

# Reporter

Volume 55, No.15

Sunday, April 10th, 2022

Price: \$1.00

## GOB continues provisions for fuel price relief

By Javam Flowers

The Government of Belize (GOB) announced this week, via Cabinet Brief, that it has approved numerous fuel price relief measures in a concerted effort to alleviate the “gas pain” Belizeans have been enduring.

The Government’s release detailed that the continued provision of fuel price relief, for all sectors of the economy, is paramount to providing predictability in fuel prices. Therefore, the “Cabinet has established a firm



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## Churches, Unions and Opposition call for referendum

Pg. 3



By Michelle Sutherland

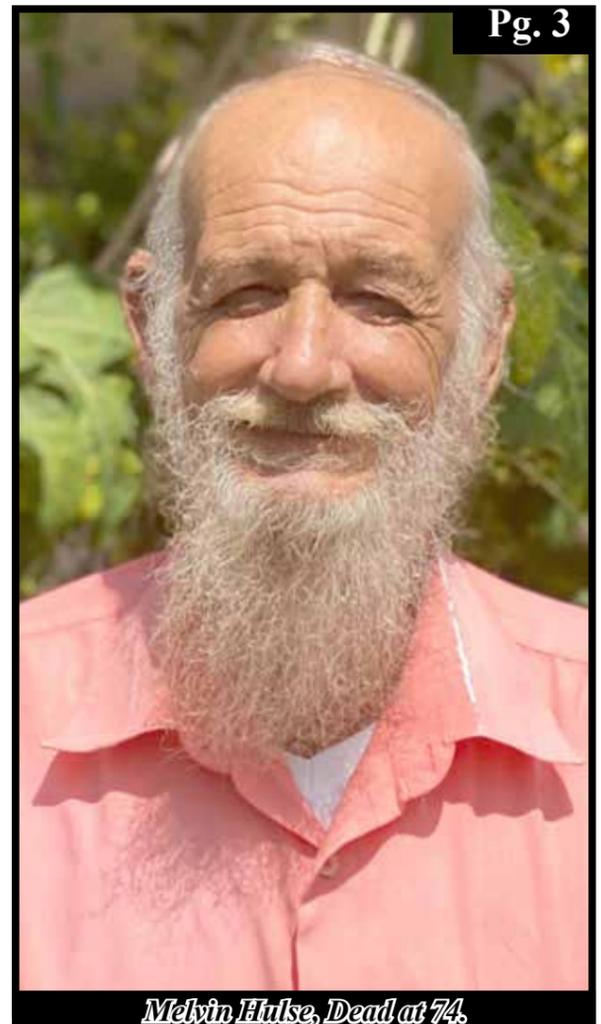
The churches, unions, and the political opposition have all joined the call for a national referendum on the matter of legalizing marijuana.

The churches, via the National Evangelical Association of Belize (NEAB), were the

Pastor Scott Stirm

## Melvin Hulse, Loose Battle to Stage 4 Cancer

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Melvin Hulse, Dead at 74.



# The Case of the Royals

## by Neri Briceno

Dear Editor,

As a citizen of another Commonwealth country, now in pursuit of gaining citizenship here in Belize, let me say how much I enjoy your paper to help inform and educate me on my path to citizenship.

As a Ukrainian Canadian, my people too suffered under colonialism. In spite of Ukrainians being invited to homestead and being very educated, my ancestors were relegated to the most inhospitable areas and were treated very poorly, simply put we were not white enough. Thousands of Canadians of Ukrainian descent were put in internment camps during WWI for no other reason than being Ukrainian. But since those dark days through determination and due diligence, we rose to the highest echelons of Canadian society from business, sports, and government and every other field. (In fact,

it was Ukrainian immigrants that first formed systems of universal healthcare that Canada is so well known for.) And many are now, in spite of this historical shameful treatment, in fact Monarchists. Myself included.

The op-ed written by Mr Briceno was a fascinating take from a point of view, seemingly quite different from mine. And yet I found each and every point he made to be quite informed and very logically well thought out and presented. How refreshing to read something so fair and balanced.

His concluding statements are the most illuminating as in the end, our future is not dependent on what happened in the past but rather what we do now. We write our future and are the authors of our success.

Signed: Tamara Fulmes  
Honi soit qui mal y pense

## Women's Department Disability Desk Receives Disability-Accessible Bus



Minister Hon. Dolores Balderamos (center left) was on hand to receive the donation.

By Javam Flowers

This week, the Honorable Dolores Balderamos Garcia, the minister of Human Development, Families and Indigenous Peoples' Affairs, received a disability-accessible bus donated by Customer HD.

A release, issued by the Ministry, noted that this donation was facilitated through the efforts of Jonathan Keane, representative of Customer HD, Disability Desk Coordinator Marshall Nunez, the Women's Department.

As detailed by Garcia, the bus equipped with a wheelchair lift will be made available on condition to stakeholder agencies of persons with disabilities. Furthermore, as Chairperson of the National Special Needs and Disability Committee (NSNDC) of NEMO, Nunez indicated that the bus would also be utilized for transportation and evacuation of persons with disabilities in times of natural disasters.

The Ministry closed the release by further expressing their tremendous gratitude for the donation. The Ministry also took the opportunity

to congratulate them on their visionary initiative, expressing that "their charitable gesture will go a long way in supporting this vulnerable population of our community."

### THE REPORTER

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What do Belize and El Salvador have in common?

We are both roughly the same size, El Salvador on the Pacific and Belize on the Atlantic (Caribbean). But El Salvador has a population of six and a half million, or roughly 16 of them for every one of us. And both our countries suffer from a form of gang violence that has law enforcement authorities worried.

Last week, the government of El Salvador ordered a crack-down arresting 1,000 gang suspects after a wave of weekend mayhem in which 87 persons were killed. That is roughly the equivalent of 5.4 Belizeans over a three-day rampage. But El Salvador has an advantage that Belize does not have. Her president, newly elected Nayib Bukele, ordered that prison meals for these special guests be cut from 3 a day to 2 a day. Ouch! Belize can't touch that! What a pity!

Going hungry, even for a few hours a day, can have a restraining effect on the most boisterous prisoners, and there is always the possibility that meals can be reduced to one-a-day. But seriously, Belize needs to think seriously about the rising tide of gang culture in our country. From time to time the government has called for studies to reveal more about gang formation and activity.

The latest study by Michelle Young was completed in 2018. It showed that Belize was among the Top Ten gang-infested countries and that easy access to guns was a big part of gangland success. It related that there were between 900 and 1,400 gang members in Belize City at the time of the survey and that these numbers are growing. The study reported that approximately one in five of the youths surveyed admitted that they had been or continue to be involved in gang activity.

It found moreover that government efforts at gang suppression were not consistent, and that more needs to be done. We at this newspaper are of the view that government needs a two-pronged program to slow the progress of gangland activity. The first is to have a consistent strategy to recruit youths who are left to their own devices and end up flowing into the gang-recruiting stream

The second is to have in hand laws that impose long jail sentences for mature persons convicted of serious gangland crimes.

# Churches, Unions and Opposition call for referendum

*Cont'd from pg. 1* first to demand the referendum. NEAB, therefore, is already in the process of rolling out a countrywide petition, in an effort to garner the requisite number signatures for the electorate, as prescribed at section 2(b) of the Referendum Act.

The Act reads:  
"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 ... praying that in their opinion a certain issue or matter is of sufficient public importance that it should be submitted to the electors for their views through a referendum."

The law likewise outlines the procedures to be followed for the purposes of verifying the signatures. Following said verification, the law sets a 30-day timeline within which the Governor General is to issue a Writ of Referendum, which is analogous to the Writ of Elections.

NEAB's Vice President Pastor Scott Stirm told The Reporter, "The goal is a referendum and the first stage towards referendum is a petition to where you can get the application. In order to get that you need 10 percent of the voting population in Belize, this would be 18,900. That would be around 19,000 signatures to be able to secure the application to trigger a referendum."

Stirm said that NEAB has been partnering with the Council of Churches, the Belize Association of Evangelical Churches, and all other church bodies. All of whom have given them the go-ahead and have pledged their support to back up the movement. According to Stirm, they are currently working on securing the forms to get the petition out as quickly as possible to the public. Apart from a physical paper going around, persons will also be able to access petition forms online on a website that will be set up in the upcoming days for ease of access.

When questioned about whether he believes that NEAB will be successful, Pastor Stirm responded that he is "very confident" that they will be able to secure the 10 percent margin. He, however, noted that there needs

to be a "solid information campaign" "due to the fact that there are some in the public who do not seem to understand the dynamics of the issue and the impacts that it could pose on the country as a whole."

While Stirm noted that the Government would not be obligated to honor the results of the referendum he said that for them to ignore it, would be very detrimental to their political careers.

"If at the end of the referendum the majority of the people in Belize are saying that they want to legalize marijuana, then

## Melvin Hulse, Loose Battle to Stage 4 Cancer

By Michelle Sutherland

Former three-term Stann Creek West Representative, UDP Minister Melvin Hulse, 74 who has been ailing for some time due to stage 4 colon cancer, lost his fight and passed away just before midnight on Tuesday at St. Lukes' Hospital in Belmopan.

The well respected UDP stalwart who served as two-term minister of Works, Public Utilities, and Transport, under both the Esquivel and Barrow administration, was affectionally known for openness and his no-nonsense take on life as well as his coining of terms such as "madafish" and "flippin".

Following his passing his daughter Tanya Felicia Hulse wrote on her personal Facebook page, "There could never be another like the legend and giant of a man that is my father. The strength and bravery he showed to the end."

Two months ago, even while on his sickbed sipping a coffee and puffing on a cigar, Hulse gave Channel 7's Jules Vasquez an interview in which even as he spoke about his imminent death he also said that he was already making preparations for his funeral so that when he died his 11 children would not have to worry about any of it except to grieve his departure.

Hulse told Vasquez, "The fact, the reality is I am dying, how long I last, I don't know but the fact is it will happen and not in the distant future. But we in the south, we come out of chicle and Mahogany camp, because of the life we live, we knew, we were just simply

the people have spoken. But from our perspective, as the church, that is not what we are seeing. We believe that people have just been accustomed to the government of the day just doing whatever they want and that has been happening for decades so in a way people just feel powerless. So that is the purpose of the referendum it puts that power right back into the hands of the people."

Joining in on the call for a referendum is the National Trade Union Congress of Belize which issued a press release late on Tuesday evening calling on the government to immediately halt the commencement of the proposed cannabis legislation. Apart from calling for a countrywide consultation and sensitization the NTUCB also called for a referendum, to let Belizeans decide.

The United Democratic Party has also sided with the churches saying, "In the name of Democracy, LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE IN A REFERENDUM!"

not afraid of death. Death is something that will happen and so we were more concerned about what we could get done, than worried about when we will die. And so for most of us who went through a lot, we are grateful that we did live to see an old age, we are grateful to live to see our children get big."

Hulse who was perhaps one of the most vocal parliamentarians of his time was also known for championing major infrastructure development in the south, which ranged from building schools, issuing out house lots to form new communities, to pushing roads, paving highways, installing utility poles for electricity and telephone as well as potable water for the south.

"If you thief the money there will be none to work, If you work the money there will be none to flippin thief," was one of Hulse's mantras that he lived by.

## GOB continues provisions for fuel price relief

*Cont'd from pg. 1*

cap on diesel and regular gasoline pump prices per gallon at \$13.41 and \$13.50 respectively."

As outlined, this cap will be supported through a fuel price stabilization fund established by the Government with the Central Bank of Belize. Currently, the Government has already reduced excise taxes by 57% to keep diesel prices at the capped price of \$13.41 per gallon. On an annualized basis, these tax reductions represent an excise tax loss of over \$30 million. Without such tax reduction, diesel pump prices would have been \$2.13 per gallon more at \$15.54 per gallon at the tax rates applied over the past five-plus years.

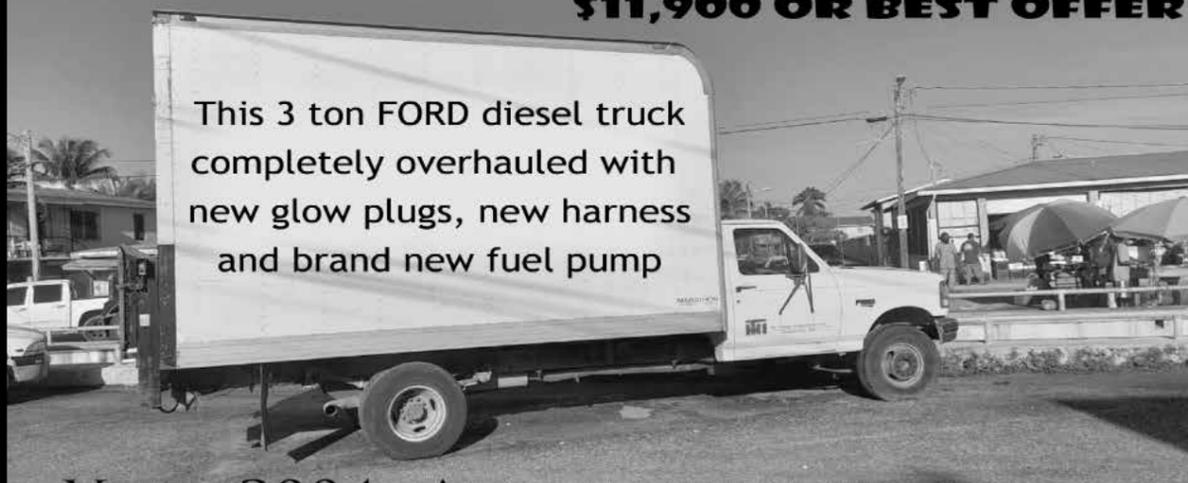
Notably, the new controlled prices for liquified petroleum gas (LPG) announced by the Belize Bureau of Standards (BBS) saw a decrease of almost 10% in the price of Retail LPG in both Urban and Rural areas. Likewise, the Wholesale cost of LPG also saw a reduction of 2.5%.

Cabinet also approved targeted support to alleviate fare increases on bus commuters through a fuel subsidy of \$0.91 per gallon for eligible bus operators for up to six months, cumulatively amounting to over \$1.1 million.

Similarly, the Government also announced that it would make benefits available to eligible tour operators who will be beneficiaries of a capped fuel subsidy jointly funded by the Government of Belize and the Belize Tourism Board in the sum of \$1.5 million for a period of up to six months.

# FOR SALE

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# New Bus Fares Approved



By Michelle Sutherland

After several weeks of consultations and back and forth, the Ministry of Transport and bus operators have finally managed to reach an agreement concerning the increase in bus fares.

As we had previously reported, the change in commuter rates will become effective on April 15th (Good Friday), and according to a late evening press release by the Department of Transport, the rates will be an increase of \$0.25 below 13 miles, \$0.50 between 13 to 25 miles and an additional \$1.00 above 25 miles. The rates will be rolled out countrywide and

will apply to both regular and express runs.

The press release informed that “after consultation with key stakeholders within the Public Transportation System, Cabinet has approved a blended alternative consisting of a fuel subsidy for bus operators and an increase in bus fares to minimize the impact on commuters and ensure the sustainability of the public transport industry in Belize.”

Additionally, the Government has pledged to provide a monthly fuel subsidy to bus operators traveling in excess of 13 miles (one-way) for the number of gallons used. The fuel subsidy

was approved for a six-month period with a cap on diesel at \$12.50. This according to the Government will translate into over \$1 million in savings for commuters.

According to the release, while commuters would have been forced to pay up to a \$3.00 increase on a one-way trip, their assistance to bus operators in the form of a fuel subsidy has resulted in that being capped across the country to a maximum of \$1.00.

The Government is expected to issue a Statutory Instrument containing the new bus fares in the upcoming days prior to it taking effect on Good Friday.



## Easter Holiday Opening Hours

The public is advised that all Atlantic Bank Branches and Drive Thrus will be opened for business from  
**8:00 AM - 1:00 PM**  
on Thursday, April 14, 2022.

All branches will reopen on  
Tuesday, April 19, 2022.



## VACANCY - PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICER CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS - BELIZE CITY

Interested applicants must possess the following skills and qualifications:

### REQUIREMENTS AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

#### Education and Experience:

- Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration or similar field with at least 2 years of related experience.
- Experience in project management and banking will be considered an advantage.

#### Interpersonal Relations:

- Excellent oral and written communication.
- Contribute positively to team building.
- Maintain good relations with team leader and team members.

#### Knowledge, Skills and Competencies:

- Excellent organization and time management skills.
- Detail oriented in managing and executing work responsibilities.
- High level of proficiency in Microsoft 365 and Microsoft Project.
- High level of work and ethical standards.
- Ability to prioritize tasks assigned and work effectively under pressure.
- Ability to manage highly sensitive and confidential information.

#### General Responsibilities:

- Manage projects in accordance with the Bank's methodology.
- Provide support to the Project Manager and Sponsor.
- Maintain effective working relationships with all project stakeholders.
- Manage and update project documentation.
- Quality monitoring and implementation of project standards across projects.
- Track the status of project deliverables and milestones.
- Reporting on all aspects of the project status to Manager.
- Overseeing progress of projects versus the project plan.
- Analyze project activities comprehensively and independently to recommend improvements.
- Ensure timely project delivery for all projects under assigned portfolio.
- Train, coach and guide team members and teams in project management.

**DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 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**



## JOIN A GLOBAL GROUP OF CONSERVATION PROFESSIONALS

We are in search of a dynamic and competent Program Coordinator - Fisheries to join our Belize Team!

BV's office in Sarteneja and a co-working space in Belize City are accessible to staff, who also have the option to work remotely from their homes across Belize.

Blue Ventures develops locally led approaches to marine management that benefit people and nature alike. By listening and responding to community needs, we design our models to catalyze and sustain marine conservation, unlocking the potential of coastal communities to manage their resources. We work in places where the ocean is vital to local cultures and economies, and are committed to advancing the rights of small-scale fishers throughout the coastal tropics.

Our Belize team is also optimally placed to expand our work in the wider Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) region. Building on our experience in Asia and Africa, Blue Ventures is now scoping opportunities to identify and support values-aligned partners on fisheries management and governance across the wider region with a view to developing a thriving regional programme.

### Summary Job Description

- The successful candidate will be a motivated, proactive and highly organized individual, with an excellent working knowledge of the small-scale fisheries, marine conservation and development sectors. You will demonstrate a proven track record of project management, effective written and interpersonal communications, and partnership building.

### Responsibilities

#### Governance and institutional strengthening

- Work closely with partner organizations to evaluate community and organization needs, facilitate strategic planning as required, and design work plans.
- Gather feedback from partners to guide efforts to improve performance

#### Fisheries Knowledge Management

- Facilitate and/or lead discussions around local fisheries management practices, drawing on best practice insights from similar contexts
- Deliver and/or facilitate training with partners in technical fisheries management concepts and data use as necessary

#### Communications Support

- Champion excellent communications with colleagues, communities and partners
- Develop executive summaries of technical reports to share with a variety of stakeholders across different platforms

#### Skills and Experience Required

- Fluency in written and spoken English and Spanish
- Undergraduate degree or equivalent experience in natural resource management, fisheries, marine conservation or related field

#### Desired

- Experience with participatory monitoring and social research
- Previous international organization or NGO experience
- At least 2 years' practical experience working in community-based conservation or development

For more information or to apply to any of these positions, please visit:

<https://careers.blueventures.org/jobs>

Kindly submit applications online. Only applications submitted through our online system will be considered. **Deadline for submission: Sunday 17th April 2022, midnight local time.**

# Restructuring Debt of Poorer Nations Requires More Efficient Coordination

By Guillaume Chabert, Martin Cerisola, and Dalia Hakura

An improved common framework for debt treatment could clear a path through an increasingly complex creditor landscape.

Low-income countries face fewer debt challenges today than they did 25 years ago, thanks in particular to the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries initiative, which slashed unmanageable debt burdens across sub-Saharan Africa and other regions. But although debt ratios are lower than in the mid-1990s, debt has been creeping up for the past decade and the changing composition of creditors will make restructurings more complex.

Improvements to the Group of Twenty Common Framework for Debt Treatments—from

which the 73 countries that were eligible for the G20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) in 2020-21 can now benefit—could clear a path through this increasing creditor complexity.

So far only a handful of countries have requested to use the common framework, which was launched in November 2020, underscoring the need for change to build confidence and encourage participation at a pivotal moment for heavily indebted low-income countries.

### Rising risks of debt distress

Spurred by low interest rates, high investment needs, limited progress raising additional domestic revenue and stretched systems for managing public finances, the debt ratios of DSSI countries have increased, partly

reversing a decline seen in the early 2000s.

Now, the economic shocks from COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine are adding to the debt challenges faced by low-income countries, even as central banks start to raise interest rates.

About 60 percent of DSSI countries are at high risk of debt distress or already in debt distress—when a country has started, or is about to start, a debt restructuring, or when a country is accumulating arrears.

Among the 41 DSSI countries at high risk of or in debt distress, Chad, Ethiopia, Somalia (under the HIPC framework) and Zambia have already requested a debt treatment. Around 20 others exhibit significant breaches of applicable high-risk thresholds, half of

which also have low reserves, rising gross financing needs, or a combination of the two in 2022.

On the domestic side, difficult trade-offs will exist between the need to restructure sovereign debt owed to domestic banks, in some cases, and the impact of such restructurings on financial sector stability and the capacity of domestic banks to

private bondholders play a much larger lending role.

The share of DSSI countries' external debt owed to Paris Club creditors fell from 28 percent in 2006 to 11 percent in 2020. Over the same period, the share owed to China rose from 2 percent to 18 percent and the share of Eurobonds sold to private creditors increased from 3 percent

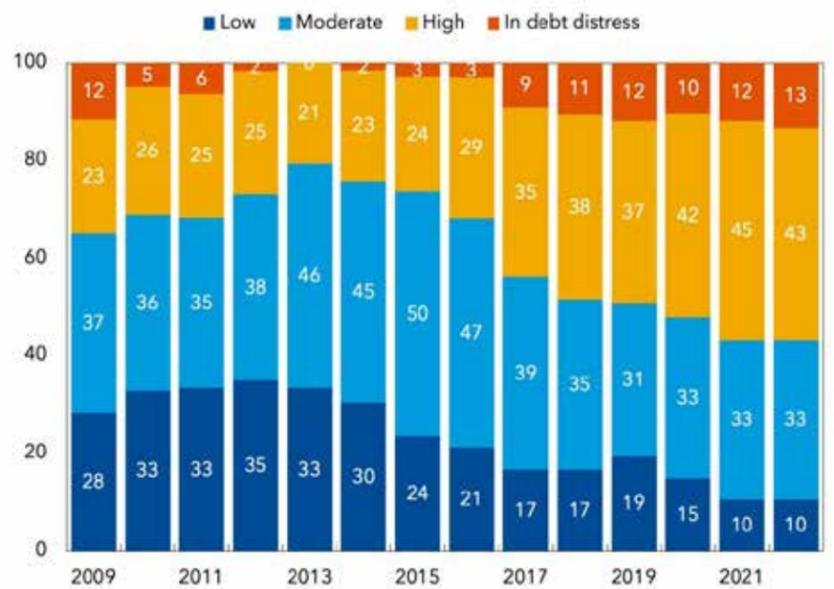
### Common framework

Putting in place mechanisms that ensure coordination and confidence among creditors and debtors has become urgent. Improvements to the G20 Common Framework could play an important role by ensuring broad participation of creditors with fairer burden sharing.

Experience so far

### Rising debt risks

The proportion of countries in debt distress, or at high risk of debt distress, has doubled to 60 percent from 2015 levels. (percent of DSSI countries with LIC DSAs)



Source: LIC DSA database. Note: DSSI=Debt service suspension initiative. LIC=Low-income countries. DSAs=Debt sustainability analyses. As of March 31, 2022.



finance growth.

Local currency debt for the median DSSI country doubled from 7 percent of gross domestic product in 2010 to 15 percent in 2021. For those DSSI countries with market access, the share more than tripled from 8 percent to 28 percent in 2021.

Many of these DSSI countries have also experienced a tightening of sovereign-bank links, with larger holdings of domestic sovereign debt at domestic banks.

### Coordination challenge

On the external side, increased diversity of creditors raises important coordination challenges.

In past decades, DSSI countries borrowed mainly from Paris Club official creditor nations and private banks, alongside multilateral institutions. Today, China and

to 11 percent.

The situation differs significantly across countries, however. Averages conceal a diversity of debt composition, from the shares of bilateral, multilateral and private creditors, to the composition of official bilateral creditors themselves.

China is now the largest official bilateral creditor in more than half of DSSI countries, including when counting all 22 Paris Club creditors as a single pool. China would therefore play a key role in most DSSI countries' debt restructurings that would involve official bilateral creditors.

While the diversity of creditor compositions calls for greater attention to country specificities, appropriate coordination mechanisms will be key in all cases.

shows that greater clarity on restructuring steps, earlier engagement of official creditors with the debtor and with private creditors, a standstill in debt service payments during negotiations, and specifying the mechanics of comparability of treatment is still needed.

Strengthening debt management and debt transparency should also be priorities. This would help countries manage debt risks, reduce the need for debt restructurings, and facilitate more efficient and durable resolution if debt becomes unsustainable.

It is in the interest of debtor countries as well as their creditors that debt restructurings, where necessary, are accomplished speedily, smoothly, and efficiently. This would support global stability and prosperity, too.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

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

**Position Name:** Supervisory General Services Assistant

**Vacancy number:** Belmopan-2022-10

**Closing date:** April 23rd, 2022

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

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

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

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

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

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

**Position Name:** Mail Room Clerk

**Vacancy number:** Belmopan-2022-09

**Closing date:** April 23rd, 2022

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

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# Elections, Elections, Elections

By Leon C. Guild



*Amateur Athletics Association's Deon Sutherland*

General Secretary is Harry Pilgrim. Assistant Secretary is Ms. Tiffara Jones; the treasurer is Orville Melendez; Public Relations Ahantie Carr, Committee Members Andrew Pilgrim, Shelmadine Carr and Alvin Tillet.

In other news, the Belize Basket Ball Association also held its election on April 2nd. Meeting quorum even with only one slate present means that by default Jacob Leslie of the National Elite Basketball League's Belize City Defenders becomes the new president. Congratulations to Mr. Leslie!

Keeping on the with the trend of elections, the Belize Karate Federation will also be hosting its AGM on April 30th 2022 with elections on the approved agenda. I must say that while no organization is perfect, "Nuff" respect is due to these local bodies that are organizing themselves and establishing and adhering to the bylaws set out in their respective constitutions.

At different points in the past Belize was notorious for having people remaining in offices until they felt like retiring. Sports should be about developing ambassadors to drive nations forward and one way to note that a body is working and moving right is when new faces with new ideas are given opportunities to lead by the people with voting power.

**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**

The Belize Amateur Athletics Association held annual General Meeting this past weekend at the Edward P. Yorke High School Campus. Like most other organizations the event was delayed not due to the pandemic but due to the Statutory Instruments that were in effect.

Congratulations are due to Mr. Deon Sutherland for managing to secure the necessary number of votes. Championing his rival now makes him three-time president since he was first elected to the seat back in June of 2014 where he served only a three-year term since taking over from Acting President Jaheed Smith.

This, however, was not his debut on the sporting scene. 'Suddy' as he is referred to by other members has been officially involved with administration of athletics since 2006 when he became President of the NSSSA where he organized better relationship with the Belize Athletics Association.

Well, the work he was doing must have meant something because in 2017 he was re-elected to the presidential post once again.

I personally know Mr. Sutherland due to the very polished role he played in organizing the Belizean delegation for the annual CODICADER Games hosted in different parts of Central America focuses on exposing U17 students in the region to. These years gave me and several others from different organizations plenty opportunities developed our abilities as a young coaches.

With that said, fast forward to 2022 and Mr. Sutherland has done it once again. I have always been an aficionado of athletics since high school in the late 90's and I look forward to seeing what great works Mr. Sutherland will be putting forward to develop our athletes in the next quadrennial. The 1st Vice President is Jaheed Smith, 2nd Vice President is Tricia Flores,

**columnists be allowed freedom to generate discussion through their expressions on any number of topics.**

**RF&G LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY LTD.**

Date: April 1, 2022

Cashelmara Kelly of *Santa Familia Street, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District, Belize C.A.* having made written declaration that Policy LTA0000060 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.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

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

**Position Name:** Supply Clerk  
**Vacancy number:** Belmopan-2022-11  
**Closing date:** April 23rd, 2022

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

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**Belize Sugar Industries Ltd.**  
 Invites qualified and self-motivated individuals to submit applications for the post of:  
**Security Officer**  
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**Qualifications and Experience:**

- High School Diploma
- Holder of a valid Class A driver's license
- Be able to operate standard transmission and 4x4 type off-road vehicles
- Possess Security, Police or Military background and/or equivalent skills

**Skills and Competencies:**

- Ability to adapt to new technologies
- Excellent written & communication skills
- Team oriented/ possess interpersonal skills
- Knowledge of smart phones, camera and GPS technology
- Be physically fit and able to stand long hours in all types of weather conditions
- Must be able to legally carry and use firearms during course of duties
- Able to work flexible hours (shift, weekends & holidays)
- Computer literate (Microsoft Suite)

**Roles and Responsibilities:**

- Implement/ enforce Access Control Procedures at the Entry Control Points (ECPs).
- Conduct patrols to ensure the well-being of employees and protect the company's assets within the Big Creek Port.
- Report to assigned post and perform all duties diligently
- Respond and report to all accidents/ incidents that affect the Company
- Perform any other assigned duties

**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 APRIL 22, 2022.**



# VACANCY

The Social Security Board invites applications from suitably qualified persons to fill the role of **QUALITY ASSURANCE INTERNAL AUDITOR** at its Internal Audit Services Division, SSB Headquarters, Belmopan.

**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:**  
Bachelor's Degree in Business Management, Finance, Accounting, or other closely related discipline, with five (5) years' supervisory experience in Internal Auditing.

Visit our website at [www.socialsecurity.org.bz/vacancy-announcement/](http://www.socialsecurity.org.bz/vacancy-announcement/) to view further details on this position.

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

Manager, HR Strategies, SSB Headquarters, Belmopan:  
[dlindo@socialsecurity.org.bz](mailto:dlindo@socialsecurity.org.bz)

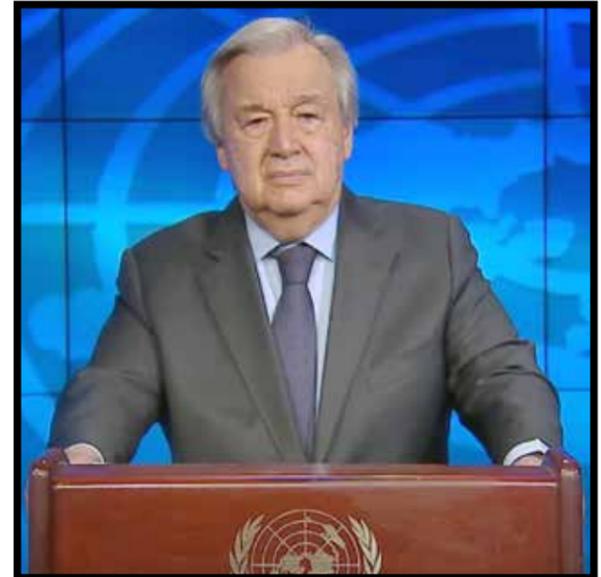
HR Advisor, HR Policy & Strategy, SSB Headquarters, Belmopan:  
[fphillips@socialsecurity.org.bz](mailto:fphillips@socialsecurity.org.bz)

*Copy to: Ag. General Manager, Human Resources, Headquarters, Belmopan: [odakers@socialsecurity.org.bz](mailto:odakers@socialsecurity.org.bz)*

*Email Subject Line: "Application for QA Internal Auditor"*

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: April 14th, 2022**

## UN scientists report: 'Now or never to limit Climate Change'



*UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres*

*By Javan Flowers*

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) unveiled a plan that they believe can limit the causes of dangerous climate change.

The IPCC alerted in its report that there must be "rapid, deep and immediate" reductions in carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions. But, as they explained, the world would still need technology to suck CO2 from the skies by mid-century.

"We are at a crossroads. The decisions we make now can secure a livable future. We have the tools and know-how required to limit warming," said IPCC Chair Hoesung Lee. "I am encouraged by climate action being taken in many countries. There are policies, regulations, and market instruments that are proving effective. If these are scaled up and applied more widely and equitably, they can support deep emissions reductions and stimulate innovation."

The IPCC urged that to stay under 1.5oC, carbon emissions must peak by 2025 and plunge rapidly after that, reaching net-zero by the middle of this century. But keeping temperatures down will require massive changes to energy production, industry, transport, our consumption patterns, and how we treat nature.

As prescribed in the report, cities and other urban areas offer significant opportunities for emission reductions. These can be achieved

through "lower energy consumption (such as by creating compact, walkable cities), electrification of transport in combination with low-emission energy sources, and enhanced carbon uptake and storage using nature."

There are options for growing cities. "We see examples of zero energy or zero-carbon buildings in almost all climates," said IPCC Working Group III Co-Chair Jim Skea. "Action in this decade is critical to capture the mitigation potential of buildings."

This finding has clarified the consequences of inaction and much of the frustration, which was vented at COP26 by Small Island Developing States like Belize, were reiterated by the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. "Some government and business leaders are saying one thing - but doing another. Simply put, they are lying. And the results will be catastrophic."

A release issued after the report's release further emphasized that accelerated and equitable climate action in mitigating and adapting to climate change impacts is critical to sustainable development.

"Climate change results from more than a century of unsustainable energy and land use, lifestyles, and consumption and production patterns," said Skea. "This report shows how taking action can move us towards a fairer, more sustainable world."





**Belize Solid Waste Management Authority**

of the

**Ministry of Natural Resources, Petroleum and Mining**

**Invitation to Quote (ITQ)**

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 a Non - reimbursable Technical Cooperation- Innovation in the Solid Waste Management Sector in Belize an intends to apply part of the proceeds towards the **supply, delivery, and maintenance of two (2) vertical balers.**

The Belize Solid Waste Management Authority now invites eligible bidders to submit a sealed quotation for the Supply, Delivery and Maintenance of the following item:

ITEM	QUANTITY
Vertical Balers	2

The Invitation to Quote (ITQ) may be obtained, free of cost, by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below. Interested Bidders may obtain further information by writing to the email address given below.

All ITQs must be delivered to the address below no later than 10:00 a.m. (Belize local time) on Thursday, April 14, 2022. Electronic submission will not be permitted. Late ITQs will be rejected.

ITQs will be opened at 10:15 a.m. (Belize local time) on Thursday April 14, 2022, at the Conference Room of the Belize Solid Waste Management Authority at the address below, in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

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

# Belizean youth complete "MoneySmart" financial literacy program

By Javan Flowers

This week, the U.S. Embassy hosted the closing ceremony of the "MoneySmart" financial literacy training initiative for Belizean youth.

The "MoneySmart" program was facilitated by a collaboration between the U.S. Embassy and local non-profit Peacework Belize, which provided southside Belize City primary school students -- from St John's Vianney, St. John's Anglican, and Unity Presbyterian -- lessons on how to make sound financial decisions.

At the end of the program, many young participants opened savings accounts for the first time, "the beginning of a long-term investment in their own futures," Remarked Chargé d'Affaires, a.i. Leyla Moses-Ones.

Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño, speak-

ing at the ceremony, noted that "It is never too early to instill the principles of financial literacy in our children. A population more literate in managing money and finances is the building block for successful people, families, businesses, communities, and our national economy."

He also took the opportunity to use his experience to demonstrate the importance of saving and emphasized the satisfaction he derived from working for himself and building his own business.

In closing, Moses-Ones noted that "It is vital to teach everyone these concepts from a young age because the lifelong journey to prosperity starts at a young age," adding that "it plays such an important role in helping young citizens along the pathway to prosperity."

"The three schools



(l-r) PM John Briceño, Belizean students, Leyla Moses-Ones, Dr. Carol Babb

that we partnered with for this program ... are situated in communities in southside Belize City that have great potential but historically have been disadvantaged in pursuing

financially prosperous path." Said the Ambassador

She continued by stressing how building financial literacy skills can be transformative not just for the par-

ticipants themselves but for their broader communities as well, "The number of 'money smart' individuals in an underserved community can create a ripple effect that can

lead to improved local investments and job opportunities in that community which can ultimately lead also to lower crime rates and then a higher quality of life for everyone."

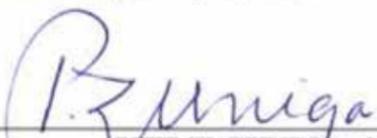
BELIZE CITY,

Estate of TYRON CARLTON HERNANDEZ also known as TYRONE HERNANDEZ, deceased

STATUTORY NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Pursuant to Section 36 of the Administration of Estates Act, Chapter 197 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2011, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all creditors and other persons having any claims or demands upon or against the Estate of TYRON CARLTON HERNANDEZ also known as TYRONE HERNANDEZ, late of Dangriga, Stann Creek District, Belize, are required to send particulars in writing of their claims or demands to the Administrator of the said estate, RYAN SHELDON NEAL of #2944 Plantain Street, Second New Site, Dangriga, Stann Creek District, Belize, and to send such particulars not later than the 9<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2022, AND NOTICE IS HEREBY ALSO GIVEN that at the expiration of the last mentioned date, the Administrator will proceed to distribute the assets of the said TYRON CARLTON HERNANDEZ also known as TYRONE HERNANDEZ, deceased, amongst the parties entitled thereto having regard only to the claims or demands of which particulars have been delivered and the Administrator will not be liable for the assets of the deceased or any part thereof so distributed to any person or persons of whose claims or demands he shall not then have had notice.

DATED this 6<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2022.

  
PHILIP ZUNIGA, S. C.  
Attorney-at-Law for the Administrator

PUBLIC AUCTION SALES: PICKUP&VAN

Belize City, Belize District

BY ORDER of Messrs. St. John's Credit Union Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the below described vehicles. Sales currently running and will expire Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at the time shown on the website.



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2006 Suzuki Aerio

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TELEPHONE 223-4488

Website: [belizepropertyauctions.com](http://belizepropertyauctions.com)

E-mail: [kevinacas@yahoo.com](mailto:kevinacas@yahoo.com)

Face Book: [Belize Auctions](#)

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

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

Position Name: Residential Security Equipment Technician

Vacancy number: Belmopan-2022-08

Closing date: April 15th, 2022

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

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

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

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

# Mexico's "Growing Life" program extends to Belize

By William Ysaguirre

Mexico's President Andrés Manuel López Obrador is not scheduled to visit Belize until May, but the "Sembrando Vida" (Planting Life) social program which his administration has implemented in Mexico, has already been extended to Belize.

The "Sembrando Vida" project seeks to address rural poverty and environmental degradation, and in Mexico the project provides rural inhabitants with an income in exchange for planting and caring for trees in their plots. The program aims to help rural communities meet their basic nutritional needs, by growing their own food, marketing their surplus and generating employment.

President Lopez Obrador also hopes to share another social initiative, Youth Building the Future (Jovenes Construyendo el Futuro) with Mexico's regional friends and neighbors on his Central American tour, as he told the Mexican media on Friday, March 18.

The program connects young people, ages 18 to 29 years old, who are not in school and out of work, with companies and institutions or business enterprises where they can develop job skills and technical competence to improve their chances of future employment. In Mexico, the program provides the young people with a monthly stipend of \$525 for up to a year during their training, as well as medical insurance against sickness, maternity and occupational



(l-r) Minister Jose Abelardo Mai, Ambassador H.E. Martha Zamarripa Rivas, AMEXCID's Director General Mónica Pérez Egüis and Laura Galindo García

hazards.

Minister of Agriculture and Food Security Hon. Jose Abelardo Mai and technical personnel from his ministry began negotiations for the "Sembrando Vida" project to be rolled out in Belize, when he met with Mexico's Ambassador H.E. Martha Zamarripa Rivas and AMEXCID's Director General Mónica Pérez Egüis, responsible

for Execution of Special Cooperation Projects of the Mexican Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AMEXCID) at the Mexican Embassy in Belmopan on Thursday, March 24.

AMEXCID's Minister Laura Melisa Galindo García, who is responsible for federal joint cooperation projects, also

attended the meeting. The project will further Belize's international cooperation with Mexico, under existing agreements.

Other stops on his Central American tour in May will include El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Cuba. It will be his fourth working trip abroad in his three years in office; all three of his previous trips abroad were to the United States.

## EU Spotlight Initiative gifts ICT gear to fight gender violence



Human Development Ministry receives ICT gift from EU Spotlight

By William Ysaguirre

The fight to end gender based violence in Belize was supported by the European Union's Spotlight Initiative with the USD\$64,000 gift of 15 DELL desktop computers and upgraded software package, which were handed over to Ministry of Human Development, Families and Indigenous Peoples' Affairs at the ITVET compound in Belize City on Tuesday afternoon, April 5

The Spotlight Initiative's partnership with the United Nations Development Programme has done much to strengthen the Ministry's commitment to protect the survivors of gender-based violence, avowed Minister of State Hon. Elvia Vega-Samos as she received the gift, of which the hardware alone is worth \$40,000. The donation included a large network printer and a Smart-TV which will do much will do much to support their work, as in this era of pandemic health protocols, a lot of their work is done via teleconferencing.

UNDP Deputy Representative in Belize Ian King said the \$80,000 software package will help to upgrade the Ministry's case management system, FAMCare, with a security firewall to protect the personal information of the victims of abuse, and

to improve the collection, management and analysis of data about incidents of domestic violence in Belize, harmonizing the information systems of different agencies offering support and protection for the victims. The new hardware replaces outmoded systems that the ministry has been working with for almost 20 years.

A Spotlight Initiative consultancy first analyzed the existing systems that were in place to identify what was needed to improve their work. The new software creates a new Gender-Based-Violence Dashboard to improve the delivery of critical services to women and girls. The new state-of-the-art technology will make it a lot easier for the Women Development Officers to gather information about their clients and to advocate and empower the women of their communities, to end violence against women and girls across the nation.

The FAMCare system will help the providers of these essential services providers to better understand the cases of domestic abuse, physical or psychological, as they are reported. The computer network will allow them to share the information with other case workers, for a united and concerted effort against this scourge.

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**1:00 P.M THURSDAY APRIL 14, 2022**

OUR OFFICES WILL RE-OPEN ON TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2022 AT 8:00 AM FOR REGULAR WORKING HOURS

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# GOB and PAHO sign Mental Health and Psychosocial Consultancy Agreement

By Javan Flowers

The Government of Belize (GOB) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) have signed an agreement to initialize a loan from the Caribbean Development Bank that will support initiatives to build the country's road safety management capacity in mental health and psychosocial care.

Road traffic injuries have significant negative impacts at all levels as they place substantial emotional, psychological, and financial burdens on families of crash victims. In addition, serious road

traffic accidents often diminish the survivor's number of healthy life years, productivity, and income for victims and their caretakers.

To address the lack of adequate mental and psychosocial care, GOB will receive a loan from the Caribbean Development Bank to support their planned initiatives to build the country's road safety management capacity using a multifaceted approach, which includes the United Nations' pillars of action for road safety.

Currently, the post-crash care system only focuses on the crucial



(l-r) Dr. Noreen Jack, Dr. Osmond Martinez, Dr. Javier Zuniga, and Marconi Leal

short-term goal of saving lives, concentrating on physical recovery.

Acknowledging the mental health effects on both victims and relatives, PAHO's technical cooperation will strengthen the capacities of key professionals working

in Belize on emergency services and post-crash care by imparting knowledge and skills in psychosocial support. Furthermore, a release issued this week by GOB's press office stated that such care would be provided by "developing and

delivering a four-week national training for four cohorts."

The agreement was signed by Dr. Osmond Martinez, chief executive officer in the Ministry of Economic Development, and Dr. Noreen Jack, PAHO/WHO Representative

in Belize. On hand to witness the signing were Dr. Javier Zuniga, director of Policy and Planning Unit in the Ministry of Health and Wellness; and Mr. Marconi Leal, chief executive officer in the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Transport.

## WHO: 99% of global population breathes polluted air

By Javan Flowers

Nearly everybody in the world breathes air that "does not meet [the WHO's] standards for air quality," the World Health Organization (WHO) announced via a release this week.

The release issued detailed an update to the WHO's database on air quality that draws on information from a more than 6,000 municipalities, a list that includes a growing number of cities, towns, and villages across the globe.

The UN health agency stated that "99% of the global population breathes air that exceeds its air-quality limits and is often rife with particles that can penetrate deep into the lungs, enter the veins and arteries, and cause disease." It added that the worst cases are found in the Eastern Mediterranean and Southeast Asia regions, followed by Africa.

It continued by calling for more action to reduce fossil-fuel use, which generates pollutants that cause respiratory and blood-flow problems and lead to millions of preventable deaths each year.

At a press conference following the issued statement, Dr. Maria Neira, WHO's director Environment, Climate Change, and Health, noted, "After surviving a pandemic, it is unacceptable to have still 7 million preventable deaths and countless preventable lost years of

good health due to air pollution. That's what we're saying when we look at the mountain of air pollution data, evidence, and solutions available. Yet too many investments are still being sunk into a polluted environment rather than clean, healthy air."

For the first time, the database, which has traditionally considered two types of particulate matter known as PM2.5 and PM10, has included ground measurements of nitrogen dioxide.

"Particulate matter, especially PM2.5, can penetrate deep into the lungs and enter the bloodstream, causing cardiovascular, cerebrovascular (stroke), and respiratory impacts," WHO said. "There is emerging evidence that particulate matter impacts other organs and causes other diseases."

Furthermore, the health agency noted that "Nitrogen dioxide originates mainly from the burning of fuel, such as through automobile traffic, and is most common in urban areas." Adding that, "Prolonged exposure can bring respiratory disease like asthma and symptoms like coughing, wheezing and difficulty breathing."

The report's sobering findings highlight the dire need for an accelerated push toward renewable energy, and Belize Electricity Ltd.'s introduction of two charging stations, with other stations planning to be built, is a positive step toward a green and pollution-free Belize.



**Belize Water Services Limited**

### PRESS RELEASE

March 31, 2022 For Immediate Release

#### **BWS has asked the PUC to review its Final Decision for 2019-20 Full Tariff**

#### **Review Proceeding**

Pursuant to the Section 32 of the Public Utilities Commission Act, Belize Water Services Limited has formally written to the Public Utilities Commission to request a review of the Decision made in its 2019-20 Full Tariff Review Proceeding (the "2020 Decision").

The 2020 Decision would have caused an across-the-board 2.25% tariff increase to become effective April 1, 2022.

In an effort to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and its resulting impact on the lives of our customers and Belize's economy, BWS felt that asking the PUC to review its Decision was the right thing to do.

The PUC has been asked to expedite the review and in the interim, the PUC has instructed BWS to suspend implementation of the scheduled rate adjustment pending the outcome of its review.

###

Customers are encouraged to report any water supply issues via BWS Toll Free at 0-800-CALL-BWS (0-800-2255-297) or WhatsApp 614-BWSL(614-2975).

#### **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](mailto:pr@bws.com.bz)

# PUBLIC AUCTION SALE

LICENSED AND CERTIFIED AUCTIONEER, SHELDON N. C. ARNOLD  
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**STANN CREEK PROPERTIES - TO BE AUCTIONED AT HUMMINGBIRD FURNISHINGS COMPOUND  
BELMOPAN CITY ON WEDNESDAY APRIL 20TH, 2022 AT 1:00PM.**



**Location:** All that piece or parcel of land containing 729.20 S.M being 292 Nurse Ceferina Gomboa Street Dangriga Town.  
**Description:** A concrete bungalow structure with a gross floor area of 1,133 sft The same is occupied as a family home with 3 b rooms & 1 bathroom an complete with kitchen, dining, living and laundry room spaces. The structure is fully tiled, secured, plastered & painted being the freehold property of Joseph M Roaches.



**Location:** 242 Toucan Street, Mango Creek, Village, Stann Creek District.  
**Description:** Lot - 679.437 square meters with an elevated bungalow of mixed construction, containing 4 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, living, dining, kitchen and porch areas, being the property of Jeanne R. Longworth.

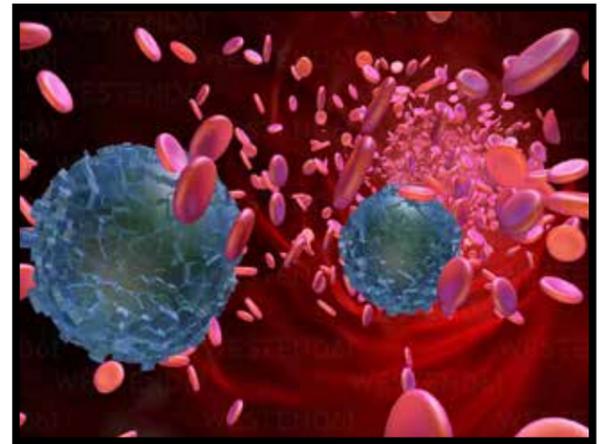


**Location:** Lot No. 80, containing 696.66 sq. m. situated in San Juan Village, Stann Creek District.  
**Description:** A concrete family home consisting of 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living, dining and kitchen room spaces, being the freehold property of Maria Maldonado.

Sheldon N.C. Arnold  
P.O. BOX 666, Belmopan  
Cell # 615-8308 or 624-5200  
Email: info@arnoldenterprise.com  
Website: www.arnoldenterprise.com  
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# Microplastics found in Human Blood



Study finds microplastics in human blood.

By Javan Flowers

Microplastics have been detected in human blood for the first time, with scientists finding multiple types of plastics in almost 80% of the people tested.

Speaking with The Guardian Weekly, Professor Dick Vethaak, an ecotoxicologist at Vrije University, remarked, "Our study is the first indication that we have polymer particles in our blood."

The scientists analyzed blood samples from 22 anonymous donors and found plastic particles in 17. Almost half of the confirmed samples contained PET plastics, commonly used in plastic bottles; a third contained polystyrene, which is used for packaging food and other products; while the remainder of the samples included polyethylene, from which plastic carrier bags are made.

The report demonstrated that the particles could travel around the body and have the potential to lodge in organs. The impact on health is unknown, but researchers are gravely concerned as microplastics cause damage to human cells in isolated laboratory experiments. This, combined with air pollution particles already known to enter the body and cause millions of early deaths a year, could manifest into substantially worse medical implications, further increasing mortalities caused by plastic pollution.

Notably, Vethaak acknowledged that the amount and type of plastic varied considerably between the blood samples. "But this is a pioneering study," he said, with more work now needed. Vethaak further elaborated that the differences might reflect short-term exposure before the blood samples were taken, such as drinking from plastic-lined coffee cups or wearing a plastic face mask.

Notably, he also mentioned that previous work had shown that microplastics were 10 times higher in babies' feces compared with adults and that babies fed with plastic bottles are swallowing millions of microplastic particles a day.



**Belize Solid Waste Management Authority**

of the

**Ministry of Natural Resources, Petroleum and Mining**

**Invitation to Quote (ITQ)**

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The Belize Solid Waste Management Authority now invites eligible bidders to submit a sealed quotation for the Supply, Delivery and Customization of the following item:

ITEM	QUANTITY
Cargo Tricycles	2

The Invitation to Quote (ITQ) may be obtained, free of cost, by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below. Interested Bidders may obtain further information and details about the requested customization by writing to the email address given below.

All ITQs must be delivered to the address below no later than 10:00 a.m. (Belize local time) on Thursday, April 14, 2022. Electronic submission will not be permitted. Late ITQs will be rejected.

ITQs will be opened at 10:15 a.m. (Belize local time) on Thursday April 14, 2022, at the Conference Room of the Belize Solid Waste Management Authority at the address below, in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

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Belize Solid Waste Management Authority  
3013 Bougainvillea Street, Orchid Garden Area  
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Tel: (501) 802 1527  
E-mail: [GladdenM@gobmail.gov.bz](mailto:GladdenM@gobmail.gov.bz)



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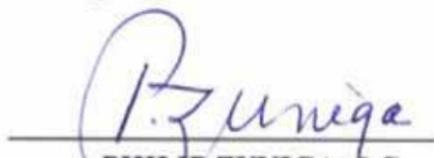
BELIZE CITY,

Estate of CLIVE ALEXANDER DOUGAL, deceased

STATUTORY NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Pursuant to Section 36 of the Administration of Estates Act, Chapter 197 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2011, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all creditors and other persons having any claims or demands upon or against the Estate of CLIVE ALEXANDER DOUGAL, late of Belize City, Belize, are required to send particulars in writing of their claims or demands to the Administratrix of the said estate, KAREN NICOLE DOUGAL of #2925 Fabers Road, Belize City, Belize, and to send such particulars not later than the 9<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2022, AND NOTICE IS HEREBY ALSO GIVEN that at the expiration of the last mentioned date, the Administratrix will proceed to distribute the assets of the said CLIVE ALEXANDER DOUGAL, deceased, amongst the parties entitled thereto having regard only to the claims or demands of which particulars have been delivered and the Administratrix will not be liable for the assets of the deceased or any part thereof so distributed to any person or persons of whose claims or demands she shall not then have had notice.

DATED this 6<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2022.

  
 PHILIP ZUNIGA, S.C.

Attorney-at-Law for the Administratrix

# Weh Wi Ga Fi Seh

Vairos di eez dong,  
 bot kip op yu helt.

## Luk Laik Wi Wahn Si Eesta Dis Yaa!

Soh...tingz eez op eena 2022 kansaanin di koroanavairos. Bot hoal aan: Wi mosn figet dat di vairos stil deh bowt, ahn sohn a wi stil noh gaahn gaahn geh vakseen. Stil, wi ku kech op lee bit dis Eesta wid weh wi mi mis owt pahn fi di lass 2 yaaz. Soh dis mek wi ku plan ting fi du Eesta. Tudeh, wi di shyaa sohn sentens weh ga fi du wid Eesta. Aal a dehnya sentens kohn fahn di Kriol-English dikshineri.

**Aypril** *n.* April. Wi laik wen Eesta jrap eena Aypril kaa di weda aalwayz gud. We like it when Easter falls in April because the weather is always good. **bloo maalin** *n.* large saltwater fish with long bill and tall dorsal fin. **Wen wi gaahn da see fi Eesta, mi breda kech wahn big bloo maalin.** When we went out to sea for Easter, my brother caught a big blue marlin.

**Eesta** *n.* Easter. **Eesta da wen wi selibrayt wen Jeezas ded, ahn wen ih beri, ahn wen ih rayz op bak.** Easter is when we celebrate the death of Jesus, and when he was buried, and when he rose back to life.

**faas** *v.* fast; abstain from all or certain foods for religious or dietary purposes. **Jeezas faas fi faati dayz ahn faati naitz.** Jesus fasted for forty days and forty nights.

**fiziknat** *n.* physic nut; a kind of tree. **Mi ma aalwayz gi wi fiziknat waata fi jrink wen di weda hat soh dat ih ku kool wi badi.** My mother always soaks a branch from the physic nut tree in water and gives us to drink when the weather is hot, so as to keep our bodies cool. [The gum of the tree is usually white; however, it is said that on Good Friday it runs red (or brown), and people call it 'Jeezas Blod'.]

**sin** — *n.* sin. **Jeezas gat atariti fi fagiv sin pahn di ert.** Jesus has the authority to forgive sin upon the earth.

Silvaana Udz, Ed.D. da fahn Bileez. If yu waahn tel shree bowt sohnting sheshal fu put eena dis Kriol aatiki, eemayl: [sudz142@gmail.com](mailto:sudz142@gmail.com) Vizit: [www.nationalkriolcouncil.org](http://www.nationalkriolcouncil.org)

## LEADERSHIP SEARCH VICE PRESIDENT



## JOIN OUR TEAM

The University of Belize is seeking a VICE PRESIDENT to support the effort to transform itself into a vibrant national institution committed to sustaining the continuing development of Belize.

### THE OPPORTUNITY

Reporting to the President, who carries overall responsibility for the functioning of the institution, the Vice President is responsible for the day-to-day management of, and medium-term planning for, the academic operations of the University. The post carries specific oversight responsibility for the teaching and research operations and management of the individual faculties and other academic units, including ensuring adequate staffing of teaching and research positions, and including the management of campus operations at Central Farm and Punta Gorda, and the Environmental Research Institute. The Vice President is also responsible for supervising the operations of the Student Affairs Office, the Office of the Registrar, the Office of Quality Assurance and the Library. A critical requirement of the post is the establishment and maintenance of arrangements for ensuring the highest possible levels of academic quality in the teaching outcomes of the institution, for ensuring relevance in the content of courses and programmes offered by the University, and for ensuring the highest quality in teaching delivery and harnessing research. The ideal candidate would be performance-focused, output- and outcome-oriented, people-friendly, and willing and capable of encouraging high-level performance from subordinates. Emphasis in candidate-selection would be placed on a demonstrated track-record.

### MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

- Doctoral degree and a record of excellence in teaching, research and service;
- Proven academic leadership skills; willingness and ability to lead, manage, motivate and counsel faculty members and administrators;
- Demonstrated experience in the design, development, organisation, management and evaluation of teaching curricula; knowledge of the maintenance of curricula relevance; and knowledge of teaching delivery methods and the evaluation of teaching delivery effectiveness, including distance delivery;
- Experience in the development of tertiary-level academic policies as they affect faculty,

- students, and non-academic staff;
- Experience in administration in tertiary-level institutions, including staffing, budgeting, and multi-year operational planning and the oversight of institutional activities;
- Experience in the conduct and management of research activities.

### IDEAL CHARACTERISTICS

- Impeccable integrity;
- People-centred with outstanding interpersonal communications skills with a demonstrated ability to develop strategic partnerships;
- A proven leader and skilled manager with an inclusive leadership style who will empower faculty, staff and students to think creatively;
- Ability to inspire trust and confidence, while building consensus within the institution;
- Ability to interact effectively with organizations as the face and voice of the University, acting as the advocate for the institution's mission to drive national development, and attracting needed resources;
- Ability to work in a non-partisan way with all stakeholders;

- A persuasive leader who will work with the Office of Institutional Advancement, faculty, staff and the Alumni Association in the development of donor prospects;
- Strong focus on the delivery of the highest possible quality of the main University product: the student graduate; and
- Commitment to the establishment and maintenance of the highest level of academic quality.

While operations at UB are conducted in English, a working knowledge of Spanish would be useful.

### COMPENSATION AND TERMS OF ENGAGEMENT

This is a full-time contractual appointment. Compensation and terms of engagement will be competitive with those associated with posts carrying similar breadth of responsibilities at institutions in the region similar to the University of Belize.

### APPLICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO

Major Lloyd Jones (Ret'd) MBA, MSc.  
 Vice Chairman  
 Board of Trustees  
 Head of the Vice President's Selection Committee  
 University of Belize  
 Hummingbird Avenue  
 Belmopan City, Cayo District  
 Belize, Central America  
 Email: [ubseniorvacancies1@gmail.com](mailto:ubseniorvacancies1@gmail.com)

Candidates should include a cover letter, detailed curriculum vitae, and copies of relevant degrees and certificates. To expedite the applications process, candidates are asked to include also the names, addresses, and electronic contact information (including telephone numbers) of five (5) referees (two persons who report directly to the candidate, two persons to whom the candidate reports directly, and one faculty member from the current or a former educational institution). The University of Belize must have authorization from candidates to contact the identified referees.

Queries may be addressed to: [ubseniorvacancies1@gmail.com](mailto:ubseniorvacancies1@gmail.com)  
 For More information About the University of Belize: [www.ub.edu.bz](http://www.ub.edu.bz)

**Deadline to Apply is Monday, May 9, 2022**



## INVITATION TO QUOTE – GOODS

**Institution:** Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing

**Country:** Belize

**Project:** Additional Financing for George Price Highway Rehabilitation Project

**Sector:** Transport

**Abstract:** Equipment for the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing Soils Lab

**Loan No.:** Loan 4616/OC-BL

**Deadline:** 2:00 pm (Local Belize Time) on April 21st, 2022

1. The Government of Belize has received loan financing from the Inter-American Development Bank toward the cost of the additional Financing for George Price Highway Rehabilitation Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this financing to payments under the Contract for the Supply of Equipment for the Soils Lab under the George Price Highway Rehabilitation Project.
2. The Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing now invites sealed quotations from eligible and qualified bidders for the supply of the following items: a Compression Testing Machine, a Motorized Liquid Limit Machine, Rebar locator/cover meter along with spare parts and a Plastic Limit Roller with 20 pads.
3. Bidding will be conducted through the Shopping procedures specified in the Inter-American Development Bank's Policies for the Procurement of Works and Goods financed by the Inter-American Development Bank, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Policies.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain the full Invitation to Quote for the required equipment from the Program Management Unit, Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing, located on the First Floor of the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing Soils Lab Building, Power Lane, Belmopan by emailing [pmupcmow@gmail.com](mailto:pmupcmow@gmail.com) AND [mow.project3344@gmail.com](mailto:mow.project3344@gmail.com).
5. Quotations must utilize forms provided in the invitation to quote. One (1) Original and two (2) copies are to be submitted in sealed labelled envelopes to the address indicated below. Quotations by email WILL NOT be accepted.
6. Bidders are informed that they can only bid for the type of equipment specified, and quote for all items in this Invitation. Price quotations will be evaluated for all the items. Price quotations should be Exclusive of General Sales Tax.
7. Your quotation(s) should be submitted as per the following instructions and in accordance with the Terms and Conditions of supply in the attached Quote Submission Sheet.
  - (i) **VALIDITY OF THE OFFER:** Your quotation(s) should be valid for a period of 90 days from the date of receipt for quotation(s).
  - (ii) **SUBMISSION OF OFFERS:** Offers will be submitted on the Quote Submission Sheet including a description of specifications offered, Price Schedule for Goods and Related Services. These templates are annexed in the full Invitation to Quote. All documents must be completed without any alterations in format, and no substitutes shall be accepted. All blank spaces shall be filled in with the information requested.
8. The Purchaser shall award the Contract to the offer which complies substantially with the technical specifications and other requirements in these documents and represents the lowest price.
9. Quotations must be delivered to the address below at or before 2:00 pm (Local Belize Time) on April 21st, 2022. Electronic quotes will not be permitted. Late quotes will be rejected. Your quotation should be in the English language in the required format or other similar, acceptable format should be addressed and submitted to:

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

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

**Phone #:** 822-1942/822-0100

**Email:** [pmupcmow@gmail.com](mailto:pmupcmow@gmail.com) AND



**Institution:** Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

**Country:** Belize

**Project:** Solid Waste Management Project II (SWMPPII)

**Sector:** Waste Management

**Abstract:** Social Inclusion Officer for the Solid Waste Management Project II(SWMPPII).

**Loan No.:** 3684/OC-BL

**Deadline:** April 14th, 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 hiring of a Social Inclusion Officer.

The Objective of the consultancy is to provide technical assistance to BSWaMA in promoting the social inclusion, formalization, and professional development of affected recyclers working at key project sites.

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) Support BSWaMA and the IDB Project Team as needed in the updating and implementation of the Social Inclusion Plan (SIP) for the recyclers at each of the project sites, following the Social Inclusion Plan Framework as a guide and including, but not necessarily limited to: (i) consultation; (ii) documentation; and (iii) the monitoring of SIP related performance indicators.
- 2) Prepare reports on the SIP implementation status, to be included in the semi-annual reports to the IDB.
- 3) Provide support to the recyclers at the 5 operational transfer station sites across Belize, and provide consultation and support to the recyclers at the beneficiary municipalities of SWMPPII, in the formation, maintenance, and promotion of a cooperative; or other form of formally recognized sustainable collective organization.
- 4) Support the preparation of a replicable Business Plan/ model for the recyclers recovering material at the operational transfer station.
- 5) Provide support to all other affected groups of recyclers at the project sites. The exact nature of this support is to be determined in consultation with them, and in accordance with the Social Inclusion Plan Framework, but it should, among other things, involve actions designed to close gender gaps.
- 6) Ensure that the recycler groups are trained in team building, organization, entrepreneurship and other income diversification related skills; support and provide guidance as needed.
- 7) Monitor and observe recyclers, listen to their concerns, and assist them in understanding and managing social, and habitual problems. 8) Facilitate the development of social and business partnerships (e.g., with the Cooperatives Department, Belize Recycling, private sector and buyers of recyclable materials, other GoB agencies, NGOs, credit unions, and local CBOs).

### B) QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

#### The Consultant shall have the following:

- 1) Minimum of a Bachelor's degree in Social Work, Social Sciences, or related discipline; A masters degree will be an asset. A combination of a social science degree with a Business Management or Administration degree or training in entrepreneurship, production, sales and marketing will be considered an asset.
- 2) Two (2) or more years demonstrated professional experience in at least one of the following areas: - Institutional strengthening, partnership building activities, community organization, cooperative development, business development, marketing, conducting training, and fund raising.  
- Experience working with poor and marginalized communities, and irregular immigrants particularly those involved in the informal sector; the waste/recycling sector and/or small business development
- 3) Demonstrated capacity to conduct field-level interventions and processes with marginalized groups and engage in strategic planning and the preparation of key operational documents. Good command of the English Language. Knowledge of the Spanish language will be an asset.

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 **Thursday, April 14th, 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](mailto:GladdenM@gobmail.gov.bz)

## Rogue officers to be disciplined

By Michelle Sutherland



The abuse was captured on video.

Several cellphone videos that surfaced over the weekend of a police officer, along with his superior, verbally and physically abusing a local tour guide at the Municipal Airstrip in Belize City have once more highlighted the rogue behavior of those who have sworn to serve and protect the public.

The incident has been another major black eye for the department and has resulted in the Minister of Home Affairs Hon Kareem Musa, publicly coming out to denounce the actions of the two officers one of whom is a female corporal. Musa in addressing the incident noted that swift action will be taken against the two officers in question as his administration prides itself in “deliberately and decisively disrupting the long-standing culture of police abuse in whatever form it takes, whether verbal or physical.”

ASP Fitzroy Yearwood, Communications Director for the Belize Police Department told the media on Monday that the Commissioner of Police has already asked the Professional Standards Branch to look into the matter. Yearwood called the actions of his colleague, “unprofessional” and something which his department will not tolerate. Apart from the expletives that the officer used, Yearwood said that his very approach to the situation from the onset was off and that the Corporal who was accompanying him at the time should have intervened and taken control of the situation and the officer who was under her direct command.

Yearwood also addressed the officer's actions in which he had knocked over a phone that the young man, now identified as Shamar Foster, 19, was using to record him.

“We cannot stop you from using your personal device if you believe that we are doing something wrong. Even if we are not doing anything wrong, if I come and ask you for a search, and you are with any person and that person believe to show transparency, it is best I video it, we the police have nothing to hide unless the police have something to hide, then you would be offended if someone is videoing a normal

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### TENDER FOR THE GENERAL SECURITY AND SURVEILLANCE OF THE CENTRAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OFFICE

Tenders are invited from security companies for the general security and surveillance of the **Belize National ICT Center Building (Belmopan City), corner Mountain View Blvd. and Dry Creek Street**, and for infrastructure relating to the **Disaster Recovery Site** located on the top floor of the **Post Office Building in Belmopan**.

1. The tender shall be for a period of one (1) year commencing 1 July 1, 2022, and ending 30 June 2023.
2. The successful tender will be expected to provide the following security and surveillance services:
  - (a) General security and surveillance of the Belize National ICT Center compound (the “Premises”) including all buildings and fixtures erected therein by armed guards on a 24- hour basis seven days per week, including public and bank holidays.
  - (b) Monitor the Disaster Recovery Site (the “DR Site”) using surveillance cameras and conduct nightly patrols and random verification checks of the generator, electrical room door, and main access door commencing at 6pm to 6am.
  - (c) Allow only authorized persons to enter the Premises. The Security must maintain a log of all persons and vehicles entering and leaving the Premises.
  - (d) Conduct patrols outside the Premises to ensure that doors remain locked and that there is no sign of breakage into the building.
  - (e) The Security Company will provide its personnel with equipment including a licensed firearm for the effective performance of their duties.
  - (f) The Security Company, or its agents shall not divulge to any person or persons, any proprietary information coming to their knowledge in the course of their duties.
  - (g) The Security Company/Guard shall also comply with CITO’s Fire Safety Policy in the event of an emergency fire evacuation. (Details available upon request).
  - (h) Any other security related task as may be agreed upon from time to time by the Parties involved.
3. Costs incurred in visiting the Premises and preparations of the tender bid are the sole responsibility of the tenderer.
4. Tenders shall include
  - a. Letters of Good Standing Belize Tax Service
  - b. Letters of Good Standing Belize Companies Registry
  - c. Letters of Good Standing Belize Social Security Board
  - d. Current Trade License
5. The tenderer shall provide evidence:
  - a. firearm licenses.
  - b. evidence of past jobs
  - c. recommendations for 3 or more customers.
6. Tenders are to be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “**TENDER FOR THE GENERAL SECURITY AND SURVEILLANCE OF THE BELIZE NATIONAL INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) CENTER BUILDING (BELMOPAN)**”, and delivered to the **Central Information Technology Office, Belmopan**, no later than **3 June 2022 at 10:00 a.m.**
7. Tenders will be opened on **3 June 2022 at 10:30 a.m.** in front of the tenderers or their representatives who wish to attend the opening.
8. Evaluation of tender will be carried out immediately after the opening of the tenders on **3 June 2022**.
9. Additional information can be obtained from Ian Smith at telephone: **828-5169** or by email at [ian.smith@cito.gov.bz](mailto:ian.smith@cito.gov.bz).
10. The lowest tender will not necessarily be accepted.
11. Late tenders will be disqualified and returned to the tenderer unopened.



# Central Information Technology Office Ministry of Finance

Corner Dry Creek Mountain View Boulevard Belmopan  
Telephones: 501 822-2406/08-20708 • Email: [contact@cito.gov.bz](mailto:contact@cito.gov.bz)

## TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY OF MICROSOFT 365 LICENSES FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE

- The Government of Belize, acting through the Central Information Technology Office, now invites Tenders for the supply of Microsoft 365 Licenses for the Government of Belize. The subscription period required is for one (1) year.
- Procurement of the goods will be conducted through Open Tendering Procedure.
- Terms of Reference**  
**3a. Technical specifications**  
The scope of work includes the provision of Microsoft Licenses for the products listed in the table below:

ITEM	QUANTITY
Azure Active Directory Premium P2	100
Microsoft 365 E3	3,800
Microsoft 365 F3	175
Office 365 E3	750
Office 365 E1	900
Office 365 F1	200
Microsoft Defender for Office 365 (Plan 1)	5725
Microsoft Defender for Office 365 (Plan 2)	100
Power BI Pro	10
Project Plan 3	60
Project Plan 5	7
Visio Plan 2	70

### 3b. Program of Works

The program of work includes:

- Technical support with license provisioning
- Activation of licenses and handing over to Central Information Technology Office
- Issue resolution for the duration of the contract period (12 months)

### 3c. Schedule

The licenses are to be provisioned and activated no later than 30 June 2022.

- Copies of this Tender document can be downloaded from the **Ministry of Finance Procurement Portal** <https://procurement.gov.bz/> or from the CARICOM Public Procurement Notice Board <https://cppnb.caricom.org/epps/home.do>.
- Currency exchange rate for regional/international bidders is **USD 1.00 to BZD 2.00**.
- Eligibility Criteria:** This invitation is open to all eligible Tenderers as per the eligibility criteria below:
  - The Tenderer has an active membership in Microsoft Partner Network for Latin America and the Caribbean region and market (MPN ID)
  - The Tenderer must be an active Cloud Service Provider (CSP) that can sell CSP offers in Latin America and the Caribbean region and market
  - The Tenderer should provide evidence of experience deploying Microsoft 365 for business of a comparable size within the past three years.
  - Audited Financial Statements for the past 3 years.
  - Bid-Securing Declaration in the amount of **BZD 10,000.00**
  - The Tenderer has availability of liquid assets through either:
    - Access to line of credit of 30% of the bid price
    - Case in bank account of an amount at least 30% of the bid price
- All Tenders shall include the following additional documentation:
  - Business certificates
    - For local Tenderers:**
      - Copies of Certificates of Good Standing from:
        - Belize Tax Service
        - Belize Companies Registry
        - Belize Social Security Board
      - Copy of current Trade License
        - For regional/international**

**Tenderers:** Statement of compliance from Companies' Registry

- Evidence of past jobs including a copy of the contract or agreement with the client including a copy of the TOR.
  - Two references.
- The contract is subject to Income and Business Tax as per Government Policy as shown below:
    - 25% - for non-Caricom states
    - 15% - for Caricom member states
    - 6% - for companies in Belize.

9. Price should be inclusive of General Sales Tax (GST) payment of 12.5%

### 10. Questions and Replies

Questions shall be type-written in English and shall be sent via email to the following address: [MS365tenders2022@cito.gov.bz](mailto:MS365tenders2022@cito.gov.bz). The deadline for queries is 9 May 2022. Responses from the CITO will be type-written in English and will be emailed to the requester and may also be made available to other Tenderers subject to confidentiality.

11. **Submission Tenders** should be emailed to [MS365tenders2022@cito.gov.bz](mailto:MS365tenders2022@cito.gov.bz) with the subject **TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY OF MICROSOFT 365 LICENSES FOR GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE**.

The bid response should consist of two password protected files - one technical and one financial. The Technical file will be open first and evaluated.

Only the top 4 bidders that meet the technical merit will have their financial file opened.

To ensure the confidentiality of the submission, the files should be protected via a password. This can be done on the file itself, using zip password protection, or some other means of password protecting the file. The password will be requested at the opening of the tender.

12. **The deadline for Tender submission is 23 May 2022.** Submissions received after the deadline will be rejected.

### 13. Evaluation Criteria

Tenders will be evaluated on technical merit and price based on the following criteria:

Evaluation Criteria	Weight (%)
Financial Offer	50%
Technical proposal	50%
Direct technical support from Microsoft.	20%
Access to the portal for managing licenses with the flexibility to increase or decrease licenses throughout the term of the agreement (1-year) at the guaranteed price.	10%
Service delivery models for issue resolution, preferably with English-speaking technical support.	10%
Service delivery experience in provisioning and supporting Microsoft365 for business comparable in the magnitude of this Tender	5%
Financial strength of company demonstrated over past three (3) years	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

14. **Opening of the Tenders** will take place online on **23 May 2022 at 2 pm Belize Time** and in the presence of the Tenderers or their representatives who wish to attend the Tender opening.

15. **Evaluation of the Tenders** will be conducted on **25 May 2022**.

16. The selection of the successful Tenderer will be based on a competitive process that considers Technical and Financial Proposals.

17. Incomplete tenders will not be accepted.

## Rogue officers to be disciplined

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search. I know for a fact if you ask me my name and my regulation number and rank we are obligated to the public to give you that.”

In giving his account of what transpired, Foster said that he was at the municipal airport waiting to catch a plane to one of the islands where he worked when he was approached by a male and a female officer, who informed him that a search was going to be conducted on him. Foster said that was when he took out his phone to record the search and even complied by lifting his arms above his head. When the officer conducting the search noticed that he was being recorded, the officer attempted to knock the phone from out of his hands and used profanity. The officer also asked if he wanted him to get “nasty,” at which point the officer placed his hands on his weapon and advanced towards him a second time.

Nicolas said that when spectators jumped to his rescue and offered to call 911 the officer told him that he was going to take him into custody and charge him for assaulting a police officer, before shoving him towards the mobile. At that point, Nicolas could be heard in the video asking why they were searching him because he is a tour guide and a boat captain to which both officers told him that he did not look like either and asked him if “tour guide marked on you.” At that point, Nicolas pointed the camera once more at the officer, who, again, he hit Nicolas's hand causing his phone to fall to the ground

Nicolas has secured the services of attorney Leslie Mendez to pursue all legal remedies against the two officers in question as well as the Department.

Mendez noted that nothing incriminating was found on her client and that the only justification that the officers provided to her client before searching him was that he looked suspicious. “Suspicious of what exactly, we do not know. By all accounts, the suspicion seems to have been rooted in his appearance alone, since, according to the officers, he did not ‘look like a tour guide.’”



### Oración al Espíritu Santo

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

Gracias Espíritu Santo.

R.M.L.

# PUBLIC AUCTION SALE

**LICENSED AND CERTIFIED AUCTIONEER, SHELDON N. C. ARNOLD WILL SELL THE FOLLOWING PROPERTIES WITH RESERVE PRICES.**

**CAYO DISTRICT PROPERTIES - TO BE AUCTIONED AT HUMMINGBIRD FURNISHINGS COMPOUND BELMOPAN CITY ON WEDNESDAY APRIL 20TH, 2022 AT 1:00PM.**



**Location:** Block - 24, Parcel - 3760 Being Registration Section - Society Hall, Cayo District  
**Description:** land containing 8730 sqft. Vacant Lot being the freehold property of Larry R Leslie.



**Location:** Block: 1, Lot No. 92 containing 1184.397 Sq. Yds. situate in St. Margaret's Village, Cayo District.  
**Description:** The property is a concrete bungalow occupied as a single family residence. It comprises of three bedroom, one bathroom and kitchen, living and dining area, and a laundry room being the Freehold Property of Rueben A. Parham.

**ORANGE WALK PROPERTIES - TO BE AUCTIONED AT HUMMINGBIRD FURNISHINGS COMPOUND BELMOPAN CITY ON WEDNESDAY APRIL 20TH, 2022 AT 1:00PM.**



**Location:** Block 4, Parcel 625/1, Registration Section, Guinea Grass, Orange Walk District.  
**Description:** All that piece or parcel of land containing 1023.519 SQM. Includes 1 concrete family home with 4 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, living, dining, kitchen and laundry rooms, being the Leasehold property of David R. Perrera and Maria G. Magana.



**Location:** Block 1, Parcel 126, Registration Section, Douglas Village, Orange Walk District.  
**Description:** A concrete detached family home with 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, small front porch, fully fenced, with living, dining and kitchen being the freehold property of Roman F Nicholson.



**COROZAL PROPERTIES - TO BE AUCTIONED AT HUMMINGBIRD FURNISHINGS COMPOUND BELMOPAN CITY ON WEDNESDAY APRIL 20TH, 2022 AT 1:00PM.**



**Location:** Block 1, Parcel 715, Registration Section-Sarteneja Village, Corozal District.  
**Description:** A concrete detached family home with 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, back porch, living and kitchen rooms, fenced being the freehold property of Graciliano Rivero.

**STANN CREEK PROPERTIES - TO BE AUCTIONED AT HUMMINGBIRD FURNISHINGS COMPOUND BELMOPAN CITY ON WEDNESDAY APRIL 20TH, 2022 AT 1:00PM.**



**Location:** Block 31 Parcel - 635 Registration Section, Valley Community/ AltaVista, Stann Creek District.  
**Description:** Land containing 1.209 Acres, Vacant lot being the freehold property of Frans L. Faux.

**Sheldon N.C. Arnold**  
 P.O. BOX 666, Belmopan  
 Cell # 615-8308 or 624-5200  
 Email: [info@arnoldenterprise.com](mailto:info@arnoldenterprise.com)  
 Website: [www.arnoldenterprise.com](http://www.arnoldenterprise.com)  
**Terms - Cash 10% Deposit, Balance in 14 days**  
**Financing Available, Call Ahead For Details**





# STRENGTHENING OF TAX ADMINISTRATION PROJECT

## REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

### Consulting Services to design and implement an Internal Control Model including the implementation of a system to support internal control processes

**Institution:** The Ministry of Finance (MOF)  
**Country:** Belize  
**Project:** Strengthening of Tax Administration (STA)  
**Abstract:** Consulting Services to design and implement an Internal Control Model including the implementation of a system to support internal control processes

**Loan No.:** 4839/OC-BL  
**Deadline:** April 26th, 2022, Belize Local Time

The Government of Belize (GOB) has received financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for the execution of a five-year tax modernization project entitled "Strengthening of Tax Administration" (BL-L1031). Through this project, the Belize Tax Service Department (BTSD) has procured a Modern Integrated Tax Administration System (the Revenue Management System (RMS) and is presently in the implementation process. This new system will be used in the management of the Belize Tax Administration.

BTSD staff integrity is a concern for its management. The BTSD strategic plan indicates that: "Corruption has devastating effects on the integrity of any organization. At the BTSD the effects would be particularly harmful as corrupt activities could compromise the collection of revenue; impede tax compliance; negatively impact the image of the Agency and reduce the public's confidence in the Agency's ability to objectively administer taxes.

As such, an Internal Audit Division will be executed to conduct investigations into alleged employee misconduct and ensure that commensurate disciplinary actions are taken when staffers are found culpable. Additionally, a new Employee Code of Conduct will be drafted, which will be instructive on the standards of Professional Conduct. Given that partnerships with the public are important in combating corruption, Outreach Programs will be utilized to engage civil society and to aid in deterring and reporting immoral activities."

Management is also concerned about internal audit. They have identified the need for regular reviews the compliance with the department's regulations, operations, procedures, and controls and if they comply with the international goods practices and operate effectively.

So, BTSD is looking for reorganizing its Internal Audit Division into an Internal Control Division with the view of improving both, the control of staff integrity and the internal audit. This consultancy is intended to address this concern.

Consequently, the BTSD will explore the introduction of a Risk Management Plan (RMP) to properly respond to the risks identified on a timely basis, to minimize overall compliance burden for both the taxpayers and the tax administration. As an important aspect of the RMP, risk mitigating strategies will be proposed for application against potential and existing risks. The plan will highlight all areas of risks including risk-based assessments, risk-based audits, risk-based sector and taxpayer segmentation, compliance risks (registration, filing, reporting and payments) and international risks. Risk mitigation reduces the extent of exposure and ensures that the strategic objectives are achieved."

Management is also concerned about internal audit. They have identified the need for regular reviews the compliance with the department's regulations, operations, procedures, and controls and if they comply with the international goods practices and operate effectively.

So, BTSD is looking for reorganizing its Internal Audit Division into an Internal Control Division with the view of improving both, the control of staff integrity and the internal audit. This consultancy is intended to address this concern.

The consulting services ("the services") includes the contracting of a Consulting Firm for a period of eight (8) months is to design and implement an Internal Control Model including the implementation of a system to support internal control processes. The main activity of the consultancy includes:

- 1 **Prepare the action plan for implementation of the new Internal Control function includes:**
  - a. Detailed project, its outcomes and success indicators
  - b. Intended results and their justification
  - c. The consultancy risk assessment and mitigation
  - d. Cost and other detailed resource requirements, if necessary
  - e. Schedule for implementation
- 2 **Carry out an assessment**
  - a. Review BTSD current practices and recent events regarding Internal audit and integrity investigation
  - b. Review BTSD Internal Audit Division organization, staff, and legal framework
  - c. Review the BTSD current regulations, operations, procedures, and controls with a view to prepare internal audit and integrity investigation plans
  - d. Review BTSD compliance with the new ITAS procedures
  - e. Review recent cases of BTSD staff integrity issues
  - f. Interview relevant stakeholders to determine the general perception on the BTSD staff integrity
- 3 **Draft Internal Control Model**
  - a. Outline the guidelines and policies to the implementation and operation of the BTSD Internal Control Model including internal audit and integrity investigations
  - b. Define the Internal Control procedures inclusive case selection and processing
  - c. Define the necessary changes in, or queries to ITAS to provide information on potential integrity deviations and for case selection
- 4 **Design and implement the BTSD Internal Audit organizational structure**
  - a. Propose the organizational structure of the BTSD Internal Division including the internal audit and integrity investigation units
  - b. Prepare the job descriptions, including competencies, for staff of the BTSD Internal Audit Division
  - c. Estimate the necessary HR for the unit
  - a. Define the required BTSD Internal Control staff skills, knowledge, and abilities,
  - b. Define the requirements for the Internal Control staff training
  - c. Train the Internal Control Division staff
- 5 **Development of the Internal Control Manuals, handbooks, and Code of Conduct**
  - a. Draft the Internal audit manual
  - b. Draft the integrity investigation manual
  - c. Draft the necessary handbooks for both areas
  - d. Draft the BTSD staff Code of Conduct
  - e. The Internal Audit manual should include at least:
    - i. The Internal Audit mission and strategies
    - ii. The Internal Audit procedures
    - iii. The Internal Audit organizational structure as part of the Internal Control Division
    - iv. The job descriptions for the Internal Audit staff

- v. The estimation of Internal Audit staff by function
  - vi. The applications/software needs.
  - vii. The Internal Audit's performance indicators and targets
- f. **The Integrity Investigation manual should include at least:**
- i. The Integrity Investigation mission and strategies
  - ii. The Integrity investigation procedures
  - iii. The Integrity Investigation organizational structure as part of the Internal Control Division
  - iv. The job descriptions for the Integrity Investigation staff
  - v. The estimation of Integrity Investigation staff by function
  - vi. The Integrity Investigation applications/software needs.
  - vii. The Integrity Investigation's performance indicators and targets

#### 6 Execute dissemination sensitization workshops on the Internal Control model and manuals, including Internal Audit and Integrity Investigations

- a. Deliver seminar for the BRS managers
- b. Deliver seminars for the Internal Control staff
- c. Deliver seminars for the BTSD staff
- d. Deliver seminars to other authorities
- e. Deliver seminars for main stakeholders
- f. Train the Internal Audit Staff
- g. Train the Integrity Investigation Staff

The consulting firm should have a minimum of five (5) years' experience in similar assignment. In addition, the consulting firm should have a minimum of five (5) years specific experience in the following:

- Organizational development and design
- Development of internal audit and staff integrity investigation systems
- Development of internal audit and staff integrity investigation organizations
- Development of internal audit and staff integrity investigation procedures and manuals
- Job analysis and job evaluation
- Training needs analysis, and;
- Staff training capacity

The firm will need to have or demonstrate expertise in internal audit and integrity investigation, communication and interpersonal skills, business Strategy (supporting business and organizational goals), Presentation and facilitation skills, flexibility and adaptability, time management skills, fluency in written and spoken English is essential, and highly motivated and committed. As well as have knowledge and experience working in Belize and or the Caribbean environment in a similar assignment.

The Ministry of Finance now invites eligible Consulting Firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested eligible Consultants must submit an Expression of Interest providing information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the services (description of similar assignments specifying start and end dates of assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills, etc.). **The term "consultant" means a legally established professional consulting firm or an entity that may provide the services.**

#### Expression of Interest package should contain:

- (i) Document explaining interest, experience, and competence of the consulting firm.
- (ii) Firms experience in the assignment of similar consultancy services during the past five years. Description of similar assignments specifying start and end dates of assignments.
- (iii) Firms evidence of past jobs. (These includes letters from the respective client on the job (s) carried out, or a copy of contract or agreement with the client including copy of the TOR).
- (iv) Two references
- (v) **Proof of nationality:** Copy of certificate of incorporation, information of shareholders of company specifying the shares owned by each respective shareholder of the company and a copy of documentation of nationality of the shareholders of the company.

#### Additional documentation required for National Consultants:

- (vi) Copy of Certificate of Good Standing from Belize Company Registry
- (vii) Copy of Certificate of Good Standing from the Social Security Board
- (viii) Copy of Certificate of Good Standing from the Belize Tax Service
- (ix) Copy of Current Trade License

#### The total estimated contract price for this consultancy inclusive of taxes is US \$ 319,805.00

Consultants will be selected in accordance with the with the Quality and Cost - Based Selection (QCBS) procurement method 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, May 2019 edition) and is open to all eligible consultants as defined in the IDB policies. The selection of the successful firm will be based on a competitive process among short-listed firms that takes into account the quality of the proposal and the cost of the service. **Only the short-listed firms will be notified and will be asked to submit a technical and price proposal.**

Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub-consultancy to enhance their qualifications. For the purpose of establishing the short list, the nationality of a firm is that of the country in which it is legally incorporated or constituted and in the case of Joint Venture, the nationality of the firm appointed to represent it.

**Further information** can be obtained at the address below during office hours **Monday to Friday 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** Expressions of interest must be delivered via direct mail or e-mail at the address indicated below by **3:30 p.m. (Belize local time) on Tuesday April 26th, 2022.**

Interested consulting firms are asked to submit their expression of interest via e-mail to [Michelle.Longsworth@bts.gov.bz](mailto:Michelle.Longsworth@bts.gov.bz) marked **STAP- Consulting firm to design and implement an Internal Control Model including the implementation of a system to support internal control processes** in the subject header, or submit on or before **3:30 p.m. (Belize local time) on Tuesday April 26th, 2022** to the following address:

**Director General**  
**Belize Tax Service**  
**Strengthening of Tax Administration Project**  
**Charles Bartlett Hyde Building**  
**Mahogany Street, Belize City**  
**Tel: 501-222-5114**

**For clarifications kindly contact:**

**Procurement Officer**  
**Project Executing Unit**  
**Strengthening of Tax Administration Project**  
**Charles Bartlett Hyde Building**  
**Mahogany Street, Belize City**  
**Tel: 501-222-5114/E-mail: [Ian.Ramirez@mof.gov.bz](mailto:Ian.Ramirez@mof.gov.bz)**

# The Righters Write

## Struggle and Resilience

*Contributed by the Human Rights Commission*

“Due to high crime in our country and no opportunities to work. It was difficult to study due to gangs. That is why we decided to find a better place and we learned that Belize was a good country that could give us what our country couldn’t.”

This is what a 21-year-old registered refugee told us, without going into much details. He lived in El Salvador but his entire family decided to flee their country in 2016. Many asylum seekers reaching Belize from El Salvador have cited the threat from gangs as one of the main reasons they flee their country.

That threat is very real and getting worse. Last year, the gang-plagued nation recorded 1,140 murders. A little over a week ago, on March 26th, El Salvador recorded 62 murders “making it the most violent 24-hour period since the end of the civil war in 1992,” BBC News reported. The situation prompted the Salvadoran Parliament to approve a 30-day state of emergency. Gangs in this country are also famous for extorting businesses and families, even low-income households. Estimates suggest that 70 percent of all the businesses are extorted by gangs, with distribution and transport firms being particularly affected.

For hundreds of families, their only option when threatened with death is to run. Many make their way to Belize. That journey alone brings new dangers and new uncertainties. The young man we spoke with was just 16 when he made that long journey alone. His mother and siblings had left El Salvador before him. He made the trip “with a lot of fear.

We passed through areas where we didn’t know anyone, where people looked at us differently for being migrants,” he said.

“Arriving here was a bit different because when we arrived, we met people from our country and they assisted us. We felt a bit more freedom since crime is not high here and one can feel safe. We didn’t feel safe where we first lived,” he added.

But their new surroundings came with new challenges. “When I got there, I experienced some moments where I was discriminated because I couldn’t speak English and a lot of people treated me bad... in school,” he shared. Though challenging, discrimination didn’t beat this young man down. With the support of a hard-working family and UN-HCR and its partners, they have persevered.

“Being in the refugee program, I have always felt supported since I came. They have always been there through my education process supporting me...Honestly, at the start it was a bit difficult when I started high school, but when I graduated it was different because I learned English. I can now socialize with others who speak English. The opportunity to attend high school has changed my life very much. It changed my life in that I can communicate more effectively with others in the country since it’s a country with many cultures and languages. I feel very good.”

His family, he adds, have been able to find some peace here. “We are all doing well. I have spoken with my mother and she has said that she feels safe here.”

Truly, this is what migrants and refugees

seek. According to Joe McCarthy in his 2019 article, entitled “7 Migrants Share Their Stories of Struggle and Resilience,” This is the most salient need. McCarthy (2019) explained that this is so important that they “are migrating by irregular means, secretly crossing borders, scaling fences, or contacting smugglers who ship them across bodies of water, deserts, and conflict zones. They risk violence, detention, exploitation, enslavement, and death. They often leave their families and friends behind. Their journeys usually burden them with debt. When they arrive in a new country, these migrants often live in the shadows, unable to get identification paperwork, legal protections, and other safeguards of citizenship. As a result, they often work in low-paying, exploitative jobs and have trouble finding shelter, support networks, and accessing other basic human rights.”

The young man who shared part of his struggle with us has been able to do well for himself. He is now doing some volunteer work with a nongovernmental organization in Belize. “I feel like I have more opportunities,” he added. “In this country I see a very successful future for myself. I see myself being very successful. I plan to continue on to university. I think that this country can give me some things that I, unfortunately, cannot find in my country, like security, public security.”

He has bigger aspirations too and told us that, “I want to be a nurse. I like to deal with people, care for them.” His new dream is to get his degree and remain in Belize and join the medical professionals here.

The struggle to

achieve stability can be harder for others but they chose to push on and call Belize home. Since government announced the opportunity to receive permanent residency with a path to nationality through the Amnesty Program, hundreds of families have moved to take advantage of this opportunity. The young refugee we spoke with believes everyone deserves a fighting chance. “From my point of view, we all

have rights. We are all human beings and I feel we all have the same rights. It doesn’t matter if we are from different countries. I believe that we also enrich the cultures in countries where we go to. We do not have bad intentions. Our intentions are simply to have a better life,” he said, adding, “I would tell them to cheer up, to not lose hope. If you are discriminated, we all go through it but cheer up, push forward. There are also a

lot of good people in the country that support you.”

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

### VACANCY NOTICE

**Position Title:** Grant Support and External Relations Coordinator  
**Salary Pay Scale:** Salary commensurate with qualification and experience  
**Duty Station:** Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management. Accountable to: the Chief Executive Officer

**Posting Period:** 2 years

**Basic purpose of position:**

The Grant Support and External Relations Coordinator shall effectively assess and coordinate the donor landscape aligned with our sustainable development priorities with the aim of aligning, identifying, and facilitating the entrance into and approval by these facilities; thus, securing opportunities and financing for environmental/sustainable development projects with high biodiversity returns in Belize.

**Duties and Responsibilities:**

1. Serve as the ministry’s liaison officer between international partners such as the UN system, Multilateral Environmental Agreements, Central American Commission for Development, among others.
2. Assess the grant funding landscape aligned with national sustainable development targets and goals.
3. Document entry points, focus areas, processes, requirements, and opportunities of donor agencies aligned with our national target and goals for the environment.
4. Develop a funding dashboard which facilitates tracking of biodiversity targets and investment funding windows.
5. Develop expressions of Interests, concept notes in collaboration with relevant agencies for submission to donors and facilities.
6. Work closely with Results Based/Monitoring and evaluation Specialist within the MSDCC&DRM to ensure alignment of grant opportunities with investment opportunities.
7. Develop a donor coordination mechanism that supports the ministry’s strategic priorities.
8. Submits periodic reports on the status of projects development with external stakeholders.
9. Any other duties, assigned from time to time, for the MSDCC&DRM.

**Minimum Qualifications – Academic/Training:**

Master’s Degree in: Finance, Economics, Investment Management, or closely related field

**Skills, Experience and Qualification Required:**

1. Strong organizational skills and leadership capability.
2. Ability to integrate financial knowledge with operational strategies and policy objectives.
3. Knowledge of environmental finance, sustainable development issues and the interface between socioeconomic and the environment at the local and international level
4. Strong interpersonal and communication skills
5. Intermediate level Spanish proficiency
6. Knowledge of national governance framework strongly desired
7. Ability to prepare publications, reports, and presentations.
8. Proven knowledge of financial planning and diagnosis
9. Ability to conduct research, data analysis.
10. Ability to work with a multidisciplinary and multicultural team.
11. Computer literacy particularly in Microsoft and Access software application
12. Strong work ethic.
13. Flexible and ability to prioritize a variety of complex evolving tasks.

**Application Requirements**

Interested persons shall submit an Expression of Interest/Letter of Application Letter along with Curriculum Vitae inclusive of two (2) references and supporting documents no later than **April 18th, 2022**, to:

Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change & Disaster Risk Management  
 Attn: National Biodiversity Office- Director

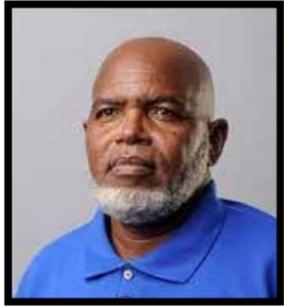
3rd Floor Green Complex Building #2557 Hummingbird Highway Belmopan  
 Telephone number 828-9055 or

Email address: [BIOFIN-Belize@environment.gov.bz](mailto:BIOFIN-Belize@environment.gov.bz)

**\*Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted**

# GRASSROOTS

## Hon. Gilroy Usher's Contribution to the 2022-2023 Budget (Part II)



By Hon. Gilroy Usher

With the support of Prime Minister Briceño and other members of Cabinet, many things have been done to address the needs of the people of the Port Loyola Division that I am humbled to represent.

Over a hundred house lots have been distributed to first time land owners including many single mothers. With this new budget more house lots will be made available on Faber's Rd. as well as in the area between Gibson St. and the check point on the George Price Highway for the residents of my division.

A land clinic will also be held in the Port Loyola division in the first half of this year to address the concerns of the people in owning a piece of land.

The first starter home is being built in the Jane Usher area, and the land has already been filled for the construction of four more starter homes in the constituency.

With more persons in the division having access to land, plans are also underway to build many more starter homes as well as two and three bedroom concrete houses for the people, especially for persons in Port Loyola who are in desperate need of adequate housing.

Over the last year, scores of persons from my area have been assisted with employment through the Youth Apprenticeship Program, employment in the Public Service, and employment in beautification campaigns.

As has been stated before, I have also promoted empowerment and employment opportunities in the Port Loyola division by providing a record number of 110 small businesses in the area with \$500.00 worth of supplies each to improve their services to the community.

In all those initiatives every effort is made to include women, especially those who are single mothers and head of their homes.

Support for small businesses is always essential in nation building.

Financial experts agree that promoting

small business is important for national development, because small businesses provide many needed services, create numerous job opportunities, enable many

*With far less COVID restrictions and the reopening of the economy, aside from housing improvement, access to land and jobs, and educational opportunities, priority will also be given to major improvement to many streets in Port Loyola that are in a terrible condition through collaboration with the Belize City Council (BCC) and the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing (MIDH).*

families to uplift themselves tremendously, and are often the start for many large and successful businesses.

Residents of Port Loyola have also been assisted with numerous education grants, our annual Back to School Program, and grocery bags among other things.

Furthermore in advancing education in Port Loyola, on Saturday I made a donation of \$500.00 towards the fund raising activity of Grace Primary School on Amara Avenue for the institution to gradually move its remaining classes from Infant I to the site of its upper division on Faber's Road by 2026.

When the relocation is completed, it will be a major win for both the school and the residents of Port Loyola.

Many parents will be able to save funds by sending their children to a reputable school nearby instead of paying transportation daily for children to attend other primary schools faraway.

The presence of the large school will result in increase security police and security; children will have a unique opportunity to learn to play music and engage in many other extracurricular activities which they presently don't have access to, and property values in the neighborhood will increase.

With far less COVID restrictions and the reopening of the economy, aside from housing improvement, access to land and jobs, and educational opportunities, priority will also be given to major improvement to many streets in Port Loyola that are in a terrible condition through collaboration with the Belize City Council (BCC) and the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and

Housing (MIDH).

Both the BCC and MIDH have committed to addressing the concerns about many streets in Port Loyola in the new fiscal year.

Sports are very important in building a nation. Sports provide entertainment, jobs, educational opportunities, and important life skills.

For those reasons the new budget provides funding for the revival of sports in Port Loyola and throughout the country in close cooperation with the Ministry of Youth, Sports, and Transport, The National Sports Council, and all the other stakeholders in the discipline.

In making good on that commitment to resume promoting sports aggressively in my division, I donated the first prize of \$500.00 for a football marathon that will be held at the Cumberbatch Football field this Saturday March 26th, and am pleased to announced that I will be having a basketball marathon at the Jane Usher basketball court on Sunday, May 1st, with grand prizes as follows: first prize \$1,500.00, 2nd prize \$1000.00 and 3rd prize \$500.00.

Despite the limited resources available in this administration's first budget, as a result of the massive corruption and mismanagement of the country by the previous government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Briceño many of the promises in Plan Belize have been fulfilled in serving the people.

Dave Ramsey famously said, "A budget is telling your money where to go instead of wondering where it went."

Am confident that the estimate of Revenue and Expenditure for fiscal year 2022 /2023 are reasonable and realistic and will allow this administration to fulfill many more of the promises it made to the Belizean people in Plan Belize. These estimates fulfill what Dave Ramsey says a budget should do.

As the Area Representative for the Port Loyola division, I fully support the National Budget for 2022/ 2023.

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### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

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

**Position Name:** Trades Helper  
**Vacancy number:** Belmopan-2022-07  
**Closing date:** April 14th, 2022

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

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

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

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

### PUBLIC AUCTION SALE: PROPERTY

Banak Street, Belize City

BY ORDER of the mortgagees, Messrs. Heritage Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo & Christiana Rebecca Castillo is selling ONLINE via [belizepropertyauctions.com](http://belizepropertyauctions.com) the below described property. Sale currently running and will expire Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 1:30 pm.



REGISTRATION SECTION: Lake Independence  
 BLOCK: 45  
 PARCEL: 757

(Being a two-storey concrete/timber dwelling house (1,368 sq. ft): Ground floor – Open Area; First floor – 2 bedrooms + 1 bathroom + living/dining/kitchen + Verandah and lot [352.471 Sq. Yds.] situate at No. 16, Banak Street, (between Lake View Street & Central American Boulevard) Lake Independence, Belize City, Belize, the freehold property of Mr. Reynaldo Romero & Ms. Ema Romero.)

**TERMS: STRICTLY CASH**  
**KEVIN A. CASTILLO**  
 TELEPHONE 223-4488

Website: [belizepropertyauctions.com](http://belizepropertyauctions.com)  
 E-mail: [belizeauctionsales@gmail.com](mailto:belizeauctionsales@gmail.com)  
 Face Book: Belize Auctions



# Belize Agricultural Health Authority

The Belize Agricultural Health Authority invites applications from suitably qualified candidates to fill the following positions:

## 1. QUARANTINE INSPECTOR

### Minimum qualification and skills:

1. Associate Degree in Agricultural Science or related field;
2. Work experience in the Agriculture Sector is an asset;
3. Superior work ethics and practices;
4. Excellent public relations;
5. Bi-lingual (English and Spanish)
6. Very good written and verbal communication skills;
7. Computer Literate;
8. Valid class "A" driver's license;

The primary function of the position is to Safeguard Belize's Agricultural Health and Food Safety through inspection of imported commodities.

**Salary:** \$17,810.76 x 852.84 - \$34,014.72

**Station of Duty:** The quarantine inspector is subject to rotation throughout the country every two to three years.

## 2. FOOD SAFETY LABORATORY TECHNICIAN

### Minimum qualification and skills:

1. Bachelor's degree in Biology and/or Chemistry with a minimum of one (1) year work experience in testing of food, feed, environmental or biological samples;
2. Strong work ethics and practices, honesty and integrity;
3. Capacity to achieve results through teamwork;
4. Strong inter-personal, organizational and communication skills;
5. Bi-lingual (ability to speak and write English and Spanish);
6. Knowledge and experience with laboratory equipment;
7. Knowledge or work experience in laboratory techniques;
8. Knowledge of sample handling principles;
9. Computer literate;
10. Team player who is flexible, objective, highly motivated and takes initiative;
11. Valid class "A" driver's license;

The primary function of the position is to conduct analysis of foods and other matrices and perform other laboratory activities in support of food safety monitoring programmes.

**Salary:** \$20,665.92 x 927 - \$38,278.92

**Station of Duty:** Central Investigation Laboratory, Belize City

## 3. AGRONOMIST

1. A Bachelor's Degree in Agronomy with two (2) years work experience in plant protection activities;
2. Superior work ethics, honesty and integrity;
3. Superior written and verbal communication skills;
4. Superior planning, analytical, data collecting, and resource management skills;
5. Ability to lead a team;
6. Bi-lingual (ability to speak and write English and Spanish);
7. Computer Literate;
8. Team player who is highly motivated and takes initiative;
9. Valid class "A" driver's license;

The agronomist will be responsible to provide support to the Plant Health Department in all areas of Plant Protection. The post will be a middle management post and the successful candidate will be required to supervise staff.

**Salary:** \$26,351.52 x 1,137.12 - \$47,956.80

**Station of Duty:** Central Farm, Cayo District

## 4. MEDITERRANEAN FRUIT FLY TECHNICIAN

### Minimum qualification and skills:

1. Associate Degree in Applied Science (Agriculture) or Agricultural Science with one (1) year work related experience;
2. Superior work ethics, honesty and integrity;
3. Superior written and verbal communication skills;
4. Computer Literate;
5. Team player who is highly motivated and takes initiative;
6. Valid class "A" driver's license.

The primary function of the Mediterranean fruit fly technician is to perform surveillance and inspection activities to ensure a medfly-free status of Belize.

**Salary:** \$17,810.76 x 852.84 - \$34,014.72

**Station of Duty:** Punta Gorda Town, Toledo District

## 5. FINANCE DIRECTOR

### Minimum Qualification and Experience Requirements:

- Master's degree in Accounting and/or Business Administration with five (5) years financial management experience or a Bachelor's degree in Accounting and/or Business Administration with 10 years financial management experience; OR
- Professional Qualification in Accounting (CPA, ACCA, etc.) with five (5) years accounting and financial management experience;
- Thorough understanding of accrual accounting, International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS);

The primary function of the finance director is to provide oversight on the financial operations of the Authority; review and make recommendations on accounting policies, procedures, standards, and controls to ensure financial system(s) are accurate, efficient, and complies with professional accounting practices; and will be responsible to prepare the Authority for an annual financial audit.

Additionally, the finance director will be responsible for financial forecasting, budgeting, and cost recovery and reduction schemes as well as to provide timely financial reports to the Managing Director.

### Key Job Responsibilities:

- Manage the preparation of the Organization budget in collaboration with the Management team;
- Maintain a documented system of accounting policies and procedures following International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) and/or other applicable accounting guidelines; ensures complete and up to date operating procedures for all accounting and financial controls;
- Forecast cash flow positions, related financing needs, and available funds for investment;
- Ensure maintenance of effective internal controls to assure safeguarding of assets; carryout annual inventory counts and implement replacement plans for vehicle and It Equipment;
- Update fixed asset register and schedule on a quarterly basis;
- Manage the accounts receivables portfolio; timely revenue collection, recording and processing of customers financial transactions;
- Manage the accounts payable portfolio; timely approval of expenditure per department within budget allocations and constraints.
- Prepare financial reports and carry out procurement processes for grant/project funds received by the Organization;
- Prepare audit schedule for external auditor and acts as a liaison between the Organization and auditors;
- Participate in and provide support to the Finance Committee of the BAHA Board of Directors; Management representative on BAHA Provident Fund Committee and BAHA Employee Provident Fund Board of Trustees.

**Salary:** \$35,460.84 x 1,433.76 - \$62,702.28

**Station:** BAHA Headquarters, Belmopan

Kindly indicate the job position of interest on your application package.

Interested persons may submit letter of application, résumé, proof of qualification, official transcript and two recent reference letters and a police record, no later than **Thursday, April 21st, 2022** to:

**Human Resource Director**  
**Belize Agricultural Health Authority**  
**P.O. Box 169**  
**Cor. Hummingbird Hwy. & Forest Dr., Belmopan, Belize**  
**Phone: 501-8220197, Fax: 501-8220271**  
**E-mail: [baha@btl.net](mailto:baha@btl.net), website: [www.baha.org.bz](http://www.baha.org.bz)**



## Staying hydrated may reduce the risk of heart failure

Staying “well hydrated” in middle age may slow the risk of developing heart failure later in life, a new study suggests.

The study researchers analyzed information from more than 11,000 adults ages 45 to 66 and followed them for 25 years. To examine their hydration levels, the researchers looked at the levels of sodium in the participants’ blood, also known as serum sodium, which increases as a person’s fluid levels decrease. The normal range for serum sodium is 135 to 146 millimoles per liter (mmol/L), although values at the higher end of this range would trigger a person’s body to start to conserve water, study lead author Natalia Dmitrieva, a researcher in the Laboratory of Cardiovascular Regenerative Medicine at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), told Live Science in an email.

The researchers found that people with serum sodium levels on the high end of the normal range — above 143 mmol/L — had a 39% increased risk of developing heart failure over the intervening 25 years, compared with those who had lower serum sodium levels. Heart failure is a condition in which the heart muscle can’t pump enough blood to meet the body’s normal demands.

The study, which was published Tuesday (March 29) in the *European Heart Journal*, also found that for each 1 mmol/L increase in a person’s serum sodium level within the normal range, the chances of developing heart failure

increased by 5%.

The new findings held even after the researchers took into account factors that could affect people’s risk of heart failure, including their age, sex, body mass index, cholesterol levels, smoking status, high blood pressure and whether

heart failure, Baliga said.

And he noted that people’s hydration needs can vary depending on a number of factors, including exercise level, underlying medical conditions and medications. For example, people who already have heart failure may be asked to limit their fluid



participants’ typically added salt to their food. Participants were excluded from the study if they had diabetes, obesity or heart failure at the start of the study.

Still, the study only found an association between higher serum sodium levels and heart failure; a randomized controlled trial, in which people are randomly assigned to drink more water, is needed to confirm the findings, the study authors said.

Drinking enough fluid is important for numerous bodily functions, including helping the heart pump blood more easily. The study authors recommend that in general, women drink about 6 to 8.5 cups (1.5 to 2 liters) and men drink about 8.5 to 12.5 cups (2 to 3 liters) of fluids a day.

Dr. Ragavendra Baliga, a professor of internal medicine and cardiology at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, who was not involved with the study, told Live Science that the findings are “intriguing” and suggest that, in this select group of people, “hydrating these patients may prevent heart failure down the road.”

Still, the findings don’t apply to everyone since the study excluded people with diabetes, obesity and

intake to 8.5 cups (2 liters) per day, because heart failure can lead to fluid buildup in the body. And people who take diuretic medications, which help remove salt and water from the body, wouldn’t be asked to drink more because that would be “like pushing the gas and brake at the same time,” Baliga said.

Baliga said that if people’s serum sodium level is on the higher side, they may want to speak with their doctor about whether “they’re good candidates for keeping themselves well hydrated.”

One limitation of the study is that it did not directly measure how much a person drank, but rather, used serum sodium as a proxy for hydration levels. Although salt in a person’s diet could also potentially affect serum sodium levels, past studies have found that even large differences in the amount of salt people eat has very little effect on serum sodium levels, because the kidneys are typically very good at excreting excess salt. In contrast, differences in the amount of fluid people drink has a much larger effect on serum sodium levels, the authors said.

It’s not clear why suboptimal hydration may increase heart failure risk, but when a person drinks less water, their body releases a chemical called antidiuretic hormone (ADH), which tells the kidneys to conserve water, and produce a lower volume of more concentrated urine, Dmitrieva said. At the same time, the body activates the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system, which can contribute to high blood pressure, which “is a major cardiovascular risk factor,” Dmitrieva said.

The findings also agree with previous research by the group, in which mice that had their water access mildly restricted throughout life had a greater risk of developing a hardening of the heart muscle known as cardiac fibrosis, which is associated with heart failure.

People can reduce their risk of developing heart failure by adopting a healthy lifestyle, including eating healthy foods, not smoking, maintaining a healthy weight and controlling conditions that raise the risk of heart failure, such as high blood

### CLASSIFIED ADS

**VACANCY:** Vacancy hereby exists for a **Sales Representative at Belize Ship Handlers (BSH)**. Qualified person will be responsible for selling the services offered at BSH, which is shipping of cargo to and from Belize. Knowledge in shipping is an asset. Letter of Application along with Resume can be emailed to [info@belizeshiphandlersbz.com](mailto:info@belizeshiphandlersbz.com) or mailed to **6480 Mahogany Street, Belize City**. For further information please call 222-4075.

**PRINCESS CASINO VACANCIES:** Assistant Manager of Gaming Operations will be responsible for the day to day operations of a gaming floor consisting of Slot Machines, Table Games, Poker. Directs the activities of the Cage-Vault and Count Team. Supervises the following: Director of Slot Operations, Director of Table Games Operations, Cage Vault Manager, Count Team Manager. **Major Duties and Responsibilities:** Spends considerable time in the operations MBWA (Management By Walking Around). Creates a management philosophy that encourages teamwork, planning, communications, responsibility and accountability. Maintains accountability for the performance and evaluation of departmental managers. Perform additional duties and responsibilities as necessary or assigned. Knowledge of Gaming Commission policies, procedures and guidelines. Ability to hire, motivate and maintain a viable work force.

**Qualification:** Bachelor’s Degree, preferably in Business Administration, Hospitality Management, Public Administration, or related field and ten (10) years’ experience in the management and administration of a casino gaming establishment. Any combination of education from an accredited college or university in a related field and/or direct experience in this occupation totaling fourteen (14) years may substitute for the required education and experience. Eight (8) years supervisory experience.

**Surveillance Technician** needed. Camera technicians must be able to control cameras with a high degree of operational and technical knowledge. **No phone calls, Applicant can drop off application letter at Front desk of Princess Casino. Addressed to the Human Resource Manager.**

**LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE:** Notice is hereby given that **James Jones** of Caye Caulker Village, Belize District is hereby applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License for Northside Beach Club** situated on **Northside Caye Caulker Village, Belize District for the year 2022**. Under the Intoxicating Liquors Act Revised Edition of 2000.

**Lost Registration Application:** The original Certificate No. BPA-E00957, Registration Number BZ-1803 for a white & blue hull with white deck Fiberglass Catamaran, vessel name **Meltd** belonging to **St. George’s Caye Resort Ltd. of St. George’s Caye, Belize Central America** have been lost. A new registration certificate has been required under Part III of Harbours & Merchants Shipping Act, Chapter 234 of the Consolidated Laws of Belize (Revised Edition 2000) has been requested.



## FUN FACTS!

### Sparks fly when you microwave grapes

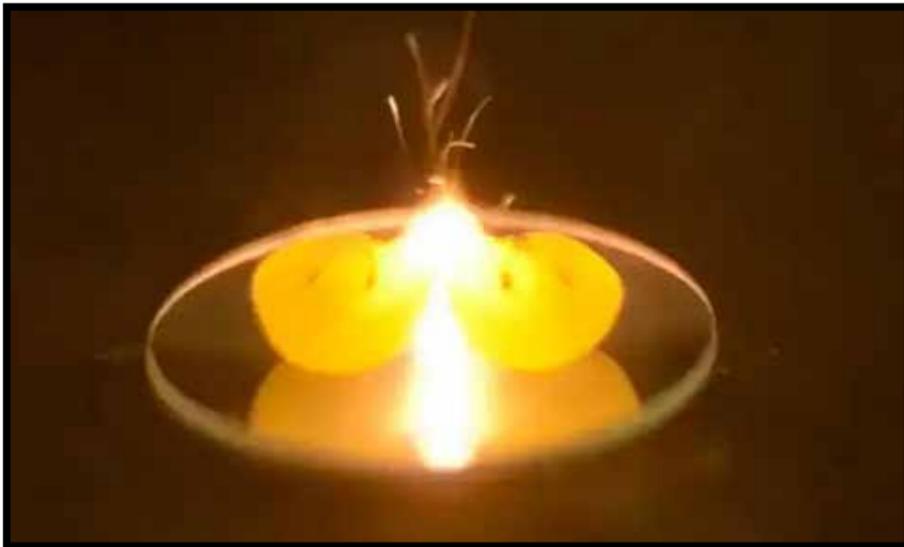
For more than 20 years, microwaving grapes has been a popular trick for creating a plasma — and a spectacular, if messy, show — right in your own home. The trick, as reported all over the internet, is to:

- take a grape
- cut it very neatly in half
- except to leave a thin bridge of “grape skin” connecting the hemispheres

• place it in the microwave (without the rotating tray)

And then sit back and watch the sparks fly!

It was assumed, by many, that the sparks were caused simply by electrical conduction: The microwaves interacted with the grapes, created a difference in the electric potential between the two hemispheres, and when the potential became great enough, current flowed. When that current flowed across the grape skin, it heated it up due to the skin’s electrical resistance, and as a



result, electrons were kicked off of their atomic nuclei, creating the plasma effect that’s so prominently visible. There’s only one problem with this explanation: everything. Here’s the science of what actually causes grapes to spark in a microwave, and how we figured it out.

When a grape is cut nearly perfectly in half, but a thin bridge of grape skin is left connecting them, a trip into the microwave will cause sparks to fly, creating a plasma along the bridge. Despite being a common parlor trick for decades, sci-

entific investigation into this phenomenon only began in 2018.

For years, it was unknown exactly why this trick worked. But in 2019, much to the internet’s excitement, a team of physicists found the reason for this phenomenon. Using thermal imagery, computer simulations and videography, the team determined the fire was brought on by microwaves trapped in the grape.

The grape hemispheres act as spheres of water, which reduce the wavelengths of microwaves. When

microwaved as one whole, a grape traps the microwaves in its center. When split in two and placed near each other, the trapped microwaves can hop from grape half to grape half, forming an electromagnetic field that ionizes the grape’s sodium and potassium ions. Then, fire!

The researchers found no need to leave the grape halves nearly attached. Cutting one down the center or using two whole peeled grapes works just as well. Blueberries and cherry tomatoes do the trick too.



Fast Bird!

**Hummingbirds** beat their wings 60-80 times per second.



Can't Walk?

**Hummingbirds** can't walk.



## COLOR ME

Hummingbirds have tongues that are grooved like the shape of a “W”.

Hummingbirds have tiny hairs on the tips of their tongues to help them lap up nectar similar to a cat.



A hummingbird’s bill is longer in proportion to its body, as compared to other birds.

Hummingbirds have no sense of smell, but can hear better than humans. Hummingbirds are attracted to all bright colors, although red is most prominently associated with these tiny birds.

Hummingbirds see in ultraviolet light and they can see further than a human.

Hummingbirds have a great memory – they remember every flower & feeder they’ve been to, and how long it will take a flower to refill.

The hummingbird brain is 4.2% of its body weight – this is the largest, in proportion, of the wild bird group.

Hummingbirds are the only birds that can fly like a helicopter... up, down,

sideways, front, and back!

Hummingbirds are the second largest family of birds with over 300 species.

Hummingbirds have weak feet – they mainly use them just for perching.

When food is scarce and they are fatigued, hummingbirds go into a hibernation-like state (also known as torpor) to conserve energy.



Ministry of Finance, Economic Development & Investment  
Belmopan  
MARCH 31, 2022

**NOTICE TO TAX DEFAULTERS PURSUANT TO SECTION 64A OF TAX  
ADMINISTRATION AND PROCEDURE ACT (TAPA)**

NAME	OCCUPATION	TAX CENTRE	TAX TYPE	AMOUNT OWED
<b>Matus Medical Supplies</b>	Medical Supplies Importer	Belize	GST and Business Tax	\$271,705.59
<b>DK Limited</b>	Retailer	Belize	GST	\$131,932.93
<b>Darrell Carter</b>	Upholsterer	Belize	GST	\$854,419.47
<b>HLB Belize, LLP /Grant Thorton</b>	Accounting Firm	Belize	GST and Business Tax	\$2,421,576.26
<b>Buttercup Development Co. Ltd</b>	Real Estate	Belize	GST	\$63,703.66
<b>Jose Depaz</b>	Land Surveyor	San Ignacio	GST	\$261,963.06
<b>Mark Neal</b>	Gym	Belize	GST	\$47,561.74
<b>Denvor Fairweather</b>	Producer	Belize	GST	\$17,017.42
<b>Johnny Quan</b>	Retailer	Corozal	GST	\$161,223.14
<b>Zhen Jun Lan</b>	Retailer	Corozal	GST	\$444,111.53
<b>Damaris Berges</b>	Restaurateur	Corozal	GST and Business Tax	\$115,881.53
<b>Caribbean Sunrise Limited</b>	Manufacturer	Belize	GST	\$402,440.99
<b>Quality Water Depot</b>	Manufacturer	Belize	GST	\$226,745.84
<b>Amigos Del Mar</b>	Tour Operator	San Pedro	GST	\$1,822,074.47
<b>Belize Pharma Supplies</b>	Pharmacy	Belize	GST	\$93,049.36
<b>Ivor Company</b>	Real Estate/Marketing	Belize	GST and Business Tax	\$60,410.51
<b>Austin Waight</b>	Marketing	Belize	GST and Business Tax	\$166,304.48
<b>Out Island Construction &amp; Development</b>	Construction	Belize	GST	\$408,950.55
<b>Arthur Saldivar</b>	Attorney	Belize	Business Tax	\$57,712.95
<b>Eden Holland</b>	Restaurateur	Belize	GST	\$834,465.22
<b>Mark King</b>	Security Services	Belize	GST	\$398,141.53
<b>Smoky Mermaid</b>	Restaurant	Belize	GST	\$256,017.56
<b>El Secreto</b>	Hotel	San Pedro	GST and Business Tax	\$293,630.87
<b>M&amp;M Engineering</b>	Engineer/Construction	Belize	GST and Business Tax	\$2,784,507.54

You are hereby notified to contact the Belize Tax Service Department as soon as possible to settle your arrears. Failure to do so in a timely manner will result in court proceedings or further action taken against you pursuant to the TAPA.

**A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL  
BELIZE TAX SERVICE DEPARTMENT**

TOGETHER WE BUILD OUR COUNTRY: YOUR CONTRIBUTION, OUR DEVELOPMENT

# UP 17%

## MASSY UNITED INSURANCE CONTINUES GROWTH TREND

Caribbean insurer, Massy United Insurance confirms another strong financial performance, despite challenges the region continued to face in 2021.

“Our premium growth has been exceptional, our assets are bigger, and our capital base is the strongest it has ever been. This has now positioned us as one of the largest general

- Randy Graham, Chief Executive Officer, Massy United Insurance

### US\$10.7 MILLION IN PROFIT

For the fiscal year ended September 2021, the company recorded a notable US\$10.7 million in profit before tax, in spite of operating in an environment affected by lingering COVID-19 instability and the ever-present impact of natural disasters.

Earnings at the end of the reporting period showed US\$232 million in Gross Written Premium, representing 17% growth over the previous year, and a second year of double-digit growth for the company. This performance comes despite the company settling just under US\$30 million in net claims throughout the region during the year.

Graham noted, “We are of course very pleased about the strong financial performance of Massy United in 2021. Our team has worked assiduously executing on our corporate strategy, so it’s gratifying to be able to consistently generate profits for our shareholders.” He added, “none of this would be possible without the steadfast commitment of our staff and our loyal customers.” These performance trends, including the company’s in-force business and balanced geographical diversification across the Caribbean, allow Massy United Insurance to be confident in their outlook as they deliver consistent returns to their shareholders and respond to the needs of customers when they need it most.

In more news of growth and expansion. In September 2021, Bermuda-based Coralisle Group Ltd. announced its intention to expand its Caribbean footprint with the acquisition of a 100 percent interest in Massy United Insurance Ltd. The transaction is still pending regulatory approval in some jurisdictions. Completion of the transaction is hedged on gaining regulatory approval in numerous jurisdictions. Once completed, the company will now be able to offer a more diverse suite of products to their customers in the future.

### FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS: 17% Growth over previous year



### COMMUNITY SERVICE AND SUPPORT: AN INVESTMENT INTO THE FUTURE

Massy United Insurance values the various communities in which it operates. Community service and support are investments in these communities and their future. The company embraces the opportunity to work closely with groups across the Caribbean region as a necessary step in doing their part to assist with the well-being of its people.

Last year the company faced the unique challenge of providing urgent assistance to Caribbean residents who were affected by the Mt. Soufrière eruption in St. Vincent, while maintaining their commitment to assisting those continually impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Graham stated “Being a Caribbean insurer, we believe it is our duty to help our communities, especially in their time of need... we made our contributions to the vaccination efforts, we helped students get the necessary equipment to continue online school, and we contributed food and supplies to those in greatest need. As an insurance company, it is in our DNA to help those in need, and our growth and success in 2021 gives us a wider base to help more persons in our Caribbean Communities. As an insurance company we believe our future is bright and we will continue to help wherever we can to make the future of our staff, customers, and communities bright as well.”

### MASSY UNITED INSURANCE LTD. Consolidated Financial Highlights For the year ended and as at September 30, 2021 (expressed in thousands of dollars)

	2021	2020
	USD\$	USD\$
Total assets	336,744	312,982
Total liabilities	255,690	237,504
Equity	81,054	75,479
Gross premiums earned	208,406	179,011
Total net claims incurred	29,746	28,350
Profit before tax	10,720	8,244
Gross written premiums	231,988	198,112
Net claims outstanding	50,108	51,128



Belize Insurance Centre Ltd.  
212 North Front Street  
Belize City  
Belize  
T: 227-7310

massy united insurance . com

Rated A- (Excellent) by  
BEST  
The Insurance Information Source  
For the latest rating, access www.ambest.com