in four of those adults believe it is a necessary

course of action.

Worldwide, around 600 million children under the age of five live without legal protection against corporal punishment at home. Corporal punishment of children is recognized by the Committee on the Rights of the Child and other treaty bodies, as well as by the UN Secretary General's Study on Violence against Children, as a highly significant issue, both for asserting children's status as rights holders and for the prevention of all forms of violence. It is widely acknowledged that it breaches children's rights to respect human dignity and physical integrity and to equal protection under the law.

In Belize, corporal punishment is widely accepted and often encouraged as section 39 of the Criminal Code



allows the use of "justifiable force" for the purposes of correction by those with authority over children under 16.

While there is no prohibition of corporal punishment in Belizean Law for disciplinary purposes, instances

of child abuse are dealt with under the Domestic Violence Act or are treated criminally under the Criminal Code.

UNICEF outlines the following as the key challenges Belize faces in regard to violence against children:

the first being a lack of comprehensive data on child abuse. There is also no strong mechanism for data collection and reporting; low conviction rates for perpetrators; and limited access to support services for victims of abuse.

In 2017, Belize became the first country to adopt a multi-sectoral approach to ending violence, making child protection a top priority, largely guided by the National Road Map to End Violence Against Children.



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Developing and developed nations argue over climate crisis reparations at COP27

By Britney Gordon

The 2022 Global Climate conference has gotten off to a rocky start as world leaders debate over the necessary course of action to address the loss and damage done to developing nations as a result of climate change.

Disputes between delegates arose after they found that they were unable to determine an agenda the night before for the upcoming conference. As the agenda acts as the basis of discussions, if significant items are not listed on it, they cannot form part of the official negotiations. One of the crucial topics officials were struggling to come to



an agreement on was 'loss and damage'.

The terms 'loss and damage' refer to the desire developing countries have to make progress on receiving reparations for all they have suffered as a result

of the climate crisis. Some examples of such suffering are devastating floods, desperate droughts, and storms that wreck towns and villages. As climate change worsens, these issues become

more damaging and more frequent.

A cry for justice has been issued by developing nations as they feel that developed countries have so far been reluctant to provide the help needed to regain their footing. One of the key issues is whether the agenda item should include the terms "liability" and "compensation". Representatives of developing nations claim that the developed countries requested a footnote stating that the insinuation of liability and compensation be excluded. The request was founded on article 8 of the Paris agreement, which states in paragraph 51 of the decision text that liability and compensation are excluded from loss and damage. However, in the

original treaty, the 1992 UNFCCC, these terms are not excluded.

Small island states and developing countries have since put the issue of 'loss and damage' on the summit's formal agenda and are now pushing for the creation of a dedicated fund to address the issue. But according to the European Commission's director general for climate action, Jacob Werksman, the new agenda item "was agreed under certain conditions, stating that 'we would not be discussing this issue of liability and compensation.'"

Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, backing calls for a loss and damage finance facility, announced that Scotland will provide £5 million

to address loss and damage at the conference, stating, "I have no problem whatsoever saying that this is about reparation, compensation and liability, and responsibility." The announcement followed similar pledges on Monday by Germany and Belgium, which committed €170 million and €2.5 million respectively. "The developed world has caused climate change and the developing world is paying the price. If people can't see the reality of that then there is something wrong," Sturgeon continued.

While declaring a commitment to assisting developing countries, The US and Europe maintain that the creation of a new fund is off the table, for the time being, they insisted, highlighting that plenty of funding is already available under existing aid programs.

"We're focused on using the tools that we have," said Monica Medina, US Assistant Secretary of State for oceans and international environmental and scientific affairs. "I think the focus should be on getting some of that funding to where it's needed rather than trying to create another fund," she concluded.

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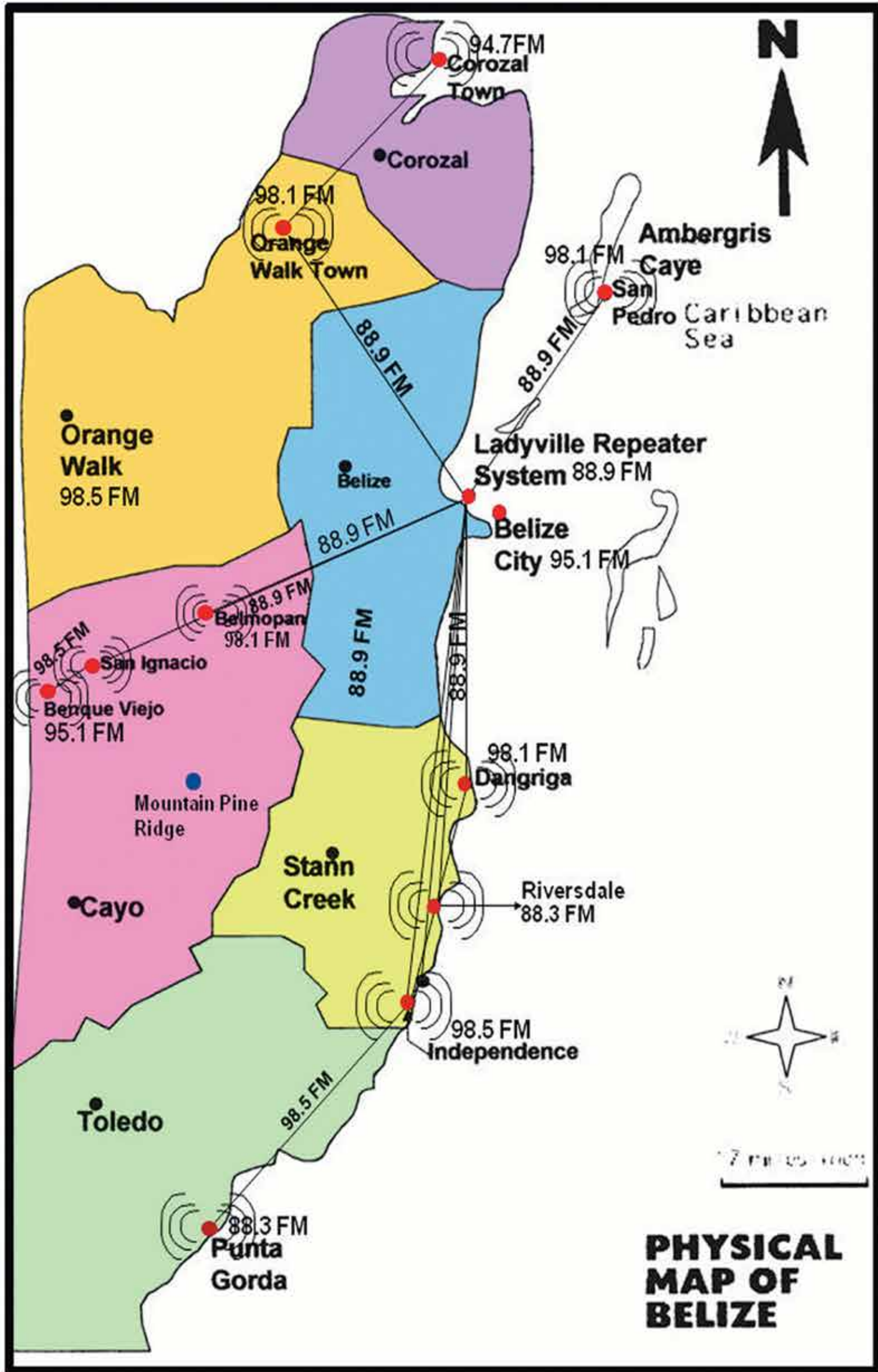
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