

Reporter

Volume 55, No.37

Sunday, September 11th, 2022

Price: \$1.00

AUDIT REPORT UNAVAILABLE!

Senate dropping the ball on Auditor General Oversight

The citizens of Belize have not had a publicly available Auditor General report for roughly a decade, and the Senate is partly to blame, Business Senator Kevin Herrera admitted Thursday.

Herrera underscored the point that the Constitution authorizes the senate to take certain steps to hold the Auditor General's Office accountable to the people of Belize.

The Constitution's section 109(5) states that the "Auditor General may be removed from office ...for inability or failure to perform the functions of his office (however arising) or for misbehavior; and for the purpose of this section, any failure or undue delay by the Auditor-General to submit a report as required by section 120 of this Constitution, shall be treated as a failure to perform the functions of his office."



The referenced section 120, assigns responsibilities to several parties apart from the Auditor-General. Chief among those duties is

the fact that the report on how the nation's monies are spent should be produced "at least once in every year" according to section 120(2)(b) of the

Constitution.

Following the production of said reports, section 120(4) of the Supreme Law indicates that the "Minister

responsible for finance" is mandated to, within "seven days after the House of Representatives first meets after he has received the report, lay

it before the House." However, should the Minister of Finance shirk his duties, the Constitution, in section

Pg. 3

'Auditor General, Accountant General operating illegally since 2005,' says Senator Kevin Herrera

The Accountant General and Auditor General have been in violation of the laws for almost two decades given their failures in producing annual report on time, Business Sector Senator Kevin Herrera told The Reporter Thursday.

Herrera said that according to Section 15 of the Finance and Audit Reform Act (2005) the Accountant General is to prepare and submit an annual report within three months of the close of

Pg. 3



Senator Kevin Herrera

Queen Elizabeth Dead at 96

Pg. 4



QUEEN ELIZABETH II
1926 - 2022



The Tenth of September 1798 is a glorious day in the history of Belize. We want to remember it in spite of the distractions of the Covid pandemic and other preoccupations. We do well to remember it with pride and patriotism.

The valiant struggle of Ukraine against a much greater Russian force reminds us that Belize faced a similar situation in September 1798, when a single British frigate, the HMS Merlin under the command of Captain Moss teamed up with a few trading sloops hastily re-configured for battle, stood up to a formidable naval force of Spanish ships of war.

The clear intention of the Spaniards was to capture St. George's Caye and to use it as a base of operations for the 2,000 foot soldiers, they had brought to invade the mainland and wipe out the Baymen settlement.

They met with opposition so fierce that after three and a half hours of cross-reef bombardment they turned around in frustration and left.

The lead ships could not maneuver past the narrow break in the massive reef formation known as the "quebrada." They received a severe pounding from the HMS Merlin and the three local sloops whenever they tried to come forward.

Spanish sources also say there was an ugly dispute about tactics between Captain Boca Negra, in charge of the Spanish fleet, and Field Marshall Arthur O'Neil, Commander of the land forces.

Be that as it may, the Spaniards lost their appetite for the fight and turned away. They never came back.

The Baymen community and their slaves who fought side by side were jubilant. They remembered the harsh treatment they received at the hands of the Spaniards a few years earlier when they captured St. George's Caye. They looted the island and burned it to the ground. Then they forced the prisoners they had taken to walk overland to Campeche and threw them into jail until they could pay for their release.

Since then patriotic Belizeans have celebrated the Battle of St. George's Caye.

A country without a proud history is poor indeed. Belize has a history we can all be proud of because the ability to show courage and determination in the face of adversity are qualities that make a people great.

That is why we are proud of the Battle of St. George's Caye.



T...A...L...K

Dear Editor,

Perhaps I am complacent, or too trusting, believing that before the revisions are approved and become the NEW CONSTITUTION everybody will have been given full opportunity to express his key idea, or desire.

It is hard for me to imagine that months will pass if you have an idea, which you think should be in the constitution, that you personally will not be able to express it live through television, or radio, or FACEBOOK, or TWITTER, or REPORTER, or AMANDALA, or your ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE, or political standard bearer.

In short, if you have an idea, let your voice be heard. SPEAK OUT!

As a person with some public experience, I continue to express my best ideas on what the revision should be. Last week, in a letter titled OMEGA, much emphasis was placed on the most important right- FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE. The first Ombudsman of Belize cautioned against any effort to give legal status to any agenda blocking the expression in law of NATURAL LAW MORALITY.

Whereas, in reality, the human person is BODY and SOUL, it is hazardous for us to pretend, or obstruct, or deny the natural, logical expressions of human existence. MAN is BODY and SOUL;

After 40 Years, National Women's Commission Officially Named a Statutory Body

By Michelle Sutherland

Only several months shy of celebrating its 40th anniversary of pushing for gender equality, women's empowerment, and rights in Belize, the National Women's Commission have finally been named a statutory body, thereby, empowering them to legally pursue their agenda.

The much-awaited and equally welcoming announcement was made on Thursday, September 8th, 2022, by way of a Cabinet release which notified that Cabinet had "approved the establishment of the National Women's Commission as a statutory body of the Ministry of Human Development, Families and Indigenous Peoples' Affairs thus allowing this institution to legally address gender issues and to coordinate all national efforts relating to gender equality, equity and women's empowerment."

On Thursday, The Reporter spoke to Commission's President Thea Garcia Ramirez, who told us that her office was overwhelmed

with the news.

Ramirez said the new legislation will allow and empower the commission to continue to do the work that it has been doing for the past 40 years. She added that being named a statutory body will allow the staff to not only carry out their work better but to legally demand and insist on compliance with other departments, offices, and authorities such as the Police Department and even the Judiciary.

"This legislation would allow us to say well we have the mandate, we have the authority to ask you to comply and ensure that these things do not occur. It's the same thing with health then we would be able to take the lead if the gender machinery of the country pushed women's rights and women's issues to the forefront and the law will permit us to do that. So this is very far-reaching and we are very excited after 40 years of having been established," commented Ramirez.

Not only are they now legally charged but Ramirez said that the Commission now has the authority



WOMAN is SOUL and BODY.

In more political terms, man must arrange his being and his doing as a secular person harmoniously co-existing with other reasoning and choosing individuals. Therefore, the culture and ideas that flow from his laws and behaviour must be consistent with the duality of his being and existence.

Flashback to the original concern that everybody be heard, the COMMISSION should continuously advertise how citizens may reach them to express their views.

Moreover, the COMMISSION should have at least one hearing in each of the major population centers where people may submit or speak their ideas.

How about starting an email address. Is it not most desirable that this assignment of the Commission should become a – National – a cultururation effort – A NATIONAL – A CULTURATION PROCESS?

Perhaps our three universities should sponsor public addresses countrywide – with topical lecturers.

Of course, we all realize that the review process will come to an end when the Constitution – with its revisions are tabled in the House of Representatives. The final debate will be in the Senate, where amendments may still be made.

It may be a RED LETTER DAY for you to express how you would like to become and live for the rest of your life!

Signed: Paul Rodriguez O.B.E



**Thea Garcia Ramirez,
President of the
National Womens
Commission**

to coordinate national efforts in response to gender equality and equity in regard to women's empowerment. She pointed out

that previously the Commission had to work under the ministry which created some barriers for them to carry out their work.

Now that they are now a statutory body Ramirez said that the Commission can now demand data from the relevant authorities, and compile and distribute reports in a timely manner and in accordance with requests from international partners. Information gathered will also be used to better develop policies and provide advice to the Ministry.

THE REPORTER

Phones: 501- 227-2503 / 227-1767

Fax 501-227- 8278 P.O. Box 707

e-mail: reporternewspaper@gmail.com

website: <http://www.thereporter.bz>

Publisher Harry Lawrence
Editor Dyon A. Elliott
Financial Controller Rosa Maria Lawrence

General Manager Lisbeth Ayuso
Lithographer Rodolfo Castro
Journalists Michelle Sutherland

**Desktop Publisher/
Graphic Designer** Jackie Fuller
Accounts/ Advertising Rodolfo Castro
Chief Printer Leroy Bood
Office Assistant Misael Muñoz

AUDIT REPORT UNAVAILABLE!

Senate dropping the ball on Auditor General Oversight

Cont'd from pg. 1

120(5), assigns that duty to the Auditor-General and the Clerk of the National Assembly.

However, to Herrera's point, even if the Clerk and Auditor-General fails to perform in accordance with *section 120(5)*—which follows from the failing of the Minister of Finance, *section 120(8)* of the Constitution states:

"Where the Auditor General fails to submit a report to the National Assembly in accordance with subsection (5)... he may be required to appear before the Senate to answer to his failure to comply with the requirements of this section."

"Those are things that the National Assembly, including the Senate, have let slip over the years," Herrera added. "It has been a failure of the Senate, a Failure of the National Assembly for not holding these people accountable."

Herrera and the Clerk

of the National Assembly Mr. Eddie Webster confirmed with *The Reporter* on Thursday that this Senate authority has never been used.

The Finance and Audit Reform Act

Additionally, Herrera pointed out that while there are clear failings from the vantage point of the Constitution, there are also significant breaches of the Finance and Audit Reform Act (the FARA).

According to *Section 15* of the Finance and Audit Reform Act (2005), the Accountant General is to prepare and submit an annual report within three months of the close of the last fiscal year. The Act makes provision for a three-month extension to submit the report, but that the extension must be applied for and approved by the National Assembly.

Similarly, the Auditor General, upon receiving the Accountant General's report, has three months to produce an annual audit report. The Auditor General is

afforded a two-month grace period, which also must be applied for and approved by the National Assembly.

Herrera explained that the Auditor General had confirmed to the Joint Public Accounts Committee (JPAC) that her office had never utilized the extension provision.

The Backlog

As it stands, Belize's last publicly available audit report is for the year 2011/12. According to reports, audits have been prepared up to fiscal year 2014/15—roughly seven years ago. However, according to the Auditor General's website, the reports for fiscal years 2012/13, 2013/14, and 2014/15 are "unavailable because it has not been tabled in the National Assembly."

Even for reports that have been presented as Act papers before Parliament, they remain unavailable. For instance, the House of Representatives' orders

for August 31st, 2018, shows that the report for FY 2013/14 was presented to the House.

In terms of it being public, former National Assembly Clerk Conrad Lewis informed that any document laid upon the table (in Parliamentary parlance) should be treated as a public document.

However, the present clerk, Eddie Webster, says that it is first for the Joint Public Accounts Committee (JPAC) to review before the reports are made public.

The Joint Public Accounts Committee

Readers would recall that the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) and now the JPAC has had a turbulent history when it comes to maintaining a robust meeting schedule.

Webster stressed that the Auditor General Reports for the years 2013-2015 have, indeed, been tabled in the House of Representatives. However, as part of the parliamentary process,

papers laid before the houses are not up for discussion, even though those discussions that must take place before the reports can be made public.

Furthermore, Webster added that in 2017, a parliamentary caucus determined that Auditor General Reports would no longer lay on the table at parliament but would be directed to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) for discussion. The PAC, which is chaired by the Opposition, needs three members to satisfy the quorum requirement to hold a meeting.

"The PAC has not met consistently over the years due to issues with meeting quorum," Webster noted. In 2021, the PAC was reformed as the Joint Public Accounts Committee (JPAC), to include Senators as members.

Parliamentary Caucus Decision

The Reporter notes the reference to the parliamentary caucus

decision referenced by the clerk is, on its surface, problematic as it would imply a decision that would be out of step with the Constitution of Belize, which orders that the annual report be tabled at the House of Representatives.

Furthermore, *The Reporter* also sought verification with parliamentarians who were active in 2017, and neither could recall any reference to such a decision. Additionally, both interviewees voiced the concern that any such change would have required an amendment to the Constitution, the FARA, or, at minimum, to the Standing Orders of the House.

Consequently, given the various levels of systematic failings in oversight at several levels, despite the Supreme Law and the FARA ordering annual audits, the country's finances have been without a proper audit for between seven to ten years.

'Auditor General, Accountant General operating illegally since 2005,' says Senator Kevin Herrera

Cont'd from pg. 1

the last fiscal year. He explained that the Act makes provision for a three-month extension to submit the report, but that the extension must be applied for and approved by the National Assembly.

Once the Accountant General's report is submitted, the Auditor General will then have three months to produce an annual audit report. Unlike the Accountant General, the Auditor General is only given a two-month grace period, which also must be applied for

and approved by the National Assembly.

Herrera said that the Joint Public Accounts Committee (JPAC) had asked Auditor General Dorothy Bradley if she had ever requested an extension for an audit report, to which she replied, "No." He said that JPAC did not have the opportunity to question the Accountant General. However, without applying and receiving approval for the extension, they have been in violation of the FARA since 2005.

The Auditor General Reports

Herrera reminded

that the last annual report submitted by the Auditor General is dated 2015; however, the report is not available to the public as it has not been tabled in the National Assembly.

"[They are] seven years behind, which is awful," Herrera lamented. "We should never be seven years behind."

"Those are things that the National Assembly, including the Senate, have let slip over the years," Herrera added. "It has been a failure of the Senate, a Failure of the National Assembly

for not holding these people accountable."

The Business Senator was referring to section 120 of the Constitution of Belize, which empowers the Senate to summon the Auditor General in the event reports are late. It further empowers the Senate to recommend the Auditor General's dismissal in instances where there have been failures to carry out constitutional duties.

Section 120 (8) of the Constitution reads:

"Where the Auditor General fails to submit a report to the National Assembly in accordance with subsection (5) ... he may be required to appear before the Senate to answer to his failure to comply with the requirements of this section."

The Supreme Law's reference to "subsection 5" is the part of the Constitution that outlines the process

to be followed if the Minister of Finance fails to "lay the report before the House." The Constitution actually provides a procedure for the Clerk and the Auditor General to take steps to have the annual report laid "on the table of the House of Representatives and the Senate."

Is it Public?

One question has remained ambiguous on account of Parliamentary parlance: That is, when is the report to be made public?

For his part, former Clerk of the National Assembly Conrad Lewis told *The Reporter* on Thursday that "Anything laid on the table is to be made public." For instance, the Orders of the Day for Friday, August 31st, 2018, sitting of the House of Representatives included the "Report of the Auditor General for the period April

2013 to March 2014."

However, despite being presented to the House from four years ago—that is in 2018, which itself is four years late in terms of the period covered—the report is still listed as on the Auditor General's website as "unavailable because it has not been tabled in the National Assembly."

Current Clerk Eddie Webster takes a different interpretation, and informed that the process for the Auditor General's report is one that rests with the Joint Public Accounts Committee (JPAC) having first reviewed it, before it is made public.

While the parliamentary parlance remains vague, on the facts, it remains that the Belizean public has not seen a completed Auditor General's report since 2012.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

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

Queen Elizabeth Dead at 96

By Michelle Sutherland

Queen Elizabeth 11, Britain's longest-serving monarch died at the age of 96, after reigning for 70 years, thereby making her eldest son Charles, King.

The shocking news of Queen Elizabeth's passing was made around midday on Thursday, September 8th, via an official release from inside Buckingham Palace which reads, "The queen died peacefully at Balmoral this afternoon."

The news came just hours after the Queen's children and immediate family members had to journey to Balmoral Castle in Scotland after she was placed under medical supervision early on Thursday morning. Arrangements will now be made to transport her body back to England

for an official state burial.

Shortly after her passing, King Charles III issued a statement in which he stated, "The death of my beloved mother, Her Majesty, The Queen, is a moment of greatest sadness for me and all members of my family. We mourn profoundly the passing of a cherished Sovereign and a much loved Mother. I know her loss will be deeply felt throughout the country, the Realms and the Commonwealth, and by countless people around the world."

The King further added that during the period of mourning and change, the Royal Family as well as himself will be comforted and sustained by their knowledge of the respect and deep affection in which The Queen was so

widely held.

News of the queen's death spread like wildfire across the world as presidents, prime ministers, and officials sent their condolences. Locally in Belize, the Queen's representative, Governor General, Her Excellency Dame Froyla Tzalam issued a press release in which she joined the world in issuing her condolences to the Royal Family on behalf of the people of Belize.

The Governor has requested that as a sign of respect and mourning all national flags be flown half-mast commencing today Thursday, September 8th, until the Committal Service of Her Majesty the queen.

"She was a much loved and respected figure across the globe. Her extraordinary reign has seen her travel

more widely than any other monarch, undertaking many historic overseas visits. Known for her sense of duty and her devotion to a life of service, she has been an important figurehead for the UK and the Commonwealth during times of enormous social change," wrote the Governor General.

Queen Elizabeth's eldest son Charles, 73, has now taken over the post as king. While his official and formal coronation will be announced at a later date. King Charles III, will lead the nation into mourning along with his wife Queen Consort Camilla. He is not only head of state in the UK but in 14 other Commonwealth realms including Belize.

With King Charles assuming the role

of British monarch immediately after the Queen's death, his eldest son, Prince William, 40, now becomes heir to the throne. His younger brother Prince Harry now becomes fifth in line to the throne, after William's three children Prince George, 9; Princess Charlotte, 7; and Prince Louis, 4.

Born Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor, in Mayfair London on April 21st, 1926, the queen became heir to the throne at the tender age of 3. She was crowned Queen at the age of 27 following the death of her father in 1952. Queen Elizabeth later married her third cousin Prince Philip, who was the Duke of Greece in 1947. Their loving marriage lasted 74 years up until his death last year at the age of 99. From that

marriage, the Queen birthed four children. Her reign spanned 15 Prime ministers, 7 popes, and 14 US presidents.

In the upcoming days, the accession council will meet at the 500-year-old St. James Palace in London where the queen's death will be formally announced and the new sovereign will be proclaimed. This will be followed by gun salutes across London, one round for every year of the queen's life while a broadcast by the new king will be played out.

Two days prior to her death, the Queen appointed a new Prime Minister in Scotland. New Premier Liz Truss traveled to Balmoral Castle to be formally appointed by the queen herself on Tuesday, September 6.

*Valiant and Bold,
Proud and Strong!*

BELIZE REBOUNDS @41!



CARIBBEAN SHIPPING
AGENCIES, LTD.

The Management & Staff of Caribbean Shipping Agencies Ltd.
& HYDE Shipping Corporation wishes all Belizeans at home
& in the Diaspora a Happy St. George's Caye Day & Happy Independence Day!



FAO reports falling food prices

By William Ysaguirre

World food prices are falling, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reported last Friday, September 2.

The FAO's Food Price Index has dropped for the past five months, and averaged 138.0 points in August 2022, down 1.9 percent from July, although the index is still 7.9 percent above what it was a year ago.

The FAO calculates the index based on five food groups: cereals, meat, vegetable oil, dairy products and sugar, which all showed moderate drops in August: cereals fell 1.4 percent and vegetable oils dropped 3.3 percent. This steady decrease is not yet reflected in local food prices, as the Consumer Price Index produced by the Statistics Institute of Belize has shown the prices on all these commodities steadily increasing since January. Only sugar

has not increased, as it is price controlled at 50 cents for raw brown sugar and 75 cents for plantation white.

The FAO Cereal Price Index fell 1.4 percent from July, which was still 11.4 percent more than in August 2021.

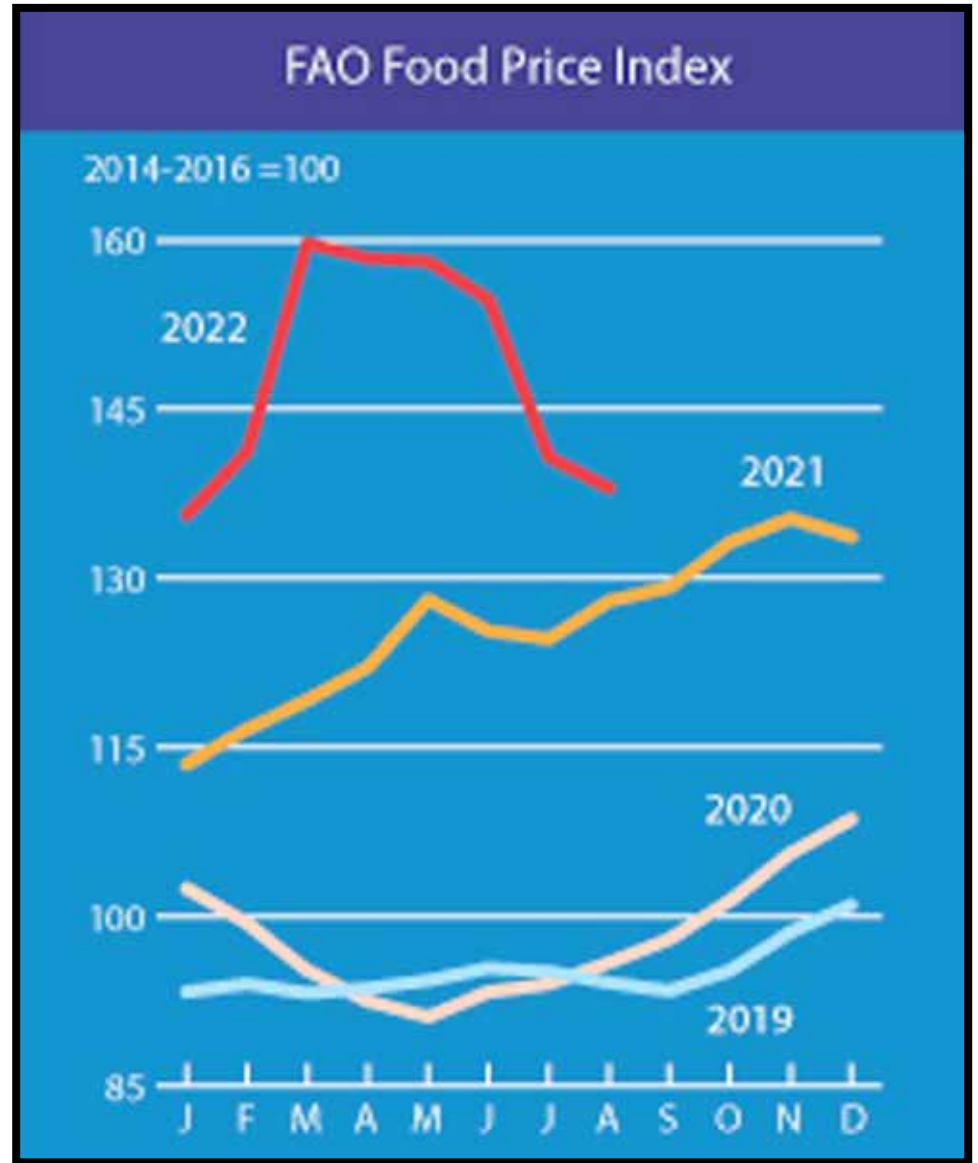
World wheat prices have been falling for the past three months, and fell by 5.1 percent last month, as Canada, the United States of America and the Russian Federation expect better crops.

Wheat exports from Ukraine increased as the Black Sea ports opened for the first time since Russia invaded Ukraine. Even so, world wheat prices are still 10.6 percent more than August 2021. World prices for corn increased 1.5 percent, as hot, dry conditions promised smaller harvests in the European Union and the United States. World prices for barley and sorghum dropped

3.8 percent and 3.4 percent, respectively, while world prices for rice held steady in August.

The FAO Vegetable Oil Price Index fell 3.3 percent in August, as world prices for palm, sunflower and rapeseed oils fell, despite higher prices on soybean oil. The FAO Dairy Price Index also fell 2.0 percent from July, though it was still 23.5 percent more than a year ago. The FAO Meat Price Index has been falling for the past two months from its all-time high reached in June 2022, and fell 1.5 percent last month, but this was still 8.2 percent more than a year ago.

The FAO Sugar Price Index has also been falling for the past four months and fell 2.1 percent in August, the lowest it's been since July 2021. This resulted mainly from India's cap on sugar exports and falling oil prices drove down ethanol prices in Brazil, which reduced the amount



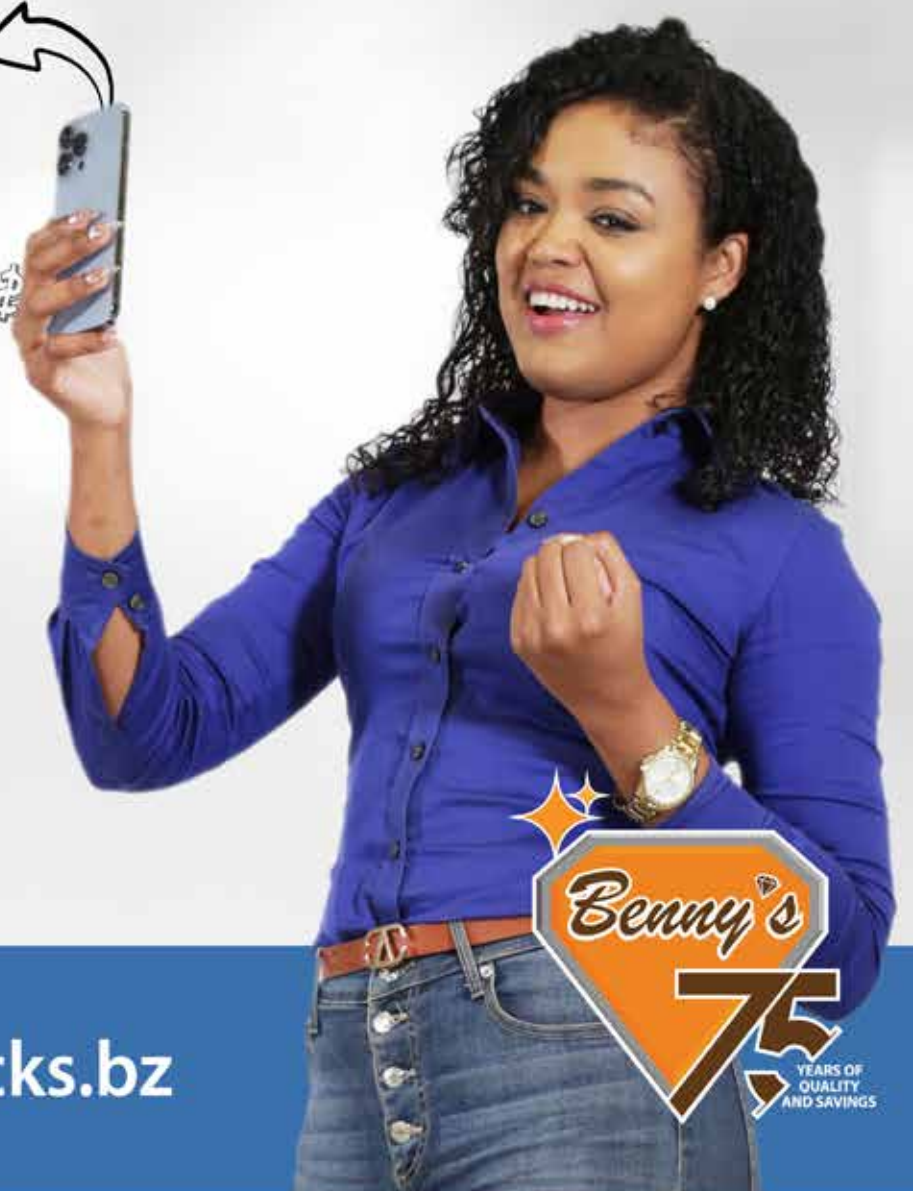
of sugarcane diverted from sugar production to make gasohol. World sugar prices did not fall

more because adverse weather has reduced the expected crop yields in Brazil, and

dry conditions in the European Union has also impacted the 2022 beet sugar crop.

BUCKS

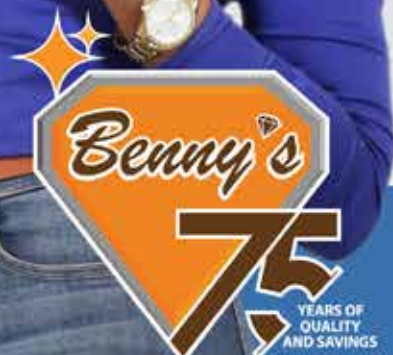
Benny's MULTI-BRAND REWARDS PROGRAM
PURCHASE. EARN. REDEEM.



DOWNLOAD THE APP TODAY



www.bbucks.bz



UEF: Public hearing still needed on Waterloo

There needs to be a public hearing on the Port of Belize Cargo Expansion and Construction of Cruise Terminal & Cruise Tourism Village project in Port Loyola, YaYa Marin Coleman, the chairperson of the UBAD Education Foundation (UEF), maintains.

According to Marin Coleman, there is a significant difference between public consultations and public hearings. She explained that the public consultation is only a part of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process outlined under the law. One such session was recently conducted in Belize City on Thursday, September 1.

Public hearings, Marin Coleman underscores, are very different. “The public hearing is what the Department of the Environment (DOE) is to do independently, with the objective of talking about the entire project and not just the EIA component.”

Marin Coleman reminded that the public hearing is essential, but unfortunately has not been executed by the DOE. Consequently, the residents of Port Loyola are only informed about a fraction of the project due to the public consultation that involves the developer being engaged in a two-way flow of information with the general public.

“With the public hearings,” Marin Coleman shared, “the government has a responsibility—unlike the narrower scope provided



UEF Chairperson YaYa Marin Coleman engaging with Port Loyola resident.

at the Developer-organized public consultations—to discuss every aspect of the initiative.” According to the regulations, the public hearings must be guided by an “impartial moderator.”

Pre-Amendment Language of The Environmental Impact Regulations

Regulation 24 of the Environmental Impact Regulations (hereafter “The Regulations”) does make provision for the public hearing. The original, pre-amendment language of The Regulations read:

“The Department, on the recommendation of the National Environmental Appraisal Committee (NEAC), may require a public hearing in respect of any undertaking, project or activity in respect of which an environmental impact assessment is required pursuant to these regulations.”

The Regulations would go on to outline the conditions under which NEAC should recommend the public hearing. The rules state:

“In order to determine whether an undertaking, project or activity requires

a public hearing, the Department shall take into account the following factors:


“(a) the magnitude and type of the environmental impact, the amount

of investment, the nature of the geographical area, and the commitment of the natural resources involved in the proposed undertaking, project or activity;


“(b) the degree of interest in the proposed undertaking, project or activity by the public, the Department and other government agencies, as evidenced by the public participation in the proposed undertaking, project or activity;

“(c) the complexity of the problem and the possibility that information

Cont'd on pg. 7



CENTRAL BANK of BELIZE



CAREER OPPORTUNITY

ASSISTANT MANAGER, ACCOUNTS AND BUDGET

The Central Bank invites qualified individuals to join its Accounts and Budget Department.

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

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

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

The applicants should possess the following:

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

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

TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE

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

COMPETENCIES

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

Submit the following documents by **Monday, 19 September 2022:**

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

Applications should be addressed to:

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

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



Kick back
Relax and
Enjoy

The Reporter

Independently serving Belize since 1987

UEF: Public hearing still needed on Waterloo

Cont'd from pg. 6

presented at a public hearing may assist the developer to comply with its responsibilities regarding the proposed undertaking, project or activity."

The Amended Language

The language of the regulations have been amended several times over the years, with a 2020 amendment adding, inter alia, the words "or public consultations after the word 'hearing' wherever it occurs.

Consequently, The Regulations now appears to provide a choice between the two mechanisms. The rules now would read:

"The Department, on the recommendation of the National Environmental Appraisal Committee (NEAC), may require a public hearing or

public consultation in respect of any undertaking, project or activity in respect of which an environmental impact assessment is required pursuant to these regulations."

Interest from the Public

Marin Coleman explained that from UEF's vantage point Rule 24(2)(b), which highlights that the level of public interest is a factor to help NEAC decide whether a hearing is necessary, is satisfied. She pointed to the example of the September 1st public consultation's turnout. "It had a wide cross section of Belizeans of all ages, class, members of the Diaspora, and gender participating in the process," said Marin, adding that "people actually wanted more time, a fact that is a testament to the need for NEAC and DOE to call for the public hearings."

Additionally, the initiative is a \$400 million investment. In a small economy with a pre-COVID Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of about \$4.7 billion, Marin Coleman views the Waterloo project as a sizable investment. That fact alone, says Marin, should satisfy the condition of Rule 24(2)(a) as it pertains to the "amount of the investment."

The Project Itself

The project—more commonly referred to as the "Waterloo" project, given the ports relationship with Waterloo Investment Holdings Limited—is designed to expand the current cargo port located on Caesar Ridge Road in Belize City. It is also aimed at developing a cruise terminal, one of three competing cruise-port projects.

In terms of the cruise port

development, the Port of Belize's Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) justifies the project as follows:

"As cruise ships become larger, tendering becomes increasingly difficult. Indeed, a cruise ship with capacity larger than approximately 3,500 passengers is considered a shore-side berth only vessel, as tendering becomes impossible within a normal call window. Currently, Cruise ships calling at Belize City are limited to tendering to the mainland from the deep-water anchorage.

"The major cruise lines have expressed their intention to cease tender operations by 2024. To avoid port call interruptions, Belize City must have a cruise capable, shore-side berthing option available within that

timeframe. To that end, the dredging and expansion of the Port of Belize channel and construction of fixed piers will ensure the long-term survival of Belize City cruise tourism which has become mainstay revenue for the Southside of Belize."

The dredging for both the cargo

and cruise ports has environmental implications that have led to objections from the environmental community. Additionally, some concerns have been raised about whether the increased flow of cruise passengers would exceed the carrying capacity of the country's tourism sites.



Oración al Espíritu Santo

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

Gracias Espíritu Santo.

R.M.L.



www.centralbank.org.bz

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Bank of England to Withdraw

Legal Tender Status of £20 and £50 Paper Banknotes

Belize City, 16 August 2022: The Central Bank of Belize hereby informs the public that the Bank of England has notified that it will withdraw the legal tender status of **£20** and **£50** paper banknotes on **30 September 2022**. After this date, only polymer banknotes will be legal tender. The Bank of England is encouraging both individual and institutional noteholders such as financial institutions to use, deposit, or exchange these banknotes by 30 September 2022.

Members of the Belizean public holding these paper banknotes are advised to submit them for exchange at their domestic bank. Institutional noteholders in Belize should continue to return these sterling banknotes to the Central Bank for repatriation to the Bank of England.

Note that after the 30 September 2022 deadline, holders of paper sterling banknotes will no longer be able to use them in transactions.

More information can be found on the Bank of England's website at:

<https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/banknotes/paper-20-paper-50-withdrawal>

<https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/-/media/boe/files/banknotes/paper/20-50-paper-notes.pdf>

- 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



Ministry of Sustainable Development,
Climate Change & Disaster Risk Management



DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

"When People Put the Environment First, Development Lasts."

Contact Person: Anthony Mai
Chief Environmental Officer

7552 Hummingbird Highway, Belmopan

Tel: 501-822-2548/2819

Email: envirodept@environment.gov.bz

Website: www.doe.gov.bz

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Notice

Update to Public Notice on Lodgement of an EIA Report and Public Consultation "Port of Belize Cruise Tourism Facility and Cargo Expansion"

Belmopan, Belize, August 26, 2022. The Department of the Environment (DOE), within the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management hereby informs the General Public that the date for the submission of written comments on the review of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report for the "Port of Belize Cruise Tourism Facility and Cargo Expansion" project has been **extended to September 14, 2022**.

At the public consultation meeting to be held on September 1, 2022, at the Belize Biltmore Plaza Hotel commencing at 6:30 pm, members of the public can place their written comments in the Public Comment Box and/or can submit written comments using the below URL or via post mail using the provided contact information herein:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd4x5SsLjYXU7CD649P1uFYeEPD6kPEGLVWAAfx44Rw3O48Rw/viewform>

For more information contact:

Chief Environmental Officer

Department of the Environment

Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management

7552 Hummingbird Highway, Belmopan

Tel: 822-548/2819

Email: eiaunit@environment.gov.bz or envirodept@environment.gov.bz

Website: www.doe.gov.bz

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DOEBelize>

END

Stakeholders concerned cruise projects will exceed carrying capacity of tourism sites

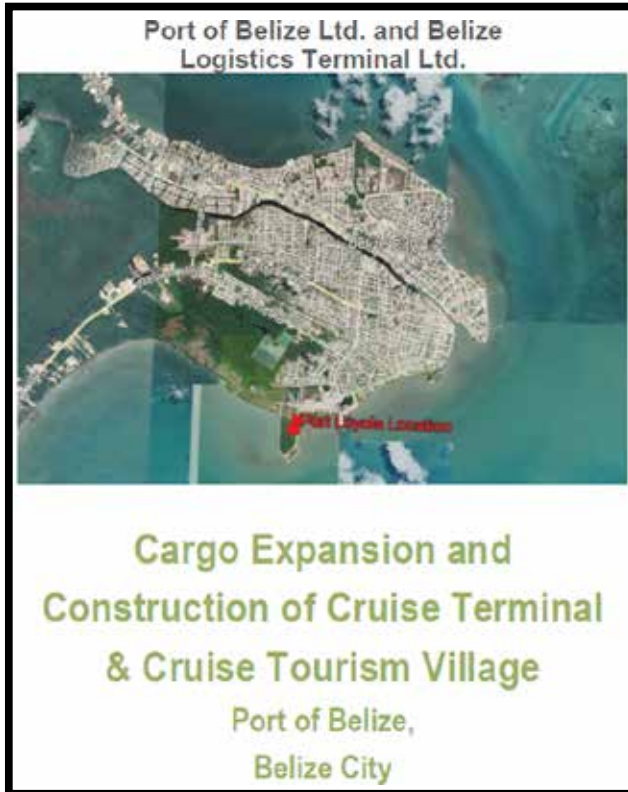
By Michelle Sutherland

With several proposed cruise ports being planned for Belize, there are already concerns brewing about the carrying capacity of major tourism sites across the country as well as the lack of infrastructure and proper management ahead of the projected surge in additional visitors to the country.

One such entity is the Belize Local Association of Stakeholders in Tourism (BLAST), whose president Nickoli Alvarado is already questioning the deteriorating quality of ecotourism across the country. Alvarado who has several years of experience as a guide in the tourism industry told the Reporter that as is top tourism sites across the country have been deteriorating fast over the past couple of years.

“Look at the Crystal Cave, which was only visited first by the overnight guest so you could go in there and enjoy all the crystal walls, all the Maya ceramic potteries on the ground all intact. You should take a trip into that cave now, it’s not crystal anymore. The pots are all mashed up and scattered over the place. The walls are all hand printed with mud, and all the crystals are gone, so imagine with the additional volume of tourist that is being proposed. As for the dive sites, the reef is already fragile as it is, especially in Caye Caulker and San Pedro, and even the marine reserve. I don’t think they should really allow mass cruise ship guests to go to Hol Chan. That should only be left to overnight visitors and small private tours,” Alvarado told The Reporter.

OCEANA Belize also posed concerns raised on the Responsible Travel Document produced in 2006. That document pointed to the fact that large groups of



Tourism Master

cruise passengers and stayover tourists are now using the same sites and attractions, at the same peak season. “This demand is degrading the infrastructure and quality of the ecotourism experience.” The document went on to recommend separating cruise and stayover visitors by rerouting cruise passengers to terrestrial attractions near the city and not offering excursions to Belize’s pristine and valuable ecosystem and cultural sites. “Belize should also establish and adhere to realistic carrying capacity numbers for visitation.”

Oceana’s Janell Chanona told the Reporter, “The concerns raised in the responsible travel document produced in 2006, outline concerns that we still have today. If degradation of the sites and visitor experience were happening then with a much smaller number of cruise calls and cruise visitors, we can only imagine the level of degradation that would be caused by 4 million passengers.”

Oceana pointed to the fact that based on optimum capacities (new ports), the ports would handle approx. 4.2 million passengers annually. They additionally pointed out that the country is already nearing the 2030 projected annual arrivals, as per the National Sustainable

Plan (1.5 million) and the National Transportation Master Plan (1.6 million) and it appears that the goal is to go well beyond this amount with new ports and larger cruise ships.

Alvarado who is on the ground daily told the Reporter that even with the small volume of tourists overnight and cruise ship passengers are already clashing on sites. Alvarado described the clogging at sites as “herding cattles”, especially at cave tubing sites such as the Nohoch Che’en Cave Tubing Site. During normal cruise ship days, Alvarado

said that there is already a shortage of equipment, guides, and even elbow space at the site.

“The major site that I think needs to be looked at is the Nohoch Che’en Cave Tubing Site when it comes to mass tourism. Because the area is just 20 to 30 feet wide that you are going through. Right now, as is, with only two small cruise lines in port you are already having bumper tubes compared to the bigger one that will supposedly be coming. That site will eventually get overwhelmed, and you will have an accident in that site

eventually.”

Alvarado ended by saying that as a guide whose livelihood depends on the health and longevity of these sites, he is concerned about the impacts that excess tourists will have on them. He is calling on the relevant authorities to put in place designated markers and guides at diving sites so that inexperienced guides and guests can follow. He is also calling for additional personnel to monitor and managed sites as well as more infrastructure, park managers, as well as the implementation of a carrying capacity.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Utilities Commission (PUC)

In exercise of the powers conferred upon it by the Electricity Act, (1992) Chapter 221 of the Laws of Belize and all other powers thereunto, the Public Utilities Commission (PUC; the Commission) hereby notifies the general public of its intent to create a modern electricity licenses and consent regime. In this regard the PUC will garner input from Interested Parties as the Commission moves ahead in making subsidiary legislation on the granting of licences to conduct certain Electricity Activities.

Summary of proposed licensing for Electricity Activities:
The regime considers various categories of activities undertaken in electricity generation, transmission and supply, the legal and regulatory provisions applying to those categories, and the appropriate types of licences or exemptions for each category.

- a) The Licence & Consent regime seeks to address licensable and non-licensable activities. Any activity falling within the definition of generation, transmission and supply of electricity must be licensed and be placed on the register. Existing operators of electricity systems not yet authorized will need to procure the requisite license to be in compliance with the law.
- b) Persons who wish to own and operate electricity generation plants that will be grid connected or for commercial sale to other persons need to obtain an electricity license.
- c) The Commission is proposing certain requirements, restrictions or conditions in the electricity license, as well as the statutory duties imposed under the Electricity Act.
- d) The regime is in accordance with statutory powers conferred in respect of Licence to All Persons, Licence to Persons of a Class and Licence to a Particular Person.

This consultation is a concise approach that the Public Utilities Commission proposes to take in respect to the licensing of Electricity activities in Belize.

Comments from the Public:
Members of the public are invited to give their comments via e-mail to (info@puc.bz) by 14 October, 2022.

Viewing of the draft document:
The draft consultation document may be viewed in its entirety at the offices of the PUC, 2nd Floor Marina Towers, Princess Margaret Drive, Belize City, or on the PUC Website at www.puc.bz.

Issued by the Public Utilities Commission on 31 August, 2022

Hemp Bioplastics Are a Renewable and Non-Polluting Alternative to Traditional Plastics

By Spherical Strategies

Plastic pollution is now pervasive on the lands and seas of this planet. Even in the most remote and uninhabited regions of Antarctica, microplastics, small particles of broken down plastic, can be found contaminating our soil, ice, and water.

This hard-to-remove and incredibly long-lasting material is even likely in our own bodies. A study published in Environment International revealed that 77 percent of the individuals they tested had microplastics in their blood. Half of the subjects tested positive for Polyethylene terephthalate (PET), the plastic most commonly used in disposable drink bottles. A third had polystyrene (PS) in their blood, which is used for plastic foam packaging.

Yet, even if plastics weren't choking our waterways and poisoning humans, animals, and whole ecosystems, it would still be a major cause for concern because most plastics are derived from hydrocarbon-rich fossil fuels and hence contribute to the ongoing climate crisis connected to excess carbon in the atmosphere.

The Many Problems With Plastic

Plastic might be incredibly useful (it's cheap, light, abundant, and protective), but it also comes with a host of negative externalities with no practical solution.

Chief among them: it is not readily biodegradable, much of it is not recyclable at all, and most of it is made using non-renewable fossil fuels that contribute to climate change.

Plastics that are not recyclable or biodegradable often end up dumped in landfills (or worse, polluting natural ecosystems) where it can take centuries for them to decompose:

Take a look at these estimated decomposition times for traditional plastics:

Plastic Bag: 20 years
Plastic Straw: 200 years
Plastic Bottle: 450 years
Plastic Fishing Line: 600 years

The reason petroleum-based plastics don't decompose at rates similar to natural substances is, unsurprisingly, because they aren't natural. These products are developed in laboratory settings to optimize the strength of their molecular bonds. That makes for sturdy materials that won't rip or crumble when being used, but the downside is they will retain that strength long after their useful life is up. And because so many plastics are used for disposable goods and single-use packaging, that timespan is often depressingly short.

Oil-based plastic is also a finite resource. There is a limited supply of oil and natural gas on the Earth, and humans are using it up much faster than nature can replenish it.

A Natural Solution

Clearly, plastic is problematic. But what if there was a smarter alternative? What if there was a material that mimicked all of petroleum-based plastics positives but came with none of the downsides? Though the field is still developing, one such solution is emerging in bioplastics.

Unlike oil-based plastic, bioplastics which are derived from non-fossilized biomass, are endlessly renewable and can become part of a truly circular economy where regeneration and restoration of resources is integral to a manufacturing process. These types of sustainable materials management (SMM) approaches are promoted by the EPA and other environmental groups because they keep waste materials out of landfills and oceans and route them back into production streams to create new materials and products, and the process is endlessly repeatable.

The value of hemp-based bioplastic, in particular, is rapidly gaining awareness in a number of major industries that rely on plastics because it can be stronger than steel and lighter than fiberglass — but still biodegrades in just 3 to 6 months. Another reason hemp-based plastics are exciting materials to scientists is that they are considered drop-in bioplastics, which means they are chemically identical to fossil fuel-

based plastics and can replace them in a large number of use cases.

Bioplastics can be made from a number of biomass sources including vegetable oils, corn starch, sawdust, and even food waste. But hemp is considered among the better choices because it's economical to grow in large quantities and its stalks, the primary source of biomass for hemp-based bioplastic, are uncommonly high in cellulose, which gives the resultant plastics durability and strength. Wood is approximately 40 percent cellulose, compared to 70 percent for hemp stalks.

One thing that is slowing the adoption of hemp-based bioplastics are existing subsidies for competing biomass sources like corn and soybeans. Hemp not only grows twice as fast as corn but it requires a third as much water, and because it's a canopy crop, it protects the soil from sunlight and promotes

regeneration of soil carbon. Lobbyists from the hemp industry are aggressively pushing for a more even playing field so that real world science and market forces dictate the course of this industry, not obsolete regulations and economic policies.

Tapping Into a Growing Industry

Even drop-in bioplastics like hemp-based materials still don't match the performance characteristics of traditional plastics in all applications, but the number of areas and industries where it is a good fit has increased explosively as hemp production and processing normalizes throughout the country (especially in reaction to the Hemp Farming Act of 2018). More and more businesses are realizing hemp's potential as both a practical alternative to conventional plastic and a means of effectuating their

sustainability goals.

"Industrial hemp is a carbon sequestration heavyweight," argues Austin Bryant of BastCore, a hemp stalk processor. "For every acre of hemp grown, 9 tons of CO₂ are captured. If we could get 1 million acres of hemp into our soil and harvest three times a year (hemp has a 90-day growth cycle), you're capturing a good bit of carbon. Replacing fossil fuel-based synthetics with fibers from plants will ensure brands hit their climate targets faster. The bigger picture is reducing the U.S. emission rate, which is certainly worth investing in."

Bioplastics currently represent a tiny fraction of the total market for plastics, less than one or two percent globally, but that number is ticking up constantly. The global market for bioplastics hit \$5 billion in 2020 and the global market for hemp-based bioplastics reached \$85 million in 2021.

With high inflation can Belizeans afford hurricane preparedness?

By Britney Gordon

With higher food and energy prices triggered by global events, and a 7.3 percent inflation rate, Belizeans may find hurricane preparedness even more challenging, economics lecturer Dr. Philip Castillo said this week.

The "National

Emergency Management Organization" (NEMO) advises Belizeans to prepare for hurricane season by 'stocking up' on non-perishable goods to be used in the event there is a hurricane. However, as recently reported by the SIB, "Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages had an inflation rate of eight percent, the highest recorded so far this category in 2022, as all food sub-categories saw rising prices during the month."

According to the Statistical Institute of Belize (SIB)'s July 2022 consumer price update, year on year, overall prices have climbed by more than seven percent. Average price increases for select foods range from 3.7 percent (Chicken breast) to as high as 45 percent for vegetable oil. For energy products, Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) was up approximately 23 percent this July relative to July 2021, and it is no secret that

diesel, premium, and regular gasoline are up by 26.2 percent, 50.7 percent, and 22.5 percent, respectively.

"If you look at the overall economic picture, poverty is at 52 percent," Castillo explained. "When a hurricane comes, people try to find money from somewhere and expect NEMO to help after." He stated that historically, Belizeans have not been able to afford to effectively prepare, but have instead done what they could and relied on assistance to recover after the fact.

Historically, NEMO and GOB have worked in tandem to provide relief funds and shelter for those severely affected by natural disasters. The concern held by many is whether or not citizens will have the means to begin their preparations before disaster strikes.

Some sources of small relief funds also come from CARICOM and The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB).



OFFICE CLOSURE

St John's Credit Union Ltd. advises it's member-owners and the public that all our office locations will close at

1:00 P.M

September 9th & 20th, 2022

Happy

**SEPTEMBER CELEBRATIONS
BELIZE**

How the Russian Oil Price Cap Will Work

By Jeffrey Sonnenfeld

SEPTEMBER 6th, 2022, 4:19 PM

Last week's bold announcement by the G-7 of a price cap on purchases of Russian oil has met with skepticism and ridicule from media commentators and pundits. Following months of planning, the oil price cap is a bid to limit the Kremlin's earnings on exports of its most important commodity and reduce financial support for its war against Ukraine. After the G-7 announcement, the Kremlin immediately said that Russia would not sell any oil to countries abiding by the price cap.

The critics contend the scheme will never work—but they are wrong. Based on our conversations with officials from the U.S. Treasury and the British cabinet, other senior leaders in G-7 governments, and top business executives in several key sectors, it is clear that the critics are much too quick to dismiss the price cap. In fact, the business leaders we surveyed overwhelmingly support the plan. Here are some of the most common questions about the G-7 plan—and why the critics are wrong.

1. Why do we even need a price cap on Russian oil?

Even if you don't care about Russia or Ukraine, doing nothing is not an option for purely economic reasons. Regardless of what happens with the proposed price cap, the European Union's sixth sanctions package is set to ban all Russian crude oil imports by sea into the bloc starting Dec. 5 and all refined oil products—such as gasoline, diesel, and fuel oil—starting Feb. 5, 2023. It is a hard cutoff with no phased implementation, which analysts say could lead to overnight supply shocks and skyrocketing prices. The oil price cap must therefore be evaluated in terms of its effect not on the current situation but relative to the possibility of supply shocks after Dec. 5—when Russian President Vladimir Putin could benefit from significantly higher oil prices even if export volumes drop.

From this perspective, an oil price cap is a way to keep Russian oil flowing into global markets and preserve economic stability—the top priority for G-7 governments—while simultaneously limiting Russia's profit margin on each barrel sold.

2. Won't any price cap be undermined by countries not participating in sanctions?

Critics argue that India, China, Turkey, and many other countries will never go along with a price cap—and that an oil price cap that isn't global will never work. While it's true that many countries likely won't officially sign on to the cap, they don't need to for the plan to work. That's because the critics ignore the fact that nonparticipating countries' goal is to get the lowest price for buying oil, and the price cap will give them additional leverage in their negotiations with Russia. Already, India, China, and other developing nations are buying Russian oil at an unprecedented discount of as much as \$30 per barrel. Russia is so desperate to find buyers of its oil that it is offering long-term, fixed-price contracts at a massive discount to try to lock in at least some future revenue. But one Asian economic minister told us confidentially that he is convinced he can negotiate a significantly better deal than even Russia's initial offer of a \$30-a-barrel discount—especially since financing, insuring, and shipping Russian oil will also be restricted under the G-7 plan. That will give him additional leverage to push these expenses onto Russia's dime, further eating away at Putin's profit margin. And as for China, former U.S. official Robert Hormats rightly pointed out to us that Beijing has a long-standing policy of diversifying its energy sources, from which it never diverges. That puts a ceiling on how much oil China can purchase from Russia in practice.

3. Won't the oil price cap be easy to undermine and impossible to enforce?

When critics point to enforcement challenges, logistical hurdles, and the so-called leakiness of sanctions, they miss that compliance with U.S. government policies—especially sanctions—is a top priority for every major global business. The risk of running afoul of sanctions simply carries much more danger than the marginal benefit of taking every last penny on the table. Similar skepticism existed prior



to the implementation of anti-terrorism financing sanctions and money laundering initiatives following 9/11—yet today, every major financial institution has the skills and infrastructure needed to ensure compliance. Similarly, the private sector will now find a way to adapt to the new policies to ensure compliance, especially as top CEOs privately say they much prefer the oil price cap to the alternative, a blanket ban. They are thus incentivized to proactively cooperate.

Of course, there will be some leakiness. Smaller, often privately held companies involved in

to finance, purchase, trade, ship, and insure Russian oil. For example, 90 percent of maritime insurance is based in the European Union or Britain and will soon shut out Russia. With ports, shipping lanes, and oil tankers off-limits, Russian oil exports will face logistical hurdles and long delays; already, Russian oil that used to be shipped from Baltic and Black Sea ports to Europe has been rerouted to Asia, where it takes around 30 days longer to arrive. All these hurdles ensure that Putin's profit margin will be seriously eroded.

financing, shipping, and commodities trading and located in Russia or other nonparticipating countries may continue to offer services for shipments of Russian oil, but at higher rates—further eating into the Kremlin's profits. Neutral refineries, too, will continue to process Russian crude and sell refined products into the global marketplace. But what matters most is that every major multinational business will be unwilling



CENTRAL BANK of BELIZE



CAREER OPPORTUNITY

MANAGER, ADMINISTRATION

The Central Bank invites qualified individuals to join its Administration Department.

The Manager, Administration provides overall direction for all activities related to general services, records management, and physical facilities. The incumbent is responsible for the development and implementation of strategic objectives, annual budgets, policies, and goals in each of these areas. The Manager, Administration manages the administrative functions to provide all other departments with basic services and a workable, safe environment in support of the Central Bank of Belize's operations.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Develop and implement strategic plan, policies, and procedures to achieve the department's goals and strategic objectives.
- Develop a Records and Information Management strategy in accordance with international best practices.
- Manage the Records and Archive System and provide effective guidance to ensure the efficiency of its operations.
- Develop, manage, and control the Central Bank's Mail Distribution, Reprographic Function and Collectible Coin programme.
- Manage the general services functions including transportation, messenger and janitorial services, and the procurement of goods and services related to the activities of the Central Bank.
- Manage and approve procurement and payments in accordance with the Central Bank's Procurement Policy.
- Manage all activities related to the cleaning services and maintenance of the Central Bank's facilities, compound, equipment and related systems.
- Organize the Central Bank's Business Continuity meeting in the event of a disaster and the updating of the Business Continuity Plan to ensure proper execution when required.
- Manage the Central Bank's stock inventory including supplies, and fixed assets as it relates to the procurement, description, labeling, location, and disposal.
- Manage and oversee the maintenance, operations, projects, and contracts for the Facility Management Unit.
- Prepare, present, and monitor annual budgets and expenditures.

The applicants should possess the following:

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

- A Master's Degree in Business Administration, Accounting or Management from a recognized university with three (3) years managerial experience. Experience in the areas of human relations, records management, procurement, inventory, and assets management would be an asset, OR
- A minimum of a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Accounting or Management from a recognized university with at least six (6) years managerial experience. Experience in the areas of human relations, records management, procurement, inventory, and assets management would be an asset.

TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE

- Knowledge of the Central Bank of Belize Act, Central Bank of Belize's policies and procedures, accounting principles and practices, specifically in electronic assets management, and procurement procedures, internal control processes, and business and management principles; Possesses, applies, and maintain a high degree of knowledge in the relevant area to deliver quality work, and keeps informed of the latest trends and development in the discipline; Proficient in software applications including Microsoft Office Suite.

COMPETENCIES

- Personal Credibility, Flexibility, Personal Accountability, Fostering Teamwork, Managing Performance, Communication, Results Orientation, Managing Change, Strategic Thinking, Thoroughness, Analytical Thinking, Leadership, Empowering Others.

Submit the following documents by **Wednesday, 14 September 2022:**

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

Applications should be addressed to:

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

Ref: Manager- Administration Department

Email: hr@centralbank.org.bz or online at www.centralbank.org.bz
(All applications will be held in strict confidence.)

Putin threatens to restrict Ukrainian grain exports for European countries, accusing them of acting 'like colonial powers'

By Teele Rebane, Clare Sebastian and Hannah Ritchie



(CNN)—Russian President Vladimir Putin threatened Wednesday to restrict Ukrainian grain exports to European countries and accused them of acting "like colonial powers," as he used misleading figures to claim that developing

countries are receiving a fraction of the exports they were expecting under the UN-brokered Black Sea Grain Initiative.

In remarks during his opening speech at the Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok, Putin cited figures that do not accurately reflect current UN data on grain shipments, and said he would discuss amending the deal to limit the export of grain and other foodstuffs to European countries.

"Only 3% of the grain being exported from Ukraine is going to developing countries, the majority is going to Europe... over the past decades European countries have acted like colonial powers, they are continuing to act like that today," Putin claimed erroneously.

"Once again, they have deceived developing countries," he said, adding that "it may be worth considering how to limit the export of grain and other food along this route."

"I will certainly consult on this subject with the President of Turkey, Mr. Erdogan, because it was him and me who worked out a mechanism for the export of Ukrainian grain," he said.

In a statement to CNN, the United Nations said that under the Black Sea Grain Initiative, roughly 30% of "grains and other foodstuffs" have made

it to low- and lower-middle-income countries, or approximately 700,000 metric tons.

Among countries classified by the World Bank as low- or lower-middle-income, the UN says that 10% of the initiative's exports have been sent to Egypt, 5% to Iran, 4% to India, 3% to Sudan, 2% to Yemen, 2% to Kenya, 1% to Somalia, 1% to Djibouti, and less than 1% to Lebanon.

Among countries classified by the World Bank as upper-middle- or high-income, the UN says that 20% of the initiative's exports have been sent to Turkey, 15% to Spain, 7% to China, 7% to Italy, 6% to South Korea, 5% to The Netherlands, 4% to Romania, 3% to Germany, 2% to Israel, 1% to Ireland, 1% to France, and less than 1% to Greece and Bulgaria. The statement said that foodstuffs sent to Turkey may have been shipped onward to other countries in Asia and Africa.

Putin's remarks were consistent with Kremlin talking points around the looming global food shortages that have been caused in large part by Russia's blockade of Ukrainian ports. Russian diplomats in recent months have worked energetically to deflect criticism of Moscow by suggesting that Western sanctions, rather than Russia's actions, are to blame for the crisis.

According to data from The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), some of the world's most vulnerable countries are among the ones most reliant on imports from Ukraine. Lebanon, Tunisia, Somalia and Libya all relied on Ukraine for at least half of their wheat imports. Eritrea sourced 47% of its wheat imports from Ukraine and the remaining 53% from Russia.

But the Russian invasion has affected Ukraine's entire food production and supply chain, from sowing to harvesting to exports, with the United Nations warning that up to 49 million people could

be pushed into famine or famine-like conditions due to the war's devastating impact on global food supply and prices.

"It is clear that with this approach, the scale of the world's food problems will only grow -- which is capable of leading to an unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe," Putin claimed, adding that he would discuss the issue with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who aided the deal.

The Black Sea Grain Initiative -- which was brokered by the UN and Turkey -- was signed by representatives from Russia and Ukraine in July.

Its purpose is to facilitate the resumption of vital exports out of Ukraine to alleviate global food shortages and rising grain commodity prices.

Prior to the deal some 20 million metric tons of Ukrainian wheat and corn had remained trapped in the port of Odesa due to a Russian blockade.

Putin downplays Russian losses

In his speech to open the Plenary Session, Putin claimed Russia has "lost nothing" in its "special military operation" in Ukraine.

"We have lost nothing and are not going to lose anything. Our main gain is the strengthening of our sovereignty. We didn't start anything, in terms of military action, but are only trying to finish it," Putin told the audience.

The US believes that Russia is facing "severe" shortages of military personnel in Ukraine and is seeking new ways to reinforce its troop levels, two US officials told CNN last week.

Meanwhile British Defense Secretary Ben Wallace said in a statement Monday that it is now estimated that "over 25,000 Russian soldiers have lost their lives" since the start of the war.

In late August, Putin ordered Russia's military to increase the number of troops in Ukraine by 137,000, though it remains unclear how the Defense Ministry intends to reach that target.

Global Peace

YoU & Taiwan



GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE



INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

STRENGTHENING PUBLIC EXPENDITURE MANAGEMENT IN BELIZE (BL-L1038)

Terms of Reference

Procurement Specialist Assistant

• **BACKGROUND**

1.1 The **Government of Belize** is committed to implementing a comprehensive fiscal consolidation plan, with a strategy centered on three areas: (i) expenditure reduction; (ii) increased revenues; and (iii) debt restructuring. Such a strategy is outlined in the Budget Speech for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021/2022, based on the Plan Belize Manifesto and aligned with the recommendations of the latest IMF Article IV, with the aim of reaching a sustainable debt ratio (70% of GDP) by 2030. It includes measures to reduce expenditures, strengthen public financial management reforms, boost revenues, reduce debt, and implement explicit fiscal rules and medium-term fiscal frameworks once the crisis abates. In line with this strategy, the government has made several adjustments in its Budget to cut expenses. However, challenges remain, mainly regarding a sustained implementation of the fiscal plan in the context of uncertain global recovery from the pandemic.

1.2 As part of the Program to accomplish the objectives of the fiscal strategy, the **Government of Belize** has entered into a **US\$8.0 Million Loan Agreement (BL-L1038)** with the **Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)** to implement a five-year project entitled "**Strengthening Public Expenditure Management in Belize**". The general objective of the Project is to promote the fiscal sustainability of Belize specifically to increase the efficiency of public resources by strengthening public financial management.

1.3 The Project is comprised of one component with four subcomponents that will achieve the objective. It will focus on the areas of financial management (including budget and internal audit), procurement, technological infrastructure and capacity building.

1.4 The Ministry of Finance (MOF) has been designated as the Executing Agency responsible for the implementation of the Project. For this purpose, a Project Executing Unit (PEU) is established in the MOF 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 post of **Procurement Specialist Assistant** for the PEU under a contractual arrangement with the MOF, and as part of the BL-L1038 Project.

• **OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE OF WORK**

2.1 The objective of the position of Procurement Specialist Assistant is to support the Procurement Specialist in 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 Specialist Assistant shall assist in the overall and day to day activities for the procurement of goods, services and works, subject to IDB policies and requirements and in accordance with the Project Operational Manual (POM) and GOB procedures, as it relates to the BL-L1038 Project.

• **RESPONSIBILITIES/ACTIVITIES**

3.1 **The main responsibilities of the Procurement Specialist Assistant 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. Review the Policies for the Procurement of Goods and Works Financed by the Inter-American Development Bank (GN-2349-15) and the Policies for the Selection and Contracting of Consultants Financed by the Inter-American Development Bank (GN 2350- 15).
- c. Review the procurement policies and procurement best practices and procedures of the GOB.
- d. Responsible for uploading procurement notices under the Project on the CARICOM Procurement Portal.
- e. Participate in the preparation of the AOP and in the preparation and update of the Procurement Plan.
- f. Support the preparation of necessary bidding or selection documents and review the Terms of Reference (ToR) and specifications prepared by Technical Staff.
- g. Assist in the organizing and execution of all bid openings and evaluation processes, prepare evaluation reports and corresponding draft contracts.
- h. Ensure contracting of consultants, suppliers and contractors is in accordance with IDB procurement policies and GOB policies, laws and regulations.
- i. Support the Procurement Specialist to ensure that prospective contractors, suppliers and consultants are duly constituted and are addressing ongoing concerns.
- j. Assist in the preparation of contracts for signature by relevant parties.
- k. Monitor the validity of contracts during their execution, securing the legal status of each agreement:
 - (i) Ensure the submission and safeguard of all bid validity documents (i.e. bonds, guarantees, insurances, etc.) during and after tendering and execution of the contracts.
 - (ii) Ensure the timely receipt, extension and release of all bonds, guarantees, insurances, etc.
 - (iii) Coordinate with the Financial Specialist to ensure that authorized payments to contractors are according to the terms of the contract.
 - (iv) Notify management of the PEU and other staff of duration and expiration of the bid validity periods, contract durations within the overall final disbursement date.
 - (v) Address contractors complains and issues, preparing contract amendments and ensuring proper closeout of all contracts, including evaluation of contractors' performance.
 - (vi) Maintain accurate auditable records of all procurement process
- l. Assist the BL-L1038 Project Coordinator in the preparation and submission of monthly activities reports and prepare quarterly procurement reports following a pre-approved Bank, detailing the procurement of goods, services and works, along with the corresponding disbursements, and a description of problems found and how they were dealt with.
- m. Maintain an up-to-date registry of consultants hired and goods and service purchased under the Project.
- n. Keep the records updated regarding executed contracts through contract completion, liaising with technical personnel of the MOF and PEU and the Financial Specialist of the PEU to ensure payments/disbursements are made according to contract and the preparation of monthly and annual disbursement projections and payments are accurate.

- o. Maintain appropriate files of procurement functions and provide information as needed by the Procurement Specialist, the Executing Agency and the Bank.
- p. Participate in the update of the POM ensuring the procurement section of the POM is aligned with the procurement guidelines of the Bank and those of the GOB.
- q. Execute other tasks and special assignments as required by the Procurement Specialist to enable transparent, efficient and timely implementation of procurement activities and program deliverables including responding to audit queries and responding to requests from the GOB.
- r. Liaise with GOB officials (MOF, PEU and other) on procurement matters aimed at ensuring and effective discharge of the Project's procurement/contracting activities.
- s. Attend the training provided to the PEU staff.
- t. Other

• **DELIVERABLES**

4.1 **The Procurement Specialist Assistant will support the preparation and updating the following reports which are considered recurrent deliverables or responsibilities:**

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

• **QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE**

5.1 **Education:** Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting, Finance, Economics, Business Administration, Auditing, Law, Public Administration, or other related fields. Specialized certification in procurement and supply chain management or contract management is considered a plus.

5.2 **Work Experience:** At least three years of general experience since obtaining the academic degree, and at least 1 year of proven work experience in supporting general financial management and the preparation of bidding documents, preparation of contracts, and contract management, for the procurement of goods, works, services, and consultancies in the public and/or private sector. Experience in applying procurement policies and procedures of the IDB or similar organizations would be considered an asset.

• **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

6.1 The Procurement Specialist Assistant reports to the BL-L1038 Project Coordinator of the PEU. He/she shall work in close coordination with the staff of the MOF and especially the members of the PEU.

• **COMPENSATION**

7.1 The Procurement Specialist Assistant will be paid a monthly salary to be established during the contracting process.

VIII. CONTRACT TERM:

8.1 The contract will be for a period of one year in the beginning, with the possibility of an extension for two years in the first instance and, thereafter, yearly until the end of the project, based on satisfactory performance

XI. LOCATION OF WORK:

9.1 **Ministry of Finance, Belmopan**

• **APPLICATIONS**

10.1 **CRITERIA FOR SELECTION**

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

10.2 **APPLICATION PROCEDURES:**

Expression of Interest package should contain:

- (i) Cover letter briefly explaining interest, experience, and competence of the consultant
- (ii) Comprehensive resume with the Individual Consultant's experience in the assignment of similar nature. Description of similar assignments specifying start and end dates of assignments. *Please provide dates, name of employing organization, titles of positions held, types of activities performed and location of the assignment.*
- (iii) Copy of degrees/certificates
- (iv) List of at least two references
- (v) Proof of nationality: copy of documentation of nationality

Qualified Individual Consultant must submit their Expression of Interest package via e-mail to raquel.guerra@mof.gov.bz no later than **4:00 p.m., Friday September 16th, 2022**, marked **SPEM- Procurement Specialist Assistant** in the subject header. In addition, applicants may also submit a hardcopy at the following address:

**Financial Secretary
Ministry of Finance
Sir Edney Cain Building
Belmopan**

For clarifications kindly contact:

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



GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE



INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

STRENGTHENING PUBLIC EXPENDITURE MANAGEMENT IN BELIZE (BL-L1038)

Terms of Reference Project Coordinator

• BACKGROUND

1.2 The Government of Belize is committed to implementing a comprehensive fiscal consolidation plan, with a strategy centered on three areas: (i) expenditure reduction; (ii) increased revenues; and (iii) debt restructuring. Such a strategy is outlined in the Budget Speech for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021/2022, based on the Plan Belize Manifesto and aligned with the recommendations of the latest IMF Article IV, with the aim of reaching a sustainable debt ratio (70% of GDP) by 2030. It includes measures to reduce expenditures, strengthen public financial management reforms, boost revenues, reduce debt, and implement explicit fiscal rules and medium-term fiscal frameworks once the crisis abates. In line with this strategy, the government has made several adjustments in its Budget to cut expenses. However, challenges remain, mainly regarding a sustained implementation of the fiscal plan in the context of uncertain global recovery from the pandemic.

1.3 As part of the Program to accomplish the objectives of the fiscal strategy, the Government of Belize has entered into a US\$8.0 Million Loan Agreement (BL-L1038) with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to implement a five-year project entitled "Strengthening Public Expenditure Management in Belize". The general objective of the Project is to promote the fiscal sustainability of Belize specifically to increase the efficiency of public resources by strengthening public financial management.

1.4 The Project is comprised of one component with four subcomponents that will achieve the objective. It will focus on the areas of financial management (including budget and internal audit), procurement, technological infrastructure and capacity building.

1.5 The Ministry of Finance (MOF) has been designated as the Executing Agency responsible for the implementation of the Project. For this purpose, a Project Executing Unit (PEU) is established in the MOF with concrete technical, administrative, financial, control and planning, monitoring and evaluation responsibilities for the IDB-funded initiative.

1.6 In this regard, a vacancy exists for the post of Project Coordinator under a contractual arrangement with the MOF, and as part of the BL-L1038 initiative.

• OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE OF WORK

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

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

• RESPONSIBILITIES/ACTIVITIES

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

- Implementing the intra- and inter-institutional coordination mechanisms with the PEU, the MOF and other public and private organizations related to and/or beneficiaries of the Project.
- Promoting and disseminating the Project among beneficiaries, public entities, and other stakeholders.
- In close coordination with the pertinent technical and administrative personnel of the PEU and the MOF, guiding the strategic and operation planning activities of the Project.
- Monitoring the activities of the Project in compliance with its global strategic objectives and those of its individual technical components, as well as the targets established in the Project.
- Implementing the Programs' risk management mechanisms taking into consideration the assessment and evolution of the risk factors, the factors of probability and impact, and risk mitigation measures.
- Guiding the preparation of the periodic physical and financial progress reports to be submitted to MOF, MED, and the Bank.
- Presenting to the Bank the required data, reports and other documentation of the Project as a whole and its individual components, as established in the Loan Contract.

3.2 Specific activities include:

- Lead the overall planning and reporting framework and activities of the Project, including the preparation and update of key planning, in direct coordination with the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer and other members of the PEU.
- Monitor and ensure the Project's adherence to reporting requirements to the MOF, PSC, and the Bank.
- Lead and coordinate timely implementation of all aspects of the Project based on the Project planning documents including the PEP, AOP, PP, supporting technical documents, and Monitoring and Evaluation Plan.
- Ensure timely execution of all administrative, procurement, financial and technical procedures of the Project in compliance with the POM. In addition, ensure the strict adherence to administrative, Project management, and Bank and national financial rules and regulations, among others.
- Ensure the necessary coordination between technical staff of the MOF to provide the technical specifications and content for the preparation of terms of reference and technical specification as the basis for procurement actions and activities.
- Provide for the timely monitoring and management of Project risks and lead the implementation of the mitigation measures as necessary.
- Ensure the necessary coordination and control of all Project procurement activities and logistics with the Procurement Specialist and pertinent staff members of the MOF.
- Support the information dissemination activities and advocate for the Project among key internal and external stakeholders, while maintaining the necessary and transparent lines of communication.
- Ensure the establishment of the necessary and effective lines of internal communication with key stakeholders of the MOF (tax administration, systems administration, financial management, general administration, and other) to ensure the dedicated participation of such personnel in Project implementation and in direct coordination with the PEU.
- Ensure the presence of an accurate Project filing system covering financial, procurement, technical and all activities of the Project, and following the internal control requirements established in the POM.
- Provide timely and accurate reports to the Program Manager, Financial Secretary, PSC and other agencies on the developments, progress, and challenges of the Project.
- Ensure the timely implementation of the monitoring and evaluation activities including the contracting of the mid-term and final evaluations.
- Lead, in coordination with the Financial Specialist, the preparation of the disbursement requests, including Requests for Advance of Funds along with the expenditure justifications, as necessary to ensure that the Project has adequate liquidity for smooth execution.
- Lead the contracting of the independent external auditors of the Project in coordination with the Financial Specialist, the Procurement Specialist and the PEU, and following IDB procedures for this matter. Additionally, ensure that adequate arrangements are made to facilitate the conduct of audits (internal and external) and that recommendations arising from them are appropriately reviewed and acted upon.
- Lead the contracting of the consultancies for the execution of the mid-term and final evaluations.
- Ensure the presence of the necessary control environment along with the capacities necessary for the application of a management by objectives framework.

- Provide for the necessary human resources management capabilities for PEU personnel administration.
- Communicate with Project stakeholders (MOF, PEU, other) to ensure awareness of any new developments in Project status, strategy, progress, deadlines, challenges, decisions and other aspects that may affect Project implementation and the attainment of its development objectives.
- Direct the preparation for, and hosting of, key Program events such as:
 - Periodic portfolio review meetings between the Bank and the government
 - Supervision missions and program monitoring meetings (led by the Bank)
 - Inspection visits by the Bank to supervise the financial management and procurement operations including conducting of ex-post reviews
 - Mid-term evaluation
 - Final evaluation
 - Joint review missions by the Bank and other funding and/or supervising and implementation agencies as required
- Other.

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

• DELIVERABLES

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

- Updates to PEP, AOP, PP, risk matrix, and other
- Quarterly physical and financial progress/status reports.
- Updates to POM
- Updates to status of procurement processes (Procurement Early Warning Tool)
- Staff performance appraisals. Specific reports requested by the, MOF or the PSC.
- Allocation/provision of funds reports.
- Fixed asset allocation reports.
- External audit reports (prepared under consultancy engagements)
- Mid-term and final evaluations (prepared under consultancy engagements).
- Other.

• QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE

5.1 **Education:** Bachelor of Science Degree in Finance, Economics, Business Administration, Business Management, Engineering, Project Management or related fields.

5.2 **General Experience:** At least 10 years' general working experience since obtaining the first academic degree.

5.3 **Specific Work Experience:**

- At least five years of proven work experience in project management including technical coordination, administration, monitoring and evaluation.
- Previous work with investment projects funded by international development agencies is a plus.

5.4 **Skills:** Possess expertise in modern software tools for project planning, monitoring and management purposes. Proficient in the use of Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Outlook, Power Point). Excellent oral and written command of the English language. Strong organizational and time management skills and ability to multi-task with ability to adapt to changing needs and priorities. Solid leadership and delegation skills and, most importantly, the ability to provide technical direction and coordinate functional activities of multiple actors. Team player. Strong work ethics.

• REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

6.1 The Project Coordinator of the PEU will report to the Financial Secretary or his Representative. He/she shall work in close coordination with the staff of the MOF and especially the members of the PEU.

• COMPENSATION

7.1 The Project Coordinator will be paid a monthly salary to be established during the contracting process.

VIII. CONTRACT TERM:

8.1 The contract will be for a period of one year in the beginning, with the possibility of an extension for two years in the first instance and, thereafter, yearly until the end of the project, based on satisfactory performance.

IX. LOCATION OF WORK:

9.1 Ministry of Finance, Belmopan

X. APPLICATIONS

10.1 CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

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

10.2 APPLICATION PROCEDURES:

Expression of Interest package should contain:

- Cover letter briefly explaining interest, experience, and competence of the consultant
- Comprehensive resume with the Individual Consultant's experience in the assignment of similar nature. Description of similar assignments specifying start and end dates of assignments. *Please provide dates, name of employing organization, titles of positions held, types of activities performed and location of the assignment.*
- Copy of degrees/certificates
- List of at least two references
- Proof of nationality: copy of documentation of nationality

Qualified Individual Consultant must submit their Expression of Interest package via e-mail to raquel.guerra@mof.gov.bz no later than 4:00 p.m., Friday September 16th, 2022, marked **SPEM- Project Coordinator** in the subject header. In addition, applicants may also submit a hardcopy at the following address:

Financial Secretary
Ministry of Finance
Sir Edney Cain Building
Belmopan

For clarifications kindly contact:

Senior Economist
Ministry of Finance
Sir Edney Cain Building
Belmopan

E-mail: raquel.guerra@mof.gov.bz

Phone: 828-4100/828-4112



Crossing That Bridge When We Come To It

Contributed by the Belize Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Address made by the President of the Belize Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Marcello Blake, at the 1st Special Meeting of the National Trade Negotiating Commission (NTNC) with the Secretary-General of SIECA, Mr. Francisco Lima Mena on Tuesday, 30th August 2022

Ladies and Gentlemen,

A few months ago, on March 3rd, 2022, to be precise, the heads of two regions met within our Belizean shores for the IV SUMMIT OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and of the Central American Integration System (SICA). The declaration emanating from the Summit, once again, reminded of the “bridge” that is Belize as it pertains to cooperation and coordination between CARICOM and Central America. Particularly, the declaration’s preamble reads:

The Heads of the two regions “Highlight the essential role of Belize as the historic interlocutor between both sub-regions and welcome the efforts of Belize, as [the then] Chair of CARICOM, and Panama, as Presidency Pro-Tempore of SICA, to advance inter-regional dialogue and cooperation between CARICOM and SICA in this Summit.”

As the private sector, we take pride in the role that Belize plays (and can continue to play) in this process. And, at the same time, practically speaking, we, as the private sector, likewise recognize the opportunities that the function as inter-regional “link” opens onto our entrepreneurs. We do not consider it unreasonable to make it abundantly clear that we see no reason why we cannot enjoy the benefits—as the saying goes—“of both worlds.”

Using import statistics as a proxy for demand within Central America, International Trade Center (ITC) informs that last year the region imported north of US\$82.5 billion. It is hard to overlook the fact that just about five years earlier, that figure was US\$56.9 billion. That is approximately a 45% jump in half a decade. But! How much of that was from CARICOM? In 2021, US\$67.6 million—less than one percent (1%)—is the amount that Central America (more precisely, Central American Common Market, CACM1) bought from the Caribbean Community’s businesses.

The top-three supplying markets are the United States, China, and Mexico, which account for 34%, 15%, and 8%, respectively. That’s almost 60% coming from extra-regional markets. Intra-regional trade (with Panama’s US\$1.6 billion included) increases the figure to US\$13.8 billion (or about 17%).

Of course, the picture on the CARICOM side is relatively similar, with a total of US\$35 billion in imports last year, of which US\$12.3 billion (35%) originate from the United States and about 10% from China. Intra-regional trade accounts for about 5%.

Speaking a tad bit facetiously, it could be said that if we are the “bridge,” then, we should probably be taking these kinds of statistics a bit personal. I mean, honestly! What does it say about the state of that “bridge?” What? Are we a shaky connector? Of course, I joke. By no means do we in this country overestimate our role in the grander scheme of social, political and economic integration. However, the thing

that we do know is that we owe it to ourselves and our partners to identify the bottlenecks and constraints that decelerate this process that we all agree can be mutually beneficial.

Regional Mobility and Logistics Policy Framework

Before proceeding, let me be clear. Under the Central American Integration System (SICA) and with the continued work of the Secretariat for Central American Economic Integration (SIECA), much progress has been made. We have made hundreds of steps in that proverbial “thousand mile journey,” but, again, the fact remains that it is a 1,000-mile journey. Some things just take time.

As a result, there are things that are yet before us, and, for this point, I find utility in quoting from a 2017 document with which we are all familiar: “Central American Regional Framework of Mobility and Logistics Policy.” The “Logistics Policy” document reads (and I quote):

“[Despite several gains], there still exist important tasks and challenges that must be taken aboard in a multidimensional manner in order to facilitate the transit towards a fully integrated region, within which the following can be mentioned:

1. the adoption of a common external trade policy,
2. the implementation of a regional support policy for internal production,
3. the elimination of nontariff trade barriers,
4. the establishment of clear and transparent market conditions in order to stimulate investment,
5. the adoption of processes and systems of information that create a more efficient flow of trade in both tributary and fiscal aspects,
6. the creation of chains of productive regions,
7. the definition of common origin rules for the products listed in chapters 60-63 of SAC, that allows the integration of textile and clothing industries in order to compete in other regions with comparatively clear advantages,
8. the strengthening of the national and regional institutionalities,
9. the adoption at the highest political level, of a regional vision of Central America as one whole and
10. The adoption of an integrated policy of mobility and logistics that raises the competitiveness of the productive units in the respective countries, among others.”

Today, it is number ten—the integrated policy of mobility and logistics—that rises to the forefront. Again, quoting from the same policy document, we read:

“In relation to the transport of people and the distribution of goods, Central America faces infrastructure, equipment, regulatory, organizational, financial and human limitations, which maintain or [keep] the region in a state of considerable underdevelopment, compared to other geographical areas on the planet, with respect to costs, times and process effectiveness.”

That is correct! Key bottlenecks include infrastructure networks that may very well include LITERAL bridges.

The inescapable fact is that inefficiencies in this area signals a situation in which there are “high logistical costs” with which importers and exports would have to

contend. For its part, the World Bank Group’s well-known Logistic Performance Index

(LPI) provides scores and ranking for most of our Central American countries, with two exceptions.

In terms of the overall average LPI within our region, the average score (using the 2018 report) is around 2.89, approximately 1.36 points below the best overall performer, Germany. When we look specifically at the sub-index of “International Shipments³” our average score is closer to 2.76, approximately 1.21 points below Belgium’s top performance of 3.97.

Those of you familiar with the LPI would already know that among the top-20 scorers on the LPI’s International Shipments sub index averages about 3.70. In terms of Customs Efficiency, we average 2.44 while the world’s top performers average about 3.80. In terms of Logistics Quality, we’re about 2.70 while the top performers average an even 4.00. These scores place our collective average rankings in the 80s range.

I doubt there is any need to remind this group of the relationship between logistical systems and trade and economic performance. Apart from being empirically tested by numerous researchers, the lived experiences of traders speak to the cost implications of less-than-optimal logistics networks. Returning, for example, to the policy framework, I quote:

“The average velocity of a loaded vehicle in the logistic route of Central America is 17 kilometers per hour and that transporting 1 ton of goods through one kilometer of the Central American road network costs US\$0.17, much higher when compared with other countries (US\$0.13 Nigeria, US\$0.11 in Burundi, US\$0.09 in Rwanda and \$0.02 in the United States).”

One can argue that the cost of shipment, then, rivals—if not surpasses—the cost barriers presented by the likes of tariffs. These higher costs affect final prices to the end consumers, as costs are estimated to be roughly 30% higher than they need to be. For this reason and more, I 100% agree with these words:

“[These logistical hurdles represent] a central obstacle to the competitiveness of the region, to the increase of exports, to the reduction of the import costs, to the integration of small and medium-sized companies in foreign trade and to the creation of an integrated regional value chain.”

THE WAY FORWARD

Speaking, again, as that “Belizean “Bridge,” I believe we have a right to say, unequivocally, this is a problem. But! We’re business people. We tend to look for opportunities, which tilt us towards “optimism.” The language of the Central American Economic Integration General Agreement Protocol (“Protocol of Guatemala”) already sets the stage for us in Article 28:

“The states involved commit to promote the development of the physical infrastructure and services, particularly in energy, transportation and telecommunications, so as to increase the efficiency and the competitiveness of the productive sectors, nationally and regionally, as well as internationally. Likewise, the states agree to harmonize the policies for provision of services in the infrastructure sectors, in order to eliminate existing dispersions, particularly in the areas of tariffs that affect the competitiveness of the companies in the region.”

Article 29 of the Protocol of Guatemala also calls on the states to define a regional

Cont’d on pg 15



Request for Bids (RFB)

Belize

Two Year Maintenance of the George Price Highway

Loan # 4616/OC-BL

RFB No. 002 of 2022

1. The Government of Belize has received a loan from the Inter-American Development Bank toward the cost of Additional Financing for the George Price Highway Rehabilitation Project and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the Contract for the Two-Year Maintenance of the George Price Highway.

2. The Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing, Government of Belize now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the Two-Year Maintenance of the George Price Highway. The number and identification of lots (contracts) comprising this Bidding are:

Lot 1. Chainage 0+000 to 16+300 (Guanacaste Roundabout to Blackman Eddie Roundabout): 95m long Bridge and two approaches, Double Chip Seal Road, 2 large double box culverts, multiple cylinder and box cross culverts all Concrete, HDPE side culverts, lined and earth drains, cut to 1 hill side with exposed material.

Lot 2. Chainage 16+300 to 32+450 (Blackman Eddie Roundabout to Loma Luz Roundabout): Double Chip Seal road, 3 bridge, 1 large double box culvert & triple box culvert, multiple cylinder and box cross culverts all Concrete, HDPE side culverts, lined and earth drains, cut to 2 hill side with exposed material.

The sections of the Road(s) subject to Rehabilitation Works are: "Lot 1 and Lot 2" The sections of the Road(s) subject to Improvement Works are: **Benching of Stone Face Wall to control erosion and water runoff (2 hill side with exposed material).**

3. The RFB will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures specified in the Inter-American Development Bank's *Policies for the Procurement of Goods and Works financed by the Inter-American Development Bank* GN-2349-15 approved by the Board of Executive Directors of the Bank on 2nd of July 2019 and effective 1st of January 2020 and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the bidding document.

4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Program Management Unit for the Additional Financing for the George Price Highway Rehabilitation Project pmupcmow@gmail.com, gphrp.3344@midh.gov.bz or procurement.officer.midh@gmail.com and inspect the bidding document at the address given below **First Floor, Project Execution Unit Building, Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing, #1 Power Lane, Belmopan, Cayo District** during working hours of **Monday to Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm (Belize time).**

5. **Qualifications requirements include:**

(a) Copies of original documents defining the Principal Place of Business of the Bidder, the Certificate or Incorporation, Certificate of Good Standing from the Belize Social Security Board, Belize Tax Services and Company's Registry, Written Confirmation of Authorization to sign on behalf of bidder: (i) On company's letterhead stating the name and position of person to sign, (ii) Supporting documents (**Constitution of Company, Company Resolution or Minutes of Meetings and Power of Attorney**). Also, the History of Non-Performing Contracts, Suspension Based on Execution of Bids/Proposal Securing Declaration by the Employer, Pending Litigation and Litigation History.

(b) **Minimum average annual construction turnover:**
Lot 1: BZ \$200,000
Lot 2: BZ \$200,000

Calculated as total certified payments received for contracts in progress and/or completed within the last **Five (5) years, divided by Five (5) years.** Must meet **Fifty percent (50%) of the requirement for each Lot.**

(c) **General Construction Experience:** last **Four (4) years, starting 1st January 2018.**

(d) Must have substantially completed at least two (2) projects with at least value of the following to qualify for each Lot: **BZ \$400,000 for Lot 1; BZ \$400,000 for Lot 2.**

(e) **Specific Construction & Contract Management Experience:**
A - (i) A minimum number of one (1) similar contract specified below that have been satisfactorily and substantially¹ completed as a prime contractor, joint venture member, management contractor or sub-contractor² between 1st January 2018 and bid submission deadline: (ii) **One (1) contract with minimum value of BZ \$150,000, and (iii) If more than one (1) Contract the value of all contracts should be equal or greater than BZ \$250,000.**

B - For the above and any other contracts [substantially completed and under implementation] as prime contractor, joint venture member, or sub-contractor

¹Substantial completion shall be based on 80% or more works completed under the contract.

²For contracts under which the Bidder participated as a joint venture member or sub-contractor, only the Bidder's share, by value, shall be considered to meet this requirement between **1st January 2018** and Bid submission deadline, a minimum construction experience in the following key activities successfully completed :

(f) Qualifications and experience of key site management and technical personnel proposed for the Contract.

KEY PERSONNEL

1.) Site Engineer
Academic Qualification
Minimum BSc. Civil Engineering, Hydraulic Engineering, or related field
Experience
Minimum Five (5) years' experience in providing technical and civil engineering services for programs which include but are not limited to construction of reinforced concrete pavements, double coat chip & seal pavements and/or construction of retaining walls including guard rails.
2.) Site Foreman
Academic Qualification
Minimum Associates Degree in Building Construction, Civil Engineering or related field
Experience
Minimum Three (3) years' experience in site supervision of reinforced concrete pavements, double coat chip & seal pavements and/or construction of retaining walls including guard rails.
3.) Environmental, Health and Safety Officer
Academic Qualification
Minimum Associates Degree in Environmental Science, Environmental Engineering, Environmental Management, Natural Resource Management or other related discipline is required.
Experience
Minimum Three (3) years' experience in works of a similar nature related to Environmental health and safety compliance
4.) Social Expert
Academic Qualification
Minimum Associates Degree in Social Sciences (Anthropology, Sociology, Law, Geography, Social Work, Psychology), Public Affairs, Communication, Project Management, or another related field.
Experience
Minimum Three (3) years' work experience in identifying, assessing, and managing social issues, preferably in development projects.

(g) Independently audited financial statements for the last three years (2019 - 2021);

(h) Evidence of working capital for this Contract: **Liquid Assets/Credit Facility**
Lot 1: BZ \$100,000.00 Liquid Assets/BZ \$75,000.00 Credit Facility
Lot 2: BZ \$100,000.00 Liquid Assets/BZ \$75,000.00 Credit Facility

(i) **Adequate sources of finance to meet cashflow requirements on works currently in progress and for future contract commitments (BZ \$100,000.00 more than the amount stated above for Liquid Assets)**

³Volume, number or rate of production of any key activity can be demonstrated in one or more contracts combined if executed during same time period.

(j) Authorization to seek references from the Bidder's Bankers;

(k) Proposals for subcontracting components of the work amounting to more than thirty percent (30%) of the contract price.

(l) All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security of: **Lot 1: BZ \$20,000**
Lot 2: BZ \$20,000.00.

(m) And any other documents or information as stipulated in the Bidding Documents.

6. **Proposed Program (Work Method Schedule properly detailed),** Including a clear timeframe and compatible with backlog period.

7. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be requested by interested bidders on the submission of a written Application to the address below.

8. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before **10:00 am (Local Belize Time) on October 11th, 2022.** Electronic bidding shall not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened physically in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person or on-line at the address below at **10:30 am (local Belize time) on October 11th, 2022.**

9. **The address referred to above is:**

Attention:
Mr. Rolando Chan
Project Manager
Program Management Unit
1st Floor, Project Execution Unit Building
Power Lane, Belmopan
Cayo District, BELIZE
Tel: 501-822-1942
Email: pmupcmow@gmail.com AND

How to Close Gender Gaps and Grow the Global Economy

By Kristalina Georgieva, Antoinette Sayeh and Ratna Sahay

Capturing the dividends from women's economic equity.

Too many women are locked out of economic opportunities, which is not only unfair but also harms growth and resilience for all. We know that in countries with greater gender inequality just closing the gap in women's labor force participation could increase economic output by an average of 35 percent. Progress, however, is slow to come and shocks, such as health and climate disasters, social unrest, and war continue to worsen gender inequality by directly affecting women's lives and livelihoods or keeping them out of school and work.

Appropriate economic and financial policies can help change these negative outcomes, improving economies by supporting the recovery and building resilience against future shocks. A dividend for women, in other words, is a dividend for all. For instance, while the pandemic set women further back everywhere, it also drove policy innovations. Several extraordinary pandemic assistance programs targeted women and brought more people into social safety nets. The latter makes it easier to provide targeted assistance to cope with the current food and fuel price spikes.

For policymakers, there are well-proven solutions to adopt gender-sensitive macroeconomic actions.

First, step up investment in women's human capital. The gains from providing women equal access to food, healthcare, and education are especially large in emerging and developing economies. Think of cash transfers that help families afford the basics in countries with less developed social safety nets.

Brazil introduced the Emergency Aid cash transfer program early in the pandemic, which provided double the benefits to women-led households. IMF staff estimates show that the poverty rate among such households would have increased from 11

percent to more than 30 percent without Emergency Aid; instead, it fell to about 8 percent. And Egypt recently expanded cash assistance to low-income single mothers helping them keep their children healthy and in school. In Togo, mobile technology helped expedite emergency financial support during the pandemic, especially benefitting women.

The second confirmed solution is enabling women to work outside the home or start their businesses. Reforms to taxation, public spending, financial infrastructure and regulations, as well as labor markets can help. Providing access to quality and affordable childcare frees up more women to work and also creates jobs directly.

In Norway, the expansion of universal childcare increased the likelihood of mothers' employment by 32 percentage points. In emerging and developing economies, access to mobile phones and the internet opens the door to economic opportunity. For instance, IMF research shows that traditional and digital finance is helping close the gender gap in access to financial services, including microlending—resulting in lower income inequality and higher growth.

A third area to tackle is biases. Out of 190 countries surveyed, the World Bank found that women were on equal legal standing with men in just 12 countries. Gender-based discrimination in social institutions costs the world economy \$6 trillion according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. But in recent years, countries have reduced these costs through social and legal actions such as curbing underage marriage, criminalizing domestic violence, and increasing the number of female elected officials.

Fourth, increasing the representation of women in leadership positions is also critical. IMF analysis shows that a greater presence of women in financial institutions and financial policymaking goes hand in hand with greater financial resilience.

And in fintech firms and the corporate sector, more women in leadership is associated with better performance and profitability, respectively.

The IMF's Gender Strategy

The IMF has supported members in deploying and improving gender policies for a number of years. And recently, our Executive Board approved the first comprehensive IMF Strategy for Mainstreaming Gender to help our members adapt pro-gender equality policies to their unique circumstances.

The strategy recognizes that macroeconomic and financial policies affect women and men differently, often unintentionally. We are helping policymakers identify and remedy these biases by applying a gender lens to our main activities—from our regular country policy surveillance to how we design and implement programs to our capacity development support.

We have supported increased spending on women in our program countries. For example, Egypt expanded pre-school availability and improved the safety of public transport under an IMF-supported program, helping women get to jobs. And São Tomé and Príncipe, with the support of an IMF program, launched an initiative on gender budgeting—the use of fiscal policies and institutions to promote women's equality across government programs. We also quantified the productivity benefits of getting more girls into high school in Senegal and other countries.

Under the new strategy, the Fund will work in the years ahead with our 190 members and external partners to expand both the breadth of our policy recommendations and bring greater rigor in our analysis to help more countries tailor and deploy policies that support gender equality.

Over time, gender-sensitive macroeconomic and financial policies will result in higher growth, greater economic stability and resilience, and lower income inequality—a dividend not just for women, but for everyone.



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) invites applicants for the functions of National Consultant for Supply Chain Management

Duty station: Belize City

Qualifications: *Essential:*
A Bachelor's degree in Pharmacy or related health, social or management sciences from a recognized university

Desirable:
Postgraduate degree at a Master level in public health or related field.

Experience: *Essential:*
Five years of national working experience in the related field

Desirable:
Working experience in health services project management

Skills:

- Pharmacy or related professional with 5 years of experience in Supply Chain Management at national level and familiar with national public health system.
- Involved with the management of HIV, TB and/or Malaria programs commodities would be desirable
- Experience in managing medical stores, or alike companies for the supply of essential medicines and other health technologies would be desirable.
- Experience in the development and implementation of training programs, particularly related to access to medicines and supply chain.
- Experience in planning for the procurement of commodities for the HIV, TB, and Malaria programs.
- Ability to analyse factors, trends, and forecast scenarios based on current surveillance systems and possesses the capability to develop and plan innovative and appropriate solutions for their improvement.
- Strong research, problem-solving and organizational skills.
- Ability to work collaboratively (in person or virtually) with other team players
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills and sensitivity to political and cultural issues
- Ability to meet deadlines
- Strong professional oral and writing skills, including the development of reports, oral presentations, and technical/persuasive documents for consideration at the highest levels of the Organization.
- Demonstrated ability to effectively use a computer and utilize software programs such as Microsoft Office Word, Excel, PowerPoint, SharePoint, and Outlook. Other IT skills and knowledge of other software programs for Statistical Analysis, Data Exploratory Analysis and Project Management would be an asset.

Languages: Very good knowledge of English and working knowledge of Spanish

Deadline: Letter of application, Curriculum Vitae, and two current letters of recommendation should be sent to blzmail@paho.org or to P.O. Box 1834, Belize City no later than **September 19, 2022**

For further details visit our website <https://www.paho.org/en/vacancies> An interview will be held for this position and only candidates under serious consideration will be contacted.

PAHO/WHO has a smoke-free environment and does not recruit smokers or users of any form of tobacco.



IMPORTANT CLOSURE NOTICE

Dear Users of the Port of Belize Ltd.

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

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

July 28th to August 05th, 2022

September 01st to 09th, 2022

October 06th to 16th, 2022

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

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

Thanks

Andy Lane
Chief Executive Officer



How much water do you really need to drink?

When thinking about drinking, we've probably all heard of the 8 x 8 rule — drink eight glasses of water per day, with 8 oz of water per glass. But this isn't actually scientifically accurate, as we get a lot of fluid from our meals, and other liquids actually count towards that quota. If you drink a lot of fruit squash, tea, low-fat milk, sugar-free drinks or even coffee, these all count towards your daily hydration goals.

Water requirements are also very personal: someone who lives a very active life will probably need to drink more water to keep their body hydrated than someone who lives a sedentary lifestyle. An article in *Nederlands Tijdschrift voor Geneeskunde*, a leading medical journal in the Netherlands explains that the body's fluid balance is regulated by a hormone called vasopressin and the kidneys. A healthy person should output about 500 ml/day of urine and intake between 2000-3000 ml of fluid to achieve this — note the article says fluid, not water — so this includes all liquids you consume, including from food.

Water intoxication is a risk when drinking excessive amounts of water, although drinking eight glasses a day probably won't put you at risk of this. An article in the *Journal of Clinical Pathology* indicates that symptoms of water intoxication include disorientation, nausea and sometimes vomiting. Having too much water in your body can lead to low sodium levels, known as hyponatraemia, which can lead to coma and even death if untreated.

There's no dispute that water is crucial to a healthy life (or any life at all, for that matter). And yet, there's little scientific consensus about the exact amount of the stuff an individual should consume each day, as it is so personal and dependent on other lifestyle factors.

An article in the *American Journal of Physiology* soundly disagreed with the myth that 'you're already dehydrated once you feel thirsty' — our thirst response is there to prevent us from getting dehydrated in the first place, and while it shouldn't be ignored, mild thirst is just a reminder to drink something.

The article also explains that while urine color is a good way to judge your hydration levels at home, it varies from person to person. Your urine color can also be impacted by the volume of urine you've produced, so your urine may be darker not because you are dehydrated, but because there is a lot of it. Generally, urine is darker in the morning, but this isn't a cause for concern as for most healthy adults, this will be an accumulation of eight hours' worth of fluid, and our thirst response usually prompts us to drink upon waking. So, while you might want to monitor your urine color at home to judge how much you should be drinking, this wouldn't fly in a lab, where they would test your plasma osmolality to see whether or not you are dehydrated.

Food and drink

One such source is food. Everything you eat contains some water. Raw fruits and vegetables have a lot; fruits such as watermelons and strawberries, for example, are more than 90

percent water by weight, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Different diets naturally contain different amounts of water, but it adds up. According to a 2004 report by the National Academies of Sciences, the average North American gets about 20 percent of his or her daily water intake through food, and that counts toward healthy hydration.



The other key water sources that the "8 x 8" rule overlooks are other beverages. Non-alcoholic drinks such as coffee, tea, milk, juice and soda contain mostly water, and all contribute to your hydration. Contrary to another popular myth, studies show that coffee does not dehydrate you and is a suitable form of H₂O intake. (Just remember that there can be adverse side effects of drinking too much caffeine, including headaches and disrupted sleep.)

So, between all the food, water, and other fluids you consume in a day, how much water should you aim to imbibe? The National Academies of Sciences suggests that women consume a total of approximately 2.7 liters (91 ounces) of water from all beverages and foods each day and that men get approximately 3.7 liters (125 ounces) daily. But these are just general guidelines and are not supported by firm scientific studies.

The truth is, there is no magic formula for hydration — everyone's needs vary depending on their age, weight, level of physical activity, general health and even the climate they live in.

The more water you lose to sweating, the more water you'll need to replace with food and drink. So, naturally, a person doing strenuous physical work in a hot, tropical climate would need to drink more water than a person of identical weight and height who spent the day sitting in an air-conditioned office.

If you are looking for concrete advice, though, the best place to look is within.

"The vast majority of healthy people adequately meet their daily hydration needs by letting thirst be their guide," according to the National Academies of Sciences. Your body naturally feels thirsty when your hydration levels are dropping, and water is the best medicine. (On the other end of the digestive spectrum, your urine can also tell you whether you're getting enough to drink — dark yellow or orange urine usually indicates dehydration, while well-hydrated urine should look pale yellow or colorless.)

The bottom line: Drink up when you're thirsty, and drink more when you sweat more. Your body will take

it from there.

Weh Wi Ga Fi Seh

Kip op yu helt! Stay pahn di lukowt!

Bileez: Ah di Feel 10 and 21

Yu don noa seh Septemba deh ya! Wi pray no harikayn kohn kohn vizit wi. Hishchri shoa seh dehn harikayn dehn oanli laik kohn vizit Aagas-Septemba taihn, jos wen wee di salabrayt wi Tent a Septemba ahn wi Tweni-fos a Septemba. Mee tink seh dat dehn harikayn mosi waahn jain eena wi salabrayshan tu! Soh, tudeh, wi shyaa dehnya salabrayshan sentens wid unu!

salabrayt Variant: selibrayt

selibrayshan *n.* celebration. **Mi breda reech hoahn in taim fi di big selibrayshan.** My brother arrived home in time for the big celebration. *See: jalifikayshan.*

selibrayt (var: **salabrayt**) *v.* celebrate. **Evribadi midi selibrayt bikaaz fi dehn paati mi win di ilekshan.** Everyone was celebrating because their party had won the election. *See: kip op.*

aniversri *n.* anniversary. **Mi ma ahn mi pa di selibrayt dehn tweniffif aniversri.** My parents are celebrating their twenty-fifth anniversary.

Mi ma ahn mi pa mi selibrayt dehn ayt aniversri. My mother and father celebrated their eighth anniversary. **Neks mont Ah wahn selibrayt mi bertday.** Next month I'll celebrate my birthday.

kip op *v.phr.* celebrate a birthday or anniversary with a party. **Wen Ah mi smaal, mi ma ahn mi pa neva doz kip op fi dehn aniversri.** When I was little, my mother and father never celebrated their anniversary. *See: selibrayt.*

Soca Moca wins Carnival 2022

By William Ysaguirre

Belize City, Sept. 3, 2022—The Soca Moca Mas Band, the 2019 Carnival road march winners, repeated as winners for the 2022 Carnival road march's the senior band competition, when Carnival returned to the streets of Belize City after a three-year break on Saturday, September 3.

It was a truncated Carnival, half the size of previous Carnivals, with only five junior bands and only three senior bands, virtually guaranteeing everyone would win a prize.

Soca Moca band leader Audrey Bradley kept the winning theme from 2019, a Caribbean Soca diary as the theme for the band's costumes. With pre-judging in the camps and their energetic performance on the road march, they were awarded 1,105 pts to win first prize.

Mother Nature's Creations received 1,001pts, enough to take the second prize, and the Trenchtown Masqueraders scored 901pts, to claim the third prize.

Soca Massive band leader Pauline Bradley chose a back-to-school theme of Crayola crayons for their costumes; they received 924 pts to win first prize in the junior band category.

Jump Street Posse's band leader Marina



1st road march winners - Soca Moca

Welcome had chosen "Resilience and Joy" of surviving the COVID pandemic and coming out of lockdown as the theme for their costumes; they received 900 pts, to take the second prize. The Collet Royal Revellers chose "Peace and Hope" as the theme for their pink and white costumes, adorned with peace signs and white dove wings. The judges awarded them 894pts to claim the third prize.

The Mother Nature's Creations band had dominated the Carnival King and

Queen competition with costumes based on Belizean society's revival from the Coronavirus pandemic. Their Queen costume "Princess Aqua" worn by Andreinae Samuels scored 1,274pts, while their King costume was awarded 1,224pts, for both to win first prize at the Belize Civic Center the week before.

The Trenchtown's Queen - Brianna Barela scored 1,237pts to win second prize, while Soca Moca's Queen - Jada Stuart received 1,231 pts for third prize. Soca Moca's King was

awarded 1,214 pts to take second prize, and Trenchtown's King received 1,114pts, enuf for third prize.

Among the juniors' Soca Massive's Queen Crayola costume adorned Jenae Wellington, who won first prize with 1,211pts. while Jump Street Posse's Queen "Joy" worn by Giselle Elliot won second prize with 1,186pts. The Collet Royal Revellers' Queen "Goddess of Peace and Hope" received 1,159pts, enough to claim third prize.

Soca Massive's King Recero had scored 1195pts to win first prize, while Pickstock's King Zu Zu received 1,135pts for second prize, and Jump Street Posse's king, "The Protector" was awarded 1,131pts for third prize.



2nd prize Srs Road march - Mother Nature's Creations

S U D O K U

Medium Puzzle

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

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

Answer to Puzzle

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



FUN FACTS!

The Ancient Egyptians



Ancient Egypt was a civilisation which prevailed in Egypt and the surrounding areas for an enormous 3,500-year period. Ancient Egypt stretched from the middle of the fourth millennium BC to the time the country was conquered by the Romans in 31 BC.

The Ancient Egyptians had their own particular culture and society, which was preserved across this time. Their civilisation was based along the River Nile which runs through Egypt and which provided the Egyptians with water for their crops.

Along the banks of the Nile, they built pyramids, vast tombs

and temples to honour their dead and their many gods and goddesses. Most famous are the three Great Pyramids and the Sphinx at Giza outside modern-day Cairo, which were built in the mid-third millennium BC. These were constructed as vast tombs for the Egyptian pharaohs, their kings whom the Egyptians revered as god-like figures.

The Egyptians built vast tombs to the pharaohs, often using the labour of tens of thousands of workers. The foremost are the three pyramids of Giza outside Cairo, which were built for Khufu, Menkaure and Khafre around 2500 BC. The

largest one, that of Khufu, is known as the Great Pyramid and is the only surviving Wonder of the Ancient World. However, there are over one hundred pyramids in total still standing across Egypt today.

Other pharaohs were buried in the vast Valley of the Kings and the Valley of the Queens outside the city of Luxor to the south of Cairo. Here, the pharaohs were mummified and laid to rest in elaborate tombs, where they were buried with vast riches.

During the Bronze Age between 1600 BC and 1200 BC, Ancient Egypt reached its peak under great pharaohs

such as Ramses II. At this time, Egypt built a great empire which stretched west into modern-day Libya, south into modern-day Sudan and north-east to include parts of Sinai, Palestine and Canaan.

However, the Egyptian kingdom declined in later years; for many centuries afterwards, it was often ruled by foreign powers, notably the Greek Ptolemy family who ruled Egypt from their capital Alexandria from about 320 BC to 31 BC. Finally, the last pharaoh, Cleopatra, succumbed to the power of the Roman Empire and Ancient Egypt was no more.



Zero Names!

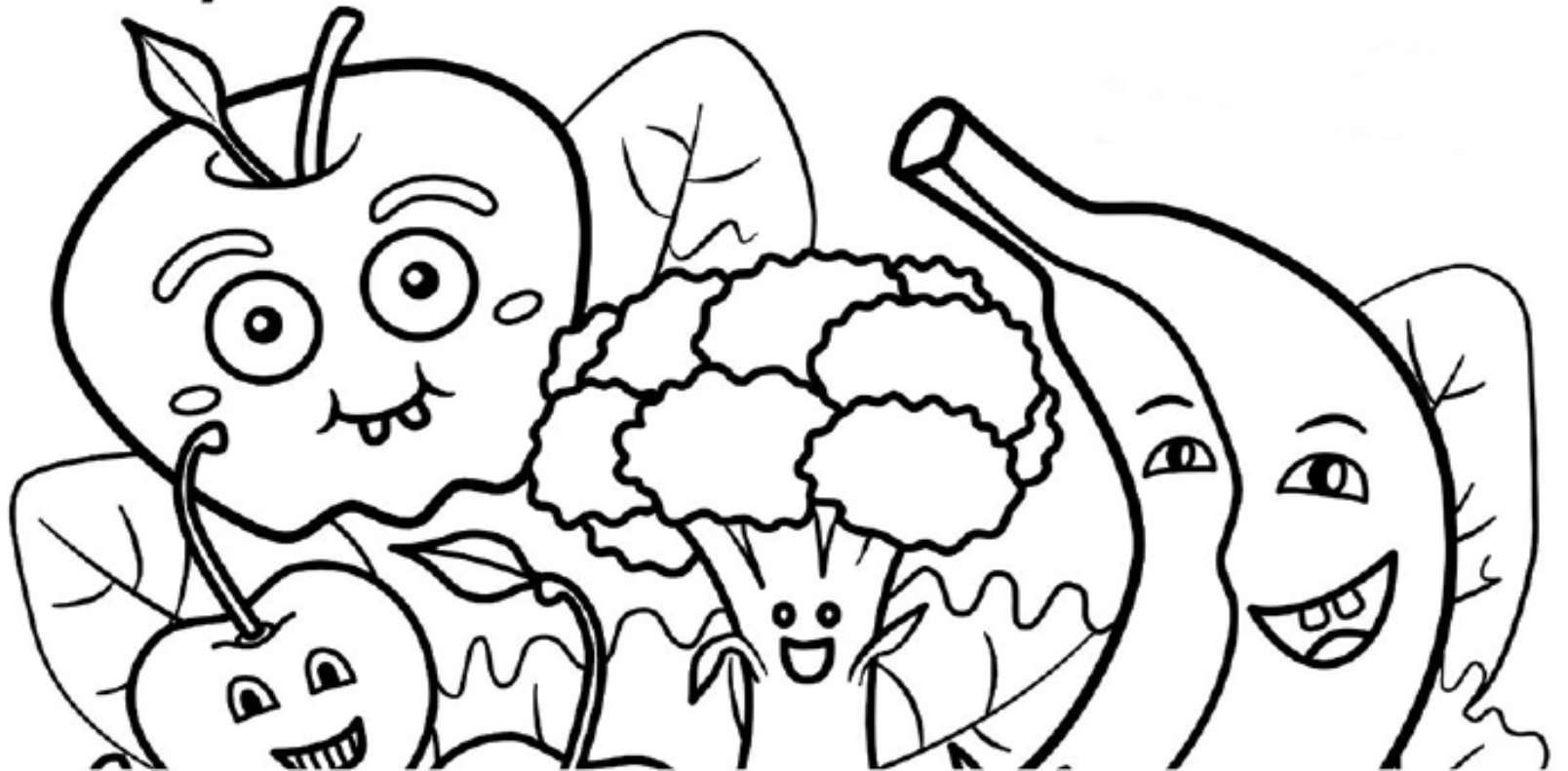
Different names for the **number 0** include zero, nought, naught, nil, zilch and zip.

Number Fact!

2,520 is the smallest number that can be exactly divided by all the numbers 1 to 10.

**C
O
L
O
R
M
E**

Healthy Choices Count!



Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management**POSITION DESCRIPTION**

Position Title: Results Based Management and Budgeting Specialist
Duty Station: Ministry of Sustainable Development Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management
Posting Period: One year Direct Supervisor: To Be Determined

Consultancy Objective:

The Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management has sought the financial assistance from the Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) to identify an RBM Specialist to support the MSDCC&DRM and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development in the development of frameworks and systems to improve and operationalize results-based planning, implementation, monitoring, and reporting across the Government of Belize.

Analysis of Position:**Overall Responsibilities:**

1. Develop a work program to fulfil the deliverables of this ToR.
2. Conduct a review of the Medium-Term Development Strategy (MTDS) and other relevant national development strategies.
3. Conduct a review of the current budgeting processes and systems (institutional framework, legal and administrative/operational processes, as well as stakeholders)
4. Conduct a review of reforms and efforts made to introduce elements of results-based budgeting (including previous pilots, success and lessons learned).
5. Conduct a review of the Government's Public Sector Investment Programme, review capital investment planning and budgeting processes with a view to improving coordination between Finance and Economic Development.
6. Lead the development of a Results Based Framework, inclusive of a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework.
7. Identify additional Ministries for the piloting of RBM and the implementation of a monitoring and evaluation framework aligned with the MTDS and their relevant national and strategic plans (target four to five).
8. Identify and document recommended workflow for mainstreaming and piloting of RBM within the broader Government Service including the development of procedural manuals and administrative guidelines and any other institutional mechanisms needed for effective implementation.
9. Assist in the preparation of annual monitoring and evaluation plans consistent with M&E Framework within the pilot Ministries.
10. Conduct a capacity assessment among Policy, Planning, Project, Finance Unit staff.
11. Organize capacity building training.
12. Develop plans to enhance knowledge networking, sharing best practices and technical expertise to the pilot ministries to foster an integrated approach.
13. Prepare periodic updates/briefings/presentations to the agencies involved to continuously inform of progress as required by the supervisor.

Expected Outputs:

The consultant is expected to work in close collaboration with counterparts in achieving the following expected outputs for this consultancy:

- Workplan and methodology for achieving task.
- Results Based framework aligned to the strategic focus areas of the Plan Belize and other guiding national strategies and plans.
- Monitoring and evaluation framework aligned with the Plan Belize and other guiding national strategies and plans.
- Documentation of recommended workflow for mainstreaming and piloting
- User and management friendly matrix for enabling a transition to RBM across the GOB.

*All products, final work and information shall be generated in hard and soft format described in this section.

Execution of this Terms of Reference requires an expert having one or more of the following qualifications:

Technical Qualifications – Academic/Training:

LEVEL: **AREA:**
Master's Degree: X **Area of Study:** Finance, Economics, Results Based Management, Investment Management, or a closely related field
Doctorate Degree: _____ **Area of Study:** _____

Skills, Experience and Qualifications Required:

1. First Degree in Finance, Economics, or a closely related field, preferably with an environment/biodiversity focus with a minimum of five (5) years relevant work experience.
2. At least five (5) years of experience in monitoring and evaluation, results-based management.
3. Knowledge and experience in designing M&E systems and conducting evaluations.
4. Excellent writing and analytical skill in drafting concept notes and reports.
5. Strategic vision and strong technical and analytical capabilities.
6. Proficiency in both written and oral English.
7. Strong leadership capability
8. Strong interpersonal and communication skills
9. Knowledge of national governance framework is strongly desired
10. Ability to prepare publications, reports, and presentations
11. Ability to work with a multidisciplinary and multicultural team
12. Computer literacy particularly in Microsoft excel and access, word and ppt
13. Flexible and ability to prioritize a variety of complex evolving tasks

Application Requirements:

- Interested persons should submit a letter of expression of interest
- The Letter of expression of interest should state monthly expected remuneration that indicates the all-inclusive fixed total contract price.
- Personal CV, indicating all experience from similar projects, as well as the contact details (email and telephone number) of the candidate and at least two (2) professional references. Qualified candidates should submit their application and financial proposals no later than **September 30th, 2022**, to:

Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change & Disaster Risk Management
 Attn: National Biodiversity Office-Director
 Ground Floor Green Complex Building
 #2557 Hummingbird Highway
 Belmopan City, Belize
 Telephone number 828-9055
 Email address: biofin-belize@environment.gov.bz

Sargassum finally set to serve a purpose

By Britney Gordon

On September 1st, the Prime Minister traveled to Germany, where he led a delegation of technical experts to research and learn how to counteract the sargassum plaguing the shores of Belize and several Caribbean nations.

The delegation met with and was invited to Berlin, Germany, by the technology company Variodin. As vice president of the Sixth Session of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) DOCK Assembly, the Prime Minister sought for everyone to gain a better understanding of how Belize and the Caribbean region can capitalize and mitigate the growing threat of sargassum to the region's critical tourism industry.

The delegation hopes to find technological solutions for the matter, such as converting the sargassum into energy. The prime minister believes that Variodin's technology is well suited for the cause.

For over a decade, mass quantities of sargassum have been polluting the shores of several Caribbean and Central American nations, Belize included. While sargassum did not seem like much of a threat initially, it has done extensive damage to the tourism industry, which is a primary source of revenue for most of these countries. Not only is sargassum often described as aesthetically unappealing to look at, but it also releases a foul sulfuric odor as it begins to decay. Sargassum has been



VP Oceana Belize Janelle Chanona

proven to negatively impact the overall air quality of the beaches it washes up on. Inhaling the hydrogen sulfide gas it gives off as it decomposes on the beach can cause heart palpitations, shortness of breath, dizziness, vertigo, headaches, and skin rashes. Finding a sustainable way of disposing of the plant has been a challenge Belize has been facing for years.

In the past, sargassum was commonly used as landfill and was used to combat beach erosion in some instances.

In 2018, Placencia residents even took to digging trenches to bury the sargassum just to dispose of it. Sargassum also has beneficial properties as a fertilizer and compost. There are many valuable nutrients within the plant that can be accessed so long as it is properly cleaned and dried. Sargassum has been noted to have

great potential as an energy source but challenges arose due to the sargassum's unpredictable nature and lack of efficiency in bioconversion. However, with further research and development, sargassum still stands as a prospect as biogas and a biosorbent.

The Reporter spoke with Janelle Chanona, vice president of Oceana, who applauded all efforts to mitigate the problem resourcefully.

Chanona recalled the other efforts previously employed to make use of sargassum such as using it for building material and incorporated it into various cuisines. "The history has shown that we need to have something in place or will we have an occurrence as we did in 2016." She was referring to the massive influx of sargassum that returned to the beaches in detrimental amounts.

"The NGOs continue to support these endeavors as they did previously with the Sargasso task force," Chanona noted that all over Belize there are many smaller initiatives still in place to counteract the sargassum.



Minister of Education says outdated hair policies in schools got to go

By Michelle Sutherland

The school rules on hair lengths “are shackles of colonialism,” Minister of Education Hon. Francis Fonseca told the media this week.

Fonseca told the media that he was in support of the removal of school rules that prevents children from attending school due to the length of their hair since it was deemed irrelevant, outdated and in violation of their constitutional right.

“I think these things are shackles of colonialism. What does the length of your hair have to do with how you learn?” Fonseca shared. “As one young person posted on social media, it is not about what is on top of your head, it is about what is inside of your head. So, I totally agree with that. As I said, schools

have rules and we are not against any of those rules, but you cannot be discriminatory. The length of your hair or your hairstyle has nothing to do with your ability to learn and your educational capacity.”

While Fonseca stressed that the ministry is in favour of discipline, he says that they also want productive and positive citizens, being produced in the education system. That education system, according to Fonseca, though governed by its own rules and laws, must also follow the rules and laws of the country. The rules, therefore, cannot be unconstitutional, arbitrary, or discriminatory in any manner.

“We have a fundamental object and responsibility at the



Minister of Education Hon. Francis Fonseca

Ministry of Education to ensure we protect the fundamental constitutional rights of our students. We were very clear and immediately the chief education officer got in contact with the management of

Bishop Martin High School immediately and informed them of the law, of the rules, of the ministry's position, and the school was obliged to comply,” said Fonseca.

The matter of the school policy re-

emerged in recent weeks following an incident in which several students of Bishop Martin High School in Orange Walk were denied access to the classroom last week due to their respective hairstyles.

According to the minister following the intervention by his ministry while some of the students had opted to cut their hair so that they could return to the classroom, he said that was fine by him; however, he reiterated that not everything has to be a public argument and that if issues among the students and school management can be settled in a respectful and quiet manner then that should be the course taken.

Last week the Ministry of Education sent out a strong-worded press release stating that while schools have the authority to impose codes of conduct, “Students cannot, however, be removed from or denied admission to school because of the length of their hair.”

September 8, 2022



NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the SIXTEENTH Annual General Meeting of Belize Telemedia Limited will be held on Friday, the 30th day of September 2022, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

The Company will provide virtual access to the Meeting for shareholders or their authorized proxies to join. BTL shareholders or their authorized proxies who wish to attend and vote in this manner must register at www.livedigi.com/agm-registration no later than 10:00 a.m. on 28th September 2022. Upon registration, shareholders will receive an email with further meeting instructions and details. Shareholders or their authorized proxies are able to access the Meeting virtually using only a laptop or desktop computer. This access will form part of the formal proceedings of the Meeting.

Please be reminded that a member entitled to attend and vote at the Meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote in his stead. A proxy need not be a member of the company. Please note that Eric Eusey (Publicly Elected Director and member) has indicated his willingness to act as proxy on behalf of shareholders and we urge you to appoint him as proxy as noted above. Kindly submit proxy forms to the registered office of the Company at the Esquivel Telecom Centre on St. Thomas Street, Belize City no later than 10:00 a.m. on 28th September 2022.

For more information contact us at prdept@livedigi.com

Belize obtains \$146,000 in lab equipment

The National Forensic Science Service (NFSS) has received a Thermo-Scientific TSX Series High Performance Laboratory Refrigerator, a Handheld Portable Fourier Transform Infrared (FT-IR) Spectrometer valued at BZ\$146,000.

The equipment was gifted to the NFSS by the Ministry of Economic Development through the Ministry of Home Affairs and New Growth Industries. The technical practitioners responsible will also be receiving technical training on the equipment's use and maintenance from the supplier,

EPROLAB.

The refrigerator is used for storing evidence and (FT-IR) Spectrometer is for rapid field identification of liquid and solid chemicals. The acquisition of such equipment for the NFSS is a part of a larger project known as the Belize Integral Security Programme (BISP), the BZ\$60 million project is funded by the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) and seeks to strengthen citizen security through investments in infrastructure and equipment of the public institutions that are responsible for national security.

The BISP is a three-year project, which already has plans to further develop NFSS with over BZ\$7 million worth of projects. It endeavors to provide

a pre-investment study on the needs and design of a new forensic laboratory and the advanced instrumentation to make it operational; a functional forensic morgue to support medicolegal death investigations; two refrigerated mortuary transport vehicles (coroner's vans), and other necessary laboratory/medical equipment.

The BISP states, "While the programme will benefit the members of the security forces directly, it will provide benefits to the entire population by improvements in citizen security. Apart from improvements in physical infrastructure in different locations, it is expected that these investments will create employment in the district towns and provide economic stimulation to the local economy."



World Suicide Prevention Day to be observed on September tenth

By Britney Gordon

On September tenth, the Ministry of Health & Wellness invites Belizeans to join the rest of the globe in observing World Suicide Prevention Day. The ministry aims to raise awareness for the cause and destigmatize mental health.

The initiative has been in action for 19 years. The ministry stated that the theme for this year's campaign is "Creating Hope Through Action" and expressed that it was chosen to serve as "a reminder that there is an alternative to suicide and aims to inspire confidence and light in all of us; that our actions, no matter how big or small, may provide hope to those who are struggling."

In 2020, suicide was recorded as the second leading cause of death in Belizeans ages 15-29. An estimated



703,000 persons commit suicide each year globally. The World Health Organization views suicide as a public health concern and seeks to reduce the rate through global initiatives such as this.

Between September 8th and 10th, the ministry asks the public to take part in hosted events such as their walk-a-thon, educational sessions, health fairs, candlelight vigil, and wearing yellow as a symbol of support and promoting awareness. Most notably, on September 8th, a World Suicide Prevention Day Flag is to be raised in all districts and at

8 p.m. on September 9th, the ministry asks participants to light a candle near a window to "show support for suicide prevention and to remember a loved one lost to suicide as well as survivors."

As stated by the World Federation for Mental Health "Good mental health is critical to the functioning of society at the best of times. It must be front and center of every country's response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The mental health and wellbeing of whole societies have been severely impacted by this crisis and are a priority to be addressed urgently."

FOR SALE

37.7 acres

along the Philip Goldson (Northern) Highway

near Mile 17 1/2

suitable for an industrial or housing project.

Bordered by the BWS Feeder Road and the Northern Highway.

High Broken Ridge land

Water easily available

Clear Title Bze. 20,000 per acre

Call Lawrence at phone 610- 4454 for more details.



*Happy
St. George's Caye Day*

**from the Board, Management, and Staff
of Belize Water Services!**

VALIANT AND BOLD, PROUD AND STRONG!

BELIZE REBOUNDS @ 41!

BWS - Delivering Water and More...

