

Min. of Labour Denies BCCI's Request to Exempt Employers From Paying O.T. Rate on Impromptu Holiday

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President Belize Chamber of Commerce & Industry Marcello Blake

By Michelle Sutherland

The Ministry of Labour has denied the Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI)'s request to have exempted employers from being required to pay time and a half for employees who work on the impromptu and one-time public holiday set for Monday, September 19th.

The holiday, which is being observed on account of Queen Elizabeth's state funeral, was only first announced this Tuesday; thereby, giving employers only about one-week's notice.

BCCI President Marcello Blake, on behalf of their members, penned a letter, dated September 14th, to Valentino Shal, the CEO of the Ministry of Labour.

Blake pointed out that while the BCCI acknowledges the Government's decision to observe the day as a public and bank holiday as a means of showing respect for the Queen, the "unplanned" holiday presents significant cost implications for businesses that must operate on the aforementioned date.

Blake explained that the "abruptness" of the announcement is likely to catch employers off-guard as it would propel them into having to meet an unbudgeted payroll costs during a time when most businesses are still in recovery mode.

Blake requested that under *section 119* of the Labour Act, members of the business community could be exempted as it pertains to the standard payroll implications and obligations that employers incur on public and bank holidays,

Bus Association: Floralia getting special privileges that are undermining operators' ability to upgrade their fleet



(L-r) Thomas Shaw and Ewert Metzgen

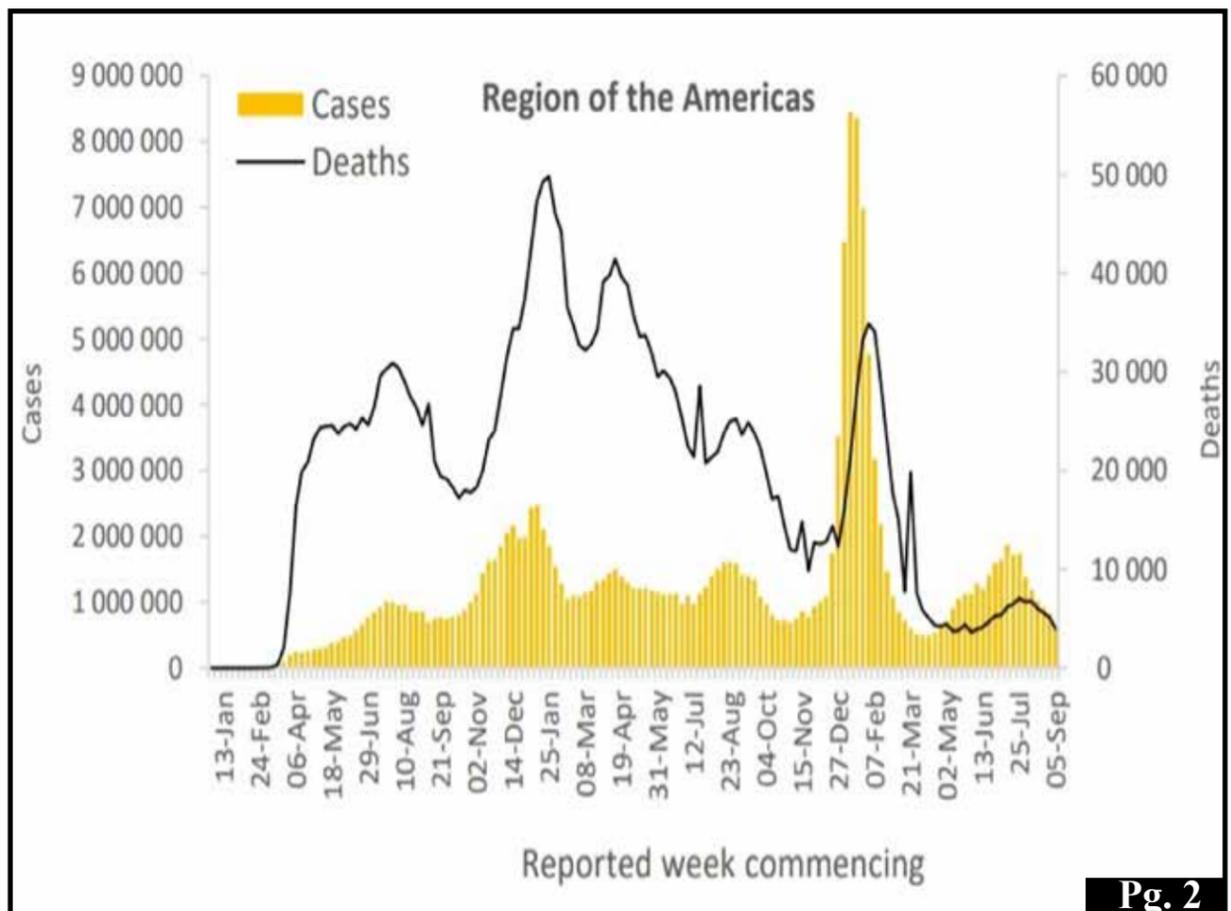
The Belize Bus Association (BBA) is calling on the Government of Belize to address the fact that the bus company Floralia has been given concessions that are hindering other operators' ability to upgrade their busses.

The BBA held a press conference in Belize City on

Thursday to raise a number of issues with Floralia's operations. They stressed that they do not mind competition but that competition needs to be fair. The BBA gave the example of bus runs in western Belize where the company is allowed a 15-minute head start over its

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Dwindling COVID-related deaths spark hope for end of pandemic



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On Wednesday next week, the people of Belize will celebrate the 41st anniversary of our country's independence.

We could have had our independence earlier, but the Guatemalan claim stood in the way, and the United States did not support the UN resolutions calling for Belizean independence.

All of that changed, however, in 1981 when the US reversed its neutral position and supported a UN resolution that called for secure independence for Belize, with all of her territory including her islands and territorial sea.

The resolution called on Britain to continue to defend Belize, and on all countries of the UN to come to her assistance.

A hundred and thirty-nine countries supported the resolution. Seven abstained, Guatemala among them. But there was not a single dissenting vote.

The Hon. George Price became the first Prime Minister, and Dame Minita Gordon the first Governor-General. Since then Belize has had fair and free elections nine times. Each of these elections has been peaceful with power and authority transferred to the successful political party.

For most of these years, the Prime Minister has come from Belize City. But two years ago there was a significant shift, when the Prime Minister, Mr. Johnny Briceño of Orange Walk, became Belize's fifth Prime Minister.

We Belizeans take pride in our democratic institutions. We have made mistakes along the way. But we are learning from our mistakes. Our freedom of the press has been strengthened by social media and today our right of free expression is vigorously exercised.

On this anniversary of our independence, our democracy is vigorous and secure, and we can with confidence look forward to better times ahead.

So let us thank God for this day.

Happy Independence Day Belize!

TRANSIT

Dear Sir:

So Her Majesty has died. She is dead. Ashes to ashes, dust to dust! Has this great lady – this charming, powerful woman gone from life to the end of life – of existence? Is she now just putrefying flesh testifying that all flesh – even royal ones, are just grass?

When did we believers in Belize start the practice of announcing at the death of a person it was the sunset of a life that started at birth like a sunrise?

Perhaps even now while you are still physically living, you should remind your family of the older, more truthful belief that death is a transition from the physical to the spiritual life.

Can you imagine now what that moment of transition was for Her Majesty? What did she think and feel as she stood before the throne of the KING OF KINGS?

I sincerely believe that quickly, like the blink of an eye, her whole consciousness said MY LORD AND MY GOD!

She was a person of great power and influence, but a lifetime practice of discipline and virtue made her compassionate and generous to all manner of being that she encountered even family that seemed to desire the destruction of what she had worked for during her whole life.

I never met her, but decades ago welcomed her husband to Belize City. A gentleman to his fingertips, he interacted

with subjects as with royal companions rejoicing in the dance of freedom. His grandson and his wife Kate demonstrated an egalitarian spirit that made us feel and dance the punta of life all day long.

Kate and William made me feel how foolish it would be to surrender a special relationship we have enjoyed with these white folks for centuries which other powerful folk would keep on helping to support with no enslavement strings attached.

The passing of HER Majesty has enlivened my belief that goodness, loyalty, trust, compassion and mutual respect are vibrant in our Commonwealth. Should we not want to preserve it for eons of future time?

As we celebrate our Forty First Anniversary of Independence, we celebrate that moment of historical time when Britain proclaimed to the world that Belizeans could manage their own international affairs and therefore should be independent.

Britain had already made a similar declaration to the world on behalf of India, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and many other countries.

Today, after accepting the independence of many colonies, Britain is still one of the TEN most prosperous nations in the world!

On this most auspicious day, Belize, let us continue to build even greater bridges of human cooperation between us and BRITAIN!

GOD SAVE THE KING!

Signed: Paul Rodriguez OBE

Dwindling COVID-related deaths spark hope for end of pandemic

By Britney Gordon

As of last week, reported deaths from COVID-19 are at their lowest numbers since the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020.

On September 13th, the World Health Organization (WHO) released a statement detailing the remarkable feats of healthcare providers across the globe in their efforts to manage the Covid-19 pandemic.

Over 605 million confirmed cases and 6.5 million deaths have been reported globally as of September 11th, 2022. In Belize alone, the number of cases was as high as 66,000 and the deaths were well over 600.

However, the number of new weekly cases decreased by 28% between September 5th and 10th, 2022. The number of new weekly deaths decreased by 22%.

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the director-general of the WHO remarked, "We have never been in a better position to end the pandemic. We are not there yet, but the end is in sight."

The economic impact Covid-19 has had on Belize is well known. After a sharp, more than 16 percent contraction in 2020, economic output has only just begun to see signs of a nascent increase.

Belize has received assistance from various countries during the course of the pandemic, receiving thousands of vaccine and mask donations from countries such as The United States of America, The United Kingdom, Taiwan, and India. Currently,

about 55.2 percent of Belizeans are fully vaccinated.

While optimistic, the WHO still encourages caution, urging the globe to continuously follow protocols and abide by regulations in order to avoid more variants and deaths.

"We can see the finish line. We're in a winning position. But now is the worst time to stop running."

The WHO released six short policy briefs that outline the key actions recommended to all governments to maintain this trend.

THE REPORTER

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Min. of Labour Denies BCCI's Request to Exempt Employers From Paying O.T. Rate on New Holiday

Cont'd from pg. 1 specifically from being required to pay time and a half on the said date. Blake further reminded the CEO that under *section 119* of the Labour Act, the Minister wields certain exemptions.

For his part, however, CEO Shal, in a letter dated September 14th, responded to the BCCI confirming the receipt of their letter. Shal reminded the BCCI that prior to making any decision the Minister Responsible for Labour is required to consult with Cabinet and the Labour Advisory Board. However, Shal also pointed out that at this time the Minister is unable to consult

with the relevant bodies within the respective timeframe, and as such an exemption cannot be granted.

On Thursday the Chamber also wrote a letter to their members on the topic which they referred to as the government's "long-standing practice" of adding unplanned public and bank holidays, without consulting with members of the business community. The Chamber reiterated that such practice has resulted in unexpected costs to the private sector and that since last year they have requested several measures from the government.

One of those includes a recommendation

that no newly enacted public holiday can carry payroll implications on an employer until after a prescribed notice period of at least 365 days.

That there be a ceiling set on the number of public holidays allowable in any given year, and that no new public holiday can be declared without the agreement of tripartite partners via the relevant body or Board.

While the BCCI told members that the Governments response to their request was disappointing, they pledge to continue their advocacy efforts as it relates to unplanned public and bank holidays and the unforeseen impacts

Bus Association: Floralia getting special privileges that are undermining operators' ability to upgrade their fleet

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member operators, which will eat away at their revenue.

"It's not tourists these busses will be taking because at the hour the busses leave Benque Viejo there are no foreign busses coming into the country at that particular time. So more than likely what it will be doing its going to go out right before or right along with a company that already has an investment in the business," said BBA President Thomas Shaw.

The BBA went on to explain that government wants them to upgrade their bus fleets, but to do so they need access to financing, and the more Floralia reduces their revenues from their bus runs, they will not be able to justify to lending institutions that they can afford to pay their loans if granted.

Taking another example from bus runs coming out of

Dangriga, the BBA said that they confirmed with the Department of Transport that Floralia was allowed to carry standees on their buses, which is a violation of the Laws of Belize. The association said that the cost of doing business is already putting strain on them, with fuel taking up as much as 2/3 of their revenue despite the government fuel subsidy in place and as long as Floralia continues to undermine their efforts, they will not be able to meet the government's demands.

"I can assure the commuters, the riding public, our operators are willing to upgrade, and to give them what they want, but to be cognisant of the fact that if they want comfort, it comes with a cost," the BBA added.

The next step is to meet with the Department of Transport again to see if an amicable solution can be reached.

BAHA Moves to Contain Avian Influenza in Orange Walk, Millions of Dollars in Losses for Poultry Farmers

By Michelle Sutherland

The Belize Agricultural Health Authority (BAHA) in conjunction with the Belize Poultry Association (BPA) is carrying out contact tracing among persons, who entered Blue Creek Village in the Orange Walk District up to three weeks ago as part of ongoing surveillance for Avian Influenza, which has been detected in one of the poultry farms in the village.

On Wednesday, BPA General Manager Armando Cowo told The Reporter that while they cannot confirm that the virus has been transmitted outside of the farm, they are conducting their contact tracing among persons who visited the village as a precautionary measure.

That also includes testing other poultry farms in the village inclusive of the live chickens, the ones that have already been slaughtered, as well as the eggs to see how far and if the virus has already spread. As part of its containment measures, BAHA has also placed strict restrictions on all poultry products exiting that community.

Cowo confirmed that BAHA is currently conducting a depopulation (killing and disposal of all birds) on the infected farm. This exercise will also be done on all neighboring farms in the village and could spell millions of dollars in losses for the poultry industry. BAHA says that they are in the process of organizing and implementing other control measures to ensure that the poultry sector is protected against further introductions of the disease, which includes implementing movement controls on live birds, eggs, and litter, among other measures.

But even as the association awaits the results of the sample that has been sent abroad and which should return early next week, Cowo said that those results will be able to differentiate whether it is the Low pathogenic or High Pathogenic Avian Flu that is in circulation. He explained that the difference between the two is that in the case of High Pathogenic, it would spell big trouble for the entire poultry industry since it can cause high contagion, severe illness, and high mortality among the poultry population. In the case of Low

pathogenic influenza, it causes no signs of the disease or mild infection.

While Cowo said that it is still unknown which of the two pathogens is in the country, he said that based on observation carried out so far it appears to be the Low Pathogenic Influenza. This, according to him, is based on the fact that since the detection was made on September 9th, there has not been any major outbreak on the farm or neighboring ones suggestive of the presence of the milder strain.

As poultry farmers are encouraged to strengthen biosecurity programs and to adhere to BAHA restrictions, they are also being asked to monitor their chickens for symptoms such as nasal discharge, lack of energy, lack of coordination, diarrhea, muscle tremors, drooping wings, twisting of the head and neck and inability to move. To report any of the symptoms you can call BAHA at 824-4872.

BAHA along with the Belize Poultry Association says that despite this latest development they would want to assure the public that poultry meat and eggs on the local market are safe for human consumption.

Late on Wednesday evening, BAHA confirmed that another case of Avian Influenza had been detected on another far in the Shipyard community. One spokesperson for BAHA said that while that detection was just made, a depopulation targeting 1,000 poultry has already been carried out. Additionally, BAHA says that they suspect that the virus, detected on the index farm (Blue Creek) originated from a batch of hatching eggs that were imported from the United States.

The last outbreak of bird flu in Belize was back in January of 2015, on several farms in Spanish Lookout. Due to the contamination, thousands of broiler breeds on several of those farms had to be killed and discarded, leading to an estimated \$8 million in losses for farmers.

Earlier on Wednesday, Minister of Agriculture Jose Mai, told CTV 3 News that in the case of the index farm a depopulation exercise (of about 25,000 poultry) would mean a whopping \$114 million in losses. That is, \$99 million in poultry, \$2 million in turkeys, and \$13 million in eggs.

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.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that Ceiba Beach Ltd. of Maya Beach, Stann Creek District is hereby applying for a **Hotel Liquor License** for Ceiba Beach Limited situated in Maya Beach AKA Mickey's At Ceiba Beach, Stann Creek District for the year 2022. Under the Intoxicating Liquors Act Revised Edition of 2000.

Belize 41

"We are going through difficult times,
a transition if you will...
In the end if we trust
our religion and persevere
good will triumph over evil...
Look to our National Prayer and follow and
protect our Constitution
and we will overcome."

- The Father of the Nation, Rt. Hon. George Price

WHO Director-General's opening remarks at the media briefing – 14 September 2022

Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening.

Last week, the number of weekly reported deaths from COVID-19 was the lowest since March 2020. We have never been in a better position to end the pandemic. We are not there yet, but the end is in sight.

A marathon runner does not stop when the finish line comes into view. She runs harder, with all the energy she has left. So must we. We can see the finish line. We're in a winning position. But now is the worst time to stop running.

Now is the time to run harder and make sure we cross the line and reap the rewards of all our hard work. If we don't take this opportunity now, we run the risk of more variants, more deaths, more disruption, and more uncertainty.

So let's seize this opportunity. Today, WHO is releasing six short policy briefs that outline the key actions that all governments must take now to finish the race. It's a summary, based on the evidence and experience of the last 32 months, of what works best to save lives, protect health systems, and avoid social and economic disruption.

These policy briefs are an urgent call for governments to take a hard look at their policies, and strengthen them for COVID-19 and future pathogens with pandemic potential. We urge all countries to invest in vaccinating 100% of the most at-risk groups, including health workers and older people, as the

highest priority on the road to 70% vaccine coverage;

Keep testing and sequencing for SARS-CoV-2, and integrate surveillance and testing services with those for other respiratory diseases, including influenza;

Make sure you have a system in place for giving patients the care that is right for them, and integrate care for COVID-19 into primary health care systems; Plan for surges of cases, and make sure you have the supplies, equipment and health workers you will need; Maintain infection prevention and control precautions to protect health workers and non-COVID patients in health facilities; Communicate clearly with communities about any changes you make to your COVID-19 policies, and why; And train health workers to identify and address misinformation, and develop high-quality health information in digital formats.

The briefs contain more detail on the specific actions governments can take, and are now available online.

Since New Year's Eve 2019 – and every day since then – WHO has worked without rest to warn the world, and to give people everywhere the tools they need to stay safe, save lives, and keep societies functioning. We've helped countries to build oxygen plants and treatment centres. We've shipped millions of masks, gowns, tests, vaccines and more to countries that need them, all over the world. Doctors, nurses and other health workers have relied

on WHO's guidelines to protect themselves and treat their patients. We've advised governments on how to find the right mix of public health measures.

With our partners in COVAX, we've delivered more than 1.7 billion doses of vaccine around the world, and low-income countries have relied on us for three-quarters of their vaccine doses. We're supporting low- and middle-income countries to develop their own vaccine manufacturing capacity. We've supported countries to maintain health systems and services under pressure. We've fought misinformation and disinformation. And every single day, we continue to bring the world's experts together to share the latest scientific knowledge, monitor trends, analyse the evidence and advise the world.

That is what we will continue to do until the pandemic is truly over. We can end these pandemic together, but only if all countries, manufacturers, communities and individuals step up and seize this opportunity.

I'm incredibly proud of our incredible people and the incredible things they have done throughout the pandemic – and which they continue to do even while responding to numerous other emergencies around the world.

In Pakistan, we are continuing to support the government to respond to the floods that have affected 33 million people and damaged almost 1500 health facilities, leaving millions of people without access to health services.

Even as the water

recedes, the health needs are rising.

Together with the Ministry of Health, we are coordinating the response to those needs, by leading an urgent assessment of which health services have been affected the most, in which areas.

We're preparing for, and responding to, outbreaks of measles, cholera and malaria, and supporting treatment for respiratory, skin and eye infections, typhoid, malnutrition and more. Immediately after the floods struck, WHO allocated 10 million US dollars from our Contingency Fund for Emergencies, which we are using to deliver essential medicines and other supplies, across 26 districts.

This includes tents for temporary health facilities, water purification equipment that can produce enough clean water for 5,000 people per day, and oral rehydration sachets for 1 million people.

We will continue to stand side-by-side with the people of Pakistan now and as they recover and rebuild.

Meanwhile, the downward trend in the global monkeypox outbreak is continuing. But as with COVID-19, this is not the time to relax or let down our guard. This is the time for all affected countries and communities to keep doing what is working.

Countries and health workers still need support to prepare for, to recognize, to test and to treat cases, and to prevent infections. We especially urge affected countries to share genome sequences, so we can better understand how the virus is evolving.

Finally, this Saturday, the 17th of September, is World Patient Safety Day. Our focus this year is on "Medication Without Harm". Medicines are powerful tools for protecting health.

But medicines that are wrongly prescribed,

taken incorrectly or are of poor quality, can cause serious harm, and even death. Globally, one in 20 patients suffers avoidable medication harm, and unsafe medication practices and medication errors account for half of all avoidable harm in medical care.

WHO is working to reduce medication-related harm and prevent this needless suffering, by supporting countries to inform and empower patients; By improving the naming, labelling and packaging of medicines; By supporting health and care workers to avoid errors; And by improving medication systems and practices to reduce the risks of harm. This World Patient Safety Day, cities around the world will light up monuments in orange as a statement that everyone has a role to play in medication safety, and achieving Medication Without Harm. Because no one should be harmed while seeking care.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

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

Position Name: Procurement Agent

Vacancy number: Belmopan-2022-20

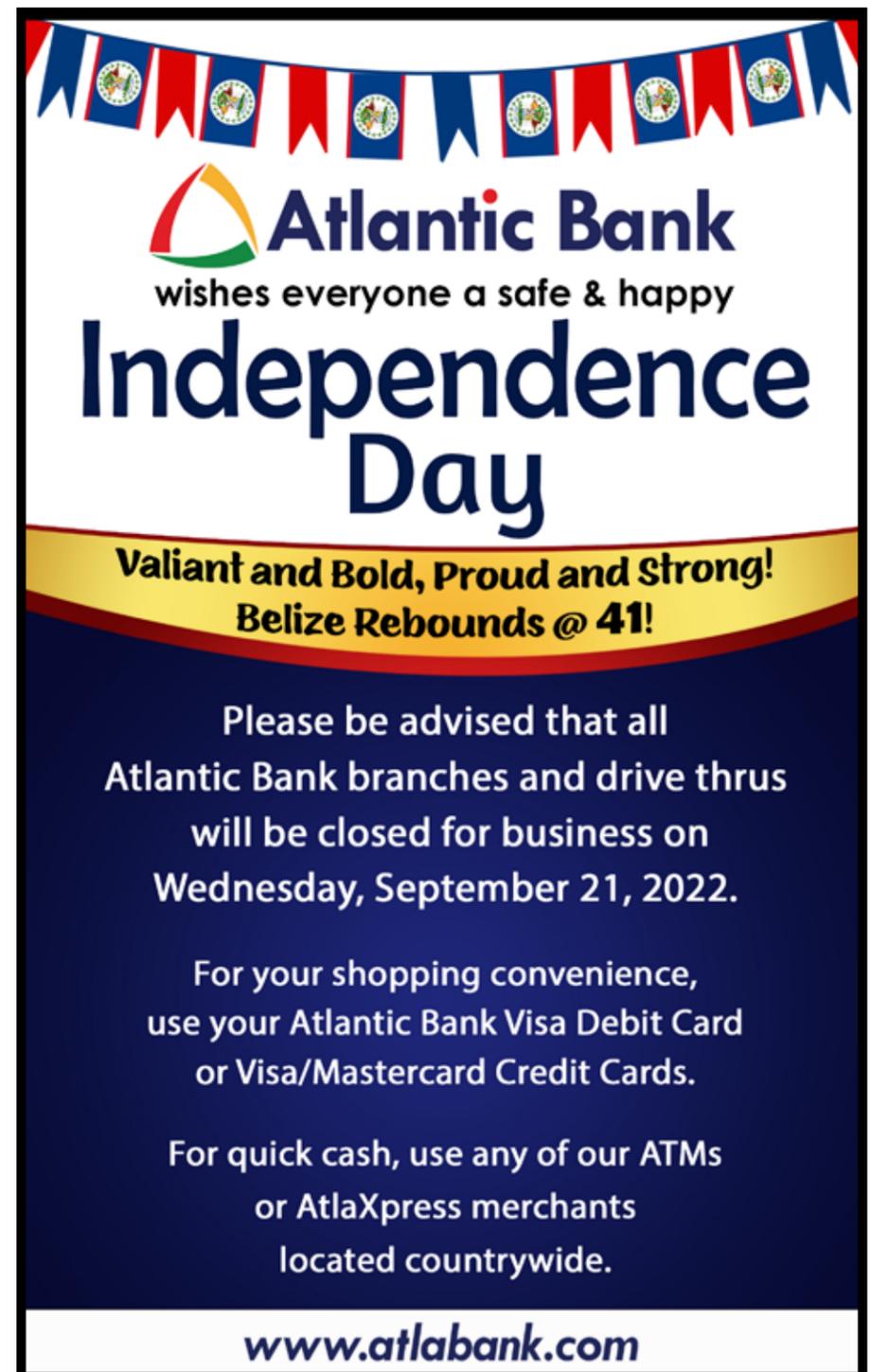
Closing date: September 3th, 2022

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

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

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

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



Atlantic Bank
wishes everyone a safe & happy
Independence Day

**Valiant and Bold, Proud and Strong!
Belize Rebounds @ 41!**

Please be advised that all Atlantic Bank branches and drive thrus will be closed for business on Wednesday, September 21, 2022.

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

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

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Happy Independence Day, Belize!

Valiant and bold, proud and strong.
Belize rebounds at 41.



Belize parties in rainy Tenth

By William Ysaguirre



Belizeans parade for 10th September celebration.

Rain could not keep Belizeans at home, as many braved the inclement weather to attend the annual Tenth of September ceremony to commemorate the 224th anniversary of the Battle of St George's Caye at the House of Culture in Belize City last Saturday.

Not even the death of a monarch could dampen the spirits of seasoned revelers, and the ceremony proceeded with the usual pageantry as the Head of State H.E. Governor General Froyla Tzalam and Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño arrived and received the salute from the Belize Defense Force honor guard.

Miss Stann Creek Maslin Hanson had been chosen to be the Queen of the Bay designate at the pageant held on Saturday, August 20, and the outgoing Queen Druewel Jones urged her to warm the hearts of the bay as she transferred the crown, robe and scepter to the new Queen.

If the coronation of a Queen smacked of neocolonialism and efforts of the past to label the Battle of St George's Caye a mere myth, it mattered for nought to Minister of Education and Culture Hon. Francis Fonseca who cited the cultural diversity of Belizean society as one of its strengths. He urged Belizeans to preserve and protect our culture and to honor the achievements of our ancestors.

He also urged Belizeans not to dwell in the colonial past, and the traditions of

the imperialist power that held Belize as a colony for almost two centuries. He encouraged the nation to do some soul searching, to determine what path Belize must follow as we chart our course as an independent nation.

Belize City Mayor Bernard Wagner encouraged the nation to embrace our survival of the COVID pandemic and to rebound ever stronger as we celebrate our nation's 41st birthday. He called on Belizeans to emulate the example of the famous Flowers Bank 14, who decided the vote in the local people's assembly to stand and fight to defend the settlement against a Spanish invasion, rather than to flee a superior military force.

Minister Fonseca had called for national unity, but the citizens' parade that followed the ceremony displayed only bipartisan disunity. Prime Minister Briceño ducked out early before the ceremony concluded, and it fell to Opposition leader Hon. Moses "Shyne" Barrow and aspiring leader John Saldivar to lead the parade, which numbered only a few hundred at the start. The route of the parade had also changed with the venue of the ceremony. But many Belizean Diaspora who were home for the Independence celebrations would not let the tradition die, and the parade gathered more numbers as it meandered along Albert Street, Orange Street, over the Bel-China Bridge and along North Front Street to the Memorial Park, where the weather held up for all day festivities.

**THE MANAGEMENT & STAFF OF
BELIZE MILLS LIMITED
CONGRATULATE ALL BELIZEANS ON THE
41st ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE**



HAPPY BIRTHDAY BELIZE 2022!



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"Valiant and Bold, Proud and Strong! Belize Rebounds @ 41

HAPPY Independence DAY

From the Management and staff of

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OFFICE CLOSURE

St John's Credit Union Ltd. advises it's member-owners and the public that all our office locations will close at

1:00 P.M

September 9th & 20th, 2022

Happy

**SEPTEMBER CELEBRATIONS
BELIZE**



**THE STAFF AND MANAGEMENT OF
MADISCO WISH ALL BELIZEANS A SAFE
AND BLESSED SEPTEMBER
CELEBRATIONS.**

**VALIANT & BOLD, PROUD & STRONG,
BELIZE REBOUNDS AT 41!**



**CENTRAL BANK
of BELIZE**



CAREER OPPORTUNITY

STRATEGY and ENTERPRISE RISK ANALYST
The Central Bank invites qualified individuals to join its Office of Strategy Management.

The Strategy and Enterprise Risk Analyst will assist the Manager, Office of Strategy Management (OSM), in coordinating strategy management and enterprise risk management (ERM) activities. The Strategy and Enterprise Risk Analyst will support the annual strategy re-fresh exercise, monitor, assess, and report on the execution of Central Bank's approved strategic programme, and support the planning, organizing, and executing of the ERM framework.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

- To support the Manager, OSM, in the annual review of Central Bank's strategy**
 - Collects and analyses the historical performance-against-targets data
 - Documents the proceeding and outcomes of the strategy review exercise
 - Assists in designing and implementing the required measurement and reporting systems
- To monitor and assess the timely execution of Central Bank's strategy and strategic programmes**
 - Reviews action/project plans for Central Bank's strategic programmes
 - Liases with management to determine causes and corrective actions for operational and programme performance variances
 - Reports on progress of strategic programme execution and overall strategy execution
- To assist the Manager, OSM, in managing ERM activities**
 - Assists in maintaining and operating Central Bank's ERM framework in accordance with leading practices
 - Prepares materials to communicate ERM requirements to all divisions and departments
 - Assists in prioritizing and integrating functional plans into overall ERM plan for the Central Bank
 - Assesses and reports on the adequacy of ERM Plans, including Business Continuity Plans and Disaster Preparedness Plans
 - Periodically assesses and reports on enterprise-wide compliance with ERM framework, including Business Continuity Plans and Disaster Preparedness Plans

The applicants should possess the following:

Education and Experience

- A Master's Degree in Business Administration, Management, or a related field from a recognized university with three (3) years relevant experience, or
- A minimum of a bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Management, or a related field from a recognized university with at least six (6) years' relevant experience.

Technical Knowledge

- Knowledge of the Central Bank of Belize Act and other banking legislation; Knowledge of strategy management and the balance scorecard; Ability to engage with stakeholders to gather various types of performance measures and targets; Knowledge of ISO 31000:2018 and ability to define and apply risk prioritization and develop, implement, and maintain benchmark standards or scoring; Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite.

Competencies

- Strong Communication Skills; Results Orientation; Initiative; Thoroughness; Analytical and Critical Thinking; Managing Change; Performance Management; Building Collaborative Relationships; Strategic Thinking; Personal Credibility/Integrity.

Submit the following documents by **Thursday, 28 September 2022:**

- CBB Employment Application Form (available online)
- Curriculum Vitae
- Three (3) current references (one must be from a previous employer)
- Certified copies of university transcripts, degrees, and any other personal certificates

Applications should be addressed to:

Manager, Human Resources Department
Central Bank of Belize
P O Box 852 or Gabourel Lane
Belize City, BELIZE

Ref: Strategy & Risk Enterprise Analyst – Office of Strategy Management
Email: hr@centralbank.org.bz or online at www.centralbank.org.bz
(All applications will be held in strict confidence.)

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Redistricting commissioner resigns, alleges political influence in the process



Martin Aldana resigns from commission.

By Michelle Sutherland

Chief Elections Officer Josephine Tamai, on Wednesday of this week, confirmed with The Reporter that she is the recipient of a letter from her Redistricting Commissioner, confirming his resignation from the process due to numerous reasons. While Tamai confirmed the authenticity of the email sent by Martin Aldana, dated August 31st, 2022, she told us that she could not comment on his personal view of the process.

In his letter, Aldana, a statistical analysis from the private sector, opened by saying that while he has been contemplating his resignation for an entire month, “the overriding factor for my decision is my observation that the work of the task force is being influenced by actors outside the task force.”

Aldana went on to say that he recalled that at an initial task force meeting with the Election and Boundaries Commission, the chairman had reminded members of their oath of confidentiality, of which everyone in attendance had signed up.

Aldana stated that he had taken that to mean that persons who had formed part of the task force should refrain from discussing internal matters with persons on the outside, especially those with political interests. Something which Aldana alleges has now gotten so out of control that he decided not to attend the past three task force meetings, held in August, due to his growing concern regarding the overall process.

“I strongly feel that the task force has lost control of the redistricting

Cont'd on pg. 8

Redistricting commissioner resigns, alleges political influence in the process

Cont'd from pg. 7

exercise and is now only carrying out directives from outside the task force. I foresee that at the end of the redistricting exercise in 2023, the final redistricting report will be presented purely as the technical work of the task force members, and there will be a public denial of any outside influence on the work of the task force," summarized Aldana.

Aldana didn't stop there and went on to say that the turning point for him began several months ago after a ruling minister had gone on national television and expressed his wish as to how his division should be redrawn. Subsequently, Aldana alleged that Tamai had informed the task force that the Commission had decided that the task force now needed to present two redistricting options for each district for consideration.

Aldana pointed out that at that juncture the task force had already completed their redistricting exercise of the Belize City division. He further claimed that since the initial meeting with the Commission in February and

despite repeated requests there has not been any follow-up meeting. Aldana said the meeting would have been the ideal environment to discuss mounting issues among members.

"I find it demeaning of the members of the task force that decisions would be made on the work of the task force without input and discussion with the task force members. This has opened room for questionable actions and decisions due to the lack of transparency. Unfortunately, there was no attempt to record minutes or transcripts of the meetings of the task force, a task which is standard practice, especially for such a national undertaking where transparency and accountability are important considerations, given the political implications of such an exercise," ended Aldana.

The task force was formed in February of this year and is responsible to set the groundwork, advise, and provide a detailed report with recommendations to the Commission on the re-division of electoral boundaries. The exercise is expected to conclude in 2023.

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The Reporter

 **CENTRAL BANK of BELIZE**

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

ASSISTANT MANAGER, ACCOUNTS AND BUDGET
 The Central Bank invites qualified individuals to join its Accounts and Budget Department.

The Assistant Manager, Accounts and Budget, provides support to the Manager, Accounts and Budget, in the general administration of the Accounts and Budget Department. The incumbent assists in supervising the department's staff, administering vault custodian functions, providing advice on the Central Bank's performance, producing Central Bank's financial statements, ensuring compliance with the relevant requirements of the applicable laws, and ensuring conformity with the department's policies and procedures to mitigate operational and financial risks.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Assist in the development and implementation of goals, priorities, procedures, and internal controls necessary for auditing, budget, financial analysis, and property management in accordance with the general accepted accounting principles, policies, procedures, and other applicable Bank rules and guidelines;
- Perform vault operations as the principal vault custodian;
- Prepare and disseminate monthly reports of the Bank's financial performance to the governing body;
- Assist in the preparation of the Central Bank's audited financial statement in collaboration with external auditors and in compliance with Central Bank of Belize Act, International Financial Reporting Standards, and other relevant legislations;
- Assist in the preparation of the Central Bank's annual and revised budget and manage the processing of all revenue and expenditures of the Bank;
- Manage and ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of the Central Bank's payment and procurement operations within the framework of established systems, procedures, and internal controls;
- Ensure effective time management in preparation of all reports and reconciliations prepared by staff within the department; and
- Perform any other related duties that may be assigned.

The applicants should possess the following:

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

- A Master's Degree in Accounting, Finance, Banking, Business Administration, or other related field from a recognized university with three (3) years of progressively related administrative duties and training, and three (3) years managerial experience. Experience in strategic management and project management methodologies would be an asset; **OR**
- A Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, Finance, Banking, Business Administration, or other related field from a recognized university with six (6) years of progressively related administrative duties and training, and six (6) years managerial experience. Experience in strategic management and project management methodologies would be an asset.

TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE

- In depth knowledge of the Central Bank of Belize Act, relevant sections of the Domestic Banks and Financial Institutions Act, accounting concepts and principles, IFRS standards and internal control processes; Sound knowledge of budget management and planning strategies, procurement management theories and practices; Knowledge of banking principles, business and management principles and strategic management approach; Proficient in software applications, including accounting software and Microsoft Office Suite.

COMPETENCIES

- Personal Credibility, Flexibility, Personal Accountability, Fostering Teamwork, Managing Performance, Attention to Communication, Results Orientation, Managing Change, Diagnostic Information Gathering, Thoroughness, Initiative, Analytical Thinking.

Submit the following documents by **Monday, 19 September 2022:**

- CBB Employment Application Form (Available online)
- Curriculum Vitae
- Three (3) current references (one must be from a previous employer)
- Certified copies of university transcripts, degrees, and any other personal certificates

Applications should be addressed to:

Manager, Human Resources Department
 Central Bank of Belize
 P O Box 852 or Gabourel Lane
 Belize City, BELIZE

Ref: Assistant Manager, Accounts and Budget- Accounts and Budget Department
 Email: hr@centralbank.org.bz or online at www.centralbank.org.bz
 (All applications will be held in strict confidence.)

Central Bank Governor: Queen's Passing Will Not Affect Local Currency

By Michelle Sutherland

In the wake of Queen Elizabeth's death, the Governor of the Central Bank of Belize Kareem Michael has come out to answer questions posed by Belizeans on whether or not the Queen's death will have any impact on our local currency.

Michael, in an exclusive interview given to Channel 7 News, strongly emphasized that the Queen's death will not have any immediate effect on Belize's local currency. In fact, he explained that having a dead monarch on our lo-



INVITATION FOR BIDS

Ministry of Natural Resources, Petroleum, and Mining

1. The Government of Belize (or GOB) acting through the Ministry of Natural Resources, Petroleum, and Mining, now invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified Bidders for the Services mentioned below in the table.

Contract No.	Name	Contract Period
59 of 2022/2023	Loading, Trucking, and Other Heavy Equipment Services for the Belmopan Solid Waste Transfer Station Facility	36 months

2. Procurement will be conducted through open tendering in accordance with the provisions of the laws governing public procurement within Belize.
3. This invitation is open to all eligible Bidders as described in the Bidding Documents.
4. Qualification requirements are provided in Section II of the Bidding Documents. Prospective Bidders' attention is drawn to the Instructions to Bidders in the Bidding Documents.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be obtained by interested Bidders by way of email application to the email address below.
6. The Bidding Documents will be emailed to the Bidder at the email address specified in the email application.
7. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before **October 14th, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. Electronic bidding shall not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected.** Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives, who choose to attend in person at the address below at **10:30 a.m. on October 14th, 2022.** Interested public/civil society entities and NGOs may also attend the Bid opening.
8. All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid-Securing Declaration as specified in the Instructions to Bidders.
9. The Government of Belize will declare a firm ineligible, either indefinitely or for a stated period, to be awarded a contract funded by the Government of Belize, if it at any time determines that the firm has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent, coercive, or collusive practices in competing for or in executing a contract.
10. The address referred to above for:
 - (i) Application for Bidding Documents,
 - (ii) Submission of Bids, and
 - (iii) Opening of Bids, is:

Belize Solid Waste Management Authority, 3013 Bougainvillea Street, Belmopan, c/o Ms. Lumen Cayetano, Director, 828-4864, cayetanolu@gobmail.gov.bz.

11. Bidders are required to submit as part of the bid "the Statement of Ethical Conduct and Fraud and Corruption". In case of misleading information or non-adherence to the Fraud and Corruption provisions of the Bidding Documents, the Bidder shall be pursued by the GOB.

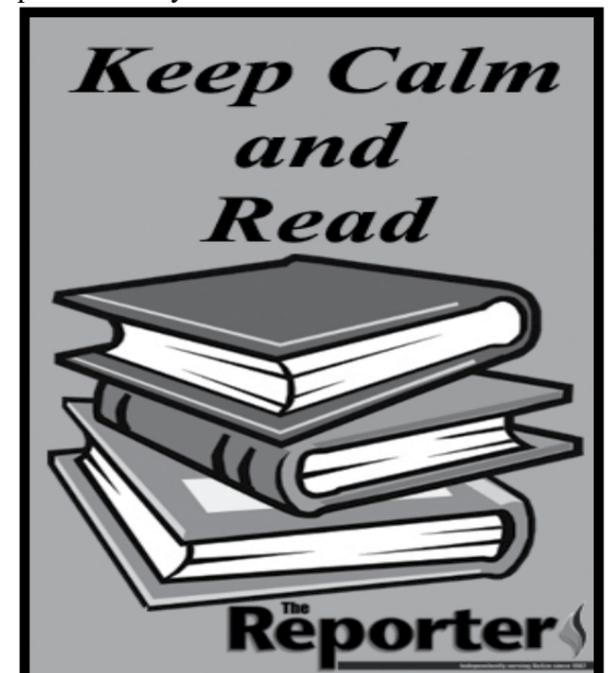
cal currency is "fine purely from a Central Bank standpoint of maintaining the value of that currency of the Belize dollar" and that there is no great urgency in changing that.

Michael explained that if a decision was to be made to change the family of notes with the Queen's head on the currency it would be a long drawn out and costly process. Something which he hinted does not feel it is necessary since he says that the Central Bank has always been advised to keep the face of someone who is honorable, or someone with the highest level of dignity. According to Michael, they have also been warned about placing the image of someone from an early stage, due to the possibility that that person may face a

scandal or some sort of embarrassment, which would then defeat the purpose.

"If you have a hero who is up there in age and passes without a scratch or blemish on his or her record, then fine. There are numerous examples of this across the globe where there are dead presidents or past national heroes who are on the face of these notes and currencies," said Michael.

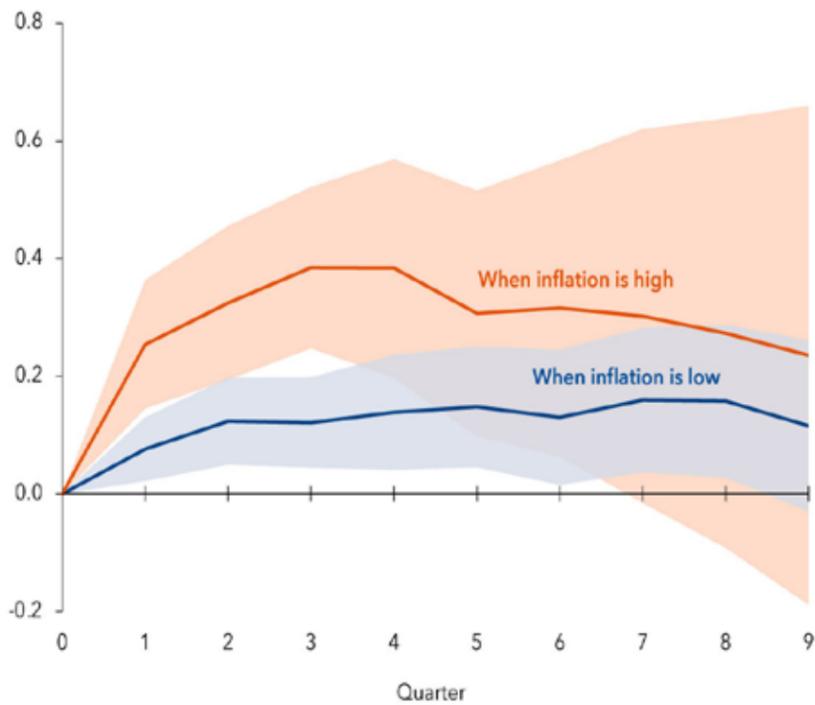
While King Charles III automatically took on the role of Head of State for Belize being a member of the Commonwealth, and the possibility remains that his image could possibly replace that of the Queen Michael said that whatever the case might be, his job is to ensure that the value of the Belize dollar does not devalue.



Second-round effects

If inflation is already high, wages are likely to increase by more than usual following an oil price shock.

(wage responses to a 10% oil price shock, percent)



Source: IMF staff estimates.

Note: The sample covers 39 countries in Europe from 2000Q1 through 2019Q4.



Energy Shocks Amid Rapid Inflation Could Fuel Faster Wage Gains

By Chikako Baba and Jaewoo Lee

Billions of consumers around the world are seeing higher oil prices seep into the cost of living and wages. Filling the gas tank soon starts to cost more when crude prices climb, as does airfare, but higher energy costs also boost prices for all the products on store shelves. Workers seek higher wages to compensate for a loss in their purchasing power.

These are what economists call second-round effects,

and they can in turn further raise prices. If this feedback is large and sustained, a wage-price spiral could emerge, with wage growth and inflation rising over an extended period.

As the Chart of the Week shows, when overall inflation is already high, like it is now, wages tend to increase by more in response to an oil price shock. This finding, based on a study of 39 European countries, may reflect that people are more likely to react to price increases when high inflation is visibly eroding living standards.

The larger the second-round effects, the greater the risk of a sustained wage-price spiral through a feedback loop between wages and prices. If large and sustained, oil price shocks could fuel persistent rises in inflation and inflation expectations, which should be countered by a monetary policy response.

As our chart shows, the risk of such a dynamic tends to be greater when the overall inflation rate is already high. For example, wages increase by 0.4 percent when underlying inflation is higher than 4 percent, one year after a 10 percent increase in oil

prices, but increase by less than 0.2 percent otherwise.

When overall inflation is higher, people tend to be more alert to price increases of all stripes and seek higher compensation for oil price rises. However, differences between high and low inflation periods narrow in the second year. These results impart two messages on the current situation, one concerning and the other reassuring.

Of concern is how current high inflation could increase the risk of energy prices causing sizable second-round effects and a sustained increase in inflation, which includes pushing up inflation expectations. To head off such a risk, central banks will need to respond firmly.

What's reassuring is the chart shows that even in a high-inflation environment, wages stabilized after a year rather than continuing to rise at a steady clip. In other words, there was a wage level but not a wage inflation increase.

To the extent that central banks remain adequately vigilant, current high inflation could still cause higher compensation for the cost of living than usual but need not morph into a sustained increase in inflation.

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Ministry of Natural Resources, Petroleum, and Mining

- The Government of Belize (or GOB) acting through the Ministry of Natural Resources, Petroleum, and Mining, now invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified Bidders for the Services mentioned below in the table.

Contract No.	Name	Contract Period
60 of 2022/2023	Loading, Trucking, and Other Heavy Equipment Services for the Dangriga Solid Waste Transfer Station Facility	36 months

- Procurement will be conducted through open tendering in accordance with the provisions of the laws governing public procurement within Belize.
- This invitation is open to all eligible Bidders as described in the Bidding Documents.
- Qualification requirements are provided in Section II of the Bidding Documents. Prospective Bidders' attention is drawn to the Instructions to Bidders in the Bidding Documents.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in **English** may be obtained by interested Bidders by way of email application to the email address below.
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- The address referred to above for:**
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Belize Solid Waste Management Authority, 3013 Bougainvillea Street, Belmopan, c/o Ms. Lumen Cayetano, Director, 828-4864, cayetanolu@gobmail.gov.bz.

- Bidders are required to submit as part of the bid "the Statement of Ethical Conduct and Fraud and Corruption". In case of misleading information or non-adherence to the Fraud and Corruption provisions of the Bidding Documents, the Bidder shall be pursued by the GOB.



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Call to support Taiwan's participation in ICAO
Wang Kwo-tsai Minister of Transportation and Communications
Republic of China (Taiwan)
 xx xx, 2022

The **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)** develops common regulations and standards for civil aviation. Countries around the world abide by ICAO's directives to ensure the safe and orderly growth of international civil aviation. The 41st session of the triennial ICAO Assembly, to be held between September 27 and October 7 this year in Montreal, Canada, will be ICAO's biggest event since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Thus, the meeting will be symbolic for supporting the recovery of the aviation sector. It further showcases the importance of collaboration among all stakeholders in the international aviation community. We call on ICAO to reconnect with Taiwan in a collective effort to achieve the goal of a seamless sky.

Reconnecting the world and facilitating Taiwan's technical participation

ICAO, an important forum spurring the development of aviation, is where civil aviation authorities discuss issues such as aviation safety, air navigation services, aviation security, environmental protection, and aviation economics. All of these bear on the development of each country's civil aviation sector. As the global aviation industry has been hit especially hard by the pandemic, collaboration among all stakeholders in support of passenger health and safe travel is more important than ever. No civil aviation authority should be excluded. ICAO will hold the 41st Assembly session with the stated goal of "reconnecting the world." Including Taiwan would help the world meet this aim.

Taiwan's Taipei Flight Information Region (Taipei FIR) is part of ICAO's network of over 300 FIRs. The Civil Aeronautics Administration of Taiwan (Taiwan CAA) is the sole entity overseeing, and is responsible for safe air traffic management throughout, the Taipei FIR. It offers a comprehensive range of information services and streamlines air routes to ensure the safety and efficiency of all aircraft and passengers arriving in, departing, and transiting the Taipei FIR. The Taipei FIR's efforts have been hampered by the recent actions of China. In August 2022, China unilaterally conducted military exercises around Taiwan on short notice. This affected international air routes and jeopardized aviation safety in the Taipei FIR and neighboring FIRs. In an effort to avert danger and alleviate safety concerns, the Taiwan CAA had to hastily plan for and guide aircraft, including many foreign aircraft, departing, arriving in, or transiting the Taipei FIR. The situation burdened airlines with additional costs due to their need to take longer and more expensive journeys and substantially increased unforeseen risk. From both a risk and safety management perspective, ICAO should allow the Taiwan CAA to participate in ICAO so that it is able to communicate with other FIRs and provide and obtain timely information via ICAO.

Sharing Taiwan's aviation experiences to achieve the ICAO goal of seamless aviation

Despite the severe effect the pandemic has had on the world over the past two years, the Taiwan CAA has made every effort to maintain the strong safety record of the Taipei FIR while diligently adhering to relevant antipandemic measures and complying with ICAO's Standards and Recommended Practices. With a joint effort by civil aviation stakeholders and the government, Taiwan's national carriers have been among the few airlines around the world to have remained profitable and not cut jobs. In addition, according to Airports Council International statistics for 2020 and 2021, Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport, Taiwan's largest, was the fourth-busiest airport in the world for international air cargo.

Technological advances have caused unprecedented development and changes in aviation. Drones are one such example. As the wider use of drones poses a potential risk to aviation safety and airport operations, ICAO has been revising or adopting provisions in related guidance materials regarding unmanned aircraft systems. Despite a lack of access to ICAO information, the Taiwan CAA has established relevant management mechanisms in a timely manner so as to maintain aviation safety within the Taipei FIR while also helping spur the development of drone-related industries. A dedicated chapter on drones in Taiwan's Civil Aviation Act came into force on March 31, 2020. A web-based application system called the Drone Operations Management Information System went online at the same time. Furthermore, to maintain the safe operation of airports and detect illegal drone activity, the Taiwan CAA set up drone defense systems at various airports. The Taiwan CAA has also begun planning a next-generation air traffic control automation system to ensure its air traffic management system meets the future operational needs of the Taipei FIR. The aim of this is to contribute to greater regional and global navigation efficiency. Taiwan is willing to share its aviation experiences with other countries and hopes to learn about theirs to improve aviation safety.

Urging the international community to support Taiwan's participation in ICAO

Taiwan's call to be included in ICAO has been increasingly recognized by the international community. As an important stakeholder in the international aviation community, Taiwan takes seriously its responsibility to safeguard aviation safety. Participation in ICAO would allow Taiwan, together with all other countries, to contribute to the further development of global aviation and the well-being of all humankind.

For many years, the Taiwan CAA has maintained the highest standards of service and safety for the Taipei FIR. It has also worked hard to comply with ICAO's Standards and Recommended Practices. ICAO chose the theme "reconnecting the world" for this year's Assembly to promote a global aviation recovery. Now is the time for ICAO to reconnect with Taiwan. To further contribute to international civil aviation, the Taiwan CAA aspires to share its professional experiences and to participate in ICAO's 41st Assembly meaningfully and professionally so as to help the world meet the ICAO goal of a seamless network for aviation safety.

Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Results Based Management and Budgeting Specialist
Duty Station: Ministry of Sustainable Development Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management
Posting Period: One year Direct Supervisor: To Be Determined

Consultancy Objective:

The Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management has sought the financial assistance from the Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) to identify an RBM Specialist to support the MSDCC&DRM and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development in the development of frameworks and systems to improve and operationalize results-based planning, implementation, monitoring, and reporting across the Government of Belize.

Analysis of Position:

Overall Responsibilities:

1. Develop a work program to fulfil the deliverables of this ToR.
2. Conduct a review of the Medium-Term Development Strategy (MTDS) and other relevant national development strategies.
3. Conduct a review of the current budgeting processes and systems (institutional framework, legal and administrative/operational processes, as well as stakeholders)
4. Conduct a review of reforms and efforts made to introduce elements of results-based budgeting (including previous pilots, success and lessons learned).
5. Conduct a review of the Government's Public Sector Investment Programme, review capital investment planning and budgeting processes with a view to improving coordination between Finance and Economic Development.
6. Lead the development of a Results Based Framework, inclusive of a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework.
7. Identify additional Ministries for the piloting of RBM and the implementation of a monitoring and evaluation framework aligned with the MTDS and their relevant national and strategic plans (target four to five).
8. Identify and document recommended workflow for mainstreaming and piloting of RBM within the broader Government Service including the development of procedural manuals and administrative guidelines and any other institutional mechanisms needed for effective implementation.
9. Assist in the preparation of annual monitoring and evaluation plans consistent with M&E Framework within the pilot Ministries.
10. Conduct a capacity assessment among Policy, Planning, Project, Finance Unit staff.
11. Organize capacity building training.
12. Develop plans to enhance knowledge networking, sharing best practices and technical expertise to the pilot ministries to foster an integrated approach.
13. Prepare periodic updates/briefings/presentations to the agencies involved to continuously inform of progress as required by the supervisor.

Expected Outputs:

The consultant is expected to work in close collaboration with counterparts in achieving the following expected outputs for this consultancy:

- Workplan and methodology for achieving task.
- Results Based framework aligned to the strategic focus areas of the Plan Belize and other guiding national strategies and plans.
- Monitoring and evaluation framework aligned with the Plan Belize and other guiding national strategies and plans.
- Documentation of recommended workflow for mainstreaming and piloting
- User and management friendly matrix for enabling a transition to RBM across the GOB.

***All products, final work and information shall be generated in hard and soft format described in this section.**

Execution of this Terms of Reference requires an expert having one or more of the following qualifications:

Technical Qualifications – Academic/Training:

LEVEL: **AREA:**
Master's Degree: X **Area of Study:** Finance, Economics, Results Based Management, Investment Management, or a closely related field
Doctorate Degree: _____ **Area of Study:** _____

Skills, Experience and Qualifications Required:

1. First Degree in Finance, Economics, or a closely related field, preferably with an environment/biodiversity focus with a minimum of five (5) years relevant work experience.
2. At least five (5) years of experience in monitoring and evaluation, results-based management.
3. Knowledge and experience in designing M&E systems and conducting evaluations.
4. Excellent writing and analytical skill in drafting concept notes and reports.
5. Strategic vision and strong technical and analytical capabilities.
6. Proficiency in both written and oral English.
7. Strong leadership capability
8. Strong interpersonal and communication skills
9. Knowledge of national governance framework is strongly desired
10. Ability to prepare publications, reports, and presentations
11. Ability to work with a multidisciplinary and multicultural team
12. Computer literacy particularly in Microsoft excel and access, word and ppt
13. Flexible and ability to prioritize a variety of complex evolving tasks

Application Requirements:

- Interested persons should submit a letter of expression of interest
- The Letter of expression of interest should state monthly expected remuneration that indicates the all-inclusive fixed total contract price.
- Personal CV, indicating all experience from similar projects, as well as the contact details (email and telephone number) of the candidate and at least two (2) professional references. Qualified candidates should submit their application and financial proposals no later than **September 30th, 2022**, to:

Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change & Disaster Risk Management
Attn: National Biodiversity Office-Director
Ground Floor Green Complex Building
#2557 Hummingbird Highway
Belmopan City, Belize
Telephone number 828-9055
Email address: biofin-belize@environment.gov.bz



The Board, Management, and Staff of Belize Water Services wishes all Belizeans a

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What happens in your brain while you sleep?

Our brains are complex and elaborate. They contain billions of neurons, don't fully form until we reach age 25, and can generate around 25 watts of power — enough to illuminate a light bulb.

Scientists are constantly learning new information about how the brain functions, but what do we know about how this incredible organ operates during sleep? Is it a total mystery, or are there some things we know for sure?

Well, for one, we know it's important. "Every animal on this planet that we have observed carefully has been shown to sleep — even fruit flies, roundworms, and jellyfish," Dr. David Raizen, an associate professor of neurology at the University of Pennsylvania, told Live Science in an email. "Hence, sleep must be serving a very important function, which has led to its persistence throughout evolution."

"This is especially noteworthy because sleep incurs costs," Raizen added. "Animals are vulnerable to predation during sleep and they are not productive — they do not forage for food, and they don't reproduce."

Research has found that we spend one-third of our lives either asleep or attempting to sleep. That means, if you live to age 76 (the average life expectancy in the U.S. in 2021, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, you'll likely spend around 25 years of your life sleeping.

When we don't sleep well or often enough, "we function poorly," Raizen said, adding that a person's ability to think and operate effectively can be evident if sleep is disrupted for even one night.

"Since the largest deficits of sleep deprivation are experienced by the brain, we think the brain is the main organ affected in human sleep deprivation," Raizen said. "Sleep, therefore, must be very important for healthy brain function."

According to the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), there are "two basic types of sleep: rapid eye movement (REM) sleep and non-REM sleep." They are both associated with particular types of brain waves and specific neuronal activity. Non-REM sleep occurs as we move from being awake to being asleep, a time when our brain waves slow down. At the same time, our muscles start to relax, and breathing becomes slower than it is during the day.

REM sleep, on the other hand, sees brain wave activity operate at a level very similar to wakefulness. Research has found that REM sleep constitutes between 20% to 25% of our sleeping time, and is when our dreams tend to be the most bizarre and implausible.

During REM sleep, which is when dreams are most active, the thalamus — a large mass of gray matter found in the middle of the brain — sends "images, sounds, and other sensations that fill our dreams," according to NINDS.

The neurotransmitter acetylcholine, a chemical that spikes during waking hours, is also strong during REM sleep, according to Johns Hopkins Medicine (opens in new tab). When you are awake, acetylcholine appears to help the brain keep information gathered, and it likely helps you remember this information while you sleep. That's why studying just before bedtime and then "sleeping on it" can help you remember key facts the next day.

As we fall asleep, our brain experiences a

pattern of brain waves known as "spine spindles," which, according to the Sleep Foundation, are not fully understood, but are thought to "play a role in learning and integrating new memories." Spine spindles may also play a role in ensuring we remain asleep even when our brains encounter outside stimuli.

During sleep, the brain even washes itself in

of the ability to function properly."

This is a point supported by NINDS, which says "quality sleep is as essential to survival as food and water. Without sleep you can't form or maintain the pathways in your brain that let you learn and create new memories, and it's harder to concentrate and respond quickly."

Although it's clear that there's a link between



a juicy blend of cerebrospinal fluid and blood, a 2019 study in the journal *Science* found. Understanding the nature of this wash cycle could help uncover new information about "age-related impairments" as well as "a variety of neurological and psychological disorders that are frequently associated with disrupted sleep patterns, including autism and Alzheimer's disease," the researchers said in a statement.

During sleep, waves of oxygenated blood (red) and then cerebrospinal fluid (blue) wash over the brain.

During sleep, waves of oxygenated blood (red) and then cerebrospinal fluid (blue) wash over the brain.

Our brain keeps us alive when we are both asleep and awake, but according to Raizen, there are certain things the brain prefers to do after we drift off.

"There are some brain processes that are observed to preferentially occur during sleep," Raizen said. "These include the secretion of growth hormone in humans, the clearance of waste metabolites [that build up during waking hours], changes in metabolism, and changes in the strength of communication between brain cells (neurons)."

A 2017 study in the journal *Nature Medicine* found that "sleep deprivation disrupts brain cells' ability to communicate with each other," which "leads to temporary mental lapses that affect memory and visual perception," according to a statement. The study's lead author, Dr. Itzhak Fried, a professor in residence and director of the Epilepsy Surgery Program at the University of California, Los Angeles, noted that "starving the body of sleep also robs neurons

poor sleep and certain negative health outcomes — type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, obesity and depression, to name just a few — Raizen said that some mystery remains around the nature of the relationship, and that it would be unwise to draw definitive conclusions based on the data currently available.

"There are many observed poor health conditions that correlate to poor or reduced sleep," he said, but "it is difficult to know whether poor sleep causes these problems. For example, it is feasible that very early dementia causes poor sleep, rather than vice versa."

But all sleep is not equal, and its impact on our health can vary depending on the circumstances. So, while various studies have revealed that sleep plays a very necessary role in keeping humans healthy and is vital for adequate brain function, Raizen said, there are still many questions about sleep and its association with the brain that remain unanswered.

"Outside of the big question around why we sleep, there are many mysteries about how we sleep," Raizen said. "What are the brain centers involved in initiation, maintenance and termination of sleep? What are the brain chemicals involved in this? How does the brain switch from rapid eye movement (REM) sleep to non-REM sleep?"

The only way to solve these puzzles, according to Raizen, is for scientists to conduct more

RF&G LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY LTD.

Date: September 12, 2022

Gregoria Westby of #4.5 George Price Highway, Belize City, Belize District, Belize C.A. having made written declaration that Policy G7501272 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.

No Excuses

Revoltng Nurses

**CONTRIBUTED:
SEDI**

Last Monday nurses nationwide rose up against our government spontaneously. Their actions were not politically motivated. No violence was involved. The nurses were disgusted by the way they were being treated by government. They disclosed that despite repeated complaints that they were not being paid their correct wages, that they were being grossly overworked, and that their hospitals chronically lacked essential medicines and supplies, government has refused to do anything to address their situation.

The actions of the nurses is neither surprising nor unreasonable. The Covid-19 Pandemic was a horrific ordeal for them. For in excess of two years they stoically braved the personal dangers and the fears of the dreaded Covid-19 virus to faithfully serve their fellow Belizeans. They are now asking for no reward and only for justice and fair play. And they are being ignored and pushed around.

Shortly after the nurses protest workers at the state owned Development Finance Corporation staged a walk out in solidarity with some of their fellow workers who were being retrenched. Such acts of protest will only multiply in the coming months.

The Briceño Admin-

istration, like every other administration which has governed our country since 1981, lacks the vision, capacity, resources, integrity, ambition and the character to right the multifarious ills which currently ail our government and country. Such attributes are rarely encountered in small developing countries like ours.

The father of our nation, George Price, was unquestionably a wily politician. He was hugely successful at politics but his ability as a leader will long be debated. His equivocation in the face of the Guatemalan claim and in the face of the allegation of the British that he wanted to sell out our country” lock, stock and barrel,” to Guatemala left an indelible stain on his image. It also contributed greatly to the rending asunder of the People’s United Party in the mid 1950’s as well as to the division and weakening of our entire body politic ever since. It has stymied the development of our country.

According to national hero and a co-founder of the People’s United Party Phillip Goldson, Premier Price rejected an offer of development assistance from the British government Post 1964 after we had gained full Internal self-government, that was intended to make our colony the show case of all the British colonies in the Caribbean. And Price’s

track record in inducing Multi-National Corporation to invest in our country is truly dismal. Present indications are that his successors are now poised to reject two priceless opportunities for substantial investments into our country. History repeats itself!

In the absence of

Shortly after the nurses protest workers at the state owned Development Finance Corporation staged a walk out in solidarity with some of their fellow workers who were being retrenched. Such acts of protest will only multiply in the coming months.

honest, visionary, enlightened, patriotic and able leadership over the last forty one years, our public sector and an unacceptably large percentage of our Belizean citizenry languished in a perpetual state of underachievement, underdevelopment, ignorance, and dependence. All governmental institutions, without exception, are decrepit. All are tainted with the rot of corruption.

This sad state of affairs is compounded by the huge annual financial outlays which our government is obligated to make. Because our government has never been without debt since we gained our political independence, debt servicing has inexorably eaten away at an ever increasing portion of our national income. The catastrophic damages caused by climate change induced disasters to our infrastructure, our agricultural sector and our tourism sector severely reduced government’s revenue and simultaneously induced inordinate government expenditure. The horrific and tragic consequences of the HIV/AIDS Pandemic and the Covid-19 Pandemic have stretched our health sector to the limit and have severely tested our government’s capacity to acquire essential vaccines, medications and other health re-

lated supplies.

Our government is virtually impotent in the face of world market forces. We have little capacity to control the high price of oil and the myriad imports into our country annually.

Perhaps the greatest weakness of the parliamentary democracy

that period of time it has not manifested the slightest glimmer of a transformational plan of development for our country. In the interim, our country is becoming more violent and more poor by the day. Fear and despair are soaring. The national decline continues unabated.

The “Blu” Administration is, if anything, even more self-serving, corrupt, trumpian, and devoid of vision and ambition than its predecessors. Given the catastrophic economic consequences of the Covid-19 Pandemic and the worldwide heightening apocalyptic impact of climate change, one would have thought that it would have sought, as a priority, to formulate a truly transformative plan of action to deal with the root cause of the endemic poverty and violence which are ravaging our population. Instead, inexperienced, and wantonly irresponsible members of the cabinet can be heard proudly and publicly spurning the only two large scale investment initiatives that hold forth some promise of extricating our country from the deepening pauperized state it is mired in. Is it that these Ministers truly do not appreciate that only robust foreign direct investment can trigger the economic change in fortune that our country so desperately needs at this time? Investments from entities that are soundly capitalized, that boast cutting edge technology and which have proven experts at their helm and solid markets for their products, generate both the jobs and the foreign exchange we so desperately need. The proposed Waterloo investment in the Port and the proposed investment by Vulcan Materials down South are two such entities.

Those two investments will ultimately be green-lighted: of that there can be no doubt! There are personalities in the Briceño orbit who appreciate the truly substantial returns that such projects can confer upon their facilitators and enablers. Furthermore both those enterprises have the capacity to finance a UDP slate to victory in the next General Elections. If the Briceño Administration turns them down, a UDP Administration will definitely give them the thumbs up! And, these enterprises easily have the capacity and the will, if necessary, to guarantee a victory at the polls for a UDP Administration at the next General Election.

If honestly, carefully and patriotically managed, the Port Project and the Mining Operation can become game changers for our country. Today aggregates are almost as scarce and as valuable as gold. And good Ports are indispensable for successful trading internationally.

If the Americans, the Russians and the Chinese, are able to safely and securely build huge research stations in outer space preparatory to sending manned missions to Mars, surely we Belizeans can safely and securely preside over the construction of a Port and the mining of stones. The Romans, the Egyptians and the Chinese, among others, mastered those activities light years ago. Are we so backward and foolish that we are incapable of successfully managing such operations in this the 21st Century in which knowledge, expertise and technology abound?

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



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 contigo y los míos. (La persona deba 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.



FUN FACTS!

Interesting leech facts!

Leeches get a bad rap, but they're actually pretty cool once you get to know them—and we're finding out more about them, even today.

Not all leeches suck blood. Hematophagous, or blood-feeding, species are only one type of leech. In North America, there are probably more freshwater leeches that don't feed on blood than there are blood-feeders. And even among the hematophagous species, there are not too many who are after you. Leeches can get pretty big. The giant Amazon leech (*Haementeria ghilianii*) can grow up to 18 inches and live up to 20 years. And yes, this one's a blood-feeder. Like all hematophagous species, *H. ghilianii* sticks its proboscis (which can be up to 6 inches long) into a host, drinks its fill, and falls off.

Leeches make good bait. There's an entire leech industry to provide fishers with their bait. One year, weather conditions kept the leeches from showing up in their typical habitats, which pre-



vented their collection and sale.

Some leech species make surprisingly caring parents.

There's a whole family of leeches that, when they lay their eggs, will cover them with their own bodies. They'll lay the eggs, cover them with their bodies, and fan the eggs to prevent fungus or bacteria from getting on them, and then when the eggs hatch, they will attach to the parent. They're not feeding on the parent, just hanging on, and then when the parent leech goes to its next blood meal it's carrying its offspring to

its next blood meal. That's pretty profound parental care, especially for invertebrates.

Leeches have suckers on both ends of their body. Most species have three jaws equipped with small, sharp teeth. Their teeth are even able to pierce thick skin of a hippo.

Leech has 32 brains. Due to similarity with the nervous system of humans, leeches are often used in the investigations of brain disorders.

Since they are able to eat a lot in a single meal, leeches can survive without food period of one year.

Although leech pierces skin and sucks a huge amount of blood, process is not painful at all. Leech produces anesthetic which reduces the pain and allows undisturbed extraction of blood. Also, leech releases anticoagulant, called hirudin, which prevents blood coagulation.

Both anticoagulant and anesthetic produced by leech are used in medicine for the production of drugs. Leeches are used for bloodletting in medicine. This method is very old, dating back from 1000 years B.C.



Flightless Parrot?

DID YOU KNOW

OUT OF THE 400 SPECIES OF PARROTS, THERE IS ONLY ONE THAT CAN'T FLY, CALLED THE KAKAPO PARROT.



Light as Air!

HUMMINGBIRDS ARE SO LIGHT AND FAST THAT THEY CAN COMPETE WITH THE AIR.

COLOR ME

Have a wonderful day!



MOHW targets Adolescent Health

By William Ysaguirre

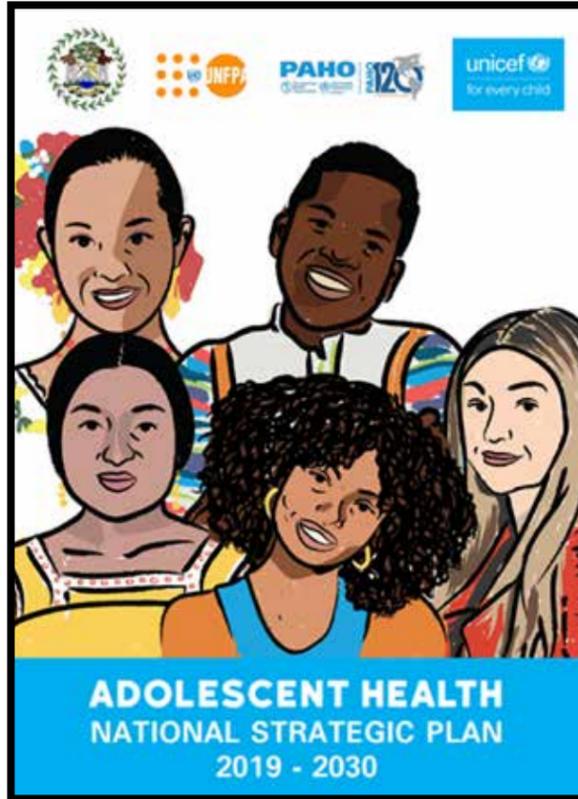
Belizean teenagers have shown an alarming increase in deaths by accident, by violence and attempted suicide over the past 10 years, prompting the Ministry of Health and Wellness to launch its National Adolescent Health Strategy for the years 2019 – 2030, in anticipation of World Suicide Prevention Day which was observed on Saturday, September 10.

Director of Public Health and Wellness Dr Melissa Diaz-Musa launched the plan in the official ceremony at the Escuela Secundaria Tecnica Mexico in San Roman Village, Corozal on Friday morning, September 9, when simultaneous events were held in all other districts.

The government considers the plan a high-yield investment as children of the ages 10 to 19 are a quarter of the population, numbering 96,693 persons, at last count last year. But their mental health is clearly at risk as there were 422 cases of attempted suicide reported among the 15-19 years age group in the years 2008 to 2017. Today's teenagers confront many health challenges including overweight and obesity, sexually transmitted diseases, teenage pregnancy and early child marriages, gang violence, domestic abuse, other accidental injuries, drug abuse and other causes of mental depression.

The strategy is in line with the World Health Organization's Global Accelerated Action for the Health of Adolescents, and all the UN organizations in Belize are partnering with MOHW to make this plan work.

The aim is for all sectors of government and non-governmental agencies to partner to



deliver quality services to completely meet and satisfy teenagers' needs. This means making sure that every teen has a Social Security card, and that they are routinely screened to verify that they are vaccinated against diseases which vaccines can prevent, to detect disabilities and any problems in their mental health.

Teens must also be assured that their future is not uncertain, and that they are properly informed of the opportunities available to them for them to earn an income when they leave school.

The plan also aims to educate teenagers to help them avoid obesity, early pregnancy, and other health risks by teaching them about health issues, their sexual and reproductive rights and to engage them in positive activities such as sports, which will help them enjoy a healthy lifestyle for years to come. Their parents must also be part of this education process.

The objective is to provide a safe and nurturing environment where young people may grow and develop a sense of belonging to their community. This will offer opportunities for them to express themselves creatively and to connect with their family, classmates and others of their age group at church, in youth groups. The aim is to engage them in activities designed to prevent injuries violence and neglect.

The many different social services agencies will develop a single database which identifies and registers every teen who is at risk or living in poverty, who may be a victim of any kind of abuse or neglect, so that they may receive support from public health, justice and social welfare services.

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP), UN Children's Education Fund (UNICEF), UN Population Fund (UNFPA), the World Food Program (WFP), UN High Commission for Refugees, the International Organization for Migrants (IOM) and PAHO will partner with the ministries of Health, Education, Human Development, Youth and Sports to support and deliver this plan.

Similar launch ceremonies occurred at the Edward P. Yorke High School in Belize City, at San Pedro High, at Belmopan Comprehensive, Sacred Heart College, Ecumenical High, Orange Walk Technical High, and Julian Cho Technical.

AERO DISPATCH SERVICES

On behalf of the Management and Staff of Belize Global Travel Services Ltd. and Aero Dispatch Services Ltd. we would like to extend a HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY BELIZE

PhotoRoom®

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST CONSTRUCTION SERVICES FOR THE PLACENCIA AND INDEPENDENCE VILLAGE FIRE STATION BUILDINGS



Institution: BELIZE NATIONAL FIRE SERVICE
Country: BELIZE
Project: TRIAL FARM, PLACENCIA AND INDEPENDENCE VILLAGE FIRE STATION BUILDINGS PROJECT
Project ID No.: NFS-2022/PL01
NFS-2022/IND02
NFS-2022/OW03
Deadline: October 3rd, 2022

The Government of Belize has committed funding to contract an experienced and qualified contractor **FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FIRE STATION BUILDING** to be located in Placencia and Independence Villages or in Trial Farm, Orange Walk District.

General requirements of the Bidders:

- 1) Bidder's Company must be incorporated in the country of Belize a minimum of five years;
- 2) Bidders must have experience in works of a similar size, scope and nature;
- 3) Bidders must present two references from projects recently completed in the last two years
- 4) Bidders must confirm access to minimum resources (technical, financial, human resources)
- 5) Bidders are required to present Certificates of Good standing from the Companies Registry, the Belize Tax Service and the Belize Social Security Board.

Interested contractors please note that above requirements are mandatory, and this information must be included within any final submitted bid. The deadline for submission of **Expression of Interest** is Monday, October 3rd, 2022.

Interested contractors may obtain bidding documents scope of works electronically at the email address below from Monday to Fridays starting **Thursday September 15th 2022** between the hours of 9:00 am and 3:00 pm. Printing of documents is at the intended Bidder's expense.

Belize National Fire Service
Attn: Mr. Colin Gillett
Fire Chief
#3578 Sunrise Avenue, Belize
Tel: 501-223-1183
E-mail: chief@fire.gov.bz/seniorsec@fire.gov.bz

79 Belizeans awarded scholarships from OAS



The OAS provided close to 80 scholarships.

By Britney Gordon

The Organization of American States General Secretariat (OAS/GS) has awarded another 79 Belizean students with scholarships in various fields of study in the first semester of 2022.

The OAS scholarship program has been granting Master's degree, Doctoral Degree and Graduate Research leading to university degree scholarships since 1958 and in 1983 they established the OAS Special Caribbean Scholarships Program (SPECAF) where they grant scholarships for the last two years of undergraduate studies to citizens and residents of the English-speaking Caribbean, and Suriname.

With 35 member countries, the OAS works to declare peace and justice, to promote solidarity, to strengthen collaboration, and to defend sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence. Since becoming a member in 1991,

Belize has played an active role in the OAS. Belize has even participated in various committees and specialized organizations to strengthen foreign policy and development agendas for the country.

Through its Partnerships Program for Education and Training (PAEC) and the Professional Development Scholarships Program (PDSP), the OAS offers other attractive scholarship opportunities for academic studies and short-term training courses, with the support of its partner institutions.

The academic fields Belizeans students were awarded scholarships included Business Administration, Project Management, Environmental Studies, Digital Technologies, and Energy Conservation.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions in 2020, the OAS Scholarship program was only able to offer a limited number of scholarships for online undergraduate and graduate programs.



PUBLIC NOTICE



Public Utilities Commission (PUC)

REQUEST FOR WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS – PROPOSED BELIZE AMATEUR RADIO FRAMEWORK

The Public is hereby informed that the Public Utilities Commission (hereinafter referred to as "the Commission"), in the exercise of the powers vested in it by Sections 3, 6(1), 6(2)(j), 6(2)(n), 6(2)(p), 7(2)(a) and 12(1) of the Belize Telecommunications Act, Chapter 229 of the Laws of Belize, the Public Utilities Act, Chapter 223 of the Laws of Belize and all other powers thereunto the Commission enabling, intends to by Order to promulgate the Belize Amateur Radio Framework – 2022 ("the Proposed Framework") for use in Belize.

The Proposed Framework provides a clear and comprehensive outline for amateur radio operations in Belize. It describes, among other things, the licenses, rules, standards, important procedures and technical operating limits for amateur radio operations in Belize.

The PUC intends to make the responses to this consultation available to the public. If your response contains any information that is confidential in nature, a clearly marked "Non-Confidential Version", redacted to delete the confidential information, is to be provided together with a complete version that is clearly marked as the "Confidential Version." The "Confidential Version" should highlight the information that has been redacted. Any request for confidentiality in respect of the information submitted is to be accompanied with full justification for the claim.

The Proposed Framework is available for viewing at the Office of the Commission located at Marina Towers 2nd Floor, 4 Princess Margaret Drive, Belize City, Belize between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. or online at <https://www.puc.bz>.

Written submissions and comments should be submitted to the PUC before 4:30 PM, Friday, October 14, 2022 either:

* By hand to: Public Utilities Commission, 2nd Floor Marina Towers, Princess Margaret Drive, Belize City, Belize.

Re: Responses to Consultation Belize Amateur Radio Framework - 2022;

*By email to: telecom@puc.bz

Issued by the Public Utilities Commission on 12 September, 2022

Kick back
Relax and
Enjoy



The Reporter

Independently serving Belize since 1987

Freedom of the Press!

Regional media assoc.: Belizean media group should focus on protecting press freedoms

By Michelle Sutherland

Belizean media workers need to find a way overcome differences and unify via a formal media association to defend press freedoms, President of the Association of Caribbean Media Workers (ACM) Nazima Raghbir advised in a recent interview with The Reporter.

Raghbir urged that local journalists need to understand the power of having a general unifying voice to represent them when issues arise, especially as it relates to securing and ensuring the freedom of press and capacity building for journalists.

“The media workers need to decide who

this association is going to represent. ... At the Guyana Press Association, we promote issues relating to freedom of the press, and freedom of expression, and we highlight issues when it comes to the treatment of our workers and any issues that we feel we should advocate on their behalf,” Raghbir shared.

Raghbir also advised that media workers need to overcome the differences that have prevented the formation of an actual Belizean media association. Over the years, there have been multiple attempts at forming such an organization, but reasons cited for those failures often include political interference



as well as the presence of persons with different interests operating in the field and personality differences. Raghbir underscored that those issues are not unique to Belize but are present in many other countries as well.

Plus TV's Louis Wade, speaking with The Reporter previously, had also cited similar

impediments to the creation of a local media association in the country. Wade had also suggested that there needs to be two separate associations: one that looks after the needs of journalists and the other to look after the needs of media owners.

The need for the separation, according to Wade, is that the infringement of

rights or abuse can come both from within media houses themselves or from the private or public sector.

Raghbir likewise spoke to the need for the two groups. “Media companies getting involved is a different kettle of fish compared to media workers and journalists having an association,” she advised.

For her part, the ACM president likewise stressed that media professionals need to realize the importance of a free press as well as understand that freedom and ethics associated with journalism should be paramount in the field and should be the basis on which to form an association.

In terms of timing, Raghbir opined that the media entities should move posthaste. “In developing a media association, I think the time is ripe for Belize,” she shared.

The Association of Caribbean Media Workers (ACM), led by Raghbir, and established in Barbados in 2001 is a large network of journalists, media workers, and media associations spanning the Caribbean Basin.

In the context of the Guyana Press Association, Raghbir explained that they only represent media workers, which represent people that earn 90% of their income directly from news gathering. These include journalists, videographers, and photographers.



CENTRAL BANK
of BELIZE

www.centralbank.org.bz

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Bank of England to Withdraw

Legal Tender Status of £20 and £50 Paper Banknotes

Belize City, 16 August 2022: The Central Bank of Belize hereby informs the public that the Bank of England has notified that it will withdraw the legal tender status of £20 and £50 paper banknotes on **30 September 2022**. After this date, only polymer banknotes will be legal tender. The Bank of England is encouraging both individual and institutional noteholders such as financial institutions to use, deposit, or exchange these banknotes by 30 September 2022.

Members of the Belizean public holding these paper banknotes are advised to submit them for exchange at their domestic bank. Institutional noteholders in Belize should continue to return these sterling banknotes to the Central Bank for repatriation to the Bank of England.

Note that after the 30 September 2022 deadline, holders of paper sterling banknotes will no longer be able to use them in transactions.

More information can be found on the Bank of England's website at:

<https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/banknotes/paper-20-paper-50-withdrawal>

<https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/-/media/boe/files/banknotes/paper/20-50-paper-notes.pdf>

- ENDS -

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

1 GABOUREL LANE.
BELIZE CITY, BELIZE
T: +501 223 6194
E: communications@centralbank.org.bz

Weh Wi Ga Fi Seh

Kip op yu helt! Stay pahn di lukowt!

Hip Hip Hooray, Bileez!

10^o deh ya!

Pray tu Faada/Mada Gaad seh dat

Datideh Covid kip ih hed dong

Soh disya Tent a Septemba

Mee di tink bowt wi brayv ansestaz

Dehn Bayman

Ahn dehn Baylaydi ahn pikni tu.

Bileez Setlment 224 yaaz abak ahn now tudeh day

Dis 2022, wi sen nof blesin agen

Tu dehn brayv 14+1 Flowaz Benk pipl

Hoo mi swing di voat fi mek wi bee di Bileez wi ga tudeh!

Septemba 9...daans yu way intu Septemba 10, lov op Bileez in between, den greet 21^s. Septemba 10 ahn Septemba 21 da okayzhan fi selibrayt da Bileez.

Mek wi lov op wiself, wi brejren ahn wi sischren.

Wi wahn mek lat a naiz ahn jomp op ahn brok dong ahn marimba and jrom wi way intu Tent a Septemba 2022! We'll make a lot of noise and jump up and dance to brokdong and marimba music and drumming Tenth of September!

Septemba n. September. Bileez Indipendans Day da di twenifos a Septemba, ahn Septemba 21 hapm sayk a Septemba 10 mi hapm fos. Belize's Independence Day is the twenty-first of September, and September 21 happens because September 10 happened first.

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

House Speaker confirms amendment to correct repeated absences underway

By Michelle Sutherland

Speaker of the House of Representatives Hon. Valerie Woods has told *the Reporter* that, as presiding officer, she would like to see the repeated absence of elected members of the House be “corrected,” through an amendment to standing orders 84.

This week the House Speaker confirmed with the Reporter that Standing Orders 84 of the House of Representatives, which addresses absence by members have already been flagged and will be addressed prior to the start of the New Year. This according to Woods will be carried out by way of an overall review of the standing orders which are currently being conducted by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in conjunction with other local parliamentarians.

Woods agreed with our newsroom that she has seen repeated absences by certain members of the House and that she does not see it as something to be proud of. She pointed out that members of the House of Representatives are elected by their constituencies to represent them and that the only way that that can be achieved is if members actually show up for house meetings and do their jobs.

“As the presiding

officer with respect to parliamentary democracy and open parliament of course I would have liked to have a robust debate as well as the participation of all members as much as possible. I would also want the persons who were elected to represent their areas and they can only do so confidently and responsibly when they show up to these meetings. And so of course any presiding officer would like to see that corrected,” Woods told our newsroom.

While Standing Orders 84 dictates that a member shall vacate his or her seat if they are absent for more than six consecutive sittings occurring during the same period or within a period of not longer than three calendar months, Woods explained that in this case the law cannot be applied to those members such Queen Square member Denise Barrow. She pointed out that the Sitting of the House of Representatives would only occur once per month as is and so there is no way that six consecutive meetings would occur within the prescribed 3-month time frame.

The House Speaker further added that the Standing Orders are outdated, especially in this instance and thus are in dire need of



Queen Square Area Representative Denise “Sistah B” Barrow has made it a practice to be absent from meetings.

amendment so that they can be modernized to serve a more effective purpose.

“Well as the presiding officer, I do certainly hope that there would be conscious among the working group that this particular Standing Order should be stricter,” said Woods. She also revealed that while the particular Standing Order will be revised along with the others she said that it could have been done independently by way of a motion from the House Committee in charge of the Standing Orders.

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), by way of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and in line with good governance and parliamentary democracy is carrying out a revision of both Standing Orders for the Senate and the House of

Representatives. The exercise started late last year and is expected to be completed by the beginning of the New Year.

The exercise will look at establishing an orientation handbook as well as a code of conduct, a revision of the standing orders, a

review of the administration of the parliament (behind the scenes), and the establishment of a women in parliament group.

Mexico celebrates “Grito” of Independence

By William Ysaguirre

The Embassy of Mexico in Belize celebrated the 212th anniversary of the “Grito”, the cry for freedom that launched Mexico’s revolutionary war for independence from Spain, with a cultural reception at the Institute of Mexico in Belize City on Wednesday evening, September 14.

Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño and Special Envoy for Families and Children Mrs. Rossana Briceño



PM Briceno and Folkloric Ballet troupe of Quintana Roo

were the guests of honor, as the Folkloric Ballet of Quintana Roo performed the traditional dances of the states of Guerrero and Veracruz.

The Institute’s director Alberto Salamanca described how on the night of September 15, 1810, the priest Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla called on the Mexican people to fight for their independence, when he freed the prisoners in the town of Dolores and locked up the Spanish authorities. History is uncertain if the cry was actually sounded in the dawn of September 16, 1810.

Father Hidalgo was captured and executed in July 1811, and many other heroes, including José María Morelos y Pavón, Josefa Ortiz de Domínguez, Leona Vicario,

Ignacio Allende, Ignacio Aldama and Mariano Matamoros would sacrifice their lives in the long and bloody war which lasted 11 years. The revolutionary struggle only ended when Mexico achieved its freedom from Spanish rule, when the Spanish Viceroy Juan de O’Donojú signed the Treaty of Córdoba ceding Spain’s control over the Viceroyalty of New Spain in August 1821. President Porfirio Diaz formed the first government of the new republic on September 27, 1821.

Mexico celebrates Independence Day on September 16, but the Embassy of Mexico in Belize has traditionally joined the other embassies of Central America in Belize in a joint celebration on September 15.

FORTIS BELIZE

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San Ignacio Town
Cayo District
Belize, Central America
Telephone: 501-824-3016

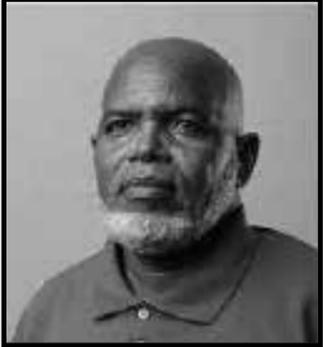
PRESS RELEASE

FORTIS BELIZE LTD, in collaboration with the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO), the Department of Environment (DOE), and the Ministry of Health (MOH) will host a virtual public discussion for communities downstream of the FORTIS BELIZE hydroelectric facilities and the general public on Thursday, September 29th, 2022. The virtual public meeting will take place from 2pm to 4:30pm and will be live-streamed on the Government of Belize Press Office Facebook page, the Love FM Facebook page, and on Love TV. This interactive discussion is aimed at educating and informing residents and stakeholders on issues such as the Early Warning System (EWS) and related emergency procedures, mercury-in-fish data, water quality of the Macal, and other topics that may be of concern to stakeholders.

This exercise is an ongoing effort by FORTIS BELIZE LTD/NEMO/DOE/MOH to inform and educate the public and to safeguard the wellbeing of the communities along the Macal River. All stakeholders and the general public are encouraged to tune in to the live broadcast.

GRASSROOTS

The British Monarchy: The Good, the Terrible, and the Unknown



By Hon. Gilroy Usher

“People only have as much liberty as they have the intelligence to want and the courage to take.”—Enna Goldman

Queen Elizabeth II was born on April 21, 1926 as Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor. She died on September 8, 2022 at the age of 96. Her parents were Queen Elizabeth I and King George VI.

Elizabeth became Queen Elizabeth II on February 6, 1952. She was only 26 years. Elizabeth's reign lasted 70 years until her passing. That made

others formed the People's Committee which emerged into the People's United Party. The nationalists denounced British colonialism and its exploitation of the people and resources of the country and demand independence from the motherland.

For centuries United Kingdom has been one of the most advanced, developed, and powerful countries in the world.

Nevertheless, as colonizers, the British did a host of things to ensure easy exploitation of the people and natural resources of the country. They discouraged investments that would have created hundreds of jobs in the land to ensure a steady source of cheap labour for their extraction of timber with our ancestors as slaves.

The United Kingdom denied us education and knowledge. Nothing

the United Kingdom also did a few good things for Belize previously British Honduras.

They recognized Belize as a British colony in 1862 and ensured its survival despite several attempts by Spain to drive the British Buccaneers out of the land. Had the Spaniards succeeded in that aggression there would probably be no English-speaking country of Belize as we know it today. Had the Spaniards succeeded in defeating the British, the land we call home would probably be a Spanish-speaking republic like Guatemala and the other countries in Central American that were conquered by Spain.

We must be thankful to the United Kingdom for publicly guaranteeing our security before independence and indirectly post

visited Belize twice in 1985 and 1994 when Manuel Esquivel was Prime Minister. In support for the motherland as well as due to promises of a better life, hundreds of Belizeans enlisted in the UK's army and fought for Britain in World War I (1914-1918) and World War II (1939-1945). On their return home, the British reneged on their promises for a better life for those, who had risked everything for the Empire. That unbelievable betrayal led to riots in the country.

With the death of Queen Elizabeth II, a number of Commonwealth countries are considering the holding of referendums to determine whether they should remain

as members of the Commonwealth and keep King Charles III, the new head of the monarchy, on their currency or whether they should remove the head of the monarch from their money and assert their full independence from the U.K.

Many persons support the latter view, because the United Kingdom became wealthy by enslaving their ancestors for free labour and in the process are guilty of massacres, rape, massive theft of precious natural resources, and the displacing of people from their original lands.

Whether Belize remove the head of the monarchy from its currency or not will have no affect on the value of the Belize dollar, since it's pegged 2 -1 to the US dollar.

Monday September 19th, has been declared a public and bank holiday to mourn the passing of Queen Elizabeth II as she is laid to rest in the motherland, England / United Kingdom.

After our constitution is changed to recognize King Charles III as the new head of the British monarchy, it will be up to each individual Belizean whether he / she says, “Away with the King” or “Long live the King.”

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Elizabeth II the long serving monarch in the history of Britain.

At the time of her death Queen Elizabeth II was the Queen of the United Kingdom and fifteen Commonwealth countries including Belize. At the height of its power the British Empire controlled so many colonies worldwide that the sun never set on it.

Queen Elizabeth II was the wife of Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh (1947-2021). The couple had four children including Charles III, the new monarch and King.

The reign of Queen Elizabeth II began approximately two years after of 1950 when nationalist leaders George Price, Philip Godson, Leigh Richardson, and

was done to develop our education system. They built no high school, sixth form or university for the country. Just as bad the U.K. ensured our dependence on the motherland for food. In achieving that they promoted importation of food and discouraged agriculture production.

The British also denied our people access to knowledge. They allowed only one radio station which they controlled until we won self-government in 1964.

They made no effort to keep the people informed with access to television, and they granted absolutely no broadcasting license to any individual or company.

Under the reign of previous monarchs and later Queen Elizabeth II,

independence due to Guatemala's unfounded claim to our land and repeated threats to take it by force before the matter was taken to the ICJ for a court ruling and final settlement.

The United Kingdom also deserves credit for our Westminster system of democracy and exceptional Civil Service. Both institutions continue to serve the nation well.

The U.K. is also responsible for our long history of stability. Under the U.K. we learned to settle differences at the negotiating table or in the courts instead of with guns and bullets and the violent overthrow of the government as was the history in many countries in Central and South America for centuries.

Queen Elizabeth II

NOTICE OF COMMENCED DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given to all interested parties that the company

VIVERO LIMITED

(“the Company”) incorporated under the IBC Act of Belize commenced dissolution on the 05th day of August 2022; and Grice Arthurs Joseph of No 2 ACC, 27 Charl Street IFAFI, Hartbeespoort 0216, is the Liquidator of the Company, and any claims against the Company should be forwarded to the Liquidator by 30 days from commencement.

Alpha Consulting (Belize) Ltd.
Registered Agent

NOTICE OF COMMENCED DISSOLUTION

MHD Consultants Limited

(“the Company”)

“Notice is hereby given to all interested parties that MHD Consultants Limited a Company incorporated under the IBC Act of Belize commenced dissolution on 09th September 2022.

And

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

Frontier International Business Services Limited
Registered Agent

NOTICE OF COMMENCED DISSOLUTION

Logic Investments Limited

(“the Company”)

“Notice is hereby given to all interested parties that Logic Investments Limited a Company incorporated under the IBC Act of Belize commenced dissolution on 14th September 2022.

And

Mr. Jaufre Rouanet, of Office 610, Opal Tower, Business Bay, Dubai- United Arab Emirates, P.O. Box 416634 Dubai is the liquidator of the company.

Frontier International Business Services Limited
Registered Agent

The Righters Write

Human Rights violations on the rise worldwide

Contributed By *The Human Rights Commission*

Human Rights is not at all new to Belize. The Human Rights Commission was founded in 1987 and continues to stand today.

The topic is not widely discussed and there is much work to do for human rights defenders to advance the promotion and protection of human rights in the country. Still, the work is ongoing as human rights violations continue to affect many across the nation, which is perpetrated by persons in all sectors of our society who are meant to serve and/or protect the people.

The issue is not isolated to Belize. In fact, human rights defenders and watch groups, including the UN, report that human rights violations and violence are on an alarming rise globally. The Acting High Commissioner for Human Rights, Nada al-Nashif, stated, during the fifty-first regular session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva which started this week on September 12 and is to run to October 7th, that there is a growing desperation of millions of people who are entrapped in a cycle of human rights violations, violence and political instability in dozens of countries globally.

The worsening of human rights violations in Africa was highlighted along with the appalling levels of violence and human rights violations by heavily armed gangs in Haiti. Also highlighted was China's incarceration of more than a million Uyghur and other Muslim minorities in so-called vocational centres. Additionally, Al-Nashif spoke of the war in Ukraine noting that it holds serious socio-economic

consequences if not stopped and which is already resulting in severe fuel shortages and threats to food security in some of the world's poorest countries. The latter should spark some interest on the subject in readers since the cost of living is on a constant rise in Belize over the last years.

Another report supports the statement of rising human rights violations. This week, the UN released a new report in which it highlights that forced labour and marriage have increased significantly over the last five years. The report, Global Estimates of Modern Slavery, published by the International Labour Organization (ILO), International Organization for Migration (IOM) and international human rights group Walk Free, indicates that 10 million more people were in modern slavery in 2021 compared to 2016 global estimates, with women and children remaining disproportionately vulnerable.

The total 2021 estimates show that 50 million people were living in modern slavery – 28 million in forced labour and 22 million in forced marriages. "It is shocking that the situation of modern slavery is not improving," said ILO Director-General Guy Ryder, who added that "Nothing can justify the persistence of this fundamental abuse of human rights".

There is also concern over government decisions being made closer to home. The United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner is concerned over the decision by Mexico's Congress to give control of the National Guard to the Ministry of National Defence, noting it as a setback to public security grounded in human rights.

"The reforms effectively leave Mexico without a

federal civilian police force, further cementing the already prominent role of the armed forces in public security in Mexico. Human rights mechanisms have clearly stated that armed forces should only intervene in public security temporarily, in exceptional circumstances, as a matter of last resort, and always under effective supervision by independent civilian bodies," said Nada Al-Nashif, Acting UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on September 9th in Geneva.

She added that "Law enforcement agencies should be subordinate to civilian authorities. It is worrying that the approved reforms do not include any provision to ensure civilian oversight of the Defence Ministry, which raises additional human rights concerns, including on accountability".

The Human Rights Council is the premier body within the United Nations responsible for addressing human rights violations, including the right to freedom of opinion and expression. The fifty-first regular session continues with other reports and interactive dialogues on various human rights matters in the days ahead. The Council will take action on draft decisions and resolutions on 6 and 7 October, and will also appoint a number of Special Procedure mandate holders before closing the session.

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IMPORTANT CLOSURE NOTICE

Dear Users of the Port of Belize Ltd.

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

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

July 28th to August 05th, 2022
September 01st to 09th, 2022
October 06th to 16th, 2022

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

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

Thanks

Andy Lane
 Chief Executive Officer



Ministry of Sustainable Development,
 Climate Change & Disaster Risk Management



DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
 "When People Put the Environment First, Development Lasts."

Contact Person: Anthony Mai
 Chief Environmental Officer
 7552 Hummingbird Highway, Belmopan
 Tel: 501-822-2548/ 2819
 Email: envirodept@environment.gov.bz
 Website: www.doe.gov.bz

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Notice

Update to Public Notice on Lodgement of an EIA Report "Port of Belize Cruise Tourism Facility and Cargo Expansion"

Belmopan, Belize. September 15, 2022. The Department of the Environment (DOE), within the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management hereby informs the General Public that the date for the submission of written comments on the review of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report for the "Port of Belize Cruise Tourism Facility and Cargo Expansion" project has been extended to **September 30, 2022**.

Members of the public can submit written comments using the below URL or via post mail using the provided contact information herein:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd4x5SsLiYXU7CD649P1uFYeEPD6kPEGLVWAAfX44Rw3O48Rw/viewform>

For more information contact:

Chief Environmental Officer
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 Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management
 7552 Hummingbird Highway, Belmopan
 Tel: 822-548/2819
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 Website: www.doe.gov.bz
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DOEBelize>
 END



HOLY REDEEMER CREDIT UNION

41 SALUTES EVERY BELIZEAN
ON CELEBRATING
YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE!

**HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY
BELIZE**

(SEPTEMBER 21, 2022)



Rt. Hon. George Cadle Price
Born: January 15, 1919 - Died: September 19, 2011

**HRCU ALSO REMEMBERS AND PAYS TRIBUTE TO THE
FATHER OF THE BELIZEAN NATION AND
BELIZE'S NATIONAL HERO**

For your convenience please use our online services, our ATMs,
and our depository drop boxes located at our Main Office
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