Reporter

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BSCFA optimistic new agreement will be signed for next crop

By William Ysaguirre

The Belize Sugar Cane Farmers Association (BSCFA) is optimistic that they may sign a new cane-purchase agreement with the sugar mill before the present interim arrangement expires, BSCFA Chief Executive Officer Oscar Alonzo told *The Reporter* this week.

Alonzo explained that the association has been negotiating a new sugar cane purchase agreement with the ASR Group and Belize Sugar Industries Ltd (ASR/BSI) for the 2022-23 harvest.

BSCFA representatives had presented counter proposals to ASR's first proposed draft for a new agreement when they met with ASR/BSI officials three weeks ago.

They have since received BSI's response, and are scheduled to meet with them soon to respond to ASR's new suggestions.

The farmers have had testy relations with the company dating back to their 2013 negotiations for a payment for the bagasse used by BELCOGEN to produce electricity, and the cane purchase agreement signed in 2014, which included a small payment for bagasse.

The Belize Sugar Cane Farmers' Association has suggested that ASR/BSI's has not been entirely forthcoming with their financial reports, especially as it pertains to the break down for the calculations for the net strip value.

Fundamentally, BSCFA questions the formula by which ASR/BSI calculates

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BSCFA Chief Executive Officer Oscar Alonzo

Human Rights Commission Condemns Breach of Child's Human Rights

By Michelle Sutherland

The Human Rights Commission of Belize has come out to condemn the latest breach of human rights in Belize where a young preschool graduate is reportedly being denied enrollment into two religious primary schools in Ladyville.

Cynthia Pitts, retired attorney at law and Vice President of the Human Rights Commission in Belize told *the Reporter* on Thursday

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HRC says it's every child's 'right' to an education

ASR/BSI inaugurates $30 million sugar export facility

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ASR/BSI exports largest sugar shipment – 30,000 metric tonne

By William Ysaguirre

The American Sugar Refineries /Belize Sugar Industries (ASR/BSI) loaded the single largest sugar shipment – 30,000 metric tonnes in one ship, in the company's 55-year history, when ASR/BSI inaugurated its $30 million sugar export facility at the Big Creek Port in the Stann Creek district on Wednesday, June 8.

The commodities trading is a futures market, but at current prices of USD 19 cents/pound, the shipment is worth about $12.8 million, explained BSI's Director of Finance Shawn Chavarria. The cane farmers and BSI will reap a greater profit, because the company is able to save on freight by using a larger vessel, resulting in much lower shipping charges.

The new facilities include a 40,000-tonne sugar storage warehouse, a 10,000-tonne molasses storage tank and a fleet of 18-wheeler trucks, each hauling 35 tonnes of sugar or molasses from the Tower Hill Sugar Factory in Orange Walk to the port, as Pedro Gomez, ASR's leader for logistics in Latin America explained.

The facilities include several Caterpillar trax-cavators, each with a bucket which can hold seven tonnes of sugar, to load the sugar inside the warehouse onto to an automated system of conveyor belts.

These transfer the sugar into a large silo, which funnels the sugar into the tare-hopper of a scale that weighs the sugar as it is loaded into a 35-tonne tipper truck. These trucks transport the sugar to the wharf, where another system of conveyors carry the sugar up to the ship's deck to dump into the hold. This system can be moved up and down along the length of the ship to load sugar into each hold. This allows ASR/BSI to load a ship faster, saving on time and labor, explained ASR Group's Mac Maclachlan, up to 300 tonnes per hour for up to 5,000 to 7,000 tonnes loaded in a single day. This permits BSI to fill a 30,000 vessel in five days, reducing port and shipping charges.

This was all made possible when the Big Creek Group invested in dredging the port

On Wednesday, June 8, the Government of Belize filed its Counter-Memorial responding to the Guatemalan claim before the International Court of Justice. The claim is for territorial, insular and maritime rights to parts of Belize.

On May 8, three years ago, Belize voted by referendum to resolve the Guatemalan claim by referring the matter to the ICJ, where a panel of 15 legal experts, experienced judges, who are taken from all parts of the world, will examine the claim and determine who is right and who is wrong.

The path to the ICJ has not been easy. The men and women who make up the Briceño Government today were firmly opposed. It took a referendum that involved 55 percent of the electorate to convince them to go along. But once the decision was made, these same men and women put their shoulders on the wheel, and have worked mightily for its success.

We are confident that the memorial presented this week to the ICJ is as erudite and as convincing as human minds can make it, and that it represents a powerful and logical reiteration of Belize's historical position - that we owe Guatemala nothing at all; that her claim, revived by the Guatemalan dictator, Jorge Ubico in 1940 (a scant 9 years after his country formally recognized our western border through an Exchange of Notes with the U.K.), is nothing more than trumped-up aggression by a bigger, more powerful nation against a smaller, weaker neighbour.

After this first round of memorials, Guatemala will have a chance to respond to the points made in the Belize counter-memorial.

And after that, Belize will have her opportunity to refute what new elements the Guatemalans may have brought to the table.

It's a slow process. The wheels of justice grind slowly, but exceedingly fine. Within a few more years Belize will have a validated, iron-clad stamp of approval from the International Court of Justice which will finally put an end to Guatemalan pretensions.

Today's war in Ukraine has shown how dictators cause havoc in the world community. Who would have thought that after the abomination of World War II (1939 -1945) the world would have to endure the provocations of a despot like Vladimir Putin, whose over-arching ambition threatens to plunge the world into another war!

This is one more reason why the International Court of Justice will look carefully at our Belize cause for full sovereignty and independence over all of our land and all of our territorial waters in accordance with established international law.

PRAY

Dear Sir:

In 1898 the United Kingdom signed an agreement with China to govern and occupy Hong Kong for one hundred years.

In 1997 with no sign of reneging on a solemn promise, Britain surrendered its reins of control and packed up and left with the People's Republic conceding that the Colony would continue on its capitalistic and human rights path.

Has Beijing kept its promise to allow Hong Kong to be free?

Several times during the past decade China has cracked down on peaceful protest of violations of rights and freedoms in Hong Kong!

The other China, better known to us as TAIWAN, during the past six or seven decades with a population of twenty-five million, which is only a fraction of PRC, continues to work miracles of free enterprise development. Today the per capita salary of Taiwan is something like sixty thousand; that of PRC is about twenty-three thousand.

If you had to live somewhere else, where would you choose to go out of the two Chinas? Beijing or Taipei?

Of course, quality of life would be an important consideration. We do not know of any Belizean having chosen to live in the People's Republic. On the other hand, countless have gone to Taiwan to study and have remained. Its amazing! Many

of our children have learned to speak Mandarin. None have complained of racism or any violation of their fundamental rights!

Recently Taiwan gave Belize forty-seven (47,000,000) dollars to build a state-of-the-art hospital on San Pedro, no strings attached. On the other hand, PRC built berthing facilities in Kiribati in the Pacific where its Premiere, after being gifted with one million dollars, signed an agreement to surrender sovereignty of the facility, if the loan was not repaid in a decade. Which of the two Chinese administrations deserve our admiration and support?

I consider myself blessed to live in the country of Belize which enjoys the friendship of Great Britain and of India. Since its independence in 1947 they have been a towering example of freedom and democracy, for every election they have changed their government by free and peaceful voting. With over one and a half billion persons (now # 1 in population) they are one of the top five economies of the world!

We are proud to be related to India through our shared Colonial Experience and now as members of the Commonwealth!

I wish I had the courage and bravery of President Zelensky of Ukraine! But talk is easy. If I were eighteen or nineteen, would I catch a plane and go into the trenches to defend the freedoms of others endangering my own life?

IS PRAYER the coward's best and last resort?

I do not know, but I am convinced that more things are wrought by prayers than this world dreams of!

Signed: Paul Rodriguez, OBE

BSCFA optimistic new agreement will be signed for next crop

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the net value of the sugar.

The BSCFA has queried ASR/BSI's accounting of the sale of the sugar, with many line items for shipping and handling charges, and have requested documentary evidence to support ASR's numbers.

As with any accounting audit, they would like to see all invoices and receipts to verify that they are getting a fair and true accounting of the various charges which, by ASR's account, were incurred in the export and sale of the sugar and molasses produced last year, to arrive at the final value of total earnings for the sugar and molasses.

This value, divided by the total tonnage of sugar cane delivered, yields the final cane price paid to farmers.

BSCFA has 3,342 members, who represent over 60 percent of the 5,016 cane farmers registered in the country.

The BSCFA has 18 branches or chapters, with nine in each district representing the groups of farmers in various villages.

There is also the Corozal Sugar Cane Producers Association which has approximately 600 members, the Progressive Cane Farmers Association with another 600 members, and the Northern Cane Farmers Associations which has about 400 members.

Alonzo acknowledged that it was difficult at the start of crop last year to estimate accurately the total amount of sugar cane in the fields awaiting harvest, because many BSCFA members had not yet registered their fields with the Sugar Industry Management Information System (SIMIS).

This, it appears, comes from the farmers' mistrust of the Sugar Industry Research and Development Institute (SIRDI), which they viewed as being controlled by ASR.

Now that they understand that SIRDI is an independent authority, affiliated to the government, some of the more conservative farmers are coming forward to register their field.

SIRDI has tried to get rough estimates using remote spatial technology, and Alonzo said the BSCFA also has flying drones which they have similarly used to get a crop estimate, but this has to be verified on the ground.

THE REPORTER

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ASR/BSI inaugurates $30 million sugar export facility

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to an 11-meter depth, allowing the port to handle larger ships. This prompted the Santander Group to build a 15,000-tonne warehouse in 2020 to export the sugar produced at the Santander Factory near Valley of Peace in the Cayo district. Santander then invited BSI into a joint venture to expand their storage warehouse to 60,000 tonnes. Instead, after a few trial runs to test the feasibility of shipping from Big Creek, ASR/BSI decided to build their own warehouse.

Minister of Public Utilities, e-Governance and Logistics Hon. Michel Chebat congratulated ASR/BSI on the new system which has done away with the decades old system of tug and barge. He applauded the company for investing in a system that yield greater profits for the cane farmers and BSI and helps to secure the future of the Belize sugar industry.

BSI Ltd was established when Tate & Lyle bought the Corozal Sugar Factory in 1963. In the past 55 years since Tower Hill Sugar Factory was built and commissioned in 1967, BSI has transported sugar to Belize City by a tugboat hauling three barges, each carrying 280 - 300 tonnes of sugar, about 800 - 900 tonnes. The relatively shallow draft of the Port of Belize meant the company could only export sugar in ships of 7,000 to 15,000 tonnes displacement, which took a month to load!

ASR/BSI had to pay the ship owners and the port for each day the ship remained in port, extra shipping charges which reduced the profits to cane farmers and to the company.

Investing in dredging the port to an 11-meter depth was a no-brainer, as Belize needed a true deep water port, Big Creek director Zaid Flores explained.

The investment was necessary for Big Creek to compete with ports in Guatemala, which can accommodate ships with a draft of up to 11 meters, even though these ports serve a much large market of 18 million people in Guatemala, while Belize has little over 400,000 inhabitants. The ship "Emil Selmer," which will transport the sugar, measures 180 meters in length with a draft of 4-5 meters when empty, and about 10 meters when fully loaded. The port also has another larger berth that can accommodate the banana vessels which are 230 meters in length.

Minister of Youth and Sports Hon. Rodwell Ferguson also thanked BSI for the many new jobs their investment has brought to the Stann Creek district, his constituency.

The company also transports molasses overland in 18-wheeler tankers, each hauling 35 tonnes of molasses, to the 10,000 tonne tank at the port. This allows ASR/BSI to ship 9,000 tonnes of molasses in one ship, again at substantial savings on freight and handling charges.

Maclachlan noted that the new system also benefits the health of the environment, as it allows BSI to take its export logistics out of New River, eliminating the risk of a sugar spillage into the river which has caused so much pollution problems in the past.

Human Rights Commission Condemns Breach of Child's Human Rights

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that the Commission condemns any form of discrimination, especially one against a small child.

She said that she finds it even more absurd that in 2022, Belize and Belizeans are still coping with discrimination against a particular group of people due to their religious beliefs.

Something which she says is afforded and protected under the Constitution of Belize.

"There are policies and regulations under the Constitution of Belize that says that you cannot discriminate against someone because of their religion, practice, or belief. So they should not be discriminating against any student for the way that they may be using their hair. ... It is a direct breach of the child's constitutional right to get an education."

Pitts added, "There have been several cases that have already gone before the courts, where the courts have ruled that it is a form of discrimination. It is their right, their freedom of opinion, and their freedom of religion."

The Reporter also reached out to the Minister of Culture Science and Technology Hon. Francis Fonseca for his comments on the situation and he also reminded us that both the policy at the Ministry of Education and the Constitution of Belize makes it absolutely clear that no child can be denied access to any educational institution because of their natural hair or hair preference as a result of religious, cultural or personal beliefs.

Fonseca said that the Ministry of Education has already stepped in to address the situation by reminding both schools of this very important position.

On Monday, the child's father Kevin Pollard took to social media to vent his frustration over what he claimed is outright discrimination against his son, who wears his hair in dreadlocks.

Pollard, who has been a Rastafarian his entire life and raised his son in a similar fashion, said that on Monday he went to the Ladyville Evangelical School to enroll his son for the upcoming school year but was rudely turned back by the school management who allegedly told him they could not accept his son into their school due to his dreadlock hairstyle.

Pollard claimed that he then went to the Ladyville SDA Primary School, and was again given the same treatment.

He alleged that the school's management told him that for his son to be admitted into the school he would need to cut his dreadlocks.

"I can't sit back and just let my child be victimized and discriminated against. My son's hair is well taken care of, what does his hair have to do with his learning?

"Yet we have people in our country that holds big position and they are very professional, such as attorneys, CEO in GOB, doctors, business owners, teachers, even a previous Minister, and many others.

"As a society, as a country how can we allow this, are you telling me that we cannot be Rastafarians in Belize?" wrote Pollard.

While one of the schools decided to withhold their comments, the General Manager of Ladyville Evangelical School Eutimio Chi is claiming that it was a case of miscommunication.

According to Chi, Pollard was told that the school had closed its registration on May 19th and that his son would be put on a waiting list along with several other students, due to the school being filled to capacity.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

JOB VACANCY: A vacancy exists for a **Store Clerk. Responsibilities:** Attend to customers, Ensure store is properly stocked, Ensure store is clean and orderly & Assist customers that are having difficulties in a professional manner. **Attributes:** Must be hard working, Trustworthy, Reliable & Work Flexible Hours, **Requirements:** High School Diploma & Police Record. **Please contact Dress in Style at #21 Orange Street, Belize City Tel: 626-6200/ 227-4906, Email: nandwani98@hotmail.com.**

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Fabian Avalos** of Teakettle Village, Cayo District is hereby applying for a **Malt & Cider Liquor License** for **El Palmieto Bar** situated in **Teakettle Village, Cayo District, for the year 2022.** Under the Intoxicating Liquors Act (Revised Edition) of 2000.

MOHW: "We noh dih hustle!"

The allegations were that there was a COVID-test hustle at the northern border.

By Javan Flowers

In a press release issued this week, the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW) clarified misleading information reported through several media outlets on a purported "hustle" of fees for COVID-19 tests done at the land borders.

Following allegations on social media, that alleged the MOHW was in the midst of a scheme to capitalize on COVID tests. According to the assertion, the Ministry was supposedly collecting for COVID tests from people coming into the country through the northern border.

Notably, there were supposed receipts provided that tried to confirm the allegations; however, the receipts shown were unofficial - not the standard revenue collector receipts – for the tests.

In denouncing the claims, the Ministry clarified that "only unvaccinated persons who do not submit a negative COVID-19 test are required to submit a test before entering the country. A cashier is present from Monday to Friday to collect the fee charged and provide an official stamped government receipt at the completion of the transaction. On weekends or any public and bank holidays when no cashier is present, a temporary handwritten receipt is provided, and persons are asked to return on the following workday to be issued a government receipt to replace the temporary receipt."

The Ministry further detailed, "Regular reconciling and auditing of all test kits and receipts are done by regional finance officers countrywide. The Ministry encourages the public to request a copy of their government receipt when conducting any government business."

BTB: "Food vendors wanted"

By Javan Flowers

The Belize Tourism Board (BTB) requests that Belizean Food Vendors register and participate in the Belize International Food and Music Festival – to be held in San Pedro from July 30 - 31, 2022.

In the request to vendors, issued via a press release, the BTB emphasized the need for "the world [to] be treated to the very best in our gastronomical fare on the grounds of the Saca Chispas Field in San Pedro."

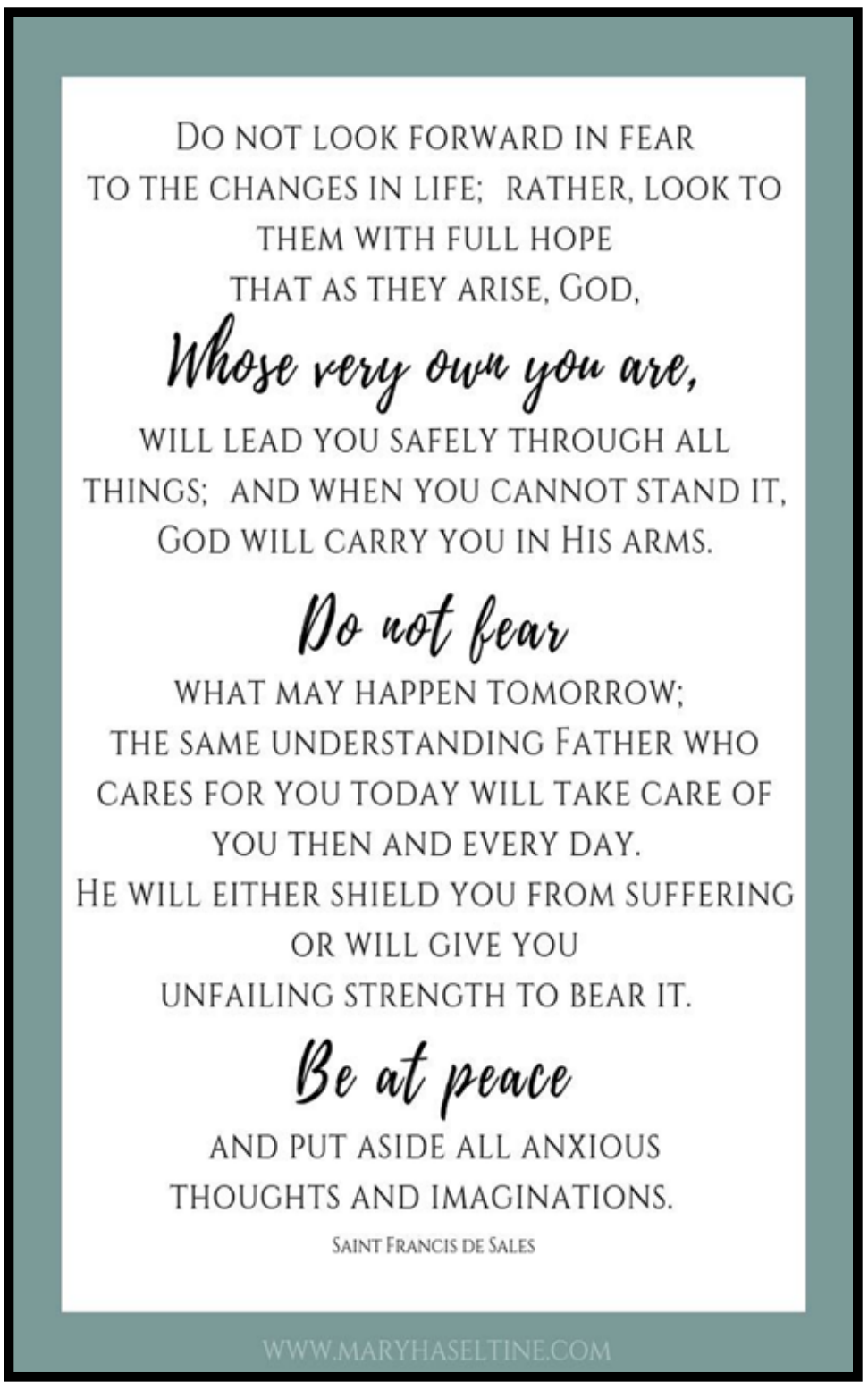
Furthermore, as part of the Belize Tourism Board's first Belize International Music and Food Festival, the event, which has been designed to create an immersive tourism experience through music and culture, will feature four food pavilions showcasing the best of San Pedro's island offerings, popular local vendors, a cultural promenade showcasing the diverse ethnicities, as well as a gourmet pavilion highlighting dishes from renowned restaurants and upcoming culinary chefs.

A total of 18 ft. x 10 ft. booths will be displayed for each day of the event. Vendors with a valid Food Handler's Permit, Trade License, or Peddler's Permit are invited to apply by Wednesday, June 22, 2022.

Additionally, the BTB extended an invitation to the public to nominate their favorite vendors for the following food categories: Street Food, Ethnic Food, Chef / Caterer, Soup Vendor, Cevicheria, and BBQ Spot.

Applicants & Nominees will be evaluated by the Festival Panel, comprising an Executive Chef, a member of the BTB staff, and a member of the media. In addition, selected vendors will be showcased at the event.

The public and interested vendors are asked to stay tuned to the BTB's social media page for the competition launch and information on how to participate. For more information on becoming a food vendor at the festival, contact the **BTB at (+501)227-2420 or via email at simone.bell@belizetourismboard.org.**



ASR/BSI confident of sugar industry future

By William Ysaguirre

The American Sugar Refineries (ASR) Group has signaled its confidence in the future of the sugar industry with over $100 million invested over the past eight years to make Belize more competitive and more environmentally friendly, ASR Group's country manager Mac Maclachlan affirmed at the inauguration of its $30 million sugar export facility at the Big Creek Port on Wednesday morning, June 8.

The new facility is part of ASR's design for maximum efficiency, from farm to factory to the logistics of shipping, maximum production for maximum profits.

Despite the late start to the crop, Maclachlan remains optimistic about this year's sugar production, as Tower Hill has already milled over 920,000 tonnes of cane, which could yield as much as 102,222 tonnes of sugar if the mill achieves a Tonnes Cane to Tonnes Sugar (TCTS) ratio of 9, as it has done in past crops.

He could not project what will be the total final sugar production this year, although the company has partnered with the Sugar Industry Research and Development Institute (SIRDI) to implement a Sugar Industry Management Information System (SIMIS). But SIRDI still does not have a comprehensive picture of the industry, because some farmers remain reluctant to register their cane fields with SIMIS.

Additionally, climate change remains an inescapable factor, and forced the factory to stop grinding for five days when the cane fields were deluged by the remnants of Hurricane Agatha. This was on account of the fact that the cane deliveries were bringing in too much mud. This slowed the clarification process of the cane juice and reduced efficiency, with sugar losses in the filter press mud. At one point, the factory was producing more mud than sugar, Maclachlan said.

On the matter of a cane purchase agreement for the 2022-23 crop, he said the previous commercial

ASR/BSI's Mac Maclachlan

agreements that ASR/BSI has had with the cane farmers are good agreements and have stood the test of time. The company will continue to pass on the $1.4 - $2.5 million savings on freight charges from Big Creek to the farmers under existing profit-sharing agreement. He lamented the delay in starting this year's crop, and he said the company would continue to dialogue with the farmers to ensure unity in the industry.

As early 2014, ASR prepared a 'white paper' outlining the way forward for the industry with a USD$30 million investment to expand the Tower Hill Factory capacity to produce direct consumption, value-added 'plantation white' sugar, which would fetch a better price when exported to CARICOM, the European Union and the rest of the world. ASR/BSI produces over 140,000 tonnes of sugar, more than enough to supply all CARICOM's needs. But Belize and other regional producers need for the other territories of the CARICOM Single Market Economy to abide by CSME rules to impose a 40 percent Common External Tariff on sugar imported from non-CSME producers, a sore point that had Belize take some regional importers to the Caribbean Court of Justice for violating this rule.

World Trade Organization regulations eliminated Belize's protected quotas for sugar exports to the EU in 2017, and ASR/BSI has been targeting CSME as a protected market for value-added sugars ever since.

CSME consumers have found BSI's 'Plantation White' sugar perfectly adequate. It is made table ready, by having some of its color bleached away with sodium hypochlorite.

ASR plans to push for more Plantation White sugar exports to CSME, Maclachlan said, which was the reason for the $60 million investment in the factory. ASR/BSI has no plans yet to build a refinery, which would produce a white sugar that is chemically pure sucrose, until the risk of competition from extra-regional sugar is minimized, and the company is assured of a secure market for its sugar within CSME. Belize is a member of the Central American Integration system (SICA), but ASR has no plans to export sugar to SICA, as they do not have access to a secure, protected market.

ASR has also invested in helping cane farmers to improve the yield of sugar cane from their field, through improved varieties and enhanced crop management, and to improve the efficiency by mechanical harvesting and to lower the labor cost of manual harvesting. Droughts caused by Climate Change reduced the sugar cane yield in 2019, but there's no way around that except by irrigation, which would add an extra production cost, Maclachlan noted.

The company has also invested to protect the environment, with another $10 million in three cooling towers to lower the temperature of the cooling water the Tower Hill Factory draws from the New River, to reduce the impact on the ecosystem when the water is returned to the river.

Another $9 million was invested in electrostatic particle separators (air cleaners) for the flue gases from the chimneys of the boilers at BELCOGEN, to reduce the suspended particles that the flue gases carried into

MOPAN TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL
BENQUE VIEJO DEL CARMEN
1983

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

Position:

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

Qualifications:

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

Salary:

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

Application Process:

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

Documents Required:

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

Address Applications to:

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

PUBLIC AUCTION SALES: PROPERTIES

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

By order of the Mortgagees, Messrs. Heritage Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo & Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the below described properties.

Sales currently running until 31st July 2022 with public auction sales expiring bi-weekly on the dates and times listed on the website until the properties are sold.

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

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

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

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

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
San Pedro	7	3207

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

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

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

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HPWL and UNESCO Jamaica partner in virtual Peace Walk

Barbados' Minister of Youth, Sports, and Community Empowerment Hon. Charles Griffith.

By William Ysaguirre

"Young people have a role to play" affirmed Barbados' Minister of Youth, Sports, and Community Empowerment Hon. Charles Griffith, addressing the ninth virtual Peace Walk for the Caribbean, organized by the Heavenly Culture World Peace, and Restoration of Light (HWPL) organization in Washington D. C. in partnership with UNESCO Jamaica last Friday, June 3. The HPWL Peace Walk celebrates the ninth anniversary of the HWPL proclamation of World Peace by HWPL founder, Chairman Man Hee Lee, on May 25, 2013.

Griffith acknowledged that "the road to peace will be fraught with challenges". He cautioned that while peace might be defined simply as the absence of war and conflict, "peace cannot be decreed solely through treaties. It must be nurtured through the dignity, rights and capacity of every man and a woman." To effectively nurture the dignity of our people, we must acknowledge that "peace means access to education, health, and essential services and living with others on the basis of tolerance, respect, and mutual understanding." He pledged "to work fervently to develop and promote a suite of social development programs, which provide Barbados' youth and citizens with opportunities to be creative and productive." The youth play a critical role to foster peaceful societies, he said as he applauded the many "Bajan" youth who are contributing to this virtual war for peace "to spread a culture of peace and shine their light of peace to the whole world."

A veteran of the Korean War which divided his country, HWPL Chairman Man Hee Lee recalled his many fallen comrades as he promised to resume the world peace tour once the pandemic eases. He encouraged his Caribbean audience to "stop the fight" and to become one under the banner of peace. "We are one", he declared.

Young people across the Caribbean joined the virtual "peace walk", representing their nations with chants, songs, and cheers for peace. It was "a celebration of youth who were encouraging other people to join the fight towards peace," said chief executive officer Marcel Hutson of Guyana's Ministry of Education.

HWPL had also commissioned a music video by Nesbeth for the peace walk and his song rang out the need for peace, calling for change - a call attendees of the peace walk were working hard to make possible.

HWPL is an international non-profit peace organization with more than 175 chapters worldwide and has been working in the Caribbean for almost five years on a core mission to create citizens for peace, through education.

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

CLAIM NO. 15 OF 2022

BETWEEN

BRIANNA KENNEDY BURKE **CLAIMANT**

AND

SHELLY MOWAT SPRUIT **DEFENDANT**

NOTICE

TO: **SHELLY MOWAT SPRUIT**

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

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

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

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

DATED the 1st day of June, 2022

BRADLEY ELLIS & CO.LLP
Per: Darrell Bradley
Attorneys–at-Law for the Claimant
No. 52 Regent Street
Belize City, Belize
Telephone: 501-227-0818 Email: attorneys@bradleyellisco.bz

BELIZE CITY,

Estate of OMARIO VALENTIN BAEZA, deceased

STATUTORY NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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

DATED this 31st day of May, 2022.

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

PUBLIC AUCTION

Licensed Auctioneer, Juan G. Marin, will sell the following chattels at Independence Village, Stann Creek District, Belize on the date and time below:

1991 FREIGHTLINER COE (12.7 DETROIT DIESEL)
1982 FORD F-700 heavy duty truck

on Saturday 25th June, 2022 at 10:00 am on site.

JUAN G. MARIN
P.O. Box 284, Corozal Town, Corozal District, Belize
Cell No.: 669-1357
Email: RonFairbz@gmail.com

TERMS: Strictly Cash

The Righters Write

Article 8: Right to Remedy

Contributed by the Human Rights Commission

(Taken from Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 70: 30 Articles on 30 Articles)

The pledge of effective remedy for everyone, found in Article 8, is an intrinsic – if all too often neglected – part of the system of providing justice. "True peace is not merely the absence of war, it is the presence of justice," said Jane Addams, the second woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize, said in 1931.

After two World Wars, the drafters of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) considered it important to assert the principle of free treatment by fair courts – that all of us have an avenue for redress if our rights are violated. "Societies based on justice and equal rights before the law are not just more fair – they are more cohesive," said Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. Economic evidence shows they are also more prosperous, he added.

Justice is not just about crime and punishment. Fair trials and due process are also vital components of any system of justice, but as defined in the UDHR, justice is a holistic concept which also includes providing effective remedies for injustice and violations of the rights of all individuals "as granted... by the constitution or by law" – and not necessarily simply financial compensation. As the old saying goes, money does not buy forgiveness, nor does it solve all woes.

Over the years, states have applied a wide variety of different remedies – either in response to domestic courts or to other entities, including regional and international courts and institutions, as well as UN bodies – and they have covered violations across the whole spectrum of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

Some remedies are compensatory in character; some are restorative – designed to put the victim back in the position they would have been had no wrongful act been committed; and others are designed to prevent the repetition of the violation in question. In addition to money, remedies may include measures such as early release from prison, legislative change, provision of residence permits, reinstatement in public service employment, assistance with finding jobs, or provision of housing.

When the victim is dead, the remedy may involve a matter as simple as ordering of a death certificate enabling his or her family to inherit property, or official acknowledgement of a grave. It might involve the erection of a monument, or the naming of a square after a victim. Or it might take the form of a public oral and written apology for the wrong done, such as the 2008 National Apology by the Australian government to the 'Stolen Generations' – the descendants of Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders who were forcibly removed from their families by the Australian authorities over a 60-year period up to 1970.

Such remedies can have immense emotional force for the families and people whose ancestors' rights were violated. Another example of this is the truth-telling and reparations provided to survivors of the "Magdalene Laundries", the Irish work-houses where, from 1922 to 1996, some 10,000 women and girls were made to work without pay in laundries run by Roman Catholic nuns. Performing a similar function, numerous Truth and Reconciliation Commissions have been set up to address gross human rights violations in many countries, most notably in Latin America, but also, for example, in South Africa and Kenya.

Other remedies may involve practical measures such as changing hospital procedures to better protect patients, or providing psychological support for someone suffering from post-traumatic stress. It may stretch as wide as the reform of the family justice system, or be as specific as a ban on corporal punishment.

While many people – especially the poor and the marginalized – receive neither justice nor remedy, when the system works in accordance with Article 8 (subsequently fleshed out in other international treaties) remedy is provided -- sometimes quite comprehensively.

In July 2011, reacting to a complaint from a 15-year-old indigenous girl in Argentina who had been a victim of rape by non-indigenous men and of discrimination based on gender and ethnicity, the UN's Human Rights Committee, based in Geneva, found

Cont'd on pg. 8

CAREER

OPPORTUNITY

ASR GROUP | BELIZE sugar

Belize Sugar Industries Ltd.

Invites qualified and self-motivated individuals to submit applications for the post of:

Mechanical Engineer Trainee

Tower Hill, Orange Walk District

The **Mechanical Engineer Trainee** will be developed over a two year period to assist in continuous improvement of production processes for high sugar quality, to develop and maintain machinery and equipment and to design and construct factory infrastructure.

Skills and Competencies:

- High proficiency in computer and computer systems
- Must be a self-starter and highly motivated
- Must have the ability to read, analyse and interpret technical procedures and standards
- Able to write reports, business correspondence, and procedure manuals
- Able to effectively present information and respond to questions from managers, designers, and engineers
- Able to work with mathematical concepts, differential equations and advanced engineering calculations

Qualifications and Experience

- Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering
- Experience in the Food industry
- Fluency in English and Spanish will be an asset

Summary of Duties and Responsibilities:

- Read and interpret blueprints, technical drawings, schematics, and computer-generated reports
- Confer with engineers and other personnel to implement operating procedures, resolve system malfunctions, and provide technical information
- Research and analyze customer design proposals, specifications, manuals, and other data to evaluate the feasibility, cost, and maintenance requirements of designs or applications
- Specify system components or direct modification of products to ensure conformance with engineering design and performance specifications
- Research, design, evaluate, install, operate, and maintain mechanical products, equipment and systems.
- Liaise with installation/project engineers

Letter of application accompanied by a Resume, Police Record, recent transcript and two letters of reference should be submitted to:

Human Resources Manager
P.O. Box 29, Tower Hill, Orange Walk
Or email
HR.Belize@asr-group.com

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION FORM AND ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS IS JUNE 28, 2022.

Article 8: Right to Remedy

Cont'd from pg. 7

numerous and wide-ranging violations of the girl's rights, including her appalling treatment at the hands of all the authorities involved: kept waiting for hours in her blood-soaked clothes in a police station; subjected to offensive remarks about her sexual history, to demonstrate her 'consent', and accused of being a prostitute. The Argentinian authorities responded by awarding the girl US$ 53,000 in compensation and a life-long monthly stipend. She was also given a property and a scholarship. In addition, as a means of rounding off the remedy, all the judicial officials in her home province were made to undergo compulsory training on gender discrimination and violence against women.

In deportation cases, where there is a clear risk of torture or grave human rights violations in the country of return, many states adhere to the legal principle of "non-refoulement" and avoid deporting the individuals concerned. In one such case where an individual was expelled to Egypt where he was subsequently tortured, Sweden ensured his release and return to Sweden, where he was granted a permanent residence permit in July 2012 and compensation amounting to some US$ 350,000.

In many cases, no remedy, however generous and well-considered, will completely erase the stain of the original violation of the victim's rights. But remedies are an important way to ease the pain and provide the means for the man, woman or child concerned to look to the future rather than remained enslaved to a dark and damaging past injustice that was imposed upon them.

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

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 miscericordia para estar conmigo y los míos. (La persona debera rezar esta oración 3 días seguidos sin decir el pedido. Dentro de tres días será dificil que sea. Publicar en cuando se reciba la gracia.

Gracias Espíritu Santo.

R.M.L.

SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD

VACANCY

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to fill the role of **ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT OFFICER** for the Global Fund Project Management Unit, National Health Insurance Services (NHI), Belmopan.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:
Associate Degree in Business, Management, Business Administration or other closely related discipline, with two (2) years working experience in any one or combination of the following areas: office administration/office management, customer service/customer relationship management. Working knowledge of Spanish and experience or formal training in paralegal studies are considered assets.

Visit our website at www.socialsecurity.org.bz/vacancy-announcement/ to view further details on this position.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:
Complete application package containing application letter, resume, two (2) recent letters of recommendation, copies of relevant academic credentials or certification and current police record or receipt for record may be submitted **via email** to:

- Manager, HR Strategies, HR Services, SSB Headquarters, **dlindo@socialsecurity.org.bz**
- HR Advisor, Policy & Strategy, HR Services, SSB Headquarters, **fphillips@socialsecurity.org.bz**
- Copy: General Manager, Human Resources, SSB Headquarters, **odakers@socialsecurity.org.bz**

Indicate in email subject line: "Application for Admin Support Officer, GF/NHI

DEADLINE: JUNE 22, 2022

CENTRAL BANK of BELIZE

www.centralbank.org.bz

PUBLIC NOTICE

Discontinuation of the Foreign Exchange Approval by the Ministry of Finance

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

The Ministry of Finance will no longer be an authorized agent to approve foreign exchange requests. Applications must be submitted to the Central Bank via email to

currenttransactions@centralbank.org.bz

Electronic forms are available for download at:

https://www.centralbank.org.bz/financial-system/exchange-control-approvals

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

- ENDS -

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

1 GABOUREL LANE.
BELIZE CITY, BELIZE
T: +501 223 6194
E: communications@centralbank.org.bz

Nine athletes win Olympic solidarity scholarships

By William Ysaguirre

Front row (l-r) Hilary Gladden, Glenford Williams, Ishmael Castro, Ashontie Carr, Shaun Gill, Ashantie Carr, Derrick Chavarria. Back row. BOCGC officials and coaches

Nine Belizean athletes have been awarded Olympic solidarity scholarships to help them prepare for the 2024 Paris Olympics.

The Belize Olympic and Commonwealth Games Committee (BOCGC) held a contract signing ceremony for the athletes at the new Olympic building at the Marion Jones Sporting Complex in Belize City on Monday afternoon, June 6th.

The scholarships will provide a living stipend for the athletes while they train for the 2023 PanAm Games in Santiago, Chile and for Paris. BOCGC president Hilberto Martinez explained that the scholarships are funded by the International Olympic Committee in Geneva, Switzerland, and will run from May 2022 to August 2024.

Sprinter Shaun Gill ran the 100 meters at the Tokyo Olympics 2021 and hopes to qualify to compete again in 2024. Hilary Gladden, a graduate of Anglican Cathedral College, also ran the 100 meters at the PanAm Games in Lima, Peru in July 2019. Both will receive a USD$1250 monthly stipend to help with living expenses. Gill is in his third year of his engineering program at Texas Agricultural and Mechanical University at Kingsville and expects to graduate in 2024.

The other seven awardees will receive a USD$750 monthly allowance, with the exception of judoka Ishmael Castro, who is not enrolled in any academic program and who will receive $500 monthly.

Derrick Chavarria of the 501 Valvoline team is the defending Caribbean junior champion, having won the Caribbean championships in Santo Domingo last October 24. He begins a Bachelor of Arts program in Communication Arts and Design at the Lees McRae College in North Carolina this fall.

Gabrielle Gabourel, 16, made the top 25 graduates list at St Catherine's Academy over the weekend, and was sitting CXC examinations at the time of the signing ceremony. She also won bronze in the individual time trials also at last year's Caribbean cycling championships, and will begin a Bio-Chemistry program at St. John's Junior College in September.

Glenford Williams, 17, won two gold medals in the junior 100 meters and 110 meter hurdles at the Central American CADICA championships in Managua, Nicaragua last July and will be preparing for these events at the Panam Games. He is presently a third form business student at Anglican Cathedral College.

The Carr twins, Ashantie and Ashontie, are in their final semester of a three year degree program in business administration at the University of Technology, in Kingston, Jamaica, and have been studying online since the pandemic. Ashantie will compete in the triple jump and long jump, while Ashontie is training for the 400 meters and 800 meters.

Sailor Trent Hardwick will compete in the single hand dinghy, he is presently away at university in St. Louis, Missouri, and could not attend the signing ceremony.

Their respective coaches and representatives of their sports associations also witnessed the signing of the contracts.

VACANCY NOTICE

PORT of BELIZE LTD
A Port with a Global Perspective

Security Officer

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

Reports to: Chief Security & Safety Officer

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

Primary Responsibilities:

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

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

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

Job Qualifications/Requirement:

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

Skills/Competencies:

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

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

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

Email to:
jobapplications@portofbelize.com
Closing date for receipt of applications is Friday, June 10th, 2022.

Belize's Coral Reefs in Critical Condition

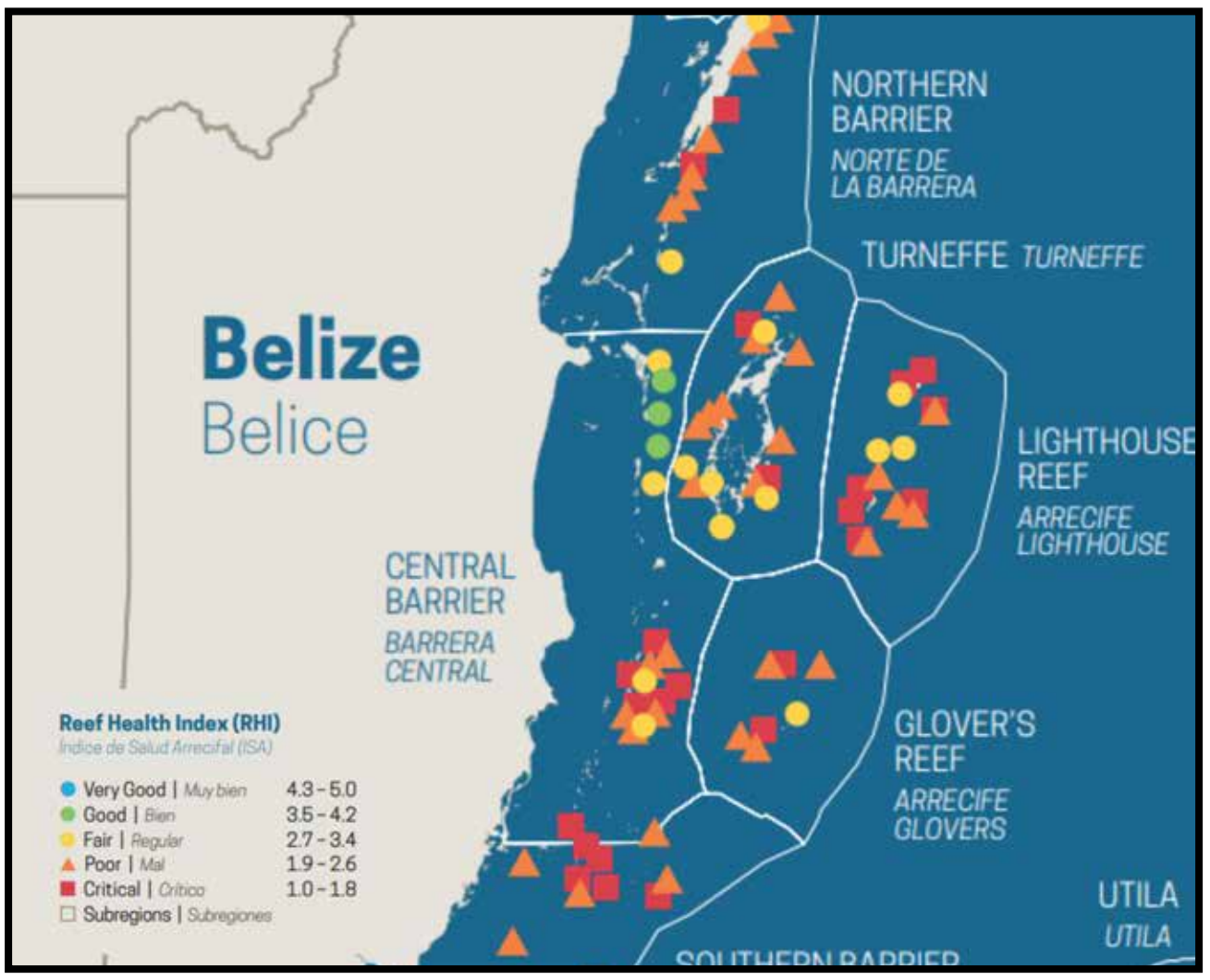
By Javan Flowers

A preliminary report released by the Healthy Reefs Initiative (HRI) found that reef health across Mesoamerica has again slipped – with 31% of reef sites now in Critical condition.

With data collected last year from surveyors and organizations across the region, the HRI's Reef Health Report Card established four indicators to understand changes in reef health over time: coral cover, the biomass of herbivorous and commercial fish species, and fleshy macroalgae cover.

Tracking changes in these indicators allowed HRI researchers to evaluate which are of the most significant concern at a given site and how to approach solutions for restoring reef health.

As detailed, the majority (44%) of the 234 sites surveyed in Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, and Honduras were ranked as "Poor." Other sites were ranked even lower at "Critical," which doubled since the last report, reaching 31% of sites measured.



Notably, HRI researchers found only one site ranked as "Very Good," in Cozumel, Mexico, that has seen the benefits of being fully protected from all fishing for decades. The site's complete protection is reflected in its grouper and snapper biomass that stands "over five times greater than the regional average." Additionally, only 5% (12 sites) were found in 'good' condition across the whole region.

Nicole Craig, HRI's coordinator for Belize, told The Reporter that "we should all be interested and concerned. For tourism specifically - tourists visit our reefs to see live coral and a reef full of fish."

Though regionally reef health is deteriorating, coral cover grew by 1%; however, Craig cited that "corals on our reef face many threats like declining water quality, warmer waters and Stony coral tissue loss disease (SCTLD)."

To address the spread of SCTLD, Craig highlighted that HRI is currently working on "an outreach campaign that will target tour guides and tour operators to teach them more about the disease and have them help us track where it is located and encourage best practices." One such best practice is to simply rinse snorkeling gear after visiting a site that has SCTLD to lessen the chance of infecting another reef site.

Though these are some of the issues affecting reef health, the one that trumps them all is fishing. As cited by the report, the low abundance and small size of commercial and herbivorous fish reveals a critical need for increased fisheries protection and management, primarily by a rapid and sustained increase of fully protected areas and an increase in enforcing those protections.

"The scary thing isn't the latest HRI's Reef report card results. The scary part is that fishers, as well as scientists via prior report cards, Oceana's fisheries audit, and WCS' grouper survey results, have all been signaling a downward trend, and yet we've not taken the specific steps we know we need to take," remarked Janelle Chanona OCEANA's Vice President.

Adding that "Nature shows us time and time again that things can turn around, but that means acting before it's too late. The responsibility to act is on all Belizeans because the impact is on all of us."

Furthermore, in addition to the challenge of faltering fish populations, global climate change and disease outbreaks will continue to affect our corals, while nutrient pollution continues to fuel macroalgal proliferation.

Therefore, HRI finds it imperative that efforts are dramatically scaled up to improve water quality, control coastal development, increase herbivory and better understand coral diversity changes, all of which will be further discussed in the complete 2022 Report Card planned for September.

PM to attend 9th Summit of the Americas

By Javan Flowers

Prime Minister John Briceño left the country to represent Belize at the Ninth Summit of the Americas, hosted by the United States government in California.

As the only hemispheric meeting of leaders from the countries of the Americas, the Summit serves as the most important forum to address the region's shared challenges and opportunities. The summit marks the first time the United States has hosted the event since the inaugural meeting in Miami in 1994.

As detailed by the US State Department, "The people of the Americas want – and deserve – effective and accountable governance that delivers. The road to the Ninth Summit will map our collective route towards a sustainable, resilient, and equitable future."

Though those are the sentiments of the US, others like President Andrés Manuel López Obrador feel the US' decision to exclude Cuba, Venezuela, and Nicaragua doesn't align with their desire for an "equitable future."

Consequently, this prompted Mexico's President to boycott the Summit and, in doing so, empowered other countries to follow suit by dispatching low-level delegations instead of their leaders.

The State Department release further added that the United States would work with the region's stakeholders toward securing leader-level commitments and concrete actions that dramatically improve pandemic response and resilience, promote a green and equitable recovery, build solid and inclusive democracies, and address the root causes of irregular migration.

The Summit is expected to conclude on the 10th of June.

SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD

Public Notice of Investment

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

Rene Montero expected to turn himself in to police next month

Rene Montero

By Michelle Sutherland

The former three-term Cayo Central Area Representative Rene Montero Sr. who has been wanted by the authorities for about ten months will turn himself into the police next month, Commissioner of Police said this week.

Williams told the press that he is expecting that to happen somewhere in the month of July. He indicated, "Well, we are counting on the undertaking given by the attorney for Mr. Montero. ...line. We have not reached that timeline as yet, but I'm almost confident that once we reach that timeline the attorneys are going to bring him in. So, we'll wait for that."

Montero is wanted by the Belize Police Department to face a charge of Willful Oppression, in which he is being accused of using his office for willful gain. Six weeks ago the Belize Police Department had sought the assistance of Interpol to locate Montero, which resulted in an Interpol Red Notice being issued for his arrest.

A Red Notice is a "request to law enforcement worldwide to locate and provisionally arrest a person pending extradition, surrender, or similar legal action." However, that too has been unsuccessful so far.

In September of last year, the Belize Police Department had issued a wanted poster for Montero's arrest. However, shortly after the news broke, unconfirmed reports said that Montero was seen leaving the country via one of the local border points. He has reportedly been out of the country since and the last reports are that he is in the United States for medical purposes.

RF&G LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY LTD.

Date: June 7, 2022

John Robateau of *#2 Ortanique Street, Belmopan City, Cayo District, Belize C.A.* having made written declaration that Policy G7506986 under RF&G Life Insurance Company Ltd has been lost and having made request to the Company for a duplicate of the Policy, notice is hereby given that unless objection is raised within one month of the date herein, the requested duplicate policy will be issued.

btl
Belize Telemedia Limited

Press Release
02 June 2022

BTL acquires Alternative Networks Limited, to be Belize's first Quad Play Service provider!

Belize Telemedia Limited ("BTL") today announced its acquisition of Alternative Networks Limited, ("ANL") effective the 27 April 2022. ANL will now form a part of the BTL Group.

BTL is the leading consumer and business-to-business ("B2B") communications provider in the country and is now poised to become the first full "Quad Play Service provider" in the market. This will give our customers access to high value premium TV content including entertainment and sports.

The acquisition is part of BTL's strategy to expand its product and service offerings which will include (Fixed Telephony, Mobile, Broadband and TV). This is a first for Belize and is in line with BTL's history of being the industry leader.

BTL has made significant investments and will continue to invest in its Fiber Network Infrastructure and Nationwide Coverage to enable us to deliver these premium services to the people of Belize.

"This is a huge moment for us, and I couldn't be more excited about the potential of Our National Telecom and ANL coming together. We are joining two high-growth businesses that are both under-penetrated in broadband, mobile data and under-served for pay TV services. By combining our operations, we are creating a unique and well-diversified investment vehicle, which we believe will enhance long-term equity value for our Shareholders and the people of Belize."

Ivan Tesucum, Chief Executive Officer, BTL

Public Relations Department | Email: prdept@livedigi.com

Ministry of Transport signs pledge to support the reduction of RTAs

By Javan Flowers

The Government reconfirmed its commitment to reduce the number of severe RTAs.

Earlier this week, the Government of Belize reaffirmed its commitment to the United Nations' Decade of Action for Road Safety which is aimed at reducing severe road traffic accidents on highways by 50% by 2030.

Chief executive officers from the ministries of Economic Development; Transport; Education; Health and Wellness, Infrastructure Development, and Housing; Finance; and National Security, along with a representative from the Belizean Youth for Road Safety, signed the proclamation pledging support for planned actions to reduce road traffic accidents (RTA).

With loan funding received from the Caribbean Development Bank, the Ministry of Transport is set to enact its Second Road Safety Project using a multifaceted approach, including the United Nations Pillars of Action for Road Safety. These pillars look at road safety management, safer vehicles, safer road users, post-crash response, and safer driving environments.

Road traffic injuries and deaths have significant impacts on victims, as they place an emotional, psychological and financial burden on families of crash victims.

Unfortunately, according to the Ministry of Transport, as of April 30, 2022, 16 fatalities resulting from road traffic incidents have been recorded. This is an average of four per month.

Currently, the post-crash care system only focuses on the essential short-term goal of saving lives, concentrating on physical recovery; however, little attention has been given to the mental health effects on both victims and relatives. The Second Road Safety Project, through relevant stakeholders, will further seek to strengthen the capacities of key Belizean professionals working in emergency services and post-crash care by imparting knowledge and skills in psychosocial support.

The project continues to work closely with the aforementioned ministries and other critical stakeholders like the Police Traffic Unit, municipal traffic departments, Belize Emergency Response Team (BERT), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), other public and private stakeholders, teachers, and community members, to reach its objective.

Chief Elections Officer: 'Political affiliations in village council elections fair game'

By Michelle Sutherland

For decades the Village Council Elections across the country have managed to stay wholly independent of major political parties, but recently it seems that the long tentacles of the two major political parties have been extending their reach and their influence into the villages where they are now either claiming victories or defeat.

This week, The Reporter reached out to Chief Elections Officer Josephine Tamai to inquire whether this emerging practice is legal. She responded, "Well there is nothing legally to say that it should be independent of any political party, but yes we have noticed that."

Chief Elections Officer Josephine Tamai

Tamai added, "Even when visiting the various stations you see the political flags, people dressed in their shirts similar to when we have general and municipal elections, but there is nothing to say that it cannot be political as such, nothing really prevents it because we have also seen some independent slates as well."

Tamai also confirmed that over the past years the Elections and Boundaries Department have also been noticing the trend where village council elections are becoming more aligned with the two major political parties. She, however, also pointed out that they are also seeing an increase in independent candidates seeking to be elected at the village council level.

When we asked Tamai whether the department is concerned about the situation she told us that it isn't a concern for them at this point. She reiterated that there are still rules and regulations that govern the village council elections and that those are enforced. She gave examples such as the 100 yards mark where political parties are allowed to conduct their campaigning, which is also enforced by members of the Belize Police Department, whose job it is to maintain law and order among the public.

Since the village council elections officially kicked off in the first week of May, as of this week 123 villages out of 190 villages have already held their elections. Of the total number, 39 villages remain uncontested. The elections are expected to wrap up at the end of this month.

RF&G LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY LTD.

Date: June 7, 2022

John Robateau of #*2 Ortanique Street, Belmopan City, Cayo District, Belize C.A.* having made written declaration that Policy G7506993 under RF&G Life Insurance Company Ltd has been lost and having made request to the Company for a duplicate of the Policy, notice is hereby given that unless objection is raised within one month of the date herein, the requested duplicate policy will be issued.

How Replacing Coal With Renewable Energy Could Pay For Itself

By Tobias Adrian, Patrick Bolton and Alissa M. Kleinnijenhuis

International negotiators can't agree on how to phase out coal, in part because of opposition to carbon taxes, and now even countries that had been able to abandon the fuel are reversing that progress as the war in Ukraine raises energy prices.

The most common concern about scrapping coal is that replacing it with renewable energy would be too expensive, but we show in new research that the economic benefits would far outweigh the costs.

We analyze this great carbon arbitrage, as we call it, in a recent working paper that calculates the cost of replacing coal with renewables, as well as the social benefits of this important transition. The benefits from ending coal use come from avoiding damage from climate change and harm to people's health. Our estimate is that by doing so the world would yield a net gain of nearly $78 trillion through the end of this century. That's around four-fifths of global gross domestic product now, and would be equivalent to about 1.2 percent of annual global economic output during the period.

To determine both the size of the avoided emissions, as well as any potential losses from their prevention, we use a detailed dataset compiled by Asset Resolution on companies' historical and projected global coal production based on the aggregation of production at the plant level.

The cost estimate for adopting renewable sources includes capital spending for new energy generation capacity equal to what's lost with coal, plus compensation to coal companies for lost earnings when they are shut down. The cost estimate does not include compensation for affected workers, but this is likely to be small relative to the overall net gains from the transition. Additional compensation to make the switch to renewables feasible could be offered as long as the social benefits of phasing out coal exceed the more comprehensive set of costs.

Carbon price

We calculate the value of doing so by estimating the reduction in emissions from phasing out coal, and by applying a carbon price to those discharges. This in turn lets us estimate the economic gain from the transition. The difference between the value of the social benefits versus costs of replacement and compensation for missed coal revenues forms our baseline estimate of world's net gain from finally ending our reliance on the fuel.

While our conservative estimate comes with an unavoidable uncertainty, given the decades-long timeframe, the enormous social benefits from what could be thought of as an inexpensive insurance policy are clear: paying a premium offers coverage for significant potential damages.

So sizeable are the potential gains that world leaders should pursue a global agreement to finance the phase-out of coal as a complement to carbon pricing or equivalent measures that currently don't fully offset the negative effects of the emissions. We have chosen all our parameters, including the social cost of carbon, in a conservative way. The carbon arbitrage could in fact be bigger still for less conservative estimates.

Our research shows that ending coal use shouldn't be seen as too costly because it provides economic benefits from reduced carbon emissions, such as avoiding physical damage to infrastructure caused by climate change. Investments in renewable energy also support economic growth and offer additional attendant benefits from innovation.

Significant benefits

The analysis shows that phasing out coal isn't just urgent because it would help limit the global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Importantly, the economic and health benefits are significant enough that we should push harder for global agreements that unleash the potential power of capital markets.

The bottom line for policy is that if compensation was built into an agreement to scrap coal, and if innovative financing packages could incentivize advanced, emerging and developing economies alike to end the fuel's use, the net social gains from such an agreement would be enormous.

To better understand just how large the payments would need to be, we broke down the costs for different regions. The present value of total financing that's conditional on commitments to scrap coal is around $29 trillion globally, in line with what other studies estimate. That works out to between $500 billion and $2 trillion annually, with a front-loaded $3 trillion investment this decade. Of the global financing need of around $29 trillion, we estimate that 46 percent is in Asia, 18 percent in Europe, 13 percent in North America, 13 percent in Australia and New Zealand, 8 percent in Africa, and 2 percent in Latin America and the Caribbean.

It's a major funding challenge. But despite arguments that no government can afford such investments and that the private sector should steer its funding to renewable energy, most of the backing can indeed come from the private sector, once risks are reduced by sufficient public funds via so called blended finance, which could mean public funding of around 10 percent.

Broadly speaking, it's in the interest of a government to finance 10 percent of its country's total costs to replace coal with renewables if this amount is less than its resulting social benefits in terms of lower climate damages. A back-of-the-envelope calculation suggests this holds true for nearly all countries. Considerations of fairness, a country's fiscal position, or both, may in certain cases call for foreign contributions to finance 10 percent of a country's costs to phase out coal.

Energy transition

We view global carbon taxation at the social cost of carbon as a first-best solution. Public-private partnerships to finance the replacement of coal with renewables could accelerate the green transition and complement incomplete carbon pricing by helping to achieve the Paris Agreement's aim of making finance flows consistent with a pathway toward low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development.

For their part, economists have two different approaches to what the profession calls internalizing negative externalities. That loosely translates as making companies pay more of the costs imposed by some harmful result of their activity, such as pollution. One, associated with Arthur C. Pigou, uses taxation or some other pricing to fully reflect the social cost of an economic activity. The other, linked to Ronald H. Coase, seeks an efficient social outcome through bargaining and contracting. Clearly, both approaches are needed for a global strategy to combat climate change.

Our research concludes that, under the kind of approach Coase pioneered, it's sound economic logic to pay for the replacement of coal with renewables to reap a net social gain measuring in the tens of trillions of dollars.

Phasing out coal is not only a matter of urgency for the planet. It also makes economic sense because, as we show, the social gains far outweigh the costs of climate financing to end coal.

VACANCY

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

Qualifications:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Documents Required:

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

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

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

NOTIFICATION OF CONTRACT AWARD
(Selection and Contracting of Consulting Services)

Financing Institution: Government of Belize / Inter-American Development Bank / Belize Water Services Limited
Procurement Type: Consulting Services
Sector: Water and Sanitation
Country of project (or Beneficiary country): Belize
Project name: Design of Wastewater Treatment Solutions in Coastal Areas
Loan/Credit/Grant No.: BL-T1125
Contract/Bid No.: IDB-21/22-01
Bid/Contract Description: To conduct diagnostic assessment and prepare detailed designs of the preferred viable sewerage system option for the village of Caye Caulker, Belize. Consultants are also expected to prepare detailed bidding documents for such works.

During the selection process for the consulting services indicated above, under the selection method ***Quality and Cost-Based Selection (QCBS)*** the consulting firms listed below submitted proposals. The scores evaluated for the Technical and Price Proposals of each consulting firm, and their final scores follow below.

List of consulting firms

Project Planning and Management Ltd (JV-lead)
Technical proposal score: 84.60
Price proposal: US $199,840.00
Final score: 89.20, 1st

Hydroplan*
Technical proposal score: N/A
Price proposal: N/A
Final score: N/A

****Consulting firm did not qualify.***

Any Consultant is entitled to a debriefing to ascertain the grounds on which its proposal was not selected, by making a formal request at the address indicated below.

Awarded Bidder: Project Planning and Management Ltd. (JV-lead)
Country of Awarded Bidder: Barbados
Contract Amount: US $199,840.00
Date contract signed: May 16, 2022
Duration of contract: 12 months

UNDB Reference number: IDB-C988901-06/22

Executing Agency:
Belize Water Services Limited
Attention: Resident Consultant Engineer
#7 Central American Boulevard
Belize City, Belize
Telephone: +1 501-222-4757

Beneficial ownership information:

Consultant	Identity of Beneficial Owner	Directly or indirectly holding 25% or more of the shares (Yes/no)	Directly or indirectly holding 25% or more of the voting rights (Yes/No)	Directly or indirectly having the right to appoint a majority of the board of directors or an equivalent governing body of the consultant (Yes/No)
Project Planning & Management Ltd. (Lead consultant)	Gregory Hazzard Citizen of Barbados Country of Residence: Barbados	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Doychin Stoyanov Citizen of Bulgaria Country of Residence: European Union	Yes	No	No
	Borislav Stoyanov Citizen of Bulgaria Country of Residence: European Union	Yes	No	No
Alpha Engineering & Design Ltd.	Fazir Khan Citizen of Trinidad Country of Residence: Trinidad	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Kieran De Freitas Citizen of Trinidad Country of Residence: Trinidad	No	Yes	No
Young's Engineering Consultancy Ltd.	Carlton N. Young Citizen of the United States of America and Belize Country of Residence: Belize	Yes	Yes	Yes

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION BELIZE

Public Utilities Commission

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION BELIZE

Press Release

In exercise of the powers conferred upon it by the Public Utilities Commission Act, the Water Industry Act, the Water and Sewerage (Tariffs) Byelaws, and all other powers thereunto enabling, the Public Utilities Commission (hereinafter referred to as "the Commission") hereby notifies the general public that it has made and issued the **Belize Water Services Limited (BWSL) 2022 Annual Review Proceedings Initial Decision** (hereinafter referred to as "the Initial Decision").

On May 3, 2022, BWSL made a submission for an Annual Review Proceeding under Article 27 of SI 67 of 2002 citing that they faced Exceptional Circumstances in its execution of its Business Plan with the financial effects caused by COVID-19. In its Submission, the Company claimed that rising input prices and lower sales revenues had resulted in an accelerating in the Mean Water Rate (MWR), and therefore requested the Commission approve an increase in revenue yields of 5% by changing the tariff structure and adding a fixed charge to non-residential customers.

On June 2, 2022, the Commission made an Initial Decision, accepting the condition of Exceptional Circumstances as presented by BWSL, but made a determination that BWSL has scope to grow its business and lower its cost structure thereby maintaining the MWR below the currently approved $17.49 per 1,000 gallons. Therefore, the Decision of the Commission is that the Tariffs, Fees and Charges levied by BWSL will remain unchanged for the period April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2025.

The Initial Decision may be viewed in its entirety at the offices of the Public Utilities Commission at #4 Princess Margret Drive, 2nd Floor Marina Towers, Belize City, or on the PUC website at www.puc.bz.

The Licensee and Interested Parties representing users of at least 10% of the water supply by BWSL in the last calendar year may submit written comments, including objections, on the Initial Decision at the PUC's office or by email to info@puc.bz by Friday, June 17, 2022.

	April 1, 2022 - March 31, 2025			
Service Classification:	**Water Only**	**Water and Sewer**	**Water and Sewer**	**Water Only**
Branches:	**Mainland**	**Belize, Belmopan**	**San Pedro**	**Caye Caulker**
Consumption Blocks:				
0 - 1,000	8.72	10.47	25.57	23.46
1,001 - 2,000	13.95	18.02	30.22	26.98
2,001 - 3,000	15.12	19.76	32.54	29.61
3,001 - 4,000	15.69	20.92	34.87	32.50
4,001 - 5,000	16.27	22.09	37.19	35.67
5,001 - 6,000	17.44	23.25	44.17	39.14
6,001 - 7,000	18.60	23.82	52.31	42.96
7,001 - 8,000	19.17	24.41	58.11	47.15
>8,000	19.76	24.99	63.93	51.75
Minimum Bill for Consumption less than 1,000 US Gallons	8.72	10.47	25.57	23.46

GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE

MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT & HOUSING

PHILIP GOLDSON HIGHWAY AND REMATE BYPASS UPGRADING PROJECT

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

RE-ADVERTISEMENT: REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The **Government of Belize (GOBZ)** has received financing from the **Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)** and the **United Kingdom Caribbean Infrastructure Partnership Fund (UKCIF)** towards the cost of the **Philip Goldson Highway and Remate Bypass Upgrading Proje**ct and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this financing to eligible payments under a contract for which this invitation is issued. Payments by CDB will be made only at the request of GOBZ and upon approval by CDB, and will be subject in all respects to the terms and conditions of the Financing Agreements. The Financing Agreements prohibit withdrawals from the Financing Accounts for the purpose of any payment to persons or entities, or for any import of goods, if such payment or import, to the knowledge of CDB, is prohibited by a decision of the United Nations Security Council taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. No party other than GOBZ shall derive any rights from the Financing Agreements or have any claim to the proceeds of the Financing.

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

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

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

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

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

A Firm/JV shall be eligible to participate if:

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

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

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

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

Key Experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage.

Expressions of interest must be submitted in **English,** electronically, by email, in pdf format, to both addresses below no later than **10:00am, local time on Friday 1st July 2022.** The email subject line should state **"EXPRESSION OF INTEREST - CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A GENDER-SENSITIVE COMMUNITY AND SCHOOLS PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAMME"** and the email body must state the name and address of the applicant.
The Expression of Interest will be deemed to have been received at the time that it is received by the receiving office named in the first address below.
The burden of proving receipt of the e-mail will be on the applicant and will not be met solely by a read receipt or sent items report generated by the applicant's computer.

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

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

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

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

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

GRASSROOTS

Eulogy for MARIA ELENA NOVELO

By Daisy Novelo

Maria Elena Novelo, born Maria Elena Aguilar was gifted by God to her parents Daisy Halliday Aguilar and Rodolfo John Aguilar on August 19th 1953. She was the 3rd of 7 Siblings namely John aka (Rudy), Anthony (Tony), Lydia, Elizabeth (Liz), Jesus and Roman. She also had brothers Paul Schmidt and Alberto Aguilar. Mommy attended Holy Redeemer Primary school, and later started at Pallotti High School, mommy didn't actually get to finish high school, but after many years of mothering us, she did go back to school at St John's Extension where she got her high school certificate.

Mommy met our father Orlando Novelo Sr. during her time at Holy Redeemer as she was friends with one of his sisters. I don't know if they fell madly in love or anything of the sort, I'm gonna have to ask daddy that question … Mommy and Daddy later got married and had 6 children, Cleta, Sofia, Yolanda, Orlando Jr, Marcela and yours truly, Daisy. As the story goes, one of them wanted a son, so they kept trying until they had my brother Jr. After that luck, they decided to try for another boy and got Marcela and then me. Mommy said after that she said NO MORE. She used to tell us that when she was pregnant with my brother, she prayed to GOD that he would give them a boy. When she was pregnant with Marcela and me, she said she didn't pray for a boy like she did previously. I used to tell her, it's no wonder I am such a handy woman around the house, because they wanted a boy. Lol Mommy and Daddy didn't stay together, but to this day, they remained friends.

Mommy loved children, so much so that she volunteered at a pre-school for a few years before actually getting some minor training to be a teacher. Back then, the requirements weren't so, strenuous. Mommy was the principal of Pine Street pre-school for a time before leaving, and for a couple years, opened her own pre-school at our home. After being denied the certification she needed to keep her school open, she worked at Miss Bennett Pre-School for a bit. Mommy was a security guard with KBH security, she was a baker with Mr. Romeo Reyes and for a spell she was a stay at home mom. When I was about, 14 or 15 yrs old, mommy went to the US. She wanted to be able to provide for us in a way that she could not do here. She lived with family friends and relatives and did in home nanny work with the children to be able to make money to send home to take care of us; I guess mostly the youngest 3 at this point. Mommy Returned from the US in May 2012, the day before Mother's day. She surprised everyone on her return. She conspired with Marcela and me to get her home without anyone knowing or seeing her. And then on mother's day, under the guise of celebrating all the mothers in our family, we surprised everyone with her presence THAT was a really good and Happy Day.

Mommy was never one to be doing nothing, so when she returned from the US, after a few months of just catching up with everyone, she started doing baby sitting out of her home. I can't even begin to remember the number of children that has passed through her hands this way. Mommy just could not have a home without children in it. I did enjoy very much going home to help her with the babies in the evenings after work.

Mommy was a fighter, a strong but silent force. She was loving and caring, but best believe she could crack a whip if you pushed her patience far enough. Ask Cleta about the number of times mommy yelled at her for not moving when she is told to do so. She was a woman of faith and she HAD to be at Sunday service. Mommy always said, if you can party on Saturday night you can get up Sunday morning to go to church. I can't recall a day in my life that I saw my mom cry. If she did, she never let us see it, that is not until recently. Our Mother did everything possible to ensure that we would be taken care of, to give her family every opportunity that she could. Mommy was my rock; there was nothing I could not tell her. I think maybe she was that to all of us.

Mommy also enjoyed a good celebration with her family around, there was no shortage of dancing and laughter.. and maybe some karaoke. She also was almost NEVER at home. Michael, my nephew, her first grandson or as he would say Her #1 grandson, once told her that he needs to call to make an appointment because whenever he comes to see her, she is never at home. Mommy sure had puppy foot, as they say, when pan knock she is there. When I say mommy had puppy foot, I really mean that, mommy planned Chetumal trips at least 2 times a year, one for Easter and one for October for the long weekends. Mommy would have her cousin in Chet book hotel rooms ahead of time to ensure everyone would have a place to stay. And let me tell you on these trips, when you see mommy, you will also see her partners in crime, Miss Chickie and Miss Obdulia.

As soon as mommy say CHET, they say let's go. Marcela remembers that she could call and tell mommy to meet her at the bus terminal after work so they could go to Chet and mommy would say "my bag done pack and ready to go" and by the time she gets to the terminal mommy would be right there waiting on her. If Marcela and Cas would say let's go to Hopkins, Mommy say, I am packed and ready to go. If Sofia called and say mommy lets go with me, Mommy would say, I will be ready by the time you get here. Mommy was always a woman on the go. Saturday morning was usually market day and mommy would jump on her bicycle and head to market, from the night before she would ask Yolanda if she needed anything for the shop and the same can be said in the reverse when Yolanda would go to the market during the week.

If you know my mom well, you know for every occasion, her house is dressed to the 9s. Valentines, Easter, September celebrations, the ever controversial Halloween.. and I can't help but smile when I think of Miss Rhonda who would always avoid the house around that time because of the plastic spiders that mommy would have around the place… When it comes to the end of the year it goes without saying the house would be decked out for CHRISTMAS and I would ensure she has a tree put up. Although we would fight over what size the tree should be.. I wanted a HUGE ONE and she wanted just a little one. Lol.. one year she told me she would only get a table top tree and I told her.. NO WAY.

You all know our mom as Maria, but I have heard her called by many names. As a child, I heard my grandma and her immediate Aguilar family call her Marlena, my daddy calls her Nena, the guys that lived next door that became her friends called her Grans, most people call her Mar. Of course we call her Mom, Ma, and mommy. Her grandchildren who constantly quarrel about who her favorite is, calls her granny, and more recently thanks to Elijah, Nana.

Our mom bravely fought cancer over the last year, fighting when she could and holding tight to her faith when she couldn't. Prayers and worship music kept her going many days when the pain was too much in the beginning. Thankfully, mommy didn't have much pain after those first couple months. We were able to make memories in this last year with her. It has not been easy seeing our mom, our superhero, the woman who never sat down for too long, not able to do all the things she normally does, but I am glad that she was blessed to have us to care for her through it all.

Maria Elena Novelo – Marlena, Nena, Mom, Grandma, Nana – left her earthly home May 30th 2022, She leaves behind to mourn her loss, her Husband Orlando Novelo Sr. her 6 children, Cleta, Sofia, Yolanda, Orlando Jr, Marcela and Daisy, Her siblings, Elizabeth Romeo and Jesus Aguilar, and Paul Schmidt, Her Grandchildren, Michael, Lillian, Casie, Florence and Wellington, Vernicia, Ernesto, Leonoria and Tyrek, Stephen and Terry, Preston, Prestaja and Elijah, Her bonus Grand children: Michelle and Elenie. Daughter in Law Lesbia Novelo, Sons In Law, the favorite one - Edward Castillo, the special one Kenrick Dennison and Kenneth Dawson, Her special Friends Juvencia Aguilar and Obdulia Reyes, Her 14 great-grand Children, and a Host of other relatives and friends too numerous to mention.

Mommy it is so very hard to say goodbye, so I will say I will see you again on the other side. Your wings have finally finished growing and now you can fly high and continue to watch over us.

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

THE BUSINESS PERSPECTIVE

The Trade License Regime: A 'tax' by any other name (Part 3)

Contributed by the Belize Chamber of Commerce & Industry

In this final installment of this three-part piece on the Trade Licensing Regime (TLR) it is necessary to bring two final elements into this discussion: The Productive Footprint and the now famous Schedule VII.

Productive Footprint

Let's begin with what is arguably the most intricate of the three: The Productive Footprint (PF). The PF is not new to the current version of the amendment Bill. It finds its roots in the consultations that ultimately led to the Trade Licensing (Amendment) Bill 2017, which as history would tell us, died after its first reading in the National Assembly. Back then it was the Mayors—much like it is the private sector, today—who have objected to that version of the Bill. In the 2017 attempt at Trade Licensing reform, the stakeholders had agreed to the following definition for PF:

"'*Productive footprint' in relation to carrying of any trade by any person, means the area of the premises where the trade is carried on where interaction by the person with the customer base happens and includes showrooms, offices, conference rooms, and front desks, but does NOT include parking lots, landscaped areas, warehouses, basements, file rooms, laboratories, and bathrooms*"—from Trade License (Amendment) Bill 2017.

Now, for completeness, it is useful to compare that definition to the present definition found in the Trade License (Amendment) Bill 2022. It reads thus:

"'*Productive footprint' means the usable square footage of the premise where the business is conducted exclusive of common areas of the premise such as lobbies, restrooms, stairwells, customer parking, storerooms, and shared hallways, except where these areas are used as part of the business for profit*."

As a side note, the new Bill has a second definition of productive footprint, but it is quite likely the double inclusion was simply a drafting error; therefore, we will focus on the definition highlighted above.

Now, it is possible for someone to look at the 2017 and 2022 definitions and argue that there really isn't any real, substantial difference between the two. However, on closer inspection, one would appreciate that the 2017 version was quite specific by referring to "*where interaction by the person with the customer base happens*." Consequently, for stores, this narrowed the areas that could have been considered for trade licensing purposes. For a bakery, it was clearly not going to include the entire production facilities and would be limited to where customers can enter and purchase the products. Finally, for the farmer, where does the farmer interact with his customer base? Is this on the full range of the farm? Or is it when that farmer sets up a stall to sell his produce? One could only hope it's not the former, as many small farmers have enough to combat with just pestilence and natural disasters.

Of course, given that the Belize Trade Licensing regime (TLR) is based on a *property tax-like* design, one would quickly appreciate that the local authorities are incentivized to want to include as much of a business's square footage as possible. For this reason, if Company A's full area is 10,000 square feet, but its PF is only 3,000 sqft, in the mind of the local authorities, this represents a notable loss in potential tax revenue. It is this line of thinking, *inter alia*, that had inspired influential members of the then the Mayors' Association of Belize to raise objections to the 2017 Bill.

The astute reader would also realize that the 2017definition would have **not** captured firms that are exclusively online (so-called E-business operators). And one should ask this simple question: Why should it? If the alleged justification for the trade license regime is to compensate the local authorities for physical spaces used up by businesses and for services rendered by the local governments to businesses using said physical space, then for a company that is 100% digital, how does that justification apply?

Under the 2017 definition, where does the e-business operator interact with his clients in terms of a brick-and-mortar location? In this modern era, there are Belizean online businesses whose clients often are not even located within the country, and the owner is operating predominantly from a laptop computer or maybe even just a smartphone.

Now enter the 2022 definition that speaks to where "business is conducted." While this could imply a similar meaning to that of its 2017 predecessor, it also opens us up to a broader interpretation. Let's return, for example, to the farmer. Where is the farmer's business "conducted?" Is it, as per the 2017 amendment, where interaction by the "farmer" with the farmer's customer base happens? Or is it the entire farm?

Section 21(2) of the 2022 Bill attempts this definition: "*For the purpose of calculating the fee for an agricultural trade, the productive footprint shall be the area used for processing the agricultural product*."

While a fairly broad definition, this does help to move one away from thinking that the entire farm (sometimes acres of it) would be subject to the TLR. Instead, it is ostensibly narrowed to include (albeit not limited to) wherever the crops are cleaned, fruits are dried, livestock is slaughtered, and so on.

It is narrower than the whole farm, but likely larger than the space where the farmer would "interact" with his customers.

The point here is that the differences between the 2017 and 2022 definitions are not merely cosmetic. It is for this reason that the BCCI has stressed the need for sector-specific consultations to help clarify and define the PF per key sectors. To the government's credit, in principle, they have agreed to this. Would we feel more comfortable with this type of thing being ironed out BEFORE the law is passed? Of course!

Schedule VII

Enter now Schedule VII. This is the portion of the 2022 Bill that has certainly caught the attention of the general public, especially with the charges being made to entertainers.

To understand the BCCI's concerns regarding Schedule VII ("The Schedule"), it is, once again, useful to return to where we were with the 2017 amendment, which can be found on the BCCI's *PolicyTracker.bz* website. Therein, you will not find any amendment to The Schedule (originally Schedule VI). Why? Because the increases to The Schedule was not part of the original premise for the reform, which has been guided by the principle of *revenue neutrality*.

For example, under the original schedule, commercial travelers were charged $100 per year. The 2022 Bill envisions a charge of $250 per truck per annum. Remember the online business we spoke about earlier? The proposed amendment seeks to charge these e-business operators $600 per year. The only saving grace is that the $600—although of a debatable amount—is closer to an actual flat fee by design.

But let's look at the *revenue neutrality* concept this way. If we had only **one** business per category under the existing Schedule, and there was only **one** transaction with each of those businesses, at most the relevant local authority would make about $385 (excluding "moving picture show" which is charged as 25% of the annual value of the premise).

Following that approach, for the newly proposed Schedule VII in the 2022 Bill, let's likewise assume that each category only has **ONE** business. And these singular businesses only engage with the municipality ONCE. For example, there is one commercial traveler with only one truck. There is only ONE entertainer that carries out only ONE show for one day, and there is only one peddler. Just using this *on-the-margin* illustration would yield a total of $3,953—a more than 900% increase on the margin.

Now, of course, the Bill sets the Schedule VII fees as "Maximums." Therefore, it can be argued that the various municipalities may choose lower fees for each category. However, even cutting the hypothetical example to 25% of the maximums is still more than two times higher, on the margin, than where things currently stand.

The point is this: The changes to the schedules offend *revenue neutrality*. And while we can accept that most of the fees are actually fees, there is space for further discussions on the maximum amounts presented.

To Conclude

As we've said before, the Trade Licensing reform has many moving parts. In these three column entries we still have not touched on all relevant matters, but we have tried to highlight the primary areas of concern.

Among other things worthy of discussion is whether or not there is still need for a Board to approve each and every business, especially those that pose absolutely no public-safety concern. There may still be need to consider whether the per-square-foot rates for all municipalities reflect the true market rates. And there is still the need to consider alternative sources of income for the village councils outside of the TLR.

The running advice from the BCCI has been and continues to be twofold: For the existing towns and cities, a *revenue-neutral* approach that does not add more costs to businesses is acceptable within the short-to-medium term. Added to that, the intention has always been to gradually transition the system towards a flat fee in the long term.

It is for this reason that you would NOT find any reference to any expansion to the rural areas in the 2017 amendment.

The goal was to reform the existing regime in such a way that it aligns more closely with international best practice first. Thereafter, when it operates as an actual fee—as opposed to a tax by another name—then the conversation could be had about expanding a true flat-fee system to other parts of the country.

Both public- and private-sector stakeholders have agreed that the TLR is a very broken system. Therefore, there is limited prudence in expanding such a system without first fixing it.

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

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

SENIOR MERCHANDISE MANAGER

WHAT WILL YOU BE RESPONSIBLE FOR?

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REQUIRED SKILLS & EXPERIENCE

- Minimum of a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management, Project Management or related field.
- Minimum of five (5) years experience in a managerial role in a medium to large retail operation.
- Ability to **determine appropriate commercial strategies**, including product life cycle management to achieve sales and business targets.
- Ability to **manage product category** by determining price points and margins to maximize market share, gross margin and stock productivity.
- Sales and budget forecasting.
- Working **knowledge of supply chain management** particularly demand planning, purchase order management and inventory control.

APPLY BY SENDING YOUR RESUME TO:

human_resources_bz@unicomer.com **by June 24th, 2022**

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PROGRAMME FOR BELIZE

VACANCY - Forest Management Program

Programme for Belize has a vacancy for an assistant in its Sustainable Forest Management Programme within the Rio Bravo Conservation and Management Area (RBCMA).

Applicants must be able:

1. To work in remote areas within the forest ecosystems of the RBCMA.
2. Live in a remote area for at least two weeks per session.
3. Supervise a small work crew, including interns, dedicated to collect field data
4. Ensure data is accurately collected and properly entered into the approved database.
5. Participate in fire control and fire management activities.
6. Participate in the protection of the natural resources of the RBCMA.
7. Assist the Head Forester with administrative duties to ensure the smooth operation of the program and maintain order while at the job sites.
8. Prepare progress reports in WORD and EXCEL as needed.
9. Participate in research and other activities, e.g. Outreach and Tourism
10. Participate in regular training to enhance capacity.

Qualification

Associates Degree in Natural Resources Management or any Biology/Ecology program. Experience in working in the forestry sector is definitely an asset.

Candidates must be able to work both independently and in a team and willing to learn new processes to be able to get the job done. The ability to drive standard vehicle is an asset.

Applications along with resume, academic reports and two letters of reference can be addressed to: Manager, Admin & Planning and emailed to: adminmanager@pfbelize.org or you can fill in the online form https://forms.gle/yx8rvCdXoacAemo1A no later than Friday, 24 June 2022.

Weh Wi Ga Fi Seh

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

Flowaz Bank ... Flowaz Benk: Di Joon 1 salabrayshan pahn Joon 11

Wi don noa seh dat Septemba mont da taihn fi salabrayt Septemba 10 ahn wi Indipendans Day pahn Septemba 21. Bot non a dis maita mi neva hapm if da neva sayk a di brayv 14* pipl fahn Flowaz Benk. Di big ting bowt di Septemba 10 1798 fait da dis: Da-mi sayk a di disizhan pahn Joon 1, 1797, di fait fi Bileez (di Setlment...British Handooras...Bileez) mi hapm. Bak eena 1797 wen di meetn mi staat, sohn nayhn mi misn wen dehn tek roal kaal. Bot bai di en a di meetn, dehn mi dehdeh, soh da dats mek 65 voat fi difen di Setlment ahn 51 fi noh difen ... wahn difrans a 14 voat. Den, lee moa dan wan yaa layta, eena 1798, bam si deh..wi kip di Bileez wi kohn fi noa tudeh day! Ih soh gud gud fi si how Bileez tudeh day big op di Flowaz Benk/Bileez Riva Vali pipl hoo mek it hapm!

Dis yaa, 2022, dehn had woz fi mi push bak di Flowaz Benk salabrayshan tu Joon 11 sayka bad weda. Stil, pahn Joon 1, di Flowaz Benk ***"Sunrise and Libation Ceremony"*** mi stil hapm. Dis mek 8 yaaz now dat hapm. Big op **Abigail McKay, Flowaz Benk vilij kongsl, ahn adaz**! Moas a di 14 pipl da-mi fahn di Bileez Riva Vali. Plos, di hischri man, **Mista Nigel Encalada**, diskova eena di Bileez Aakaivz dat da-mi 15* pipl, bot da 14 voat dehn mi need, soh tudeh day wi taak bowt di Flowaz Benk 14. Tudeh, wi print di nayhn dehnya brayv pipl:

William Flowers	**Caesar Flowers**	**Joseph Toney**
Adam Flowers	**William Scott**	**William Pindar**
George Grant	**James Hercules**	**William Crofts**
Dan Dawson	**John Dawson**	**George Raybone**
Thomas Robertson	**Joseph Smith**	***Thomas Flowers (#15)**

Injai Flowaz Benk, Joon 11 dis yaa (sayka bad weda push bak di big salabrayshan weh mi fi deh erliya eena Joon)

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

Atlantic Bank

VACANCY - SECURITY GUARD

- BELIZE CITY BRANCHES - SAN PEDRO BRANCH
- CAYE CAULKER BRANCH - ORANGE WALK BRANCH
- PLACENCIA BRANCH

Interested applicants must possess the following skills and qualifications:

Education and Experience:

- High School Diploma
- Between the ages of 25 to 45 years
- Former military or police training is an asset
- Experience in security related field
- Must have a valid driver's license for automatic and standard vehicles

Knowledge, Skills and Competencies:

- Basic knowledge of computers
- Good command of oral and written English
- Ability to work in a demanding environment
- Ability to work flexible hours to meet changing demands
- Ability to work professionally in stressful situations
- Ability to work effectively as part of a team
- Take initiative and good judgment
- Knowledgeable in handling a weapon
- Any other duties assigned

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 2022

Interested applicants may submit application letter, résumé, and two reference letters to:

Chief Human Resources Officer
Human Resources Department
Atlantic Bank Ltd.
Cor. Cleghorn Street / Freetown Road, P.O. Box 481, Belize City, Belize

TECHNICAL AND POLICY ADVISORY SUPPORT

to develop documentation to govern and administer inter-agency data sharing

The Belize Crime Observatory

Project: The Evidence Based Information Management for Citizen Security in Central America and the Dominican Republic (INFOSEGURA) Project

The TECHNICAL AND POLICY ADVISOR will:

1. Provide support to the Ministry of Home Affairs and New Growth Industries, through the Belize Crime Observatory, to advance the process for developing the following documentation for the establishment of Belize's Crime Intelligence Architecture:
   a. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU);
   b. Data Sharing Protocols and Procedures; and
   c. White Paper on the need for a Crime Data Governance Policy.
2. Participate in the engagement of interagency partners and relevant stakeholders, to build awareness on the initiative to establish the Crime Intelligence Architecture; and
3. Provide relevant technical support to the Belize Crime Observatory and policy advice to the Ministry of Home Affairs and New Growth Industries, as needed.

A. EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND DELIVERABLES

(1) Documented recommendations for the drafting of the MoU;
(2) Documented recommendations for the drafting of Data Sharing Protocols and Procedures; and
(3) Crime Data Governance Policy White Paper.

For more information, e-mail bco@nsc.gov.bz

View the full Terms of Reference

SCAN ME

DEADLINE: 24 JUNE 2022

Press Release
08 June 2022

BTL RESPONDS TO STATEMENTS MADE ON ITS ACQUISITION OF ALTERNATIVE NETWORKS LTD.

Belize Telemedia Limited (BTL) wishes to correct misleading statements made by the Leader of the Opposition regarding the acquisition of Alternative Networks Limited (ANL); an Internet Protocol Television (IPTV) provider that offers the ability to stream media via internet networks.

The natural evolution of telecom companies globally has been the acquisition of companies that enable them to diversify revenues by delivering Content Services (TV) to their customers over a Fibre Network. There is a growing demand for content services in both Belize and abroad; and as such, content entertainment is not dying.

With the acquisition of ANL, BTL will be the only Quad Play Service Provider offering Fixed Telephony, Mobile, Broadband, and Content; a one-stop-shop for the people of Belize. BTL completed a comprehensive due diligence following the company's decision to pursue the path of industry consolidation in 2018. This included an analysis of the streaming content that comes with the contracts to identify any pirated material.

BTL continues to operate with complete transparency and all decisions made are influenced by business opportunities that align with our strategic objectives to offer even more benefits for our Shareholders and the people of Belize. Over the past four years, the company has invested heavily in providing services to the country via its Fibre to the Home Network and the only submarine fibre cable from mainland Belize to San Pedro, and with this new investment BTL will maximise the use of these infrastructures.

Additionally, we are proud to announce that BTL continues its turnaround path and unaudited figures at the end of Fiscal Year 2021-2022 show that our net profit increased YoY of 86% to $16.1 million. BTL this year continues its path to diversify revenues through the launch of DigiWallet; the simplest, most convenient, secure mobile wallet in Belize for which response and take up has been outstanding. Now, with the acquisition of ANL for TV, we are moving steadfast at supporting our strategic direction to achieve future growth in feature rich services and the digitization of Belize.

We look forward to introducing our bundled services including content very shortly.

Digi, Our National Telecom

Public Relations Department | Email: prdept@livedigi.com

Healthy Living ...it's good for life!

Heart . Mind . Soul

Why are human lips red?

We use them every day, but have you ever stopped to consider that your lips do not look, feel or act like other parts of your body? Why are they so red, so sensitive and so prone to dryness? And why have humans evolved to have lips, when other creatures — birds and turtles, for example — get on just fine without them?

"Lips are fundamentally important for eating, respiration and speech," Noël Cameron, a professor of human biology at Loughborough University in the U.K., told Live Science in an email.

Lips are, Cameron noted, sensitive. According to the Jamaica Hospital(opens in new tab), lips contain around 1 million nerve endings, which is why they are so affected by touch, and changes in temperature and moisture levels.

The skin of the lip forms the border between the exterior skin of the face, and the interior mucous membrane of the inside of the mouth," Cameron said. "The mucous membrane is represented by a large area in the sensory cortex of the brain and is therefore highly sensitive."

Cameron noted that, because of this, lips are capable of fine and gross muscular movement.

This capacity for delicate and precise movement — provided by five muscles for lip elevation (upward movement) and four for lip depression (downward movement) — enables humans to communicate in the manner we do.

Lips are vital for "bilabial and labiodental consonant sounds, as well as vowel rounding," Cameron said.

Bilabial sounds can only be created via the use of both lips (the letter 'p' in picnic, for example), while labiodental sounds necessitate the use of lips and teeth (the letter 'f' in fructose).

Without using or moving one's lips, Cameron added, it is incredibly difficult to create some sounds or to pronounce certain letters: Try vocalizing the letters M, W or B without using your lips, for example, to get an idea of the difficulties faced by ventriloquists.

But why do lips look the way they do? Why are they so red, especially when compared with other parts of the face?

"The skin of the lip, with three to five cellular layers, is very thin compared to typical face skin, which has up to 16 layers," Cameron said. "With light skin color, the lip skin contains fewer melanocytes (cells that produce melanin pigment, which give skin its color). Because of this, the blood vessels appear through the skin of the lips, which leads to their notable red coloring."

Cameron added that, with darker skin color, the effect is less prominent because "the skin of the lips contains more melanin and thus is visually darker."

There are also other differences between the lips and other parts of the human face, Cameron pointed out.

"Lip skin is very thin, not hairy, and does not have sweat glands. Therefore, it is relatively fragile, is dry to the touch, and splits easily. It does not have the usual protection layer of sweat and body oils, which keep the skin smooth, inhibit pathogens and regulate warmth. Therefore, the lips dry out faster and become chapped more easily."

Lips, as with the soles of one's feet and the palms of one's hands, have no hair follicles, hence why hair cannot grow there. This is because these parts of the body are more effective without hair — it would be much trickier to grab items if our palms were hairy, while our lips would be less capable of clear speech were they encumbered by hair.

Of course, while vital for speech and eating, lips are also frequently used for kissing. "They act as an erogenous zone and as an area of attraction," Cameron said.

In research published in 2010 in the journal Perception(opens in new tab), white participants could adjust the color and contrast of lips in photographs to enhance certain qualities. The researchers found that participants were more likely to increase lip redness to enhance femininity and attractiveness in women's faces. Even so, research is mixed on the notion that the color "red" (or red lips) is a sign of sexual attractiveness.

BELIZE ELECTRICITY LIMITED

NOTICE

Belize Electricity Limited (BEL) is pleased to announce the holding of its 2021 Annual General Meeting at the **Best Western Belize Biltmore Plaza, 3½ Miles Philip Goldson Highway, Belize City, Belize on Wednesday, June 29, 2022 commencing at 2:00 p.m.**

Shareholders or their proxies are invited to participate virtually by visiting the Company's website at **www.bel.com.bz/AGM** on the date and time of the meeting. Shareholders and proxies will be asked to provide their contact information along with an electronic copy of a valid identification (ID) such as their Social Security card.

Shareholders who wish to attend in person are required to register no later than June 17, 2022; however, we ask that Shareholders bear in mind that **due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the room capacity limitations will be imposed.**

For Shareholders not attending in person, we invite you to appoint a proxy or you can simply appoint the Company's CEO or the Corporate Secretary as your Proxy to represent you at the AGM. Furthermore, the Company will provide virtual access to the meeting as a courtesy.

Pre-registration for virtual attendance commences on **Tuesday, June 7, 2022 and closes at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 28, 2022**. Shareholders may do so either by visiting the Company's website at www.bel.com.bz/AGM or by contacting BEL's Securities Officer at 227-0954 extension 1512 for assistance.

No Excuses

Nostalgia

CONTRIBUTED: Sedi

Many Belizeans living today spent our formative years under British colonial rule. The red white and blue Union Jack was the only flag we knew. "God Save the Queen" was the only National Anthem we sung. We were loyal, patriotic and passionate. Speaking for myself, perhaps, because of the innocence of youth, that period seems to have been the happiest and safest period in my life to date.

There was no Climate Crisis then! There was no Pandemic! Very few people had guns. Murders were exceedingly rare. So too were crimes of violence and other crimes, involving moral turpitude. Hot disputes were resolved with fist fights. The police normally kept their guns locked up in Police Stations. The cop on the beat carried only a cane and a silver whistle. They were well dressed. They were adequately trained for the era. They were humble, polite and professional. Belizeans in the main, were always tastefully and tidily dressed, both males and females; young and old. We were not given to indecent, crude, foul or vulgar language. For the most part we were soft spoken, polite, eloquent and hospitable.

Our school days were idyllic. I started out using a slate and pencil. When I graduated I was using a pencil and exercise books. I cannot recall using any text books in primary school save for some small books called Royal Readers. My teachers were mature, loving and ever solicitous of the welfare of their children. They went out of their way to ensure that we came to school clean, that our clothes and nails were clean, that our hair was well combed and that our behavior in school was exemplary. They taught us drama and made us participate in Christmas and Easter pageants. And they organized annual fund raising fairs. These fairs were the highlight of our school days. Those were stress free and care free days.

When I left Primary school I was a good reader. I love to read. I have always been blessed with a wide vocabulary. Perhaps that explains my complete lack of appreciation of the fuss that so many self-styled educated Belizeans made over my use of the expression "artificial border" while I was in Washington D.C. Indeed, in my secondary school days, every student of elementary geography came across that expression repeatedly while studying the geography of Africa. Up to this date Africa is littered with artificial borders. The quality of my formal colonial education was exceedingly good.

Seemingly, most adult Belizeans in the days of my youth were gainfully employed. I spent my formative years in the pristine district towns of Punta Gorda, Stann Creek and San Ignacio. In that era it was the norm and the expectation that adult males would go out and work. Adult females remained at home to care for the children and to do all the household chores; these included house cleaning, cooking, rearing and disciplining children and the raising of fowls to eat on Sundays. In those days Belizean housewives prepared three square meals for their families daily from scratch. They took pride in their ability to cook and to bake and to have the cleanest possible household.

In the household in which I was reared religious instructions were deemed to be as important as academic instructions. All the Elrington children therefore had to attend church every single Sunday in the company of our mother. And we had to attend Sunday school on our own as well.

I can recall that there were some young adult Belizeans, primarily males, who had finished their schooling but could not readily find employment. They would loiter in small groups in public places. But they were not violent. They were not on drugs. They were not alcoholics. They were mannerly, respectful and helpful. They were not lazy. They willingly did odd jobs when offered to them and the group would quickly disperse upon the arrival of the cop on the beat with his silver tipped cane.

The most unsettling issue in those days was the Guatemalan Claim. We were particularly animated when Guatemala's President Miguel Ydigoras Fuentes and a few of his soldiers entered Punta Gorda on April 17, 1958 purportedly to take over the colony for Guatemala. But that matter was dealt with most efficiently, professionally and swiftly by the police in P.G. Later on, when the Guatemalans became more bellicose and threatened invasion, the British stationed troops in our country. And, they sent in reinforcements from time to time, which included the Aircraft carrier the Ark Royale and Harrier Jets when it appeared as if the Guatemalans were serious about invading their Belize.

Since Independence in 1981 the British involvement in our country has been greatly reduced. However, behind the scenes they have continued to contribute modestly to our national development and security. Indeed, they continue to impact our country significantly both practically and psychologically. Most Belizeans love the fact that our successive Governor Generals represent the British Crown in our country. They love the fact that the Queen's face appears on our currencies. They love to host BATSUB the small group of British soldiers who remain in the country. In the main Belizeans are proud of our British heritage. The British Common Law which is the bedrock of our Laws and Legal System, the Rule of Law, the English language and English customs, conventions and traditions, the parliamentary democracy which we practice and our parliamentary institutions are all colonial legacies. So too are our public service and our socialized health and education systems. Unquestionably the Belizean culture is predominantly Anglophone though mixed with elements of indigenous, African, Latin, East Indian, Asian and European cultures.

Thankfully after their official departure in 1981 they did not turn their backs on us. They maintained their military bases here for an time. . . They remained among our staunchest diplomatic allies and were very solicitous about our ongoing relationship with Guatemala and our initiative to have the Guatemalan claim resolved at the ICJ.

Fortuitously the British never committed in our colony the egregious atrocities which they committed in places like India and Kenya in Africa. Their worst practices in Belize were limited to slavery and wanton neglect of the native population. After the abolition of slavery Britain did not embark upon any ambitious development plan for Belize. It did the barest minimum to facilitate the commercial exploitation and export of forestry products back to England. But there is no record of them having pilfered any of our artifacts or other valuable assets.

Thankfully after their official departure in 1981 they did not turn their backs on us. They maintained their military bases here for an time. They assisted us with development aid and training. They gave support to our police and defense forces. While a member of the European Union they championed our cause and relentlessly fought to ensure that we were not adversely affected in those matters of trade and development aid that the Union was pursuing.

They remained among our staunchest diplomatic allies and were very solicitous about our ongoing relationship with Guatemala and our initiative to have the Guatemalan claim resolved at the ICJ. While their most visible support for us today may be the funding of the construction of the Coastal Highway, the British also continues to assist us indirectly in combating transnational drug trafficking through their collaboration with the United States in the war on drugs. We also benefit tremendously from their contributions to and collaboration with the Commonwealth and CARICOM.

Given the perilous and wicked challenges now facing the world and our own tiny country, it would be ill-advised and foolhardy, in my view, for our leadership to entertain any thought of cutting ties with the British Crown at this time. My intuition urges that we should, instead, do all in our power to strengthen and deepen our bilateral ties with the British for the foreseeable future. Given the puny and fragile state of our national leadership; political, secular, spiritual; our severely constrained capacity to develop our country, and to remain solvent safe and secure from internal and external threats, and the paucity of our resources, we are in no position to cut ties at this time with the British who for centuries kept us safe and secure. They were the ones who bought us safely to Independence even when our national leaders were despairing, dissembling and equivocating. In the minds of most Belizeans Britain remains a trusted ally who will neither leave us nor forsake us in our hour of peril when days are dark and friends are few.

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

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

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

Position Name: **Gardener**

Vacancy number: **Belmopan-2022-13**

Closing date: **June 15th, 2022**

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

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

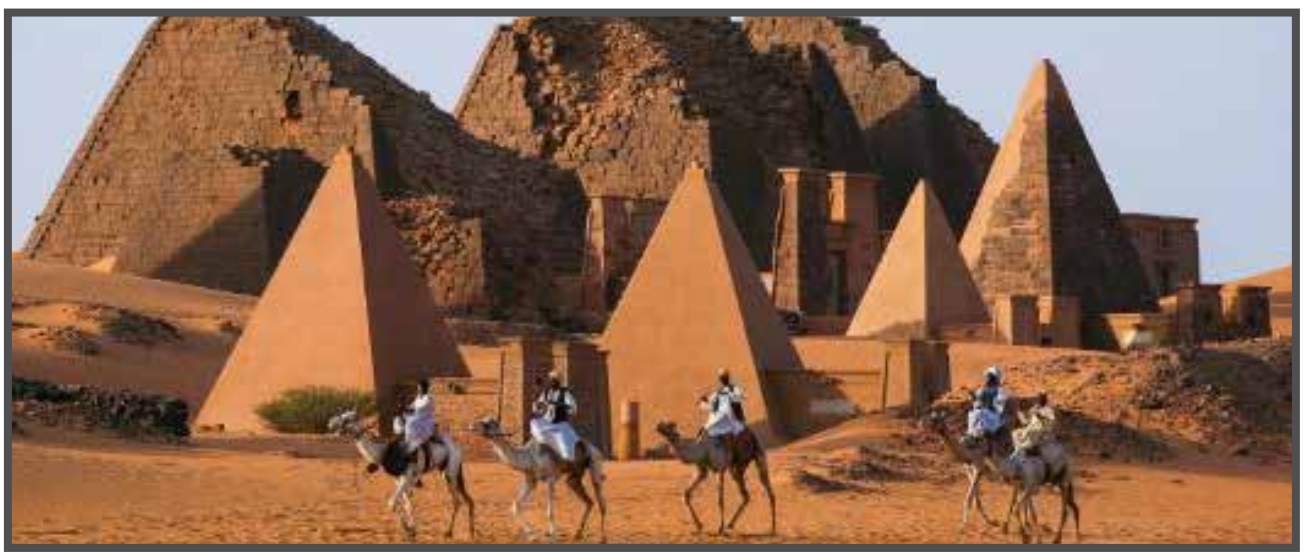
Note 1: Resumes will not be considered. Candidates must note all work experience when completing the ERA application. Insufficient or incomplete information will result in an ineligible application.

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

DISCOVERY
Landscape

Fun Facts!

Sudan's pyramids risk being buried by shifting sand



Beginning around 2500BC, Sudan's ancient Nubian civilisation left behind more than 200 pyramids that rise out of the desert across three archaeological sites.

Despite being smaller than the famous Egyptian pyramids of Giza, Nubian pyramids are just as magnificent, culturally valuable and are greater in number.

Built of sandstone and granite, the steeply-sloping pyramids contain chapels and burial chambers decorated with illustrations and inscriptions carved in hieroglyphs and Meroitic script.

These days sandstorms and shifting sand dunes pose the biggest threat to Sudan's ancient heritage sites. This phenomenon is nothing new, and was even chronicled thousands of years ago. An inscription found in a temple from the 5th century BC describes a Kushite king giving an order to clear out sand from the pathway:

But today the threat has been exacerbated by climate change, which has made the land more arid and sandstorms more frequent. Moving sands can engulf entire houses in rural Sudan, and cover fields, irrigation canals and riverbanks.

While some archaeoloists believe sand movement helps to preserve ancient artefacts from thieves, it is known to be detrimental to excavated sites, reburying them beneath the desert. Sand blown by the wind also erodes delicate stonework and sculptures.

The best way to combat sand movement and desertification is to increase the vegetation cover,.

Bringing together more than 20 nations, the Great Green Wall is a multi-billion dollar movement to stop the spread of the Sahara Desert by restoring 100 million hectares of land across the continent from Senegal in west Africa to Djibouti in the east. The intention is to cultivate the largest living barrier of trees and plants on the planet, with Sudan having the longest stretch of the "wall".

Only 4% of the target area has been covered so far, with big variations from country to country. When it is more complete, this experimental project will hopefully limit the frequency of dust storms and slow the movement of sand onto fertile lands and Unesco sites in northern Sudan. It will also contribute to tackling the extreme heatwaves in semi-arid areas such as the capital Khartoum, where the temperature goes well above 40°C during summer.

Did You Know?

Rolling Chairs?

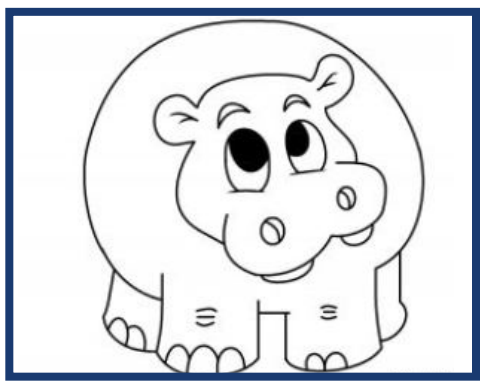
Charles Darwin was the first person known to put wheels on an office chair. He liked being able to roll around his office so he could study different specimens more quickly.

Tasty Berries!

Watermelons used to taste awful. The fruits, which are technically berries, originated in Africa, where they were only harvested for their water content. At that time, they had a nasty, bitter flavor, but centuries of selective breeding made them extra tasty.

COLOR ME

1) Hippos are large semi-aquatic mammals, with a large barrel-shaped body, short legs, a short tail and an enormous head! They have greyish to muddy-brown skin, which fades to a pale pink colour underneath.



2) They are considered the second largest land animal on Earth (first place goes to the elephant!). Males measure around 3.5m long and 1.5m tall, and can weigh up 3,200kg. That's as much as three small cars!

3) To stay cool in the blistering African heat, hippos spend most of their day in rivers and lakes. Their eyes, nose and ears are located on the top of their head, which means they can see and breathe whilst submerged in the water. What's more, these super-cool creatures sweat an oily red liquid which helps protect their skin from drying out – and acts as a sunblock, too! Cool, huh?

4) These magnificent mammals were once found throughout all sub-saharan Africa. Sadly, populations have declined due to habitat loss and hunting. Today, they are largely confined to protected areas in East African countries.

5) Hippos are most active at night, when they forage for food. They are herbivores, and eat mostly grass – and boy do they eat grass! In just one night, they can guzzle down up to 35kg of their favourite grub!

6) Despite their enormous size, hippos are great swimmers and can hold their breath for up to five minutes underwater. When completely submerged, their ears and nostrils fold shut to keep water out.

7) Hippos usually live in groups (or "herds") of around ten to 20 individuals, led by one large dominant male. The other members are females, their young and a few young non-breeding males.

PORT of BELIZE LTD

A Port with a Global Perspective

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

PORT OF BELIZE LIMITED

By Order

Andy Lane (Mr.)
Chief Executive Officer

VESSEL	ARR DATE	VOYAGE	BL No.	CONSIGNEE NAMES	D/R#	UNIT	DESCRIPTION	VIN #
CARIBE MARINER	23-05-21	609	PEVBZ185428	ALBERT BAILEY	237780	VH	1997 INTERNATIONAL BUS	1HVBFABM9VH465556
TROPIC LURE	04-06-21	2512	TSCW14828566	CORDELL'S AUTO	9741246	VH	2015 CHRYSLER PACIFICA RED	2A8GM68X38R662706
TROPIC LURE	24/12/21	2495	TSCW14553871	HUGH BOWDEN	9408903	VH	2005 FORD EXPLORER WHITE	1FMZU63K45UA37561
TROPIC LURE	24/12/21	2495	TSCW14624029	CHARLES MCCOY AUTO SALES	9492235	VH	2009 NISSAN VERSA WHITE	3N1BC11E59L396123
TROPIC LURE	22/09/20	2480	TSCW14486323	BROWN DOLLAR AUTOS	9327780	VH	1995 FORD RANGER GRAY	1FTCR14U2STA42676
JAN CARIBE	19/09/20	443	PEVBZ178377	M & J IMPORTS	236270	VH	2012 FORD FOCUS	1FAHP3K27CC271046
CARIBE MARINER	31/10/21	629	PEVBZ190279	M & S AUTOSERVICE	238878	VH	2004 TOYOTA CAMRY	4TBE32K74U329301
CARIBE MARINER	31/10/21	629	PEVBZ190276	SOUTHERN WHEELS	238877	VH	2012 FORD FUSION	3FAHPOHAXCR407667
CARIBE MARINER	31/10/21	629	PEVBZ190278	SOUTHERN WHEELS	238881	VH	2009 FORD FOCUS	IFAHP36N79W128173
VANQUISH	20/09/21	174	PEVBZ189043	M & S AUTOSERVICE	238482	VH	2000 LEXUS GS 300	JT8BD6850Y008745
TROPIC LURE	11-09-21	2566	TSCW15203833	M & S AUTOSERVICE	10200587	VH	2001 TOYOTA COROLLA	2T1BR12E71C397
TROPIC LURE	24/08/21	2548	TSCW15070757	CORDELL'S AUTO	10038554	VH	2009 NISSAN PATHFINDER	5N1AR18U49C612104
TROPIC MIST	27/07/21	4747	TSCW14975580	CORDELL'S AUTO	9922714	VH	2009 DODGE JOURNEY	3D4GG57V69T133678
TROPIC MIST	06-08-21	2521	TSCW14919433	CORDELL'S AUTO	9854155	VH	2007 FORD EXPEDITION	1FMFU18557LA35187
TROPIC LURE	06-08-21	2521	TSCW14919421	HUGH BOWDEN	9854137	VH	2010 VOLKSWAGEN TOUREZ	WVGFK7A95AD000236
TROPIC LURE	06-08-21	2521	TSCW14923435	HUGH BOWDEN	9858925	VH	2006 BMW X5	5UXFB535X6LV22648
TROPIC MIST	16-11-21	4775	TSCW151863	CORDELL'S AUTO	10179531	VH	2010 FORD ESCAPE	1FMCUOEGOAKC99885
TROPIC LURE	22-09-21	2553	TSCW151187	GARCIA MOTOR	10097299	VH	2020 CHEVROLET EQUINOX	2GNAXUEV7L6139007
TROPIC MIST	22-07-21	4747	TSCW149968	M & S AUTOSERVICE	9947893	VH	2021 KIA SELTOS	KNDETCA25M7049626
TROPIC LURE	01-06-21	2520	TSCW149276	EMILIO LEIVA	9863836	VH	2005 DODGE CARAVAN	2D4GPZ4R15R308731
CARIBE MARINER	18/4/20	573	PEVBZ174675	SOLECITA CIMASOSA	235542	VH	07 FORD ESCAPE	1FMYU03155KA25852
CARIBE MARINER	18-11-17	490	PEVBZ144522B	AL BROWN AUTO	225929	VH	05 FORD ESCAPE	1FMYU03127KA63025