

Reporter

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Price: \$1.00

GOB denies request to increase cost of packed bread



By Javam Flowers

Cabinet has denied the request to increase the price for the 16-ounce sliced bread “at this time,” the government announced today.

Cabinet reviewed the submission by the Minister of Agriculture, Food Security, and Enterprise Jose Mai for an adjustment to the control price of 16-ounce sliced bread; however, the Government has denied enacting a price increase at this time.

The Cabinet brief informed that the government has instructed Minister

Mai to engage with the Association of Bakers to explore other alternatives to minimize the possibility of drastic increases in the price of this staple good.

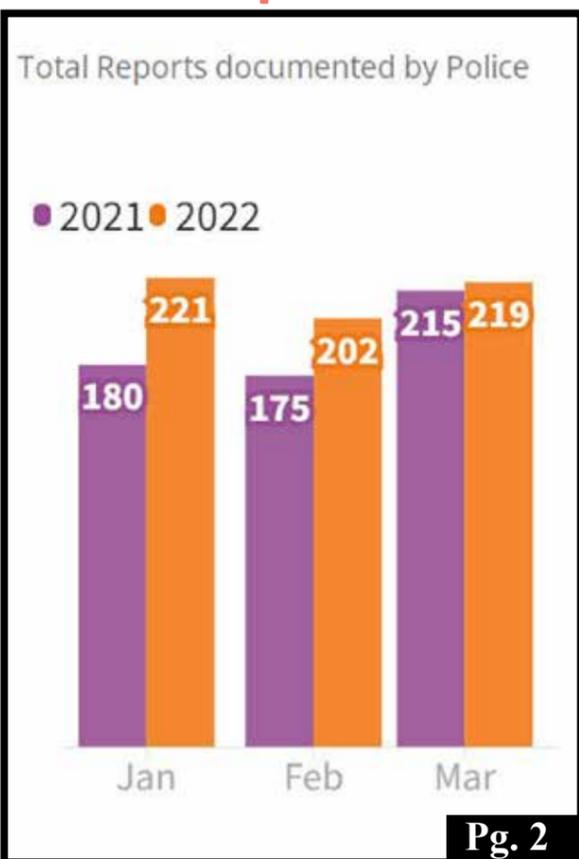
While the cost of packed bread will not see a price rise at this time, other goods have already increased. Numerous bakeries confirmed to The Reporter that due to the increase in their cost to produce baked items, they were left with no choice but to increase the cost of their products.

Some of the main components that feed the production of flour-based products are

items like shortening, the cost of packaging materials, the price of LPG to bake said items, and the cost of delivering items to retailers and customers – all of which have seen considerable price increases over the past few months.

Notably, in an earlier report, The Caribbean Millers Association (CMA), anticipating a 40% increase in the cost of producing flour, noted that “The high cost of producing flour is unsustainable by any manufacturing entity and, therefore, must be ultimately passed on in some measure to the consumers.”

13% increase Domestic Violence Reports



By Michelle Sutherland

Women and men in Belize continue to be victims of domestic violence, as data released by the Belize Crime

Observatory showed that there has been a staggering 13% increase in domestic violence reports for the period January to March 2022, when

Bar Assoc: ‘Ganja’ referendum ‘distinctively’ different the ‘Vellos Case’



By Michelle Sutherland

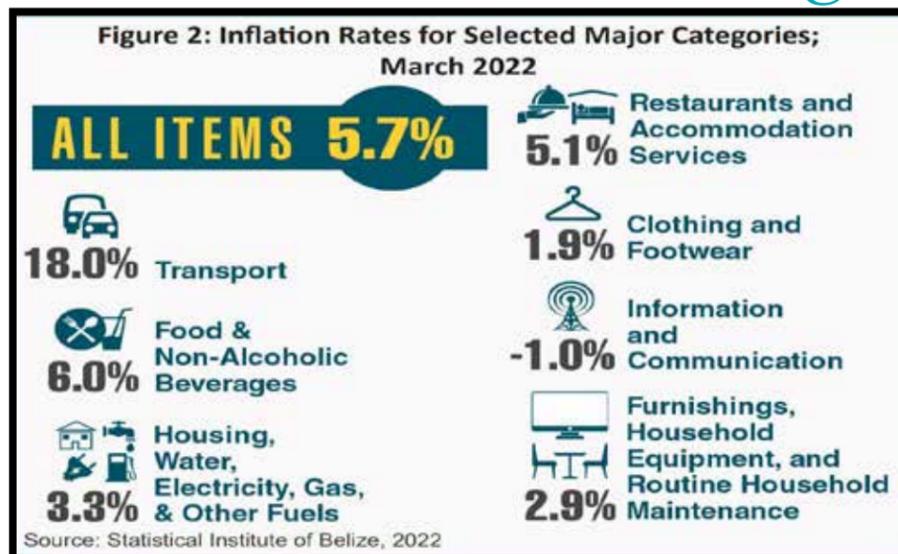
The Bar Association of Belize has clarified that the so-called “Vellos case” is different from the current petition for a referendum on the legalization of marijuana.

The Bar Association (“the Bar”), in a 17-page document, underscored that the “petition initiated by the Churches is distinctively different” from the Claim No.

305 of 2008 (which has been dubbed “the Vellos case,” given that the lead claimant was Mr. Alberto Vellos.

Earlier this week Minister of Education Hon. Francis Fonseca cited the case, when speaking to the media on the ongoing petition lead by the National Evangelical Association of Belize (NEAB). The Bar’s publication, for its part, does not make any

SIB: Cost of Living up 5.7%



By William Ysaguirre

Higher prices on fuel for vehicles and cooking fueled a 5.7 percent increase in the cost of living in March 2022, compared to 2021, the Statistics Institute of Belize (SIB) reported on Wednesday, April 27.

The Institute compiles the prices Belizeans normally



BULLSEYE

Dear Editor,

Whether you like it or not, four centuries ago the immortal, everlasting seeds of Christendom were planted in the swamps and marshes where we generously invite other human beings to join us ...and become believers like us. With the inspiration and help of the Almighty, we shall embrace them as they are, with their own customs and habits.

No! We are not LITTLE AMERICA, for they have been transformed from the NATURAL to the unnatural...and now through their laws declare that good is bad and bad is good!

We will continue to invite others to freely celebrate Easter and the Resurrection if they so wish, without putting them to any test!

Whereas our Almighty One could crack off and reduce you to atomic smithereens when you raise your right hand to crack your neighbor's skull, HE does not. For you must be free to do or not do; obey or disobey. Because a relationship with Him must be free for Love is always free – not coerced.

This is why I cannot move away from loving HIM.

As of old in ancient times he parted a whole ocean to assist me to become free, so now HE teaches me that to be my truest, best SELF, I must choose between wrong or right. The TENFOLD path may seem stifling and negating... too exalted, too impossible...and this is why HE allowed Himself to be hung between the sky and the dark, deep ocean.

Our choices may often look like only for now, but with a little prayer, eternity grasped the ocean and the sky to come together.

Western Civilization is a book, a story about a relation – a relationship of love. How improbable that an ALMIGHTY hand should take up a speck of the very imperfect, a speck of nothing to make it – not something, but SOMEONE!

I shall stick with the EPIC of Christendom.

I shall continue to subscribe to the immortal, eternal truths of the PREAMBLE!

Signed: Paul Rodriguez OBE

13% increase Domestic Violence Reports

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Compared to the same period last year.

According to the data from the Belize Crime Observatory for the first quarter of this year, a total of 642 domestic violence reports were filed at the Belize Police Department, meaning that an average of 200 reports were lodged monthly countrywide. The Belize Crime Observatory is also indicating that there has also been a notable increase in the number of cases lodged when compared to last year which now stands at 220 for the months of January to March.

The number of cases lodged and

the number of cases that actually reach the court differs in numbers because for whatever reasons the victims either just make their reports for future reference, withdraw the charges against their abusers, or for some reason the police do not find sufficient evidence to charge the perpetrators with any crime.

That data is also shows that the number of reports made for "future reference" also saw a 10% increase. In January this year, 154 cases were lodged for future reference. While the data for February and March is incomplete, the data is indicating that over 100 reports were lodged for

future reference for each of those months.

While there has always been a public impression that only females are victims of domestic violence, data for this year indicated that 108 males who were victims of domestic violence filed reports while 132 did the same last year. With that figure, approximately about eight in every 10 victims are females.

When looking at the data by district the majority of cases were filed in the Orange Walk District which had a figure of 51, followed by the

Belize District with 50, and Belmopan with 43 cases. The district with the lowest number of cases was Punta Gorda with 5 cases and Caye Caulker which only had two cases that were officially lodged before the courts.

Notably, there has also been an 18% increase in cases for which police made an arrest or placed the matter under investigation. The Police Department also recorded an increase in sexual violence which jumped from 11 incidents to 16 for

This week the war in Europe triggered by Russia's savage invasion of Ukraine on February 24 took on a dark and sinister aspect.

Russia openly warned of a Third World War if western nations do not allow her to ravage Ukraine, destroy her cities, seize her seaports and drive Ukrainians by the millions from their homeland in the most savage crime against humanity since Hitler executed six million Jews during World War II 80 years ago.

Earlier Russia warned the world that she would employ nuclear weapons if provoked. This week she cut off gas supplies to Poland and Bulgaria and set out to destroy the railway network which has been bringing heavy weapons and other supplies for the survival of Ukraine.

Russia also threatened Germany for sending war tanks to Ukraine and warned Finland and Sweden of dire consequences if they should dare to apply to NATO for membership.

Russia has amassed a force of some 80,000 fighting men with tanks along Ukraine's eastern flank and has been making slow but methodical progress in grinding Ukrainian resistance into the dust.

Ukraine for her part has been defending herself with valor and has hit several times deep into Russia to destroy ammunition dumps and fuel storage depots.

India and China have refused to condemn Russia for their acts of war and even though India is at daggers drawn with China, she continues to hold on to her friendship with Russia. China meanwhile has kept its alliance with Russia for the same reason and has been flying covert drone missions over England to scout out British nuclear sites.

The West, led by the US and Europe has resolved not to yield to Russian outrage against Ukraine and seems set for a head-on collision with Russia, possibly China if China chooses to follow Russia into war.

This is brinkmanship in its most lethal form. Neither side is disposed to back down, even though a nuclear strike, once begun, will be catastrophic for all of humanity.

By now it must be clear to Moscow that the West will not back down. It will no longer yield to Russian and Chinese bullying, even if this means the dawn of nuclear doomsday.

The world does not have to look on helplessly at the oncoming apocalypse. Our Christian heritage tells us that God, the Creator of our Universe, does not sleep.

We can help to alleviate the tension by appealing to Him, and asking for His divine intervention.



THE REPORTER

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SIB: Cost of Living up 5.7%



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pay for fuel, food, drinks, utilities and housing into the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which is showing a 5.7 percent inflation rate from 102.0 in March 2021 to 107.8 for March 2022.

Transportation costs showed the biggest increase - 18 percent up for March 2022, compared to 2021, as fuel and lubricants went up 27.9 percent! Diesel went up by \$3.10 per gallon, from \$10.29 to \$13.40. Premium shot up by \$2.91, from \$10.58 to \$13.49, and regular gasoline went up by \$2.78 from \$10.21 to

\$12.99. The price of a new car went up 8.1 percent. Butane went up 34.2 percent or \$38.08 on the price of a 100lb cylinder, from \$111.32 to \$149.40.

Food prices went up 6 percent over the past year, with tomatoes almost doubling in price from \$1.34 per pound to \$2.56. Pigtail prices hiked up 69.8 percent to \$7.56 per pound, up from \$4.45! Vegetable oil went up by 36.2 percent to \$4.74 per liter, and coconut oil by 14.1 percent to \$11.54 per liter. Irish potatoes went up 35.4 percent, from \$1.75 to \$2.38 per pound. Rice went up

12.6 percent, from \$1.37 to \$1.54 per pound, and whole chicken by 5.7

Bar Assoc: 'Ganja' referendum 'distinctively' different the 'Vellos Case'

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specific reference to the minister's comments but they explained the salient differences.

They explained that in regards to that particular case the claimants had sought to trigger a section in the Referendum Act that "expressly" required the GOB to hold a referendum where changes to fundamental rights under the Belize Constitution (section 2) were being pursued. According to the Association, at that

time the referendum was a legal requirement. However, that section of the Referendum Act has since been repealed and no longer exists.

In NEAB's case, the Association argued that for one the churches are seeking a referendum on an ordinary piece of legislation using a distinct provision that allows a referendum provided that the required number of votes (10% of the voting population) is obtained. For context, this same law that NEAB is now abiding under which stipulated the 10% threshold to trigger a referendum on a topic of national importance was passed into law by the then Barrow Administration when they had removed the section where it had

legally mandated the government to hold a referendum in the event any changes to Part 2 of the constitution were to be made.

The Association—while, again, not naming any minister—also struck down claims that various officials, including the Minister of New Growth Industries Hon. Kareem Musa, the Honorable Fonseca, and even Prime Minister John Briceño, have promulgated. One such claim is that the churches were late in requesting a referendum on the topic since it has already passed its three reading in Parliament and that they had ample time to do so before the bill had been approved.

"The Referendum Act does not prescribe a time frame for the initiation of a referendum petition so that while the churches have delayed in the initiation of a petition for a referendum, they are free to do so," the Bar wrote.

Additionally, the Association confirmed as per the Referendum Act, once a petition bearing at least 10% of signatures from the voting population is presented to the Governor-General, "she must" then present that petition to the Chief Elections Officer (CEO), whose job is to verify the signatures and certify that the threshold has officially been met.

According to the Association, that "must" not take more than two months to complete. Once that is completed the CEO is then entitled

increased 6.3 percent. Restaurant and accommodation rates went up 5.1 percent. Clothing and footwear increased marginally by 1.9 percent, while the cost of information and communication devices and services were reduced by one percent.²

Orange Walk Town remains the most expensive place to live with a 9.0 percent inflation rate, Belize City was second with 5.9 percent inflation, and Corozal - 5.8 percent inflation.

Independence and Punta Gorda Town saw the lowest inflation rate of 4.489 percent.

CLASSIFIED ADS

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Frank Clarke** of La Democracia Village, Belize District, is applying for a **Malt & Cider Liquor License** to be operated at **Kira's Kool Spot** situated in **La Democracia Village, Belize District, for the year 2022**. Under the Intoxication Liquors Act (Revised Edition) of 2000.

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to issue a certificate to the GG indicating whether or not the petition meets the 10% threshold. Upon receiving that certificate the GG "must" then issue a writ of a referendum within 30 days, stating when the referendum is to be held.

"The Executive is, therefore, legally bound to proceed to referendum once the requirements are met," stated the Bar Association.

But while the Government is legally mandated to hold a referendum, which is to be paid by funds extracted from the National Assembly, the Association stressed that the GOB is not "legally required" to abide by the results of the referendum, since it is just a tool to advise the government but cannot legally bind them to it.

The Bar Association noted, "The courts have found that the sanction, if any, for a Government who fails to abide by the results of a referendum is a political one," or as former Prime Minister Dean Barrow termed it, "political suicide."

But whether the Briceño Administration is ready to risk living with the consequences of their action at the next general elections, the Association said that they can still try to get the Governor General's approval to make the Cannabis and Industrial Hemp Control and Licensing Bill 2022 into law, even if a majority votes against it at the referendum.

National Foreign Trade Council: Strengthening the WTO and the global trading system

Remarks by WTO DG Okonjo-Iweala

Thank you so much, Jake and Arrow for that kind introduction. It is wonderful to see Susan here. You've set a high bar for me to live up to.

Receiving this World Trade Award is an incredible honour for me. I am humbled to be following in the footsteps of Nelson Mandela, one of my great heroes, as well as those of Kofi Annan, former USTR Mike Froman, and Representative Stephanie Murphy. Tonight I hope to say a few words on investing in the Multilateral Trading System and the WTO.

Ladies and gentlemen, this era of 'polycrisis' — of compounding crises in the economy, the environment, public health, and global security — presents all of us with difficult questions.

At the WTO, we had already been grappling with challenges of reform and remaining fit for purpose. We must now figure out how to operate a multilateral system designed to foster interdependence and peace when some of our members are at war. The war in Ukraine has darkened the outlook for global trade and food security. We now forecast global merchandise trade volumes will expand by 3% this year — down from the 4.7% we were predicting last October, and with all the risks on the downside.

Businesses are asking themselves about their immediate responsibilities, and the risk and efficiency considerations or trade-offs that should guide their sourcing and investment choices.

Political leaders face momentous decisions about how to handle geopolitical tensions, the direction of the global economy, which will shape possibilities for countries' future prosperity.

As we think about how to strengthen the global trading system to face the challenges of the 21st century, we need to recognize that disenchantment with trade and multilateralism long pre-dates the war or even COVID-19.

We all know that decades of global economic integration and multilateralism fostered unprecedented prosperity. More than 1 billion people were lifted out of poverty before the pandemic, and poor countries narrowed the income gap between them and the rich countries for the first time since the Industrial Revolution.

But we also know that some were left behind. Even in countries as rich as the United States, insufficiently robust social and labour market policies meant many people and communities did not share fully in the gains from economic growth. The slow recovery from the global financial crisis amplified political anger, as did the perception by many that China unfairly supports its industry. Trade, trade agreements, and trade institutions became easy scapegoats for populist leaders in the very countries that had created modern globalization.

When the pandemic hit, shortages of key products turned a harsh spotlight on supply chains especially for critical products such as medical and semiconductor supply chains. Subsequent bottlenecks raised questions as to the wisdom of concentrated manufacturing in a few countries, just-in-time business models sprawling across borders with single points of failure, little inventory, and limited strategic stockpiles.

The war in Ukraine has justifiably added to questions about economic interdependence. It has driven up already-high world market prices for food and energy, squeezing household budgets and threatening a severe food crisis in Africa and the Middle East.

These developments have led many to conclude that global trade and multilateralism — two pillars of the WTO — are more threat than opportunity. They argue we should retreat into ourselves, make as much as we can ourselves, grow as much as we can ourselves. The talk is now all about decoupling and fragmentation of

the Multilateral Trading System into 2 or 3 trading blocks. There are moves to support reshoring, nearshoring and friend-shoring. The new catch phrase is that of "secure trade".

This is totally understandable given the tense and uncertain times we live in. But I believe we should not draw the wrong conclusions from these stresses. The Multilateral Trading System is a global public good developed over 77 years ago and nurtured overtime. As I said earlier, it has helped lift over a billion people out of poverty. It is not a perfect system, but rather than retreat from it we should invest in and strengthen it. We should reform the WTO that underpins it and upgrade its rules to deal with 21st century challenges.

Sure, some reshoring, near-shoring, or friend-shoring of supply chains seems likely and perhaps justified. But, while it is true that global supply chains can be prone to disruptions, trade is also a source of resilience.

Cross-border supply chains played a vital role in our response to the pandemic, helping to quickly ramp up medical supply production and access. In 2020, even as the value of global trade contracted by nearly 8%, trade in medical countermeasures rose by 16%. The Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna vaccines rely on inputs and capital goods from 19 countries each — no single country can get the job done.

Trade has been an important driver of economic recovery from the pandemic. Global merchandise trade rebounded strongly, with a 10.8% growth in volume in 2021 after the lockdowns (and has been at record highs since early 2021), though as I noted earlier, the pace of expansion is now slowing considerably as a result of the war.

For all the focus on geopolitical tension between the US and China, merchandise trade between the two has been at historic highs — US merchandise exports to China broke records last year at \$153 billion, while US imports from China at \$542 billion were not far from the 2018 peak of \$563 billion.

Retreating from trade would make countries more, not less, vulnerable to production shocks arising from natural disasters, crop failure, or disease outbreaks. That does not sound like good risk management in an age of climate crisis and pandemics.

Besides, fragmentation can be costly. WTO economists have done some simulations that show that if the world economy breaks into two trading blocs there would be an estimated fall in the long run level of real global GDP of about 5%, just from diminished specialization and technology spill overs. On top of that would be losses due to reduced scale economies, transition costs, disorderly resource allocation, worker hysteresis and financial and balance of payment distress etc.

A breakdown in multilateral cooperation would also make tackling

problems of the global commons so much harder.

To take an immediate example, we desperately need international coordination to stabilize global markets for food and fertilizer, which have been badly disrupted by the war. At the WTO, we've been urging governments to refrain from implementing export restrictions and to share buffer stocks, so as to contain price increases and improve limited global supplies.

Multilateral cooperation on trade is essential to making climate action more effective and cost-efficient, by spreading cutting-edge green technologies, managing tensions around carbon pricing, and ensuring functional markets for critical raw materials.

The 164-member WTO remains a valuable tool for business and governments in this time of pandemic, war and fundamental threats of climate change. But it must be a reformed WTO and reimagined and strengthened Multilateral Trading System. One that is still seen as delivering on predictability and fairness, whilst also addressing modern day challenges. We are committed to this reform and we seek your support.

The WTO should seek to help counter the genuine problems of excessive concentration and socioeconomic exclusion. Instead of de-globalization, we need 're-globalization' that brings countries, people, and businesses from the margins into the global economic mainstream. This would create international markets that are deeper, more diversified, more inclusive — and more resilient.

What does this mean in practice? This means agreeing on new rules in areas such as digital trade, investment facilitation, and integrating

Cont'd on pg. 21



UNDP

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HERITAGE BANK LIMITED

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2021 AND 2020 (IN BELIZE DOLLARS)

	Notes	2021	2020
ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	2g. 2h. 4.	\$ 129,066,697	\$ 100,351,193
Debt instrument investments	2g. 5.	46,452,646	56,473,243
Other assets	2g. 6.	4,128,122	3,736,369
Loans receivable	2g. 7.	366,448,276	337,097,390
Less: specific loan loss reserve	2i. 7.	(9,593,732)	(8,013,865)
Property and equipment - net	2j. 2k. 8.	35,559,827	33,966,069
Total assets		<u>572,061,836</u>	<u>523,610,399</u>
LIABILITIES			
Customers' deposits	2g. 2l. 9.	488,654,174	447,839,445
Due to other banks	2g. 10.	11,962,083	10,694,350
Other liabilities	2g. 11.	5,275,711	6,247,461
Severance payable	2m. 2n. 12.	1,290,595	1,139,808
Total liabilities		<u>507,182,563</u>	<u>465,921,064</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>\$ 64,879,273</u>	<u>\$ 57,689,335</u>
SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY			
Share capital	13.	\$ 42,100,000	\$ 42,100,000
Share premium	14.	490,000	490,000
Statutory reserves	2p.	11,802,268	10,004,783
General loan loss reserve	2o.	3,763,945	3,293,071
Retained earnings		6,723,060	1,801,481
SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY		<u>\$ 64,879,273</u>	<u>\$ 57,689,335</u>

The financial statements on pages 4 to 7 were approved and authorized for issue by the Board of Directors on April 25, 2022 and are signed on its behalf by:

Director

Director

HERITAGE BANK LIMITED

STATEMENTS OF PROFIT AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021 AND 2020 (IN BELIZE DOLLARS)

	Notes	2021	2020
Continuing Operations			
Net interest income	15.	\$ 24,571,523	\$ 20,213,565
Net fee and commission income	16.	3,730,237	3,638,907
NET REVENUES		<u>28,301,760</u>	<u>23,852,472</u>
OTHER INCOME AND EXPENSES:			
Provision for impairment losses	2n. 6.	(1,627,230)	(1,330,000)
Personnel expense	19.	(9,051,732)	(8,340,355)
Other operating expenses	20.	(7,857,660)	(7,849,577)
Net trading income	17.	1,893,483	1,715,029
Other operating income	18.	3,246,898	3,328,401
Depreciation	8.	(2,703,696)	(1,641,413)
		<u>(16,099,937)</u>	<u>(14,117,915)</u>
PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION		<u>12,201,823</u>	<u>9,734,557</u>
Business Tax	21.	(5,011,885)	(4,302,528)
PROFIT FOR THE YEAR		<u>7,189,938</u>	<u>5,432,029</u>
Other comprehensive income		-	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR		<u>\$ 7,189,938</u>	<u>\$ 5,432,029</u>
EARNINGS PER SHARE:			
From continuing operations	22.		
Basic (\$ per share)		<u>\$ 0.18</u>	<u>\$ 0.14</u>
Diluted (\$ per share)		<u>\$ 0.18</u>	<u>\$ 0.14</u>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Richard Sutton (Chairman)
Julieta Sanchez Sutton
Karen Weir
Aldo Reyes
Stephen Duncan (Managing Director/Secretary)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board of Directors and Shareholders of:
Heritage Bank Limited

Qualified Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Heritage Bank Limited (the Bank), which comprise the statements of financial position as at December 31, 2021 and 2020, and the statements of profit and other comprehensive income, statements of changes in equity and statements of cash flows for the years then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, except for the effects of the matters described in the *Basis for Qualified Opinion* section of our report, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The Bank as at December 31, 2021 and 2020, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

Basis for Qualified Opinion

At December 31, 2021, the Bank has not adopted IFRS 9 - Financial Instruments as explained in Note 2a to the financial statements. The Bank does not classify its financial instruments nor impair its financial instruments in accordance with IFRS 9.

The Bank currently uses standards that has been superseded by IFRS 9 to classify, measure and present financial instruments.

The Bank currently uses the incurred loss model prescribed by the Central of Belize in the Domestic Banks and Financial Institutions Act, Circular No. 2 of 2020.

In the absence of sufficient and appropriate audit evidence to evaluate the impact compliance with IFRS 9 would have on the financial statements, we are unable to assess whether the current positions would be materially different.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Bank in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (IESBA Code), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the IESBA Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with IFRSs, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Bank's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Bank or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Bank's financial reporting process.

Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the unconsolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error; to design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks; and to obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditors' report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditors' report. However, future events or conditions may cause the entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements including the disclosures, and whether the unconsolidated financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identified during the audit.

Chartered Accountants
Belize City, Belize
April 25, 2022



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VACANCY NOTICE

Suitable qualified applicants are invited to fill position of:

MAGISTRATES

Applicants Must:

- Be in possession of Bachelor's in Law (LLB)
- Be in possession of Continuing Legal Education (CLE)

Salary: Pay Scale 23 (LLB and CLE)
\$40,615 x 1,644 - \$71,851

Age Limit: 25 - 49

Analysis of the Position:

- Tries persons charged with committing summary offences;
- Conducts preliminary inquiries into indictable charges;
- Hears and determines applications made under the Domestic Violence Act;
- Hears and determines applications made under the Family and Children's Act;
- Hears applications made by the Belize Tax Service and Fisheries Department;
- Hears applications for Liquor Licenses;
- Serves as Coroner and conducts inquests into unnatural deaths;
- Can be assigned to any judicial district within Belize;
- Attends conferences, workshops and training in relation to capacity building of the Magistracy;
- Prepare Memorandum of Reasons for Decisions in a timely manner;
- Assists with the training needs of the department as required
- Prepares appeals as required;
- Prepares statistics and reports as required
- Must be computer literate with word processing proficiency
- Is accountable to the Chief Justice, Chief Magistrate and the Judicial and Legal Services Commission.

Interested persons are asked to apply in writing to:

The Secretary
Judicial and Legal Services Commission
Treasury Lane
P.O. Box 399
Belize City, Belize

Deadline for receipt of applications: May 15th, 2022

Note: Only suitable qualified applicants will be acknowledged.



Institution: Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
Country: Belize
Project: Solid Waste Management Project II (SWMPPII)
Sector: Waste Management
Abstract: Design and Implementation of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan.
Loan No.: 3684/OC-BL
Deadline: May 6th, 2022

The Government of Belize (GOB) has received financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), towards the cost of the Solid Waste Management Project II and intends to apply part of the proceeds towards the hiring of a consultant for the Design and Implementation of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

The objective of the consultancy is to develop a comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan that will ensure that a consistent, comprehensive and coordinated approach is taken to effectively engage solid waste management related stakeholders in Belize.

The Belize Solid Waste Management Authority, the Executing Agency, now invites interested eligible individual consultant to submit Expressions of Interest indicating qualification and experience required to provide these consultancy services listed below.

A) SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES
The Consultant shall:

- 1) Stakeholder Mapping** - Undertake a stakeholder mapping analysis to engage solid waste management stakeholders effectively and to ensure that a range of diverse participants including marginalized groups are involved. The mapping exercise should prioritize and classify stakeholders by their expected level of engagement.

A complete stakeholder directory is to be developed and should include municipalities, private sector non-governmental or community-based organizations and any other waste management related entity. The specific activity that the stakeholder engages in i.e. collection, exporting, repurposing or value adding among others, should be clearly outlined. The material type they handle should also be outlined.

- 2) Stakeholder Engagement Plan** - This comprehensive plan will outline the processes necessary to allow for an improved coordination between the BSWaMA and solid waste management stakeholders and will be aligned with the priority areas as outlined in the BSWaMA's strategic vision. It will clearly outline the purpose and objectives of the plan, including activities, success indicators, timelines, and resources needed. It will state responsibilities related to the stakeholder engagement activities, and any other elements that communicate the goals, structure and requirements of the stakeholder engagement and information disclosure.

- 3) Stakeholder Terms of References** - Based on the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, terms of references will be developed that will be used in the coordination of committees or collaborative working groups to be developed.

- 4) Action Plan** - Develop an action plan for the successful implementation of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. The implementation plan should provide a clear description of the commitments and the explanations of the rationale behind commitments and decisions, budget requirements, timelines and the roles and responsibilities of the BSWaMA personnel and other interest groups responsible for its implementation.

- 5) Implementation and Transition** - During the period of contract the consultant is expected to implement activities outlined by the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and the Action Plan; this will be done in close collaboration with BSWaMA personnel. Furthermore, they will ensure an efficient transition to BSWaMA for further implementation. Any relevant training must be delivered to designated BSWaMA personnel before the end of the contract term.

B) QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE
The Consultant shall have the following:

- A Master' degree in Social Science, International Relations, Communications, Community Development or a similar or related field from a recognized institution.
- Strong interpersonal skills with proven experience working with cross section of stakeholders including senior government officials, NGO's, CBO's private sector, local communities, marginalized populations, and donor agencies.
- At least five years of experience in stakeholder engagement, communication, and consultation and focus group related activities.
- Experience in the development of Stakeholder Engagement Plans, Communication management plan, risk management plan or other similar experiences relevant for this consultancy.
- Experience working in the solid waste, natural resource, water, and sanitation sector.
- Excellent analytical, data gathering, writing, advocacy, presentation, and communications skills are required.
- Excellent communication skills in English language both written and oral. Knowledge of Spanish will be an advantage

The **Ministry of Natural Resources, Petroleum and Mining** now invites eligible individual consultants to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested individual Consultants must provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualification and relevant experience to perform the Services.

Consultants will be selected in accordance with the Selection of Individual Consultants method and other 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**, and is open to all eligible candidates as defined in the policies.

Further information can be obtained at the email address below during office hours: **Monday to Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. local time.**

Expressions of interest must be submitted electronically and must include a signed application letter, Curriculum Vitae (CV), copies of academic qualification, and the names and contact information of two professional references no later than **Friday May 6th, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. local time.**

Application must be submitted via one consolidated PDF document; only complete packages will be processed. Packages must be sent to the address below:

Solid Waste Management Authority
Attn: Procurement Officer
3013 Bougainvillea Street, Orchid Garden Area
City of Belmopan, Belize, C.A.
Tel: (501) 802 1527
PO Box 285
E-mail: GladdenM@gobmail.gov.bz

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Antigua – Barbuda call for US – CARICOM Summit

By Caribbean News Global



Antigua and Barbuda Ambassador to the United States, Sir Ronald Sanders

WASHINGTON / ANTIGUA – Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the United States, Sir Ronald Sanders, has called for an early meeting between US President, Joe Biden and leaders of Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries.

Ambassador Sanders made the call during a webinar meeting on Thursday, April 28, organised by Florida International University and the Latin American and Caribbean Centre in Washington.

Sir Ronald pointed out that it has been seven years since the last US-CARICOM Summit was held in Jamaica. He said during that time, the US has not formulated an effective Caribbean policy. He described the US policy during the Trump presidency as one of "divide and rule" particularly with regard to Cuba and Venezuela.

Ambassador Sanders also lamented that since president Biden has come to office, no high-level consultation has been held on a US policy for the Caribbean. He said that instead the US has focussed on continuing policies of isolating Cuba and trying to dissuade CARICOM countries from relationships with the People's Republic of China.

He said that focus on these two issues is unhelpful while CARICOM countries are struggling to recover from

the economic and financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, including huge burdens of debt caused by Climate-Change induced natural disasters and paying for enlarged health services to save their peoples' lives through the spread of the Coronavirus.

Noting that US authorities repeatedly acknowledge the Caribbean as its 'third border', he said that "the US ought to be seeking to strengthen its relations with CARICOM countries, including by helping them to address challenges – some of which are directly attributable to the US, such as Climate Change".

The webinar meeting discussed a paper, produced by ambassador Sanders on "US-Caribbean Relations in the first year of the Biden administration". Two of the panellists were a former top US States Department official, ambassador Tom Shannon, and Pulitzer prize journalist with the Miami Herald, Jacqueline Charles.

The meeting endorsed ambassador Sanders' view that an early meeting between US President Biden and CARICOM leaders is necessary for refocussing the US-Caribbean relationship on mutually beneficial terms.

The entire webinar discussion can be seen on the websites of Florida International University and the Latin American and Caribbean Center.



CAREER OPPORTUNITY



Belize Sugar Industries Ltd.

Invites qualified and self-motivated individuals to submit applications for the post of:
Financial Planning & Analysis Supervisor
Tower Hill, Orange Walk

The **Financial Planning & Analysis Supervisor** should be knowledgeable of management and financial reporting and data analysis. This position will also drive a culture of continuous improvement within the Finance team to improve KPIs, planning and forecasting, return on investment and reporting systems and processes.

Qualifications and Experience:

- Bachelor's Degree in Finance, Accounting, Statistics, Business Management or related field
- 5 years work experience in Financial or Accounting related field
- Possession of MA, CPA, ACCA or FP&A certification is an asset

Skills and Competencies:

- Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite
- SAP or other ERP system experience
- On top of Business, Industry & Economic trends
- Self-motivated with exceptional work ethic
- Proactive, organized and dependable
- Strong analytical skills with desire to continuously learn, change and adapt
- Good interpersonal skills, team oriented

Roles and Responsibilities:

- Creating, updating & maintaining financial models and detailed forecasts of the Company's operations
- Preparation of financial statements for management and statutory reporting
- Prepare management information including variance analysis, sensitivities and commentary based on monthly financial reports.
- Assist with the preparation and review of the annual operating budget, monthly financial planning and analysis for consolidation into the annual master budget.
- Assist with development & review of capital projects, cost saving/efficiency initiatives & continuous improvement programs
- Review operating reports and participate in management discussions to drive operational excellence.
- Assist in coordinating year-end audit
- Preparing other internal reports for executive leadership.

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



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



DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION FORM AND ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS IS MAY 6, 2022.

RES PUBLICA

Referendum Act: 10% is enough! It's a matter of 'time'

In recent weeks, the media airwaves in Belize have been a buzz as it pertains to the petition launched by the National Evangelical Association of Belize (NEAB) and other church organizations to trigger a referendum on the legalization of marijuana. Last week, it was reported that NEAB did achieve its 10% mark, and reports are that the signatures should be submitted to the Governor-General shortly.

This week, the media questioned Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño on his sentiments regarding the petition on a Bill that his Cabinet clearly supports and that has already passed before the National Assembly. In responding to the media, the prime minister said:

"Let me hurry [and] say because I did not listen to what Mr. Kareem said. I was out. But, let me put it this way. It is unfortunate that the churches decided that they want a referendum because they had adequate and enough time to tell us that this is what they wanted. We had extensive consultations with everyone, including the churches, in-door, public, and private. And now, for them now to say that they want a referendum. Well then, we have to respect their views. So, with that, thank you. I have to go and campaign."

In addition to what appears to be a quip at the end—"I have to go and campaign"—the Prime Minister's response squares more comfortably with the language of Belize's Referendum Act. Also aligning with the Act are these words: "And now, for them now to say that they want a referendum. Well then, we have to respect their views."

The prime minister's words are naturally weighed against those of the Minister of New Growth Industries Hon. Kareem Musa who had suggested that "it is up to Cabinet to decide" as to what would happen to the referendum petition.

The fact is that the Referendum Act clearly stipulates what should follow:

"Subject to the provisions of this Act, a referendum shall be held in any of the following circumstances ... where a petition is presented to the Governor-General signed by at least ten percent of the registered electors in Belize whose names appear in the approved voters' list existing at the time of presentation of the petition."

The law would go on to prescribe roles for the Chief Elections Officer in terms of verifying the signatures, which if verified, gives the Governor-General 30 days within which she is to issue a Writ of Referendum. The law states:

"The Governor-General shall, within thirty days ... of the receipt of the certificate from the Chief Elections Officer pursuant to section 2(4), verifying that the petition has been duly signed by the requisite number of electors as specified in section 2(3) ... issue a Writ of Referendum in a form similar to the Writ of Elections in the Schedule V to the Representation of the People Act."

As a result, should the signatures acquired by NEAB pass the verification stage, a referendum there will be. According to the Elections and Boundaries Department, the country has 186,897 registered voters. The petitioners, therefore, only need approximately 18,700 verified signatures to trigger the popular vote.

Once triggered, the operative next step will be deciding on the referendum question. In New Zealand, for instance, citizens not too long ago held a referendum on the following question: "Do you support the proposed Cannabis Legalisation and Control Bill?"

A Note on Timelines

Speaking of New Zealand, a fellow commonwealth country, there is value in likewise highlighting the timeline associated with the present NEAB-launched petition.

The petition was effectively launched on April 5th, and within six days the organizers had gathered 13,000 signatures, a figure that represented 70% of the threshold. Only days later, that had climbed to 79%. Within the month of April, NEAB is now reporting that it has reached the threshold.

Belize's Referendum Act is silent on the window of time within which the signatures must be gathered, unlike its New Zealand counterpart. In the latter's Citizens Initiated Referenda Act (1993), the law states:

"(3) The promoter shall deliver the indicative referendum petition to the Clerk of the House of Representatives within 12 months after the date of the publication in the Gazette of the notice required by

section 13(1)(b)."

The threshold target is similar in both countries (10%). Consequently, if the promoters in Belize's petition have been able to gather the requisite number of signatures within one month of a process that would have otherwise taken 12 months in a country that recently held a referendum on a similar topic, it does speak to the level of interest within the population.

Returning, then, to the prime minister's interview, while it is not entirely clear what Briceño's quip was aimed at; however, if it was in reference to the referendum, then he is right. The various camps will soon need to put their campaign strategies into motion.

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.



Belize Solid Waste Management Authority

of the

Ministry of Natural Resources, Petroleum and Mining

Invitation to Quote (ITQ)

for

Bush hogging and clearing of the following areas:

1. Mile 24 Regional Sanitary Landfill- 3.35 km external access road that leads to landfill
2. Mile 3 Transfer Station Site
3. San Ignacio Transfer Station Site
4. San Pedro Ambergris Caye external access road.

The Government of Belize (GOB) has received financing from the *Inter- American Development Bank (IDB)*, towards the cost of the Solid Waste Management Project II and intends to apply part of the proceeds towards bush hogging and clearing of the areas listed below.

Interested contractors must provide the necessary equipment for the maintenance works. He/she must ensure that the equipment is operated in a safe and efficient manner following the manufacturer's rules, regulations, policies, and procedures. The contractor is fully responsible for its personnel and equipment.

The services will be performed on a quarterly basis. A complete description of the required services and a layout for each area may be obtain electronically from the email address below. Deadline for submission of application is May 6, 2022, at 3:00p.m.

The Belize Solid Waste Management Authority now invites interested individuals to submit price proposals for bush hogging and clearing of:

AREAS
Mile 24 Regional Sanitary Landfill- 3.35 km external access road that leads to landfill
Mile 3 Transfer Station Site
San Ignacio Transfer Station Site
San Pedro Ambergris Caye external access road.

Waste Management Technician
 Belize Solid Waste Management Authority
 3013 Bougainvillea Street, Orchid Garden Area
 City of Belmopan, Belize, C.A.
 Tel: (501) 802 1527
 E-mail: TimmonsRJ@gobmail.gov.bz

Parliamentary delegation represents Belize at Good Governance Workshop

By Javan Flowers

This week, a Belizean parliamentary delegation attended the Commonwealth Secretariat's workshop on Leadership for Good Governance and Social Transformation in the Caribbean.

The purpose of the forum is to discuss approaches and opportunities that promote women's transformational leadership and gender equality in parliamentary duties, share lessons

learnt and improve the understanding of gender-sensitive and gender-responsive parliaments, and identify practical steps for implementation that participants and parliaments can undertake.

Over the three-day workshop, there will be seven sessions focusing on good governance and transformational leadership, political and parliamentary work, gender equality in parliamentary processes and functions, engaging men as allies, and

creating international and intra-regional partnerships.

Additionally, Speaker of the House of Representatives Hon. Valerie Woods was invited to be the moderator at the opening session on Women in Political Leadership and at the third session on Good Governance and Transformational Leadership, where she shared her sentiments on the varying issues on the workshop's agenda.

A release issued by the Office of the Clerk in the National



(Center) House Speaker Hon. Valerie Woods

Assembly detailed that the workshop is funded by the Australian Government and organized through the Commonwealth Secretariat, UN Women,

and Caribbean Women in Leadership (CIWiL). The Commonwealth Secretariat is meeting the costs of travel and accommodation for the attendees.

Also attending the workshop were President of the Senate Hon. Carolyn Trench-Sandiford and Hon. Elvia Vega-Samos.

Miss Earth's Operation Kingdom helps Barranco school children

By: William Ysaguirre

The reigning Miss Earth 2021-22, Destiny Wagner, has started Operation Kingdom, a non-profit organization, with her parents to assist and provide meals to school children in Barranco

Village, Toledo district, where she grew up.

Destiny has partnered with the Belize Tourism Board to provide sanitation and school supplies to the school children in Barranco, which she presented to school principal Loma Rodriguez of St

Joseph's RC School in Barranco Village on Saturday morning, April 23. She also presented the school with a SAMSUNG laptop computer, laser printer supplies and printing paper to help the school prepare learning materials for



Miss Earth Destiny Wagner starts non-profit to help school children.

the students.

She thanked the school and its teachers for having educated her into the woman she has become. Toledo will no longer be the forgotten district, "we will be remembered, and our children will be remembered," Destiny avowed. Operation Kingdom will continue to promote education, and she encouraged the children "to never give up on your dreams, and no matter how far you go in life, to always remember where you come from and what you represent."

School principal Loma Rodriguez thanked her for the gifts, and so did the children, who expressed their gratitude by performing Garifuna dances with drumming in her honor. They also presented her with a gift basket of appreciation. Destiny also toured the Barranco Garifuna Culture Museum which was established in November 2005, where the schoolchildren also gave her souvenir gift of a traditional woven

straw hat.

Museum curator Alberita Enriquez gave her the guided tour of the exhibits which highlight every aspect of Garifuna culture, their spirituality and religion, their arts and music, with the aim to preserve the Garifuna language, with all exhibits labelled with Garifuna names for every day household items. The museum exhibits also honor Barranco's native son and former UNICEF World Heritage music cultural ambassador Andy Palacio, 1960-2008 (R.I.P.).

The museum also highlights the Garifuna odyssey, when they were exiled from their native island of St Vincent in 1797, and 2,500 survived the sea voyage to the island of Roatan, Honduras, from which they subsequently migrated to the mainland to establish settlements in Belize, Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua. The first Garifuna, a group of 150 settlers, arrived

in Barranco in 1802, with a larger group of 500 settling in Stann Creek Town (Dangriga) in 1823.

The BTB recently appointed Ms. Destiny Wagner as Tourism and Sustainable Development Ambassador, in which capacity she will continue to promote and market Belize's tourism potential both locally and internationally. It's a symbiotic relationship, "a perfect partnership", noted Tourism Director Evan Tillett as her Operation Kingdom's efforts are in line with Tourism Minister Hon. Anthony Mahler's mission to end poverty in our country.

The BTB has established both a sustainable tourism desk and a cultural desk, and Tillett said the BTB now seeks ways to help communities which are rich in our cultural traditions, like Barranco, to participate and become a part of our tourism product and to benefit economically from the industry.

Weh Wi Ga Fi Seh

Vairos di eez dong,
bot kip op yu helt.

Madaz! Aypril Breez Di Don/

Ih feel laik da jos yestideh dat 2022 mi bigin. Now Aypril free paypa don! Eesta don, ahn nais nais weda mait soon staat ton intu lee rayn. Wan ting wi laik bowt Aypril ahn May eena Bileez da di nais nais breez! Soh, tudeh day, wi di shyaa bowt BREEZ. Dis da di fos a chree aatiki bowt "breez."

breez *n.* strong wind. **Di breez stap ahn evriting geh kyaam kyaam.** The strong wind stopped and everything got very calm.

breez aaf *v.phr.* relax. **Wi midi breez aaf afta wi don werk.** We were relaxing after we finished working. **See: krak bak, rilaks.**

breez bloa *Idiomatic phr.* not a word, absolutely nothing. **Ah noh hyaa breez bloa bowt Sheela sins ih gaahn da Stayts.** I haven't heard anything about Shiela since she went to the States.

breez owt *v.phr.* air out. **Put yu shot fi breez owt kaa ih oanli sweti.** Air out your shirt because it's very sweaty. **See: ayr owt.**

— *n.* a break from work; usually done in a vehicle. **Wi gaahn fi wahn lee breez owt eena di kaa, kaa eena di hows feel hat.** We went for a little break in the car because it's hot in the house.

Aal a dehnya sentens kohn fahn di Kriol-English dikshineri.

Memba fi chek owt di Kriol-English dikshineri FREE pahnlain da:

<https://www.sil.org/resources/archives/10602>

Ahn memba seh dat eena Kriol, wi laik yooz "breez" er "win" een ahn owt!

Sodnwan di win pik op ahn sloa dong di baik rays. Suddenly the breeze picked up and slowed down the bicycle race.

COMPOL: DV survivors need to do more to hold their abusers accountable

By Michelle Sutherland

Victims of gender-based violence need to do more to hold their abusers accountable, or they too will end up being just another statistic, Commissioner of Police Chester Williams said this week.

The recent murder of Calcutta resident Tracy Thompson at the hands of her common-law husband Devon Logan as well as the brazen attack on Vanessa Reyes by her former common-law husband Christon Roca in Placencia has, once more, brought to the forefront the need for more intervention on

the part of authorities.

However, Williams, spoke to the media and shared that in the case of Thompson, she had reportedly filed charges against Logan before, and later withdrew them, and in some instances stated that she did not want any court action.

“This is why I have always said to victims of domestic violence, you need to make a stop yourself. There’s only so much the police can do, because if it is you go to the police and say, you don’t want court action then the police will not pursue it,” he explained.

Williams further claimed that while not

every case of domestic violence is brought to his attention, once it is then he would usually direct his officers to pursue the matter against the accused with or without the victim’s consent. Once the matter reaches the court then the victim would need to present herself to the court and explain to the sitting magistrate why she wants the charges to be dropped. That would then allow authorities some semblance of peace that they did enough to intervene in the matter said, Williams.

“When you are being abused by your spouse, particularly



Commissioner of Police Chester Williams

women who are being abused, you cannot sit back and allow your abuser to continue. It will eventually turn out to be you being buried. We have to, at some point, take a stand and say enough is enough and women

need to make that stand. Yes, you might feel there is no way out, and certainly, there is a way out. We have many organizations in Belize that are willing to assist women who are victims of domestic violence and we need

to ensure that we use every avenue,” ended Williams.

While statistics for the period January to December 2021 revealed that domestic violence reports countrywide had declined, the number of reports made for “future reference” also increased. In total 2,362 domestic violence complaints were lodged last year, compared to 2,419 that were lodged for the previous year. Of last year’s figures, only 885 of those reports were converted into actual cases. In both years 11 of those victims were murdered.

U.S. Congressional Delegation to strengthen financial access for Caribbean countries

By Javan Flowers

Maxine Waters, Chairwoman of the U.S. House Committee on Financial Services, joined Prime Minister of Barbados Mia Mottley to co-host a Caribbean Financial Access Roundtable focused on practical proposals to resolve the challenges faced due to the continued reduction of substantive trade availability and financial services.

Prime Minister Mottley opened the roundtable discussions with a welcome to the Congressional Delegation led by Chairwoman Waters, including Representatives Joyce Beatty, Troy Carter, Sylvia Garcia, Ed Perlmutter, and Stacy Plaskett.

In her opening remarks, PM Motley said, “We believe that we live in the same neighborhood. We are friends. We are family, and we have a vested interest in making this the best neighborhood possible for all our citizens, and we recognize your commitment.” She added, “We are unflinching in our support for international efforts to stop crime, stop terrorism, and stop their financing.”

Furthermore, Motley cited that the countries routinely on the anti-

money laundering list have relatively sparse international finance and that the countries that have never been listed “and will never be listed are where most international financing takes place.”

In her remarks, Congresswoman Waters said, “I am indeed committed to fostering greater inclusion within the financial services sector, and as Chairwoman of the Financial Services Committee of the United States House of Representatives, my committee has prioritized promoting financial access to traditionally marginalized and underbanked communities in the United States and abroad. For the Caribbean especially, this has long been a personal mission. Simply put, the Caribbean – its people and its culture – matter.”

Additionally, Waters pointed to America and the Caribbean’s longstanding relationship and cooperation in industries like tourism and other trades that see constant strengthening through diplomatic collaborations and regional security initiatives. Within this context, she further underscored the importance of finding



US House Committee on Financial Services Chairwoman Maxine Waters

ways “to increase financial connections, including correspondent banking services to and from the Caribbean.”

Notably, as previously mentioned, these discussions happened with Congressman Ed Perlmutter. He is leading the charge to have the U.S. Senate pass the Secure and Fair Enforcement (SAFE) Banking Act, which seeks to harmonize federal and state law by prohibiting federal regulators from taking punitive measures against depository institutions that provide banking services to legitimate cannabis-related businesses and ancillary businesses that serve them.

The Roundtable also saw participation from Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño, in his capacity as the CARICOM Chair. There were also several CARICOM Heads of Government, as well as CARICOM and OECS Secretaries-General. In addition, senior representatives

of U.S., Canadian, and Caribbean financial institutions also contributed, as did industry experts from the Caribbean and the U.S.

The international conference follows Chairwoman Waters’ previous high-level in-person CARICOM engagement on

financial access and banking de-risking issues in November 2019. It highlights the importance of the U.S. relationship with the Caribbean and its diaspora, which has an influential impact on American culture and economy with over 8 million people in the U.S.

RF&G LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY LTD.

Date: April 25, 2022

Michael Tewes of #156 Freetown Road, Belize City, Belize District, Belize C.A. having made written declaration that Policy A3103538 under RF&G Life Insurance Company Ltd has been lost and having made request to the Company for a duplicate of the Policy, notice is hereby given that unless objection is raised within one month of the date herein, the requested duplicate policy will be issued.



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST Development of Maintenance Plans and Manuals for Recreation Infrastructure in the MPR

Institution: MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND DIASPORA RELATIONS (MTDR)
Country: BELIZE
Project: SUSTAINABLE TOURISM PROGRAM II (STPII)
Sector: SUSTAINABLE TOURISM
Operation No.: 3566/OC-BL
Project ID No.: CS-42
Deadline: Wednesday, May 4th, 2022, at 4:00 pm, local Belize time

The Government of Belize has received financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) toward the cost of the "Sustainable Tourism Program II" (STPII), and intends to apply part of the proceeds for this consulting service.

The purpose of this consultancy is to develop maintenance plans for the recreation infrastructure implemented at the Rio Frio Cave Complex and Rio On Pools, in the Mountain Pine Ridge Forest Reserve. Also, to develop maintenance manuals and training of staff.

This consultancy should not exceed a period of ten weeks.

Candidates must demonstrate successful experience with the development and implementation of maintenance plans, including aspects related to training and capacity building. The Consultant must have experience in developing maintenance plans for Protected Areas or other types of recreation natural areas.

The Consultant must possess the following qualification and experience necessary to complete this consultancy:

- Language: English (Oral and Written)
- Education: Minimum of Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering or other related Engineering degrees.
- General Experience: Minimum of 5 years from obtaining the academic title.
- **Specific Experience 1:** Minimum of three years working experience corrective, preventive and predictive maintenance of different type of facilities especially recreational facilities or related field.
- **Specific Experience 2:** Demonstrated experienced in the development of maintenance plans or guidelines for maintaining facilities.
- **Specific Experience 3:** Demonstrated experience working on projects with both virtual and on-site modes of training and capacity building.
- Course or Training - training, capacity building, management, facility maintenance, or other related field would be a plus.
- Knowledgeable of Belize's laws, regulations, and policies.

The individual consultant will be selected based on the Comparison of Qualification for Individual Consultants procurement method 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).**

The Ministry of Tourism and Diaspora Relations, now invites eligible individuals to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested persons should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the services.

Interested individual consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours of **09:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday to Friday, local Belize time**. Expressions of interest must be delivered via direct mail or e-mail at the address indicated below by **4:00 pm on Wednesday, May 4th, 2022, local Belize time**.

Ministry of Tourism and Diaspora Relations
Attn: Tamara Tingling-Cano
Procurement Specialist, STPII
106 South Street, Belize City,
Tel: 501-227-1760

E-mail: tamara.cano@tourism.gov.bz, ceo@tourism.gov.bz



Institution: Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
Country: Belize
Project: Solid Waste Management Project II (SWMP II)
Sector: Waste Management
Abstract: Individual Consulting Service for the Development and Implementation of a Public Education, Communication and Campaign Strategy.

The objective of this consultancy is to assist the Belize Solid Waste Management Authority (BSWaMA) to develop and implement a comprehensive Public Education, Communication and Campaign Strategy to (1) Promote and educate stakeholders and the public on SWMP II & BSWaMA (2) promote source separation and the reduction and recovery of eligible recyclable material from municipal solid waste generated in line with the operationalization of the new transfer stations. (3) Enable open and effective communication between all relevant stakeholders at all levels for the introduction and implementation of the target areas and (4) Establish lines of communication through transparency with all beneficiary communities and stakeholders to maintain interest and participation in the BSWaMA strategic vision.

Loan No.: BL-L1021
Deadline: May 6th, 2022

The Government of Belize (GOB) has received financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), towards the cost of the Solid Waste Management Project II and intends to apply part of the proceeds for an Individual Consultant for the **Development and Implementation of a Public Education, Communication and Campaign Strategy.**

The consulting services ("the Services") include the following activities:

A) SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES

Specific responsibilities will include:

Phase I - Conduct activities detailed below and make available to the BSWaMA information as a result of

- (i) The revision of data on the general status of source separation and resource recovery; review previous work that was done in source separation and resource recovery; project and awareness within and through the BSWaMA.
- (ii) Manage and conduct consultation (meetings, workshops, interviews) with various stakeholders, within the sector to determine the current status of source separation and resource recovery. All key stakeholders are to be identified but particular effort should be made to consult with persons/business from tourist destination such as the Cayes and Placencia. Document consultations and make available to BSWaMA minutes and notes of the consultation sessions.
- (iii) Engagement with stakeholders who can champion and support the public education and communication initiative.

Phase II- Develop a comprehensive Public Education, Communication and Campaign Strategy and an associated action plan for its effective implementation.

Develop complete Implementation Action Plan for the PECCS through all its phases (design, implementation, and operationalization):

- (i) Develop a complete 5-year Strategy, with timelines, guidelines, and budgets for all phases.
- (ii) provide Drafts of content for Public Education, Communication and Campaign strategy activities.
- (iii) identify and engage groups of key persons and organizations to be directly involved in the public education and awareness campaign activities which include modalities to engage individuals with diverse abilities.
- (iv) Laise with the Ministry of Education to develop or incorporate Solid Waste Management sensitization in school's curriculum from primary school. Prepare draft material.
- (v) identify opportunities for involvement of media groups via multimedia platforms.
- (vi) identify groups to be targeted with specific messages.
- (vii) create an action plan that details the goals and activities attached to each component, along with timelines for implementation.
- (viii) identify cost-effective and feasible options for executing of each component of the campaign.
- (ix) devise an appropriate monitoring and evaluation framework to determine the effectiveness of the campaign, inclusive of key performance indicators.

Phase III- Present the Public Education, Communication and Campaign Strategy and Action Plan to stakeholders for review, feedback, and finalization.

- (i) procuringsamplesofpromotionalmaterialsfortheimplementationofactivities where necessary.
- (ii) Capacity building including training, coordinating, and promoting activities that highlight the relevance and importance of project with the Communication Officer at BSWaMA and
- (iii) Prepare instruments for evaluating initial knowledge of solid waste and at completion to determine the effectiveness of the activities.

Phase IV

- (i) Manage the implementation of the approved Public Education, Communication, and Campaign Strategy.
- (ii) The consultant will undertake the timely completion of all the campaign activities including the production of all communication materials, organize logistics, applicable events, etc. Before the period of their contract comes to an end the consultant will organize the smooth transition of the remaining activities and implementation of the strategy to the BSWaMA.
- (iii) The consultant will be responsible to undertake the timely completion of all campaign activities assigned during the duration of their contract, including the production of communication materials, organizing logistics and applicable events. Before the period of their contract comes to an end the consultant will organize the smooth transition of the remaining activities and implementation of the strategy to the BSWaMA.

Phase V

- (i) Evaluate the response to the implementation of the Campaign with a focus on behavioral changes, utilizing the monitoring and evaluation framework to determine the need for recommendations and adequate corrective measures and actions.

B) QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- A Masters' Degree in a Social Science discipline with emphasis on Communications, Marketing, or a related field with a minimum of three years' experience in Communications and Marketing. Or a bachelor's degree in social science discipline with emphasis on Communications, marketing, or a related field with a minimum of five years' experience: Exceptional conceptualization and execution skills with demonstrated working experience in strategy development in a lead role, project management or related experience.
- Experience in product, project and campaign development, marketing, and promotions to multi-dimensional target groups will be an asset.
- Proven interpersonal skills; excellent spoken and written communication skills (English; Spanish would be an advantage); prepare concise and clear reports; Ability to impart complex concepts and controversial topics in clear, compelling, and palatable style.
- Experience working in Belize, Latin America and the Caribbean regions would be an advantage

C) TERMS OF ENGAGEMENT

- **Type of contract and modality:** Individual Consultant
- **Length of contract:** 8 months
- **Estimated start date:** June 2022

The **Ministry of Natural Resources, Petroleum and Mining** now invites eligible individual consultants to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested individual Consultants may send their application letter and Curriculum Vitae (CV), and other relevant supporting documentation (inclusive of previous graphic design and videography work)/ comprehensive catalogue in a non-protected accessible virtual folder to the email address listed below.

Consultants will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Inter-American Development Bank: **Policies for the Selection and Contracting of Consultants financed by the Inter-American Development Bank - GN-2350-15**, and is open to all eligible candidates as defined in the policies.

The individual consultant will be selected in accordance with the Selection of Individual Consultants method set out in the Consultants Policies.

Further information and a copy of the Terms of Reference can be obtained via the email address below during office hours: **Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. local time**.

Expressions of interest should be submitted to the email address below by **Friday May 6th, 2022, at 2:00 p.m.**

(Submission must be made in an organize manner-One complete PDF file for application letter and CV and a folder containing sample of previous work).

Belize Solid Waste Management Authority
Attn: Mrs. Melanie Gladden, Procurement Officer
3013 Bougainvillea Street, Orchid Garden Area
City of Belmopan, Belize, C.A.
Tel: (501) 802 1527
PO Box 285
E-mail: GladdenM@gobmail.gov.bz

The Righters Write

KNOW YOUR CONSTITUTION

Contributed by the Human Rights Commission

The Constitution is the most important law in our country.

The same way it is the most important law in all democratic countries.

The Constitution of Belize starts off with a Preamble. The word Preamble means an introduction. The Preamble at page one and two of our Constitution is a statement by the people of Belize on what they believe, and respect, require and desire.

Judges in democratic societies accept the Preamble as part of the Constitution as it is the will of the people of a country expressing their collective beliefs and acceptance of the principles governing them in their country.

Belizean's Constitution on page one begins with the words

"WHEREAS the people of Belize-

AFFIRM that nation of Belize shall be founded upon principles which acknowledge the supremacy of God, faith in human rights and fundamental freedom, the position of the family in a society of freemen and freemen and free institutions, the dignity of the human person and the equal and inalienable rights with which all members of the human family are endowed by the Creator.

RESPECT the principles of social justice...

BELIEVE that the will of the people shall form the basis of the government in a democratic society....

RECOGNISE that men and institutions remain free only when freedom is founded upon respect for moral and spiritual values and upon the rule of law.

REQUIRE policies of state which protect and safeguard the unity, freedom, sovereignty,

and territorial integrity of Belize, which eliminate economic and social privilege and disparity among the citizens of Belize....

DESIRE that their society shall reflect and enjoy the above-mentioned principles, beliefs and needs and that their Constitution should therefore enshrine and make provisions for ensuring the achievement of the same in Belize.

It is believed that Assad Shoman, Said Musa, Vernon Harrison Courtenay and Lindy Rogers played a principal part in having the Preamble included in our Constitution.

Belize has a unique Constitution. The British parliament passed it as law when they handed over sovereignty and power from the British government to the elected leaders and people of Belize. Remember Belize (previously known as British Honduras) belonged to the British as one of the many territories and colonies which they conquered, captured, or took by force or through treaties. Not content with this handing over of government from the British to Belizeans, George Price agreed for our new Parliament, which he legally named National Assembly, to hold a meeting and pass the Constitution which came into legal effect on the 21st September 1981.

Our Constitution consists of thirteen Chapters or Parts.

PART 1 has two Sections. Section 1 lays down that "Belize shall be a sovereign democratic state of Central America and the Caribbean region" and defines the area of land and sea which legally comprise our country.

Section 2 lays down that our Constitution is the "Supreme law"

of our nation and "if any other law is inconsistent with this Constitution that other law shall, to the extent of the inconsistency, be void".

PART 2 has 22 Sections. The heading is "Protection of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms". This is what is considered one of the most important contents of any Constitution. It protects all the human rights of citizens in any democracy. We quote from the opening of Section 3:

"Whereas every person in Belize is entitled to the fundamental rights and freedoms of the individual, that is to say, the right, whatever his Race, place of origin, political opinions, color, creed, or sex, but subject to respect for the rights and freedoms of others and for the public interest, to each and all of the following, namely"

And then the Section lists the rights in (a) (b) (c) and (d), life, liberty security of the person, protection of the law, freedom of conscience and expression, freedom of assembly and association, protection of family life, personal privacy, privacy of home and property. It also speaks to the recognition of human dignity and protection from arbitrary deprivation of property. Each of these individual rights is dealt with in details from Section 4 to Section 17. Because these fundamental rights are of vital importance in our young country, we will return in future articles to deal with them in detail. Section 18 deals with public emergency. As readers would know, both red and blue governments have used Public Emergency as a weapon in the fight against gangs and crime.

Section 18 of our

Constitution states "...period of public emergency means any period during which-

Belize is engaged in any war, or

There is in force a proclamation by the Governor -General declaring that a state of public emergency exists, or

...a resolution of the National Assembly declaring that democratic institutions in Belize are threatened by subversion.

Subsection (a) and (c) are clear. It is subsection (b) which the politicians use to put persons under a state of emergency and lock them up in jail.

Several Belizeans attorneys familiar with constitutional law have expressed the view that to use this section to imprison so-called gang members is a violation of the Constitution.

The Belize Human Rights Commission is not aware if there has been any challenge in our Supreme Court on the issue. We do know that such challenges in Jamaica have resulted in their High Court declaring the practice to be unconstitutional and that persons in prison must be released. Section 20 of our Constitution has the side note "Enforcement of Protective Provision". It states, "if any person

alleges that any of the previous of Sections 3 to 19 inclusive of this Constitution has been, is being, or is likely to be contravened in relation to him, ... he may apply to the Supreme Court for redress". The word redress means remedy or compensation for violating a person's Constitutional rights.

PART 3 of our Constitution deals with citizenship.

Every person born in Belize automatically becomes a citizen. Persons living in Belize continuously for 5 years can apply and become a citizen. Persons who get married to a citizen of Belize can apply to become a citizen of Belize. Section 29 subsection (3) states, "No person shall be entitled To be a citizen of Belize or granted citizenship of Belize if such a person shows any allegiance to or is a citizen of a country which does not recognize the independence, sovereignty, or territorial integrity of Belize. Provided that the Minister may in his direction grant Belizeans citizenship to persons falling under this subsection who would otherwise been entitled to such citizenship under the provisions of Sections 23 and 25 of this Constitution.

This subsection (3)

was not in our original Constitution of 21st September 1981. It came about when the UDP became government for the first time in 1984. Phillip Goldson was concerned that Guatemalans could become the majority of new citizens in our country (Guatemala has 15 million people Belize has less than half of one million). Guatemala was very hostile to Belize and had refused to recognize our independence and did not do so until 1991.

This subsection (3) has caused much concern in Belize. The first paragraph prevents Guatemalans from getting Belizean citizenship because Guatemala still does not recognize our territorial integrity. However, the second paragraph allows the Minister (of Immigration) the authority to go ahead and grant citizenship to Guatemalans. The issue remains a troubling one for our people.

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

STATUTORY NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the Estate of HECTOR MANUEL PEREZ, a.k.a. HECTOR PEREZ, a.k.a. HECTOR MANUEL PERES, deceased

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 36 of the Administration of Estate Act, Chapter 197 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that all creditors and other persons having any claims or demands upon or against the Estate of HECTOR MANUEL PEREZ, a.k.a. HECTOR PEREZ, a.k.a. HECTOR MANUEL PERES, late of Santa Teresita Village, Cayo District, Belize, who died intestate on the 9th day of December, 2020 in whose estate Grant of Administration has been granted to EDWIN PEREZ and MARLIN NATALI PEREZ, both of Santa Teresita Village, Cayo District, Belize are required to send particulars in writing of their claims or demands to the said Administrators, c/o of ORLANDO ANTONIO FERNANDEZ, Attorney-at-Law, P.O Box 236, #193 George Price Highway, Santa Elena, Cayo District Belize, and to send such particulars not later than within (3) three months from the date of the 1st publication of the notice, AND NOTICE IS HEREBY ALSO GIVEN that at the expiration of last mentioned date, the Administrators shall proceed to distribute the assets of the said Estate amongst the parties entitled thereto having regard only to the claims or demands of which particulars have been delivered and the Administrators will not be liable for the asset or any part thereof so distributed to any persons of whose claims or demands they shall not then have had notice.

DATED this 21st day of April, 2022

ORLANDO ANTONIO FERNANDEZ
Attorney-at-Law
for Administrators of the Estate

Belize observes World Malaria Day 2022

By Javan Flowers

Belize joined the international community this week in observing World Malaria Day, which is annually observed on April 25th.

The day is aimed at keeping malaria high on the global health agenda, recognizing the thousands of lives lost annually, as well as engaging the public on ways to prevent the disease.

Locally, Malaria Day is being observed under the theme, "Maintaining a Malaria-free Belize starts with me" which signifies the start of a campaign to empower communities to take ownership in preventing the reintroduction of malaria in Belize.

The Ministry of Health & Wellness (MoHW) continues to keep malaria high on the health agenda,

supporting the mobilization of resources, empowering communities at risk of malaria and strengthening key health prevention measures and care.

Malaria is a serious and sometimes fatal disease caused by a parasite that commonly infects a certain type of mosquito which feeds on humans. People who get malaria are typically very sick with high fevers, shaking chills, and flu-like illness.

Over the past few decades, Belize has made significant advancements toward the elimination of this disease. There has been a significant decrease in the number of reported malaria cases from over ten thousand cases in the 1990s to maintaining zero local cases for a third consecutive year, achieving a key eligibility requirement for malaria-free certification



(Right) Minister of Health and Wellness Hon. Kevin Bernard

by the World Health Organization (WHO).

"World Malaria Day," formally known as "African Malaria Day," was first observed by African governments in 2001. However, it was only in 2007, during the

60th session of the World Health Organization, that it was proposed to recognize Africa Malaria Day as World Malaria Day and recognize the impact of the disease worldwide.

The day also aims to bring research and educational

institutions to communicate any scientific advancements regarding the disease.

One such "scientific advancement" that was highlighted last year was the WHO recommending the general use of the "RTS, S malaria vaccine" for young

children living in areas with moderate and high malaria transmission.

The recommendation was informed by results from an ongoing pilot program in Ghana, Kenya, and Malawi that has reached more than 900,000 children since 2019. The program's evidence and experience have shown that the vaccine is safe, feasible to deliver, and reduces deadly severe malaria. RTS, S is an example of innovation at work and a scientific breakthrough – it is the first vaccine recommended against a human parasitic disease of any kind.

To date, more than one million (1,000,000) children in Ghana, Kenya, and Malawi have received one or more doses of the world's first malaria vaccine, thanks to the pilot program coordinated by WHO.

Belize Tourism to rebound to 2019 numbers

By William Ysaguirre

The Belize tourism industry led the region in post-pandemic recovery to 75 percent of pre-COVID numbers over the last three quarters, and the Belize Tourism Board (BTB) and the Ministry of Tourism remain optimistic that the industry will rebound to 2019 levels as the BTB continues to revise its master plan for sustainable tourism, BTB director Evan Tillett told the media recently.

There are still gaps in the tourism product that the BTB continues to tweak to have a world-class product and to compete on a global level. To this end, the BTB focused on all source markets from which visitors

originate, which have direct flights to Belize, and ensure that Belize renewed all the flight connections it had before the pandemic.

Belize also got two new flight connections in 2021, Alaska Airlines and Frontier Airlines, and in addition to destinations in the United States, the BTB has also focused on Europe to try to develop new markets for Belize.

Mexico alone has a huge potential market of 120 million people. They are the second-largest dive market after the U.S. and we are next-door neighbors, Tillett enthused. Only 7,000 Mexicans visited Belize in 2019, numbers which Tillett found to be very low, and he is confident that Belize can grow those numbers. if we

do the right thing.

Belize is also seeking to grow cruise tourism numbers, which reached the one million visitor mark in 2019, and BTB officials sought to increase arrivals when they met with cruise line representatives at the Seatrade Cruise Global Expo, which opened at the Miami Beach Convention Center on Monday, April 25.

The cruise tourism sector had reached 60 percent, almost 70 percent, when the arrival of the new Omicron strain of the COVID-19 virus forced a contraction in the industry, as the cruise lines were forced to restrict passenger occupancy for safe distancing aboard their ships, and that travel sector is only now beginning to



BTB Director, Evan Tillett

recover.

Having a docking port facility is key to growing the number of cruise passenger arrivals, Tillett said. It is critical that Belize gets a docking port facility as soon as possible, he

affirmed.

Belize's travel insurance requirement may not have been popular with all in Belize's tourism sector, but the BTB is the custodian for the industry and has to decide what is in the best

interest of the industry, Tillett said. It has zero impact on tourist arrivals as the BTB has seen no decline in the numbers, and is very relevant to protecting visitors and the hotel sector against even non-COVID health emergencies.

There is also the possible threat of the H3N2 strain of influenza which is now raging in China and the United States. The BTB is doing what it can to mitigate against a total shutdown again and will keep the travel insurance in place, for as long as it is needed. When it is deemed to be no longer needed, the BTB will consider whether to make it optional for visitors and will review this policy continuously as the situation changes.

S U D O K U

Medium Puzzle

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

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

Answer to Puzzle

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



Lemon water benefits: Are there any?

Are there really any benefits to lemon water? We look at how the clinical evidence stacks up against anecdotal claims.

Are there any benefits to lemon water?

How can I make lemon water at home?

Lemon water is a popular trend right now, but are there any real benefits to it? That seems to be the question on everyone's lips these days. It seems we're all investing in water bottles, filling them with a combination of water and lemon juice and then drinking it either hot or cold depending on the season. But are there really any health benefits to be had from drinking lemon water? It certainly seems that way.

Several studies have been carried out into the health benefits of drinking lemon water, with results suggesting that lemon water can do everything from aiding gut digestion and weight loss, to improving the skin's appearance. There's even evidence to suggest that it can lower your blood pressure and boost your immunity.

This article assesses the evidence surrounding these claims, as well as looking at anecdotal evidence from devotees of lemon water. Plus, we'll show you how to make your own lemon water from scratch.

WHY IS LEMON WATER SAID TO BE GOOD FOR YOU?

When it comes to finding new ways for how to stay hydrated, you've probably seen countless news headlines on the 'miracle' properties of lemon water, from losing weight fast to flushing out toxins from the body.

Lots of people start their day with lemon water instead of a caffeine-based drink, such as coffee or tea. It's certainly a refreshing alternative to a cup of joe, but does it have any real health benefits? Here's a look at the top 5 claims people make about lemon water:

It improves your digestion: Many people report that taking lemon water helps to reduce digestive problems, such as bloating and heartburn.

It helps with weight loss: Devotees of lemon water say that a daily glass helps them to shed pounds more easily, and keep the weight off.

It boosts your immunity: We all know lemons contain vitamin C, which is great for our body's immune system, helping us to ward off colds, coughs, and infections.

It lowers your blood pressure: The minerals in lemons, such as calcium and potassium, are said to lower blood pressure, according to a study published in the Journal of Experimental and Clinical Medicine.

It improves your skin's appearance: Again, the vitamin C in lemons is the key ingredient here. Vitamin C is a known antioxidant that can help to protect the skin from free radicals, so it's possible that lemon water can help to improve its appearance and reduce the signs of aging.

ARE THERE TRULY ANY BENEFITS TO LEMON WATER?

There's a great deal of anecdotal evidence surrounding the benefits of drinking lemon water, but not much scientific evidence for the practice. However, by including studies into the health benefits from lemons, we can deduce more from how incorporating them in our everyday diet can improve our health.

Let's take a look first at the nutritional properties of lemon juice. According to the website NutritionData, the juice from one lemon contains:

Energy: 11.7 calories (kcal)
 Vitamin C: 21.6 milligrams (mg)
 Folate: 6.1 micrograms (mcg)
 Calcium: 3.3 mg
 Magnesium 2.8 mg
 Phosphorus: 2.8 mg
 Potassium: 58.3mg

NutritionData says that lemon juice is a good source of folate and potassium and a very good source of vitamin C. It's also very low in saturated fat, cholesterol, and salt. Here's how the clinical evidence stacks up in favor



of lemons and lemon water:

A 2017 review published in the peer-reviewed journal, Nutrients, compared the benefits of ingesting vitamin C with topical application of creams and ointments. It found that having more vitamin C in the diet helped the skin to heal faster and reduce the appearance of scars.

Moreover, a study the year before in the journal of Food Chemistry found that the vitamin C in 'citrus based juice mixtures' helped to suppress wrinkle formation in hairless mice, by stimulating collagen production.

Large doses of vitamin C can also be effective in protecting the body's immune system, protecting it from infection. A study by researchers that was published in Nutrients in 2017 found that 200mg of vitamin C a day could treat respiratory infections, such as the common cold and even pneumonia.

According to NutritionData, lemons contain around 139% of the recommended daily intake of vitamin C, so they're a great place to start when it comes to upping your daily intake. The calcium and potassium found in lemons may also help to reduce blood pressure. A study published in the Journal of Nutrition and Metabolism found that women who ingested lemons daily and combined this with exercise had lower blood pressure than those who didn't, although it's not clear from the study whether the participants drank lemon juice or ate the flesh.

Finally, there's less clinical evidence to support the use of lemon as an aid to digestion and weight loss, but an abundance of anecdotal support. If you take lemon water instead of fruit juices or sodas, you'll be slashing your calorie intake, which will help you lose weight. Staying hydrated can also help to boost weight loss, by reducing water retention, so it's a win-win!

HOW CAN I MAKE LEMON WATER AT HOME?

This part is super easy! Simply slice up a lemon and put as many slices into a cup of just-boiled water as you wish. Or you can squeeze the lemon or use a juicer to extract the juice first and then add it to your beverage. Make sure you remove any pips first and allow the water to cool a little before drinking.

You can also boil the lemon in the water, by quartering or slicing the fruit, and adding it to a pot of boiling water. Allow to simmer or boil for 3 minutes, before cooling and drinking. If you find lemon water too bitter, you can add a little honey to sweeten.

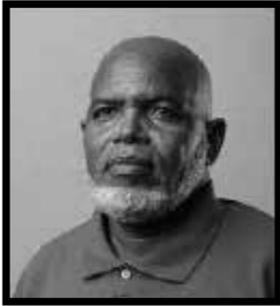


Public Notice of Investment

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the Social Security Act, Chapter 44 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2011, that the Social Security Board, as per its Investment Framework, Section 49, has proposed to lend the amount of **One Million Dollars (BZ\$1,000,000.00)** to Marie Sharp's Fine Foods Limited for capital expenditures. The new loan facility will be consolidated for a term of six (6) years. Principal and interest payments will be paid quarterly on the declining balance.

GRASSROOTS

Meeting with the People



By Hon. Gilroy Usher

“Unity is strength.. When there is teamwork and collaboration , wonderful things can be achieved” –**Mattie Stepanek**

On Friday April 22, 2022 Hon. Rodwell Ferguson Minister of Youth, Sports, and Transport and Hon. Gilroy Usher Minister of State in the Ministry in the company of senior managers from the Ministry travelled to Punta Gorda Town to among other things view the work being doing by the Ministry and hear the concerns of the staff.

The first meeting was held with the bus operators of the Toledo District at the Punta Gorda Town Council.

It was agreed that for the benefit of the

It was agreed that for the benefit of the bus operators and commuters the holders of Road Service Permits (RSP) should abide by their departure and arrival times to avoid racing for passengers which put the lives of everyone at risk.

bus operators and commuters the holders of Road Service Permits (RSP) should abide by their departure and arrival times to avoid racing for passengers which put the lives of everyone at risk.

It was also agreed that to remain competitive bus operators need to upgrade their service with better buses that offer reliable travel with AC, comfortable seating, and safe transportation with valid license and insurance, proper tires, and functioning lights, brakes, and jacks among other things.

In the discussion the Ministers reiterated that the Government will extend RSP from two years to eight and ten years to make it easier for bus operators to satisfy lending institutions that they will be able to repay loans to upgrade their equipment.

To help make public transportation profitable despite the high cost of fuel and out-dated bus fares, it was stated that 1) government has but a cap of the price of fuel and all operators who travel beyond a minimum amount of miles would receive a fuel subsidy based on how much fuel they purchased during a monthly period and 2) government has approved an increase in bus fares as follows. \$.25 for short runs, \$.50 per medium runs, and \$1.00 for long runs.

The meeting with the bus operators also had the participation of Mr. Charles Selgado Mayor of Punta Gorda Town, Mr Malcom Galvez Deputy Mayor of Punta Gorda Town, Hon. Michael Espat Minister of State and

Area Representative for Toledo East, and Hon. Oscar Requeña Minister and Area Representative for Toledo West.

Following that meeting the delegation visited the Department of Youth Services and held a very productive meeting with the staff.

With a new pickup provided by the Government, for the first time in over a decade, employees of the department are now able to travel within Punta Gorda Town and throughout the district to offer many services to the youths in the community.

The Ministry also promised to do everything possible to raise the necessary funds for the expansion of the building of the Youth Services Department.

At the National Sports Council (NSC). Mr. Michael “Chips” Norales District Coordinator for the NSC gave the delegation a tour of the facility followed by a meeting with the staff.

The sports center in Punta Gorda Town was built for over \$3.8 million. It is a small building with a leaking roof, electrical problems, and a malfunctioning plumbing system for that whopping cost. The structure is a perfect example of the shabby work and bloated contracts that were a hallmark of massive corruption under the previous administration.

Nevertheless it was a pleasure to see several coaches teaching small children and youths in their teens different techniques to become better basketball players.

Despite serious flaws in the construction of the building and the field, the Victor Sanchez Union Field in Punta Gorda Town is one of the better football stadiums in the Jewel.

The final visit of the tour was at the Transport Department .A very informative discussion was also held with the staff.

Due to lack of resources for its own premises, for years the Transport Department in Punta Gorda has been located at the compound of the Ministry of Infrastructure Development & Housing (MID&H)

It was agreed that to improve traffic safety throughout the Toledo District no one should intervene to have tickets issued for traffic violations cancelled. It was also noted that the replacement of a prosecutor for the Transport Department will be greatly welcomed ,because many motorists ,who receive traffic tickets refuse to pay for their fines unless they are served court summons or committal warrants.

With the abundance of motorcycles and other vehicles in the Toledo District, traffic accidents several of which are fatal, are often caused by vehicles using the streets and roads without valid licence and insurance as well as without proper lights, brakes, or tires. Many traffic accidents in the Toledo District are also the result of excessive speed and cyclists not wearing reflector clothing at night.

The Ministry of Youth, Sports, and Transport remains committed to doing everything possible to enable all its employees to provide the best possible service to the public.

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.

FIU BELIZE FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE UNIT(FIU) VACANCY FOR SENIOR COMPLIANCE OFFICER

The Senior Compliance Officer, under the direction of the Director and Deputy Director, will be responsible for the implementation and management of the Unit’s anti-money laundering, countering the financing of terrorism, and countering the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (AML/CFT/CFP), risk-based supervision of Designated Non-Financial Businesses and Professions (DNFBPs) in accordance with the Money Laundering and Terrorism Prevention Act (MLTPA) and the Financial Action Task Force’s Recommendations.

Qualifications/Experience/Skills:

- Master’s or Bachelor’s Degree in Business Management, Accounting, Finance or related discipline;
- Certification in AML/CFT/CFP compliance (ACAMS / FIBA) preferable;
- Knowledge of the domestic legal and regulatory framework related to anti-money laundering, terrorist financing, and financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (ML/TF/PF);
- Ability to conduct complete, efficient, thorough and ethical AML/CFT/CFP compliance examinations;
- Three to five years professional work experience in the financial services industry;
- In-depth knowledge of the FATF 40 Recommendations;
- Report writing skills;
- Strategic planning skills;
- Managerial and supervisory skills;
- Ability to develop and deliver training activities;
- Good interpersonal, multi-tasking, organizational, analytical and research skills;
- Knowledge of Microsoft Office suite;
- Audit experience would be an asset.

Core Duties:

- Lead the implementation and ongoing development of a sound risk- based supervisory framework for DNFBPs;
- Develop a good understanding of ML/TF/PF risks associated with the various DNFBP sectors as well as at entity level;
- Monitor the evolving ML/TF/PF risk environment, identify emerging risks and respond promptly with appropriate supervisory actions to mitigate risks as it relates to the DNFBP sectors;
- Implement a supervisory strategy that effectively directs supervisory focus to higher or emerging ML/TF/PF risks.
- Supervise the examination of entities in the DNFBP sectors to ensure that they have effective AML/CFT/CFP policies in place and where issues are identified, provide targeted guidance and feedback;
- Review and sign off on inspection reports and remedial action plans, and ensure the ongoing monitoring of deficiencies identified;
- Direct/and or oversee remedial actions and exercise of enforcement powers in a dissuasive and proportionate manner, based on the results of examination of DNFBPs;
- Prepare reports and decision papers to be presented to the Director including but not limited to progress reports based on agreed targets;
- Maintain statistics for example as it relates to measures adopted and sanctions imposed in the context of enforcing compliance guidelines for the DNFBP sectors;
- Supervise the pool of Compliance Officers and provide them with on-going training;
- Develop and execute training workshops and programs geared towards increasing the awareness of AML/CFT/CFP obligations amongst the DNFBP sectors;
- Provide advice and support to the Director on matters relating to the supervision of DNFBPs;
- Work along with the Legal Officer to develop and keep up to date guidelines for the DNFBP sectors;
- Assist with Strategic Planning for the Unit including preparation of an annual action plan;
- Assist in the activities of the National Risk Assessment exercise and ongoing assessment of national risks;
- Keep confidential the private, personal and corporate information at the FIU; and
- Carry out any other duties as may be assigned by the Director from time to time.

Salary and Benefits: Negotiable, depending on qualifications and experience. Further details of salary and benefits will be provided during the interview session.

Interested persons can submit their (a) letter of application, (b) resume, (c) copy of a valid ID, and (d) three letters of recommendations and (e) police record, to the **Human Resources Manager, Financial Intelligence Unit, P.O. Box 2197, Belize City, Belize** or email to secretary@fiubelize.org no later than **May 6th, 2022.**



FUN FACTS!

Have you ever wondered what the cards represent?

At first glance, there doesn't seem to be much meaning at all in a deck of cards, but upon closer inspection, the symbolism held within is astounding. Did you know that the 52 cards in a deck represent the modern calendar?

The red suits represent the daylight sun, while the black suits represent night.

The four different suits stand for the four seasons.

There are a total of twelve face cards in the deck, representing the twelve different months of the year.

There are thirteen different values of cards (from two to Ace) that signify the thirteen lunar cycles of a year.

And there are 52 cards in the deck and 52 weeks in a year.

If you add up all of the values of the cards, the total will equal 364. Add in one joker, and you get 365, the total days in a year. If you take the other joker and add it as well, you will get 366 - a leap year!

It is still unknown if this is all a bizarre



coincidence or if early card designers intended these references to our calendar, but either way, it's a fun fact that you can share with your friends!

While we are all familiar with the jack, queen, and king cards, did you know that each of these faces is actually a representation of famous historical figures? King Charlemagne is said to be seen on the hearts card, King David on the spade, Cesar on the diamonds card, and

Alexander the Great on the clubs.

The queen cards are also said to be famous people as well. Athena is represented by the queen of spades, the biblical figure Judith is seen on the hearts card, Rachel from the bible is seen on the diamonds card, and Argine (Latin for queen) is depicted on the clubs' card.

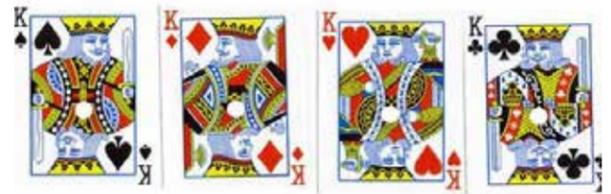
No matter how many times you shuffle a deck of cards, the exact sequence of those cards will never

be the same. In fact, in the entire history of playing cards, it is extremely likely that the exact same shuffle sequence has never occurred twice. There are actually 80,658,175,170,943,878,571,660,636,856,403,766,975,289,505,440,883,277,824,000,000,000,000 different possible ways that the cards can be arranged. That is more than the number of atoms on earth and more than the total number of known stars in our universe!



No Mustache!

The king of hearts is the only one of the kings without a mustache.



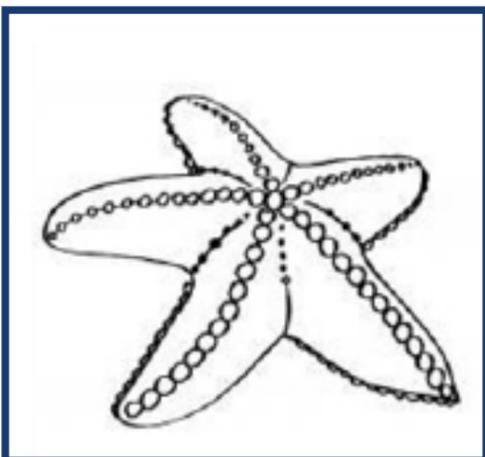
Endless Shuffle Combinations!

There are more ways to arrange a deck of cards than there are atoms in the observable universe. Even half a deck of cards has more possibilities than the number of seconds that have passed since the beginning of time as we know it.



COLOR ME

Regenerating their own arms is perhaps one of the most useful things a starfish can do. This attribute can be used in many different ways. Arms can be lost when a starfish comes in contact with a predator, or it may be amputated in order to hide or escape from one.



With no brain or blood it seems crazy to think starfish can survive in the depth of the vast ocean.

Starfish are layered with an upper skin made out of calcium carbonate. This strong material makes the skin tough and difficult for hunters to breakdown.

Some species of starfish will even go a step further with the addition of numerous spines on their skin, acting as a layer of armour to deter predators.

Just to further add to their unusual anatomy, their eyes are on the end of their arms. Whilst their eyes may not be able to see in fine detail like our eyes can, they are able to detect different shades of light allowing them to navigate their surroundings - allowing them to hunt for food and hide from predators.

Inflation to be Elevated for Longer on War, Demand, Job Markets

By Jorge Alvarez and Philip Barrett

The war in Ukraine will quicken inflation, which we now expect to remain elevated for longer than previously forecast on higher commodity costs and broader price pressures.

As the Chart of the Week shows, our latest World Economic Outlook now projects faster consumer-price increases this year for advanced economies as well as in emerging market and developing economies. These forecasts also have a high degree of uncertainty.

Russia's invasion of its neighbor will likely have a protracted impact on commodities, affecting oil and gas prices more severely this year and food prices well into next year.

Four main factors

shape our outlook:

The war aggravated already surging commodity prices. Energy and food helped boost inflation last year, with oil and gas supplies tight after years of subdued investment and geopolitical uncertainty. This was a main inflation driver in Europe and, to a lesser extent, the United States. Rising food prices also played a major role in most emerging market and developing economies, as extreme weather reduced harvests and mounting oil and gas prices drove up fertilizer costs.

Demand surged last year amid policy support, while supply bottlenecks grew on factory closures, port restrictions, shipping

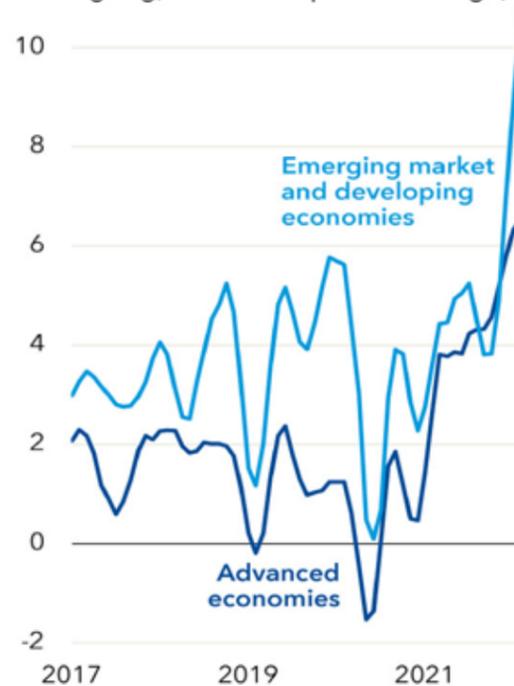
Cont'd on pg 20

Upward revisions

The war in Ukraine and a broadening of price pressures are expected to elevate inflation for longer than previously forecast.

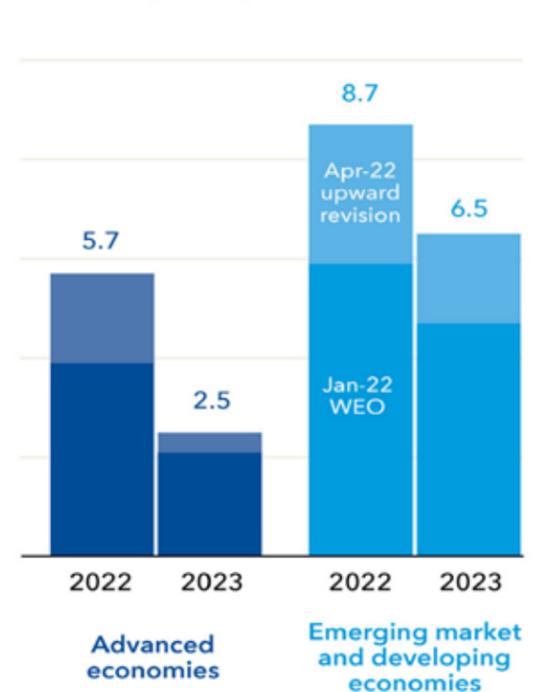
Inflation trends

(consumer price index, three-month moving avg; annualized percent change)



Inflation forecast

(consumer prices, percent)



Sources: IMF, *World Economic Outlook*; and IMF staff calculations.

Note: Left panel average inflation rates by economy group are purchasing-power-parity GDP-weighted averages.

IMF

NOTICE

The **Evangel Credit Union Ltd.** hereby gives notice to its members that at a Board of Directors meeting held on the **25th of January 2022** its Board of Directors passed a resolution for members to **vote on a transfer of engagement** to the **Holy Redeemer Credit Union Ltd.** A transfer of engagement is a voluntary process whereby all assets, liabilities, and undertakings of one or more credit unions are transferred to another credit union. A copy of the statement of transfer detailing the particulars of the transfer of engagement may be obtained on demand during normal working hours at:

The Evangel Credit Union Limited
31 Princess Margaret Drive
Belize City, Belize

Members of **Evangel Credit Union** will have the opportunity to **vote on a resolution** to affirm or oppose the Board of Director's resolution to transfer **Evangel Credit Union Ltd.** to the **Holy Redeemer Credit Union Ltd.** at the **Annual General Meeting** scheduled for:

the 14th of May 2022
10:00am

Kings Park Church of the Nazarene
31 Princess Margaret Drive
Belize City, Belize

Representations relating to the aforementioned may be made in writing to the **Belize Credit Union League Ltd.** before the **14th of May 2022** at:

88 Victoria Street
Belize City, Belize
Or
Email: g.babb@bcublz.org

Dated this 28th day of April 2022

Pastor Fernando Magana
President
Evangel Credit Union Limited

Atlantic Bank

VACANCY MARKET ECONOMY RESEARCH ANALYST

Interested applicants must possess the following skills and qualifications:

REQUIREMENTS AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

Education and Experience:

- Bachelor's Degree in Economics, Business Administration, Accounting or Finance with five years' experience in banking and in the collection, analysis, presentation, and preparation of reports on qualitative and quantitative data.
- Experience in financial analysis and credit administration and analysis.

Knowledge, Skills and Competencies:

- Excellent analytical skills, time management and organizational skills
- Ability to conduct in depth financial analysis and draft concise reports.
- Highly dedicated and motivated and work well under pressure.
- Proactive and takes initiative while exercising good judgment.
- Uphold the Bank's standards and values and maintain strict confidentiality.

General Responsibilities:

- Conduct quantitative and qualitative research on relative industries and market trends.
- Collect useful economic data from relevant organizations and or/agencies.
- Produce reports, presentations, analysis, and executive summaries of the macro and micro economy.
- Engage in meeting with local and/or international organizations and business agencies to determine macro and micro economic statistics.
- Identify commercial opportunities for potential investments for the bank.
- Create clear and useful reports and recommendations for internal use.
- Prepare quarterly and annual reports of the bank's performances based on the data provided.
- Continuous research, seminars, conferences to remain informed on new and updated market trends.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS FRIDAY, MAY 6, 2022

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

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



CAREER

OPPORTUNITY



Belize Sugar Industries Ltd.
 Invites qualified and self-motivated individuals
 to submit applications for the post of:
Sustainability Manager, Mill & Agriculture
Tower Hill, Orange Walk

OVERVIEW

The person in this role will be responsible for supporting the ESG / Sustainability Framework and executing on it to show progress in sustainability metrics including environmental goals and social responsibilities commitments. The focus will be on inculcating a culture of sustainability in the organization in collaboration with and support from multi-disciplinary and department teams including operations, supply chain, human resources & legal. The position will also aid in internal and external communications with stakeholders, while developing and advancing corporate social responsibilities and employees' engagement and awareness programs. The **Sustainability Manager** may be called upon to lead interactions and communications with community interest groups, contractors, and consultants, at the direction of Senior Management, the Sr. Director, Sustainability, the VP of CSR, and other Sustainability / ESG leadership members.

DETAILED ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- Support the development, maintenance, and implementation of ASR's Sustainability / ESG framework, roadmaps and site specific Sustainability Plans in both Mill Operations and Agricultural Activities. Roadmap activities shall include but not be limited to: System Optimization in Climate Change, Water usage, solid waste generation, and green chemistry programs; Regenerative Agriculture, Biodiversity, and Agroforestry Programs; Ethical and Responsible Social Programs.
- Support site leadership through facilitation of ongoing projects and initiatives related to Sustainability / ESG
- Coordinate with site operations teams, sustainability project leaders and corporate resources to develop and maintain site-specific training and signage as part of a continuous effort to raise the visibility of ASR's commitment to sustainable development.
- Tracking and validation of all sustainability / ESG data to ensure accurate reporting.
- Analyse collected data and identifying opportunities for improvements, while ensuring validity of the outcomes and potential communication pathways that may result.
- Support ESG and Site Leadership in creating project scope and justify capital investment needs.
- Interact with personnel to ensure related sustainability training and competency requirements are performed and properly recorded.
- Assist with the development and publication of ASR / facility level Sustainability Reporting efforts, as they develop in conjunction with company approved messaging.
- Coordinate with sales, marketing, customer service & CSR teams as needed to report work, progress and site-specific sustainability data.
- Participate in corporate efforts to identify and reduce post-consumer end of life impacts caused by material production and disposal.
- Support Corporate and site level management system reporting within authorized web-based survey system, while ensuring corrective action tracking and rectification of findings.
- Coordinate with site and corporate public relations or international relations departments for tracking community social engagement and local donations.
- Assist as needed with any third-party sustainability audits and validation programs.
- Be proactive and committed to continuous improvement efforts. Perform other duties as assigned.

WORK EXPERIENCES

- Minimum of 4 years of experience supporting sustainable development efforts (Environmental and Social Governance; ESG), preferably in an industrial, manufacturing, and/or agricultural setting.
- Experience with third-party validation and auditing relative to sustainable development activities.
- Experience with management system-based risk analysis/ Materiality Assessments and target/objective setting.
- Experience with multi-site sustainability-based project management.

EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

- Bachelor Degree in Environmental and Social Sustainability (ESS), Environmental Science, Engineering, Communication or related field from an accredited university is required.

ESSENTIAL CAPABILITIES (KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES)

- Knowledge of Sustainability / ESG in industrial / manufacturing organization.
- Experience with operational and facility improvements to meet energy, water, and waste objectives.
- Demonstrated ability to prioritize and balance short and long-term objectives.
- Strong verbal and written communication skills and the ability to represent business interests to internal team and 3rd parties.
- Proactive, self-directed, highly organized, and committed to continuous improvement.
- Proficient in Microsoft Office products (PPT, Excel, Word)

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

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



DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION FORM AND ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS IS MAY 6, 2022.



Institution: Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
Country: Belize
Project: Solid Waste Management Project II (SWMP II)
Sector: Waste Management
Abstract: Senior Accounts Clerk for the Solid Waste Management Project II (SWMP II).
Loan No.: 3684/OC-BL
Deadline: May 13th, 2022

The Government of Belize (GOB) has received financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), towards the cost of the Solid Waste Management Project II and intends to apply part of the proceeds towards to hiring of a Senior Accounts Clerk.

The Objective of the consultancy is to assist the Financial Specialist in the overall financial and accounting management and administrative control functions for the Solid Waste Management Project II (SWMP II) Solid Waste Management Authority, the Technical Cooperation TC BL 1105 and the operations of the transfer stations.

The Belize Solid Waste Management Authority, the Executing Agency, now invites interested eligible individual to submit Expressions of Interest indicating qualification and experience required to provide these consultancy services listed below.

A) SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES

The Senior Accounts Clerk shall:

- 1) Support the Financial Specialist in all aspects of financial- accounting management of the Project, Technical Cooperation TC BL 1105 and the operations of the transfer stations SWMP .
- 2) Monitor and report on expenditures against budget on a continuous basis.
- 3) Preparation of annual budget and quarterly requests for dereservation of funds for operations SWMP I & II,
- 4) Maintaining accurate Quick Books financial accounting records for the Project in line with the standard accounting principles and the financial reporting requirements of the IDB.
- 5) Keep an updated fixed assets inventory from the various sources of Project funding (IDB & counterpart funding), the Technical Cooperation TC BL 1105 and the operations of the transfer stations SWMP I & II
- 6) Prepare and submit a reconciliation of the accounts for IDB funds and Government of Belize counterpart funds monthly.
- 7) Ensuring that Social Security Contribution are paid on time.
- 8) Management of the inventory of all BSWaMA assets.
- 9) Provide all supporting documentation required for Bank disbursement requests.
- 10) Assist the Financial Specialist in facilitating external and internal audits.
- 11) Ensure that all financial documents and voucher copies are filed appropriately.
- 12) Responsible for verifying that tipping fees are being collected from all sites and paid in as revenues.
- 13) Preparation of wages for all operation personnel
- 14) Responsible for the monthly analysis of operation cost.
- 15) Upkeep of Income Tax Register and regular reconciliation with Income Tax Department. Provide any information required by the Income Tax Department.
- 16) Annual returns to the Contractor General on contracts/agreements signed during the year.
- 17) Preparation and submission of gratuity payment request for project staff.
- 18) Timely submission and follow-up of all payroll maintenance (new hire, contract renewal, deductions etc.) for project staff.
- 19) Preparation of all purchase orders.
- 20) Any other duties assigned from time to time.

B) QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

The Person Engaged will have at least an associate degree in Accounting, Finance, Business Administration, Auditing or related discipline. A bachelor's degree will be an asset. At least five (5) years general work experience. Three (3) or more years demonstrated professional experience in financial – accounting management. Experience in financial reporting and disbursement procedures of the IDB, World Bank, or other international donor organization is preferred. The Person Engaged must be proficient in the use of QuickBooks. Ability to work well on a team and fluency in English are essential. Excellent oral and written communication skills.

The Belize Solid Waste Management Authority now invites eligible individual consultants to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested individual Consultants must provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualification and relevant experience to perform the Services.

Consultants will be selected in accordance with the Selection of Individual Consultants method and other 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](#), and is open to all eligible candidates as defined in the policies.

Further information can be obtained at the email address below during office hours: Monday to Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. local time.

Expressions of interest must be submitted electronically and must include a signed application letter, Curriculum Vitae (CV), copies of academic qualification, and the names and contact information of two professional references no later than **Friday May 13th, 2022, at 2:30 p.m. local time.**

Application must be submitted via one consolidated PDF document; only complete packages will be processed. Packages must be sent to the address below:

Solid Waste Management Authority
Attn: Procurement Officer
3013 Bougainvillea Street, Orchid Garden Area
City of Belmopan, Belize, C.A.
Tel: (501) 802 1527
PO Box 285
E-mail: GladdenM@gobmail.gov.bz

Inflation to be Elevated for Longer on War, Demand, Job Markets

Cont'd from pg 19

congestion, container shortages and worker absences. Inflation rose as a result, especially where recoveries were strongest. Demand should soften this year as policy support is withdrawn and supply bottlenecks ease, but China's recurrent lockdowns, war in Ukraine, and sanctions on Russia will likely prolong disruptions in some sectors into next year.

Demand is also rebalancing from goods to services. Spending shifted toward goods as pandemic restrictions disrupted in-person activities, with supply bottlenecks helping to boost goods prices. Though service inflation started picking up last year, pre-crisis spending patterns haven't fully returned and goods inflation remains prominent in most countries. Services demand will increase further as the pandemic eases, and overall inflation should return to where it was before the coronavirus.

Labor supply remains limited after significant tightening in some advanced economies

like the United States and United Kingdom. Worker shortages, mainly in contact-intensive industries, are lifting wages, though inflation has eroded pay gains. Meanwhile, the pandemic reduced labor-force participation in advanced economies. These shifts appear related to earlier retirements and workers being unwilling or unable to return as infections continue. Some workers are putting in fewer hours. We assume labor supply will gradually improve this year as the health crisis abates, but the effects will be moderate and unlikely to significantly ease upward wage pressure.

Under these conditions, we expect already-elevated inflation to persist for longer. Our projections call for the pace in advanced economies to reach a 38-year high of 5.7 percent, while price increases in emerging market and developing economies will accelerate to 8.7 percent, the fastest clip since the global financial crisis in 2008. Those rates would then cool next year to 2.5 percent

and 6.5 percent, respectively.

Importantly, surging prices will have the greatest effects on vulnerable populations, particularly in low-income countries. High overall inflation will also complicate the trade-offs for central banks between containing price pressures and safeguarding growth.

While our baseline expectation is that inflation will eventually ease, inflation could turn out higher for several reasons. Worsening supply-demand imbalances, including from the war, and further commodity-price gains could keep the pace of inflation persistently high. Moreover, both the war and renewed pandemic flare-ups could prolong supply disruptions, further increasing costs of intermediate inputs. In a context of tight labor markets, nominal wage growth could also accelerate to catch up with consumer-price inflation as workers seek higher wages to preserve their purchasing power. This would further intensify and broaden inflation pressures, with the risk of de-anchoring inflation

Belize Observes World IP Day

By Javan Flowers

This year, the theme of World Intellectual Property Day is "IP and Youth: Innovating for a Better Future" and celebrates the young people stepping up to challenges, using their ingenuity to steer a course towards a better future.

In keeping with the theme, The Belize Intellectual Property Office (BELIPO) hosted a virtual awareness seminar that highlighted the importance Intellectual Property Rights play in supporting young inventors, creators, and entrepreneurs to

achieve their goals, help them transform their ideas into reality, generate income, create jobs, and make a positive impact on the world around them.

World Intellectual Property Day is celebrated on April 26th by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). The day is observed with various events and activities worldwide, as it serves to increase awareness and understanding of intellectual property.

As cited by WIPO, "The youth of today are an incredible and largely untapped source of creativity and ingenuity. There

are around 1.8 billion young people aged 24 in the world today. 90% of them live in developing countries. Moreover, the proportion of young people under 35 is set to increase in the coming years. In all regions, young people are natural agents of change, carving pathways to a better future."

World Intellectual Property Day seeks to pave the way for the youths to understand what Intellectual Property is all about and how it can be used to support their dreams and visions in bringing their creativity and ingenuity to reality.

Imports up 27.4%, Exports up 33.2% - SIB

By William Ysaguirre

Belize's merchandise trade deficit grew 26.7 percent from March 2021 to March 2022 as imports increased by 27.9 percent to \$223.5 million in March 2022, \$48.7 million more than the \$174.8 million value of imports in March 2021.

Exports also increased by 33.2 percent to \$44.7 million, \$11.1 million more than the \$33.6 million exported in March 2021, the Statistics Institute of Belize (SIB) reported on Wednesday, April 27.

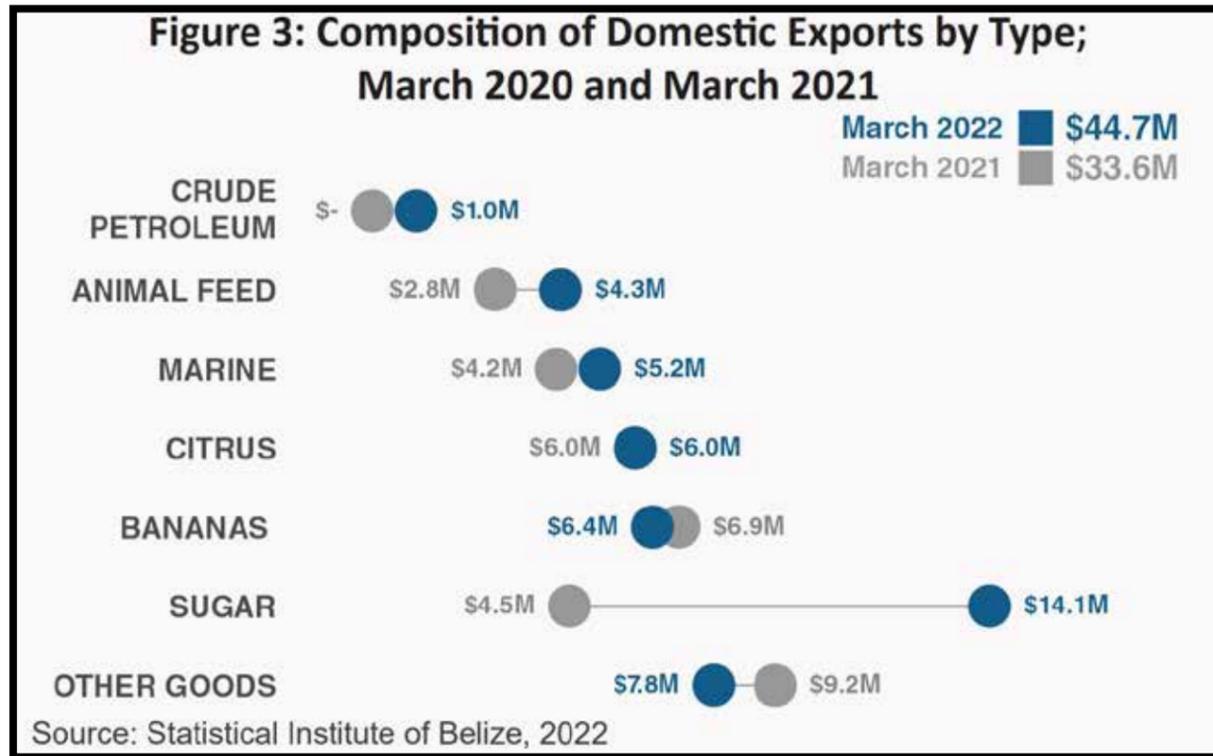
Belize bought more fuel and lubricants at higher world prices in March this year, spending \$32.4 million, compared to \$20.9 in March last year. More fertilizer imports saw a two-thirds increase from \$12 million in March 2021 to \$19 million for March 2022.

Our imports of machinery and transport equipment increased by \$11.5 million or 31 percent, from \$20.9 million in 2021 to \$32.4 million in 2022.

Commercial Free Zone imports increased by \$7.9 million in March, from \$23.6 million in March 2021 to over \$31 million for 2022, mainly in tennis shoes and T-shirts.

Other manufactures such as medical supplies, auto parts and furniture increased by \$7 million, to \$19.1 million this year. Food imports also showed a \$4 million increase from \$19.7 million in March 2021 to \$23.9 million for 2022, primarily for meat seasoning, pigtailed and baking powder. Belizeans imported \$2.2 million less beer intended for re-exportation, down from \$6.3 million in March 2021 to only \$4.1 million this year.

Total imports for



the first quarter showed a 39.5 percent increase from \$446.5 million in the first quarter of 2021, to \$622.7 million for the first three months of 2022. Good for the Commercial Free Zone went up from \$60.6 million in 2021, to \$110 million in 2022. More imports of cheese cutters, tractors and computers increased machinery imports from \$80.4 million to \$120.9 million. The value of fuel and lubricants imported increased from \$51.8 million to \$87.2 million, primarily due to higher world fuel prices.

Belize bought \$23.7 million more fertilizer in the first quarter of 2022 – 4780.1 million worth compared to \$46.4 million last year. More imports of canned meats and pigtailed increased in value from \$55.4 million in 2021 to \$65.8 million in 2022. Goods imported for designated processing areas increased in value from \$7.7 million in 2021 to \$11.5 million in 2022, mainly for shrimp feed and disassembled drums. Increased imports of cooking oil saw this category rise from \$5.2 million in 2021 to \$7.2 million for the first quarter of 2022.

Bulk sugar exports valued \$14.1 million in March 2022, compared to \$4.5

million last year, and earnings from animal feed exports increased to \$4.3 million up from \$2.8 million last March, due to better prices. Lobster exports also fetched higher prices, increasing the value of marine products exports from \$4.2 million to \$5.2 million this year.

Oil exports earned \$1 million in March 2022, compared to only \$20,000 worth of petroleum was exported in March 2021.

Banana exports declined from \$6.9 million in March 2021, to only \$6.4 million this March.

The European Union bought most of our sugar exports, which almost tripled in value, from \$6 million in March 2021 to \$17.7 million this year. The Central American countries also bought 87 percent more Belizean products - animal feed and petroleum, up to \$5.6 million, compared to \$3 million last year. Sugar exports to the United Kingdom decreased to \$5.1 million this March, compared to \$7.4 million last year.

Looking at annual figures, Belize imported \$2.1 billion of merchandise in 2021, a 34.7 percent increase or \$547 million more than the \$1.6 billion imported in 2020.

Exports to pay for these purchases lagged behind; the

74.8 increase came from exports of petroleum, marine products, sugar and animal feed. Belize exported no oil during the pandemic but crude petroleum exports earned \$7.4 million from a bulk shipment to the USA in December 2021. Lobster tails fetched better prices,

causing lobster and conch exports to increase from \$ million in 2020 to \$6.7 million in 2021. Sugar earnings more than doubled from \$2.2 million in 2020 to \$4.7 million in 2021. Reduced exports of orange concentrate saw citrus exports fall from \$2.8 million

in December 2020 to \$1.2 million in 2021.

The United States of America remains our biggest trading partner, buying \$13 million of our conch and lobster exports in December 2021, compared to \$9.3 million in 2020. The United Kingdom bought our sugar and bananas increasing our exports to the UK to \$8.5 million in 2021, \$3 million more than the \$5.5 million exported in 2020. Exports of animal feed and scrap iron within the region more than doubled, from \$1.7 million to \$4.5 million, and exports to Mexico increased by \$500,000 to \$1.3 million last December, compared to \$800,000 in 2020.

Total annual exports grew by 19.2 percent or \$70.7 million from \$367.3 million in 2020 to \$438 million in 2021.

FOR SALE

37.7 acres

along the Philip Goldson (Northern) Highway

near Mile 17 1/2

suitable for an industrial or housing project.

Bordered by the BWS Feeder Road and the Northern Highway.

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National Foreign Trade Council: Strengthening the WTO and the global trading system

Cont'd from pg. 4

micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises and women-owned businesses into regional and global value chains. It means complementing such rules with trade finance and supply side support.

It means updating the WTO's subsidy rulebook to address level playing field concerns in agriculture, industry, and services. Together with the IMF, World Bank, and OECD, we issued a paper last week that summarizes current knowledge about subsidies, points to gaps and outlines areas of future work. The issue of unfairness and anticompetitive behaviour destroys trust among members and makes achieving new multilateral agreements difficult. So we must not shy away from tackling this, difficult as it is. We intend to continue putting together the information that will enable us to tackle this working with other equally concerned international organizations.

We need a fully reformed and functional WTO dispute settlement system. Closing on new agreements and rules without restoring the system where violation of such agreements and rules can be dealt with damages credibility. I am happy to report that initial conversations have begun on the process for bringing about such reform. We hope to deepen this conversation at MC12 and agree a process for reform and restoration of the Dispute Settlement System. Valid USA criticism of overreach and delays by the Appellate Body

have to be addressed.

And we need to ensure that the WTO contributes to tackling the challenges of the global commons, from climate change to pandemic preparedness to the food crisis and the sustainability of marine fisheries.

This agenda for the WTO is very much in line with the objectives set out in our founding Marrakesh agreement: to use trade to raise living standards, create jobs, and promote sustainable development.

WTO members are already at work, and we are beginning to see results. Last December, 67 members accounting for over 90% of world services trade reached a deal on domestic regulation of services that promises to save services providers \$150 billion every year, according to WTO and OECD research. The agreement breaks new ground by specifically building in anti-discrimination provisions to protect women. US leadership was particularly important in achieving this result. Members are also working on an e-commerce plurilateral agreement as well as investment facilitation

Completing these two agreements this year will mean a versatile use of the plurilateral instrument. A reformed and strengthened WTO needs a diversified tool kit of negotiating instruments and the plurilateral must be one of them. Whilst we tackle these new issues, we must also strive to conclude on legacy agreements such as the

Agriculture and Fisheries Subsidies Negotiations. We must deliver a WTO Response to the Pandemic. It is disappointing to see how long it is taking to close these agreements or how difficult it is for members to rise above their own political and particular issues and arrive at agreements that are for the common good.

The atmosphere at the WTO is difficult and the Ukraine war does not make it any easier. So, what does this mean? Does it mean we slow down or give up work? The answer is a resounding NO. What it means is that we get creative about how we work, that we press on. This is what we have been trying to do and will strive to do at MC12. We owe this to the ordinary men and women whom the WTO is meant to serve. The future agenda before the WTO is exciting. The future of trade even more so because that future is digital, it is green, it is services. The WTO must grasp that future.

Let me conclude by borrowing some of Nelson Mandela's words. "It always seems impossible until it is done". While Winston Churchill said, "never give in, never, never, never, in nothing great or small, large or petty".

Ladies and Gentlemen, we shall never give in on the Multilateral Trading System or on WTO Reform. A reinvigorated WTO and a strengthened global trading system are musts. Let's work together to harness these global public goods!

Thank you.

Latin America Faces Unusually High Risks

By Santiago Acosta-Ormaechea, Ilan Goldfajn and Jorge Roldos

The war in Ukraine is shaking the global economy and raising uncertainty about the outlook for Latin America and the Caribbean.

The impact is being felt in Latin America through higher inflation that is affecting real incomes, especially of the most vulnerable. Policymakers are reacting to this challenge by tightening monetary policy and implementing measures to soften the blow on the most vulnerable and contain the risks of social unrest.

But there are other risks looming. A possible escalation of the war could eventually lead to global financial distress and tighter financial conditions for the region.

In addition, the ongoing tightening of monetary policy in the United States, as the Federal Reserve takes a more hawkish stance, could eventually affect global financial conditions.

Higher global and domestic financing costs can accelerate capital outflows and represent a challenge for the region, given large public and external financing needs in some countries and the limited resources to finance investment in the region.

Any greater growth deceleration in China, because of the pandemic or other reasons, could also have an impact on key export prices and trade in the region. All these risks cloud growth prospects for Latin America and require policy action.

Latin America's rebound poised to slow

Even before the war, the region's recovery from the growth-sapping pandemic was losing momentum. After a sharp rebound last year, growth is returning to its pre-pandemic trend rate as policies shift, slowing to 2.5 percent for 2022. Exports and investment are resuming their role as main growth drivers, but central banks have had to tighten monetary policy to combat an increase in inflation.

We forecast Brazil's expansion will slow to 0.8 percent this year following last year's growth of 4.6 percent. Mexico will decelerate to 2 percent. Colombia will likely post a lower deceleration with growth at 5.8 percent. Growth in Chile and Peru will be 1.5 percent and 3 percent, respectively, pointing to very significant reductions relative to their prior year's double-digit rates.

Responding to higher food and energy prices

Poverty and inequality remain key concerns as well

given that the increase in inflation has an uneven impact on the population. The most vulnerable groups in the region are being hit hard by the increase in basic food and energy prices, while still struggling to recover from the economic impact of the pandemic.

Indeed, since the war began, several countries in the region have acted to contain the effects of rising prices on vulnerable groups—ranging from tax and import tariff reductions to price caps or social transfers.

Close to 40 percent of countries have introduced new measures, mostly on the tax side, with an estimated average fiscal cost equal to 0.3 percent of gross domestic

households, while allowing domestic prices to adjust to international prices. This would help vulnerable groups and contain fiscal costs, while also incentivizing production and restraining consumption. In countries with well-developed social safety nets, access could be expanded to temporarily cover larger groups of the population.

Where safety nets are not well developed, governments can implement temporary mechanisms to smooth the pass-through of international price surges to domestic prices. Although this strategy would protect households from the volatility of commodity prices, it may also have a significant fiscal cost while distorting price incentives for consumers and producers.

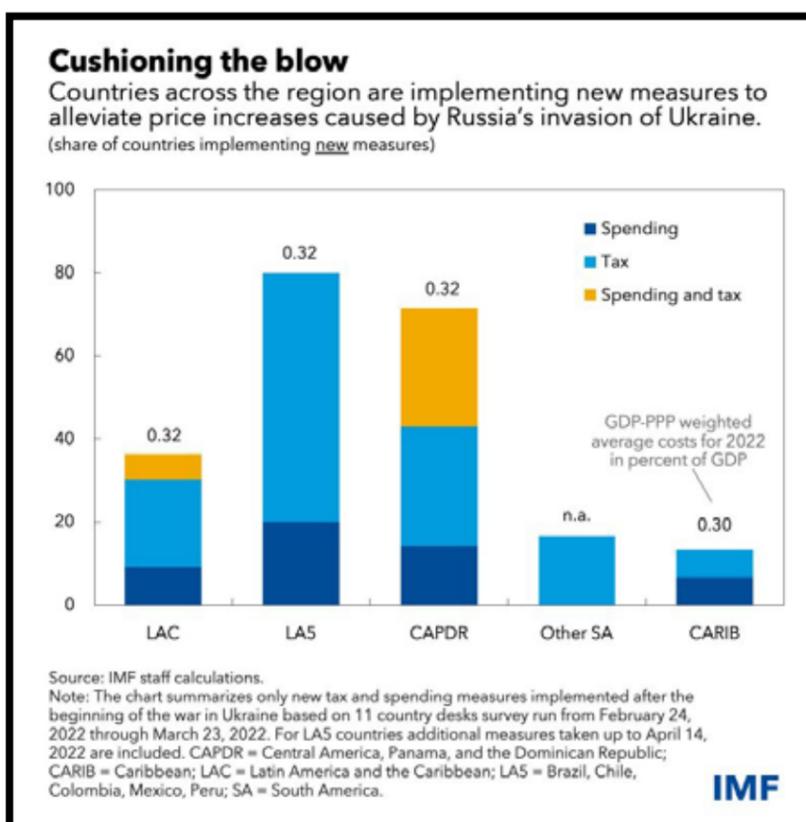
Countries benefiting from improvements in their terms of trade—a measure of prices for a country's exports relative to its imports—may find it easier to finance these new measures. However, any additional fiscal space should be used wisely given the unusually high risks surrounding the global recovery and the evolution of commodity prices, as well as the increasing costs for government financing.

Inclusive consolidation is needed

With public debt-to-GDP ratios above pre-pandemic levels and borrowing costs rising amid higher local and global interest rates, countries will need to ensure the sustainability of public finances to help preserve credibility and rebuild fiscal space. However, it will be equally important to implement measures that protect the most vulnerable.

This will require a strategy that focuses on inclusive consolidation. Spending on social programs, health, education, and public investment should be protected,

while implementing tax reforms (such as strengthening personal income taxes) that will bolster growth in an inclusive manner and help countries maintain fiscal sustainability.



product for this year.

To ensure social cohesion and reduce the risk of social unrest, governments should provide targeted and temporary support to low-income and vulnerable

High school scholarships for 8 Belizean students

By William Ysaguirre

Seven, possibly eight, needy Belizean Std VI students will begin their high school education in the next academic year through full academic scholarships offered by the Shirley Roberts Young Foundation for Education and Support, a philanthropic non-profit organization registered in the United States. The deadline to apply for the scholarships is May 10, 2022, and the Foundation seeks to break the cycle of poverty in Belize with many exciting projects also scheduled for later this year.

The Foundation aims to provide a supportive and proactive recourse for deserving students to attend four years attending high school, under the foundation's funding. Successful candidates will be chose from families whose annual income does not exceed \$24,000. The scholarships will include a book allowance of \$400, school uniforms, a laptop with WiFi printer and a reem of printing paper, a USB flash drive, an electronic calculator and a schoolbag of school supplies. The scholarship will also provide for toiletries, lunch snacks and dental care.

The foundation also plans a summer visit, where it will distribute 80 schoolbags with school supplies, and a neighborhood giveaway of assorted clothing and footwear for children and grown-ups, including underwear, socks, schoolchildren's uniforms, toothbrushes and toiletries.

There will also be living assistance for at least 15 elderly persons, in the form of food care packages, which will include toiletries, accessories and food or a grocery gift certificate.

In August, the foundation plans to assist a minimum of 15 single parents of newborn children with a care package that will include diapers, baby's hygiene care, baby formula, clothes, blankets, towels, bibs, socks, personal care, shampoos and lotions, nipples and baby bottles.

In December, the 250 to 300 children of ages one through 10 years selected at random from various schools will be invited to the Foundation's Christmas Bram where they and their parents will enjoy hot dogs, snack bags, soft drinks and cupcakes, and each child will receive a Christmas gift toy. Family volunteers who help support the event will be given a souvenir T-shirt from the Foundation. A similar event is also planned for the children of the Stella Maris School, entry only by invitation.



The Shirley Roberts Young Foundation donated various supplies to school children



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Belize Sugar Industries Ltd.
Invites qualified and self-motivated individuals to submit applications for the post of:
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at Big Creek, Stann Creek District

The **Bulk Logistics Coordinator** facilitates communication between Big Creek's bulk operations and Tower Hill's bulk operations to promote healthy and efficient Supply Chain. This position will be responsible for the coordination of all movements and logistics involving trucking and associated activities on a daily basis.

Qualifications and Experience:

- Associate's degree administration or engineering or related field
- 3+ years of experience in logistics
- Well-versed in supply management principles and practices

Skills and Competencies:

- Detail oriented / Cost Management / Planning
- Computer experience
- Effective communication skills
- Inventory management experience
- Exceptional work ethic
- Team work oriented
- Bilingual

Roles and Responsibilities:

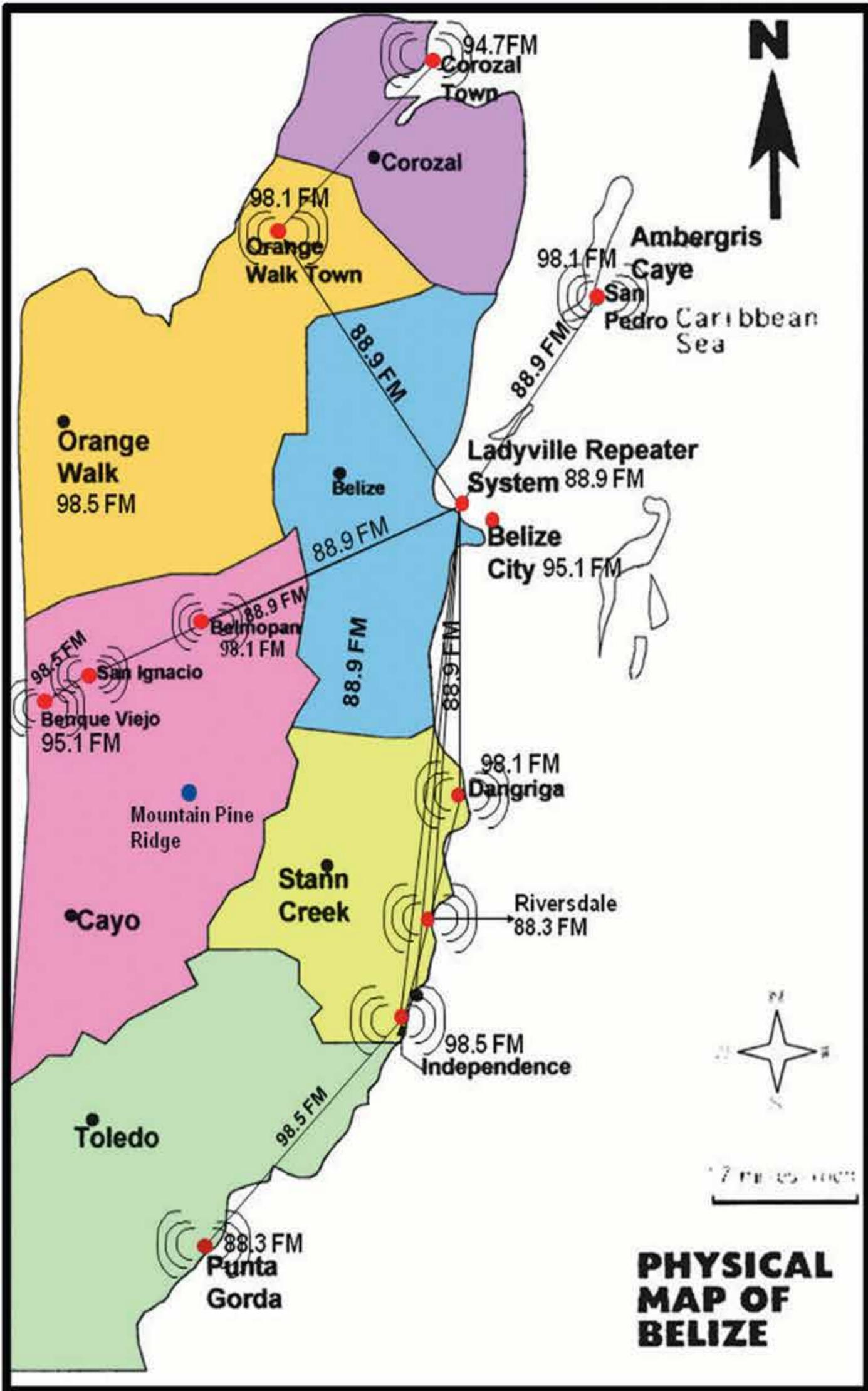
- Coordinating the transportation of bulk product
- Analyzing and optimizing logistical procedures
- Managing inventory and storage levels at Tower Hill
- Planning and managing the schedule of truck drivers to ensure prompt and proper movement
- Overseeing truck maintenance and other operations machinery
- Monitoring transportation, costs, timelines and productivity and generating detail KPI reports
- Ensuring compliance of Environment, Health & Safety (EHS) and Quality Assurance (QA) policies at Tower Hill
- Actively participating and supporting EHS/ QA/ Audits /local regulation
- Responding to emergency situations as needed
- Any other duties/responsibilities as assigned

Letters of application accompanied by a résumé, police record and two reference letters should be submitted to:

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

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION FORM AND ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS IS MAY 9, 2022.

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Belize Water Services Limited

PRESS RELEASE

April 28, 2022

For Immediate Release

BWS Continues to invest to improve Service to Customers



Belize Water Services is pleased to inform that, our on-going investments in infrastructure and training have resulted in continuous improvements in services to customers. In particular, water supply was maintained throughout over the Easter Holidays in all service areas, and especially those such as San Pedro, Caye Caulker, Placencia Peninsula and San Ignacio/Santa Elena which saw huge increases in demand over the holiday. The company's significant investments in these service areas shows its continued commitment in providing quality and continuity of services at high and professional level.



BWS also takes this opportunity to commend our staff who worked diligently throughout the Easter period to ensure that all our systems had consistent supply, thereby allowing residents and visitors alike to have a most enjoyable holiday break.

The company currently has ongoing projects to expand services country-wide, and projects to improve the supply capacity in San Ignacio/Santa Elena, Placencia Peninsula, San Pedro, Belize City and District, Caye Caulker and Dangriga.

We thank all our valued customers and consumers for their confidence in us, as we continue our work to provide the best and most reliable service possible.

BWS: Delivering Water and More ...

For more information regarding this or any other BWS Release, please contact:

Corporate Communications at Tel: 222-4757 Ext. 1405 or 1408

or via e-mail at pr@bws.com.bz