

# Reporter

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Sunday, June 5th, 2022

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## CLOSE TO \$5 MILLION IN FUEL SUBSIDIES

### GOB deepens excise-tax cut on regular gasoline and Diesel

The Government has cut the excise tax on regular gasoline to \$2.54, and has further reduced the excise for Diesel to \$1.61, representing an almost 55% overall increase for the latter fuel product.

According to Minister of State in Ministry of Finance Hon. Christopher Coye, the suite of subsidies—including the excise-tax cuts for Diesel—has cost the public purse close to \$5 million in forgone tax revenues over the last three months. For the months of April and May this year, the government gave up roughly \$1.5 million and \$2.9 million, respectively.

The first set of reductions for Diesel began in early March. The first reduction was gazetted on March 5th, when the excise tax was reduced to \$3.10 per imperial gallon, down from the original rate of \$3.57. The excise on Diesel Oil was later reduced to \$2.34 as of March 12th. And as of the May 11th Gazette, the price was again reduced to \$1.61 per imperial gallon.

The new Diesel-Oil-excise-rate of \$1.61 reflects a \$1.96 cut from where the rate had stood for the last five years.



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### Water taxi fares increase due to fuel surcharge



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### Regional assoc. anticipates continued flour-price increases



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### Election and Boundaries halfway done with vetting referendum petitions

By Michelle Sutherland

Three weeks after receiving over 20,000 signed petitions from Governor-General H.E Froyal Tzalam for vetting, the head of the Elections and Boundaries Department says that they are almost halfway through the process and remain confident that they will be able to deliver a response within the prescribe two-month timeframe.

Chief Elections Officer Josephine Tamai told The Reporter on

Thursday “In regards to the vetting of petitions, as a department, I can say that we are well on our way with the vetting exercise. We had requested some assistance from other

public officers within the public service, and those individuals have already been posted to the Election and Boundaries Department. So that work has started. We are probably about



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Chief Elections Officer Josephine Tamai



More than 20,000 signatures were submitted one month ago



## Divine Right

The black-out plunged the whole country into darkness last Friday night has sparked a lively debate, and we are happy to see that some of the senior management people at BEL are participating.

We have a few suggestions. But first, we need to say that Mexico is not to blame for the blackout. This occurred when Mexico was not supplying electricity to our national grid! How do we know this? Belize buys its supplies from Mexico when the price is low - during the day; not at nighttime, when the price is high!

This is just an observation, but it helps us to see the problem! What is the problem? The problem is that even with Mexico's daytime help, our national grid is hard-pressed to supply our nighttime needs. We see it every summer when the waters of the Mollejon flow slowly. If something goes wrong with one or more of our yesteryear's generators, the country goes dark! What we need is storage capacity. Yes batteries, which we can use to store Mexico's cheap day-time electricity in order to feed it out when we need it at night.

For many years power storage was an impossible dream. But Elon Musk solved the storage problem for Western Australia, and he can do so for us in Belize. All we need to do is buy a few of Tesla's room-size batteries to store the energy we get from Mexico. That should be our first step. Even if we have to borrow the money!

BEL's plan to generate solar energy with the help of the private sector is a great idea. The whole world is going solar, and Belize can profit greatly from solar energy. But we need to decide where to start.

Let us begin at the beginning. Buy a few of Tesla's garage-sized batteries to store the juice we get from Mexico. Then when our own power grid fails, and fail it will, we know we have a back-up in our storage batteries.

We do not have to suffer the pain and humiliation of a grid collapse. Once we have adequate storage batteries, we can put our energies into generating our own solar power.

### Dear Editor,

Is RUSSIA a godless, atheistic nation? No, I don't think so. I believe its ruler sincerely believes in the doctrine of the divine rights of kings – and rulers. And the ORTHODOX Russian Church completely supports him.

However, we in the Western World, especially America and the United Kingdom have for centuries rejected that dubious proposal. We in Belize also think that in spite of our human weaknesses, the masses are still wiser than the most sophisticated oligarch or dictator. And we in Britain, America and Belize hold on to DEMOCRACY, trusting that the people, despite the inclusion of the wicked, the greedy and selfish, and robbers and thieves, still provide more robustly for the COMMON GOOD.

Countless Catholics, in spite of Russia's, wanton callous cruelty against a neighbor still have a lively hope that they will be converted, if the prayers in that regard continue. So, the Blessed Virgin Mary has promised.

I believe many Evangelicals and other Christians are convinced we are now living in the END TIMES. My honest Catholic instincts tell me, according to the words of Jesus himself, that even HE does not know, as man, when that time

will come. And he urges us to "PREPARE and be ready for the end of ages".

It seems to me that in spite of his nuclear blustering, the leader of Russia would face disaster fighting against the West. Graciously, he has been granted a face-saving victory in Mariupol. Let us hope and pray that he grabs the chance to lead Russia into an ERA OF TRUE DEMOCRACY where even beggars and the unschooled are given the liberty to choose and to say it publicly, without fear.

Freedom of Speech is so crucial to real democracy!

Hopefully, the appointment of a new Ombudsman will re-start a dynamic regeneration of classy, sincere public discourse that will shine forth like a laser attracting the notice of next-door neighbors and the farthest reaches of West and East.

With unremitting exhalation of HOPE, let us pray that the most powerful will abandon lust for power but embrace fraternal instincts to reach out to the small and weak to lift them up to enjoy the freshness of equality and respect that will introduce us to the new heaven and brand-new earth!

Signed: Paul Rodriguez, OBE

## Regional assoc. anticipates continued flour-price increases

By Javam Flowers

The Caribbean Millers Association (CMA) confirmed to The Reporter that the cost of flour production would continue to rise as varying global factors persist.

CMA has long since anticipated that due to the current ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine, whose wheat account for close to 30% of the world's exported wheat; logistics for transportation; as well as Russian oil being prevalent within the global oil and gas market further compounding on increases in the cost of ocean freight, the cost of producing flour would inevitably become unsustainable for any manufacturing entity and, therefore, must be passed on in some measure to the consumers.

This inevitability has since manifested into increases in the cost of raw materials by more than 40%, with CMA expecting it to remain on that trajectory for the foreseeable future.

In addressing this ever-spiraling crisis, the Government announced, via press brief this week, that considerations were made regarding the rising cost of wheat and the overall increase in the price of bread production.

Through much deliberation, Cabinet concluded that it would utilize various measures designed to keep the cost of bread to consumers as low as possible while ensuring that bakers get a fair return on production as the price of a 16-ounce bread "will continue to be controlled."

Additionally, as was previously explained by CMA, the steep increase in the principal production cost of the main classes of wheat used in the Caribbean (Soft Red Winter "SRW" wheat, Hard Red Winter "HRW" wheat, and Dark Northern Spring "DNS" wheat), is attributable to droughts in the United States and Canada and is compounded by the Russian incursion into Ukraine.

As a consequence of the culmination of the aforementioned factors, the CMA stated that "ultimately" the costs must and will continue to be "passed on in some measure to the consumers."

It is to be noted that the increase in wheat prices will have a domino effect on the cost of grain, feed, poultry, and dairy products.

According to the

Statistical Institute of Belize (SIB) 's Consumer Price Index report for April 2022, flour prices have increased by 5.5%, which is a two percentage points higher than the 3.0% in April 2021.

Indications are, however, that imported inflation will continue to push up local prices of food and other items in the coming months.

### THE REPORTER

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## Election and Boundaries halfway done with vetting referendum petitions

*Cont'd from pg. 1*  
midway in regards to that.”

Tamai confirmed that the Governor-General had officially handed over the petitions to her on May 5th, at which point the two-month countdown had officially commenced as per the Referendum Act.

She noted that with the assistance of other public servants the process has been going very smoothly, without any major hiccups. She further claimed that while she will refrain from saying whether they will be able to meet the deadline well in advance, the teams have been going through the signatures very meticulously, one by one and examining them in an effort not to disenfranchise anyone in the process.

On May 3rd, 2022, the churches delivered over 20,000 signatures to the Governor-

General seeking to trigger a referendum on the legalization of Marijuana in Belize. While Tamai said that the churches only need 18,757 (10% of the voting population) legitimate signatures to trigger the referendum, she was careful in responding to the question on whether or not she believes that they will be successful.

“The process is going smoothly but I won't be able to comment as to where we are in terms of signatures and if they are matching,” she said. “As I said, we are still doing that exercise currently so I won't be able to comment as to which direction the results will yield at the end of the exercise. It's way too early to say or determine if they will be able to meet the threshold.”

Tamai also told us that Village Council elections are not having any effect on the verification process

since they have separate teams that are doing the vetting. She said that even if the department has to dispatch additional personnel to assist or even work overtime to get the vetting completed within the timeframe then they will resort to that.

When we checked in with the churches, they indicated that they haven't received a response as yet and highly suspect that the Elections and Boundaries Department will take the entire two months to complete the vetting. They say that based on the timeframe, they expect to get a response by July 3rd.

According to the Referendum Act, once the Chief Elections Officer verifies that the threshold has been met, that will be conveyed in writing to the Governor General, who, within 30 days, is required to issue a Writ of Referendum.

## Water taxi fares increase due to fuel surcharge

By Michelle Sutherland

The continuous fluctuation and unpredictability of fuel prices in the country have prompted the government to approve a fuel surcharge for water taxi operators, as they continue to serve the public amid the soaring cost of fuel.

The fuel surcharge is a separate additional fee that is added above the current contract rate when the cost of fuel exceeds a certain threshold and resulting in the subsequent increase in passenger fares. On Thursday, following up on consistent reports to our newsroom from irate customers stating that they have noticed a considerable increase in their tariffs, *The Reporter* reached out to Major Gilbert Swazo, ports commissioner of the Belize Port Authority, to investigate whether the increase in tariff was illegal or if it had been approved by the Belize Port Authority.

Swazo told our newsroom, “In truth and, in fact, the Belize Port Authority, effective 1st of June, approved a new passenger fare for respective water taxi operators, so that is a fact.”

Swazo added, “Let me state that this passenger fare increase is a fuel surcharge, which simply means that if fuel prices were to decrease then the passenger fare will automatically see a decrease in direct proportion to the fuel surcharge. Similarly, if fuel was to increase then the fuel surcharge will automatically be applied with a view to increasing



Port Commissioner Major Gilbert Swazo

the passenger fare.”

According to Swazo, the new formula was agreed upon due to the steady increase in fuel cost, which had become a burden to water taxi operators who requested an increase in passenger fares.

While Swazo could not give us the specific charges for the entire country, he told our newsroom that in July of last year, which was when the last price increase had been approved and fuel was less than \$10:00 per gallon, San Pedro Belize Water Taxi Express was charging \$35.00 for a one-way ticket from Belize City to San Pedro. Now with fuel prices soaring above the \$13.00 mark, Swazo said that San Pedro Belize Water Taxi Express has been approved to charge passengers \$41.00 for a one-way ticket for the same route.

While Swazo agreed that the prices in tariff will see continuous changes, he said that apart from dispatching marine enforcement officers to do regular spot checks, the department will also

be launching a passenger verification system at every water taxi terminal across the country.

This new software will automatically file passengers' information, their fares, and their respective stops. This according to Swazo, apart from helping the department to monitor the number of passengers at any given time, will also ensure the safety of citizens and will ensure that passengers are not being arbitrarily charged and that the water taxi operators are operating within the confines of the regulations.

Swazo also clarified that the recent increase in tariffs that was implemented a couple of weeks ago was illegal and that the Belize Port Authority had already addressed that.

On Thursday, Cabinet issued a release in which it stated that “Cabinet gave its approval for amendments to the statutory instrument regarding water taxi regulations to introduce provisions to improve the safety and efficiency of the water taxi industry.”

## CLOSE TO \$5 MILLION IN FUEL SUBSIDIES...

*Cont'd from pg. 1*  
Regular gasoline—the excise rate for which had stood at \$3.95 since 2017—was reduced slightly to \$3.75 as of April 7th and, once again, reduced to \$2.54 as May 20th this year.

In 2021, Belize imported close to 15.2 imperial gallons of regular gasoline. Consequently, if the present rate of \$2.54 had been applied throughout last year, the excise revenue generated would have been closer to \$39 million as opposed to the almost \$60 million, a loss of close to \$21 million.

Similarly, in 2021, Belize imported more than 18 million imperial gallons of Diesel Oil. Again, if the rate of \$1.61 set in mid-May was applied throughout last year, the public purse would have been short of more than \$30 million.

However, it is unclear if the government will maintain the present rates throughout the rest of 2022, as the policy appears to be per shipment and dependent on international prices.

The measures, nevertheless, are consistent with the Cabinet's decision to provide measured relief. In an April 7th, briefing, GOB informed, “Cabinet approved numerous fuel price measures. ... Cabinet has established a firm cap on diesel and regular gasoline pump prices per gallon.” The release added, “This cap will be supported through a fuel price stabilization fund to be established to be established by the government with the Central Bank of Belize.”

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**JOB VACANCY POSITION:** Sales Person (male). Looking for Timely & Dependable Attendance. Knowledge of Microsoft office suite. Cordial & professional. Good at multitasking, good at public relations. Contact 614-6145 Umesh.

## NOTICE OF COMMENCED DISSOLUTION

### New Atlantic Assets Corporation (“the Company”)

“Notice is hereby given to all interested parties that New Atlantic Assets Corporation a Company incorporated under the IBC Act of Belize commenced dissolution on 31st May 2022.

And

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

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**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

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

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

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

**STATUTORY NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

IN THE ESTATE of HERMAN UNRAU WOLFE (a.k.a. Herman U. Wolfe), Deceased, of Center Road, Spanish Lookout, Cayo District, Belize.

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 36 of the Administration of Estates Act, Chapter 197 of the Laws of Belize that all creditors and other persons including beneficiaries and kin having any claims and demands upon or against the Estate of HERMAN UNRAU WOLFE (a.k.a. Herman U. Wolfe), late of Center Road, Spanish Lookout, Cayo District, Belize, who died on the 2nd day of February, 2020 and in whose estate a Grant of Probate has been granted to **Jacob Hein and Norman Dueck**, Executors named in the deceased's Will, to lodge any claims or demands in writing to **Jacob Hein and Norman Dueck c/o Arguelles & Company, Attorneys-at-Law of Suite 401, The Matalon, Coney Drive, Belize City, Belize**, on or before the expiration of three months from the first publication hereof AND NOTICE IS ALSO HEREBY GIVEN that at the expiration of the said three months the said Executors shall proceed to distribute the assets of the said HERMAN UNRAU WOLFE (a.k.a. Herman U. Wolfe), deceased, amongst the beneficiaries entitled thereto, having regard only to claims and demands of which they shall then have had notice.

DATED the 16th day of May, 2022

Arguelles & Company  
Attorneys-at-Law for the  
Executors of the Estate of  
HERMAN UNRAU WOLFE  
(a.k.a. Herman U. Wolfe)

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

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

**Position Name:** Custodial Supervisor  
**Vacancy number:** Belmopan-2022-12  
**Closing date:** June 8th, 2022

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

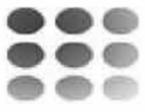
Please visit the Embassy's website for instructions on how to apply via the ERA system: <https://bz.usembassy.gov/embassy/jobs/>

**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.



For more information or appointments contact us at 630-8703 or visit us on Cemetery Road next to Rogers Stadium.



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# Hurricane season begins now!

By Javan Flowers

Wednesday, June 1st, marked the official start of the 2022 Atlantic hurricane season, which runs from June 1st to November 30th annually.

An advisory notice issued by the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management details that the forecast for this season suggests that tropical cyclone activity will be above average in the Atlantic Basin.

“The prediction is for there to be fourteen to twenty-one named storms. Of those, six to 10 are expected to become hurricanes, and three to six are expected to become major hurricanes (Category 3 or stronger),” the ministry reported.

Forces driving the season’s abnormality include the “El Niño” phenomena not occurring. Therefore, this will



not contribute to the suppression of tropical cyclone activity, while continuing “La Niña” conditions could potentially allow for heightened tropical cyclone activity.

Additionally, warmer than average sea surface temperatures are expected in the Atlantic Basin, strengthening

hurricane development.

The Ministry highlighted that despite seasonal predictions, which indicate how active a particular hurricane season is expected to be, “they do not tell us when a particular hurricane will develop or where it will track once developed. One

or more of the 14 to 21 named storms forecast to develop this season could hit the country, or none at all. Therefore, as a nation located in an area vulnerable to the hazards posed by tropical cyclones, we should be prepared each year no matter what the forecast is.”

The forecasters at the National

Meteorological Service of Belize (NMS) in the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change, and Disaster Risk Management, will make great strides with the tools at their disposal to monitor and track developing systems and alert the National Emergency Management

Organization-NEMO and the general public promptly should any system pose a threat to Belize.

To better serve the Belizean public with more precise, relevant, and user-friendly information, starting on June 1st, 2022, the Department will be launching a 24-hour forecast for the major municipalities across the country. In addition, the Department will also be issuing a more detailed and graphically enhanced once-weekly tropical weather outlook on the Department’s website [www.nms.gov.bz](http://www.nms.gov.bz) – which will be updated more frequently if a system poses a direct threat to the country.

The NMS and NEMO take this opportunity to advise members of the general public to review their family emergency plans, listen to the relevant authorities, and be prepared for all tropical cyclones during the 2022 Hurricane Season.

## JOIN A GREAT TEAM!

We are looking for a strategic and innovative leader with strong **procurement/purchasing** acumen to join our team as:

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● **REQUIRED SKILLS & EXPERIENCE**

- Minimum of a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Management, Project Management or related field.
- Minimum of five (5) years experience in a managerial role in a medium to large retail operation.
- Ability to **determine appropriate commercial strategies**, including product life cycle management to achieve sales and business targets.

- Ability to **manage product category** by determining price points and margins to maximize market share, gross margin and stock productivity.
- Sales and budget forecasting.
- Working **knowledge of supply chain management** particularly demand planning, purchase order management and inventory control.

● **APPLY BY SENDING YOUR RESUME TO:**  
[human\\_resources\\_bz@unicomer.com](mailto:human_resources_bz@unicomer.com) by June 24th, 2022

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BELIZE CITY,

Estate of MARIA ALICIA MARTIN, deceased

### STATUTORY NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Pursuant to Section 36 of the Administration of Estates Act, Chapter 197 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2011, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all creditors and other persons having any claims or demands upon or against the Estate of MARIA ALICIA MARTIN, late of 29 Clarke Street, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District, Belize, are required to send particulars in writing of their claims or demands to the Executor of the said estate MANUEL EFRAIN MARTIN (also known as MANUEL EFRAIN MARTIN SR.) of 29 Clarke Street, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District, Belize, and to send such particulars not later than the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of September, 2022. AND NOTICE IS HEREBY ALSO GIVEN that at the expiration of the last mentioned date, the Executor will proceed to distribute the assets of the said MARIA ALICIA MARTIN, deceased, amongst the parties entitled thereto having regard only to the claims or demands of which particulars have been delivered and the Executor will not be liable for the assets of the deceased or any part thereof so distributed to any person or persons of whose claims or demands he shall not then have had notice.

DATED this 30<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2022.

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

## IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BELIZE, A.D. 2022

CLAIM NO. 15 OF 2022

BETWEEN

BRIANNA KENNEDY BURKE

CLAIMANT

AND

SHELLY MOWAT SPRUIT

DEFENDANT

## NOTICE

TO: SHELLY MOWAT SPRUIT

TAKE NOTICE that a Writ of Summons has been issued against you in the Supreme Court of Belize in Claim No. 15 of 2022 in which the Claimant's claim is for the removal of caveat, preventing the processing of estate, including the granting of letters of administration. Details of the claim are set out in the Writ of Summons attached to it.

AND on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2022 the Supreme Court of Judicature of Belize ordered that service of the Writ of Summons be effected on you by two consecutive publications of this Notice.

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

TAKE NOTICE that in default of your so doing, the said Claimant may proceed therein, and judgment may be entered against you.

DATED the 1<sup>st</sup> day of June, 2022

BRADLEY ELLIS &amp; COLLP

Per: Darrell Bradley  
Attorneys-at-Law for the Claimant  
No. 52 Regent Street  
Belize City, Belize

Telephone: 501-227-0818 Email: attorneys@bradleyellis.co.bz



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

## Position:

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

## Qualifications:

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

## Salary:

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

## Application Process:

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

## Documents Required:

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

## Address Applications to:

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

BELIZE CITY,

Estate of PAMELA MARY HASTINGS, deceased

## STATUTORY NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Pursuant to Section 36 of the Administration of Estates Act, Chapter 197 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2011, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all creditors and other persons having any claims or demands upon or against the Estate of PAMELA MARY HASTINGS, late of Flat 2 South Park Court Park Road, Beckenham, Kent BR3, 1 PH, United Kingdom, are required to send particulars in writing of their claims or demands to MR. PHILIP ZUNIGA, S.C., Attorney-at-Law, 7 Cor. Saint Peter & Third Streets, King's Park, Belize City, Belize District, Belize, and to send such particulars not later than the **28<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2022**. AND NOTICE IS HEREBY ALSO GIVEN that at the expiration of the last mentioned date, the Executor will proceed to distribute the assets of the said PAMELA MARY HASTINGS, deceased, amongst the parties entitled thereto having regard only to the claims or demands of which particulars have been delivered and the Executor will not be liable for the assets of the deceased or any part thereof so distributed to any person or persons of whose claims or demands the Executor shall not then have had notice.

DATED this 25<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2022.

PHILIP ZUNIGA, S.C.

Attorney-at-Law for the Executor



## IMPORTANT CLOSURE NOTICE

Dear Users of the Port of Belize Ltd.

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

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

**July 28<sup>th</sup> to August 05<sup>th</sup>, 2022**  
**September 01<sup>st</sup> to 09<sup>th</sup>, 2022**  
**October 06<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

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

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

Thanks

*Andy Lane*  
Chief Executive Officer

# BTB Inaugurates ATM Facilitation Center

By Javan Flowers

Earlier in the week, the Belize Tourism Board (BTB) officially inaugurated the newly constructed Aktun Tunichil Muknal (ATM) Facilitation Center in Teakettle Village, Cayo.

This center has been under construction for months, and now with its inauguration, the BTB anticipates that the archaeological site will become even more popular among tourists as it serves as a media center, gift shop, and resting area for the thousands of international and local visitors that visit the nearby ATM Archaeological Reserve on an annual basis.

During the inauguration ceremony, Minister of Tourism and Diaspora Relations Anthony Mahler gave the main address. He highlighted the importance of infrastructure development to the tourism product. "Belize has it all (barrier reef, archaeological



sites, cultural diversity, and more), but what is needed is infrastructure and the sharing of knowledge by our people with visitors coming into the country," said Mahler.

Also presenting at the inauguration was Minister of Infrastructure Development and Housing Julius

Espat, who further emphasized the need for the development of the village, underscoring his Ministry's commitment to providing locals and tourism stakeholders with the assistance needed.

Carlos Santos Jr., a member of the BTB Board, provided the

closing remarks for the ceremony, which was followed by the official ribbon cutting.

Other guests present at the inauguration ceremony were

ATM Center (l), Minister Anthony Mahler

residents of Teakettle Village and other invited stakeholder representatives.

The community members welcomed

the Teakettle ATM Facilitation Center and look forward to the economic opportunities created as a result of its establishment.

## UDP Ethics Committee to determine member's fate

By Michelle Sutherland

There are more internal rumblings within the hierarchy of the United Democratic Party (UDP) and this time the party's Ethics Committee is being tasked with deciding the fate of UDP stalwart Delroy Cuthkelvin.

Over the past few weeks, Cuthkelvin has been using his personal Facebook account to launch a series of attacks against several of his colleagues including the UDP Party Leader Shyne Barrow who Cuthkelvin accuses of displaying dictatorial tendencies among other unwanted behavior.

Among his numerous venting episodes, Cuthkelvin even took aim at UDP member John Saldivar and several others.

First, the Central Executive voted last week to have Cuthkelvin appear before the Ethics Committee to answer to why his membership should not be revoked, due to what they claim is his destructive and disruptive misconduct, which violates the Party's Constitution.

In a letter penned



Delroy Cuthkelvin

by UDP Chairman Michael Peyrefitte, he said that the Central Executive investigated Cuthkelvin's comments and found out that "Mr. Cuthkelvin's highly critical, disrespectful, distorted and often times untruthful public comments about our Party Leader, other members of the leadership and of the UDP as an organization is not in line with the code of conduct for members of our Party."

The letter further reads that those comments by Cuthkelvin send the party into disrepute and undermines its ongoing

rebuilding process. Earlier this week, Peyrefitte reminded the public that like any party there are rules that guide its members. He said that an official complaint has been lodged against Cuthkelvin, which was passed on to the Central Executive, which is the body that is responsible for triggering an Ethics Committee hearing. That meeting has since been triggered, and they will have the final say as to whether or not Cuthkelvin's membership will be revoked or not.

### Weh Wi Ga Fi Seh

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

#### Joon tu Novemba: Yu Redi If Wahn Harikayn Kong Kong Vizit Wi?

Wi don shyya wid unu di nayhn dehn fi di 2022 Atlantik harikayn seezn. Wi mi du dat laas week. Da fahn sins di 1960s dat ih mi ton regyula ting fi staat gi harikayn nayhn. Bifoa datideh taim, wi jos mi kaal dehn bai di yaa, laik di 1931 harikayn weh mi mash op Bileez Siti. Bifoa, harikayn seezn doz en eena Aktoaba, bot soh moch klaimit chaynj di chaynj op tingz, now di Atlantik di geh waama ahn waama. Soh, tudeh day, harikayn seezn da fahn Joon tu en a Novemba! Wi pray seh no harikyan kong kong fling bowt aal wi ting dehn, mash op wi priti Bileez ahn, wosara, dat nobadi kech dehn ded er wayk op ded. Yu redi? Yu ga wahn plan redi shud-in-kays yu need fi moov yuself ahn yu famili?

Weda wi kaal it "harikayn" eena di Atlantik, eena fi wee paat a di werl ... er weda wi kaal it "taifoon" laik how dehn kaal it eena Ayzha ... er weda dehnya big big staam da "saikloan" laik eea Aschraylya, wan ting wi noa: noh play wid harikayn!

**KRIOL**

**ENGLISH**

breez di bloa haad	heavy wind
breez	breeze, wind
harikayn	hurricane
flod	flood
machras gaahn een	mattress destroyed
mi ting dehn brok op	my belongings destroyed
mod	mud
rayn	rain
tonda	thunder
waata kohn op	storm surge
weda	weather (especially as in bad weather)
win	wind



# Why is water important?

You've been pondering the question 'why is water important?' rest assured, you're not alone. While it probably won't come as a surprise to hear that everyone needs to drink water to survive, most of us invest in one of the best water bottles and commit to guzzling down our daily water intake without really understanding what makes water so vital.

There are quite a few things that make water necessary to the human body, from cellular functions, to aiding digestion, and even improving concentration and exercise performance. You've probably even heard the recommendation to drink a certain amount of water every day (usually about 8 glasses or so), but where does that number come from? And what happens if you don't drink enough?

This article will tackle everything and anything you would need to know about why water is important, including why we need to drink water, what happens when we don't get enough and the effect water has on our body. Let's dive in!

## WHY DO WE NEED TO DRINK WATER?

Knowing how to stay hydrated with water is super important. Why? Well, largely because the human body is about 60% water and because we are continuously losing water through urine, sweat and even just breathing, we need to ensure we're replacing that fluid so that our cells, tissues and organs can all function optimally.

Water is a solvent, which means that other substances can dissolve in it, which allows for their transportation between cells in the body. Substances like glucose (the body's preferred fuel source) and amino acids (the building blocks of protein) dissolve very effectively in water, and use water as a carrier for them throughout the body.

Water also carries vitamins and minerals to and from the cells, and is vital in removing waste products from individual cells, as shown by research in the *Biochemical Journal*. Further, water consumption ensures appropriate blood volume, viscosity, and circulation, which is vital for the proper function of all organs and tissues of the body, according to a paper in *Nutrition Reviews*.

Water is also vitally important for regulating body temperature. It has a great capacity to store heat, preventing large, rapid drops in internal temperature,

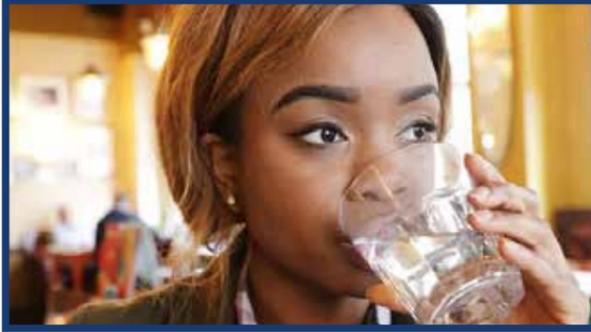


and through sweating, water has arguably the most efficient avenue to lose heat when environmental temperature is higher than body temperature, as per an article in *Military Medicine*.

Finally, water is essential to form many bodily fluids: tears, saliva, sweat, urine, and blood, amongst others. Water is also a highly effective lubricant for joints helping to produce synovial fluid and cartilage, which help keep joints healthy through smooth movements. Water also helps with joint health by maintaining cells' shapes, acting as a shock absorber during impacting activities like walking or running, which even protects the brain and spinal cord, according to a review article in *Nature*.

## WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU DON'T DRINK ENOUGH WATER?

Not drinking enough water can lead to dehydration very quickly, and it's more common than we think. According to a 2020 paper in *StatPearls*, between 28% and 75% of adults in the US are dehydrated at any given moment. This is attributed to a number of factors, notably overconsumption of caffeinated drinks like coffee and soft drinks, which a 2018 study in *Nutrients* lists as common replacements for water that act as a



diuretic that cause the body to lose even more water.

Even 'mild' dehydration (a loss of water corresponding to 1-2% of body weight) can lead to significant impairments in cognitive function, concentration, alertness, memory, physical performance, sport-specific skills, and physical endurance, according to research in *Nutrition Reviews*.

According to a study in the *Journal of Applied Physiology*, larger losses in water corresponding to 4% of body weight (which research still considers 'mild') can lead to poor cardiovascular function as blood plasma volume drops which causes an increase in heart rate and stroke volume (the amount of blood the heart perfuses per beat). Dehydration of this level can also cause decreases in skin blood flow and sweating, which leads to an increase in body temperature, which can complicate any heat-induced dehydration, as per another study from the *Journal of Applied Physiology*.

## WHAT EFFECT DOES WATER HAVE ON THE BODY?

As you may be able to tell, drinking water will have more or less the opposite effect to not drinking water, for all the reasons outlined earlier in the article. In an ideal world, we would all stay hydrated by drinking water regularly, and so we may never notice the effect that drinking water has because we'd never be dehydrated. However, we know that not to be the case.

Given the host of cognitive problems that dehydration can have on the body, drinking water can often improve your ability to focus, concentrate, and retain information. A lot of people also ask the question 'does drinking water help you to lose weight?' and evidence

suggests that it absolutely can. Not only that, it aids in digestion, due to its role in nutrient absorption, and creation of digestive fluids and enzymes like hydrochloric acid. Drinking water can also reduce joint pain or wear and tear, due to its role in joint cushioning and maintenance of synovial fluid and cartilage.

## DRINKING ENOUGH WATER

Clearly, drinking water is utterly vital for a whole host of reasons, and unfortunately, just drinking water when thirsty isn't going to be enough. Thirst is only triggered when water losses correspond to 1-3% body weight, which is enough to lead to mental and physical impairments. Plus, the issue with only drinking when thirsty is that thirst can be quenched before proper hydration is achieved, according to *Nature*.

The U.S. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine recommend drinking 92 fluid ounces (11.5 cups) per day for women, and 124 fluid ounces (15.5 cups) of water per day for men. However, many factors can affect how much water someone needs to drink: warmer environments increase sweating and water loss, drinking caffeinated drinks leads to a diuretic affect, and when exercising, sweat and respiration-induced water losses can reach 65 fluid ounces per hour according to a paper in the *Journal of the American College of Nutrition*.

It's important to adjust your water intake appropriately to get all of its benefits, and avoid the potential downfalls of dehydration.

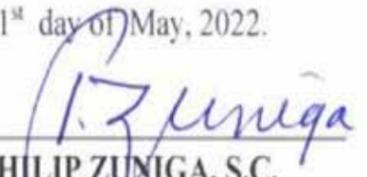
BELIZE CITY,

Estate of OMARIO VALENTIN BAEZA, deceased

## STATUTORY NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Pursuant to Section 36 of the Administration of Estates Act, Chapter 197 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2011, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all creditors and other persons having any claims or demands upon or against the Estate of OMARIO VALENTIN BAEZA, late of #3 Market Lane, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District, Belize, are required to send particulars in writing of their claims or demands to the Executrix of the said estate MANUELA ALICIA SOSA of #4 First Street, King's Park, Belize City, Belize, and to send such particulars not later than the 4<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2022, AND NOTICE IS HEREBY ALSO GIVEN that at the expiration of the last mentioned date, the Executrix will proceed to distribute the assets of the said OMARIO VALENTIN BAEZA, deceased, amongst the parties entitled thereto having regard only to the claims or demands of which particulars have been delivered and the Executrix will not be liable for the assets of the deceased or any part thereof so distributed to any person or persons of whose claims or demands she shall not then have had notice.

DATED this 31<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2022.

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

# GOB to serve public online with UNDP help

By William Ysaguirre

The first cohort of 40 public servants from all branches of Government began training to deliver services online to the public, with a pilot training webinar provided by the United Nations Development Programme on Thursday, June 2.

This digital transformation will lower the cost for the Government to provide almost 400 different services to the public, by making it more efficient, transparent and accountable, said Minister of the Public Service, Political and Constitutional Reform Hon. Henry Charles Usher, when the E-Governance and Digitalization Unit hosted a soft launch for the program at the best Western Biltmore hotel in Belize City on Monday afternoon, May 30.

Belize has been building towards this ever since Taiwan's President Ma Ying-Jeou broke ground for Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Center in Belmopan in 2009, which was completed in 2013, when it was renamed the Central Information Technology Office (CITO). During the COVID-19 pandemic, CITO was able to create a web portal in a matter of weeks for over 60,000 Belizeans to apply for unemployment benefits offered by the government.

But digitizing all government services to offer them online is an infinitely more complex process, explained Alexia Peralta, director of the E-Governance Unit.

Some services are already online, such as the driver's license and vehicle registration system. The public is clamoring for a faster, more efficient



(l-r) Minister Henry Usher, UNDP's Amilin Mendez, Alexia Peralta, CEO Jose Urbina, UNDP's Ian King, Mayor Bernard Wagner.

way to get a birth certificate, passport and land papers, but much of this information is stored in hard-bound ledgers where the information was handwritten.

All this information must now be keyed into a computer base, to digitize the data, a tedious,

labor-intensive process which has to be verified for accuracy. There is also the matter of cyber-security and ensuring that citizens' personal data is stored securely and protected against unauthorized access by hackers.

A land application requires accessing at least six different databases, hosted by different government departments and for the service to be provided digitally, these different databases must be able to communicate online with each other securely. These are just the hardware and software components.

The "Digital Transformation In Belize" course addresses the people component, by training public servants to make the online system user friendly, so they can help the public to access services from their online device, be it a laptop, tablet or cellphone. The UNDP has already provided similar training to over 400 persons in other countries around the world.

Laura Hindlebrant, the UNDP's Digital Transformation Specialist for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Caribbean, has tailored the training course to suit Belize's particular needs, based on UNDP's global experience of what is best practice, derived from the practical execution in a number of countries.

The UNDP has partnered with the Government in Belize's development for the past 40 years, and this latest "course is intended to boost the digital expertise of public servants at the central and municipal government level to provide improved digital services," noted the UNDP's deputy representative in Belize, Ian King. "The UNDP has also been working with BELTRAIDE to enhance the capacities of Micro Small and Medium-size Enterprises or MSMEs to also transition more effectively into this digital reality through enhancing skills, available tools and resources."

The objective is for the public servants who complete the training course to deliver better service to the public and to help citizens access online services, explained chief executive officer Jose Urbina of the Ministry of Public Utilities, Energy, Logistics, and E-Governance.

The first cohort of 40 will complete the four-week course by the beginning of July, and a second cohort will be similarly trained in August, with a third cohort also being trained in October. Doing business and accessing government services online have become an urgent and vital need since the COVID-19 pandemic, King said.

Internet connectivity has become a benchmark of inclusion and exclusion, as there are still 2.9 billion people around the world who have no Internet access. The UNDP is working to close this digital divide, and the Digital Transformation course in Belize will become a pilot to provide similar training to other countries in need.

## Dollar Dominance and the Rise of Nontraditional Reserve Currencies

By Serkan Arslanalp, Barry Eichengreen and Chima Simpson-Bell

The US dollar has long played an outsized role in global markets. It continues to do so even as the American economy has been producing a shrinking share of global output over the last two decades.

But although the currency's presence in global trade, international debt, and non-bank borrowing still far outstrips the US share of trade, bond issuance, and international borrowing and lending, central banks aren't holding the greenback in their reserves to the extent that they once did.

As the Chart of the Week shows, the dollar's share of global foreign-exchange reserves fell below 59 percent in the final quarter of last year, extending a two-decade decline, according to the IMF's Currency Composition of Official Foreign Exchange Reserves data.

In an example of the broader shift in the composition of foreign exchange reserves, the Bank of Israel recently unveiled a new strategy for its more than \$200 billion of reserves. Beginning this year, it will reduce the share of US dollars and increase the portfolio's allocations to the Australian dollar, Canadian dollar, Chinese renminbi and Japanese yen.

As we document in a recent IMF working paper, the reduced role of the US dollar hasn't been matched by increases in the shares of the other traditional reserve currencies: the euro, yen, and pound. Moreover, while there has been some increase in the share of reserves held in renminbi, this accounts for just one quarter of the shift away from dollars in recent years, partly due to China's relatively closed capital account. Moreover, an update of data referenced in the working paper shows that, as of the end of last year, a single country—Russia—held nearly a third of the world's renminbi reserves.

By contrast, the currencies of smaller economies that haven't traditionally figured prominently in reserve portfolios, such as the Australian and Canadian dollars, Swedish krona and South Korean won, account for three quarters of the shift

from dollars.

Two factors may help to explain the movement into this set of currencies:

These currencies combine higher returns with relatively lower volatility. This appeals increasingly to central bank reserve managers as foreign exchange stockpiles grow, raising the stakes for portfolio allocation.

New financial technologies—such as automatic market-making and automated liquidity management systems—make it cheaper and easier to trade the currencies of smaller economies.

In some cases, the issuers of these currencies also have bilateral swap lines with the Federal Reserve. This, it can be argued, creates confidence that their currencies will hold their value against the dollar.

At the same time, the importance of this factor can be questioned. The nontraditional currencies tend to float. In practice, they fluctuate widely against the dollar. And their issuers have rarely if ever drawn on their bilateral swap lines with the Fed. A regression analysis shows that having a Fed swap line is associated with a 9 percentage point increase in the dollar share of the recipient's reserves. This may indicate that swap lines are an imperfect substitute for actual reserves.

A more plausible explanation is that these nontraditional reserve currencies are issued by countries with open capital accounts and track records of sound and stable policies. Important attributes of reserve currency issuers include not just economic weight and financial depth, but also transparent and predictable policies. In other words, the stability of the economy and policy decisions matter for international acceptance.

A regression analysis of global reserve currency shares confirms that a higher economic risk premium, measured by the cost of using credit derivatives to insure against default, reduces a currency's share in global reserves. Evidently, holders favor the currencies of countries known for good governance, economic stability and sound finances.

# WCS helps GOB get SMART

By William Ysaguirre

Conservationists and naturalists from various government and non-governmental organizations have received training in how to integrate the information gathered with the Spatial Monitoring And Reporting Tool (SMART) to best protect Belize's land and marine reserves.

The National Biodiversity Office of the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management hosted a one-day training workshop in partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society in Belmopan

on Wednesday, June 1. The objective was to integrate the data collected with SMART technology to strengthen Belize's enforcement of the law in protected areas.

The Government of Belize passed the National Protected Areas System (NPAS) Act in 2015 to ensure that our protected areas on land and sea are used in a sustainable manner and managed in a way that will protect these ecosystems for the long haul.

This will also ensure the genetic diversity of Belize's flora and fauna, and that Belize continues to enjoy the services that these ecosystems provide. The Meso-American Barrier reef protects

Belize's coastline against storms, while it also serves as a nursery for several species of commercial fish which provide the livelihood for our fisheries industry, and is our prime tourism attraction. The coastal mangroves secure the coast against wave erosion, while the terrestrial forests secure our watersheds, provide a habitat for wildlife, support our logging industry with a variety of hardwoods, and produce the vital oxygen in the air we breathe.

Chief Executive Officer Kenrick Williams, of the Ministry of Sustainable Development, explained that the SMART tool helps the Government to

get the biggest bang for the buck and to make the most of its limited resources. With SMART technology, the ministry can gather the required data for informed decisions about where best investments can be made in developing protected areas wisely.

Technical coordinator Kamille Pennell of the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) explained that WCS has been helping train the forest rangers, fisheries officers and other conservation workers to use the spatial imaging technology to monitor forest and marine reserves. WCS has also provided the computers and handheld digital devices to create maps and generate reports



Chief Executive Officer Kenrick Williams

from the information gathered.

The National Biodiversity Office launched a SMART data model for protected areas on land, which will help to streamline the collection of data in various protected reserves and conservation areas. Biodiversity Officer

Saul Cruz explained that "the data model will provide sufficient 'real-time' data to government agencies and other users to inform intelligence-based activities that aid in the identification of hotspots of illegal activities and strategic management of threats and pressures within protected areas".

## WHO: 'Monkeypox outbreak unlikely to spur next pandemic'

By Javan Flowers

The World Health Organization (WHO) does not believe the monkeypox outbreak will lead to a pandemic, an official said, adding that it remains unclear if infected people who are asymptomatic can transmit the disease.

Monkeypox, as recorded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is a rare disease caused by infection with the monkeypox virus.

This virus belongs to the Orthopoxvirus genus in the family Poxviridae, which also includes the variola virus that causes smallpox.

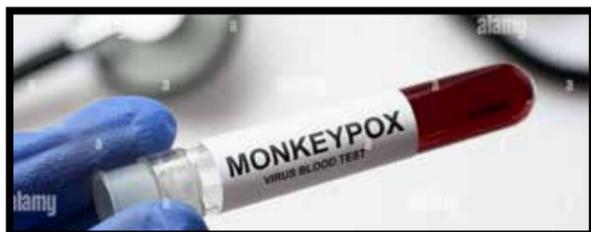
Monkeypox spreads between people primarily through direct contact with infectious sores, scabs, or body fluids. However, it can also be spread by respiratory secretions during prolonged face-to-face contact and unprotected sexual intercourse.

Following reports from the WHO, more than 300 confirmed monkeypox cases were reported in May, mainly in Europe.

The WHO is considering whether the outbreak should be assessed as a "potential public health emergency of international concern" as such a declaration made for COVID-19 and Ebola would help accelerate research and funding to contain the disease.

Rosamund Lewis, technical lead for monkeypox from the WHO Health Emergencies Programme, explained to Reuters, "We don't know if the monkeypox outbreak could have the potential to manifest into a pandemic, but we don't think so."

As was previously mentioned, once monkeypox has been contracted, the duration of the rash emerging and scabs falling off is recognized as the infectious period, but there is limited information on whether there is any spread of the virus by asymptomatic people, she added. "We really don't actually yet know whether there's asymptomatic transmission of monkeypox. The indications in the past have been that this is not a major feature, but this remains to be determined."



## VACANCY



## NOTICE

### Security Officer

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

**Reports to:** Chief Security & Safety Officer

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

**Primary Responsibilities:**

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

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

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

**Job Qualifications/Requirement:**

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

**Skills/Competencies:**

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

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

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

Email to:

[jobapplications@portofbelize.com](mailto:jobapplications@portofbelize.com)

Closing date for receipt of applications is Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

# Agatha makes landfall in Mexico as Cat 2 Hurricane, remnants to affect Belize

By Javan Flowers

Hurricane Agatha made landfall as a Category two storm early this week, west of Puerto Angel, Mexico, with maximum sustained winds of 105 mph, according to the U.S. National Hurricane Center (NHC).

NHC officially upgraded Hurricane Agatha to a Category-two storm on Sunday morning, after the system underwent a rapid intensification when maximum sustained winds rose 35 mph in under 24 hours, making it the first of the Eastern Pacific Hurricane





**CENTRAL BANK**  
of **BELIZE**

[www.centralbank.org.bz](http://www.centralbank.org.bz)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Discontinuation of the Foreign Exchange Approval by the Ministry of Finance**

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

The Ministry of Finance will no longer be an authorized agent to approve foreign exchange requests. Applications must be submitted to the Central Bank via email to [currenttransactions@centralbank.org.bz](mailto:currenttransactions@centralbank.org.bz)

Electronic forms are available for download at:  
<https://www.centralbank.org.bz/financial-system/exchange-control-approvals>

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

**- ENDS -**

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

1 GABOUREL LANE.  
BELIZE CITY, BELIZE  
T: +501 223 6194  
E: [communications@centralbank.org.bz](mailto:communications@centralbank.org.bz)

Season.

The Hurricane Center further advised that due to the system's slow movement, it is anticipated that there would be 10 to 16 inches of rain showering parts of Oaxaca, with isolated maximums of 20 inches which could potentially cause "dangerous flash flooding and mudslides in parts of southern Mexico along and east of its path."

Late Monday morning, Agatha accelerated slightly as it moved toward the area near Puerto Escondido and Puerto Angel in the southern state of Oaxaca.

Having moved inland Monday evening, Agatha has rapidly lost wind intensity. As a result, the storm was downgraded to a Category-one hurricane early Monday evening and a tropical storm later that night.

Following forecasts simulating the potential of Agatha redeveloping as it crosses Mexico into the Caribbean and Gulf, The National Meteorological Services of Belize and the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) further informed the general public that

though Agatha has since dissipated, "remnants might emerge in the northwest Caribbean Sea with torrential rains over parts of Central America, specifically over Belize."

Despite the unlikely event that the system will redevelop and make landfall in Belize, forecasters anticipate over two to four inches of rain within the next couple of days. Additionally, heavy rainfall and thunderstorms are expected in most parts of the country.

This increase in rain has prompted The Ministry of natural resources, Petroleum, and Mining to issue numerous flood watch advisories for areas prone to flooding.

As a result of this, NEMO advises the general public to be alert and pay attention to the weather situation, which is likely to worsen over the next couple of days.

People in the cayes, along rivers, creeks, and low-lying areas, are cautioned to be alert and take the necessary actions to save life. Drivers are asked to drive slowly and put on their hazard lights when driving in the rain.

# Belize, Taiwan, IDB sign letter of intent to boost employment and economic recovery in Belize

By Javan Flowers

Earlier in the week, Financial Secretary Joseph Waight signed a letter of intent with Taiwan and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to bolster Belize's economic recovery and job creation.

The Republic of China (Taiwan) continues to expand

cooperation with the IDB to assist Taiwan's diplomatic allies in Latin America.

The latest signed agreement between the Ministry's Financial Secretary; Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Alexander Tah-ray Yui, representing Taiwan's International Cooperation; and Development Fund (ICDF) and IDB President Mauricio

Claver-Carone aims to facilitate cooperation on a joint financing project to support productive sectors and boost employment in Belize.

The agreement represents a new chapter for Taiwan in assisting its Latin American diplomatic allies in employment creation, economic recovery, and stable social development.

As further detailed by ROC Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, "The project will assist Belize in responding to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic." Adding that "micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises will receive support to stimulate employment and economic activity."

Taiwan's MOFA

highlighted that the intended outcome of providing such support is to achieve post-pandemic economic recovery and sustainable development, particularly in the area of women's empowerment by giving women-led businesses access to loans.

The IDB is one of the most prominent

development banks operating in the Western Hemisphere, and Taiwan is desirous of maintaining their partnership to jointly create more opportunities for cooperation that will contribute to the transparent, dependable, and sustainable development of democracies in the region.

## TENDER



### REPAINTING OF FACILITIES AT BEL'S CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS COMPOUND

**BEL invites tenders for the repainting of all structures and fixed items at its Corporate Headquarters compound in 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](http://www.bel.com.bz/Tenders.aspx)

Bids must be submitted via email to [bidsubmittal@bel.com.bz](mailto:bidsubmittal@bel.com.bz) no later than **3:00 p.m. on Friday, June 17, 2022**. The email should include the bid number and details located on the respective bid form.

A mandatory site visit is scheduled for **10:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 9, 2022** at BEL's Corporate Headquarters compound located at 2 ½ Miles Philip Goldson Highway, Belize City, Belize.

**For more information or queries, send email to [bidboxrequest@bel.com.bz](mailto: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.



## INVITATION TO QUOTE – GOODS

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

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

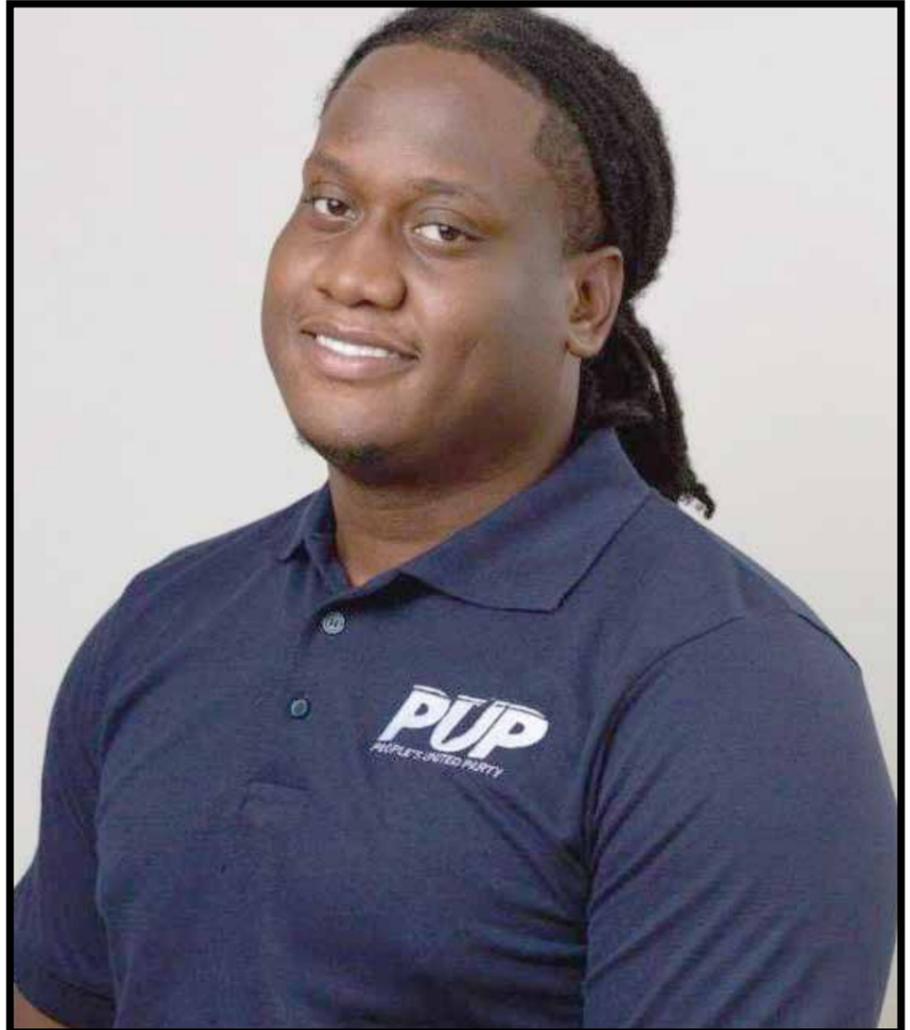
**Attention of (Name):** Mr. Rolando Chan, Program Coordinator  
**Program Management Unit**

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

**Phone #:** 822-1942/822-0100

**Email:** [pmupcmow@gmail.com](mailto:pmupcmow@gmail.com) AND

## Deputy Mayor Micah Goodin mum on pending termination



Deputy Mayor Micah Goodin's 14-day window fast expiring

By Michelle Sutherland

Commencing last week Thursday, May 26th, 2022, the clock to get Deputy Mayor Micah Goodin to demit his post at the Belize City Council started ticking following a series of unfortunate incidents on the part of the good deputy.

But while the 14-day window that the council gave Goodin to either resign from his post as Deputy Mayor or risk being served with a notice of removal is quickly closing, there is no word as yet on what Goodin's stance is. That is despite us sending him a request for comment on Tuesday to which he has not responded.

The Mayor of the Belize City Council Bernard Wagner, who recently returned from a working trip to Barbados, said that the motion asking for Goodin's removal, which was tabled last week Thursday in a close meeting session among the council's elected officials was brought against Goodin as a result of a "the whole stream of events." According to Wagner, the motion which was initially tabled

by Councilor Albert Vaughan, received the unanimous support, including the mayor who was present at the time. Only one other councilor was not present at the meeting.

Mayor Wagner said that he was a "bit disappointed" that Goodin stormed out of the meeting when the motion was tabled and choose not to participate in the discussions to give his colleagues the opportunity to hear his side of the story. "We have never heard his side of the story and so he lost an opportunity there to really speak to his colleagues," said Mayor Wagner.

Wagner went on to say that while Goodin has not sent in any official position as yet, and neither has the council heard his side of the story, as elected officials there is a need to demonstrate restraint and good judgment in whatever you do. "Over the past period of time, we have observed that the deputy has had a series of misjudgments," said Wagner, ranging from having a young shadow

councilor socializing after hours and consuming alcohol. The combination of young people, liquor, guns, and egos all makes it a recipe for disaster, said Wagner.

A release from the Belize City Council said that following the meeting, notice was given to the Deputy Mayor in accordance with sections 10 (5) and 10 (6) of the Belize City Council Act that should he choose not to resign at the expiration of the 14 days a resolution will be tabled at Caucus for his removal.

The Council also noted that while the session was conducted with professionalism and strict adherence to the standing orders, they are also not at liberty to disclose the details of what prompted the decision but assured residents that Goodin had "engaged in a series of actions that do not align with our core values." The council ended off by saying that they firmly believe in serving residents with integrity, respect, and proper decorum.

# NATS 2022 a success

By Javan Flowers

The National Agriculture and Trade Show (NATS), held under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise, was successfully held over the May 27th weekend, under the theme "Innovations in technology: Driving a Climate Resilient and Competitive Agriculture and Food Sector."

This year's show welcomed over 29,000 visitors, regional delegates, and guests. Despite the inclement weather in the last hours of the show on Sunday, the Ministry dubbed the event a huge success.

During the show's opening ceremony, the NATS Committee celebrated the winners



Officials report that there were more than 29,000 visitors.

of the "Farmer of the Year Competition."

"The work, dedication, and commitment of our Belizean farmers, producers, agro-land developers, and agro-processors are critically important to our country's food security and survival," said the NATS Committee chairman

Gary Ramirez to The Reporter.

Ramirez further highlighted that "while there have been consistent threats from global shortages and increases in prices, the truth is that the basic fresh vegetables and fruits required to feed ourselves and our families are readily at the various produce

markets around the country. That is a direct result of the resilience of farmers and producers."

In recognizing the resilience and strength of Belizean farmers, the "farmers of the year" that were

celebrated included Orlando Ek (Corozal District), Norma Figueroa (Cayo District), and Darwin

Orellana (Belize District).

The NATS Committee also highlighted a notable female farmer, Krystle Romero, from the Toledo District, who placed 2nd in the Female Farmer of the Year.

As highlighted by the Ministry, no significant incidents were reported in connection with the event, though the bull's escape from the rodeo arena on Sunday was "regrettable."

In a release issued by the Ministry, all persons who participated and attended were thanked. The Ministry also extended a special thanks to the sponsors and collaborating agencies such as the Belize Police Department, Belmopan City Council, Total Business Solutions Ltd, Beltraide, Development Finance Corporation, vendors, exhibitors, and service providers.

The proposed dates for the National Agriculture and Trade Show 2023 are April 28, 29, and 30, 2023.

## The Atlantic basin could see development in coming days



By Javan Flowers

Forecasters are already warning that there is the possibility that the remnants of Hurricane Agatha, the East Pacific's first named storm of the year, could redevelop over the southwestern Gulf of Mexico during the opening days of the Atlantic hurricane season.

According to forecasters at AccuWeather, Hurricane Agatha is expected to move inland over Mexico with flooding rain and damaging winds Monday evening. Then by June 1st it could emerge over the Gulf of Mexico or the Caribbean Sea, where further development

will be possible.

"There is a low risk of tropical development from the southwestern Gulf of Mexico to the northwestern Caribbean somewhere on June 2 to 5," AccuWeather Senior Meteorologist Dan Podynowski said.

While the possibility of redevelopment exists due to high wind shear, which is detrimental to storm development, this potential redevelopment would likely happen between June 2 to 5th.

However, in the unlikely event that a system forms, AccuWeather Lead Long-Range Meteorologist Paul Pastelok explained that "it would likely travel toward Cuba, Florida,

and the Bahamas."

After forming on Sunday, Agatha quickly gained power, and it was predicted to make landfall as an intense Category 2 hurricane Monday afternoon or evening, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said.

Adding that Agatha will be "the strongest hurricane on record to make landfall in May in the eastern Pacific."

Despite the Storm being tremendously unlikely to make landfall in Belize, the Storm's outer bands will continue to drench low-lying areas in rain; thus, residents in these areas are advised to heed flood warnings and listen to the relevant authorities to protect life and property.



# VACANCY

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

**Qualifications:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Documents Required:**

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

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

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



## CAREER OPPORTUNITY

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 **Transmission Engineer** in the **Transmission, Substation Operations & Maintenance Department** of our **Energy Supply & Transmission Division** at our Magazine Road substation in Belize City.

### Duties:

- Support the Project Unit during the construction phase of infrastructure upgrade projects by providing engineering supervision and ensuring adherence to applicable codes, standards, and design specifications.
- Participate in design review process for new infrastructure projects, conduct detailed civil engineering review of completed design packages before the start of new projects.
- Monitor reliability performance of all transmission lines and recommend changes and system improvements where necessary.
- Assess structural integrity of existing transmission lines and schedule corrective maintenance or recommend design changes where deficiencies are identified.
- Conduct research into the latest Transmission Operations & Maintenance (O&M) technologies and implement pilot programs with the aim of improving reliability and operational efficiency.
- Assist with contract management including document preparation, tendering, bid evaluation, contracting, delivery of equipment and materials and execution of work schedules.
- Continuously review transmission line standards and maintenance procedures and propose changes or updates where necessary to improve efficiency, reliability, and safety.
- Lead efforts in the evaluation and determination of adequacy of all transmission tools and equipment required to execute construction & maintenance works and initiate recommendations for improvements.
- Support the Company's safety and environmental initiatives and ensure compliance with national safety and environmental regulations applicable to area of responsibility.

### Education and Experience:

- Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering with five years' experience in structural design and construction supervision; OR
- Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering with five years' experience in transmission line design and construction

### Required Skills and Abilities:

- Strong knowledge of engineering standards, codes, practices and procedures
- Proficient in computer-aided design applications
- Working knowledge of Microsoft Project and other Microsoft Office applications
- Ability to supervise construction projects provide technical guidance to a team
- Ability to identify, analyze and solve problems
- Strong written and verbal communication skills particularly technical communication skills for reports and specifications
- Strong leadership, team management and interpersonal skills
- Action and results oriented with excellent collaborative skills for pursuing shared goals
- Ability to take initiative, exercise sound judgement while maintaining high work quality
- Ability to meet deadlines in a fast paced and changing environment

**Salary:** In accordance with Company's salary structure

Submit application letter along with resume, copy of degrees and certificates and three recent professional letters of recommendation via email to:

**Manager, Talent Acquisition & Development**  
Email: [career.opportunity@bel.com.bz](mailto:career.opportunity@bel.com.bz)

In the email subject, please indicate the position:  
**Application - Transmission Engineer**

Only electronic applications are being accepted at this time.  
For more information or queries, call 227-0954 Ext. 2901 or 1415

**Deadline: Friday, June 10, 2022**

## Briceño blames bad wording for Trade License backlash



*Prime Minister John Briceño*

*By Michelle Sutherland*

Since its introduction in the House of Representatives, two weeks ago, the Trade License Bill 2022 has been generating a lot of backlashes, especially from the entertainment industry, but Prime Minister John Briceño blamed it on "bad wording."

In response to last week's announcement by the Governments, which had informed of the deferral of fees for local entertainers, Briceño said, "I don't think it is a matter that we have walked back the Trade License Bill. Remember this has been in the works since 2018 that is not something we came up with. This is the works of the municipalities and obviously, when you look at the issue of entertainers it was worded badly. I think it was never the intention of the councils to be able to tax entertainers for every single gig they do."

In fact, Briceño claimed that the bill was aimed at taxing international entertainers who come into Belize to host shows and concerts. Briceño made reference to the Tourism Minister Anthony Mahler who is hosting a concert, comprising both local and international artists in San Pedro at the end of July.

Briceño explained that his administration decided that they should take hold of the opportunity to pause when it comes to taxing local entertainers, and instead look at what type of support the government could loan them. As it relates to international entertainers Briceño said that his administration still believes that international entertainers and artists should pay taxes, when conducting business in Belize.

Last week, the Briceño administration had announced that following a House Committee meeting between stakeholders on Monday, after noting the fragile state of the entertainment industry, Cabinet had agreed to defer any fee for local entertainers. Instead, Cabinet vowed that they would be consulting with the relevant stakeholders in an effort to develop incentives for the creative sector.

Local entertainers have been up in arms over Schedule 7 of the bill which had proposed to tax entertainers approximately \$200 per performance.



## GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE

### MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT & HOUSING

#### PHILIP GOLDSON HIGHWAY AND REMATE BYPASS UPGRADING PROJECT

#### CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A GENDER-SENSITIVE COMMUNITY AND SCHOOLS PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAMME

#### RE-ADVERTISEMENT: REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The Government of Belize (GOBZ) has received financing from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the United Kingdom Caribbean Infrastructure Partnership Fund (UKCIF) towards the cost of the Philip Goldson Highway and Remate Bypass Upgrading Project and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this financing to eligible payments under a contract for which this invitation is issued. Payments by CDB will be made only at the request of GOBZ and upon approval by CDB, and will be subject in all respects to the terms and conditions of the Financing Agreements. The Financing Agreements prohibit withdrawals from the Financing Accounts 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 CDB, 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 GOBZ shall derive any rights from the Financing Agreements or have any claim to the proceeds of the Financing.

The Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing (MIDH) through its Project Execution Unit (PEU), the Executing Agency, now wishes to procure consultancy services to design and conduct outreach to, and sensitisation/training of, schools and communities in the Project area, about Gender-based Violence (GBV), human trafficking/smuggling and transmission of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) and HIV/AIDS.

**The objective of the consultancy is to develop and implement a Community and School training and public education/awareness programme for schools and communities along the Philip Goldson Highway and the Remate Bypass. Specifically, the consultancy will:**

- (a) Produce communication materials through consultation with stakeholders within the community and school via multiple media channels relating to GBV generally, human trafficking/smuggling specifically, as well as STD/HIV/AIDS prevention, including an Educational Toolkit to be used in schools; and
- (b) Conduct public gender education sessions on prevention and response to GBV, including trafficking in persons/smuggling and sexual and reproductive health issues with Project-affected communities.

The assignment is expected to be implemented over a period of **15 months**.

**The MIDH now invites interested eligible firms or joint ventures (JV) to submit Expressions of Interest indicating qualifications and experience required to provide these consultancy services.**

**A Firm/JV shall be eligible to participate if:**

- (a) in the case of a body corporate, it is legally incorporated or otherwise organised in an eligible country, has its principal place of business in an eligible country and is more than 50 per cent beneficially owned by citizen(s) and/or *bona fide* resident(s) of eligible country(ies) or by a body(ies) corporate meeting these requirements;
- (b) in the case of unincorporated firms, the beneficial owners are citizens or *bona fide* residents of an eligible country; and
- (c) in all cases, the firm or JV has no arrangement and undertakes not to make any arrangements, whereby any substantial part of the net profits or other tangible benefits of the contract will accrue or be paid to a person not a citizen or *bona fide* resident of an eligible country.

Eligible countries are member countries of CDB. Interested eligible firms/JVs are advised to review the detailed eligibility criteria detailed in Section 4 and conflict of interest provisions in Section 5 of the Procurement Procedures for Projects Financed by CDB (January 2021) as published on CDB's website.

**In the assessment of submissions, consideration will be given to technical competence, qualifications and experience, local and regional experience on similar assignments, financial capability and existing commitments. The Firm/JV shall have:**

- (a) At least five (5) years of professional work experience in gender-based violence, gender equality, behavioural change programming, or other relevant programme is required.
- (b) At least three (3) years of relevant work experience in social marketing and public education in development advocacy and communication campaigns to promote gender equality and or the elimination of gender-based violence including the use of traditional and new digital media strategies, including experience in communications for promoting gender equality and social inclusion of vulnerable groups. Experience in messaging around GBV, trafficking in persons/smuggling and STD/HIV AIDS prevention and knowledge management would be an asset.
- (c) A combination of experience and/or formal training in communications, public relations, digital and social media strategy, graphic design and video production.
- (d) Provided technical assistance in coordinating and liaising with government agencies and civil society and community-based organisations to implement comprehensive gender-based violence services would be an asset.

**Key Experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage.**

Expressions of interest must be submitted in **English**, electronically, by email, in pdf format, to both addresses below no later than **10:00am, local time on Friday 1st July 2022**. The email subject line should state **"EXPRESSION OF INTEREST - CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A GENDER-SENSITIVE COMMUNITY AND SCHOOLS PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAMME"** and the email body must state the name and address of the applicant.

The Expression of Interest will be deemed to have been received at the time that it is received by the receiving office named in the first address below.

The burden of proving receipt of the e-mail will be on the applicant and will not be met solely by a read receipt or sent items report generated by the applicant's computer.

The selection method for the award of the consultancy shall be Selection Based on the Consultants' Qualifications Selection (CQS). Following the assessment of submissions, the most qualified and experienced Firm/JV shall be asked to submit a combined technical and financial Proposal and, if such Proposal is responsive and acceptable, be invited to negotiate a contract to undertake the assignment.

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

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

**1. Attention: Mr. Evondale Moody**  
**Project Execution Unit**  
**Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing**  
**Power Lane**  
**Belmopan**  
**Cayo District**  
**BELIZE, C.A.**  
**Tel: +501-828-5220**  
**Fax: +501-822-0563**  
**Email: [peu@midh.gov.bz](mailto:peu@midh.gov.bz)**

**2. Procurement Officer**  
**Procurement Policy Unit**  
**Caribbean Development Bank**  
**P.O. Box 408,**  
**Willey**  
**St. Michael**  
**BARBADOS, W.I.**  
**Tel: +1-246-539-1600**  
**Email: [procurement@caribank.org](mailto:procurement@caribank.org)**



# FUN FACTS!

## Farming gave humans the ability to pronounce 'f' and 'v'



Processed food gets a bad rap. But without it, we might have never been able to even say the word "food." Or "friendly," or "fun" or "velociraptor" for that matter. Why is that?

"F's" and "v's" belong to a group of sounds known as labiodentals. They happen when you raise your bottom lip to touch your top teeth and are used in more than half of today's human language. But science suggests we

didn't always have this ability.

As hunter gatherers, our ancestors ate a diet that required more effort to chew. As a result, by adolescence their teeth would develop what's called an edge-to-edge bite, where the jaw is elongated so that both the bottom and top teeth are completely flush with one another.

Cue the Neolithic period, where widespread agriculture meant more soft foods like stew and bread

and easier chewing. Over time, the slight overbite that most people are born with stayed preserved, because chewing was easier.

A recent study shows that without the introduction to farming and softer foods, humans might have never incorporated labiodentals into their vocabulary. Even today, modern language used by hunter-gatherer groups use only one-fourth as many labiodental sounds as

other languages affected by agriculture.

While the study was met with criticism, its findings offer an interesting concept: that our language is shaped not only by cultural and intellectual factors, but also by biological conditions.

It also poses some new questions, such as what the spoken word actually sounded like thousands of years ago. It's certainly an idea to chew on.



### Adopted Men?

About 80,000 people are adopted in Japan each year, but only 2% of them are children. The majority are men in their 20s or 30s who are adopted by corporations in need of executives so they can maintain a 'family business.' Basically, Japanese bosses adopt their employees.



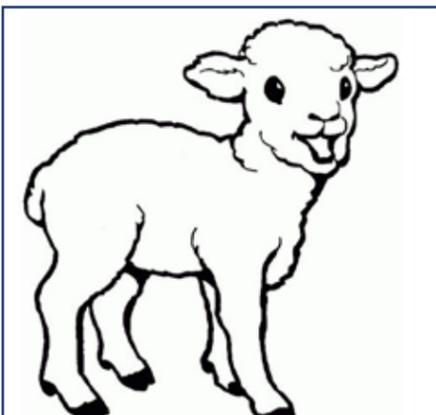
### Gigantic Eggs!

There are 34 gigantic eggs lining the coast of Iceland's Merry Bay. They were sculpted out of granite to honor the 34 species of birds that nest in the area, and each one is the shape, pattern, and color of the birds' actual eggs. They're all about the same size, but the egg that represents the red-throated diver, the area's official bird, is much bigger than the rest.



# COLOR ME

Sheep are herbivores, which means their diet does not include meat. They typically eat seeds, grass and plants. Lambs can walk just minutes after they are born, though they are often dependent on their mothers for the first four to six months of their lives.



Not only can sheep recognize up to 50 other sheep faces and remember them for 2 years, but they can also recognize human faces.

When sheep experience stress or isolation, they show signs of depression similar to those that humans show by hanging their heads and avoiding positive actions.

Like various other species including humans, sheep make different vocalisations to communicate different emotions. They also display and recognise emotion by facial expressions.

Sheep are intelligent, with impressive memory and recognition skills. They build friendships, stick up for one another in fights, and feel sad when their friends are sent to slaughter.

Sheep are able to experience emotions such as fear, anger, rage, despair, boredom, disgust and happiness.

Sheep are very gentle animals and were one of the first animals to be domesticated.

Sheep have excellent peripheral vision. Their large, rectangular pupils allow them to see almost 360 degrees. In fact, they can see behind themselves without turning their heads!

## No Excuses

# The Culture & Philosophy of Man's Greed

CONTRIBUTED:

Sedi

Man as *Homo sapiens* has only been in existence for some 200,000 years compared to other animal species that have been existing for millions and millions of years and have been interacting with each other and the plants and other kingdoms during all this time relatively successfully. The emergence of man has created a tremendous amount of mess with negative impact on planet earth. Some 10,000 years ago in the Neolithic period man started to move from a hunter-gatherer mode of life to a more settled agricultural social existence. This led to a higher level of food productivity and the consequential capacity to accommodate and sustain bigger and bigger populations. With improvement in tools, weapons and public health; human populations began to soar, forming hamlets, villages, towns and cities!

Environments on the earth are highly varied. The increase in population with subsequent competition for food and space, forced man to spread out into different environments. He had to adapt and cope. But as some environments became harsher compared to others, competition led to the raiding of the neighbouring occupants' home range. Fast forward: Some 3,000 to 4,000 years ago was the 'Early Civilization' with men even enslaving other humans to garner their riches. There was the great Persian Empire. The Macedonia Empire was under Alexander the Great who was said to have cried and when asked why, his answer was that he had no more worlds to conquer. Then there was the late 'Greek Civilization' which has impacted the world even up to today. One speaks of 'great' philosophers, scientists and mathematicians such as Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Archimedes

and Pythagoras. The word democracy is derived from the Greek word *Demos* meaning 'the people.' Then there was the great Roman Empire that ruled the then world extending from Asia through the Middle East and to Europe conquering Gaul (France), Germany and Britain. This was accomplished through their highly organized and disciplined military system. The forgoing defined the greed of man which has persisted up to today with much negative impact on the environment.

In recent time, up to today, the greed of man has taken the whole world to unprecedented levels of damage and destruction on the environment and on mankind itself. Nations began exploring on a massive scale for the express objective of exploitation. Their activities were referred to as great explorations and great discoveries, but exploitation has always been the major objective. The grabbing of new lands and territories has led to rivalries between and among nations resulting in wars, bloodshed, killings and destruction on a scale that has defied rational behaviour. Religion has always been brought into it such that many wars were religious wars. King Henry VIII when he could not get his way with the Roman Catholic Church created the Church of England, the Anglican Church, and because of its huge empire, Great Britain was able to spread Anglicanism throughout her territories such that it rivaled the Roman Catholic Church. Even so the Roman Catholic Church was committing such atrocities that Martin Luther spearheaded the Great Reformation. The Roman Catholic Church was burning people at the stake - accusing them of being witches. It has been said that when a person was tried as a witch she was thrown into the water; if she stayed under, she was innocent, but if she

came up, she was guilty of being a witch and burnt at the stake. When Portugal and Spain had serious rivalry about territory in the "New" World, Pope Alexander, not liking the idea of two Roman Catholic Nations fighting, took the map of the new world and drew a line from pole to pole and declared the territories to the west of the line to be Spain's and those to the east as Portuguese. Hence most of the territories were Spain's and Brazil was Portuguese. Britain, France, Belgium, the Netherlands declared "No Way". The French

**The fundamental problem is GREED and it is now in the very DNA of man. The thing is man will not destroy the Earth; the Earth will recover as it has on many occasions after cataclysmic upheavals. Man will destroy himself, including all**

declared that they never saw any such Adam's will and they all stated that if they found unoccupied lands they will stick their flag on it and defend it. Hence the European rivalries. But it was all greed!

Spain developed an empire with territories in the Americas. She had funded the expedition of Columbus. She concentrated most of her efforts in South America where they robbed the indigenous Incas of their gold and silver. She referred to South America as El Dorado (City of Gold). In her greed she sent over huge ships (galleons) which could carry large cargo from South America and thus Spain enriched herself. At this time Spain was at war with Britain who had developed a powerful navy. The rivalry between the two nations was great and made even worse by the Anglican/Roman Catholic phenomenon. What the British did was to send out her seadogs or pirates which waylaid the Spaniards' Galleons and attacked and robbed them of their ill-gotten treasures. The British pirates had smaller ships which

were faster and more maneuverable against the Spanish ships plus they knew the inlets and shallows to escape from the Spaniards when things got tough. The reef system of Belize was used to dodge and escape from the Spaniards! When such pirates like Morgan, Drake, Raleigh, Frobisher and Hawkins came back to England with their stolen loot, Her Majesty Elizabeth I, asked them where they got all the treasures to which they replied that it was from the Spaniards who had themselves robbed the indigenous

people of the Americas. Upon learning this, her response was "well done go back and get more!" So, the Queen endorsed piracy and knighted the scoundrels! Some even became governors of some of the British Caribbean Island territories. The bottom line is that it was all greed at the expense of anyone that got in their way.

Eventually Spain set up the Great Armada, the largest assemblage of ships for its time to destroy the British Royal Navy and invade England. A series of events took place and the entire expedition was a complete and dismal failure. They could not even return how they came and had to go the route around Britain in the North Sea where storms further destroyed the fleet allowing only a small percentage to limp back home. That spelt the near end of the Spanish Empire. But it allowed for the growth and development of the British Empire which eventually became the biggest and greatest empire of all history. It was so huge and spread out that "the sun never set on the British Empire". Thus

began one of the worst episodes of exploitation of resources, human and environmental in the history of mankind. The British adopted and exploited a lot of the Roman discipline and organization which enabled an island of about 100,000 square miles to control and rule a large percentage of the world. The objective was to rob and rape the resources of her territories and take it all to Britain which she used to develop her society including her military hardware to protect and defend her ill-gotten gains. None of the crown jewels came from England. They were robbed from India and Africa.

Then after colonizing America, she suffered an embarrassing defeat from the Americans in the war of Independence. The European nations were all monarchies ruled by Kings and Queens who inherited royalty, until the people of France got so fed up with the aristocracy that they successfully rebelled, cut off the heads of the aristocrats and established a republic where the people elected their leaders. The Americans followed suite and established their republic. However, despite this, it has not put a dent in the "philosophy of greed". After the Europeans invaded the territories of the indigenous Americans there were constant hostilities. Many treaties were broken by the white men (the native people called them "forked tongue") and the whites established and amended the Constitution. The right of citizens to bear arms to protect themselves was one of the amendments. Prior to that, only the military had the right to bear arms. Centuries later this is still the case even though the invaders had virtually wiped out the original peoples. Why is that? Absolute greed. The gun industry has become a 60 billion dollar industry and money is more important than lives lost by gun violence. No other

country in the world has the number and type of mass murders as does the US; including mass murdering of school children. Instead the NRA blames it on the medical system specifically the non-existent psychiatric system! They argue; guns do not kill; it is people that kill. The production and sale of lethal sophisticated military weapons continues unabated. Indeed the governments of such countries like the US, Russia, Britain, France... make trillions in arms sales to warring countries such as Israel, Egypt, India, Palestine, Syria, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Pakistan, Iran, Yemen, DR Congo, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Libya, Ukraine, China etc. It is all about the money-greed.

Mexico, the Central American countries (except Belize) and almost all the South American countries (except Guyana, Surinam and French Guyana) have followed the US Republican System. The US looks down on them as inferior, referring to many of them as Banana Republics. It has gone in as "Investor." Before the Cuban revolution in 1959, Cuba was just the playground backyard for the American "Investors" and the Mafia. Americans have been known to support corrupt regimes, like Panama's (Noriega), Nicaragua's (Samosa), Guatemala's (Fuentes), Cuba's (Batista)... All this after they virtually wiped out the vast majority of Indigenous Americans whom Columbus referred to as "Indians" even though Columbus never landed in India. It was an error of Columbus copied by the other white Europeans.

The British, followed by other Europeans took slavery to a level that was unprecedented in the history of man. In ancient history after wars, the spoils went to the victor and the agony went to the defeated, included slavery. But

(Turn to page 19)

## No Excuses

# The Culture & Philosophy of Man's Greed

(Con't from page 18)

then slaves were still people. In Britain they instituted the Slave Trade in which slaves were no longer people. They were chattel. They were not even used as cheap labour but rather free labour. This form of slavery was different from all other slavery in history. This one was specific to black Africans and was used in a trade. And all these people engaged in the Slave Trade and slavery were Christians; whose doctrine was to love your neighbor as yourself. In 1636 the British declared that slaves were not humans just chattel hence they did not count as God's children. A person was born a slave, grew up as a slave child, slave as a youth, slave as an adult, slave at middle age, slave at old age until death - generation, after generation, after generation. And of course it was exclusive to black Africans only. But science traces the DNA of every human to Africa. Every so-called white, red, yellow and black! EVERYONE. There was this huge triangular trading system in which ships left from England with beads, shells, whiskey etc., to give to the African chiefs, in exchange for slaves. These were then packed into the ships which crossed

the Atlantic to the New World. Sugar and cotton and other raw goods were collected and taken to England to be used in their industries and sold at huge profits; all greed. These ships never sailed empty. Indeed the slave ship Zong, under Captain Luke Collingwood left West Africa packed and overloaded with slaves (for more profit) many of whom were in chains so much so that many had to sleep in their filth and urine, many became sick and weak. Plus Collingwood could not navigate across the Atlantic. He therefore took the decision to dump the "cargo" over board and assured the investors not to worry because their investment was insured. He then sailed back to England and claimed the insurance. Such was the level of greed.

In the US, slaves were forced to work from dawn to dusk, fed on grits and chitterlings (intestines of pigs). Slaves were trafficked, whipped, raped, murdered and hanged at the whim of the white slave master. After a very brutal three hundred years of these crimes against humanity, there was movement towards emancipation. The reaction of the American South was "what's the matter with those abolitionists? We need the system to

carry on." They went to war to preserve slavery resulting in the most devastating Civil war the world has ever seen.

First there was general exploitation, then piracy, then slavery then colonialism. Countries responsible for it all were headed by "Royalty" which still persists to this day. After WWII, the United Nations started to push for the end of colonialism; peoples had a right to self-determination. India got her independence in 1948 which had the domino effect with many of the former British Colonies gaining their independence. However after centuries of slavery, colonialism and the massive underdevelopment created by the European Powers the former colonies were ill equipped for the future. Lack of adequate education, lack of skills, lack of finance, lack of industries and international competition, have resulted in persistent poverty, high unemployment and in many cases, worsening conditions after independence. Many Caribbean territories have sought to move over to the US with hopes of improvement but they have just jumped from the British frying pan into the US fire. And today's republicans are doing everything they

can to hide the truth about what their recent ancestors did.

The US has taken greed to unprecedented heights. One prominent leader of Corporate America said that all these huge billion dollar entities are run by a few people at the top: the investors or owners or boards of governors. It is no different from royalty that run things while billions of people are peasants. In the US the standard of living is high, hence labour cost is high, taxes are high, minimum wage is high; so what do these huge corporation do? They outsource their businesses to countries where the opposite is true. They persuade these governments to give them tax exemptions in exchange for their investments in which jobs are available and governments get more taxes from workers, and from export of finished products and importation of needed materials, plus with lowering of unemployment, it would be a win-win situation. But for the corporate entity it really works out to be more profits, in other words greed. With all this comes the bribing or under the table transaction to government officials, the police and the judiciary and yes, politicians. So in reality it is not a win-win situation but rather a one sided deterioration

and corruption brought about by greed.

The British realized that if they invested money to purchase a slave, they wanted to get as much value for the money spent. So he gave them a little better food, not overworked them as much nor damaged them, and give them some time to socialize with their families and friends thus he will have the use of the slave for 45 years (than if he really maltreated them and only got 18 years before the slave is done for). The British went further, he recognized that if he educated his blacks they would be more valuable to him than ignorant ones, thus he started to school them and educate them so they can work for him more efficiently. More recently with exposure, demand for reparation and shame and embarrassment, the British Monarchy have been trying to compensate by putting in Technical Colleges in the Caribbean territories which are virtually free of cost (or at very minimal cost) and the establishment of a regional University of the West Indies (UWI). They have also tried to establish a "policy" of service to the community. Thus they, the Americans and the Canadians have set up entities such as VSO's USAID and CIDA. Also the European Union has given conscience money for developmental projects.

But with all this the greed persists. We see that with the industrial revolution productivity has grown by leaps and bounds. However we are now experiencing the effects with the phenomenon of Global Warming. When one recognize the thousands of cities that have sprung up, one can only imagine the millions of square miles of forests that were on earth that got cut down - and also for the lumber industry. The forest are the "lungs" of the earth but also important for the maintenance of water sheds, providing habitats for millions of species, for the maintenance

of the temperature balance of the earth, to name a few. We are experiencing the effects of global warming now. Thousands and thousands of square miles of forest fires, increasing temperature, major droughts here, excessive rains and storms there, tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, melting of glaciers, snow caps etc. Yet man is merely giving lip service to it. It is the Developed Countries, causing the problems, but it is the Developing Countries that are feeling and suffering the negative effects most! The Developed Countries are not seriously concerned. Instead, they are adopting an attitude in which they are saying that the various peoples must learn to adapt to the situation. Imagine!

How do small countries adapt to the increase in more and more major hurricanes caused by heating up of the oceans? Or to the massive Sargasso blooms now covering huge square miles of tropical seas, shorelines and beaches? Or massive shoreline beach erosion with the sea now taking in habitation structures that have been around for centuries? Or great droughts in some areas and excessive rains, flooding and destruction in others? The greed of man knows no bounds! Man continues on his way to pursue a policy of greed at the expense of damaging the Earth.

The fundamental problem is GREED and it is now in the very DNA of man. The thing is man will not destroy the Earth; the Earth will recover as it has on many occasions after cataclysmic upheavals. Man will destroy himself, including all of us!

**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.**



SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD

### Public Notice of Investment

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the Social Security Act, Chapter 44 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2017, that the Social Security Board, as per its Investment Framework, Section 49, has proposed to purchase the amount of **Twelve Million Dollars (BZ\$12,000,000.00)** of Government of Belize Five-Year Fixed Rate Notes with a coupon rate of 3.5%. Interest on the Notes is payable semi-annually on November 17 and May 17 in each year until maturity.



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



**PROCUREMENT OFFICER**

**DUTY STATION: Belize City, Belize**

**PROJECT NUMBER: BL-L1031**

**1. BACKGROUND**

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

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

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

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

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

**2. OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE OF WORK**

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

**3. RESPONSIBILITIES/ACTIVITIES**

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

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

**4. REPORTS/DELIVERABLES**

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

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

**5. QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE**

**a. Education:**

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

**b. General Experience:**

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

**c. Specific Experience:**

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

**5.1 Skills, Knowledge and Abilities:**

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

**6. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

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

**7. COMPENSATION**

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

**8. APPLICATIONS**

**8.1 CRITERIA for SELECTION**

Consultants will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Inter-American Development Bank: **Policies for the Selection and Contracting of Consultants financed by the Inter-American Development Bank GN-2350-15** section 5 – individual consultants and is open to all eligible candidates as defined in the IDB policies. The individual consultant will be selected based on their experience and competence relevant to the assignment and most appropriate qualifications and references in accordance with the Comparison of Qualifications method set out in the Consultant Policies.

**8.2 APPLICATION PROCEDURES:**

**Expression of Interest package should contain:**

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

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

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

**For clarifications kindly contact:**

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

# Entrepreneurship and Innovation highlighted at Agric show

By William Ysaguirre

Belizean entrepreneurship and innovation were highlighted in a host of new products and services offered to the 29,137 visitors to this year's National Agricultural and Trade Show in Belmopan over the weekend, May 28-29.

Many micro, small and medium enterprises offered new products for sale to replace imports, in line with the theme of the show: "Innovations in technology: Driving a Climate Resilient and Competitive Agriculture and Food Sector".

Emanuel Salazar of San Ignacio partnered with his wife and father to begin a small family business to make his "Nice Snacks" plantain chips and cassava chips two years ago, frying his chips in large pot over a firewood furnace.



'Beelize' Honey Producers Group of Cristo Rey Village, Corozal

Recently with BELTRAIDE support, he is now able to offer a more international standard of product, with better quality packaging with colorful, attractive labels. He produces chips in the original natural flavor, as well as hot and spicy, barbeque and sour cream flavors, which are available at

stores and supermarkets in Belize, Cayo and Stann Creek districts.

Sabal's Food Products of mile 3 on the Hummingbird highway in the Stann Creek district makes the traditional "ereba" cassava bread and cassava flour at the Sabal family farm. Producing cassava bread is labor intensive.

can be contacted via Facebook or WhatsApp.

The Department of Cooperatives also hosted 20 cooperatives from around the country who have been producing value-added food products for the local and export markets. These included the Concepcion Vegetable Farmers' Cooperative Society Ltd, founded by Farmer of the year Orlando Ek, the Valley of Peace Laguna Farmers Co-operative, the Bomba United Farmers Co-operative

(ICDF) Technical Mission at Central Farm, Cayo has been teaching local vegetable and fruit producers how to increase their earnings through value-added products for improved marketability and longer shelf life. The Western Women's Agro-processing Association of Cayo, the Santa Cruz Women's Co-operative and the Prosperity Women's Co-operative of the Orange Walk district, Sandy Beach Women's Co-operative of Hopkins Village, and the Marigold Women's



"Julie's Zucchini Salsa"

Cyril Sabal has removed a good part of the hard labor of making the bread, by inventing a mechanical mill to grind the cassava into pulp, and also a mechanical sieve to strain out the flour.

Aside from displaying their wares at the Agricultural Show under the Department of Cooperatives pavilion, they also market their products at Brodies supermarkets and Save-U in Belize City, as well as in Punta Gorda Town, San Pedro Town, Seine Bight and Hopkins Village.

Julie MacRae has been making her "Julie's Zucchini Salsa" as a registered microbusiness in Santa Elena, Cayo, since 2019, using natural ingredients bought in San Ignacio: zucchini, onions, green peppers, tomatoes and habanero peppers. She offers five flavors: mild, medium, hot, barbeque sauce and with turmeric and moringa, packaged in 16-ounce jars. She

of the Belize district, the 7 Miles Farmers' Association of El Progreso Village, Cayo and the Productores Bromelia Co-operative of St Margaret's Village, Cayo all displayed the vegetables they produce.

Recently the vegetable farmers of the Corozal, Orange Walk, Belize and Cayo districts have benefited from the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) which provided them with cold storage facilities to extend the storage life of their fresh produce.

The Beelize Honey Producers Group of Cristo Rey Village, Corozal, the Orange Walk Beekeepers Co-operative and the Cayo Quality Honey Producers Co-operative all exhibited their honey products with international standard packaging and labelling.

Taiwan's International Cooperation Development Fund

Co-operative of Toledo all exhibited their food products for sale.

Other small cooperatives displayed arts and crafts, such as embroidered bags, clothes and shawls, colorful woven bags and woven baskets. Olivia Pat of the Kichpan Kananten Women's Group of San Jose Succotz, Cayo and Leonor Requeña of the PG Women Livelihood Programme recently completed a literacy training programme funded by the Taiwan Embassy, to create websites to market their products online to Belizean and international buyers.

The SWAAT Women's Group of San Jose Succotz, the Fajinas Arts Group and the San Pedro Columbia Youth Group, both of the Toledo district, also displayed their wares. The Toledo Coconut Farmers Co-operative also offered their processed coconut products for sale.

**PUBLIC AUCTION SALES: PROPERTIES**

Lake Gardens, Ladyville; San Pedro, Ambergris Caye, Belize District; Independence Village, Stann Creek District

By order of the Mortgagees, Messrs. Heritage Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo & Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via [belizepropertyauctions.com](http://belizepropertyauctions.com) the below described properties. Sales currently running until 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022 with public auction sales expiring bi-weekly on the dates and times listed on the website until the properties are sold.

1. Lot No. 68 Lake Gardens, Ladyville, Belize District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Ladyville/Lord's Bank	16	5710

(Being a concrete bungalow dwelling house [32 ft. X 40 ft.] + [22 ft. X 25 ft.] + veranda [9 ft. X 13 ft.] + deck [22 ft. X 32 ft.] containing master bedroom (bathroom, walk-in closet, and study) + 2 bedrooms each with bath + kitchen + dining + living + laundry rooms TOGETHER with proposed lake/canal side lot 1500.01 S.Y. (13,500 sq. ft.) situate in Lake Gardens, Ladyville, Belize District, the freehold property of Ms. Susan Fuller.)

2. Parcel No. 3207 DFC Housing Site, San Pedro, Ambergris Caye, Belize District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
San Pedro	7	3207

(Being residential/commercial timber building TOGETHER with lot containing 416.67 square yards situate in DFC Area, San Pedro, Ambergris Caye, the freehold property of Cesar Augusto Cerpa)

3. Parcel No. 376 Beverly Lane, Independence Village, Stann Creek District:



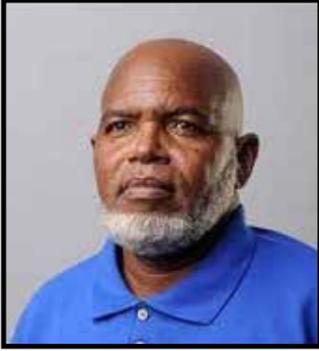
ALL THAT piece or parcel of land situate in Independence Village, Stann Creek District and being lot number 376 and shown on Plan 1887 (2 of 2) containing 555.6 square yards and recorded at the Land Titles unit, Belmopan TOGETHER with all buildings and erections thereon. (Being a concrete bungalow dwelling house containing [three bedrooms + two bathrooms + laundry room + semi-enclosed garage] and lot 555.60 S.Y. situate on Beverly Lane, Independence Village, Stann Creek District, the freehold property of Mr. Juan Omar Coc and Ms. Melonie Coc)

**TERMS: STRICTLY CASH**  
**KEVIN A. CASTILLO**  
**CHRISTIANA R. CASTILLO**  
**TELEPHONE 223-4488**

Website: [www.belizepropertyauctions.com](http://www.belizepropertyauctions.com)  
 E-mail: [kevinacas@yahoo.com](mailto:kevinacas@yahoo.com)  
 Face Book: Belize Auctions

# GRASSROOTS

## Taking on obstacles to development



By Hon. Gilroy Usher

“Today is your opportunity to build the tomorrow you want.”- Ken Poirot

San Pedro is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Belize for both Belizeans and foreigners. The island is 28 miles long which is approximately from Belize City to La Democracia village

on the George Price Highway. The tourist hotspot is only 15 minutes from the mainland by air or one hour by boat, and the fare for either method of travel is reasonable. Only more persons will flock to the island yearly.

To cash in on the heavy tourism in San Pedro, there is great demand for land on the island by foreigners for more large hotels, high-end restaurants, and entertainment places among other things. There is also a great need on the island for lots for ordinary Belizeans to build their homes and invest in their own country.

The use of land for major investments and as lots for ordinary Belizeans has resulted in wealthy neighbourhoods on the tourist hub and a number marginalized communities such as the DFC area that are in need of more infrastructure development.

Addressing the need for lots for ordinary Belizeans on the island is not an easy task. Filling swamp land for distribution to the poor is a very costly venture ,and the cost to the government in acquiring land from private owners especially foreigners for distribution to Belizeans ,who are first time land owners, is huge.

Land for the poor in San Pedro is matter that must be addressed. Doing so requires lots of money. Aware of the situation the government is doing everything possible to find those dollars to alleviate the land problem on the island as fast as is humanly possible.

The massive housing construction and other developments taking place in the downtown area of San Pedro and miles away from its centre have created a tremendous need for reliable public

transportation on the island.

Tourists need transportation to reach from piers and airstrips to their hotels and other destinations. Working persons, students, the elderly, and others who live miles away from the center of the town need transportation from point A to point B to get on with their lives.

Addressing the tremendous need for transportation on San Pedro individually has resulted in massive congestion on the island with hundreds of gulf carts and scores of vans. The vans are used as taxis. Many golf carts, which are not licensed to operate as taxis, are also used for that purpose unlawfully.

While a few taxis on the island do not meet

*After carefully studying the traffic congestion on the island, which like cancer will only get worse if it is ignored, GOB. will discuss the matter with the Area Representative, the San Pedro Town Council, the San Pedro Taxi Federation which consist of 9 taxi associations, members of the business community, and ordinary residents of the town with the aim of devising ways to address the problem.*

the most basic standards to be in business, the vast majority of them provide very good service. However due to their pricy fares as a result of numerous taxes that taxi operators must pay to operate their business, many persons on the island including the elderly, who do not own gulf carts, cannot afford taxi to move around.

And on a number of streets in San Pedro vehicles and pedestrians can barely make use of the area, because gulf carts are parked on both sides of them.

The vehicle congestion on the island is also causing increase air pollution which undermines a health living environment.

After carefully studying the traffic congestion on the island, which like cancer will only get worse if it is ignored, GOB. will discuss the matter with the Area Representative, the San Pedro Town Council, the San Pedro Taxi Federation which consist of 9 taxi associations, members of the business community, and ordinary residents of the town with the aim of devising ways to address the problem.

With the consent of the vast majority of the stake holders Government would like to introduce public transportation to the island for the benefit of everyone.

Public transportation on San Pedro would go a long way in easing the terrible traffic congestion and pollution. Hundreds of persons and business on the island only purchase their own gulf carts to move from one location to another, because there is no public transportation.

With public transportation on the island, families will be able to use the funds they would have used to purchase gulf carts to address other needs. And the elderly, students, and tourists among others would have a more affordable means to travel.

In creating this new industry on the island, the San Pedro Taxi Federation would be given the first opportunity to own and operate the investment. In taking up the challenge the Federation would enjoy government’s support with training to manage the business properly and special low interest loans for the necessary infrastructure.

Government would also be prepared to have discussion with the Federation on ways it could be of assistance to taxi operators, who might decide to transition to other businesses, if they aren’t satisfied with their income ,once public transportation in introduced on the island.

As is the case in Belize City and other municipalities, with public transportation in San Pedro there will still be a great need for charter services on the island.

A reliable public transportation system in San Pedro will result in more movement by locals and visitors on the island to the benefit of all business there and the entire country.

Of all the municipalities GOB collects the most taxes from San Pedro yearly. Those funds are then used to help address the needs of the people throughout the Jewel. Obstacles to development in San Pedro should therefore be of interest to the entire nation.

**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.**

# S U D O K U

Medium Puzzle

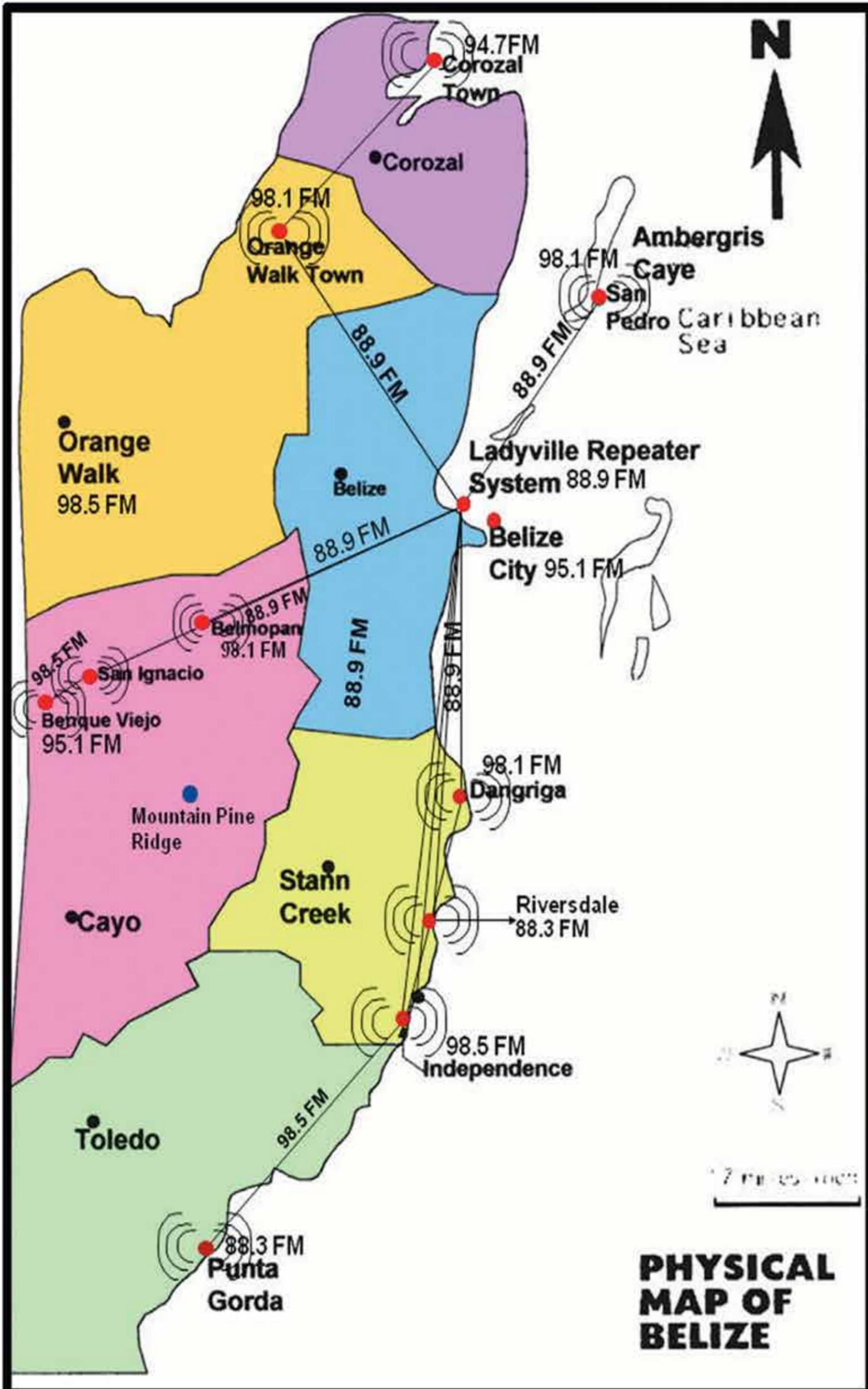
			9			6		5
	4					7		
5	8							
7	6	4						
		1	5					
8		3	4				9	6
	3		6				8	
					8	9	7	
			1	3	9			

Answer to Puzzle

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

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.

# LOVE NEWS AND MUSIC POWER



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



VESSEL	ARR DATE	VOYAGE	BL No.	CONSIGNEE NAMES	D/R#	UNIT	DESCRIPTION	VIN #
CARIBE MARINER	23-05-21	609	PEVBZ185428	ALBERT BAILEY	237780	VH	1997 INTERNATIONAL BUS	1HVBFBAM9VH465556
TROPIC LURE	04-06-21	2512	TSCW14828566	CORDELL'S AUTO	9741246	VH	2015 CHRYSLER PACIFICA RED	2A8GM68X38R662706
TROPIC LURE	24/12/21	2495	TSCW14553871	HUGH BOWDEN	9408903	VH	2005 FORD EXPLORER WHITE	1FMZU63K45UA37561
TROPIC LURE	24/12/21	2495	TSCW14624029	CHARLES MCCOY AUTO SALES	9492235	VH	2009 NISSAN VERSA WHITE	3N1BC11E59L396123
TROPIC LURE	22/09/20	2480	TSCW14486323	BROWN DOLLAR AUTOS	9327780	VH	1995 FORD RANGER GRAY	1FTCR14U2STA42676
JAN CARIBE	19/09/20	443	PEVBZ178377	M & J IMPORTS	236270	VH	2012 FORD FOCUS	1FAHP3K27CC271046
CARIBE MARINER	31/10/21	629	PEVBZ190279	M & S AUTOSERVICE	238878	VH	2004 TOYOTA CAMRY	4TBE32K74U329301
CARIBE MARINER	31/10/21	629	PEVBZ190276	SOUTHERN WHEELS	238877	VH	2012 FORD FUSION	3FAHPOHAXCR407667
CARIBE MARINER	31/10/21	629	PEVBZ190278	SOUTHERN WHEELS	238881	VH	2009 FORD FOCUS	1FAHP36N79W128173
VANQUISH	20/09/21	174	PEVBZ189043	M & S AUTOSERVICE	238482	VH	2000 LEXUS GS 300	JT8BD6850Y008745
TROPIC LURE	11-09-21	2566	TSCW15203833	M & S AUTOSERVICE	10200587	VH	2001 TOYOTA COROLLA	2T1BR12E71C397
TROPIC LURE	24/08/21	2548	TSCW15070757	CORDELL'S AUTO	10038554	VH	2009 NISSAN PATHFINDER	5N1AR18U49C612104
TROPIC MIST	27/07/21	4747	TSCW14975580	CORDELL'S AUTO	9922714	VH	2009 DODGE JOURNEY	3D4GG57V69T133678
TROPIC MIST	06-08-21	2521	TSCW14919433	CORDELL'S AUTO	9854155	VH	2007 FORD EXPEDITION	1FMFU18557LA35187
TROPIC LURE	06-08-21	2521	TSCW14919421	HUGH BOWDEN	9854137	VH	2010 VOLKSWAGEN TOUREZ	WVGFK7A95AD000236
TROPIC LURE	06-08-21	2521	TSCW14923435	HUGH BOWDEN	9858925	VH	2006 BMW X5	5UXFB535X6LV22648
TROPIC MIST	16-11-21	4775	TSCW151863	CORDELL'S AUTO	10179531	VH	2010 FORD ESCAPE	1FMCUOEGOAKC99885
TROPIC LURE	22-09-21	2553	TSCW151187	GARCIA MOTOR	10097299	VH	2020 CHEVROLET EQUINOX	2GNAXUEV7L6139007
TROPIC MIST	22-07-21	4747	TSCW149968	M & S AUTOSERVICE	9947893	VH	2021 KIA SELTOS	KNDETCA25M7049626
TROPIC LURE	01-06-21	2520	TSCW149276	EMILIO LEIVA	9863836	VH	2005 DODGE CARAVAN	2D4GPZAR15R308731
CARIBE MARINER	18/4/20	573	PEVBZ174675	SOLECITA CIMASOSA	235542	VH	07 FORD ESCAPE	1FMYU03155KA25852
CARIBE MARINER	18-11-17	490	PEVBZ144522B	AL BROWN AUTO	225929	VH	05 FORD ESCAPE	1FMYU03127KA63025