

Reporter

Volume 55, No.41

Sunday, October 9th, 2022

Price: \$1.00

KRIOL COMMUNITY EXCLUDED!?

African-descent Belizeans still not represented on People's Constitution Commission

Neither the National Kriol Council nor UBAB Education Foundation (UEF) have been included on the People's Constitution Commission, reports confirm.

The House Orders for the upcoming, Friday, October 14th, Sitting of the House of Representatives show that

the People's Constitution Commission (PCC) Bill is returning to Parliament, and all indications are that only youth and student representatives have been included via the additions of the Youth Leaders Alliance of Belize (YLAB) and the National Student Union of Belize.

Hon. Patrick Faber, the

United Democratic Party (UDP)'s representative on Constitutional and Foreign Affairs (Standing Committee ("The Committee")), informed *The Reporter* that when the Committee met in July no deliberations were had; therefore, no formal decision was

Pg. 2

Welcome to the
National Kriol Council

Welkom tu di

Nashanal Kriol Kongs!



NO EXCUSES!

'Mental Health Papers' not a pass for Committing Crime: Mental Health Coordinator

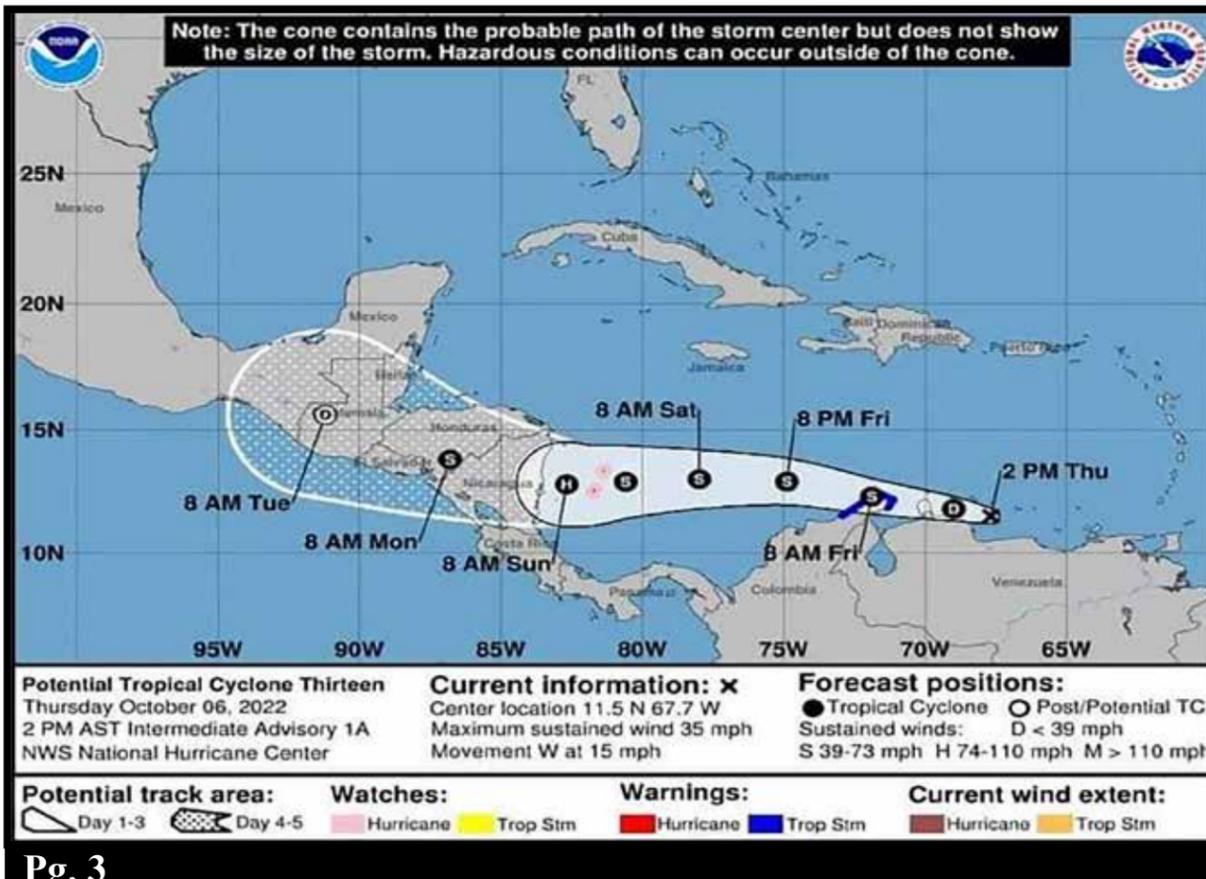


Pg. 3

By Michelle Sutherland

Yvette Quintanilla, the metal health coordinator at the Ministry of Health and Wellness, has told *The Reporter* that police officers are required to detain persons suspected of having mental health conditions and charge them with a crime if a report has been filed against them.

Tropical cyclone 13 puts Belize on alert



Pg. 3

INSIDE BOX

Political clinics replacing proper social welfare programs: Dr. Dylan Vernon on source clientelism



Political Scientist Dr. Dylan Vernon

Pg 2



The Russian invasion of Ukraine on the morning of February 24 and the fierce war this invasion has provoked has had many disastrous effects on the world economy.

It has affected supplies, mainly wheat for food, and fuel for transportation and industrial activity. In Europe it will have a severe effect on home heating during the coming winter months.

Belize has suffered immensely because of this war. As our Prime Minister pointed out during his speech at the UN General Assembly, the war has caused poverty levels in Belize to go up by 10 percent.

It is time for Belize to start its urgent search for alternative sources of energy. Energy derived from the sun through solar panels is the first to come to mind. Belize enjoys abundant sunshine. It is free and the falling prices of solar panels mean that Belize will be able to use this new technology.

But there is another source of renewable energy which is available to Belize and is also free. Belize could have such an abundance of clean energy from it that we could sell some to neighboring countries.

Some 50 years ago the late Ronald F. Greenwood, a Royal Engineer, Consultant and Town Planner, wrote about the immense potential of powerful tidal surges which enter the Caribbean from the Atlantic pushing millions of tons of water into the reef-lined salt water lagoon known as Glover's Reef.

The water comes in at high pressure and then recedes, only to come back a few hours later in an endless cycle of flow and ebb.

The challenge for Belize would be to harness this immense power using underwater turbines to make electricity. The turbines would spin as the lagoon fills up with water and then spin in reverse as it empties. Such plants are built along the natural coastline, so there is minimal impact on wildlife.

Tidal energy is the new giant of the renewables. The first plant was constructed in France in the 1960's and is still going strong. It cost a lot but

It has paid for itself over and over. These plants provide reliable power, day in and day out, using only nature's inputs. Tides are predictable and they only need a movement of 2.5 mph to generate a lot of energy.

Today there are tidal power turbines at work in South Korea, Scotland, Canada, China, India and the Philippines.

KRIOL COMMUNITY EXCLUDED!?!...

Cont'd from pg. 1 made regarding any group being added.

"As soon as the submissions from the public were concluded, the chair moved to close the meeting," Faber recalled regarding the July 25th, 2022 Committee meeting. "I even remember when Hon. Tracy Panton asked if there will not be just a little discussion on the recommendations to the Committee. To her question, the answer was 'No.'"

Nevertheless, Faber, citing the minutes for The Committee, accepted that the decision may have been made at subsequent meetings. He pointed to the fact that The Committee's minutes made reference to at least one other meeting in September.

As whether he supported the Kriol Council's addition to the PCC, Faber said that he absolutely supports the call for the Council's inclusion. "As a Kriol, myself, I feel offended at the Council's exclusion."

The Kriol Council and UEF

Kriol Council's interim board member, Nigel Encalada, explained to *The Reporter* that, while they did receive verbal communication from the relevant authorities regarding being included, they never received any "formal response."

Encalada explained that the Council is holding a meeting Wednesday evening, October 6, to discuss what they will do in light of the Ministry's lack of a formal response to the submission of the two names. According to Encalada, the Council had already nominated Anthony Sylvester and Adelia Young to represent the Kriol community. However, since submitting those names, they have not heard back from the Good Governance Unit.

The Reporter also spoke to YaYa Marin Coleman, the chairperson of UEF, who likewise explained that since her organization's letter in March this year they have not heard back from the government.

Promised Inclusion of African-descent Belizeans

Readers may recall that in July Good Governance Director Dr. Cesar Ross told *The Reporter* that groups representing the rights of African-descent Belizeans would obtain a joint seat on the People's Constitution Commission.

Ross had informed that several groups, including the Central American Black Organization (CABO), the

UBAD Educational Foundation, and the National Kriol Council, had reached out to the Good Governance Unit for representation. In response, the director explained, then, that his unit is drafting proposals for their inclusion. Those proposals were to be taken to the Committee meeting held on Monday, July 25, when Hon. Faber says no deliberations were actually held after the public's contributions were concluded.

"We are looking at how to get one representative to speak for all of them, in an umbrella type of way, as we did with the media," Ross had told *The Reporter* back in July.

The National Kriol Council had issued a statement calling on the Government of Belize to ensure that the Council is afforded a seat on the Commission, as, in their view, not doing so would diminish the value of the contributions made by Belizean Kriol people who have laid the foundation for an independent Belize.

In a letter dated March 14, 2022, UEF, for their part, had likewise argued their case as to why they should receive two seats, with one being held by a local Belizean of African descent and the other by a "Belizean American from the Diaspora."

Addressed to Minister of The Public Service, Constitutional and Political Reform, and Religious Affairs Hon. Henry Charles Usher, UEF wrote:

"As a group, people of Afrikan ancestry and heritage in Belize have been impacted negatively by a number of national policies that we did not contribute to prior to decisions being made that harmed Afrikan Belizeans disproportionately. Accordingly, UEF is adamant that we must have these 2 Afrikan Belizean community representatives who are trusted by Afrikan Belizeans to advocate in our best interest and have a record of independent thinking and actions on the Belize Constitutional Reform Commission. The 2 Afrikan Belizean Representatives are Belizean Diaspora/Bilal Morris (BREDAA) and YaYa Marin Coleman/Afrikan Heritage Communities in Belize/UEF Chairperson."

The People's Constitution Commission, which will take its mandate from the eponymously named Bill, is tasked with conducting "a comprehensive review of the Belize Constitution" and, after engaging in broad-based consultations with citizens, the Commission shall prepare and submit a report of their findings to the Prime Minister.

Political clinics replacing proper social welfare programs: Dr. Dylan Vernon on source clientelism

By Britney Gordon

"In effect the [political] clinics are replacing the government social welfare role and they become the first resort," says political scientist Dr. Dylan Vernon.

Speaking with *The Reporter*, Vernon—the author of "Political Clientelism and Democracy in Belize from My Hand to Yours"—noted that political clinics have become a breeding ground for clientelism as politicians continue to abuse their position to amass political support.

Vernon attributes poverty as a prominent cause for the persistence of the corruption within these clinics.

"The system needs to change," Vernon concluded, reaffirming that informing the masses is merely a small start to a greater solution. To address the corruption from the root, Vernon lists several changes that can be made as a start. These include establishing campaign finance regulations, as well as persecuting bribery.

In his book, Vernon states that women are more likely to visit these clinics and receive goods as they are typically responsible for the management of the household. Groceries and financial aid are common handouts to this demographic.

However, Vernon affirmed that poor Belizeans are not the only citizens to benefit from the clinics. Land, scholarships, fee exemptions, and loans are amongst the handouts upper-class citizens receive.

Introduced to Belize by Right Honorable George Cadle Price in the 1950's, political clinics—also known as political surgeries in other jurisdictions—exist to function as the base

of operations at the constituency level. Elected individuals hold surgeries in their constituency to give people an opportunity to meet them and discuss matters of concern or request assistance in regard to local or national government matters.

As the popularity of these clinics grew, the distinction between political operations and political clientelism became harder to make. Politicians receive between \$4000 and \$5000 per month to handle operations. However, more often than not, these funds are used to purchase goods and services as gifts for the public in exchange for political support.

THE REPORTER

Phones: 501- 227-2503 / 227-1767

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

e-mail: reporternewspaper@gmail.com

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

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

General Manager Lisbeth Ayuso
Lithographer Rodolfo Castro
Journalists Michelle Sutherland
Britney Gordon

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

NO EXCUSES!..

Cont'd from pg. 1

Quintanilla indicated that police's habit of telling the public that they cannot detain a suspected mental health patient and charge them because they are in possession of "mental health papers" is a long-standing excuse that has gone unchecked for some time and has blossomed into a big problem.

In an exclusive interview with the Reporter, Quintanilla explained, "Having a mental illness does not mean that the person cannot be charged for violating laws, regardless if a patient is mentally ill and they commit an offense they should be charged like any regular person."

She added, "After they are charged and they go before the magistrate if

the magistrate rules that this person needs to be evaluated to determine their fitness to stand trial, and then he/she will refer that patient to the psychiatrist for an evaluation to be done. It is only the psychiatrist who can determine if that person is fit to stand trial or not. If that individual is mentally stable enough then that person will be tried as a normal person and they may be remanded to Kolbe."

In fact, Quintanilla urged us to remind citizens that it is their right to go to the police station and file an official police report if any harm has been committed against them by any suspected mental health patient.

Quintanilla stresses that once that report is filed then it is the police's responsibility to pick up

that individual and hand them over to any mental health facility for them to do their assessment while charges are being prepared. She also pointed out that this is nothing new for police officers as the Ministry of Health has been providing recruits and even seasoned police officers with training on how to handle mental health patients for several years.

When asked about the process that a mental health patient goes through when found to have committed a crime but cannot stand trial due to his or her mental condition, Quintanilla explained that the ultimate decision is left up to the magistrate at the Supreme Court level. If the magistrate decided that the person is unfit to stand trial then they are referred

to a forensic unit which is a specialized unit that looks after patients who have committed crimes.

Quintanilla, however, revealed that Belize does not have such a unit in place. In this case, according to Quintanilla, if a patient is found to be violent to the point that they require admission to a facility, then they are referred to the Acute Unit at the Western Regional Hospital for treatment. After recovery, that individual will be discharged and return home. Prior to making that decision, the magistrate will also take into consideration the risk that the person presents to society or to him or herself. Based on that, a decision would be made. If the individual commits another offense, then they will go through the same process.

When questioned about the placement of potentially dangerous mental health patients that are roaming the streets and what the criteria are for them to be institutionalized for the safety of the public, Quintanilla said that the Ministry of Health has moved away from placing mental health patients in

institutions. According to her, it goes against their human rights and based on recommendations by PAHO/WHO the Ministry has resorted to rolling out community-based care for patients. This includes placing patients with family members, administering timely medication, counseling, etc. If there is a need for admission then the Ministry tries to get that done at the local level through their placement at KHMH or the acute unit at the Western Regional Hospital, until they have recovered from an episode.

Quintanilla also revealed that due to Human Rights constraints, facilities such as Rockview were closed down in 2008. Patients from that facility were either reunited with their families, sent back into society, or in a rare instance because they had been in the system for such a long period were relocated to Palm Center residential care facility in Belmopan.

The Reporter has also found out that in cases where mental health patients or suspected mental health patients are charged or

convicted of a crime, they are housed at the Special Care Building within the prison. Prison officials have confirmed that currently there are 84 inmates housed inside that facility. Patients according to the prison officials have grouped accordingly and are treated humanely. Their medications are also administered on time while they are groomed regularly.

We sought comment on the topic of what the Ministry of Health and Wellness as well as the Belize Police Department and other government bodies are doing to protect the public from potentially dangerous mental health patients.

This comes on the heels of reports that a Belize City teenager was attacked and sliced to her face by a suspected mental health patient in Belize City. Recently, one of our own journalists at the Reporter Newspaper was attacked by a mental health patient in Belmopan without any provocation. In both instances, police refused to offer any assistance because the accused persons were believed to be mentally challenged.

Tropical cyclone 13 puts Belize on alert

The National Meteorological Service of Belize and the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) have issued a warning on the potential threat of a tropical cyclone striking Belize.

The projected path of the storm puts Northern Venezuela at risk and is predicted to make landfall in Nicaragua and Honduras. The storm is observed to have winds of up to 35 miles per hour and is moving westward at 15 miles per hour. Fortunately, due to the mountainous terrain, the system is likely to weaken rapidly.

Although the winds are not predicted to impact Belize, heavy rainfall is, especially in southern Belize. With this in mind, flood warnings have been issued.

The reports indicate that if the storm changes trajectory and travels further to the North, the threat of a hurricane becomes pressing as it would make landfall in Belize by Monday.

The system is expected to strengthen when it moves over the southwestern Caribbean Sea, traveling past southern Haiti and Jamaica before making landfall over Nicaragua and Honduras on Sunday

before impacting Belize on Monday. However, rain and flooding are predicted to occur before the system reaches our region, with rainfall amounts peaking on Monday with daily totals of about 4 to 6 inches or higher.

NEMO advises the public to follow the storm guidelines issued on their website. These measures include following necessary evacuation protocols if you are at risk of flooding, avoiding traveling for the long weekend, and trimming trees that may damage your home.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

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

VACANCY: A vacancy exists for a Warehouse Attendant. Please contact Jitendra Nandwani at 610-1122 for more information.

VACANCY: Vacancies exists for a Store Supervisor at Cosmetic Corner. Please call 227-0145 for more information.

VACANCY: A vacancy exists for a Warehouse Attendant. Please contact Jitendra Nandwani at 610-1122 for more information.

VACANCY: Vacancies exists for Warehouse Assistant at Cosmetic Corner. And for a Female Cook (Indian Cuisine) for staff. Please Call : 227-0145.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that Elijah Samuel Gill of #7 Fidel Castro Street, Las Flores, Belmopan, Cayo District is hereby applying for a Malt & Cider Liquor License for Pasquale's Pizza & Ultimate WingZ LTD. situated Corner Forest Drive & Slim Lane, Belmopan, Cayo District for the year 2023. Under the Intoxicating Liquors Act Revised Edition of 2000.

NOTICE OF COMMENCED DISSOLUTION

PERFECT GLOBAL ENTERPRISES LIMITED ("the Company")

"Notice is hereby given to all interested parties that PERFECT GLOBAL ENTERPRISES LIMITED a Company incorporated under the IBC Act of Belize commenced dissolution on 30th September 2022.

And

TSAI, MEI-CHUAN of 7f-1, No 50, Sec 4, Nanjing E Rd, Songshan District, Taipei City 105, Taiwan is the liquidator of the company.

Frontier International Business Services Limited

Registered Agent

FOR SALE

25 Acres Land Parcel No. 61 Freehold Title situated in the Frank Eddy Agricultural Area, Cayo District. Interested contact 610-1242 for more information.

NOTICE OF COMMENCED DISSOLUTION

AUDIT DIRECTIONS LTD.

("the Company")

"Notice is hereby given to all interested parties that AUDIT DIRECTIONS LTD. a Company incorporated under the IBC Act of Belize commenced dissolution on 28th September 2022.

And

Galina Chuprova of Arkadias str., 13, flat 201, 1048 Nicosia, Cyprus, is the liquidator of the company..

Frontier International Business Services Limited

Registered Agent

Turneffe Flats and TASA join forces with 1.5 million dollar grant

The Turneffe Atoll Sustainability Association (TASA) and Turneffe Flats are partnering for the management of the Turneffe Atoll Marine Reserve through a 1.5 million dollar grant over the next 6 years.

Turneffe Flats is an ecotourism resort on Turneffe Atoll that specializes in activities such as fly fishing and scuba diving. In an effort to promote the conservation of the Turneffe Atoll Marine Reserve Turneffe Flats will provide TASA with the grant. The \$1.5 million will be gifted to TASA over the course of the next six years.

This Agreement outlines a partnership to provide critical resources for protecting Turneffe's "unique and special environment." The initiative will focus on the long-term benefit of

Turneffe and Belize whilst encouraging cooperation between tourism and marine conservation. Turneffe Flats has long been involved with the conservation efforts as the resort was heavily involved with the establishment of Turneffe's marine reserve over a decade ago.

As per the agreement, 40 percent of the grant will be directed to TASA in order to cover the general operational costs, while the remaining 60 percent will be funneled into conservation initiatives agreed upon by both parties. Among TASA's commitments, the agreement ensures that an active commercial fishing stakeholder and a tourism stakeholder will hold seats on TASA's Board.

Craig Hayes, the board Chairman and principal owner of Turneffe Flats, said,

"We feel that those benefiting most directly (tourists and tourism operators) should shoulder a larger share of the financial responsibility. We are extremely pleased to enter into this cutting-edge agreement with TASA to meet our financial responsibilities while creating the opportunity to directly influence the conservation principles we feel most strongly about."

Lindsay Garbutt, TASA's Chairman, says, "Marine Reserve managers recognize that new and innovative methods are needed to adequately finance our MPAs. We applaud Turneffe Flats for recognizing that tourism benefits directly from well-run and fully-financed MPAs and for taking the initiative to institute this innovative approach to MPA financing."



Wesley College

The Board of Management of Wesley College invites applications from highly motivated and dedicated individuals with good communication and interpersonal skills to fill the following vacancies.

• 1 Information Technology Teacher – Fulltime

Applicants must be organized, creative, punctual, positive, and mature, self-motivated, a good team member, excellent role model, willing to work as a homeroom teacher, willing to work after school and participate in co-curricular activities. He/she must be familiar with the subject content and the CSEC syllabus, be able to teach on line if the need arise, willing to collaborate and work in a Methodist environment.

Qualifications:

Teaching: Preferred: Bachelor Degree in Education (in specified field) and must possess a Full License to Teach. Teaching experience would be an asset.

Remuneration: In accordance with the Government of Belize pay scale

Prospective applicants must submit the following:

- Cover Letter with resume
- Valid Teacher's License
- Qualifications (Original transcript)
- Social Security Card (Certified copy)
- Birth Certificate/Passport (Certified Copy)
- Medical Certificate (Original)
- Police Record (Original)
- Two recent character references
- Marriage Certificate (Where applicable)
- Work permit (Where applicable)

Application Deadline: October 21st, 2022.

All documents must be certified and any documents in a foreign language must be accompanied by an official English translation. Only applicants who qualify will be invited for an interview. Interested candidates should submit application packages to:

Human Resource Chair of the Board of Wesley College
 c/o Methodist District Office
 75 Albert Street, Belize City
 BELIZE

BELIZE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

Planning and Decision Making Workshop

ZOOM EVENT
 October 27th, 2022 at 10:00am to 12pm
 *Member: \$90.00 *Non-Member: \$150.00
 (GST Included)

Facilitated by:
 Mindunlocked

Course Description:
 What is behind the decisions, big and small that you make each day? A lot of time is spend on making decisions and plan so this workshop aims to provide a snapshot of the decision making process to build self awareness which in turn helps with increased self and co-regulation skills.

Course Objectives:

- A) Behind the scenes in decision making
- B) Co-planning
- C) Co-creating a performance grid

To register contact the Belize Chamber of Commerce & Industry at
 email: bcci@belize.org | tel: 223-5330 | cell: 614-3138

BELIZE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

Brain Management for Stress Management Workshop

ZOOM EVENT
 October 20th, 2022 at 10:00am to 12pm
 *Member: \$90.00 *Non-Member: \$150.00
 (GST Included)

Facilitated by:
 Mindunlocked

Course Description:
 Want to feel less stressed? This workshop is designed to help you better understand the important role the brain plays in how we perceive and regulate stress. It explores working with your brain's natural tendencies instead of investing valuable time and energy working against it which can lead to frustration and burn out. Self and co-regulation skills will be practiced to enhance brain and stress management.

Course Objectives:

- A) Brain 101 "Flip the Lid"
- B) Self-regulation and co-regulation tools
- C) Tricking our resistant brain

To register contact the Belize Chamber of Commerce & Industry at
 email: bcci@belize.org | tel: 223-5330 | cell: 614-3138

BTV Insist They Have Not Gotten Back Their Flag Stolen By GAF

By Michelle Sutherland

The Leader of the Belize Territorial Volunteers (BTV), Will Maheia, told the Reporter Wednesday that they have still not gotten back the Belizean flag that was taken by the Guatemalan Armed Forces despite claims by Foreign Minister Eamon Courtenay that the flag is already in the country.

Maheia indicated to the Reporter, "So far, we have received many calls from many people who are

asking us if we at the BTV have received the flag. We have not received the flag; we have not gotten a comment from the government about where the flag is or how we can get back our flag. We have not heard a word from them. We have just heard through the news that they have gotten back the flags but so far personally we have not seen it."

Over the weekend, Foreign Minister Eamon Courtenay told the media that the Guatemalans did not give any resistance in



Minister Eamon Courtenay

turning over the flag. "We demanded the flag; they delivered it to the embassy, and the embassy made arrangements for it to be brought to Belize. Well, I don't think that it has been handed over yet, but it is here in the country."

According to Courtenay, the Guatemalans "knew that they could not keep the flag," and so they immediately turned it over to Belize's Embassy in Guatemala. Following the incident, Courtenay indicated that he immediately paid a visit to the Guatemalan Embassy in Belize to protest in person to the Ambassador and even followed up with a written protest noted for good measures.

Additionally, Courtenay said that his office along with Prime Minister John Briceño has been insistent that there be a Sarstoon Protocol to prevent future incidents of similar nature.

Those efforts, however, have been futile according to Courtenay because they have still not been able to convince the Guatemalan government. The topic was likewise raised by the prime minister and Courtenay during a meeting in Washington with the Secretary General of the OAS.

Courtenay said that he is scheduled for another meeting with

the foreign minister which is scheduled for this week in Peru. Within the margins of the OAS General Assembly, Courtenay said that he will be placing the need for a Sarstoon Protocol on the agenda so that discussion can take place.

When asked about why Prime Minister John Briceño had declined to highlight the recurrent issues in the Sarstoon among Guatemalan Armed Forces, Courtenay explained that the prime minister deliberately failed to mention the pressing issue because he would have had to detail other incursions in the past.

"We must measure the place and how far we go on these issues, and we took that into consideration and decided that that was not the place. Sometimes you do diplomacy publicly, sometimes you do it privately, so it's all about a balancing act," ended Courtenay.

During the September festivities, the BTV journeyed to Sarstoon island to plant several Belizean flags on the island as part of their yearly patriotic ceremonies. They were met with resistance from several Guatemalan Armed Forces who dismantled and confiscated the Belize flag despite several requests from Maheia who demanded that his flags be returned to him.

04 October 2022




197% PROFIT INCREASE REPORTED AT
 16TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Belize Telemedia Limited (BTL) reported strong financial results during Fiscal Year 2021-2022 at its 16th Annual General Meeting held on Friday, 30 September 2022. The company bolstered its performance due to a strong demand for broadband internet connectivity, its network expansion efforts, and its prudent fiscal management.

Shareholders and attendees were presented with the company's financial highlights which included:

- 197% increase in Net Income to \$16.1 million from \$5.4 million
- 110% increase in dividends per share to 13 cents from 6.2 cents
- 80% increase on the Return on Equity to 8.6%
- 314% increase in Earnings per Share to 29 cents from 7 cents

Mr. Ivan Tesucum, Chief Executive Officer at BTL, stated that "The company is strong. The business is growing, and we are well positioned for Leading Belize's Digital Future." He further added that "BTL is on the path of continued growth, and we will continue to build on our revenue diversification goals to increase the Return on Equity to 12% over the next 5 years."

Apart from receiving and considering the Directors' Report, Financial Statements and dividends for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022, shareholders appointed Auditors for the fiscal year and elected a Publicly Elected Director. The company extends its warm congratulations to Mr. Eric Eusey on his re-election to the Board of Directors for another term.

Going forward, BTL will continue to innovate and evolve, and showcase its commitment to build digital highways that connect our people, develop communities, and advance economic prosperity by "Leading Belize's Digital Future".



IVAN TESUCUM
Chief Executive Officer, BTL



MARKHELM LIZARRAGA
Chairman, Board of Directors, BTL



Board of Directors, BTL

BTL's Annual Report 2021-2022 can be viewed at www.livedigi.com/annual-reports.

Sargassum being sent back to sea

A start-up in the UK that sinks Sargassum into the deep ocean for CO2 removal and coastal cleanup has raised US

Foreign Minister: Cuban Migrants Is a Problem for Belize

By Michelle Sutherland



Cuban Nationals Detained Along the Western Border.

Belize Foreign Minister Eamon Courtenay has finally addressed the recent surge in the irregular migration of Cuban nationals transiting through Belize by the dozens, calling it a “problem” for Belize.

“First of all, we have pending for October bilateral talks with Cuba on Migration, in which we are going to take a deep dive into these issues and see how we can work together on that very important issue. The long and short of it is that we have noticed a significant increase in the number of illegal and irregular migrants coming through Belize, Cubans being a significant increase. And so, we are going to be talking with our colleagues, the Cuban government as well as regionally and so we will have to put some measures in place in Belize to address the issue.”

Courtenay also indicated that investigation into the issue has detected regional flows and trends that map out how these migrants are moving. Belize will now have to work alongside these countries that they are passing through as well as countries that are facilitating them. This, according to Courtenay, will be centered on formalizing a common plan to see how to stem the movement of illegal migrants, particularly Cubans.

Locally, Courtenay says that his Ministry

met along with the Ministry of Immigration late last week to discuss the issues. Those discussions centered on looking at the fluctuating numbers, the flows, and persons locally that are suspected of facilitating the illegal trade through Belize. That resulted in some recommendations that will be sent to Cabinet for approval in the upcoming weeks.

American immigration officials are reporting a sharp increase in the past year of Cuban nationals fleeing to the United States in search of a better life. Several international news outlets are reporting that this is due to the worst economic woes that Cuba has seen in decades as a result of tightened US sanctions, the impacts of COVID-19 and political repression. Experts have classified it as the largest number in four decades. An event that they also say was fuelled after Nicaragua recently lifted its visa requirement.

Over the past few weeks alone, the Mobile Interdiction Team (MIT), positioned along the Western Border, has managed to detain several Cuban nationals transiting through Belize. As recently as last week, as many as 27 Cuban Nationals along with a Guatemalan and a Belizean guide were intercepted along a dark trail, 4 miles into the jungle, during a predawn operation along the border.

\$1 million to develop its technology, which intercepts and sinks invasive Sargassum into the deep ocean before it can reach coasts.

The start-up is called Seaweed Generation and is currently awaiting a patent for its AlgaRay technology. The co-founder, Patricia Estridge, explained that the AlgaRay works by eating the Sargassum, then depositing it in the deep ocean. The objective is not only to combat the sargassum itself but to aid in removing carbon dioxide emissions from the atmosphere. Seaweed Generation intends to harness the carbon absorption capabilities of



Tons of Sargassum wash up on Caribbean beaches

sargassum and lock it under the ocean where it will remain, away from the atmosphere.

There are around 24 million tons of Sargassum passing through the Caribbean region each year, which equates to at least four million tons of carbon dioxide. Seaweed Generation plans to work with countries

in the Caribbean to combat Sargassum as climate change brings rising oceans and washed more to the region's shores.

Belize is currently in the process of partnering with Biogas engineering company, Variodin. In his Independence Day address to the public, Prime Minister,

John Briceño, stated, “Recently, I led an official mission to Germany; to examine an exciting new process for converting sargassum to clean energy. How inventive a prospect for the coastline litter of sargassum to be transformed into power. Any power from sargassum will complement the additional solar power that our PUC soon expects to sanction as part of the national generation system.”

Variodin specializes in turning waste into clean energy, while Seaweed Generation seeks to dispose of the plant before it is able to reach the shores.



CAREER




OPPORTUNITY

Belize Sugar Industries Ltd.
Invites qualified and self-motivated individuals to submit applications for the post of:
Machinist
at Tower Hill, Orange Walk

The **Machinist** is responsible to fabricate new machinery parts, repair, and refurbish damaged machinery. This position will also be responsible for maintaining equipment in excellent working conditions, ensuring its' efficiency and cleanliness to restore and provide longevity of all equipment.

Qualifications and Experience:

- Tertiary level education with studies in Math and Physics or ITVET/ Vocational Certificate in related field
- Minimum 5 years' experience working in a Machine Shop or related field

Skills and Competencies:

- Ability to work flexible working hours (shift)
- Knowledge of tool usage/handling in a safe manner
- Able to work in indoor/outdoor working conditions i.e. manual labour & heavy lifting
- Excellent communication skills
- Team oriented
- Ability to interpret and apply instructions

Roles and Responsibilities:

- Adhere to company Environment, Health and Safety policies/ regulations of machinery
- Ensure cleanliness of the machine shop department by promoting good housekeeping practices
- Engage in the day-to-day machining programs, and ensure these are carried out in a safe and timely manner
- Assist the Fabrication Technician in all aspects of the required machining operation processes for an efficient running of the Machine Shop
- Work to achieve the housekeeping goals and hazard elimination in the machine shop area and strive to constantly improve on these goals
- Be proactive and work with minimal supervision
- Any other duties which may be assigned by your Supervisor

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 OCTOBER 19, 2022.

Caribbean customs brokers facilitating trade

By William Ysaguirre

The Custom Brokers Association of Belize (CBAB) is working to facilitate trade and compared progress notes and shared insights with their regional colleagues, when Belize hosted the second biennial meeting of the Caribbean Association of Customs Brokers (CACUB) at the Best Western Biltmore Plaza Hotel in Belize City on Friday and Saturday.

The Government of Belize is committed to reducing the processing time for the delivery of goods by 20 percent, and

the cost by 30 percent by the year 2025, avowed Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Hon. Eamon Courtenay when he addressed the opening of the conference on Saturday morning, October 1.

Belize is also working to comply with the World Trade Organization (WTO)'s guidelines to reduce trade costs, but for now Belize ranks 116th out of 178 WTO member nations in the efficiency of trade processing mechanisms.

Belize's geographical location also means it is fortuitously positioned to serve as a trade gateway



President Rosenda Kuylen-Smith (l) and vice-president Delroy Fairweather

between CARICOM and Central America. As a member of the Central American

Economic Integration System (SIECA), Belize is also working to implement SIECA's Trade and Transport

Logistics Master Plan 2035, which SIECA Secretary General Francisco Lima Mena discussed during his visit to Belize on August 29-30. There are just too many documents requested for Customs clearance of goods, and Belize is working to streamline both import and export processing by 2035, Courtenay declared.

Belize has already updated its Electronic Transactions Act 2020 and is now working to create a "one-stop shop" trade portal, where all the formalities for goods to enter the country can be processed through one window, to be worthy of 21st century Customs brokers.

Belize's exports have increased tenfold, Courtenay noted happily, as a consequence of Belize suing three CARICOM member nations for breaches of the CARICOM single market economy treaty regarding the importation of extra-regional sugar. Member nations will be more vigilant through the Caribbean trade monitoring mechanism, which was approved at the 97th meeting of COTED.

The Belize Customs department has obtained a grant from the Caribbean Development Bank to develop a single window facility to reduce transactions and clearance time of goods, which will also enhance transparency,

explained Deputy Comptroller of Customs Tricia Ingrid Soberanis. She said Belize welcomes a more cost efficient partnership of Customs officers and brokers as facilitators of revenue collection.

Facilitating trade is everyone's goal, as Belize has adopted ASYCUDA World as the electronic system to process online all documentation related to import and export trade, explained CBAB President Rosenda Kuylen-Smith. Belize has been using the Harmonized System of Nomenclature 2017 for the classification of goods, but will soon switch over to the Harmonized System 2022, to meet international standards. It's a partnership of customs brokers, the Customs Department, the banks, importers and the government's tax collectors.

The next step to facilitate trade is to improve transportation connectivity, for free movement of CARICOM nationals, cited Chief Executive Officer Amalia Mai of the ministry. Having to travel or ship goods through the United States creates a logistics bottleneck which must be overcome, and the promotion of trade within the region requires more direct routes. Customs brokers are essential to the smooth functioning of Export Processing Zones (EPZs) and Designated Processing Zones (DPZs), in all Belize has 43 Business Processing Zones, which need CACUB's support.

CBAB vice President Delroy Fairweather was elected CACUB President in 2018, and he welcomed Clive Coke, president of the Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Association of Jamaica, who shared his perspective on the way forward for Jamaica to become a logistics hub serving CARICOM.

PUBLIC AUCTION SALE: PROPERTY

BY ORDER of Chargees, Messrs. Alpha Gamma Financial Services Limited, Licensed Auctioneer, Fernando Molina, will sell the following properties:

Registration Section	Block	Parcel	Being the freehold properties of
San Pedro	7	5906 (915.37 sq. yds.)	5906GOA3208 Inc.
San Pedro	7	5907 (899.22 sq. yds.)	5907GOA4209 Inc.
San Pedro	7	5908 (416.67 sq. yds.)	5908GOA4210 Inc.
San Pedro	7	5909 (416.67 sq. yds.)	5909GOA4211 Inc.

TOGETHER with all buildings thereon in one lot by way of public auction online to conclude Monday, 17th October 2022 at 4 pm.

Total Land Area: 2,647.93 SQ. YDS.

Buildings & improvements: Parcel #5906 – 4 Buildings, two-storey - 887 sq. ft. & 140 sq. ft. of external porch, each.
Parcel #5907 – two-storey building – 3,926 sq. ft. & 737 sq. ft. of external porch.
Parcel #5908 & #5909 – two-storey building – 5137 sq. ft. and a single storey building – 983 sq. ft.

All these parcels of land are a portion of Mahogany Bay Subdivision situated on Ambergris Caye, Belize. The development has a series of canals with each lot having canal frontage.



TERMS: STRICTLY CASH

Bids are to be submitted via email by no later than 17th October, 2022 at 4:00pm

For further particulars on the properties, please contact:

Email: bids@beacon-auctions.com

Tel: 610-0919



wishes everyone a safe and happy

Indigenous People's Resistance Day

Please be advised that all Atlantic Bank branches and drive thrus will be closed for business on Saturday, October 8 and will reopen on Tuesday, October 11, 2022.

For your shopping convenience, use your Atlantic Bank Visa Debit Card or Visa/Mastercard Credit Cards.

For quick cash, use any of our ATMs or AtlaXpress merchants located countrywide.



BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM

COUNTRYWIDE PUBLIC AUCTION SALES: PROPERTIES

Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District

1. BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. Heritage Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following property. Sales currently running and will expire on Monday 17th October 2022 at 9:00 am.

Corner Egret & Kiskadee Streets, Otro Benque Area, Orange Walk Town:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Orange Walk North	4	109

(Being a two-storey concrete dwelling house [36 ft. X 44 ft.] consisting: Ground & First Floors: 3 Bedrooms + 2 Bathrooms + Living/Dining/Kitchen and laundry room and lot [0.254 acre or 1229.36 S.Y.] situate at the corner Egret & Kiskadee Streets, Otro Benque Area, Orange Walk Town, the freehold property of Mr. Earl Nicholson)

Guinea Grass Village, Orange Walk District

2. BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. The Belize Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following property. Sale currently running until 8th November 2022. Public Auction Sales will expire fortnightly on the dates and times listed on the website until this property is sold. Parcel No. 632 Guinea Grass Village, Orange Walk District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Guinea Grass	4	632

The freehold property of Ms. Melissa Westby

"FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PHOTOGRAPHS PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE"

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH

KEVIN A. CASTILLO

TELEPHONE 223-4488

Website: belizepropertyauctions.com

E-mail: kevinacas@yahoo.com

Facebook: [Belize Auctions](https://www.facebook.com/BelizeAuctions)



Belize Family Court

P.O. Box 1185

Telephone Numbers: 501-227-4114, 4107, 6021

VACANCY NOTICE

Suitably qualified applicants are invited to fill the position of: **DIRECTOR OF THE BELIZE FAMILY COURT-ATTORNEY GENERAL'S MINISTRY**

The Director is responsible for the overall supervision of the operations of the Family Court. The Director shall be answerable to and supervised by the Chief Justice.

Applicant Must:

- Be a qualified Solicitor/ Lawyer, or Attorney at law and have been call to the bar in a Commonwealth jurisdiction; and
- Be in possession of Bachelor's in Law (LLB)
- Be in possession of a Certificate in Legal Education (CLE)

Pay Scale 25 (\$42,862 x 1,480 - \$70,982)

Ministry/Department/Unit: Belize Family Court

Position Title: Director

Salary Pay Scale: 25

Age Limit: 30 years and above

Years of Experience in Related Field: 5 years

Analysis of position:

(a) Essential Duties and Responsibilities:

1. Supervise the Magistrates and Coordinators.
2. Establish operational policies for the day-to-day operations of the Court.
3. Establish collaborative networks between the Court and other agencies.
4. Sit as a Magistrate.
5. Liaise with the Chief Magistrate to establish standardization of Family Court policies and practice in District Magistrate Courts.
6. Conduct performance appraisals for senior staff, Magistrate, Coordinator and the Clerk of Court.
7. Oversee the monitoring and evaluation of court services.
8. Supervise the preparation and advocate for the annual budget for the Family Court.
9. Develop continuous professional development training for Magistrates and Coordinators of the Family Court.
10. Recommend the hiring and termination of staff.
11. Facilitate the preparation of reports required by the Chief Justice.
12. Address client's complaints where necessary.

Interested persons may applied in writing to:

The Secretary,
Judicial and Legal Services Commission
Ground Floor, Sir Edney Cain Building
Belmopan City, Cayo District
Belize, Central America
Telephone Number: 822-2204 or 822-2235
Email Address: ceo@mps.gov.bz

Deadline for receipt of applications: December 20th, 2022

Please Note: Only suitable qualified applicants will be acknowledged.

The Judicial and Legal Services Commission does not bind itself to make an appointment from among those persons who apply.



Belize Family Court

P.O. Box 1185

Telephone Numbers: 501-227-4114, 4107, 6021

VACANCY NOTICE

Suitably qualified applicants are invited to fill the position of: **MAGISTRATE OF THE PUNTA GORDA FAMILY COURT-ATTORNEY GENERAL'S MINISTRY**

The Magistrate is responsible for the overall supervision of the operations of the Punta Gorda Family Court. The Magistrate shall be answerable to and supervised by the Director of Belize Family Court.

Applicant Must:

- Be a qualified Solicitor/ Lawyer, or Attorney at law and have been call to the bar in a Commonwealth jurisdiction; and
- Be in possession of Bachelor's in Law (LLB)
- Be in possession of a Certificate in Legal Education (CLE)

Salary: Pay Scale 23 (LLB and CLE) \$36,554 x 1,480 -\$64,674

Age Limit 25-49

Analysis of position:

1. Preside over the adjudication of legal proceedings in the civil, hybrid and criminal jurisdiction of the Court.
2. Issue orders and give directions in all legal proceedings before the Court.
3. Sign warrants and other formal court documents required to be signed by the Magistrate
4. Provide oversight in the district courts for the supervision of the Clerk of Court, Intake Welfare Officer, and other Court staff in the fulfilment of aspects of their duties connected to legal proceedings
5. Prepare such written reasons for proceedings before the Court that will be needed to effect appeal of any decision made by the Court.

Interested persons may applied in writing to:

The Secretary,
Judicial and Legal Services Commission
Ground Floor, Sir Edney Cain Building
Belmopan City, Cayo District
Belize, Central America
Telephone Number: 822-2204 or 822-2235
Email Address: ceo@mps.gov.bz

Deadline for receipt of applications: December 20th, 2022

Please Note: Only suitable qualified applicants will be acknowledged.

The Judicial and Legal Services Commission does not bind itself to make an appointment from among those persons who apply.

Regional explosions highlight the urgency for standards in Belize's industrial and medical gas industry

Cont'd from pg 9

as it relates to the regulations on the safe transportation and designation of hazardous materials is the Department of Transport USA (DOT). DOT issues a valid Requalifier Identification Number (RIN) to facilities conducting such maintenance and requalification, given that they have met the requirements of inspection and certification for their establishments. It is also required by DOT to have certified, trained personnel who handle these gases and requalify the



cylinders. Personnel are required to be re-trained and re-certified every three years in handling HAZMAT while facilities are subject to audit every

five years. While the need for development of standards is evident, as it gives the necessary framework and guidance to businesses

and operators of these industries, does it ensure compliance? Looking back from 2009 to present, it is clear to see compliance is still sadly lacking in the LPG industry. Butane cylinders are still being filled without proper inspection, maintenance and requalification

processes in place, even though standards have been established. A closer look at the industrial and medical gas industry reveals, surprisingly, a completely different level of operation. Upon visiting Fabrigas' facility, it was evident that it is not only complying with local regulations, but also complying with industry and international standards. Fabrigas is certified by DOT and is currently the only company in Belize presently holding a cylinder RIN # for maintenance and requalification of industrial and medical gas cylinders, including the cylinders used for the LPG industry. The company is also ISO 9001 certified for its Quality Management System; a member of the Compress

Gas Association of the USA (CGA); the American Welding Society (AWS) and it is also certified by the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA). It is externally audited every year by ISO representatives and every five years by DOT representatives to ensure compliance to standards.

While standards are crucial in developing the necessary framework for guidance, regulations, conformity and enforcement (in the form of audits and inspections), are also critical in guaranteeing compliance by these facilities. It is of the utmost urgency that the Government of Belize takes action to develop and enforce standards in Belize to improve SAFETY FOR ALL!

Caribbean leaders pledge to work for peace

By William Ysaguirre

Political and civil society leaders of the Caribbean and Latin America reported on their progress, plans, and the results of current peace initiatives, in a virtual forum hosted by the Heavenly World Peace and Light (HPWL) organization from their headquarters in Washington, D.C. last Friday morning, September 23.

The event commemorated the 8th anniversary of the HPWL's peace summit held in Seoul, South Korea on September 18, 2014.

HWPL advocates for a halt to war and conflict and has been working with the United Nations Economic and Social Council and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to promote sustainable development for a long-lasting peace.

HWPL Chairman Lee Man Hee has shared his earnest hope for freedom, peace, and love in over 30 peace tours around the world, and he has concluded that the current international law needs to be changed, and a new international peace instrument should be implemented. So far the HWPL international peace committee has

prepared a draft of 10 articles with 38 clauses for this new international law. He commented on his most recent visit to the Philippines, where the population of 1.2 million people was plagued by a fratricidal war that lasted for 40 years, which over 120,000 people died. Lee pledged to leave a legacy of peace for future generations, and called on all the other assembled leaders to work with him on this

Hon. Marinus Bee, Speaker of Suriname's National Assembly called on his country's parliamentarians to be actively supported their young people as agents of change, to build peaceful communities through democratic governance. He promised policies and education programs to raise awareness of peace.

Hon. Octavia Alfred of Dominica congratulated Chairman Lee for his leadership role in advocating for peace amid the pandemic and the war between Russia and Ukraine. She said Dominica was one with the HWPL in this initiative.

The Dominican Republic is also making efforts for the national congress to approve a draft resolution supporting

HWPL's Declaration of Peace and Cessation of Wars, Romel Santos Diaz reported, as he pledged to continue to strengthen advocacy for peace.

UNESCO is implementing many programs and projects in science, culture, communication and education which will help preserve the peace, reported Secretary General Everton Hannam of the Jamaica National Commission for UNESCO, which as partnered with HWPL in Jamaica.

Barbados' Minister of Industry, Innovation, Science and Technology Hon. Davidson Ishmael publicly committed to advance HWPL's peace mission, as he thanked Chairman Lee, recognizing HWPL's stellar work in community-based peace education and training for the young people to change the people's mindset away from disharmony and violence.

Grenada's Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture, Hon. Ron Redhead pledged his full support for HWPL's efforts to promote peace, as he announced his government's plan to erect peace monument to recognize and remember the end of the Grenada revolution.

Kip op yu helt! Stay pahn di lukowt!

Weh Wi Ga Fi Seh

Welkohn tu Aktoaba

Aktoaba n. October.

Harikayn Hati mi kohn eena Aktoaba.

Hurricane Hattie came in October.

ak v. act. Shee laik ak laik shee beta dahn pipl. She likes to act like she's better than other people. See: goh aan.

akaadn tu prep. according to. Di joj seh akaadn tu di laa, Ah gilti. The judge said, according to the law, I'm guilty.

akaadyan n. accordion; popular musical instrument used in the traditional Kriol boom and chime band. Misa Peetaz seh ih ponish wen ih noh ga ih akaadyan wid ahn? Mr. Peters says he suffers when he doesn't have his accordion with him

akchwal adj. actual. Tel mi weh da di akchwal amonk a moni weh wi mek aaf a di sayl. Tell me the actual amount of money that we made on the sale.

akwod (var: akwaad) adj. awkward. Da bwai kohn nak dong evriting wid ih akwod self. That boy's so awkward, he knocked everything down. See: blofoto.

akyooz v. accuse. Dehn akyooz di man a wahn lat a bad ting, bot ih seh ih inosent. They accused the man of many bad things, but he said he's innocent.

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



Great Job Opportunity

Job title: Grove Manager

(43 Miles George Price Hwy., Cotton Tree Village, Cayo)

- Job Description:**
- Create an Annual Work Plan/Strategy which includes open field planting and citrus and coconut grove husbandry other export oriented crops.
 - Ensure that the plan, once approved, is carried out to maximise production and ensure best practices and quality.
 - Supervise necessary staff and make recommendations regarding the number of workers needed as well as ensuring that staff works as efficiently as possible.
 - Make recommendations regarding the kind and number of equipment needed to achieve the approved work plan including machinery, materials and supplies as well as transportation and repairs/maintenance of equipment.
 - Other work as required by the position of Farm Manager.

- Requirements:**
- Knowledge of Greenhouse Farming.
 - Knowledge of Nursery Management.
 - Associate's Degree in Agriculture with a speciality in Agronomy, Horticulture, Livestock or a combination of all.
 - Computer literate with higher level skills in excel spreadsheets.
 - Experience with Coconut growing and citrus growing.
 - Experience with compost fertilizer manufacturing.

- Character:**
- Mature and Responsible
 - Flexible and Organized
 - Professional Demeanor
 - Strong Leadership Skills

NO WALK-INS PLEASE.

Application forms can be picked up from Benny's at 2.5 Miles Phillip Goldson Highway, Belize City, & 43 Mls. George Price Hwy., Cotton Tree Village, Cayo

Visit WWW.Bennys.bz/careers
or Call 223-6236

MAIL TO:
Human Resources Manager,
Benny's Homecenter, P. O. Box 215,
Mile 2.5 Philip Goldson Hwy., Belize City
or E-mail: jobs@bennysonline.com



CENTRAL BANK
of BELIZE

www.centralbank.org.bz

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Central Bank of Belize Launches New Website

Belize City, 30 September 2022: The Governor of the Central Bank of Belize today announced the launch of the Central Bank's new website.

"The Central Bank's website is an important channel to share information and knowledge with the public and other stakeholders," says Governor Kareem Michael. "Our redesigned website falls in line with the Central Bank's plans to further its financial inclusion strategy. One of our primary objectives is to educate the public in understanding financial concepts and taking control of their financial lives, and the new website followed through with this vision."

The new site modernizes the Central Bank's online platform. It extends the Central Bank's online functionalities with improved architecture and responsive design. "Our analytics revealed that increasingly more of the users to our website access the content via mobile devices," explains project lead, Sheree Smiling Craig. "It was important to have the new website, at the base level, mobile device-friendly."

The new site is also oriented toward visitors accomplishing key tasks of interest to the public. "We used a strategic approach to build this site," Craig says. "The first phase of the project identified the primary tasks of interest for our users—for example, foreign exchange approvals—and made it easy for the public to access this content."

Apart from the new material, the Central Bank will continue to be the definitive source for exchange and interest rates, statistical data, economic and financial reports, and information on monetary policy, banking supervision, and laws relating to the country's economy. The public is encouraged to visit the Central Bank's website at www.centralbank.org.bz.

The Central Bank continues in its mission to promote financial and monetary systems' stability for the well being of Belize.

- ENDS -

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

1 GABOUREL LANE.
BELIZE CITY, BELIZE
T: +501 223 6194

October 5, 2022

DIGIWALLET EXPANDS SERVICES TO INCLUDE UTILITY BILL PAYMENTS



DigiWallet has enhanced its bill payment service! Users can now easily and conveniently make monthly bill payments for utilities to Digi, Belize Water Service, and Belize Electricity Limited.

Users can now make payments through DigiWallet's mobile application or via short code *2274# without the need for an active mobile plan while on the go! To carry out payments, customers must enter the following information:

- Digi - Account Number**
- BWS - Account Number, Meter Number**
- BEL - Account Number, Customer Number**

Customers have the convenience of saving their information as a 'favorite' transaction for future payments, enabling them to make swift, seamless, and secure transactions as they manage their monthly payments amidst their busy lives. By enabling these contactless interactions between consumers and Belize's utility companies, DigiWallet continues to deliver an unmatched user experience via its easy-to-use and safe payment platform. In addition, DigiWallet continues to support national efforts to provide greater access to basic needs services.

DigiWallet remains committed to growing its selection of products and services for all users as part of its journey toward continued evolution and continued customer satisfaction.



**NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION,
OCTOBER 10, 2022**



TAIWAN NATIONAL DAY 2022
守土衛國 你我同行

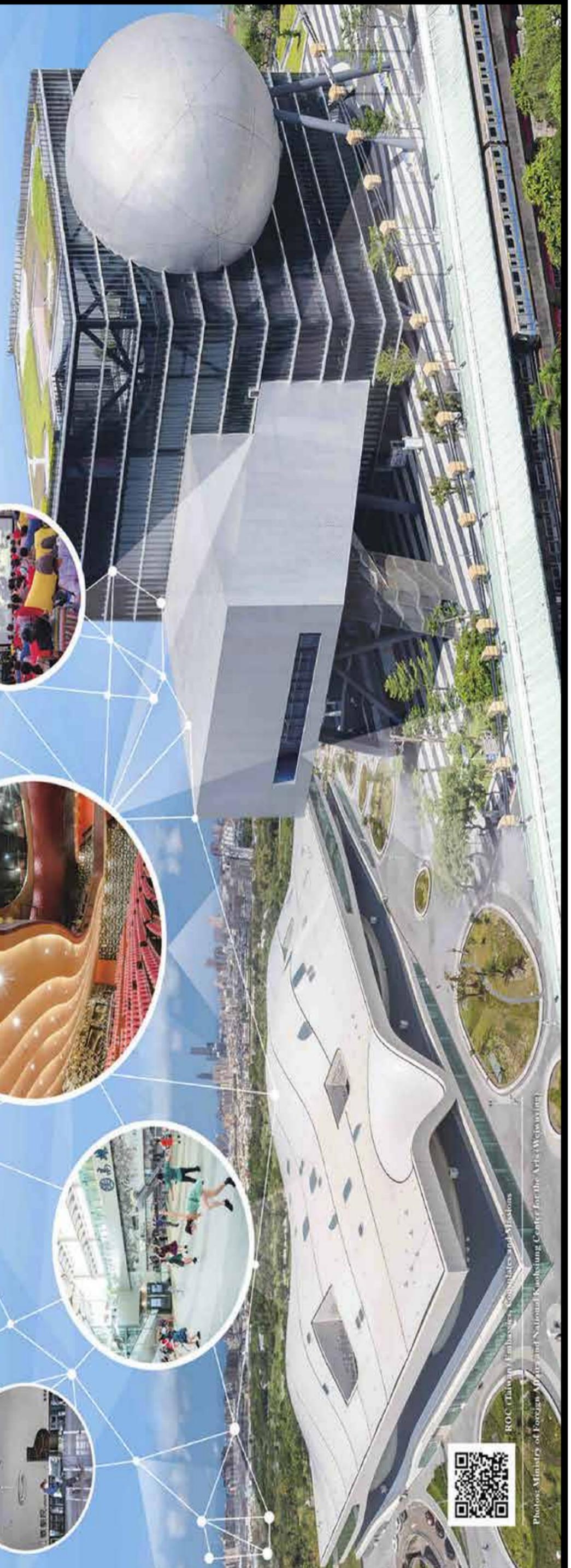
Art for All

A flourishing arts scene is a marker of a democracy. Taiwan nurtures its indigenous and local cultures and supports artists in untrammelled innovation. Grassroots promotion of intangible cultural heritage, traditional crafts, and historic sites all reaffirm Taiwan's pride in its diverse, creative life.

World class performance venues are open for daily use by residents and offer state-of-the-art facilities for guest artists from across the globe. International exchange enriches further understanding, creates links and assures Taiwan's people that they are an inalienable part of the global community.



ROC (Taiwan) Embassy, Consulates and Missions
Photos: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and National Knowledge Center for the Arts (Wejwawing)



Taiwan Brings New Trade Opportunities to Belize



TAIWAN EXPO 2022

OCT 8-9, 2022

9:00AM-5:00PM

Caribbean Motors 3.5 Mile,
Philip Goldson Highway, Belize City

**Proud Products of Excellence from Taiwan !
Seize the Opportunity to Enjoy them in Your Life.**

The Embassy of Taiwan in Belize and the Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA) are pleased to announce the participation of **30 Taiwanese enterprises** in the **Taiwan Expo 2022 in Belize**, held from **7-9 October at Caribbean Motors in Belize City**. (7 Oct by invitation, 8-9 October is open for the public).

2022 marks the 33rd anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between **Taiwan and Belize**. The **Taiwan Pavilion** will offer the latest products with useful items for Belize's industry, including the solar power system EPC, bending machines, stainless steel parts, optical transceiver modules, casters, auto parts, multi-purpose tricycles, wiper blades, headlamps, a cloud video monitoring solution, NVR security systems, tablets, LED lighting, furniture, knife sharpeners, the vision plus cool & warm water-propelled eye massager, health foods, planetary food and cake mixers, teas, bubble teas, skin series, jewelry, bags, electric fans, fitness equipment, and so on.

TAITRA will showcase the Taiwan Excellence Award winners, whose high-quality innovative products are imported from Taiwan, including laptops, smart watches, HD handheld wireless projectors, wireless teaching cameras, curved gaming screens, massage chairs, and much more. All products are manufactured by world-renowned Taiwanese brands such as **Asus, MSI, and TATUNG**.

Throughout the three-day event, TAITRA will facilitate opportunities for mutual exchange and collaboration between Taiwanese and Belizean enterprises. This event not only provides local enterprises the unique opportunity to meet Taiwanese delegates and discuss possible business cooperation but also facilitates closer trade ties between Taiwan and Belize, along with other countries in the Caribbean and Central America.

According to **Bureau of Foreign Trade, Republic of China** statistics, Taiwan's bilateral trade with Belize was **US\$11.92 million** in 2021, representing **76.279% growth from 2020**. Taiwanese exports to Belize include ships, boats and floating structures, nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances, electrical machinery, machinery equipment, and parts thereof. There are tremendous opportunities for trade between **Belize and Taiwan**.

The **Embassy of Taiwan and TAITRA** warmly welcome enterprises interested in Taiwanese products to visit the **Taiwan Expo 2022 in Belize** and to leverage this fantastic opportunity to meet Taiwanese enterprises.

For more information about the Taiwanese delegation, please contact us at:

Embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan), Belize

Address: No. 1, Taiwan Street, Belize City, Belize.

Office: +501-2278744

Email: blz@mofa.gov.tw

Taiwan External Trade Development Council

Contact: Ms. Belinda Yao Address: 5th Fl., 333 Keelung Rd., Sec. 1, Taipei 11012, Taiwan, R.O.C.

Office: +886-2-2725 5200; Ext. 1332

Email: belinda@taitra.org.tw

All about The People

The Energy Dollars of Your Kitchen



Neri Briceno

Publisher
Reporter Newspaper
SUBJECT: The Energy Dollars of your Kitchen

Dear Editor:

“As you saw earlier, much of today’s house meeting was spent chatting about China. But, apart from the 50 million US dollar loan from the Taiwanese, there were some very important pieces of legislation passed. One that caught our attention is the National Liquefied Petroleum Gas Project Bill. It’s a public private partnership, a state-protected monopoly which will supply all the LPG - or what we call butane to Belize. It’s a major shift from the Mexican supplier which owns all the major butane companies. Now, the issue of butane affects almost every household, so it’s being looked at very closely - from the shareholders of the company - called National Gas Company - to the 15-year term of the license, to the rate of return... They are all minority shareholders and the largest shareholder is a mystery company from the US called BWT holdings LLP’. Channel 7 News, Belize, dated Friday, August 16th, 2019.”

While we all got caught up and distracted about who was old and who Pa we should tell, GOB was busy making monumental decisions about the economics of your kitchen. In an age of open markets and competition, I fail to see how a monopoly on the importation of LPG into the Belizean market will lower prices to the consumer, if that is what the government is seeking to achieve.

If you take a look at market trends, especially those that affect the retail sector, it has become obvious that most governments today are trying to remove monopolies both in capitalist and semi-planned economies. Monopolies in any part of the world have the capacity to increase prices, create shortages, flood markets, dilute products and ultimately shortchange consumers. With the type of oversight that we have had in our nation, I am hard pressed to be convinced that we are not creating another monster.

The fact that the Prime Minister has emphasized that National Gas Company will be composed of several persons across the political spectrum makes no difference, since both blue and red love green.

What is definitely certain is that if you look throughout the course of global history, the fact

This is \$11 million that could have been used to improve healthcare, fight poverty, build more schools, assist with social programs and help to make our country better. Instead, we have to pay for a costly mistake that was deliberately made. Wake up Belize, you are being fleeced with your

and only constant with all monopolies is that they make a hell of a lot of monies for the simple reason that there is no competition. If you are the only person in town selling soap, (people will always have to do laundry and shower), expect to make a killing because I don’t see Belizeans going back to firewood anytime soon.

If you recall the glory days of BTL with limitless cash flow, that was because it was a monopoly. Opening an entire market to one entity and especially one in the energy sector is a big risk to the nation because it places the entire domestic cooking energy needs in just one hand. What happens if something goes wrong and don’t say it won’t because something always does. Are we willing to put what is essentially the capacity to prepare and serve food and actually feed ourselves in the hands of only one entity?

Considering that the energy cost of cooking, which is what LPG is primarily used for in Belize, affects just about everyone, one thing is certain and that is someone will get very rich and very quick. The big question is why wasn’t this offered for public tender? Were others considered? Why is it that the same small group of people continue to benefit from literally everything, when there are 398,000 plus of us?

If government’s intent is to control the price to the consumer by means of a standardized controlled price which varies according to location i.e., freight cost, but calculated based on acquisition cost, tell me how that is

different from what is happening now?

However, if the idea is that by consolidating all Belize’s volumes as one, through one buyer to lower the price, then that’s a different animal. But to sweeten that pie, why then not have two importers, thereby further increasing competition

which can only end up benefiting the consumer.

If the model is to mimic the one terminal importation of fuel like in the case of Puma but for this case for LPG, then we are in for a long haul because that is far from perfect and has never produced lower prices. Because of the strategic location of that terminal, the people of the south have been the most punished in terms of fuel cost because freight

drives the price as much as \$.35 per gallon. Multiply that by the millions of gallons that the south uses in fuel every month and you will get a picture of the savings that the south could have realized had the terminal in Big Creek been allowed to stay open. However, that is another story.

So, what will be the oversight do so that we are not being creamed again by a new government creation? Who will confirm the LPG acquisition cost so that we are not fleeced? What will the price be tagged to, international market prices or just on the faith of an invoice and who will ensure the accuracy of that invoice and that the buyer is not over costing while receiving a rebate on said invoice. The number of tricks in the energy trade are so wide, I cannot see how GOB who cannot even fix a road, will be able to monitor this. I believe that once again the Belizean public will

be taken to the cleaners.

But, before I start yelling and as my friends would say, before you see the sky falling down, let’s just wait. Let’s see what else GOB will reveal about this new enterprise, how it will work and what check and balances are in place to protect the Belizean consumer and that we are receiving what we are paying for and that they are paying their fair share of taxes but also important who is BWT Holding LLP, although I have a good idea who they are.

It’s all about the people!

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



Great Job Opportunity

Job title: Assistant Farm Manager

(43 Miles George Price Hwy., Cotton Tree Village, Cayo)

- Job Description:**
- Supervise and assist with the day to day maintenance of citrus groves, coconut groves, etc.
 - Supervise and assist with the task of harvesting and replanting of groves
 - Assist with the preparation of plans and schedules for grove related activities
 - Keeping an up-to-date knowledge of pests and diseases and use knowledge to assist with the fertilization and care of groves.
 - Assist with organizing maintenance/repair of farm property, equipment and machinery
 - Assist with training/instructing and supervising farm workers
 - Assist with tracking of farm workers for payroll purposes
 - Assist to ensure all staff adhere to health and safety regulations

- Requirements:**
- Bi-lingual
 - Possess good communication skills – written and verbal
 - Associate’s Degree in Agriculture (minimum)
 - Computer literate with higher level skills in excel spreadsheets
 - Experience in Orange Grove Management

- Character:**
- Mature and Responsible
 - Flexible and Organized
 - Professional Demeanor
 - Strong Leadership Skills

NO WALK-INS PLEASE.

Application forms can be picked up from Benny’s at 2.5 Miles Philip Goldson Highway, Belize City, & 43 Mls. George Price Hwy., Cotton Tree Village, Cayo

Visit WWW.Bennys.bz/careers
or Call 223-6236

MAIL TO:
Human Resources Manager,
Benny’s Homecenter, P. O. Box 215,
Mile 2.5 Philip Goldson Hwy., Belize City
or E-mail: jobs@bennysonline.com

In another landmark decision, last week the Government of Belize, which means you the citizens of this nation, just lost yet another case when the supreme court ordered them to pay a whopping roughly \$11 million to the original importers of cooking gas, Gas Tomza Ltd, Western Gas Co. Ltd, Southern Choice Butane Ltd and Belize Western Energy Ltd.

The companies were denied their constitutional rights to free competition in the open market when they were effectively eliminated from importing, something they have been doing for years, by a government created monopoly.

The irony of this matter is that the monopoly that was created will probably pay zero cents towards this judgement apart from indirect contribution through taxes and will likely be business as usual for them. Additionally, those in government who created this scheme will pay no more than you the citizens will, since its not like they will ask to bear any extra payment toward this bill.

Now, you will probably understand why I have always advocated that elected officials be held accountable for stupid decisions even after they have exited office. This is \$11 million that could have been used to improve healthcare, fight poverty, build more schools, assist with social programs and help to make our country better. Instead, we have to pay for a costly mistake that was deliberately made. Wake up Belize, you are being fleeced with your eyes wide open.

Almost three years ago I penned the article below when this mess was being engineered. Don’t say I didn’t tell you!

August 25th, 2019
Harry Lawrence

NOTICE OF COMMENCED DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given to all interested parties that the company

V Group Ltd.

("the Company") incorporated under the IBC Act of Belize commenced dissolution on the **20th day of September 2022**; and **Miss Molly Rita Roselie of AnseBaleine, Mahe, Seychelles**, is the Liquidator of the Company, and any claims against the Company should be forwarded to the Liquidator by 30 days from commencement.

Alpha Consulting (Belize) Ltd.
Registered Agent



**STATUTORY NOTICE
TO CREDITORS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 36 of the *Administration of Estates Act*, Chapter 197 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020 that all creditors having any claims or demands upon or against the **Estate of Marcel Palma**, deceased, of Punta Gorda Town, Toledo District, Belize, who died on the 20th day of November, 2021 in whose estate Grant of Administration has been granted to **Joan Natalie Beverly Palma of #5 Brookside Street, Punta Gorda Town, Toledo District, Belize**, and **Freida Consuelo Palma of Mile 39, St. Matthew's Village, Cayo District, Belize**, should lodge such claims or demands with the said **Joan Natalie Beverly Palma and Freida Consuelo Palma, c/o Marin Young & Co LLP, Attorneys-at-Law, No. 828 Coney Drive, 3rd Floor, Belize City, Belize District, Belize** on or before the expiration of three months from the first publication hereof AND NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at the expiration of the said three months the Administrators shall proceed to distribute the assets of the said **Marcel Palma**, deceased, amongst the parties entitled thereto having regard to all the claims and demands of which particulars are lodged and the Administrators shall not be liable for the assets of the deceased or any part thereof so distributed to any person or persons whose claims or demands they shall not then have had notice.

DATED the 4th day of October, 2022

Marin Young & Co LLP
Attorneys-at-Law for the
Estate of Marcel Palma

PUBLIC AUCTION

BY ORDER OF THE MORTGAGEE, DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPORATION, CERTIFIED AND LICENSED AUCTIONEER MIGUEL A. ELLIS WILL SELL THE FOLLOWING PROPERTIES
On October 11, 2022

At: 9: 30 A.M. Zoom Meeting ID: 860 3539 2380 Password: b1B6qr

Parcel No. 3176/1, Block 24, Society Hall Registration Section, containing 693.911 S.M. situate in Ontario Village, Cayo District, Belize, held under a Certificate of Lease being the leasehold interest of **GILBERT RHABURN**.

Empty Lot - containing 693.911 S.M.



Parcel 3217/1, Block 4, Orange Walk Town Registration Section, containing 464.454 S.M. situate in Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District held under a Certificate of Lease, being the leasehold interest of **ENRIQUE A. CANTUN**.

An incomplete Two bedroom concrete bungalow house (624 SQ .FT.) which is covered by an overgrown bush.



Parcel 158, Block No. 4, Guinea Grass Registration Section containing 1010.6 S.M. situate in Guinea Grass Village, Orange Walk District held under a Land Certificate being the freehold interest of **ELOY SANTOS** surety for **ELOY SANTOS and JUANA SANTOS**.

Contains two structures: (1) One bungalow styled residence containing three bedrooms, one bathroom, one Kitchen, dining and living area (combined) attached to a veranda and a store room. (2) One two storey building: ground floor used as a storeroom and the first floor consists of an open area only.



Parcel No. 224/1, Block 1, Caledonia Village Registration Section, containing 1904.17 S.Y. situate in Caledonia Village, Corozal District, held under Certificate of Lease being the leasehold interest of **GUADALUPE CANTO**.

One (1) Two Bedroom, 1 Bath, kitchen, dining and living combined with an open verandah.



Parcel 1573, Block 45, Albert/Mesop Registration Section containing 483.794 S.M. situate on Dean Street, Belize City, Belize District, containing a four-storey concrete building held under a Land Certificate and being the freehold interest of **DARRELL CARTER**.

One Three (3) storey ferro concrete structure: Ground Floor is an empty space, 1st Floor can be used as office space, 2nd Floor - rental/living space.



Parcel 7731, Block 20, Belmopan Registration Section, containing 7.79 Acres situate in the Mountain View Area, City of Belmopan, Cayo District held under a Land Certificate being the freehold title of **MIGUEL ERNESTO ELENA-FUENTES**.

A recreation facility containing: Three (3) Food Court rooms, One (1) Pool, One (1) Jacuzzi, external Showers, Palapa Area, Restrooms.



Parcel No. 344/1, Block No. 1, San Jose/San Pablo Registration Section containing 2227.2 S.M. situate in San Pablo Village, Orange Walk District and held under a Certificate of Lease being the leasehold interest of **FRANK ALEXANDER BABB**.

Empty plot of land measuring 2227.2 S.M.



Miguel A. Ellis
P.O. Box 118, Belmopan,
Ph: 634-9058
E-Mail: miguel_ellis@hotmail.com
Please contact DFC for financing

Trade deficit grows 30%, Exports fall 44.5%

By William Ysaguirre

Belize's trade deficit grew by 30 percent from \$155.2 million in August 2021 to \$201.7 million last month, as imports increased 20.8 percent, but exports fell 44.5

percent, the Statistics Institute of Belize (SIB) reported on Wednesday evening, September 28. Imports last month were valued at \$230 million, up from \$190.4 million last year, but exports fell from \$63.4 million in August 2021, to \$35.5 million last month. The country also bought a third more machinery and

transport equipment than last year, increasing to \$52.3 million last month, compared to \$39.2 million a year ago. Other manufactured goods such as carton boxes, aluminum cans

million, up from \$33.1 million last year. Belize also imported more chemical products, mainly fertilizer, valued at \$23.7 million last month compared to \$20.2 million last year. Other manufactured

same period last year. Higher world prices of fuel increased the value of the country's fuel imports from \$155.6 million last year to \$289.6 million so far this year. Imports of aviation equipment,

from \$159.7 million last year. Similarly, Belize bought more medical supplies, plastic articles and jewelry, valued at \$119.8 million this year, compared to \$94.8 million last year. Designated processing

month. Earnings on banana exports were also down from \$9.1 million a year ago to \$7.9 million last month. On the plus side, exports of animal feed grew from \$600,000 last year to \$2.7 million last month. Better prices on exported lobster meat fetched \$6.4 million, compared to \$5.4 million a year ago. Exports of crude petroleum increased to \$400,000 last month, up from \$50,000 in August of last year. The fall in sugar exports was reflected in lower export earnings from all major trading partners: exports to the United States fell to \$4.8 million last month, compared to \$18.9 million last year. Exports to the European Union were \$5 million last month, down from \$18.9 million last year. Exports to the United Kingdom valued only \$7.4 million last month, compared to \$17.1 million a year ago.

Sugar exports to CSME led to an increase in export earnings from 6.3 million a year ago to \$9.8 million last month. Exports to Central America quadrupled to \$4.2 million last month, up from \$1.1 million a year ago. Fortunately overall exports for the first eight months of the year increased 11.9 percent to \$329.4 million, compared to \$295.9 for the same period last year.

and galvanized coils increased to \$34.2 million last month up from \$30.6 million last year. Imports of wheat, condensed milk and malt increased 63 percent, from \$19.2 million in August 2021 to \$31.3 million last month. The Commercial Free zones also imported 17 percent more tennis shoes, bags and t-shirts last month - \$38.3

articles such as plastics, furniture and medical equipment increased from \$12.4 a year ago to \$15.6 million last month. Imports of fuel and lubricants fell from \$22.4 million last year to \$20.9 million last month.

Overall imports for the first eight months of the year grew 34.8 percent to \$1.768 billion, compared to \$1.312 billion for the

food processing machinery and motor vehicles grew to \$357.6 million in the first eight months of this year, compared to \$244.1 million last year. Fertilizer imports also grew to \$193 million so far this year, compared to \$138.5 million last year. Imported groceries such as wheat, margarine and coffee, grew to \$189.5 million this year, up

areas bought more shrimp feed and disassembled drums, \$29.5 million worth, compared to \$23.7 million last year

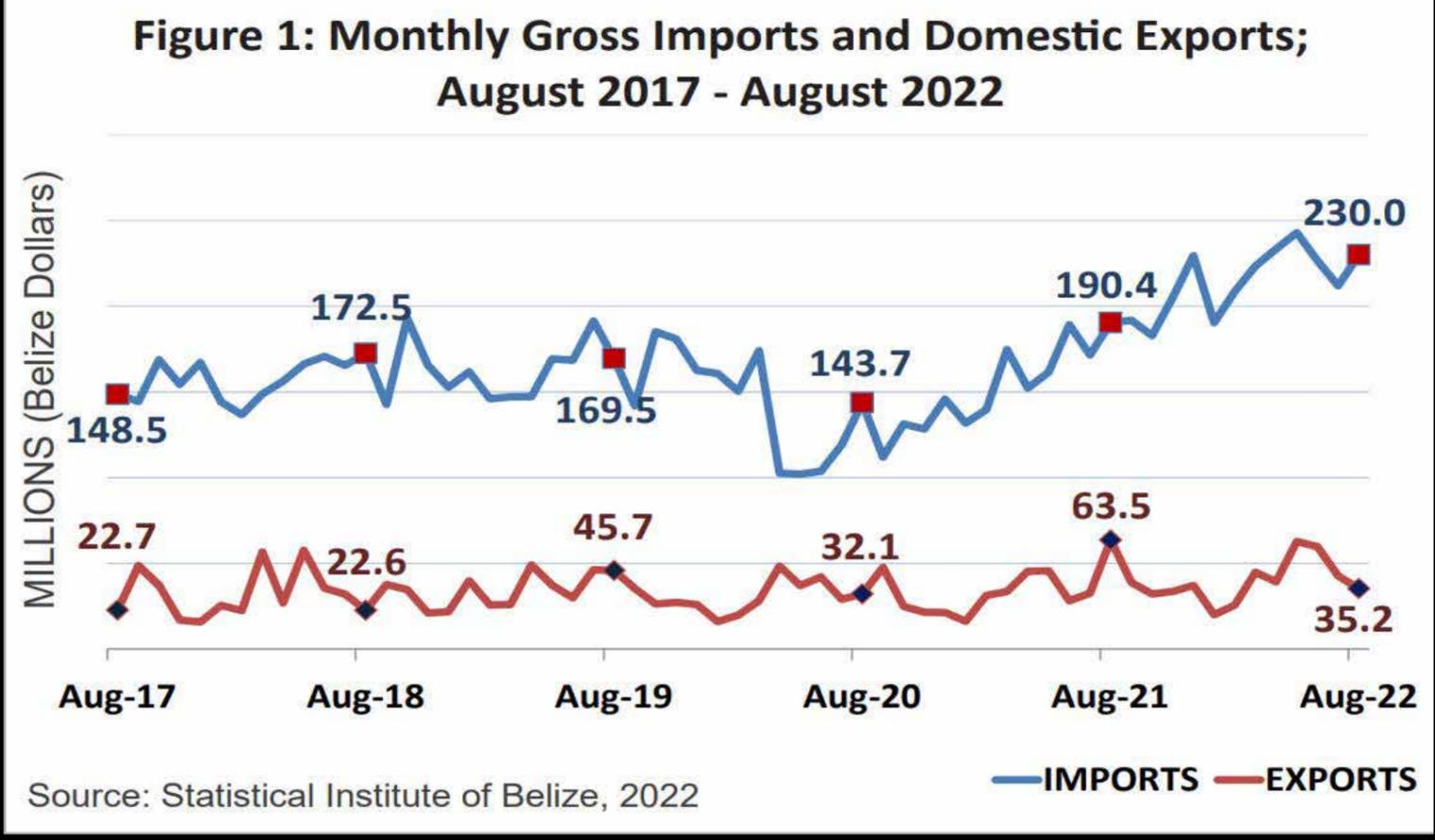
Exports in August fell 44.5 percent to \$35.2 million, down from \$63.4 million same time last year, mainly due to a decrease in sugar exports from \$39 million a year ago to \$7.9 million, as no bulk sugar was shipped last

month. Earnings on banana exports were also down from \$9.1 million a year ago to \$7.9 million last month. On the plus side, exports of animal feed grew from \$600,000 last year to \$2.7 million last month. Better prices on exported lobster meat fetched \$6.4 million, compared to \$5.4 million a year ago. Exports of crude petroleum increased to \$400,000 last month, up from \$50,000 in August of last year. The fall in sugar exports was reflected in lower export earnings from all major trading partners: exports to the United States fell to \$4.8 million last month, compared to \$18.9 million last year. Exports to the European Union were \$5 million last month, down from \$18.9 million last year. Exports to the United Kingdom valued only \$7.4 million last month, compared to \$17.1 million a year ago.

Sugar exports to CSME led to an increase in export earnings from 6.3 million a year ago to \$9.8 million last month. Exports to Central America quadrupled to \$4.2 million last month, up from \$1.1 million a year ago. Fortunately overall exports for the first eight months of the year increased 11.9 percent to \$329.4 million, compared to \$295.9 for the same period last year.

Sugar exports to CSME led to an increase in export earnings from 6.3 million a year ago to \$9.8 million last month. Exports to Central America quadrupled to \$4.2 million last month, up from \$1.1 million a year ago. Fortunately overall exports for the first eight months of the year increased 11.9 percent to \$329.4 million, compared to \$295.9 for the same period last year.

Sugar exports to CSME led to an increase in export earnings from 6.3 million a year ago to \$9.8 million last month. Exports to Central America quadrupled to \$4.2 million last month, up from \$1.1 million a year ago. Fortunately overall exports for the first eight months of the year increased 11.9 percent to \$329.4 million, compared to \$295.9 for the same period last year.



percent, the Statistics Institute of Belize (SIB) reported on Wednesday evening, September 28.

Imports last month were valued at \$230 million, up from \$190.4 million last year, but exports fell from \$63.4 million in August 2021, to \$35.5 million last month.

The country also bought a third more machinery and

and galvanized coils increased to \$34.2 million last month up from \$30.6 million last year. Imports of wheat, condensed milk and malt increased 63 percent, from \$19.2 million in August 2021 to \$31.3 million last month. The Commercial Free zones also imported 17 percent more tennis shoes, bags and t-shirts last month - \$38.3

articles such as plastics, furniture and medical equipment increased from \$12.4 a year ago to \$15.6 million last month. Imports of fuel and lubricants fell from \$22.4 million last year to \$20.9 million last month.

Overall imports for the first eight months of the year grew 34.8 percent to \$1.768 billion, compared to \$1.312 billion for the

food processing machinery and motor vehicles grew to \$357.6 million in the first eight months of this year, compared to \$244.1 million last year. Fertilizer imports also grew to \$193 million so far this year, compared to \$138.5 million last year. Imported groceries such as wheat, margarine and coffee, grew to \$189.5 million this year, up

areas bought more shrimp feed and disassembled drums, \$29.5 million worth, compared to \$23.7 million last year

Exports in August fell 44.5 percent to \$35.2 million, down from \$63.4 million same time last year, mainly due to a decrease in sugar exports from \$39 million a year ago to \$7.9 million, as no bulk sugar was shipped last

month. Earnings on banana exports were also down from \$9.1 million a year ago to \$7.9 million last month. On the plus side, exports of animal feed grew from \$600,000 last year to \$2.7 million last month. Better prices on exported lobster meat fetched \$6.4 million, compared to \$5.4 million a year ago. Exports of crude petroleum increased to \$400,000 last month, up from \$50,000 in August of last year. The fall in sugar exports was reflected in lower export earnings from all major trading partners: exports to the United States fell to \$4.8 million last month, compared to \$18.9 million last year. Exports to the European Union were \$5 million last month, down from \$18.9 million last year. Exports to the United Kingdom valued only \$7.4 million last month, compared to \$17.1 million a year ago.

Sugar exports to CSME led to an increase in export earnings from 6.3 million a year ago to \$9.8 million last month. Exports to Central America quadrupled to \$4.2 million last month, up from \$1.1 million a year ago. Fortunately overall exports for the first eight months of the year increased 11.9 percent to \$329.4 million, compared to \$295.9 for the same period last year.

Sugar exports to CSME led to an increase in export earnings from 6.3 million a year ago to \$9.8 million last month. Exports to Central America quadrupled to \$4.2 million last month, up from \$1.1 million a year ago. Fortunately overall exports for the first eight months of the year increased 11.9 percent to \$329.4 million, compared to \$295.9 for the same period last year.

S U D O K U

Medium Puzzle

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

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

Answer to Puzzle

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

Trade growth to slow sharply in 2023 as global economy faces strong headwinds

By WTO

World trade is expected to lose momentum in the second half of 2022 and remain subdued in 2023 as multiple shocks weigh on the global economy. WTO economists now predict global merchandise trade volumes will grow by 3.5% in 2022—slightly better than the 3.0% forecast in April. For 2023, however, they foresee a 1.0% increase—down sharply

the second half of 2022 and remain subdued in 2023 as multiple shocks weigh on the global economy. WTO economists now predict global merchandise trade volumes will grow by 3.5% in 2022—slightly better than the 3.0% forecast in April. For 2023, however, they foresee a 1.0% increase—down sharply from the previous estimate of 3.4%.

Import demand is expected to soften as growth slows in major economies for different reasons. In Europe, high energy prices stemming from the Russia-Ukraine war will squeeze household spending and raise manufacturing costs. In the United

States, monetary policy tightening will hit interest-sensitive spending in areas such as housing, motor vehicles and fixed investment. China continues to grapple with COVID-19 outbreaks and production disruptions paired with weak external demand. Finally, growing import bills for fuels, food and fertilizers could lead to food insecurity and debt distress in developing countries.

“Policymakers are confronted with unenviable choices as they try to find an optimal balance among tackling inflation, maintaining full employment, and advancing important policy goals such as transitioning to clean energy. Trade is a vital tool for enhancing the global supply of goods and services, as well as for lowering the cost of getting to net-zero carbon emissions,” Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala said.

“While trade restrictions may be a tempting response to the supply vulnerabilities that have been exposed by the shocks of the past two years, a retrenchment of global supply chains would only deepen inflationary pressures, leading to slower economic growth and reduced living standards over time. What we need is a deeper, more diversified and less concentrated base for producing goods and services. In addition to boosting economic growth, this would contribute to supply resilience and long-term price stability by mitigating exposure to extreme weather events and other localized disruptions. The success of the WTO's 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12) in June is proof that with sufficient

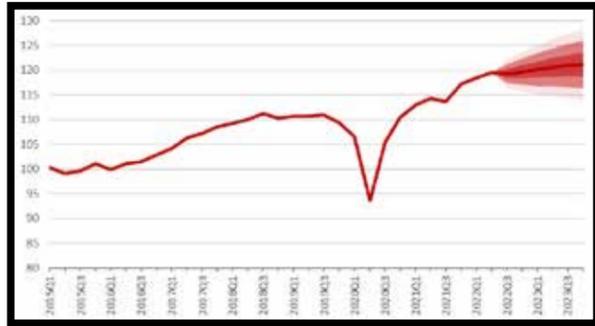


Chart 1: Volume of world merchandise trade

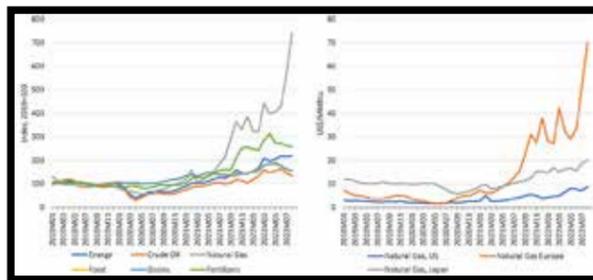


Chart 2: Primary Commodity Prices Jan 2019- Aug 2022

from the previous estimate of 3.4%. World trade is expected to lose momentum in



**MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT
AND
HOUSING**

INVITATION TO BID

**RENOVATION OF THE CHARLES BARTLET HYDE BUILDING,
BELIZE CITY, BELIZE DISTRICT**



The Government of Belize via the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing (MIDH) intends to renovate the Charles Bartlett Hyde Building in Belize City, Belize District.

The Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing now invites sealed bids from suitably qualified and experienced contractors to renovate the above-mentioned Building in Belize City, Belize District.

The scope of works will involve the retrofit of office spaces totaling more than 30,000 sq ft. which includes the following:

- 1 Creation of two main entrances to the building.
- 2 Demolishing and retrofitting spaces for office and multipurpose spaces.
- 3 Renovation and remedial work on walls, ceiling, and floors.
- 4 Upgrade of electrical, lighting, and plumbing in new and existing spaces.

Interested bidders must have the financial capacity, necessary equipment, technical expertise, and experience to complete the works following the Bidding Documents.

Bidding will be conducted through the national competitive bidding procedures and interested bidders may obtain further information and a copy of the bidding documents at the MIDH offices at the address below as of Tuesday, October 11, 2022, during normal office hours Monday through Fridays from 8.00 A.M – 12.00 Noon and from 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM.

Bidding documents are free of charge and may be picked up by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below.

All bids must be delivered to the address below by 10:00 AM local time on Tuesday, November 1, 2022, and they will be opened on the same day at 10:15 A.M, at the address below. Late bids will be rejected. Bid security of \$20,000 must be submitted and delivered to the address below at the same time as the bid submission.

1. Victor Espot
Chief Executive Officer
Ministry of Infrastructure Development & Housing
#1 Power Lane
Belmopan, Belize
Tel: 501-822-2136/39
Fax: 501-822-3282
E-mail: ceo.secretary@mow.gov.bz

2. Lennox Bradley
Chief Engineer
Ministry of Infrastructure Development & Housing
#1 Power Lane
Belmopan, Belize
Tel: 501-822-2136/39
Fax: 501-822-3282
E-mail: BradleyLE@midh.gov.bz

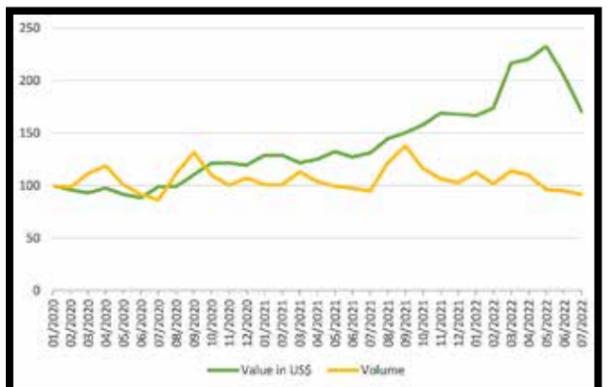


Chart 3: Value and Volume of world trade in wheat

political will, members can cooperate and move forward together.”

The new WTO forecast estimates world GDP at market exchange rates will grow by 2.8% in 2022 and 2.3% in 2023 — the latter is 1.0 percentage points lower than what was previously projected.

In their April forecast, released only weeks after the start of the war in Ukraine, WTO economists had to rely on simulations to generate reasonable growth assumptions, in the absence of hard data about the war's impact. As events have unfolded, the WTO's GDP projections for 2022 turned out to be broadly correct. The estimates for 2023, however, now appear overly optimistic, as energy prices have skyrocketed, inflation has become more broad-based, and the war shows no sign of letting up.

If the current forecast is realized, trade growth will slow sharply but remain positive in 2023. It should be noted that there is a high degree of uncertainty associated with the forecast due to shifting monetary policy in advanced economies and the unpredictable nature of the Russia-Ukraine war. Chart 1 shows quarterly world merchandise trade volume through 2023 with error bands around the forecast period. If current assumptions hold, trade growth in 2022 could end up between 2.0% and 4.9%. If the downside risks

Cont'd on page 18

Trade growth to slow sharply in 2023 as global economy faces strong headwinds

Cont'd from page 17

in 2023 could then be as low as -2.8%. If the surprises are on the upside, however, trade growth next year could be high as 4.6%. Trade could also finish outside of these bounds if any

on food. Many currencies have also fallen against the dollar in recent months, making food and fuels even more expensive in national currency terms.

Global grain prices in August were up 15% year-on-year while wheat alone was up 18%. This marks an improvement over April, when

next year.

While the supply situation for grains may not be as dire as some had feared at the start of the Ukraine war, it is still a cause for concern. This is illustrated by Chart 3, which shows the estimated value and volume of world trade in wheat. In July the volume of traded wheat was down nearly 20% compared to March but only 4% year-on-year. Underlying data suggest that some countries have responded to higher prices by reducing consumption and imports. Since March, quantities of imported wheat are down year-on-year in Bolivia (-69%), Jordan (-41%), Zambia (38%), Nigeria (-37%), and Ecuador (30%), among others.

Chart 4 below shows quarterly merchandise trade volume developments and projections by region from 2019 to 2023. The CIS region suffered a strong 10.4% quarter-on quarter export decline in Q2 of 2022 as sanctions against the Russian Federation started to bite. Exports from South America, Africa and especially the Middle East beat expectations in the first half of the year, helping to make up for reduced shipments from the CIS region. Exports from North America, Europe and Asia in the first half of the year were broadly in line with expectations.

On the import side, the CIS region plunged 21.7% during the second quarter of 2022, probably as a result of the Russian Federation's exclusion from the SWIFT payments system. Imports by other resource rich regions (South America, Africa and the Middle East) came in stronger than expected, as higher commodity prices inflated export revenues, allowing countries in these regions to import more. North America and Europe recorded stronger than expected import growth in the first half of 2022 but Asian imports stagnated, registering year-on-year growth of just 0.7% in the first half.

Table 1 summarizes the revised annual trade projections for 2022 and 2023. Note that annual trade volume statistics may diverge slightly from quarterly statistics due to differences in methodology, but in general they track each other quite closely.

The WTO's current forecast of 3.5% growth in the volume of world merchandise trade in 2022 is close to but slightly stronger than the previous estimate of 3.0% from last April, but

Cont'd on page 19

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022P	2023P
Volume of world merchandise trade b	3.2	0.5	-5.2	9.7	3.5	1.0
Exports						
North America	3.9	0.4	-8.9	6.5	3.4	1.4
South America c	0.6	-1.3	-4.9	5.6	1.6	0.3
Europe	1.8	0.6	-7.8	7.9	1.8	0.8
CIS d	4.1	-0.1	-1.7	0.5	-5.8	3.3
Africa	3.2	-0.4	-8.1	5.2	6.0	-1.0
Middle East	4.8	-1.3	-8.9	1.4	14.6	-1.5
Asia	3.7	0.9	0.5	13.3	2.9	1.1
Imports						
North America	5.1	-0.6	-5.9	12.3	8.5	0.8
South America c	4.6	-1.8	-10.7	25.4	5.9	-1.0
Europe	1.9	0.3	-7.3	8.3	5.4	-0.7
CIS d	4.0	8.3	-5.5	9.1	-24.7	9.4
Africa	5.5	3.1	-14.7	7.7	7.2	5.7
Middle East	-4.4	11.2	-10.1	8.4	11.1	5.7
Asia	5.0	-0.4	-1.0	11.1	0.9	2.2
Real GDP at market exchange rates	3.2	2.6	-3.4	5.8	2.8	2.3
North America	2.8	2.1	-3.8	5.5	1.7	1.0
South America c	0.4	-0.6	-6.9	7.2	3.7	1.6
Europe	2.1	1.7	-5.8	5.8	2.7	0.9
CIS d	3.1	2.6	-2.5	4.9	-3.2	-2.1
Africa	3.2	3.0	-2.5	5.1	3.5	3.6
Middle East	1.6	1.3	-4.5	3.5	5.7	3.4
Asia	4.9	4.0	-0.9	6.2	3.7	4.2
Memo: Least Developed Countries (LDCs)						
Volume of merchandise exports	5.4	0.0	-1.8	4.9	7.1	3.8
Volume of merchandise imports	4.9	3.1	-10.9	9.5	6.6	8.9
Real GDP at market exchange rates	4.6	4.9	0.4	2.1	4.4	4.4

Table 1: Merchandise Trade Volumen and real GDP, 2018-2023

of the underlying assumptions change.

The Ukraine crisis has pushed up prices for primary commodities, particularly fuels, food, and fertilizers. These are illustrated by Chart 2, which shows global commodity price indices on the left and natural gas prices by region on the right. In August, energy prices were up 78% year-on-year, led by natural gas, which was up 250%. The 36% increase in the price of crude oil over the same period was small by comparison but still significant for consumers.

Natural gas prices have diverged strongly across regions, with European prices up 350% year-on-year in August. U.S. prices were up 120% in the same month but remained well below European levels (US\$ 8.80 per million Btu compared to US\$ 70.00 in Europe). European demand for liquified natural gas (LNG) to supplement reduced supplies from the Russian Federation has also pushed up energy costs in Asia, where the price of LNG was up 87% in August. European gas prices have moderated recently, falling 34% between 31 August and 23 September, but they remain high by historical standards. Oil prices have also receded from recent peaks, possibly indicating weaker global demand rather than an improved supply situation.

Food prices in US dollar terms have also risen sharply due to the fact that the Russian Federation and Ukraine are both major suppliers of grains and fertilizers. This raises food security concerns in many countries, particularly low-income ones that tend to spend a large fraction of household income

grains had increased 33% and wheat had risen 76%. Potentially more worrying for the future are fertilizer prices, which were up 60% year-on-year in August after nearly tripling since 2020. Reduced fertilizer imports and use could reduce crop yields and increase food insecurity



Public Notice of Investment

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the Social Security Act, Chapter 44 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2003, that the Social Security Board, as per its Investment Framework, Section 49, has proposed to place a **Term Deposit** in the amount of **BZ\$3,000,000 (Three Million Dollars)** at the Spanish Lookout Credit Union. Duration will be for a period of one year and interest will be paid at the rate of four (4.0%) percent per annum.

Social Security Board: Safeguarding You, Your Family, Your Future!

Trade growth to slow sharply in 2023 as global economy faces strong headwinds

Cont'd from page 18

the difference is mostly explained by statistical revisions and the availability of new data. The Middle East is expected to record the strongest export growth of any WTO region this year (14.6%), followed by Africa (6.0%), North America (3.4%), Asia (2.9%), Europe (1.8%) and South America (1.6%). In contrast, CIS exports should decline by 5.8% for the year. The Middle East also had the fastest trade volume growth on the import side (11.1%), followed by North America (8.5%), Africa (7.2%), South America (5.9%), Europe (5.4%), Asia (0.9%) and CIS (-24.7%).

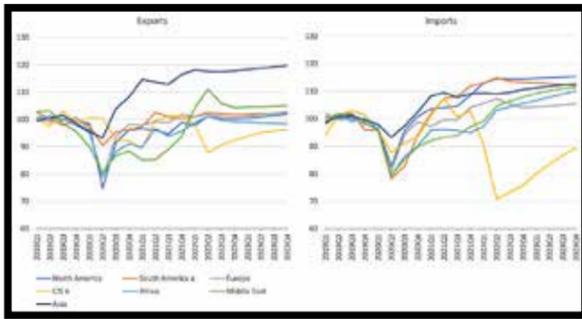


Chart 4: Merchandise Exports by Region

One notable feature of Table 1 is the resilience of trade growth in the Middle East and Africa in 2022. These regions should see small declines in exports next year, but imports will remain strong, each set to grow by 5.7%. The CIS region is expected to post a large growth rate for imports next year, over 9%, but if this happens it will be mostly due to the reduced base for 2022. Other regions can expect modest growth in both exports and imports in 2023.

These projections incorporate mixed-data sampling (MIDAS) techniques that use higher frequency data to improve forecasting accuracy. Specifically, monthly data on container throughput are exploited to capture the effects of port congestion and supply disruptions in the United States and China. Taking this information into account had a small positive impact on imports by North America and Asia in 2022, reflecting the

clearance of backlogs at U.S. West Coast ports and increased container handling in Chinese ports following pandemic-related stoppages earlier in the year.

Risks to the forecast are numerous and inter-related. Major central banks are already raising interest rates in a bid to tame inflation but overshooting on tightening could trigger recessions in some countries, which would weigh on imports. Alternatively, central banks might not do enough to bring inflation down, possibly necessitating stronger interventions in the future. High interest rates in advanced economies could trigger capital flight from emerging economies, unsettling global financial flows. Escalation of the Russia-Ukraine war could also undermine business and consumer confidence and destabilize the global economy. An underappreciated risk would be the decoupling of major economies from global supply chains. This would exacerbate supply shortages in the near term and reduce productivity over the longer term.

Trade developments in value terms

The WTO's trade forecasts are issued together with quarterly and annual trade statistics in nominal U.S. dollar terms. These can be downloaded from the WTO's online database at stats.wto.org.

Chart 5 below shows year-on-year growth in merchandise exports over the last three quarters

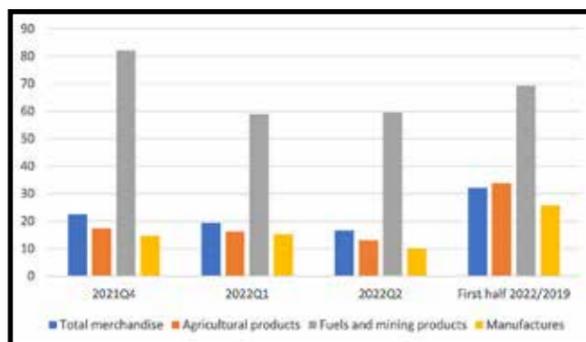


Chart 5: Y-o-y growth in merchandise trade

in value terms. It also compares the value of exports in the first half of 2022 to exports in the first half of 2019, before the start of the

pandemic. It shows that total merchandise trade was up 17% year-on-year in the second quarter of 2022, as compared to 22% year-on-year in the fourth quarter of 2021. Trade in the first half of 2022 was also up 32% compared to 2019. The main takeaway is that because of changes in prices, merchandise trade values are growing at double digit rates even as trade growth in volume terms remains in the low single digits.

WTO quarterly statistics on commercial services trade for the second quarter have not been released yet, but monthly data through July provide an indication of trends for major economies (Chart 6). Exports of travel and transport services rebounded strongly in many countries as pandemic-related restrictions have eased. China is an exception, with travel spending held back by the country's zero-COVID policy. Exports of other commercial services (a category that includes financial and business services) grew at a modest pace, partly due to the fact that they did not decline much during the pandemic.

Supplemental indicators

The WTO tracks a number of indicators to identify current trends in merchandise and commercial services trade. Some of these are presented below to provide additional context to the forecast.

Purchasing managers' indices (PMIs) are monthly economic indicators based on business surveys. J.P. Morgan aggregates PMIs from over 40 countries into a global manufacturing PMI, with values greater than 50 indicating expansion and values less than 50 denoting contraction (Chart 7). The headline PMI index fell to a 26-month low of 50.3 in August, just above the threshold value of 50 separating expansion from contraction. Meanwhile, the sub-index representing new export orders fell to 47.0, signalling contraction. This suggests that global manufacturing activity has stalled, and that goods trade will continue to slow in the coming months.

Other sub-indices of the PMI cast light on the state of global supply chains. An index representing input prices fell from 71.6 in April to 61.1 in August. Another index of final goods prices dropped from 63.8 to 56.7 over the same period. Together, these suggest that inflationary pressures, while still high, may have peaked. Delivery times also shortened in August and stocks of finished goods rose. A few months ago, these would have been seen as positive indications that supply chain pressures were easing, but today they could signal that global demand is weakening.

The RWI/ISL container throughput index tracks global goods trade quite closely. Although the index remained near its all-time high in July, it has been mostly flat since October 2020. Throughput of Chinese ports dipped in the spring due to pandemic-related lockdowns, but traffic rebounded again after these measures were relaxed. The decline in China was partly compensated by increased container handling at U.S. ports, which had previously experienced severe congestion. Overall, the index suggests continued stagnation in merchandise trade.

The WTO does not forecast services trade, but Chart 6 shows that travel and transport are its most dynamic components. This is backed up by data on international flights from the OpenSky network (Chart 9). Daily commercial flights (including those within the European Union) finally exceeded pre-pandemic levels this summer but in late August they turned down slightly. Whether this pause is temporary or long-lasting remains to be seen.

FOR SALE

37.7 acres

along the Philip Goldson (Northern) Highway

near Mile 17 1/2

suitable for an industrial
or housing project.

Bordered by the BWS Feeder Road
and the Northern Highway.

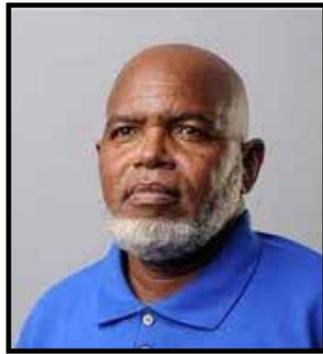
High Broken Ridge land
Water easily available

Clear Title Bze. 20,000 per acre

Call Lawrence at phone 610- 4454
for more details.

GRASSROOTS

Youth Development in CARICOM



By Hon. Gilroy Usher

“Great discoveries and improvements invariably involve the cooperation of many minds.” -Alexander Graham Bell

A very important meeting on youth development in Belize and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) was held in Belmopan on Monday.

Belize is happy to be a member of CARICOM. Our countries have a lot in common. We share a common history of colonialism in which our ancestors were brought to the America's to provide free labor as slaves by European countries. That exploitation of our ancestors enabled the European nations to become wealthy as they harvested the natural resources of their colonies in the region and sold them abroad for huge profits. The massive exploitation left our countries, all small islands in the Caribbean except for Belize on the mainland of Central America poor and undeveloped.

The meeting about youth development was therefore very important for all the member states. The leaders of our countries must avoid the temptations to use their power to exploit the resources of their land for their own selfish benefits as the colonial masters did.

Instead of pursuing such negative agenda as members of CARICOM we must use all available human and natural resources to provide our people with a better life wherever they live.

The youths are the future leaders of any nation. To ensure continuous progress in our individual countries for all our people, it's important that youth development is include in on all aspects of national development.

To ensure such

success youths need to have proper access to education, employment, healthcare, land, housing, economic opportunities, technology, and recreational activities. Access to those things will help to ensure that youths develop as law abiding and productive citizens, who are fully prepared to pass on their country to the next generation with more development and opportunities for a better life for everyone.

Youths with diverse abilities also have a right to pursue their dreams in life. Wholesome youth development therefore also requires planning and accommodations to enable persons with diverse abilities to live a normal life as much as possible.

For maximum benefit to the youths in a society, it is important that they be invited to participate in the decision-making process. Numerous times, time consuming and costly projects that were conceived for youth development have failed. Many of such projects resulted in a waste of resources because they were developed behind closed doors with no concern for the views of the intended beneficiaries, who had no interest in making use of the end product.

To avoid such pitfalls before investing heavily in a project that should be beneficial to youths, many organizations conduct surveys, hold meetings, or have open-day to be satisfied that sufficient youths will have interest in a project to make it worthy of the cost of investment.

As members of CARICOM we have benefitted a lot from each other as a result of cooperation in education, sports, agriculture, housing, healthcare, trade, and entertainment among other things.

Despite being small countries with small national budgets we have tried make life better for the youths by working together as a group to decrease the influence of gangs, the drugs trade, and crime which

are major hinderance to youth development in our countries and all other countries big and small.

Some members states have benefitted from such cooperation

To ensure maximum youth development in CARICOM we must therefore use our intellect and influence to help ensure that the benefit from such cooperation is as equitable as possible.

more than others. To ensure maximum youth development in CARICOM we must therefore use our intellect and influence to help

ensure that the benefit from such cooperation is as equitable as possible.

Youth Development also includes giving youths who have made serious mistakes in their

lives due to lack of proper guidance a second chance the opportunity to turn their lives around to become law abiding and productive citizens in their

country.

Several CARICOM counties including Belize have used the On-the-Job Skills Program and free access to secondary education. Youths are placed with participating businesses for a duration of three months. During that time, they are paid a salary by the government to learn basic skills of a trade to enhance their chance of securing employment when the program finishes. This program give youths, whose education is not beyond the primary school level,

the opportunity to further their education at least to the high school level by attending free classes at specific institutions in their home nations.

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.



VACANCY:JOB OPPORTUNITY

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

SAFETY OFFICER

Reports to: Chief Executive Officer

Summary of Responsibilities: The SO will act as PBL's primary driver of the Safety Management System (SMS) to ensure that there is strict adherence to all safety policies, procedures, and best practices. Ensure that the safety capacity building plan is followed and that the appropriate members of staff receive the appropriate training at the right time. Conduct periodic Safety Assessments designed to ensure that risks to safety and health are identified, assessed, and eliminated or controlled. Lead the biennial audits of the SMS. Produce monthly Safety Status Report, to be submitted to the CEO during the first week of every new month.

Job Responsibilities:

1. Develop and maintain the Safety Policy, Safety Management System (SMS), Safety Manual and Safety Procedures
2. Lead the implementation of the SMS and ensure company-wide compliance
3. Be visible on the ground as the Safety Officer, ensure compliance to safe working practices and adherence to the wearing and use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
4. Implement, organize, arrange and schedule monthly/quarterly Management Safety Walks (MSW)
5. Ensure that an adequate capacity development plan is in place to maintain contemporary knowledge on safety management best practices in port environments
6. Maintain the appropriate registers for injuries, accidents, incidents and near misses across the Company
7. Structure and implement reporting templates
8. Record, analyse, investigate and take corrective actions related to all injuries, accidents, incidents and near misses
9. Coordinate PBL's Safety Committees (Staff and Stevedores) and ensure that they meet on a monthly basis to review and address safety matters. Document and circulate notes and actions from these meetings
10. Initiate Incident Investigation Hearings
11. Coordinate with the Department Safety Officers (DSO's), providing guidance and direction
12. Create relevant safety training material and conduct orientation and refresher and periodic safety training for all Staff, Stevedores, Contractors, and Visitors to the facility. Maintain a register of training conducted and scheduled, and issue certificates for completed courses
13. Ensure the establishment, at the appropriate place (s), of "right-to-know" stations and ensure that they are kept up to date
14. Conduct periodic Safety Assessments designed to ensure that risks to safety and health are identified, assessed, and eliminated or controlled
15. Become fully acquainted with the ILO and IMO safety directives, US-OHSA and Belize National Health and Safety at Work Act (once completed) as they are relevant to ports and terminal.
16. Any other relevant tasks as occasionally arising or assigned.

Key Results

- Zero workplace injuries, deaths, or illness
- Appropriate signs are installed (and updated as necessary) across the Company
- High level of safety awareness across the Staff and Visitors
- The SMS is implemented, continually reviewed, and updated as necessary

Qualification & Experience

- Bachelor's Degree in occupational safety & health, or port administration, or communications, or management, or related fields
- Minimum of at least 3-5 years of relevant work experience in an industrial setting
- Experience working with companies with staff of 100 or more is preferred
- Good working knowledge of Microsoft Office
- Excellent and demonstrable English language skills, both spoken and written

Knowledge, Skills & Attributes

Knowledge

- Strategic planning and implementation
- Sound understanding of Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) frameworks
- Knowledge of OSHA best practices in industrial environments
- Demonstrated expertise in policy formulation, program management and coordination

Skills

- Ability to organize and lead teams
- Excellent report writing skills
- Sound communications skills

Attributes

- Assertive, Compassionate, and able to positively influence outcomes
- Self-driven and Decisive
- Diligent

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

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

Applications should be emailed to: jobapplication@portofbelize.com
Closing date for receipt of applications is Friday, October 7th, 2022

PUBLIC AUCTION SALES: PROPERTIES & ASSETS

ROBERT'S GROVE BEACH RESORT, Placencia Peninsula, Stann Creek District

BY ORDER of the Receiver, Robert's Grove Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the properties known as Robert's Grove Beach Resort. Sale currently running until 30th November 2022. Public Auction Sale/s will expire fortnightly within this period on the dates and times listed on the website until the resort is sold.



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCELS
Placencia North	36	136, 41, 42, 3641, 3642, 3257, 3259, 3260, 3261, 3262, 3263 3264, 3265, 3266, 3267, 3268, 3269, 3271, 3281, 3284, 3286

(Being the following improvements/developments:

Main Two Level Administration/Studio Building, Ocean view Apartment Suites (A, B & C), Workers Quarters, Habanero Restaurant and Bar, Outdoor Bar & Patio, Swimming Pool and Court, Beachfront Spa and massage parlor, Laundry House, Back Office Building/Bedroom, Marina Generator House, Bicycle Shed, Gazebo, Gymnasium Building, Sweet Mama's Restaurant, Beachfront Pier, Staff Quarters, Dive Shop Building, Office/Storeroom Timber Building, Main Warehouse, Garage Shed Building, Carpentry Shop Building, Staff Quarters, The Marina, RG Generator House, Manager Residence, Fuel Station & Storage Tanks

TOGETHER with approximately 13 acres of land, the freehold properties of Messrs. Robert's Grove Limited)

"FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PHOTOGRAPHS PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE"

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH

KEVIN A. CASTILLO

TELEPHONE 223-4488

Website: belizepropertyauctions.com

Email: kevinacas@yahoo.com

Website: belizepropertyauctions.com

Face Book: Belize Auctions



IMPORTANT CLOSURE NOTICE

Dear Users of the Port of Belize Ltd.

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

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

July 28th to August 05th, 2022

September 01st to 09th, 2022

October 06th to 16th, 2022

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

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

Thanks

Andy Lane

Chief Executive Officer



Great Job Opportunity

Job title: Heavy Diesel Mechanic

(2.5 Miles Philip Goldson Highway, Belize City, Belize)

- Job Requirement:**
- Must have at least a first level certificate in automotive repair
 - Good repair knowledge of air break system, diesel injection systems, hydraulic system and diesel diagnostics
 - Assisting with day to day maintenance and repairs of fleet vehicles and equipment
 - Must have a valid driver's license
 - Traveling to districts to repair vehicles and equipment when necessary
 - Willing to work overtime when needed
 - Collaborate with coworkers to get repairs done in a timely manner
 - Attention to detail
 - Excellent communication skills

- Character:**
- Mature, Responsible, Organized
 - Flexible
 - Team Player
 - Trustworthy

- Considered a Plus:**
- Knowledge of diesel engine repair, small engine and/or automotive electricity is a plus
 - Knowledge of Marine engines and propulsion systems

NO WALK-INS PLEASE.

Application forms can be picked up from Benny's at 2.5 Miles Philip Goldson Highway, Belize City, & 43 Mls. George Price Hwy., Cotton Tree Village, Cayo
Visit WWW.Bennys.bz/careers
or Call 223-6236

MAIL TO:
Human Resources Manager,
Benny's Homecenter, P.O. Box 215,
Mile 2.5 Philip Goldson Hwy., Belize City
or E-mail: jobs@bennysonline.com

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to fill the position of **Retail Manager-San Pedro** with one of our multinational clients. This position offers an attractive remuneration package, excellent benefits, and a great opportunity for career development. Come join the team!

RETAIL MANAGER – SAN PEDRO

Essential Duties and Responsibilities, but not limited to:

- Develop and execute a competitive store level, retail sales plan in support of revenue achievement and strategic business development in order to achieve the company's goals.
- Collaborate with Sales Leadership team to deliver or exceed revenue, profit and other key metrics.

Education/Skills and Work Experience:

- Bachelor's Degree in Business Management.
- Minimum of three (3) years experience in retail management, preferably of a medium to large store.
- Experience with reviewing and understanding financial reports.
- Ability to analyze productivity metrics and adjust to ensure achievement of indicators.
- Ability to coach teams to drive rapid growth.

Closing date for applications: 21 October 2022

Please send resumes to:

Executive Selection and Search

E-mail: eallp@btl.net
Belize City, Belize

APPLY NOW

The Righters Write

Article 19: Freedom of Opinion and Expression

Contributed By *The Human Rights Commission*

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

Why would a human rights organization go to court to support someone whose extreme political views or ethical position it fundamentally opposes? A pornographer perhaps, or an anarchist? Because of the rights asserted in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), we all have the right to form our own opinions and to express and share them freely.

“The first human who hurled an insult instead of a stone was the founder of civilization.”

—Sigmund Freud

“If we do not believe in freedom of expression for people we despise, we do not believe in it at all,” says linguist and political activist Noam Chomsky. Adds Human Rights Watch: “freedom of speech is a bellwether: how any society tolerates those with minority, disfavoured or even obnoxious views will often speak to its performance on human rights more generally.”

This right underpins many others, such as religion, assembly and the ability to participate in public affairs, but freedom of expression is not unlimited. A common metaphor to describe its limits is that you cannot falsely yell “fire” in a crowded theatre and cause a panic and possible injury. Other forms of speech generally not protected include child pornography, perjury, blackmail, and incitement to violence.

The UDHR’s drafters wrestled with the issue of how tolerant a tolerant society should be of people like Nazis and fascists who themselves are intolerant. They were acutely conscious of the role played by the Nazi media and film industry in the creation of an environment that enabled the slaughter of 6 million Jews, and other groups such as the Roma and people with disabilities. After gaining power in 1933, the Nazis used a series of new laws and regulations to crush the independent media, substituting a rabid totalitarian propaganda machine in its place, under the guidance of Joseph Goebbels, the “Reich Minister of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda.”

As a result, any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence was explicitly prohibited when the UDHR was translated into binding international law via subsequent treaties. In the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, freedom of expression occupies the same slot (Article 19) as it does in the UDHR, providing explicit criteria that Governments need to comply with when restricting freedom of expression. Article 20, following immediately afterwards, sets the limits with the prohibition of incitement.

The potentially lethal results of hate speech—including its ability to enable the violation of the right to life on a massive scale—was graphically displayed, once again, when Rwanda’s Radio Mille Collines laid the groundwork for the 1994 genocide by dehumanizing fellow citizens and branding them enemies. Some 800,000 people were killed. More recently in Myanmar, messages of incitement to hatred and violence spread with alarming speed on Facebook, and may have contributed to genocide and crimes against humanity. The Independent Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar pointed to the use of

Facebook by the Myanmar military to incite hatred and spread false information to justify their actions against civilians. In reaction, Facebook closed several of those accounts.

You are entitled to hold any opinion, no matter how foul it may be, but the expression of that opinion – if it amounts to incitement – must be outlawed, with clear historical examples of what can happen when it is not.

When a British tabloid newspaper revived Mille-Collines-style language in 2015, by referring to migrants and refugees as “cockroaches,” the UN Human Rights Chief Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein urged European countries to take a firmer line on racism and xenophobia which, he said, “under the guise of freedom of expression, are being allowed to feed a vicious cycle of vilification, intolerance and politicization of migrants, as well as of marginalized European minorities such as the Roma.”

Freedom of expression is, however, explicitly protected in most spheres, and there are rising concerns today at the continuing, and possibly increasing, efforts to misuse the concept of “hate speech” or “incitement” as an excuse for stifling dissent or criticism of a government in power, often using anti-terrorism legislation as the legal means to what is, under international law, an illegal end.

The UN has on numerous occasions criticized flawed domestic laws that suppress opposition or dissent in the name of combatting “hate speech,” with David Kaye, the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression noting that “States often assert vague prohibitions on ‘advocacy of hatred’ that do not amount to incitement.”

Article 19 includes the right to “seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.” Although individuals enjoy the same rights online as offline, states are also censoring, and sometimes criminalizing, a wide range of online content via vague or ambiguous laws prohibiting “extremism,” “blasphemy,” “defamation,” “offensive” language, “false news” and “propaganda”.

If journalists are attacked, spied on, jailed or even murdered when their quests for information are interpreted by governments or criminal enterprises as a threat, people may be unable to form an opinion or take informed decisions.

The Committee to Protect Journalists says that in 2017, 262 journalists around the world were thrown in prison, and Reporters Without Borders says 90 percent of crimes against journalists go unpunished. Even in democracies that pride themselves on being free, demonization of journalists and allegations of “fake news”, and limitations on the protection of journalistic sources, are undermining their work.

As efforts to control speech and information increase, the UN Human Rights Office has provided guidance on how to distinguish free speech from hate speech through the Rabat Plan of Action, which suggests setting a high threshold for interpreting the restrictions set by international human rights law in restricting freedom of expression. Its six-part threshold test takes into account the context, intent, content, extent, speaker’s status, and likelihood that the speech in question would incite action against the target group, and is being used in Tunisia, Côte d’Ivoire and Morocco, and by the European Court of Human Rights in a recent judgment on the Pussy Riot case.

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.



WESLEY COLLEGE

VACANCY FOR PRINCIPAL

The Board of Management of Wesley College invites applications for the post of **PRINCIPAL**.

Academic Qualifications:

- Master’s Degree in Educational Leadership or its equivalent.
- Bachelor’s Degree in Secondary Education or its equivalent.

Professional Qualities:

- Minimum of five (5) years of experience in administration.
- Hold a Full Secondary level Teacher’s License.
- Capacity to provide moral and ethical leadership.
- Ability to motivate and encourage team spirit among faculty and staff.
- Superior communication skills.

Duties/Responsibilities will include (but is not limited to):

- Furthering the Mission, Vision and Values of Wesley College.
- In collaboration with the Board, guiding the formulation of school policies, rules and programs.
- Overseeing the daily administration of the school as well as the admission, placement and graduation of students.
- Fostering and maintaining a safe school environment and culture conducive to teaching and learning.
- Providing educational leadership in areas of pedagogy, curriculum and assessment.

Salary: Commensurate with educational qualification and in accordance with Government Pay Scale.

Prospective applicants must submit the following documents:

- Cover Letter with resume
- Valid Teacher’s License
- Qualifications (*Original transcript*)
- Social Security Card (*Certified copy*)
- Birth Certificate/Passport
- Medical Certificate
- Police Record (*Original*)
- Two (2) recent character references
- Work Permit (*where applicable*)
- Marriage/Divorce Certificate (*where applicable*)

ALL Documents must be certified and any documents in a foreign language must be accompanied by an official English translation. Only applicants who qualify will be invited for interviews. Interested candidates should submit application packages on or before **October 28th, 2022** to:

Chairman, Wesley College Board of Management
c/o Methodist District Office
75 Albert Street, Belize City

PUBLIC AUCTION SALE: AQUACULTURE HATCHERY

BY ORDER of the Chargees, Messrs. Alpha Gamma Financial Services Limited, Licensed Auctioneer, Fernando Molina, will sell **ONLINE** via beacon-auctions.com the following properties: Block Nos. 212A, 214A, 217A and 221, situated north of the Dangriga Town Municipal Airstrip, approximately 0.17 miles north of San Jose Road, in the land formerly known as Carib Reserve, Stann Creek District, being the freehold property of Aquablue Farms Ltd., **TOGETHER** with all buildings and erections thereon in one lot by way of public auction online to conclude **Monday, 17th October 2022 at 4:00 pm**



Total Land Area: 127 acres

For full legal description of property please visit website.

Buildings & improvements: 3 buildings (a. 12,750 sq ft. reinforced concrete structure w/ upper portion constructed with steel frame with aluminium sheeting walls. b. 12,750 sq ft. reinforced concrete structure w/ upper portion constructed with steel frame with aluminium sheeting walls. c. 2 storey, 1,600 sq ft. building containing office space on the Ground Floor and Second Floor containing an apartment with 1 living, dining, and kitchen area, 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom and a laundry.) suitable for aquaculture hatchery / commercial use.

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH

Bids are to be submitted via email by no later than 17th October, 2022 at 4:00pm For further particulars on the properties, please contact:

Email: bids@beacon-auctions.com

Tel: 610-0919

Website: beacon-auctions.com



VACANCY JOB OPPORTUNITY

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

ASSISTANT OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR

Reports To: Cargo Operations Manager

Summary of Responsibilities: The Assistant Operations Supervisor will report to the Cargo Operations Manager and will assist with the supervision of all container movement and operations personnel. He or she will be responsible for preparing vessel worked forms to Accounts Department for billing and statistical/Operational reports. Able to check reefer plugins, read and calculate charges. Learn newly implemented Octopi Terminal Operating System, *training to be provided*. Assist COM with preparing gang order for vessels and reefer cargo information. This post is fun and challenging, come prepared for a new venture.

Job Responsibilities:

Summary of Responsibilities: The Assistant Operations Supervisor will report to the Cargo Operations Manager (COM) and will assist with the supervision of all container movement and operations personnel. He or she will be responsible for preparing vessel worked forms to Accounts Department for billing and statistical/Operational reports. Able to check reefer plugins, read and calculate charges. Utilize newly implemented Octopi Terminal Operating System (TOS), inhouse training and opportunity for ongoing self-development to be provided.

Assist COM with preparing gang order for vessels, berth planning, staff scheduling and reefer cargo information.

Leadership Responsibilities:

- Attract, develop, grow and retain the best talents and fill the leadership pipeline.
- Organize, balance and schedule workloads within the department.
- Prioritize, delegate, and set performance objectives.
- Follow-up on performance, provide quality feedback, and objectively appraise differentiated performance levels.
- Empower and inspire staff to achieve high levels of motivation and employee engagement.
- Ensure zero harm, improve safe working processes.
- Provide timely reports for all accidents, incidents and disciplinary incidents.
- Understand Customer requirements and drive the department to achieve these on a consistent basis.
- Track and manage variable expenditure to avoid all cost waste and reduce costs to the bare minimum.
- Continuously lean, streamline, and improve processes.
- Leverage relevant technology to automate processes.
- Maintain high levels of data quality for data and information and reports provided to other functions.

Duties & Responsibilities:

- Remain vigilant and immediately take action in the event any personnel, customers or visitors to the terminal are not wearing PPE and/or any unsafe acts are witnessed.
- Assist with supervising of the movement of inbound and outbound of all containers and break bulk/bulk cargoes.
- Assist with supervising of personnel working in the port compound, container yard and pier.
- Assist with the input, processing and verification of correct and complete upload of vessel and cargo information into the TOS in preparation of vessel arrival. Reconcile planned and executed work prior vessel departure. Provide relief at Gate-In and Gate-Out processes as required.
- Develop and implement a systematic yard plan to accommodate perma cargo flows into and out of the yard; modify as required to meet actual vessel cargo fluctuations.
- Plan, sequence, execute and monitor cargo discharge and load, into and out of the yard in an optimized manner.
- Generate and execute work queues for yard stacker operators; discharge and load; monitor execution.
- Assist with the preparation of gang order for vessels.
- Assist with the preparation and daily maintenance of the staff roster; aligning anticipated operations manning requirements with projected vessel movements, distributing regularly (daily if required).
- Assist with the preparation and daily maintenance and distribution of the Berth Plan.
- Provide relief at Gate-In and Gate-Out processes as required.
- Provide relief at Front-Desk release processes as required.
- Check and sign delivery orders for authenticity to load direct delivery containers.
- Assist with the supervising of the loading and unloading of containers and break-bulk vessels in compound/pierhead.
- Provide reports of vessels worked to Accounts Department for billing.
- Provide reports (work logs) of vessels worked for operations statistics.
- Check and prepare reefer cargo information. Check reefer plug-ins, reading and calculate charges.
- Develop and maintain operational data and operational reporting.

Innovation & Productivity Improvements

- Learn "Octopi" Terminal Operating System (TOS). Initial basic training is to be provided and an inquisitive mind is required to continually learn, adopt and implement new features released within the TOS software on an ongoing basis. Strive to realize both the TOS's and the organization's full potential.
- Proactively drive efficiency and productivity and provide suggestions and recommendations to the Supervisors for continuous improvements.
- Develop and maintain updated processes and procedures for all tasks so that work is 100% standardized.
- Actively seek opportunities to drive innovation and realize efficiencies in the standardized work.
- Ensure all general work areas in a clean, tidy and hazard free condition.
- Any other duties and functions, of a related nature that may be assigned from time to time by the Cargo Operations Manager.

Requirements:

- Demonstrable supervisory and leadership skills required
- Proactive in addressing safety issues, hazardous practices and operational emergencies
- Ability to challenge standard practice and drive operational improvements
- Ability to work independently
- Able to work flexible hours
- Strong mathematical and analytical skills, critical thinking
- Microsoft office proficiency required
- Computer literacy including familiarity with data base entry and reporting, TOS utilization.

Job qualifications/Requirements:

- Experience in Cargo & Container Operations, Production or similar would be an asset.
- Associates Degree or higher
- Math & English CXC passes would be an asset.
- Experience supervising a blue-collar team would be an asset.

Skills/Competencies:

- Ability to work independently
- Ability to work flexible working hours
- Math and analytical skills required.
- Supervisory and leadership skills required.
- Pro-activeness required.
- Microsoft office proficiency required.

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 record, name and phone number of two (2) previous employers and a copy of COVID vaccination card.

Applications should be emailed to:

jobapplication@portofbelize.com

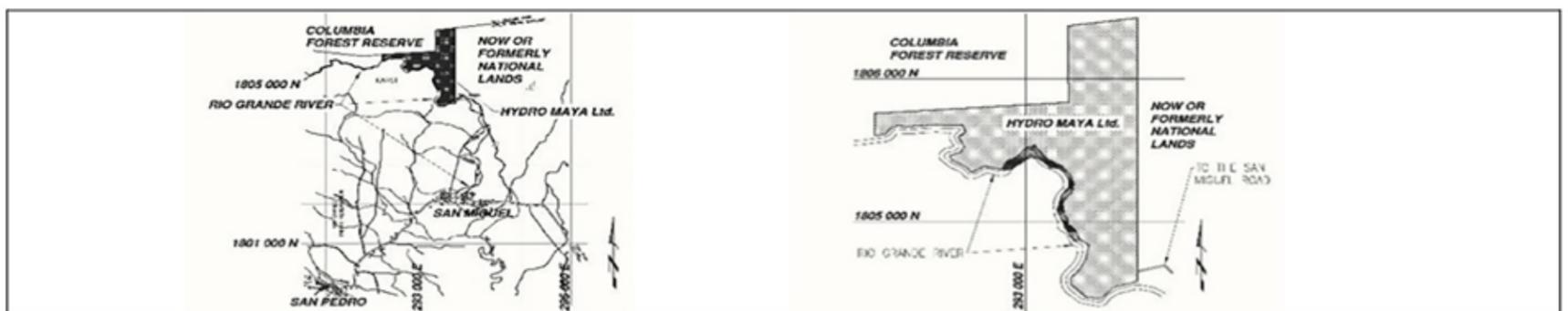
Closing date for receipt of applications is Friday, October 28th, 2022

PUBLIC NOTICE**Application for Licence under Electricity Act**

HYDRO MAYA LIMITED OF 11 C STREET KINGS PARK, BELIZE CITY, BELIZE A COMPANY REGISTERED AND INCORPORATED IN BELIZE, hereby serves notice to the general public that it has applied for a **LICENCE** from the **PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION (PUC)** to generate electricity subject to any approved Power Purchase Agreement. Pursuant to Section 14 (3) of the Belize Electricity Act, a copy of the application is published below:

**Public Utilities Commission
Application for Licence under Electricity Act**

Application on behalf of:	Hydro Maya Limited
Certificate of Incorporation Number:	Incorporation No. 3890
Purpose of Licence:	Power Generation
Authorized Area of Supply requested	Does not provide direct consumer sales, instead interconnects to BEL transmission system for eventual distribution.
Generation Facilities:	Renewal of Licence for Rio Grande Hydroelectric Project in Toledo District.
Transmission Facilities:	Existing Interconnection and Transmission Facilities for connection of Rio Grande Hydroelectric Project to BEL transmission system.
Contact Information:	Name: Philip Penner Position/Title: Manager Phone Number: 6100540 Email Address: pennerphilip@hotmail.com
Registered Office (Address):	11 C Street, Kings Park, Belize City, Belize
Name of Signatory:	Ted S. Sorenson
Declaration:	
I hereby certify that the information contained in this application is true to best of my knowledge, information belief:	
Signature: 	Date: October 5th, 2022

**Supporting Documents and Information:**

In addition to the application published above, supporting documents and information related to the proposed operations of Hydro Maya Limited as prescribed by the PUC were included in its submission.

Viewing of Application and Supporting Documents and Information:

The application and supporting documents and information may be viewed in their entirety at:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>a) Hydro Maya Limited
11 C Street, Kings Park
Belize City, Belize</p> | <p>b) PUC Office
2nd Floor Marina Towers
Belize City, Belize</p> |
|---|--|