

Reporter

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38 persons admitted to KHMH due to marijuana intoxication

By Javan Flowers

KHMH medical personnel instilled their "mass casualty code" after 38 persons were admitted to the institution suffering from marijuana intoxication.

The KHMH's CEO Chandra Nisbet Cansino has confirmed that 31 children and seven adults were treated for eating the marijuana-laced candies.

Initial reports had suggested that the students from St. Luke's Methodist Primary School purchased candy packs, which contained cannabis.

The victims, the youngest being four years old, then experienced lethargy, nausea, vomiting, headaches,



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GOB revokes Brads' license!

By Javan Flowers

The Lotteries Committee, in reviewing the conditions of the exclusive license held by Brads Gaming

Group Ltd. (BGGL) to administer the Government Lotteries, has moved to revoke the 10-year exclusive licensing contract.

In a release this

week, the Licensing Committee justified the revocation due to the "material and substantial breaches of the conditions of the

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Schools must scrutinize street peddlers selling to students

By Javan Flowers

With what has since turned into an unprecedented public health crisis that sent more than 30 persons to the hospital due to marijuana intoxication, it is essential that schools

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Faber to be endorsed as the UDP's standard bearer for Collet

By Javan Flowers

After much political, intra-party turmoil, Collet Area Representative Hon. Patrick Faber will be endorsed as the United Democratic

Party (UDP)'s standard bearer for Collet.

Earlier this week, Faber received approval from the National Party Council (NPC) and UDP Party Leader Hon. Shyne

Barrow. The internal party messages confirmed that Ian Jones has resigned as the Collet Standard Bearer in order to make way for Faber.

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Many parents of Southside Belize City were shaken this week after 30 children were admitted to hospital suffering from stomach cramps, shortness of breath, blurry eyesight and other symptoms indicative of food poisoning.

The children had all of them eaten some soft candy laced with marijuana.

Apparently, the police had possession of a shipment of this candy from some unidentified source; had kept it as a crime exhibit; and had later disposed of it in a way that brought the tainted candy back into circulation.

There has been an angry outburst of rage from the South-side community, and blame leveled at the police for the irresponsible way in which it was disposed.

The gummies were packaged in attractive sealed cellophane pouches which suggest that they were imported since no one in Belize is known to manufacture and package this kind of sweets.

So far investigators have focused on police criminal negligence in disposing of the drug-laced candy and on the person or persons who were found selling the stuff. But the larger problem in our view is to determine how these candy snacks arrived in Belize in the first place.

If we don't get to the bottom of this, a similar or perhaps more serious health and safety threat could occur.

Investigators need to broaden and intensify their scrutiny into the matter of how these drugged sweets arrived in Belize. This crime is especially revolting because it takes aim at unsuspecting children who like to devour candy.

While others further down the distribution chain, and these include the personnel(s)—civilian or otherwise—who disposed of the confiscated cargo, are on the front line of blame, it is important to note that our Customs Department is the first guardian of our country's imported food supply. Customs have a responsibility to guard against prohibited imports and contaminated material from entering the food chain. In this instance, based on reports so far, the Customs did well in alerting the police to the drug-laced sweets.

38 persons admitted to KHMH due to marijuana intoxication

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dizziness, and tremors. Additionally, other reports attest to some children being unresponsive and unconscious—all severe symptoms that align with marijuana overdose.

The treats have since been confiscated for forensic analysis along with urine samples. The KHMH, National Drug Abuse Control Council (NDACC), and a team from Central Health Region are conducting the investigation.

Speaking on how such an incident even unfolded was Minister of Home Affairs Hon.

Kareem Musa:

"It is an issue that originated, as I understand it, with the Customs Department who turned over the suspected cannabis. I think at the point of entry, it was classified as suspected cannabis edibles, [and thus] turned over to the Anti-Narcotics Unit who thereafter turned it over to the exhibit keeper. The decision of discarding the product that was confiscated by the Customs Department [was the exhibit keeper's], and as I understand it, he is saying to the police that he discarded it because of the scent

that it was giving off within the exhibit room. As I understand it, he discarded it at the dump on the Western Highway at which point individuals who were at the dumpsite found the discarded material and thereafter took it to the children and sold it to the children at the school."

The Minister also confirmed that the exhibit keeper has since been detained pending the investigation, though along with certain termination, they may also have criminal charges brought against them.

Fortunately, throughout the ordeal,

no child lost their life, which was a real possibility that medical personnel at the KHMH were concerned about.

According to the US National Institute of Health, in children, the most common symptoms reported after acute ingestion are central nervous system depression, confusion, agitation, and ataxia. Nausea and vomiting are also common symptoms of THC ingestion. More significantly, however, bradycardia, hypotension, seizure activity, and respiratory depression would require immediate incubation.

Faber to be endorsed as the UDP's standard bearer for Collet



Hon Moses Barrow and Hon Patrick Faber

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The career of the 45-year-old politician was smeared in recent years with allegations of domestic abuse, and anger-management issues. Consequently, he had lost the confidence of senior members within the UDP and was, thus, unseated as the Leader of the Opposition, and stood to lose the Collet seat that he has held for two decades years as Area Representative.

The matter of representation in the Collett constituency, at the time unresolved, saw former standard bearer, Ian Jones, indicating that he would resign, but holding off after truce talks between Faber and Barrow

stalled. Those talks backfired, resulting in Faber writing to the party Chairman accusing Barrow of "undemocratic and manipulative tactics" in allegedly trying to coerce his support.

Barrow has since come forward to explain that, as the party gears up for the upcoming municipal elections, presenting a strong, unified front, is the duty of the opposition, which prompted the decision to endorse Faber. He is further quoted as noting that his efforts uniting the party can be seen by the "almost unanimous" endorsement of his leadership at the UDP's national convention.

The statement from

the Leader of the Opposition read:

"In keeping with my promise to the NPC to continue to seek to resolve the matter of Hon. Faber's return to Collet, on Friday April 21, all Elected Members of the House met in the Opposition Chambers to discuss the return of Hon. Patrick Faber as UDP Collet Standard Bearer.

"These discussions were fruitful with commitments from all to ensure there is unity, especially in the public eyes so as to strengthen confidence in the UDP as the next Government of Belize.

I then spoke to brother Ian Jones to convey to him my comfort

that the conditions for him to relinquish the Collet Constituency were met.

"Brother Jones who has always maintained that he was prepared to stand down in the best interest of the Party spoke to his Executive, family and advisors then submitted his resignation letter to make way for the Hon. Faber to be endorsed as UDP Collet Standard Bearer. [...I want to thank Hon. Faber for the invaluable contributions he has made to the UDP and welcome his return as the UDP Standard Bearer for Collet. An NPC meeting will be held in May, 2023 after the 2 week notice to make official."

THE REPORTER

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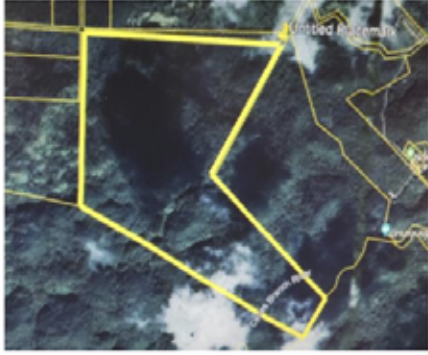
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GOB revokes Brads' license!

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exclusive license, as well as the Lotteries Act and its regulations.”

The government has since advised that effective May 2, 2023, BGGL would no longer be permitted to sell or administer the Government Lotteries (Boledo, Jackpot, and Ordinary Lotteries) and that the last lottery draw under the present arrangement will be on April 30, 2023.

Though this revocation did not surprise BGGL, as in a letter that made its rounds on social media earlier in the year, written to BGGL from the director of the Lotteries Committee, raising several unaddressed concerns that had to do with compliance.

In response, the legal representatives for Countach Technologies Limited, a shareholder in BGGL, wrote to

Prime Minister John Briceño, citing that should GOB proceed to cancel the exclusive contract, which carried a ten-year lifespan, with Brads, it would constitute a wrongful interference with the company's holdings, tantamount to a seizure of its assets.

Notably, last year BGGL brought forth a lawsuit against GOB for trying to “tax the company out of business” with its implementation of Statutory Instrument (SI) 51 of 2022 aimed to plaster a 12.5% lottery tax on Boledo, lottery, and jackpot.

As noted in the government's release, it will, in the near future, “make alternative arrangements for the administration of the Government Lotteries while maintaining a standard that will guarantee that consumer rights are not violated.”

Schools must scrutinize street peddlers selling to students

Cont'd from pg. 1

Take heed and only permit licensed street peddlers to sell to their student populations.

This mass casualty event has certainly brought child safety, at school, to the forefront of every parent, teacher, and Belizeans at large. The presence of these “peddlers” near school grounds is not uncommon; what is, however, is peddlers' lack of official authorization to provide any “goods, wares, merchandise or provisions” to their mostly school-going patrons.

As stipulated in the Trade Licensing (Amendment) Bill 2022, (Part IV) section 35, “Every person who (a) in any street or public place in any town sells or exposes for sale any goods; or (b) in any town acts as a peddler of any goods, shall obtain from the Board for that town a license, according to the nature of the goods to be sold.”

Given that these peddlers operate as “stores on wheels,” they fall within the confines of this bill; thus, all street

peddlers must apply for a street peddler's license – as per the law.

To protect the well-being of Belizean children, all peddlers, regardless of their predisposition, should be allowed by school institutions to provide their services to students only under the condition that a valid street peddlers license is provided.

The section further describes that “Every peddler or other person who has obtained a license under this section shall at all times on demand produce and show such license to any justice of the peace, police officer, person to whom such peddler, hawker or other person offers his goods for sale or officer of the Board.”

Failure to provide a valid license is an offense, and peddlers accused of doing so, are liable on summary conviction to fines and potential prison time.

It is imperative that educational institutions be wary to ensure such an event, regardless of the unfortunate and embarrassing series of events that led to it happening in the first place, never transpires



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Belize to recycle more plastics for a cleaner environment



Minister Orlando Habet - CCAD President Pro Tempore

By William Ysaguirre

Belize will update and amend its Environmental Protection regulations regarding single use plastics, particularly of beverage containers, later this year to encourage Belizeans to recycle more, to keep non-biodegradable materials out of landfills for a cleaner Belize, says Minister of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management Hon. Orlando Habet.

He was speaking at the II Regional Congress of the Central American Commission for the Environment and Development (CCAD), of which Belize is pro-tempore chair, for six months at the Ramada Princess Hotel in Belize City on Wednesday and Thursday, April 19-20.

Belize amended the Environmental Regulations on March 31, 2020, to phase out single use plastic containers, cups, bags and utensils, with the law to take full effect to prohibit the importation of such plastic items made from non-biodegradable materials derived from petroleum, and to encourage their replacement by items made of biodegradable materials.

This created an economic opportunity for new industry and spawned many small startups producing paper bags, bamboo drinking straws and biodegradable

cups, bags and food containers.

But there still remain a tremendous amount of plastics, glass, aluminum cans and rubber tires in the environment, and on Wednesday, solid waste management experts from the seven member states of the Central American Integration System (SICA), the Dominican Republic and five CARICOM territories including Grenada, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago gathered to share the various solutions they have found to this common problem.

In Belize, the Returnable Containers Act of 2011 requires manufactures of malt beverages – beer and stout, and carbonated drinks to recycle their containers and to offer a nominal buy-back payment on their glass, plastic and aluminum containers.

Local bottling companies are compliant to a certain degree, offering buy-back on glass empties, and the Bowen & Bowen group also buys back its aluminum cans for Belikin Beer and Stout and 501 Beer and Stout, and Guinness bottles, as well as plastic empties of Coca-Cola, Sprite and Fanta.

But there is a lack of enforcement as the Department of the Environment simply does not have the manpower to verify if the new brewery in Orange Walk has a similar buy-back policy on its aluminum cans, which the popularity

of the brand have caused their cans to be strewn all over the landscape.

The revised law, when it is amended, will be accompanied by a public education campaign to encourage Belizeans to sort their garbage

at the source, to separate all materials which can be recycled: plastics, glass, aluminum, paper and cardboard, from organic materials which can be processed into compost. It began as a pilot project in two communities, and Habet is now urging a nationwide roll-out. Habet said there will also be a need for better enforcement of the law, and the ministry is presently in discussions with the Solid Waste Management Unit to see how organic waste can be composted to yield fertilizer which can be sold to farmers.

In other countries of the region, manufacturers

are fully on board with this recycling process, as recycled glass empties cheaper than buying new ones, and plastics can be milled and remolded into new containers, laundry bins, and even construction materials. Aluminum and other metals can be compressed into large blocks and sent to the smelters. NuVi (Nueva Vida) in the Dominican Republic is giving new life and a second use to what were once considered to be one-use materials, even rubber tires. Where individual countries to not have the domestic industrial capacity to process the recycled plastics, they export the

recycled materials in bulk to China, and there are ships which cruise up and down the Pacific coast to take these materials back to China.

During the two-day conference, the CCAD experts also shared best practices on water management, with a watershed to the sea approach, Blue Bonds, sustainable forest management and landscapes, and creating a circular economy for the use of materials, to reduce and eliminate marine litter. This included the role of the industrial water users in the private sector to manage water resources, and the treatment of waste waters.



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GOB Hosts Climate Data, Geospatial Technologies, Coastal and Fisheries Data Management Training

By Javan Flowers

GOB is to host three four-day training sessions to better track ecosystem health and forecast future climate change impacts.

The sessions discussed innovative technologies such as remote sensing that are guided by modules designed from a pre-evaluation knowledge survey and training manual. The main thematic areas include Geographic Information System (GIS), Remote Sensing, Climate Data Analysis and Visualization, and Coastal and Fisheries Data Management.

The sessions shall be divided into three



Stakeholders will discuss innovative technologies to track ecosystem health

modules: Introductory, Intermediate and Intermediate – Advance, which are scheduled for April 25 to 28, May 9 to 12, and May 23 to 26, 2023.

At the end of the sessions, the Coastal Zone Management Authority and

Institute, the Belize Fisheries Department, the National Meteorological Service of Belize, the Blue Economy Unit under the Ministry of Blue Economy and Civil Aviation, and the University of Belize will have the capacity to

track ecosystem health and forecast future climate change impacts using innovative technologies.

The training is a deliverable under the GCF readiness project entitled “Enhancing adaptation planning and increasing climate resilience in the coastal zone and fisheries sector of Belize.”

The sessions were made available through the Ministry of Blue Economy and Civil Aviation (MBECA) in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and Belize’s National Designated Authority to the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

BTBs BOOM and AI Expected to Increase Belize’s Tourism

By Javan Flowers

The Belize Tourism Board held its second annual “Building On Our Momentum” (BOOM) forum, which



revolved around attracting visitors using Artificial Intelligence (AI).

In his Welcome Remarks to participants, Hon. Anthony Mahler, Minister of Tourism and Diaspora Relations, highlighted the industry’s strong rebound, and continued growth and challenged industry stakeholders to use the tools and information shared to improve their marketing strategies. He remarked, “By using our resources in unison, we can effectively market Belize. Technology allows us to compete with big budget destinations.”

The first presentation was made by guest presenter Kieran Sweeney, AI Consultant, who spoke on Harnessing Artificial Intelligence in Belize. Sweeney noted numerous examples of how AI-based marketing tools could help relevant stakeholders improve their advertising by creating more original content curtailed for the kind of travelers they’re looking to attract.

The forum also saw presentations from Development Counsellors International (DCI), who presented Canada’s 2023/24 Outlook for Belize; Geatriz Barreal, Founder, CEO & Chair of Sustainable Rivera Maya, whose presentation noted the value of Utilizing Sustainable Practices as a Marketing Tool.

FINN Partners, BTB’s PR Agency for the European Market (UK, Germany, and France), then presented Europe’s 2023/24 Outlook for Belize; Curtis Zimmerman

delved into Forward Thinking for Retaining Employees.

Near the end of the presentations, BTB’s Director of Quality Management and Capacity Development, Abil Catañeda, informed the audience on BTB’s strategic efforts at improving Belize’s tourism product through training, and the Zimmerman Agency, BTB’s PR Agency for the US Market, presented the US 2023/24 Outlook for Belize.

Speaking with the media Cole Zimmerman, representative from the Zimmerman Agency, further elucidated on the AI-generated products the BTB would be utilizing, “The way that the BTB is going to be using it in the US is going to be an AI-developed product, that it hones in on marketing, so we can predict who’s going to be coming to the US, so it’s predictive marketing efforts to say, who’s going to come here, how much money they’re going to spend here, and then following along that look-alike audience to figure out who else we can be targeting.”

Approximately 300 persons representing a wide-cross section of hoteliers, tour operators, educators, and industry partners from across Belize attended – as the BTB continues on its mission to collaborate with partners and stakeholders in executing innovative strategies to market, develop and enhance Belize’s tourism products.



PRESS RELEASE

Notice to all Agents of Government Lotteries: Boledo Lottery, Jackpot Lottery and Ordinary Lottery

Belize City. April 26, 2023

The Lotteries Committee hereby informs the general public, all agents, and sub-agents of the Government Lotteries (Boledo Lottery, Jackpot Lottery, and Ordinary Lottery) that Brad’s Gaming Group Limited’s (BGGL) exclusive license to administer the Government Lotteries has been revoked effective May 2nd, 2023.

We advise all agents that as of May 2nd, 2023, that given the revocation of the exclusive license to BGGL, that they too are prohibited from selling Government Lotteries (Boledo Lottery, Jackpot Lottery, and Ordinary Lottery). Anyone caught promoting or selling any government lottery from this date onward without a valid license will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

The public will be advised when the Government Lotteries will resume normal activity. If you have any queries, kindly send your concerns to the Lotteries Secretary at BelizeInvestment@invest.gov.bz. The Lotteries Committee and the Ministry would like to thank the public for its understanding and continued cooperation.

*** ENDS***

Caribbean leaders agree on plan to ban assault-style weapons

By Javan Flowers

Caribbean Community leaders have agreed on plans to propose bans in their countries on assault-style weapons, primarily manufactured in the US, to curb spikes in gun violence and weapons smuggling.

The decision to ban assault-styled weapons came at the end of a two-day Regional Symposium: "Violence as a Public Health Issue - The Crime Challenge."

In his opening remarks Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. Keith Rowley, said CARICOM leaders also intend to write to the United States President and his administration for a "greater effort in preventing the manufacturers of these killing machines and projectiles from having the profit-making outcome that is killing our people and destroying our society. We want the guns and ammunition stopped."

"Today we are saying to the United States the same way we fought with you to prevent the powder from going up North to poison your community, we want you to fight with us to prevent the guns and ammunition from coming into our territories," he said, echoing sentiments of

other leaders over the two days.

The Caribbean leaders had called a roundtable on the issue amid complaints from several governments, namely Jamaica, Trinidad, The Bahamas, St Lucia, and Barbados, about an increase in gangland violence, bolstered by the availability of high-powered, military-style weapons smuggled mainly from the US.

The move came just a few weeks after several member nations announced plans to join with Mexico to sue American gun manufacturers over the weapons smuggled into their countries.

Addressing the symposium was Dr. Carla Barnett, CARICOM Secretary-General. She noted that "violence in our Region is an epidemic, and like any epidemic, effective strategies to combat the spread require data and research, as well as human and financial resources to allow timely implementation of solutions to address the root causes of crime and mitigate the devastating impact of crime and violence on our societies."

Notably, Bahamian Prime Minister and Caricom Chairman Phillip Davis told the summit that in his country, 98.6 percent of recovered illegal firearms could be

traced to the United States, in Haiti 87.7 percent and in Jamaica 67 percent.

"Jamaica had a staggering homicide rate of 52.9 per 100,000 inhabitants," he said, as compared with the global average of about 7.5 per 100,000.

However, Davis did not have figures



on what percentage of the seized guns were assault-style weapons as opposed to handguns or other weapons that would

be unaffected by this week's proposed ban.

Toward the end of his presentation PM Rowley said countries in the Caribbean would need legislation to support the ban, and he called on opposition parties throughout the region to support any parliamentary action by their governments.

US donates oxygen generators to KHMH

By Javan Flowers

Staff of Belize's leading referral hospital, the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital (KHMH), received hands-on training with the use of oxygen generators donated by the United States.

Speaking with the media, United States Ambassador to Belize Michelle Kwan, "[This] donations will ensure that the hard-working medical personnel at KHMH can continue to provide critical emergency care to patients in dire need of assistance. America's commitment to the safety and security of the Belizean people is strong and unwavering."

An oxygen generator is an industrial device that produces 95% by volume oxygen for commercial purposes, such as supplying oxygen throughout a hospital. The device



US Ambassador to Belize Michelle Kwan donates oxygen generators.

uses a molecular sieve or pressure swing adsorption (PSA) technology to separate oxygen from other gases in the air, such as nitrogen, and produce a high oxygen concentration.

These generators are valued at one million Belize dollars and will save the hospital \$35,000 BZD monthly in operation costs. SOUTHCOM also donated medical supplies to KHMH -

including bandages, needles, and blood pressure monitors - that will be used to help the thousands of families who use the hospital each year.

Notably, the KHMH also received 20 oxygen concentrators from the Taiwan Embassy in 2021 as Belize grappled with widespread COVID-19 infections.

An oxygen concentrator is a portable medical

device that extracts 90 - 95% pure oxygen from the surrounding air and delivers it to patients with breathing difficulties such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) or emphysema. Oxygen concentrators use filters, sieve beds, and a compressor to extract oxygen from the air and deliver it in concentrated form through a nasal cannula or mask.

S U D O K U

Medium Puzzle

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

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

Answer to Puzzle

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

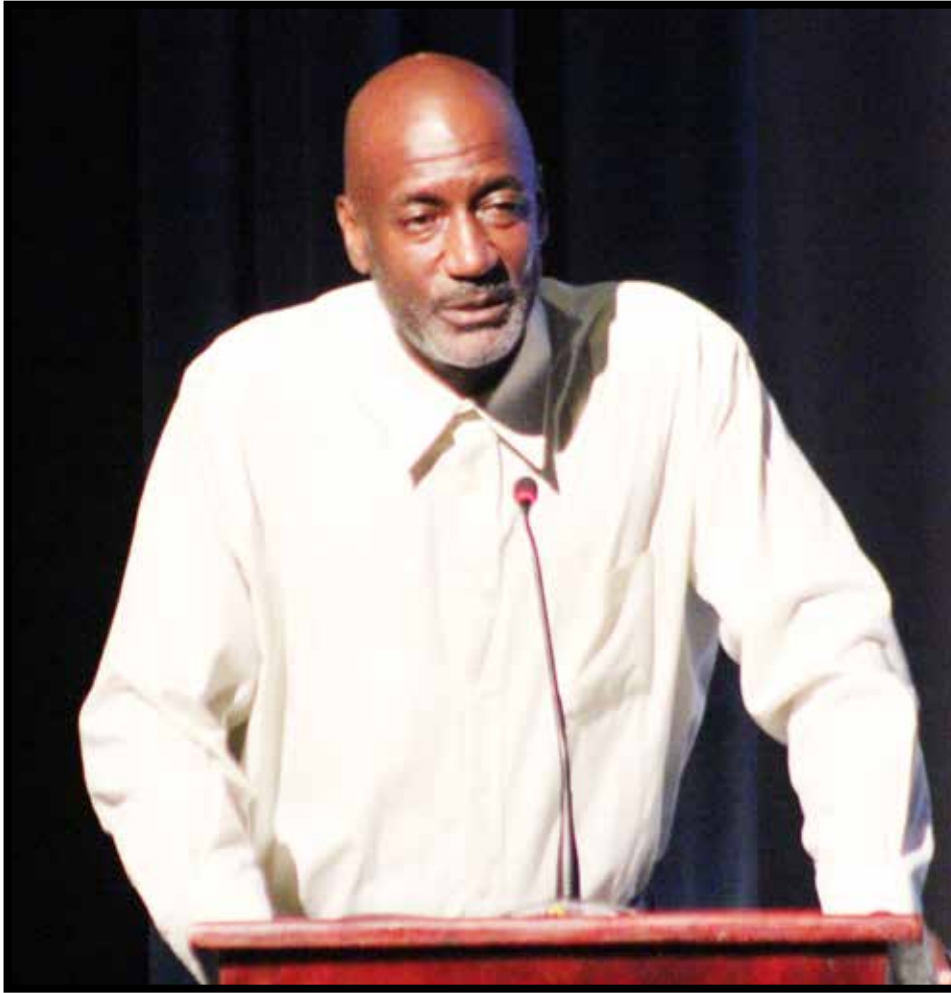
Belize Global Media LLC enlists film Industry support

By William Ysaguirre

Belize City, April 16, 2023— The Belize Global Media LLC was established through a partnership agreement signed between #FILMBELIZE, Arth Thomas of the Main Man Films LLC and Gerald Wiggins of the Wiggins Music Group Worldwide (WMGW) on Sunday, April 16.

Belize's Film Commissioner Nigel Miguel founded #FILMBELIZE, and said he expects this new partnership will result in "tremendous development and promotion while growing the film/music industry in Belize... This collaboration has been in the works for more than two years. This will catapult Belize onto the international scene unlike anything ever before!"

Three established



Belize's Film Commissioner Nigel Miguel

industry veterans who collectively share more than 75 years of experience

will support the new entity, Belize Global Media LLC, which is designed to be a hub for

local and international creatives to stimulate, promote and distribute media content for the Belize entertainment market.

Miguel established #FILMBELIZE in 2008 to promote and

enhance opportunities for music and film creatives within Belize. "We have always had the desire to introduce the world to Belize and all that the country has to offer from a creative standpoint. Belize is a country full of talented people just waiting for a chance to tell original stories," Miguel says.

WMGW is an international music distribution company which partners with global multimedia companies to distribute their content in over 100 countries. This includes several international 24-hour streaming networks and a catalog of 10,000+ digital downloads – including independent films, music, and audiobooks. The company enhances brand awareness while enabling independent content owners to expand beyond their local market using a proprietary technology platform

which provides distribution, marketing, and internet business services. WMGW offers efficiency and control via top digital, mobile, and online and streaming retailers.

Main Man Films LLC (MMF) is a global content creation company led by a member of the Producers Guild of America. MMF strives to facilitate the telling of untold stories for unserved and under-served audiences. Whether creating compelling ideas, providing media consultation, or producing digital content, MMF successfully collaborates with creatives from around the world to produce unique television, film, and music experiences. To date, MMF has produced content in Belize, Zimbabwe, Japan, Singapore, Nigeria, South Africa, and the United States, in the belief in "Stories Crossing Borders".

Weh Wi Ga Fi Seh

How 2023 di goh?
Gi tanks evriday:
tee, dina, tee.

Weh Ih Grani Doz Seh tu Ofeelya

Laas week, wi mi tank Miz OFELIA BROOKS ahn sen unu fi reed fi shee "Mother Tongue." Tudeh, wi di shyaa sohn a di frays ahn sentens eena Kriol ih Grani doz seh ... unu wahn injai fi shee stoari da:

<https://cutleafjournal.com/nonfiction/mother-tongue/>

"I walked into the hospital room and announced myself. I approached her slowly and pulled down my gold sequined mask to kiss her forehead. I caught her eyes glimmering and asked, "Do you want a mask like mine?" She nodded and interjected,

"Bot Ai noh waahn fi mi maas bee soh bizi bizi."

I sighed with relief. But I don't want my mask to be too busy, she had said. Although I couldn't speak a word of Kriol, I understood every one of hers.

...Mikays, noh, mek wee geh bak faas.

Hurry up, okay, so we can get back quickly. ... Lef mi loan; yoo di dischrak mi fahn di teevee. Leave me alone; you're distracting me from the TV.

when I was seven, she took me on a trip with her to the grocery store. She asked the cashier at the register,

"Ya ku chaynj dis dala intu foa kwaataz fi mi?"

The cashier waved his hand at me, "Hey kid, what is she saying?" he demanded. "I cannot understand her. What does she want?" "She needs change for a dollar," I said, annoyed that he didn't understand what seemed perfectly understandable to me. The cashier's face illuminated and then I knew.

Mikays goh reed "Mother Tongue" da:

<https://cutleafjournal.com/nonfiction/mother-tongue/>

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

 **Atlantic Bank**
wishes everyone a safe and happy

LABOUR DAY

Please be advised that all Atlantic Bank branches and drive thrus will be closed for business on Saturday, April 29, 2023 and reopen on Tuesday, May 2, 2023 in celebration of Labour Day.

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Sustainable health development in the postpandemic era

Dr. Hsueh Jui-yuan
Minister of Health
and Welfare
Republic of China
(Taiwan)

As the world enters the fourth year of the COVID-19 pandemic, the situation is gradually improving. Most border restrictions have been lifted and global health governance has shifted from pandemic response to postpandemic recovery. Countries worldwide have stepped up efforts to achieve health and well-being for all and further the realization of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) whose progress was impacted by the pandemic.

Taiwan fully supports health-related SDGs and the World Health Organization's triple billion targets. Indeed, Taiwan is committed to building a more resilient and equitable health service supply chain, maintaining an inclusive and equitable universal health coverage system, and providing disease prevention and management through a robust primary healthcare system. Taiwan is willing and able to share its experience in creating a cross-sectoral, innovative, and people-centered health approach to help the international community work toward the realization of the SDGs related to health and well-being.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Taiwan effectively mitigated the spread of the disease, leveraging its comprehensive public healthcare system, well-trained antipandemic personnel, and epidemiological surveillance, investigation, and analysis systems. Taiwan's antipandemic response model included advance deployment and rapid response mechanisms. Other measures included border control policies, coordinated distribution of medical resources, and a patient transfer system to prevent and contain the pandemic at a time when vaccines

and antiviral drugs were unavailable.

The Taiwanese people have played a pivotal role in the success of Taiwan's antipandemic model by wearing masks, practicing social distancing, avoiding crowded areas, following quarantine regulations, and getting vaccinated. When compared with the 38 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development member states and Singapore, Taiwan ranks sixth-lowest in COVID-19 mortality and case-fatality rates. Taiwan also ranks fourth-highest for coverage rates of at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose and third-highest in terms of vaccine boosters administered.

Promoting health for all

Last year, WHO's Director-General outlined five priorities for the subsequent five years, which are promoting health, providing health services, protecting health, powering progress, and performing. Moreover, WHO's Achieving well-being: A draft global framework for integrating well-being into public health utilizing a health promotion approach further demonstrates its commitment to health for all.

Taiwan established a universal healthcare insurance system in 1995. Since that time, the government has continued to provide disease prevention and healthcare services so that people of all ages can enjoy the right to health. Taiwan provides prenatal checkups, gestational diabetes screening, anemia testing, and three ultrasound examinations to reduce pregnancy risks and promote maternal and infant health. To assist infertile couples and reduce the financial burdens of in-vitro fertilization, the government has continued to expand subsidized infertility treatment programs. Taiwan also aims to create a breastfeeding-friendly environment and provide preventive pediatric healthcare and



Dr. Hsueh Jui-yuan
Minister of Health and Welfare

health education.

What's more, Taiwan has established a number of prevention and management programs for noncommunicable diseases. For instance, programs targeting chronic metabolic diseases assist at-risk groups, providing services such as diet and exercise guidance as well as smoking and betel nut cessation information to empower people to take control of their own health. Such initiatives improve lives and reduce the prevalence of high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and high blood sugar, which often lead to chronic disease. Taiwan also supports the global fight against cancer and WHO's goal of reducing cancer mortality 25 percent by 2025. In line with WHO's Cervical Cancer Elimination Initiative, Taiwan subsidizes cervical screenings and human papillomavirus vaccinations. HPV vaccines have been administered to female students aged 12 to 15 since 2018. By December 2022, a coverage rate of 92.1 percent had been achieved.

Innovative technology and universal health coverage

Taiwan's National Health Insurance (NHI) is a prime example of universal health coverage, offering financial protection and access to a wide range of essential services. The COVID-19 pandemic helped the international community recognize

the importance of regional cooperation and digitization in healthcare. Taiwan is committed to promoting digital health and innovation to enhance the accessibility and quality of healthcare services, including plans for a next-generation NHI program. Taiwan has introduced innovative healthcare services,

utilizing real-time telehealth consultations for patients residing in remote areas and outlying islands, and is exploring applications for artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies. During the pandemic, Taiwan issued 13 export licenses for its herbal formula NRICM101 (Taiwan Chingguan Yihau) to help countries in the region combat the pandemic. Taiwan is currently implementing preventive measures for the postpandemic era, such as strengthening the domestic production of critical drugs and active pharmaceutical ingredients to avert future drug shortages. Understanding how important it is to work with the international community, Taiwan will further share innovative technologies and best practices with partners around the world to advance universal health coverage.

Taiwan can help, and Taiwan is helping

Taiwan has not been invited to the World Health Assembly since 2017. Now that the COVID-19 pandemic is abating and dialogue on strengthening health systems worldwide is accelerating, Taiwan should not be left out. Taiwan can help, and Taiwan's inclusion would make the world healthier, more sustainable, and more equitable.

Taiwan urges WHO and all relevant stakeholders to support Taiwan's inclusion in the World Health Assembly as an observer, as well as Taiwan's full participation in WHO meetings, mechanisms, and activities. Taiwan will continue to work with the world to help ensure the fundamental right to health enshrined in the WHO Constitution. In the spirit of the SDGs, no country should be left behind—especially not Taiwan, which has made significant contributions to global

IN THE HIGH COURT OF BELIZE, A.D. 2022

CLAIM NO 724 OF 2022

BETWEEN

MANUAL SOLER

CLAIMANT/APPLICANT

AND

HUANG SHENG KUANG

DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT

NOTICE

TO: HUANG SHENG KUANG

TAKE NOTICE that a Claim Form and Statement of Claim has been issued against you in the High Court Claim No 724 of 2022. Details of the contents of the claim are set out in the Claim Form and Statement of Claim attached to it.

AND on the 21st of March, 2023 the High Court of Judicature of Belize ordered that service of the Claim Form and Statement of Claim be effected on you by two consecutive publications of this Notice.

AND you are required to file an Acknowledgment of Service within fourteen (14) days of the second publication of this Notice. The appropriate forms may be obtained from the General Registry situated at No 1 Treasury Lane, Belize City, Belize. Telephone numbers (501) 227-7377 and (501) 227-2053, facsimile (501) 227-0085 of from the Attorneys-at-Law whose name and address appears below.

TAKE NOTICE that in default of your so doing, the said Claimant may proceed therein, and the divorce will be granted without your presence.

DATED the 21st day of April, 2023


BRADLEY ELLIS & CO.LLP

Per: Kimberly Wallace
Attorneys-at-Law for the Petitioner
No 52, Regent Street
Belize City, Belize
Telephone: 501-227-0818
Email: attorneys@bradlevellisco.bz



SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE REQUEST FOR BIDS - WORKS

One Envelope Bidding Process

Energy Resilience for Climate Adaptation (ERCAP)

The Government of Belize (GOB) has been allocated grant funds (the Grant) from the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), which are administered by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank) and executed by Belize Electricity Limited (BEL) in conjunction with the Ministry of Public Service, Energy and Public Utility (MPSEPU) and the National Meteorological Service (NMS), in an amount equivalent to USD 8 million, towards the cost of an Energy Resilience and Climate Change Adaptation Project. A portion of the proceeds of the Grant will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for which this specific procurement notice is issued. Payments by the World Bank will be made only at the request of BEL, and upon approval by the World Bank, and will be subject in all respects to the terms and conditions of the Grant Agreement. The Grant Agreement prohibits withdrawal from the financing account for the purpose of any payment to persons or entities, or for any import of goods, if such payment or import, to the knowledge of the World Bank, is prohibited by a decision of the United Nations Security Council taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. No party other than GOB shall derive any rights from the Grant Agreement or have any claim to the proceeds of the Grant.

BEL now invites electronic Bids from eligible Bidders for the Civil works and supply of manpower for the installation of a) hydro-meteorological automatic weather stations, b) rainfall stations, and c) automatic weather stations.

Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) using a Request for Bids (RFB) as specified in the World Bank's "Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works, and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants, dated January 2011 (revised July 2014) ("Procurement Guidelines") and is open to all eligible Bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines.

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the following person:

Ms. Carolyn L. Crawford
Procurement Consultant
ERCAP Project Management Unit
Belize Electricity Limited
E-mail: Carolyn.Crawford@bel.com.bz

The bidding document in English may be requested by interested Bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address above. The document will be sent electronically upon this request.

Bids must be received at the e-mail address below on or before **Wednesday, May 31, 2023, by 3:00 p.m. and will be opened at 3:15 p.m. sharp Belize time.**

Submission of bids by electronic e-mail (EM):

A PDF copy of the bid should be submitted by EM. The PDF copy should be encrypted, or password protected. The e-mail should not be encrypted but only the attachment shall be encrypted, or password protected.

The procedure for submission of bid is:

- A. The zipped file is to be sent to Manager, Procurement Department at **bidsubmittal@bel.com.bz**.
- B. Password or encryption key should be sent along with the bid to the same bid submission e-mail address listed below.
- C. Bidders will receive a confirmation e-mail from BEL once the bid is received.
- D. Bidders should ensure that the bid document(s) are not corrupt or affected by any computer virus that may possibly deny access to the files. The Employer shall not be responsible for such corrupt files which may deny access during the bid opening process.
- E. The maximum file size in each mail will be 30 MB. Any mail with an attachment above this size will bounce back. Hence, please ensure the attachments do not exceed 30 MB.
- F. E-mail submissions should be clearly labelled in their subject with the following: **Bid for Weather Stations Installation – ERCAP – "include Bidders name or Company name"**.

Bids submitted electronically shall only be opened publicly at the Bid Opening time mentioned above on May 31, 2023, in the presence of Bidders and/or their representatives who have submitted a bid. Bid opening will be held virtually using Microsoft (MS) Teams. The link to the MS-Teams bid opening invite will be shared with all Bidders prior to the bid opening date and all Bidders are encouraged to participate therein. Late Bids shall be rejected.

All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid-Securing Declaration.

The address referred to above is:

Manager
Procurement Department
Belize Electricity Limited
2 ½ Miles Phillip Goldson Highway
Belize City, Belize
E-mail: bidsubmittal@bel.com.bz
Telephone: +501-227-0954

BEL reserves the right to reject late bids or to cancel the bid opening session in its entirety. It will not be bound to assign any reason for not engaging the services of any Bidder and will not defray any costs incurred by any Bidder in the preparation and submission of their bid.



Using marijuana may affect your ability to think and plan, study says

Remember those classic stoner dudes — Cheech and Chong, anyone? — spending their days in a weed-drenched room (or car), capable of little besides finding that next great high?

Weed can affect your ability to make decisions,



solve problems and perform other cognitive functions, a study found.

Weed can affect your ability to make decisions, solve problems and perform other cognitive functions, a study found.

If you don't, that's not surprising. As more and more states move to legalize marijuana, the stereotypical mind-numbing effects of weed have become passé, often replaced by an acceptance of the drug as an acceptable way to socialize, relax and get better sleep.

But while society may have forgotten the impact that weed can have on the brain, science has not.

Studies have long shown that getting high can harm cognitive function. A January 2022 review of research, published in the journal *Addiction*, finds that impact may last well beyond the initial high, especially for adolescents.

"Our study enabled us to highlight several areas of cognition impaired by cannabis use, including problems concentrating and difficulties remembering and learning, which may have considerable impact on users' daily lives," said coauthor Dr. Alexandre Dumais, associate clinical professor of psychiatry at the University of Montreal.

"Cannabis use in youth may consequently lead to reduced educational attainment, and, in adults, to poor work performance and dangerous driving. These consequences may be worse in regular and heavy users," Dumais said.

Vape teenager. Young pretty caucasian brunette girl smoking an electronic cigarette on the street in the spring. Deadly bad habit.

Vaping marijuana by teens doubles in last seven years, with potentially harmful consequences, study says

Weed's impact on the brain can be particularly detrimental to cognitive development for youth, whose brains are still developing, said Dr. Megan Moreno, a professor of pediatrics at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, who was not involved in the study.

"This study provides strong evidence for negative cognitive effects of cannabis use, and should be taken as critical evidence to prioritize prevention of cannabis use in youth," Moreno said. "And contrary to the time of Cheech and Chong, we now know that the brain continues to develop through age 25.

"Parents should be aware that adolescents using cannabis are at risk for damage to their most important organ, their brain."

Higher-level thinking

The January 2022 review looked at studies on over 43,000 people and found a negative impact of tetrahydrocannabinol or THC, the main psychoactive compound in cannabis, on the brain's higher levels of thinking. Those executive functions include the ability to make decisions, remember important data, plan, organize and solve problems, as well as control

emotions and behavior.

02 marijuana smoking STOCK

Uncontrollable vomiting due to marijuana use on rise, study finds

Can you recover or reverse those deficits? Scientists aren't sure.

"Research has revealed that THC is a fat-soluble compound that may be stored in body fat and, thus, gradually released into the bloodstream for months," Dumais said, adding that high-quality research is needed to establish the long-term impact of that exposure.

Some studies say the negative effects on the brain may ease after weed is discontinued, but that may

also depend on the amount, frequency and years of marijuana use. The age in which weed use began may also play a role, if it falls within the crucial developmental period of the youthful brain.

"Thus far, the most consistent alterations produced by cannabis use, mostly its chronic use, during youth have been observed in the prefrontal cortex," Dumais said. "Such alterations may potentially lead to a long-term disruption of cognitive and executive functions."

In addition, some studies have shown that "early and frequent cannabis use in adolescence predicts poor cognition in adulthood," he added.

While science sorts this out, "preventive and interventional measures to educate youths on cannabis use and discourage them from using the substance in a chronic manner should be considered ... since youths remain particularly susceptible to the effects of cannabis," Dumais said.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

2023






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VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL

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- Copy of Valid Social Security Card
- Proof of Income (Self, Parents/ Guardians)
- Acceptance Letter to Vocational or Educational Institution in Belize
- Essay

ELIGIBILITY:
Applicants must:

- Born Belizean
- 1st Year Student
- Demonstrate financial need, Academic Potential, and Commitment to complete the program

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JUNE 23, 2023

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 www.socialsecurity.org.bz



FUN FACTS!

Wait! Who says eyes breathe?



The transparent front part of the eye that covers the iris and pupil is called Cornea. Cornea contributes a lot to the focusing power of the eye. That means, light has to pass through it without obstruction. To do that it has to remain completely clear. Consequently, to remain transparent, it can't have any impurities nor can it have any blood vessels – that would have made it less transparent.

Every organ needs oxygen to run the cell processes with the energy that

comes by oxidizing nutrients contained in the cells. To receive oxygen, they need to have access to blood. Since Cornea does not have any blood vessels, it cannot receive oxygen from blood. So what does it do to stay alive?

It absorbs oxygen directly from the air through diffusion. Oxygen gets dissolved in the tears and then diffuses across the cornea. However, the amount of diffused oxygen is so less that it is just enough for only the cornea cells. This can't be supplied to

other parts of the body. And this is exactly the reason you would get yourself killed if you plug your nose and your mouth, expecting your eye would keep you alive by breathing in oxygen.

In a sense, you could call it breathing. But it isn't exactly 'breathing'. Clearly, as the oxygen received by cornea doesn't come from the mouth or nose and never goes through the lungs, it cannot be called breathing.

Let us consider the second possibility. At the inner cor-

ner of the eye there is a very thin tube that connects to the nose. Through this tube (A.K.A the Punctum), your eye is able to drain off excess tears. Punctum is the reason, you have to blow your nose when you cry.

Also, you can blow an extremely tiny volume air out of these corner eye holes. But, you can't breathe in through them.

So although the cornea of your eye has the ability to absorb oxygen directly from the air, you cannot technically call it breathing.



Qwerty Board!

DID YOU KNOW
INSTAGRAM/TIME&KNOWLEDGE

Why Qwerty, Not ABCD ?
 When **First Keyboard** was **invented**, they had **Keys** arranged in an **Alphabetical Order**, but people **typed so fast** that the **Mechanical Character arms** get **Tangled up**. So the **Keys** were **randomly positioned** to actually **Slow down** typing and prevent **Key Jams**. The **Qwerty Keyboards** were made so one could **type using Keys** from the **Top Row** of the **Keyboard**.

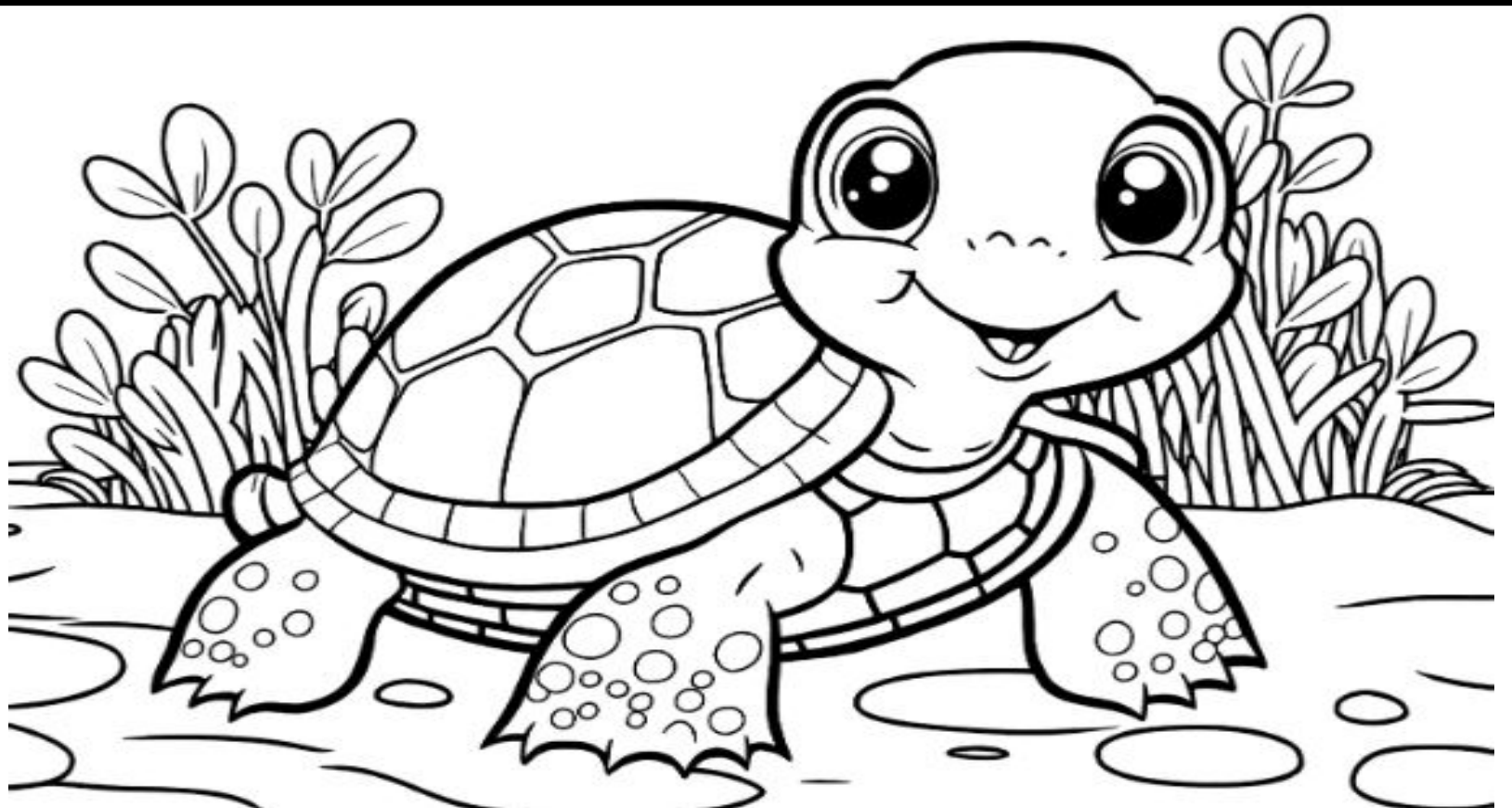


Catacombs!

DID YOU KNOW

The catacombs is an underground tomb in Paris that hold the remains of more than **six million people**.

**C
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GRASSROOTS

CONTRIBUTION OF HON. GILROY USHER TO THE 2023/2024 BUDGET DEBATE Part 11



By Hon. Gilroy Usher

M A D A M SPEAKER: The Ministry of Transport is also participating in a pilot project with United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to advise the government on what types of electric buses would be most suitable for different parts of the country given the terrain in different areas.

The Transport Department is also working with San Pedro Town Board and Caye Caulker village council to find suitable ways to address the congestion in their respective community with golf carts, taxi vans, and other vehicles.

M A D A M SPEAKER: Am therefore happy to note that in this new budget funds are allocated for the continued development of the transportation industry in the country including the renovation of the Belize City Bus terminal that was severely damaged by Hurricane Lisa.

M A D A M SPEAKER: Members on the other side love to talk about the importance of sports in providing necessary entertainment and teaching the youths life skills that are important for them become law-abiding and productive Belizeans.

We all agree on the importance of sports in achieving those two things. The

problem is that when the now Opposition was in government for 13 long years, they only paid lip service to the development of Sports. Under their watch millions of dollars for sporting facilities were siphoned off in bloated contracts.

M A D A M SPEAKER: The result of that corruption is on full display at the Marion Jones Stadium. They spent millions of dollars on bloated contracts for the fence of the stadium but left the track and the main building itself incomplete.

This administration recognizes the importance of sports in national development.

That is why with funds from the current budget the Ministry of Sports held the first national basketball tournament with excellent prizes; that is why the National Sports Council (NSC) is encouraging the different sports organizations to register with the council to enable it to be of greater assistance to them, and that is why we have signed an agreement with Cuba for that country to test samples from athletes who participate in major sporting events in Belize. That agreement with Cuba to help ensure that no athlete has an unfair advantage by secretly taking enhanced performance substances or drugs that are banned.

The people have my word. With the funds for sports in the new budget, everything will be done to start making the Marion Jones Stadium suitable for the various sports for which it was built as soon as possible.

M A D A M

SPEAKER: This administration is committed to making the Marion Jones Stadium user friendly for our athletes, because when we say everybody "fu win /todos ganamos" we mean everybody including our athletes.

M A D A M SPEAKER: Youths are the future leaders of Belize. If they fail to prepare for that responsibility the entire nation will fail.

For that reason funds in the current Budget have been used to hire competent personnel and purchase necessary office supplies to make youths including those who are at risk feel welcome at the offices of the Department of Youth Services in both Belize City and Belmopan City and in the different towns.

In engaging the youths, the Department of Youth Services offer youths skills training for three months at different job sites with a stipend; youths are also offered counseling, and assistance in identifying suitable employment after they have completed their training.

M A D A M SPEAKER: Recently the Department of Youth Services held an award ceremony at the Biltmore Plaza in over 15 fields for youths from all six districts.

Furthermore on Wednesday March 22nd Minister Ferguson and I were in Roaring Creek where we joined the police, the Chairman, and the leader of a church and charity organization as well as senior employees in the Department of Youth Serves in visiting homes on both

sides of the George Price Highway in Roaring Creek that has become a hotspot for crime including burglary, gangs and murders.

The purpose of the visit was to encourage the youths to stop the deadly violence in their community, and listen to the advice of their parents, teachers, and others, who see a bright future for them if they put down the gun and other acts of criminality. The youths were also encouraged to participate in programs that will enable them to learn skills that are important for securing employment or starting your own business.

M A D A M SPEAKER: Out of that commitment to give at risk youths an opportunity to turn their lives around for the better, the Department of Youth Services will soon be hosting a camp in Mountain Pine Ridge for over fifty at risk youths.

It is hoped that by being away from negatives influences for a year, youths will be able to reflect on what they want in life and start making decisions to be better persons in the society.

M A D A M SPEAKER: This administration does not only tell the youths we care for them and love them. Throughout the year this administration supports those words by implementing programs that truly empower youths to pursue their dreams in life.

That is why this new budget includes funds for the continuation of existing programs and new programs for youth empowerment.

M A D A M SPEAKER: This

administration goes the extra mile in supporting those programs to encourage at risk youths to turn their lives around and be masters of their own destiny, because this administration truly believes everybody should win /todos ganamos including at risk youths.

M A D A M SPEAKER: The first budget of this administration covered fiscal year April 2021 to April 2022. A significant portion of that first budget was used to turn the economy around after the devastating COVID and 13 years of UDP mismanagement and massive corruption.

M A D A M SPEAKER: Since that time this administration ** gave over 60,000 persons a helping hand in escaping poverty by increasing the minimum wage by over 50% from \$3.30 per hour to \$5.00 per hour.

** made over five thousand persons first time land owners including many single mothers

And **built over 250 concrete starter homes for mainly single parents at the very affordable mortgage price of only \$25.00 per week or \$100.00 monthly for ten years.

M A D A M SPEAKER: With only two budgets, this administration also upgraded and built miles and miles of roads in very community throughout the country.

M A D A M SPEAKER: In enabling Area Representatives to be of greater service to their constituencies, this administration introduced the

monthly Community Development Fund (CDF) from the start of the current Budget for all members of the House of Representatives, including the five members of the Opposition, and it has ensured inclusion of the CDF in this new Budget.

When the members on the other side were in government for 13 years, no such assistance was given to the members of the Opposition in the House.

This however is a different administration.

** This Briceño administration shows it cares for the concerns of all Belizeans by action. That is why it also gives the CDF to all members of the Opposition in this House.

M A D A M SPEAKER: In its first two budgets this administration a) gave hundreds of education grants and scholarships to ordinary Belizeans to enable them to further their education and pursue their dreams in life and b) reduced the rate of unemployment from over 15% when the Opposition was voted out of office to only 5% unemployment today as verified by the Statistical Institute of Belize (SIB).

To be continued next week

Disclaimer: the opinions expressed by our columnists are theirs alone, and are not necessarily reflective of the newspaper's stance on the issues touched. We believe it is critical that our columnists be allowed freedom to generate discussion through their expressions on any number of topics.

Belize Observes World IP Day 2023

By Javan Flowers

Belize observes World Intellectual Property (IP) Day under the theme “Women and IP: Accelerating innovation and creativity.”

The event is geared towards celebrating the “can do” attitude of women inventors, creators, and entrepreneurs around the world and their groundbreaking work.

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in 2000 designated an annual World IP Day to address the perceived gap between IP as a business/legal



concept and its relevance to people’s lives.

Women make up nearly half of the global population, approximately 49.58%, and represent an even larger pool of talent, which remains largely untapped. Women in all regions are shaping the world through their imagination, ingenuity, and hard work, but often face significant challenges in accessing the knowledge, skills, resources, and support they need to thrive.

The Belize Intellectual Property Office’s (BELIPO) goal is to build a modern IP system that values and protects the vibrant creative culture of Belize. In achieving

this goal, BELIPO aims to promote the development of more inclusive and diverse IP ecosystems that accelerate innovation, creativity, and business growth for the benefit of all. In addition, BELIPO hopes to encourage Belizean women inventors, creators, and entrepreneurs to tap into the IP system.

In celebration of World IP Day 2023, BELIPO, under the auspices of the Attorney General’s Ministry, hosted the following events: a) Application Assistance/ Consultation Day, where women entrepreneurs visited BELIPO for a free consultation and discount on all applications and copyright deposits.

JOB FAIR

2023

MAY

Chief Finance Office Division

Senior Accounting Clerk (GL)

The Senior Accounting Clerk (GL) is responsible to assist in the preparation of periodic financial statements, analysis and reports required for both internal and external reporting. The incumbent will supervise staff and review all reconciliations on all cash, receivables, and payable accounts within the General Ledger section. He/ She will create mappings for new services being implemented in accordance with accounting rules and regulations.

Qualifications/Experience:

- Bachelor’s degree in accounting, Finance, or related field.
- Minimum five (5) years accounting experience in similar position or in an accounting firm.
- Successful completion of a Professional Certification such as CPA, ACCA, CGA is an asset.
- Adequate knowledge and ability to quickly understand complex financial concepts/ apply International Financial Reporting Standards.

Senior Accounting Clerk (Accounts Payable)

The Sr. Accounting Clerk (Accounts Payable) is responsible to supervise the staff and the day-to-day operations of both the Accounts Payable functions. The incumbent is also responsible to pay third parties and employees by scheduling and preparing checks, resolving purchase orders, ensuring credit is received for outstanding bills, and issuing stop-payments or purchase order amendments.

Qualifications/Experience:

- Bachelor’s degree in accounting, Business Administration or related field.
- Minimum two (2) years’ experience in accounting or auditing.
- Excellent working knowledge of accounting principles and controls.

Senior Accounting Clerk (Inventory Management)

The Senior Accounting Clerk (Inventory Management) will monitor and ensure that the various inventory locations are adequately stocked, initiate re-order of inventories when stock levels dip below pre-determined levels, ensure proper levels of controls are in place and are being followed. In addition, the incumbent will perform timely stock taking activities and ensure that the inventory subsidiary ledgers and other general ledger accounts are properly reconciled monthly.

Qualifications/Experience:

- Bachelor’s degree in accounting, Business Administration, or other related discipline
- Minimum three (3) years’ experience in Inventory.
- Strong knowledge and experience of inventory and General Ledger.
- Adequate knowledge of IFRS and its impact on inventory.

Accounting Clerk (Procurement)

The Accounting Clerk (Procurement) will be responsible for preparing purchase orders, processing, and monitoring quotations for (foreign and local) suppliers, maintain purchasing & quotation records, perform research, and negotiate with suppliers to obtain prices and specifications. In addition, the incumbent will participate in vendor relationship management and identify cost-saving opportunities to support profitability goals.

Qualifications/Experience:

- Associate degree in Accounting, or Business Administration or related field
- Minimum two (2) years’ experience in Procurement.
- Working knowledge of procurement principles and controls.
- Knowledgeable of record keeping methods and procedures applicable to purchasing.

Senior Accounting Clerk (Procurement)

The Senior Accounting Clerk (Procurement) will be responsible for the supervision of the procurement team engaged in a wide range of high-volume purchasing activities. In addition, the incumbent will process and assist in negotiating high dollar value, complex acquisitions which require preparation of market and product research, cost analysis, review of specifications, and development of special contractual clauses.

Qualifications/Experience:

- Bachelor’s Degree in Accounting, Business Administration, or other related discipline with minimum three (3) years’ experience in purchasing.
- Sound knowledge of procurement principles and controls.
- Thorough knowledge of purchasing methods and procedures, including the rules/policies of the company.
- Considerable knowledge of a wide variety of technical supplies and materials.

Financial Planning Analyst (VM)

The Financial Planning Analyst (Value Management) will collect, analyse, and report on key financial & cost accounting data used for management decisions and profitability outcomes. He/she will conduct relevant analysis in the areas of cost-benefit analysis, margin analysis, budget preparation, budget control, and forecasting. In addition, the analyst will provide analytical support to management for monthly reporting to BTL’s Executive Leadership Team and Board of Directors.

Qualifications/Experience:

- Bachelor’s Degree in Accounting or other related field.
- Minimum two (2) years’ experience in financial planning and analysis with strong focus on value management.
- Advance analytical skills: with the ability to weigh and synthesize inputs from a variety of sources.
- Ability to present draft proposals such as budgets for cost proposal reviews.

Revenue Assurance Analyst:

The Revenue Assurance Analyst is responsible for performing revenue analysis reporting to improve the accuracy and timeliness of revenue management. The incumbent will also be responsible for supporting the reporting manager in identifying and recovering potential revenue lost due to leakage, fraud billing, and any other issues.

Qualifications/Experience:

- Bachelor’s Degree in Accounting and/or Information Systems
- Minimum of three (3) years of experience in a related field.
- Revenue Assurance certification.
- General working knowledge of accounting concepts, procedures, and techniques.

For more details on the position visit Careers Link on the Digi Website:
<https://www.livedigi.com/careers>

Oración al Espíritu Santo

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

Gracias Espíritu Santo.

R.M.L.

CLASSIFIED ADS

VACANCY: A vacancy exists for **Warehouse Supervisor** at **Cosmetic Corner**. Please Call: 227-0145 for more information.

TWO APARTMENTS FOR RENT: UPPER FLAT - Single bedroom concrete walls and floor. Hot and cold water & Internet. Electricity and water are separate. **LOWER FLAT -** 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. Located at the corner **West and Allenby Streets, Southside Belize City**. Please Call 672-4454 or 227- 2503 for more details or for viewing opportunity.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Shamera & Jorge Chi** of Corner Victoria & Mossiah Street, San Ignacio, Cayo District is hereby applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** for **Belize Local Likes** situated **Corner Victoria & Mossiah Street, San Ignacio, Cayo District** for the year 2023. Under the Intoxicating Liquors Act Revised Edition of 2000.

Lost Registration Application: The original Certificate No. **BPA-A12629** of year 2010 and Registration Number **OW-0033** for a black hull with gold stripe & white deck 30ft. fiberglass boat, vessel name **King Of The Rats** belonging to **Errol G. Cadle** of #1 **San Victor Street, Orange Walk Town** have been reported lost. A new registration certificate has been required under Part III of Harbours & Merchants Shipping Act, Chapter 234 of the Consolidated Laws of Belize (Revised Edition 2000) has been requested.



Conservative Anglicans split with Church of England over same-sex marriages

Global conservative Anglican leaders withdrew their recognition Saturday of the Church of England and Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, as its leader, amid disagreements about blessing same-sex couples.

The primates announced the move at the fourth Global Anglican Future Conference (GAFCON), which ended this weekend in Rwanda's capital of Kigali.

The Kigali commitment issued at the end of the weeklong conference reflected a consensus among Anglican conservatives, with a majority from Africa and the Global South.

"We have no confidence that the Archbishop of Canterbury nor the other instruments of com-

munion led by him are able to provide a godly way forward that will be acceptable to those who are committed to the truthfulness, clarity, sufficiency and authority of scripture," the primates said in a statement.

The primates accused successive archbishops of Canterbury of failing to guard the faith by "inviting bishops to Lambeth (official residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury), who have embraced or promoted practices contrary to scripture."

This failure of church discipline, the primates said, has been compounded by the current Archbishop

of Canterbury who has welcomed the provision of liturgical resources to bless practices contrary to scripture.

"This renders his leadership role in the Anglican Communion entirely indefensible," it said.

The clerics expressed their hard stance during the conference.

Archbishop Ben Kwashi of Nigeria, described as "troubling for many Anglicans" the Church of England's new move on civil marriages, while Archbishop Laurent Mbanda from Rwanda and newly-elected chairman of GAFCON, told Anadolu the Bible should remain the center of reference.

American primate Foley Beach, GAF-

CON's outgoing chairman, said Welby and the bishops he leads need prayers.

"You and I must repent and we become Christians again and we follow Jesus Christ," he said.

For the first time, the Church of England, which is led by Welby, approved in February, prayers of blessing for gay couples -- a move strongly criticized by conservatives.

While Welby has previously acknowledged "deep disagreement" among the provinces and urged the different factions to try to "walk together," the Kigali commitment said they "reject the claim that two contradictory positions can both be valid in mat-

ters affecting salvation."

The primates representing the overwhelming 85% of global Anglicans demanded that Welby repent "for leading the Church of England away from biblical orthodoxy."

"We have recognized that the Archbishop of Canterbury has abdicated his historic place as the "First among Equals" among the primates and Churches of the Anglican Communion, and we no longer recognize him as our leader," said Archbishop Stephen Samuel Kaziimba Mugalu of the Church of Uganda.

In view of the current crisis, GAFCON promised it will continue to support those who are unable to remain in the

Church of England because of the failure of its leadership.

GAFCON pledged to create alternative authority structures.

GAFCON began in 2008 to advocate orthodoxy in the global Anglican Communion. It takes place every five years.

About 1,300 Anglican leaders from more than 50 countries attended the conference.

The incumbent Archbishop of Canterbury has served as the spiritual leader of the Anglican Communion since its formation in 1867. Though with no formal power, he was taken as the "First among Equals."

Anadolu Agency

4 people found dead near a hotel in Cancun

Four people were found dead near a hotel in Cancun on Monday, according to Mexican officials, the latest bout of violence in the popular tourist destination.

Two people have been arrested for their possible involvement in the deaths of four people, according to the attorney general of the state of Quintana Roo.

All of the deceased are Mexicans, said José Pablo Mathey Cruz, the secretary of public security of Benito Juárez, the municipality where Cancun is located.

He said the suspects are allegedly engaged in the sale and distribution of narcotics, adding that footage from local security cameras and the joint work of local authorities helped lead to their arrest.

The prosecutor's office confirmed earlier on Monday that three people had been found dead and an investigation was opened. Later, the office said they found a fourth body.

The Mexican state of Guerrero, where Taxco is

pictured, is one of six states in the country with a "do not travel" advisory.

The security situation in Cancun has deteriorated in recent years. In 2021, the Mexican government said the National Guard would permanently deploy to Cancun and its surrounding area following a rise in violence there linked to organized crime.

The US State Department advises travelers to "exercise increased caution due to crime and kidnapping" in the state of Quintana Roo. The advisory says that violence and criminal activity may occur anywhere, "including in popular tourist destinations."

"Travelers should maintain a high level of situational awareness, avoid areas where illicit activities occur, and promptly depart from potentially dangerous situations," the advisory warns.

Honduras gang violence at 'war-like levels' - NGO

People living in Honduras are facing "war-like levels of violence", the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) has warned.

During a visit to the Central American country, the organisation's head Jan Egeland spoke to "people whose suffering was on the level with what you would find in any armed conflict".

Entire communities were being forcibly displaced by gangs, he said.

He urged governments around the world not to neglect the crisis.

Mr Egeland said that the number of killings in Honduras - as well as in neighbouring Guatemala and El Salvador - was on par with that in armed conflicts, turning thousands of people into refugees.

Women in particular often become victims of sexual violence and femicides there, with an average of one

woman murdered every 28 hours.

Children are not immune to gang violence either. Mr Egeland told the

out. Students either migrate north [to the US] or they are too afraid to even attend school, they stay home out of fear of

violence as well as funding for schools, said.

Many pupils, he explained, could not afford to attend classes because their families relied on them to go out to earn money for food.

While Honduras has long been suffering from widespread gang violence, many people there have also contended with the aftermath of two almost back-to-back hurricanes that hit in November 2020.

According to the NRC, 3.2m people are in need of aid in Honduras alone, with many requiring both protection and food assistance.

Mr Egeland praised the Honduran government for introducing a law supporting internally displaced people, but he warned that this legislation needed "financial and diplomatic support from the outside world" to be implemented effectively.



BBC that he visited a school in the city of La Lima, which had seen student numbers drop from 5,000 to 1,200 over the past five years.

Eight-year-old Derek is buying pens and books with his mother in a shop in San Pedro Sula, as he prepares to restart following a period where he was not able to attend school

"There's been a catastrophic drop

being recruited by armed gangs."

He said he had met one family whose 13-year-old son had been approached by a gang.

When the father forbade the boy to join, the family was given 24 hours to leave their home.

"They went into hiding with the NRC," Mr Egeland, whose organisation provides shelters for those fleeing

TENDER



Construction of Ferro-concrete Indoor Switchgear Building

BEL invites tenders for the **Construction of Ferro-concrete Indoor Switchgear Building** at the following location:

BEL Magazine Road Compound, Belize City

The bidding documents, which outline all the duties and responsibilities of the contract, are available on BEL's website at www.bel.com.bz/Tenders.aspx

Bidders are invited to a Pre-bid site visit at **9:00 a.m. local time on Wednesday, May 3, 2023**, at the BEL Magazine Road Compound. Bidders will be required to submit a fixed price quotation to perform the services and provide all materials and services as outlined in the tender document.

Proposals will be accepted by email only and should include the subject found in the respective bid form.

Submit bids via email to bidsubmittal@bel.com.bz no later than **3:00 p.m. local time on Friday, May 12, 2023**.

For more information or queries, send email to bidboxrequest@bel.com.bz

Cost incurred for preparation of the tender document is the sole responsibility of the bidder. The lowest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.



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Submit application letter and resume to career.opportunity@bel.com.bz by **Friday, May 12, 2023**

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