

Reporter

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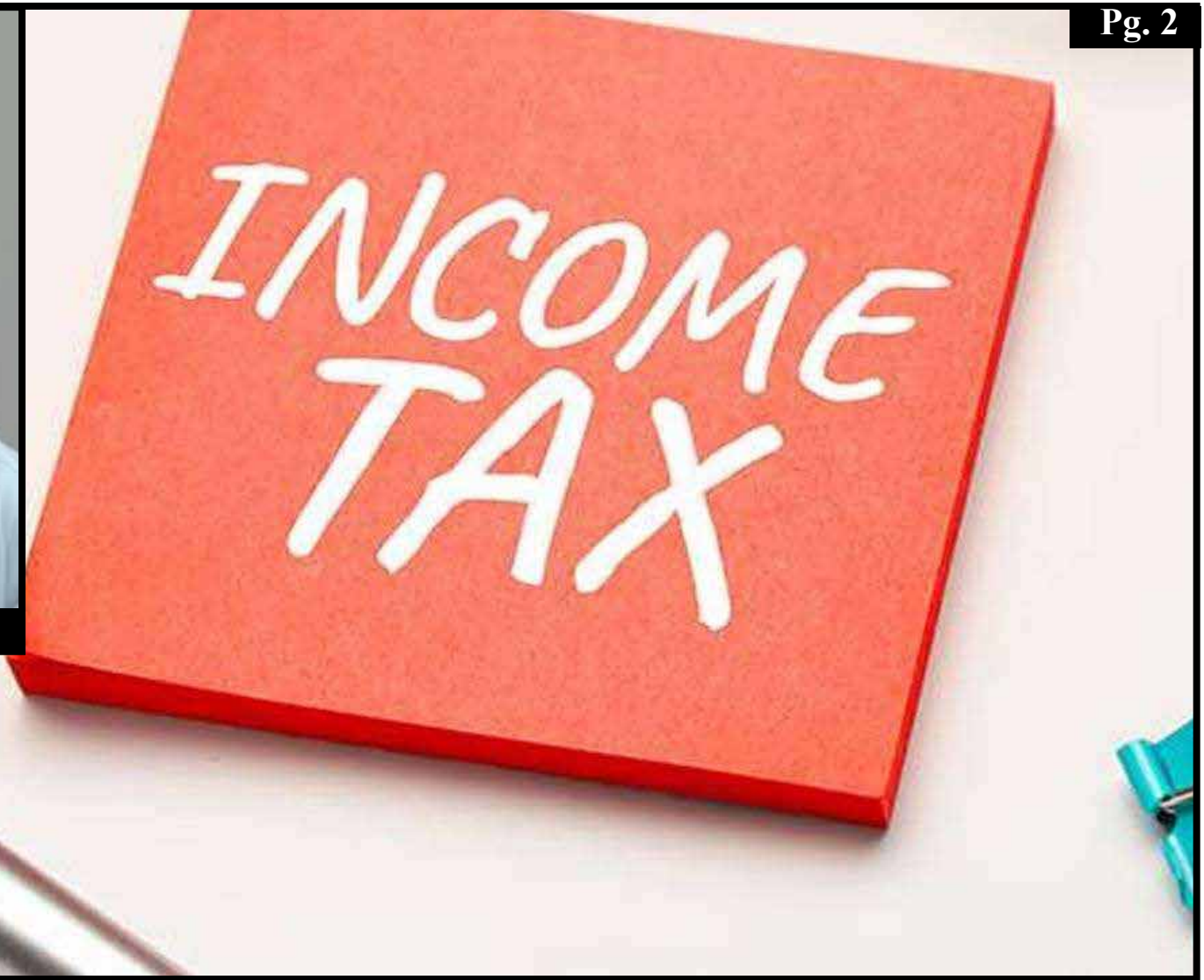
Price: \$1.00

Abolish Income Tax!?

GoB prepares to eliminate PAYE paid by employees



Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño



Pg. 2

Union, Albert Area Rep: GOB 'abdicating' its duty on 'Permanent Secretaries Reform' commitment!

The government is "abdicating" its duty to revert from politically appointed chief executive officers to permanent secretaries by passing that task unto the People's Constitution Commission (PCC), Albert Area

Representation Hon. Tracy Panton told *The Reporter* Thursday.

Panton described the act as "kicking the can for reform down the road," and is essentially passing the responsibility unto another entity.

The Albert Area representative's comments echoes those of the Public Service Union (PSU)'s President Dean Flowers. "It is convenient to pass it onto the PCC," opined Flowers, who also said that this

is something that he would need to discuss further with the PSU's general membership as it pertains to the way forward.

Flowers, while admitting that the change is not "an

Pg. 4

Higher Min. Wage will impact agriculture sector



Pg. 2

Min. of Agriculture CEO Servulo Baeza



PSU President Dean Flowers



Albert Area Representative Hon. Tracy Panton



The year just ended has been a brutal year for Belize and for all the world. For Belize especially because of the hurricane that struck us in November and because of the fierce inflation, which is now affecting the world economy.

The war which began with the invasion of Ukraine on February 24 was the most notable event, but it was by no means the only bad thing that happened.

The world-wide COVID pandemic, and now the war in Ukraine, set the stage for world inflation and rising prices - first on fuel, and then on manufactured goods and food supplies.

Russia's master plan to bring Europe to its knees using fuel as her club of persuasion has come close to succeeding. Were it not for the firm resolve of the United States, and the heroic resistance of the Ukrainian people much of Europe would now have been overcome by Russia.

The pact between Russia and China for "no-limit" collaboration could have forced the world into a sea of conflict, and the planned eclipse of the dollar as an international currency of trade would have set up Russia and China as the new world powers leading to the collapse of democratic values and influence.

The predicted demise of Western society did not occur mainly because the United States and Britain developed an effective COVID vaccine much earlier than China or Russia expected. The pharmaceutical process of developing an effective vaccine did not take five years as was generally expected. It was accomplished within a year, and both Britain and the United States made these vaccines available to Third World countries like Belize which would have been made desolate without this humanitarian aid.

Thanks to these remedies, the COVID pandemic has receded into the background. But new and frightening realities have replaced them. The savagery of war and Russia's threat to use nuclear force to persuade western democracies to bend to her will are real and present dangers.

A gloomy beginning to the New Year, to be sure. But the human spirit is resilient, and even in the gloom of world conflict, we find reason to hope.

We pray for a speedy end to the war and for the liberation of Ukraine and Crimea.

We also pray for Belize, that we may find the fortitude and the energy to work our way out of the hard times which confront us.

Abolish Income Tax!?!...

By Michelle Sutherland

The Government of Belize is making moves to abolish or significantly reduce income tax (PAYE) paid by workers, but local economist says the cut, equivalent to seven percent of total government revenues, is hard to envision.

The Briceño Administration, via their Plan Belize manifesto, had promised that as the economy "roars back," they would not only increase the minimum wage to \$5.00 per hour but would abolish the Pay as You Earn (PAYE) income tax completely in five years, at a rate of five percent each year. Alternatively, they also promised to increase the income tax deductions threshold to \$30,000, up from the current \$26,000—the level below which no employee pays PAYE.

The matter returned to the table last week, when the Prime Minister and his team met with the Joint Unions Negotiating Team (JUNT). The JUNT, in their press release, reported the following:

"The Unions also argued that there must be Tax Reform along with Pension Reform. The Prime Minister advised that Tax Reform will be looked at separately as the current consideration of the government is to phase out PAYE by the end of the year."

Prime Minister John Briceño, speaking with *The Reporter* on Thursday, said, "If we were to abolish PAYE, there will be no need to raise the threshold to \$30,000. But, yes, our plan is to either abolish PAYE or raise the threshold to \$50,000-\$70,000. But we are just starting to

look at that. We had to stabilize GOB's finances first and grow the economy."

But a move to completely abolish PAYE, which currently contributes about \$102 million to the government's total budget of about \$1.4 billion (or of 7% of their total revenue) is not something that local economist Dr. Phillip Castillo can see happening.

He told us, "Majority of Government's revenues comes from taxes and income tax is one of the most significant sources of government revenues. Now, the PAYE system is the system, whereby, as you earn your salary, you pay taxes at a certain tax bracket. If the government announces the abolishment of the PAYE, I will be amazed, because I know that that is a

substantial portion of government revenues."

Castillo says that while he does know of some countries that have moved to abolish their PAYE system, he also knows that some of those countries also, in turn, rely on other means of taxes such as fuel. He explained that the likely economic thinking driving this idea is that GOB expects to recuperate the lost revenues via other taxes such as GST, as households are expected to spend their higher disposable income.

"When the economy is stimulated, goods and services are being created and sold. The government will, under these circumstances, get its revenues not from PAYE, but from taxes such as GST, which are taxes on goods and services. ... I do not see Belize doing that anytime soon."

Higher Min. Wage will impact agriculture sector

By Michelle Sutherland

The impacts of the soon-to-be-implemented \$5.00 minimum wage increase will spread across the agriculture sector, but will be felt the most in the factory setting, as well as in the banana industry where prices for products have already been set, Ministry of Agriculture's Chief Executive Office Servulo Baeza said this week.

"The concerns came from the factories, for instance, who pays minimum wage to unskilled workers," Baeza explained. "It is more like the factory side as opposed to the actual farm workers. For the banana industry, they indicated that they are already operating at a very slim margin and the price for which they sell the bananas export-wise is already fixed, because they work on contract; therefore, they cannot raise the price for the bananas."

Baeza explained that "they have to look at other ways in terms of how they can try

to reduce costs." He added, that it was the banana sector, for instance, that was also advocating for more time to adjust. "However, as you would know, the minimum wage has been on the table for quite a long time and it not only affects one industry but cuts across all," said Baeza.

While some of the concerns were difficult to listen to, Baeza said that despite looking at all aspects, at the end of the day, a commitment was made by the government and so it had to be honored.

For now, the Ministry, according to Baeza, will be monitoring the impacts that the wage increase will be having on the agriculture sector and are committed to working along with them to alleviate any additional pressures that something like this will create. For instance, they will be liaising with stakeholders to see how best they can work together to keep the cost of production down even as various

factors, such as increased prices in fuel and energy continue to impact that aspect.

"All this will all lead to an increase in the price of production, so we could possibly see a trickle-down effect of inflation. How much that will be, I am not sure because different people will play with their numbers differently. More money in pockets will lead to an increase in demand and that will result in an increase in prices," said Baeza.

When we asked him

about whether he foresees an increase in the price of vegetables, Baeza said that he does not see any because the majority of the vegetables in the country are being produced by cooperatives that represent themselves and work for themselves. However, other factors, such as the increase in prices for fertilizers as well as the price of fuel, along with the demand for vegetables during the holidays, have had a more significant impact on prices.

THE REPORTER

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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 2000 that all creditors having any claims or demands upon or against the Estate of **CHRISTEL LINWOOD STRAUGHAN NEE HYDE**, also known as **CHRYSTEL LYNWOOD STRAUGHAN nce HYDE**, deceased of No. 3716 Meeting Street, Cumming Georgia, 30040 One of the United States of America died at Wellstar North Fulton Hospital, Roswell Fulton, United States of America on the 25th day of July, 2018 without leaving a will in whose estate Grant of Administration No. 230 of 2022 has been granted to **Eva Espat**, No. 5 Bally Garden, Belize City, Belize should lodge such claims or demands with the said **Eva Espat**, Administrator, c/o Barrow & Williams LLP, Attorneys-at-Law of No. 84 Albert Street, Belize City, 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 Administrator shall proceed to distribute the assets of the said **CHRISTEL LINWOOD STRAUGHAN NEE HYDE**, also known as **CHRYSTEL LYNWOOD STRAUGHAN nce HYDE** deceased, amongst the parties entitled thereto having regard to all the claims and demands of which particulars are lodged and the Administrator 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 22nd of December 2022

BARROW & WILLIAMS LLP
Attorneys-at-Law
for Eva Espat

Farmers continue to battle with fertilizer crisis

By Michelle Sutherland

As the war between Ukraine and Russia continues, those in Belize's agriculture sector are fighting a battle of their own with the ever-increasing price of fertilizers, which is being fuelled by the war.

CEO for the Ministry of Agriculture Servulo Baeza told The Reporter that as the months progress and the war rages on, the rippling effects of that are most felt in Belize's Agriculture sector, particularly as it relates to the acquisition of fertilizers.

Baeza explained that because Belize sources its fertilizers from Russia, the war has had a tremendous effect on supplies and how much product Belize is able to source. This has resulted in an increase in the price of fertilizer due to scarcity. Those changes have resulted in over 50% increase for a bag of fertilizer in the past couple of months which has in turn affected productivity in the fields.

But those prices have other far-reaching effects not only on farmers but on consumers as well. "Yes we are paying that price as consumers; that's why you have been seeing that over the past few weeks the price of vegetables have been trending upwards and that is not only because it is the



Christmas season. Even before that the prices of vegetable had to go up because the price of fertilizer is expensive," commented Baeza.

While the prices vary among the various brands of fertilizers, Baeza assured that the prices for most of them have doubled, making it an added expense to farmers.

Baeza said that his ministry is hoping to relieve some of that burden on farmers by way of a donation of fertilizers that the Moroccan Government had promised to gift Prime Minister John Briceño. Baeza also indicated that the high cost of fertilizers is not the only factor that is squeezing the agriculture sector, but that they are also complaining about the high cost of fuel and energy. The energy cost, which Baeza maintains, is considered to be high when compared to Mexico and Guatemala.

"We have undertaken and done a lot of training to show people how to do our own

composting and using our own materials to assist them so that they use less of the imported fertilizers," explained Baeza. "We can use what we have [to produce] our own biofertilizers. We also have an ongoing project where our farmers will be trained to do biofertilizers which include using the waste products from their farms to produce their own fertilizers, and organic fertilizers."

While he says sourcing their materials will be another factor, he indicated that the training had very good attendance, signifying that farmers are looking for ways to adapt.

Russia is one of the largest producers of fertilizer. In fact, international news reports are that Russia produces about 25% of the world's nitrogen fertilizer. With the war in Ukraine, fertilizers are not only scarce but its price on the international market has more than tripled to what it was before the war.

NOTICE OF COMMENCED DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given to all interested parties that the company

Tiaviz Commerce Ltd.

("the Company") incorporated under the IBC Act of Belize commenced dissolution on the 11th day of November 2022; and Mr. Michel Andrew Brutus of P.O. Box 1136, Foret Noire, 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

NOTICE OF COMMENCED DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given to all interested parties that the company

Atlika Group Inc.

("the Company") incorporated under the IBC Act of Belize commenced dissolution on the 10th day of November 2022; and Mr. Michel Andrew Brutus of P.O. Box 1136, Foret Noire, 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



Public Utilities Commission



Public Notice

The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) hereby notifies the public that on December 10, 2022, BEL made a submission, reporting an estimated \$43.214M revenue shortfall over the Reference Cost of Power up to the period ending June 2023.

On December 23, 2022, the PUC issued its **Initial Decision to the Belize Electricity Limited 2022 Annual Review Proceeding Final Decision Amendment**, which provides for no amendments to the tariffs, fees and charges to be levied for electricity services for the period January 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023

The **Initial Decision** may be viewed in its entirety at the offices of the PUC or on its website at www.puc.bz. The general public should submit written comments by email to info@puc.bz or to PO Box 300, Belize City, Belize.

The deadline for submission is January 3, 2023.

END

Issued by the Public Utilities Commission on December 23, 2022

Union, Albert Area Rep: GOB 'abdicating' its duty on Permanent Secretaries Reform commitment!

Cont'd from pg. 1

emergency issue," said that there would be little to no disruption to the public service's ability to function if the change is made now. The PSU president underscored that the reform was something welcome by his union because it would improve accountability.

"The current political creatures that are the chief executive officers have one, sole mandate: To determine who gets 'the business.' There is no emphasis on improving the public service," lamented Flowers, while citing recent and past procurement practices that violated the relevant procurement regulations.

As *The Reporter* reported last week, the Joint Union Negotiating Team (JUNT), comprised of the Belize National Teachers Union (BNTU), Association of Public Sector Senior Manager (APSSM), and Public Service Union (PSU) issued a press release updating the public on the outcomes of their meeting with several government officials.

The JUNT explained that at the meeting with Prime Minister John Briceño; Deputy Prime Minister Cordel Hyde; Minister of Education Francis Fonseca; Minister of Public Service and Constitutional Reform Henry Charles Usher; and Financial Secretary Joseph Waight, the government took the position to wait for advice from the People's Constitution Commission (PCC).

GOB also said that the Unions were free to use their seat on the PCC to make recommendations on the matter.

The Reporter had also spoken with Cesar Ross, head of the Good Governance Unit in the Ministry

of the Public Service, Constitutional and Political Reform, and Religious Affairs, who opined that GOB was exercising prudent judgment by awaiting word from the PCC.

"The problem is if they went ahead and changed it, and then the commission's recommendation countered that, then what would they do?" Ross said. "So rather than jump ahead and do something that would contravene the reform consultations, the government is saying, 'Let's see what the consultation produces. Do they recommend a structure that has Permanent Secretaries rather than CEO's?'"

The public service employed the use of Permanent Secretaries up until the Said Musa administration of 1998, when the CEO system was introduced in 1999 and also recommended by the Political Reform Commission of 2000.

The functions of the Permanent Secretaries and the CEO were essentially the same. The main differences between the two roles were the requirements. The post of Permanent Secretaries was given to long-standing members of the public service that had operated within the ranks of their ministry and, as such, had institutional knowledge of the Ministry itself as opposed to just the ministry's mandate.

Permanent Secretaries also enjoyed more stable job tenure as the appointment and/or firing of a permanent secretary was a process governed by the Public Service Regulations, not the political will. This process ensured continuity across successive government administrations. CEOs, alternatively, are contract workers

who are not required to have a public service background and who can be replaced with the expiration of a government administration.

The People's United Party (PUP) had promised the change in their Plan Belize manifesto, and reiterated in their Good Governance Motion. In both documents, they promised to "revert to Permanent Secretaries, i.e., senior career public officers, as accounting officers of the Ministries."

CLASSIFIED ADS

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that Estevan Cho & Maria E. Salvatierra of Franks Eddy Village, Cayo District is hereby applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License for Bar Don Estevan**. Situate in Franks Eddy Village, Cayo District for the year 2023. Under the Intoxicating Liquor Act (Revised Edition) of 2000.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that Gleydi Sarceno of #4191 Slim Lane, Belmopan City, Cayo District is hereby applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License for Evania's Restaurant & Bar**. Situate at #4191 Slim Lane, Belmopan City, Cayo District for the year 2023. Under the Intoxicating Liquor Act (Revised Edition) of 2000.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that Jerome Chun of Roaring Creek Village, Cayo District is hereby applying for a renewal for **Shop Liquor License for Chun's Ya'ax Nah Enterprises (UPPER)**. Situate in Roaring Creek Village, Cayo District for the year 2023. Under the Intoxicating Liquor Act (Revised Edition) of 2000.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that Thomas Chun of Roaring Creek Village, Cayo District is hereby applying for a renewal for **Convenient Store Liquor License for Chun's Ya'ax Nah Enterprises**. Situate in Roaring Creek Village, Cayo District for the year 2023. Under the Intoxicating Liquor Act (Revised Edition) of 2000.



CENTRAL BANK
of BELIZE

www.centralbank.org.bz

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Central Bank Deregisters Evangel Credit Union Limited

Belize City, 14 December 2022: The Governor of the Central Bank of Belize (Central Bank), in his capacity as Registrar of Credit Unions, advises that pursuant to section 63 (2) of the Credit Unions Act, 2011, Chapter 314 of the Laws of Belize, Evangel Credit Union Limited has transferred its engagements to Holy Redeemer Credit Union Limited.

The public is hereby notified that effective 7 December 2022, Evangel Credit Union was dissolved, and its registration cancelled. Consequently, pursuant to section 20 (3) of the Credit Unions Act, Evangel Credit Union shall cease to exist as a body corporate effective 7 December 2022.

- ENDS -

ISSUED BY:
THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
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Police officers under investigation following the death of a detainee

By Michelle Sutherland

The Professional Standards Branch (PSB) of the Belize Police Department has launched an investigation into the behavior of several police officers, following the completion of a post-mortem examination conducted on the body of 27-year-old Andrew McDougall, which revealed that he died from blunt force trauma.

Commissioner of Police Chester Williams confirmed that the post-mortem was completed at the end of last week and confirmed that McDougall was severely beaten, which later resulted in his death. Based on those results Williams said that he has since directed that the department's legal office interdicts



Andrew McDougall

the four police officers that had detained McDougall on the night in question. The Crimes Investigation Branch is investigating McDougall's death and has also

been tasked with forwarding those files to the DPP's office for her revision while the PSB is scheduled to lay disciplinary charges against the officers.

"If it is that the

tribunal was to finish - which certainly will be the case - before the court system, then the consequence for what they did is certainly dismissal, and I personally would not hesitate, so long as they're found guilty, to dismiss them. If it is that you can behave in such a way to the extent that you cause the death of a person just for smoking weed, you can't be a police officer... Some officers just don't get it. If you beat a man, you might not get paid. If you don't beat a man, you will get paid. There is no need to be abusive to people in our custody," commented the Commissioner.

Williams went on to say that in his view the degree of force that was used to detain McDougall was not justified under

the circumstances. He explained that he didn't think that there was a need for the officers to pick up McDougall and throw him over the tailgate of the vehicle where he landed on a bicycle. The officers, according to Williams, could have simply opened the tailgate and slide McDougall in.

Williams said that he was told that during his resistance, McDougall stomped out the back glass of the police vehicle, which prompted the police officers to use additional force to restrain him. Williams said that the officers also breached protocol when they decided to take McDougall to the cellblock and detain him instead of taking him to the hospital for treatment knowing that they had

already injured him. It wasn't until the next day that another officer who was reporting for duty realized the extent of McDougall's injury and took him to the hospital for treatment.

McDougall's family has been clamoring for justice following his death. He was reportedly beaten in Santa Cruz Village two weeks ago by four police officers who had detained him for smoking marijuana in public. His family says that McDougall has a rare genetic disorder known as hemophilia, which prevents his blood from clotting or injuries to heal properly. He had been hospitalized for several days at the KMH where he later died.

Local economist: Impacts of wage increase still unclear

By Michelle Sutherland

Local economist Phillip Castillo says that the upcoming minimum-wage increase will make certain persons better off, but could also result in unemployment, and it is still unclear which effect will outweigh the other.

Castillo shared that with so many grey areas only time will tell whether a wage increase among a certain population will result in those persons spending more and whether that effect will be greater than persons losing their jobs as a result.

"What we do not know is the effects of the minimum wage increase on the labor force. Some organizations, including the BCCI were arguing for a phased increase," said Castillo. "I would



Economist Phillip Castillo says impact is still "unclear."

have suspected and expected that the BCCI's position was based on polling their members and what they presented as

their position would have been based on that. That would then tell you that they really can't afford the increase and the

effect of the minimum wage increase will result in a reduction in... So, there will be a few people who will be making minimum

wage and they can demand a certain amount of goods but then there will be people who have lost their jobs and they can't demand any at all," explained Castillo.

As it relates to the inflationary impacts of the wage increase, Castillo explained that even though it has not yet taken effect, prices for goods and services have already started to increase. That much can be deducted from the latest SIB statistic taken in October which showed an increase of 6.7%. That, however, according to Castillo, is a yearly occurrence around the Christmas season due to the demand and supply issue, which tends to increase around the Christmas holidays. This was also compounded by the recent shipping crisis

as well as the impacts of the pandemic.

"Theoretically, we expect prices to go up a bit more because persons of a lower income level tend to spend all their income. In economics, we say that they have a very high marginal propensity to consume. So, if you give a poor man a wage increase, you expect that he would spend that entire increase. Now the effect of that will result in prices going up even further because now there will be this demand for existing goods and then you will expect that the prices of goods and services will also increase. So yes, prices have been going up and the theoretical effect of a wage increase is continued price level increase," he summarized.

The sugar cane season commences!

By Britney Gordon

Belize Sugar Industries Limited (BSI) and the Belize Sugar Cane Farmers Association (BSCFA) have agreed to a one-year interim agreement and began the 2022 cane season.

The parties signed a one-year interim agreement, which led to the mill and the farmers beginning production.

The opening of the season was met with relief by BSI, who stated that the mill has been ready to commence production since December 19. After originally proposing a two-year interim agreement, BSI acceded to the one-year counter-proposal, claiming their desire to begin the season outweighed the need for a longer arrangement.

“The matter became bigger than just BSI and the BSCFA. We had three other organizations that were keen to get the crop going. They had their farmers who were ready to deliver. It extended to the wider cane farming and the economy, particularly the economy here in the north. So for us, the priority became getting the crop



BSI's Finance Director Shawn Chavarria

started whether it is through a one-year or two-year agreement,” stated BSI's Director of Finance Shawn Chavarria.

Chavarria further explained that the rationale for the proposed two-year agreement was “simply to provide more time and space for us and the BSCFA to see if we can reach a long-term agreement.”

Along with the counter-proposal of a one-year agreement, the BSCFA also made its desire to rework the Sugar Act in order to ensure that “uncertainty does not persist in situations

like these,” as stated by the Chairman of the Council of Management of the BSCFA, Alfredo Ortega.

In response to these requests, Chavarria stated that the BSI believes that The Sugar Act needs to be updated, and modernized to suit the current sugar industry.

“The industry is made up of private enterprises and private individuals...Every country have its own legislation. Some are very regulated, some are not regulated. And all that depends on the structure of the industry. Who are the players? How many

players do they have and whether the mills are state-owned or privately owned? There's not a one-size-fits-all for every sugar cane industry in the world.” He emphasized.

Chavarria went on to detail BSI's decision to challenge the constitutionality of the Sugar Act in regard to the start and stop of the crop. Currently, neither the mill nor the farmers are able to decide when the crop commences and must wait for the decision to be gazetted by the Sugar Industry Control Board.

“There is a lot of scope for the sugar

act to be modernized. There are too many inefficiencies and too many regulations that really strangle the ability to operate and do business in an efficient manner,” Chavarria said.

BSI affirms its confidence in the potential for a long-term agreement, so long as “good faith” is upheld, as stated by Chavarria. He explained that while the parties weren't able to achieve a long-term agreement through the mediation, the interim agreement will “provide an opportunity to ventilate a lot of issues and try to see if we can get closer to an agreement.”



S U D O K U



Medium Puzzle

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

Answer to Puzzle

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

Prime Minister's New Year's Address



Hon. John Briceño

My fellow Belizeans,

I am honoured to bring you greetings at this festive and symbolic time of the year.

For Belizeans, and people the world over, crossing the bridge from one year to another, is a passage that carries immense hope.

Across our blessed land, reasons for hope are abundant.

For the first time in a generation, our people and communities are infused with optimism.

The worse of the Covid pandemic is behind us.

More Belizeans than ever are working.

The national economy is expanding at a record pace.

And the nation is deepening its democracy and re-examining its Constitution.

As I have visited with Belizeans in villages, towns, and cities, and spent time on the ground in each

district, it is clear to me that a renewed national pride enlivens homes, workplaces, and the public square.

This positive energy will, I am sure, suffuse 2023 with spectacular rewards.

A few days ago, for example, stakeholders in the all-important sugar sector, bridged their differences so that we expect a bumper crop in both volume and price.

To make this happen, my Administration expanded our fuel and road repair subsidies, supported improving crop yield as a priority, and in a major first, will facilitate substantial fertilizer support to farmers, thanks to the Government of Morocco.

The positive breakthrough in the sugar industry is but one of many successes in a surging agricultural industry where the

export of livestock and grains swell with each passing month, where a nascent coconut sub-sector is poised for a boom in production, and where stakeholders are working to restore the lustre of the citrus industry.

Alongside agriculture, tourism – overnight and cruise tourism, the BPO sector, manufacturing and construction form the bedrock of the Belizean economic engine, robust and resilient in equal parts.

Genuine entrepreneurs, investors small and large, and businesses of every stripe have and will continue to benefit from efficiencies and reforms that ratify this Administration's high regard for the prosperity that only private enterprise can generate.

The near-miraculous economic rebound of the last two years has pushed down unemployment to historic lows, with poverty rates finally falling in tandem.

And these important measures will continue to move in the right direction as we intensify our focus on policies and programs that unlock chances for upward mobility.

I am particularly proud to highlight that 2023 will bring more money into the pockets of some

thirty thousand Belizean workers who are poised to enjoy a minimum wage of \$5 per hour at the start of the New Year.

This \$5 per hour is a 50% increase for one in every six of the lowest-paid workers in our country.

Earned by the employee's work, not gifted by the employer, the individual empowerment conferred by a living wage is a foremost responsibility of the State and the foundation of social justice.

Adam Smith, known as the Father of Capitalism, reminded us in his Theory on Moral Sentiments, that the ethical basis of society lies in compassion for other human beings.

Reversing the inequality gap of recent years is not just a societal interest but a national imperative.

And it is this commitment to compassion that compelled us to allocate earlier this month an additional \$4 million for Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital to ensure tertiary healthcare is improved for those who can least afford private care.

Furthermore, 2023 will spawn access to the NHI Program to 208,427 Belizean.

In the New Year, 59,726 Belizeans

will enrol for the first time in a program where doctors and medicines are quickly and affordably available.

And in 2023, the accelerated rollout of starter homes, the awards of housing and farmland, and the extension of our free high school program will all represent a scaling-up and scaling-out of this Administration's most impactful social justice priorities.

In simple and straightforward terms, you should measure our success by keeping count of every new small business, every new job, every new homeowner, every new farmer, every new graduate - every Belizean better off than before we took office is the win we pledged to deliver.

The year we leave behind, 2022, was a turbulent one.

A devastating war in Ukraine, skyrocketing prices for fuel, costly supply chain interruptions, 40-year highs for inflation, and general economic uncertainty all rendered a post-pandemic recovery more difficult for most countries.

Judged within this upheaval, our country's performance is even more exceptional.

At the start of 2021, my administration's first year, I encouraged small steps, to stabilize the

nation and reverse the alarming decline at the hands of the UDP.

Those steps rescued the Belizean dollar, transformed the public finances, re-focused investments in critical areas and inspired confidence in the private sector, the IFIs and foreign investors.

At the start of this year, those steps became strides as the economy expanded, thousands of new jobs emerged, public sector employees had their salaries restored, investments poured in and Belize enjoyed global acclaim for the spectacular commitment to conservation and debt reduction.

Our efforts at debt reduction has reduced the national debt by over 1 billions dollars, our debt to GDP ratio went from 133 percent under the UDP to 63 percent, a remarkable accomplishment to say the least.

And now, in 2023, these steps and strides will become leaps forward, as the twin propellants of tourism and agriculture elevate the quality of life yet higher, even as governance reforms cultivate greater inclusiveness, transparency and national happiness.

To every Belizean, I offer my gratitude for your contribution to the national welfare.

We are a nation of limitless possibilities;

a land where dreams spring forth from a soil rich and resilient;

a country whose national fabric is woven from the timeless values of dignity, hard work, fairness, compassion and mutual respect.

And on behalf of our Cabinet and the many men and women who are your Government I wish all Belizeans a Happy New Year.

*Long live Belize!
Que Viva Belice!*

**Kick back
Relax and
Enjoy**



The Reporter
Independently serving Belize since 1987

Lessons from Peru



Amb. F. Daniel Gutierrez

There are many Belizeans who are enamoured with the separation of powers common place in many republics. We have grown up on a steady diet of American Television that regularly touts the benefits of congressional oversight and an executive branch that is held to account by the men and women of unblemished character and of principled patriotism who act as guardians against an executive branch run amok.

I will argue, however, that this is a childish caricature of real life and a system such as this will not work in Belize. To the contrary, it will make our already imperfect democracy messy and exacerbate the political tribalism that infests this nation. Our already politically sceptical younger generations who make up the majority of Belizeans and whose interest in the political system the future of our democracy depends on, will further loose interest in political participation. That would be a tragedy.

I chose the headline for a reason. As I write this piece

many Peruvians have been killed by security forces that do the dirty work for a regime that is politically and morally bankrupt. The legally elected president of Peru was by design never allowed to rule by congress and in return, he masterminded a coup which ended up facilitating his ouster and incarceration. A result that is quite in line with 500 years of keeping those of indigenous decent out of the halls of power. I am sure this is a gross oversimplification of what is a complex, historically charged and difficult situation. It is for Belizeans though, a lesson in political dysfunction and a manifestation of what happens in a society that has deep rooted and unreconcilable political tribalism. Sounds familiar?

It is no secret that Belize's system of governance needs improvement. Like many Belizeans I welcome a constitutional review to try to find ways to improve it. But I do fear a copy and paste result where our current framers bend to the sugar coated allure of separation

of powers and oversight as practised by other nations like Peru. I hope I am wrong and that they choose to shun this path. I understand completely how this model is attractive on paper. In one such model, and there are several nations that use this version not only Peru, the executive branch proposes how the state's resources are to be deployed, after that men and women of character and with nation at heart get to the work of looking through it, make amends and then and only then will they approve. Sounds great! Except in many instances it does not work like that at all. Stories from around the world abound of representatives taking bribes in cash and kind to ensure that the "budget passes". In the United States political commentators regularly call out the "pork" in the budget or underscore how certain projects in certain regions benefit from the way the laws are written.

How many times have we not heard of imminent government shut downs, because the one branch of government is constitutionally enabled to stop the executive from governing? Let me be very clear, I support oversight, I would argue emphatically that the way the nation's purse is managed needs to be audited by persons who do not work for the very people doing the spending. That oversight and audit should not be put in the hands of other politicians or the same politicians doing the spending or anyone who reports to them, it must be entrusted to a constitutionally mandated and enabled entity whose chain of command does not end in a politician. There are ways to do this and should we choose

to remove the King of England as our head of state, there can be practical employment for the holder of that office that is devoid of political tribalism and responds to the overwhelming clamour of this nation's electorate for an end to corruption. That however is for an equally needed but separate discussion.

The point I wish to make here is that we ought not go for fool's gold. The Belizeans with the herculean responsibility of proposing a new constitution must take the time to come up with something that works for Belize. They cannot copy and paste no matter how attractive the model looks. Our political system is riddled with tribalism and spitefulness. If we make the mistake of empowering tribalism and put it on steroids with a constitutional ability to stop the government from governing, then we are ruining the last bit of our system that actually hobbles along.

When I had the honour of serving our nation in Washington DC, I would regularly educate people who lumped Belize in with other Central American countries of political ill repute.

I made it very clear that in Belize when a political party lost an election, it packed up and went home, by the end of the following day we had a new government. Those were the marching orders of the people, period. That part of our democracy has proven to work, we should guard it.

In a functional democracy, governments must be allowed to govern. The result of free and fair elections express the will of the people, and that will must be respected. When you have a parliament that is elected completely separate of the executive, and you empower that parliament to stop governance in real time, you booby trap the system of governance and end up with an already lethargic government that then becomes stuck in the proverbial political mud. Another way to characterise a system of parliamentary oversight that can bring governance to a stop, is to call it what it is, meaning the potential election and empowerment of two different sets of political egos and ambitions from differing political parties in constitutional vehicles that have real power. Guess

what you end up with—Peru.

For those hell bent on focusing on a runaway executive, it is worth emphasizing that the executive branch must be held to account and their decisions and deployment of resources must be audited. No arguments there. I argue, though, that of equal importance in a system that functions, the executive branch must be allowed to govern. Should we end up with a system that muddies the waters by creating a constitutional vehicle that allows some politicians of one party to stop a government from fulfilling the mandate upon which it was elected, then that's political dysfunction at its best. In that scenario we all lose. If you don't believe me ask our friends from Peru; some of them paying with their lives at this very moment.

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.

NOTICE OF COMMENCED DISSOLUTION

International Domestique Trading Ltd. ("the Company")

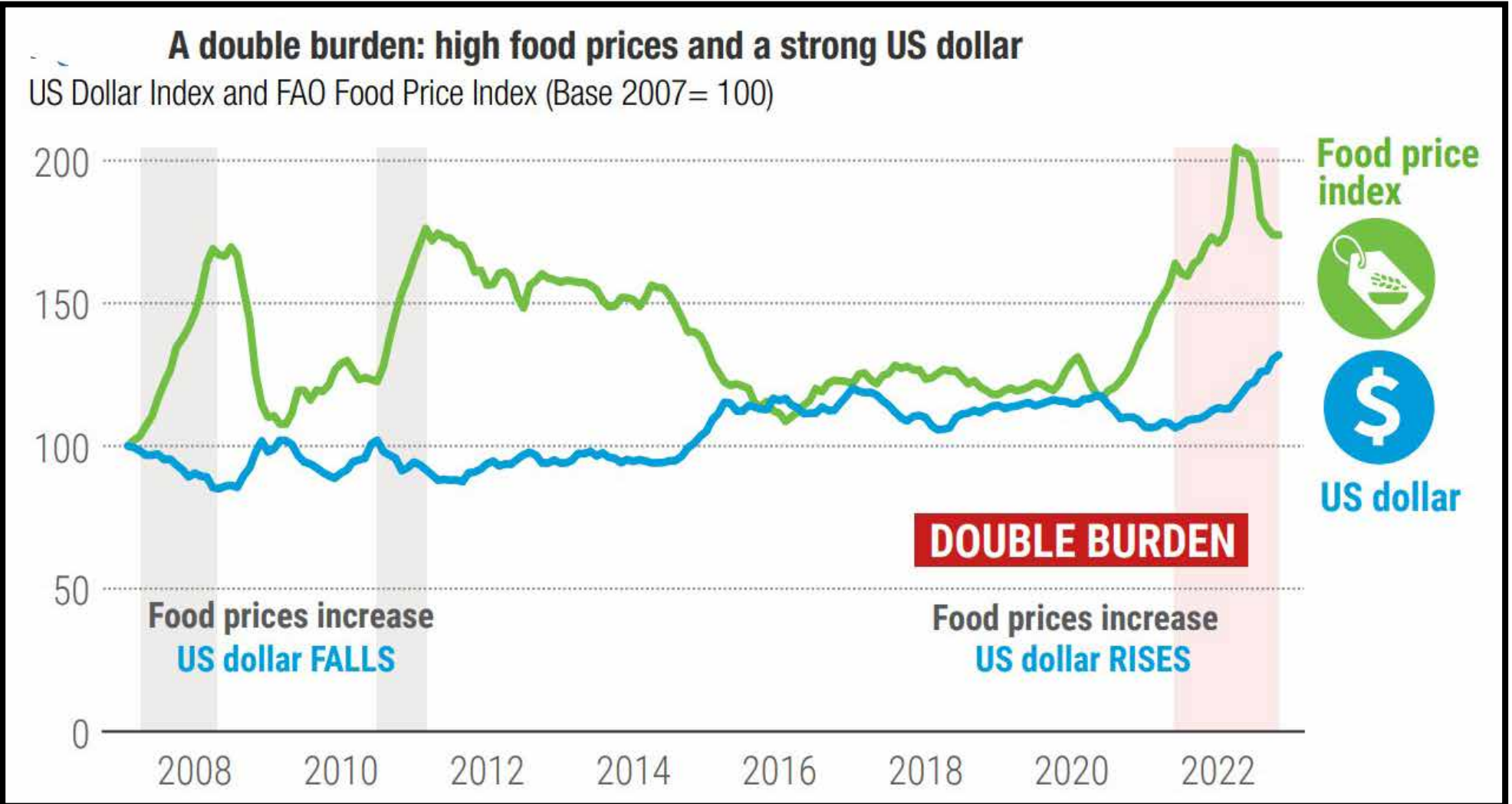
"Notice is hereby given to all interested parties that **International Domestique Trading Ltd.** a Company incorporated under the IBC Act of Belize commenced dissolution on **09th November 2022.**

And

Mr. Jaufre Rouanet, of Office 901, Al Saqr Tower, Sheikh Zayed Road, Dubai- United Arab Emirates is the liquidator of the company.

Frontier International Business Services Limited
Registered Agent

Nations hit with 'double burden' food crisis



By Britney Gordon
 Developing countries are suffering from the globe's third major food spike of the

century coupled with the appreciation of the US dollar. As a direct result of the Russia-Ukraine war and the lingering effects of the global

pandemic, the price of food has increased everywhere, reaching historic levels in 2022, as stated by the Global Crisis Response

Group. This food security crisis has especially impacted the food importation of developing countries.

While the world faced two major food crises from 2007 to 2008 and from 2010 to 2012, this crisis is paired with the additional challenge of the appreciating US dollar. Experts have dubbed the phenomenon the 'double burden'.

Now, developing countries not only pay higher prices for the food they import but the price increase is exacerbated by the depreciation of their currency in relation to the US dollar.

The Inter-American Development Bank published a new report this month titled "Regional Overview: Headwinds Facing the Post-pandemic Recovery" which detailed the challenges Caribbean nations will face in the upcoming year. Both the rise in commodity prices and higher international interest rates for Caribbean economies. The report cited the World Bank's 2022 projection of modest declines in commodity prices in the coming two years. For energy prices the World Bank projects a decline of 11 percent in 2023 and 12 percent

in 2024. It also estimates a decline of 5 percent in 2023 for a broad index of agricultural prices and stable prices in 2024. However, these declines would still leave prices substantially above the averages of the last five years, a likely indicator that relatively high food and fuel prices will persist into 2023 and perhaps 2024. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), average inflation for Central an average annual inflation of 12.5 percent is projected for Latin America in 2022.

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Weh Wi Ga Fi Seh Nyoo Yaa deh ya!
 Kangrats tu di nyoo Kriol Kongsl leedaz!

Hapi Nyoo Yaa, 2023!

How Fi Ga Wahn Gud Gud GUD 2023:

- A.** Mek 2023 di yaa wen yu wahn eksasaiz moa. Kip haat wen ting noh di goh fu yoo way. How? Ih help if yu kip yu badi eena sohn kain a shayp. Ih noh tek no lat a moni. Jos staat waak sohn moa evriday. Klaim dehn step 2-3 taihn evriday eena 2023.
- B.** Bigin evri day eena 2023 di gi tanks tu Faada Gaad, ahn finish evri day di gi tanks tu Faada Gaad.
- C.** Kip yu hows kleen, ahn noh ga no lat a ting bowt di plays. Ga wahn plays fu evriting. Gi weh dehn lat a ting yu noh need ahn weh jos deh bowt di plays di gyada dos. Sohn badi els ku yooz it.
- D.** Werk haad, bot mek shoar yu geh nof res tu; geh nof sleep tu.
- E.** Memba seh faamli impoatant. Mek taim fu dehn. Maybi da noh yu blod faamli, bot stay kloas tu gud pipl ... kip gud kompni.

Hapi Nyoo Yaa 2023!

Jain di Kriol Kongsl tudeh tudeh:
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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

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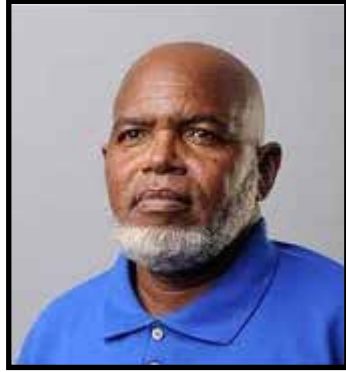
And
 Mr. Jaufre Rouanet of Office 901, Al Saqr Tower, Sheikh Zayed road, Dubai- United Arab Emirates, is the liquidator of the company.

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GRASSROOTS

My Experience with the Cuban Revolution



By Hon. Gilroy Usher

“I am Fidel Castro, and we have come to liberate Cuba.”-
Fidel Castro.

In early November 2022 as Minister of State for Youth, Sports, and Transport, I led a five member delegation including Linsford Castillo Chairman National Sports Council (NSC); Gary Ayuso, the director National Anti-Doping Organization (NADO); Mr. Ian Cal, the director NSC; and Miss Rochelle Cabral, the director Laboratory Services KHMH to Cuba.

Cuba is the largest Caribbean island to sign an agreement for the island country to conduct testing for NADO and to identify more ways to promote sports in the Jewel as best as possible. It was my first visit to the country, which apart from Brazil and the USA is the only nation that has a fully accredited laboratory for anti-doping testing.

With no direct flight from Belize to Cuba, we traveled to Cancun, Mexico, by bus and took a flight from the Mexican city to Havana, capital of Cuba.

With a population of 11.3 million and three main ethnic groups specifically white Cubans 37%, Mulatto persons of black and white ancestry 51%, and Afro-Cubans 11%, Cuba is the only communist country in the Caribbean. The island's first communist president was Fidel Castro.

He served in that capacity for 49 years from January 1st, 1959 to February 24th, 2008.

Fidel resigned from office due to ripe age and health issues and was succeeded by his brother Raul Castro. Raul governed the island for a little over a decade, before he also resigned from office for the same reasons as his brother. The current president by Cuba is Miguel Diaz Canel. He succeeded Raul Castro on April 19th, 2018.

Although Blacks only represent one tenth of the Cuban population, it was heartwarming to see Blacks employed at all levels throughout country's economy.

Cuban only became a communist nation from 1959. Prior to that date the island was led mainly by rightwing dictators. Those men were kept in power by the United States, Russia, or whichever foreign power was ruling the region at the time in exchange for being their puppets.

In that relationship the dictators granted their puppet masters every single request including very cheap labor for investment, exploitation of the natural resources, unlimited tax exemptions, establishment of crime syndicates, and unlimited ownership of land which left ordinary Cubans landless. The terrible injustice led to the establishment of a society in which the rich got richer and the poor got poorer without basic things like adequate education, healthcare, housing, and streets for a better life.

The tremendous suffering by the people eventually

gave birth to the Cuban Revolution which was led by

quality education free from preschool to university. There

make land available for ordinary Cubans.

With the use of cards Cubans are

meats, or items with images of some prominent Cuban revolutionaries are scarce. That's because sourcing such items is very difficult or because their sale or distribution is strictly prohibited or controlled by the state. The selling of any item with an image of Fidel Castro is strictly prohibited throughout the island as requested by Fidel, before his passing.

The salary of Cubans from ordinary citizens to professionals is small, because the state provides most of the basic needs of a home free.

The desire of many Cubans for foreign products that offer them better quality and variety from clothing to household appliances has resulted in a very lucrative underground economy in which U.S. dollars are preferable to the Cuban peso. Through quiet communication by word of mouth, waatsapp, or special signals many persons know which address to visit to purchase a variety of items that are not available in the government operated stores.

Less than a decade after the revolution, Cuba began reaping tremendous benefits as a world leader in sports after investing heavily in coaches and necessary facilities to produce top athletes. Using the pyramid method, trained coaches identify individuals with the potential to excel in specific sports from the primary school level, and everything possible is done to motivate those individuals to succeed in their specific disciplines.

After primary school promising



Fidel Castro and which lasted for six years from 1953 to 1959.

Efforts to overthrow the government with arms started in 1953 when a coup d'etat placed Fulgencio Bautista an American puppet as head of the state and massive strikes in opposition to the coup failed to force Bautista from power.

The armed revolt ended on January 1st, 1959 when Bautista was driven from office. Fidel Castro then became the new president of the island with the full support of Che Guevara, his brother Raul, hundreds of other fighters, and millions of other Cubans throughout the nation.

As president of Cuba, Fidel Castro gradually nationalized all businesses. In the process he used the millions of dollars in revenue from those operations to implement programs for the upliftment of Cubans throughout the island.

As a result of the revolution, Cubans are provided with one of the highest

are no longer private schools in Cuba as is customary in many other countries. Cubans enjoy first class healthcare throughout their life absolutely free with top quality doctors and nurses in public health facilities; they are also provided with free housing.

With its system of development, private hospitals and clinics are prohibited, and generally most people live in the same type apartments or single houses. Rich and

provided with over 90% of the most basic food items for healthy living free of cost on a monthly basis. The few corner stores on the island are owned by the state. It's common to see scores of persons waiting on the street for the opportunity to enter a business to purchase clothing, furniture, or other products.

Except for a growing base of private hotels and private restaurants pawnshops, payday loan companies,

Most Cubans however are convinced that the blockade is mainly responsible for their difficult situations ;nevertheless they prefer to continue supporting their system of government to safeguard the tremendous benefits they have enjoyed with the Cuban revolution instead of reverting to the capitalist system which kept them dirt poor, landless, and uneducated without any hope of a better life.

poor neighborhoods are basically non-existent on the island.

Fidel and the Cuban revolution is also credited for nationalizing large tracks of land that were owned by wealthy land owners. Many of those properties were then used to

banks, supermarkets, newspapers, TV stations, radio stations, cable companies, and many other businesses that are privately owned are prohibited in Cuba.

Private vending is allowed at the market and the tourist village; however, many products such as fish, milk, various

Cont'd on pg. 11

GRASSROOTS

My Experience with the Cuban Revolution

Cont'd from pg. 10

athletes in Cuba are sent to special schools for a particular sport or a few sports where they also offer a well-rounded education. Those individuals from distant places live on the campus totally free and only return home twice per year.

The state also encourages it's promising athletes to excel by providing them with above average stipend. Secondly Cuba encourages its athletes to study and train better by securing contracts for them to earn more money abroad as they prove they are a cut above others in their disciplines.

Despite the motivation for top athletes to remain home, due to the hardship on the island by the end of 2022, Cuba expects to lose at least 50 of its best athletes to greener pastures abroad permanently.

America is a capitalist country. It promotes free enterprise, ownership of business by private individuals, and freedom of speech among other things. Cuba has been the opposite after the revolution. Consequently the Americans are not happy with the Caribbean nation.

They, the Americans, long for the day when the communist system on

the island is replaced with their capitalist system again. Once of the things the U.S. has done to try and force the collapse of the Cuban revolution is to continue to enforce its 60 year old blockade of the island.

The blockade prevents American businesses and businesses organized under U.S. law or majority-owned by American citizens from conducting any trade with Cuba.

American companies at home or abroad produce most of the machines, parts, and other items Cuba needs to develop its economy and offer it's people an even higher standard of

living.

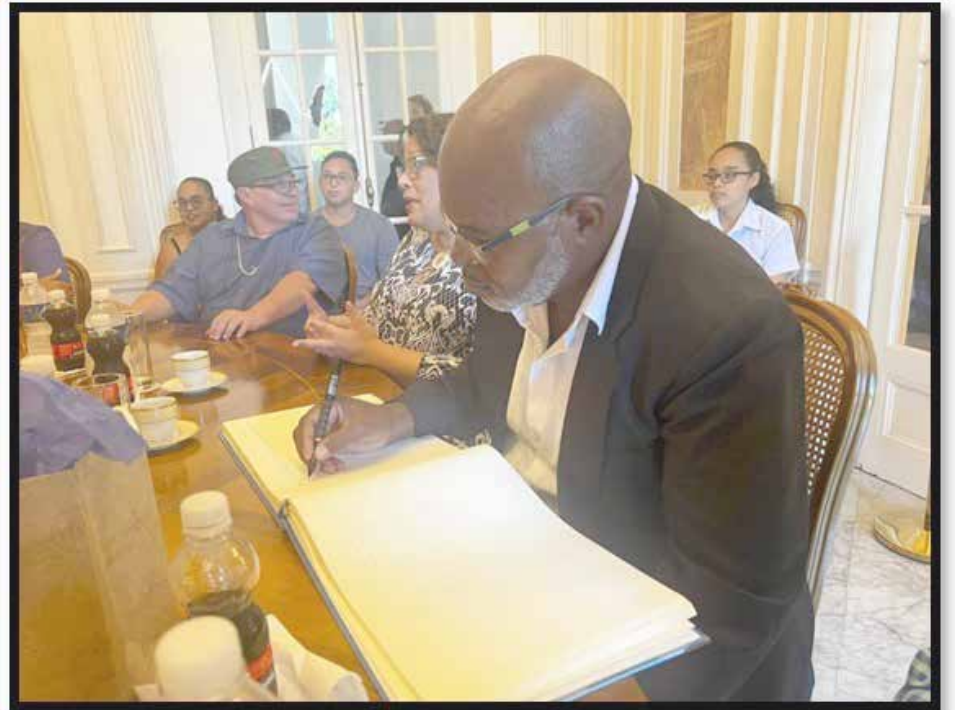
Because of the blockade however Cuba has to purchase those necessary items if it can locate them from third parties on the black-market or it has to purchase

blockade a car that sells for \$15,000.00 in Belize would cost at least \$45,000.00 in Cuba, which is way above what ordinary Cubans can afford.

Such reality explains why horse

soldiers in uniforms are rarely seen in public.

When Cubans meet monthly with their "government representative" in their communities, a few of those



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similar products from distant countries at three times more than the cost if it was allowed to purchase the same items from United States which is only 90 miles from its shore.

An explosion on the island about five months ago in August practically destroyed Cuba's entire petroleum reserve. Due to that unfortunate situation Cuba has been experiencing a major fuel shortage. This has resulted in long periods of blackout in the country and a major shortage of fuel for vehicles to operate.

As a result of the blockade, Cuba cannot purchase oil from U.S. companies nearby, and it requires more than triple the same foreign exchange which it doesn't have to purchase the same amount of fuel from other countries that are thousands of miles away.

The state refers to these challenging times as "The Special period."

With the American

and cart, makeshift bicycle for two or three passengers, and crude vehicles that are over 50 years old still form a major part of public transportation in Havana and other parts of Cuba.

Cubans had hopes of a better life with the gradual ending of the blockade, when President Obama lifted a number of its restrictions. Those changes enabled American cruise ships, airlines, and many other U.S. companies to trade with Cuba and resulted in a major boost for the Cuban economy with a wide range of better paying jobs. However Obama's successors Donald Trump and Joe Biden respectively reintroduced all the restrictions that were lifted and even tighten the blockade more in the hopes of causing the revolution to collapse. Despite those many challenges crime in Cuba is very low, the streets are peaceful, and policemen and

persons accuse the administration of conveniently blaming the blockade for its failure to ease the hardships they are currently experiencing. Most Cubans however are convinced that the blockade is mainly responsible for their difficult situations; nevertheless they prefer to continue supporting their system of government to safeguard the tremendous benefits they have enjoyed with the Cuban revolution instead of reverting to the capitalist system which kept them dirt poor, landless, and uneducated without any hope of a better life.

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RES PUBLICA

Revert to Permanent Secretaries! A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush

By Dyon A. Elliott

As was recently reported, the Joint Unions met with the Prime Minister and his team to discuss a range of issues. One in particular is the unions' demand for the authorities to follow through on both the People's United Party (PUP) Opposition manifesto promise, as well as the Briceño Administration's Good Governance Motion that both committed reverting back to the post of Permanent Secretaries as opposed to the politically appointed Chief Executive Officers.

Sadly, the response, as reported by the unions, is that the "Prime Minister advised that their [the government's] position on this is to await the recommendations of the People's Constitution Commission." If that is, indeed, the final position, it must be stated that there are several concerns attachable to that decision.

Who or What is a Permanent Secretary?

But it is good for us to start at the beginning. What exactly is a Permanent Secretary and why we should care?

To answer this question, we must appreciate the distinction between words and concepts. Philosophy Professor Patrick Grim (2013) explained that "concepts are ideas, and words represent those ideas." In some commonwealth jurisdictions, the term Permanent Secretary is functionally equivalent—in terms of recruitment and duties—to what Belizeans have come to recognize as ministries' chief executive officers (CEOs). In this case, there is merely a "nominal" difference, with little substantial difference. In other countries, however, the Permanent Secretary is well insulated from the political directorate, creating a truly independent public service. It is the latter that is the focus of this article.

More specifically, throughout this article, the Permanent-Secretary model being referenced is that found in New Zealand. In New Zealand, as the Institute for Government describes it, the PS is appointed independent of ministers, including the Prime Minister. The Institute, in their report "Permanent Secretary Appointments and the Role of Ministers," explains:

"The appointments system in New Zealand is firmly independent of ministers. All department chief executives (permanent secretary equivalents) are employed by the independent State Services Commissioner—the head of the NZ civil service. Like all jobs in the New Zealand public service, these roles are always advertised openly and selection is on the basis of competitive merit.

"Ministers are consulted on what they think the needs of the role are and the type of person who should be appointed, as in the UK. The Commissioner then chairs the recruitment competition, and recommends the best candidate to be appointed. The Cabinet can veto chief executive appointments, but this is seen as a democratic control of last resort. It has only happened once, in 1990 though, as in the UK, the Commissioner is likely to have knowledge of ministerial views when making his recommendations and will take these into account."

Unfortunately, an exhaustive analysis of the New Zealanders' system is beyond the scope of this one article. However, I do encourage readers to peruse New Zealand's State Sector Act 1988, which, *inter alia*, establishes the State Services Commissioner (SSC), who is tasked with hiring chief executives (Permanent Secretaries) that usually receive a fixed, five-year terms in office.

In a country that has a three-year political cycle, that five-year fixed tenure (along with other structures) provides these officers with functional independence from the political directorate. Said differently, it is very possible that chief executive in this system can

outlive the administration he or she was hired under.

Under this type of structure, the State Sector Act's Section 32(1)(c) specifically makes it the secretaries' duty to manage their relevant departments with a view of its "medium- and long-term sustainability, organizational health . . . and capacity to offer free and frank advice to successive governments."

In essence, the minister's role is to set broad-level policies, and it is left up to the Permanent Secretary to in effect interpret and, via the public administrative process, bring those policies to life via well-thought-out programs and initiatives.

The Contrast: Belize's Chief Executive Officers

Having briefly looked at the functional independence found in New Zealand as far as permanent secretaries (or chief executives) is concerned, one only need to read Belize's Constitution's Section 48 to appreciate the sharp difference. Our Constitution reads:

"Subject to the direction and control of the Minister pursuant to section 41(2) of this Constitution, every department of government shall be under the Officers supervision of a public officer whose office is referred to in this Constitution as the office of a Chief Executive Officer."

While one system seeks to insulate from political control, Belize's Supreme Law expressly places the Chief Executive Officers (CEO's) under the "direction and control of the Minister."

Section 107 (1) and (2) would double down on this, stating:

"This section applies to . . . Chief Executive Officer . . . The power to appoint persons to hold or to act in offices to which this section applies (including the power to transfer or to confirm appointments) and . . . to exercise disciplinary control over persons holding or acting in such offices and the power to remove such persons from office shall vest in the Governor-General, acting in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister."

Given the largely ceremonial role of Governor-Generals in our system of governance, this essentially means that it is the Prime Minister that wields those powers. The contrast between the two countries' approach to chief executives or permanent secretaries is quite conspicuous.

In a recent interview with The Reporter on this topic, the President of the Public Service Union (PSU) Dean Flowers explained that had Belize been operating with Permanent Secretaries—even as it were with reference to what once existed in Belize—the matter with Forestry Officer Daniel Chi that occurred earlier this year would of played out differently.

"Had it not been a political creature such as a CEO and instead a permanent secretary at the helm of the ministry, that whole matter would have been better aligned with the actual regulations," affirmed Flowers.

In July this year, Flowers had also explained to The Reporter that there were significant missteps as far as the Regulations were concerned, a situation, he maintains, that would have not been the case had it been a seasoned and functionally independent public officer at the helm of the ministry.

Saving it for the People's Constitution Commission?

The foregoing is clearly not an exhaustive discussion of the distinctions between the designs of Belize's and New Zealand's, a fellow Commonwealth country, head of government departments. And while Belize's pre-2000 Constitution did use to have the term Permanent Secretary, it is possible to argue that even that was significantly different from (and less independent than) what exists in the New Zealand example.

Nevertheless, this brings us to the heart of the matter: The response to the unions that this matter should be left for the People's Constitution Commission (PCC).

At this point, it is imperative that we rewind the tape to the year 2000, when Belize witnessed the work of the Political Reform Commission (PRC-2000). While we can concede that Belize's Permanent Secretaries were not as independent as its New Zealand counterpart, it cannot be forgotten that it was the PRC-2000 that made the following recommendation:

"It is the view of the Commission that permanent secretaries should indeed be POLITICAL APPOINTEES who serve for the term of the government appointing them and who have a role of policy coordinator as opposed to administrator."

In its report submitted in January 2000, the PRC-2000 recommended that "Permanent Secretaries no longer be the most senior permanent position in the public service but instead be POLITICAL APPOINTEES of the government in office."

Now, let's get something clear here. Even before the PRC's final report, we must recall that it was in September 1999 that then Prime Minister Said Musa announced the shift to CEOs. These were Musa's words back then:

"In the weeks ahead government will offer voluntary retirement to all permanent secretaries who are not presently on fixed-term contracts. Their status will change to that of Chief Executive Officers with proven track records in modern management." So, in many ways, one could argue that the PRC simply "blessed" what was already the will of the then Government.

Fundamentally, there is no guarantee that this issue will survive the PCC process. Additionally, even if the PCC recommends the change, it must be noted that like its PRC-2000 predecessor (of sorts), the PCC Act does not presently bind government to institute the change.

Bird in the Hand

In many ways, this could be viewed as a situation of a "bird in the hand being worth more than two in the bush." The Briceño Administration had already committed to bringing back "Permanent Secretaries." That's the "bird in the hand." The unions and the other civil-society organizations should not allow the opportunity to slip by wherein meaningful changes could be made for the improvement of governance in Belize.

There is a difference between something that is probable and possible. Possible speaks to what can be done. "Probable," on the other hand, speaks to what is more likely to occur.

It is "possible" that the PCC may call for this type of reform. However, it is also possible that there is a repeat of history and the majority sides with the politically-appointed CEO structure. However, there is a far higher probability of successful reforms in this area if the government is called upon to stick to its Good Governance Motion of reverting to the permanent secretaries.

I would take it a step further.

Simply reverting to the pre-2000 status quo is not sufficient. I would encourage all stakeholders to take the time to examine structures like the one New Zealand employs for its Permanent Secretaries (or chief executives). While there are clearly other factors in play, I do not believe it is too farfetched to say that the functional independence of the chief executive is a significant contributing factor as to why New Zealand is ranked as among the top-three least corrupt countries in the world, according to Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index for 2021.

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.

Timeline: Peru's 2022 Political Crisis



By Jon Orbach and Jennifer Vilcarino

Ex-President Castillo's supporters gather outside police station

This timeline was initially published December 14, 2022 and has since been updated.

Between an impeachment, a new president, and a nationwide state of emergency, a lot has happened in Peru since former President Pedro Castillo tried to dissolve Congress on December 7. AS/COA Online covers the events marking the December 2022 political crisis.

December 7: Hours before what was to be his third impeachment hearing, Castillo announces he will dissolve Congress and install an emergency government. But, with a lack of government and military support, his maneuver fails, and the impeachment process goes ahead. Lawmakers vote 101 in favor and 6 against with 10 abstentions.

After being removed from power, Castillo seeks to escape to the Mexican embassy, per a Peruvian prosecutor, but gets stuck in Lima traffic. Authorities detain him and charge him with rebellion and conspiracy. That night, they transfer him to the same prison that holds ex-President Alberto Fujimori (1990–2000), who dissolved Congress in 1992 in a self-coup.

Castillo's vice president, Dina Boluarte, gets sworn in as leader and becomes the country's first woman president—and its sixth president in as many years.

Leaders worldwide respond in a range of ways, from countries such as Spain and the United States rejecting Castillo's actions and voicing support for Boluarte, to the presidents of Colombia and Mexico defending the ousted leader.

Upon the arrest of Castillo, supporters start protesting.

December 8: Mexico's Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard shares on Twitter a letter addressed to President Andrés Manuel López Obrador from Castillo's lawyer requesting asylum for the leader. Mexico's ambassador to Peru meets with a detained Castillo.

December 10: Boluarte swears in a new cabinet of eight women and nine men.

December 11: Protests build in southern Peru as demonstrators in Arequipa, the country's second-most populous city, and the city of Cusco make their way to the capital.

December 12: Boluarte suggests moving elections forward by two years to April 2024. This follows the deaths of at least seven pro-Castillo protesters over the past two days in mostly rural

parts of the country.

The governments of Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, and Mexico release a joint statement expressing their concern over Castillo's removal from office as a violation of voters' democratic will. As of this date, none of these four governments have recognized Boluarte as Peru's president.

Authorities shut down Arequipa's airport, saying it had been overtaken by Castillo supporters.

Castillo pens a letter to Peruvians in which he calls his former vice president a "usurper" and tells the public not to fall for her "dirty game of new elections."

December 13: Supreme Court Judge César San Martín Castro denies Castillo's appeal to annul the preliminary arrest against him and to drop the charges.

US State Department Spokesperson Ned Price expresses Washington's support for Boluarte and voices concern over the violent protests.

December 14: Peruvian prosecutors request 18 months of preventive detention for Castillo.

Boluarte suggests bringing elections forward again, this time to December 2023. But protests continue, and the Boluarte administration announces a national 30-day state of emergency, suspending civil liberties.

December 15: The death toll of clashes between pro-Castillo protestors and police jumps from 11 to 18, reports say, making December 15 the deadliest day since Boluarte's introduction. Most deaths occur in the southern, majority-indigenous provinces of Apurímac and Ayacucho. International and local human rights groups accuse the police of using "excessive force" in certain instances.

Supreme Court judge Juan Carlos Checkley sentences Castillo to 18 months of preventive detention for acts of rebellion and conspiracy. Castillo writes another letter from behind bars, accusing foreign powers of collaborating to remove him from office to advance mining interests.

Boluarte institutes a curfew in 15 provinces across Peru for a minimum of five days. Residents of the provinces affected who leave their houses during curfew risk detention. The Peruvian Congress began its debate about advancing general elections.

President of Congress José Williams extends the congressional session until January 31.

Five airports—in Andahuaylas, Ayacucho, Arequipa, Cusco, and Puno—suspend

operations due to demonstrations, stranding hundreds of tourists in Machu Picchu and other sites. Various countries advise against travel to Peru.

December 16: Congress rejects Boluarte's proposed advancement of general elections to December 2023, with 49 votes in favor, 33 against, and 25 abstentions.

Boluarte's ministers of education and culture resign six days into her administration, citing state involvement in the death of the protestors.

The OAS Inter-American Commission on Human Rights releases a statement condemning the violence since Castillo's ousting.

The overall death toll from the clashes reaches 24.

December 18: The OAS commission announces a visit to Peru from December 20 to 22, where it will evaluate the events since Castillo's departure.

Boluarte does her first interviews with the press, appearing on three major television stations. The president, who said a day earlier that she intended to reshuffle her cabinet, announces she will swap out her prime minister. She also says Mexico offered Castillo's family political asylum, which Mexico's president confirms a day later.

December 19: Ipsos' December survey found that 63 percent of Peruvians disagreed with Castillo's action to dissolve Congress, although the rate in rural areas runs at just 40 percent.

Arequipa and Cusco airports reopen. The tourists who were stuck in Machu Picchu are evacuated by helicopter.

December 20: Mexico's Foreign Minister Ebrard announces his country has granted asylum to Castillo's family. In response, the Peruvian ministry of foreign affairs releases a statement that the former first lady is under investigation—alongside Castillo—for leading a criminal organization but that she is not in danger of political persecution.

Congress approves a reform to advance general elections to April 23, 2024, with 93 legislators voting in favor, 30 against, and 1 abstaining. As this is a constitutional reform, it requires a second vote, scheduled for February 2023.

Due to Mexico City not recognizing Peru's new government, the foreign minister of Peru declares the Mexican Ambassador to Peru Pablo Monroy "persona non grata" and gives him 72 hours to leave the country.

December 21: Castillo's family arrives in Mexico alongside Monroy and is greeted by Foreign Minister Ebrard.

Not everything is 'price gouging:' Ministry of Agriculture

Price Controlled Goods (PCGs)

Any good or article listed under the Supplies Control Act Chapter 293 where a maximum price has been fixed. Selling above this price is an offense.

<p>Bread: Sliced and Wrapped 16oz. \$1.75</p> 	<p>Bread: Unsliced and Unwrapped 16oz. \$1.50</p> 	<p>Grade C Rice \$0.90 per lb.</p> 
<p>Brown Sugar \$0.50 per lb.</p> 	<p>Plantation White \$0.75 per lb.</p> 	<p>Red Kidney Beans Belize City: \$1.15 per lb. Districts: \$1.18 per lb.</p> 

By Michelle Sutherland

While the term is popularly used in reference to virtually all discernible price increases, the fact is the government only can police the prices of specific items, Ministry of Agriculture's Controller of Supplies Lennox Nicolson explained. "To be honest with you, the term price gouging is not something that we [at the Unit] use," explained Nicolson. "We make reference to violations of the price-controlled regulations because the concept of gouging can relate to any goods or service in a particular economy, whereas we have a legal mandate for the goods that are subjected to control." Nicolson explained that, for example, products such as rum or any other non-price-controlled item, even if there is a markedly high increase in its price, the reality is that that product falls outside their jurisdiction. "That is not a product that is subjected to control. So it is not something that we would have any legal

jurisdiction to deal with. The regulations only allow us to take legal actions for products that are price controlled," explained Nicholson. He explained that his department is responsible for identifying whether the goods are price-controlled and whether the stores and supermarkets are charging above the prescribed price. He explained that only goods that are considered to be basic necessities used by people to sustain themselves are subjected to price control. Those include bread, rice, sugar, and beans. The prices for the majority of the other goods according to Nicolson are left up to the market to determine. He said that whenever his office would receive reports of violations, a team of inspectors would go into the business to conduct an inspection. Their first step is to identify if the goods are price controlled and then they would compare those store prices to the prices on the schedule. If there is a difference, then with the assistance

of the police, store owners are taken into custody where they are charged for violating the price-controlled regulations. In court, depending on the magistrate's decision those fines can range anywhere from \$150 to \$500 for each offense. Nicholson is asking the public if they have concrete examples of price violations to call his office at 822-2648 and pass on the information so that they can go in and address the situation. According to Nicholson presently his office is engaged in the periodic review of the list of controlled goods in an effort to see where the necessary adjustments and additions can be made. "We are looking at the list of goods that are on our regulations and we are making a comparison with that and the latest basket of goods that are used to calculate things like inflation and so on, and we are identifying the finer areas where we can identify where there are gaps so that we can flag them," Nicholson indicated to us.

Caricom strengthens bond with Africa through billion-dollar deal



Afrexibank provides US\$1.5 billion in funding to CARICOM states.

By Britney Gordon

In alignment with the Partnership Agreement between African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) and the Caribbean Community, Afreximbank's Board of Directors has approved US \$1.5 billion in funding to assist CARICOM member states. Following the accession of nine CARICOM member countries to the Afreximbank Partnership Agreement, which was made at the first Africa-Caribbean Trade and Investment Forum (ACTIF) held in September, the agreement was ratified by eight parties- six of which, have yet to sign. This agreement will allow for participating CARICOM member countries to have access to Afreximbank, with the same privileges and immunities the African Participating States that acceded to its Establishment Agreement. It unlocks the commencement of Afreximbank's operations in the Caribbean. The financing will be accessible through financing facilities that support various identified economic sectors including tourism, healthcare, renewable energy, shipping, mining, agriculture and aribusiness, air links, and

aquaculture. Afreximbank will also work to support local financial institutions to source finance for SMEs. The Partnership Agreement between Afreximbank is a result of the region's desire to promote and develop trade between Africa and the Caribbean in line with its Diaspora Strategy. Afreximbank defines intra-African trade as "the flow of goods and services between or among African countries as well as the flow of goods and services between Africa and Africans in the Diaspora." AfreximBank has several business development and trade and investment promotion missions it plans on integrating into the Caribbean. It is also working to introduce CARICOM investors and

financial institutions to opportunities in all sectors across Africa, while exposing African investors to investment opportunities in key sectors identified in CARICOM countries. Professor Benedict Oramah, the president and chairman of the Board of Directors of Afreximbank, expressed the desire to further unite Africa with the Caribbean, remarking, "We look forward to having all CARICOM members on board to maintain the extraordinary momentum we have been building since we met at the Africa-Caribbean Trade and Investment Forum in September 2022, and to respond together, through trade, to the development needs of the people of both our regions."



Oración al Espíritu Santo

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

Gracias Espíritu Santo.

R.M.L.

Sports Guild

Belize Olympic and Commonwealth Games Association

By Leon C. Guild

Season's Greeting Belize!!

On December 10th, 2022, the Belize Olympic and Commonwealth Games Association had its annual General Meeting at the Ned Pitts Olympic House. Members of the various member federations were in attendance to discuss reports on the year's activities, financial statements and constitution review. And while this is not completely unusual or worthy of mentioning what was unique about it this time is that there was representation from an actual Athlete's Commission.

Of course, the AGM is where and when all the big wigs from each and every recognized sporting organization in the country come together to review matters to the most important sporting body in the country. But for the second time in history athletes are actually having representation at the head table.

In the history of Belize athletes who are the main resource of any sporting fraternity have been used as mere pawns in the bigger game. Since the ministry of sports became a quassi government (meaning cut



The Belize Olympic and Commonwealth Games Association met on December 10th, 2022.

off from central gov.t and independent of it) many have recollection of being treated unfairly in many ways. Administrators over the years have been pushed to utilize any and every means necessary to receive

even the most miniscule quantity of funds from local or international donors. These methods go by many names both diplomatic and colloquial. And usually when the heads of organizations meet that meet itself usually pertains to administrative issues and very seldom addresses issues on behalf of distressed or otherwise repressed athletes.

Now, however, athletes have a voice at the table. Psychologically, Belize has caught up some time ago but in the world of duality things do take time before they manifest. The first Athletes commission that was set in place for the previous quadrennial term was by Farrons of the Basket Ball Association, Jaheed Smith from the Belize Athletics Association, Leon Guild from the Belize Karate Federation and Tricia Flores also from Athletics, who served as the Chair person for the group.

Now, Cuba Perrote (softball) serves as Chair, Kelsey Balderamos (volleyball) is the Secretary, and they are supported by Ashontie Carr (athletics), Alicia Thompson (cycling), Devin Daly (basketball), Kian Trejo (triathlon) and Elton Anderson (volleyball).

The AC had been formed recently and the members have been elected and appointed for the term up to the next election of the BOCGA executive board in 2025. The members are volunteers and will be responsible for:

Developing regulations and terms of reference for the AC which would define how the commission is formed and constituted, its mission/vision, objectives, membership, etc.

Organize activities to promote commission objectives, inform and educate members and stakeholders.

Advise and communicate with the BOCGA on matters related to the commission and in the interest of its members.

Encourage and collaborate with national federations (NF) to form their respective athlete's commissions.

Communicate with NFs to acquire and share relative data.

Collaborate with NFs on projects and programs of benefit to its members.

Advise the BOCGA on all related matters.

The official email of the athlete's commission is AC@BelizeOlympic.org. In a telephone interview with Chairman Cuba Perrote, today, he expressed that "the commission is doing their internal meetings in order to organize themselves but will be in contact with the NF's soon and looks forward to the cooperation and cooperation of everyone involved in order to have a successful term."

Also congratulations to Herman Pastor, President of the Belize Karate Federation who has been elected as Assistant Secretary General of the Belize Olympic & Commonwealth Games Association. A special election was held today, at this year's AGM, to fill only that post that has been vacant from our previous election.

Here's Hoping your Christmas Day was merry and full of cheer and may your New Year be just as delightful!!

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Atlantic Bank

Happy New Year

2023

from our Board of Directors, Management & Staff

Opening Hours

December 30, 2022

All Branches and Drive Thrus
close at 1:00 PM

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.



INVITATION TO QUOTE – GOODS

Institution: Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing
Country: Belize
Project: Additional Financing for George Price Highway Rehabilitation Project
Sector: Transport
Abstract: Supply and Delivery of Laptops, Laptop Backpacks and Wireless Mouse for the Department of the Environment
Loan No.: Loan 4616/OC-BL
Deadline: 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time) on January 19th, 2023

- The Government of Belize has received loan financing from the Inter-American Development Bank toward the cost of the Additional Financing for George Price Highway Rehabilitation Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this financing to payments under the Contract for the Supply of 2 Laptops, 2 Laptop Backpacks and 2 Wireless Mouse under the Additional Financing for the George Price Highway Rehabilitation Project.
- The Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing now invites sealed quotation from eligible and qualified suppliers for the supply of the following item: 2 Laptops, 2 Laptop Backpacks and 2 Wireless Mouse.
- Bidding will be conducted through Shopping procedures specified in the Inter-American Development Bank's Policies (GN-2349-15, January 2020 – Section 3.6) for the Procurement of Works and Goods financed by the Inter-American Development Bank.
- Interested eligible suppliers may obtain the full Invitation to Quote for the required 2 Laptops, 2 Laptop Backpacks and 2 Wireless Mouse from the Program Management Unit, Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing, located on the First Floor of the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing Soils Lab Building, Power Lane, Belmopan by emailing pmupcmow@gmail.com, gphrp.3344@midh.gov.bz AND procurement.officer.midh@gmail.com.
- Quotation must utilize forms provided in the invitation to quote. One (1) Original and two (2) copies are to be submitted in sealed labelled envelopes to the address indicated below. Quotations by email **WILL NOT** be accepted.
- Suppliers are informed that they can only quote for the type of Laptops, Laptop Backpacks, and Wireless Mouse specified, and quote for all items in this Invitation. Price quotations will be evaluated for all the items. Price quotations should be Inclusive of General Sales Tax.
- Your quotation(s) should be submitted as per the following instructions and in accordance with the Terms and Conditions of supply in the attached Quote Submission Sheet.
 - VALIDITY OF THE OFFER:** Your quotation(s) should be valid for a period of **90 days** from the date of receipt for quotation(s).
 - SUBMISSION OF OFFERS:** Offers will be submitted on the Quote Submission Sheet including a description of specifications offered, Price Schedule for Goods and Related Services. These templates are annexed in the full Invitation to Quote. All documents must be completed without any alterations in format, and no substitutes shall be accepted. All blank spaces shall be filled in with the information requested.
- The Purchaser shall award the Contract to the offer which complies substantially with the technical specifications and other requirements in these documents and represents the lowest price.
- Quotation must be delivered to the address below at or before **10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time) on January 19th, 2023**. Electronic quote **will not** be permitted. **Late quote will be rejected**. Your quotation should be in the English language in the required format or other similar, acceptable format should be addressed and submitted to:

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

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

Phone #: 822-1942/822-0100

Email: pmupcmow@gmail.com,
gphrp.3344@midh.gov.bz AND
procurement.officer.midh@gmail.com



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST INDIVIDUAL CONSULTING SERVICES

Institution: Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing
Country: Belize
Project: Additional Financing for George Price Highway Rehabilitation Project
Sector: Infrastructure, Environment and Natural Disasters
Abstract: Individual Consulting Services – Production of a Video on the Process of Conducting an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Department of Environment

Loan/Credit/Grant No.: 4616/OC-BL

Deadline: January 5th, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

The Government of Belize has received financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), towards the cost of the Additional Financial under the George Price Highway Rehabilitation Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services (“the Services”) include the contracting of an Individual Consultant for a minimum of thirty (30) days for the Production of a Video on the Process of Conducting an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Department of Environment.

The Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing now invites eligible Individual Consultants to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Inter-American Development Bank: **Policies for the Selection and Contracting of Consultants financed by the Inter-American Development Bank (GN-2350-15, January 2020)** – Section V, 5.2 Selection of Individual Consultants based on Comparison of Qualifications of National Individual Consultants.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours:

Program Management Unit

#1 Power Lane, Belmopan, Cayo District

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Tel: 501-822-0100/1942

Email: pmupcmow@gmail.com, gphrp.3344@midh.gov.bz

or procurement.officer.midh@gmail.com

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by **10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time) on January 5th, 2023**.

Attn: Mr. Rolando Chan
Program Coordinator
#1 Power Lane, Belmopan
Cayo District, Belize

Tel: 501-822-0100/1942

E-mail: pmupcmow@gmail.com, gphrp.3344@midh.gov.bz
or procurement.officer.midh@gmail.com