

# Reporter

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## Recall Vote for 'Shyne' Barrow! UDP insiders move to remove current Party Leader

By Michelle Sutherland

Inside sources within the United Democratic Party (UDP) have confirmed with *The Reporter* that a recall vote for the removal of Moses "Shyne" Barrow as party leader is on the horizon as several UDP faithful are making final preparations to deliver the required signatures to the UDP's headquarters on Youth for the Future Drive.

That source, who is said to be a crucial part of the process, told our newsroom that after several weeks on the campaign trail they

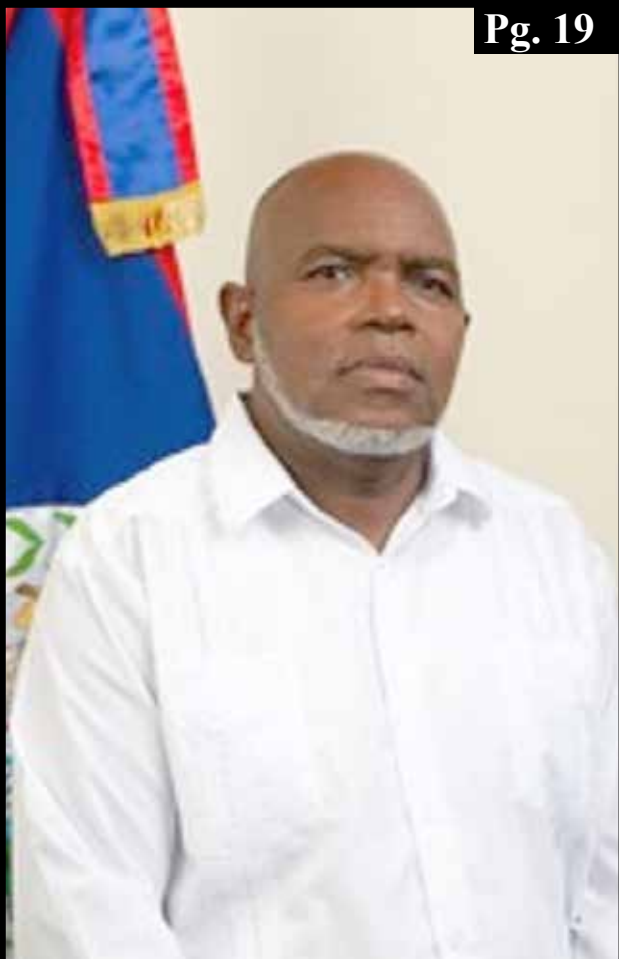


United Democratic Party's headquarters on Youth for the Future Drive in Belize City

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## Hon. Usher: 'Allow Creole Representation at the Table'

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Hon. Gilroy Usher Sr.

## 'Scheduled' Change?!

Kriol Council reassured of inclusion on Constitution Comm. even after law is passed



Pg. 4

Nat'l Kriol Council's Interim Board met Thursday night to discuss Constitution Commission.



# Of Worms

**Editor Sir:**

I really wish that I felt no need to write this letter in the public interest!

How far, how successful has the agenda to create ANCESTRAL PROPERTY RIGHTS for Mayans been legally advanced in Belize? HAS any law been legislated that would encourage the creation of a Mayan enclave? I use the word "enclave" deliberately, because it seems that KRIOLS and the UBAD Foundation deem it necessary to be included in the review and reform constitutional commission to protect their racial and cultural interests.

To me it is almost shocking that in our Belize, one of the most enlightened societies in the world concerning matters of race and culture that one of its most powerful sectors should be fearing lest their rights should be ignored or trampled.

I have always been suspicious of where this agenda of INDIGENOUS rights would take us. These might be good or useful where reservations were created to allow peaceful co-existence between natives and colonizers. However, in Belize, it seems that we have been sufficiently color blind to live and move across racial lines without riots and violence to preserve cultural and racial interests, where there have been any.

In the face of the agenda to preserve land rights in Maya villages Kriols might argue: here and there, there is evidence of Maya possession and development that prove that they were here. Pursuing the argument, they might point out that British Honduras became a viable economic proposal because the African fathers and brothers decimated rich, lush forests to prepare lumber to

beautify the mansions and houses of Europe. The colonial economy of Belize had its roots in the forests of Belize.

How many Altun Ha(s) are there in Belize. Compare how many BOOMS, CROOKED TREES, BAKING POTS there are, all over.

More worms coming out of the cans; North, South, East and West show us proof "Hispanic" (Spanish) development that are now-called COROZAL, ORANGE WALK, CAYO, SAN PEDRO, CAYE CAULKER and countless other places. So you want special entitlement for Mayas and Creoles?

Perhaps the Minister of Government in charge of the Commission should really take charge and explain:

The only entitlement that will be promoted and advanced shall be that of every single Belizean, every single person who will everlastingly enjoy the rights bequeathed to every single human person by ALMIGHTY GOD. No law or rule or provision will be allowed or created to promote personal entitlement, or cultural, or racial privilege.

The first OMBUDSMAN has made very sober submissions to continue to promote the best in the old constitution updating it to what is already presumed in the Old Preamble to make the new be enhanced by the new pillars of DIVERSITY and TOLERANCE.

Finally, NO LAW or PROVISION shall be allowed to promote any agenda that seeks to prevent the exercise of NATURAL LAW MORALITY!

**Signed: Paul Rodrigues OBE**

## Ministry of Health & Wellness to Celebrate Dental Health Week

*Belmopan, October 20, 2022. 11:50 a.m.*

Today, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise received a donation of a POKKIT Central Nucleic Acid Analyzer Machine. The machine was donated by GeneReach Biotechnology Corporation, a Taiwanese company dedicated to bringing innovation to global health management.

Valued at US\$25,000, the machine will be used

### Ministry of Agriculture Receives Nucleic Acid Analyzer

*Belmopan, October 20, 2022. 11:50 a.m.*

Today, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise received a donation of a POKKIT Central Nucleic Acid Analyzer Machine. The machine was donated by GeneReach Biotechnology Corporation, a Taiwanese company dedicated to bringing innovation to global health management.

Valued at US\$25,000, the machine will be used mainly for the detection of animal diseases such as African Swine Fever and will be housed at the Belize Agricultural Health Authority (BAHA) lab.

Hon. Jose Abelardo Mai, Minister of Agriculture, and Mrs. Zoë Roberson-Zetina, Managing Director of BAHA, received the donation from H.E. David Kuan-Chou Chien, Ambassador of the Republic of China (Taiwan) to Belize. Both Minister Mai and Ambassador Chien reiterated the expressions of the close friendship between Taiwan and Belize. Minister Mai thanked the ambassador on behalf of the Belizean people, especially from the agriculture sector, for the donation which will help tremendously with the detection and analysis of pests and diseases threatening Belize.

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### THE REPORTER

Phones: 501- 227-2503 / 227-1767

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

e-mail: [reporternewspaper@gmail.com](mailto:reporternewspaper@gmail.com)

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

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

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

**Desktop Publisher/**  
**Graphic Designer** Jackie Fuller  
**Accounts/ Advertising** Rodolfo Castro  
**Chief Printer** Leroy Bood  
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**J**ust in case you missed it, there is a fairly new brewery in Belize which has been producing beer since January last year.

It is the Caribbean International Brewery and it is located in Carmelita on the outskirts of Orange Walk Town. It's claim to fame, apart from the notoriety brought on by the late John McCaffey, who tried to take over Carmelita by force of arms, is that the only toll bridge in the country is located nearby.

The Belize New River runs through Carmelita, and it is providing a bountiful supply of fresh water for the brewery which makes three kinds of beer, Pirate Green, Pirate Blue, and Mine. The company also produces a carbonated drink called My Cola, bottled water, and packaged ice.

It has become a rival to Belize's only other beer-maker, the Belize Brewing Company, established in 1969. Di Brewry is the maker of the famous Belikin Lager and Belikin Lite, Lighthouse and Land Shark beers, Belikin Stout, Guinness Stout, Chocolate and Sorrel Stout.

Last week, a law enforcement team at the request of the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) raided the premises of the Caribbean International Brewery in Carmelita and seized \$3.1 million from its strong room. It seized also a number of passports that belonged to people working for the company.

The given reason for the raid was the premise that CIBCL may have been employing illegal aliens, a charge later upgraded to suspicion of possible money laundering and tax evasion, though no evidence has been advanced to support this theory. The Belize Central Bank has been holding the money and has declined to give it back, placing the CIBCL in a cash-crunch dilemma.

CIBCL has retained Barrow & Williams Law Firm, engaging the attention of former Prime Minister Dean Barrow, who has personally taken charge of the case. The matter is before Magistrate Court that now has to decide whether the decision to seize the money was an action justified by the circumstances.

The last time the Financial Intelligence Unit participated in a similar raid, it seized a million dollars stashed away in a suitcase and hidden under a bed in a private home in Southside Belize City. In the end, the court ordered the Central Bank to give back the money, but only after a protracted delay.

The Belize Central Bank and the FIU have enormous and wide-ranging authority when it comes to matters of money laundering. But they need to be careful that they remain fair and impartial in all that they do.

It would not take much to poison the investment climate of Belize, particularly with respect to American investors, if the Central Bank or the Financial Investment Unit were to step out of line in pursuit of their investigative work.

In this regard the words of FIU Director Kent Claire have a special relevance:

Great care must be taken, Claire said, "to ensure that the fundamental rights of businesses are preserved, including the ability to operate and continue as a going concern".

# Recall Vote for 'Shyne' Barrow!

## UDP insiders move to remove current Party Leader

*Cont'd from pg. 1* have successfully been able to acquire enough signatures to trigger a recall convention to have Barrow removed. While our source would not reveal how many signatures in total were gathered he indicated that "it is well above the threshold." which last we checked is 172 signatures or two-thirds of the UDP's 516 delegates.

According to the UDP insider, they are now awaiting word from the UDP's headquarters on a protocol for the delivery of the signatures, since they say that they are not comfortable with leaving the signatures unattended for fear of them being destroyed. Once that is worked out, the signatures will be delivered anytime between Thursday, October 20th or Friday, October 21st.

We have also been informed that there is a

move afoot to have Albert Area Representative Tracy Taegar Panton throw in her candidacy once more for the post of Party Leader at the upcoming convention. While our source also claims that Taegar has accepted the offer and that the party is planning the way forward our attempts to reach Panton was futile, as she has opted to reserve her comments "at this time."

While this latest internal turmoil within the UDP will result in another costly party convention, the fourth since former Right Hon. Dean Barrow demitted his office, it remains to be seen whether "Shyne" Barrow will survive the recall convention like Collet Area Representative Hon. Patrick Faber did last year in July by a mere 32 votes.

Our source also indicated that both old and new delegates within the party have signed on to the recall petition for Barrow

to be removed from his post as Party Leader, despite allegations of intimidation by Barrow's allies. Those reports also hinted at Barrow's leadership style as being one of the main contributing factors. There were also concerns regarding his recent refusal to have Faber remain a candidate in the Collet constituency, and the fact that he has been traveling abroad more frequently instead of attending to the needs of his people. Also cited was the major defeat that the UDP had undergone at the recent village council elections, under his tenure as party leader.

In March of this year, Shyne had emerged victorious over Panton for the leadership title by a mere 3 votes. Despite Panton's request for a recount, one was never granted and so "Shyne" Barrow has held the reigns as Party Leader since then.

# Dominican Republic to send diesel to Haiti's fuel-starved hospitals

By Brian Ellsworth

Oct 20 (Reuters) - The Dominican Republic has approved a request by a trading firm to export 20,500 gallons of diesel to Haiti for use principally in hospitals, according to letters seen by Reuters, as gangs continue blocking a key fuel terminal in Haiti.

Fuel shortages created by the gang blockade have left Haitian hospitals without diesel to power their generators, which are the only way they can ensure consistent electricity due to chronic outages in Haiti's power grid.

Most hospitals have curtailed or halted operations in recent weeks, just as the country is facing a cholera outbreak on top of a humanitarian crisis driven by shortages of food and water.

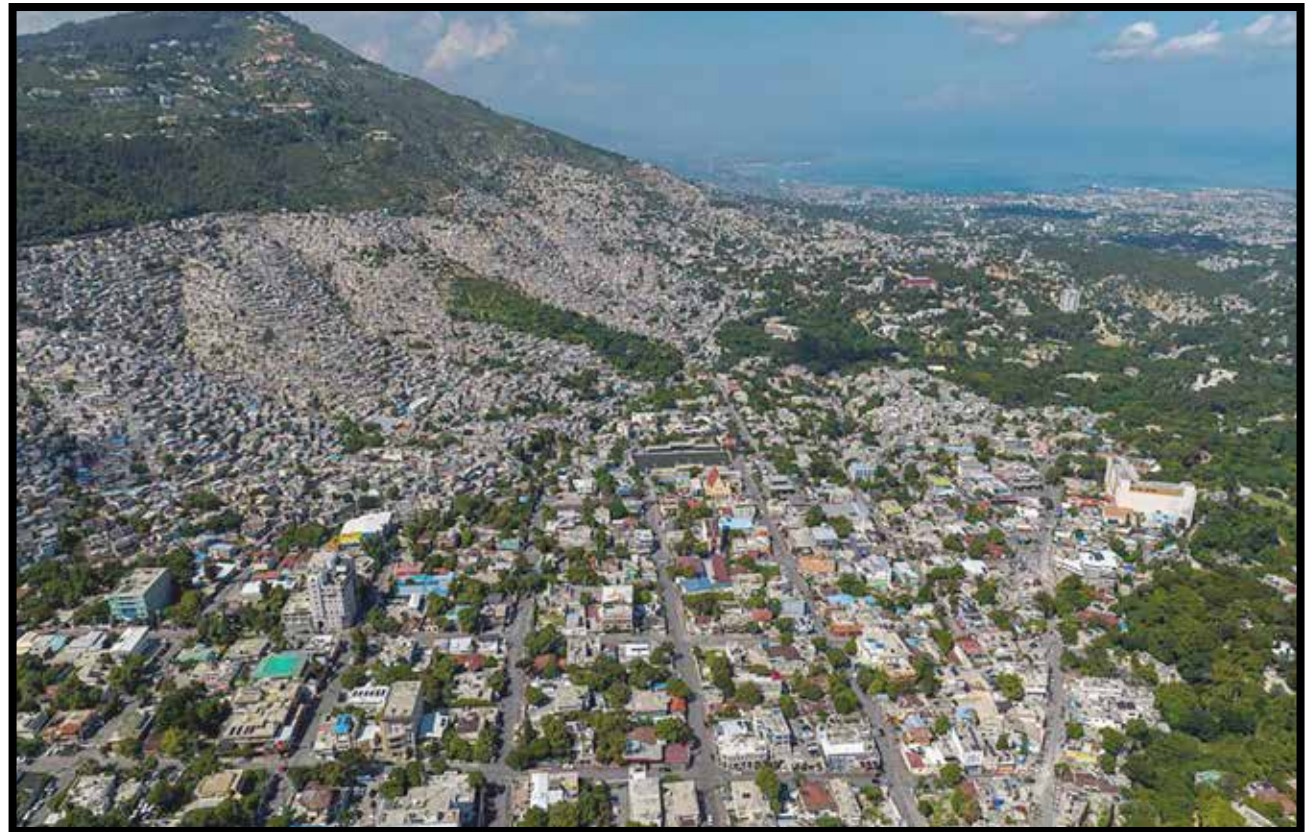
A firm called AFA Trading in an Oct. 17 letter to the Dominican

industry ministry sought permission to export the fuel via the land border between the two countries, with the intent of supplying three hospitals and one manufacturing facility.

The industry ministry approved the request in a separate letter of the same date seen by Reuters. The letters describe the operation as a re-export, indicating the fuel in question was originally imported to the Dominican Republic.

The Dominican industry ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Reuters was unable to obtain comment from AFA Trading.

Haiti is facing acute fuel shortages due to a blockade by a coalition of gangs that are demanding the resignation of Prime Minister Ariel Henry. The United Nations has discussed sending



a military force to confront the gangs and reopen the terminal.

The fuel shortages have halted almost all economic activity, grinding most transportation to a halt and forcing many hospitals to shut down or curtail their operations.

### RF&G LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY LTD.

Date: October 19, 2022

Constance Dunn of # 10 1/2 Old Northern Hwy, Ladyville, Belize District, Belize C.A. having made written declaration that Policy G7508486 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.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

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

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

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

## NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

"Notice is hereby given to all interested parties that the below company has been dissolved and struck off the International Business Companies Register.

Company Name  
VIVERO LIMITED

Date of Dissolution  
4 th day of October 2022

Alpha Consulting (Belize) Ltd.  
Registered Agent

# 'Scheduled' Change?!...

By Michelle Sutherland

The People's Constitution Commission Bill passed the Lower House on Monday without adding the National Kriol Council (NKC), but the head of Good Governance Unit Dr. Cesar Ross has, once again, reassured the NKC on Thursday that the change will be made via regulations.

"I write this short email, after meeting with the Minister, to confirm and reassure you and the Kriol Council that what we had mentioned before stands," Dr. Ross wrote NKC President Marilyn Gentle Garvin Thursday evening, October 20, 2022. "The Kriol Council ... will be part of the People's Constitution Commission."

Ross's reference to earlier communication with the NKC has to do with a Tuesday, October 11th, correspondence with the NKC President, wherein he wrote:

"To follow-up with our most recent conversation, I do want to re-state that the exclusion of the Kriol Council in the People's Constitution Commission Bill is an oversight of the Constitution and Foreign Affairs House Committee as the Cabinet had already agreed with the inclusion of the Kriol Council among others as stated by the Prime Minister on July 27th, 2022."

In the earlier email, Ross also explained that the Council could be added even after the Bill becomes law.

"Changing it now would require it going back to the House Committee

and that would delay its passing another couple months," advised Ross in his email to the NKC president. "So, we are going to recommend it to go to the House ... as is, as it allows the Minister, after passing [into law], to add or subtract from the Schedule list. The minister has committed to adding the Kriol Council, as should be."

Ross's recommendation is relying on section 4(6) of the Bill. That section authorizes Minister of Constitutional and Political Reform Hon. Henry Charles Usher to "amend the Schedule by Order published in the Gazette." The referenced Schedule is the part of the Bill that lists the members of the Commission, and would not require a vote in the National Assembly to be amended.

The Council Accepts the Proposal The Council's Interim Board met Thursday night, and have since informed The Reporter that they have decided to accept Ross's commitment. "The council looks forward to participating in the exercise of democracy, and also looks forward to the Government upholding its commitment to include the NKC," they said.

This acceptance by the interim board follows Wednesday's NKC press release in which the Council had expressed disappointment that they were not included on the Commission via an amendment in the House of Representatives.

"The Kriol

Council has proactively sought out representation on the Commission and the refusal to grant representation is an insult to Kriol people everywhere. After all the assurances given to the NKC that we would be granted representation on the Commission for the Government now to walk back from such assurances can only be and is seen as an attempt to marginalize Kriol Communities," stated the release.

Nevertheless, Thursday night's decision by the interim board signals that the Council will take the government at their word, and trust that the promised changes to the Schedule will follow, even after the law comes into force.

Representation and Membership

As the Council recently reminded, Belize has over 102,000 persons who identify as Kriols, a figure that represent just about 25 percent of the total population. According to data from the Statistical Institute of Belize, this makes the Kriol the second largest ethnic group in Belize, with Mestizo/Hispanic being the largest.

In their communication with The Reporter, the Council underscored that in the short time since moves have been made to revive the NKC, membership has grown by more than 600 percent, and continues to grow quickly.

The interim board invites persons interested in joining the council to email [nkcbelize@gmail.com](mailto:nkcbelize@gmail.com).

## FOR SALE 37.7 acres

along the Philip Goldson (Northern) Highway  
near Mile 17 1/2  
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Bordered by the BWS Feeder Road  
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Call Lawrence at phone 610-4454  
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## WESLEY COLLEGE VACANCY FOR PRINCIPAL

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

### Academic Qualifications:

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

### Professional Qualities:

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

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

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

### Salary:

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

### Prospective applicants must submit the following documents:

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

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

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

### RF&G LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY LTD.

Date: October 18, 2022

Eric Flowers of #46 St. John Street, Belize City, Belize District, Belize C.A. having made written declaration that Policy LTAN000373 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.

# Kriol Council making strides

By Britney Gordon

The National Kriol Council (NKC) is making reforms to the organization with the hopes of improving its capacity to make social contributions.

Belize's first Kriol organization was founded by Leela Vernon in Punta Gorda Town before joining forces with another Kriol Organization in Belize City to form the National Kriol Council (NKC). The council's primary objective has always been to develop the Kriol community population in Belize culturally, socially, and economically "through unity, education and the restoration of core values."

NKC's Interim Secretary Silvaana Udz told The Reporter that the council has been engaged in rearranging the



members while simultaneously planning for its upcoming general assembly meeting. The meeting is set to take place at Bird's Isle on December 10th where new and potential members will be able to congregate and participate in Kriol literacy lessons.

At present, the NKC consists of multiple interim members, who are

upholding duties until further notice. The former president Dana Rhamdas has been succeeded by Marilyn Garvin who has been a member of the NKC since 2008, where she served as treasurer. New members will also be able to run for positions in the council if they so desire, Udz clarified, explaining, "In November, we will circulate a proposed

interim board and inform all members and potential members of the process if they want to offer themselves."

Udz stated that after

the general assembly meeting, the official council members and positions will be announced on their website. "Wan wan okro ful baaskit,"

she remarked, referencing the motto of the NKC which is meant to convey the message "Little by little we will reach our goal."

## NOTICE OF COMMENCED DISSOLUTION MANGO INVESTMENTS LTD. ("the Company")

"Notice is hereby given to all interested parties that MANGO INVESTMENTS LTD. a Company incorporated under the IBC Act of Belize commenced dissolution on 5th October 2022.

And

Ms. Rea Barreau of La Louise, Mahe, Seychelles is the liquidator of the company.

**NORTHWESTERN MANAGEMENT SERVICES (BELIZE) LIMITED**  
Registered Agent

## NOTICE OF COMMENCED DISSOLUTION MODIFY GROUP LTD. ("the Company")

"Notice is hereby given to all interested parties that MODIFY GROUP LTD. a Company incorporated under the IBC Act of Belize commenced dissolution on 12th October 2022.

And

NORTHWESTERN MANAGEMENT SERVICES (BELIZE) LIMITED of New Horizon Building, Ground Floor, 31/2 Miles Philip S.W. Goldson Highway, Belize City, Belize Central America, is the liquidator of the company.

**NORTHWESTERN MANAGEMENT SERVICES (BELIZE) LIMITED**  
Registered Agent

### SIGN UP FOR THE BTB HOTEL AMNESTY PROGRAM

btb

Starting October 1st, 2022, the BTB will launch a Hotel Tax Amnesty Program for unlicensed tourist accommodation properties, as per the recently approved Accommodation Tax (Remission of Arrears) Act, 2022.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>The following categories of tourist accommodations will be eligible:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apartment or Apartment Studio</li> <li>• Condominium</li> <li>• Vacation Homes or Room Rentals</li> </ul> | <p><b>STEP 1</b> From October 1-31, 2022, all interested applicants must submit an application form during this period for vetting. The application form can be downloaded from <a href="https://bit.ly/3xVCTgH">https://bit.ly/3xVCTgH</a>. Completed forms should be submitted to the Registrar of Hotels.</p> <p><b>STEP 2</b> Once approved, to remain eligible for the amnesty, successful applicants will be required to submit a completed application form for a Hotels and Tourist Accommodation License and required documents by December 31, 2022.</p> |
|---|--|

**About the Amnesty Program:**

This amnesty program is a part of the tourism recovery strategy for Belize, encouraging in particular short-term rental properties that operate on platforms such as Airbnb, VRBO, Vacasa, Homestay, HomeToGo, etc. that have opened tourist accommodation properties in recent years to formalize their operations, avoid future legal and taxation challenges, and to become official members of the Belize tourism offer.

**Contact:**

For more information, kindly contact Mr. Denmar Villar, Registrar of Hotels, at [denmar.villar@belizetourismboard.org](mailto:denmar.villar@belizetourismboard.org).

## CAREER OPPORTUNITY

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| <p><b>QUALIFICATIONS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be deeply interested in a career in the financial market and the developing capital market industry</li> <li>• A Bachelor's degree in Economics, Finance, Mathematics, Accounting, Business, or related field of study</li> <li>• Minimum of one (1) year working experience in the financial industry would be considered an asset</li> <li>• Must be willing to relocate to the City of Belmopan</li> </ul> | <p><b>RESPONSIBILITIES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manage a portfolio of client engagements and develop presentations to solve financial and strategic challenges</li> <li>• Build complex financial spreadsheet models</li> <li>• Prepare Pitch Books and PowerPoint presentations on Private Placement Memorandum (PPM), Initial Public Offering (IPO) and Mergers and Acquisition strategies</li> <li>• Conduct market analysis of industry, economic research and surveillance of the financial sector</li> <li>• Complete various reports including the financial analyst of the performance and position of commercial banks and credit unions, Industry and Service Sector reports</li> <li>• Perform data entry, verification, and maintain advisory and investment services database</li> <li>• Attend daily team meeting to discuss current and upcoming projects</li> </ul> |
|--|---|

**KEY COMPETENCIES**

- Strong quantitative abilities combined with the ability to conduct research to resolve problems and to think creatively and outside of the box
- Strong written communication skills specifically for drafting Private Placement Memorandum (PPMs) and Prospectuses
- Knowledge of MS Office especially MS Excel working with large data sets with numerous integrated spreadsheets
- Knowledge of financial forecasting and diagnosis, corporate finance, and information analysis
- Excellent presentation skills particularly for analysis presentations
- Ability to manage time and assigned projects with thoroughness and accuracy
- Collaborator with excellent people skills with strong work ethic and a positive can-do attitude
- Willingness to work hard in a challenging fast paced environment

**SEND APPLICATIONS TO**

Email Address: [info@GloRecruitmentHR.com](mailto:info@GloRecruitmentHR.com)  
 Email Subject: Application for Junior Analyst  
 Attach: Resume and Cover Letter

Deadline: Friday, 11 November 2022

**LEGACY  
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# NWC updates Gender Policy and Action Plan

By William Ysaguirre

The 16 days of activism against Gender Based Violence are about to begin next month November 25 to December 10, and the National Women's Commission has begun to sensitize and educate the public about these burning issues.

NWC president Thea Garcia Ramirez and programme officer Eleanor Murillo presented the revised National Gender Policy 2021-2030 and Strategic Action Plan to end Gender Based Violence to the media at the Radisson Fort George Hotel in Belize City last Friday morning, October 14.

As Saturday's University of Belize graduation ceremonies at the Civic Center showed, women have more than achieved parity in educational achievements, as 70 percent of the graduates were women. Even at the secondary school level, more girls than boys are graduating, as



NWC president Thea Garcia Ramirez

many young men drop out of high school in their second or third year. But these numbers are not reflected in employment, as more men are hired than women, even when the women are better qualified academically. These are the disparities that the Commission seeks to address with the revised policy which will be presented to Cabinet later this month.

The commission indicated that they seek not so much equality for women, as the justice

and fair treatment of women that their contribution to society rightfully merits, which is equity.

The policy aims to achieve gender equity through six main priority areas in the areas of access to health care, in access to education and training in job skills, through employment and income earning, in power and decision-making by strengthening organizations and by reducing the conditions and minimizing the stressors which result in

violence against women.

The commission sees education as key to preventing gender-based violence, which seems to predominantly target women, as there are very few men who suffer gender-based violence.

They plan to use education to address the problem at the source, as prevention is better than cure, and well educated men are less likely to attack women. Education is also the portal for women to escape being vulnerable to domestic violence, as employment and economic empowerment reduces the likelihood that they will enter into a relationship or put themselves in a situation where they may suffer

abuse.

Their aim is to achieve gender equity and end discrimination against women and girls in Belize, in line with the United Nations' sustainable development goals (SDGs) for 2030. The six priorities follow from Belize's international commitments to several UN conventions, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the Convention of Belem do Para, the Beijing Platform for Action and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

Belizean women have made great strides in

rising to management positions, and even the judiciary, but have yet to achieve any sort of parity in the legislature. There are only four elected women members of the House of Representatives, of 31 members and the Speaker of the House makes five. The Senate has greater parity: six of the 13 Senators are women. In Mexico, women addressed this disparity by a quota system requiring that political parties need to have at least 30 percent women on the ballot. The NWC has yet to suggest such a reform to Cabinet, as this would require an amendment to Laws and perhaps even the Constitution of Belize.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Vacancy exists for a Chef to work at the residence of U.S. Ambassador Michelle Kwan.

Successful candidate will be required to obtain a security clearance and undergo a medical examination.

### BASIC FUNCTION OF THE CHEF POSITION:

Duties include but are not limited to planning, budgeting, shopping, preparing and presenting a variety of meal services for the residence and for events of 2 to 200 guests. With an understanding of nutritional balance and essential elements, the Chef's repertoire must include a diverse and wide range of cooking styles and meal types, including appetizers for receptions, baked goods, desserts, and the ability to create vegetarian/vegan meals and cater to gluten sensitivities. The Chef will also be required to maintain expense records for each event or function, create menus, manage inventory, and assure the highest standards of safety, cleanliness, and proper food preparation and storage. The Chef is required to plan menus in advance and carry out the actual purchasing of supplies and ingredients necessary to produce the dishes reflected in the set menus. All responsibilities shall be completed on time, with integrity and honesty, and in a manner representing the highest U.S. standards of customer service.

### QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED:

- At least three years of culinary experience in a hotel/restaurant setting is required
- Associate Degree or completion of culinary/catering certificate program or in the absence of an Associate Degree, five years of culinary experience in a hotel or restaurant setting
- Must have a fluent command of reading, writing, and speaking English, and the ability to follow recipes and cooking instructions of varying complexity
- Must have initiative, good interpersonal skills and flexibility


### WHO MAY APPLY:





Applicants must be in possession of a Belize social security card valid for employment and/or a resident/work permit, and be eligible for appointment under Belize's local laws.

### HOW TO APPLY:

Interested candidates must submit a letter of application, current résumé, two references and all other applicable supporting documentation by email to [BelmopanJobs@state.gov](mailto:BelmopanJobs@state.gov).

All applications must include in the subject line the position they are applying for (eg: **Employment Application for Chef position**). Incomplete applications will not be considered. For a complete copy of the position description listing all duties and responsibilities, please send an email to [BelmopanJobs@state.gov](mailto:BelmopanJobs@state.gov) or call at 822-4011, Ext. 4231. The deadline for submitting applications is **Sunday, October 30th, 2022**.



## JOIN A GREAT TEAM!

We are looking for an innovative, collaborative and strategic leader to join our team as:

### Commercial Director

**WHAT WILL YOU BE RESPONSIBLE FOR?**



Develop and lead a competitive retail sales and business development strategies in collaboration with key stakeholders of the business to ensure sustainable profitable growth and customer service excellence.

**REQUIRED SKILLS & EXPERIENCE**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MBA or other business related degree, at the Master's level</li> <li>• Minimum of five (5) years senior leadership experience in retail or a similar industry</li> <li>• Proven management experience at a senior, strategic level</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong analytical and problem solving skills proven in a high-stakes environment</li> <li>• Strong people management with the ability to influence</li> <li>• Creative and resourceful in problem solving and managing priorities</li> </ul> |
|--|---|

**APPLY BY SENDING YOUR RESUME TO:**  
[tania\\_requena@unicomer.com](mailto:tania_requena@unicomer.com)  
 Deadline: November 4th, 2022

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# BHS students win Gold at First Global robotics challenge

By William Ysaguirre

Five students of Belize High School made academic history, when they won the gold medal competing against teams from 161 other countries at the First Global robotics challenge competition held in Geneva, Switzerland from Thursday to Sunday, October 13-16.

Benny He, Justin Zhou, Melysa Choi, Tristan Bradley and Jaden Chen topped the podium when they teamed up with teams from Botswana, Lithuania



The students triumphed over teams from 161 other countries at the 1st Robotics Challenge.

students were tasked to design and build a robot which would capture and store carbon molecules, symbolized by small plastic balls. After competing in practice rounds in the first two days of the challenge, the teams moved on to the ranking competition in the last two days.

It was a once in a lifetime experience for Justin Zao and Tristan Bradley who are both 16-year old seniors at BHS, now in their second year of studying Information Technology. Jaden Chen is 17, and he has been involved with computers from primary school. Benny He recognizes the impact technology is having in every aspect of our daily lives, and the advantage that learning IT skills will give him in his later career. Melysa Choi, 15, is a junior in her first year studying IT at BHS, but they all recognize the asset that the First Global win will be on their resume, when they apply for university admission.

This was the first time the First Global robotics challenge had been held with face to face participation, since BHS students had also competed in the First Global challenge in Mexico City in mid August 2018. During the pandemic, the Challenge competition was held virtually. It was the culmination of months of preparation, as the students had previously competed virtually in an online competition in April this year, by building a robot and submitting a video of the robot as it executed a series of tasks. They had ranked 12th in that competition, in which Algeria won first place.

Next year's First Global challenge will focus on using artificial intelligence for industry innovation and participants will learn how to use computer vision, using technology that imitates the way the human eye processes visual information, to help a robot navigate an obstacle course.

and Switzerland to score the highest for the final medal round, after scoring 874 points in the playoffs. The contest emphasized a team effort of partnering with teams from other countries, to simulate the way the people of the world must also partner, overcoming language barriers to fight a common threat - Climate Change.

First Global Challenge is an annual event in which students must use their skills in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) to solve real world problems. This year's competition focused on the international cooperation required to reduce the effects of greenhouse gases, by sequestering carbon to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Therefore individual country teams had to partner with teams from other countries, so they might learn to work together. Fortunately there was no language barrier, as English is the international language of computer and information technologists. Teams from different countries, even different continents, were able to communicate effectively, as all members of all teams spoke at least a smattering of English, even if they were not perfectly fluent.

For the purpose of the robotics challenge, the



**CAREER OPPORTUNITY**



**ASR GROUP | BELIZE SUGAR**

**Belize Sugar Industries Ltd.**

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

**Mechanical Engineer Trainee**

Tower Hill, Orange Walk District

The **Mechanical Engineer Trainee** works to make ideas come to life. Individuals are developed over a two year period to assist in continuous improvement of production processes for high sugar quality, to develop and maintain machinery and equipment and to design and construct factory infrastructure.

**Skills and Competencies:**

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

**Qualifications and Experience**

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

**Summary of Duties and Responsibilities:**

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

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

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



**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION FORM AND ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS IS OCTOBER 27, 2022.**

# GOB launches Belize Sustainable Ocean Plan

By William Ysaguirre

Belize aims for 30 percent of its seas to be designated as marine protected areas and no-take zones by the year 2026, as part of the National Sustainable Ocean Plan which the Ministry of Blue Economy and Civil Aviation launched at the Best Western Biltmore Hotel on Belize City on Wednesday morning, October 19. The ministry will also develop management plans for these protected areas by the year 2029.

The plan will provide a framework of guidelines, “a blueprint”, by which all future projects for development will be evaluated to determine if they are feasible, and how they may need to be modified to be in line with Belize’s long term development goals, explained Director Beverly Wade of the Blue Bond and Finance Permanence Unit.

The plan fulfills Belize’s commitment as part under the Blue Bond Loan Agreement and conservation agreement which the government signed with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) last November, which specified how the US\$364 million debt from the ‘superbond’ would be used for marine conservation, Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño explained in his keynote address. He noted happily that not only was the unprecedented Blue Bond the largest single ‘debt for nature’ swap of its kind, it has prompted other small island states to follow Belize’s example, as Barbados has also launched its ‘Blue Bond’.

Belize’s economy is based on our natural wealth, the Belize Barrier Reef is internationally acknowledged to be the largest in the

western hemisphere and is the prime attraction of the tourism industry which earns 60 percent of our foreign exchange. The reef is also an important nursery for all the commercial species presently exploited by the fisheries sector. Belize has a duty to protect these ecosystems which protect our shores against violent storms and ensure our climate resilience. For this reason, the government has designated all coastal mangrove areas as part of the forest areas to be protected under the TNC agreement.

The objective is to protect the way of life of all Belizean people whose livelihoods depend on the sea, Ministry of Blue Economy Hon. Andre Perez affirmed. The plan is to stimulate growth and make full use of Belize’s marine resources in its exclusive economic zone by helping fishermen to fish in the deep blue sea outside the reef.

Belize cannot have its cake and eat it too, and everyone will not be able to get everything they want, explained TNC’s program director Julie Robinson. There will have to be some compromises, so that Belizeans who live along the coast may continue to enjoy our marine wealth for many future generations.

The plan is to consult with all interested parties of the coastal communities, for a head count to map out all the people who will be affected and for the plan to take into account, explained TNC’s engagement specialist Nidia Chacon. These include not only fishermen and tourism professionals, but also conservationists, marine research scientists, Coast Guard and fisheries

enforcement officers, as well as counterparts in neighboring countries.

Technical working groups will need to be formed for the various topics of concern: energy, finance, tourism, fisheries, shipping, marine and coastal ecosystems administration, and the legal framework, explained Chief executive officer Chantalle Samuels of the Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute (CZMAI). The laws will need to be changed and enforced, and the public will need to be informed when, how and why.



The Nature Conservancy Program Director Julie Robinson



## **REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST INDIVIDUAL CONSULTING SERVICES**

**Institution:** Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing  
**Country:** Belize  
**Project:** Climate Vulnerability Reduction Program (CVRP)  
**Sector:** Infrastructure, Environment and Natural Disasters  
**Abstract:** Individual Consulting Services – Climate Risk Financing Strategy for the Tourism and Agriculture Sectors  
**Loan/Credit/Grant No.:** 4616/OC-BL  
**Deadline:** November 3rd, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. (Local Belize Time)

The Government of Belize has received financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), towards the cost of the Climate Vulnerability Reduction Program (CVRP) and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services (“the Services”) include the contracting of an Individual Consultant for a four (4) month period who will be responsible for developing a **Climate Risk Financing Strategy for the Tourism and Agriculture Sectors in Belize**. The overall objective of the consultancy is to a.) assess opportunities for introducing climate risk financing strategies in Belize’s tourism sector to strengthen resilience to climate change and to formalize a strategy and implementation plan that will reduce financial vulnerability of the sector in the face of climate change and b.) design a climate risk management financial product geared specifically to small and medium-scale farmers as part of the country’s climate risk financing strategy for the agricultural sector.

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

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Inter-American Development Bank: **Policies for the Selection and Contracting of Consultants financed by the Inter-American Development Bank (GN-2350-15, January 2020)** – Section V, 5.2 Selection of Individual Consultants based on Comparison of Qualifications of International Individual Consultants. Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours:

**Program Management Unit**  
 #1 Power Lane, Belmopan, Cayo  
**Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**  
**Tel: 501-822-0100/1942**  
**Email: [pmupcmow@gmail.com](mailto:pmupcmow@gmail.com), [cvrp.4426.3@gmail.com](mailto:cvrp.4426.3@gmail.com) or [procurement.officer.midh@gmail.com](mailto:procurement.officer.midh@gmail.com)**

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by **2:00 p.m. (Local Belize Time) on November 3rd, 2022.**

**Attn: Mr. Rolando Chan**  
**Program Coordinator**  
**Program Management Unit**  
**#1 Power Lane, Belmopan**  
**Cayo District, Belize**  
**Tel: 501-822-0100/1942**  
**E-mail: [pmupcmow@gmail.com](mailto:pmupcmow@gmail.com), [cvrp.4426.3@gmail.com](mailto:cvrp.4426.3@gmail.com) or [procurement.officer.midh@gmail.com](mailto:procurement.officer.midh@gmail.com)**

# Local Economist: Belizeans need to do more to lessen global inflation shock!

By Michelle Sutherland

As inflation is increasing very rapidly to become the leading global concern of 2022, local economist Phillip Castillo told *The Reporter* that Belizeans should not only be concerned about this phenomenon but also need to start exploring ways in which they can minimize the impact on the small import-dependent nation.

In his explanation to us, Castillo pointed out that even with the ongoing war in Ukraine, which has driven up fuel prices across the world, there is another looming factor on the horizon: the approaching winter



a certain quantity of goods and services. So once the prices of goods and services are increasing, it then means that we still have the Belizean dollar, but it gives us less command over goods and services. What we say then is that the real income has decreased; it is your same money income but the actual purchases that can be made from that money are decreased, so it will affect us."

When asked about the steps that the Government can take to assist the Belizeans through these rough times, Castillo advised that they need to focus on stabilization policies as much as possible and look at ways in which they can keep the prices stable for the poor and middle class. He also commended the Government's ongoing bread subsidy program, saying that those geared towards assisting the poorer household must be maintained as much as possible.

"Subsidies are good and bad, meaning that if the price of bread is being subsidized for the poor, then somebody will have to pay the subsidy and the 'somebody' that is paying is the government. We the taxpayers are also the government," said Castillo.

A recent survey conducted by Ipsos, which interviewed 20,000 adults, revealed that 50 percent of them had considered the pandemic a chief concern in January 2021. However, that figure has now fallen to 12 percent. Inflation now follows the opposite trend, with only 8 percent of adults stating it was the main concern in September 2020, and now rising to a whopping 40 percent.

While there is no clear-cut study or survey being done in Belize to gauge the reactions of Belizeans, it is evident from the talk on the streets, in the grocery stores, and even at the gas stations that Belizeans are feeling the pinch of the skyrocketing global inflation.

season in countries in Europe. The colder weather is also expected to increase the demand for fuel, a fact that is likely to push up fuel prices. He explained that these are only two examples of external factors that are out of our control, and there are still several things that Belizeans can do to ease the burden.

"What we can do and what we ought to do is plant more of our own food and try as much as possible to eat what we have grown, this will provide us with a sort of shield to whatever events are occurring outside of Belize," Castillo indicated.

Even as larger countries such as Europe, the United States, and even Britain are reporting high inflation rates in certain sectors. Castillo warned that Belize will not escape the rippling effects of this since Belize is so heavily dependent on importing goods from these countries. For that matter, Castillo is warning that the country's current inflation, which, according to the latest SIB data, stands at around 10% can spiral even higher, and as such that Belizeans need to be concerned about global inflation and how that will trickle down to them locally.

"Inflation decreases our purchasing power, our dollar is spent at 2 to 1, and the Belizean dollar commands over



**NATIONAL KRIOL COUNCIL**  
"WAN WAN OKRO FUL BAASKIT"

19 October, 2022

## Press Release

The National Kriol Council (NKC) expresses its great disappointment and disbelief at the announcement by the Prime Minister that the NKC would not in fact be represented on the People's Constitution Commission. The National Kriol Council has made representation both in writing and by attending the Constitution and Foreign Affairs Committee meeting on the proposed Bill.

Subsequent to these representations, on July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Prime Minister John Briceño publicly stated that the National Kriol Council would be given representation. At the time, we were quite pleased with this decision. Subsequently, the National Kriol Council submitted the names of Attorney-at-law, Anthony Sylvester and University of Belize lecturer, Adelia Young as our representatives to the Commission.

Prior to the presentation of the People's Constitution Bill to the House of Representative for its second reading, the Council was notified that it was not included in the revised schedule of the Bill. The Council then reached out to Mr. Cesar Ross, Director of the Good Governance Unit, who explained in an email dated October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022 that the exclusion was an oversight of the Constitution and Foreign Affairs Committee, since Cabinet had already agreed to the inclusion of the National Kriol Council as was also stated by the Prime Minister on July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022. He further explained that changing the Bill "...would require it going back to the House Committee and would delay its passing another couple months, so we are going to recommend it go to the house this Friday (October 14<sup>th</sup>) as is, as it allows the Minister, after passing to add/subtract from the schedule list. The Minister has committed to adding the Kriol Council as should be." The Council was not pleased with the oversight, but agreed to the proposal by Mr. Ross.

Therefore, we received the news of the exclusion of the National Kriol Council by Prime Minister John Briceño at the sitting of the House of Representatives on Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022 with disbelief. There are approximately 102,000 persons who identify as Kriol living in Belize and given the immense contributions of Belizean of Kriol decent to the development of Belize, it is unconscionable that this group of Belizean can be excluded from such an important democratic process. The Kriol Council has proactively sought out representation on the Commission and the refusal to grant representation is an insult to Kriol people everywhere. After all the assurances given to the NKC that we would be granted representation on the Commission for the Government now to walk back from such assurances can only be and is seen as an attempt to marginalize Kriol Communities.

We therefore call on the Government of Belize to honor its commitment to the NKC and to take urgent measures to amend the schedule to the People's Constitutional Commission Act to include the NKC. Furthermore, we call for the inclusion of any group who have actively sought representation to the Commission. To do so, would be the democratic thing to do and help with achieving the goal of reviewing, amending or repealing a constitution that reflects the desires of all Belizeans.

- END -

# ASR-BSI and BSCFA seek mediator for Cane Purchase Agreement

By William Ysaguirre

Belize Sugar Industries Ltd (ASR/BSI) and the Belize Sugar Cane Farmers Association (BSCFA) are seeking a mediator to negotiate a sugar cane purchase agreement before the next crop begins in the third week December, ASR/BSI Financial Director Shawn Chavarria announced at an ASR event in Guinea Grass Village on Tuesday morning, October 18.

Chavarria said they are presently working out the terms of reference for the mediator, and then they will short-list a group of suitable candidates to identify someone who can bring them

to a compromise, to which both sides can agree.

The lack of a proper commercial agreement delayed the start of 2021-22 crop by several weeks, until Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño intervened and worked out a compromise, whereby both sides agreed to extend the previous agreement to the end of the 2022 harvest. The longstanding formula had a 65-35 split of the proceeds from the sales of all sugar and molasses produced by BSI. The cane farmers would get 65 percent, and this sum when divided by the total tonnage of sugar cane delivered to the Tower Hill Factory, yielded



ASR-BSI Financial Director Shawn Chavarria

the cane price per tonne.

Then, the farmers asked that this agreement be revised to include a payment for the bagasse which is a by-product of the milling process,

which fuels the Belize Cogeneration Ltd (BELCOGEN) facility, and this became a major sticking point in the negotiations for a new commercial agreement in 2013. The company balked at the suggestion, as the farmers had not stepped up to help the company borrow USD\$62 million to build the BELCOGEN plant, rated to produce 13.5 megawatts of power, making Belize more self-sufficient in renewable energy. But eventually a

compromise payment was reached, of 50 cents per tonne of cane with the first bagasse payments made in 2014.

Now, the BSCFA argues that their costs of cane production have skyrocketed as the COVID pandemic and increases in shipping rates have raised the price of fuel, fertilizer and other inputs, such that the present sugar cane price that ASR-BSI is offering will barely cover their cost to deliver the cane to the factory, and leave them with no actual earnings to feed their families.

Meanwhile, ASR-BSI argues that they also have debts to pay, as the company has invested USD\$30 million in upgrading the factory equipment with all stainless steel pipes and machinery to produce "plantation white" direct consumption sugar, which is more profitable as it fetch a higher price when sold to CARICOM, than raw sugar sold

on the world market, particularly after Belize lost all preferential quotas with the EU and the UK in 2017. ASR also invested \$30 million in a new bulk storage facility at Big Creek Port to simplify shipping logistics, and achieve lower shipping rates by exporting sugar in a larger vessel. ASR also invested \$10 million in three cooling towers to reduce the environmental impact of its effluent waters on the New River.

The farmers have challenged certain costs which the company has added to its accounting of the cost of producing sugar, particularly direct consumption sugars. They have requested an independent audit of these charges and also of BELCOGEN's earnings from sale of electricity produced from their bagasse. So far the company has resisted this questioning of their accounts and it is hoped that the mediator can help resolve these issues.

## ASR-BSI introduces 11 climate resistant sugarcane varieties

By William Ysaguirre

American Sugar Refiners – Belize Sugar Industries Ltd (ASR-BSI) introduced 11 new, climate resilient, sugarcane varieties to the Belize Sugar Cane Farmers Association (BSCFA) at launch ceremony in one of the test fields outside Guinea Grass Village

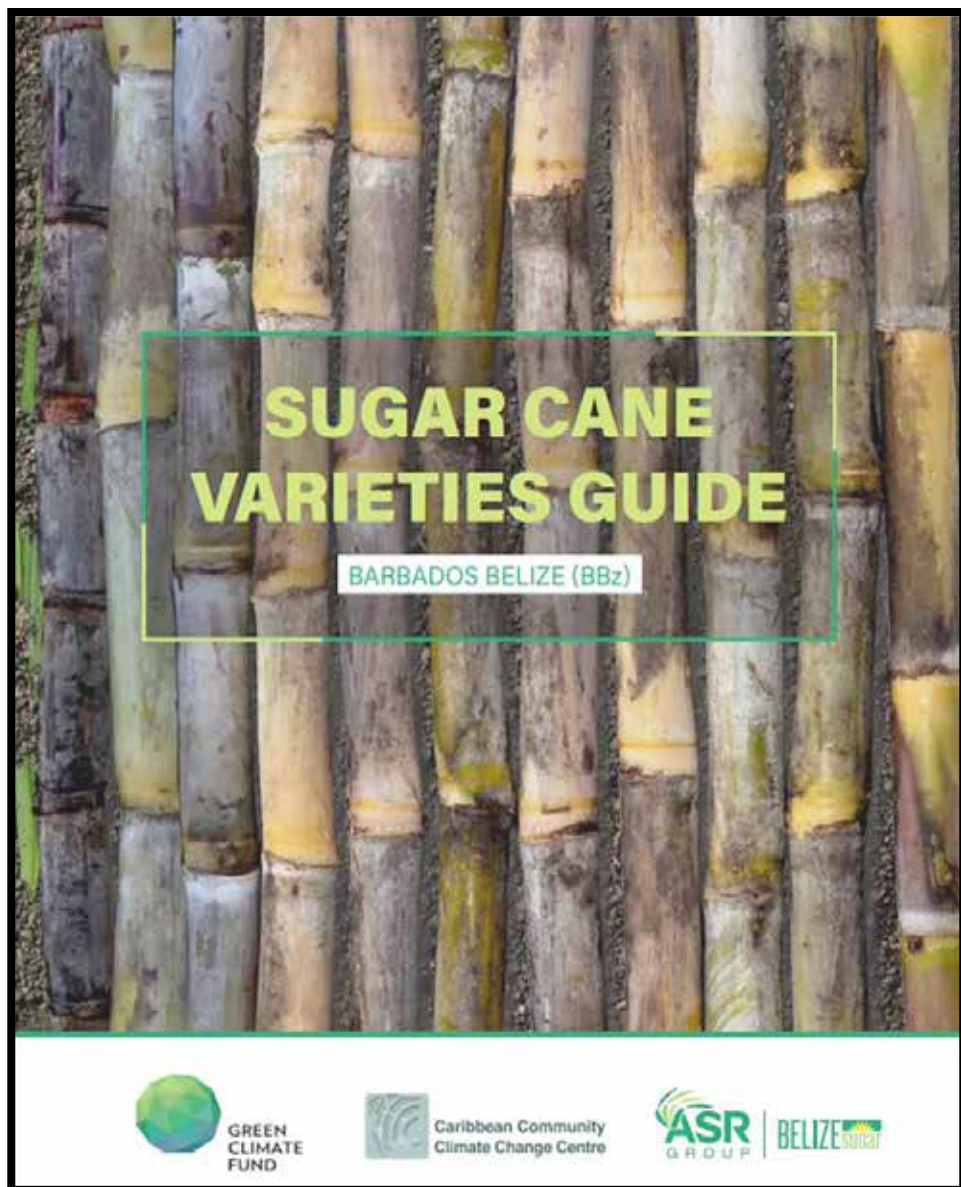
on Tuesday, October 18th.

These 11 varieties are the end result of two years of testing to identify which are best suited to Belize's soil and climate, and which will be resistant to drought, diseases such as cane smut, leaf rust, ratoon stunting diseases (RSD), and insect pests like the froghopper

and stem borers, explained research scientist Adrian Zetina of the Sugar Industry Research and Development Institute (SIRDI).

Presently, over 70 percent of all sugar cane grown in Belize is the B79 variety first introduced in 1979, and it is important to diversify to include other varieties, as

Cont'd on pg. 11



### Magistracy Department Attorney General's Ministry

# 1 Treasury Lane, Belize City Telephone: (501) 227-4587 or 227-6262

#### VACANCY NOTICE

Suitably qualified persons are invited to submit applications to fill the position of:

### CHIEF MAGISTRATE

The Chief Magistrate is responsible for the lower judiciary, both administratively and legally, throughout the country of Belize.

#### Applicants Must:

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

**Salary:** Pay Scale 25 (LLB and CLE)  
\$47,624 x 1,644 - \$78,860

**Experience:** 5 Years in Supervisory/Management level  
10 Years in the Legal field

#### Analysis of the Position:

- Adjudicate criminal, civil, family, and preliminary inquiries.
- Serves as Coroner and Revising officer.
- Financial Manager for all positions that fall under the Magistracy Department countrywide
- Manage the Vote/Financial Matters of the Magistracy Department.
- Prepare Memorandum of Reasons for Decisions in a timely manner.
- Attends conferences, workshops, and training in relation to capacity building of the Magistracy.
- Assists with the training needs of the department as required.
- Prepares appeals as required.
- Perform duties as the Accounting Officer for the Magistracy Department.
- Prepares statistics and reports as required.
- Must be computer literate with word processing proficiency.
- Is accountable to the Chief Justice, Solicitor General and the Judicial and Legal Services Commission.

Interested persons are asked to apply in writing to:

The Secretary, Judicial and Legal Services Commission  
Ground Floor, Sir. Edney Cain Building  
Thru' the Office of the Solicitor General  
Attorney General's Ministry  
Belmopan City, Cayo District, Belize Central America  
Telephone Number: 822-2504 or 822-0519  
Email Address: [agsecretary@agm.gov.bz](mailto:agsecretary@agm.gov.bz)

Deadline for receipt of applications: **December 20th, 2022**

**Please Note:** Only suitable qualified applicants will be acknowledged. The Commission is not bound to make an appointment from among those persons who apply.



# Parent Company for Mine Beer Deliberating Shut Down Following Multi-Agency Raid

By Michelle Sutherland

The now famous Caribbean International Brewery Company Limited (CIBC), manufacturer of the famous Mine Beer and other associated beer products, now find themselves in a very precarious situation where they say that they are either forced to close down their factory or continue production at a contracted, following a multi-agency raid at their factory in Carmelita Village over two weeks ago.

On October 10th, the company for the first time, released a statement to the public on what they are now referring to as an “unlawful attack” on their business by elements of the Police, Immigration, Labour, and Anti Trafficking in Persons Unit, which led to the seizure of \$3.1 million in company’s funds. Money that the company says that they

are now attempting to get back through the courts after the Financial Intelligence Unit had made an application to the courts to seize the money for a period of three months while investigations into its origins are ongoing.

The company says that they now feel that they are being dragged through the legal system and that it is their opinion that “there are elements at work here, whose mission is to destroy our company. As a result of our money being seized, operations were temporarily halted, and we now have multiple challenges. We are now faced with the difficult decision to either shut the factory down or take steps to ensure that we continue production at a contracted pace. We will either have to engage lenders which will result in us paying

high-interest rates on borrowed money, lay off workers, or ask them to take a pay cut until we can resolve this matter.”

The company indicated that on the day of the raid, the previously mentioned entities had stormed the company’s headquarters under the guise of looking for undocumented workers. However, while searching they came across proceeds of sales and called in the Financial Intelligence Unit. The company also took aim at the Belize Police Department for releasing the total amount that was seized

to the public and says that it puts them in danger of being singled out by thieves in the future. While CIBC says they have suffered a major blow to their operations and reputations they operate legally and have nothing to hide or be ashamed of.

The Orange Walk Magistrate Court is expected to hand down a decision as early as next week as it relates to the money. During the raid, 14 Chinese nationals were also detained for immigration offenses. The company has been in operation for a little over a year and 10 months.



Mine Beer producers are weighing options.

## ASR-BSI introduces 11 climate resistant sugarcane varieties

Cont’d from pg. 10

it is not good to have “all your eggs

in one basket”, Zetina cautioned. The results would be catastrophic if some new disease were to appear to which the B79 were susceptible.

Having drought-resistant varieties is important, Zetina emphasized, as Belize’s climate is not what it was 50 years ago, both in terms of temperature and rainfall. This was witnessed most recently when the 2019 drought resulted in a 30 percent decrease in cane production, which fell from 1.317 million tonnes milled in the 2018-19 crop with 144,000 tonnes of sugar produced, to only 893,662 tonnes of cane delivered for the 2019-20 crop.

There followed 2020 which was one of the wettest years on record, when hurricanes Eta and Iota dumped rainfall in Belize that reduced the sucrose content of the cane and delayed the

ripening of the cane, and the start of crop. Eventually, 1.22 million tonnes of cane were delivered in 2020-21, but sugar production was less. The Tonnes Cane per Tonne Sugar (T.C.T.S.) was higher, because the sugar content in the cane was less, it had more water.

ASR-BSI invested matching funds for the research for which SIRD I obtained a USD\$160,000 grant from the Green Climate Fund (GCF). This was in preparation for a project “Building Climate Adaptive Capacity of Sugar Cane Farmers in Northern Belize”, explained Ryan Zuniga of the Caribbean Community Climate Change Center (CCCCC).

Economist Leroy Martinez, the Belize focal point for the Green Climate Fund, said the objective is to apply for a USD\$20 million

grant from the GCF to for seed nurseries to plant the new varieties to produce the cane seed which will be distributed to the farmers in the coming years.

Identifying sugar cane varieties best suited to Belize is a time consuming process, as the BSI Research Station has been testing new cane varieties from the 1970’s. Belize is a member of the West Indies Central Sugar Cane Breeding Station and receives about 30,000 new varieties annually, and the usual testing process begins with about 15,000 varieties, which were narrowed down over a period of 15 years, to a dozen varieties best suited to Belize. Presently, BSI tests cane varieties in three sites: one only three miles away from the Tower Hill factory, and in the Hill View and Guinea Grass areas, which are each about six miles from the factory.



### Magistracy Department Attorney General’s Ministry

# 1 Treasury Lane, Belize City Telephone: (501) 227-4587 or 227-6262

#### VACANCY NOTICE

Suitable qualified applicants are invited to fill the positions of:

### MAGISTRATES

**Applicants Must:**

- be in possession of Bachelor’s in Law (LLB)
- be in possession of Continuing Legal Education (CLE)

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

**Age Limit:** 25-49

**Analysis of the Position:**

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

Interested persons are asked to apply in writing to:

The Secretary, Judicial and Legal Services Commission  
Ground Floor, Sir. Edney Cain Building  
Thru’ the Office of the Solicitor General  
Attorney General’s Ministry  
Belmopan City, Cayo District, Belize Central America  
Telephone Number: 822-2504 or 822-0519  
Email Address: [agsecretary@agm.gov.bz](mailto:agsecretary@agm.gov.bz)

Deadline for receipt of applications: December 20th, 2022

Note: Only suitable qualified applicants will be acknowledged.





## REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

### Individual Consultancy Project Support Officer

**Institution:** Ministry of Finance  
**Country:** BELIZE  
**Project:** Strengthening of Tax Administration Project  
**Sector:** Finance  
**Project No.:** BL-L10315  
**Operation No:** 4839/OC-BL  
**Deadline:** Friday, November 4th, 2022, at 4:00 pm local Belize time

The Government of Belize (GoB) has entered into a US\$ 14 Million Loan Contract Agreement (No. 4839/OC-BL) with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for the execution of a five-year tax modernization project entitled "Strengthening of Tax Administration". The main beneficiaries of the Project are: (a) the Government, which will have more revenues to implement its public policies; (b) taxpayers, who will have more support and a digital environment to fulfill their tax obligations; and (c) the population, from the government policies implemented. The Ministry intends to apply a part of the proceeds towards payments for the services of **Project Support Officer**.

The objective of the position is to provide general administrative and clerical support to the PEU in compliance with IDB and national regulations.

The Project Support Officer is responsible for the overall daily affairs of the PEU as it pertains to the effective and successful completion of the various activities under the project portfolio of the Ministry of Finance (MoF) and ensuring that all Projects' activities are executed in accordance with the applicable MoF and the Bank's requirements.

#### The main responsibilities of the Project Support officer include, among others:

- Provide secretarial services for the PEU.
- Provide clerical services for the PEU.
- Work closely with the project team in coordination of a wide range of activities in order to meet project and organizational objectives, targets and demands.
- Work closely with the project team to ensure that internal and external policies and procedures are followed.
- Maintaining an adequate filing system for the PEU records, including the payment records, among others.

#### Qualification and Experience Requirements:

**Education:** Associate degree in Business Administration, Public Administration or related fields. Participation in relevant courses/trainings in fields of project management, Microsoft Project, time-management, computer skills, Microsoft Office would also be considered an asset.

**General Experience:** A minimum of two (2) years general working experience.

#### Specific Experience:

- A minimum of one (1) year of work experience in performing administrative support services and/or secretarial duties.
- One (1) year experience working with SmartStream system is considered an asset.
- One (1) year experience working with international or national development agencies is considered an asset.
- One (1) year experience working with Microsoft Project is considered an asset.

**Skills:** (a) knowledge of records management is an asset; (b) Have excellent computer skills, including Microsoft Office; (c) task orientated and able to prioritize projects, multitask and meet tight deadlines; (d) fluent in written and spoken English with the ability to express data in a concise and clear manner; (e) team player and possess strong self-motivation and initiative; (f) professional, honest and display strong business ethics and integrity.

Consultants will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Inter-American Development Bank: ***Policies for the Selection and Contracting of Consultants financed by the Inter-American Development Bank GN-2350-15 section 5*** – individual consultants and is open to all eligible candidates as defined in the IDB policies.

#### Expression of Interest package should contain:

- Cover letter briefly explaining interest, experience, and competence of the consultant
- Comprehensive resume with the Individual Consultant's experience in the assignment of similar nature. Description of similar assignments specifying start and end dates of assignments. *Please provide dates, name of employing organization, titles of positions held, types of activities performed and location of the assignment.*
- Copy of degrees/certificates
- List of at least two references
- Proof of nationality: copy of documentation of nationality

Interested individuals may obtain further information and request the full Terms of Reference for this post at the address below during the hours of **8:00 am to 4:00 pm local Belize time, Monday to Friday**.

Qualified Individual Consultant must submit their expression of interest via e-mail to [Michelle.Longsworth@bts.gov.bz](mailto:Michelle.Longsworth@bts.gov.bz) no later than **4:00 p.m., Friday, November 4th, 2022**, marked **STAP- Project Support Officer** in the subject header; or applicants may also submit a hardcopy at the following address:

**Director General**  
**Belize Tax Service**  
**Strengthening of Tax Administration Project**  
**Eleanor Hall Building**  
**Lake I. Boulevard, Belize City**

**For clarifications kindly contact:**

**Procurement Specialist**  
**Strengthening of Tax Administration Project**  
**Ministry of Finance**  
**Eleanor Hall Building**  
**Lake I. Boulevard, Belize City**  
**Email:** [tamara.tingling@mof.gov.bz](mailto:tamara.tingling@mof.gov.bz)



## REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

### Individual Consultant Project Coordinator

**Institution:** Ministry of Finance  
**Country:** BELIZE  
**Project:** Strengthening of Tax Administration Project  
**Sector:** Finance  
**Project No.:** BL-L1031  
**Operation No:** 4839/OC-BL  
**Deadline:** Friday, November 4th, 2022, at 4:00 pm local Belize time

The Government of Belize (GoB) has entered into a US\$ 14 Million Loan Contract Agreement (No. 4839/OC-BL) with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for the execution of a five-year tax modernization project entitled "Strengthening of Tax Administration". The main beneficiaries of the Project are: (a) the Government, which will have more revenues to implement its public policies; (b) taxpayers, who will have more support and a digital environment to fulfill their tax obligations; and (c) the population, from the government policies implemented. The Ministry intends to apply a part of the proceeds towards payments for the services of **Project Support Officer**.

The objective of the position is to provide the necessary strategic, governance, organizational and administrative leadership for the Project, ensuring the effective allocation of resources, providing the financial and technical direction of the Project towards the attainment of the goals and targets, leading the physical and financial progress reporting, and serving as the main focal point of the Project with the BTS, the MoF and other public and private institutions.

The Project Coordinator is responsible for leading and guiding all matters pertaining to the effective, efficient and transparent implementation of the Project BL-L1031, through the technical, administrative and financial management of the PEU, in accordance with the procedures and stipulations contained in the Program Operational Manual (POM) and in compliance with the Loan Contract.

#### The main responsibilities of the Project Coordinator include, among others:

- Implementing the intra- and inter-institutional coordination mechanisms with the BTS, the MOF and other public and private organizations related to and/or beneficiaries of the Project
- Promoting and disseminating the Project among beneficiaries, public entities, and other stakeholders.
- In close coordination with the pertinent technical and administrative personnel of the BTS and the MoF, guiding the strategic and operations planning activities of the Project.
- Monitoring the activities of the Project in compliance with its global strategic objectives and those of its individual technical components, as well as the targets established in the Project.
- Implementing the Programs' risk management mechanisms on the basis of the IDB tool Risk Management in Projects with Sovereign Guarantee (RMP), taking into consideration the assessment and evolution of the risk factors, the factors of probability and impact, and risk mitigation measures.
- Guiding the preparation, the periodic physical and financial progress reports to be submitted to BTS, MoF, MED, and the Bank.
- Presenting to the Bank the required data, reports and other documentation of the Project as a whole and its individual components, as established in the Loan Contract.

#### Qualification and Experience Requirements:

**Education:** Bachelor's Degree in Economics, Business Administration, Business Management, Project Management or related fields. Certification in Project Management or a master's degree in a related field would be an asset. Participation in relevant courses/trainings in procurement, project management, time management, leadership, Microsoft Projects, or similar, would also be considered an asset.

**General Experience:** A minimum of five (5) years general working experience.

**Specific Experience:** A minimum of three (3) years of experience working in project management including administration, monitoring, control and evaluation. Previous work with investments projects funded by international development agencies is a plus.

#### Skills: The following skills are highly desirable:

- Knowledge of Records Management
- Experience supervising staff
- Experience in Report Writing
- Knowledge and experience working with Microsoft Office, QuickBooks or similar accounting software
- Excellent oral and written command of the English language
- Strong organizational and time management skills and ability to multi-task, with ability to adapt to changing needs and priorities
- Solid team management, leadership and delegation skills and ability to coordinate functional activities of multiple actors
- Strong team player
- Strong work ethics

Consultants will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Inter-American Development Bank: ***Policies for the Selection and Contracting of Consultants financed by the Inter-American Development Bank GN-2350-15 section 5*** – individual consultants and is open to all eligible candidates as defined in the IDB policies.

#### Expression of Interest package should contain:

- Cover letter briefly explaining interest, experience, and competence of the consultant
- Comprehensive resume with the Individual Consultant's experience in the assignment of similar nature. Description of similar assignments specifying start and end dates of assignments. *Please provide dates, name of employing organization, titles of positions held, types of activities performed and location of the assignment.*
- Copy of degrees/certificates
- List of at least two references
- Proof of nationality: copy of documentation of nationality

Interested individuals may obtain further information and request the full Terms of Reference for this post at the address below during the hours of **8:00 am to 4:00 pm local Belize time, Monday to Friday**.

Qualified Individual Consultant must submit their expression of interest via e-mail to [Michelle.Longsworth@bts.gov.bz](mailto:Michelle.Longsworth@bts.gov.bz) no later than **4:00 p.m., Friday, November 4th, 2022**, marked **STAP- Project Coordinator** in the subject header; or applicants may also submit a hardcopy at the following address:

**Director General**  
**Belize Tax Service**  
**Strengthening of Tax Administration Project**  
**Eleanor Hall Building**  
**Lake I. Boulevard, Belize City**

**For clarifications kindly contact:**

**Procurement Specialist**  
**Strengthening of Tax Administration Project**  
**Ministry of Finance**  
**Eleanor Hall Building**  
**Lake I. Boulevard, Belize City**  
**Email:** [tamara.tingling@mof.gov.bz](mailto:tamara.tingling@mof.gov.bz)

# Flood Damages in the Wake of Hurricane Julia Estimated to be in the Millions

By Michelle Sutherland

As the Belize River Valley area braces itself for flood waters associated with Hurricane Julia which dumped torrential rains over southern and Western Belize a week ago, Prime Minister John Briceño, at Monday's House meeting said that the preliminary damages to the country's physical infrastructure are estimated to be around \$3 million.

While Briceño pointed out that the assessments are still ongoing, he also hinted that that figure could increase in the days ahead, as additional communities are expected to be impacted by the floodwaters that are making their way further downstream.

In the interim, the total public- and private-sector damages are already forecasted to be in the tens of millions of dollars, with higher amounts attributed to the agriculture, tourism, and infrastructure sectors

Briceño indicated, "The main effects of Hurricane Julia to Belize are damages to homes, subsistence farming, and people's livelihood, especially the residents of Belize,



The Prime Minister estimates that the total private- and public-sector damages are in the tens of millions.

Toledo, and Cayo Districts."

In his presentation, Briceño indicated that his government is doing all that it can to aid the affected communities and residents. He said that during last week's Cabinet meeting, apart from requesting a damage assessment needs analysis, Cabinet had also approved the disbursement of funds

through the budget contingency funds. While Briceño did not reveal how much was disbursed, he did say that the Budget Contingency Fund contains \$5 million that is accessible for emergency needs. Briceño also pointed out that it is expected that at the next House Meeting a proper accounting of those funds can be presented

as well as approval for those expenditures and whatever else needs to be done.

During his Cabinet presentation, the Prime Minister also took the time out to highlight the need to observe the type of large-scale agriculture that is occurring in Belize and the negative impacts that it can cause on the country. Specifically, he spoke to the type

that involves the cutting down of trees and the clearing down of hundreds of acres of vegetation, along riverbanks and creeks. According to Briceño, discussions are already underway with the Minister of Agriculture as well as the Minister of Sustainable Development to ensure the compilation of a plan of action to address the situation

for the overall protection of water sources, communities, and the livelihood of citizens.

Hurricane Julia hit the coast of Nicaragua on October 8th causing substantial damages in its wake, and while it did not make any landfall in Belize, its outer bands resulted in major flooding in the western part of the country.

## S U D O K U

Medium Puzzle

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 3 |   |   | 9 |   |   |   |   |
|   | 1 | 9 |   |   |   |   |   | 4 |
|   |   |   |   |   |   | 3 | 6 |   |
| 8 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 3 |
|   |   |   |   | 6 |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   | 3 |   | 4 | 8 | 9 | 7 |
| 5 |   |   | 9 | 3 |   |   | 4 | 6 |
|   |   | 1 |   | 7 | 5 |   |   |   |
|   |   | 8 |   | 6 | 1 |   | 7 |   |

Sudoku rules are extremely easy: Fill all empty squares so that the numbers 1 to 9 appear once in each row, column and 3x3 box.

Tip: Use a soft erasable pencil. Start with the easy puzzles, then move on to the harder ones. Make small pencilmarks to show which numbers are allowed in empty squares. This will come handy when analyzing techniques are used. Never guess! Only make moves based on logical deductions. There is only one unique solution for each puzzle.

Answer to Puzzle

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



# FUN FACTS!

## The Amazing Owl



Owls are enigmatic birds, by turns mysterious, lovable, or spooky, depending on whom you ask. With over 200 species living on every continent except Antarctica, owls have super-tuned senses that help them hunt prey all over the world. And they're pretty darn cute, too.

Owls can turn their heads almost all the way around—but not quite. It's a myth that owls can rotate their heads 360 degrees. The birds can actually turn their necks 135 degrees in either direction, which gives them 270 degrees of total movement. According to scientists, bone adaptations, blood vessels

with contractile reservoirs, and a supporting vascular network allow the owls to turn their heads that far without cutting off blood to the brain.

Owls have far-sighted, tubular eyes. Instead of spherical eyeballs, owls have "eye tubes" that go far back into their skulls—which means their eyes are fixed in place, so they have to turn their heads to see. The size of their eyes helps them see in the dark, and they're far-sighted, which allows them to spot prey from yards away. Up close, everything is blurry, and they depend on small, hair-like feathers on their beaks and feet to

feel their food.

Owls have super-powered hearing. Owls are capable of hearing prey under leaves, plants, dirt, and snow. Some owls have sets of ears at different heights on their heads, which lets them locate prey based on tiny differences in sound waves. Other owls have flat faces with special feathers that focus sound, essentially turning their faces into one big ear. (The "ear tufts" on some owls are feathers and don't have anything to do with their actual ears.)

Owl flight is silent. Unlike most birds, owls make virtually no noise when they fly. They have special feathers

that break turbulence into smaller currents, which reduces sound. Soft velvety down further muffles noise.

Owls swallow prey whole, then barf up the indigestible bits. Getting killed by an owl is gruesome. First the owl grabs the prey and crushes it to death with its strong talons. Then, depending on the size of the meal, it either eats the prey whole or rips it up. The owl's digestive tract processes the body, and the parts that can't be digested, like fur and bones, are compacted into a pellet, which the owl later regurgitates. Sometimes, those pellets are collected for kids to dissect in school.



### Pointy Crown!

There are **seven points** on the Statue of Liberty's crown.

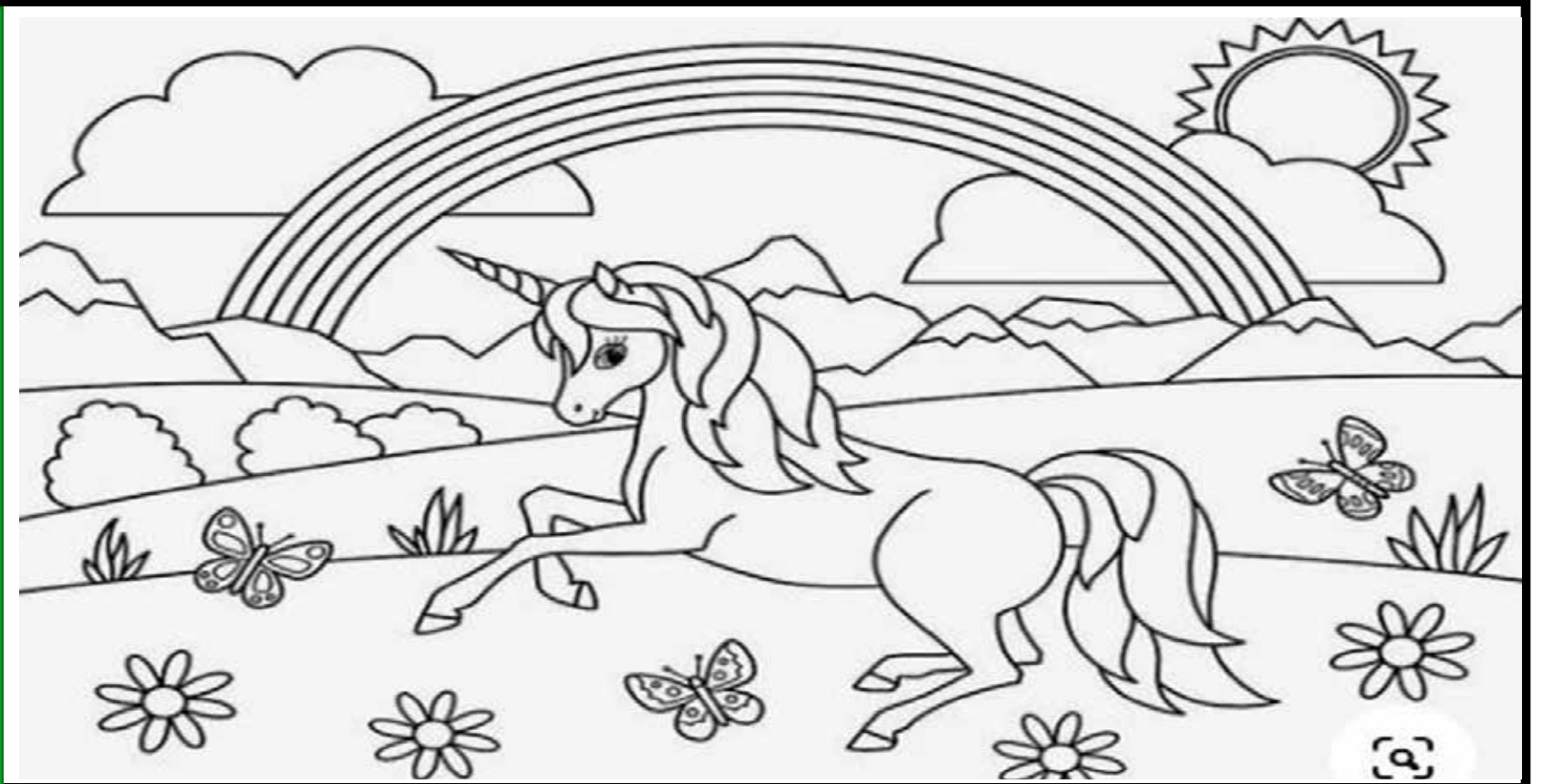


### Hairy Brows!

There are approx. **550 hairs** in the eyebrow.



**C  
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R  
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E**





# Five foods that help you sleep

Eating foods that help you sleep can make a major difference to the amount of rest you get and may even speed up the time it takes to drop off at night. In fact, eating a balanced diet overall goes hand in hand with quality sleep.

So why do we need good sleep? According to registered dietitian Monique Richard, a spokesperson for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and owner of Nutrition-In-Sight, “adequate and sufficient quality sleep is essential for the recovery of our systems through cellular turnover and a variety of molecular processes that happen while we are at rest”.

“Quality sleep allows cognitive function to be restored – according to the journal *Cerebrum* – for muscles to recover and for the accumulated toxins and byproducts to be cleared out,” she adds. “It also supports emotional and mood stability. Put simply, it is essential for physiological and psychological processes.”

By contrast, poor-quality sleep can affect our circadian rhythm: the body’s internal clock. Richards says that this can lead to higher cortisol (stress hormone) levels, which in turn can affect blood glucose regulation, altering energy levels and how the body stores energy.

And when you’re tired, the appetite-regulating hormones ghrelin and leptin can be affected, affecting food choices, as well as how much and how often you eat.

“Often, to combat fatigue, more ‘instant gratification’ choices are made, such as stimulants like coffee or foods higher in fat, sugar and/or salt,” Richardson adds. “These can impact weight management, blood glucose regulation, or further deplete energy stores, making us more tired.”

It’s clear that good-quality sleep is crucial for overall health and wellbeing. As well as trying the best magnesium supplements to help you relax and unwind, read on to find out the best foods that have sleep-boosting properties.

## HOW DOES DIET AFFECT SLEEP?

Different foods can affect the quality of sleep for better or worse, but your genetic and physiological make-up and other variables will also have an impact, says Richard.

“Large amounts of saturated fat may affect sleep duration and overall sleep wellness — think meats, pizza, fast food, processed foods, desserts, pre-prepared meals and baked goods,” she says.

Monique Richard is a licensed dietitian and nutritionist with a Master of Science degree in Clinical Nutrition and minor in Psychology. She is a National Media Spokesperson for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and the owner of Nutrition-In-Sight in Johnson City, where she offers nutrition communication, counseling and consulting services.

Alcohol can initially cause a relaxing effect, and often reduces the time it takes to fall asleep. However, according to the journal *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research* (opens in new tab), it can then lead to disruptive sleep patterns with significantly reduced REM sleep. Richard says this stage is important for dreaming, memory, emotional

three hours for bedtime, could help.

## Salmon

Fatty fish, like salmon, are full of omega-3 and vitamin D, two nutrients that help regulate serotonin. As well as happiness, this neurotransmitter is responsible for establishing a regular sleep-wake cycle.

## Salmon on a plate

## TART CHERRIES

Tart cherries increase the sleep hormone melatonin, which is produced naturally in the body by the brain’s pineal gland. “Tart cherries make a good after dinner snack to help induce preparedness for a good night’s sleep,” says Richard. If you can’t get hold of them, they can be taken in juice form or as a supplement.

While the research on micronutrients and sleep is limited, it has found specific foods, beverages, ingredients or nutrients that have greater impacts on sleep quality and duration.

## WALNUTS

Walnuts are rich in omega-3 fatty acids that can assist in melatonin rhythm and circadian rhythm clock functions.

## Walnuts

## Oats

Oats are a plant source of the amino acid tryptophan, which “contributes to the melatonin and serotonin pathway, which can promote good quality sleep,” says Richard.

## Dairy

“Vitamins D, C, B6, B12, calcium and relaxing magnesium found in dairy – as well as fruits, vegetables, nuts, seeds and fortified foods – can contribute to better sleep,” says Richard.

A bowl of yogurt with berries.

“However, it’s important to keep in mind ‘big picture’ thinking for overall long-term quality of sleep,” she says. “For example, looking at lifestyle as a whole: whether it is a Mediterranean diet lifestyle, DASH diet or similar, the fundamentals of adequate amounts of lean protein, quality fats and complex carbohydrates paired with colorful fruits and vegetables rich in antioxidants and phytochemicals are essential, along with overall gut health and movement.

“A culmination of all the nutrients above is imperative to meet the needs of each of our metabolic pathways and recovery systems during adequate sleep,” says Richard. “Adequate hydration, sleep hygiene, reduction of screen time hours before bed, comfortable bedding and clothing, a cool room and soothing bedtime routine – plus stress management habits and consistent routines – will play pivotal roles in overall sleep quality. Incorporating a calming ‘decompression practice’ such as yoga, reading, journaling or meditation, may also be beneficial for better sleep.”



processing and healthy brain development.

She adds: “Sleep quality and quantity also seems to be compromised from excess caffeine intake. In fact, for some, any caffeine, depending on how sensitive they are and their genetic disposition will be problematic. And it’s not just coffee, but coffee drinks, as well as chocolate and energy drinks that can cause problems.

“Caffeine reduces an enzyme (opens in new tab) – 6-sulfatoxymelatonin – that can affect the role of melatonin: the hormone that helps control your sleep cycle, interrupting how much rest you get that night.”

A woman of color sleeps peacefully on her bed.

Carbohydrates can also interfere with sleep patterns. “Higher glycemic index foods, including white sugar, syrups, cakes and candies may be associated with insomnia, while high-fiber carbs, such as whole-grains, vegetables, beans, nuts, seeds and various fruit were associated with lower risk and prevalence of insomnia,” says Richard.

Refined carbs spike your blood sugar, which results in an insulin response that can lower blood sugar levels enough to produce more of the hormones that wake you up, such as large amino acids tryptophan. Spicy foods may disrupt sleep, cause acid reflux or be irritating to the esophagus and digestive tract.

By contrast, some foods and drinks have compounds that help regulate parts of the sleep cycle, while others have certain antioxidants and nutrients, such as magnesium and melatonin, that have sleep-enhancing properties.

## WHAT FOODS HELP YOU SLEEP?

If you are looking for foods that help you sleep, then eating some of the below, two to

# PUBLIC NOTICE

**Lodgement of an EIA Report, Additional Information and Public Consultation  
For  
“PORT OF BELIZE CRUISE TOURISM FACILITY AND CARGO  
EXPANSION”**

**Located on Caesar Ridge Road, Port Loyola area, Belize City, Belize**

The General Public is hereby advised that Additional Information complementing the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report for the expansion of the Port of Belize cargo facility and the establishment of a cruise port terminal and cruise tourism village has been submitted by Port of Belize Limited & Belize Logistics Terminal Limited to the Department of the Environment (DOE). The EIA report was prepared by Nextera Environmental and Engineering Consultants and Piedroba Consulting Group LLC. The EIA report and its additional information will be reviewed by the National Environmental Appraisal Committee (NEAC) before a final decision is taken by the DOE.

The General Public is hereby informed that both the EIA report and the additional information are available for public review, free of charge, and can be examined Monday to Friday during normal working hours (8:00 am to 5:00 pm) at the Port Loyola Library, National Library Service, Leo Bradley Library, Turton Library Center, all located within Belize City, and at the DOE's Office located at 7552 Hummingbird Highway, Belmopan. Please practice social distancing when reviewing hard copies of the report and follow the recommendations of the Ministry of Health. Furthermore, the Additional Information, EIA report and its annexes are all available on the DOE's website at link: <https://doe.gov.bz/environmental-clearance/> The public is invited to submit their comments in writing on or before November 17, 2022, to the DOE Office in Belmopan or email: [envirodept@environment.gov.bz](mailto:envirodept@environment.gov.bz); [eiaunit@environment.gov.bz](mailto:eiaunit@environment.gov.bz), or by link: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd4x5SsLjYXU7CD649P1uFYeEPD6kPEGLVWAAFx44Rw3O48Rw/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd4x5SsLjYXU7CD649P1uFYeEPD6kPEGLVWAAFx44Rw3O48Rw/viewform?usp=sf_link)

Kindly be informed that a hybrid public consultation session for the EIA will be held on **November 4, 2022, commencing at 6:30pm sharp**. The in-person consultation will be held at the Best Western Biltmore Plaza Hotel and virtually via the Government of Belize Press Office Facebook Page.

The public is invited to participate in-person or virtually to this public consultation to express their concerns and/or provide comments/input to the DOE regarding this proposed project activity.

# Carbon credits: The quiet motivation behind environmental activism

By Britney Gordon

As climate change persists, world leaders scramble to mitigate the environmental impact of major world pollutants. Amidst the alarm, various conservation efforts were established in order to amass carbon credits.

A carbon credit refers to a certificate or permit that represents the right to emit a set amount of carbon dioxide or the equivalent amount of different greenhouse gasses. These credits are tradable and are generated from projects around the world that pull Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) out of the atmosphere or keep emissions from being released. Each time a project verifies they have reduced, avoided, or destroyed one metric tonne of GHG, one carbon credit is



created.

Some key examples of initiatives that contribute to offsetting carbon are forestry conservation, renewable energy, and waste-to-energy projects. Belize has endeavored to participate in several

such projects in order to conserve its natural resources, including multiple reforestation initiatives.

While some may criticize carbon offset projects due to their small scale leading to varying levels of effectiveness, most

agree that these projects do contribute to raising awareness about the need to reduce carbon emissions and combat it to some extent.

In order for carbon offset projects to be regarded as a valuable contribution to the environment, the

scale of these projects must increase. As it stands, many yield little benefits that fail to meet its desired goal. However, with carbon credits as a motivator, larger investments can be amassed in order to fund larger projects yielding greater results.

Climate experts advise that investors proceed with caution and contribute to projects that will have a considerable impact on the environment rather than multiple smaller projects that are likely to miss their desired outcomes.

## NOTICE

### GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE TREASURY BILLS ISSUE NUMBER 11/2022

Tenders are invited for an issue of Government of Belize Treasury Bills. The amount of the issue will be \$64,391,800.00.

The Bills will be issued in electronic form only evidenced by an electronic book entry in the Central Securities Depository of the Central Bank of Belize in multiples of \$200 and will be repayable at par 91 days after issue. They will be issued on Tuesday, 25 October 2022 and will be redeemed on Tuesday, 24 January 2023.

Each tender must be for \$200 or a multiple of \$200 and must specify to five decimal places the amount, which is offered for each one hundred dollars face value of the Bills sought.

Members of the public who wish to participate in the auction must submit their bid to the Central Bank of Belize electronically to [bids@centralbank.org.bz](mailto:bids@centralbank.org.bz) or at the designated drop off box no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, 21 October 2022.

The Auction in the Central Securities Depository System (CSD) will be opened from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on Tuesday, 25 October 2022.

Successful bidders should arrange to settle via the Automated Payment & Securities Settlement System of Belize (APSSS).

Bank: Central Bank of Belize  
Account: GL1CORP0402627

The Government of Belize reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all tenders in whole or in part.

CENTRAL BANK OF BELIZE

Notices are placed on Central Bank of Belize Website ([www.centralbank.org.bz](http://www.centralbank.org.bz))



The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) is searching for a highly qualified

### **Technical Support Senior Assistant - Administration**

The Inter-American Development Bank is looking for a professional in office administration who will work closely with the Resource Planning and Administration Specialist (RPA) at the Country Office in Belize, carrying out a wide variety of functions related to personnel actions, budget, accounting transactions, financial reports, and general administration, prioritizing the efficient use of resources to fulfill the Bank's objectives in the country.

The ideal candidate must hold an associate degree (preferably bachelor's degree) in, financial-accounting management, business administration, or similar discipline with two (2) years relevant professional experience or the equivalent combination of education and experience.

**Post of duty: The IDB Country Office in Belize City**

Contract type and duration: national staff contract, 36 months initially, renewable upon mutual agreement.

For more information on the position's requirements and to apply

please visit our website at

[Technical Support Senior Assistant - Belize - Inter-American Development Bank Careers \(selectminds.com\)](https://selectminds.com)

**Closing date for application is October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

If you have any challenge with the application process, please contact us at [hrsc@iadb.org](mailto:hrsc@iadb.org)

# The Righters Write

## Article 22: Right to Social Security

Contributed By *The Human Rights Commission*

### *Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 70: 30 Articles on 30 Articles*

After spelling out a long list of civil and political rights, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) now turns to economic, social and cultural rights with Article 22 and the six following Articles. These rights, mostly developed in the 20th century, include the right to work, an adequate standard of living, education, maternity and childhood, social security, and the right to take part in cultural life.

Inclusion of these economic and social rights give effect to one of U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt's "Four freedoms" – freedom from want, which is mentioned explicitly in the preamble of the Declaration.

**"For the UN, health care, education, housing, and the fair administration of justice are not commodities for sale to the few, but rather rights to which all are entitled without discrimination."**

– **Former UN Human Rights Chief, Navi Pillay, in The Tunis Imperative**

Article 22 spells out the qualities of the modern welfare state that are almost universally accepted today. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), in 1900, only 17 countries had social protection systems to support individuals and families through pensions for the elderly, disability payments for injured workers, benefits for mothers, health insurance and many other programs. Social assistance can include cash transfers, and is often referred to as a "social safety net" that helps people, especially the poor and vulnerable, cope with life's shocks, find jobs and educate their children.

According to ILO, the number of countries with social protection systems had increased to 104 by 1946 and 187 by 2015. Around the world, about 45% of people had access to at least one social protection benefit in 2017, while 29% had access to comprehensive social security systems.

The division between economic, social and cultural rights on the one hand, and the civil and political rights on the other, has always been artificial. Without a basic education, can you effectively make use of the right to free speech? The right to work may well be undermined if you are not able to assemble in groups and have the space to voice your opinion about working conditions. And any form of discrimination can have a highly corrosive impact on a whole range of social, economic and cultural rights of the group of people discriminated against.

Interestingly, the head of the UDHR drafting committee, Eleanor Roosevelt, a long-time rights activist, did not want to impose obligations on States. The Declaration, she said, "should enunciate the rights of man and not the obligations of States."

This view was opposed by the Soviet bloc, and Canadian delegate Ralph Maybank said that if the rights in the Declaration were achieved, "the social and international order would be good, whether it came within the framework of capitalism, communism, feudalism, or any other system."

The issue of states' obligations to uphold the rights set out in the Universal Declaration was in effect gradually sorted out later via the elaboration of the nine core international human rights treaties, which created binding law: in particular, the two overarching Covenants covering all rights -- the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights – adopted 18 years after the UDHR in December 1966.

Article 22 asserts that economic, social and cultural rights are indispensable for human dignity and development of the human personality. This phrase appears again in Article 29, underlining that the UDHR drafters wanted not just to guarantee a basic minimum, but to help us all become better people.

That promise has not been fully realized. UN Human Rights Chief Michelle Bachelet has pointed out that "71 percent of the world's population lacks access to full social protection. In other words, in two-thirds of the globe, societies have not been able to guarantee their people the basic means to live without fear and without feeling discriminated against or ostracized." She added that almost two-thirds of the world's children, 1.3 billion children, are without coverage.

In 2009, the United Nations agreed to a "Social Protection Floor Initiative" that encouraged countries to build comprehensive social security systems. Since then improvements have been seen not only in developing countries, but also many middle- and low-income countries.

Mongolia has introduced a family benefits scheme. Argentina is expanding a successful program to support pregnant women and new mothers who do not have health insurance. Thailand, Colombia, Rwanda and China have all made progress in ensuring universal access to health care.

A large number of other countries are making headway on programs to guarantee an income to senior citizens: Azerbaijan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Cape Verde, China, Cambodia, Kosovo, Lesotho, Mongolia, Georgia, Namibia, South Africa, Thailand, Nepal, Trinidad and Tobago, and Ukraine.

Social protection floors, laid on a firm foundation of human right standards and principles, can help create a better world for all of us, says Bachelet. "We all want to see a world where all children and all adults have their basic needs met; where unemployment, injury, ill-health, old age or disability do not signal misery and hardship; where people are not left unprotected in times of crisis and disaster," she says.

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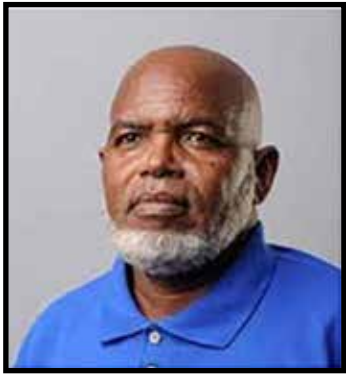
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# GRASSROOTS

## Hon. Usher: 'Allow Creole Representation at the Table'



By Hon. Gilroy Usher

"Get up, stand up. Stand up for your RIGHTS. Get up, stand up. Don't give up the FIGHT." - **Bob Marley.**

The National Kriol Council (NKC) has been lobbying for a while to have a representative on the People's Constitution Commission (PCC) which should begin its work shortly. Government, however, has not decided definitely whether or not NKC will be allowed representation on the committee.

The Constitution is the Supreme law of Belize. Protecting the contents of the Constitution is so sacred or important that a vote of three-fourths of the members of the House of Representatives is required for any change to be made to it. The importance of not tampering with the Constitution for any little desire is underscored by

the fact that since independence 41 years ago on September 21st, 1981, only ten changes have been made to the Constitution.

The PCC, therefore, has a very important task. To avoid making changes to the supreme law of the land haphazardly, the Commission should hold consultations with the people throughout the country to hear their views on what should be included in the Constitution and what should be removed from it.

Following those consultations the Committee should deliberate on the suggestions and make recommendations to the Cabinet on which suggestions they believed should be included in the new Constitution. They will also make recommendations on which suggestions should not be included in the new document for Belize to have the best possible Constitution for the benefit of the country and all its people.

The Constitution defines Belize's borders. It outlines how the three branches of government the

Legislature, the Executive, and the Judiciary should be established and how they should function including the maximum

**Concern for the welfare of Creoles in Belize was echoed by a senior Creole manager when he said, "The number of Creole employees in these offices is being eroded yearly, although the number of workers is relatively the same. That's plain to be seen. Only God knows what will happen to Creoles in the long run."**

penalty for murder; it outlines individual rights and freedom and defines unlawful sexual activity and marriage. The Constitution states, who is a Belizean, the criteria to be elected to local government or national the National Assembly, and the criteria to be the Prime Minister or Governor General. The new Constitution will state whether we recognize King Charles III head of the British monarch as our head of state or whether we replace him with a Belizean hero. Among many other things, the Constitution defines which immigrants can become naturalized Belizeans and the terms under which an amnesty should be granted for immigrants to achieve that status.

Clearly the Constitution affects the lives of all persons in Belize and should be fully respected by everyone regardless of one's social standing, wealth, gender, or ethnicity in the society.

Creole was the largest population in Belize until a few years before independence. Creoles are now the second largest population in the country. Many Creoles have done well in the Jewel especially those who are educated and of lighter complexion. On a whole, however, the Creole population of Belize has to contend with major

challenges to uplift themselves.

The vast majority of the inmates at the Hattieville Prison are Creoles. While Creole is the largest

population in Belize City the Old Capital, the majority of those persons are marginalized citizens on the southside. For various reasons Creoles own a very small percentage of the businesses in Belize City which is the commercial center of the country. That is partly responsible for very high unemployment and a cycle of poverty in the several Creole neighborhoods. For decades gang violence has been worst in Belize City. In the old capital the majority of the gang members are Creoles, and the vast majority of persons, who are slain annually in gang murders over color, turf, and drugs are Creoles.

Quietly many Creoles talk about the adverse effect over forty thousand immigrants will have on their livelihood and other opportunities in Belize, when they become naturalized Belizeans with the 2nd amnesty program for immigrants in which more than 90% of the applicants are from Central America.

Interestingly, whenever a number of Creoles try to stimulate serious discussion about the amnesty program that would reduce opportunities even more for their marginalized people, advocates for the program accused them of playing the

race card, and those persons always try their best to "shoot down" as totally unnecessary any discussion about making Belize attractive to persons of African heritage who want to escape famine or civil war in countries in the Caribbean and Africa.

Concern for the welfare of Creoles in Belize was echoed by a senior Creole manager when he said, "The number of Creole employees in these offices is being eroded yearly, although the number of workers is relatively the same. That's plain to be seen. Only God knows what will happen to Creoles in the long run."

A major hindrance to upliftment in the Creole population in Belize is Creole persons including some educated individuals, who spread the propaganda of the white man

**If the Creoles second largest population in the country and the ethnic group major social challenges is not given a seat with the Peoples Constitution Commission, others alone will decide what is best for the Creoles when the committee makes its recommendation to Cabinet for the new Constitution for Belize. Creole are not dumb. Such a decision would be so unfair to their population of over 102,000 persons.**

and others that Creole people, Black persons, people of African heritage are lazy and dumb so any step to increase their say or population to hear their concerns or maintain racial balance will be a waste of time and end in total failure.

That is totally wrong, unfair, and degrading view of persons of African heritage that's held by some people explains why a number of persons in authority dismiss the legitimate concerns of Creoles in

Belize as unimportant or deal with such concerns at snail pace in the hope that the affected Creoles will abandon their undertakings.

If the Creoles second largest population in the country and the ethnic group major social challenges is not given a seat with the Peoples Constitution Commission, others alone will decide what is best for the Creoles when the committee makes its recommendation to Cabinet for the new Constitution for Belize. Creole are not dumb. Such a decision would be so unfair to their population of over 102,000 persons.

To ensure the support of Creoles in the referendum to decide whether the country should accept the new Constitution as recommended by the Commission and

the Cabinet, this writer join those, who say the National Kriol Council deserves a seat on the People's Constitution Commission.

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### 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.

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BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. Atlantic Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via [belizepropertyauctions.com](http://belizepropertyauctions.com) the following properties. **Sales currently running until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022. Public Auction Sales will expire fortnightly on the dates and times listed on the website until these properties are sold.**

**A: San Pedro, Ambergris Caye, Belize District:**

1. Parcel No. 6824 Colonia Diego, San Pedro Ambergris Caye, Belize District:



| REGISTRATION SECTION                                 | BLOCK | PARCELS                             |
|--|-------|-------------------------------------|
| San Pedro  | 7     | 4093, 4094, 4095, 4872, 4873, 4874, |
| Freehold properties of Messrs. Casa Katerina Limited |       |                                     |

2. Parcel No. 6824 Colonia Diego, San Pedro Ambergris Caye, Belize District:



| REGISTRATION SECTION                 | BLOCK | PARCEL |
|--------------------------------------|-------|--------|
| San Pedro                            | 7     | 6824   |
| Freehold property of Mr. Pablo Sosa. |       |        |

3. Parcel No. 2601 San Pedro Ambergris Caye, Belize District:



| REGISTRATION SECTION                | BLOCK | PARCEL |
|-------------------------------------|-------|--------|
| San Pedro                           | 7     | 2601   |
| Freehold property of Mr. Pablo Sosa |       |        |

4. Parcel No. 9412 approximately 13 miles northeast of San Pedro Town in Bracelette Caye on the west coast of Ambergris Caye, Belize District:



| REGISTRATION SECTION   | BLOCK | PARCEL |
|--|-------|--------|
| San Pedro  | 7     | 9412   |
| Freehold property of Messrs. Pair of Aces Limited, surety for Mr. Keith Alan Zielaskowski. |       |        |

3. Lot No. 58 situate in Lord's Bank Village Extension, Belize District:



ALL THAT lot piece or parcel of land being Lot No. 58 situate in Lord's Bank Village Extension, Belize District comprising 1066.42 square yards TOGETHER with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon. Freehold property of Mr. Norman Augustine Jr.)

4. Lots Nos. 43 & 44 Fred Hunter's Subdivision, Mile 13 Phillip Goldson Highway, Belize District:



ALL THOSE pieces or parcels of land being Lots Nos. 43 and 44 situate Southwest of the Phillip Goldson Highway at Mile 13, Belize District, Belize being a portion of land comprised in Minister's Fiat Grant No. 15 of 1989 date 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1989 TOGETHER with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon. (Being 2 vacant lots situate in the Fred Hunter Subdivision near Mile 13 on the Northern Highway, South of Los Lagos in the Belize District, the freehold properties of Mr. Gildardo Cardona and Mrs. Rocio Aguilar Cardona)

5. Lot No. 307 Hattieville Village, Belize District:



ALL THAT piece or parcel of land being Lot No. 307 situated at Belizean American Site near Mile 17 1/2 South of George Price Highway, Hattieville Village, Belize District comprising 613.44 square meters TOGETHER with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon. (Freehold property of Mr. Sean Delroy Nicholas)

**B: COROZAL DISTRICT:**

1. Parcel No. 799 Warea Bight Area, near Little Belize, Corozal District:



| REGISTRATION SECTION   | BLOCK | PARCEL |
|--|-------|--------|
| Warea Bight/Freshwater Creek                                       | 3     | 799    |
| Freehold property of Mr. David Neufeld of Little Belize Corn Mill. |       |        |

2. Parcel No. 929 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Corozal Town, Corozal District:



| REGISTRATION SECTION                        | BLOCK | PARCEL |
|---|-------|--------|
| Corozal Central                             | 1     | 929    |
| Freehold property of Mr. Abraham Nicholson. |       |        |

3. Parcel No. 178 Xaibe Village, Corozal District:



| REGISTRATION SECTION                        | BLOCK | PARCEL |
|---|-------|--------|
| Xaibe                                       | 1     | 178    |
| Freehold property of Mr. Abraham Nicholson. |       |        |

**C: ORANGE WALK DISTRICT:**

1. Parcel No. 1124 August Pine Ridge Village, Orange Walk District:



| REGISTRATION SECTION                    | BLOCK | PARCEL |
|---|-------|--------|
| August Pine Ridge                       | 9     | 1124   |
| Freehold property of Mr. Jacob Freisen. |       |        |

2. 726.969 Acres Indian Creek Community, Hill Bank Area, Orange Walk District:



| REGISTRATION SECTION   | BLOCK | PARCELS                                    |
|--|-------|--|
| Sierra De Aqua   | 23    | 68,69,70,71,72,73,75,76,77,78,79, 80, & 81 |
| Freehold properties of Mr. Jacob Freisen & Mr. Bernhard Freisen. |       |  |

**D. BELIZE DISTRICT:**

1. 995 Acres situate at Intersection Potts Creek Road & Western Boundary of Salt Creek Work, Belize District:



ALL THAT lot piece or parcel of land containing 995 acres situated on the intersection of Potts Creek Road and the western boundary of Salt Creek Work TOGETHER with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon. (Freehold property of Messrs. Smuggler's Run Holdings Limited)

2. 5 Acres situate at Junction Potts Creek Road & north bank Potts Creek, Belize District:



ALL THAT lot piece or parcel of land containing 5 acres situate at the junction Potts Creek Road and the north bank of Potts Creek TOGETHER with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon. (Freehold property of Messrs. Smuggler's Run Holdings Limited)

**E: CAYO DISTRICT:**

1. Lot No. 193 Georgeville, Cayo District:



ALL THAT piece or parcel of vacant land being Lot No. 193 Minister's Fiat 606 of 2013 of Georgeville Village, Cayo District, comprising of 1026.481 Square Meters, TOGETHER with all buildings and erection standing and being thereon. (Freehold property of Ms. Tanesha Salazar)

2. Parcels Nos. 2286 & 2287 Camalote Village, Cayo District:



| REGISTRATION SECTION                                       | BLOCK | PARCELS     |
|--|-------|-------------|
| Society Hall   | 24    | 2286 & 2287 |
| Freehold properties of Mr. Ron Waight & Ms. Karina Waight. |       |             |

**F: STANN CREEK DISTRICT**

1. Parcel Nos. 440 Dangriga, Stann Creek District:



| REGISTRATION SECTION                                | BLOCK | PARCEL |
|---|-------|--------|
| Dangriga South                                      | 31    | 440    |
| Freehold property of Messrs. Dangriga Cable Vision. |       |        |

2. Parcel Nos. 618 Dangriga, Stann Creek District:



| REGISTRATION SECTION                                | BLOCK | PARCEL |
|---|-------|--------|
| Dangriga South                                      | 31    | 618    |
| Freehold property of Messrs. Dangriga Cable Vision. |       |        |

**G: TOLEDO DISTRICT:**

1. Lot No. 2 Bella Vista Village, Toledo District:



All That piece or parcel of land known as Lot #2 located in Bella Vista Village, Stann Creek District compromising 445.892 square meters Together with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon. (Freehold property of Mr. Robert Andrew August and Ms. Roselia E. Lizama)

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# Liz Truss quits after six chaotic weeks as UK prime minister

By Elizabeth Piper, Andrew Macaskill and Alistair Smout

LONDON, Oct 20 (Reuters) - Liz Truss quit on Thursday after the shortest, most chaotic tenure of any British prime minister, forced out after her economic programme shattered the country's reputation for financial stability and left many people poorer.

The Conservative Party, which holds a big majority in parliament and need not call a nationwide election for another two years, will now elect a new leader by Oct. 28 - Britain's fifth prime minister in six years.

That contest is likely to pit ex-finance minister Rishi Sunak against Penny Mordaunt, but could also see the return of Boris Johnson, who was ousted as prime minister in July when his ministers resigned en masse to force him out of office.

The sight of yet another unpopular prime minister making

a resignation speech in Downing Street - and the start of a new leadership race - underscores just how volatile British politics has become since the 2016 vote to leave the European Union.

Speaking outside the door of her Number 10 office, Truss accepted that she had lost the faith of her party and would step down next week. The pound rallied as she spoke.

"I have therefore spoken to His Majesty the King to notify him that I am resigning as leader of the Conservative Party," said Truss, who was supported only by her husband with her aides and loyal ministers noticeably absent.

Allied leaders said they would continue to work with her successor and emphasised the importance of stability.

Truss was elected in September to lead the Conservative Party

by its members, not the broader electorate, and with support from only around a third of the party's lawmakers.

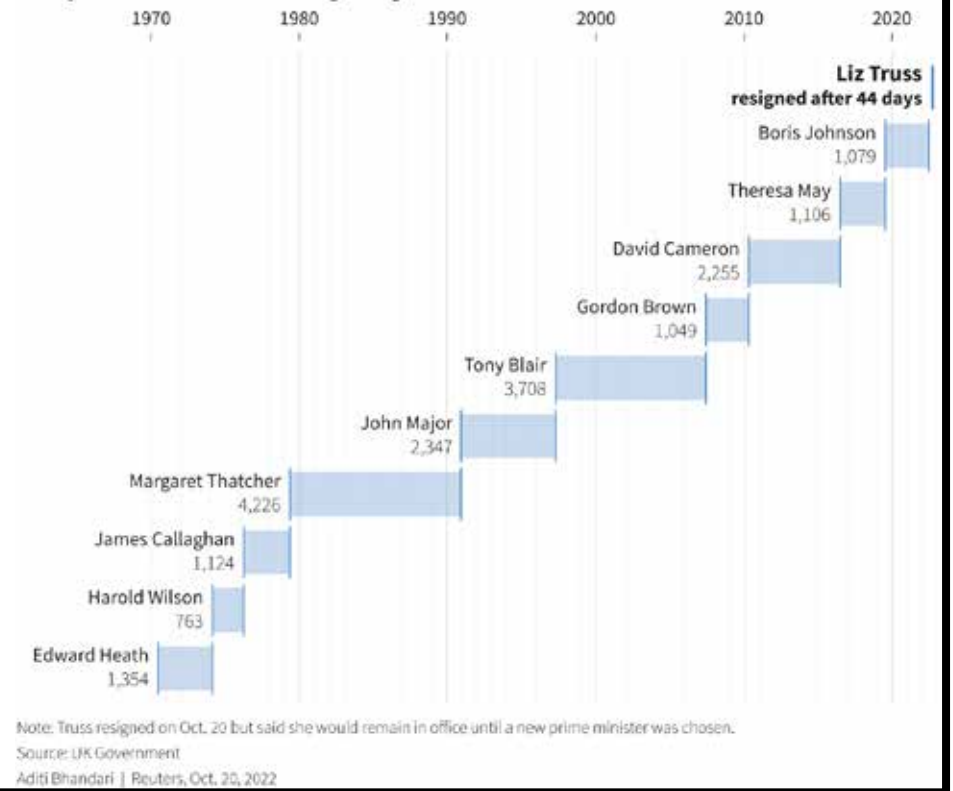
She had promised tax cuts funded by borrowing, deregulation and a sharp shift to the right on cultural and social issues.

But within weeks she was forced to sack her finance minister and closest political ally, Kwasi Kwarteng, and abandon almost all her economic programme after their plans for vast unfunded tax cuts crashed the pound and sent British borrowing costs and mortgage rates soaring.

Approval ratings for her and the party collapsed.

On Wednesday she lost the second of the government's four most senior ministers, faced laughter as she tried to defend her record to parliament and saw her lawmakers openly quarrel over policy, deepening the sense of chaos at

UK prime ministers by days in office since 1970



Westminster.

New finance minister Jeremy Hunt is now racing to find tens of billions of pounds of savings to try to reassure investors and rebuild Britain's fiscal reputation.

With the economy heading into recession, and inflation running at a 40-year high, millions of Britons are struggling with a cost-of-living crisis.

Hunt, who has ruled himself out of the leadership race, is due to deliver a new budget on Oct. 31 that is likely to cut spending on public services that are already showing clear signs of strain.

One senior Conservative lawmaker said Sunak and Mordaunt were willing to keep Hunt as their finance minister.

NEXT RACE FOR DOWNING STREET

One of the most contentious issues facing the Conservatives is how they elect a new leader, after the party's 170,000 members chose Truss over the wishes of its elected lawmakers at Westminster.

Groups within the party have battled over the direction of the country since the Brexit vote.

In previous contests the candidates were whittled down to two through a number of lawmaker votes over weeks, before the membership selected the winner. Many Conservative lawmakers say that cannot be allowed to happen again.

"Members can't have a say, we have

to sort this out," one lawmaker said. Asked if the party could rebuild its reputation from this point, he added: "Never in a million years."

Organisers said that any candidate would need the backing of 100 lawmakers, and that if only one candidate passes that threshold by 2 p.m. (1300 GMT) on Monday they will automatically become prime minister. If two candidates remain, party members will get an online vote.

Among those expected to run for the role are Sunak, the former Goldman Sachs analyst who became finance minister just as the COVID-19 pandemic arrived in Europe.

While he has been proven right in his warnings that Truss's fiscal plan threatened the economy, he remains deeply unpopular with some Conservatives after he helped to trigger the summer rebellion against Johnson.

Penny Mordaunt, a popular former defence minister, could also run, with other possible hopefuls such as Suella Braverman, the interior minister who quit on Wednesday, and trade minister Kemi Badenoch unlikely to reach the 100 nominations.

Johnson, who still faces an investigation into whether he misled parliament after he and his staff held a string of parties during COVID-19 lockdowns, may also

be a candidate.

The face of the 2016 Brexit campaign has loomed large over politics since he became London mayor in 2008. He led his party to a landslide election victory in 2019 but was driven out of office in July by colleagues who were disgusted by his conduct.

"I hope you enjoyed your holiday boss. Time to come back," one Conservative lawmaker, James Duddridge, said on Twitter, adding "#bringbackboris".

A poll of party members earlier this week showed most wanted Johnson to return, but betting odds put Sunak as the favourite, ahead of Mordaunt, defence minister Ben Wallace and Johnson.

Truss will enter the history books as the prime minister with the shortest tenure, replacing George Canning, who had held the role for 119 days when he died in 1827.

The main opposition Labour Party - and many voters - have called for a general election.

"She's not been voted in and certainly, the policy decisions she made, none of the British people asked for any of those," 50-year-old Kelly Rodgers told Reuters outside Downing Street. "So (it's) right and proper she should go."

"But equally, she's just symbolic of her party - it's absolute chaos."



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# The future is quiet: 94% decline in biodiversity since 1970

By Britney Gordon

Worldwide biodiversity is estimated to have decreased by 69 percent, with Latin America and the Caribbean surpassing all other regions with a staggering 94 percent decrease, a recent report from World Wildlife Fund (WWF) informs.

Other regions have likewise seen notable decreases. Africa's and Asia Pacific's decreased by 66 percent and 55 percent, respectively. The decrease occurred over the period between 1970 and 2018, and is observed across all the species groups studied. However, the most prominent victims of this decline were freshwater fish, reptiles, and amphibians.

Belize harbors a total of 118 globally threatened species; nine of which are critically endangered, 32 endangered, and 77 vulnerable, and a further 62 nearly threatened according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in 2016. Of these, the critically endangered Central American River turtle, commonly referred to as "hicatee," is considered at the highest risk of local extinction.

Populations have disappeared in nearby countries and continue to decline in Belize due to overhunting as well as habitat loss and degradation. The unregulated use of gill nets has also contributed to both large and small tooth sawfish species being considered ecologically

## BIODIVERSITY LOSS BY REGION

1. North America
2. Latin America and the Caribbean
3. Africa
4. Europe and Central Asia
5. Asia Pacific



extirpated from Belize in the last 30 to 40 years.

As Belize depends largely on both tourism and fisheries, it has been a precarious balancing act between utilizing natural resources and upholding conservation efforts. Some primary

contributors to biodiversity loss include deforestation, climate change, unsustainable exploitation of natural resources, pollution, and unsustainable tourism practices.

In 2016, the Belize Forest Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, the Environment, and Sustainable Development launched the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. This project ran between 2016 and 2020 with the hopes to ensure that "Belize's natural environment is valued, enhanced, and enjoyed by all, and contributes to improving the quality of life of its people."

Two objectives listed in the plan outline stated it intended to ensure that "Belize's natural landscapes and seascapes are all functional and building biodiversity resilience to climate change" by 2030 and that "key ecosystem services are sustainably managed and resilient to threats." by 2025.

To many, Belize is regarded as a champion in climate change initiatives due to the country's continuous role in the projects. In recent years, Belize has partnered with the European Union, The Nature Conservancy, and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for environmental conservation.



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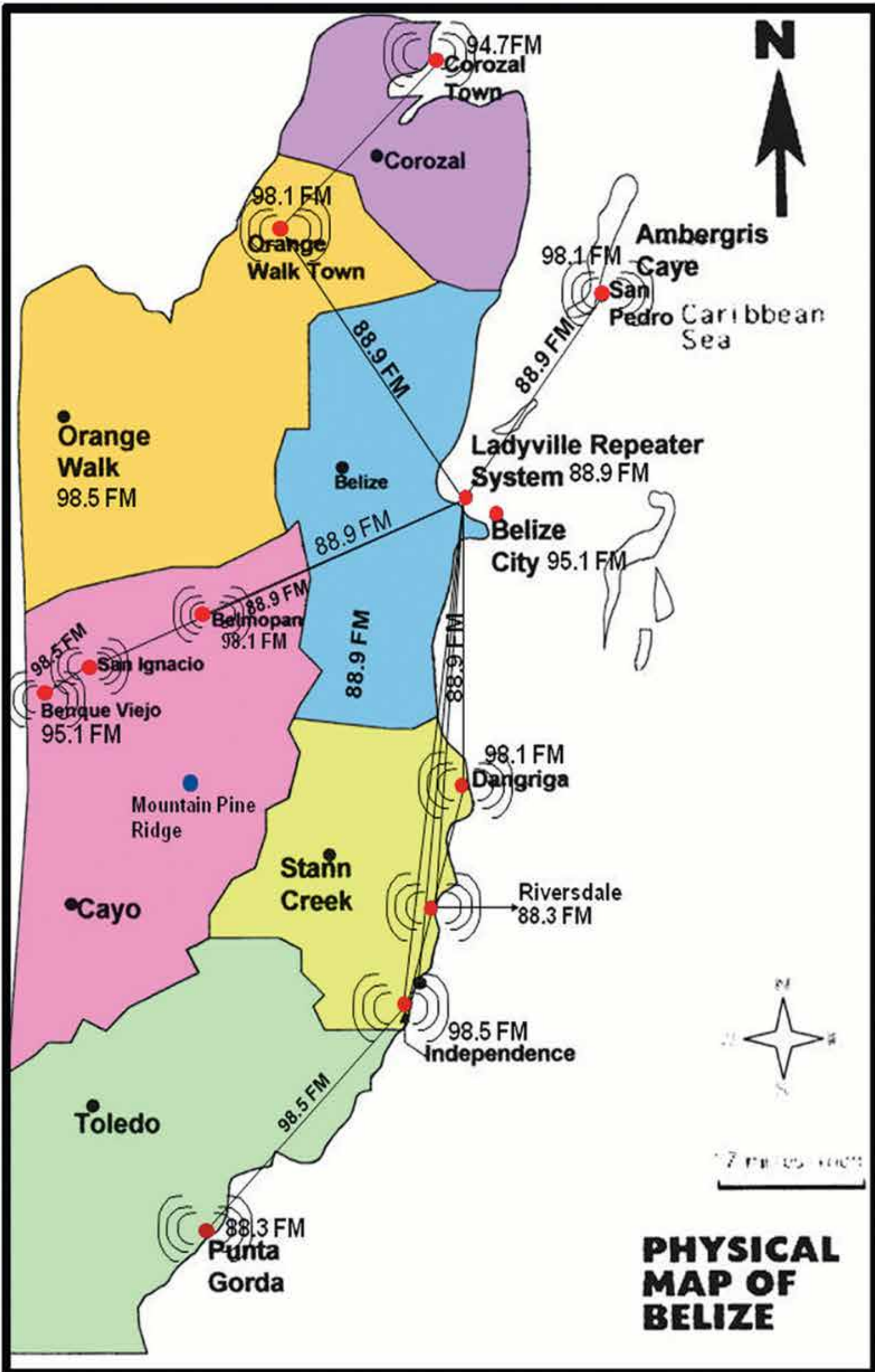
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